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Govt Withdraws Order On Registration Of New Voters



Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Following an outcry by non-BJP parties, the Jammu administration has within hours withdrawn a notification authorising tehsildars (revenue officials) to issue a certificate of residence to those residing in the winter capital for more than a year to enable their registration as voters.

The order was withdrawn by Avny Lavasa, deputy commissioner of Jammu, and communicated through media, putting to rest the controversy that flared up after rival parties accused the BJP of subverting fresh voter

rolls in its favour.

"The order stands withdrawn," a senior official told PTI on Thursday.

On Tuesday, Avny Lavasa, who is also District Election Officer, issued the order on electoral rolls after taking serious note of some eligible voters facing hardships in registration as voters for non-availability of required documents.

The Special Summary Revision of electoral rolls has been started in the Union Territory with effect from September 15 for registration of new voters, deletion, correction, transposition of voters who have **| More on PIO**

Nehru's Art-370 Move Caused Kashmir Mess, Modi Resolved It: Shah

Press Trust Of India

Zanzarka (Guj): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday blamed India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru for the issues plaguing Kashmir and credited the Narendra Modi government for solving them by removing Article 370.

Speaking at an event to flag off the Bharatiya Janata Party's 'Gaurav Yatra' in poll-bound Gujarat, Shah also said the Congress used to taunt his party over the construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya but work on it was now in progress.

"Due to the mistake of (first prime minister) Jawaharlal Nehru of inserting Article 370, Kashmir was in a mess. It could not be properly integrated with the country. Everybody wanted



the removal of Article 370. Prime Minister Narendra Modi removed it in one stroke and completed the integration of Kashmir with the country," Shah said.

Incidentally, Modi had also blamed Nehru for the issues plaguing Kashmir while addressing a gathering in

Gujarat earlier this week.

Speaking on the Ram Temple in Uttar Pradesh's Ayodhya, Shah said the Congress used to mock the BJP with slogans like 'mandir wahi banayenge but titi nahi banayenge' (the temple will be built but can't say when).

"But the dates were

declared, the ground breaking ceremony was completed and a grand temple is coming up at the promised place," Shah pointed out.

Hitting out further at the Congress, the senior BJP leader said curfews were a routine occurrence when the former ruled Gujarat, but the advent of the Modi dispensation in the state has ensured "those days are gone now".

"Out of 365 days, curfew would be in force in 200 days in parts of Gujarat when the Congress was ruling the state. They (Congress) thought they would benefit if people fought each other. Those day are gone now," he said.

"After Narendra Modi came to power in Gujarat, curfew has not been imposed in the state for the last 20 years," he claimed.

Shah, later in **| More on PIO**

GOVT'S WAR AGAINST CORRUPTION

36 Policemen Prematurely Retired From Services

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday ordered premature retirement of 36 police personnel on charges of their involvement in corruption and criminal activities.

These personnel conducted their duties in ways which were unbecoming of public servants & in violation of the established code of conduct, official sources said Thursday.

The exercise, they said, was conducted as part of a regular process of scrutiny of records of officials, who cross benchmarks of age/ service period in terms of Article 226(2) of J&K CSRs.

"These employees were found involved in illegal activities, remained unauthorizedly absent from duties for a considerable period, underperformed, penalized in departmental enquiries and some of them found involved in corruption cases, facing serious criminal charges, and had doubtful integrity," the sources said.

As per the recommendations of the Review Committee, the sources said, the performance of these employees was found non-satisfactory and their continuation in the Government service was found against the **| More on PIO**

Justice Magrey Takes Oath As CJ Of J&K And Ladakh HC

Observer News Service

Srinagar- Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey was on Thursday sworn in as the new Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh here, officials said.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha administered the oath of office to Justice Magrey at a ceremony at SKICC, they added.

They warrant of appointment of Justice Magrey as Chief Justice was read out by the Registrar General of the high court, the officials added. The ceremony was attended by politicians and senior



officers of the police and civil administration.

Justice Magrey, who was born on December 8, 1960, in Wattoo village of Damhal Hanjipora in south Kashmir's Kulgam district, **| More on PIO**

Govt Shifts Two IAS, 4 JKAS Officers

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The government has ordered transfer of two IAS and four JKAS officers in the interest of administration with immediate effect, officials said on Thursday:

According to an order, Jatin Kishore, IAS (AGMUT:2020), awaiting orders of adjustment, has been posted as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Uri, against an available vacancy. "He shall also hold the charge of the post of Sub-Registrar, Uri, in addition to his own duties, till further orders," reads the order.

Shishir Gupta, IAS (AGMUT:2020), awaiting orders of adjustment, has been posted as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Ramnagar. **| More on PIO**

LG Vows To Free Rural Areas From Shackles Of Under Development



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Thursday that his administration is determined to break free rural areas of the shackles of under-development and make them self-reliant.

Sinha made these remarks while reviewing the status of projects and schemes of the Rural Development Department (RDD) during a high-level meeting at the Civil Secretariat here on Thursday, an official spokesperson said.

The LG, he said, **| More on PIO**

LG To Inaugurate Kumaon Literary Festival

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha is set to inaugurate the Kashmir edition of the fourth Kumaon Literary Festival in Srinagar next week. The opening ceremony of the festival, which will feature various sessions on literature, cinema, art and culture, will also be attended by filmmaker Rahul Mittra, Rahul Rawail **| More on PIO**

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Pfizer, BioNTech's Updated Booster Protects Against Omicron In Human Trial

Agencies

Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech said their COVID-19 vaccine booster, adapted for the BA.4 and the BA.5 sub-variants, generated a strong immune response and was well tolerated in testing on humans.

With the results, which the companies described as consistent with pre-clinical data, the partners are following up with human trial data that had previously been missing from their successful filings for regulatory approval.

In a joint statement on Thursday, the companies said data from a trial in adult patients showed the booster dose led to a substantial increase in neutralising antibody levels against the BA.4/BA.5 variants after one week.

Omicron-tailored shots made by Pfizer and Moderna Inc have already been given the green light by several countries, including in the United States for adults and, more recently, for children as young as 5 years.

Healthcare regulators for the European Union and the United States had already approved the upgraded shot last month, even though trial data from testing on humans had at the time not been available.

But they felt sufficiently encouraged from human study results on a similar shot targeting the BA.1 subvariant and on the established vaccine based on the original virus detected in China in late 2019.

"While we expect more mature immune response data from the clinical trial of our Omicron BA.4/BA.5-adapted bivalent vaccine in the coming weeks, we are pleased to see encouraging responses just one week after vaccination in



younger and older adults," said Pfizer Chief Executive Albert Bourla.

While the European Medicines Agency has also cleared shots that address the BA.1 subvariant, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has focused its response for immunity against the fast spreading Omicron variant only on BA.4/5-adapted shots.

Both are known as bivalent in that they target both the original virus as well as Omicron subvariants.

The preliminary data on Thursday also showed that, in the age group of adults older than 55, the new bivalent shot triggered a better neutralizing antibody response against the Omicron BA.4/5 subvariant than the established shot based on the initial form of the virus.

Apple To Roll Out 5G In India In December Amid Early Adoption Push

Reuters

Apple Inc will start upgrading its iPhone models in India in December to make them compatible with 5G networks, the company said on Wednesday, as Indian authorities pressed mobile phone manufacturers to adoption the high-speed network.

The company said it would push software upgrades to recent models, including the iPhone 14, 13, 12 and iPhone SE, which, industry sources say, do not support the network currently.

"We are working with our carrier partners in India to bring the best 5G experience to iPhone users as soon as network validation and testing for quality and performance is completed," Apple said in a statement.

"5G will be enabled via a software update and will start rolling out to iPhone users in December."

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched 5G



services on Oct. 1 amid much fanfare, with leading telecom operator Reliance Jio saying it would make the service available in four cities and rival Bharti Airtel in eight.

Top bureaucrats from India's telecoms and IT departments will chair a meeting

on Wednesday for early 5G adoption, asking executives from Apple, Samsung, Vivo and Xiaomi, as well as domestic telecom operators Reliance, Airtel and Vodafone Idea to be present, according to a government document seen by Reuters.

NOTICE

This is for the information of general public that a notice has appeared in daily newspaper Srinagar Observer on 1st of October 2022 issued by one Anis Ahmad Mir S/o.Gh.Nabi Mir R/o Habakadal regarding "actions for the General body of Sangam Cricket Club on 9th of October 22 .Since Anis Ahmad Mir is not remotely connected with the nagement of the club a complaint by the undersigned was lodged with the Police Station Shaheed Gunj against Anis Ahmad for misleading the general public and cricketers about the managing committee of the club .Anis Ahmad Mir was summoned by the Police and during investigation he confessed to have issued the notification with ill mentions and bad motives. He gave an undertaking in the Police Station that he shall refrain in future from issuing any such misleading future and matters pertaining to the club shall be the domain of the current body of Sangam Cricket Club headed by is its President. Anis Ahmed got the text of the apogetic notification published in local daily by him on 11th of October 2022.

Wajahat Majeed
President
Sangam Cricket Club

NOTICE

This is for the information of general public that I Anis Ahmad Mir S/o: Gh Nabi Mir R/O Habakadal Srinagar distance myself from the notification issued by daily Srinagar Observer on 1st Oct. 2022 regard mg elections to general body of Sangam Cricket Club on 09 Oct. 2022 further affirm that the matters pertaining to the managemen Sangam Cricket Club in the Domain of the current executive body of Sang Cricket Club headed by its president Waiahat Majeed and that I shall refrain in future from issuing any such notification.

In case of any deviation from the above the management of Sangam Cricket Club can take legal action against me for which I shall be wholly and solely responsible.

ANIS AHMAD MIR
S/O: GH NABI MIR
R/O HABAKADAL SRINAGAR

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

Sr. DEE/G/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders (www.ireps.gov.in) against below titled Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only.

| Tender No. | Name of work | App. Cost (Rs.) | Earnest Money (Rs.) | Completion period | Opening of tender | Website Particulars |
|------------------------|--|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 251-Elect-T-24/2022-23 | Electrical work in c/w Repair and Maintenance of Electrical Assets over Division | 87,51,030.96 | 1,75,000.00 | 04 Months | 04.11.2022 after 15.00 Hrs. | www.ireps.gov.in |

No. 251-Elect/T. Notice No. 15-Elect/2022-23 Dated: 11.10.2022

2705/22

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION CHADOORA

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

E-NIT No. 174 of R&B /7376-85/2022-23 Dated:- 11/10/2022

SINGLE COVER SYSTEM

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

| SN | Nome of Work | Adv. Cost (Rs.In Lacs) | Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees) | Earnest Money (In Rupees) | Time of completion (days) | M.H OF Account | Class Of Contactor | AA NO & DT | TS NO & DT |
|----|--|------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|--------------------|------------|------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 1 | Upgradation of Nee-go Jabbar Road with allied links by way of P/L WBM G-III (Under NABARD XXII). | 18.56 | 800.00 | 37120 | 15 | 5054 | B/C | Accorded | sanctioned |

Position of AAA:- Accorded.

Position of funds:- Available.

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

| 1 | Date of Issue of Tender Notice | 12/10/2022 |
|---|--|--|
| 2 | Period of downloading of bidding documents | 12/10/2022 |
| 3 | Bid submission Start Date | 12/10/2022 |
| 4 | Bid Submission End Date | 18/10/2022 upto 4.00 PM. |
| 5 | Date & time of opening of Technical Bids | 18/10/2022 at 4.10 PM in the office of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Chadoora. |

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (deposited in MH: 0059) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (tender receiving authority).

Note:- The Date of Treasury Challan and Earnest Money / Bid security must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

2.1 The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Chadoora within 07 (Seven) days after the date of receipt of letter of acceptance and shall be released after successful completion of DLP. The Bank Guarantee should be valid for beyond bid validity.

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

Note:- The Bidders shall mention the name of the advertised work/ reference to NIT & S. No. on the EMD / Bid security (CDR/FDR/BG) while submitting the bidding documents, in order to avoid using the same multiple times for multiple works.

4. The date and time of opening of Financial Bids of a responsive bidder shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address.

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

6. The earnest money/ performance Security shall be forfeited if:-

a) Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

c) Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

6(A). Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

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

6.2 To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate [DSC]' as per information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.

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

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

6.5 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid. Besides, original documents related to the bid shall be submitted by L1 before issuance of Allotment in his favour.

6.6. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including earnest Money Deposit, tender documents fee in terms of soft copies and all other documents required as per NIT with technical bid. No document (s) which has/have not been uploaded shall be entertained for technical evaluation in the form of hard copy. However in case of any clarification the bidders all have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.

9. In case the agency fails to execute the work, the performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and normal deposit shall be liable for forfeiture besides initiating other punitive actions against the defaulter without serving any notice.

No. 7376-85

Dated: 11/10/2022

DIPK-11664-22

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Chadoora

Government of Jammu & Kashmir



OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER SOCIAL FORESTRY DIVISION BARAMULLA

Short Term

e- NIT NO:- 16 OF 2020-21 DATED: 11/10/2022

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble President of India, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible suppliers/contractors registered with Horticulture Department of Govt. of J&K/ Forest Department Territorial wing for supply of plants under Scheme CAMPA NPV/Voluntarily lead avg.150km as detailed below:-

| S.NO | NAME OF WORK | Species Breakup | ADV. COST (Rs. In Lacs) | Earnest money | Registration of Supplier | Cost of Tender Document (Rs) | TIME OF COMPLETION | Receiving/ Opening Committee. |
|------|--|--|-------------------------|---------------|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Supply of 45628 No's Plants Robinia, Ash, fruit plants etc. (non-grafted) standard quality of height not less than 3 feet height with collar diameter not less than 2cm& one year old plants including all mechanical carriage upto upto SF Division Baramulla with head avg.150km (complete job) under scheme CAMPA NPV=2628Nos/Voluntarily plnt.=43000 Nos | Robinia(Keekar)= 27000 Ulmus=5000 Ash=5000 Anar Dana=5000 Hybrid Walnut=2000 Fruit=1628 | 3.394 | Rs.7000/- | Registered with Horticulture Deptt. J&K/ Forest Department Territorial Wing | Rs. 300/= | In consonance with field planting | Tender Opening Committee |

Position of Funds: Budgeted

Position of AA/TS: Accorded

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

| | |
|--|---|
| Date of issue of tender:- | 11-10- 2022 03:00 PM |
| Publishing Date:- | 11- 10 - 2022 from 03:00 PM |
| Download Start Date: | 11- 10 - 2022 from 06:00 PM |
| Bid submission Start Date: | 11- 10 - 2022 from 06:00 PM |
| Bid submission End Date: | 21-10 - 2022 Up to 04:00 PM |
| Date of Opening of Technical Bid through online: | 22-10- 2022 at 11:00 AM in the Office of the Divisional Forest Officer Social Forestry Division Baramulla |
| Date of Opening of Financial Bid through online: | To be opened (Online) at any convenient date & time after complete Evaluation of Technical Bids Received. |

- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website: - <https://jktenders.gov.in>. The date for opening of Technical & Financial bids online shall be as per time schedule mentioned.
- Bids uploaded must be accompanied with Treasury Receipt (cost of tender document) in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Divisional Forest officer social forestry Division Baramulla as per prescribed format with the tender document (Annexure-A) for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Treasury under Account Head 0406- Forest.
- The bids should be accompanied by Bid security declaration (duly notarized) in favour of Social Forestry division Baramulla
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.
- The successful bidder has to produce a performance security of 3% of the above advertised cost in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to DFO Social Forestry Division Baramulla before issuance of contract allotment.
- All the supplies must be Approved both qualitatively & quantitatively by the designated committee from the Division for the purpose with respect to criteria/ specification of the department and the supplies not found as per the specification will not be accepted and carriage/ labour for return of the same is whole responsibility of the supplier.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website jktenders.gov.in
- To participate in bidding process bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act Bidders can get Digital Certificate form approved vendor.
- The bidders have to submit their Technical & Financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No Technical or financial bid will be accepted in physical/hard form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bidders must ensure to upload ONLY SCANNED COPIES OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS i.e. PAN card, GSTIN, especially Govt. Treasury receipt (cost of Tender Document), Registration Card duly renewed 2022-23, Affidavit, Earnest Money BSD Form duly notarized etc (No, Photostat/ Xerox scanned copies of documents shall be accepted/entertained) and hard copies of all these documents should also reach in the Office of Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Baramulla within two working days after the opening of financial bid (only L1 and L2 bidders). No registered post/courier will be accepted.
- The Department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission of the bid due to any reason (technical or otherwise).
- The Department shall not be held responsible for selection criteria/policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of Information regarding publishing the NIT, in any of the newspaper under circulation.
- The Tender Opening Committee however reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- Bidders are advised not make any change in BOQ (Bill of quantities) contents, in no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the item rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved in the same name as it contains.
- The unit rate and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rate quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto the completion of work physically/financially. The deduction of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill prevailing at the time of recovery.
- The Plants/items to be supplied should be healthy and free for pest & diseases and of standard quality.
- To examine the credentials, the random sampling of the items will be done in accordance with established norms. The supplied plants found defective or damaged not conforming to the prescribed specifications will be rejected and the supplier will be liable to replace the same within specified period of seven days.
- All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form 25 (double leaf) and as per the detailed tender document.

