

Shopian Boy Shines In NEET UG Exams

Son Of A Fruit Merchant, Haziq Lone Secures All India Rank 10

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Festivities broke out in the family of a fruit merchant in Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir after his son topped the NEET-UG-2022 examination in the union territory and secured the all-India rank 10.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and politicians congratulated Haziq Pervez Lone for the feat.

Lone, resident of Trenz area of Shopian in south Kashmir, has secured the 10th rank in the all-India level NEET UG-examination and topped J-K UT.

Son of a fruit merchant, Pervez Ahmad, Lone secured 710 points out of 720. As the family celebrates the success, friends and relatives dawned upon the house, hugging Lone and garlanding him.

Lone is elated over his achievement and credits the success to his family, teachers and to the hard work.

I am thankful to God Almighty for this success. This has been possible only because of Him. I am thankful to my parents and the coaching institute as well, he said.

Lone said he expected his score to be around what he secured, but, the all-India rank of 10 was beyond his expectations.



I had no idea I will get this rank. I was surprised when the results came. My parents were also surprised, but are very happy, he said. Asked about his message to future aspirants, Lone said there is no substitute to hard work.

You should work hard as hard work brings results. You have to be consistent and you will achieve good things finally, he said.

He said at least 7-9 hours of study was needed to crack the examination with flying colours. He said the major difficulty he faced was shift from offline **More on P10**

LG Calls For Holistic Development Of Srinagar

'Focus Shouldn't Be Limited To Enhancing Aesthetics But Making Infra More User Friendly, Utilitarian'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Observing that Srinagar city is visited by people from across the country and abroad, the Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Thursday stressed upon the need for holistic development of the city and public amenities.

Sinha made these observations while chairing a review meeting of Srinagar District and Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), at SKICC here on Thursday, an official spokesperson said.

During the meeting, he said, the LG reviewed various developmental works besides implementation



and progress of the schemes being executed by District administration and Municipal Corporation.

Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz **More on P10**

'Taking Measures For Vibrant Film Ecosystem'

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Thursday that his administration is taking effective measures to create a vibrant film ecosystem to bring back the golden era of filmmaking in the Union Territory. Sinha made these remarks during his interaction with renowned Bollywood Actor and film-maker, **More on P10**

DySp Lynching Case NIA Court Grants Bail To 17 Accused

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court in Srinagar has granted bail to 17 persons accused of lynching a police officer in 2017 outside Jamia Masjid.

Judge M.S. Manhas, while allowing the bail application on Wednesday, said there were no reasonable grounds to believe that the accused were guilty of lynching deputy Superintendent of Police Mohammad Ayoub Pandit.

Pandit was lynched by a mob on June 22, 2017 outside Jamia Masjid in Nowhatta area of the city when he was on duty in civvies during the Shab-e-Qadr that year.

"... In the present case after perusing the material available on record including the statement of the witnesses recorded during trial, **More on P10**

Hajin Boy Qualifies NEET In Fourth Attempt

After fourth attempt, a young boy from Hajin locality of north Kashmir's Bandipora district qualified the NEET UG 2022 by securing 603 marks. Mohammad Nadeem son of Abdul Rehman Dar of Hajin has qualified the NEET UG 2022 by securing 603 marks. Nadeem said that it was due to his hard work and support from the family, especially his parents and cousin brothers that he was able to crack this prestigious exam. Nadeem, who had done his coaching from KIE institute, also gave credit to his teachers and said that without their support it was not possible for him to crack the exam. "I am **More on P10**

Govt Okays Amnesty Scheme For Power Consumers

'Pay Principal Amount In 12 Installments, Defaulters To Face Legal Action'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a move aimed to benefit over five lakh consumers, the Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday approved an amnesty scheme for domestic power consumers in the Union Territory, waiving off an amount of nearly Rs 1000 crore.

The approval of the amnesty scheme was given by the Administrative Council (AC) which met here under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, an

official spokesperson said Thursday. LG's Advisor and Principal Secretary Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar and Nitishwar Kumar, besides Chief Secretary Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta attended the meeting.

"The decision is going to benefit more than 5.50 lakh domestic consumers by waiving off an amount of Rs. 937.34 crore, accumulated as surcharge or interest, on account of non-payment of timely dues," the spokesperson said.

The Administrative Council, he said, has provided this last opportunity to the consumers in view of not being able to avail the benefits of the last scheme due to spread of Covid-19 pandemic during the scheme period. **More on P10**

India Becoming World's 5th Largest Economy No Ordinary Feat: PM

Press Trust Of India

Surat: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said India has become the fifth largest economy in the world and this is not an ordinary achievement.

"Every Indian is feeling proud of it. We need to maintain this enthusiasm," Modi said.

He was virtually addressing beneficiaries of various government schemes and those present at a mega medical camp organised in Olpad area of Surat city in Gujarat, where the Assembly polls are due later this year.

The PM interacted with some of the beneficiaries and appealed to farmers to switch to natural farming, saying this will result in better yield at minimum cost.



He lauded the Gujarat government and referred to the BJP-led state and the Centre as "double engine government".

"Recently, India has become the fifth largest economy in the world. This achievement gave us confidence to **More on P10**

S H O R T T A K E S

3.5 Magnitude Earthquake Hits Katra

A low-intensity earthquake of magnitude 3.5 hit Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, officials said. No casualty or damage to property was reported, they said. The quake struck Katra, which houses the holy cave shrine of Mata Vaishnodevi in Trikuta hills, at 7.52 am, officials said. The epicentre was at a latitude of 33.14 degrees north and longitude of **More on P10**

Covid-19: J&K Clocks 67 New Cases

As many as 67 more people tested positive for Coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, taking the number of people infected since the onset of pandemic in the Union Territory to 478562. Officials said that 57 fresh cases of novel Coronavirus were detected in the Kashmir Valley and the remaining ten from several districts of Jammu division. In the Valley, **More on P10**

Army Commander Reviews Readiness In Rajouri

Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi on Thursday visited forward areas in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri and reviewed operational preparedness, officials said. Lt Gen Dwivedi visited Rajouri sector and interacted with top army officers on security situation and operational preparedness in the areas along the **More on P10**

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(c) On or before 15 th of December, 2022	75% of the Advance Tax payable.
(d) On or before 15 th of March, 2023	100% of the Advance Tax payable.

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2

Malaria Booster Vaccine Shows Up To 80% Efficacy: Lancet Study

Press Trust Of India

A malaria vaccine booster shot at one year following a primary three-dose regime maintained high efficacy of 70-80 per cent against the disease, according to a study published in The Lancet Infectious Diseases journal.

Researchers from the University of Oxford, UK and colleagues reported the findings from their Phase 2b trial following the administration of a booster dose of the candidate malaria vaccine, R21/Matrix-M.

The vaccine, licensed to Serum Institute of India, previously demonstrated high-level efficacy of 77 per cent over the following 12 months in young west African children in 2021.

In their latest findings, the researchers found that a vaccine booster dose at one year following a primary three-dose regime continued to meet the World Health

Organization's Malaria Vaccine Technology Roadmap goal of a vaccine with at least 75 per cent efficacy.

A total of 450 participants aged five to 17 months were recruited from Burkina Faso, with 409 receiving the booster.

The participants were randomly assigned to three groups, with the first two groups receiving the R21/Matrix-M vaccine as a booster and the third a rabies vaccine as the control group.

Each child received the same booster vaccination as their primary series of vaccinations. Doses were administered in June 2020, largely prior to the peak malaria season.

The study reports a vaccine efficacy of 80 per cent in the higher-dose adjuvant group, and 70 per cent in the lower dose adjuvant group, over 12 months of follow-up.

Antibody levels were restored to similar levels as those following the primary vac-



cinations 28 days after the booster doses were administered, the researchers said.

No serious adverse events related to the vaccine were noted, they said.

"It is fantastic to see such high efficacy again after a single booster dose of vaccine. We are currently part of a very large phase III trial aimed at licensing this vaccine for widespread use next year," said Halidou Tinto, the trial Principal Investigator.

"We are delighted to find that a standard four dose immunisation regime can now, for the first time, reach the high efficacy level over two years that has been an aspirational target for malaria vaccines for so many years," said Professor Adrian Hill, from the University of Oxford.

The trial has been extended for another two years to assess if further booster doses will be necessary to maintain high efficacy over time.

Results from the key ongoing Phase III licensure trial to assess large-scale safety and efficacy in 4,800 children aged five to 36 months across four African countries, are also expected later this year.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name and DOB has been wrongly written in my passport as Abyaz while my correct name is Abeyaz Zia and DOB as 21-05-2003 instead of 21-05-2004 Which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the Passport Office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Abeyaz Zia
S/o Dr. Zia Rasool
Cell: 9419936456

bmg

From the OFFICE of Adv Shahid Rashid Lic No. JK303/2019

District Court Moominabad Srinagar
Cell No. 7006526762
Chamber No. 304

In the case of
Irfan Ahmad Reshi
S/o: Abdul Salam Reshi
R/o: 9-A Gogji Bagh, Srinagar

(Caveators)

V/S

PUBLIC AT LARGE

(Non-Caveators)

In the matter of : Caveat petition in terms of section 148-A of C.P.C

The caveator has reason to believe/ apprehension that non caveator may file a suit of any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble court and on the ground of Distorted facts/misrepresent and cooked story and may succeed in obtaining some relief/order at irreparable loss and inconvenience it would be proper that caveator is given opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.

SS

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR NOTICE



Where a application for has been relieved from .
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Ghulam Hassain Bhat duly attested by advocate/Judge Budgam for transfer of RC in respect of Vehicle No. JK04A 7652 Type of vehicle maxi cab (sumo) of LMV . Vehicle bearing registration number

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer ARTO Budgam within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.1113
Dated 07-09-2022

mcb

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

University of Kashmir, Srinagar Notice

The candidate whose particulars are given below has reported to the University that he / she has lost his/her University Certificate/s and has applied for issuance of duplicate certificate/s:

Name: Fazil Ahmad Dar
Parentage:- Gh Mohamad Dar
Residence:- Russu Narbal Budgam
Registration No : 1080-MAG-2015
Certificate/s lost:- 3rd Year Marks Sheet
Roll No/s:- 18841071
Session/ Year June - July 2018

Before University will consider issuance of Duplicate Certificate/s in favour of the candidate, any person having any objection shall report to the undersigned within one week from the date of issuance of this notice. The original certificate/s issued to the candidate be treated as cancelled



No: F(Duplicate/ m card) KU)
dated: 29-08-2022
Assistant Controller
of Examinations (PG/UG/Prof
bmg



UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR

Office of the Executive Engineer, Construction Division

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

For and on behalf of the University of Kashmir, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage (%) basis from approved and eligible Civil Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/UT/ Central Governments for the following works

S.No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc in shape of E-Challan (In Rs.)	Earnest Money in Rs.	Time and Date for Submission of E-Tender.	Date & Time of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor
1	Balance Work of 05 Storeyed Girls Hostel at 1. Main Campus, University of Kashmir.	162.88	2600/-	3,25,760/-	06-09-2022 to 20-09-2022 (6.00 PM)	21-09-2022 (11.30 AM)	"AAY" & "BEE"

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

Executive Engineer

NIT No: - F(E.Tend)(UCD)/KU/30/22
DATED: 06/09/22.

DIPK-NB-3721/22



UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR

Office of the Executive Engineer, Construction Division

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (1st Call)

For and on behalf of the University of Kashmir, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage (%) basis from approved and eligible Civil Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/UT/ Central Governments for the following works

S.No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc in shape of E-Challan (In Rs.)	Earnest Money in Rs.	Time and Date for Submission of E-Tender.	Date & Time of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor
1	Providing of Chain Link Fencing and various Repair/Renovation works at Girls and Boys Hostel at Lower Delina, North Campus.	27.34Lacs	Rs.1100/-	54,680/-	06-09-2022 to 21-09-2022 (6.00 PM)	22-09-2022 (11.30 AM)	"AAY" & "BEE"
2	Partitioning and Renovation of Existing Faculty Room into Two Separate Rooms in the PG Department of Hindi.	4.11	Rs.200/-	8,020/-	06-09-2022 to 21-09-2022 (6.00 PM)	22-09-2022 (11.30 AM)	"DEE"

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

DIPK-NB-3722/22

Executive Engineer

NIT No: - F(Fresh)(E.Tend)(UCD)/KU/31/22 DATED: 06/09/22.

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LG Flags Off Fleet Of Boats From Zero Bridge To Commemorate Urs Of Syed Qamar-ud-Din Bukhari (RA)

The occasion also marks the revival of water transport from Srinagar to Ganderbal

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday flagged off a fleet of boats and shikaras carrying devotees and artists from Zero Bridge to Ganderbal to commemorate the Urs of Sufi saint Syed Qamar-ud-Din Bukhari (RA).

The Lt Governor expressed hope that the occasion would further strengthen the bonds of goodwill and brotherhood. Let us remind ourselves of the unity of mankind and resolve to strive for harmony and peace, he added.

Prominent citizens from all



walks of life gathered at Zero Bridge to witness the occasion, which also marks the revival of water transport from Srinagar

to Ganderbal.

Pertinently, the Urs of Syed Qamar-ud-Din Bukhari (RA) is being observed after three de-

cades.

Junaid Azim Mattu Mayor SMC, Nuzhat Ishfaq DDC Chairperson, Ganderbal, Dr

Darakhshan Andrabi Chairperson J&K Waqf Board, Dr Hina Shafi Bhat Vice Chairperson, J&K KVIB; former legislator, Sh Ishfaq Jabbar; religious leaders and people in large numbers were present on the occasion.

Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, Sh Pandurang K Pole, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Mohd Aijaz, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Ghulam Nabi Itoo, Director Tourism, Kashmir; Ms Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council and senior officials of the UT Administration were also present.

LCMA Conducts Demolition Drive In City Areas

Observer News Service

Srinagar: LCMA carried out a demolition drive on Thursday in the area of Rakh-i-Arth Housing Colony Bemina.

On the occasion, several encroachments and a shed were demolished from plots illegally encroached upon by the locals.

The Enforcement Wing of LCMA under the supervision of Enforcement Officers also undertook a demolition drive in the areas of Saderbal, Kanitar, Saida Kadal and Nigeen

illegal encroachments were demolished.

Moreover, illegally earth filling dumped in the areas of



Saida Kadal / Nigeen Lashkari Mohalla, Handum Mohalla NFR were also removed on spot.

Further, legal action against the violators was also initiated

Locals Demand ATM At Habba-Kadal

Agencies

Srinagar: Locals of Habba Kadal in old city Srinagar have appealed to the Jammu Kashmir Bank authorities to install an Automatic Teller Machine (ATM) in the area to ease their hardships.

A delegation of locals and traders said that in absence of an ATM facility at the main market, they face immense inconvenience.

"Most of the custom-

ers prefer to carry ATM and Credit cards for transactions. However, they face inconvenience due to lack of ATM facility mainly at the Habba Kadal Chowk", they added.

Locals said that they had several times raised the issue with the bank officials but nothing has so far been done in this regard. They requested higher ups to look into the matter so that they can have a sigh of relief.(CNS)

KU Welcomes Freshers, VC Says Students Are University's Lifeline

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a first major initiative conceived to introduce the Kashmir University administration and all its units offering student-centric services to the freshers, the University of Kashmir on Thursday organised a mega welcome meet-cum-orientation programme.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Nilofer Khan, the architect of the event organised by the Department of Students Welfare (DSW), inaugurated the programme at the jam-packed Convocation Complex that hosted over 2000 students, besides administrators, deans, heads, directors and coordinators of various departments and satellite campuses.

In her welcome address, Prof Nilofer said the student community is the University's lifeline and we consider them as our most-valuable asset.

"We welcome you wholeheartedly to the University family," she told the students, who responded with huge rounds of applause.

Reiterating that her doors are always open for the students, Prof Nilofer said this fresher meet has been conceived to introduce our academic administrators and officers who are at the helm to serve students with dedication and commitment.

"There may be some difficulties during your two-year



journey in the campus, but that offers us a chance to introspect and improve further by working hand-in-hand," she said.

The Vice-Chancellor, however, advised the students to uphold the prestige and dignity of the institution by adhering to discipline alongside showing total commitment to studies.

"We want you to become ambassadors of our prestigious institution which has risen, with dedication of each faculty member and staff, to figure among the country's top 100 universities which has also been accredited by NAAC as an A+ institution," the Vice-Chancellor said, urging the students to become active partners in further raising the University's academic standards.

"Sometimes we develop and carry certain wrong notions about the institution based on misinformation or false percep-

tions. But I assure you that we are here to do the best for your welfare. We are open to constructive criticism but we want our students to broaden their vision and become accommodative to understanding our limitations that we sometimes face," Prof Nilofer said, extending her best wishes to the students.

