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P5 STATE

7 PAK MILITANTS AMONG 14 KILLED IN 8 OPS THIS YEAR: DGP

Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh on Thursday said that 14 militants, including seven Pakistani nationals, have been killed in eight encounters in

P7 MINDFUL FRIDAYS

PERSONALITY DISORDERS: WHAT ARE THEY AND HOW DID THEY AFFECT YOU?

Personality is the way a person thinks, feels, and behaves that distinguishes them from others. Experiences, environment (surroundings, life situations), and inherited



P11 SPORTS

JK WINTER GAMES ASSOCIATION POSTPONES ALL JANUARY EVENTS

The Winter Games Association of Jammu and Kashmir (WGJK) on Thursday announced the postponement of all its scheduled events and trials



Quote!
The best way to appreciate your job is to imagine yourself without one
- Oscar Wilde

NEWS DIGEST

14 Golden Rings Recovered From Thief

SRINAGAR: Police in central Kashmir's Budgam district on Thursday solved a theft case and recovered the stolen property with the arrest of the accused within 24 hours. A police spokesperson said that Police Station Budgam received a complaint from one Muhammad Hussain Malla of Paller Budgam complaining therein that theft has occurred at his house and gold ornaments worth rupees 1.5 lakhs were stolen. Accordingly, a case FIR number 12/2022 under relevant sections of law was **More on P10**

Dogs Kill 14 Sheep In Ganderbal

SRINAGAR: Dogs mauled over a dozen sheep to death on Thursday in two separate attacks in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. According to locals, a group of stray dogs barged into the cow-shed of Abdul Gani Bhat at Chanthan Gulabpora Watlar Lar area and killed 10 sheep. Besides killing 10 sheep, over 12 sheep and lambs sustain injuries. They said that 30 sheep were present in the shed at the time of the attack that took place during the intervening night of **More on P10**

Fire Damages 3 Houses In North Kashmir

SRINAGAR: Three residential houses were damaged in the two separate fire incidents in north Kashmir's Baramulla and Bandipora districts, officials said on Thursday. Officials said that the fire broke out from a structure and engulfed the surrounding building during which two residential houses were damaged in the blaze. "After receiving information, fire tenders rushed to the spot and started an operation **More on P10**

Third Corona Wave Grips Kashmir

1996 New Cases, 5 More Deaths In 24 Hours



Health workers pass through snow covered roads in the city outskirts to carry out house to house vaccination amid a sudden spurt in Coronavirus cases in Jammu and Kashmir. KO Photo, Abid Bhat.

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Coronavirus cases continue to show a rapid surge in Jammu and Kashmir, as nearly 2000 people on Thursday tested positive for the virus while five more people succumbed to the deadly

infection in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to officials, Kashmir Valley reported on Thursday 1077 fresh cases of novel Coronavirus while 889 were registered in the Jammu Division, taking the total number of people infected since

the outbreak of pandemic in J&K to 350167.

In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar reported the highest 416 new cases of virus, Baramulla 311, Budgam 159, Bandipora 53, Kulgam 52, Anantnag 39, Kupwara 26, Pulwama 12, **More on P10**

Govt Seeks Help Of Clergy To Beat Covid-19 Third Wave May Last For About Hundred Days: Div Com

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As Coronavirus cases continue to show an alarming spike in Jammu and Kashmir, the Union Territory administration on Thursday sought help from clergy asking the prayer leaders and preachers to

spread awareness about the importance of Covid appropriate behaviour (CAB) frequently through public address system, besides discouraging crowds.

The reach out was made by the Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang

K Pole on Thursday when he held a virtual meet with Imams, Khateeb, Ulemas, Mutwalies of Mosques and Shrines of Waqf Board regarding reinforcement of Covid-19 guidelines at religious places besides creating mass awareness **More on P10**

Ladakh Logs 122 New Corona Cases

LEH: Ladakh has reported 122 fresh COVID-19 cases, taking the tally to 22,649, while the active cases in the union territory have shot up to 502, officials said on Thursday.

Twenty six patients were cured and discharged from hospitals, taking the total number of recoveries to 22,125, they said.

Of the 122 fresh cases, 111 were reported from Leh district and 11 from Kargil district, they said.

With these, the total number of active cases in Ladakh has gone up to 502 -- 468 in Leh and 34 in Kargil district. Ladakh has **More on P10**

Fliers Fume Over SOP 'Violation' At Srinagar Airport

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: As the deadly third wave of Coronavirus continues to tighten its grip over the Valley, the authorities at the Srinagar International Airport have allegedly failed to enforce Covid Appropriate Behaviour (CAB) inside the premises, creating strong apprehensions among the fliers that any poor response in curbing the spread of virus can turn the airport into a Covid hotspot.

Several passengers who arrived in Srinagar on Wednesday also called the Srinagar airport

a potential "Covid hotspot" and claimed that there are no provisions of preventing one's self from contracting the virus at the airport.

More than a month after new guidelines came into effect at the Srinagar airport against the backdrop of the new Covid variant, domestic passengers continued to complain of chaos, crowding, no testing and mask-less movement inside the airport premises.

Mir Mubaris, a 27-year old student, who returned to Srinagar from Bangalore, told Kashmir Observer on Thursday

that if the Airport authority continues to maintain its disdain against the virus then there's absolutely no denial in the fact that Srinagar Airport can be a new covid hotspot.

"Since the Delhi airport had strictly enforced Covid SOPs, I thought there would be the same procedure at the Srinagar airport," he said.

"However, on reaching, there was absolutely no social distance being followed and the passengers were roaming inside the premises without a mask, that too, in front of the airport officials" **More on P10**

Cold Wave Intensifies Across Kashmir



File Photo: Abid Bhat

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The intense cold wave conditions continued in Kashmir on Thursday as mercury settled several degrees below the freezing point across the valley, officials said here.

Gulmarg ski resort in Baramulla district, recorded a low of minus 11.0 degrees Celsius, marking the minimum temperature at or below minus 10 degrees

Celsius for five consecutive nights, the officials said.

Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district recorded a low of minus 9.4 degrees Celsius, they said.

Srinagar also recorded sub zero temperature on the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday as mercury settled at minus 2.7 degrees Celsius.

The officials said Qazigund **More on P10**

Babar Bhai From Pak Killed In Kulgam: Police

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) militant killed in the encounter with security forces in Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir has been identified as Babar Bhai of Pakistan who was active since 2018, police said on Thursday.

The encounter took place in Pariwan area of the south Kashmir district on Wednesday

after the security forces launched a cordon and search operation following information about the presence of militants there.

Killed JeM #terrorist identified as Babar bhai of #Pakistan, active since 2018 in the areas of Shopian-Kulgam, Kashmir Zone Police said on Twitter.

The police said an AK rifle, a pistol and two grenades were recovered from **More on P10**

Youth Threatens Suicide To End 'Harassment'

Police Says Youth Posting Videos On The Run, Trying To Be Over Smart

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A youth from north Kashmir's Baramulla district has threatened to commit suicide to escape the alleged harassment at the hands of government forces for over thirteen years, a charged strongly contested by the police.

The youth Danish Hussain has put out a video on social media alleging that he has been continuously harassed by

the police and army since 2008 to 2021. In the 9:23 minute duration video that has gone viral on various social media networking sites, Danish is seen making fervent appeals to police to allow him to lead a peaceful life.

Danish, who claims he has spent years in jails in and outside Kashmir, says that he ran from his house four days ago after a police raid.

"From last four days, I have abandoned my house. I keep on going from one place to another. I want to make it clear that I have no association with any party. I am a common Kashmiri and I should be allowed to live peacefully," Danish **More on P10**

Farooq Seeks Stern Action Against Hate Mongers

Says Genocidal Calls In The Country Are Deeply Disturbing

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah on Thursday expressed outrage over "incendiary remarks and genocidal threats" being made against Muslims and other minority groups and demanded stern action against those "spewing venom at hate speech conclaves" across the country. He voiced concern over the "inflammatory and provocative speeches" against Muslims at

an event in Haridwar between December 17 and 19, 2021, and other such "hate speech conclaves" of right-wing groups and said termed these speeches "deplorable".

"Recurring such open seditious and genocidal calls in the country are deeply disturbing," he said.

Censuring the government for allegedly turning a blind eye to the hate speeches, the NC president said the "criminal hush" in government circles raises a question that begs to be answered.

Abdullah said India being a signatory to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (CPPCG) under Article 3 C, which criminalises direct **More on P10**

J&K, Ladakh Likely To Witness Rise In High Temp In 2030, 2050 And 2085: Study

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand are likely to witness an increase in high temperature over periods of 2030, 2050 and 2085, a report released by the government on Thursday said.

The Forest Survey of India (FSI) in collaboration with the Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS) Pilani, Goa has performed a study based on 'Mapping of Climate Change Hotspots in Indian Forests'.

According to the India State of Forests Report (ISFR) 2021, the collaborative study was



File Photo: Abid Bhat

carried out with the objective to map climatic hotspots over the forest cover in India, using

computer model-based projection of temperature and rainfall data, for the future time periods

i.e. year 2030, 2050 and 2085.

"By analysing scenarios in the study periods that is 2030, 2050, 2085, it has been observed that Ladakh, Jammu Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand are projected to witness high temperature increase, while Andaman and Nicobar Islands, West Bengal, Goa, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh are projected to witness the least temperature rise over these periods," the report released by Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav said.

According to the report, orth-eastern states and Upper Malabar coast of India are projected to experience **More on P10**

'Mysterious' Firing Kills 2 Soldiers On LoC

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Two Army personnel died in a mysterious firing incident along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district on Thursday, official sources said.

They said Army officials and police rushed to the spot after the incident.

A firing incident took place in the Hanjanwali area of Rajouri along the LoC in which two soldiers received injuries and later succumbed, the sources said.

They said investigation into the matter is on. However, unconfirmed reports termed it a case of fratricide.

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02

از نیابت دیلگام با اجلاس نائب تحصیلدار دیلگام

مضمون درخواست: نائب۔ منظور احمد اولہ غلام محمد ڈالہ، احسان منظور منڈوہ جان، ساجد جان اولان منظور احمد ڈالہ ساکنہ منڈوہ، بھڑی حصول RBA سرٹیفکٹ

استہدار برادر گامی ہر خاص و عام۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان، الصد میں ہر خاص و عام کو بذریعہ استہدار کا دیا جاتا ہے کہ سناکان نے درخواست نسبت اجرائی سرٹیفکٹ RBA پیش کی ہے جو کہ دفتر پڑا میں زیر کاروائی ہے پڑا کی حلقہ سے رپورٹ اور پرنسپل کیارڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس کی رو سے تفصیل فراہم کیڈیل درج ہے۔

نمبر شمار	نام افراد کیونکہ	عمر	پیشہ	آدمی
01	منظور احمد اولہ غلام محمد ڈالہ	42 سال	ماڈرن	LPC
02	مسما ڈالہ منڈوہ منظور احمد ڈالہ	40 سال	گھریلو کام	
03	ساجد منظور منڈوہ منظور احمد ڈالہ	22 سال	زیر تعلیم	
04	منڈوہ منظور منڈوہ منظور احمد ڈالہ	20 سال	زیر تعلیم	
05	احسان منظور منڈوہ منظور احمد ڈالہ	18 سال	زیر تعلیم	
06	منکی منظور منڈوہ منظور احمد ڈالہ	16 سال	زیر تعلیم	
07	نذرانہ منظور منڈوہ منظور احمد ڈالہ	14 سال	زیر تعلیم	
08	عاجز منڈوہ منڈوہ منظور احمد ڈالہ	75 سال	عمر رسیدہ	

اس کے علاوہ اوکوئی افراد کیونکہ میں موجود نہیں ہے۔ اور کیونکہ کی ماہانہ 10,000/- ہے۔ لہذا بریٹ سرٹیفکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض موجود ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض دفتر پڑا میں پیش کرے۔ یہ مقررہ کیونکہ عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار
RNA

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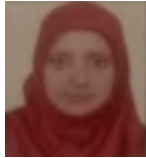
Contact:-9149965005/ 9682370979



THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION NEW CAMPUS BEMINA SRINAGAR PUBLIC NOTICE

The candidate whose photograph is published in the daily news paper is claiming to have lost her original Qualification certificate of class 10th issued by board of school education with the following particulars.

NAME:- TABASUM FAROOQ
PARANTAGE:- FAROOQ AHMED KHAN
MOTHERS NAME :- AISHA
REGISTRATION NO:- 04NKF809842
R/O:- BUDERKUND GANDERBAL
ROLL NO :- 837262
SESSION Oct-Nov-2005



Now the candidate has applied for its duplicate Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before the office of the undersigned within seven days (07) from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original Qualification certificate of the candidates is treated as cancelled.

Sd/=

Officer In charge

AR INFO New campus Bemina Srinagar

THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION SUB OFFICE PULWAMA PUBLIC NOTICE

The candidate whose photograph is published in the daily news paper is claiming to have lost his original 12th class pass marks certificate issued by board of school education with the following particulars.

NAME:- Yamin Mushtaq Wagay
PARANTAGE:- Mushtaq Ahmed Wagay
R/O:- PULWAMA
ROLL NO :- 6114291
SESSION Annual 2019



Now the candidate has applied for its duplicate Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before the office of the undersigned within seven days (07) from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original Qualification certificate of the candidates is treated as cancelled.

Sd/= Officer In charge

MP Assistant Secretary Sub office ,Pulwama

THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION BRANCH OFFICE DOORU PUBLIC NOTICE

The candidate whose photograph is published in the daily news paper is claiming to have lost his original marks card of class 12th issued by board of school education with the following particulars.

NAME:- FAIZAN AHMAD SHEIKH
PARANTAGE:- ABDUL RASHID SHEIKH
MOTHERS NAME :- RUBEENA BANO
REGISTRATION NO:- N15421150026
R/O:- RAIN CHOWGUND
ROLL NO :- 1158534
SESSION BI- ANNUAL 2019 YEAR 2019



Now the candidate has applied for its duplicate Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before the office of the undersigned within seven days (07) from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card of the candidates is treated as cancelled.

Sd/=

Officer Incharge , Branch Office Doru

RNA

THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION SUB OFFICE PULWAMA PUBLIC NOTICE

The candidate whose photograph is published in the daily news paper is claiming to have lost his original 12th class pass marks certificate issued by board of school education with the following particulars.

NAME:- Tanweer Ahmed Rather
PARANTAGE:- Gh Mohi ud Din Rather
R/O:- PULWAMA
ROLL NO :- 706299
SESSION Annual 2004



Now the candidate has applied for its duplicate Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before the office of the undersigned within seven days (07) from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original Qualification certificate of the candidates is treated as cancelled.

Sd/= Officer In charge

MP Assistant Secretary Sub office , Pulwama

POLICE HEADQUARTERS JAMMU & KASHMIR

JAMMU

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE No. Pers-Rectt-A-22/2019/2474-94 Dated: 11-01-2022

In continuation to earlier advertisement notice issued under endorsement No. Pers-Rectt-A-22-2019/16251-300 dated 09-03-2019 for the post of Constable in two Women Battalions (one Battalion each in Jammu/Kashmir Region) and in pursuance to Government of Jammu and Kashmir Home Department letter No. Home-PNG/201/2021-01-(CC-45001) dated 17-12-2021, wherein the competent authority has approved for issuance of fresh advertisement notification excluding UT of Ladakh so as to give opportunity to eligible candidates who are domicile of Jammu and Kashmir to apply and participate in the selection process and be considered as per existing rules.

Police Recruitment Board invites online applications from eligible (Female candidates only), Domicile of UT J&K for participation in the selection process for the post of Constable in two Women Battalions of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, as per guidelines conveyed by MHA GOI vide letter No. 13030/50/2015.K.II (pt) dated 13-06-2018, wherein 60% posts will be kept reserved for women of border districts of Jammu region and will be equally divided among border districts. Remaining 40% of posts will be equally distributed for rest of the districts of Jammu region. Similarly, in Kashmir region 60% of posts shall be kept reserved for women of Border districts and will be equally divided among border districts of Kashmir. Remaining 40% of posts will be equally distributed in rest of the districts of Kashmir region in the Pay Band-I of Rs.5200-20200 + Grade pay 1900/- (Now revised 19900-63200 Level-2).

The candidates who had earlier qualified PET/PST for the post of Constable in two Women Battalions in response to PIQ Advertisement Notice issued under endorsement No. Pers-Rectt-A-22-2019/16251-300 dated 09-03-2019 need not apply again as they are eligible for the written examination. Similarly the candidates who were disqualified in PET/PST under the above quoted advertisement can not apply again as their applications would not be considered.

2) **Reservation:** Reservation for Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Economically Weaker Section(EWS), Pahari Speaking People (PSP), Social Caste(OSC), Residents Backward Area (RBA), Line of Actual Control(ALC)/International Border(IB) for the above posts, wherever applicable and admissible, would be as determined, in accordance with the provisions of SRO 294 dated 21-10-2005 and S.O 127 dated 20-04-2020.

A candidate seeking her consideration under Reserved Categories must ensure that she possess a valid/ Category Certificate as on the Cut-off Date of filling of application form. The certificate will have to be produced in accordance with timeline setup by the Board.

The candidates who had earlier qualified PET/PST under above quoted advertisement and possess any category certificate in pursuance to S.O 127 of 2020 dated 20-04-2020 can submit their requisite certificate issued by the competent authority to be considered against such reserved category.

3) **Domicile:-** The candidate should be a Domicile of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir as defined in terms of the Notifications issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India vide S.O 1229 (E) dated 31-03-2020 and S.O 1245(E) dated 03-04-2020 read with notification issued by the General Administration Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir vide S.O 166 dated 18-05-2020.

The candidate must possess Domicile Certificate issued by the Competent Authority on the format prescribed for the purpose, before the last date of submission of online application form.

4) The educational qualification, age and physical standards prescribed for the above mentioned posts are specified as under:-

i)	Educational Qualification	The Candidate should have passed matriculation / examination from any Government recognized Board by or before the last date for submission of: application form.
ii)	Age (as on January, 1st, 2022)	a. The candidates should not be below 18 years and above 28 years in age. (The candidates born before 01.01.1994 and after 31.12.2003 shall not be eligible.)
		b. The candidates who were below 28 years of age at the time of issuance of earlier advertisement notification but could not apply being non permanent residents and have now acquired eligibility in view of being domicile of UT J&K and have crossed upper age limit shall also be eligible.
		c. However, in case of serving SPOs with a continuous period of engagement of minimum three years and Voluntary Home Guards (VHGs) with a period of engagement of minimum five ! years, the upper age limit shall be 37 years and for Ex-Servicemen it shall be 48 years.
		d. The SPOs/VHGs and Ex-servicemen who were below 37 years and 48 years of age at the time of issuance of earlier advertisement notification but could not apply being non permanent residents and have now acquired eligibility in view of being domicile of UT J&K and have crossed upper age limit shall also be eligible
iii)	Physical Standards	Height 5 feet -2 inch (minimum.) For candidates belonging to Gorkha community (Domicile of UT J&K) Height 5 feet (minimum.)

III) The candidates possessing basic eligibility criteria viz age and educational qualification as prescribed here in above shall be subject to the following tests:-

A.	Physical Endurance Test (PET)- Qualifying in nature (only candidates who qualify the Physical Endurance Test (PET) shall be eligible for the PST	Long Race = 1000 meters in 6 ¹ / ₂ minutes (six minutes thirty seconds). Shot Put (4Kgs) = 14 ¹ / ₂ feet in three attempts • The test shall be of qualifying nature for which no marks will be allotted.
B.	Special provision regarding relaxation in Physical Endurance Tests for Ex- Servicemen in accordance with S.O 361 of 2021 dated 20-10-2021.	(Age-Upto 30 years) Long Race 1000 meters -6 ¹ / ₂ Minutes (Six minutes thirty seconds) Shot Put (4 kgs)- 14 ¹ / ₂ Feet in three attempts. (Age-Above 30 to 40 years) Long Race 1000 Metres-7 ¹ / ₂ Minutes (Seven minutes thirty seconds) Shot Put (4 kgs) 12 ¹ / ₂ Feet in three attempts. (Age-Above 40 years) Race 1000 Metres-8 ¹ / ₂ minutes (Eight minutes thirty seconds) Shot Put (4 kgs) 10 ¹ / ₂ Feet in three attempts.
C.	Physical Standard Test(PST)	Measurement of Height The candidates are also required to bring alongwith their original documents/testimonials for scrutiny during the PST.
D.	Written Examination (Objective type) Only for the candidates who qualify PET/PST shall be allowed to sit in written test	The written test will consist of objective questions. The question paper will consist of 100 questions to be attempted in 2 hours. The question paper will be of matriculation standard will comprise questions on general awareness/general knowledge, elementary mathematics, analytical aptitude and ability.