NO:-651-655 /Acctt/SF/Bla

Dated:-11/10/2022

DIPK-11702-22

sd/
Divisional Forest officer
Social Forestry Division
Baramulla.

Police Busts Gang Of Bike, Mobile Thieves

Five Arrested, Stolen Items Worth Lakhs Recovered

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police on Thursday claimed to have busted a gang of thieves in this capital city by arresting five youth and recovering stolen items worth lakhs of rupees from them.

Owais Amin Najar of Shahwari here filed a written complaint with police post Banmohalla regarding theft of his vehicle (JK05B 2105), a police spokesperson said. Upon the complaint, he said, a Case FIR No. 50/ 2022 U/S 379 IPC was registered in PS MR GUNJ.

During the investigation of the instant case and technical assistance received from North police lab, the spokesperson said, 5 suspects were picked up for questioning.

During sustained question-

ing, he said, they disclosed their involvement in the said case and many other theft cases.

Police identified them as Arsalan Mushtaq Wandroo of Rainawari, Momin Bilal Bhat of Khaniyar, Mehran Shafi Bhat of Mir Masjid Khaniyar, Rameez Showkat Matoof Hazari Bazar Rainawari and Nadeem Ahmad Sheikh of Sheikh Colony Hawal.

The spokesperson said that motorcycle, over two dozen mobile phones, wrist watch and gas cylinder were recovered after the interrogation of the accused.

"Moreover the above said vehicle Maruti Car numbered JK05B 2105 also stands recovered from the said persons," he said, adding "The investigation of the instant case is going on and more recoveries are expected.



A GROUP OF BIKERS FROM BAHRAIN ride towards the downtown Srinagar during a rally flagged off by Secretary Tourism Sarmad Hafeez here on Thursday. KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

Jal Jeevan Mission

DC Srinagar Reviews Implementation, Progress Of Works

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In order to review the implementation of projects taken up under Jal Jeevan Mission(JJM) in the District, the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad chaired a meeting of concerned Officers at the Conference Hall of DC Office Complex here on Thursday.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review of the progress of works on key infrastructural projects including construction of 10 MGD PST Tank at Kralpora for WSS Doodhganga, 2 MG capacity Service Reservoir at Nishat, 70 thousand Gallons Capacity OHT at Tulsibagh and Improvements/Extension works in Srinagar City being executed at a cost of Rs 10.18 crore to further strengthen the water supply setup in the District.

The DC also took a firsthand appraisal about the status of schemes under languishing projects taken up at an approved cost of Rs 89.95 crore for Revamping of various Water Treatment Plants of different capacities, Improvement & Extension of pipe network.

The DC was informed that Rs 51.67 crore have been expended so

far on 14 different ongoing works under languishing projects in the District.

He was also informed that most of the key infrastructural projects are near to completion to benefit the consumers.

During the meeting, the DC also reviewed the status of revenue realization targets fixed during the

regard to the status of certification uploading, administrative approval, tendering, evaluation of bids and allotment of civil works was also held and DC asked the concerned to complete the certificate uploading process at the earliest.

The DC further directed the concerned officials to accelerate the pace of all works to ensure their completion under fixed timelines. He also exhorted the officers to put in coordinated efforts to achieve the target so that people are benefited from the schemes.

While reviewing the physical and financial status of the works of Water Supply Schemes of Poshpathri and Aparpora being executed at a cost of Rs 2 crore and Rs 3.93 crore under JJM Project in Khonmoh Block of the District, the DC was informed that an expenditure of Rs 86.15 lakh and Rs 89.64 lakh have been made so far.

The DC asked the concerned officers to speed up the pace of works to ensure their time bound completion.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Superintendent Engineer PHE Hydraulic, Superintending Engineer, Mechanical, PHE, Executive Engineers and other concerned officers.



KU Commemorates Int'l Day For Disaster Risk Reduction

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Kashmir University's Department of Geography and Disaster Management on Thursday organised several activities to commemorate the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR), which is observed annually on October 13 to raise awareness on disaster management.

The global theme for this year's IDDRR was, "Early Warning and Early Action for All".

Faculty, research scholars and PG students of both Geography and Disaster Management courses offered by the department participated in the day-long event, which included insightful talks and discussions by experts including Prof M Sultan Bhat, Prof Shamim A Shah and Prof Pervez Ahmed.

Highlighting the significance of forecasting, early warning and timely action for a comprehensive disaster risk reduction strategy, Prof Bhat emphasised on improving the practical skills of the disaster management students to make them capable of actively participating in policy formu-

lation and decision-making to evolve better disaster management strategies.

Prof Shamim spoke on the importance of disaster management and cited certain examples to highlight the importance of introducing disaster management subject at the University level.

Prof Pervez Ahmed, Head of the Department, discussed the evolution and conceptual framework of disaster management. He also talked about the importance of celebrating IDDRR with the aim of developing resilience among communities on coping and mitigating the impacts of disasters.

Prof Pervez also apprised the participants about the initiatives being taken by the department to provide theoretical and practical exposure to the students and research scholars.

A short film titled "Climate change and Disasters" by Er Abdul Rashid from EMMRC, University of Kashmir, was also screened at the event, which also saw a quiz competition and poster presentation by the students and research scholars.

| NORTHERN RAILWAY E-AUCTION | |
|---|--|
| The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Auction for various lots over Firozpur Division as per detail given below: | |
| Auction Catalog No. | EA-FZR-MA22-6 Dated 11.10.2022 |
| Auction Start date & time | 27.10.22 12:00 hours |
| Name of Work | Allotment of Commercial Publicity rights through Vinyl Wrapping on exterior of coaches of Trains |
| Lot No./Rake Link | Trains in Rake Link |
| ADVT-EFF-109222-22-1 | 14612/14611 |
| ADVT-EFF-84053-22-1 | 14650/14650/14674/14673 |
| ADVT-EFF-95027-22-1 | 12408/12407 |
| ADVT-EFF-110591-22-1 | 12422/12421/14616/14615 |
| ADVT-EFF-132173-22-1 | 12492/12491/12470/12469/14606/14605 |
| ADVT-EFF-132340-22-1 | 12472/12471/12474/12473/12476/12475/12478/12477 |
| ADVT-EFF-109229-22-1 | 12460/12459/14681/14682 |
| ADVT-EFF-88368-22-1 | 14610/14609 |
| ADVT-EFF-110792-22-1 | 14632/14631 |
| ADVT-EFF-98513-22-1 | 14648/14645/14662/14661 |
| ADVT-EFF-90417-22-1 | 12414/12413 |
| ADVT-EFF-91669-22-1 | 22462/22461 |
| ADVT-EFF-110778-22-1 | 14602/14601/14614/14613/14630/14629 |
| ADVT-EFF-90978-22-1 | 14624/14623 |
| ADVT-EFF-133298-22-1 | 14634/14633/54612/54613/54615/54616/54621/54622/54625/54626 |
| For other details please visit Railway website www.irps.gov.in 2726/22 | |
| SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE | |

| NORTHERN RAILWAY E-AUCTION | |
|--|---|
| The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Auction for various lots over Firozpur Division as per detail given below: | |
| Auction Catalog No. | EA-FZR-MA22-6 Dated 11.10.2022 |
| Auction Start date & time | 11.10.22 12:00 hours |
| A) Name of work | Commercial Advertisement Rights through Installation, Operation and Maintenance of Plastic Bottle Crushing/ Shredding/Baling Machine at Railway Station |
| Lot No. | Name of Stations |
| 1 ADVT-FZR-FZR-OSN-508-22-1 | Firozpur Cantt. |
| 2 ADVT-FZR-PTKC-OSN-515-22-1 | Pathankot Cantt |
| 3 ADVT-FZR-PTK-OSN-514-22-1 | Pathankot |
| 4 ADVT-FZR-PGW-OSN-513-22-1 | Phagwara |
| 5 ADVT-FZR-UHP-OSN-517-22-1 | Udhampur |
| 6 ADVT-FZR-JRC-OSN-510-22-1 | Jalandhar Cantt. |
| Only registered Venders can participate. For other details please visit Railway website www.irps.gov.in 2726A/22 | |
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Scaling
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Implants
Pediatric Dentistry
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For Details Contact: 9797-703533 JAWAHAR NAGAR NEAR J&K BANK

DIAL-EMMA

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS



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



PRAYERS

| | |
|--------|-------|
| FAJR | 5:12 |
| ZUHR | 12:16 |
| ASR | 4:21 |
| Magrib | 6:03 |
| ISHA | 7:22 |

This Day In History

- 1322 - Robert the Bruce of Scotland defeats King Edward II of England at Byland, forcing Edward to accept Scotland's independence
- 1758 - Battle at Hochkirk, Saksen: Austrian army beats Prussia
- 1773 - American Revolutionary War: The United Kingdom's East India Company tea ships' cargo are burned at Annapolis, Maryland.
- 1774 1st Continental Congress makes Declaration of Colonial Rights in Philadelphia
- 1805 - Battle of Elchingen, France defeats Austria
- 1806 - Battle of Auerstadt-French beat Prussians
- 1931 - Spanish Cortes agrees to separation of Church & State
- 1933 - Nazi Germany announces its withdrawal from the League of Nations.
- 1939 - German U-47 sinks British battleship HMS Royal Oak, 833 killed
- 1943 - Japan declares the Philippines independent under President José P. Laurel
- 1944 - Allied troops land in Corfu
- 1944 - British troops march into Athens
- 1948 - Large scale fighting between Israel & Egypt
- 1952 - UN General Assembly first meets at its new headquarters in New York.
- 1954 - Israeli act of revenge in Qibiya Jordan, kills 53
- 1957 - Queen Elizabeth II becomes the first Canadian monarch to open the Parliament of Canada with the Speech from the Throne.
- 1958 - Malagasy Republic becomes autonomous republic in French Community.
- 1963 - Algeria & Morocco border conflict
- 1964 - Premier Nikita Khrushchev replaced by Leonid Brezhnev as General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party
- 1966 - 175 US airplanes bomb North Vietnam
- 1973 - Egyptian tanks move further into Israel
- 1976 - Nobel Prize in Economics awarded to American economist Milton Friedman
- 1976 - Soyuz 23 carries 2 to Salyut 6, but returns without docking
- 1979 - 100,000 demonstrate in Bonn against nuclear energy

From KO Archives

Farooq Rules Out Homeland For Pandits

HYDERABAD: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah today categorically ruled out a separate home land for Kashmiri Pandits. "It is not possible as long as I am alive", Abdullah told reporters here.

"Pandits and Muslims are integral part of Jammu and Kashmir and they have to live together and fight the designs & Pakistan jointly", he emphasised.

Calling upon the Pandits, who had migrated from the state after the outbreak of militancy, he said they have to come back to their homeland and added that the government had also repaired several temples destroyed during the period of militancy.

A special package for their rehabilitation was also being worked out by the State government, he said adding a meeting convened by the Union Home minister, L.K. Advani in New Delhi with the leaders of migrant Pandits living in camps would take some positive decision in this regard.

Emphasising the need to unitedly fight militancy abetted by neighbouring Pakistan in the State, he said, "I have lost 60,000 Muslims in this war against terrorism". (PTI)

(Kashmir Observer, October 14, 1999)

Russia Warns Of World War III If Ukraine Joins NATO: Report



Agenceis

Moscow: The admission of Ukraine to NATO could result in a third world war, the deputy secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation, Alexander Venediktov, told the state TASS news agency in an interview on Thursday.

"Kyiv is well aware that such a step would mean a guaranteed escalation to a World War Three," TASS cited Venediktov as saying.

"Apparently, that's what they are counting on - to create infor-

mational noise and draw attention to themselves once again."

Venediktov also repeated a Russian position that the West, by helping Ukraine, indicated that "they are a direct party to the conflict".

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced a surprise bid for fast-track membership of the NATO military alliance at the end of September, after President Vladimir Putin held a ceremony in Moscow to proclaim the four partially occupied regions as annexed Russian land.

In Pakistan, A Woman Is Raped Every 2 Hours, Convictions Only 0.2%: Report



Agenceis

Islamabad: A woman is raped in Pakistan every two hours, according to a recent survey, highlighting the unsafe conditions for women in the country where cases of honour killing is also rampant.

The survey, which was conducted by Pakistani channel SAMAA TV's Investigation Unit (SIU) based on the data collected from the Punjab province's home department and Ministry of Human Rights, also found that while the rape cases of women spiked, the conviction rate remained an abysmal 0.2 per cent.

"Newly collected and compiled data showed that as many as 21,900 women were reported to have been raped in the country from 2017 to 2021. This meant that around 12 women were raped across the country daily, or one woman every two hours," said the survey.

According to the surveyors, these reported cases could be just the tip of the iceberg since societal stigma and fear of retributive violence prevent women from reporting the incidents to the authorities.

The data showed that in 2017, some 3,327 cases of rape were reported. This jumped to 4,456 cases in 2018, 4,573 cases in 2019, dipped to 4,478 cases in 2020 before rising to 5,169 cases in 2021, the report said.

In 2022, the media reported 305 rape cases across the country. As many as 57 cases were reported in May, June (91), July

(86) and August (71).

Previously media reports have said that in Punjab, around 350 rape cases were reported from May 2022 to August 2022 but no data was available for the first four months of the year.

In 2022, as many as 1,301 cases of sexual violence against women were heard in 44 courts in Pakistan. The police filed charge sheets in 2,856 cases. But only 4 per cent of the cases went to trial, the report said.

The conviction rate in rape cases during this period remained at an abysmal 0.2 per cent, the report highlighted.

In 2020, the United Nations Development Programme ranked Pakistan top among the 75 countries with an anti-women bias in courts.

In July this year, a report released by the World Economic Forum placed Pakistan as the second-worst country in terms of gender parity and put it at the 145th spot in a survey of 146 countries. The only worse performer than Pakistan was Afghanistan.

Pakistan (145th) has a population of 107 million women, and in 2022 has closed 56.4 per cent of the gender gap that affects them.

This is the highest overall level of parity Pakistan has posted since the WEF report was launched.

Pakistan has also been urged by international bodies, including the United Nations, to take action against the rising cases of honour killings in the country.

