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Extension Of Central Laws Established Equitable System Of Justice In J&K: Govt

Observer News Service

Srinagar: With the extension of 890 central laws, repeal of 205 state laws and modification of 129 laws after the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, a system of equitable justice has been established across the Union Territory for all sections of people, an official spokesperson said Tuesday.

He said that the implementation of several path-breaking central legislations after the revocation of Article 370, like the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forests Rights)

Act, 2007, the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1954, among others, is bringing a new era of progress and development in Jammu and Kashmir.

Under the guidance of the Prime Minister, Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing a new dawn, the spokesperson said. He said that Tribals are getting land rights, thousands of government jobs have been provided within record time with complete transparency and major steps have been taken to ensure the empowerment of women, marginalised as well as weaker groups.

"In a major relief to socially



and educationally backward classes, the Jammu and Kashmir administration has enhanced their income ceiling from Rs 4.50 lakh to Rs 8 lakh allowing them to avail benefits of reservation according to provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act, 2004," he said. "The rights of weaker

6 AFTER 2019, WHEN THE BUDGET OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR IS PRESENTED in the Parliament of the country, the goal of strengthening good governance and grass root democracy is placed at the top of the list of priorities."

sections like Scheduled Tribes, other traditional forest dwellers, Scheduled Castes and safai karamcharis' are now ensured by the application of relevant Acts. Rights of children and senior citizens are now being ensured," he added.

In order to create a just and equitable society, the

spokesperson said, reservation rules have been amended to extend benefits of reservation to left out categories like Pahari speaking people and economically weaker sections.

Similarly, he said, the implementation of 73rd and 74th Constitution amendments have given a new lease of life to

grassroots democracy in J&K.

"Even though the three-tier system was implemented late in the UT, Jammu and Kashmir has emerged as a great and effective example in this system," the spokesperson said.

"The step towards institutionalization of the offices of DDCs and BDCs, at a cost of Rs. 44.92 cr strengthened and accentuated the efficiency of the Panchayati Raj system, making it the engine of community development in future," he said.

The spokesperson further said that for effective implementation of developmental plans and policies at the x **More on P6**

3,072 Crime Cases In 1 Year Reported in J&K

Agencies

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir has reported 3,072 violent crimes including 136 murder and 513 attempt to murder cases in 2021, NCRB data has revealed.

The report, according to news agency KNO, states that 3100 violent crime cases were reported in 2019, 2821 in 2020 and 3072 in 2021.

As per data the violent crime rate in J&K is 22.9 and charge sheeting rate is 67.2 percent.

The violent crime cases in J&K include 136 case of murder (U/S 302 IPC), 27 cases of culpable homicide not amounting to murder (U/S 304 IPC), four cases of infanticide, three cases of foeticide, 16 dowry deaths, 513 attempt to commit murder cases and 42 cases of grievous hurt incidents.

It said that the cases also include 1013 cases of murder, 315 cases of rape, 14 cases of attempt to rape, 751 cases of rioting, 104 cases of robbery, three cases of Dacoity and 131 cases of Arson.

The report added that 119 cases of murder were registered in J&K in year 2019, followed by 149 in 2020 and 136 in year 2021 and charge sheeting rate of murder cases in year 2021 is 79 percent.

As per data the motives behind murder includes personal vendetta or enmity in 13 cases, child/human sacrifice in one case, communal one case, political reasons in two cases, one honour killing, 10 cases of love affairs, three cases of illicit relationship, 30 cases of extremism/ insurgency, 15 cases of land/ property disputes, 18 cases of family dispute 4 cases of petty quarrel and 25 cases of blind murder where motive was unknown.

Pak Violates Truce Along IB In Jammu: BSF

After Year Long Lull Gunfire Breaks Calm

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Pakistani Rangers violated the ceasefire Tuesday morning as it targeted Border Security Force (BSF) troops in unprovoked firing along the International Border in Jammu and Kashmir, an official said.

The BSF gave a "befitting reply" to the firing from across the border in the Arnia sector of Jammu district, he said.

Such violations have not been very common since India and Pakistan agreed for a renewed ceasefire along the borders in Jammu and Kashmir on

February 20, 2021.

"This morning, the alert BSF Jammu troops gave a befitting reply to the unprovoked firing by Pakistan Rangers on a BSF patrolling party," BSF Deputy Inspector General S P S Sandhu said.

The BSF Jammu public relations officer also said there was no casualty on the Indian side.

Officials said Pakistani Rangers posted in Khanor started the firing at the BSF troops who were busy in some "maintenance work" near the border fence at the Border Outpost Chinaz around 8.55 am.

The BSF personnel **More on P6**



BSF, Pak Rangers Hold Flag Meeting

Hours after an incident of ceasefire violation, Border Security Force (BSF) and Pakistan Rangers Tuesday held a flag meeting along the international border here and agreed to respect the "existing norms", an official said. The company commander level meeting at 1.45 pm on border ended in a cordial atmosphere, Deputy Inspector General of BSF S P S Sandhu said. Earlier in the day, Pakistan Rangers **More on P6**

6 THIS MORNING, THE ALERT BSF JAMMU TROOPS GAVE A BEFITTING REPLY to the unprovoked firing by Pakistan Rangers on a BSF patrolling party."



A villager passes through a dense paddy field in Kangan area of Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Tuesday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

SPECIAL STATUS REVOCATION

J&K Was Deliberately Kept Away From Progress, Prosperity: LG

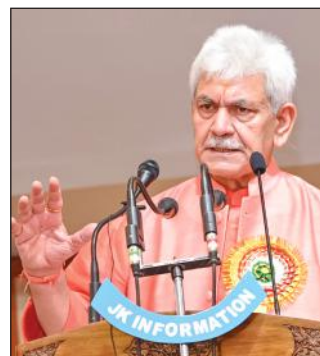
'Discrimination Was A Norm And Social Welfare Was An Exception'

Observer News Service

Awantipora: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Tuesday that deliberate attempts were made to keep Jammu and Kashmir away from progress & prosperity due to Article 370 and 35-A, while "discrimination was a norm and social welfare was an exception".

Sinha made these remarks while addressing a seminar on 'Society, Culture & Social Change: Kashmir & Beyond' organised by Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) and Indian Sociological Society here on Tuesday, an official spokesperson said.

Underscoring that mobility, access to growth, greater control



is the key for socio-economic growth, he said, the LG observed that a large population of J&K was deprived of it for a long time.

"The transformation post 2019 has empowered every section of society with access

to all benefits provided by the constitution," Sinha said.

"J&K UT's socio-economic & cultural sector is witnessing transformation. We aim for higher economic growth, fast infrastructure development while preserving & promoting our cultural ethos," he added.

According to the spokesperson, the LG observed that deliberate attempts were made to keep Jammu Kashmir, the land of spirituality and wisdom, away from progress & prosperity due to Article 370 and 35-A.

Sinha, he said, further stated that the lack of access to benefits brought stagnation to growth.

"Discrimination was a norm and social welfare was an exception. However, **More on P6**

No Doubts About Restoration Of Statehood: BJP

'Those Who Ruled For Family, Employees Scared Of Ground Situation In J&K'

Agencies

Srinagar: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Tuesday said that those who were ruling for their families and employees are scared as the incumbent regime in the centre has ensured equal rights to every citizen of the country including Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing a press conference here, BJP J&K Second Incharge, Ashish Sood, said that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi led government has ensured equal rights to all the citizens.

"For the first time, tap water connection has been done in Srinagar and Ganderbal districts completely, gas cylinders have been provided to every household and other benefits have been given to the people without any discrimination."

"It is because of the equal rights ensured by the government that some people, who were ruling for their families and employees only, are scared at present," he said, adding that the ball is in the court of people now as they will have to decide their future.

"BJP is not scared of anyone as it has delivered on the ground without any discrimination," he said.

About restoration of Statehood, he said there should not be doubts about its restoration as the Prime Minister at Red Fort and Union Home Minister on the floor of the house have made it clear that it would be restored at an appropriate time.

Asked about the voting rights to non-locals, Sood said that one fails to understand why the people **More on P6**

SIA Searches Multiple Spots In Kashmir

The State Investigation Agency (SIA) on Tuesday carried out searches at multiple locations across Kashmir with an aim to dismantle the militant ecosystem working at the behest of Pakistan-based masterminds who have been "identified", an official said. The searches were carried out at the residential premises of suspected people in Awantipora, Shopian, Pulwama and Anantnag in south Kashmir and Baramulla in north Kashmir in connection with the investigation of a case registered under various sections

J&K Adds 58 New Covid Cases

At least 58 more people tested positive for Coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, taking the number of people infected since the onset of pandemic in the Union Territory to 478415. According to officials, 51 new cases of Covid-19 were registered in Kashmir Valley while the remaining seven cases were detected in the Jammu division. In the Valley, they said, Srinagar reported the highest 23 new cases of virus, Budgam 9, Kupwara 6, Baramulla and Kulgam 4 each, Shopian and Pulwama 2, each and Bandipora 1. **More on P6**

Man Falls Off Walnut Tree, Dies



A man died after he fell off a walnut tree in Kanalan area of Bijbehara in South Kashmir's Anantnag district on Tuesday. News agency KNO quoting a police official reported that Gulzar Ahmad Magloo of Kanalan fell off a walnut tree today afternoon. He was immediately shifted **More on P6**

2 Medical Shops Sealed In Budgam

The authorities in Central Kashmir's Budgam district on Tuesday sealed two medical shops for operating without proper drug license, besides suspending licenses of three more drug stores for violating conditions. The action against the erring was taken during a massive market checking drive in various areas of the district, an official spokesperson said. During the drive, he said, a team of Drug Inspectors, led by Assistant Drug Controller (ADC) Budgam, Nazir Ahmad found two medical shops at Galwapora Budgam and **More on P6**

IED Defused In Srinagar: Police

The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Tuesday said that it averted a major tragedy by recovering 35-35 Kg weighing IED in orchards of Khonmoh area of Central Kashmir's Srinagar district. "On a specific input regarding presence



of militants in Khanmoh area of Srinagar, a joint ops was launched by Police & 50RR. During search of Orchards area, an IED weighing 30-35Kgs recovered. Bomb disposal squad called on spot. **More on P6**

Two Brothers Injured In Bear Attack

Two brothers were seriously injured in a bear attack in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, reports said Tuesday. A black bear attacked two brothers at Chanthan Gulabpora forest area falling under the jurisdiction of Lar area of Ganderbal leaving them injured, a local news agency KNT reported. Both the brothers were shifted to Watlar hospital where doctors referred them to SKIMS Srinagar. The injured have been identified as Zubair Ahmad Khan and Lal Hussain Khan sons of Sakhi Khan, residents of Kalakote in Rajouri, presently living in Ganderbal.