5)- Since the 60% posts are to be equally distributed in Border Districts and 40% posts are to be equally distributed in remaining Districts, candidates belonging to the domicile District cannot apply for appointment in other District except SC category, who can apply only in any one District of her own choice of the UT of J&K. In case a candidate applies for appointment in more than one District, her application will be summarily rejected without any notice to the candidate.

6)- The instruction for filling up of online application form is enclosed as annexure C/A". Candidate shall deposit a fee of Rs. 300/- (Rupees Three hundred only) online or use the services of Common Service Centers. In case of non availability of online payment facility, the candidates may use the option of depositing the application fee through Bank Challan. Candidates are requested to read and follow these instructions carefully as no amount once deposited will ever be refunded for reasons whatsoever.

7)- Candidates already in Government service and conforming to the prescribed standards can apply through proper channel after obtaining NOC from their Head of the Department without which the online applications will not be entertained.

8)- The recruitment will be undertaken under Transparent Recruitment Process (TRP) through an Outsourcing firm.

9)- Last date for submission of online application form shall be 30 days after the activation of the link which will be notified separately. The last date for the receipt of the application provided in the notification shall be the cutoff date for determining the eligibility with regard to educational qualification/ relevant category. Any qualification or claim accruing to the candidate after last date of receipt of application shall not be entertained. The selection of the candidates for the post of Constable shall be made at District level on their performance in written test vis-avis number of vacancies. In case of tie in merit, the preference will be given to the candidate older in age. In terms of S.O 290 of 2021 dated 20-08-2021 the candidates possessing National Cadet Corps (NCC) Certificates shall be awarded bonus marks as per the said SO. However, those candidates who had qualified PET/PST possesses NCC certificate can submit valid NCC certificate issued before cut-off date of earlier advertisement notification.

10)- Since, the recruitment is being made for raising 02 Women Battalions on the strength of J&K Police, as such, the appointees will have to render their services wherever required in the UT of J&K.

11)- In terms of the directions issued by the State Government vide No. Home/PB-III/62/G/2008 dated 25-09-2009, the horizontal reservation to the extent of 15% and 4% shall be given to eligible serving SPOs and VHGs respectively (provided SPOs have completed continuous engagement of 03 years and VHGs have completed 05 years of service on the last date of submission of online application). Besides, horizontal reservation to the extent of 6% shall be given to eligible Ex-Servicemen.

12)- The candidate working as SPOs/Volunteer Home Guard and conforming to the eligibility as envisaged in para 4-(ii) of the notice shall attach certificate(s) relating to their engagement as SPO/Volunteer Home Guards issued by the concerned DDO/SSP under his seal/signatures with date of issue. No such certificate will be entertained after the last date of submission of online application.

13)- The fixation of pay of the appointees shall be regulated as per the provisions of SO 192 of 2020 dated 17-06-2020.

14)- Upon their appointment, candidates who have obtained any loan/stipend under the self employment scheme or any other category will be allowed to join only in case they obtain a clearance certificate from the concerned department/bank to the effect they have refunded the loan/ cleared the liability.

15)- The candidates shall have to appear in the prescribed tests at their own expenses on the date and venue to be communicated by the Police Recruitment Board, through press or electronic media.

16)- In case, it is found at any stage of recruitment that the candidate was not eligible for the post or has given wrong information, her candidature shall be summarily rejected without any further notice to her and the same may attract legal action.

17)- The selected candidates shall be subjected to prescribed medical examination /checkup through Standing Medical Boards and the appointment orders shall be issued only after receipt of satisfactory medical report and clearance about her character/ antecedents from CID. The selected candidates shall be required to undergo the prescribed Basic Training Course.

(Dilbag Singh)-IPS
Director General of Police,
J&K-Jammu.

DIPK-16610/21

E-mail:- techrbpul786@gmail.com

Phone:-01933-295302,



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR(UT)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION PULWAMA.

TENDER NOTICE

E-NIT No :-Fresh-387/EEP/RNB/of 2021-22/13374-84

Dated: 12/01/2022

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

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost in (Rs. Lacs.)	Cost of T/D (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.) in the shape of CDR/FDR	Time of Completion in working Days	Class of Contract	Major Head of Accounts	Administrative Accord Approval No:
1.	Construction of CC Drain at Dalipor link road Pulwama.	2.50	200/-	5,000/-	10 working Days	DEE	3054-M&R	CE's Sanction No: Actts/ RnB/6720-22 Dated: 09.12.2021
2.	Construction of CC Drain to link road leading to District Treasury Office Pulwama.	2.00	200/-	4,000/-	10 working Days	DEE	3054-M&R	CE's Sanction No: Actts/ RnB/6720-22 Dated: 09.12.2021
3.	Construction of foot Bridge to the backside of Shopping complex near Hajra Complex main town Pulwama.	1.13	200/-	2,300/-	10 working Days	DEE	Untide	118-DDCP of 2021 Dt 03.11.2021.
4.	Providing and laying WBM Grade-II and construction of CC Drain at IR-Tujan.	1.75	200/-	3,500/-	10 working Days	DEE	3054-M&R	CE's Sanction No: Actts/ RnB/6720-22 Dated: 09.12.2021
5.	P/L of WBM Grade-II and construction of cc Drain on Iyangund Pachhar road.	1.75	200/-	3,500/-	10 working Days	DEE	3054-M&R	CE's Sanction No: Actts/ RnB/6720-22 Dated: 09.12.2021
6.	P/L of WBM Grade-II and laying of pipes from Marhening crossing to Peerpora.	2.00	200/-	4,000/-	10 working Days	DEE	3054-M&R	CE's Sanction No: Actts/ RnB/6720-22 Dated: 09.12.2021
7.	P/L of WBM Grade-II in patches/stretches on Mirgund Thokerpora road including Shah Mohalla at Thokerpora.	0.86	200/-	1,800/-	10 working Days	DEE	3054-M&R	CE's Sanction No: Actts/ RnB/6720-22 Dated: 09.12.2021
8.	P/L of WBM Grade-II and laying of pipes on Putrigam Chanapora road.	2.00	200/-	4,000/-	10 working Days	DEE	3054-M&R	CE's Sanction No: Actts/ RnB/6720-22 Dated: 09.12.2021
9.	Upgradation of road from passanger shed (GHS) via Army Camp to H/O Ayub Chawhan at Malangpora Gujar Patti by Way of Constt of CC Drain (BW-2)	1.16	200/-	2,400/-	10 working Days	DEE	S/S	33-SE/PS of 2021-22 Dated: 02.08.2021
10.	Restoration of road from Jamia Masjid Parigam towards Astaan Sharief road at Parigam Tral.	2.00	200/-	4,000/-	10 working Days	DEE	3054-M&R	CE's Sanction No: Actts/ RnB/6720-22 Dated: 09.12.2021
11.	Restoration of Ladhoo Leth-pora road BWO WBM Grade-II in Patches/Stretches.	1.25	200/-	25,00/-	10 working Days	DEE	3054-M&R	CE's Sanction No: Actts/ RnB/6720-22 Dated: 09.12.2021

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	12 /01/2022
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 13 /01/2022 10:00 A.M.
3.	Bid submission Start Date	13 /01/2022 from 10.00 AM
4.	Bid Submission End Date	21/01/2022 upto 4.00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	21/01/2022 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 successful bidder has to provide 5% of allotted cost as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and EMD of 2% shall be released after receipt of 5% Performance security.

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

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

4. 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
DIPK-16613/21

Technical Officer

Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Pulwama



AMID THE SPIKE IN COVID-19 CASES, health workers in Srinagar walk several kilometres in the hilly areas of city outskirts for vaccination . KO Pic Abid Bhat

500-Bedded Pediatric Hospital At Bemina To Be Operational Soon: Govt



6 WHILE TAKING STOCK OF ELECTRIC supply to the hospital, the DC was informed that a 1.6 MVA transformer is being installed in the hospital premises and shall be made operational by 15th of February to ensure uninterrupted reliable power supply.

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR:- In order to review the pace and progress of the works being carried out on Rs 114.81 crore project for construction of 500 bedded pediatric Hospital, at Bemina, the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Thursday chaired a meeting here in his Office Chamber.

Chief Planning Officer, Srinagar, Yasin Lone, Medical Superintendent G B Panth Hospital Dr Nazir Choudhary, Superintendent, Head of Paediatrics, G B Panth, Engineers of R&B, PDD, PHE and MED, besides other concerned Officers were present in the meeting.

During the meeting, the officers apprised the Deputy Commissioner about the component wise status of works in the Hospital.

The Deputy Commissioner was informed that most of the civil, electric and mechanical works have been completed and the

project is in the final and finishing phase.

With regard to the civil works, the Superintendent Engineer R&B informed that 90 percent works have been completed and remaining civil works will be completed by the end of this month.

The Superintendent Engineer Mechanical Engineering Department apprised the chair that all mechanical components including 3 Medical Oxygen plants of 1000 lpm capacity each, Lifts, Central Heating System, Fire Fighting equipments and Laundry unit are already in place and tested successfully, while work on STP is being carried out which shall be completed within next two months.

The DC directed the Mechanical Engineering Department to speed up the pace of work to ensure STP in the hospital is completed within the set deadline. He also directed them to make some immediate interim ar-

rangements for STP till the main work on STP is completed.

While taking stock of electric supply to the hospital, the DC was informed that a 1.6 MVA transformer is being installed in the hospital premises and shall be made operational by 15th of February to ensure uninterrupted reliable power supply.

On the occasion, the Medical Superintendent, G B Panth Hospital requisitioned for additional 40 kanals of land for housing residential quarters of Doctors and other paramedical staff of the Hospital, besides for parking facility. He also demanded that an overhead footbridge be constructed near the hospital site to ensure safety of the visiting patients and attendants while crossing the bypass road.

For allocation of additional land, the DC asked him to place an indent so that the matter is taken up with concerned quarters for early allotment for the said purpose. With regard to construction of the overhead footbridge, the DC asked for the preparation of a separate DPR so that demand is met.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed all the concerned to work in proper coordination to ensure vital pediatric facilities on modern lines are made available in the District which will be equipped with all modern equipment for managing the high risk pediatric cases.

He said once the Hospital is made operational it will strengthen the pediatric care facilities in Kashmir division, ease the burden of patient load on the existing tertiary level hospital, and ensure quality maternity, neonatal and pediatric care to the patients.

Several Illegal Structures Demolished To Restore Pristine Glory Of Khushaal Sar: Govt



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR:- As part of rejuvenation and restoration of historical Lake of Khushaal Sar, the District Administration Srinagar conducted a massive anti-encroachment drive in and along the banks of Historical Water Circuit of Khushal Sar.

The anti-encroachment drive was launched on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad during which a special anti-encroachment team headed by Tehsildar Eidgah, Ishfaq Ahmad Khan demolished several residential structures in Khushaal Sar and retrieved more than 10 kanals of land from illegal occupation.

Pertinent to mention that in the last few months, the District Administration Srinagar has conducted a series of such anti encroachment/ demolition drives for restoration of the water bodies in the historical water circuit of Srinagar including Khushaal sar.

As per the inhabitants of the Khushaal sar, the lake started to show visible improvement by the efforts undertaken by the District Administration Srinagar for cleaning the lake, which was covered with weeds, animal

waste, plastics and sewage a few months ago while many of its sides had been encroached upon.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner has stated that such anti encroachment demolition drives will continue with more vigour in the future so that pristine glory of the historical water channel is restored fully in the larger public interest.

The Deputy Commissioner said the transformation has been made possible by collaborative efforts of the local community and the District Administration and we are able to see that the lake has been restored to a large extent.

The DC further said that all out efforts are being made to ensure that, the tourists and foreigners will once aging visit to historical water circuit of Khushaal sar, Gilsar in boats from Dal Lake through Nallah Amir Khan to reach Anchar Lake and then finally to Manasbal Lake in Ganderbal district.

The DC has also reiterated his appeal to people to not litter or throw garbage into the water body and understand that it is an important asset and we need to protect it. He urged the local people to be determined not to let it polluted again.

DIAL-EMMA

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS



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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

This Day in History

- 1641 - United East Indian Company conquers city of Malacca, 7,000 killed
- 1761 - Third Battle of Panipat: In one of the largest battles of the century, the mostly Muslim Afghanani Durrani Empire defeats the mostly Hindu Maratha Empire in Northern India. An estimated 60,000–70,000 were killed in the fighting and about 40,000 Maratha prisoners massacred afterwards.
- 1784 - US Revolutionary War ends with the US Congress of the Confederation ratifying the Treaty of Paris
- 1814 - King of Denmark cedes Norway to King of Sweden by treaty of Kiel
- 1914 - The Gandhi-Smuts Agreement is reached between Gen. J.C. Smuts and Mahatma Gandhi, regarding voluntary registration, poll tax, recognition of Indian marriages and other matters
- 1929 - Afghan King Amanullah forced to resign
- 1943 - World War II: Japan begins Operation Ke, withdrawal of its troops from Guadalcanal
- 1943 - World War II: Casablanca Conference begins between Winston Churchill and Franklin D. Roosevelt
- 1944 - Soviet army begins offensive at Oranienbaum/Wolchow
- 1950 - US recalls all consular officials from China
- 1956 - Jordan government refuses to join Pact of Baghdad
- 1969 - 25 members of US aircraft carrier Enterprise die during maneuvers
- 1969 - Soyuz 4 launched; rendezvous with Soyuz 5 two days later
- 1974 - World Football League founded
- 1975 - USSR breaks trade agreement with US
- 1990 - Un Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar says he has lost all hope for peace in Gulf
- 1994 - Russian manned space craft TM-17, lands
- 1998 - Researchers in Dallas, Texas present findings about an enzyme that slows aging and cell death (apoptosis)
- 2000 - A United Nations tribunal sentences five Bosnian Croats to up to 25 years for the 1993 killing of over 100 Muslims in a Bosnian village.
- 2005- Landing of the Huygens probe on Saturn's moon Titan
- 2008 - MESSENGER spacecraft performs a Mercury flyby
- 2010 - Yemen declares war on al-Qaeda
- 2011 - Stampede near Sabarimala in Kerala, India kills 104 devotees and injures 100 more
- 2012 - Suicide bomber kills 53 and injures 130 in Basra, Iraq

From KO Archives

Only PM Can Represent Us: Farooq

Observer News Service

JAMMU- Chief Minister, Dr. Farooq Abdullah today questioned the usefulness of Hurriyat delegation to Paki-stan in sorting out problems in Kashmir and said only direct talks between prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Pakistan chief executive General Pervez Musharraf would be purposeful for bringing peace in the region.

'Kashmir is part of India and only the prime minister can represent us in any dia-logue', Dr. Abdullah said after inaugurating a B. Ed college in private sector at Tarore, 22 kilometers from here this morning. He however, added that no authority, even the prime minister, can never af-ford to think of parting with an inch of Kashmir, 'which was, is and will remain proud part of the nation'.

The chief minister said that after failing to annex Kashmir in favour wars, Islamabad has switched over to proxy war for the past about 12 years. He said the foreigners are attacking se-curity pickets and targeting nationalist forces. Everyday National Conference workers, village defence committee members and SPQs are killed. They are also after those who have laid their arms after real-ising the futility of gun, Dr. Abdullah said.

"Pakistanis out to eliminate those carrying tricolour in Kashmir thereby snapping the relationship the people of the valley have tied with rest of the nation, but we are determined to give them a befitting fight' Even if Farooq is killed, Kash-mir will never go to Pakistan', he declared.

According to NAFA, the chief minister said APHC lacked mass support. "It has only militant support. If that support is withdrawn, it will collapse. Why are they eager to go to Paki-stan? They are already in touch with Pak through its mission in India. In fact, the APHC is the creation of Pakistan, he said.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 14 January, 2001)

Setback To Apni Party As Five DDC Members Resign In Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a major jolt to Apni Party, its five district development council (DDC) members from Srinagar resigned from the party on Thursday.

Bilal Ahmad Bhat, who was elected as vice-chairperson of DDC Srinagar last year, said that he along with other four DDC members have resigned from the party today.

"We have won election as independent candidates in 2020 and later joined Apni



Party. Now we have decided that we will continue as independent councilors," he said.

Bilal said DDC members Ali Muhammad, Muhammad Shaban, Shamima and Muhammad Yasin have also resigned the party.

Although the Apni Party had managed to win only 12 DDC seats in 2020, it managed to get its candidates elected as DDC chairpersons and vice-chairpersons in Srinagar and Shopian districts by wooing elected candidates from other parties and independents.

In the election, its candidates won just three seats in Srinagar and two in Shopian out of 14 in each of the two districts.

The NC had then alleged that Apni Party was using pressure tactics to poach winning candidates from other parties.

“WE HAVE WON ELECTION AS INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES IN 2020 and later joined Apni Party. Now we have decided that we will continue as independent councilors.”

E-mail: tariqbhat72@gmail.com



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SATHU PAYEEN BAGHWANPORA, BARBARSHAH, SRINAGAR, KMR.

CBI Gets Prosecution Requests From UAE, Saudi Arabia Against 19 Indians



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi: The CBI has received requests from the United Arab Emirates for local prosecution of 16 Indian absconders from the gulf country who are wanted in separate cases of fraud and murder there, officials said on Wednesday.

The UAE and India have a bilateral extradition treaty which states that the nationals of the contracting states shall not be extradited to the other contracting state provided that the requested state shall submit the case to its competent authorities for prosecution if the act committed is considered as an offense under the laws of both contracting states.

The requests have been forwarded to the CBI by the UAE Embassy through the External Affairs Ministry for local prosecution following which the central agency has already registered two FIRs against two individuals wanted by the gulf country in their requests.

The CBI has booked one Kerala-based Rajaneesh Das who is

wanted by the UAE authorities in alleged 1.5 million AED fraud in a Dubai-based company where he was working as assistant manager. It is alleged he stole aluminum strips that he had sold.

The agency has registered another FIR against Karnataka resident Soukath Ali Thirthahalli who is wanted for alleged embezzlement of 1.4 million AED in a construction company where he was working as Finance Manager.

The MEA has also forwarded a request from the Saudi Arabia government for the local prosecution of three individuals wanted there for alleged breach of trust and leaving the Kingdom illegally, they said.

Based on the request of the Saudi Arabia government, the CBI has registered a case against Abdul Rahuman, Abdul Samad Kamaludeen, and Anish Sompalan. It is alleged by the complainant that he had left three lakh Saudi Riyals with the trio and went to pray but these three individuals escaped illegally from the country with the money.

Yogi To Contest From Ayodhya? BJP's Central Poll Panel To Decide



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The BJP is considering fielding Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath from Ayodhya as its senior leader to finalise candidates for the assembly polls starting from February 10.

Adityanath, currently a member of the legislative council, had recently said that he is willing to contest the assembly polls from wherever the party's top brass decides.

Sources said the Ayodhya seat has been discussed within the party as the constituency from where he may be fielded but added that a final decision will be taken by the party's top brass.

The BJP's Central Election Committee, whose members include Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is meeting on Thursday to finalise its candidates for a large number of seats, including those going to the polls in the first two phases on February 10 and 14.

Ayodhya, Mathura and his tra-

ditional constituency Gorakhpur, which he has represented in Lok Sabha a number of times, have been seen as the most likely seat of choice for Adityanath, a key Hindutva face of the party who is also the head priest of the Goraknath Math.

Ayodhya, the sources said, ticks many boxes as the ongoing construction of the Ram temple has boosted its political profile for the BJP. The town falls in the Awadh region, where Samajwadi Party has been traditionally strong, and if Adityanath is fielded from there, then it may boost the Hindutva plan in the area, including parts of the neighbouring Poorvanchal.