Hijab Ban To Continue In Karnataka Schools And Colleges: Minister



Press Trust of India

Karnataka: Karnataka Primary and Secondary Education Minister B C Nagesh on Thursday said the Karnataka High Court order upholding the state government's ban on hijab on school and college campuses will remain valid following a split verdict by the Supreme Court on the issue.

The Supreme Court on Thursday delivered a split verdict on a batch of pleas challenging the Karnataka High Court judgement refusing to lift the ban on hijab in educational institutions in the state.

While Justice Hemant Gupta dismissed the appeals against the high court verdict, Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia allowed them.

At a time when there is a movement happening against hijab and burqa across the globe and the freedom of women is a talking point, the Karnataka government had expected a better judgment that will bring an order in the education system but a split verdict has come, Nagesh told reporters.

The matter has now been referred to a higher bench, Nagesh said adding the Karnataka government will wait for the verdict by a higher bench.

"The Karnataka High Court order will remain valid. Hence, in all our schools and colleges Karnataka education act and rule, there will be no scope for any religious symbols. So our schools and colleges will run as per the Karnataka High Court order. Children will have to come to the schools accordingly," Nagesh said.

"The ban on hijab will continue. As you know that the Karnataka Education Act and Rule does not permit any religious items inside the class. So we are very clear that no student can wear hijab inside the class," Nagesh explained.

Karnataka Home Minister Araga Jnanendra said he saw the hijab verdict in the media where one judge has dismissed the petition while the other has dismissed the Karnataka High Court order.

"There is a split verdict and the case has gone to the Chief Justice's bench. It depends on the

decision taken by the CJ. The Karnataka government is awaiting an order by the CJ," Jnanendra told reporters.

On January 1 this year, six girl students of a college in Udupi attended a press conference held by the Campus Front of India (CFI) in the coastal town protesting against the college authorities denying them entry into classrooms wearing hijab.

This was four days after they requested the principal's permission to wear hijab in classes which was not allowed. Till then, students used to wear the headscarf to the campus, but entered the classroom after removing it, the college principal Rudre Gowda had said.

"The institution did not have any rule on hijab-wearing as such and since no one used to wear it to the classroom in the last 35 years. The students who came with the demand had the backing of outside forces," Gowda had said.

The High Court upheld Karnataka government's decision banning hijab on school and college campuses.

There Should Be No Hijab, Other Dresses In Schools But Only Uniforms: BJP

Agenceis

New Delhi: The BJP on Thursday asserted that it will always be opposed to students wearing hijab or any dress other than uniforms in schools, and said religious freedom cannot be used to promote "separatism".

Soon after the Supreme Court gave a split verdict on the ban on hijabs in Karnataka educational institutions, BJP national general secretary C T Ravi, a senior party leader from the state, said it will not be appropriate for him to comment on the judgment.

But he will always speak against the "separatist mindset" that, he claimed, promotes the use of Muslim headscarf in schools.

"Uniform in schools is meant to promote uniformity among students. I believe that separatism is promoted in the garb of issues like promotion of burqa or hijab. This mindset was the reason behind India's partition. This separatism progressively morphs into extremism which can be a source of terrorism," he claimed.

Rules mandating wearing uniforms in Karnataka schools have been in force since 1965, he said.

Citing popular protests in Iran, an Islamic country, against



the mandatory use of hijabs, he claimed that religious freedom in India cannot mean the promotion of "separatist" designs.

He added that the issue is not about wearing or not wearing hijab but what to wear in schools. And there should be no hijab or other dresses in schools but only uniforms, he said.

Following the split verdict, the two-judge Supreme Court bench referred the matter to the chief justice of India for constituting a larger bench.

While Justice Hemant Gupta dismissed the appeals against the March 15 verdict of the Karnataka High Court that had refused to lift the ban and held that hijab is not part of "essential religious practice" in the Islamic faith, Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia allowed the pleas and observed that it is

ultimately a "matter of choice".

During the arguments in the top court, a number of the counsel appearing for the petitioners had insisted that preventing Muslim girls from wearing the hijab to the classroom will put their education in jeopardy as they might stop attending classes.

The counsel appearing for the state had argued that the Karnataka government order that kicked up a row over hijab was "religion neutral".

Insisting that the agitation in support of wearing hijab in educational institutions was not a "spontaneous act" by a few individuals, the state's counsel had argued in the top court that the government would have been "guilty of dereliction of constitutional duty" if it had not acted the way it did.

China Only US Competitor That Can Reshape World, Says Team Biden



Agenceis

The Biden administration labeled China as the nation's top competitor, while Russia remains a danger to be constrained in a new defense strategy that also calls inflation a threat to global security.

Jake Sullivan, President Joe Biden's national security adviser, said Wednesday that the US is in "the early years of a decisive decade" in which "the terms of our competition with the People's Republic of China will be set."

"The PRC's assertiveness at home and abroad is advancing an illiberal vision across economic, political, security and technological realms -- in competition with the West," he said at a Georgetown University event following the release of the administration's long-delayed National Security Strategy.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine prompted a major rewrite of the congressionally mandated document, which provides a window into the White House's thinking on foreign policy and national security issues.

"This war has loomed large in the formulation of the strategy, as it should, but we do not believe it has blotted out the sun," said Sullivan.

The new 48-page public document describes China and Russia as "increasingly aligned" with each other, but says the two countries pose distinct challenges.

It calls China the US's only competitor "with both the in-

tent to reshape the international order and, increasingly, the economic, diplomatic, military, and technological power to do it." The challenge of handling Russia is described as one of "constraining a still profoundly dangerous" force.

Biden officials released their strategy more than 600 days into his administration, compared with the just over 300 days it took former President Donald Trump's team. The Trump document portrayed China and Russia as co-equal threats.

By the 2030s, the US for the first time will need to deter two major nuclear powers, according to those strategy, in reference to those countries. "To ensure our nuclear deterrent remains responsive to the threats we face, we are modernizing" the US nuclear force "as well as strengthening our extended deterrence commitments to our allies," it says.

When it comes to China, the Biden administration is seeking to reinforce that they're "looking for competition but not conflict -- and we're not looking for a new Cold War."

Inflation Threat

The document also mentions inflation, Democrats' biggest political liability, as among the threats to global security, less than a month before midterm elections which will determine if Biden's party retains control of the House and Senate. It lists inflation as one of the cross-border issues "people all over the world are struggling to cope with."

Supreme Court Refuses Urgent Hearing On Plea Against Firecracker Ban In Delhi



Agenceis

New Delhi: The Supreme Court today refused to accord urgent hearing to a plea against an order banning storage, sale, and use of all types of firecrackers in the national capital till January 1, 2023. A bench of Chief Justice UU Lalit and Justice Bela M Trivedi asked the lawyer, who mentioned the matter seeking urgent hearing, to approach the Delhi High Court.

"Let the high court decide, we will not get into this," the bench said.

The lawyer, who sought the urgent hearing, submitted before the bench that the high court has taken a view that the matter is pending before the Supreme Court and listed it on

October 18.

The Delhi High Court had earlier deferred hearing on the plea of green cracker merchants against an order banning storage, sale, and use of all types of firecrackers till January 1.

The petitioners contended that the absolute ban by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee is in contravention of the orders of the Supreme Court and the National Green Tribunal, which never provided for such a blanket prohibition.

The top court on Monday had refused to stay the Delhi government's order banning storage, sale, and use of all types of firecrackers till January 1 to check pollution levels in the national capital, saying it did not want to add to the air pollution.

NEWS MAKERS

ED Files Chargesheet Against Journalist Rana Ayyub In Alleged Money Laundering Case

Agenceis

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed a chargesheet against journalist Rana Ayyub under the anti-money laundering law, accusing her of "cheating" the public and utilising charity funds worth Rs 2.69 crore for creating her personal assets, and also violating the foreign contribution law.

The federal agency filed its prosecution complaint against Ayyub before a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, on October 12.

"Rana Ayyub launched three fundraiser charity campaigns on

“**AYYUB UTILISED THESE FUNDS TO CREATE A FIXED DEPOSIT OF RS 50 LAKH** for herself and also transferred Rs 50 lakh to a new bank account. Investigations found that only about Rs 29 lakh was used for relief work.”



the 'Ketto platform' starting from April 2020 and collected funds totalling Rs 2,69,44,680," the ED said in a statement issued on Thursday.

Ketto is an online crowdfunding platform.

The campaigns, it said, were meant to raise funds for slum

dwellers and farmers; relief work for Assam, Bihar and Maharashtra and help Ayyub and her team to help those impacted by COVID-19 in India.

The probe found that the funds raised on the online platforms were received in the accounts

of Ayyub's father and sister and subsequently transferred to her personal accounts, the ED alleged.

"Ayyub utilised these funds to create a fixed deposit of Rs 50 lakh for herself and also transferred Rs 50 lakh to a new bank account. Investigations found that only about Rs 29 lakh was used for relief work," it claimed.

"In order to claim more expenses towards relief work, fake bills were submitted by Ayyub and subsequently, bank balances in the accounts of Ayyub amounting to Rs 1,77,27,704 (including FD of Rs 50 lakh) were attached under the PMLA vide a provisional attachment order dated 04.02.2022," it said.

Y+ Security For Cleric Who Termed RSS Chief "Rashtra Pita"

Agenceis

New Delhi: All India Imam Organisation chief Umer Ahmed Ilyasi has been granted Y+ category security after he received multiple threats after he termed Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat as "Rashtra Pita" or the 'Father of the Nation'.

Mr Ilyasi met Mr Bhagwat on September 22 and called him 'Rashtra Pita' and added that the RSS chief had visited Madarsa Tajweedul Quran in north Delhi at his invitation.

"I thank the Government of India for the Y+ category security which has been granted by the Ministry of Home Affairs," Mr Ilyasi told ANI, adding that he still



stands by what he had said.

Mr Ilyasi further said that he had been receiving threats over the phone from England, Dubai and Kolkata and following this, he lodged a case at Tilak Lane police station, and also gave this information to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat and

other senior functionaries of the RSS met Umar Ahmed Ilyasi at a mosque in New Delhi. The meeting was held at Kasturba Gandhi Marg and lasted for more than an hour.

"Ever since Mohan Bhagwat has come to our mosque, I have been getting threatening calls continuously. I received a threatening call from England on 23 September saying that now you will burn in the fire of Hell. You will not be alive," Mr Ilyasi told ANI.

"I called Mohan Bhagwat to the mosque and called him 'Rashtra-pita' & 'Rashtra-Rishi', so I am being threatened. Some fundamentalists do not like peace, love, or peace in the country, these are the same people," he stated.

Azad Meets LG, Discusses Problems Faced By Fruit-Growers



Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Democratic Azad Party (DAP) chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad Thursday met Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and took up the issues faced by fruit-growers, the party said in a statement.

It said he especially raised the issue related to the transportation of fruits.

"Of late it has turned into a nightmare for them as their fruit-laden trucks are being made to wait for days together on the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway at some vulnerable spots, resulting in the rotting of the fruits due to the long wait," Azad told Sinha, according to the statement.

Hurdles in the smooth move-

ment of fruit trucks have resulted in huge losses to the growers, he said, and emphasised that such trucks must be treated like ambulances and allowed unimpeded movement.

"This problem, being faced by fruit-growers, needs immediate intervention," the former J-K chief minister told Sinha.

The DAP chairman also discussed the electricity supply situation the valley which gets hampered during the winters.

Azad requested the LG to instruct the authorities concerned to take adequate measures to ensure proper electricity supply during the season.

Azad was assured the administration will take all steps in this direction, the statement said.

SIA Files Chargesheet Against CRPF Man Turned 'ISI Agent'

Agencies

SRINAGAR: State Investigation Agency (SIA) filed chargeheet against an "ISI agent", a serving CRPF personnel from Kokernag area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

A police officer told a local news agency GNS that police station CIK/SIA Srinagar produced the challan before the Court of Special Judge Designated under NIA Act (TADA/POTA) Srinagar under section 13, 18, 38, 39 UA(P) Act r/w Section, 121, 121-A IPC and Section 3 of official secrets Act, Section, 3 Enemy Agent Ordinance against the ISI operative Zulfikar Ali Khatana son of Altaf Hussain Khatana R/O Kachawa Kokernag.

The case was registered at the police station on the receipt of a credible information through reliable source that one Zulfikar Ali Khatana, a serving constable in CRPF posted in CRPF 171-Bn, has conspired with and acted at the behest of Pakistan based militant organization(s) and agents of ISI and collected and provided secret and classified information regarding location of vital defense installations, shared confidential documents.

The officer said that Khatana aided the enemy and adversary to strategise attacks on India and acted on the instructions received from the "adversary in its ongoing campaign undertaken

by the enemy in subverting the government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir by giving assistance to the enemy."

"Investigation was set into motion for the logical conclusion of the case for judicial determination, which has been completed in less than six months period by the SIA (Kashmir)," the officer said.

It is pertinent to mention here that the militant handlers namely Yousuf Baloch alias Zavar alias Qari Maviah alias Hafiz alias Aziz Bai and agents of ISI across border (based in Pak) have used cyber space for instigating, enticing and motivating Kashmiri youth to join militant ranks and raise funds and provide logistics for running militant modules, he said.

"Amongst the handlers in Pakistan their identities are being ascertained and action to expose them and submit evidence against them would follow during the further course of investigation which is continuing," the officer said, adding, "These handlers had motivated the accused to act as their sub-agent and provide the desired confidential information besides, to arrange logistics for infiltrating terrorists and other required designs for the purpose of sabotage and carrying out attacks on security forces/vital installations to meet the objective of secession of J & K from the Union of India." (GNS)

Man Dies Of Burn Injuries In Ramban

JAMMU: A 55-year-old man died of burn injuries after a commercial building gutted in a fire in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district, officials said on Thursday.

The fire broke out in a building located near a bus stand in Banihal late Wednesday night, trapping a tenant Ghulam Mohammad Tantray, a resident of south Kashmir's Kokernag, they said.

Tantray suffered critical burn injuries during the rescue operation and was shifted to a hospital where he succumbed to injuries on Thursday, they said.

The building, housing several shops and a small restaurant-cum-hotel, was damaged in the fire, the officials said adding the cause of the fire was not known immediately.

The locals alleged that the fire tenders reached the scene over half an hour late as the vehicles were caught in a traffic jam in the town located along the Jammu-Srinagar national highway.

The fire and emergency services personnel acted swiftly on reaching the scene by restricting the fire to one building before

dousing the flames after several hours of intense firefighting operation, the officials added

Fee Fixation Panel Cracks Whip On Private Schools

Asks Schools To Return Money Collected From Parents In Name Of Security Deposit, Refundable Fund

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The Committee for Fixation and Regulation of Fee of private schools (FFRC) in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday banned educational institutes from charging huge money in the name of security deposit, refundable fund or admission fee.

FFRC chairperson Justice (ret'd) Muzaffar Hussain Attar said most of the parents, who constitute a voice-less class, cave-in to the illegal, unethical and immoral demands of the "few big" school managements.

The FFRC order came after complaints of several school managements allegedly asking the students or parents to pay huge amounts in the name of security deposit, refundable fund and in some cases as admission fee as well.

In the times of unequal bargaining position, few school managements are taking undue advantage of their higher bargaining position by allegedly asking the students for payment of huge amounts in the name of security deposit, refundable fund and in some cases as admission fee as well, the FFRC chairperson said in an order.

Adopting this most unfair practice has the potential of causing immense damage to social fabric. On the one hand, the children of lesser mortals lose



opportunity to compete in an otherwise harsh world, and on the other hand, some persons, amongst those, who pay huge amounts at the time of admission of their wards in these few schools, must be arranging such money through illegal means, the order said.

The FFRC said education from times immemorial has been used as medium to develop and inculcate moral values in the people. However, unfortunately few persons suffering from incurable disease of insatiable greed are destroying the moral values of the society.

Illegal money is generated and pumped into market which has the potential of adversely affecting the economic health of the state, it said.