Dean Academic Affairs Prof Farooq A Masoodi said our students are the institution's "mirror reflection" when they leave the campus.

"While we offer to provide best services, we expect our dear students to be sensitive to their duties towards institution-building," he said.

Registrar Dr Nisar A Mir highlighted the University's relentless efforts to provide best education, facilities and services to the students, and to develop student-friendly infrastructure.

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HIGHWAY STATUS



Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)
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1444

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FAJR	4 :47
ZUHR	12:31
ASR	4:58
Magrib	6:53
ISHA	8: 15

This Day In History

- 1000 - Battle of Svolder, Baltic Sea. King Olaf on board the Long Serpent defeated in one of the greatest naval battles of the Viking Age.
- 1493 - Battle of Krbava field, a decisive defeat of Croats in Croatian struggle against the Ottoman Empire invasion.
- 1513 - Battle of Flodden Fields; English defeat James IV of Scotland
- 1591 - Battle at Flores Azores: Spanish beat English
- 1753 - 1st steam engine arrives in US colonies
- 1830 - Charles Durant, 1st US aeronaut, flies a balloon from Castle Garden, NYC to Perth Amboy, NJ
- 1881 - Egyptian military coup under colonel Arab "El Wahid"
- 1908 - Russia takes part of Poland boxing title
- 1911 - 1st European airport (Hendon to Windsor, England)
- 1912 - J Verdrines becomes 1st to fly over 100 mph (107 mph/172 kph)
- 1913 - Association for Study of Negro Life & History organizes in Chicago
- 1914 - 12] Belgian offensive from Antwerp
- 1914 - Boston Brave George Davis no-hits Philadelphia Phillies, 7-0
- 1914 - First fully mechanized unit in the British Army created - the Canadian Automobile Machine Gun Brigade (WWI)
- 1914 - Meeting held at Gaelic League headquarters between Irish Republican Brotherhood and other extreme republicans; initial decision made to stage an uprising while Britain is at war
- 1915 - Association for study of Negro Life & History forms by Carter G Woodson
- 1918 - Dutch government of Ruijs de Beerenbrouck forms
- 1919 - Boston's police force forms strike
- 1921 - Guatemala, Honduras, and San Salvador agree to Central American Union
- 1922 - St Louis Brown "Baby Doll" Jacobson hits 3 triples beating Tigers 16-0
- 1922 - Turkish troops conquer Smyrna/murder Greek citizens
- 1942-1st bombing on continental US soil at Mount Emily, Oregon during WWII by Japanese planes
- 1943 - US, British & French troops land in Salerno (operation Avalanche)

From KO Archives

DD Kashir Runs Into Rough Weather

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: The much-hyped Kashir channel of the Doordarshan has run into rough weather. The union ministry of home affairs (MHA) is understood to have declined to foot the bill for running the channel. Even as the channel has allegedly become a money spinner for some Mandi House officials and a handpicked coterie of Kashmiri migrants.

According to reliable sources, the MHA had 'promised' to provide the financial support required to run the channel which was launched, for the third time in June this year, with a big fanfare. Two plane loads brought several Bollywood celebrities besides the union minister of information and broadcasting, Arun Jaitley, with hundreds of ministry officials in tow to grace the occasion The gala function held at the city's Grand Palace hotel is believed to have cost the exchequer a fabulous Rs two to three crore.

Sources said no new Kashmiri programmes were likely to be produced for the channel. Proposals submitted by Kashmir producers, mostly Kashmiri pandits, were being returned due to non-availability of funds. Sources said 148 proposals, were approved by the Mandi House last month. However, some 'stale' programmes provided gratis by Star, Zee TV Sahara and some other private channels may be telecast from the Kashir channel. (Kashmir Observer, September 09, 2000)

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E:amid.zobara@jkbmail.com

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas the Authorized Officer of The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd. under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the Act) in exercise of the powers conferred upon the Authorized Officer under section 13 (2) of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Securities Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (the Rules) issued a Demand Notice dated 03-08-2022 calling upon (i) M/S Royal Saw Mills Prop: Mohammad Suhail Sofi (Borrower) (Mortgagor Lease hold rights) (ii) Mr. Mohd Haris Sofi S/o Mushtaq Ahmad Sofi R/o Handwara at present Barzulla Bagat Srinagar (iii) Mr. Ishtiyag Ahmad Sofi S/o Gh Ahmad Sofi R/o Main Chowk Handwara (iv) Mr. Manzoor Ahmad Malla S/o Late Mohd Sultan Malla R/o Batgund Handwara (Guarantors), to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 2474382.50 (Rupees Rupees Twenty four Lac seventy four Thousands three hundred eighty two and Fifty Paise Only) together with further interest thereon from 28-03-2022 @ 10.75 % p.a. with monthly rests besides other costs & expenses , within 60 days from the date of the said notice.

The above named Borrower, Mortgagor & Guarantors having failed to repay the amount in full within prescribed time, notice is hereby given to the said Borrower, Mortgagor & Guarantor in particular and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on me under Section 13 (4) of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Rules on this 05th day of September 2022.

The said Borrower, Mortgagor & Guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the said property/assets and any dealings with the said property/assets will be subject to the charge of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd. B/U Handwara Main for an amount of Rs. 2474382.50 (Rupees Rupees Twenty four Lac seventy four Thousands three hundred eighty two and Fifty Paise Only) as on 28-03-2022 together with further interest thereon from 28-03-2022 @ 10.75 % p.a. with monthly rests along with costs, charges and expenses till payment is made in the loan account.

Attention of Borrowers, Guarantors and Mortgagors is invited to provisions of Section 13(8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

This Notice is issued without prejudice to any of the rights of the Bank under the Act or under any other law in force.

Khasra No	Khata No	Khewat No	Area Mortgaged	
			Kanals	Marlas
103/2	200	25	1	0
Total			1	0

All that part and parcel of property consisting of Bandsaw mill , Fixed assets, Plant and machinery, etc.

Date: 07/09/2022
Ref No:- JKB/IAPMD/ZOB-2022-23/
DIPK-NB-3734/22

(Mr. Shadaab Mehboob)
Authorized Officer
The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd

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India 'Running Out Of Weapons' Due To "Make In India" Policy: Report



Agenceis

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's push to boost domestic manufacturing of defense systems is leaving India vulnerable to persistent threats from China and Pakistan, according to officials with knowledge of the matter.

India's air force, army, and navy can no longer import some critical weapons systems to replace aging ones, the officials said. That risks leaving India critically short of helicopters by 2026 and with a shortfall of hundreds of fighter jets by 2030, they said.

Shortly after sweeping to power in 2014, PM Modi unveiled his "Make in India" policy to build everything from mobile phones to fighter jets in India to generate jobs and reduce outflows of foreign exchange. But eight years later, the world's biggest importer of military hardware still doesn't manufacture enough weapons locally to meet its needs -- and government rules are blocking imports.

PM Modi's program mandates between 30% to 60% of home-made components, depending on the nature of the military purchase or where it's purchased from. There were no such caps earlier and India used a system of plowing back a certain percentage of the cost of the purchase into domestic manufacturing.

As things stand, India's military readiness is set to further deteriorate just as it faces greater risks from Pakistan and China, which have soldiers deployed toe-to-toe against troops from India along their Himalayan border following deadly clashes in 2020. The weaker air force in particular means India will need twice the number of soldiers on the ground to deter

aggression along the Chinese border, one person said.

Bloomberg spoke to multiple officials for this story across the three services in India. They asked not to be identified to discuss sensitive issues.

India's Ministry of Defence did not respond to an email seeking comments.

While India's military has increased local purchases of some defense items, the country doesn't yet produce complex platforms like diesel-electric submarines and twin-engine fighters. Plans to buy fighters from foreign manufacturers were shelved because the Modi government wants the air force to opt for indigenously made single-engine fighters, which are in short supply, as well as twin-engine fighter planes that the country doesn't yet have in production.

The situation with the air force is particularly dire. By 2030, the Indian Air Force may be left with less than 30 fighter squadrons, well below the 42 the military says it needs to adequately protect borders with both China and Pakistan, officials said. Between now and then, the air force will be forced to ground about half-a-dozen squadrons -- each including 16 to 18 fighter jets -- that will reach the end of their flying life, one official said.

The Bengaluru-based state-owned defense manufacturer Hindustan Aeronautics Limited can only produce eight indigenous Tejas fighters each year, officials said, or roughly half a squadron. The company plans to double manufacturing capacity by 2026, they added, but delays are possible due to supply-chain disruptions caused by Russia's war in Ukraine.

US Approves \$2 Billion Military Loans And Grants To Ukraine, Neighbors



Agenceis

Washington: The United States on Thursday approved another \$2 billion in loans and grants for Ukraine and its neighbors to buy US military equipment, the State Department said.

The new aid from the Foreign Military Financing program is in addition to \$675 million in fresh direct aid to Ukraine announced earlier Thursday by Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin. Secretary of State Antony

Blinken informed Congress of the \$2 billion "to bolster the security of Ukraine and 18 of its neighbors, including... many of our NATO allies as well as other regional security partners who are most potentially at risk for future Russian aggression," a State Department official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The United States already authorized \$4 billion in loans and grants to Ukraine and its neighbors in the fiscal year that ended in June.

Don't Compare Sikh Turban, Kirpan With Hijab, Says Supreme Court: Report

Agenceis

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday said that there is no comparison between Kirpan and the turban of Sikhs with the hijab as a five-judge bench of the Supreme Court held that wearing a turban and kirpan is allowed for Sikhs.

The remarks came when a bench of Justices Hemant Gupta and Sudhanshu Dhulia heard various petitions challenging the Karnataka High Court judgment upholding the ban on hijab in educational institutes, according to news agency ANI.

Advocate Nizamuddin Pasha, appearing for one of the petitioners, who is a student of Islam and Arabic, tried to draw similarities between the Kirpan and turban with the hijab.

Mr Pasha said that the hijab is a part of the religious practice of Muslim girls and also asked if girls can be stopped from coming to school wearing hijab. He further argued that even Sikh students wear turbans.

Mr Pasha stressed that cultural practices should be protected.

Justice Gupta said that comparison with Sikhs may not be proper as carrying of the kirpan is recognized by the Constitution. "So don't compare practices," the court remarked.

Justice Gupta said there are



statutory requirements on turbans and these are all practices well established in the culture of the country.

Mr Pasha tries to cite examples of foreign countries like France.

Justice Gupta said that we do not want to be according to France or Austria. "We are Indians and want to be in India," the court said.

Pasha while countering the Karnataka High Court judgement said that the hijab protects Muslim women.

Pasha said that the findings of the Karnataka High Court that the Hijab is a cultural practice are based on the assumption. He cited various religious books to support his arguments.

He also argued that it was a misreading of the footnote that the HC held that the Hijab is a "recom-

mendation" and not "essential".

Senior advocate Devadatt Kamat said that every religious practice is not essential but it is not that the state goes on restricting it.

During the hearing, Mr Kamat, appearing for another petitioner apprised the court that divergent views were taken by Karnataka, Kerala and Madras High Court judgments on whether the hijab is an essential religious practice. Madras and Kerala courts have held Hijab as an essential religious practice but Karnataka High Court differed, Mr Kamat said.

"Karnataka Government Order on the prescription of uniform in educational institutes suffers from non-application of mind," he further added.

Human Progress Retreats To 2016 Levels By Covid, Other Crises: UN

Agenceis

Back-to-back global crises have set back human development by five years, a new report by a United Nations agency has warned.

The UN Development Programme (UNDP) said on Thursday that, for the first time since its creation in 1990, the Human Development Index (HDI) has declined for two consecutive years straight in 2020 and 2021 amid crises such as COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine -- HDI being a measure of countries' life expectancies, education levels and standards of living.

"What we see is an unprecedented decline," the UNDP's Ulrika Modeer told Al Jazeera.

"The world has definitely seen such challenges before. We have seen pandemics, wars, affecting more than one country actually the entire world. But what has happened now and what is represented in the report is an uncertainty complex," she said. "So many of these challenges happening at the same time".

HDI has steadily risen for decades, but began sliding in 2020 and continued its fall last year, erasing the gains of the preceding five years, the paper said.

The UNDP said nine out of 10 countries recorded a decline in their HDI score in either 2020 or 2021 and more than 40 percent declined in both years, with the lives of people in South Sudan, Chad and Niger declining the most.

"If you look at the countries at the bottom of this list, there's one common factor -- and that is conflicts," said Al Jazeera's Hiba Mor-



gan, who has extensively covered events in some of these countries.

"There is another factor that is common amongst those three countries that are on the bottom of the list and that is the impact of climate change. We've seen South Sudan facing floods for three consecutive years that has led to the displacement of tens of thousands of people that has submerged dozens of villages in various states around the country."

Life expectancy down

According to the ranking, Switzerland comes in as the most highly developed country in the world, with a value of 0.962, and nearly ties with Norway and Iceland.

In the first report in 1990, the United States came out on top, but has now slipped to 21st place.

"The world is scrambling to respond to back-to-back crises. We have seen with the cost of living and energy crises that, while it is tempting to focus on quick fixes

like subsidising fossil fuels, immediate relief tactics are delaying the long-term systemic changes we must make," Achim Steiner, UNDP administrator, said.

"We are collectively paralysed in making these changes. In a world defined by uncertainty, we need a renewed sense of global solidarity to tackle our interconnected, common challenges."

The coronavirus pandemic was a major driver of the decline, but the report noted a compounding number of crises -- political, financial and climate-related -- have not allowed time for populations to recover.

While some countries had begun to recover from the pandemic, many others in Latin America, Africa, South Asia and the Caribbean had not yet turned the corner before a new crisis hit: the war in Ukraine.

While the fallout from Russia's invasion of Ukraine on food and energy security has not yet been calculated into this year's index, "without any doubt, the outlook for 2022 is grim", Steiner said.

Israeli PM Opposes Prosecuting Soldier Who Shot Abu Akleh

Agenceis

Israel's Prime Minister Yair Lapid has pushed back against suggestions of prosecuting a soldier who likely shot dead Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh while she was covering an Israeli army operation in the occupied West Bank in May.

The veteran Al Jazeera reporter was wearing a bullet-proof vest marked "Press" and a helmet when she was shot in the head in the Jenin refugee camp. Her killing caused global outrage and calls for an independent investigation.

The Israeli army conceded on Monday for the first time that one of its soldiers had likely shot Abu Akleh, after having mistaken her for a fighter. It had initially blamed Palestinian gunmen for her killing.

"There is a high possibility that Ms Abu Akleh was accidentally hit by [Israeli military] gunfire that was fired toward suspects identified as armed Palestinian gunmen," said the army's final report into her May 11 death.

The acknowledgement came after months in which the army had insisted it was impossible to determine the source of the deadly shot that killed the celebrated Al Jazeera journalist.

"I will not allow an [Israeli military] soldier that was protecting himself from terrorist fire to be prosecuted just to receive applause from abroad," Lapid told a military ceremony.

"No one will dictate our rules of engagement to us," he said. "Our soldiers have the full backing of the government of Israel and the people of Israel."

US Department of State spokesman Ned Price on Monday underscored "the importance of accountability in this case ... to prevent similar incidents from occurring in the future."



views its policies and practices on rules of engagement and consider additional steps to mitigate the risk of civilian harm".

A United Nations investigation concluded in June that there was "no evidence of activity by armed Palestinians close by" when Abu Akleh was shot.

Israel's military advocate said on Monday that the circumstances of the incident "do not raise the suspicion of a crime having been committed which would justify the opening of a criminal investigation".

The Palestinians have accused Israel of deliberately targeting Abu Akleh. Israel has denied this.

"Israel has expressed sorrow over her death. It was a tragedy that transpired in an incident in which there was heavy enemy fire. The [Israeli military] never intentionally shoots at innocent people," Lapid said.

The Abu Akleh family said that Israel had "refused to take responsibility for the murder" of the journalist.

Al Jazeera has denounced the findings of the Israeli investigation and demanded a probe by an "independent international body".

US Department of State spokesman Ned Price on Monday underscored "the importance of accountability in this case ... to prevent similar incidents from occurring in the future."

Record Rains In Pakistan Damage Mohenjo Daro Archaeological Site

Agenceis

Islamabad: Pakistan -- The devastating floods in Pakistan have caused significant damage to Mohenjo Daro, a famous 4,500-year-old archaeological site in the southeastern Sindh province which UNESCO has declared a World Heritage site.

The area in Sindh's Larkana district received more than 1,400mm of rain in the second week of August, damaging the protective outer covering on the historic structures, Abdul Fatah Shaikh, the director of archeology and museum for the provincial government, told Al Jazeera on Wednesday.