The chief minister and other senior party leaders from the state, including two deputy chief ministers and its state unit chief Swatantra Dev Singh, have been holding consultations with the central leadership in the national capital for the last two days.

Ayodhya seat is currently represented by BJP's Ved Prakash Gupta in the assembly.



Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and Dharam Singh Saini. Photo: Twitter/@yadavakhilesh

UP Elections 2022

BJP in Crisis: 3rd Minister, 8th MLA Quit in 3 Days

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: The exodus from Yogi Adityanath's cabinet continued on Thursday, with Dharam Singh Saini becoming the third minister in as many days to desert the BJP just weeks before the Uttar Pradesh assembly elections.

Saini, a backward classes leader who was the minister of state (independent charge), Ayush, Food Security and Drug Administration, has joined the Samajwadi Party, according to its president Akhilesh Yadav. In a tweet in Hindi, Yadav said:

According to India Today, Saini had earlier in the day returned the security cover and residence allotted to him by the state government, setting off speculation that he was going to quit the BJP. He was elected from the Nakur assembly constituency.

Before Saini, ministers Swami Prasad Maurya and Dara Singh Chouhan resigned from the cabinet and quit as members of the BJP. Both of them accused the BJP government of neglecting marginalised sections of society.

Maurya and Saini were members of the Bahujan Samaj Party before joining the BJP.

SINCE THE VOICES OF THE backward classes, Dalits, unemployed youth, traders of medium and small scale industries and shopkeepers among others are being ignored, I am resigning from the primary membership of the party,"

Another MLA resigns

On Thursday, another MLA, Mukesh Verma, who represented the Shikohabad assembly constituency, resigned from the primary membership of the BJP accusing the government of lacking respect towards backward classes and Dalits.

"Since the voices of the backward classes, Dalits, unemployed youth, traders of medium and small scale industries and shopkeepers among others are being ignored, I am resigning from the primary membership of the party," Verma stated in a letter to BJP state president Swatantra Dev Singh.

He said he will continue the 'fight for justice' under Other Backward Classes (OBC) leader Swami Prasad Maurya.

With Verma and Saini's exits,

nine legislators have quit the BJP over the past three days, according to India Today.

Maurya, after resigning from the Yogi Adityanath-led cabinet on Tuesday, had alleged "gross neglect" by the BJP towards Dalits, backward classes, farmers, unemployed youth and small traders.

Verma, also an OBC leader, also sent a copy of the letter to the party's national president J.P. Nadda.

There are speculations that he will also join the SP.

Apart from Saini, Verma, Chouhan and Maurya, the other BJP leaders who have resigned from the party are Avtar Singh Bhandana, Brijesh Kumar Prajapati, Roshan Lal Varma, Bhagwati Sagar and Vinay Shukla are the five other leaders who quit the BJP in the last 36 hours.

Akhilesh Yadav and SP have emerged as the primary challenger to the BJP in Uttar Pradesh. Apart from poaching influential leaders from the saffron party, the SP has also managed to line up several alliances with regional parties.

The Uttar Pradesh assembly elections will be held in seven phases from February 10 to March 7. The results will be announced on March 10.

US Discourages India From Acquiring Russian S-400 Missile Defence Systems

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington: The US has made clear to India that it is "discouraging" it from proceeding with its acquisition of S-400 missile defence systems from Russia but Washington will have to weigh "important geostrategic considerations" while taking a decision on growing calls for a presidential CAATSA waiver to New Delhi, President Joe Biden's nominee for Coordinator for Sanctions Policy has told lawmakers.

In October 2018, India signed a USD 5 billion deal with Russia to buy five units of the S-400 air defence missile systems, despite a warning from the then Trump administration that going ahead with the contract may invite US sanctions.

The Biden administration has not yet clarified whether it will impose sanctions on India under the provisions of the Countering America's Adversaries Through



Sanctions Act (CAATSA) for procuring the S-400 missile systems.

CAATSA is a tough US law that was brought in 2017 and authorises the US administration to impose sanctions on countries that purchase major defence hardware from Russia.

James O'Brien, President Biden's nominee for the US State Department's coordinator for sanctions policy was asked at his confirmation hearing on Wednesday if the US experience with Turkey provided any warning or lessons on how to proceed with India.

The US has already imposed sanctions on Turkey under the CAATSA for the purchase of a

batch of S-400 missile defence systems from Russia.

Following the US sanctions on Turkey over the procurement of S-400 missile systems, there were apprehensions that Washington may impose similar punitive measures on India. Russia has been one of India's key major suppliers of arms and ammunition.

"I believe they are very different circumstances, and, of course, different security partnerships -- but how do you believe we should think about the possibility of sanctioning our friends and not just threats?" Senator Todd Young asked O'Brien, a former career employee of the State Department.

In response, O'Brien said it was difficult to compare the two situations, with a NATO ally that is breaking with legacy defence procurement systems, and then with India, a partner of growing importance, but that has legacy relationships with Russia.

Congress' First List of 125 Candidates For UP Elections Includes 50 Women



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Thursday released the party's first list of 125 candidates, including 50 women, for the upcoming assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh.

The party has also fielded Unnao rape victim's mother Asha Singh from the Unnao Assembly constituency.

Addressing a press conference, she said 40 per cent of the Congress candidates are women and another 40 per cent are youth and by doing so the party is making a new and historic beginning.

She said the party has fielded such candidates who have struggled for seeking justice in Uttar Pradesh and the party wants them to come to the forefront and be a part of power in the state.

"With 40 percent women and 40 percent youth, we hope to start a new kind of politics in Uttar Pradesh," she said.

"Our list gives a new message.

We want to tell those who have struggled for their rights and for seeking justice in the past, that they have the power to fight for their rights and the Congress party will give that power to them to be a part of power in the state," Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also said.

The AICC general secretary in-charge for Uttar Pradesh did not answer whether she will contest the elections herself.

She said the party will not run a negative campaign in these polls and will instead run a positive campaign for a bright future of Uttar Pradesh while highlighting the issues concerning the people and those of women and development.

Taking on the Uttar Pradesh government, she said, it has been "dictatorial" and the discussion in elections is skewed. "Our focus would be to bring issues of people to centre-stage," she said.

Uttar Pradesh is scheduled to have seven-phase polls beginning from February 10.

UN Mission Speaks To Crew Members Of UAE-Flagged Vessel Seized By Houthis With 7 Indians On Board



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

UNITED NATIONS: A United Nations mission said it has spoken to the crew members of a United Arab Emirates-flagged cargo vessel that was seized by Houthi rebels off the port of Hodeidah in Yemen and has seven Indians on board.

"As part of its routine weekly patrol, UNMHA visited As-Salif port and neighbouring areas this afternoon. The patrol team saw the RWABEE vessel from a distance and spoke to its crew members," the UN Mission to support the Hudeidah Agreement (UNMHA) said in a tweet on Wednesday.

"The UNMHA patrol team also visited a fish market and a local school in As Salif to interact with the local population. No indication of militarisation was observed in the areas patrolled," it said.

India has called for the immediate release of the seven Indian crew members on board the United Arab Emirates-flagged cargo vessel Rawabi that was seized by Houthis off the port of Hodeidah in Yemen earlier this month.

India's Permanent Representative

to the UN Ambassador T S Tirumurti, speaking at a UN Security Council meeting on Yemen on Wednesday, expressed grave concern over the seizure and detention of the UAE vessel Rawabi.

Tirumurti "called for the immediate release of 7 Indian crew members, expressed deep concern about their safety & well-being & that Houthis should ensure their safety till release." India also called upon all parties to the conflict to immediately cease fighting, de-escalate the situation and engage unconditionally with the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen.

The External Affairs Ministry said Tuesday that all seven Indian sailors onboard a United Arab Emirates-flagged cargo vessel that was seized by Houthis off the port of Hodeidah in Yemen are safe and the government is making all efforts to secure their early release.

Arindam Bagchi, the spokesperson in the ministry, said India has been closely monitoring developments following the seizure of the UAE flagged ship Rawabee by the Houthis on January 2.

NEWS MAKERS

Two Brothers, Separated During Partition, Meet After 74 Years At Kartarpur: Report

Asian News International

ISLAMABAD: Two brothers, who were separated during the India-Pakistan Partition in 1947 were reunited after 74 years in Kartarpur, local media reported on Wednesday.

A video capturing the visibly emotional reunion of the siblings on Tuesday has been widely circulated on social media.

The News International reported that Siddique, a resident of Pakistan's Faisalabad, met with elder brother Habib who arrived at Kartarpur from the Phullanwal area of Punjab in India via the Kartarpur Corridor that connects Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan to the border with India.

Siddique was an infant during



the time of the Partition when his family got split and his elder brother Habib grew up on the Indian side of the Partition line.

The brothers could not control

their emotions and burst into tears of joy after meeting embracing each other and recalling memories.

During the meeting, Habib lauded the initiative of Kartarpur, say-

ing that the corridor helped him to reconnect with his brother.

According to The News International, he told his younger brother that they will continue meeting through the corridor.

Meanwhile, social media was abuzz with comments of users who viewed the touching video of the reunion. Reports quoted the brothers thanking the governments of the two countries for opening the Kartarpur Corridor facilitating a visa-free travel from India to Pakistan up to Kartarpur.

In a major decision, Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Indian government decided to re-open in November 2019, the 4.7-kilometre-long Kartarpur Corridor that was closed in wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This 77-Year-Old Man Enrols For Class 12 Exam After Passing 10Th In 56Th Attempt

JAIPUR: Proving the adage that age is just a number, one Hukumdas Vaishnav, a 77-year-old retired government employee from Jalore, who flunked class X exams 55 times, has now got enrolled for class XII exams.

Hukumdas Vaishnav cleared the class X exam in 56th attempt.

The story of this man pursuing his studies in his 70s is a source of inspiration for many.

Born in 1945 in Sardargarh village of Jalore, Hukumdas passed class 1 to 8 from Teekhi village. For the first time in 1962 in Mokalshar, he gave the class X exami-



nation. The examination centre was in Barmer. While he got supplementary in the first exam, he failed for the second time. His friends challenged that he will never clear his class X exam.

Accepting the challenge, Hukumdas promised that he shall clear his class X exam one day.

Hukumdas Vaishnav says that he became a fourth grade employee in the Ground Water Department.

Thereafter, he left regular studies and started appearing for ex-

aminations as a volunteer.

In 2005, he retired from the Treasury Department as a Class IV employee. Till 2010, he appeared for class X exam organized by the Board of Secondary Education for 48 times. After that, he tried from the State Open Board and finally in 2019, he passed 10th class exam with second division. After that he got enrolled for class 12 in 2021-22 session and will now appear for exams.

On Tuesday, Hukumdas Vaishnav applied from the 12th arts class exams at Government Higher Secondary School, which is the reference centre for the State Open in Jalore city.

Interestingly, even his grandson has completed his schooling. **IANS**

Mainstream Parties Outraged Over ‘Surya Namaskar’ Order

Auqib Javed

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has directed the higher education department to organise a large scale virtual ‘Surya Namaskar’ programme on Thursday, evoking sharp criticism from the mainstream political parties.

The order was issued by Directorate of Colleges, Higher Education Department, who directed Nodal Principal of two colleges—GGM Science College Jammu and SP College Srinagar to organise the event under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Programme

“To mark the holy Occasion of Makar Sankranti on 14th January 2022, Gol has desired that on the occasion a large Scale Virtual Surya Namaskar , be organised under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Celebrations To make it a People Centric Successful Programme with Tagline “Surya Namaskar For Vitality kindly ensure that all faculty members and students actively participate in this programme by registering on any of the following portals,” reads the order, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer.

It further added, “It shall how-

ever be ensured COVID Appropriate behaviour Guidelines are followed in letter and spirit.”

The order has however draw sharp flak from the regional political parties.

Former Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah while blaming the authorities posted on twitter.

“Why should Muslim students be forced to do anything, including yoga to celebrate Makar Sankranti?Makar Sankranti is a festival & to celebrate it or not must be a personal choice. Would the BJP be happy if a similar order was issued to order non-Muslim students to celebrate Eid?”

Former Chief Minister and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President echoed similar view on the government’s directions.

“ GOLs PR misadventures aim to demean & collectively humiliate Kashmiris.Forcing students & staff to perform suryanamaskars by issuing orders despite their obvious discomfort with imposition of something laden with religious connotations gives an insight into their communal mindset,” Meh-booba posted on her official Twitter handle

7 Pak Militants Among 14 Killed In 8 Ops This Year: DGP

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh on Thursday said that 14 militants, including seven Pakistani nationals, have been killed in eight encounters in the union territory so far this year and asserted that anti-militancy operations will be intensified to clear the region of militancy.

The police chief paid tribute to police constable Rohit Chib who was killed during an encounter with militants in Kulgam district of south Kashmir on Wednesday.

In the operation, Pakistan-origin Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) militant Babar was killed and five, including two civilians and three soldiers, were injured.

“This year, we have undertaken eight successful operations. As many as 14 terrorists have been killed in these operations.



Among these 14 terrorists, seven are Pakistani terrorists,” Singh told reporters.

The police chief further said the militant modules and their networks helping militants are also being eliminated.

“The elimination of these terrorists are going on at a fast pace. In these operations, seven terrorists who had come from Pakistan to engineer terror have been eliminated,” he said.

He said people heaved a sigh of relief in 2021 as there have

been largescale elimination of militants. “We will clear this land of terrorism so that people live in an environment of peace,” he added.

After a wreath-laying ceremony, Chib’s mortal remains were cremated at Jogi Ghat here.

The DGP appreciated his work in the special operation group (SoG). “He had volunteered to join SoG. He was recruited in 2011. He was doing excellent work. Three years ago, he got a special out-of-turn promotion one-rank above others,” the DGP said.

Singh said Chib led from the front in the operation without caring about his personal safety, but was hit by a bullet.

Despite being injured, he played a big role in neutralising the top militant, the DGP said.

“Unfortunately he succumbed to his injuries.... We are proud of him for fighting bravely in the operation,” he said.

One-Way Traffic On Jammu-Srinagar Highway Today



Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu-Srinagar highway, the only surface link connecting Kashmir Valley with the outside world, shall reopen for one-way for traffic tomorrow (Friday), officials said here on Thursday.

“(On Friday) subject to fair weather and better road condition Only LMVs Passengers shall be allowed from Srinagar towards Jammu (strictly one way) which will be allowed to move via Maitra route,” a traffic department official said.

“These vehicles shall be allowed from Navyug Tunnel (Qazigund side) from 1100 hrs to 1400 hrs (Subject to change depending on the road position then).”

He said no traffic is possible via Mehar because of continuous shooting stones at Slide point.

“Bus/Mini Bus/Tempoo Traveler etc. will be not allowed as capacity of a bridge on Maitra road do not support these vehicles,” he said, adding, “Action under Rule shall be taken against the vehicle who will violate the advisory.”

The thoroughfare remained shut on Thursday and on Wednesday it was closed shortly after traffic was restored for movement of stranded passenger light-medium vehicles (LMVs) this afternoon.

On Friday last, the Highway got blocked and remained closed for three consecutive days due to heavy snowfall and

landslides at several places. The road was partially thrown open for stranded vehicles on Monday after clearing landslides and improvements in the weather.

Meanwhile, Mughal Road, connecting Shopian with Poonch and Rajouri districts, remained closed for vehicular movement in view of snow accumulation at Peer Ki Gali.

Also, Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri road remained shut for vehicular movement in view of snow accumulation on Zoji la axis and has been closed till further orders. Kishtwar-Sinthan road also remained closed in view of snow accumulation, the traffic department official said. (GNS)

Snow Not Cleared From Doodhpathri Road

Locals, PDP Criticize District Adm Budgam

BUDGAM:The residents of Raiyar , Kralpathri , Mujpathri and surrounding villages of Doodhpathri aghast against the district administration Budgam as the road leading to the tourist destination of Doodhpathri continues to be closed for the sixth day.

The locals told Kashmir Observer that district administration has failed to clear the snow from the Doodhpathri road with the result many tourists were returning back.

“Several tourist vehicles are returning back from Khansahib and surrounding villages as the road leading to Doodhpathri has not been cleared of snow even after almost a week. This clearly exhibits sheer misgovernance and mismanagement on part of local district authorities who make false claims about having cleared snow from all the major roads in Budgam. Doodhpathri is an important road and its closure for six consecutive days should be viewed seriously by LG administration and Chief Secretary” said Shahnawaz Mir PDP leader and constituency incharge Khansahib

The Chief Engineer Mechanical Engineering wing had re-



cently sent a Fresia snow cutting machine to Yusmarg and in fact accompanied to the site himself. It is said that the machine has developed some technical snag and got damaged and that is why it could not be sent to Doodhpathri.

An official of Mechanical Engineering wing Kashmir told Kashmir Observer that by Friday the snow clearance work would be taken up on Doodhpathri road.

PHASE–II Of Health Outreach Programmes Held By IUST

Observer News Service

AWANTIPORA: Continuing with its Institutional Social Responsibility (ISR), the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) Awantipora conducted its “PHASE –II outreach Programmes” at Aram Mohalla and Dobi Mohalla Mattan Anantnag in which more than 300 students and women participated.

The awareness camp on ‘Vaccination and general sanitation’ was organised by Syed Mantaqui Memorial College of Nursing and Medical Technology (SMMC-NMT). IUST in collaboration with the ASHA, Anganwadi workers, village heads and Principal of the government higher secondary school Mattan Anantnag.

“During this campaign, focus was on generating awareness regarding Vaccination against the Covid -19, clinical features and Do’s & Don’ts for the prevention of Covid-19 and

also carried out the Deworming campaign with the participating population,” Principal SMMC-NMT Ms. Asmat Parveen said.

Simultaneously an intensive door to door survey was also conducted based on the parameters of gender, educational and economic status in which non-vaccinated population was identified and provided awareness regarding vaccine and were referred to Urban Health Training Centre Mattan for vaccination.

“11.12% from the survey respondents were diagnosed with Hypertension and 5.92% with Anaemia problems,” official statement read.

IUST’s survey team also emphasized that the existing environmental problems in this area like improper waste disposal, Water pollution and Open drainage system should be addressed immediately for better sanitation and health care.

7 Covid Positive Women Deliver Healthy Babies At MCH Jammu

JAMMU: At least seven pregnant women infected by Coronavirus have delivered healthy babies at the Government Maternity & Childcare Hospital, Gandhi Nagar, here, officials said.

They said that MCH has witnessed miracles in the form of seven successful cesarean deliveries of Covid positive mothers this month. The miracle accounts for all the babies being Covid negative. The hospital has been dedicated for Covid positive maternity cases and is gradually facing an increase in new admissions.

Medical Superintendent, Dr Arun Sharma, informed that the hospital is also the designated centre for conducting surgeries on Covid patients, requiring surgery because of other non-Covid causes.

The MS assures that the hospital is well equipped with facilities, which include, 200 regular and 40 ventilator supported beds, 4 operation theatres and three oxygen generation plants of a combined capacity of more than 3000 lpm.

Dr Arun informs that it is safe for pregnant and lactating women to get vaccinated and reminds that lactating mothers with Covid positive should not directly feed their babies.

Senior citizens, persons with comorbidities and healthcare workers are being provided walk-in facility for getting the precaution dose of Covid vaccine since January 10, and children between the ages of 15 and 18 are also being provided similar facility at the hospital.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ESTATES DIVISION, SRINAGAR.

B

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

FRESH NIT NO. 184/XEN/EDS/2022 OF 01/2022

Executive Engineer Estates Division Srinagar on behalf of Lt. Governor of Union Territory J&K invites tenders by E-tendering on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Registered Civil Contractors with Union Territory J&K /CPWD/Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works.