The FFRC said the state has legislated the laws to ensure that there is no commercialisation of education and this noble cause is safeguarded from all kinds of negative onslaughts.

In view of the legal position, the schools, more particularly those few big schools who are

demanding money from the parents beyond the fee are restrained and prohibited from charging and collecting fee beyond the fee prescribed by Section 20 E (1), more particularly are restrained and prohibited from charging and collecting money from the parents/students in the name of security deposits, refundable fee or money by whatever name called, the order said.

The FFRC asked those schools who have charged and collected money beyond the prescribed fee to forthwith return such money to the parents/students.

The parents who in the circumstances were compelled to pay the money beyond the prescribed fee are at liberty to inform FFRC by giving details about the payments made so that the action is initiated and punishments given to erring school managements in accordance with law, and it is ensured that money so charged and collected is returned to parents, Justice (ret'd) Attar said.

JERC Revises Power Tariff In J&K, Effective From Oct 1

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC) for Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh has revised the power tariff from the third quarter of current financial year and it will be effective from 1st October 2022.

In this regard, an order issued by the Commission states that the new tariff has been designed in such a way so as to ensure minimum inconvenience to the citizens, while at the same time protecting the interests of the domestic, commercial, agricultural and industrial sectors.

The order adds that the average overall nominal increase over the previous tariff last revised in 2016-17 is just 8%, whereas the inflation rate in the corresponding period is 24% (the CPI Combined: All India General Index (All Groups) has risen from 131.1 in April 2017 to 162.5 in July 2022), thus it being safe to say that there is an effective decrease in tariff by 16% (adjusted for inflation).

The order further reads that it has been ensured that the tariff in Jammu and Kashmir is significantly lower than any other neighbouring state, and is in fact almost half when compared to states like Haryana, Delhi and Rajasthan.

According to order, "the rates for Below Poverty Line consumers have been kept unchanged at Rs 1.25 for upto 30 units per month while as for domestic

category consumers, for upto 200 units per month, the rate will be Rs 2 per unit, almost unchanged from before, for 200 to 400 units per month, the rate will be Rs 3.50 per unit, an increase of 6% in 5 years and for more than 400 units per month, the rate will be Rs 3.80 per unit, an increase of 8% in 5 years".

"The corresponding rates for Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana and Delhi are Rs 5.95, 6.25, 7.30, 7 and 8 per unit respectively", it adds.

The order also reads that the fixed charges shall be marginally increased from Rs 5.50 per kW per month to Rs. 8, the charges for flat metering shall be Rs 175 for the first quarter kW, then an increase of Rs 200 for every quarter kW till a load of 2 kW, beyond which the charges will be Rs 500 for every quarter kW.

In the commercial category, for Single Phase connections, for upto 200 units per month, the rate will be Rs 3.10 per unit, increase of 7% in 5 years, for Single Phase connections, for 200 to 500 units per month, the rate will be Rs 4.70 per unit, increase of 9% in 5 years and for Single Phase connections for more than 500 units per month, and for Three Phase connections at any usage, the rate will be Rs 5.10 per unit. The corresponding rates for Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana and Delhi are in the range of Rs 5.50 to 9 per unit. It adds that the fixed charges shall be marginally increased from

6 The tariff has been revised with an aim of providing round the clock power supply to the people of Jammu and Kashmir as well reduce the massive losses. The JERC has also kept the tariff rates lower for Jammu and Kashmir than other State or UT across the country

Rs 44 per kW per month to Rs 60 for single phase connections, from Rs 104.50 per kW per month to Rs 130 for three phase connections and the charges for flat metering shall be Rs 500 for every quarter kW.

In the agricultural sector, the charges have been rationalised at Rs 0.80 per unit for connections upto 10 HP, Rs 1.00 per unit for connections from 10 to 20 HP and Rs 5.25 per unit for larger connections beyond 20 HP. The fixed charges have been rationalised at Rs 30 per HP per month for all connections. The rate structure has only been simplified as the increase in agricultural category has been minimal.

In the LT Industry category, applicable to connections below 100 kW, the charges have been rationalised to Rs 3.65 per kWh, and fixed charge of Rs 60 per kVA, an overall increase of about 11% in 5 years. There will be a special category called

Inter-College Naat Competition Held at GDC Sogam

Observer News Service

SOGAM: Government Degree College, (GDC) Sogam (Lolab), Kupwara organised a day long inter-college Naat competition on Thursday.

The event was jointly organized by the Departments of Islamic Studies and Kashmiri in collaboration with the College Cultural Committee (CCC) and Debates & Seminar Committee. On the occasion, Principal Dr Shamim Ahmad Dar, delivered the welcome address.

In the Competition, ten students from six degree colleges of north Kashmir GDC (Boys) Kupwara, GDC Women Kupwara, GDC Langate, GDC Kralpora, GDC Sogam (host college) from Kupwara district, and GDC (B) Sopore of Baramulla district recited their Naat. The participants were judged by a four-member jury.

In this competition, Ms Nusrat Bano of GDC (B) Kupwara, Mr Davood Ahmad Mir and Ms Sabreena Hasan of GDC Sogam bagged the first three positions, respectively.

Certificates of participation and medals among all participants, besides cash prizes worth Rs 1000/700/and 500/ among the three position holders were distributed.

Besides the participants, the event was attended by around two hundred students and dozens of faculty members from the host college and the participating colleges.

Dr Tauseef Ahmad (Assistant Professor, Islamic Studies; Convener, D&S and Dr Mushtaq Ahmad (Assistant Professor, Kashmiri; Convener, CCC) were the Conveners and Prof. Sajad Ahmad (HoD, English; Co-Convener, D&S) and Prof. Ishfaq Hussain (Asst. Prof., English; Staff Secretary) were the Coordinators of the event.

The event was moderated by Prof. Farooq Ahmad Shah (Sr. Asst. Prof., Education; Coordinator, IQAC), while Dr Mushtaq Ahmad (AP, Kashmiri) and Prof.

Abdul Hamid Shah (AP, Arabic, GDC Kupwara) presented the Introductory Remarks and Presidential Remarks respectively.

3 IEDs Recovered In Ramban

JAMMU: A major tragedy was averted in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district as security forces detected three powerful improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in a bag from a forest area, officials said on Thursday.

The bag was found lying in the forests of Sangaldan in Gool sub-division by a joint search party of the Army and police late Wednesday night, they said.

The officials said the search was launched in the forest area following inputs on suspicious movement of some people there.

No arrests were made during the operation, they said, add-



ing that a bomb disposal squad confirmed the presence of three IEDs in the bag.

The bad is believed to have been abandoned by suspected militants planning to carry out attacks in the district, the officials said, adding that the police have registered a case and an investigation was on.



**ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF
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NOTICE

It is notified for the information of all the concerned that few seats have fallen vacant in various undergraduate and postgraduate programmes offered by the University as mentioned below:

| | | |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| M. Sc Physics | M. A Political Science | M. Sc Statistics |
| M. A Arabic Language and Literature | M. A Journalism & Mass Communication | B. Sc Mathematics (4 year) |
| M. Tech Food Technology | M. A English Language & Literature | B. Tech Food Technology |
| M. A Economics | Master of Computer Applications (MCA) | B. Arch |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| M. A International Relations | Master of Science in Information Technology (M. Sc IT) |
|-------------------------------------|---|

Eligible candidates who are desirous for admission in the above mentioned programmes can submit their applications online on University website www.iust.ac.in under Admission Login Tab by or before **25-10-2022**.

All other Terms & Conditions including eligibility criteria for admission to the above cited programmes shall remain same as mentioned in the Admission Notification No. 01 of 2022 or University Prospectus 2022 available on the university website www.iust.ac.in Queries, if any, can be made on 9906400789/ 9858306455

No: IUST/DAA-Acad/22/1640
Dated: 11-10-2022

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Deputy Registrar (Academics)

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Jammu & Kashmir Horticultural Produce Marketing & Processing Corporation (JKHPMC) Ltd

HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT, JAMMU & KASHMIR GOVERNMENT

Opposite Presentation Convent School, Rajbagh, Srinagar-190008, J&K

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (E-NIT)

Tender Reference No: 113 of 2022

Dated: 11-10-2022

Managing Director, JKHPMC Ltd., invites e-Tenders under "Single Cover System" from registered Transporter Firms/Companies/Proprietary Agencies for "Empanelment of the Transporter for the transportation of 600 MT-1000 MT Potatoes, etc. from the various areas of Gurez, Bandipora to Sopore, Baramulla, J&K (Journey 1) and to Delhi (NCR Journey 2)" as per the Terms and Conditions mentioned.

The Bidding Documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities, set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the JK Govt. website <https://jktenders.gov.in/nicgp/app> from 03-10-2022 to 08-10-2022.

The Critical Details of the e-Tender under reference are as follows:

CRITICAL DETAILS

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Cost of Tender Document Fees | Rs. 500/- (Rupees Five Hundred Only) |
| Date of up-load of e-tender | 13-10-2022 |
| Start Date of Online Bid Submission | 13-10-2022 |
| Last Date of Online Bid Submission | 19-10-2022 |
| Date & time of opening of Bids | 21-10-2022 |
| Validity of the Bid | 90 days from the date of receipt of the Tender |

No: JKHPMC/MD/22/2775
Dt: 13/10/2022
DIPK-NB-4375-22

Sd/-
Managing Director
JKHPMC

KASHMIR OBSERVER

Abating pandemic

This year the world has witnessed a slow recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, paving way for the reopening of the economies and return of growth. The world economy is now more challenged by the ongoing war in Ukraine than the Covid contagion. However, in some countries such as China, the recurrent Covid outbreaks have forced temporary but strict closure of business activities. On a positive note, the number of cases around the world has marked a steep decline. In India, the cases now average between 2000 to 3000.

However, this is no reason to take things easy. These numbers are not alarming but the virus continues to be a matter of concern. Across the world, Covid-19 cases average around 5 lakh daily. On average, over 1,500 Covid positive people die daily. Those who recover run the risk of long Covid symptoms.

What is more, the pandemic is returning with new virus strains - albeit not as deadly as their earlier versions which killed millions around the world, with India being one of the hardest-hit countries. India was swamped by an avalanche of cases, more so during the second wave that broke out in January and February 2021. The third wave began in January-February 2022. But thankfully, the wave soon subsided. Ever since there have been sporadic outbreaks but none of them were as fatal or virulent as the first three waves. The number of mortalities has also progressively gone down. But that is no reason to let our guard down. We have to gear up to face and defeat the new variants.

With the abating of the Omicron wave which broke out early this year, there was a temporary sense of relief across the world. The economies started re-opening in most parts of the world. But fresh surges in some countries, especially in China, should be a warning that the virus is here to stay for some more time. In fact, it has already become endemic now.

So far, Covid-19 has turned out to be a very stubborn virus. Despite full vaccination by a large mass of people across the globe, the outbreaks have not stopped. Here's hoping that the new Covid variants become milder so that people can live with them. But meanwhile, the governments and the people can't afford to take the fresh strains lightly. There is a need to continue to follow Covid precautions in public. Our best defence against the pandemic remains vaccination, physical distancing and mask-wearing.

OTHER OPINION

Costly Error

Last week, the World Health Organization sounded the alarm on four cough syrups manufactured in India, citing the presence of "unacceptable amounts of diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol as contaminants" that allegedly led to the death of 66 children in The Gambia. The Haryana-based company, which manufactured all four products responsible for the tragedy, has now been ordered to shut operations. But this intervention has come a little too late in the day. It must be noted that African countries are heavily dependent on imported pharmaceutical goods to bolster the continent's rickety healthcare network. As of 2019, around 70-90 per cent of the drugs consumed in sub-Saharan Africa and 99 per cent of vaccine doses were imported. Dishearteningly, India and China have been accused of exporting substandard drugs to African countries - Nigeria received fake antimalarial drugs that were produced in China. Around 42 per cent of all spurious drugs reported to the WHO are from this region.

Since the WHO linked The Gambia deaths to the Indian manufacturer, the Union health ministry has revealed that the four paediatric medicines were "not licensed for manufacture and sale in India". This, however, raises further questions about how the authorities had allowed the export of products that have been flagged over quality issues. In fact, lax supervision by medical regulatory bodies is not new. In 1986, 14 patients died at JJ Hospital in Mumbai because of contaminated medication. The Lentin Commission report, which followed the incident, pointed fingers at a corrupt nexus between manufacturers and regulatory bodies that is responsible for the availability of spurious drugs. The Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission specifically mentions tests for DEG and EG levels and, yet, this crucial step was most likely skipped by the errant firm in this instance. The Indian government should not only conduct a thorough probe and bring the culprits to book but must also show its commitment towards providing quality medication by reviewing the licences of manufacturers as well as solvent vendors. India has a long history of providing humanitarian aid. The Indian government was lauded for providing Covid-19 vaccines to developing nations at the height of the pandemic. The incident in The Gambia has tarnished India's image as a reliable donor. The diplomatic gains over the years would be lost if India does not undertake corrective action in the pharma sector.

- Telegraph India

OPEC+ OIL CUT

Are Saudi Arabia And UAE Testing The Limits Of A New World Order?

Rachel Ziemba

On 5 October, Opec+ members announced a plan to cut oil production targets by 2 million barrels, starting in November, the first major cut since 2020.

With an effective cut of less than half of this, the oil markets have mostly shrugged it off, strengthening only modestly. The actual market impact of the cut will be less than the announced headline cut.

As many members of the group are already under-producing their targets, the net production cut is likely to be between 600,000 and 900,000 barrels a day, non-negligible given the recent trends, but not as extensive as the headline.

However, the impacts of the cut on energy politics and US-GCC and West-GCC relations are much greater. This decision adds to the distrust between these major economies over energy policy and reduces resilience to the looming issue of Russian fuel supplies and longer-term issues about energy transition and investment.

Beyond the cut itself is the political and geopolitical posturing surrounding the announcement, which highlights increased fragility and volatility of the market ahead of a planned EU embargo and G7 price cap on Russian oil.

SLUGGISH DEMAND

Despite their attempts to focus on the "technical" nature of the decision, both Opec+ ministers and the US did little to de-escalate - meaning that the partly economic and commercial reasons for the cut, including sluggish demand around the world, were lost amid a sea of recriminations and concerns about the future.

On the demand side, Opec+ cuts reflect concerns about sluggish global, and especially Chinese, demands, which remain constrained by selective Covid lockdowns, weak consumer demand and property market woes.

Signalling this cut through the end of 2023 implies a major reversal of the prior Opec view that strong demand would boost the call on Opec oil next year.

In large part, disappointments continue to come from China, where Zero-Covid policies continue to depress domestic demand and mobility, and property market woes restrict other parts of domestic demand.

Given some demand destruction earlier this summer, some degree of cuts reflect fundamentals even if prices are far from low. Oil producers put some of the blame on other parts of the energy complex including sharp rises of natural gas prices which are exacerbating weak global demand.

With central banks forced into more defensive hiking, including in developed economies, the risk is that the global slowdown will be more extensive, also hitting oil demand.



Overall, they continue to prefer higher costs for lower volumes, especially as many countries lack the flexibility to scale up. Faced with potential declines in revenue after a strong beginning to 2022, they have opted for prioritising higher costs per barrel versus market share.

KEEPING RUSSIA IN

The argument that a higher price would prompt more investment within Opec+ countries seems less realistic given that the issues on scaling up supply seem far from purely economic. They include domestic issues in a number of producing nations as well as a rising domestic demand in Africa.

Some Opec+ members, especially the UAE, have added to a capacity that remains well in excess of production, and some non-Opec countries like the US are also adding supply as the commercial arguments dictate, but those are more compelling for natural gas.

The meeting reinforced the preference of Opec leaders, especially those in the GCC, to have Russia inside the group rather than outside, potentially acting as a spoiler.