That amount of rain, Shaikh said, has not been recorded on the 250 hectares (650 acres) since the ruins were discovered 100 years ago in 1922.

"The original structure is safe by and large, including the stupa at the site. However, the protective layer, also called mud slurry, that we deployed suffered a lot of damage, causing exposure of the original walls," Shaikh said over the telephone from Karachi city.

Shaikh said the damage was caused mainly due to heavy rains and that there was no flooding, but added that urgent remedial work is required.

"The original structure is now exposed to the vagaries of nature and if immediate conservation work is not started, it can cause irreparable damage," he warned.

Mohenjo Daro ('Mound of the Dead' in Sindhi language) -- considered the best preserved urban settlement in South Asia -- is situated on the bank of the Indus River, with Larkana being the nearest major city 30km (18 miles) away.

The ruins were declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1980.

Repair work under way

Shaikh rejected media reports that claimed the site could be removed from the heritage list after the rains damaged it, saying there was no such immediate risk.

"If a site is not conserved or protected properly, they are given suggestions to improve. If the (UNESCO) committee is not satisfied, warning is issued to the host country. Often, these warnings are repeated for multiple years before a site is moved to a 'danger list'," Shaikh said.

He said there are currently 52 World Heritage sites across the globe on the danger list, but none of them are in Pakistan.

NEWS MAKERS

Doctors 'Concerned' For UK Queen's Health

Agenceis

LONDON: Fears grew on Thursday for Queen Elizabeth II after Buckingham Palace said her doctors were "concerned" for her health and recommended that she remain under medical supervision.

The 96-year-old head of state -- Britain's longest-serving monarch -- has been dogged by health problems since last October that has left her with difficulties walking and standing.

On Wednesday, she pulled out of a planned meeting with her senior political advisors, after being told to rest.

The previous day she held audiences at her Scottish Highlands retreat, Balmoral, with outgoing prime minister Boris Johnson and appointed his successor, Liz Truss.

"Following further evaluation this morning, the Queen's doctors are concerned for Her Majesty's health and have recommended she remain under medical super-



vision," Buckingham Palace said in a statement.

"The Queen remains comfortable and at Balmoral," the palace added.

The palace statement about the queen's health is highly unusual and comes after she has looked visibly frailer in recent months, and a succession of withdrawals from public engagements.

She has taken to walking with the help of a stick and was also seen earlier this year at the Chel-

sea Flower Show touring the site in a motorised buggy.

In February she was laid low by a bout of Covid, which she admitted afterwards had left her "exhausted".

'Deeply concerned'

The queen's eldest son and heir Prince Charles, 73, and his eldest son, Prince William, 40, were heading to Scotland, according to their Clarence House and Kensington Palace offices.

Officially, the palace has said only that the queen has been suffering from "episodic mobility problems" but given no further details.

She spent an unscheduled night in hospital in central London in October 2021 and was advised to slow down.

Moments before Thursday's announcement, notes were passed to Truss and senior members of her team in parliament, prompting them to leave the chamber.

Man Uses Same Lottery Numbers Every Day, Wins \$25,000 A Year For Life

Agenceis

A Michigan man won a jackpot of \$25,000 a year for life from the Michigan Lottery after using the same numbers to enter the Lucky For Life drawing every day for several months.

Scott Snyder, 55, of Zeeland, told Michigan Lottery officials the Lucky For Life ticket he bought from the Mobil gas station on West Main Avenue in Zeeland bore a very familiar set of numbers.

"I started playing this special set of numbers in February, and I have played them every day since," Snyder said.

Snyder's numbers, 07-12-31-37-44, matched the five white balls in the Aug. 7 drawing.

"I was checking some tickets at the store and got a message



to visit a lottery office when I scanned one of them. I scanned it again and got the same message, so I told the clerk I must have won big," Snyder recalled.

"The clerk told me they had recently sold a \$25,000 a year for life prize and he printed off the winning numbers so that I could check my ticket. When I realized that I was the big winner, I tried not to get too excited at first because it didn't seem real. I'm still having a hard time believing this is real," he said.

Jeff Bezos Ex Wife Mackenzie Scott Donates 2 Luxury Mansions Worth \$55 Million to Charity

American philanthropist Mackenzie Scott, the former wife of Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, has donated two of her Beverly Hills mansions, valued at \$55 million, to a charitable foundation.

Ms Scott is among the billionaires who have signed a pledge to give away the majority of their wealth to charity. Now, she has taken her philanthropy a step further -- by giving up her own longtime, and luxurious, homes.

The California Community Foundation (CCF) -- a nonprofit philanthropic organization -- announced that Ms Scott donated "two single-family residences valued at \$55 million".

"We applaud and are grateful to MacKenzie Scott's extraordinary philanthropic investment in Los Angeles," said CCF President & CEO Antonia Hernandez, as per a press note.

"Her singular commitment - here and across the country - to transformative philanthropy has already secured the long-term future of dozens of non-profits. With the California Community Foundation, her generosity will support organizations struggling to solve some of the most intractable issues facing our community. We are grateful for her partnership," the CCF President added.

New York Post reported that Ms Scott, who married high school teacher Dan Jewett in 2021, had received sole ownership of the homes following her divorce from Jeff Bezos in 2019. The former couple had purchased the first home back in 2017 for \$24.45 million. They then bought the second home on the same street 10 years later in 2017 for \$12.9 million.

Death On Foreign Soil: 'Things Take Time', But Delay Disquiets Kashmir

Auqib Javeed

The Ganaie family of Katoo Bijbehara has been restlessly waiting since 6th September to hug their daughter Khushboo Manzoor one last time.

Khushboo, 22, was pursuing her MBBS degree at Khwaja Yunus Ali Medical College, Bangladesh. She fell from a building on Tuesday and was subsequently moved to a hospital where she was admitted in ICU before passing away.

Her college friend told Kashmir Observer over phone from Bangladesh that the deceased suffered multiple

fractures, spinal cord compression, haemothorax, left kidney crush, pelvic and femur fracture besides shoulder dislocation.

"She lost more than 65 per cent blood and was put on ventilator," Khushboo's friend said. "She was not responding to any treatment."

Khushboo was the only girl child of her family. Her mother Shameem Bano hasn't eaten anything since her tragic end.

"After every five minutes, she demands the status of her daughter's dead body," Sharif Hussain, Khushboo's cousin, told Kashmir Observer. "The

family is traumatized because of the delay in dispatching her body from Dhaka."

Sharif said that the family was asked by Bangladesh authorities to follow certain procedures including sending an affidavit which they did.

But despite that, the campus took its time sparking protest from hundreds of her fellow students demanding to send Khushboo's body back to her home.

Following the campus commotion and the legal formalities, Khushboo's body was finally cleared for homecoming on Thursday evening. It's arriving in the valley on

Friday.

But the delay in dispatching dead bodies from abroad has now become a new distress for the Kashmiri families who lose their loved ones away from home.

"Even if the district administration was very cooperative and trying their best to bring back the body, Khushboo's parents were restless," Sharif said.

"It's a bigger torment for parents to wait for the dead body of their loved ones dying far away from home."

While launching a massive campaign on social media to bring back the body, many

Kashmiri netizen said that it is not the first time that people "had top lead" for the return of dead bodies of students or employees from foreign soils.

In April 2022, a 25-year-old youth from north Kashmir's Baramulla district died in a similar way after falling from a building in Saudi Arabia.

The youth identified as Imran Ahmad Sheikh of Baramulla's Nehalpora area was working with Shahwarwar Company Taif.

The family then had to move from pillar to post for the early return of his body from Saudi Arabia so that they could perform his last rites.

Similarly, on 12 January 2022, a Kashmiri girl student from central Kashmir's Budgam district died of cardiac arrest in Bangladesh.

The deceased Seema Zehra was a second year MBBS student at Ad din Sakina Medical College Jessore. Her family also appealed to the Governor to help get her body back home.

"It takes some time to follow the proper procedure and clear the legal formalities of dead bodies that are supposed to be brought back from the other countries," Pandurang K. Pole, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, told Kashmir

Observer.

"In this [Khushboo's] case, the parents were not willing to get the post-mortem done, however they finally agreed."

In most of the cases, Pole said, the administration has brought the bodies on time.

"We understand that friends, family and relatives are going through unimaginable pain, but some legal and medical formalities are mandatory," Nasir Khuehami, spokesperson of Jammu and Kashmir Students Association, told Kashmir Observer.

"It takes at least two days to bring back the dead bodies from other countries."

Rehabilitation Scheme For Militancy Affected Children Reviewed



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Secretary, National Foundation for Communal Harmony (NFCH), an autonomous organization under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, Manoj Pant on Thursday reviewed implementation of rehabilitation programme for militancy affected children being executed under project ASSIST in Pulwama and Shopian districts during exclusive meetings held in this regard.

The meetings, chaired by the Secretary in both the districts separately, were attended by respective Deputy Commissioners, Baseer Ul Haq Choudhary and Sachin Kumar Vaishya, DDO, NFCH, Ravi Shanker Tripathi, respective District Social Welfare Officers and other concerned officers of social welfare department.

During meeting at Pulwama, it was informed that about 451 children have been assisted in the district by NFCH with a financial assistance of Rs 11,43,250 released, so far, during the current financial year.

At Shopian, Union Secretary was informed that 209 children have been assisted in the district

by NFCH with requisite monthly financial assistance. Presently, 77 children are getting monthly assistance under the scheme tailored for rehabilitation of militancy affected children.

Secretary asked the officers of both the districts to identify the left out such children in their respective districts so that they shall be provided financial assistance for their rehabilitation under the scheme.

Pant said that NFCH has not received renewal or fresh cases of large number of eligible children from J&K, so far. He asked the concerned officers to expedite the process of tracing out eligible children for registration under the project.

He informed that a victim child, qualifying the requisite criteria, once registered is eligible for assistance till 25 years of age. He said the focus is to help them to obtain education and achieve their goals.

Deputy Commissioners informed that these children are being provided opportunity to visit various cities of the country including Delhi, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Mumbai for vast exposure.

Artist Dies On Stage While Performing Dancing Opera Of Lord Shiva

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A male artist performing role of goddess Parvati in a Lord Shiva's dancing opera died after he collapsed on stage in Jammu city outskirts and the video of his last moments went viral on social media.

20-year Yogesh Gupta was performing in Lord Shiva's dancing-cum-musical opera at a night Jagran in Kotha Sonia hamlet of Bishnah tehil on Tuesday night, sources said.

During the dancing performance, he was rolling on the stage floor amid applause from the crowd but could not get up, they said.

As he failed to get up despite struggle, the actor performing role of Lord Shiva and some people rushed to the stage and shifted him to hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead.

The artist's death was caught live on camera by several watchers and these videos went viral on social media.

Rise In NCC Activities In South Kashmir: DG NCC

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Asserting that cadets carry forward a strong message of "nation first", NCC DG Lieutenant General Gurbirpal Singh on Thursday said the activities of the youth wing of the armed forces have increased in South Kashmir with a lot of enthusiasm.

Lt Gen Gurbirpal Singh visited the National Cadet Corps (NCC) training academy at Nagrota and was accorded a guard of honour by cadets of 2 J&K battalion NCC.

"The activities of NCC have increased in South Kashmir. There is a lot of enthusiasm", the NCC Director General said in reply to a question referring to South

Kashmir as "hub of terrorists" like Burhan Wani once.

He said there was increased involvement of cadets in Anantnag and also in North Kashmir. "I find the youth of this area very enthusiastic to join the NCC and become part of it", he said.

Asked about the message of NCC youth to Pakistan, he said NCC cadets only give one message - nation first.

He said that he is hear to oversee the training of cadets of Ladakh and J&K Union Territories where 27,000 cadets are getting training at 460 institutions.

Asserting that Kashmiri youth were always with NCC, he said once they wear the uniform - it is nation first for them.

Very Few KPs Returning To Valley Due To Sense Of Fear: Karan Singh

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Constant sense of fear and apprehension among Kashmiri Pandits is why very few of them are willing to return to their homeland in the Valley, veteran politician Karan Singh has said.

Singh, who was speaking at the release of a book, "When the Heart Speaks", memoirs of well-known cardiologist Dr Upendra Kaul, said most of the Kashmiri Pandits who could afford to go out have gone and "settled for good" -- be it abroad or different parts of the country.

However, Kashmir will always remain "incomplete" without Kashmiri Pandits, Singh said.

"Kashmir is beautiful and beautiful and the tragedy that has taken over the Valley since 1947 is heartbreaking," Singh, whose father Maharaja Hari Singh was the last Dogra ruler of Kashmir, said.

He commended Dr Kaul and other Kashmiri Pandits like him who have returned and built their homes in the Valley but added that "such examples are very rare".

"Very few Kashmiri Pandits are doing that because there is always a sense of fear and a sense of apprehension and that will take a long time to go because the trauma through which they (Kashmiri Pandits) have been I think they are not just prepared to face that again," he said.

"As it is, everybody who could get away has gone. Like the people who could settle in other parts of India have settled there. The people who could settle abroad have settled abroad... Now, I think special care needs to be taken of the migrants who are living peacefully in Jammu since they came, and also of Kashmiri Pandits who want to go back," he added.

Kashmir has witnessed a



string of fatal attacks on members of the minority community this year, in which Rahul Bhat, a government employee recruited under the prime minister's special package for Kashmiri Pandits and teacher Rajni Bala, were killed.

Singh described the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits in the 1990s as one of the most "terrible and tragic" incidents that took place in Jammu and Kashmir.

He also heaped praises on the community, saying much of what he has learnt in life is through the education given to him by Kashmiri Pandits.

"It is such a brilliant community, all the vidya (education) that I got, whether it is BK Madan, Prof Parmanandna, Prof PN Chaku, Prof JN Bhan, Prof SN Pandit and others, I got from them. I must take this opportunity perhaps to place on record my deep and abiding gratitude to the Kashmiri Pandit community," he noted.

Singh commended the author, who is a world-renowned cardiologist, for penning down his memoir and said Dr Kaul is not just a great professional but also a great human being and the love that he has for Kashmir and his patients is really moving.

Army's Best Friend On The LoC In Kashmir: 'Gaddi' Dogs!

Press Trust Of India

KERAN SECTOR: Unskilled and untrained but sharp like pro, the local canines known as 'Gaddi' dogs are a soldier's best friends and the first responders along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir as they do a "fantastic job" of detecting any suspicious activity and alerting the troops of possible infiltration attempts.

Named after the nomadic 'Gaddi' shepherds who rear them as guard dogs accompanying flocks of sheep and goats, this canine breed is a Himalayan sheepdog, also known by various other names including 'Bhotia' or 'Bhangara' and sometimes called the Himalayan mastiff.

This local canine is native to the Himalayan foothills in eastern Nepal and Kashmir. The breed is primarily used as a livestock guardian, protecting flocks from various predators and as a property guard. They are also used to assist while hunting.

"These are local, but not stray dogs," an army official said at one of the forward posts on the mighty Shamsabari range in Keran sector in Jammu and Kashmir's northern district of Kupwara, as a black canine kept pacing along the fence, the first tier



of the anti-infiltration obstacle system (AIOS).

The official said while the Army uses hi-tech equipment for the round-the-clock surveillance of the fence with the combination of men and machinery, the 'Gaddi' dogs are invaluable to the soldiers in the fight against infiltration.

"They pick even the slightest of the movements. They can sniff or hear in case there is any movement. They promptly raise the alarm and alert the troops," he said.

The officer, who cannot be named for strategic reasons, said the canine breed are the soldiers' eyes and ears and live with them like a family.

"They work with the troops and practically are a part of the family. They are their best friends," he added.

The dogs live with the troops

at the posts even during the winter when, at most places, the weather is harsh with around 20 feet of snow.

While the dogs are without any formal training, their abilities are unmatched, another official said.

"They are not properly trained but they live with the troopers on the posts and as such, they are fully aware of the people around and the movements which take place. They can sense anyone who is not supposed to be there. They recognise troops and local civilians and start barking whenever there is a movement of strangers," he said.

The officer said the 'Gaddi' dogs keep a watch when security forces are resting or walk with soldiers while moving on patrol or on tracks that could have been mined by the terrorists.

DC Kulgam Reviews Jashn-e-Aharbal Arrangements



Observer News Service

KULGAM: To take first hand appraisal of the arrangements for Jashn-e-Aharbal event scheduled to be held Sunday, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat on Thursday visited Aharbal to take stock of arrangements put in place at the tourist destination.

The DC instructed all the officers and line departments to ensure fool proof arrangements

to make the festival a great success and memorable for visitors, an official spokesperson said. Bhat, he said, also took stock of developmental works and beautification processes going on in Aharbal.