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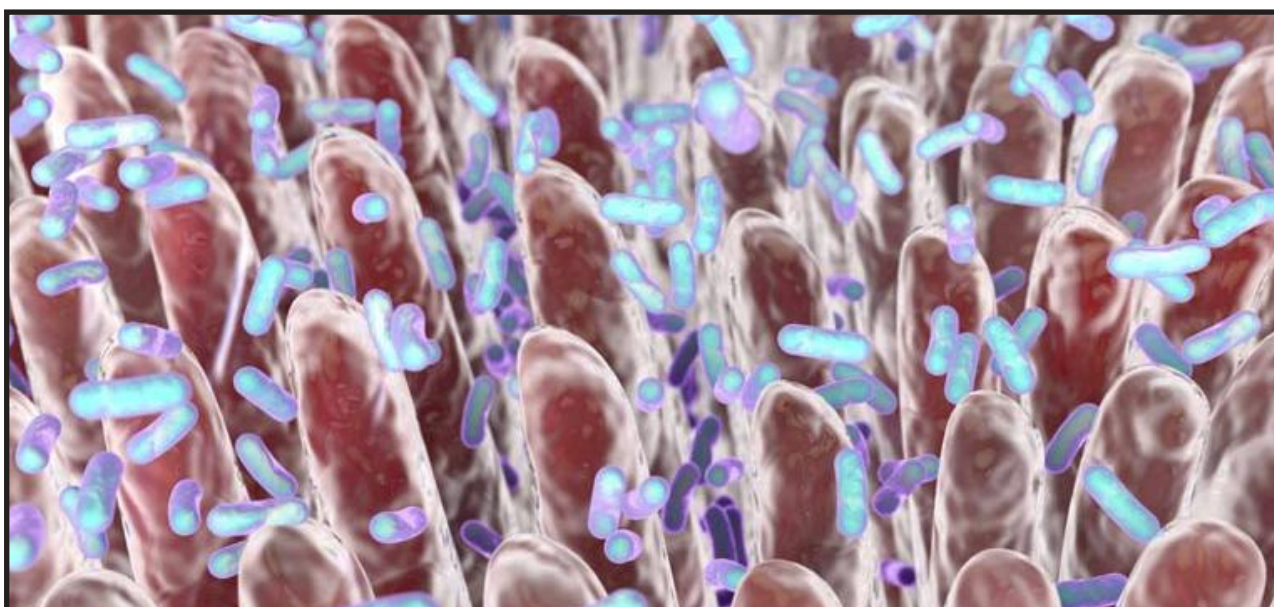
Instagram Faces Penalty Of 405 Million Euros For Privacy Breach

Press Trust of India

Irish regulators are slapping Instagram with a big fine after an investigation found the social media platform mishandled teenagers' personal data. Ireland's Data Protection Commission said by email Monday that it made a final decision last week to fine the company 405 million euros (\$402 million), though the full details won't be released until next week. The penalty is the second-biggest issued under the European Union's stringent privacy rules, after Luxembourg's regulators fined Amazon 746 million euros last year. Instagram parent Meta, which also owns Facebook and can appeal the decision, didn't respond to a request for comment. The Irish watchdog's investigation centred on how Instagram exposed the



personal details of users aged 13 to 17, including email addresses and phone numbers. The minimum age for Instagram users is 13. Under the EU's data privacy rules, the Irish watchdog is the lead regulator for many US tech companies with European headquarters in Dublin. The watchdog has a raft of other inquiries into Meta-owned companies. Last year, it fined WhatsApp 225 million euros for breaching rules on transparency about sharing people's data with other Meta companies.



Pollution Exposure In Infancy Alters Gut Microbes, May Increase Disease Risk: study

Press Trust Of India

Exposure to air pollution in the first six months of life impacts a child's gut bacteria in ways that could increase risk of allergies, obesity and diabetes, and even influence brain development, a study has warned. The research, published recently in the journal Gut Microbes, is the first to show a link between inhaled pollutants -- such as those from traffic, wildfires and industry -- and changes in infant microbial health during this critical window of development. Previous research by the same group found similar results in young adults. "This study adds to the growing body of literature showing that air pollution exposure, even during infancy, may alter the gut microbiome, with important implications for growth and development," said senior study author Tanya Alderete, an assistant professor at the University of Colorado Boulder, US. At birth, an infant hosts little resident bacteria. Over the first two to three years of life, exposure to mother's milk, solid food, antibiotics and other environmental influences shape which microorganisms take hold.

Those microbes, and the metabolites, or byproducts, they produce when they break down food or chemicals in the gut, influence a host of bodily systems that shape appetite, insulin sensitivity, immunity, mood and cognition. While many are beneficial, some microbiome compositions have been associated with Crohn's disease, asthma, type 2 diabetes, and other chronic illnesses. "The microbiome plays a role in nearly every physiological process in the body, and the environment that develops in those first few years of life sticks with you, said first author Maximilian Bailey, a medical student at Stanford University, US. The researchers obtained fecal samples from 103 healthy, primarily breast-fed Latino infants enrolled in the Southern California Mother's Milk Study and used genetic sequencing to analyse them. They estimated exposure to PM2.5 and PM10 -- fine inhalable particles from things like factories, wildfires and construction sites -- and Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2), a gas largely emitted from cars. "Overall, we saw that ambient air pollution exposure was associated

with a more inflammatory gut-microbial profile, which may contribute to a whole host of future adverse health outcomes," said Alderete. For instance, infants with the highest exposure to PM2.5 had 60 per cent less *Phascolarctobacterium*, a beneficial bacterium known to decrease inflammation, support gastrointestinal health and aid in neurodevelopment, the researchers said. Those with the highest exposure to PM10 had 85 per cent more of the microorganism *Dialister*, which is associated with inflammation, they said. In a previous study, Alderete found that pregnant Latino women exposed to higher levels of air pollution during pregnancy had babies who grew unusually fast in the first month after birth, putting them at risk for obesity and related diseases later in life. The researchers noted that infants are particularly vulnerable to the health hazards of air pollution because they breathe faster and their gut microbiome is just taking shape. "This makes early life a critical window where exposure to air pollution may have disproportionately deleterious health effects," they added.

SAD DEMISE

It is informed with grief and sorrow Haji Ghulam Mohamad Pampori of Ganderpora Eidgah Srinagar has breathed his last on Tuesday Sep 6, 2022 following a brief illness. His congregational fete khawani will be held on Friday Sep 8, 2022 at 2.30 PM at his ancestral graveyard Sekidafar Chowk. Srinagar

inf

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

BRANCH OFFICE SOPORE

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 12th under Below mentioned particulars
Name: Suhail Samandar
Father's Name: Mohd Samandar Dar
Mother's Name: Khurshida Begum
Roll No: 351242 Year 2012 Session Annual Reg.



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

Sd/ Assistant Secretary
KRC Sub Office Sopore

اختقال پُر ملال

یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ اہلیہ غلام نبی زوجی ساکنہ پاندان نوہند سرینگر نوبک این اے ٹریڈرس 6 ستمبر 2022 بروز منگلوار کو انتقال کر گئیں۔ انا اللہ وانا الیہ راجعون۔ مرحوم شریف انفس، ملنسار، صوم صلوٰۃ کی پابند اور اچھے کردار کی مالک تھیں۔ اللہ تعالیٰ مرحوم کو جنت الفردوس میں اعلیٰ مقام عطا کرے۔ مرحوم کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی 9 ستمبر 2022 بروز جمعہ المبارک بعد از نماز 2 بجے 30 منٹ پر ان کے آبائی مقبرہ واقع وادیہ پورہ سرینگر میں انجام دی جائے گی۔

سوگواران

شاہ خاندان وزوگی خاندان
882560660, 7006296377 inf

انتقال پُر ملال

یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ حاجی غلام محمد پاپوری ساکن گندر پورہ عبید گاہ سری نگر مختصر علالت کے بعد 6 ستمبر 2022ء بمطابق 9 صفر 1443ھ بروز منگلوار کو انتقال کر گئے۔ انا للہ وانا الیہ راجعون۔ مرحوم شریف انفس، ملنسار، غریب پرور، نیک سیرت، خوش خلق، صوم و صلوٰۃ کے پابند اور اچھے کردار کے مالک تھے۔ اللہ سبحان و تعالیٰ مرحوم کو جنت الفردوس میں اعلیٰ مقام عطا کرے۔ مرحوم کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی 9 ستمبر 2022ء بمطابق 12 صفر 1443ھ بروز جمعہ المبارک بوقت 2 بجے 30 منٹ پر ان کے آبائی مقبرہ واقع سیدہ ذافر چوک سری نگر میں انجام دی جائے گی۔

سوگواران

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Several Apple iPod Models To Be Marked As Obsolete This Month

IANs

Tech giant Apple is likely planning to declare some iPod models, including the last iPod nano, a few models of the final iPod shuffle, and fifth-generation iPod touch models, obsolete later this month.

In a memo sent to authorised service providers, the tech giant said that the late 2012 model of the iPod shuffle, alongside the seventh-generation iPod nano and the fifth-generation



model iPod touch, will be marked as obsolete on September 30, reports MacRumors.

Apple has already designated the 16GB model of the fifth-generation iPod touch as obsolete, and

it plans to add the 32GB and 64GB models to the list later this month. The tech giant discontinued the iPod nano and iPod shuffle entirely in 2017, while the iPod touch remained available until earlier this year. When the iPod touch was discontinued, Apple's marketing chief Greg Joswiak said the "spirit of iPod lives on" across other Apple products, including the iPhone, iPad, Mac, Apple Watch, Apple TV, and HomePod mini.

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No: JKHPMC e-NIT 108 of 2022

Date: 27-08-2022

Subject: Corrigendum/Addendum-3 w.r.t e-NIT No. 108 of 2022, Dated: 27-08-2022. In view of the Circular instructions issued by DIPR vide No: INF-ESTT-16/2022/2012-15 Dated 29- 08-2022 and return by DIPR of Corrigendum-2 (sent for publication to DIPR by JKHPMC) with now regard be to e-NIT No: 108 of 2022 Dated 27-08-2022, the last date for online Bid submission shall on 10-09-2022 with the subsequent Technical Bid opening on 12-09-2022. The Addendum to the said e-NIT has been uploaded on JK Govt's e-Procurement Website, https://jktenders.gov.in/nicgep/app. The 'Addendum' shall take immediate effect and as such the prospective Bidders are advised to go through the "Corrigendum-2" on the said Website and submit their Bids accordingly.

Other Terms and Conditions shall remain the same unless notified otherwise.

Managing Director
JKHPMC

No: JKHPMC/MD/22/2346
Dt: 6/09/2022

DIPK-NB-3680/22

Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT. OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION BARAMULLA.

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

e-NIT No:- 101/7228-37/2022-23/RnB/Bla Dated 05.09.2022

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders (In Single Cover System) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors Regd. With J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Earnest money (In Rs.)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account	Position of AAA	Position of funds
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Construction of cement concrete drain in KM Ist of Tappar Kreeri road	7.50	15000/-	300/-	25days	C&D	MH-3054-M&R	Accorded	Available

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

1	Date of issue of Tender Notice	05.09.2022
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 06.09.2022 to 14.09.2022 4:00PM
3	Bid submission Start date	06.09.2022
4	Bid Submission End Date	14.09.2022 upto 4:00PM
5	Date and time of Opening of Bids (Online)	15.09.2022 upto 11:00AM in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla

2. Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 mentioning there in the name of work/ NIT No. in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.

3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 3% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 3% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

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

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

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

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 vendors.

7.3. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial 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 bid. Besides, original documents related to bid be submitted physically by the bidder who is declared as LI immediately after opening of financial bid.

7.6. Bidder shall upload a Self-Certified Performance declaration (Annexed format) in support of performance in respect of Works executed/ under execution by the agency during the year 2021-22

7.7. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of necessary documents in terms of soft copies with the technical bid & no documents in terms of hard copies shall be entertained. However, in case of any clarification, the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.

Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

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

9. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of treasury challan/receipt in favour of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The tender receiving authority reserves the right of opening of the tenders on due date or any other convenient available date or rejecting any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof

10. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the rates inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.

11. Price escalation & taxes: The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work unless otherwise, specified deductions on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

12. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

13. In case of CRF & any other specified project the relevant guidelines/ standard bidding documents shall be followed

No. 7228-37
Dated 05.09.2022

DIPK-9406/22

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Baramulla



Navigation Channels In Anchar Lake Cleared Of Weeds

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Following the directions of Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, the Irrigation & Flood Control (I&FC) Department has cleared various Navigation channels including channels in Anchar Lake of weeds and bushes to make passage for fleet of motor boats and shikaras to celebrate Urs Syed Qamar ud Din Bukhari.

The entire men and machinery of the depart-

ment was deployed to ensure a safe passage of a flotilla of boats that would row through channels and river Jhelum on September 08 without facing hurdles. Also, ropes were removed from the river at Mujkund area.