S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (Amt In Rs)	Time of Completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Face lifting by way of painting, Distempering and Panelling Including other allied works to Staff Quarters at Dalgate Srinagar.	1.29 lacs	200/-	15 Days	DEE	2216-Non Plan
2.	Repairs / Renovation of Kitchen and Bathroom to Set No 40-B at Budshah Flats Srinagar. (U-Shaped Block)	0.73 lacs	200/-	10 Days	DEE	
3.	Repairs/Renovation by way of Tiling, Construction of Ward-robres and other allied works at Set No. 144-R, 45-D and 191-O at Government Quarters Bemina Srinagar.	2.21 lacs	200/-	25 Days	DEE	
4.	Repairs/Renovation by way of Tiling and other allied works at Set No. 2-A (Blocks A to E) at Government Quarters Bemina Srinagar.	1.44 lacs	200/-	15 Days	DEE	

Position of AAA:
Position of funds:

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	11-01-2022
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	12-01-2022 from 10.00 AM.
3	Bid submission Start Date	12-01-2022 from 10.00 AM.
4	Bid Submission End Date	18-01-2022 upto 3.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	18-01-2022 at 3.05 PM.

In the office of Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar.

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan under Major Head-0216/Revenue (others) in favour of Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

3. All Bidders has to submit Call Deposit Receipt (CDR) as Earnest money for an amount of 2% of advertised cost and shall be released after when the DLP is over.

4. The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of advertised cost as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR within 02 Days before fixation of contract and shall be released after when DLP is over.

5. 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 Estates Division, Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

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

7. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

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

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

7.3. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.

7.4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

7.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.

8. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form) and detailed NIT issued by this office time to time.

No. - E-Tender/NIT/EDS/222-32/T-1
Dated: -11-01-2022
DIPK-16556/21

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Estates Division, Sgr.

UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CONSTRUCTION DIVISION

FRESH NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

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

S.No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Earnest Money In Rs.	Cost of T/ Doc in shape of E-Challan (in Rs.)	Time of completion	Time and Date for Submission of E-Tender.	Date & Time of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	9	10
1.	Renovation and Remodeling of M.S Quarters (1-8) ABCD Quarters (1-8) at Main Campus.	36.25	72,500/-	Rs.1100/-	06-Months	11-01-2022 to 25-01-2022 (6.00 PM)	27-01-2022 (11.30 AM)	“AAY” & “BEE”
2.	Renovation and Remodeling of ABCD Quarters (9-24) at Main Campus.	36.00	72,000/-	Rs.1100/-	06-Months	11-01-2022 to 25-01-2022 (6.00 PM)	27-01-2022 (11.30 AM)	“AAY” & “BEE”

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

DIPK-NB-6550/21
NIT No: - F (UCD)(Fresh) (E.Tend)/KU/81/21

Executive Engineer
DATED:11/01/22.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

SKIMS MEDICAL COLLEGE-HOSPITAL

Bemina Srinagar (J&K)-190017

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHITRY

POSTPONEMENT NOTICE

It is hereby notified that in view of upsurge in COVID-19 cases across the UT of J&K and pursuant to the instructions issued by the Govt, including social distancing and health consideration, the written test (Objective Type) for the post of Nurse on contractual basis under ATF Scheme, which was scheduled to be conducted on 15.01.2022 at Govt. Polytechnic for Women, Bemina Srinagar is hereby postponed till further notice.

No. SKIMS/MCH/PSY/2022/93
Dated: 12-01-2022
DIPK-NB-6558/21

(Dr. Abdul Majid Gania)
Prof & HOD Psychiatry
& Nodal Officer, ATF Scheme

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

Siachen Talk

In a statement that possibly indicates some form of back-channel contact between India and Pakistan, Army chief General M.M. Naravane Wednesday said India “is not averse” to the demilitarisation of the Siachen Glacier, on the condition that Pakistan accepted the Actual Ground Position Line (AGPL) dividing the two countries’ positions. He said the militarisation of Siachen was a result of an attempt by Pakistan to unilaterally change the status quo in late 1984, which forced India to take countermeasures. Though there has been no response to the statement from Islamabad so far, the Army Chief’s offer is seen as very significant under the circumstances. More than 800 Indian soldiers have so far lost their lives in Siachen due to extreme cold.

However, it is not the first time that the resolution of the Siachen issue is being discussed as a probability. Earlier, the two countries had almost reached an agreement on the issue several times in the past. But like in all the India-Pakistan engagements, the dialogues abort when they are close to breakthrough. And over the last more than a decade, the two nations have struggled to get back to a basic dialogue.

Early last year, the two neighbours failed to build on the goodwill after the re-affirmation of the 2003 ceasefire agreement. There have been no further measures, nor does it look likely there will be in the near future. New Delhi seems in no hurry to do this. If anything, this only goes on to show that India feels little pressure to relent. Nor does it want to pursue the engagement with Islamabad beyond a point. The unmistakable signal to Pakistan is to temper its expectation about the extent to which India can accommodate it on Kashmir. New Delhi, for sure, will not reverse the revocation of J&K autonomy. It is also loathe to restore statehood to J&K anytime soon. As always, India wants the terrorism to be the central issue in any dialogue with Pakistan and the latter doesn’t accept it backs terrorism.

But it would be great if somehow the two countries could get back to dialogue and put their relations on an even keel. But this is easier said than done. A sustained, meaningful dialogue between them has the potential to lead to a positive outcome with a potential to transform the region. But it looks unlikely that such a dialogue would take place for now and even if it does, it may not be easy to sustain it. In the past many such attempts have been aborted by a major attack in India traced to elements in Pakistan or sometimes the rigid negotiating positions of the two countries have undone the engagement. It would be thus interesting to see how the two countries negotiate their respective conditionalities before reaching out to each other.

O T H E R O P I N I O N

Bugle For Restraint:
On Scheduling Of Five
Assembly Elections

The schedule for Assembly elections in five States announced by the Election Commission of India (ECI) on January 8 was along expected lines. Polling will begin in Uttar Pradesh on February 10 and end on March 7, spanning seven phases. The Manipur polls would be held in two phases and the Goa, Punjab and Uttarakhand polls in one. Given the size of the States and deployment of paramilitary forces, the ECI has split the polling into seven phases this time, as in the 2017 Assembly polls. In the U.P. elections, the ECI has stuck to its earlier pattern of starting with constituencies in the western part of the State first and then moving towards the east. Dismissing reports of the Bharatiya Janata Party asking for the phases to be from east to west, Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra said that the polls would be held from west to east and that no party had made a demand during the ECI’s visit to U.P. in December to change this. The farm protests have had more of an impact in western U.P. The announcement of the poll schedule also came with a total ban on physical campaigning till January 15 due to the COVID-19 pandemic entering its third wave. The ECI plans on reviewing the situation, including prevailing positivity rates in the States, before deciding on allowing any rallies after January 15.

Till then, candidates and parties have been encouraged to use online ways to reach out to voters, throwing a challenge to the election authorities on enforcing the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) and monitoring expenditure. Considering the fact that several emotive and controversial issues are at play, this is going to be a tough test for the ECI. It will have to reinforce its impartiality and rigour to ensure that the rules of the game are followed by all parties. Political parties must take special care to not only follow the MCC but also observe COVID-related additional restrictions on campaigning. Ruling parties both at the Centre and States have to bear an extra burden of ensuring that they do not misuse official machinery to influence the elections. Social media have made toxicity a low risk, high reward instrument of political campaigns, causing serious harm to social cohesion and national integrity. The breach of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s security in Punjab took a political colour, but the issue must now be left to the Supreme Court which has decided to appoint a judicial commission to inquire into it. The substance and rhetoric of the campaign will be adversarial in a multiparty democracy, but they need not, and must not, be socially divisive. The elections must be a celebration of democracy, and not a threat to it.

The Hindu

Rule Of Flaw
Administrative High-Handedness Towards Street Vendors And
Parallel “Chai” Culture Speak Of A Decay That Speaks Volumes



SCREENGRAB FROM VIDEOS SHOWING AN OFFICIAL throwing away goods of street vendors in Baramulla evoking wide-spread criticism online. Govt suspended four officials in connection

Amir Suhail Wani

ADMINISTRATION AND STATE MUST come to terms with the fact that they may take legal actions against the wrongdoers within the perimeters of law, but the basic and essential role of administration and state is to enhance the lives of people, mitigate their miseries and shield them against the vagaries of exploitation and oppression

Even a moment of cursory introspection will reveal that our society, as it exists today, doesn’t only facilitate and enhance the modes and frequency of injustice but it legitimizes the same and has made injustice and oppression the very basis of its existence. It so happens at times that events do not produce any immediate results or reactions, but they keep brewing at the heart of time, till they erupt like a volcano and bring disruption and destruction to the individual and collective plane. What we have been witnessing in our society in the form of sporadic incidents of injustice and violence only seem to be a prelude to the long anathema of structural and a-structural violence, high handedness and injustice which is operating behind the scenes against the helpless and poor. In two such bone shilling episodes which caught the imagination of people, consciences were shaken and minds were thrown into anger and agony while we witnessed the gore visuals lately circulating on social media from LD hospital and Baramulla respectively. A child breathed his last as he was denied entry to the ICU ward at LD hospital while security guards were negotiating “chai” (A Fancy term for corruption here) with his father. One is simply thrown into endless vertigo while contemplating the scene as it explicitly seems to violate not only law and order, but betrays the very notions of compassion, humanity and mercy so much cherished by humans as species. As if bringing living to death wasn’t enough, in another episode employees at Baramulla municipality in an orgy of violence went berserk in damaging the belongings of petty street vendors. While it is clear that the behaviour of security guard amounts to murder and heinous crime, the legal experts have opined that even in Baramulla episode, law was breached and there was brazen violation of protection of The Street Vendors Protection

IS IT DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE THE SCALE on which such episodes or episodes of their class must be taking place now and then, here and there, across the length and the breadth of the valley? Why do the powerless and poor always have to be at the receiving end of suffering and injustice? Why, despite hue and cry, do the culprits almost invariably escape without a scratch on the nails?

of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending.

The incidents referred to caught public imagination only because in the former case, the father of the child revealed the details and in the case of Baramulla, the men behind the episode were somehow captured on mobile camera and consequently went viral on social media. These were two episodes which took place in two districts under the aegis of two different departments and at the hands of two individuals.

Islam abhors Kufr (Infidelity) to the extent that it projects Kufr as its antithesis and identifies all evils and wrongs with infidelity. Having qualified infidelity thus, here is a quote from Imam Ali, the door of knowledge positing Infidelity against injustice and in fact positing injustice as sin of much graver consequences than infidelity itself. Imam Ali said, “society can survive with kufr (infidelity), but not injustice”, thereby highlighting the threat arising out of injustice not only to individual lives but to the larger structure of society, state and civilization itself. What injustice actually does is that it brings individuals and groups to the brim of rebellion in pursuit of their legit demands and in so doing threatens the very stability of social fabric and overall order.

Is it difficult to imagine the scale on which such episodes or episodes of their class must be taking place now and then, here and there, across the length and the breadth of the valley? Why do the powerless and poor always have to be at the receiving end of suffering and injustice? Why, despite hue and cry, do

the culprits almost invariably escape without a scratch on the nails?

Administration and state must come to terms with the fact that they may take legal actions against the wrongdoers within the perimeters of law, but the basic and essential role of administration and state is to enhance the lives of people, mitigate their miseries and shield them against the vagaries of exploitation and oppression. It is the responsibility of the state to safeguard the weak and powerless, helpless and voiceless and to help them mitigate not only the excesses and injustices committed by and within the system but against a-systemic and non-structural, dispersed forms of violence and aggression. It is only by guaranteeing these rights and protecting the basic interests of common citizens that society and state can progress and avoid known and unknown forms of anarchy and chaos.

Let’s imagine what could have been the fate of the said municipal committee employees had he tried anything similar with any man of influence and riches. Had the story stopped with their termination or could they have dared such an act to begin with?

The powerless and voiceless as these street vendors were, the employees muscled their power sending law and regulations, humanity and sympathy to doldrums.

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

The author is a writer and columnist

OBSERVER
MAIL

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

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

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Conscious Winter

WITH temperatures dropping, Kashmiris have geared up for yet another spell of cold. As we prepare to enter a full blown season of low temperatures, we are stocking up everything especially gadgets and elec-

tronics to keep oneself warm. Many of these heating gadgets are not energy efficient and often create a lot of pressure on the power department as well.

Therefore, it is important for us to use energy efficient alternatives. Additionally, we must also check reckless

use of these appliances. For instance, we must regulate the number of geysers we use. Perhaps, we can only use one and ensure that we switch it off well in time.

We can also be careful about the use of electric blankets and switch them off before going to bed. This will not

only save electricity but is also a safe use of such appliances.

These are just some common uses that can be regulated ethically. We must keep our eyes open and ensure a judicious use of all such resources.

Jawad Muhammad

MINDFUL FRIDAYS



PSYCHOTHERAPY IS A TYPE OF TREATMENT THAT entails talking about one's ideas, emotions, and behaviours with a trained professional. All psychological therapies seek to improve people's ability to control their thoughts and emotions.

Personality Disorders

What Are They And How Do They Affect You?

Wasim Kakroo

Personality is the way a person thinks, feels, and behaves that distinguishes them from others. Experiences, environment (surroundings, life situations), and inherited characteristics all influence an individual's personality. Once developed, a person's personality tends to remain consistent throughout life. A personality disorder is a manner of thinking, feeling, and acting that differs from cultural norms, produces distress or impairment in functioning, and persists over time.

Personality refers to how a person thinks, feels, and acts in ways that set them apart from others. Individuals' personalities are influenced by their experiences, environment (surroundings, life situations), and hereditary characteristics. The personality of a person tends to be consistent across time. A personality disorder (PD) is a way of thinking, feeling, and acting that is out of step with cultural standards, causes distress or impairment in functioning, and lasts for a long period.

Personality disorders are of 10 specific types. Long-term patterns of behaviour and inner experiences that differ greatly from what is expected are referred to as personality disorders. In the lives of people with PD, by late adolescence or early adulthood, a pattern of experience and behaviour gets developed that produces distress or issues in functioning. Personality disorders can endure a long time if they are not treated. At least two of these areas are affected by personality disorders:

The way a person thinks of oneself or others
The way a person responds emotionally
The way a person interacts with other individuals
The way a person controls one's own behavior

TYPES OF PERSONALITY DISORDERS:

Antisocial personality disorder is characterized by a pattern of neglecting or violating others' rights. Antisocial personality disorder is characterised by a refusal to comply with social norms, a pattern of lying or deception, and impulsive behaviour.

Avoidant personality disorder is characterized by a pattern of intense shyness, feelings of inadequacy, and acute sensitivity to criticism. People with avoidant personality disorder may be hesitant to get engaged with others unless they are sure they will be liked, be fearful of being criticised or rejected, or believe they are not good enough or socially incompetent.

Borderline personality disorder is characterized by a pattern of instability in personal relationships and emotions, poor self-image, and impulsivity. A person with borderline personality disorder may go to extremes to avoid being abandoned, attempting suicide multiple times, displaying inappropriately extreme anger, and experiencing persistent feelings of emptiness.

Dependent personality disorder is characterized by a need to be looked after, as well as submissive and clingy conduct. People with dependent personality disorder may find it difficult to make daily decisions without the support of others, or they may feel uneasy or helpless while alone due to a worry of not being able to care for themselves.

Histrionic personality disorder is characterized by a pattern of excessive attention seeking. People with histrionic personality disorder may feel uncomfortable when they are not the focus of attention, use their physical appearance to bring attention to themselves, or have emotions that change quickly or are beyond proportion.

Narcissistic personality disorder is characterized by a pattern of demand for praise from others while having a lack of empathy for others. A person with narcissistic personality disorder may have an inflated sense of self-importance, a sense of privilege and may exploit others for their purpose.

Obsessive-compulsive Personality disorder is characterised by a preoccupation with orderliness, perfection, and control. A person with obsessive-compulsive



personality disorder may be too focused on details or routines, work excessively, leaving little time for leisure or friends, or be rigid in their morals and values. (NOT to be confused with obsessive compulsive disorder, OCD.)

Paranoid personality disorder is characterized by a tendency of being distrustful of people and perceiving them as cruel or malicious. People with paranoid personality disorder frequently believe that others will harm or deceive them, therefore they avoid confiding in or becoming close to them.

Schizoid personality disorder is characterized by being disconnected from social ties and displaying little emotions. Such people do not desire deep relationships, prefer to be alone, and appear unconcerned about admiration or disapproval from others.

Schizotypal personality disorder is characterised by a pattern of extreme discomfort in interpersonal relationships, as well as warped thinking and odd conduct. A person with schizotypal personality disorder may have strange views, strange or abnormal behaviour, or extreme social anxiety.

What causes personality disorders?

Genetics, abuse, and other variables may have a role in the development of various personality disorders.

Some people used to believe that people with personality disorders were simply lethargic or even malicious. However, fresh study has begun to look into possible causes such as heredity, parenting, and peer pressure:

Genetics: Some plausible hereditary causes behind personality disorders are being identified by researchers. One group, for example, discovered a faulty

gene that could be a contributor in obsessive-compulsive personality disorder. Other researchers are looking for the genetic connections to aggression, anxiety, and fear, which are all traits that might

ABUSE OF ANY KIND, including verbal, can have a role in the development of personality disorder. Research has shown that children who are subjected to chronic verbal abuse are more likely than other children to develop borderline, narcissistic, obsessive-compulsive, or paranoid personality disorders

contribute to personality disorders.

Childhood adversity: Traumatic childhood experiences such as childhood abuse and neglect are among the potential risk factors for the development of PD. For instance, childhood sexual abuse has been shown to be particularly common in people with borderline personality disorder.

Abuse of any kind, including verbal, can have a role in the development of personality disorder. Research has shown that children who are subjected to chronic verbal abuse are more likely than other children to develop borderline, narcissistic, obsessive-compulsive, or paranoid personality disorders.

Role of parenting: The role of parenting is of particular interest because PDs have been hypothesized to result in part from maladaptive or poor socialization during childhood and adolescence, when many personality traits tend to become evident. For most children, the home environment is regarded as one of the most essential sources of socialization. Because parents play such an important role in their children's upbringing and early socialization, the socialization deficiencies seen in people with PD may be due in part to poor parenting. Some parenting styles, such as harsh discipline and a lack of parental warmth or caring, have been linked to an increased likelihood of children of such parents developing PDs that last into adulthood. As the number of different types of poor parenting behaviors increases, the total likelihood of any offspring developing PD may tend to increase. Problematic parenting is linked to an increased risk of antisocial, avoidant, borderline, depressed, histrionic, paranoid, and schizotypal personality disorders. Interventions that encourage enhanced parental communication, warmth, and caring, as well as those that assist parents in using less aversive patterns of behaviour toward their children, may help to reduce the risk that their children will acquire PDs that will last into adulthood.

Peers. Certain factors can aid in the prevention of personality problems in youngsters.

According to psychologists, even a single strong relationship with a rel-

ative, mentor, or friend can counteract bad influences.

How is a personality disorder treated?

Most personality problems are treated with a course of psychological therapy. This usually lasts at least six months, if not longer, depending on the severity of the disease and any co-occurring issues.

Psychological treatments:

Psychotherapy is a type of treatment that entails talking about one's ideas, emotions, and behaviours with a trained professional. All psychological therapies seek to improve people's ability to control their thoughts and emotions.

Some therapies focus on dysfunctional thoughts, while others emphasise self-reflection and awareness of one's own mind. Some therapies, particularly group therapy, assist people in better understanding of social relationships.

Many personality disorders can benefit from psychological therapy. They should, however, only be administered by a trained professional with experience working with personality disorders and other psychiatric illnesses. This is due to the fact that personality disorders are serious conditions that can lead to high-risk behaviours such as self-harm.

In addition to listening to and discussing key concerns with you, the psychotherapist can propose problem-solving strategies and, if necessary, assist you in changing your attitudes and behaviour.

To treat personality problems, a variety of psychotherapies are used. They can be broadly divided into three categories of therapy, which are discussed below.

Psychodynamic psychotherapy: Psychodynamic psychotherapy is founded on the concept that many adult behavioural patterns can be traced back to unfavourable early childhood events. These experiences produce patterns of flawed thinking and ideas that, while understandable in childhood, do not function in adulthood. The purpose of therapy is to investigate these distortions, understand how they formed, and devise effective methods to counteract their influence on your thinking and behaviour. Psychodynamic psychotherapy may be particularly useful for borderline personality disorder (BPD).

Cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT): CBT is founded on the idea that how we think about a situation influences how we act in that situation. Our behaviors, in turn, can influence how we think and feel. As a result, it is important to alter both the act of thinking (cognition) and the act of behaviour at the same time.

Dialectical behaviour therapy (DBT), a kind of CBT, has been shown to be effective in helping people minimise impulsive self-harming behaviours, particularly in Borderline Personality Disorder. DBT is intended to help you cope better with emotional instability while also encouraging you to behave more positively.

Interpersonal counseling:

Interpersonal therapy (IPT) is founded on the idea that our interactions with other people and the outside world in general have a significant impact on our mental health. Several personality disorders have been linked to feelings of poor self-esteem, anxiety, and self-doubt as a result of difficulties connecting with others. During IPT, the therapist will discuss any negative difficulties with your interpersonal interactions and how to fix them.

Medication:

There is currently no medicine approved for the treatment of any personality disorder. Medications, however, may be administered to treat related issues such as depression, anxiety, or psychotic symptoms.

For example, if you have moderate to severe depressive symptoms that make it difficult to approach your therapy with confidence, you may be prescribed a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor, which is a form of antidepressant (SSRI).

Some people, particularly those with BPD, have found mood-stabilizing medication to be beneficial.

The author is a licensed clinical psychologist (alumni of Govt. Medical College Srinagar). He works at Kashmir Life Line, a free mental health counseling service. Author can be reached at wasimkakroo21@gmail.com



When am I contagious if infected with Omicron?

Agencies shorter incubation period for Omicron translates into earlier contagiousness. But it would help explain the variant's rapid spread.

Dr. Amy Karger of the University of Minnesota Medical School recommends that people test themselves at three days and five days after exposure if possible.

"A lot of people are turning positive by day three," Karger says, referring to Omicron. "There's basically an opportunity here to catch people earlier than you would with the other variants."

If you only have one test, it's fine to wait until day five, Karger says.

People who have Covid-19 symptoms should get tested immediately if possible.

Lab-developed tests are more sensitive than rapid tests so they should be able to pick up the virus by day three after exposure, if not earlier.

People who don't develop symptoms generally have much lower viral levels, so it's far less clear when or if they become infectious. (AP)

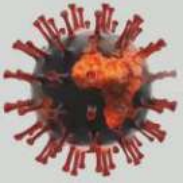
It's not yet clear, but some early data suggests people might become contagious sooner than with earlier variants—possibly within a day after infection.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says people with the coronavirus are most infectious in the few days before and after symptoms develop. But that window of time might happen earlier with Omicron, according to some outside experts.

That's because Omicron appears to cause symptoms faster than previous variants—about three days after infection, on average, according to preliminary studies. Based on previous data, that means people with Omicron could start becoming contagious as soon as a day after infection.

With previous variants, people became contagious two to four days after infection. And people remain contagious a couple days after symptoms subside.

Researchers say it's too early to know whether that



از نیابت دیگام با اجلاس نائب تحصیلدار دیگام

مضمون درخواست منجاب:- جان گوهر ولد محمد یعقوب گنائی ساکنہ برہنچ بنرض حصول RBA سرٹفکیٹ

اشتبہار بمرا دا گاہی ہر خاص و عام۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ہر خاص و عام کو بذریعہ اشتہار آگاہ کیا جاتا ہے کہ سائل نے درخواست نسبت اجرائی سرٹفکیٹ RBA پیش کی ہے جو کہ دفتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ اور پونیوریکارڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس کی رو سے تفصیل افراد کنیہ بذیل درج ہے۔

نمبر شمار	نام افراد کنیہ	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
01	جان گوهر ولد محمد یعقوب گنائی	39 سال	مزدوری	7000/=
02	رفت جان زوجہ جان گوهر	35 سال	گھریلو کام	
03	صبا گوهر دختر جان گوهر	03 سال	شیر خواہ	
04	محمد یعقوب ولد محمد گنائی	65 سال	عمر رسیدہ	
05	فاطمہ بیگم زوجہ محمد یعقوب گنائی	60 سال	عمر رسیدہ	
06	صوبیر احمد ولد محمد یعقوب گنائی	31 سال	زیر تعلیم	

اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی افراد کنیہ میں موجود نہیں ہے۔ اور کنیہ کی ماہانہ آمدنہ = 99000 ہے۔ لہذا زیر بحث سرٹفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض دفتر ہذا میں پیش کرے۔ میعاد گزرنے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار RNA

از عدالت ایگزیکٹیو مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول (تحصیلدار اراشت ناگ)

با اجلاس عمر گنزار صاحب

درخواست منجاب: محمود احشیش ولد عبدالحشیش ساکنہ فتح پورہ انت ناگ

بعض اجرائی تاریخ پیدائش سرٹفکیٹ بنام۔ فائزہ محمود

اشتبہار بمرا دا گاہی ہر خاص و عام۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل / سائلہ مذکورہ بالانے عدالت ہذا میں ایک درخواست حلفی بیان پیش کیا ہے سائل / سائلہ کے دختر کا تاریخ پیدائش 2013-10-3 ہے اس ضمن میں سرٹفکیٹ پیدائش نکانے کا جواہ ہے لہذا سرٹفکیٹ مذکورہ کو اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی بھی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ ایک ہفتہ کے اندر اندر دوران دفتری اوقات میں پیش کرے بصورت دیگر کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

ایگزیکٹیو مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول (تحصیلدار اراشت ناگ) RNA

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار کانتھہ

عنوان: مضمون درخواست منجاب بشیر احمد شاہ پسر حبیب اللہ ساکنہ گوتھل تحصیل کریری نسبت حصول RBA سرٹفکیٹ بچن

اشتبہار بمرا دا گاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول طلبہ نقولات ریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس سے تہما ہوتا ہے کہ سائل ساکنہ فتح پورہ تحصیل کریری میں رہائش پذیر ہے سائل کی کنیہ کی مہمانہ آمدنی 144000 روپے ہے کنیہ بذیل افراد پیش ہیں

بشیر احمد شاہ	سربر	52 سال
سلیم بیگم	زوجہ	50
نعیم احمد شاہ پسر	زیر تعلیم	22
رفت دختر	زیر تعلیم	20
طاہر بشیر شاہ	زیر تعلیم	18

اس کے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کنیہ نہیں بتلایا گیا ہے سرٹفکیٹ زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہی کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار RPT ajj

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار کانتھہ

عنوان: مضمون درخواست منجاب بشیر احمد شاہ پسر حبیب اللہ ساکنہ گوتھل تحصیل کریری نسبت حصول RBA سرٹفکیٹ بچن

اشتبہار بمرا دا گاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول طلبہ نقولات ریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس سے تہما ہوتا ہے کہ سائل ساکنہ فتح پورہ تحصیل کریری میں رہائش پذیر ہے سائل کی کنیہ کی مہمانہ آمدنی 144000 روپے ہے کنیہ بذیل افراد پیش ہیں

بشیر احمد شاہ	سربر	52 سال
سلیم بیگم	زوجہ	50
نعیم احمد شاہ پسر	زیر تعلیم	22
رفت دختر	زیر تعلیم	20
طاہر بشیر شاہ	زیر تعلیم	18

اس کے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کنیہ نہیں بتلایا گیا ہے سرٹفکیٹ زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہی کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار RPT ajj

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

JAMMU AND KASHMIR SERVICES SELECTION BOARD (JKSSB)

Hema Complex, Sector -3, Channi Himmat, Jammu/ Zamzam Complex Rambagh Srinagar.

www.jkssb.nic.in

Subject: Result/Score Sheet of candidates in Computer Based Written Test (CBT) Examination for the posts of Jr. Engineer (Civil) conducted from 27.10.2021 to 02.11.2021-regarding.

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) conducted CBT examination for the various from 27.10.2021 to 02.11.2021; and,

2. Whereas, the JKSSB notified tentative answer vide Notice No. SSB/CoE/CBT/2021/7494-7501 dated 03.11.2021 for seeking Objections, if any, from candidates in respect of posts for which the aforesaid CBT examination was conducted; and,

3. Whereas, the JKSSB pursuant to disposal of the representations/ objections submitted by the candidates, notified the revised answer Key(s), in respect of posts for which Computer based Objective Type Written Examination (CBT) was conducted w.e.f. 27.10.2021 to 02.11.2021, for viewing of the candidates on JKSSB's official website www.jkssb.nic.in from 08-12-2021 to 10-12-2021; and,

4. Whereas, the JKSSB received certain offline representations from candidates with regard to correctness of answers in respect of certain questions, displayed/ shown in the notified revised answer key(s). The objections were examined in the Board and after due deliberations on the matter, it was deemed expedient by the Board, for the sake of fairness, transparency and to allay fears/ misgiving amongst candidates, to provide one more opportunity to all the candidates to register their grievances with regard to Answer Key of Jr. Engineer (Civil) posts, so that a detailed exercise is carried out once for all, and a final answer key is displayed / notified; and,

5. Whereas, vide No. SSB/COE/2021/1-6 dated: 01-01-2022, the JKSSB made live the Revised Answer Key(s) in respect of the various posts including Junior Engineer (Civil) posts on official website of JKSSB for viewing and seeking of objections, if any, as one time exception. The candidates desirous of submitting their representations / objections against the said Answer Key, were advised to submit their objections/representations in respect of any question/answer (if any), along-with documentary evidence/ reference within the specified time period i.e., 03-01-2022; and,

6. Whereas, in response to aforesaid Notice, 1133 representations were received from candidates against 287 unique questions for the post of Jr Engineer (Civil). The representations/objections were subsequently, got examined by the Agency concerned through Subject Matter Experts; and,

7. Whereas, based on their opinion /views, the final answer key in respect of CBT examination held for the post of Jr. Engineer (Civil) has been finalized and notified vide No. SSB/COE/CBT/2022/299-306 Dated: 11-01-2022.

8. Now, therefore, in view of the above the result/ score sheets, based on the performance of candidates who appeared in the Computer Based Written Test (CBT) examination for the posts of Jr. Engineer (Civil), is hereby notified as Annexure "A".

9. It is further notified that

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

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

(iii) Any candidate desirous of making representation with regard to position assigned to him/her in the score sheet, may do so by or before 15th of January 2022, through e-mail on official email address ssbjkgrievance@gmail.com. Such representation shall be disposed of in accordance with the extant Rules.

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

By Order.

Sd/-
(Ashok Kumar) JKAS,
Controller of Examination
J&K Services Selection Board Jammu

No. SSB/COE/CBT/2022/350-357
Dated: 12.01.2022
DIPK-16622/21

dfosfdbla@gmail.com

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER SOCIAL FORESTRY DIVISION BARAMULLA.

e- NIT NO: 14 fresh OF 2021-22 DATED: 11/01/2022

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir / Central Govt. Organizations for the following works: -

S.NO	NAME OF WORK	ADV. COST (Rs. In Lacs)	CLASS OF CONTRACTOR	Cost of Tender Document. (Rs)	TIME OF COMPLETION	Receiving /Opening Committee.
8	Providing and fixing of 4 strands Barbed Wire Fencing with sawn Wooden Fence Posts at strip plantation Hajibal Road side (District Baramulla) Social Forestry Division Baramulla. (Scheme-CAPEX (Strip) Fencing= 4000Rfts Area =1.00Hac.) Fence posts available at Source.	2.135	"C&D"	Rs. 300	30 Calendar days.	Tender Opening Committee

The e-NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bills of quantities, (B.O.Q) set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Website:- www.jktenders.gov.in.

Position of AA:Accorded

Position of T/S: Accorded

Position of Funds: Demanded

01.	Date of publishing/Uploading of Tender Notice	11/01/2022 at 03:00 Pm
02.	Start of downloading	11/01/2022 03:00 Pm
03.	Bid Submission start date.	11/01/2022 FROM 3.00 PM
04.	Bid Submission end date.	17/01/2022UPTO 4.00 PM
05.	Date & time of opening Bids (Online)	18/01/2022 AT (11.30 AM) in the office of Divisional Forest Officer S.F. Division Baramulla
06.	Date of opening of Financial Bid	18/01/2022 AT (3.00 PM) in the office of Divisional Forest Officer S.F. Division Baramulla

- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website: - <https://jktenders.gov.in>
- The date for opening of Technical & Financial bids online shall be opened as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bids uploaded must accompany Govt. Treasury Receipt (cost of tender document) in shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406- Forest and Bid Security Deposit in shape of proforma enclosed at Annexure "A". The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 30 days from the date of opening of bids.
- As per rule 171 of GFR-2017, Performance Security shall have to be deposited by successful bidder to the order of 3% of the value of contract and if there are compelling circumstances, performance security in excess of three percent may also be demanded. The orders / directions issued from Financial Commissioner, Finance deptt, Civil sec.Jammu/Srinagar vide letter No. A/Misc (2018)-111-895/J dt: 22/12/2020 expired on 31/12/2021 as per circular vide No.CE/RBK/HD32857-92 dt: 01/01/2022. The orders shall be effective from 01/01/2022.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website jktenders.gov.in
- To participate in bidding process bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act Bidders can get Digital Certificate form approved vendor.
- The bidders have to submit their Technical & financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No Technical or financial bid will be accepted in physical/ hard form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents i.e Valid Registration Card issued by PWD/CPWD duly renewed for the current financial year 2021-22, PAN, Valid GST Registration, Govt. Treasury receipt/ Challan(cost of Tender Document) and Bid Security Deposit in shape of proforma enclosed at Annexure "A".
- The successful bidder has to produce Valid Labour Registration Certificate issued by Labour Department after issuance of award of contract.
- The Department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission of the bid due to any reason (technical or otherwise).
- The Department shall not be held responsible for selection criteria/policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of Information regarding publishing the NIT, in any of the newspaper under circulation.
- The tender accepting Authority however reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form 25 (double leaf) and as per the detailed document.

NO:- 867-70 /A/SF/BLA
Dated:- 11/01/2022
DIPK-16575/21

sd/-
Divisional Forest Officer,
Social Forestry Division, Baramulla

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

ROYAL SPRINGS GOLF COURSE, SRINAGAR

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-NIT No. 50 of 2021-22 Dated 10 .01.2022

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 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 & Installation of outdoor LED Video Wall at Royal Springs Golf Course	30.00 lacs	60000/- in shape of CDR/ FDR in favour of Executive Engineer RSGC	3000/- Non refundable in shape of DD in favour of Secretary RSGC or Bank Challan SB-0229040100012341	30 days	Registered dealers or firms/ OEM

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:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	10.01.2022 13:00 PM
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 10.01.2022 To 17 .01.2022 (4.00PM on wards)
3	Bid submission Start Date	10. 01.2022 4:00 Pm on wards
4	Bid Submission End Date	17. 01 .2022
5	Date & time of opening of Bids(Online)	18 .01.2022 at 11:30 AM in the office of the Executive Engineer RSGC Srinagar

Note :-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 will render the Bid rejected.

As per Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Secretariat Finance department vide No.OM No.A/24(2017)-651 dtd.07-06-2018 which reads as under :-

Furnishing of Hard Copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with .The same should be obtained only from the Bidder who's declared Ist Lowest (L-1) after opening of financial bids.

- The successful Bidder has to produce Performance Security Deposit @3% of contract value in the shape of CDR/ FDR within 02 days after opening of Bids which shall be released after successful completion of work with DLP. This will replace the EMD @ 2% of the Advertised cost uploaded by the Bidder.
- 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.
- Bidder should have a valid ISO 9001 & 14001 Certification and the same should be uploaded along with technical bid.
- Bidder should have Ink Signed and Stamped Authorization in Original from the OEM and shall be submitted along with the Technical Bid.
- Technical Catalogue of quoted product to be attached with the technical bid and same should be available on OEM website. Non compliance shall result in rejection of tender.
- The quoted product must be operational in atleast two Government Organizations / Departments and the bidder shall upload proof of the same along with the technical bid.

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 i.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/ EMD
- The DLP shall be Calculated from date of certified completion of work and period shall be 12 months.
- Every time notice of Defect/ Defects is given, the Contractor shall correct the notified Defect / Defects within the duration of time specified in the Engineer's notice.

No: RSGC/EE/2021-22/ 401-403
Dated: 10/01/2022
DIPK-NB-6556/21

Executive Engineer
Royal Springs Golf Course
Srinagar

Omicron Could Push Air Traffic Recovery Into Fiscal 2024: CRISIL

Agencies

MUMBAI: The ongoing third pandemic wave led by Omicron could pose fresh turbulence for air traffic, pushing its full recovery into fiscal 2024, rating agency Crisil said on Thursday.

The agency had earlier expected the full recovery to happen in fiscal 2023. It said that a material impact on the credit quality of airport operators, however, is unlikely as the dip in revenue is expected to be limited by a likely strong rebound, and the operators have adequate debt servicing cushions, liquidity buffers and financial flexibility to absorb the blip in traffic.

An analysis of the top four private airports -- Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad -- which accounted for 90 percent of air passenger traffic handled by private airports and 50 percent of all passenger traffic last fiscal, indicates as much, the agency said.

"The high infection rate of Omicron has resulted in several state governments and local authorities, such as Delhi and Mumbai, announcing restrictions on movement," said Manish Gupta, Senior Director, Crisil Ratings.

"In fact, domestic traffic is down by 25 percent from the highs of December 2021 in the first week of January 2022 itself. Both personal and business travel will take a hit in January and February, leading to air traffic plunging an estimated 30 percent sequentially in the fourth quarter of this fiscal."



This spill-over impact, the agency said, is likely to delay recovery of air traffic from "our earlier expectation of it happening in fiscal 2023".

However, recovery is expected to be achieved within the early part of fiscal 2024. "This is because air traffic is likely to rebound faster this time around, compared to the second wave, when it took from May to November 2021 to recover from 16 percent to 85 percent of the fiscal 2020 traffic," the agency said.

"The rebound confidence is underpinned by a higher proportion of vaccinated populace -- over 71 percent now vis-a-vis only 5 percent as of end May 2021 -- as well as learnings of governments and authorities from the past waves in implementing Covid-19 protocols for safe travel. The caseload, too, is expected to peak in February and return to the December 2021 level by the end of March 2022," it said.

As a result, revenues for fiscal 2023 and 2024 are likely to remain stable, the rating agency added.

Markets Maintain Momentum For Fifth Day As Investors Digest Q3 Results, Macro Data

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Equity indices ticked higher for the fifth session on the trot on Thursday as largely positive Q3 results from IT majors enthused investors, though lacklustre macroeconomic data capped the gains.

After a choppy session, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 85.26 points or 0.14 per cent higher at 61,235.30. Similarly, the NSE Nifty advanced 45.45 points or 0.25 per cent to 18,257.80.

Tata Steel was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, jumping 6.40 per cent, followed by Sun Pharma, L&T, M&M, PowerGrid and Bajaj Finserv.

TCS rose 1.05 per cent, a day after the country's largest software exporter reported a 12.2 per cent jump in December quarter net profit at Rs 9,769 crore on handsome revenue growth, and guided towards maintaining the same momentum going forward.

Similarly, Infosys closed 1.03 per cent higher following a nearly 12 per cent rise in Q3 net profit to Rs 5,809 crore.

In contrast, Wipro was the biggest loser among the Sensex constituents, tumbling 6 per cent, as its flat Q3 profit of Rs 2,969 crore failed to cheer investors.

Asian Paints, HDFC Bank, IndusInd Bank, Kotak Bank and HCL Tech were among the other laggards, slipping up to 2.47 per cent.

"Indian markets opened flat to marginally positive despite negative Asian market peers after higher inflation reading from the US and China's bank lending declined more than expected in December.

"During the afternoon session markets managed to trade in green albeit, with a narrow range," said Narendra Solanki, Head- Equity Research (Fundamental), Anand Rathi Shares & Stock Brokers.

Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities, said, "On a day when the volumes on the NSE were in line with recent averages, Power, Metals, Capital Goods and Healthcare indices rose the most while Realty and Bank indices lost the most. BSE Smallcap index rose 0.49 per cent while Midcap index was up 0.38 per cent."