This reflects lessons learnt in the Asian financial crisis and global financial crisis, preferring to keep the major producers aligned.

Moreover, they are also signalling their unwillingness to make the G7 effort to squeeze out Russian oil easier. Unlike smaller countries like Iran and Venezuela, there is far from enough spare capacity globally to replace meaningful volumes from Russia.

The continued sanctions on those two countries also raise concern. While additional volumes would not be welcome now, the continued western use of sanctions to restrict energy supplies remains a concern for producers.

While claims that the Saudis and Emiratis and the rest of Opec+ are biased towards Russia seem overstated, it is clear that they are not shunning them.

These are one of several economies looking to maintain their ties with both Russia and the US and are willing to operate in the grey areas, engaged in trade and financial flows



FOR INDIA AND TURKEY, trade with Russia has increased. Much of this trade is still legal but tough, and these countries will face more pressure to abide by widening G7 export controls

which don't directly violate US sanctions but are risky and could be subject to future restrictions.

This includes a decision to hold on to investments and joint ventures in Russia rather than exit, despite complicity in its war. It also includes increasing its role as a transshipment location on the part of the UAE.

For India and Turkey, trade with Russia has increased. Much of this trade is still legal but tough, and these countries will face more pressure to abide by widening G7 export controls.

RELATIONS WITH THE US

The producers' cartel has little interest in facilitating the creation of a buyer-originated tool to set prices, especially not one that could be used for other geopolitical aims. Moreover, they are also worried about the uncertainty of putting in motion a set of new compliance and due diligence which might add additional costs to the market.

The G7 approach to the cap leverages the current dominance in insurance and other services for the oil trade. New players are likely to emerge to provide at least some of these insurance services.

Despite their distrust of the price cap, Opec+ members with capacity are likely to seek to take advantage of the arbitrage, buying fuel at a discount from Russia and selling other cargos on the global markets at higher prices. The potential of a formal mechanism remains a concern however.

Yet, this decision only brings to the

surface some of the grievances and disputes that have been building for some time. Many Opec+ members, especially in the GCC, feel vindicated that EU and US energy transition goals would lead to underinvestment in energy.

They were also concerned about the power of using the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) and had a greater interest in hedging and maintaining a less overt alignment to the West.

Meanwhile, the US continues to expect that security relationships mean alignment and support with foreign policy and economic policy objectives. But the relationship is likely to worsen and be perhaps more transactional on areas of actual common interest.

The noise out of Washington about reshaping the relationship will only increase with discussions about weapons sales, using anti-trust tools on Opec and regional policies.

Major course corrections are unlikely, however, as the US has prioritised its efforts to weaken the Russian government and its military capacity to stop its conflict in Ukraine, in addition to its focus on competition with China.

While the GCC and the broader West Asian peers are increasingly hedging and finding their way in a no longer unipolar world, they will test these limits.

Non-Opec energy producers like Qatar may also see their position elevated, even though they, too, are hedging and seeking the best opportunities for energy and non-energy development. These trends are likely to add volatility not just to oil markets but also to geopolitics, increasing the risk that blunt tools like secondary sanctions will be used.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by the Middle East Eye

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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

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

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Don't Put a Price on Brides

There are several consequences of the dowry system prevailing in our society. Firstly, the dowry system prevents women from getting married when they want to and this delays their chances of getting married. When poor parents somehow manage to arrange some dowry from whatever they can afford, the thirst of greed never ends and divorce is not the option for the poor. For a girl, it turns the festivity and charm of married life into hell. Behind feel good pictures of brides dolled up, there are years and years of a parent's earning that they could have easily invested in something meaningful but they didn't have the choice to do that.

If we talk about Kashmir, dowry includes cash, furniture, copper utensils, crockery, clothes, electronic items, gold and many more things. A girl is supposed to carry everything to her new home. From needle to iron to beddings, every small and big thing for her use. As if her in-laws don't have such things. This age old culture



of dowry once used to be a voluntary action of giving gifts to in-laws and now it has turned into a compulsory thing. To be honest, as a Gen Z kid I not only used to believe but also used to make others believe that there is nothing like dowry demand, harassment, abuse and other evils related to girls now. It is only until very recently that the same thing happened to a girl very close to me. That incident not only shook me but also made me see our society for what it is.

Nothing has really changed over the years other than the tactics used to harass girls on the pretext of dowry. First it used to be open demand for the dowry but now as times have changed, in-laws choose to say no to the dowry before the wedding for societal impression but deep down still have high expectations for dowry. When their expectations aren't met, they use different tactics to torture a girl. Mental torture, verbal abuse, isolation, humiliation, work load, nasty

comments are a few psychological abuses inflicted on a daughter-in-law that usually go unnoticed unlike physical torture.

This menace is not confined to only one part of the region. Every other day we get to hear such heart wrenching news from different parts of the valley. In 2018, a Sikh girl was tortured to such an extent over dowry that she hanged herself to death in the Chanapora area of Srinagar. Recently, a Muslim girl from Bandipora was murdered over dowry. So, any particular religion, location, gender or relation has no role to play here. There are thousands of such examples where girls either choose to kill themselves or were killed by in-laws. Evil Culture of violence over dowry within four walls is alarming and needs to be dealt with strictly. Otherwise, the day isn't too far when such things will become a new normal in Kashmir.

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MANY ATTRIBUTES OF THE PROPHET

Dua Zahra

NEVER has so much been written by so many on the life of one human being, of any time, than on Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Eminent people from other faiths, too, have showered him with praise.

Thomas Carlyle was not the only one to pay him tribute in his lecture on 'Hero as a Prophet', choosing him over all those mentioned in the Old Testament, from Adam through Abraham, to Moses and Jesus.

Napoleon Bonaparte in Bonaparte et Islam is quoted as saying: "Moses revealed the existence of God to his nation. Jesus to the Roman world, Muhammad [PBUH] to the old continent.... Arabia was idolatrous when, six centuries after Jesus, Muhammad [PBUH] introduced the worship of the God of Abraham, Ishmael, Moses and Jesus.

"The Aryans ... had disturbed the tranquillity of the East by agitating the question of the nature of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. Muhammad [PBUH] declared that there was none but one God who had no father, no son.... I hope the time is not far when I shall be able to unite all the wise and educated men of all the countries and establish a uniform regime based on the principles of the Quran which alone are true and which alone can lead men to happiness."

And this from George Bernard Shaw: "If any religion had the chance of ruling over England, nay Europe, within the next hundred years, it could be Islam. I have always held the religion of Muhammad [PBUH] in high estimation because of its wonderful vitality. It is the only religion which appears to me to possess that assimilating capacity to the changing phase of existence which can make itself appeal to every age. I have studied him, the wonderful man, and in my opinion far from being an anti-Christ, he must be called the Saviour of Humanity.

"I believe that if a man like him were to assume the [leadership] of the modern world he would succeed in solving its problems in a way that would bring it the much-needed peace and happiness: I have prophesied about the faith of Muhammad [PBUH] that it would be acceptable to the Europe of tomorrow as it is beginning to be acceptable to the Europe of today."

Muslims everywhere, too, shall pay the Prophet special tribute in this month of Rabi-ul-Awwal to celebrate his birthday. Many will rejoice, as there

will be illuminations, particularly in the mosques. Religious scholars will recount anecdotes from his life, highlighting his character and achievements, and recalling his sayings on different aspects of human life before gatherings of devotees. Naat recitations and milads (sessions singing praise to the Prophet) will be held everywhere.

Scholars will dwell upon his attribute of Rahmatilil Aalemeen ('Mercy for all the worlds' —including those of the birds and beasts, of insects and worms,

carry oneself in one's everyday life.

Yet, unfortunately, many will forget the profound and inspired discourses as they leave their respective congregations. A few of those who may be swaying in ecstasy at the mention of the Holy Prophet's name would go back to indulge in sectarian hate and killing.

As Rahmatilil Aalemeen, the Prophet gave protection to Christians through a covenant signed in 628 CE, when a delegation from St Catherine's Monastery visited him seeking his protection. (The monastery, located at the foot of Mount Sinai, is the world's oldest, and a treasure house of rare manuscripts, icons and Christian history.) The covenant's words are as follows:

"This is a message from Muhammad ibn Abdullah, as a covenant to those who adopt Christianity, near and far, we are with them.

"Verily I, the servants, the helpers, and my followers defend them, because Christians are my citizens; and by Allah! I hold out against anything that displeases them.

"No compulsion is to be on them ... Neither are their judges to be removed from their jobs nor their monks from their monasteries.

"No one is to destroy a house of their religion, to damage it, or to carry anything from it to Muslims' houses.

"Should anyone take any of these [belongings], he would spoil God's covenant and disobey His Prophet. Verily, they are my allies and have my secure charter....

"No one is to force them to travel or to oblige them to fight. Muslims are to fight for them.

"If a female Christian is married to a Muslim, it is not to take place without her approval. She is not to be prevented from visiting her church to pray.

"Their churches are to be respected. They are neither to be prevented from repairing them nor [barred] the sacredness of their covenants." "No one of the nation is to disobey the covenant till the Last Day (of Judgment)."

It is important to remember that this covenant was made binding on all Muslims for all times, past, present and future, till the Day of Judgment. How this covenant has come to be violated in some Muslim countries should shame anyone who claims to love or follow the Prophet of Islam.

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

UNFORTUNATELY, MANY WILL FORGET the profound and inspired discourses as they leave their respective congregations. A few of those who may be swaying in ecstasy at the mention of the Holy Prophet's name would go back to indulge in sectarian hate

etc.), because a Muslim is adjoined to not hurt any living being except in the way of God. Scholars will explain what the Prophet said to his followers about how to treat women, how to interact with people of other faiths and how to

MILAD UNITES UMMMAH

KO Web Desk

Islam, the religion of peace and tolerance which always favored unity gave us the system which established within us a sense of morality and its rectification. It transformed the fragmented parts of each of our individual beings into the unbreakable synchronised and accustomed cultural and religious harmonies. It paved way for a vision where the individual differences of language, culture, colour, proved much less than the greater love with which a Muslim was solemnly blessed. In each Muslim individual, the prophetic love could be seen gushing out to such an extent that every other love seemed to be of no importance at all or very less importance for him/her. It is the same love which outspokenly made Muslims reach heights— a Muslim was a name in modern sciences. The likes of Ibn Al-Haytham, Jabir ibn Haiyan, Ibn Sina and Al-Razi have left a glittering image of Muslims in the domains of science and technology.

During the past few hundred the image a Muslim has been reduced to nothing with Muslims being hated all over the world. Being a Muslim nowadays is a tag of being a terrorist. A Muslim is no longer referred for a query in science and technology. A Muslim who was admired and respected all over the world for his goodness of character is now looked down in every corner of the world. If anywhere in this world there is conflict, it is in a Muslim country. If anywhere humanity is plundered, behind it are the hands of a Muslim.

Why this state of misery, why this bloodshed, why this hatred?

The only answer to this question is we have lost the Prophetic love which once simmered our hearts. As said by Allama Iqbal:

Hath bezor hain ilhaad se dil khugar hain Ummati baaisey ruswayeiy paighambar hain

The disgrace which we now face in every part of the world is due to leaving the prophetic traditions of love and compassion for fellow human beings in general and the fellow Muslims in particular. The disunity among the different sects of our religion has brought disgrace for us in every part of the world. The followers of one sect don't see the other sect as a part of ummah but are

viewed as treated as second class Muslims. One sect sees in other sect with foreboding and with the prism of alarming danger. A muslim who was at once a protector of his fellow muslim is now shedding blood of his fellow brother and that too in the name of religion, the peaceful Islam!

Allama Iqbal highlights this mutual harmony and unity as;

Qoum mazhab se hai, mazhab jo nhii thi, tum bhii nhii

Jazb e Baham jo nhii mehfil e anjum bhii nhii

In Quran Allah says And hold fast, all together, unto the bond with

Allah, and don't draw apart from one another (Al-Quran 3:103).

So it's a fervent order of Allah to a believer isto maintain harmony and be united with one another. For believers the prophet (SAW) says:

innama al-mumineena ikhwah, truly the believers are one brotherhood".

The great visionaries and thinkers paved up new ways to ponder this concept of mutual respect and harmony amongst the Muslims. In Arabia, the period before the birth of our Prophet (SAW) is referred to as the dark period where humans were more like beasts with no moral character; it was the period when an individual of one tribe was hungry of the blood of some other tribe. The Prophet (SAW) transformed this

Nowadays, the tribal fights have taken a new shape of inter-sectarian conflicts. So, the birth of the Prophet (SAW) is the right time to once again look at the prophetic traditions and with which Allah will have mercy on us, mina'z zulumati ilan nor, He brings them out from darkness into light"

We Muslims are accountable. We are all responsible for ensuring that the Ummah doesn't fall further behind in any way. Let us introspect and reclaim the love for our Holy Prophet (SAW). The special period of the start of Rabi ul Awwal till the auspicious day of the birth of our Prophet (SAW) is a picture perfect time and opportunity to do so.

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

Why We Need To Read "AFTER THE PROPHET"

Sana Noor

Born in a world where the Muslim community has been divided into two indefinite sects makes for a reality that we have come to accept and also overlook. The conflict between Sunnis and Shias is the news of everyday, but there has never been a proper, unbiased understanding of the real issue.

Where did all of this animosity really stem from? The Sunnis have their version and the Shias have theirs.

Lesley Hazleton is a British-American author whose work focuses on the intersection of politics, religion, and history, especially in the Middle East. She answers the question in an unbiased account of history, taking a neutral approach to what actually happened and why this turmoil between one of the major religions came to be.

Through her writing, you come to see her fondness for the people at heart of the story and just how politics and religion made the world we live in today. She acknowledges that her main source was Muhammad ibn Jarir al-Tabari, generally known as the most prestigious and authoritative early Islamic historian.