It is pertinent to mention that the water route through river Jhelum is revived after 33 years with the intervention of Div Com Kashmir and support of District Administrations of Srinagar and Ganderbal.

Harmful Substances Have Increased Significantly In Dal Lake: Study

Agencies

Srinagar: In a major concern, the concentration of harmful substances like nitrate, phosphates, and chlorides have increased significantly in Dal Lake in the last 25 years.

This has been stated in a recent study titled "The changing water quality of lakes—a case study of Dal Lake, Kashmir Valley," which was published by environmental monitoring and assessment journal in 2022.

The study has found that the concentration of harmful substances like phosphates, chlorides, and nitrates has increased tremendously over the last 25 years.

"Concentration of total phosphorus has increased from 0.1 to 0.4 mg/l in 1997 to about 6 mg/l in 2017. Similarly, chlorides have shown a steep increase from 2-2.7 mg/l 329 in 2007 to 10.3 mg/l in 2017. Other elements like calcium and

magnesium, have also witnessed an increasing trend in the lake," it says.

The study has found that dissolved oxygen (DO) levels, on the other hand, have shown significant decline. "Annual DO values of the lake have decreased from 7.4 mg/l in 1997 to 6.9 mg/l in 2017," it says.

DO is the amount of oxygen present in water. It is essential for the survival of fish and other aquatic organisms.

It has witnessed extreme loss in water quality during the last four decades because of human activities.

Javed Ahmad, an environment researcher said there are various factors which have affected the lake water quality.

"There is an urgent need to address the problems associated with lake restoration, management, and conservation by both authorities and the local population," he said. (KINS)

Gandhi Memorial College Organises Orientation Programme For Students

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Career Counselling cell, Gandhi Memorial College, Srinagar organised a one day orientation programme for the newly admitted students of BA/Bsc/Bcom Ist Semester in the College Auditorium on the eve of Teachers Day.

The main objective of the event was to make students aware about the college code of conduct, create awareness about the various curricular and co-curricular activities that help them in their overall development, create awareness about the professional etiquettes, and inform the students about the various services like scholarships and to sensitize them about the

New Education Policy.

In her presidential lecture, the principal, Prof Asmat thanked Rohit Kansal, Commissioner Secretary, Higher Education Department for implementing the New Education Policy whose gist is the holistic development of students.

She stressed upon students to cultivate good etiquettes and come forward in curricular and co-curricular activities.

Prof Ghulam Jeelani, Convener Admissions, gave a detailed presentation on New Education Policy.

Dean Arts, Science and Commerce also delivered lectures and stressed upon students to be a part of the new journey.

The orientation programme was attended by all the faculty members.

Uniform Academic Calendar Has Streamlined Education In J&K: CS Mehta

Agencies

Srinagar: With the implementation of Uniform Academic Calendar, J&K Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta Tuesday said that the students of Jammu and Kashmir were running separately so far but the administration has mainstreamed it.

Mehta was speaking during the sidelines of an event that was held at Tyndale Biscoe.

On the occasion, Mehta said, "When all students prepare for the same competition at the same time, there are more chances to compete with it."

"However, when we keep the separate academic sessions,

there comes a break and we believe that the students of Jammu and Kashmir are talented and they can be the front runners in the country," he said.

CS also said, "So far the students of Jammu and Kashmir were working separately but we are mainstreaming it so that the students here can compete at national level."

On asking about the winter situation of Jammu and Kashmir, Mehta said that nowhere in the world give a long break in winters

Besides educational developments, the Chief Secretary also said, "We have almost achieved all objectives regarding the sports in Jammu and Kashmir.

Currently in almost Panchayat we have a playground which we have promised earlier."

"Another objective was that every child and citizen will play, this year we have a target that at least 35 lakh persons will participate in various games. Down the line three years back, the number was only around 3 lakh. It is almost ten times bigger than what it was three years back," he said.

Mehta further said that when people play, there comes an overall development among them. "Children in schools will play 6-7 different streams and we will identify the best talent among them. Besides, our objective is that every citizen shall play." (KNO)

Workshop On 'How To Publish Scholarly Books' Held At KU

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A national workshop on 'How to Publish Scholarly Books and Open Access' was on Tuesday held at the University of Kashmir.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Nilofer Khan inaugurated the day-long workshop, organised by Allama Iqbal Library (AIL) in collaboration with Taylor & Francis, one of the biggest academic publishing houses in the world.

Addressing the participants, Prof Nilofer said research scholars should make the best from the workshop sessions to learn how and where to publish scholarly articles which have a great bearing on their recruitment and promotional prospects, besides securing grants and fellowships from different funding agencies.

"Our students and PhD scholars can clear their doubts, if any, regarding scholarly articles to enrich themselves with better understanding of the subject," Prof Nilofer said, congratulating AIL for collaborating with Taylor and Francis in the academic endeavour.

Registrar Dr Nisar A Mir said the University of Kashmir has been very liberal with



Our students and PhD scholars can clear their doubts, if any, regarding scholarly articles to enrich themselves with better understanding of the subject

funding for books and journals, but advised seeking expert suggestions on choosing the right books and journals to expedite the procurements.

Ms Natasha Devasar, MD, Taylor and Francis (India) said the Kashmir University's research output has grown 200 percent in last six years which the entire university management must be proud of.

"25% of this output is in open research which is now the mandate to grow," she said, adding that today 20% of the global output of books in science, technology and engineering in the global portfolio of Taylor & Francis comes from Indian scholars who produce world-class research.

Chief Librarian AIL Prof Peerzada Irshad A Shah said the workshop aims to educate young students and research scholars about channels of publication and quality publications, and also offer insights on referencing tools and ethics of publishing.

On the occasion, the VC felicitated three best library users (all students) with mementoes. These included Anzar Mushtaq Wani, Zaid ur Rehman and Qaisar Abbas, all from Department of Management Studies. She also released Volume 2 of the AIL newsletter.

Assistant Librarians Dr S M Imran and Uzma Qadri conducted proceedings of the event and presented a vote of thanks, respectively.



3

Srinagar | Wednesday | 07-09-2022



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HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI
CALENDAR

10 Safar
1444

PRAYERS

FAJR	4 :45
ZUHR	12:31
ASR	5:00
Magrib	6:56
ISHA	8:17

This Day In History

- 1191- Third Crusade: Battle of Arsuf - Richard I of England defeats Saladin at Arsuf.
- 1599-Earl of Essex & Irish rebel Tyrone signs treaty
- 1701- Germany, England & Netherlands sign anti-French covenant
- 1714- Treaty of Baden: Holy Roman Emperor Charles VI & France, ends War of spanish Succession, French retain Alsace,Austria gets bank of Rhine
- 1812- Battle at Borodino: Napoleon-Kutuzov
- 1909- Eugene Lefebvre becomes first pilot to die in an airplane craft, while test piloting new French-built Wright biplane at Juvisy
- 1922- In Aydin, Turkey, independence of Aydin, from Greek occupation.
- 1936- Boulder Dam (now Hoover Dam) begins operation
- 1942- Transport nr 29 departs with French Jews to nazi Germany
- 1947- Battles between Hindus & Muslims in New Delhi, India
- 1948- 1st use of synthetic rubber in asphaltic concrete, Akron
- 1950- Monasteries shut down in Hungary
- 1965- China announces that it will reinforce its troops in the Indian border.
- 1970- Fighting between Arabic guerillas and government forces in Amman, Jordan.
- 1977- Ethiopia drops diplomatic relations with Somalia
- 1995- STS 69 (Endeavour 9), launches into orbit
- 1997- The first test flight of the F-22 Raptor takes place.
- 2005- First presidential election was held in Egypt.
- 2008- The US Government takes control of the two largest largest mortgage financing companies in the US, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.
- 2011- Plane crash in Russia kills 43 people, including

From KO Archives

Valley Wide Alert As Experts Trace Adulterated Oil

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Officials of Food and Supplies Department and Srinagar Municipality in joint raids today seized tins of adulterated edible oil, capable of causing dreaded dropsy. Alert has been sounded and people warned not to use contaminated brands.

The joint teams today and yesterday fanned out in different directions of capital Srinagar and raided various godowns and retail outlets of edible oil, leading to the seizure of 7800 tins of P. Mark and over 100 cannisters of Hira Brand mustard oil.

Sampling, followed by analysis on war footing of the seized' edible oil tins was done by assistant public analyst from State's Drug and Food Control organisation. The assistant public analyst, Mushtaq Ahmed Khateeb confirmed adulteration in Hira brand, packed under seal number 200- 201/PFAK. Dated 4-9-1998.

P. Mark Bahadurgarh Haryana Brand was also found adulterated, as per the officials, who warned the general public this evening not to use the two contaminated brands. The analysis of other brands seized by the teams is underway and reports are expected by Sunday.

Out of 225 samples analysed in the laboratory till now, reports of only 140 were received by this evening. While 139 samples tested negative, one tested positive. That was the sample taken from Hira brand, manufactured and marketed by M/S Grower Oil Mills, Private Limited, Bari Brahmana, Jammu.

The raids were conducted by the teams at Court Road, Sarai Bala, Tankipora, Hazuribagh and other parts of the city. More teams will conduct raids tomorrow to trace out adulterated oil.

Eight tins of adulterated Hint brand were seized from a dealer at Court Road. Reports revealed that the said dealer has sold off hundreds of tins of Hira brand to retailers all across Kashmir. Messages have been flashed to different districts to trace out the adulterated brands.

Two edible oil factories -situated at Zainakote, have also been raided and samples taken for analysis. The two factories, reports said, import oil from Jammu in huge tankers. "The factories will be sealed if the samples test positive," a top official in Srinagar Municipality said on condition of anonymity.

With detection of contaminated edible oil, panic has gripped the people in the Valley as thousands of them have been continuing their food preparations on these brands - now declared adulterated According to an eminent epidemiologist there is every chance of dropsy disease invading the state now. (Kashmir Observer, September 07, 1998)



The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited
General & Estate Department
Zonal Office Baramulla

PREMISES REQUIRED

The Jammu & Kashmir Bank invites offers from owners of premises for outright purchase/on lease basis for housing its Branch Uri Civil.

Carpet Area of Premises	Location
Apprx. 1500-2000 sft	Uri Civil

The interested parties/persons owning the premises and having a clear title over the property should submit their offers in format prescribed by Bank by or before 30th of September 2022.

The tender documents and the terms and conditions relating to same can be obtained in person from Zonal Office mentioned above during working hours and also can be downloaded from Bank's website www.jkbank.com from 02nd of September 2022.

The Bank reserves the right to cancel/reject any/all offer(s) without assigning any reason thereof.

Dated: September 02, 2022

Zonal Head

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K O V I E W

Fresh truce violation

Following 18 months of calm, Pakistan Rangers broke the ceasefire along the Line of Control on Tuesday by firing at a BSF patrol in the Arnai sector of Jammu. A BSF spokesman said that its personnel gave a “befitting reply to the unprovoked firing from the Pakistani side. There was no loss of life or injury to BSF troops. The Indian and Pakistan Armies had on February 25, 2021 announced the ceasefire along the International Border and Line of Control which had since held. The move had come reportedly following an extended back-channel dialogue between the two countries.

The fresh truce violation is therefore a cause of grave concern. For the last one and a half years of the ceasefire, there was already ample evidence of life returning to normal among border dwellers on this side of the LoC. Similarly, there were similar reports from across the LoC. One example that stood out is Batal valley which over the years has been most impacted by the firing. The villagers on both sides also have since resumed economic and social activities.