Union Budget 2022-23 Unlikely To Allocate Any Fund For Bank Recapitalisation: ICRA Report

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: The upcoming budget is unlikely to make any provision for recapitalisation of state-owned lenders, as over Rs 3.36 lakh crore has been spent on the banks in the last six years, a domestic rating agency said on Thursday.

ICRA said in a note that the banks will raise capital through internal accruals and fundraising from the market adding that the lenders have the ability to manage. The ICRA note said that courtesy of the over Rs 3.36 lakh crore of fund infusions from the taxpayers, the state-owned banks' stock of net non-performing assets has reduced to 2.8 per cent as of September 2021 from the 8 per cent level of March 2018.

"With high provisions on legacy stressed assets, the earnings outlook for public banks also seems healthy, as we expect most public banks to incrementally remain profitable and generate growth capital requirements internally," it said.

It can be noted that in the past, the bank recapitalisation allocation is one of the most



keenly awaited numbers in the annual budget exercise. The agency said recoveries from legacy NPAs as NARCL (National Asset Reconstruction Company) becomes operational could aid the bottom lines of the banks in the coming years.

It said public banks were also able to roll over their additional tier I bonds that were due for a call option in FY22, reflecting a strong investor appetite for their issuances, which bodes well for their future issuances.

"With cleaner balance sheets and an improved earnings outlook, banks can also raise capital from market sources as they have done in recent years.... for the first time in over a decade, we do not expect any capital to

be budgeted by the government of India for public banks despite the enhanced regulatory capital requirements," it noted.

The agency also said it expects the budget to have some provision for a permanent refinancing window from the RBI, as such entities account for a fourth of the overall lending in the economy. "We expect the Budget to continue with some of the liquidity and guarantee schemes to ensure near-term funding availability for NBFCs (non-infra) and to provide guidance on the medium-term support framework for the sector, which could boost investor confidence and would be key for a sustainable revival," it added.

Labour Ministry Dismisses Reports Of Workers' Exodus As 'Untrue'

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The labour ministry has dismissed as "untrue" media reports of mass exodus of workers, especially migrant labour, to their home states amid the third wave of COVID-19. It further said that the Centre as well as state governments are keeping a close watch on the scenario and are fully prepared to deal with any situation.

"Some media reports of mass exodus regarding movement of migrant workers to their home States were found to be untrue and it was also noticed that such reporting was based on old photographs," the Ministry of Labour and Employment said in a statement.

In view of the prevailing pandemic situation arising out of the Omicron variant, Union Labour Secretary Sunil Barthwal chaired a co-ordination meeting with states/UTs on January 12 through video conferencing to take stock of their preparedness in respect of workers in general and migrant workers in particular, it added.

Additional chief secretaries, principal secretaries, secretaries of state labour departments and labour commissioners of all the states/UTs, as well as officers of the Ministry of Railways and Department of Food and Public Distribution participated in the meeting.

According to the statement, the state governments in-



formed that barring night curfews and weekend curfews at few places where COVID cases are rising, there were no restrictions on construction activities, business activities, running of shops and industrial activities.

It stated that so far, there is no report of unusual movement of migrant workers owing to the limited restrictions imposed by the governments. As on the day of review, the business situation is normal throughout the country except 50 per cent restrictions on workforce at some places, the ministry added.

The central as well as state governments are keeping a close watch on the scenario and fully ready to tackle the situation. "Some state governments have already made plans for distributing dry ration to the needy labourers, if required," the statement said.

Some have made preparations to provide financial assistance from the Building and Other Construction Workers (BOCW) cess fund and social security

fund available with the states.

Railways is also keeping a very close watch on the situation, particularly at the major railway stations in Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Secundrabad, among others, and ready to provide special trains in case the situation demands.

The ministry said that all the states/UTs have been advised to keep a close liaison with the local railway authorities.

State Labour Commissioners confirmed that the functioning at construction sites, factories and establishments has remained undisrupted and there is no exodus of workers, especially migrant workers, back to their home states, it stated.

The statement further said both the labour supplying and labour receiving states were advised by the Secretary to work in close coordination to tackle any situation. It was also pointed out by the Secretary that over 21 crore unorganised sector workers have registered themselves on the e-Shram portal.

LIC IPO To Hit Markets By March; Draft Papers To Be Filed With SEBI By This Month-End



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The government will launch the mega public offer of LIC by March and file draft papers with market regulator Sebi by the end of this month, an official said.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had last week reviewed the progress of the initial public offering (IPO) of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) in a meeting with top officials of the ministry.

The official said the September 2021 quarter financials of LIC are getting finalised as well as fund bifurcation is in progress.

"We are hopeful of filing the DRHP (draft red-herring prospectus) with Sebi by month-end or early-February. One thing is for sure that IPO will come before the end of the current fiscal," the official told PTI.

LIC IPO is crucial for meeting the Rs 1.75-lakh crore disinvestment target set for the current financial year ended March 2022. So far this fiscal, Rs 9,330 crore has been mopped up through PSU disinvestment.

The government in September last year appointed 10 merchant bankers, including Goldman

Sachs (India) Securities Pvt Ltd, Citigroup Global Markets India Pvt Ltd and Nomura Financial Advisory and Securities (India) Pvt Ltd to manage the mega initial public offering of country's largest insurer LIC.

Other selected bankers include SBI Capital Market Ltd, JM Financial Ltd, Axis Capital Ltd, BofA Securities, JPMorgan India Pvt Ltd, ICICI Securities Ltd, and Kotak Mahindra Capital Co Ltd.

Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas has been appointed as legal advisor for the IPO.

The government is in the process of deciding the quantum of government stake that will be divested through the IPO.

The government is also mulling allowing foreign investors to pick up stakes in the country's largest insurer LIC. According to Sebi rules, foreign portfolio investors (FPI) are permitted to buy shares in a public offer. However, since the LIC Act has no provision for foreign investments, there is a need to align the proposed LIC IPO with Sebi norms regarding foreign investor participation.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs had in July last year cleared disinvestment of LIC.

Michelin India's Arun Jaura Joins Hero Motocorp As CTO

NEW DELHI: Michelin India's Arun Jaura has joined Hero Motocorp As CTO.



Jaura will report directly to Dr. Pawan Munjal, the Chairman, and CEO of Hero. The move comes in as part of Hero's vision-

'Be the Future of Mobility'.

The manufacturer has recently been focussing extensively on its R&D and revamped the existing portfolio with some key feature updates. Hero's key R&D was led by Vikram Kasbekar for the past

few years. Kasbekar will now support Arun on future assignments.

Dr. Jaura has had a glorious track in the technology sphere. His most recent role was at Michelin India's technology Centre (2017-

2021), where he had led the R&D and the sustainability functions. He had started his career with DRDO in 1982 and currently has over four decades of experience in the automotive tech sphere.

CBDT Issues Over Rs 1.54 Lakh Crore Income Tax Refunds Till Jan 10

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The income tax department on Thursday said it has issued refunds of over Rs 1.54 lakh crore to more than 1.59 crore taxpayers so far this fiscal. This includes 1.20 crore refunds of Assessment Year 2021-22 (fiscal ended March 31, 2021), amounting to Rs 23,406.28 crore. "CBDT issues refunds of over Rs 1,54,302 crore to more than

1.59 crore taxpayers from 1st Apr 2021 to 10th January 2022," the I-T department tweeted.

This includes personal income tax refunds of Rs 53,689 crore to over 1.56 crore entities and corporate tax refunds of over Rs 1 lakh crore to more than 2.21 lakh businesses. The deadline for filing tax returns for the 2020-21 fiscal ended March 31, 2021, by individual taxpayers ended on December 31, 2021.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
RESHAM GHAR COLONY. BAKSHI NAGAR, JAMMU - 180001
Website: http://jkpsc.nic.in Jammu: 0191-2566533
email: coejkpsc2017@gmail.com
Subject: Conduct of the J&K Prosecuting Officer (Mains) Examination, 2021-Rejection thereof.
NOTICE
Dated: 11.01.2022
The Commission vide Notice dated 17.12.2021, advised the candidates, who have submitted online form for the post of Prosecuting Officer (Mains) Examination-2021 and were found deficient, to submit the requisite deficient documents within a prescribed time through email on jkpscsonline@gmail.com. In response to which, one candidate namely Mohd Naveed Sarwer Khan, Roll No. 1101764, who was advised to submit Proof of having appeared in the LLD degree before the cut-off date i.e 09.04.2021, has failed to produce/submit the requisite document.
2: Further, one more candidate namely Shahrulkh Khan S/o Bashir Ahmad Khan, Roll No. 1102389, had failed to submit the LLB Degree certificate and his name was inadvertently not mentioned in the deficiency/rejection notice issued by the commission on 17.12.2021.
3: Now, therefore, it is hereby informed that:-
i. The candidature of the following 02(Two) candidates is hereby rejected on the grounds mentioned against each:-

Sr. No.	Roll No	Name of the Candidate	Deficiency
1.	1101764	Mohd Noveed Sarwer Khan	Proof of having appeared in the LLB Degree before Cut off date i.e 09.04.2021.
2.	1102389	Shahrulkh Khan	LLB Degree/ Provisional LLB certificate.

However, these 02 candidates are free to file an appeal before the Appellant Authority of the Commission by or before 17.01.2022 with a valid proof in support of the claim, after which, no appeal, whatsoever, shall be entertained.
ii. The candidature of the candidates, who have filed an appeal before the Appellant Authority on their rejection issued vide notice 17.12.2021, is being placed at the disposal of the Appellant Authority and decision of the authority will be communicated separately.
"By Order"
No:-PSC/Exam/PO(Mains)/2021
Dated: 11.01.2022
DIPK-16597/21
(Vinay Samotra), JKAS
Deputy Controller of Examinations,
J&K Public Service Commission

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
DIRECTORATE OF HANDICRAFTS & HANDLOOM, KASHMIR
EXHIBITION GROUNDS (KASHMIR HAAT), SRINAGAR
Abbreviated e-Tender Notice.
E-tender Notice No: - 15 of 2021-22
Dated: - 10 - 01 - 2022
For and on behalf of Governor of Jammu and Kashmir State, e-tenders are invited from registered/ authorized dealers / distributors and Suppliers having GST registration with TIN No. etc for "Finalization of Annual Rate Contract " for the following Services (Description of each is given in BOQ Separately).
a. Supply & Installation of Hoardings and Banners
b. Theme Pavilion
c. Display at theme Pavilion
d. Tentage Services
e. Back-Up Services
f. Video & Photography Services
g. Skillful Manpower for maintenance of Venue.
h. Social Media Promotion.
i. Refreshment/ Dry Lunch

S.NO	Name of Work	Class of Contract	Earnest Money	Cost of tender document	Tender inviting Authority
01	02	03	04	05	06
1	Finalization of Annual Rate Contract "	Registered/ Authorized dealers / Distributors and Suppliers GST registration with TIN No. etc	Rs 20000/- only for general Tenders Rs 5000/- only for J&K registered MSME's / SSI Uni	Rs 1000/- only for general Tenders (in the form of treasury Challan / receipt).Registered MSE's are exempted.	Directorate of Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir .

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

1	Publishing Date	11-01-2022
2	Document download/ Sale start Date	11-01-2022 from 2.00 PM upto20.01.2022(4.00PM)
3	Seek clarification start date	11.01.2022(2.00 PM)
4	Seek clarification end date	15.01.2022 (4.00 PM)
5	Bid/ Tender submission start date	11.01.2022from 2.00 PM
6	Bid/ Tender submission closing date	20.01.2022 upto 4.00 PM
7	Bid / Tender opening date (online)	Technical bid will be opened on21.01.2022 at 02.30 pm in the office of Director Handicrafts Srinagar. The financial bid of the successful tenderers shall be opened on 22.01.2022 at 02:00 pm in the office chamber of Manager Central Market, Kashmir.

No: - DHHK/MCM/Estt/303-06
Dated: - 10.01.2022
DIPK-16587/21
Sd/-
Manager Central Market,
Kashmir Haat Srinagar

No Breakthrough In 14th Round Of India-China Border Talks; They Agree To Maintain Dialogue

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: There was no breakthrough in the 14th round of talks between the militaries of India and China, and the two sides agreed to maintain dialogue via military and diplomatic channels to work out a "mutually acceptable resolution" of the remaining issues.

The two sides said in a joint statement on Thursday that they have agreed that the next round of border talks should be held at the earliest.

Indian Army Chief General M M Naravane had said on Wednesday that India was hopeful of resolving issues related to disengagement at Patrolling Point 15 (Hot Springs) in eastern Ladakh in the 14th round of talks.

The latest round of talks took place days after India hit out

at China for building a bridge across Pangong lake in eastern Ladakh and said it is in an area that has been under illegal occupation of that country for around 60 years.

The 14th round of Corps Commander-level meeting was held on Wednesday at the Chushul-Moldo border meeting point on the Chinese side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

The joint statement said that the representatives from the defence and foreign affairs establishments of the two sides were present at the talks.

There was a "frank and in-depth" exchange of views for the resolution of the relevant issues related to the LAC in the western sector (Ladakh border), it said.

The two countries agreed that both of them should follow "the guidance provided by the state

leaders" and work for the resolution of the remaining issues at the earliest, according to the statement.

"It was noted that this would help in restoration of peace and tranquillity along the LAC in the Western Sector and enable progress in bilateral relations," it mentioned.

The two countries also agreed to consolidate on the previous outcomes and take effective efforts to maintain the security and stability on the ground in the Western Sector including during winter, it said.

"The two sides agreed to stay in close contact and maintain dialogue via military and diplomatic channels and work out a mutually acceptable resolution of the remaining issues at the earliest," it mentioned.

The two sides agreed that the next round of the commanders' talks should be held at the

earliest, the statement said.

Along with Hot Springs, India has been talking with China about a quick disengagement on all the remaining friction points including resolution of issues in Depsang Bulge and Demchok.

Last week, India described China's renaming of some places in Arunachal Pradesh as a "ridiculous exercise" to support "untenable territorial" claims, asserting that the state has always been and will always remain an "inalienable" part of India.

In their virtual diplomatic talks on November 18 last year, India and China had agreed to hold the 14th round of military talks at an early date to achieve the objective of complete disengagement in remaining friction points in eastern Ladakh.

The 13th round of talks had taken place on October 10 last year and it had ended in a

stalemate with the Indian Army saying after the dialogue that the "constructive suggestions" made by it were neither agreeable to the Chinese side nor it could provide any "forward-looking" proposals.

The eastern Ladakh border standoff between the Indian and Chinese militaries erupted on May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong lake area.

Both sides gradually enhanced their deployment by rushing in tens of thousands of soldiers as well as heavy weaponry.

As a result of a series of military and diplomatic talks, the two sides completed the disengagement process last year in the north and south banks of the Pangong lake and in the Gogra area.

Each side currently has around 50,000 to 60,000 troops along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the sensitive sector.

'A Loud Sound, A Jerk And Everything Went Blank': Train Accident Survivors Recount Experience

Agen ceis

JALPAIGURI: "A heavy jerk followed a loud sound, I fell from my berth and everything went blank," said a survivor of the Bikaner-Guwahati Express train, which derailed in West Bengal's New Jalpaiguri district on Thursday, leading to the death of five people and injury of 45 passengers.

Twelve coaches of the train jumped the rails, and some of them overturned near Domohani. The accident occurred at around 5 pm in an area under the Alipurduar division of Northeast Frontier Railway, an NFR spokesperson said in Guwahati.

A partially mangled coach got perched atop another under the impact, while a few bogies had hurtled down the slope and overturned.

Hundreds of people from nearby villages gathered at

the spot and lent a helping hand to passengers who had got trapped inside the collapsed coaches. Some of the bogies had gotten detached from the rest of the train under the impact, while some wheels came off.

"It was around 5 pm; I was speaking to my wife over the phone. All of a sudden, I heard a loud sound and there was a heavy jerk. I was thrown away from my berth and went blank. Later, when I regained consciousness, I was being taken inside an ambulance," Sanjoy, a survivor, told a news channel.

Some of the survivors were searching for their near and dear ones who were with them inside the train when the accident happened.

"My mother and I were having tea, when all of a sudden there was a sound followed by a severe shock and luggage kept on upper berths tumbled all around.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

1996 New Cases

Ganderbal 7 and Shopian 2.

In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu reported a maximum of 434 new cases of Coronavirus, Udhampur 136, Reasi 107, Rajouri 55, Kathua 49, Samba 36, Poonch 26, Doda 21, Kishtwar 19 and Ramban 6.

"Moreover, 271 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 153 from Jammu Division and 118 from Kashmir Division," officials said.

Also, they said that five more people, three from Kashmir Valley and two from the Jammu division died of Covid-19 related complications, taking the death toll in pandemic to 4552 in J&K—2213 in Jammu and 2338 in Kashmir—have died due to the virus, they said.

Airport Restricts

eight hours before the flight departure time which leads to an increase in the crowd at the aerodrome.

Passengers are requested to please come to the airport only up to three hours before flight departure time, Director, Airport Authority of India (AAI), Srinagar airport, Kuldeep Singh said here.

He said the entry to the airport shall be given only up to three hours before flight from Thursday.

The time of entry to the airport is maximum three hours before flight departure. This is necessary to control the congestion at the airport because we want to reduce the chance of infection, he said.

Singh asked the passengers to co-operate with the security staff in maintaining the access control at the airport.

The director said some passengers were entering the airport seven to eight hours before the time of their flight which increases the crowd at the airport and also increases the risk of infection.

Covid disease is spreading very fast. The infection is more in crowded areas. All our passengers are requested to please maintain social distance at the airport and also wear mask at all times. We follow the rule of 'No Mask No Entry'. There is a fine of Rs 500 if any passengers remove their mask, he said. (PTI)

Rapid Test

block medical officers in the valley to get COVID-19 SOPs/guidelines properly implemented in all health-care institutions falling under their administrative control.

The move comes in view of the recent surge in COVID-19 infections in the country and the detection of cases of the new Omicron variant in many states and Union Territories, including Jammu and Kashmir.

"Besides, they will ensure that no patient/attendee is allowed to enter the hospital premises unless & until rapid antigen test (RAT) is undertaken and masks are put on the face by them properly, the circular said.

However, in case of dire emergencies, the need-based protocols should be followed, the Director Health Services Kashmir said.

Govt Seeks Help

among people, an official spokesperson said. All the Deputy Commissioners, Director Health, Director Tourism, Chairman Waqf Board, Epidemiologist DCCRK and other officers also attended the meeting.

According to the official spokesperson, Pole appreciated the role of Imams, Ulemas and Khatibs during the first and second Coronavirus waves and reminded them about their religious and social responsibility to play even much better role in educating people by reiterating the Covid precautionary messages frequently on loud speakers besides strictly enforce observance of SOPs including physical

distancing, wearing of masks, use of sanitizers, avoiding physical contacts and discouraging crowds.

Further, he said that the Div Com asked them to use their moral authority to sensitize people.

"Div Com asked them to use electronic and social media to disseminate awareness regarding Covid Appropriate Behavior and its compliance. He said that we are going through a third wave which may last for about one hundred days," he added.

Stressing the need of making more efforts to tackle the emerging situation effectively and efficiently, the Div Com, as per the official spokesperson said that we need to take responsibility at individual and collective level to overcome the challenges of the third wave.

Pole, he said, referred to the successful outcome of administrative efforts in J&K particularly in the valley during the last two phases of the virus as compared to other parts of the country and said that administration needs to be fully prepared besides seeking simultaneous support of religious influencers and the general public.

"He added that the third wave is highly contagious but patients mostly develop mild symptoms so maximum affected persons would require home isolation. In this regard, Div Com reiterated for adopting self restrictions, regulations and isolation to contain spread of virus," the official spokesperson said

He further said that Pole emphasized on sensitization of people five times a day by Imams and Khatibs of Mosques and Shrines.

"On the occasion, the religious leaders assured the Divisional Commissioner of their support and cooperation during this difficult phase of pandemic like before to make efforts of the government successful," he added.

Cold Wave

recorded a minimum of minus 5.8 degrees Celsius, while the nearby south Kashmir town of Kokernag recorded a low of minus 6.3 degrees Celsius.