He was accompanied by ACD, Mohammad Imran Khan; SDM Noorabad, Bashir Ul Haq; ACR, Mir Imtiyaz-ul-Aziz; Tehsildar D. H. Pora, Rouf Ahmad; BDO Manzgam, Rukhsar Ahmad and other officers.

IASOWA JK Donates Free Blankets At SDH Akhnoor



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: IASOWA (IAS Officers Wives Association) J&K under the guidance of its President Dr. Amita Mehta, wife of Chief Secretary J&K, donated 25 blankets to the needy patients at Akhnoor sub-district hospital on Thursday.

The three member team of IASOWA J&K were represented by Smt. Shveta Kansal, Smt. Anuradha Jangid & Smt. Divya Yadav.

The visiting members handed over 25 blankets to BMO Akhnoor in presence of Sub Divisional Magistrate for the welfare of needy patients.

BMO Akhnoor briefed the members about infrastructure, staff position, daily patient footfall & other functions of the hospital.

Staff, attendants & patients present on occasion appreciated this goodwill gesture by the IAS Officers Wives Association.

Soz Pays Tributes To NC Founder On His Death Anniversary

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Former Union Minister, Prof. Saifuddin Soz on Thursday paid rich tributes to Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah on his death anniversary.

"Today is the occasion of remembering the great son of the soil, Sher e Kashmir, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah who stood firmly to safeguard the secular status of Jammu and Kashmir at

a time when the whole subcontinent was burning with communal clashes and bloodshed. He ensured safety of all irrespective of caste, creed or religion," Soz said in a statement.

"He is a symbol of the political wisdom of ethnic and linguistic diversity of the J&K. It was he who created a unique space for his towering stature. I pray for his great soul to rest in heavens," he added.

Revenue Data: Govt Forms TAC To Recommend Methodology

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Government on Thursday constituted Technical Appraisal Committee (TAC) for the project Selection of Service Provider for Scanning, Digitization and uploading of Legacy Data of the Revenue Department.

With Saleem Khan, State Informatics Officer, NIC as Chairman, the members of the panel include Deepak Wasan, Executive Director, NIELIT, Muhammad Irfan, System Analyst, Central University Kashmir and Abid Sajad Munshi, EDP Supervisor, IT Department.

According to an order by govern-

ment, Munshi has been asked to coordinate with all the members to ensure timely submission recommendations of the Committee.

The Committee has been asked to provide recommendations regarding the methodology and technology proposed in RFP.

"The Committee may also give its recommendations/ suggestions on the viability of the proposed solutions of the RFP," reads the order, adding, "Abid Sajad Munshi, EDP Supervisor, IT Department shall ensure the timely submission of TAC report along with duly signed RFP to the concerned authority for further appropriates in the matter."

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OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

Calming The LAC

In a sign that the lingering stand-off between India and China may be ending soon, the two countries on Thursday began disengaging from the Gogra-Hotsprings border area in Ladakh after reaching a consensus in the 16th round of India-China Corps Commander-level meeting. According to the union government, the disengagement is taking place in a “coordinated and planned” manner and is meant to maintain peace at the frontier. The move comes ahead of a meeting in Uzbekistan scheduled next week which is expected to be attended by Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The two countries have been engaged in a bitter standoff ever since the Chinese army staged incursions across the Line of actual Control in multiple areas in April-May 2020. The situation came to a head when 20 Indian soldiers lost their lives during a scuffle along the border. Ever since multiple Corps Commander-level talks and a few meetings between the foreign ministers of the two nations yielded little result.

Last year, in a first breakthrough in talks, India and China pulled back their troops from the south bank of Pangong lake area in eastern Ladakh following their agreement for "synchronised and organised disengagement". But subsequently, there was no progress on the other three points of friction - Galwan Valley, Hot Springs, and Gogra. Up until now they have proved difficult to sort out. But there is hope that like the three frictions points so far, the two countries will find a diplomatic solution to all the stand-off at Galwan Valley, sooner than later.

The problem in the negotiations so far has been that China has been loathe to go back to the status quo ante and has asked for mutual withdrawal. The incursions in the first place have been staged by China and the communist giant was not ready to vacate it unless India also withdraws from a portion of the border on its side of the LAC. But New Delhi could hardly afford to do it, not least because it considers the area its own. Doing so would have been politically costly for the BJP government at the centre which was already facing severe flak for vacating Kailash ranges as part of its Pangong Tso agreement. But through sustained negotiations they have finally found an amicable way out. For a peaceful neighborhood it's important that India and China reach a modus-vivendi by resolving the issues dividing them.

O T H E R O P I N O N

Indigenous Game Changer

A shot in the arm muscle is no longer the only way of administering a Covid vaccine. In April, Russian drug regulators approved the use of vaccines that can be sprayed into the nose, but very little was known of their efficacy. Earlier this week, China became the first country to authorise the use of an inhaled vaccine for booster doses. On Tuesday, India's Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) approved iNOVACC, the country's first intra-nasal vaccine for primary inoculation. Developed by scientists at the Washington University and manufactured by the Hyderabad-based company, Bharat Biotech, the vaccine uses a harmless version of chimpanzee adenovirus to deliver the spike protein to the lining of the nose.

Many experts believe that needle-free vaccines are the future of Covid inoculation. It's now well-established that the first-generation vaccines protect against severe disease but they do not prevent breakthrough infections. A possible reason for this failure is the inability of the injectables to induce an immune response in the body's first line of defence against the coronavirus — the respiratory tract. Nasal vaccines like the Bharat Biotech-manufactured drops behave differently. They target the immune cells in the thin mucous membranes that line cavities in the nose. The body's defence mechanism, therefore, gets to work immediately after the coronavirus enters the body and stops the pathogen from using the respiratory tract to cause infection. That is why vaccines such as iNOVACC can prevent mild cases of Covid and break the line of transmission of the disease. The vaccine has other advantages. A squirt in the nose is much easier to administer than conventional shots — in fact, trained healthcare workers are not required to deliver this needle-free vaccine. The vials can be stored easily at 2 to 8 degrees Celsius and Bharat Biotech claims that it can scale up production at short notice. All this means that though the drug regulator has approved iNOVACC for the small section of the country's adult population that has not received primary inoculation, the vaccine could be a potential shield in case the unpredictable virus throws up another variant of concern — healthcare authorities can turn to it in case of an emergency requirement for inoculation.

Non-injectable vaccines have proved to be a game changer in the battle against polio. But their record against influenza has, at best, been mixed. Researchers working on the Covid vaccine claim they have learnt lessons from the experiences of their counterparts who developed the influenza shots. The performance of iNOVACC will be keenly watched.

Indian Express

Unattended Agriculture
Sector of J&K



Shabnam Ara and
Aamir Ahmad Teeli

The UT of Jammu and Kashmir had a total of 402.47 thousand hectares of land under cultivation in financial year 2022. Of this, 335 thousand hectares was utilized for fruit production. The production of vegetables accounted for 60 thousand hectares of cropland. The sector heavily relies on monsoons for its survival. Although there is introduction of artificial irrigation facilities in this sector, this sort of irrigation constitutes only a minute share.

J&K economy ranks 21 in India in terms of contribution to the country's GDP, contributing 0.77% to it. Despite many hurdles in the form of lockdown post abrogation of Article 370 and during COVID-19, J&K economy has shown resilience and figured among the top four states/Union Territories in the country in Gross Domestic State Product growth. The Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) increased at a CAGR of 8.51% between 2015-16 and 2020-21 to reach Rs. 1.76 trillion (US\$ 24.28 billion). While J&K's NSDP increased at a CAGR of 8.61% from 2015-16 to 2020-21 and reached Rs. 1.49 trillion (US\$ 20.49 billion). The average annual growth of Net State Domestic Product at current prices during 1980-81 to 1999-2000 was 12.45 per cent for Jammu and Kashmir. J&K holds 26th position in India in terms of per capita income with PCI of Rs. 1,04,889. The sectoral contribution which was 17.47% Pry sector, 28.09% secondary sector, 54.44% & services sector in 2011-12 has changed to 18.07% pry sector, 19.30% secondary sector & 62.63% services sector in 2020-21. Talking about the agriculture sector of J&K, it currently contributes 16% to GSDP and provides employment to 60% of UT's population. The sector holds a very vital importance in UT's growth and development trajectory. 35 lakh persons earn livelihood from the fruit industry in J&K. Horticulture is the major sub-sector of J&K's agriculture sector which plays a key role in the economy of Union Territory. It generates approximately Rs 10,000 crore annually income and contributes 8 percent to Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). During 2020-21 a production of 20.35 lakh MTs has been recorded. The major fruits cultivated are Apple, Walnuts, Almonds, Pear, cherry and so on. About

3.50 lakh tons of fruits are produced annually in J&K, out of which more than 2.00 lakh tons are exported to foreign countries. During the last three years, the UT has witnessed a record growth of around 55% in its exports. A large portion of this export growth consisted of agricultural products. Unfortunately, this sector is lacking behind in terms of attention and fund allocation for its advancement.

The UT of Jammu and Kashmir had a total of 402.47 thousand hectares of land under cultivation in financial year 2022. Of this, 335 thousand hectares was utilized for fruit production. The production of vegetables accounted for 60 thousand hectares of cropland. The sector heavily relies on monsoons for its survival. Although there is introduction of artificial irrigation facilities in this sector, this sort of irrigation constitutes only a minute share.

While talking about the advancements the world has achieved in the field of technology, one would expect that problems and limitations of agriculture would have been solved. However, the ground reality is somewhat different. The major issues the agriculture sector of J&K is facing includes poor irrigation facilities, miserable road connectivity, unfavorable marketing facilities, non-existence of cold store facilities, availability of poor quality pesticides and the list goes on. Observing the real time experience one can clearly see how discouraging it is becoming for farmers to continue practicing agricultural activities. Citing an experience here, around 6 years ago, one A-Quality apple box (5 layer) used to be sold at around Rs. 1000 and A-Quality apple box (4 layer) used to be sold at Rs. 800 to 900. 6 years passed on the price of same apple boxes currently stands at around Rs.

900 and 700 respectively. This means the price has actually decreased over the years, while the price of agricultural equipment, service prices and prices of products of other two sectors increased manifold over the same period of time. This clearly indicates the deteriorating terms of trade between the sectors and against the agriculture sector, leaving agriculturists at absolute disadvantage.

Adding salt to injury is the transportation facilities which are there to transport the agricultural produce to outside states as well as outside the country. With only a drizzle worth of rainfall, the national highway which connects the Kashmir region to the rest of the country stands closed for days. Agriculture products are perishable in nature; hence need to be timely transported to markets in order to fetch acceptable prices. Besides these issues there are problems like availability of poor quality pesticides and insecticides due to least monitoring by responsible agencies.

Keeping in view the importance and potential of the agriculture sector, due care and intervention is needed on the part of the government in order to uplift the lives of people engaged in agriculture. Most importantly, a balance needs to be maintained between agriculture prices and the other related prices so that goals of self-sufficiency can be achieved along with sustainable & inclusive growth and development.

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

The authors are Research Scholar Environmental Science and Research Scholar Economics respectively



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

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KAS, JEE and NEET Obsession

LIFE in Jammu and Kashmir is narrowly conceived, particularly in the case of students and parents. Well, it is not their fault; when the main motive of life is to earn money by hook or by crook, parents deliberately and their children voluntarily or involuntarily choose that way that can give them money in heaps. KAS and NEET are two ways that have become the trademarks of learning. In fact, such is the impact of these two things that other professions and occupations have taken a back seat. Recently, social media, electronic media and print media were full of success stories, regarding KAS and NEET qualifiers.

Yes, it is a moment of happiness that we produce good bureaucrats and doctors. But the main thing is that is life all about qualifying an examination or is it about knowing the world and yourselves?

In the present context, this line of demarcation has blurred a lot. Those students who have no inclinations towards these professions are called useless. Those students who are called useless, follow their own whims. They want to do something adventurous that can pacify their nerves. They don't want to be in a race of cut throat competition. They live the way they find life.

Our educational system never

takes individual differences into account. From the beginning, we are taught that we are all going to become doctors, engineers, bureaucrats, entrepreneurs, etc. We are never taught that the main aim of life is to know one's life. When a person knows their worth, he or she opts a profession or an occupation according to his or her liking and necessity. However, in the present world, it is seen that the majority of people engaged in different professions are misfits. If someone wants to opt any profession or occupation, he or she is forced to prefer that profession that is not suitable to them. In this way, the menace of the educational system is to blame. It is

this that produces narrow mindedness in our society.

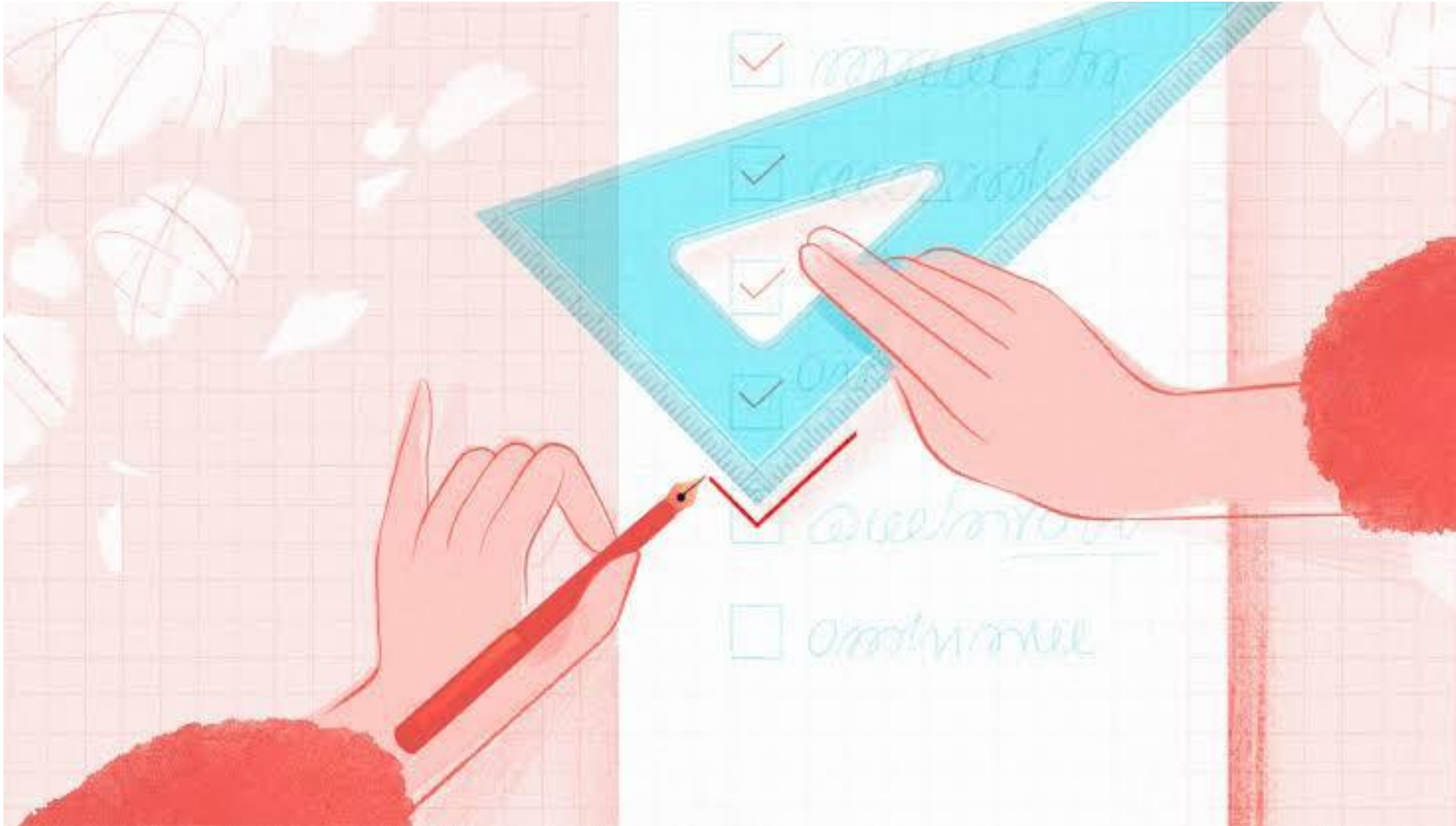
In short, there should be a broad consensus on what the real meaning of life is. After knowing this, there should be pondering over different professions and their needs. Knowing all these things will enable us to respect every profession. We will be in a position not to give unnecessary hype to those things that are like others. William Bill Gates, Ellison, Jack Ma, Steve Jobs, Elon Musk, Warren Buffet, etc are some examples.