With Tuesday’s ceasefire violation, there are apprehensions among the people that things might go back to square one. More so among the people living alongside the LoC. There is already an example of what happened to the original ceasefire agreement between the two nations which was signed in November 2003. By 2010, the agreement had lost its relevance due to frequent ceasefire violations that touched an all-time high in 2020 with over 5,000 incidents of firing and shelling being recorded

It is true that the situation has improved remarkably over the last three years. Protests and stone-throwing have almost disappeared. But it hasn’t changed much on the ground as militancy continues to pose a serious challenge. It was expected that the issue of militancy could be addressed if India and Pakistan went back to dialogue. The calm borders between 2003 to 2007 had become an important factor in the normalization of relations between the two neighbours, enabling them to start one of the most promising dialogue process which by the accounts of the top leaders of the two countries who helmed it was close to a breakthrough on Kashmir.

The singular failure of the two countries since the reinstatement of the ceasefire in February 2021 is that they couldn’t restore the dialogue. The alleged back-channel process also seems to have ended. The vacuum, in turn, has further deepened the estrangement and created conditions for fresh bitterness and the consequent violence. It is time that the two neighbours reach out to each other and work towards a sustainable engagement. That will go a long way to usher in peace in the region. But as things stand, one can only hope against hope.

OTHER OPINION

Rear guard action

Merely days after the release of the National Crimes Records Bureau report that stated that those killed in road accidents — 1,55,622 in 2021 — had reached the highest level since 2014, industrialist and the former chairman of Tata Sons, Cyrus Mistry, and a fellow passenger lost their lives on Sunday when the car they were travelling in met with an accident near Palghar, Maharashtra. Police sources were quoted as saying that the passengers were not wearing their seat belts. The tragic and avoidable accident should heighten awareness of the need for car safety deployments and their enforcement by road safety authorities. It is well understood today that the use of low-cost restraint systems such as seat belts and airbag equipment have helped reduce car passenger-related fatalities effectively. Studies, quoted in a road safety report prepared by the Transportation Research and Injury Prevention Centre, IIT Delhi, in November 2021, estimated that “air-bag deployment reduced mortality by 63%... lap-shoulder-belt use reduced mortality by 72%, and combined air-bag and seatbelt use reduced mortality by more than 80%”. While awareness about and enforcement of seat belt use have relatively increased over time despite stark numbers on non-compliance related deaths (the Road Transport Ministry estimated that 26,896 people had died due to non-use of seat belts in accidents in 2017), the enforcement for belt wearing for rear seat occupants has been almost non-existent. This is a shame as a study by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, U.S., shows that rear seat occupants were eight times more likely to suffer serious injuries in a mishap if they did not buckle up than if they did. Other aspects such as the proper use of headrests also help in reducing injuries due to whiplash during accidents.

The Hindu

Paving the Way Towards
Affordable Healthcare in Kashmir

Amir Suhail Wani

Having underscored the disequilibrium in doctor patient ratio, it becomes incumbent upon the government, as a part of its commitment to be a welfare state to expand the bandwidth of healthcare infrastructure in terms of multiplying hospitals, recruiting healthcare workers and aiming to provide essential medicines at affordable rates

Government is investing in healthcare and medical education so that the citizens and youth of the Union Territory have the best service and career options they deserve for a better tomorrow”, reads a recent news report. This tiding comes at a time when, according to a report, “Public Health care institutions in Kashmir deliver care to almost 97% of population even though they are severely understaffed. The doctor-patient ratio is one of the lowest in India. The World Health Organization recommends one doctor for every thousand patients; Kashmir has a doctor-patient ratio of 1:2000”. It is true that the valley fares well in disseminating health services and catering to the medical needs of people in comparison to most of the other states but the comparisons must not fool us into believing that all is well. There are sharp deviations from the national average in terms of trained workforce available, accessibility to latest diagnostic techniques and equipments and overwhelming saturation of hospitals. From the jarring inaccessibility of people to quality healthcare to the total absence of healthcare units in far flung areas, the problems posit a spectral diversity, a mammoth size puzzle and a conundrum of infinite dimensions. From the healthcare pangs of nomadic Gujar and Bakarwal communities to the near absence of dedicated mental health institutions in rural and peripheral areas, everything presents a challenge of odd nature, multiplexing the inequities and violating the right to health of the majoritarian population. Of graver concern, in addition to the issues aforesaid, is the healthcare spectre along the national highway. We are well aware of the vulnerabilities that our highway poses in view of its tough terrain, ending in frequent accidents and vehicle skids, but these vulnerabilities and ensuing loss of life has done little to alarm the administration to establish well equipped emergency response units along highway. The absence of same often leads to the loss of lives for the want of treatment which could have been otherwise rescued with little Medicare.

Easy access to quality healthcare and education has often been defined as the indicators of societies’ level of advancement and prosperity. In a society of ours, we are flooded with reports, on a daily basis reporting mismanagement in healthcare, the unaddressed grievances of patients and inequities in access to healthcare stemming from socioeconomic inequalities. The standard medical practice suggests that a doctor ought to check up twenty patients a day and offer at least twenty minutes to each patient. But to our great dismay, doctors in UT are under a humongous burden of checking up to hundred and fifty patients a day, in addition to attending other official responsibilities. And when I speak of giving twenty minutes



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to each patient I don’t think any of us can recall an experience either at a government hospital or under a private setting having been evaluated so thoroughly. To my poor experience, the average time spent by a doctor with the patient even in private settings doesn’t exceed five minutes. This is something that may not require statistical citation, because we are all a living testimony to this standard practice of under treatment. Maybe there are exceptions to this rule, but I have yet to come across any. The phenomenon aggravates in cases of psychological disorders where the moot point of treatment is listening to the patient and listening thoroughly, but more than often, doctors are seen pressing the prescription button even before the patient has finished his narration. The burden of mistake is not to be placed on doctors, as previously mentioned that our healthcare stands in a supersaturated state and doctors are to be applauded for their heroic services – doing away with isolated misgivings.

Government hospitals are a refuge and shelter to hundreds and thousands of people who can’t afford private treatment, which as a matter of pragmatism fares marginally better than government hospitals. Having underscored the disequilibrium in doctor patient ratio, it becomes incumbent upon the government, as a part of its commitment to be a welfare state to expand the bandwidth of healthcare infrastructure in terms of multiplying hospitals, recruiting healthcare workers and aiming to provide essential medicines at affordable rates. Two developments in this direction under the present regime deserve a special mention. Golden card, to cover the poor, vulnerable and the economically weaker sections of the society and Prandhan Mantri Jan Aushadi outlets, providing medicines

at cheaper rates. But both these schemes suffer on ground and implementation. There have been cases where patients with Golden Cards were denied the promised benefits and the entire trajectory of PMJAY stands halted for numerous reasons, doing a great disfavours to those who could have otherwise benefited from it. Both the schemes per se are conducive and well conceived in Indian context and the only thing needed is government and bureaucratic push to make things happen and happen effectively.

A passing reference was made to private healthcare setups and those who are economically well placed prefer these centres both for their supposed efficiency and the social ascent. But there seems to be no or little administrative control on the charges levied by these institutions against the treatments offered and the whims and wishes of those running these units remains the sole factor in deciding the cost of treatment and the protocols followed or broken. By extension, there seems little regulation on the fee that a private health consultant can charge – a fact which is vetted by varying fees charged by various doctors, spread across the scale. The writer had to many a times drop the idea of visiting a doctor for the exorbitant consultation fee that one had to pay and the scene is repetitive from cardiologists to neurologists and others in-between. These are not the things that are beyond the administrative control, but the question we keep asking each other is – who will bell the cat?

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 columnist based in Srinagar



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Addressing Obesity

It is well known that a large population of the country is battling obesity, the root of all diseases, due to which diseases like diabetes, thyroid, and high blood pressure have increased not only among adults, but also in adolescents and children. The good thing is that like the epidemic, now the government has also become alert about the increasing obesity. NITI Aayog, the country’s policy-making body, has recommended to identify the major factors of its growth such as sugar, salt and fat-rich foods and increase the excise duty on these foods to make citizens free from obesity. In this episode, it has been said to take steps like ‘front of the pack labeling’ on products, so that people can be warned about the danger of obesity. The purpose is that people should be careful while choosing food items and they should know what is dangerous for their health. The report of the Research Institute of NITI Aayog for the year 2021-2022 warns that the prob-

lem of overweight and obesity among children, adolescents and women is increasing continuously in the country. NITI Aayog is taking steps in this direction in collaboration with the country’s Institute of Economic Development and the Public Health Organization of India. In fact, Indian food has traditionally been a trend of namkeen, chips, bhujia, etc., but in recent years, in the name of snacks, there has been an increase in the popularity of such foods which are injurious to health. It should be a matter of our concern that according to the National Family Health Survey, the number of women suffering from obesity in the country has gone up to 24 percent, while the figure for men is 22.9%. In such a situation, the need of the hour should be said that the government should take steps in this direction. Undoubtedly, obesity is the root of all diseases and the Indian medical system feels the pressure due to the diseases caused by it.

Actually, due to change in urban lifestyle and eating habits, the problem of obesity has become worrying. Talks continued about this problem, but no serious initiative was seen in this direction. Due to the market gimmicks, the use of junk food and packaged food items increased in the country. In this, the producers searched the market but did not care about the health of the common man. The irony was also that there was mention of factors that increase obesity, but serious efforts were not seen to stop them. The steps taken to stop them were only symbolic. The market is full of such foods which are tempting in taste, but are heavy on health. They have a long-term harmful effect on health, due to which obesity increases and under its guise serious diseases ranging from diabetes to heart disease start growing. Which over time takes a frightening form due to neglect. Undoubtedly, the need of the hour is to strictly regulate the factors causing obesity. People should

know that what they are consuming affects their health. In fact, due to the change in eating habits, the problem of obesity in developed countries has started spreading rapidly in India too. In India, such a problem assumes a formidable form because people are not conscious in time. We have failed to create awareness among the general public about obesity. We do not care when the factors that increase obesity have become a part of our daily life. Also which foods are really fattening. When the body becomes a home of deadly diseases due to such carelessness, the person does not even realize it. But while taxing such food items, keep in mind that the lives of common and poor people are not affected. Along with this, there is also a need to run an awareness campaign against obesity in the country.

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Is Hypersensitivity A Strength Or A Weakness?

Evan Giret

The word sensitivity is thrown around a lot in relation to a number of different things. It can refer both to the senses – that is, our ability to perceive the world around us – or to our tendency to be affected by the slightest action or attack from the outside world.

More than “sensitive”, some are labelled “hypersensitive”. People who fit this description are particularly emotive and readily shed a tear when watching romantic films or listening to sad songs, for instance.

The term hypersensitivity has become gradually more popular in recent years and is often applied, partly erroneously, to hyperaesthesia (a condition similar to sensory overload) or abnormally frequent intense emotions. With a view to avoiding these negative connotations of excess, we have opted to use the term heightened sensitivity in this article.

Sensitivity can occur either internally, in a physiological reaction or an emotion, or externally, in a movement of withdrawal, for example. In both cases, it is linked to internal (e.g., thoughts) or external (e.g., surroundings) triggers known as stimuli.

Taking on a variety of natures, stimuli can be social (e.g., a phone call from a friend, a colleague speaking to us or a stranger stopping us in the street), emotional (e.g., a memory of a loved one or a cuddle from a pet), physiological (e.g., a rumbling stomach or a racing heartbeat) or sensory (e.g., auditory, olfactory or visual).

Regardless of their form, we are continually exposed to them in our everyday lives. Relying on the resources in their environment to survive, humans are required to perceive, assimilate, and process all these stimuli to keep adapting.

However, not all of us react in the same way to each given stimulus...

WHY DO WE HAVE DIFFERENT LEVELS OF SENSITIVITY?

Most people react in roughly the same way when presented with the same stimulus, while those who exhibit a stronger reaction are said to be more sensitive. This difference is explored in a number of theories, which were consolidated in 2016 under the umbrella term of environmental sensitivity.