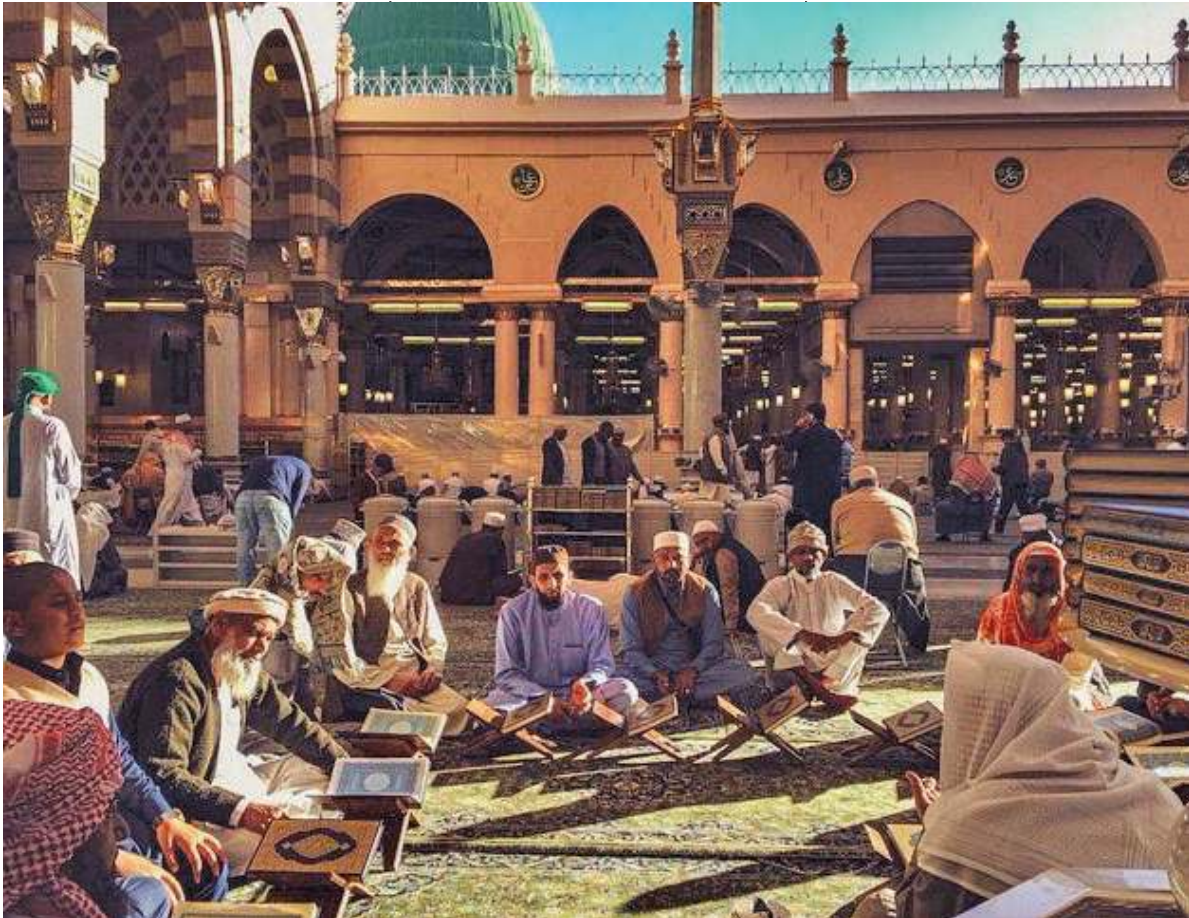
The book of roughly 200 pages is clearly divided into three parts and recounts history in the most exquisite way possible, so much so that events begin to make sense and putting the book down becomes impossible. You see, we've solely grown up with a general

idea of what the issues were that ultimately brought about the rift, but Hazleton brings more to the table. She brings an account of history that many of us haven't truly bothered to find out. We've only

HAZLETON TAKES INTRICATE CARE NOT to let biases narrate history, and instead brings both sides to the table. The way she describes each event with as much detail as she can muster, having cited all her sources at the end of the book, paints a history that many of us have been ignorant towards and explains with the general idea that at the end of the day everything has the power to become an excuse

accepted circumstances and yet have never delved into the events that lead to our present.

It's fast paced, moving in a chronological manner starting from the death bed of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and ending with Karbala. Differences had started way back, small as they were, but as we know, events have a way of stemming from something small to



something big.

Hazleton takes intricate care not to let biases narrate history, and instead brings both sides to the table. The way she describes each event with as much detail as she can muster, having cited all her sources

at the end of the book, paints a history that many of us have been ignorant towards and explains with the general idea that at the end of the day everything has the power to become an excuse.

She writes, the most intense

point comes not when Hussein is actually killed but the moment he dons his white shroud. For all the terrible pathos of what has already happened, this moment, one of the least dramatic to Western eyes, is the most unbearable for the

audience. It is the moment of calm in the face of death, the willing acceptance of the call to self-sacrifice (p 189).

At another point she writes: "Westerners finally need to stand back, to acknowledge the emotive depth of the Sunni-Shia split and to accord it the respect it demands"

Among the stories of life and death, Hazleton weaves explanatory details and correctives -- Islam was spread, for instance, 'more by messenger than by the sword.' She stresses that the West shouldn't forget that 'what unites the two main branches of Islam is far greater than what divides them... The vast majority of all Muslims still cherish the ideal of unity preached by Muhammad himself -- an ideal more deeply held for being so deeply broken (p 211).

"Hazleton ties today's events to their ancient roots, resurrecting seventh-century Arabia with respect and vivid immediacy. Here are rich recreations of the lives of the Prophet Muhammad and his beloved wife Aisha; here are often overlooked details (why is green the color of Islam? why do some Muslim women veil?) filling in the contours of the narrative.

This book is a mandatory read for anyone trying to understand the sectarian war within Islam that refuses to end and for those who love history.

Sana Noor is an avid reader, travel enthusiast and writer. Her interests include poetry, history and music

NOVEL, POTENTIAL TARGET FOR BROAD-SPECTRUM ANTIVIRAL THERAPIES IDENTIFIED

Press Trust Of India

Scientists have found a new way to stop a number of viruses in their infectious tracks, identified a promising strategy for developing broad-spectrum antiviral therapies.

Scientists from the Ohio State University, US, conducted experiments in cell cultures and mice and found that blocking a specific enzyme present in all cells from functioning triggered a powerful innate immune response, the body's first line of defence against any foreign invader.

This response, according to the study, when challenged by several types of viruses, dramatically lowered the replication of viral particles and protected mouse lungs from damage.

"Typically, in antiviral development, the saying is, one bug, one drug", said Jianrong Li, from the Ohio State University, and co-senior author of the study published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.



"A drug that can stimulate the immune system to have broad antiviral activities would be very attractive -- one drug against multiple bugs would be an ideal situation," Li said.

The discovery was enabled in part by a technique the researchers used to map the precise location of an RNA modification they were studying, and to see which enzyme made the modification.

The mapping led them to determine that this enzyme's work happens not in viruses, but in mammal hosts that viruses want to infect.

"It turns out the key here is not a viral RNA modification, but a host RNA modification, and it triggers a host immune response," said another co-senior author Chuan He, University of Chicago.

The RNA modification itself, known as cytosine-5 methylation, or m5C, is actually what needs to be altered to trigger the immune system response.

It is one of roughly 170 known chemical modifications on RNA molecules in living organisms that affect biological processes in a variety of ways.

In lieu of targeting the modification itself, researchers were able to inhibit the function of a key enzyme in that process, called NSUN2, to stop the RNA change.

They found that blocking NSUN2's function in cells exposes RNA snippets that, despite belonging to the host, are seen as foreign invaders, which triggers the type 1 interferon production, one of the most potent fighters in the innate antiviral response.

Once available at this high level, the protein will stop the real threat:

viruses trying to cause infection.

Amazingly, blockage of NSUN2 almost completely shuts down the replication of vesicular stomatitis virus, a model virus that normally kills the host cells within 24 hours and replicates to a very high titer, and strongly inhibits both RNA and DNA viruses, said study co-first author Yuexiu Zhang, a PhD student in Li's lab.

The researchers verified this sequence of events during experiments in multiple types of cells and human lung models before observing the effects of blocking NSUN2 in mice.

We compared NSUN2-deficient mice with wild-type mice to see how the viruses act, Li said.

"Once we inhibited NSUN2, viral replication in the lung decreased and there was less pathology in the lung, and that correlated with enhanced type 1 interferon production.

This finding in mice and our other experiments proved that NSUN2 is a druggable target, Li added.

Facebook Owner Meta Unveils \$1,500 VR Headset: Will It Sell?

Associated Press

Facebook parent Meta unveiled a high-end virtual reality headset on Tuesday with the hope that people will soon be using it to work and play in the still-elusive place called the "metaverse."

The USD 1,500 Meta Quest Pro headset sports high-resolution sensors that let people see mixed virtual and augmented reality in full colour, as well as eye tracking and so-called "natural facial expressions" that mimic the wearer's facial movements so their avatars appear natural when interacting with other avatars in virtual-reality environments.

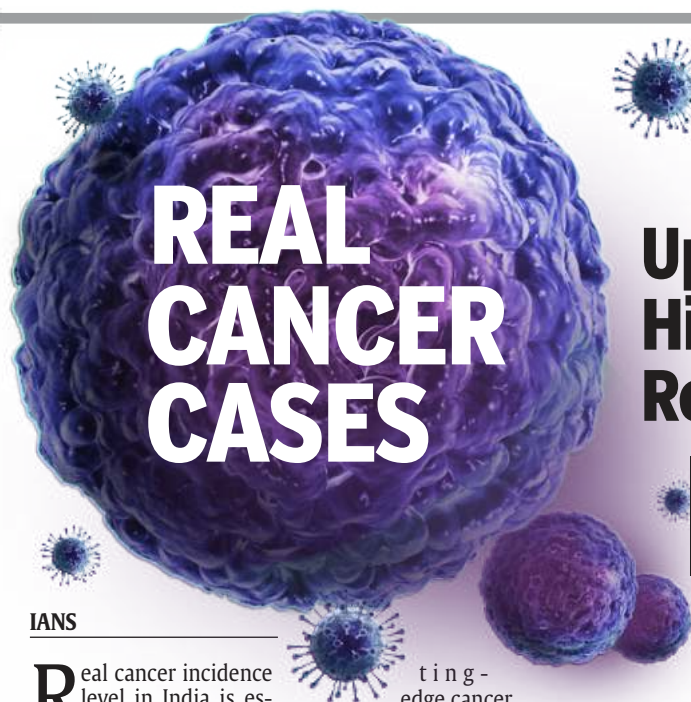
Formerly known as Facebook, Meta is in the midst of a corporate transformation that it says will take years to complete. It wants to evolve from a provider of social platforms to a dominant power in a nascent virtual-reality construct called the metaverse -- sort of like the internet brought to life, or at least rendered in 3D. CEO Mark Zuckerberg has

described the metaverse as an immersive virtual environment, a place people can virtually "enter" rather than just staring at it on a screen. The company is investing billions in its metaverse plans that will likely take years to pay off.

VR headsets are already popular with some gamers, but Meta knows that won't be enough to make the metaverse mainstream. As such, it's setting office -- and home office -- workers in its sights.

"Meta is positioning the new Meta Quest Pro headset as an alternative to using a laptop," said to Rolf Illenberger, founder and managing director of VRdirect, which builds VR environments for businesses. But he added that for businesses, operating in the virtual worlds of the metaverse is still "quite a stretch."

Meta also announced that its metaverse avatars will soon have legs -- an important detail that's been missing since the avatars made their debut last year.



Up To 3 Times Higher Than Reported In India

IANIS

Real cancer incidence level in India is estimated to be 1.5 to three times higher than reported incidence as 51 per cent patients take more than a week to conclude diagnosis while 46 per cent take second opinion due to lack of confidence in initial diagnosis and suggested treatment, said a report.

The reported cancer incidence in India this year is estimated to be 19 to 20 lakh, whereas real incidence is 1.5 to 3 times higher than the reported cases, according to a study by FICCI and EY titled "Call for Action: Making quality cancer care more accessible and affordable in India".

India is faced with a sizable cancer incidence burden, which continues to grow exponentially. The 2020 WHO ranking on cancer burden in terms of new yearly cases being reported had ranked India at the third position after China and the US, respectively.

"For cancer prevention, early diagnosis and widespread public awareness will be integral and will serve as a beacon of light to strengthen India's strategy for cancer care and other non-communicable diseases," said Ashok Kakkar, Chair, FICCI Task Force on Cancer Care.

"While some of the most cutting-edge cancer

treatment methods and technology are available in our country, we still have a long way to go before we can ensure that cancer patients from every socioeconomic background receive the best possible care," added

“WHILE SOME OF THE MOST CUTTING-EDGE CANCER TREATMENT methods and technology are available in our country, we still have a long way to go before we can ensure that cancer patients from every socioeconomic background receive the best possible care.”

Kakkar, also Managing Director, Varian Medical Systems International India Pvt Ltd.

Cancer disease burden in India is characterized by poor detection with not more than 29 per cent, 15 per cent and 33 per cent of breast lung and cervical can-

cers being diagnosed in stages 1 and 2, respectively.

The cancer of the head and neck are found to be progressing at a CAGR of 23 per cent, prostate cancer at 19 per cent, ovarian cancer at 11 per cent and breast cancer at 8 per cent, which is faster than the overall growth rate of incidence.

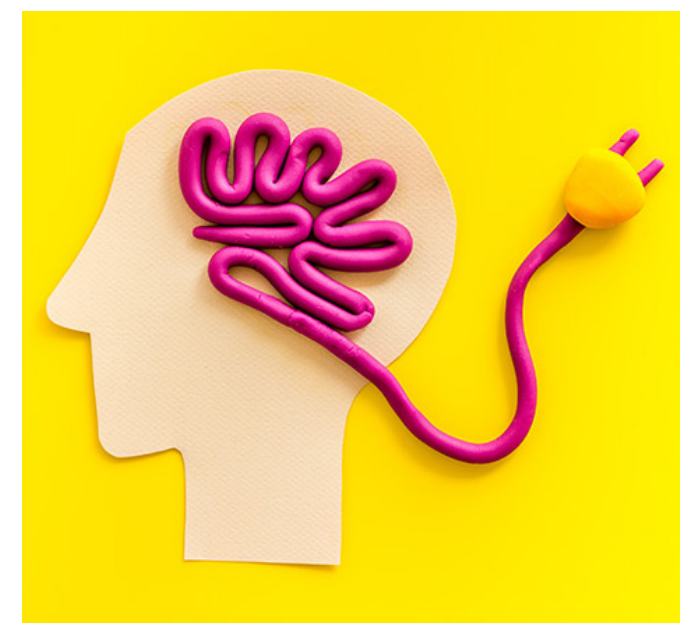
Six states, which represent 18 per cent of India's population, have 23 per cent share of the country's reported incidence burden and have the highest crude incidence rates.

Kerala, Mizoram, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Punjab, and Assam report the highest overall crude incidence rates of cancers which is greater than 130 cases per lakh population, the report mentioned.

Estimates indicate that the total deaths owing to cancer were 8 to 9 lakh in 2020, causing the mortality to incidence ratio for different cancer types in India to be among the poorest compared to global counterparts.

"To address the dual challenge of rising incidence and sub-optimal mortality to incidence ratio, it is imperative to drive mass awareness campaigns, focus on effective prevention and enable improved screening coverage as a primary response," said Sri-mayee Chakraborty, Life Sciences Partner, EY India.

Lab-Grown Brain Cells Learn To Play Video Game Pong



Scientists Have Grown 800,000 Brain Cells In A Lab

Press Trust Of India

Scientists have grown 800,000 brain cells in a lab that they say have learned to play the 1970s tennis-like video game, Pong.

The research, published recently in the journal Neuron, has for the first time shown that brain cells living in a dish can perform goal-directed tasks.

The team, including researchers from Monash University, RMIT University, University College London and the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research are now going to find out what happens when their DishBrain is affected by medicines and alcohol.

To conduct the experiment,

the researchers took mouse cells from embryonic brains as well as some human brain cells derived from stem cells and grew them on top of microelectrode arrays that could both stimulate them and read their activity.

Electrodes on the left or right of one array were fired to tell DishBrain which side the ball was on, while distance from the paddle was indicated by the frequency of signals.

Feedback from the electrodes taught DishBrain how to return the ball, by making the cells act as if they themselves were the paddle, the researchers said.

"We have shown we can interact with living biological neurons in such a way that compels them to modify their activity, leading to something that resembles intelligence," said study lead author Brett Kagan, Chief Scientific Officer of Melbourne-based biotech start-up Cortical Labs.



25th year OF PUBLICATION

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

The methods used to consume news have changed over time from newspapers, to television, to the Internet on our computers to carrying the news around with us 24/7 on smartphones in our pockets.

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OR SCAN



'Purple Revolution' Originating From J&K Offers Attractive Avenues: Jitendra

Says those who have entered the lavender sector are making a fortune out of it

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Science and Technology, MoS PMO, Space and Atomic Ener-



gy. Dr Jitendra Singh said here Thursday that the 'Purple Revolution' originating from Jammu & Kashmir offers attractive StartUp avenues and those who have entered the lavender sector are making a fortune out of it, but what is required is a wider publicity and awareness about these new opportunities of livelihood rolled out in recent years under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The pace of innovation in India has assumed global scale, but the change of mindset also needs to be encouraged at the same pace, he said.