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PROUD OF BEING A PERFECTIONIST? THINK AGAIN!

“

Instead of being considered a weakness, it is frequently seen as a favorable quality. Perfectionism is harmful because, despite its victims' desire for achievement, their main concern is preventing failure, which leads to a negative outlook



Wasim Kakroo

“At its root, perfectionism isn't really about a deep love of being meticulous. It's about fear. Fear of making a mistake. Fear of disappointing others. Fear of failure. Fear of success.” — Michael Law

Perfectionism is frequently viewed as a trait that boosts your chances of success, however, in actuality it can make you to think or act in ways that are detrimental to your efforts to reach your goals. Stress, anxiety, sadness, and other mental health problems could potentially result from it.

WHAT IS IT?

Perfectionism is described as a need to be perfect, to appear perfect, or simply to consider that perfection is achievable. Instead of being considered a weakness, it is frequently seen as a favorable quality. Perfectionism is harmful because, despite its victims' desire for achievement, their main concern is preventing failure, which leads to a negative outlook. They don't believe in unconditional love and think that receiving love and approval from others depends on doing everything perfectly.

WHAT ARE THE VARIOUS INDICATIONS THAT YOU MAY BE A PERFECTIONIST?

The majority of people occasionally or in specific areas of their lives practice perfectionism. On the other hand, full time perfectionists could continually feel the need to reach perfection.

THEY CAN ALSO:

1. Be incapable of doing something until they are certain that they can do it flawlessly.
2. Consider the outcome of any task to be its most crucial component. As a result, they could pay less attention to actually learning something new or doing something to the best of their abilities.
3. Not consider a task to be complete unless the outcome meets their expectations for perfection.
4. Procrastinate. Perfectionists might wait to start a task unless they are confident they can complete it perfectly.
5. Invest considerable time in doing an activity that would normally take someone else less time.
6. Have need for order and cleanliness.
7. Be sensitive to criticism.

HOW DOES PERFECTIONISM MANIFEST IN ONE'S BEHAVIOR?

Most individuals want to succeed, but striving to attain your objectives does not automatically signify being a perfectionist. The typical belief of perfectionists is that nothing they accomplish is meaningful unless it is perfect. They might continuously compare their work with that of others or become fixated on producing perfect work, instead of being proud of their improvement, learning, or hard work.

Perfectionists may feel discontented even when they achieve their desired outcomes. They might think they wouldn't have had to exert themselves as much to accomplish their objectives if they were actually perfect.

PERFECTIONISM HAS SEVERAL MANIFESTATIONS, SUCH AS:

1. Composing, revising and re-editing a two-sentence email for 30 minutes.
 2. The belief that getting two questions wrong on a test indicates failure.
 3. Having trouble feeling happy for other people when they succeed.
 4. Comparing oneself negatively and unfavorably to others or holding oneself to the standards of their achievements.
 5. Neglecting a task or skipping class because it is futile to put forth the effort necessary to complete it perfectly.
 6. Refusing to do something such as skipping class or avoiding a chore because it is futile to try unless perfection can be attained.
 7. Reluctance to participate in a game or a new activity with friends because of concern that they would perceive you as imperfect.
3. Physical activity: Perfectionism is frequently encouraged or made worse by sports and athletics. Perfectionism may be more common in individual sports like gymnastics or track because the participant is frequently competing against himself.
 4. Environment or surroundings: This may include the requirement that one's home or yard be always spotless. It may lead someone to invest a lot of time and effort on maintaining their immediate environment's cleanliness or aesthetics.

WHAT ARE THE VARIOUS DOMAINS OF PERFECTIONISM?

Perfectionism can impact a person in various important domains of life. Perfectionism might sometimes just affect a single domain or it can sometimes influence many other domains. Here are some aspects of life that perfectionism can influence.

1. At job or at school: People who are perfectionists might take longer to accomplish a task than average. They might also decide not to begin a task they lack confidence in. This is frequently brought on by a desire to carry out the duty perfectly.
2. Intimate relationships or friendships: Perfectionism can lead people to hold close



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Instead of having a "growth" mindset, perfectionists frequently have a "fixed" mindset. People who have a growth mindset think they can continue to learn and develop over time. They are therefore more able to handle setbacks. Their feeling of worth is unrelated to their failures. On the other hand, those with fixed mindsets think that people are born with certain skills and talents. These people have extremely high expectations and do everything in their power to succeed. Therefore, failure can alter how they view themselves

5. Health and hygiene: Ironically, this kind of perfectionism may lead to health problems. For instance, if someone fails to clean their teeth once, they can cease doing so in the future. As a result of this kind of perfectionism, people may develop eating disorders like orthorexia nervosa, in which they feel under pressure to maintain a strict healthy diet.
6. Speaking or writing: When a person is overly concerned with accuracy, it might affect the quality of their speaking skills or writing. Because of their dread of making a mistake, they might speak very little or refrain from writing.
7. Physical appearance: Someone with this kind of perfectionism might obsessively worry about their looks or sense of style. Choosing what to dress or how to style their hair could take them hours. The pursuit of physical perfection can sometimes result in eating disorders or an obsession with exercise.

WHAT CAUSES PERFECTIONISM?

Instead of having a "growth" mindset, perfectionists frequently have a "fixed" mindset. People who have a growth mindset think they can continue to learn and develop over time. They are therefore more able to handle setbacks. Their feeling of

worth is unrelated to their failures. On the other hand, those with fixed mindsets think that people are born with certain skills and talents. These people have extremely high expectations and do everything in their power to succeed. Therefore, failure can alter how they view themselves.

PERFECTIONISM MAY ARISE FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS. AMONG THEM ARE:

1. Frequently feeling insecure and inadequate or fearing rejection from others.
2. Mental disorders like anxiety or obsessive-compulsive behaviour (OCD). It has been discovered that there is an association between OCD and perfectionism, although not everyone who is perfectionist also has OCD, and not everyone who has OCD is a perfectionist.
3. Being raised by a parent who is perfectionistic or who shows disapproval when their children's efforts do not yield perfection. Some parents may push their kids to be perfect to the point where it might be considered as abuse.
4. High achievers can experience overwhelming pressure to maintain their prior standards of performance. They frequently exhibit perfectionism as a result of this. When kids are regularly rewarded for their achievements, they may grow up feeling under pressure to maintain doing well, which can also lead to perfectionistic tendencies.
5. An insecure childhood. Adults who had a weak childhood bond to their parents, experience of various Adverse Childhood Experiences such as parental discord, domestic violence, physical, emotional or sexual abuse, bullying, experiences of comparison with other children from parents etc. may find it challenging to self-soothe. Even if the result of their efforts is good, they might find it difficult to accept it if it isn't perfect.

WHAT IS THE TREATMENT OF PERFECTIONISM?

If you suspect that you might be possessing perfectionistic tendencies that are affecting your quality of life in various domains, you should know that you can work on it to improve your mental health and hence your life.

Speaking with a therapist may be beneficial for persons who seek perfection out of a sense of inadequacy or failure as doing so can frequently help such people handle excessive self-criticism and develop self compassion. With the help and support of a dependable and empathetic clinical psychologist, it is possible to develop healthy attitudes about your goals and standards.

The author is a licensed clinical psychologist (alumni of Govt. Medical College Srinagar) and works as a consultant clinical psychologist at Centre for Mental Health Services (CMHS) at Rambagh Srinagar. He can be reached at 8825067196

Poor Mental Health Of Employees Costs Indian Employers \$14 Bn Yearly: Survey

Press Trust Of India

Poor mental health amongst employees costs Indian employers around USD 14 billion annually in absenteeism, lower productivity and attrition, according to Deloitte's Mental Health Survey.

Over the years, mental health issues have seen a steady rise globally, accentuated further by the onset of COVID-19.

According to World Health Organisation (WHO), India accounts for nearly 15 per cent of the global mental health burden.

To analyse the current state of mental well-being amongst Indian employees, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP (DTTILLP) undertook a survey titled 'Mental health and well-being in the workplace', it said in a statement.

The survey dives into the top stressors from an employee's perspective, along with an estimate of the yearly economic cost to Indian

companies arising from poor employee mental health.

Around 47 per cent of professionals surveyed consider workplace-related stress as the biggest factor affecting their mental health, followed by financial and COVID-19 challenges.

"These stressors manifest in multiple ways, affecting both the personal and professional facets of an individual's life; often with associated social and economic costs," it said.

The report estimates that "poor mental health amongst employees costs Indian employers around USD 14 billion per year due to absenteeism, presenteeism, and attrition".

Presenteeism is the phenomenon of attending to work while under mental stress and hence, performing at low productivity.

"These costs build up over time and are incurred when poor mental health impacts how individuals deal with day-to-day stressors and

are unable to thrive in their work environment," the statement said.

According to the survey, 80 per cent of the Indian workforce has reported mental health issues during the past one year.

Despite these alarming numbers, societal stigma prevents around 39 per cent of the affected respondents from taking steps to manage their symptoms.

Additionally, the survey found that at the workplace, 33 per cent of all respondents continued to work, despite poor mental health, while 29 per cent took time off and 20 per cent resigned to better manage their mental health.

Commenting on the findings of the study, Punit Renjen, Deloitte Global CEO, said, "Mental health has been a real issue. The challenges of the past two-plus years have brought conversations about mental health at work to the forefront".

The study, he said, demonstrates that businesses must pri-



oritise the mental health and well-being of their people.

"It is essential that senior leaders play a major role in destigmatising mental health challenges within their organisations. We need to take the necessary steps to create an environment where employees' well-being is prioritised, and they have access to the support they

need so that everyone can thrive," he said.

Adds Charu Sehgal, Partner and Life Sciences and Health Care Leader, DTTILLP, that "mental health-related challenges are not new to the Indian workforce, but these have come to the forefront in light of COVID-19, and a younger workforce that is open to speaking

about their individual well-being".

Not only is the number of impacted employees large, but the degree of the challenge is also high, accentuated by performance-oriented cultures anchored in long and demanding work schedules, economic uncertainty, and peer comparison (especially on social media platforms), she said.

She further added that while most Indian corporates have recognised the importance of employee well-being, the share of mental health measures at the workplace is still limited, with a few sporadic events and the use of third-party employee assistance programmes.

With the generational shift that we are witnessing in our workforce, employers have the opportunity to hit reset and fundamentally re-evaluate the ways of working to address root causes and drive greater inclusion and well-being through enabling talent policies.

Google Warns Users To Quickly Update Chrome To Avoid Hacking Risk

IAN S

Google has advised its users to immediately install a security update in its Chrome browser to safeguard themselves against a serious bug being actively exploited by hackers.

The tech giant said it is aware of reports that an exploit for 'CVE-2022-3075' exists in the wild, mentioning the vulnerability as "Insufficient data validation in Mojo" reported by an anonymous security researcher.

The company said it has released a security patch for Google Chrome users on Windows, Mac and Linux operating systems that will roll out over the coming days/weeks.

"Access to bug details and links may be kept restricted until a majority of users are updated with a fix," Google said in a security update.

"We will also retain restrictions if the bug exists in a third party library that other projects similarly depend on, but haven't yet fixed," it added.



We would like to thank all security researchers that worked with us during the development cycle to prevent security bugs from ever reaching the stable channel

This is the sixth zero-day vulnerability Chrome has faced to date this year.

Chrome users now need to relaunch their browser to activate the latest security update.

This latest update comes just days after Google released Chrome version 105 on August 30.

"We would like to thank all security researchers that worked with us during the development cycle to prevent security bugs from ever reaching the stable channel," said the company.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Solina Srinagar, Kashmir - 190001

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

JAMMU: 2566541, 2566710 SRINAGAR: 2310523, 2310369

Subject: Rejection of candidature for the post of Lecturer, Radiology, in Institute of Mental Health & Neuro Sciences (IMHANS) Government. Medical College, Srinagar

NOTICE
Dated: - 07- 09-2022

Whereas, the J&K Public Service Commission, vide Notification No 03- PSC (DR-P) of 2022 dated 17.01.2022, invited online applications, on prescribed format, from the applicants who are domiciled in Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, possessing the prescribed qualification for 02 posts one each in RBA and SC category, of Lecturer, Radiology (IMHANS) GMC Srinagar in Health and Medical Education Department; and

Whereas, in response, the Commission received 05 application forms under RBA category. No application form has been received for SC category; and

Whereas, on scrutiny of the application forms, one candidate, namely, Dr. Asif Majid Wani S/o Abdul Majid Wani has been found ineligible for the said post, for not submitting the requisite documents.

Now, therefore, the candidature of Dr. Asif Majid Wani R/o Darul- Gani, H.No.2, Sector-B, Umarabad Peerbagh, Srinagar for the post Lecture[^] Radiology, in Institute of Mental Health & Neuro Sciences (IMHANS) GMC Srinagar in Health and Medical Education Department, under RBA category, is hereby rejected. However, if he feels aggrieved with the rejection of his candidature, may represent before the Commission within 10 days from the date of issuance of this Notice. No claim whatsoever shall be entertained after the stipulated period.

(Bashir Ahmad Dar) JKAS
Secretary
J&K Public Service Commission

DIPK-9516/22

NO:- PSC/DR/Lectt/Radiology/H&ME/2022 Dated:07 .09.2022

Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Kupwara

NIT No. 62 -Kupwara/5899-5907 of 2022-23 e-tendering DATED: -07-09-2022

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

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	Earnest Money (In rupees)	Time of Completion In days	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account
1.	Completion of Tehsil building by way of launching of Trass & finishing Items at Kupwara	16.80	200/-	8000/-	30 days	14-09-2022	"B&C"	NFB/Community Development Fund
2.	Store room for panchayat office & renovation of panchayat office with drain at Sulokot.	4.00	200/-	8000/-	21 days	14-09-2022	"DEE"	PRI Grants
3.	Construction of road from Zangli road to Qadoos Khan at Zangli	2.72	200/-	5500/-	10 days	14-09-2022	"DEE"	PRI Grants
Position of AAA		:	Accorded					
Position of funds		:	Approved					

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

01.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	07-09-2022
02.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 07-09-2022 to 14-09-2022 (4.00P.M)
03.	Bid submission start date	07-09-2022 from (10.00A.M)
04.	Bid submission end date	14-09-2022 upto (04.00P.M)
05.	Date & time of opening Bids (on line)	14-09-2022 at (6:00P.M) in the Office of the Executive Engineer RnB Division Kupwara

Terms and Conditions :-

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

a. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape Treasury Challan (Under Account Head 0059) (Treasury Challan) must be written boldly the Name of Work, Name of Contractor alongwith Cell No, NIT No. & Sr. No of NIT) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Kupwara (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money /Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Kupwara

b. The Successful Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% additional performance security deposit of the allotted cost. The same shall be released after successful completion of the defect liability Period of the work. The EMD of 2% successful bidders shall be released after receipt of 3% Performance Security

c. The GST-3B for last Quarter (Quarterly return) and Previous month for (Monthly return) Should be uploaded, irrespective of date of Tender

d. No bid shall be accepted if enlistment card is not found in JKPWDOMS online of those departments which have been serving the said portal as per circular instruction issued by development Commissioner works vide No.PW/DCW/DB/668-72 DT.10-06-2022

e. 1st lowest bidder will submit the CDR/FDR within two days after opening of Tender failing which 2nd lowest will be approached. Besides 1st lowest will be debarred from participating in tendering process for one year in this division.

f. Manual offers delivered by post/fax or in person, or offers sent by e-mail or telex shall not be accepted against electronic tenders, even if such offers are received in time. All such offers shall be considered as invalid offers and shall be rejected summarily, without any consideration

g. In case the L-1 fails deposit the requisite document, the action against the L-1 as per PWD rules leading to blacklisting of contractor

h. On Opening of financial bid the L1 has to produce the Original CDR/FDR pledge to the opening Authority before allotting the work along with Cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan

i. Upload Valid Registration CARD /Renewal, PAN Card, GST Certificate and latest GST clearance ending previous Month.

j. It is mandatory for all bidders participating to submit all documents in terms of soft copies in etendering website and no documents in terms of Hard Copies shall be entertained. However, lowest bidder will be called for submission of CDR/FDR as well as Treasury Challan and CDR/FDR of the other participating tenders/ bidders will be released only after surrender of Treasury Challan.

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

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

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

n. The contractor may purchase required material of quality and specifications prescribed, to be certified by Engineer in-charge

o. The steel/Key construction material shall be allowed only of approved brand by the government.

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

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

Qualification of the Bidder

In order to qualify all bidders shall upload following documents as defined below:-

1. Registration Card duly renewed for the current financial year 2022-23. PAN Card, GST Certificate and latest GST clearance ending previous Month.