This definition takes in the concept of sensory processing sensitivity (SPS, as measured by the highly sensitive self-test), which corresponds most closely in theory to what we refer to as “hypersensitivity” or “high sensitivity” in everyday language. Coined in 1997 by Elaine and Arthur Aron, it presents sensitivity as a personality trait bearing the following



characteristics:

- greater depth of information processing
- heightened emotional reactivity and empathy
- increased awareness of subtle changes in one's environment
- greater propensity for overstimulation

The concept of environmental sensitivity can also be seen as a meta-trait, i.e., a higher-order personality trait that encompasses and justifies, to a certain extent, existing psychological concepts such as introversion, shyness, behavioural inhibition, or a reactive temperament.

This presents important implications for therapy, clinical diagnosis of mental pathologies, and research into the origins of certain mental disorders.

THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH HEIGHTENED SENSITIVITY

Historically, research on environmental sensitivity has focused mainly on determining individual vulnerabilities, which stem from many different factors (be them genetic, psychological, or physiological), and result in higher sensitivity to various stimuli.

In other words, our own inherent characteristics influence the way we are affected by our surroundings. For example, if an individual has a certain version of a gene associated with a lower production of the serotonin transporter molecule (a.k.a. the “feel-good hormone”), they are

“Regardless of their form, we are continually exposed to them in our everyday lives. Relying on the resources in their environment to survive, humans are required to perceive, assimilate, and process all these stimuli to keep adapting.”

more likely to exhibit symptoms of depression during stressful events. As such, a genetic factor can produce adverse effects when combined with negative stimuli.

Nevertheless, these studies do present a certain bias. Given that a large proportion of the research links vulnerabilities to heightened sensitivity, the vast majority of studies associate negative environments (e.g., childhood abuse, insensitive parents or negative life events) with heightened sensitivity and its detrimental effects (e.g., predisposition to mental health problems or a poor quality of life).

As a result, heightened sensitivity is often associated with a form of vulnerability that offers very little benefit to daily life and encourages the emergence of complications in negative contexts, including social phobia, avoidant personal-

ity disorder, anxiety and depression, self-perceived stress, agoraphobia, alexithymia and autism spectrum disorder, and poor emotional regulation.

But are those with heightened sensitivity really predisposed to developing these adverse effects?

AN ADAPTIVE ADVANTAGE

A study on the heritability of sensitivity revealed that 47% of individual variations in sensitivity are genetically determined, while the remaining 53% are due to environmental influences. This means that sensitivity is a heritable trait. If heritable, it must therefore present some adaptive advantage (or at least, not be debilitating), however minor, to have been kept by natural selection down through the ages.

This trait may even have been long

preserved through evolution, since it is also present in other mammals (as shown, for instance, by the reliable measurement of sensitivity in dogs published in 2017).

Moreover, numerical simulations and empirical research suggest that heightened sensitivity could be advantageous if present in 15 to 20% of the population as a negatively frequency-dependent trait. This means that individuals within a group can rely on their variations in sensitivity to employ diverse strategies, adapt more quickly to changes in their environment, and be more attentive.

EXPLORING POTENTIAL BENEFITS

For over a decade, an increasing amount of research has examined how beneficial environments can positively affect individuals with heightened sensitivity.

A 2015 study on the link between heightened sensitivity and responsiveness to a depression-prevention programme among teenagers showed that sensitive individuals were more responsive to the offered support. More importantly, such changes were considerably more noticeable in the highly sensitive subjects.

In 2018, another study revealed a link between heightened sensitivity and responsiveness to a school-based anti-bullying programme. In this case, not only was there a significant drop in bullying, but the phenomenon could be observed almost exclusively among highly sensitive individuals.

These studies suggest, therefore, that highly sensitive individuals have a better capacity for socialisation, reflective thinking, learning, and awareness.

These results are consistent with a brain imaging study that shows how, when exposed to positive or negative emotional stimuli, highly sensitive individuals experience increased activity in the areas of the brain linked to these same capacities (i.e., the hippocampus, parietal-frontal area, prefrontal cortex, etc.).

For example, showing them positive images (if they had a positive childhood) triggers increased activity in the centres associated with calmness, relating to others (i.e., the insular cortex) and reward responses (i.e., the ventral tegmental area, locus niger, and caudate nucleus). The latter of these acts as our basic survival motivator and can be involved in generating pleasure, including through substance use.

Similarly, presenting them with negative images causes overactivity in the areas associated with self-control (i.e., the medial prefrontal cortex), and cognitive and emotional self-regulation.

MAKING THE MOST OF HYPERSENSITIVITY

Research into addiction and mood disorders has shown that the medial prefrontal cortex plays an important role in self-control, and that greater impulse control in response to positive stimuli is linked to reduced risk-taking and addictive behaviours.

This research suggests that heightened sensitivity, coupled with a healthy developmental environment, could be a factor in preventing addiction. This is because highly sensitive individuals may be less likely to exhibit abusive or problematic behaviours (related to Internet use, online gaming or gambling, etc.) or to become dependent after using narcotics.

All of these studies agree on the vital importance of a healthy childhood and environment. Given that environmental factors account for around half of all individual variations in sensitivity, it is essential to limit any negative experiences (or mitigate deleterious effects) that can be exacerbated by a sensitive personality trait.

Properly identifying individual sensitivity levels could prove helpful in gauging the success of certain therapies and intervention programmes. In fact, the importance of this particular success factor is such that therapygenetics research is currently moving toward more personalised psychotherapy.

HOW TO THRIVE THROUGH HYPERSENSITIVITY

Studies on environmental sensitivity are already starting to understand individual developmental differences under specific contexts and the related susceptibility to certain psychopathologies. This research may also be useful in early intervention for preventing abnormal developments in highly sensitive individuals, while giving them the tools to thrive in our modern society, with its many challenging stimuli.

In time, these studies will help shed light on this trait, in terms of the neural mechanisms involved, as well as its origin or associations with certain disorders.

Heightened sensitivity or hypersensitivity can therefore be a precious asset! Far from a mental disorder, it plays a vital role in the way we adapt to our environment. Its myriad evolutionary, medical and social implications are already being outlined in many ongoing studies in psychology, genetic biology and neuroscience. It is our hope that such research will allow the individuals concerned to overcome the prejudices that are all too often attributed to them.

By arrangements with The Conversation

CLIMATE CRISIS A Balance Of Payments Perspective

Chenlin Li & Chua Shu Yi

The Earth's average temperature has warmed by about one degree (10) Celsius above pre-industrial levels, according to the most recent data by NASA. This change, although seemingly insignificant, has translated into a rapid global torrent of climate abnormality, followed by increasingly frequent and catastrophic natural disasters. On a macroeconomic level, climate change risks can be characterised as: (i) 'physical risks', arising from the economic losses and fatalities of unanticipated and extreme weather events, and (ii) 'transition risks', induced by uncertainty and policies during the transformation to a carbon-neutral economy. How would these two risks impact economic growth and trade, particularly in the many developing and climate-vulnerable nations in South Asia? This article intends to examine this question, along with its policy implications, with a focus on the BoP.

PHYSICAL RISKS: Rising temperatures, amid intensifying cyclones, flooding, and saltwater intrusion among others, threaten agricultural output in terms of both land and labour productivity. This points out a vivid picture of Bangladesh, a low-lying country with an economically-significant agricultural sector - ranked in the Germanwatch's Global (Long-Term) Climate Risk Index 2021 as the seventh most vulnerable country to physical risks. An International Monetary Fund Country Report on 'Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in Bangladesh: Policy Options' (dated September 2019) outlines that in 2017, extreme flooding alone had impacted over 8 million people and led to severe crop destruction in Bangladesh. This, subsequently, prompted a drastic increase in food imports which largely contributed to the deterioration of its current account deficit in the fiscal year, FY2016-2017: from US\$1331 million to US\$9780 million; turning the overall BoP from a surplus of US\$3169 million to a deficit of US\$885 million (for the first time since FY2001).

Moreover, weather catastrophes would take a toll on the tourism industry as well. The destruc-

tion of natural heritages and tourism infrastructures lowers tourism demand and risks triggering insurance premium hikes - thus hampering the survival of small and medium-sized businesses in the industry. Accordingly, the prospective BoP complications driven by climate change can be illustrated by the COVID-19 pandemic shock that has affected many developing, tourism-dependent economies severely. Taking Vietnam as an example, the International Monetary Fund Country Report on the '2020 Article IV Consultation' with Vietnam highlights that a fall in the country's tourism receipts (and remittances) has led to a diminishing current account surplus throughout the FY2020 - starkly contrasting the increase from 1.9 to 3.8 per cent of GDP in the previous FY.

Altogether, collapsing agriculture and tourism exports may coincide with reduced local infrastructure investment (leading to lower future output) and weaker foreign exchange inflows - in turn, sowing potentially persistent BoP deficits through the current (trade) account. As argued in a Swiss Re Institute publication titled 'The economics of climate change: no action not an option': developing nations, owing to a high economic dependence on these sectors along with weak mitigation capacity, are often the ones to bear the brunt of such physical risks. This, by implication, dampens growth prospects while reinforcing vicious poverty cycles.

TRANSITION RISKS: In much of current literature, the term 'transition risks', usually viewed at the firm level, depicts the situation in which fossil fuels are treated as 'stranded assets' in capital markets during the global shift toward cleaner, renewable energy sources - fuelled by concerns about structural and policy changes aimed at mitigating climate change. This would consequently erode the value of businesses and industries that produce or operate on such fossil fuel-based commodities. Thus, shedding light on the potentially dire macroeconomic problems that transition risks may introduce on an economy-wide level.

The latest statistics by the World Bank depict the proliferation of carbon pricing instruments as policymakers worldwide recognise the need to disintegrate (internalise the cost of) greenhouse gas emissions - namely, in 46 countries as of September 2022. This comprises of carbon taxes and cap-and-trade systems, which each directly translates into higher production costs and restricted supplies of fossil fuels, respectively. Simultaneously, they would dampen firm and export competitiveness in carbon-intensive industries, with repercussions on the rest of the economy (i.e., through higher input costs and utility bills). In addition, a group of researchers at the Boston University, in the policy brief titled 'Climate Change and IMF Surveillance: The Need for Ambition', coin the concept of 'spillover transition risks' to illustrate how transition risks can be further amplified by cross-border trade policies. A prime example is the European Union's proposal for a 'Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)' that intends to adjust import prices based on their carbon footprints by as early as 2023. This has however been highly contentious, invoking strong accusations of protectionism and the likely trade diversion away from the developing to the developed world - where such carbon pricing mechanisms are already well-established domestically.

Another probable implication is that as the

global economy embarks on phasing out fossil fuel consumption, coupled with uncertainty and low market sentiments towards the industry, transition risks would weigh negatively against commodity currencies. Commodity currencies refer to currencies that tend to be closely linked with the world prices of primary commodities, including fossil fuel commodities - owing to the importance of natural resources for aggregate income creation, such as in Malaysia (Malaysian Ringgit). This can be explained using the classic 'Dutch Disease model', devised by Max Corden and Peter Neary in 1982, which outlines that under an expected permanent fall in commodity prices and production, a reduction in natural resource income results in lower overall domestic demand. This lower demand is partly absorbed by lower demand in the internationally non-tradable sectors (services), giving rise to a shift of labor and capital to the internationally tradable sectors (agriculture and manufacturing) as facilitated by an exchange rate depreciation. In line with this, a more recent research paper by the BI Norwegian Business School titled 'Climate Risk and Commodity Currencies' presents empirical findings consistent with the argument that 'when transition risk is high, commodity currencies are likely to experience an episode of persistent depreciation along with a weakened relationship with commodity prices'.

From the perspective of a developing, fossil fuel-exporting country, a weaker currency may indicate cheaper but obsolete fossil fuel exports, while imports (typically associated with the high knowledge and technology content/spillovers vital for economic development) become more expensive. Hence, with a shrink in export value and rising import costs, such depreciation is unlikely to translate into an improvement - but instead, a worsening of the

“Another probable implication is that as the global economy embarks on phasing out fossil fuel consumption, coupled with uncertainty and low market sentiments towards the industry, transition risks would weigh negatively against commodity currencies. Commodity currencies refer to currencies that tend to be closely linked with the world prices of primary commodities, including fossil fuel commodities

current account and the BoP as a whole.