Addressing a Conference on "Sustainable Agricultural Innovations for Resilient Agri-Food Systems" at the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST)

here, Dr Jitendra Singh enumerated a series of pro-agriculture reforms introduced by the Modi government and said several pathbreaking decisions like new guidelines for geospa-

tial technology and relaxation in the regulations for developing Drone are also enabling provisions for today's agriculture entrepreneurs and agri-startups. The Minister also noted that this government had brought in an amendment in the hundred-year-old Indian Forest Act which was enacted by the British government and following this amendment, the home-grown Bamboo has been exempted from the Forest Act so that the youth could use the versatile properties of Bamboo for agriculture entrepreneurship as well as in other sectors. He said, even in our immediate neighbourhood there are huge reserves of bamboo in districts like Kathua and Reasi but these were never adequately explored.

Iran's Home-Made Passenger Plane To Take To Sky In 2025: Aviation Chief



Agencies

TEHRAN: Iranian authorities say airlines in the country will be able to use a first domestically-produced passenger plane in about three years time.

Head of Iran's civil aviation organization Mohammad Mohammadi Bakhsh said on Monday that Iranian ministries of transportation, industries and defense have been cooperating on a key project to manufacture 72-seat and 150-seat passenger planes inside the country.

"I expect a first Iranian-made passenger plane will be included in the country's aviation fleet within the next 36 months," Mohammadi Bakhsh told reporters in a press conference in Tehran.

The official said, however, that Iran has a short-term target to unveil home-made 12-seat and 17-seat flying taxis in a near future.

He said the Iranian government counts on the supply of domestically-manufactured planes to modernize an aviation fleet that has suffered in recent years because of foreign sanctions on the country.

"We need 550 aircraft which we should access either through domestic manufacturing or through imports of brand-new or second-hand planes," he said.

Iran accelerated a project to manufacture home-made passenger planes after aviation giants Boeing and Airbus refused to supply planes that had been ordered by the country before it came under American sanctions in 2018.

That comes as the United States has imposed a raft of sanctions on the Iranian civil aviation sector, including bans on the supply of new planes or spare parts needed to keep the existing planes operational.



Govt Determined To Put In Place Farmer Friendly Ecosystem: LG

Dr Mangala Rai-Led Apex Committee Submits Report To Sinha

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Thursday that his administration is determined to put in place a farmer-friendly ecosystem that strongly supports the allied sector as well as diversification and will boost the economy manifold.

Sinha made these remarks after an apex committee headed by former Director General; Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Dr. Mangala Rai presented the ideas for holistic development of Agriculture & allied sectors in J&K and transformative change in farmer's income, an official spokesperson said Thursday.

The LG, he said, complimented the Apex Committee for the exceptional work done by them for inclusive growth, value addition, marketing and sustainable growth of Agriculture and allied sector.

Sinha, he said, also urged

the senior officers of Agriculture Production Department to undertake a review of the recommendations for seamless implementation on the ground.

"The government is determined to put in place a farmer-friendly ecosystem that strongly supports the allied sector as well as diversification and will boost the economy manifold. The strategic implementation of the recommendations with special focus on evaluation, monitoring will ensure common approach to the problems of agriculture and allied sector", the LG said.

"The recommendations will transform the Agriculture Sector from being subsistence to commercial and sustainable activity and it will achieve higher rates of growth. The holistic approach will bring equitable distribution of benefits and improve the lives of farming families. The roadmap will harmonize the growth and development in consonance

with ecology, upscale the value chains into business models and minimize the post harvest loss through processing & value addition," he added.

Earlier, the spokesperson said, Dr Mangala Rai made a presentation on the work done so far, findings of the committee and details of projects to be implemented by the J&K Agriculture Production Department.

He said that the recommendations are aimed at securing the livelihood of 13 lakh farm families with particular emphasis on increase in farmer's income and generation of additional employment opportunities.

"The committee has done the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis of the agriculture & allied sectors of the UT and covered various important aspects over a period of 45 days before finalizing the recommendations," he added.

Passenger Vehicle Wholesales Scale 10 Lakh Peak In September Quarter

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Passenger vehicle wholesales in India crossed the 10 lakh quarterly mark for the first time in the September quarter as automakers pushed units to dealers to cater to the festive demand, Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers said on Thursday.

As per the latest data by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), passenger vehicle wholesales in the September quarter increased by 38 per cent to 10,26,309 units, as against 7,41,442 units in the similar period of the last fiscal.

"More than half of the overall passenger vehicle dispatches are utility vehicles so there is a strong demand for models in this particular segment," SIAM President Vinod Aggarwal told reporters here.

While the utility vehicles comprising popular sports utility vehicles continue to do well, other segments like entry level cars and sedans continue to struggle with ta-



pering demand, he added.

Utility vehicle dispatches in the September quarter stood at 5,17,898 units; passenger cars at 4,68,513 units and vans at 29,904 units.

The passenger vehicle segment had recorded the previous best quarterly figures in the fourth quarter of 2020-21 with dispatch of 9.33 lakh units to dealers.

"We are hopeful that the industry will do well in the month of October as well, which has two major festivals of Dussehra and Diwali," Aggarwal stated.

Total two-wheeler sales rose 13 per cent to 46,73,931 units in the July-September

period this fiscal, as compared with 41,36,484 units in the September quarter of the last fiscal.

Aggarwal said the two wheeler segment has witnessed some recovery but still remains away from the previous peak of 2018-19.

"There is stress in the entry level two wheeler segment. There is the impact of inflation and the requirement to buy insurance for five years at one go at the time of purchase. With all this, the cost of models has gone up significantly and that has affected the segment.

Hopefully with good monsoon, it should witness some improvement," he noted.

Vistara, Air India May Be Integrated Into Singapore Airlines: Report

Reuters

Singapore Airlines Ltd (SIA) said on Thursday it was in talks with India's Tata Group about a potential merger of Vistara, their joint venture airline, with Air India to give the Singaporean carrier a bigger foothold in South Asia.

"The discussions seek to deepen the existing partnership between SIA and Tata, and may include a potential integration of Vistara and Air India," SIA said in a statement.

It said no definitive terms had been agreed on a deal that would form a more formidable competitor to the country's dominant airline IndiGo as well as Middle Eastern rivals that carry a large share of India's international traffic.

SIA said India had strong domestic and international traffic flows that were expected to double over the next 10 years, which compares to its more mature home market.

The Singaporean carrier has a 49 per cent stake in Tata SIA Airlines, which operates full-service carrier Vistara, while the Indian conglomerate owns the rest.

Tata owns all of Air India after completing its purchase of the previously state-owned Indian national carrier in January.

SIA, which was focused on repairing its balance sheet, did not take part in the bidding process, but Campbell Wilson, a former senior executive at the Singaporean carrier, started as Air India's new chief executive in July. The Indian airline is rebuild-

ing its fleet and targeting a domestic market share of at least 30% over the next five years as it looks to repair its reputation after years of losses.



It is also launching more services to North America, where its use of Russian airspace gives it a shorter flight time than rivals that have avoided it since Moscow began its invasion of Ukraine in February.

"SIA converting its stake in Vistara into a stake for the Tata-led airline group makes sense," said Brendan Sobie, an independent analyst based in Singapore. "The creation of this group will improve the position of all the Tata airlines and SIA's investment in the Indian market."

Air India and Tata, which also controls low-cost carrier AirAsia India, did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Shukor Yusof, head of Malaysia-based aviation consultancy Endau analytics, said SIA did not have a good track record in mergers and acquisitions.

It owned a 20 per cent stake in Virgin Australia that was wiped out after the Australian carrier entered voluntary administration in 2020.

In 2012, SIA sold its 49 per cent stake in Virgin Atlantic to Delta Air Lines for \$360 million, well below its initial purchase price of 600 million pounds in 2000.

Director Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir Signs MoU With NIFT, India

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Directorate of Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Institute of Fashion Technology, India (NIFT) under the project titled 'The Repository - Indian Textiles and Crafts' (RTC).

The MoU was signed between Director, Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir Mehmoos Ahmad Shah (JKAS) and Director (NRC), NIFT, Dr. Sanjeev Kumar.

The project is initiated by NIFT and is being sponsored by Development Commissioner (Handlooms) and Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India with an aim to develop a national knowledge portal titled Bhartiya Vastra Shilpa Kosh, to form an integrated system that will lay down a framework to weave the past and present status of textiles.

The Indian textile and craft repository is being planned as an online resource network for the textile, clothing and craft sector of India. The digital repository portal has been creat-

ed with the objectives of digital preservation of the contemporary designs, digital archiving of tangible and intangible knowledge resources related to textile and crafts, dissemination of historical and contemporary information and narratives on Indian textiles, showcasing the creativity and diversity in traditional Indian textiles on interactive digital platform, creation of integrated database of craft practitioners for their promotion and welfare and creation of visual databank of images, films, audio-visuals, podcast lecture series on craft practitioners and designers for awareness and promotion purposes.

The scope of the MoU includes conduct of preliminary survey of the collections for assessing the status of the holdings, selection and hosting of whole or part of the holdings on RTC portal, providing support for creation of technical interfaces to harvest and use of meta-data, digitization of select holdings documentation and cataloging of selected undocumented resources, training and capacity building, content creation and coordination and promotion of RCT portal.

SHORT TAKES

Training Programme On 11th Agricultural Census Held

Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: A day long training programme on the 11th Agricultural Census with reference year 2021-22 was organized in district Bandipora by the Office of Financial Commissioner (Rev.) J&K at the conference hall of mini Secretariat, here.

The programme was attended by various Revenue Officers/Officials consisting of Tehsildars, Naib Tehsildars, Girdawars and Patwaries of district Bandipora.

At the outset, M Farooq Shah, Deputy Director (Planning) from the office of Financial Commissioner Revenue, J&K welcomed all the participants and highlighted the importance of the scheme and after that the technical team explained all the technicalities of the scheme with the help of Power Point Presentation.

The training focused mainly on the collection of data on the number of Agricultural operational holders, its land utilization, Tenancy status and irrigation facilities available etc.

On the occasion, the Deputy Director Planning said that the Agricultural Census is a quinquennial Census. This Census is completed in a phased manner and it comprises of three phases.

World Gold Council Launches New Gold Jewellery Campaign

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: World Gold Council has launched a new look 'You are gold' campaign in partnership with Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) to increase awareness, relevance and adoption of gold jewellery amongst young Indian women.

The latest 'You are gold' campaign aims to inspire young women to express themselves. The ad film showcases a montage of young women from diverse backgrounds, who are unafraid of letting their inner light shine and are precious, brilliant and bold - much like the beautiful gold jewellery they wear. The integrated campaign that has been rolled out prior to Diwali 2022, aims to attract millennials and gen-Z and highlight the many qualities that make them who they are, qualities that make them shine like the gold jewellery they wear, and how they express themselves through it. The film celebrates different expressions of quintessential modern women who are relatable, yet aspirational and don't shy away from chasing their dreams.

Vipul Shah, Chairman, GJEPC said, "The World Gold Council campaign 'You Are Gold' in partnership with GJEPC is aimed at the younger generation for building a greater emotional connect with gold. It's important to switch focus and echo the design sensibilities of young consumers. At the same time, we need to educate them about the high level of skilled craftsmanship that goes into making gold jewellery truly a timeless possession."

Adani Group Co Likely To Be Rated Higher Than Sovereign

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: An Adani Group firm is likely to be soon rated above India's sovereign rating as the ports-to-energy conglomerate helmed by Gautam Adani, Asia's richest man, sees rapid growth in business and lower debt.

Adani Group CFO Jugeshinder (Robbie) Singh told a select group of investors on October 10 in New Delhi that an announcement will soon be made of one of the group firms becoming the first Indian firm with all its business in the country, to be rated higher than the sovereign, according to two persons present at the meeting. Singh, however, did not name the company.

Global credit rating agencies such as S&P and Fitch have assigned the lowest investment grade rating of 'BBB-' to India.

Most companies including public sector giants are rated at par or below the sovereign rating. In June last year, Fitch Ratings upgraded rival billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd to a notch above India's sovereign rating citing an improving debt profile.

Presently, Adani Transmission Ltd - one of the six listed firms of the Adani Group - is rated at par with the sovereign.

Rupee Closes At 82.38 Against US dollar

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: The rupee traded in a narrow range and settled 5 paise lower at 82.38 against the US dollar on Thursday, tracking a muted trend in domestic equities amid weak domestic macroeconomic data.

Besides, risk aversion sentiment among investors weighed on the local unit.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee witnessed range-bound trading. It opened at 82.30 against the US dollar, then fell further to close at 82.38, registering a fall of 5 paise over the last close. It was moving in a tight range of 82.25 to 82.42.

On Wednesday, the rupee fell by 12 paise to close at 82.33 against the greenback.

"Asian currencies fell amid caution as traders awaited Thursday's US inflation data for clues on how much the US Federal Reserve will raise rates," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

Parmar further added that along with weak regional currencies, dismal domestic economic data weighed on the Indian rupee. On the forward market, the one-year forward USD/INR premium declined as the central bank was at the receiving end.

"Spot USD/INR has been trading in the narrow range this week amid the central bank intervention on both sides. In the near-term, spot USD/INR is having resistance at 82.85 and support at 82.10," Parmar noted.

Sensex Falls 390 Points; Banking, Finance Stocks Weigh

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Benchmark BSE Sensex declined by 390 points on Thursday following heavy selling in banking, finance and capital goods stocks due to inflation and growth concerns.

A weak rupee and rising crude prices also impacted the market sentiment, traders said. The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 390.58 points or 0.68 per cent to settle at 57,235.33. Likewise, the broader NSE Nifty fell 109.25 points or 0.64 per cent to end at 17,014.35.

Wipro was the top loser in the Sensex pack, shedding 7.03 per cent, followed by SBI, I&T, ICICI Bank, Asian Paints, Bajaj Finance and HDFC twins.

On the other hand, HCL Tech, Sun Pharma, Dr Reddy's Reliance Industries and Ultra Tech Cement were among the gainers, rising up to 3.19 per cent.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, "Retail inflation persisting above the desired levels has been a major cause of concern for the Indian economy. This, coupled with declining industrial production in August may not be taken well by the market because Indian economy is anticipated to sustain its resilience.

"In this backdrop, the impending US inflation figures, which are forecasted to remain high, may cause volatility in the global market."

DM Jammu Issues Regulatory Orders For Sale Of Firecrackers

Observer News Service

Jammu: District Magistrate Jammu, in exercise of the powers vested under section 144 Cr.Pc, ordered that no fire-works, crackers or explosive material shall be stored or sold in any place other than those specified by the DM office for the areas within Jammu Municipal Limits and by the respective SDMs/Tehsildars for the areas outside Jammu Municipal limits in Jammu District.

Stalls for sale of fireworks, crackers etc, shall be put by concerned dealers only at places mentioned in their permissions after getting clearance from the Deputy Director Fire Services, Police, Municipal and Revenue authorities.

The maximum amount of explosives which may be kept at any particular time at licensed premises shall not exceed the quantity given in class 7 Div. 2, Sub Div, II, of the explosive rules SCIV.

Electrical fittings in the premises shall be affixed properly, without any loose wires. Also one CFL tube shall be installed in the close vicinity of the stock of the explosives for proper illumination of the area.

No person under 18 years of age or who is in the state of intoxication or of unsound mind shall be employed for loading/unloading or transportation of explosives or be allowed to enter in the licensed premises.

Explosives which are not authorized under rules or prohibited under section 6(A) of Act shall not be possessed or sold from the premises.

Chocolate Bomb, Chain cracker, (Kali Pataka, Loose Cracker) Dhani Pataka,

Dodoma, Seven Shots, Rocket Bomb, Garland Patakas, Stat Bomb etc, shall not be allowed to be sold by any wholesale cracker dealers/retail cracker dealers in the district to curb noise pollution.

Imported fireworks containing sensitive chemical substances which are not permitted under Indian statute and also do not comply with the Indian Noise Level Standards shall not be sold by wholesale cracker dealer/ Retailer.