2. In light of Govt. Notification issued by Finance Department Civil Secretariat Vide No. A/24(2017)-651Dt. 07-06-2018, the bidder must upload the copy of Challan / receipt in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Kupwara on account of cost of tender documents remitted in the treasury concerned for that the bidders 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. 0059.

3. The tenderers shall quote their rates legibly both in words, and figures. In case of any confusion resulting on account of rates not being written neatly and legibly decision of department shall be final and binding upon the tenderers.

4. The tenders shall remain valid for a minimum period of three month from the date of opening of the tenders.

5. The work shall have to be executed strictly in accordance with the specification laid down by the Deptt./Executive Engineer in charge of the work with in the time limit specified failing which penalty up to Rs.1500/day for first 10 days & Rs.3000/day for next 15days & 15% on the total value of the work will be imposed upon the contractor which shall be at the discretion Of the Engineer in charge Chief Engineer /Superintending Engineer /Executive Engineer. On contractors representation based on the valid grounds, the Executive Engineer/superintending engineer /chief Engineer however reserves the right for granting an/ Extension in the time limit for any definite period of time and in case the work is not still completed within the period so extended the contractors security deposit shall be confiscated in addition to imposition of other penalties as laid down in the rules regulation for the registration of the contractors besides recovery of extra cost if any involved after getting the work done through any other agency.

No. 5899-5907
DT: 06-09-2022

DIPK-9523/22

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Kupwara

Office OF the Executive Engineer PHE Division Sopore

TENDER NOTICE

E-nit 16 of 09/2022 dated: 06/09/2022

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, J&K Union Territory e-tenders (in single cover system) are invited on Item wise rate basis from the registered PWD Contractors for the work mentioned below.

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/DoC (In Rupees)	Earnest Money	Time of Completion In days	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	Major Head	Position of T.S	Position of AAA
1.	Laying of alternative pipes for replacing existing pipes coming under the alignment of widening of Hygam Tarzoo Road for W.S.Scheme Khole, Tarzoo Amberpora Road under CRF	Rs.14.84	Rs. 500.00	2% of the advertised cost	30 days		BEE/ CEE/ DEE	Under DCW	Accorded Order No: F.No: RW/NH-12037/34/2003/J&K/NH-1/(CRF) V01-03 dated: 18-01-2016 under job No: CRF- JK-2015 16-127	vide No: 138/DDC of 2022 dated: 06/08/2022
2.	Providing of water supply facilities to Marbal area under District Capex Budget 22-23 for W.S.Scheme Marbal	Rs. 4.50 lacs	Rs. 200.00	2% of the advertised cost	20 days		DEE/	Under District Capex Budget	Accorded Order No: 138/DDC of 2022 dated: 06/08/2022	vide No: 138/DDC of 2022 dated: 06/08/2022
03	Laying and fitting of pipes to extensions of Tuijar and stabilization/ improvements of pipes at Ibrahim Colony Sopore along Sopore Harwan Road. (under DCW)	Rs.12.00 lacs)	Rs.500	2% of the advertised cost	30 days		BEE/ CEE/ DEE	Under DCW	Accorded	Accorded

The N.I.T of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

Bids must be uploaded on Jketenders.gov.in with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Receipt/e-Challan in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Division Sopore (tender inviting authority)

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

01	Date of Issue/Uploading of Tender Notice .	07-09-2022
02	Start of Downloading	07-09-2022
03	Bid Submission Start Date	07-09-2022
04	Bid submission end date	19-09-2022
05	Date & time of opening Bids (on line)	20-09-2022

DIPK-9548/22

SD/-
Executive Engineer
JS (PHE) Division Sopore

IDDS, DEDS To Boost Dairy Development Across J&K: Govt

‘Move aims to increase milk production, create employment avenues for youth’



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- J&K Government is making reformative interventions to bring new dawn of White Revolution across Jammu and Kashmir, besides creating better livelihood opportunities for farmers and those associated with dairy production.

With an aim of Doubling Farmers' income from dairying, the Administration is working tirelessly to ensure utmost priority is being extended to dairy development in the union territory by way of implementing various developmental schemes, initiatives, policies, among others.

Integrated dairy development scheme (IDDS) is a major scheme which not only focuses on providing financial assistance, but also supports the dairy producer by providing milking machine, bulk milk cooling unit at 50% subsidy as well as other benefits. The scheme also provides paneer making machine, khoya making, dahi making, cream separator, ice cream making machine, butter and ghee making machine, milk van, milk ATM and DG Set, to aspiring entrepreneurs who try to create their start-ups in dairy sector.

One of the dairy farming entrepreneur, Sartaj Ahmed of Kul-

gam is grateful of Government for providing needful subsidy and other help for establishing dairy farm under Integrated Dairy Development Scheme (IDDS).

"I sell milk in the locality. I am grateful to the Government for providing me the employment and supporting me to do something big on my own", Sartaj said.

Similarly, Irshad Ahmad of Mattan, Anantnag says IDDS launched by the Government helped youth like him to not only become independent but to provide employment to others also.

"I started this dairy farm two years before. I am satisfied with the returns of the dairy farm and thankful to the Government for providing us avenue of employment," Irshad said.

Dairy-farming has a great potential to generate huge employment in the UT and can contribute massively in the socio-economic transformation of the farming community.

J&K Government is working on multi-pronged strategy to increase milk production and double the Dairy farmers' income. Big players like AMUL, in collaborative efforts with the Government has a major role to play in the promotion and growth of milk production and other related activities in the UT.

Dulloo Reviews Progress Of CAPEX, CSS, NABARD For APD



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department (APD), Atal Dulloo Thursday chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review the progress of the UT CAPEX, Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), NABARD and Deliverables under the implementation in Agriculture Production Department.

The meeting was attended by Secretary in Agriculture Production Department, HoDs of concerned departments and other senior officers. Jammu based officers attended the meeting through Video Conference.

During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on physical and financial progress made by the Departments under Capex 2022-23 and CSSs, NABARD during the current financial year.

While reviewing the progress on different parameters of various schemes by these departments, Dulloo directed all HoDs to gear up the field staff so that substantial progress under UT capex can be achieved. He asked them to utilise the resources effectively so that maximum farmers are benefited from these schemes.

The ACS reiterated that the Line Departments should focus on implementation of beneficiary oriented schemes and asked them to submit progress reports regularly. He stressed upon all the HoD's to work in a coordinated manner to achieve the given deliverables within the assigned guidelines.

Atal Dulloo further delved upon the HoD's to utilize the CSS funding effectively so that the objective of these schemes is achieved and the benefits are percolated to the common masses.

Finance Ministry To Kick-Start Budgetary Exercise From October 10

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The finance ministry will kick-start the exercise to prepare the annual budget for 2023-24 from October 10, in the backdrop of revival of the Indian economy and fears of recession in developed countries.

The budget for the next year will have to address critical issues of high inflation, job creation, boosting demand, and putting the economy on a sustained 8 per cent-plus growth path.

On Wednesday, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said inflation is no longer "red-lettered" and the priority for the government now is job creation and boosting growth.

"Some of course are red-lettered (priorities), some may not be. Red-lettered ones would of course be jobs, equitable wealth distribution and making sure India is moving on the path of growth."

"In that sense inflation is not red-lettered. I hope it doesn't surprise many of you. We have shown that in the past couple of months that we were able to bring it to a manageable level," she said.

It will be the fifth budget of the Modi 2.0 government and Sitharaman and the last full budget before the general elections slated in April-May 2024.

During the election year, the government presents Vote on Account for the limited period. Usually the budget is cleared till July.

"Pre-budget meetings chaired by the secretary (Expenditure) shall commence on October 10, 2022," according to the Budget Circular (2023-24) of the Budget Division of the Department



of Economic Affairs dated September 6, 2022.

"Financial advisers should ensure that the necessary details required in the appendices I to VII are properly entered. Hard copies of the data along with specified formats should be submitted for cross-verification," the circular added.

The Budget Estimates for 2023-24 will be provisionally finalised after the completion of pre-budget meetings, it said, adding, RE (Revised Estimate) meetings will continue till around mid-November, 2022.

"All the ministries/departments should submit details of autonomous bodies/ implementing agencies, for which a dedicated corpus fund has been created. The reasons for their continuance and requirement of grant-in-aid support, and why the same should not be wound up, should be explained," it said.

As a follow up action on the National Monetisation Pipeline, it said, departments may be required to explain progress in asset monetisation.

The Budget 2022-23 is likely to be presented on February 1 during the first half of the Parliament's Budget session which

usually begins in the last week of January every year.

The Budget for the current fiscal had projected a growth rate of about 7-7.5 per cent in real terms, while the fiscal deficit was pegged at 6.4 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government scrapped a colonial-era tradition of presenting the Budget at the end of February. The then finance minister Arun Jaitley had for the first time presented the annual accounts on February 1, 2017.

With the preponement of the Budget, ministries are now allocated their budgeted funds from the start of the financial year beginning April. This gives government departments more leeway to spend, as well as allow companies time to adapt to business and taxation plans.

Previously, when the Budget was presented at the end of February, the three-stage Parliament approval process used to get completed some time in mid-May, weeks ahead of onset of monsoon rains.

This meant government departments would start spending on projects only from August-end or September, after the monsoon season ended.

Apple Maintains Prices On New iPhones Despite Inflation

Associated Press

Cupertino (US)- Apple's latest line-up of iPhones will boast better cameras, faster processors, and a longer lasting battery all at the same prices as last year's models, despite inflationary pressure that has driven up the cost of many other everyday items.

That pricing decision, revealed Wednesday during Apple's first in-person product event in three years, came as a mild surprise. Many analysts predicted Apple would ask its devout fans to pay as much as 15% more to help offset rising costs for many components.

The hoopla surrounding Apple's new iPhone 14 models is part of a post-Labor Day ritual the company has staged annually for more than a decade. Wednesday's event was held on the company's Cupertino, California, campus at a theater named after company co-founder Steve Jobs. After Apple CEO Tim Cook strolled out on stage, most of the event consisted of pre-recorded video presentation that the company honed during previous events staged during the pandemic.

For several years, Apple's new

iPhones have mostly featured incremental upgrades to cameras and battery life, and this year's models were no exception. Pricing for the standard iPhone 14 will start at \$799; the deluxe iPhone 14 Pro Max will start at \$1,099.

Among the latest i m -

request help when in remote areas without a wireless connection.

All the iPhone 14 models also will include a motion sensor capable of detecting serious car crashes and automatically connecting to emergency services.

With inflation still hovering at its highest level in 40 years, consumers have curbed their spending on many discretionary items. That's likely contributing to a recent decline in smartphone sales, although the iPhone has fared far better than competing Android devices.

The dimming sales outlook prompted the research firm International Data Corp. to predict a worldwide decline in 2022 smartphone shipments of 6.5%, almost double the 3.5% decline it had estimated a few months ago. Despite that anticipated drop in sales, the average price for new smartphones is expected to finish this year about 6% higher than last year, IDC estimated.



improvements is a 48-megapixel camera in the Pro and Pro Max models that the company said will produce especially crisp pictures. The iPhone 13 versions of the Pro and Pro Max have 12-megapixel cameras. This year's high-end models will also have always-on displays that stay lit even when

Inflation Management Can't Be Singularly Left To RBI: FM Sitharaman

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said inflation management cannot be "singularly" left to the monetary policy as a majority of activities are outside its purview in the current context.

Speaking at a seminar organised by economic think-tank Icrier, the finance minister said that both the fiscal policy and the monetary policy have to work together to contain inflation.

Consumer price index (CPI) based inflation or retail inflation is ruling above the Reserve Bank's comfort level of 6 per cent since January. The central bank, which has been tasked by the government to keep inflation within 2-4 per cent range, has hiked the key policy rate by 140 basis points since May with an aim to check the rate of price rise.

Inflation management cannot be singularly left to monetary policy, which has proved totally ineffective in many countries, she said.

"The RBI will have to synchronise somewhat, maybe not as much synchronised as other western developed countries would do. I am not prescribing anything to the Reserve Bank..."

"I am not giving any forward direction to the RBI but it is the truth that India's solution to handling the economy, part of which is handling inflation also is an exercise where the fiscal policy, together with the monetary policy has to work," she said.

The minister further said there are economies where policy is designed in such a way that the monetary policy and the interest rate management is the one and the only tool to handle



inflation, she said.

"I would say India's inflation management, the word 'taming inflation' or the word 'keeping it within the tolerance limit', is an exercise of so many different activities and a majority of which is outside the monetary policy in today's circumstances," Sitharaman said.

There could have been a time when people would have thought this is sacrilegious for the finance minister of a country to say so, she added.

As part of inflation management, she said, India increased the import of crude oil from Russia at discounted prices despite sanctions imposed on Moscow due to the Russia-Ukraine war.

In a couple of months, she said, India ramped up its import from Russia from about 2 per cent of the total shipment of petroleum products to 12-13 per cent as part of inflation management.

I give credit to the statesmanship of the Prime Minister to make sure that we did keep our relationship with all countries but yet manage to get the Russian crude...Sanctions, sanctions but countries (including Japan and Italy, among others) are finding their own way to get that Russian fuel (crude, gas) That also is a part of inflation management," she said.

Govt To Acquire Vodafone Idea Stake After Share Price Stabilises At Rs 10 Or Above



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The government will acquire a stake in debt-ridden Vodafone Idea after the stock price of the company stabilises at Rs 10 or above, according to an official source.

Vodafone Idea (VIL) board has offered a stake to the government at a par value of Rs 10 per share.

"There is a SEBI norm that the acquisition should take place at par value. DoF will clear the acquisition after VIL shares stabilise at Rs 10 or above," an official source told PTI.

VIL shares are trading below Rs 10 since April 19. The stock declined by 1.02 per cent to trade at Rs 9.68 on BSE on Thursday.

The finance ministry had cleared the proposal to acquire a stake in VIL in July.

Debt-ridden Vodafone Idea (VIL) has decided to opt for converting about Rs 16,000 crore of interest liability payable to the government into equity which will amount to around 33 per cent stake in the company while promoters' holding will come down from 74.99 per cent to 50 per cent.

The government has given telecom operators an option of paying the interest for four years of deferment on the deferred spectrum instalments and AGR (adjusted gross revenue) dues by way of conversion into equity of the NPV of such interest amount.

The company's total gross debt, excluding lease liabilities and including interest accrued but not due, as of September 30, 2021, stood at Rs 1,94,780 crore.

The amount comprises deferred spectrum payment obligations of Rs 1,08,610 crore, AGR liability of Rs 63,400 crore that is due to the government and debt from banks and financial institutions of Rs 22,770 crore as of January 11, 2022-- when it offered conversion of interest liability into equity.

At the end of the April-June 2022 quarter, VIL's total gross debt (excluding lease liabilities and including interest accrued but not due) stood at Rs 1,99,080 crore, comprising deferred spectrum payment obligations of Rs 1,16,600 crore, AGR liabilities of Rs 67,270 crore that are due to the government, and debt from banks and financial institutions of Rs 15,200 crore.

European Central Bank Makes Largest-Ever Interest Rate Hike

Associated Press

FRANKFURT- The European Central Bank made its largest-ever interest rate increase Thursday, following the US Federal Reserve and other central banks in a global stampede of rapid rate hikes meant to snuff out record inflation that is squeezing consumers and pushing Europe toward recession.

The bank's 25-member governing council raised its key benchmarks by an unprecedented three-quarter

of a percentage point for the 19 countries that use the euro currency. The ECB usually moves rates by a quarter-point and had never raised its key bank lending rate by three-quarters of a point since the euro's launch in 1999.

Bank President Christine Lagarde said the ECB will raise rates over the next several meetings" because inflation is likely to stay above our target for an extended period. It enacted a half-point hike at its meeting in July, its first

increase in 11 years.

Meanwhile, the economy is expected to slow down substantially over the remainder of this year, she said, adding that energy prices will stay extraordinarily high.

The bank's jumbo increase is aimed at raising the cost of borrowing for consumers, governments and businesses, which in theory slows spending and investment and cools off soaring consumer prices by reducing the demand for goods.

Rupee Rises 23 Paise To Close At 79.72 Against US Dollar

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: The rupee appreciated 23 paise to close at 79.72 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday amid easing crude oil prices and a firm trend in domestic equities.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 79.72 against the greenback. It witnessed an intra-day high of 79.65 and a low of 79.83 during the session.

It finally ended at 79.72, up 23 paise from its previous close of 79.72.

The dollar index, which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.11 per cent to 109.72.

Sensex, Nifty Rebound Around 1% On Cooling Crude, Global Cues

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Benchmark BSE Sensex rebounded by over 1 per cent on Thursday following value buying in banking, IT and auto shares after two days of losses and a largely positive trend in global markets.