Given the 2015 Paris Agreement to pursue the target of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (and no more than 2 degrees Celsius) from pre-industrial levels, it has been estimated that approximately 80 per cent of fossil fuel reserves are needed to remain unextracted to put a brake on climate change - as reported in a Financial Times article titled 'Lex in depth: the \$900bn cost of 'stranded energy assets''. Thus, a move in this direction - giving rise to a shrinking global market for oil, coal, and natural gas - is likely to create a long-term strain on the BoP of 'fossil-fuelled' economies, particularly in less-developed nations generally associated with the 'resource curse' (low export diversification).

CLIMATE INACTION IS NOT A SOLUTION: The looming climate crisis highlights the urgency to devise prudent and well-targeted policies to cushion the economy against such damaging and possibly irrevocable consequences. On the one hand, the adaptation approach, including the development of more climate-resilient agricultural strategies (i.e., crop and livestock diversification) and infrastructure, is vital to sustain vulnerable industries and foster food security. In terms of mitigation measures, carbon-taxing systems should be commensurate with the provision of public finance and subsidies (or development aid) for the adoption of cleaner production methods and technologies. Namely, climate policies should incentivise environmentally friendly companies to enhance their profitability and competitiveness (such as through the selling of carbon quotas that could, in turn, be invested in greater productive capacity). In both cases, developed countries play a pivotal role in assisting those less developed to adapt and mitigate promptly against climate change-induced risks. Consequently, these climate policies would help to ensure BoP stability - by driving export growth, as well as overall development and innovation, in the 'right', sustainable direction.

Financial Express

Exams, Results Major Cause Of Anxiety Among School Students: NCERT survey



Press Trust of India

New Delhi: While studies, examination and results are major causes of anxiety among school students, over 33 percent comply with peer pressure most of the times, a survey on mental health and well-being of students by NCERT said.

The survey reported that at least 73 percent students are satisfied with their school life, while over 45 percent students are not satisfied with their body image.

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) surveyed over 3.79 lakh students from 36 states and UTs.

The Manodarpan Cell of the NCERT undertook the task of conducting the survey to help understand the perceptions of school students on aspects related to their mental health and well-being. It collected information from students across gender and grades -- middle state (6-8) and secondary stage (9 to 12) between January to March 2022.

Anonymity of participants was ensured by making the name column optional, allowing students the comfort, privacy and independence to

respond, the NCERT said

"Decline in satisfaction with personal and school life is seen as students shift from middle to secondary stage. The secondary stage is marked by challenges of identity crisis, increased sensitivity towards relationships, peer pressure, fear of board examination, anxiety and uncertainty experienced by students for their future admissions, career etc.," the survey report released on Tuesday said.

The survey found that 81 percent respondents attribute studies, exams and results as major causes of anxiety.

As many as 43 percent of the total respondents admitted being able to quickly adapt to changes and response of students at middle stage (46 percent) was higher than students at secondary stage (41 percent).

A total of 51 percent students face difficulty in learning online while 28 percent of the respondent students are hesitant in asking questions, as per the survey.

It found that "yoga and meditation, attempts to shift the way they think and writing journals were reported as frequently adopted strategies by students for coping with stress".

BILKIS BANO CASE

SC To Hear Pleas Of CPI (M), TMC Leaders Against Release Of 11 Convicts On Sep 9

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Friday the two pleas challenging the release of 11 convicts in the 2002 case of Bilkis Bano's gang-rape and murder of her seven family members during the Gujarat riots.

According to the list of businesses uploaded on the apex court website, a bench of justices Ajay Rastogi and B V Nagarathna will hear the pleas filed by CPI(M) leader Subhashini Ali, journalist Revathy Laul and activist Roup Rekha Rani on September 9.

TMC MP Mahua Moitra has also filed a separate plea challenging the grant of remission to the convicts by the Gujarat government.

Earlier on August 25, a bench headed by then Chief Justice N V Ramana (since retired) had issued notices to the Centre and the Gujarat government on the pleas a day before dismissing them.

The top court had also asked the petitioners to implead all 11, who have been granted remission, as parties.

Bilkis Bano was 21 years old and five-month pregnant when she was gang-raped while fleeing the riots that broke out after the Godhra train burning incident. Her three-year-old daughter was among the seven family members killed.

The 11 men convicted in the case walked out free from the Godhra sub-jail on August 15 after the Gujarat government allowed their release under its remission policy. They had completed more than 15 years in jail.

Deliberating on the issue that has led to a divisive debate on relief in such heinous cases, the court had said the question



is whether there was application of mind while considering remission and whether it was within the parameters of law.

"Day in day out, those who are convicted and complete their sentence, they are eligible for remission. What is the exception?" the bench had observed. Is that sufficient to say they are not entitled for remission, it had asked.

On August 23, the apex court had agreed to consider listing the plea challenging the grant of remission by the state to the life convicts.

The plea referred to the sequence of events of the case recorded in judicial files and said, "It is submitted that on such facts, no right thinking authority applying any test under any extant policy would consider it fit to grant remission to persons who are found to have been involved in the commission of such gruesome acts."

"It is further submitted that it would appear that the constitution of members of the competent authority of the respondent No.1 (state of Gujarat) also bore allegiance to a political party, and also was sitting MLAs. As

such, it would appear that the competent authority was not an authority that was entirely independent, and one that could independently apply its mind to the facts at hand," it said and quoted media reports to buttress its contention.

The apex court had earlier asked the Gujarat government to consider the plea of remission.

TMC MP Mahua Moitra has also filed a separate petition in the Supreme Court against the release of the convicts in the case. She alleged the remission "completely fails to bolster either social or human justice and does not constitute a valid exercise of the guided discretionary power of the State".

The investigation in the case was handed over to the CBI and the trial was transferred to a Maharashtra court by the Supreme Court.

A special CBI court in Mumbai had on January 21, 2008, sentenced the 11 to life imprisonment on charges of gang-rape and murder of seven members of Bilkis Bano's family. Their conviction was later upheld by the Bombay High Court and the Supreme Court.

Newly-Appointed PM Liz Truss Promises To Transform Britain Into 'Aspiration Nation'

Press Trust of India

London: Newly-appointed Prime Minister Liz Truss Tuesday pledged to "ride out the storm" of the cost-of-living crisis and transform Britain into an "aspiration nation", saying she has a "bold plan" to grow the battered economy through tax cuts and reform.

In her first speech as Prime Minister outside 10 Downing Street in London, she also said that she is honoured to take on the responsibility at a vital time for the country.

As the fourth Conservative Party leader in six years and the UK's third female Prime Minister, Truss focussed her inaugural televised address to the nation to promise to be hands-on with the energy crisis caused by Putin's war and get Britain working again.

She opened her address with praise for predecessor Boris Johnson, whom she described as a "hugely consequential" Prime Minister for getting Brexit done, the COVID vaccine rollout and support for Ukraine in its conflict with Russia.

"As strong as the storm may be, I know the British people are stronger; together we can ride out the storm, said Truss.

"I know we have what it takes to get Britain working again. We will transform Britain into an aspiration nation with high-paying jobs, safe streets and where everyone everywhere has the opportunities they deserve. I will take action this day and action every day to make it happen," she said.

Speaking outside the famous black door of No. 10 Downing Street, her new office, the 47-year-old former foreign secretary was surrounded by scores of Tory MPs, aides and global media.

Heavy downpours abated just minutes before her cavalcade made its way from the

RAF Northolt Royal Air Force base where her flight landed after her audience with Queen Elizabeth II in Scotland. The showers are being viewed by many political commentators as symbolic of the headwinds Truss referenced in her speech.

"The British public has shown grit, courage and determination time and time again and we now face the global headwinds caused by the war in Ukraine and COVID," she said, spelling out three key priorities for her government: a bold plan to grow the economy through tax cuts and reform; dealing with the energy crisis with action this week; and making sure that people can get doctor's appointments and the National Health Service (NHS) support required.

The focus on the economy, energy and NHS, she said, would ensure the country's long-term success.

"United with our allies, we will stand up for freedom and democracy around the world, recognising that we can't have security at home without having security abroad," she added.

Truss assumed the office at a time when the country is facing a looming energy crisis and the focus is on her plan to address the challenge.

The current Chief Secretary to the Treasury Simon Clarke - who is tipped to become levelling up secretary - says Truss's plan to tackle soaring prices will provide certainty to families and businesses as the weather gets colder, the BBC reported.

She will spend the rest of Tuesday meeting civil servants at Downing Street, holding discussions with her aides and start rolling out ministerial appointments. On Wednesday, Truss will face off with Opposition Labour Leader Sir Keir Starmer for her first Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs) in the House of Commons.

Over-Speeding Caused Maximum Accident-Related Deaths In 2020: Govt Report

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: Over-speeding constituted the main traffic rule violation associated with accident related deaths (69.3 per cent) and injuries (73.4 per cent), followed by driving on wrong side, drunken driving, use of mobile phone and jumping red light in 2020, the road transport ministry said in a report.

According to the report titled 'Road accidents in India -- 2020', more than 11 per cent of deaths and injuries were caused due to non-usage of seat belts, while 30.1 per cent of deaths and 26 per cent of injuries were caused due to non-usage of helmets in 2020.

It has said that the number of persons killed and injured due to not wearing of seat belt

during 2020 stood at 15,146 and 39,102 respectively.

A total of 2,65,343 road accidents occurred in India during the calendar year 2020 due to over-speeding, causing 91,239 deaths, while 20,228 road accidents happened due to driving on wrong side, claiming 7,332 lives.

As per the report, drunken driving was responsible for 8,355 road accidents and 3,322 deaths, while 6,753 road accidents occurred due to use of mobile phone while driving, causing 2,917 deaths.

While the report had noted that violation of any traffic rule constitutes human error or driver's fault, it has said that from the perspective of road safety strategy, violations such as over-speeding and driving on wrong



side does not constitute human error alone, but also possible fault in road design.

It had also claimed that the implementation of the Motor Vehicle Amendment Act(MVA) 2019, which became effective from September 1, 2019 contributed to reduce road accidents.

"The MVA Act 2019 included, inter-alia, provisions like stiff hike in penalties for traffic violations, electronic monitoring of the same, enhanced penalties

for juvenile driving etc. and the implementation of the same has enabled achieving the desired impact," the report had said.

Although not wearing seat belts by passengers sitting in the rear seats attracts a fine of Rs 1,000 under Rule 138 (3) of the Central Motor Vehicle Rules (CMVR), most people are either unaware of this mandatory rule or just ignore them.

Even traffic policemen seldom fine passengers sitting on rear seats for not wearing seat belts.

Commenting on issues related to traffic rules violations, Institute of Road Traffic Education (IRTE) President Rohit Baluja said road traffic violations are infringements or transgression of regulations under the Motor Vehicles Driving Regulations, as well as

the provisions of Motor Vehicles Act, Central and State Motor Vehicles Rules.

Baluja said studies conducted by IRTE have revealed that in Indian roadway conditions, a large percentage of violations are committed by drivers on account of faulty road environment, non-standard and faulty traffic control devices (signs, signals and markings).

He said as per studies carried out at IRTE, investigating officers of the police are generally not aware of the driving regulations and the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act/Rules, as they by-default book the drivers of the motor vehicles quoting the sections of the Indian Penal Code relating to over-speeding, rash and negligent driving.

National Road Safety Council member Kamal Soi claimed that less than one per cent drivers who are caught for over-speeding are penalised, while in case of drunk driving, it is even less than 0.5 per cent.