The mercury at Kupwara in north Kashmir settled at a low of minus 2.5 degrees Celsius.

The MeT office said the weather is likely to stay largely dry over the next few days.

Kashmir is currently under the grip of the 40-day harshest winter period known as 'Chilla-i-Kalan', which began on December 21.

It is a period when cold wave grips the region and the temperature drops considerably leading to the freezing of water bodies as well as the water supply lines.

The chances of snowfall are the most frequent during this period and most areas, especially in the higher reaches, receive heavy to very heavy snowfall.

Babar Bhai

the site of the encounter.

A policeman was also killed and five persons including three soldiers injured in the encounter.

"One police personnel SgCt Rohit Chhib attained #martyrdom, 03 Army soldiers got injured. 02 civilians also got minor injuries. 01 #terrorist of #terror outfit JeM killed. #Operation continues," Inspector General of Police, Kashmir Zone, Vijay Kumar, had said on Twitter.

An Army spokesman said the operation was launched based on HUMINT (human intelligence) about the presence of militants in the area and the security forces had to exercise maximum restraint since the area had civilians even as the militant opened fire and lobbed a grenade.

Suspect houses were cordoned as the security forces were carrying out house to house searches. At about

8.45 PM, while searching a house, a militant opened fire with AK and lobbed a grenade.

"Since the area and house had civilians, the security forces exercised restraint to first evacuate the civilians. In the process one JKP Constable was mortally wounded, three soldiers and two civilians were injured, the spokesman said.

He said the injured, including the civilians, were evacuated to Army's 92 base hospital here, including the evacuation of one of the civilians by an Army helicopter.

All the injured are stable, he added.

Youth Threatens

says in the video.

"You came to my house, I ran away. I didn't run away because I want to join militancy. I am a normal man and I aspire to lead by life normally. I am not involved in any terror activity and I don't have any either any interest in such activities," he said.

In the video shot at an undisclosed place, the youth also alleged that his father and maternal uncle were rounded up by police. He also alleged that police was trying to implicate him by linking him with militants.

Danish further said in the video that police was allegedly harassing him for his recent visit to Chandigarh and recovery of chocolate wrappers from his room.

"Why have you made my visit to Chandigarh an issue? Can't Kashmiris go to Chandigarh, Goa or other places?" he said.

"I don't want any policeman or army to disturb my personal life. If you think I am troubling you, I will make your job easy. You have nothing to do. I will end up my life," he adds

He also shows some papers in the video claiming them to be FIRs registered against him. Danish said he has over forty cases registered against him and was booked under PSA several times.

He also urged the district administration to intervene so that he can lead a peaceful life.

Meanwhile, police have refuted the allegations and asked the youth to come forward with his version of he is allegedly being harassed.

"Instead, he has gone incognito and is giving out videos on social media. He can approach any authority he trusts," reads a statement issued by police.

The statement further said that the youth was summoned to police station for routine questioning as he is involved in multiple FIRs.

"He asked for a few minutes to add layers of warm clothing in front of his family and he jumped out and ran through a window," it adds

The statement reads that there are thousands of youth who approach them whenever they feel harassed by anyone and everyone reposes high faith and trust in Baramulla Police.

"We counsel youth, even when they have made mistakes and people are witness and appreciative of it," it reads.

It further adds that publishing videos while on the run is trying to be over smart.

"If it is harassment, we invite him to make a formal complaint before any higher authority or wherever he feels. There is no need to run," the police handout read.

Fliers Fume Over

he added.

Lamenting on the 'brazen' conditions inside Kashmir's only civilian airport, Mubaris said that, "All the passengers who were collecting their luggage from the conveyor belt were not following any social distance. Even the officials who were standing there were clearly not interested in asking the passengers to follow SOPs.... It's worse than a train station inside. We all could be infected because of the crowd."

Notably, under the new guidelines issued by the Government of India, all passengers have to strictly follow Covid protocols including social distancing and masking. Passengers will also have to undergo a Covid test before leaving the airport.

Sarah, an entrepreneur who reached Srinagar on Tuesday, said that she had never seen such scenes at the airport.

"As soon as our flight from Delhi landed in Srinagar, many passengers removed their masks and no official from the airport expressed any resentment towards such stupidity," she said.

"We're asked to register ourselves at the covid testing counter inside the airport but to our surprise, there were already a crowd of passengers from some other flight who were not following any social distancing and many were not even wearing their masks properly," she said.

She further added, "Officials were not interested in asking them to follow SOPs. Not a single official was looking worried by such a brazen violation of covid norms. It looked like a Covid hotspot. Nobody was following social distancing... There are only three counters and all of them are full of people," she said.

Director, Srinagar International Airport, Kuldeep Singh refuted the allegations of returnees and said that the authorities will never compromise on the safety of passengers and will do everything to contain the spread of the virus.

"The airport officials are continuously making announcements and requesting passengers to follow covid SOPs. No one is allowed to enter the airport without a mask and if someone is found violating the covid norms then s/he will be fined rupees 500," Singh said.

He further added, "If anyone is raising these false allegations against the Airport authority, then that person should be dealt with strictly under the provisions of law."

The passengers have also raised a serious alarm on the testing mechanism inside the Srinagar airport. As per the passengers, the Airport authority has decided to test only those who are yet to take their first or second covid jab, rest all can leave the Airport with an officially issued stamp on their hands.

"I wanted to get a regular antigen test done as I'd some symptoms but I was told that I don't need any testing as I'm double vaccinated," a passenger who wished not to be named told Kashmir Observer.

"I'd literally plead with the officials to allow me to get tested. I knew the situation was bad but didn't expect this. The airport was like a circus. By what scientific explanation can the airport officials allow the double vaccinated passengers to leave the airport? What if they're covid positive. What if they act as covid spreaders? He asked.

Ladakh Logs

recorded 222 Covid-related deaths -- 164 in Leh and 58 in Kargil -- since the outbreak of the pandemic. No fresh case death was reported, they added.

Another 1,029 sample reports in Ladakh were tested negative, the officials said. (PTI)

Farooq Seeks

and public incitement to commit genocide, should act firmly against those who call for genocide of country's Muslims.

"These hate speech conclaves also fit a variety of crimes under Indian laws and are antagonistic to national integrity and peace. The prevailing blanket silence of the country's head and absence of any punitive action has emboldened such hate-ongers," he claimed.

Abdullah said he will be grateful if

action is taken against those who have violated the Genocide Convention.

"Urgent action is needed, otherwise it will embolden those who spread hatred, thereby vitiating the atmosphere. It will inevitably result in further alienation of the minorities which is not in the interest of India," he said.

The NC MP from Srinagar demanded that the groups and individuals "spewing hate" be taken to task.

"It is high time that the government stops emboldening these hate-mongers with its inaction and establishes rule of law," he said.

J&K, Ladakh Likely

highest increase in rainfall, whereas, part of north-eastern states like Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, north-western parts of the country namely Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh are projected to experience least increase and sometimes even decline in rainfall.

"Mapping of climatic hotspots over the forest cover in India using computer model-based projection of temperature and rainfall data has been carried out for three future time periods, i.e. year 2030, 2050 and 2085. The period 2030 represents a near-term timeline that coincides with the global short-term climate action horizon. Period 2050 represents the mid-term timeline and coincides with global long-term climate action goals. The period 2085 represents a long-term time horizon," the report said.

Increase in levels of greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, in the atmosphere is leading to a steady increase in mean global atmospheric temperatures.

Such rise in temperature is affecting natural phenomena such as precipitation and also impacting ecosystems and essential biological processes which are germane to survival of life on earth, the report said, adding that climate change negatively impacts weather patterns and they have a cascading effect on farming and public health.

According to the IPCC report released in 2021, the mean global temperatures have already risen by a little more than 1 degrees Celsius as compared to pre-industrial times.

Forests play a vital role in climate change mitigation. They are the biggest terrestrial reservoir of carbon on the planet, and become the source of carbon dioxide and other GHGs if they are cut, burnt or destroyed.

India aims to achieve the target of creating an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.

Under the current assessment, the total carbon stock in the country's forest is estimated to be 7,204 million tonnes and there is an increase of 79.4 million tonnes in the carbon stock of the country as compared to the last assessment of 2019.

Soil organic carbon (SOC) represents the largest pool of carbon stock in forests, which has been estimated at 4,010.2 million tonnes. The SOC contributes 56 per cent to the total forest carbon stock of the country, the report said.

The report shows that Arunachal Pradesh has the maximum carbon stock of 1023.84 million tonnes (mt) followed by Madhya Pradesh 609.25 mt, Chhattisgarh 496.44 mt And Maharashtra 451.61 mt.

"The per hectare carbon stock among different states, UTs indicates that Jammu and Kashmir is contributing maximum per hectare carbon stock of 173.41 tonnes per hectare followed by Himachal Pradesh with 167.10 tonnes per hectare, Sikkim 166.24 tonnes per hectare and Andaman and Nicobar Islands 162.86 tonnes per hectare," the report said.

It concluded that over the last five biennial assessments, the carbon stock of the country's forest has

shown an increasing trend. The carbon stock has risen from 6,663 million tonnes in the 2011 assessment to 7,204 million tonnes in the present assessment showing an increase of 541 million tonnes between the period 2011 to 2021.

14 Golden Rings

registered.

During investigation, the Police team of Police Station Budgam called many suspects and finally arrested one suspect namely Ajaz Ahmed Rather from Dangerpora Sumbal Bandipora.

During questioning, upon the disclosure of the arrestee, the stolen property was recovered. The stolen items included 4 gold rings and 10 gold earrings. (KNT)

Dogs Kill 14 Sheep

Jan 12 and 13.

In the same village, canines entered the cow-shed of Abdul Qadir and killed 4 sheep and injured 3 lambs.

The incident created panic in the village while a large number of people visited these cow-sheds to assess the damages.

One of the family members who lost sheep in the canine attack said that injured sheep are being treated while some of them have sustained serious injuries. (KNT)

Fire Damages 3 Houses

to douse the flames and prevented it from spreading further with the help of locals. However, two residential houses were damaged," they said.

The officials said that no injury or casualty has been reported in the incident, while the exact loss could not be ascertained yet.

Similarly, this evening another residential house was gutted in a fire incident at Achoora village of Gurez tehsil in Bandipora district.

According to officials the double-storey house belonging to Zabullah Lone, a resident of Achoora was gutted in the fire incident. The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained—(KNO)

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform that i Bashir Ahmed baba R/o HARDUSHUR Kunzar want to apply for Date of Birth Certificate of my daughter Baiza Bashir, Date of Birth 19-11-2021, objections if any He/She may file the same the police station Kunzar within 7 days from the publication of this notice, there after no objection shall be entertained.

Baiza Bashir
D/O Bashir Ahmed baba
R/O Hardushur Kunzar

KMS

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Aijaz Ahmad Dar S/o Ali Mohammad Dar R/o Sarai Danger Pora Sumbal have sole a vehicle bearing Regd No JK15-1107 to the one Tariq Ahmad Khan S/o Jan Mohammad Khan R/o Baran Pather, Batamaloo Srinagar on 29-12-2021. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may contact on +91 7006034174 within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Also all the responsibility of the said vehicle will of its news owner, from the selling date.

LMSE

India Set South Africa 213-Run Target In Final Test

The Proteas Reach 101/2 At End Of Day 3

Press Trust of India

CAPE TOWN: Rishabh Pant scored one of his finest hundreds in most adverse of circumstance but another shoddy batting show left India with only 211 runs to defend on the third day of the third and final cricket Test against South Africa, here Thursday.

Pant's (100 not out off 139 balls) fourth Test hundred constituted for more than 50 percent of India's second innings total of 198 with Virat Kohli's 29 off 143 balls being the second highest in-

the track cover drive off Duanne Olivier and that six over long-off Keshav Maharaj came just an over before lunch.

These are all shots that one associates with the dashing keeper-batter but what was exemplary was his use of discretion as to what kind of deliveries he would attack.

In between defending the good balls, he drove Maharaj out of the attack with a one-handed slog sweep and a six over long-off. When Olivier dug one short at his pace, it was pulled for six as he hit six fours and four sixes in all.



dividual score.

The umpires called for tea break at the fall of final Indian wicket in the extended second session.

This was the first Test match in 145-year-history where all 20 batters of one team were caught.

The day belonged to Pant as he scored a hundred which is as good as one would ever see and what stood out was his shot selection, which was immaculate.

He didn't do anything that was 'un-Pant' like as there was a rasping square cut off a rising one from Kagiso Rabada (3/53). There was the audacious down

Skipper Virat Kohli's presence during a 94-run stand definitely helped that he had that guiding light in the middle as he went about his job.

Once Pant had unsettled the line and length of the Proteas pace unit, Dean Elgar opened the field allowing them to rotate the strike but once Kohli perished outside the off-stump, it was only Pant who had to take the burden.

Eight Indian batters failed to get into double figures.

South Africa now need 111 runs to win the series. The Proteas still have 8 wickets in hand.

Joe Root Considering Entering IPL Auction

Press Trust of India

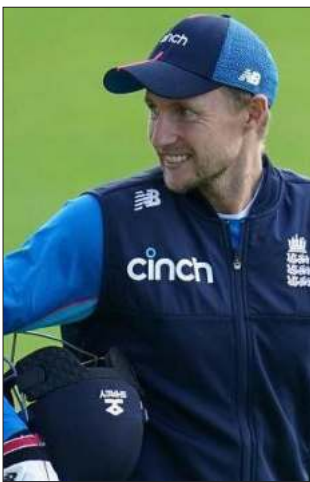
LONDON: England's Test captain Joe Root has revealed that he is considering entering the upcoming IPL auction, four years after going unsold in the auction for the lucrative T20 league.

Considered one of the modern greats of the game, Root is yet to play in the IPL after going unsold in the 2018 auction. The 31-year-old batter, however, said he would look to play in the tournament only if it does not distract him from his Test career.

"Time is ticking but I have a lot to weigh up," Root said, according to ESPNcricinfo.com. "Will it have a negative impact on me playing Test cricket? If I don't think so then I will put myself in the auction. But I will never do anything that will detract from playing Test cricket for England."

It's so important to make sure that is the priority for me and other players as well," Root had expressed his desire to play in the IPL earlier too even though he had decided against entering the auction.

The mega-auction ahead of the upcoming season is scheduled to be held on February 12 and 13 in Bengaluru. On Wednesday, Australian pacer Mitchell Starc said he was also contemplating making a comeback to the IPL after a lengthy hiatus despite a hectic schedule that includes touring the sub-



continent and the T20 World Cup title defence at home later this year.

Starc, who last played in the IPL in 2015, said he hasn't made the decision yet but entering his name for the league's mega auction, the nominations for which close on Friday, is "certainly on the table." Starc clinched a contract worth Rs 9.4 crore with Kolkata Knight Riders in 2018 but had to be released because of an injury.

Despite being one of the most valuable T20 bowlers, the left-arm pacer has featured in just two seasons of the IPL due to injury and workload management. In the 27 matches that he played for Royal Challengers Bangalore in 2014 and 2015, Starc snared 34 wickets at an economy rate of 7.16 and an impressive strike rate of 17.

JK Winter Games Association Postpones All January Events

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Winter Games Association of Jammu and Kashmir (WGAKJ) on Thursday announced the postponement of all its scheduled events and trials for the month of January. The events were to take place in Gulmarg and Pahalgam.

In a statement, WGAKJ President Mohd Abbas Wani said that the events had to be postponed because of "unavoidable circumstances".

"All the competitions of Alpine, Snowboard and Nordic events for junior and seniors boys and girls of North, South and Central districts, which were scheduled to be held at Gulmarg and Pahalgam venues on 17, 18 and 20th of January 2022, are hereby postponed due to unavoidable circumstances," the statement said.

"Further the selection trials of same events for senior and ju-



nior men and women categories scheduled to be held on 28, 29 and 30th January 2022 at Gulmarg, are also postponed and the new dates for the same shall be published separately."

Earlier on January 5, the As-

sociation had released their annual calendar of activity sessions scheduled for the latter half of the month. However, with rising COVID-19 cases uncertainty over mega sporting events has doubled around the globe.

Time For Future Stars To Shine As Caribbean Hosts U-19 World Cup For First Time

Press Trust of India

GEORGETOWN: Future stars will get their big stage to shine when the ICC U-19 World Cup begins here on Friday with record four-time champions India being firm favourites to clinch another title.

The tournament, facing the constant threat of the COVID-19 pandemic, will feature 16 teams divided across four groups and is being held in the Caribbean for the first time.

India are in Group B while the second most successful team in the competition, Australia, is in Group D. Bangladesh, who had upset the mighty India to win their maiden U-19 World Cup trophy in South Africa two years ago, are placed in Group A.

Two-time winners Pakistan are in Group C alongside Afghanistan, who arrived late in the Caribbean due to visa issues and will go into their opening game without a warm-up match. Top two teams from each group will enter the quarterfinals.

The tournament's bio-bubble has not been breached yet but the Zimbabwe and Pakistan squads have already been hit by COVID-19. Scotland replaced New Zealand in the competition after the 1998 runners-up decided to withdraw due to quarantine restrictions for minors back home.

Hosts West Indies take on Australia while Scotland face Sri Lanka in the tournament openers on Friday. India will begin their campaign against South Africa on Saturday in Guyana.

The contenders:

India

Record four-time champions India have to be among the title favourites despite the current squad not inspiring confidence seen in the previous batches.

Having arrived here straight from Dubai after winning the Asia Cup, India's preparation has been good.

After a hard quarantine of five

days, the Yash Dhull-led squad got back to the grind and beat Australia in their warm-up game.

Expectations will be high from opener Harnoor Singh, Delhi batter and skipper Yash, Shaik Rasheed and pacer Rajvardhan Hangargekar who all showed promise in the Asia Cup.

India have the biggest talent pool and that is the primary reason why a player only gets one opportunity to play in the U-19 World Cup, unlike most teams.

Australia

Only India have won the tournament more times than Australia's three titles. The team is also second in terms of matches won and win percentage.

In fact, in 12 previous appearances, Australia have made it through to at least the semi-finals on eight occasions, and they are remarkably consistent.

The last win came back in 2010 by a team featuring Mitchell Marsh, Adam Zampa and Josh Hazlewood, who 11 years later would play key roles as Australia claimed the men's T20 World Cup 2021.

This time around, all-rounder Cooper Connolly will lead the side, and he will have fond memories of taking on the host nation. In 2020 he hammered 64 off 53 balls against the West Indies in a play-off match that was eventually abandoned due to rain.

He is the only player who returns from the 2020 squad, but will not lack for support, notably from ambidextrous spinner Nivethan Radhakrishnan.

Bangladesh

Bangladesh created history in 2020 and will be aiming for an encore. Prior to 2020, their previous best performance came in 2016 when a team captained by Mehidy Hasan Miraz finished third overall on home soil.

Captaining the side this time around is left-arm spinner

Rakibul Hasan, who part of the winning squad in South Africa.

Bangladesh lost heavily to India in the Asia Cup semifinals last month.

Pakistan

Only India have reached the tournament final more often than Pakistan, who have done so on five occasions in total.

The glory years came back in 2004 and 2006, with back-to-back titles from squads featuring the likes of future skipper Sarfraz Ahmed, as well as Wahab Riaz and Imad Wasim.

More recently, Shaheen Shah Afridi first caught the eye in the 2018 U19 World Cup, so the conveyor belt of talent has shown no signs of slowing down.

In the West Indies, all-rounder Qasim Akram will captain the side that is coached by former Pakistan batter Ijaz Ahmed.

Qasim will be joined by top-order batter Muhammad Shehzad who is also back for his second appearances in the tournament.

England

It has now been 24 years since England's sole victory in the competition, but the team did reach the semi-finals on the way to a third place finish back in 2014.

Last time around, England failed to go beyond the first round, edged out in a group also featuring Australia and the West Indies before going on to finish ninth with three wins in the play-offs.

This year, Hampshire batter and skipper Tom Prest will be hopeful of a stronger showing for a completely new-look side coached by Richard Dawson.

The team also features Barbados-born spinner Jacob Bethell, who will hope to impress on his return to the Caribbean, as well as fellow spinner Archie Lenham, who featured regularly for Sussex across all three formats in 2021 at the age of just 17.