The 30-share BSE barometer climbed 659.31 points or 1.12 per cent to settle at 59,688.22 as 24 of its constituents advanced. During the day, it jumped 683.05 points or 1.15 per cent to 59,711.96.

The broader NSE Nifty also bounced back by 174.35 points or 0.99 per cent to close at 17,798.75 with 33 stocks closing with gains.

Foreign fund inflows and cooling crude oil prices bolstered the invest-

tor sentiment, analysts said.

Tech Mahindra rose the most by 3.23 per cent among Sensex shares. Axis Bank, ICICI Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bharti Airtel, State Bank of India, UltraTech Cement, Bajaj Finserv, IndusInd Bank and Asian Paints emerged as the biggest gainers among Sensex shares.

Tata Steel, NTPC, Titan, Nestle and Power Grid were the laggards.

"The domestic financial markets experienced a wave of optimism tracking strength across global markets as oil prices eased, cooling investor concerns about rising inflation. Despite premium valuations, consistent FII inflows are aiding Indian bourses to stay resilient," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Gold Gains ₹251; Silver Rallies ₹862

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Gold prices rose by Rs 251 to Rs 51,056 per 10 grams in the national capital on Thursday, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal had closed at Rs 50,805 per 10 grams.

Silver also rallied by Rs 862 to Rs 54,934 per kg from Rs 54,072 per kg in the previous trade.

In the international market, gold was trading higher at USD 1,719 per ounce while silver was flat at USD 18.52 per ounce. Spot gold prices at COMEX were trading 0.13 per cent up at USD 1,719 per ounce on Thursday, said Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities) at HDFC Securities.

Army Deploys Ultra-Light M-777 Howitzers In Forward Locations Along LAC In Arunachal Pradesh

Agenceis

Namsai (Arunachal Pradesh): The Indian Army has deployed a significant number of easily transportable M-777 ultra-light howitzers in mountainous regions along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Arunachal Pradesh, military officials said on Thursday.

The Army's bolstering of firepower in the forward locations of Arunachal Pradesh comes after the howitzers were deployed in several sensitive areas in the Ladakh sector amid the lingering border standoff with China.

India has been ramping up its overall military might in all strategically key areas along the nearly 3,500-km-long LAC after the Galwan Valley clash in June 2020 that triggered a major escalation in tensions between the Indian and Chinese armies.

Army officials said the deployment of M-777 howitzers coupled with additional air assets including unmanned aerial vehicles, military aircraft and surveillance equipment has enhanced India's military preparedness in the Arunachal Pradesh sector.

The Army faced the difficulty of transporting heavy artillery guns in the mountainous regions but the deployment of ultra-light howitzers has addressed the challenge.

"The ultra-light M-777 can be transported quickly in Chinook helicopters. We now have the flexibility of quickly moving them from one place to another based on operational requirements," a senior official told PTI.

"Now we are in a much better position to deal with any eventualities," he added.

The Army deployed M-777 guns in Bum-La last year but now the howitzers are being pressed into service in Arunachal Pradesh's RALP area, comprising several key mountainous regions.

The M-777 artillery guns, having a maximum range of 30 km and manufactured by the

BAE Systems, were first received by the Army in 2018. The procurement had come after a 30-year wait for new artillery guns since the Bofors scandal.

India ordered 145 M-777 guns from the US under a USD 750 million deal in 2016.

The addition of upgraded L70 air defence guns to the existing Bofors guns in the forward locations in Arunachal Pradesh also added additional might to the Army's combat prowess.

The L-70 guns were originally manufactured by Swedish defence firm Bofors AB in the 1950s and India started inducting over 1,000 of them in the 1960s.

The guns have been upgraded by state-run Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).

The Army has taken a series of measures to boost its operational capabilities in the eastern sector bordering China.

The Army has been putting an equal amount of focus on enhancing operational capability in the Northern as well as eastern sectors, officials said.

The eastern Ladakh border standoff between the Indian and Chinese militaries erupted on May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong lake areas and both sides gradually enhanced their deployment by rushing in tens of thousands of soldiers as well as heavy weaponry.

The tension escalated following a deadly clash in Galwan Valley.

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

The last round of military talks in July ended in a stalemate as there was no forward movement in ending the standoff in remaining friction points in the region.

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

Sonowal Lays Foundation Stone Of New Complex Of NISR Leh

Observer News Service

Leh: The Union Minister of Ayush and Ports, Shipping & Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal laid the foundation stone of the new complex of National Institute of Sowa Rigpa (NISR) at Saboo Thang area in Leh today.

The new infrastructure of NISR will spruce unlock the huge potential that Sowa Rigpa has to offer in the country. This will also provide a much-needed modern platform for propagating this rich India medicinal heritage from the Himalayas. The event was also graced by MoSfor Ayush and WCD Dr Mahindrabhai Kalubhai Munjipara and the Member of Parliament for Leh, JamyangTsering Namgyal among others.

The new complex will be developed in an area of 120 kanal by the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) and will act as the premier centre of Sowa Rigpa in the country. To be built at a cost of 25 Crores in the first phase, the revamped NISR complex will be further developed with hospital block, hostels, staff quarters etc. This planned investment along with eventual boost to the faculty strength at NISR is aimed at developing this institute as a Centre of Excellence to Sowa Rigpa locally, nationally and globally. The academic block is scheduled to be completed by 2023.

The Ministry of Ayush is also supporting NISR to set up a Herbal Medicinal Garden spread across an area of 10 hectares. This will not only help conserve valued medicinal plant from the trans Himalayan region but also help in research for further usage in treating human ailments and enriching human lives.

Speaking on the occasion, Sarbananda Sonowal, said, "The strength & immense potential that the traditional Indian medicinal practices possess must be fully utilised to help people recover from their ailments and



help them enjoy a quality life. Our rich heritage has given us practices like Sowa Rigpa which has benefitted people from the Himalayan region since time immemorial. Today, Sowa Rigpa has got a tremendous boost due to PM's constant effort to promote traditional Indian medicine for the greater good of human kind. We are confident that such steps will boost the popularity of Sowa Rigpa beyond the Himalayan region and help people across the world live a better, healthier and happier life."

The NISR was set up as per the decision of the Union Cabinet, under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on 20 November, 2019. It was formally registered on 13 April, 2020.

The National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa has already signed MoUs with IIM (CSIR), TKDL (CSIR), FHRI, ICFRE, Amity University and Moraji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY) and started collaborative research work on Sowa-Rigpa and Medicinal Plants of Trans-Himalayas. The NISR has also started Under Graduate courses for students aspiring to study Sowa Rigpa from academic year 2021-22. The Bachelor of Sowa Rigpa Medicine & Surgery (BSRMS) is a 5.5 years course affiliated to University of Ladakh. A total of 10 students, selected through NEET exam, have already enrolled in this programme. This is especially encouraging to the people of

Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh where this traditional medicinal practice is immensely popular.

NISR is conducting research on Sowa Rigpa literatures, formulations, disease, demographic study, medicinal plants survey, documentation and conservation. A cultivation study of Rhodiola plants successfully by the institute at its herbal garden. A collaborative study by NISR, with Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR) Jammu and Amity University, is also initiated to explore its scientific potential. Plants like Rhodiola has potentials to contribute for rural economy of Ladakh. NISR is also providing Sowa-Rigpa treatment and therapy for general public free of cost in its Hospital in Leh and Zaskar and also through Mobile Medical Camps under TSP projects. Thousands of patients are benefited every year with Sowa-Rigpa treatment.

Sowa-Rigpa is one of the oldest, well documented and living medical traditions of the world. It has very strong roots for public health and socio-cultural system of Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Ladakh and other trans-Himalayan regions. Sowa-Rigpa has great potential in promoting health & wellness, nutrition, pharmaceutical and cosmetics needs of people which in turn can act as a multiplier of economic growth of the region.

SC To Hear On Sep 12 Pleas Challenging Constitutional Validity Of Citizenship Amendment Act

Agenceis

New Delhi: The Supreme Court would hear on September 12 a batch of pleas challenging the constitutional validity of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) which seeks to grant citizenship to non-Muslim migrants who came here from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan on or before December 31, 2014.

While refusing to stay the operation of the law, the top court had on December 18, 2019, issued notices to the Centre on the pleas.

As per the list of businesses uploaded on the apex court website, a bench comprising Chief Justice Uday Umesh Lalit and Justice S Ravindra Bhat has posted 220 petitions, including the lead plea of the Indian Union of Muslim League, for hearing on Monday.

The amended law seeks to grant citizenship to non-Muslim migrants belonging to Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Christian, Jain, and Parsi communities who came to the country from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan on or before December 31, 2014.

The top court had issued notice to the Centre and had sought its response by the second week of January 2020.

However, due to the COVID-19-induced restrictions, the matter could not come up for a full-fledged hearing as the matter involved a large number of lawyers and litigants.

While issuing the notice on pleas, the bench had asked Attorney General K K Venugopal, representing the Centre, to consider using audio-visual medium to make citizens aware of the legislation.

"We are not going to grant a stay," the apex court had said.

The Indian Union Muslim League (IUM), one of the petitioners which have challenged the CAA, said in its plea that it violates the fundamental Right to Equality and intends to grant citizenship to a section of illegal immigrants by making an exclusion based on religion.

Parliament cleared the Act which grants citizenship rights

to religious minorities such as Hindus, Christians, Sikhs, Parsis, Jains, and Buddhists, who have come to India on or before December 31, 2014.

The then President Ram Nath Kovind gave assent to the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019 on December 12, 2019, turning it into an Act.

The plea by IUM filed through advocate Pallavi Pratap seeks an interim stay on the operation of CAB and the Foreigner Amendment (Order), 2015, and Passport (Entry Into Rules), Amendment Rules, 2015.

The petition alleged that the government's CAB was against the basic structure of the Constitution and intended to explicitly discriminate against Muslims as the Act extended benefits only to Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians.

The plea filed by Congress leader Jairam Ramesh has said that the Act is a "brazen attack" on core fundamental rights envisaged under the Constitution and treats "equals as unequal".

In his petition, Ramesh has said that substantial questions of law, including whether religion can be a factor in either acquiring or denying citizenship in India, arises for consideration of the court as it is a "patently unconstitutional" amendment to the Citizenship Act, 1955.

"The impugned Act creates two classifications, viz, classification on basis of religion and the classification on the basis of geography, and both the classifications are completely unreasonable and share no rational nexus to the object of the impugned Act i.e., to provide shelter, safety, and citizenship to communities who in their native country are facing persecution on grounds of religion," the plea has said.

Several petitions have been filed challenging the constitutional validity of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, including by RJD leader Manoj Jha, Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra, and AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Shopian Boy Shines

to online in the wake of Covid pandemic.

The problem with online learning was frequent internet shutdowns and restricted network speeds in Shopian. However, the coaching institute offered additional classes, video lectures etc which helped a lot, he added.

Lone did his primary schooling from two private schools in Shopian, and then enrolled himself at the government higher secondary school in Turkwamgam village of the district for class 11 and 12.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Governor Sinha and politicians congratulated Lone for the feat.

Congratulations to Haziq Parveez Lone from Shopian for securing the All India 10th Rank in NEET UG- 2022 Result. Proud of your achievements. My best wishes to all the candidates from Jammu & Kashmir, who have qualified in the NEET exam, Sinha wrote on Twitter.

Overjoyed to see Haziq Lone from Shopian secure tenth rank in the NEET exams. My best wishes to him for a bright future, PDP president Mehbooba Mufti said in a tweet.

Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari also felicitated Lone for the success.

The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah and Vice President Omar Abdullah also extended congratulations to Lone for bringing laurels to the whole of J&K.

The duo also congratulated all others from J&K who have qualified the prestigious exams.

Hajin Boy Qualifies

thankful to Allah almighty for bestowing me with the success as it was a dream which came true today. Before this I have made three attempts to crack the NEET, however, there wasn't Allah's will but I did not lose hope and made it possible in the fourth attempt," he said.

Nadeem has done his schooling from government school in his locality up to 12th standard and then moved to Srinagar for coaching purpose to qualify the NEET, as his aim was to become a doctor since his childhood.

Today, by the grace of Allah and the support from his family and teachers, he said his dream has come true even though he faced a lot of difficulties on the way toward success—(KNO)

LG Calls For

and SMC Commissioner, Athar Amir Khan gave a detailed briefing to the chair on the status of various projects and schemes and other initiatives of District Administration & SMC, respectively.

According to the spokesperson, the LG observed that Srinagar city is visited by people from across the country and abroad and stressed upon the need for holistic development of the city and public amenities.

"He said the focus should not be limited to enhancing the aesthetics but making the infrastructure more user friendly and utilitarian," he added.

The LG, according to the spokesperson, advised officials for making efforts to turn Srinagar Municipal Corporation into a sustainable entity and ensuring that the public service delivery processes are smooth and institutionalized across the city.

"There is a need to start a campaign for revenue generation to further expand and enhance the quality of public services being delivered by SMC," Sinha said.

Commissioner SMC, the spokesperson said, also appraised the chair about the status of progress achieved in the projects being executed under Srinagar Smart City Ltd.

Earlier, he said, the LG e-inaugurated 18 development projects worth Rs 65.15 cr of District Srinagar and laid foundation stone of Animal Birth Control & Anti rabies Vaccination Centre, Chattarhama.

"The Lt Governor also sought the details of disbursement of benefits to eligible beneficiaries under different public welfare and Social Security schemes by the concerned departments," the spokesperson said.

The LG, he said, issued explicit directions to officials for saturating the coverage under welfare schemes. Sinha, he said, further instructed the Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar for conducting extensive IEC activities for coverage of left out beneficiaries.

Reviewing the status of different schemes of the Agriculture sector, the spokesperson said that LG instructed the concerned officials to ensure the benefits of all the UT and central government schemes reach the eligible beneficiaries.

Sinha, he said, also took stock of the status of daily milk production and processing being done in Srinagar, besides the efforts made by the concerned department towards tackling the Lumpy Skin disease in cattle.

It was informed that only 38 cases

have been reported in 18 days and vaccination of the cattle is going on with alacrity.

The spokesperson said that the LG also reviewed the functioning of different departments in the district including, Jal Shakti, Power Development, School Education, Revenue, Industries & Commerce, KVIB, KVIC and sought the details of the progress achieved from the concerned officers.

"During the review of various citizen centric services, it was informed that appropriate action will be taken against officials responsible for causing unwarranted delays in providing public services," he said.

"Directions were issued for integrating all citizen centric services with the Integrated Command and Control Centre," he added.

Enquiring about the Jhelum Riverfront development, the spokesperson said that the LG was apprised that two components of the project would be completed this year.

Sinha, he said, called for developing a water based local economy and beautification of water bodies and areas around them.

"Timelines were given for the completion of various infrastructure projects and directions were also issued to achieve greater progress this year in terms of completion of projects than the last year," he added.

Later, the spokesperson said the LG also met public delegations and listened to their issues and demands.

"He received the memoranda of demands from different groups of public delegations and assured appropriate redressal of their issues on merit," he added.

Taking Measures

Sanjay Khan here at Raj Bhawan on Thursday, an official spokesperson said.

The veteran actor, he said, discussed with the LG about the promotion of film related activities in Jammu & Kashmir.

Sinha, he said, observed that the UT Government is taking effective measures to create a vibrant film ecosystem to bring back the golden era of filmmaking in J&K.

"Key endeavours like New Film Policy, developing better facilities are aimed at transforming J&K into the most preferred film shooting destination," the LG added.

NIA Court Grants

there are no reasonable grounds believing that accused persons or applicants are guilty of an offence as alleged in the charge sheet," the judge said in his 81-page order.

The court said there was neither direct nor indirect evidence on record to link the accused with the crime.

"There is neither any direct nor any substantial evidence on the record which could connect the accused or applicants with the alleged crime. So, in absence of ocular as well as substantial evidence on the record, the grounds taken by the learned counsel carry weight," it said. (PTI)

Govt Okays Amnesty

The new scheme, he said envisages that the outstanding principal amount arrears accumulated upto 31.03.2022 after waving off 100% interest/surcharge shall be paid in a maximum of twelve monthly (12) installments.

"The scheme further entails that the failure of payment of any installment/ installments within the prescribed twelve (12) months period shall invite penalty and legal action under Electricity Act, 2010, in addition to the accrual of compound interest on the outstanding dues," the spokesperson said.

He further added that the consumers who fail to pay the current bill simultaneously with the payment of monthly outstanding installments shall forfeit the benefits of the Amnesty scheme besides disconnection of power supply.

"An independent Project Management Agency will be hired for overseeing efficient implementation of the scheme," the spokesperson added.

India Becoming

work even harder and achieve bigger goals in this Amrit Kaal. This progress is not ordinary. Every Indian is feeling proud about it. We need to maintain this enthusiasm," the PM said.