Fear of being caught is not there at all in Indian population, he said. According to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, over 1.55 lakh lives were lost in road crashes across India in 2021 -- an average of 426 daily or 18 every single hour -- which is the highest death figures recorded in any calendar year so far.

SaveLIFE Foundation founder and CEO Piyush Tewari said the NCRB data revealed that traffic violations have become a routine occurrence in the country.

"It is imperative that we mount a significant exercise to reduce speeding, especially on Indian highways and expressways, by ensuring effective and sustained enforcement," he added.

Tewari said driving at excessive speed attracts a fine of Rs 1,000-2,000 in case of light motor vehicles and Rs 2,000-4,000 in case of heavy motor vehicles under Section 183 of the Motor Vehicles (Amendment Act), 2019.

While driving by a drunken person or by a person under the influence of drugs attracts 6 months punishment or Rs 10,000 fine or both under section 185, in case of using a hand-held communication device while driving attracts imprisonment of six months to one year or a fine of Rs 1,000-5,000 or both.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Extension Of Central

grassroots level, ample resources have been kept at the disposal of PRIs.

"After 2019, when the budget of Jammu and Kashmir is presented in the Parliament of the country, the goal of strengthening good governance and grass root democracy is placed at the top of the list of priorities," he said.

"Eleven Land Laws that existed in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir were old, regressive, intrinsically contradictory and outdated laws with a set of modern, progressive and people friendly provisions. The new land laws will not only afford protection to over 90% of the land in J&K but will also help revamp the agriculture sector foster, rapid industrialization, aid economic growth and create jobs in J&K," he added.

According to the spokesperson, the repealed laws were made to serve the old agrarian based economy and were required to be modified for modern economic needs. Besides, they were beset with ambiguities, contradictions and redundancies and in many cases, were clearly regressive.

After Year Long

retaliated, and the exchange of fire continued for a brief period, the officials said, adding some 15 to 20 shots were fired from both sides.

Senior BSF officers rushed to the border outpost and are keeping a close watch on the situation, the officials said.

The ceasefire violation by Pakistan comes close on the heels of the arrest of a Pakistani national in the nearby R S Pura sector.

Mohammad Shabad (45), a resident of Sialkot, was trying to infiltrate into India when he was fired upon by BSF troops, but he hid behind the fencing gate and was subsequently arrested during the intervening night of August 26 and 27.

The February 2021 ceasefire is holding barring some exceptions.

This has brought relief to the border residents and farmers who have resumed farming activities along the Line of Control and the International Border.

BSF, Pak Rangers

violated ceasefire by resorting to unprovoked firing at BSF troops along the international border (IB) in Arnia sector of Jammu district. However, no one was injured in the ensuing exchange of fire, officials said.

"The issue of unprovoked firing was discussed and both sides agreed to exercise maximum restraint on the border. Both sides agreed to respect the existing norms in future," the public relations officer, BSF Jammu, said.

J&K Was Deliberately

under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, all the progressive laws were implemented and reforms were introduced to bring J&K at par with other developed states," the LG said.

Speaking on the social transformation taking place in different sectors in Jammu and Kashmir in the past three years, the LG, as per the spokesperson said that accelerated pace of development, participative, transparent and accountable governance system,

massive investment flow, easy accessibility of public service, empowerment of women and deprived section of the society is being ensured to end Social-inequality.

"The unprecedented change taking place in Jammu and Kashmir is also helping to promote the cultural activities. A cinema hall is opening this month after three decades. The Culture of organizing literary festivals, art camps have picked up across the UT. Local Handicrafts and handlooms sectors have been revived and a new dawn has been witnessed by the tourism sector," Sinha said.

Asserting that India thrives in its diversity, the LG as per the spokesperson said that moral and social values, ancient tradition and cultural legacy is the real wealth of our society.

"We have overtaken the UK to become the world's fifth-largest economy which shows our socio-economic development derives strength from these values," Sinha said.

"Today, the Indian Diaspora is considered the largest and the most prosperous group in the world and people of Indian origin including J&K have become the significant driver of global growth," he added.

The LG, the spokesperson said, congratulated VC, IUST, Prof Shakil Ahmad Romshoo and Convener of the event, Prof Abha Chauhan for facilitating an open academic dialogue which brought together experts, sociologists, academicians from India and abroad to discuss change in the backdrop of accelerated development and globalization.

Sinha, he said, also maintained that

the two-day seminar will generate actionable recommendations that have the potential to accelerate the means of welfare of the general populace.

"He further observed that all such recommendations will be incorporated in the policy making by the UT administration and implemented on ground for the welfare of the common man of Jammu Kashmir," the spokesperson added.

He further said that Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Vice Chancellor IUST, in his welcome address highlighted the significance of academia in finding solutions to the problems of the society and the world.

"He further underscored the University's crucial role of guiding and preparing the future human capital," the spokesperson added.

No Doubts

living here for so long are being deprived of the voting rights.

"The political parties are trying to change the narrative, but the fact is that the people who have been deprived of the voting rights for a long time, would be given the right to franchise and that's the reason for some people to raise hue and cry," he said.

After several people joined the party today, Sood said that it is an answer to those who were claiming that no one will raise tricolor anymore. "This is the time when people don't only hoist the tricolor, but are also joining BJP as well," he said--(KNO)

SIA Searches

of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and Indian Penal Code this year, the official said.

He said the case pertains to a militant grid active in the Valley and the searches are aimed at dismantling the militant ecosystem by identifying over ground workers supporting and abetting militancy.

Details that are being investigated into at the initial stage include masterminds in Pakistan who with active support of Pakistani Intelligence Agencies and in connivance with proscribed militant organization(s) of JeM based in Pakistan have been activating their upper ground workers for initiating, organizing and executing militant activities in J&K," the official said.

The Pakistani masterminds have been "comprehensively identified", the official said, adding their particulars, however, are being kept confidential because other agents connected with them are not alerted.

During the searches, the official said incriminating material, mobile phones and other articles important for the investigation have been recovered and seized.

He said an analysis of the data would follow and the emerging leads would become the basis for further investigation.

J&K Adds 58

No cases were detected in the two districts of Ganderbal and Anantnag.

In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu reported a maximum of 4 new cases of virus, Doda 2 and Samba 1. The remaining seven districts of Kathua, Kishtwar, Poonch, Ramban, Reasi, Udhampur and Rajouri registered no new cases of Covid-19.

Also, the officials said that the death

Soldiers Along LoC Also Battle Hostile Weather

Press Trust Of India

KERAN SECTOR: The soldiers guarding the Line of Control (LoC) in this north Kashmir area not only keep an eye on the hostile neighbour but have to battle a tough terrain, extreme climatic conditions, including about 15-20 feet of snow during winter which snaps links with rest of the country for at least four months.

And with the winter not far away, the battle is about to get tougher.

It is a tough fight. Life in these terrains is very difficult, a soldier guarding one of the posts here, in Keran Sector in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir told PTI.

These Army posts some at the highest altitude of about 12,000 feet are the first line of defense against the intruders in these infamous, traditional routes of infiltration. These infiltration routes converge at the mighty Shamsabari range.

The range with its mighty peaks, rugged mountains, thick forests with dense vegetation, and several streams, poses a dif-

ficult challenge, to the forces, of both the kind the nature as well as of the man.

Apart from the topography, the weather here is very harsh, it is extreme. We have too much cold here when it snows. The snow can accumulate up to 20 feet and remain there for about three-four months, an Army officer said.

The soldiers and officers of the Army as well as the posts cannot be identified for strategic reasons.

For the months of the winter, the forces at such posts or their base camps have to stock up the essentials as the road gets cut-off due to heavy snow. For those months, helicopters/ choppers are the only mode of transportation.

The road, many bunkers and other infrastructure is not even visible when the snow accumulates. There are high-poles which act as markers for us in such situations when we have to move, the officer said.

Notwithstanding the nature, the officer said, the duty to protect the motherland is the priority and has to be performed in any case.



The duty at the forward post can sometimes stretch several hours especially if there is an input (terrorists movement), he said.

While the infiltration has remained largely under control so far this year helped by the ceasefire agreement in the February of 2021 the possibility of Pakistan would return its old ways of making increased attempts to

sneak more terrorists ahead of the winter.

The winter months from November till February or even March are difficult times for infiltration because of the heavy snow. The high-altitude areas in the valley receive heavy snowfall which can accumulate up to around 30 feet in many areas.

There is always this apprehen-

sion, this possibility, that before the snow sets in, Pakistan may try to increase the infiltration, officials in the security establishment said.

It has been happening over the years and there is no surety that it will not happen again, they added.

They, however, said, the counter-infiltration grid was strong and the security forces were alert to thwart any such designs.

We are alert to any such situation. The AIOS (anti-infiltration obstacle system) is robust and we are keeping a close vigil especially on the known tracks (of infiltration), they said.

The reiteration of the ceasefire agreement by the two armies has helped the army on this side to keep a check on infiltration, but the guard is not being let down.

Yes, the ceasefire has helped. The Pakistani Army would usually try to provide a cover to the infiltrators by firing on our posts when there was no ceasefire. So, that is there. But, ceasefire or not, we have to be alert. We cannot take it for granted, the officials said.

They said a multi-tier deployment was in place to stop infiltration -- some of it is physical, some electronic.

It is a combination of man, machine and surveillance, they said. Explaining if further, they said apart from the LoC fence, known as the AIOS, there are integrated surveillance systems, including ground sensors, night vision devices, and CCTV cameras to support the robust deployment on the ground.

Of the 743-km long LoC in Jammu and Kashmir, about 350-km is in the Kashmir valley 55-km of which is in the Keran Sector alone.

The officials said the infiltration numbers have witnessed a decline over the past few years.

In 2017, 419 infiltration attempts were made, followed by 328 in 2018, 216 in 2019, 99 in 2020 and 77 in 2021, respectively. This year also, the number is not high.

Six infiltration bids have been foiled in the Kashmir division so far this year.

Jammu and Kashmir police chief Dilbag Singh also said the

infiltration along the LoC has decreased and was almost zero.

There have been some attempts but they were crushed and foiled. A couple of infiltrations were successful also. The border grid is strong, it will be strengthened and made more stronger, he had said on Friday.

However, the officials assert that intelligence inputs of about 250 terrorists waiting across the LoC in Kashmir at various launch pads to infiltrate were there.

So, we cannot let our guard down, they said.

Apart from the infiltration of terrorists into the valley, the Army has to watch out for other enemy' drugs.

Smuggling of drugs from across the border is on the rise and Pakistan is using it to fund terrorism in Kashmir, DGP Singh said.

We are keeping a close eye on the smuggling of narcotics as well apart from infiltration of terrorists and arms and ammunition. The enemy has its ways, but we are firm and ever ready to defend our motherland, the Army officer also stressed.

Mainly Dry Weather Forecast In J&K

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Weather department on Tuesday forecast mainly dry weather over the plains of Jammu and Kashmir with very light rain at one or two places on the higher reaches.

A meteorological department official told GNS that no large change was expected during the next two days.

Regarding rain in the last 24 hours till 0830 hours today, he said, Srinagar had traces, Qazigund 0.2mm, Pahalgam 1.4mm, Kupwara 0.3mm, Kokernag 2.6mm, Gulmarg 11.8mm, Banihal 2.0mm, Batote 11.6mm, Katra 1.6mm and Bhaderwah traces.

About the minimum temperature, the official said that Srinagar recorded a low of 15.6°C against 18.8°C on the previous night. The temperature was 0.6°C above normal for the summer capital during this time



of the year, he said.

Qazigund recorded a low of 14.0°C against 16.8°C on the previous night. The temperature was 0.8°C below normal there, he said.

In Pahalgam, he said, the mercury settled at 8.8°C against 13.8°C on the previous night and it was 1.7°C

below normal for the south Kashmir resort.

Kokernag recorded a low of 12.0°C against 15.4°C the previous night and it was 1.3°C below normal for the place, he said.