Barcelona 'Heads Held High': Xavi

Coach says team showed 'courage' in 3-2 Super Cup loss to Madrid

Agencies

RIYADH: Xavi Hernandez said his young Barcelona team could leave with their "heads held high", despite losing to Real Madrid in the semi-final of the Spanish Super Cup on Wednesday.

Barca were beaten 3-2 after extra-time in Saudi Arabia to make it five consecutive Real Madrid victories in Clasicos games.

But Xavi's side, who sit 17 points behind the La Liga leaders, were far from out-cassed and instead showed why there is great hope at the club for the future.

"It was clear that it was a day when we showed courage and took responsibility with the ball. Today was a day to go out with your head held high despite the defeat," said Xavi after-



ward.

"We were superior to Madrid in many moments," he added.

Vinicius Junior and Karim Benzema twice gave Real Madrid the lead but both times Barcelona

pegged them back, with Luuk de Jong equalising before half-time and then Ansu Fati heading in to force extra-time.

Fede Valverde scored the winner to send Madrid through to Sunday's final

things which destroy the career of youth.

The BDC Surankote B assured players of block Lassana (Seri Khwaja, Chowana, Neriyan, Haribudha, etc.) that he will try to provide sports kits and recommend for their participation on bigger platforms.

Sohail Malik also congratulated winners and also appreciated the discipline, brotherhood and sportsperson spirit maintained by both the teams.

Pervaiz Malik (Founder Rahul David Cricket Academy) presented vote of thanks. He hailed the guests for sparing their time to encourage the players and organizers and sharing valuable thoughts.

Medals and momentous were distributed among the Winner and Runner up teams.

Jan Memorial Youth Club Seri Chowana presented a memento to Chief Guest Sohail Malik.

Waseem Akram (PET); Aijaz Malik (REK); Manzoor Lone (REK); Shabir Malik (REK) and Manzoor Rather (REK) officiated the matches throughout the tournament.

HRW Urges Countries To Join Beijing Games Diplomatic Boycott

Agencies

GENEVA: Beijing is using its upcoming Winter Olympics to "sports wash" and gloss over its "horrible" human rights record, the head of Human Rights Watch warned, urging countries to join a diplomatic boycott.

The United States, Britain, Australia and Canada have announced diplomatic boycotts of the Games, set to begin on February 4, over what they consider to be widespread rights abuses by China, including against the Muslim Uyghur minority in Xinjiang province.

HRW executive director Kenneth Roth insisted that other countries should also refrain from sending senior officials to the Olympics to help "spotlight the mass atrocities" in the province, as well as China's "crushing of basic freedoms in Hong Kong".

"The Chinese government is clearly trying to use the Beijing Olympics to whitewash or to sports wash its horrible repression," he told AFP in an interview ahead of Thursday's publication of HRW's annual report.

He said HRW was not calling for athletes to boycott the Games but insisted that countries could not just "pretend that everything is normal."

"At a minimum, the international community should join the diplomatic boycott of the Olympics."

Roth also insisted that Olympic sponsors should take a stand. "Rather than in a sense announcing this whitewashing, (they)

should be spotlighting what's going on in Xinjiang," he said.

Campaigners say at least one million Uyghurs and other mostly Muslim minorities have been incarcerated in "re-education camps" in the far western region.

Beijing has defended the camps as vocational training centres aimed at reducing the appeal of Islamic extremism. Beyond diplomacy, Roth said companies also had a moral obligation to resist the abuses taking place in Xinjiang.

"Every company should be doing what it can to avoid endorsing or legitimising the Chinese government's repression," he said, slamming carmaker Tesla's recent decision to open a dealership in the province as "utterly tone deaf".

He emphasised in particular that "every company should ensure that their supply chains are not complicit in the forced labour that has become so prevalent in Xinjiang."

Roth hailed Washington's decision to ban the import of goods from the province unless it can be demonstrated that no forced labour was used in the production, and urged other countries to do the same.

The HRW chief said there seemed to be a growing willingness among some countries to criticise China before the United Nations in New York and Geneva.

He voiced hope that the office of UN rights chief Michelle Bachet would soon publish a long-delayed report on rights abuses in Xinjiang, potentially inspiring a broader coalition of countries to speak out.



Djokovic In AO Draw But May Still Be Kicked Out

Agencies

MELBOURNE: Novak Djokovic now knows he'll face fellow Serbian Miomir Kecmanovic in the first round of his Australian Open title defense, if he's allowed to play. Djokovic's visa status dominated attention until the moment the draw was conducted Thursday, after a postponement of 75 minutes, to determine the brackets for the men's and women's singles draws at the first major tennis tournament of 2022.

He was still in limbo after it. The Australian immigration minister was still considering whether to deport the nine-time and defending Australian Open champion, who is not vaccinated against COVID-19.

Top-ranked Djokovic had his visa canceled on arrival in Melbourne last week when his vaccination exemption was rejected, but he won a legal battle on procedural grounds that allowed him to stay in the country.

NATO Chief Warns Of 'Real Risk' Of War As Talks With Russia End

Agenceis

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg has warned of "a real risk" of a new war in Europe, stressing the need for further dialog between members of the Western military alliance and Russia to resolve the ongoing crisis over Ukraine.

Stoltenberg made the remark on Wednesday after four hours of talks at the meeting of the NATO-Russia Council (NRC) over Ukraine ended without progress in Brussels.



The NATO chief described the meeting as a "defining moment for European security," but said "significant differences" had remained on the issue of Ukraine potentially joining the US-led military alliance.

"We had a very serious and direct exchange on the situation in and around Ukraine and the implications for European security," Stoltenberg said. "Our differences will not be easy to bridge but it is a positive sign that all NATO allies and Russia sat down around the same table and engaged on substantive topics."

"There is a real risk for a new armed conflict in Europe," he said, expressing the need "to resume dialog and to explore a schedule of future meetings."

Stoltenberg also underlined that Ukraine had the right to decide its future security arrangements, adding that NATO would continue to leave its door open to new members.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Grushko, for his

part, described Wednesday's talks as "serious, deep, and substantive."

He also emphasized that NATO's expansion posed a threat to Russia's security, warning that Moscow would take military steps if political measures were not enough to "neutralize the threats" it faced.

Grushko said that the "further sliding of the situation could lead to the most unpredictable and most severe consequences for European security."

"It's absolutely imperative to end the policy of open doors and offer Russia legally binding guarantees precluding NATO's further expansion eastward," the Russian official said.

"The freedom to choose ways of ensuring one's security must not be implemented in a way that infringes on the legitimate security interests of others," he added.

Grushko did not rule out future discussions with the US-led military alliance.

This comes as the first round of security talks between Moscow and Washington also ended with no progress in the Swiss city of Geneva on Monday.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov and his American counterpart, Wendy Sherman, held more than seven hours of negotiations, which focused on a wide-ranging new security arrangement that Moscow is seeking with the West over NATO's eastward expansion and Ukraine's potential membership in the US-led military alliance.

In press briefings after the talks, the two diplomats spoke of substantial differences. Ryabkov said Russia and the US had "opposite views on what needs to be done," and Sherman said the Russian proposals had been "simply non-starters to the United States."

Ahead of the first round of the talks on Monday, Stoltenberg warned Russia of "severe costs" if it launched an attack on Ukraine. Stoltenberg also said he did not expect the talks to "solve all the issues," but expressed hope that the negotiations could pave the way for a diplomatic solution.

South Korea Gets First Supply Of Pfizer's COVID-19 Pills

Agenceis

SEOUL: South Korea on Thursday received its first supply of Pfizer's antiviral COVID-19 pills to treat patients with mild or moderate symptoms. Health officials have described the Paxlovid pills as a potentially important tool to suppress hospitalisations and deaths, as the country braces for another possible surge in infections driven by the contagious omicron variant.

South Korea's initial supply is enough to support the required five-day treatment courses for 21,000 people. Officials say another batch of pills, enough to provide the required five-day courses for 10,000 people, will come by the end of January.

Workers were seen unloading containers of the pills from a plane at Incheon International Airport.

The pills will be moved to a pharmaceutical warehouse in central South Korea before being administered to patients nationwide starting Friday. Because supplies of Paxlovid will be tight at the start amid global shortages, the pills

will initially be available only to patients 65 years or older who are being treated at home or in shelters for mild or moderate symptoms.

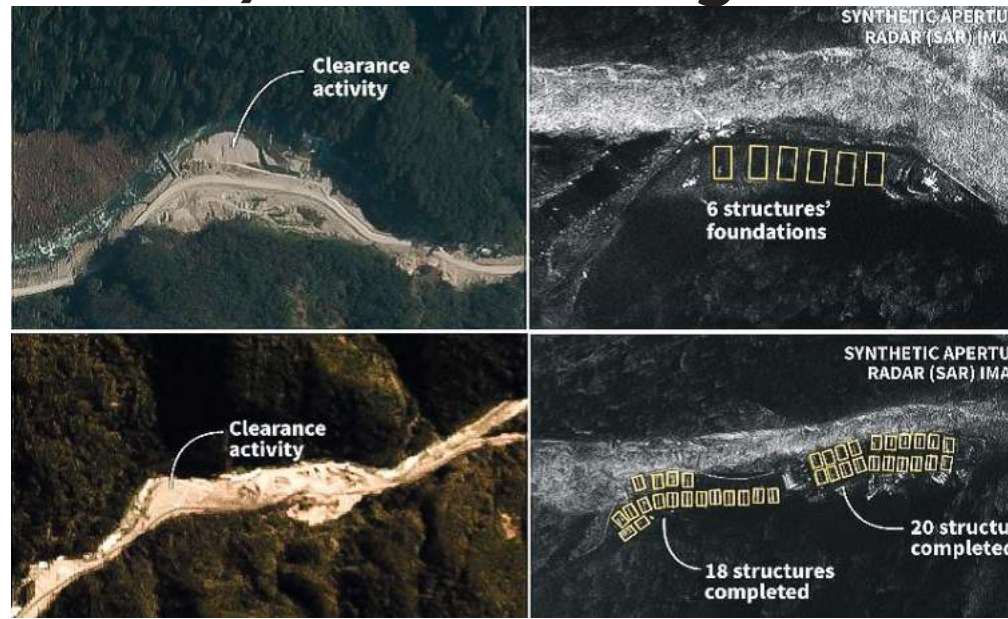
"In clinical trials, this drug has showed it could reduce the risk of hospitalisations or deaths by 88%, so we are hoping for a similar level of (real world) effectiveness," said Lim Sook-young, a senior official in the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency.

South Korea's Ministry of Food and Drug Safety is also reviewing whether to grant an emergency use authorisation for Merck's antiviral COVID-19 pills, Molnupiravir.

South Korea grappled in recent months with a devastating delta-driven surge that caused a spike in hospitalisations and deaths, but transmissions have slowed after officials imposed the country's strictest-ever virus restrictions in mid-December.

The rules include a ban on private social gatherings of five or more people nationwide and a requirement that restaurants, coffee shops, gyms and karaoke venues close by 9 pm.

China Steps Up Construction Along Disputed Bhutan Border, Satellite Images Show



Agenceis

China has accelerated settlement-building along its disputed border with Bhutan, with more than 200 structures, including two-storey buildings, under construction in six locations, according to satellite image analysis conducted for Reuters.

The images and analysis supplied to Reuters by US data analytics firm HawkEye 360, which uses satellites to gather intelligence on ground-level activities, and vetted by two other experts, provide a detailed look into China's recent construction along its frontier with Bhutan.

Construction-related activity in some of the locations along Bhutan's western border has been under way since early 2020, with China initially building tracks and clearing out areas, based on material provided by satellite imagery firms Capella Space and Planet Labs, said Chris Biggers, the mission applications director at HawkEye 360.

Images show the work speeded up in 2021. Smaller structures were erected — possibly to house equipment and supplies — followed by the laying of foundations and then the construction of buildings, Biggers said.

"To me, 2021 was the period for acceleration," Biggers said.

Two other experts who studied the locations of the new construction and recent satellite images taken by Capella Space said all six settlements appear to be in territory disputed by China and Bhutan — including a contested tract of roughly 110 square kilometres — with little in the way of resources or native population.

"It is Bhutan's policy not to talk about boundary issues in the public," Bhutan's foreign ministry said in response to questions from Reuters. The ministry declined to comment further.

The construction suggests that China is bent on resolving its border claims by giving its ambitions concrete form, said the experts and one Indian defence source.

China's foreign ministry said the construction is "entirely for the improvement of the working and living conditions of the local people."

"It is within China's sovereignty to carry out normal construction activities on its own territory," the ministry said. The ministry declined to comment further.

The villages also offer Beijing some strategic value, two of the experts say.

The new construction is 9 to

27km from the Doklam area at the junction of the borders of India, Bhutan and China, where Indian and Chinese troops were locked in a standoff for more than two months in 2017.

The settlements would allow China to better control and monitor far-flung areas and potentially use them to establish security-focused installations, according to one expert and the Indian defence source.

India's foreign ministry did not respond to a request for comment.

Bhutan, a country of less than 800,000 people, has been negotiating with Beijing for almost four decades to settle their 477-km border.

At issue for Bhutan is not just territorial integrity, but also concerns over the potential security implications for India, which is the Himalayan kingdom's main

musical Region (TAR), which lies on the Chinese side of the disputed border, said Barnett and M. Taylor Fravel, director of the Security Studies Program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Fravel said the construction indicated China likely wanted to consolidate its control and improve infrastructure in border areas.

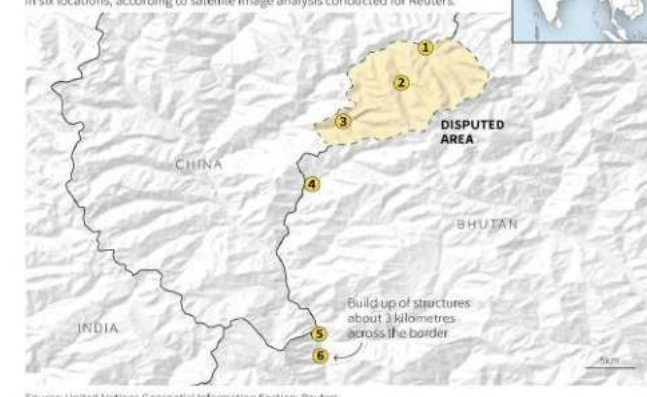
The Chinese-controlled TAR was established in 1965, six years after the Dalai Lama fled Tibet in the wake of a failed uprising against Chinese rule.

Some of the villages near the border are built where there has been no previous construction. China's government gives residents subsidies to settle there, Barnett said.

"All the cross-border villages in the western Bhutan sector are

China-Bhutan border

China has accelerated settlement-building along its disputed border with Bhutan, with more than 200 structures, including two-storey buildings, under construction in six locations, according to satellite image analysis conducted for Reuters.



Source: United Nations Geospatial Information Section; Reuters

ally and economic partner.

The Bhutanese foreign ministry said Bhutan and China had agreed during the latest round of boundary negotiations in April 2021 to speed up the process of resolving their differences. It declined to discuss the details of the plan to do so.

"All issues are discussed between Bhutan and China within the framework of the Boundary Talks," the ministry said.

"China's village building across the claimed Bhutan border appears to be designed to force Bhutan to yield to Chinese demands in their border negotiations, now in their 24th round after 37 years," said Robert Barnett, a professorial research associate at SOAS University of London, who is an expert on Tibet and has studied the China-Bhutan border closely.

Border villages

The settlements appear part of a plan Beijing made public in 2017 to build more than 600 villages in border areas in the Tibet Auto-

sited in areas where no natural village would be found since these areas are barely habitable," he said.

Chicken's neck

Control over the remote Doklam plateau would potentially give China greater access to the adjoining "Chicken's Neck" area, a strategic strip of land that connects India to its northeastern region.

India shares an unsettled 3,500-km border with China. Troops from both countries remain deployed near each other in a separate border dispute in the Ladakh region — about 1,100km from Doklam — where they clashed in hand-to-hand combat in 2020.

India has been closely monitoring Chinese construction along its borders, the Indian defence source said, declining to be named because of the sensitivity of the matter.

The satellite imagery suggests that neither India nor Bhutan has responded on the ground to China's construction activities, Biggers said.

US Cancer Death Rates Declining Since Peak In 1991: Report

Agenceis

The risk of dying from cancer in the United States has fallen by nearly a third in three decades, thanks to earlier diagnoses, better treatments and fewer smokers, an analysis said Wednesday.

The cancer death rate for men and women fell 32 percent from its peak in 1991 to 2019, the American Cancer Society (ACS) said in its annual report.

The drop represents about 3.5 million total deaths averted.

"This success is largely because of fewer people smoking, which resulted in declines in lung and other smoking-related cancers," it said, adding that lung cancer causes more deaths than any other kind.

And the rate of decline is accelerating, data shows. In the 1990s, the risk dropped one percent yearly. Between 2015 and 2019, the rate shrank twice as fast — about two percent a year.

"Accelerating declines in the cancer death rate show the power of prevention, screening, early diagnosis, treatment, and our overall potential to move closer to a world without cancer," the ACS report said.

"In recent years, more people with lung cancer are being diagnosed when the cancer is at an early stage and living longer as a result," it added.

In 2004, only 21 percent of people diagnosed with lung cancer were still alive after three years. In 2018, the number grew to 31 percent.

Improving treatments and early screening are also helping to decrease death rates, but disparities in cancer outcomes persist.

The ACS reports that cancer survival rates are lower for Black people than for white people for almost every cancer type. Black



women are 41 percent more likely to die of breast cancer than white women, even though they are four percent less likely to get it.

And American Indians and Alaska Natives have the highest liver cancer incidence of any major racial/ethnic group in the United States — a risk more than double that in white people.

The ACS attributes the gap to "inequities in wealth, education, and overall standard of living," stemming from "historical and persistent structural racism and discriminatory practices."

Additionally, the Covid-19 pandemic "greatly reduced" people's ability to access cancer services, including prevention, detection and treatments, the organization said.

"These delays in care will probably worsen cancer disparities given the unequal burden the pandemic is having on communities of color," the report warned, adding that the numbers do not account for the toll of pandemic because the most recent data available is from 2019.

Cancer is the second most common cause of death in the United States behind heart disease.

In 2022, ACS anticipates 1.9 million new cancer cases and nearly 610,000 deaths — about 1,670 deaths a day.

Denmark Proposes 4th Covid Jab For "Vulnerable Citizens" Amid Omicron

Agenceis

Copenhagen, Denmark: The Danish government on Wednesday proposed a fourth Covid vaccine dose for highly vulnerable people, amid a spike in cases of the Omicron variant.

Health Minister Magnus Heunicke said the move marked a "new chapter" in the fight against the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

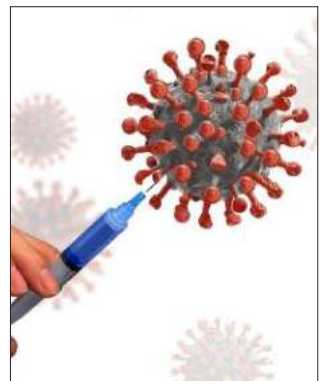
Denmark will offer the fourth dose to "the most vulnerable citizens" — notably those diagnosed with serious ailments who received an initial booster during the autumn, Heunicke told a news conference.

Health authorities said those concerned would be contacted by early next week.

Heunicke also announced the re-opening of cultural institutions, closed since December 19 in a country where 3,433 people have died since the start of the pandemic, according to latest official data published Wednesday.

Denmark, population 5.8 million, has so far logged more than one million Covid cases, with more than 90 percent of those emerging in recent weeks of the Omicron variant.

A maximum of 500 people



will be allowed into indoor venues but bars and restaurants will have to close at 11 pm and the sale of alcohol will be banned from 10 pm.

Praising an "ambitious" immunisation campaign, Heunicke said Denmark "once again has the epidemic under control" as it looks to join Israel and Chile in offering a fourth dose to at-risk citizens.

The validity of health passes for the 79.6 percent of the population jabbed will meanwhile be cut from the current seven to five months following a second dose.

After a third dose — which 54.6 percent of the population have received to date — the pass will be valid indefinitely.



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