Referring to the Centre's Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Modi said, "As many as three crore houses were built by the government across the country for the poor during the last 8 years. Of these, nearly 10 lakh houses were constructed in Gujarat alone."

Modi praised the health infrastructure in Gujarat, saying the state has a robust network of multispecialty hospitals.

"The number of medical colleges has gone up from 11 to 31 in the last

two decades. An All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) is coming up (in Rajkot) and several new medical colleges are also proposed for the state," he said.

The entire event and the medical camp were organised by Gujarat Minister of State for Agriculture, Energy and Petrochemicals Mukesh Patel, who is the MLA from Olpad in Surat.

On the occasion, Modi urged doctors deployed at the medical camp to talk to patients about their lifestyle and the importance of having nutritious food, which can keep people away from many illnesses.

He said nearly four crore people in the country, including 30 lakh in Gujarat, have already availed benefit of the Centre's Ayushman Bharat scheme, which provides health cover of up to Rs five lakh per family in a year.

Praising the Gujarat government, Modi said 97 per cent of rural homes in the state are now getting drinking water through the ambitious 'Nal Se Jal' scheme.

"Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme, farmers across the country have received Rs two lakh crore through direct transfer so far. Sixty lakh farmers from Gujarat and nearly 1.25 lakh farmers from Surat have availed the benefit of this scheme," he said.

He said farmers earlier used to get nothing despite tall promises made by previous governments at the Centre.

"But, the interests of farmers are always a priority for our double engine government. That is the reason why farmers of the country and Gujarat give us their blessings," he said.

Before the address, Modi virtually interacted with some of the beneficiaries of the state and centrally sponsored schemes, such as the widow pension, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana and the Ayushman Bharat Yojana.

While talking to Sukhdevsinh Rana, a differently-abled farmer, the PM

pealed to all cultivators to switch to natural farming, saying this would provide better yield with minimum cost.

During his interaction with Kanchanben Patel, a widow from Olpad taluka, Modi asked if coastal villages in Olpad are now getting clean drinking water.

Patel informed the PM that the government has resolved the issue.

Talking to another widow Kirtiben

Patel, Modi appealed to her to spread awareness about various government schemes in her village so that no eligible person is left behind in getting the benefits.

3.5 Magnitude

75.58 degrees east at a depth of 10 km.

Last month, 13 earthquakes of low-intensity had hit Doda, Reasi, Kishtwar and Udhampur districts of Jammu region.

Most parts of Kashmir come under Seismic Zone V and are prone to earthquakes. Experts give varied reasons for earthquakes in J&K including various faults run through Kashmir and exploding of gases. Kashmir valley is vulnerable to disasters. At least 13 districts out of 100 districts in India have been identified as 'multi hazard districts'.

According to the Indian Meteorological Department, most parts of Kashmir covering the districts of Srinagar, Ganderbal, Baramulla, Kupwara, Bandipora, Budgam, Anantnag and parts of Jammu region, Doda, Ramban, Kishtwar come under Seismic Zone V and are prone to earthquakes. While the rest part of the state comes under Seismic Zone IV. (PTI)

Covid-19: J&K Clocks

they said, Srinagar reported the highest 21 new cases of virus, Baramulla 12, Budgam 11, Pulwama 5, Kulgam 4, Kupwara and Anantnag 2 each. The three districts of Bandipora, Ganderbal and Shopian registered no new cases of Covid-19.

In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu reported a maximum of 6 new cases of infection, Kathua 2, Samba and Udhampur 1 each. No new cases were detected in the remaining six districts of Rajouri, Doda, Kishtwar, Poonch, Ramban and Reasi.

The overall death toll, they said, also remained unchanged at 4783, as no fresh fatality was reported during the last 24 hours.

"Moreover, 116 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 30fromJammu division and 86from Kashmir division," the officials added. (ONS)

Army Commander

Line of Control (LoC), they said.

He expressed confidence over the operational readiness and strong anti-infiltration grid adopted by troops. (PTI)

1st J&K Athletic Meet Concludes At IUST



Observer News Service

AWANTIPORA: The 1st J&K Chancellor's Athletic Meet concluded at Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) on Wednesday with IUST and Jammu University bagging the top two positions.

Earlier on Tuesday, the LG of J&K and Chancellor of IUST, Manoj Sinha had inaugurated the 400 meter Synthetic Athletic Track, before kick starting the two-day athletic tournament.

With IUST leading from the front, the athletic tourney was marked first of its kind in Jammu and Kashmir organised at university level, offering a key platform for men and women athletes from various universities of J&K to showcase their talent and skills.

Jammu University won the first prize followed by Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) grabbing the

second prize while as both NIT Srinagar and Cluster University Srinagar put the joint show for third reward.

Felicitating the winners, Vice Chancellor Prof Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, also the chief guest of the event, applauded the sportsman spirit of athletes and the efforts of Physical Education department, organising the event.

Guest of Honour, Registrar, Prof Naseer Iqbal, Additional Deputy Commissioner Awantipora, Zafar Shawl, Chairman Sports Committee, Sameer Wazir, also applauded the participants.

Earlier, Dr. Hilal Ahmad Rather, Assistant Director Physical Education & Sports welcomed the guests and thanked all the participants and officials.

Among others gracing the event included Dr. Parvez Ahmad Mir Director CEID, Dr. Aabid Hussain Shalla, Associate Dean, Dr. Rayais, Dr. Ahsan Hussain, Mr. Altaf and Mr. Majid Nazir.

3-Day J&K Pencak Silat Cup Begins In Srinagar



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A three day long J&K Pencak Silat Cup 2022 began in Indoor Sports Hall Polo ground, Srinagar on Thursday.

The event aimed at primarily focusing on honing the skills of district level performers shall be held over a three days period beginning from today. Event is a part of special sports initiative 'My Youth My Pride', and is being organised by J&K Sports Council in association with J&K Pencak Silat Association.

Secretary J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gull presided over the function as chief guest while Nuzhat Farooq Divisional Sports

Officer-Kashmir attended the function as guest of honour.

On the occasion, the Secretary Sports Council held a brief introduction with teams with all the participating teams drawn from the 15 districts of J&K. More than 900 athletes are participating in the event.

Nasir Ahmad Digoo, President, J&K Pencak Silat Association is the organising secretary of the event. He along with Mudaris Masoodi, District President Srinagar and district heads from other districts were also present on the occasion. The president was also flanked by Mufti Hamid Yasin, Secretary General Indian Pencak Silat Federation.

Kohli's Ton, Bhuvni's Fifer Help India Crush Afghanistan



Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Virat Kohli smashed his first hundred since November 2019 as India thrashed Afghanistan by a mammoth 101 runs in an inconsequential Asia Cup Super 4 match here on Thursday.

Kohli struck a delightful unbeaten 122 off just 61 balls,

while stand-in skipper KL Rahul scored 62 off 41 deliveries to power India to an imposing 212 for two after being put into bat.

India defended the target with ease, restricting Afghanistan to 111 for eight. Ibrahim Zadran top-scored for the Afghans, remaining unbeaten on 64.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar (5/4) sparked with the ball for India.

Brief Scores:

India: 212 for 2 in 20 overs (Virat Kohli 122 not out, KL Rahul 62; Fared Ahmed 2/57).

Afghanistan: 111 for 8 in 20 overs (Ibrahim Zadran 64 not out; Bhuvneshwar Kumar 5/4).

Pakistan, Afghanistan Fans Clash Yet Again After Thrilling Finish



Press Trust of India

SHARJAH: It was another tense finish between Pakistan and Afghanistan, triggering a heated off the field clash between fans of the two neighbouring countries yet again after the Super 4 match of the Asia Cup.

The passionate fans of both teams had come to blows even during the T20 World Cup last year and the 2019 ODI World Cup.

The trigger for the brawl on

Wednesday was fuelled by Pakistan batter Asif Ali getting rather physical with Fared Ahmed after the pacer's in your face celebrations following the former's dismissal.

With 11 needed off the last over and Pakistan having only one wicket in hand, Afghanistan were favourites to get over the line in a low-scoring game until Naseem Shah produced two consecutive sixes out of nowhere to send his team into the final.

Outside the ground, fans once again let the emotions get the better of them.

Videos being circulated on social media showed fans pulling out seats and throwing them at each other.

ESPNCricinfo reported that several Afghanistan fans were detained by the Sharjah Police but none was arrested.

Following the ugly scenes, Pakistan Cricket Board is set to lodge a protest with the ICC.

Ist Corporate Cup 2022: GMC Baramulla Defeat Agriculture IX



Umar Shafi Bandy

BARAMULLA: GMC Baramulla on Thursday defeated Agriculture IX by six wickets in the second match of the ongoing Ist Corporate Cup 2022 played at Jhelum Sports Stadium here.

Choosing to bat first after winning the toss, Agriculture IX Baramulla were bundled out for 106 in 20 overs, with Syed Adfar restricting the batters by picking three wickets.

Skipper Kamil Bakshi and Iqbal Shah were the other leading wicket takers from GMC Baramulla, scalping two wickets each. Speedster Sajad Majeed also bowled an impressive spell conceding only 11 runs in 4 overs while also giving his team a crucial early breakthrough.

Except Shabir Ahmad and Mohammad Saleem, who managed to score 17 runs each, all the batsmen of Agriculture IX struggled in front of the ferocious bowling attack of the GMC Baramulla.

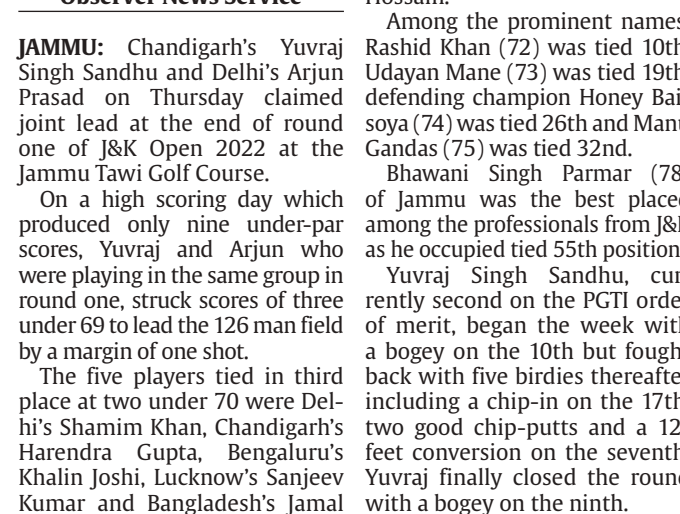
Opening the innings for GMC Baramulla, M Kamil Bakshi guided his team to victory after early setbacks on the other end. He scored 58 in 47 balls and was adjudged man of the match. Rashid was another top scorer with 28 runs in 26 balls. GMC Baramulla won by six wickets with 21 bowls to spare.

"We are happy that we won the first match. This win will definitely boost the confidence of the players," said Head Coach GMC Baramulla, Jehangir Bhat.

Khurshed Parry, who was in the playing 11 of GMC Baramulla, thanked Dr. Ruby Reshi, Principal GMC Baramulla, for this opportunity, kits, and moral support.

J&K OPEN 2022

Sandhu, Prasad Claim Joint Lead On Day 1



Observer News Service

Hossain.

JAMMU: Chandigarh's Yuvraj Singh Sandhu and Delhi's Arjun Prasad on Thursday claimed joint lead at the end of round one of J&K Open 2022 at the Jammu Tawi Golf Course.

On a high scoring day which produced only nine under-par scores, Yuvraj and Arjun who were playing in the same group in round one, struck scores of three under 69 to lead the 126 man field by a margin of one shot.

The five players tied in third place at two under 70 were Delhi's Shamim Khan, Chandigarh's Harendra Gupta, Bengaluru's Khalin Joshi, Lucknow's Sanjeev Kumar and Bangladesh's Jamal

Among the prominent names, Rashid Khan (72) was tied 10th, Udayan Mane (73) was tied 19th, defending champion Honey Baisoya (74) was tied 26th and Manu Gandas (75) was tied 32nd.

Bhawani Singh Parmar (78) of Jammu was the best placed among the professionals from J&K as he occupied tied 55th position. Yuvraj Singh Sandhu, currently second on the PGTI order of merit, began the week with a bogey on the 10th but fought back with five birdies thereafter including a chip-in on the 17th, two good chip-putts and a 12-foot conversion on the seventh. Yuvraj finally closed the round with a bogey on the ninth.

Champions League Round-Up: Liverpool Slump, Madrid, PSG Barcelona Win

Agencies

GENOVA: A long-time criticism of the Champions League group stage? Too many lopsided mismatches as the wealth gap between clubs fuels competitive imbalance on the field.

Tell that to favoured Liverpool and Eintracht Frankfurt after their heavy losses Wednesday.

Or to coaches Thomas Tuchel and Domenico Tedesco who lost their jobs on the morning after shocking losses for their teams, Chelsea and Leipzig, respectively.

Liverpool slumped to a stunning 4-1 defeat at Napoli where the hosts were four goals up in just 47 minutes at the stadium named for club icon Diego Maradona.

Though Jurgen Klopp's team has been beaten in just four games in 2022, three were in the Champions League including Real Madrid's 1-0 win in the final in May.

Eintracht won the Europa League title in May but the

German club and the team it beat in the final, Rangers, both found it tough Wednesday on returning to the top-tier competition after long absences.

Eintracht was surprisingly beaten 3-0 at home by Sporting Lisbon just four days after its four-goal rout of Leipzig in the Bundesliga sped up Tedesco's exit.

Rangers were swept aside in the first half at Ajax before falling to a 4-0 loss.

Robert Lewandowski already tops the scoring chart after his

Mbappé and Erling Haaland each scored twice in wins for their clubs Paris Saint-Germain and Manchester City, Lewandowski went one better with a hat trick.

Tottenham beat Marseille 2-0 with Brazil forward Richarlison twice scoring with headers late in the game on his Champions League debut.

A remarkable 11-minute

Champions League debut for Barcelona, which beat Viktoria Plzeň 5-1.

One night after Kylian

period of stoppage time at Atlético Madrid saw the home team open the scoring and be pegged back by a penalty for 10-man Porto before Antoine Griezmann sealed a 2-1 win with a header from a tight angle.

Bayern Munich eased to a 2-0 win at Inter Milan, where Leroy Sané opened the scoring in the first half, and Club Brugge beat struggling Bayer Leverkusen 1-0.

Two coach firings began the Champions League drama early Wednesday.

Tuchel was ousted at Chelsea just 15 months after he guided the club to its second Champions League title. The German manager's dissatisfaction with the club was clear in interviews late Tuesday after a 1-0 loss at Dinamo Zagreb.

Tedesco lasted just nine months at Leipzig, a Champions League semifinalist two years ago, and did not survive a humbling 4-1 home loss to Ukraine's Shakhtar Donetsk on Tuesday.

'Qatar Has Faced Unfair Criticism Over World Cup', Says Orgainser



Reuters

DOHA: Qatar has faced a lot of unfair criticism over its hosting of football's World Cup that was not based on facts but it has responded to any fair criticism, the Qatar 2022 Chief Executive Nasser Al Khater said on Thursday.

He told a news conference, the first held by organisers in months, that 70 days prior to the tournament's kick-off, sports and transport infrastructure in the tiny desert country were complete and remaining work was "aesthetic".

The decision to have the World Cup in Qatar, the first Middle East country to host the event, has drawn criticism from human rights

groups over the Gulf state's treatment of foreign migrant workers and restrictive social laws, under which homosexuality and sex outside of marriage are outlawed.

"We think that a lot of the criticism has been unfair, not based on factual reality. Whatever we felt was fair criticism we have taken on board," Khater said.

He spoke at Lusail Stadium, which will host the World Cup final. The 80,000 capacity arena will handle a capacity crowd on Friday for the first time for the Lusail Super Cup, the last major test event for World Cup preparedness.

World Cup organisers ignored questions about how Qatar's security authorities would deal

with fans who broke laws such as smuggling alcohol into stadiums or being violent.

They also did not provide details about which countries would send police officers or soldiers to Qatar to help secure the tournament that starts on Nov. 20.

Over a million fans are expected to attend the event, with many flying or driving in from neighbouring Gulf states, read more

Doha spent years enhancing its infrastructure in the lead-up to the World Cup, including building seven new stadiums, a metro system and new expressways. Khater said the cost of Qatar's World Cup was "in line with or less" than the last three.



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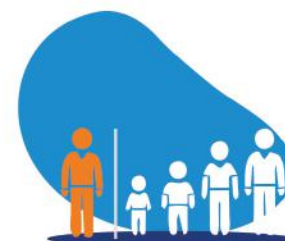
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