World famous Gulmarg resort recorded a low of 7.5°C against 10.6°C on the

previous night. It was 2.5°C below normal for the north Kashmir place, he said.

In Kupwara town, the mercury settled at 15.1°C against 16.2°C the previous night, the official said. It was 1.6°C above normal for the north Kashmir place, he said. (GNS)

Ex- Minister, Bharat Vikas Parishad Delegation Call On LG



Observer News Service

JAMMU: A delegation of registered Stone Crusher Unit Holders led by former Minister Rajiv Jasrotia on Tuesday called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha here at Raj Bhawan.

Jasrotia, representing the registered Stone Crusher Unit Holders, raised various issues pertaining to the mining issue in Kathua district, permission for additional blocks in the district and availability of minor minerals at reasonable rates.

Similarly, a delegation of office bearers of Bharat Vikas Parishad J&K headed by its Regional President Devraj Sharma projected various issues of public importance.

Other office bearers of Bharat Vikas Parishad including its Regional Joint General Secretary Arun Sharma, State President Ashok Khajuria, Vice President Vijay Sharma, and State General Secretary Narendar Mishra were also present during the interaction.

The Lt Governor, while interacting with the members of delegations and former Minister observed that the Government is sensitive to the issues and needs of the people and various stakeholders.

The Lt Governor assured them that the issues and demands projected by them would be looked into for early redressal on merit.

DC Budgam Reviews Arrangements For Chehlum Procession

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, S F Hamid on Tuesday visited Markazi Imam Bara Bemina to review arrangements for the ensuing Chehlum procession.

On the occasion, the DC stressed on making robust arrangements in advance for the convenience of the general public, particularly mourners joining the largest procession on September, 17.

He called for adequate arrangements for transport, electricity, drinking water facility, sanitation, health and repairs of roads, links and interior lanes are carried out in advance for hassle-free passage of procession and mourners. ADDC Budgam, Dr Akram-ullah Tak, SDM Beerwah, Tehsildar Budgam, Executive Engineer R&B, DIO and other officers and officials also accompanied the DC.

Bhupinder Assesses Palliative Healthcare In District Hospitals

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Secretary, Health and Medical Education, Bhupinder Kumar on Tuesday convened a meeting to review palliative healthcare in District Hospitals across Jammu and Kashmir.

Among others, Mission Director, National Health Mission, J&K, Choudhary Mohammad Yasin, Directors Health Services Jammu and Kashmir and Principals of all the Government Medical Colleges besides other senior officers attended the meeting.

After threadbare discussion, Secretary directed for training of at least 4 Medical Officers and 4 Nurses in Certified Course in Essentials of Palliative Care (CCEPC) from each district who will further act as District Resource Persons as well as care givers for Palliative Care.

Secretary asked both the Directors to ensure that the training is completed within a period of one month besides making sure OPD and IPD services for Palliative Care in all the District Hospitals of J&K.

He instructed the Principals GMC Jammu and Srinagar to take necessary steps for creation of both the GMCs as centers of excellence for Palliative Care.

Reviews Functioning Of J&K AIDS Control Society

JAMMU: Secretary, Health and Medical Education, Bhupinder Kumar on Tuesday reviewed the functioning of J&K AIDS Control Society, Department of Health and Medical Education.

The Kashmir based officials attended the meeting through video conferencing.

Dr. Samir Mattoo, Project Director AIDS Control Society, presented a brief description of working of the Society in the region.

Secretary instructed the officers to further streamline functioning of the Society besides asking for increasing the HIV testing especially among pregnant women and high risk group population so that the disease can be contained effectively. He further asked them to ensure that voluntary blood donation is further raised so as to cater to the need of safe blood in times of emergencies.

Secretary directed JK AIDS Control Society to start reporting on Strengthening Overall Care for HIV beneficiaries (SOCH) Portal developed by National AIDS control Society, Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in order to streamline the process of end to end reporting.

Regarding provision of financial assistance to people living with HIV/AIDS, he directed that the funds should be transferred through DBT mode as soon as possible. He also directed the Society to put up the demand regarding funds for providing financial assistance to these people in the current year besides simplifying the procedure for availing such financial aid by the PLHIVs.

2 Hizb Terrorists Killed In Anantnag Encounter: Police

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two Hizbul Mujahideen militants were killed in an encounter with government forces in Anantnag district of South Kashmir on Tuesday, police said.

Government forces launched a cordon and search operation in the Poshkreeri area of Anantnag district

following information about the presence of militants there, a police official said.

He said the search operation turned into an encounter after the militants opened firing at the government forces who retaliated.

Two militants were killed in the gun battle, the official said, adding the duo was affiliated with proscribed terror

outfit Hizbul Mujahideen.

"Killed terrorists identified as Danish Bhat @ Kokab Duree & Basharat Nabi, both affiliated with proscribed terror outfit HM. Both were involved in killing of one TA soldier Saleem on 9 April 2021 & killing of two civilians on 29 May 2021 in Jablupora," Additional DGP, Kashmir Zone, Vijay Kumar tweeted.

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER SOCIAL FORESTRY DIVISION, BARAMULLA

e-TENDERING

Tender Notice: E-NIT No: 01 (Re-tender) Dated: 05/ 09/2022

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

Name of Works

S/No	Name of work	Adv. Cost (₹ In Lacs)	Earnest Money	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Document	Time of Completion	Receiving /Opening Authority	Geo- Reference
01	Providing and Fixing of 4 strands Barbed Wire Fencing with Wooden Fence Posts 5100 Rft Area 17 Hac at Co 81 Chandaji S.F Range Bandipora Social Forestry Division Baramulla. Scheme CAPEX BANDIPORA 22-23 Fence posts available.	2.72	5500	"C and D"	Rs. 300/-	15 days.	Tender Opening Committee	34°28' 33.31" 74°37' 39.96"

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

Position of funds	: Budgeted
Position of AA	: Accorded and Position of TS : Accorded
Publishing Date.	05/ 09 /2022
Download Start Date.	05 /09/2022 from 03:00 PM
Bid Submission Start Date.	05/ 09 /2022 from 03:30 PM
Bid Submission End Date.	12 /09/2022 upto 04:00 PM
Date of opening of Technical Bid.	13/09/2022 at 11:00 AM in the Office of the Divisional Forest Officer Social Forestry Division Baramulla
Date of opening of Financial Bid (on line)	13//2022 at 11:30 AM in the Office of the Divisional Forest Officer Social Forestry Division Baramulla

The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the Website:-<https://jktenders.gov.in>.

- The price bids uploaded on the website in time will be opened on 13/09/2022 at 01:00 AM in the Office of Divisional Forestry officer , Department of Social Forestry, Division Baramulla , Baramulla . In case of date of opening of the bid being public holiday, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- Bids must accompany cost of tender document as shown against each work in the shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406-Forest. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.
- In light of Govt. Notification issued by the Finance Department Civil Secretariat Vide No. A/24(2017)-651 dated:-07-06-2018, the bidder must upload the copy of challan / receipt on account of cost of tender documents remitted in the treasury concerned and for that the bidder must write an application to be addressed to treasury officer concerned requesting therein for remittance of amount as cost of tender documents towards M.H.0406-Forest.
- The Contractor is required to submit a duly attested declaration on notarized affidavit for Bid Security as per format Enclosed.
- Performance security at 3% of the advertised cost in the shape of CDR/FDR shall have to be deposited by the lowest bidder (L-1) and will remain in force for a period till the satisfactory physical completion of the contract plus "defective liability period" of six months.
- That I shall be under obligation to execute the work as per terms and conditions mentioned in the work order/ agreement signed and in case of violation/ non-adherence to these conditions, department would be at liberty to impose the penalty/ initiate action as warranted under rules.
- After receiving electronic message of financial Bids. The L1 Bidder should deposit the Original Performance Security in the form of CDR/FDR/ pledged to Divisional Forest Officer Social Forestry Division Baramulla in the office of the Divisional Forest Officer Social Forestry Division Baramulla during working hours within 02 days. If L1 bidder fails to submit the original documents / Performance Security within 02 days, the department will cancel the tender and action shall be taken against the contractor to debar in future tendering process as decided by the Department.
- The original instruments in respect of cost of documents and relevant documents of L1 bidder will be required to be submitted to the Divisional Forest Officer Social Forestry Division Baramulla within two days of opening of financial bids on-line. No separate intimation about opening of financial bids will be sent by this office / by the tender opening authority. In case the original documents are not submitted by the L-1 bidder within two days after opening of financial bid, the tender will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to participate in any further / future tendering process.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" options as well as from " Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per IT Act, bidders can get Digital Signature Certificate from approved vendor.
- The Bidders have to submit their financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical / hard form
- The price bids offered by the bidders, shall, in no case be higher than the advertised cost against each item of work as no post bid negotiation shall be allowed after the opening of the financial bid. The bids offered higher than the advertised cost against each item of work individually and/or as whole shall render the financial bid liable to be rejected / disqualified and the next lowest bidder (L2) as the case may be shall accordingly be considered for award of contract, if otherwise, found qualified.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bidders must ensure to upload ONLY SCANNED COPIES OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS i.e. PAN card, GSTIN, especially Govt. Treasury receipt (cost of Tender Document), Registration Card, Affidavit, Earnest Money etc (No. Photostat/Xerox scanned copies of documents shall be accepted/entertained) and hard copies of all these documents should also reach in the Office of Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Baramulla within two working days after the opening of financial bid (only L1 and L2 bidders). No registered post/courier will be accepted.
- 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 e-NIT, in any of the newspaper under circulation.
- The accepting department however reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons thereof.
- The contractor shall arrange the key materials like Angle iron Fence posts, [except wooden fence posts] Barbed wire, other key materials like Cement, Steel on his own from authorized dealers for the above said work and quality of material shall be ISI as per standard specifications notified by Government/ Competent authority and have to be verified/passed by the concerned Asstt. Executive Engineer and or concerned Range Officers or officer designate of the department before start of work/ during the course of work.
- a. Cement of Ambuja, ACC, Birlas Plus, JP Buland, Bangaur or equivalent brand
- b. paint of Asian, Nerolac or equivalent brand
- c. Steel of SAIL, TATA TISCON, Rashtriya Ispat or equivalent brand.
19. No Advance payments shall be made. Payment will be made to the contractor only against work done or after completion of work within given time limit in all respects as per specifications after issuance of work completion certificate by the concerned Range Officer and after inspection of DFO concerned respectively. Part payment, if any, against the work done released shall be treated as on account payment and the same is subject to final adjustment after work completion. The bills must be accompanied with the Test Report of the material used viz Square PCC Posts, Angle iron posts, GI Barbed Wire etc issued by the SICOP or any other equivalent testing authority.
20. The contractor shall be under obligation to get the quality/ quantity of work checked from DFO or his authorized representative and contractor shall adhere to the guidelines/ directions issued during such inspection in the interest of quality, quantity and time line of the works.
21. The plantation related works for which these bids are being invited are season linked and thus completion of works within the mentioned time-line is of utmost importance. Any delay in completion of fencing work will affect the timely execution of other works like pitting, planting etc. The contractor will thus be under obligation to complete each item of work strictly as per time-line mentioned in the document and in case of non-adherence, DFO has the authority to initiate action which may include cancellation of work order and executing the works through alternative arrangement and no payment for partially executed work shall be released, besides initiating other action against the defaulter.
22. All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD Form 25(double leaf) and as per the detailed document.

No:- 431-434/Acctt/SF/Bla
Dated:- 05 /09/2022
DIPK-9423-22

S/d
Divisional Forest Officer
Social Forestry Division Baramulla



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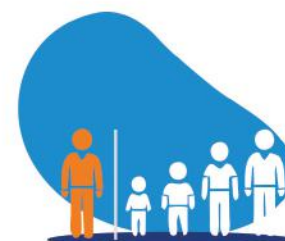
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