No retail sale of crackers or other fireworks shall be undertaken by any authorized person at his shop/premises after the Diwali Festival.

Crackers and other explosive material shall contain a price tag which shall not be more than the price printed on each explosive. The price printed shall be deemed to include all local taxes even if the printed specifically reads "Local Tax Extra".

In case any wholesale or retailer contravenes any of the conditions specified above, not only the permission granted in his favour shall be cancelled and his stock seized but shall be liable for prosecution under relevant provisions of law.

Only green crackers are allowed to be sold as per advisory issued by competent authority.

This order shall come into force with immediate effect and shall remain in force for till 24-11-2022.

Any person, who contravenes this order, shall be liable to be punished in accordance with the provision of section-188 of the IPC. Since it is not possible to serve notice to all stakeholders the order is being issued ex-parte.

Govt implements Advocates Welfare Fund Act, 2001 across J&K

Long Pending Demand Of Advocates Fulfilled



Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a major relief to the lawyers community and fulfilling their long pending demands, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir took a historical step and implemented the Advocates Welfare Fund Act, 2001 in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Act provides way for giving financial assistance to organize welfare schemes for the Advocates.

In order to implement the Act, the Government has established the Jammu and Kashmir Advocates Welfare Fund and has also constituted the Jammu and Kashmir Advocates

Welfare Fund Trustee Committee' headed by the Advocate General of the Union Territory with the Registrar General, Home Secretary, Law Secretary, Two Advocates nominated by the High Court and one Government Pleader/ Public Prosecutor nominated by the Home Department as its members. The trusteeship committee held its first meeting on 13.10.2022 and it was decided to frame rules for operationalization to Advocates Welfare Fund.

The Advocates fund shall, inter alia be used for making ex-gratia grant to the member of the fund in case of a serious health problem, payment of

fixed amount on cessation of practice and in case of death of a member, to his nominee or legal heir, medical and educational facilities for the members of their dependents, purchase of the books and for establishing common facilities for advocates.

The constitution of fund and establishment of Trustee Committee will go on long way for taking welfare measures for the Advocates practicing in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and with this step the Government has fulfilled long pending demand of the Advocates of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, for which they were entitled as per provisions of law.

Secretary Health Chairs Review Meeting On Screening For Lifestyle Diseases



Observer News Service

Jammu: Secretary Health & Medical Education (H&ME), Bhupinder Kumar Thursday chaired a review meeting regarding universal screening of non communicable diseases and common cancers of 30 plus population at Civil Secretariat, Jammu.

The meeting was attended by Mission Director, NHM J&K, Ayushi Sudan, Director Health Services, Jammu Dr. Saleem-u-Rehman, Director Health Services, Kashmir, Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Rather besides all Chief Medical Officers and Block Medical Officer of the UT participated virtually.

Secretary, while elaborating on the subject, said that non communicable diseases are responsible for 60 percent of deaths among population which are mainly due to lifestyle changes. He emphasized the need for a serious effort to identify such patients through mass screening for initiation of early treatment and continuous follow up to avert untimely deaths.

A detailed Power Point Presentation was delivered by State Nodal Officer, NHM on the status of Population Based Screening for NCDs and common cancers at Health

Wellness Centers besides Opportunistic Screening for NCDs under NPCDCS program.

The meeting had an elaborated discussion on prioritization and challenges of universal Screening for NCDs and Common Cancers at both community and facility level.

Bhupinder Kumar strictly emphasized on screening of target population for Common NCDs as well as uploading the data on NCD portal as per the targets set for each district. He directed the concerned officers to ensure that each district should device a micro plan to reach out all the target population.

Secretary asked both the Directors and the Chief Medical Officers to review progress regarding the scheme implementation on weekly basis for enhanced results. He also exhorted upon them to ensure availability of free drugs and diagnostic services in all Health and Wellness Centers.

He also directed the concerned officers to ensure that the staff posted at Health and Wellness Centers including MLHPs, ANMs (Regular/ NHM) is not relocated to any other institution under any circumstances in order to achieve the screening targets and providing the services

Secretary Planning Chairs First Meeting For Implementation Of Revised RBD Rules In J&K

Major Changes Notified For The UT; BDO's To Be Registrars For Births & Deaths In Rural Areas Instead Of SHO's

Observer News Service

Jammu: Secretary, Planning Development & Monitoring Department (PD&MD), Dr. Raghav Langer Thursday chaired a at Civil Secretariat Jammu regarding the implementation of Civil Registration System (Registration Births and Deaths Rules 2022) in the UT of J&K.

Secretary Health & Medical Education, Bhupinder Kumar was also present in the meeting.

The GoI has made the civil registration as a legal binding on every individual of the country

through legislation called as Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 and is applicable to the whole of the country including UT of J&K. Accordingly, revised Registration of Births and Deaths Rules, 2022 have been notified by the Planning Department vide S.O 494 dated 10th October, 2022 with the approval of Central Government on the basis of Model Rules of Registration of Births and Deaths Rules, 1999 issued by Ministry of Home Affairs, Office of Registrar General of India.

The major changes introduced

in the Registration process is that, the Block Development Officers have been designated as the Registrars in Rural areas instead of Station House Officers (SHO's) of the concerned Police Stations.

Similarly, Director General Economics & Statistics J&K has now been designated as the Chief Registrar of Births & Deaths for the Union Territory instead of DG Health and Family Welfare. Chief Medical Officers of the district continue to be the District Registrars. DSEO's / Additional District Registrars

have been authorised to give permissions for delayed registrations after 30 days but within 01 year. Health Officers in JMC/ SMC, CEO's in Cantonment Boards & Executive Officers in Municipal Committees/ Councils shall continue to be the Registration Authorities.

Noteworthy that, Registration of Births and Deaths Rules were notified in the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir in the year 1975 vide SRO 549 dated 26th November, 1975. After issuance of revised statutory orders for implementation of Civil

Registration System in the UT of J&K, the Registration Hierarchy existing as per RBD Rules 1975 have been replaced with revised RBD Rules 2022, bringing J&K UT at par with rest of the country.

During the course of the meeting the duties and responsibilities of each of the Registration functionaries was highlighted with the direction for implementing the provisions of the Act and to coordinate and supervise the work of registration in the UT for securing and efficient system of registration. Emphasis was laid for organizing public awareness

campaigns in the District / Block/Panchayat/Municipal areas in coordination with District Administration and steps for shifting to online Registration through CRS portal to be fully implemented before 1st of January, 2023 for issuance of Births and Deaths certificates etc.

Dr. Langer emphasized in the meeting that, pivotal role under the renewed system is to be played by seven types of functionaries who are the Notifiers/ Informers for Registration of Births and Deaths which includes: Auxiliary Nursing Midwives (ANM), Accredited

Social Health Activist (ASHAs), Dais, Anganwari Workers, Head Masters of Government Schools, Village Chowkidars, Caretaker/ In-Charge of Cremation Grounds/ Burial Grounds.

Secretary Health & Medical Education assured that all requisite manpower, IT equipments shall be provided to oversee the successful roll out of the CRS in J&K. Sensitisation workshops and trainings shall be organised in all public health institutions and private hospitals/nursing homes to fully capture the institutional births & deaths data.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Govt Withdraws

migrated or died since the last summary revision.

Reacting to the development, senior CPI(M) leader and PAGD spokesperson M Y Tarigami questioned the issuance of such an order in the first place.

"Firstly, it is surprising that such an unwarranted order was issued. If the order is revoked, a copy should be immediately shared with the public," the Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) leader told PTI.

He said the government machinery must be careful about the sensitivities of the electoral process and "there should be no attempt whatsoever to manipulate this legitimate democratic process".

The PAGD, headed by National Conference president Farooq Abdullah, had on Saturday announced the formation of a 14-member committee to chalk out a strategy on the issue of any attempt of manipulation and inclusion of non-locals in the revised electoral rolls.

The panel has members from the five PAGD constituents and several other political parties such as the Congress, the Shiv Sena, the Dogra Swabhiman Sangathan Party (DSSP) and the Dogra Sadar Sabha (DSS).

Nehru's Art-370

the day, will flag off two 'gaurav yatras' of the party from Unai in Navsari district. On Wednesday, BJP national president JP Nadda had flagged off two such yatras.

The yatra that started from Zanzarka in Ahmedabad district on Thursday morning will conclude at Somnath Temple town, while the ones from Unai will go to Ambaji Temple, covering the tribal belt of the state, and Fagvel Temple town in Kheda district, respectively.

The BJP has planned five yatras, each taking place over eight to nine days, to

cover 144 constituencies in the state where Assembly polls are likely to be held by the year-end.

The BJP has been ruling Gujarat for the past 27 years.

36 Policemen

public interest.

"During the recent past, as part of its zero tolerance policy towards corruption, various employees have been dismissed from service on account of official misconduct, after rigorously following departmental proceedings against them, while as many cases are under scrutiny with the Empowered Committees constituted for consideration of cases under Article 226(2) of J&K CSRs.

Further, many employees have also been terminated from service on account of anti-national activities," they added.

Meanwhile, the official sources said that the government has also initiated several measures for human resource development of Government employees in Jammu and Kashmir which includes online Human Resource Management System (eHRMS), induction of officers into the prestigious Indian Administrative/ Police Service, conduction of timely DPCs for smooth career progression, updating recruitment rules, fast tracking the recruitment process through recruiting agencies and abolishing of interviews for most of the non-gazetted vacancies referred to the Services Selection Board.

Army's Assault

treatment. The dog looked fine till around noon after which it suddenly started gasping and soon collapsed," the officials said.

Zoom was two years and one month old Malinois or Belgian shepherd breed who was active in the service for the last eight months, they said.

The canine was a highly trained,

ferocious, and committed. Had been trained to locate and bring down terrorists," they added.

Zoom was injured in the encounter in Tangpawa area of the south Kashmir district on Monday.

Security forces had launched a cordon and search operation in the Tangpawa area after receiving specific input about the presence of terrorists there.

On Monday, Zoom, as usual, was tasked to clear the house where terrorists were hiding, they said.

However, during the operation, the canine received two gunshots and was critically injured, the officials said.

"Zoom identified and attacked the terrorists during which the canine received two gunshots," they said.

The officials, however, said the canine kept on fighting and performing his task which resulted in the killing of two Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists.

"Despite of severe injuries, the brave soldier continued his task which resulted in neutralisation of two militants," they added.

Zoom was rushed to the Army's Vet Hospital where he succumbed today.

Zoom had been part of many active operations in south Kashmir, they added.

LG Vows To Free

directed the officers to give preference to Self-Help Groups in procurement to increase women entrepreneurship and to harness the tremendous potential of the villages for building a strong foundation of Aatma-Nirbhar Jammu Kashmir.

"We are determined to break free rural areas of the shackles of underdevelopment and make them self-reliant. Administration at all levels must work with dedication, determination and faith to resolve the bottlenecks and transform the face of rural Jammu Kashmir," Sinha said.

"While implementing various

schemes, we must adopt the common approach for effective execution. Our efforts should be aimed at creation of strong rural economy that offers employment opportunities, generates more income for the rural families and creates wealth for everyone," he added.

The LG, as per the spokesperson asked senior officers to ensure that the employment & livelihood generation schemes are being implemented effectively on the ground, and resources for skilling and capacity building of the members of Self-Help Groups are utilized.

The meeting, he said, was informed that Jammu and Kashmir has 41% of its works under convergence which demonstrates the positive initiatives and progress of the UT.

The spokesperson said that the LG passed explicit directions for speeding up the tendering process, clearing pending payments under MGNREGA and other liabilities. He further directed the Commissioner/Secretary, Rural Development Department to monitor the implementation of District Plans.

Discussing the emerging issues and challenges in the rural development sector and the way forward, Sinha, he said, directed the officers to work in close coordination with the PRI members and the local residents in order to meet the developmental aspirations of the public and their representatives.

The LG, he said, also instructed the department to conduct a survey to identify the homeless people and those having kaccha houses, and advised replicating the best practices of other States and UTs under PMAY-G.

The spokesperson further said that Mandeep Kaur, Commissioner/ Secretary to the Government, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj department briefed the LG about the overall working of the department and future deliverables.

Govt Shifts

"He shall also hold the charge of the post of Sub-Registrar, Ramnagar, in addition to his own duties, till further orders."

Gopal Singh, JKAS, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Ramnagar, holding additional charge of the post of Sub-Registrar, Ramnagar, has been transferred and has been asked to await further orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department.

Javid Ahmad Rather, JKAS, District Mineral Officer, Srinagar, has been transferred and posted as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Kangan. "He shall also hold the charge of the post of Sub-Registrar, Kangan, in addition to his own duties, till further orders."

Mohammad Muneer Ahmed Bhat, JKAS, Sub Divisional Magistrate, Kangan, presently attached in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal, has been transferred and asked to await further orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department.

Meanwhile, as per a separate order, Ms. Mita Kumar, JKAS, under orders of transfer as Project Officer, Wage Employment (ACD), Udhampur, has been posted as Assistant Commissioner in the State Taxes Department, Jammu, against an available vacancy. Further, the order said, Ranjeet Singh, JKAS, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Udhampur, has been asked to hold the post of Project Officer, Wage Employment (ACD), Udhampur, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

LG To Inaugurate

and actor Divya Dutta. The highlight of the two-day event, scheduled to be held on October 19 -20, is the special session Raj Kapoor The Master at Work' with Rawail and Mittra.

Asha Batra co-founder of the festival said this year they have a notable

T20 WC: India Lose 2nd Practice Match Against WA

Press Trust of India

PERTH: India's star-studded batting line-up belied expectations as the team lost to Western Australia by 36 runs in its second T20 World Cup warm-up match here on Thursday.

Inaugural edition champions India laboured to 132 for eight in 20 overs chasing 169.

India had won the opening warm-up match by 13 runs.

D'Arcy Short smashed 52 off 38 balls and Nick Hobson hammered 64 off 41 balls to take Western Australia to 168 for eight in the stipulated 20 overs. R Ashwin was the pick of India's bowlers, taking three wickets in an over.

India captain Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Suryakumar Yadav did not come out to bat. Both Rohit and Kohli fielded during West Australia's innings.

Rishabh Pant (9) opened the batting alongside stand-in captain K L Rahul whose 74 off 45 balls went in vain.

India are camped in Perth ahead of the T20 World Cup to get used to the pace and bounce. The squad now moves to Brisbane for the warm-up games against Australia and New Zealand on October 17 and 19 respectively.

They open their campaign against arch-rivals Pakistan on October 23 in Melbourne.



Pacer Arshdeep Singh was impressive again in his three overs while under-fire Harshal Patel returned with tidy figures of 27 for two in four overs.

India struggled in the run chase on a pacy WACA surface.

Brief scores: Western Australia 168/8 in 20 overs (D'Arcy Short 52, Nick Hobson 64; R Ashwin 3/32, Harshal Patel 2/27).

India 132/8 in 20 overs (K L Rahul 74; Lance Morris 2/23).

CS Launches Floodlights At TRC Cricket Ground



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, on Wednesday night inaugurated the floodlights installed in J&K Sports Council Cricket Academy ground at TRC, Srinagar.

The lights are part of the programme aimed at making sports fields operational for extended duration of time.

Secretary Tourism and Youth Services and Sports, Sarmad Hafeez, DG Budget J&K, Mohammad Yaqoob Ittoo, Secretary J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gull along with other senior officers from J&K police and other departments including J&K Sports Council were present on the occasion.

CS was apprised that these recently installed lights in the premises was a long pending demand of cricketers and it is hoped that with this vital service budding cricketers of the area would be benefitted to a great extent.

CS was further informed that other modern facilities and equipments shall be added in this cricket academy centre in the days to come so as to ensure facilities to our cricketers at par with the players from other parts of the country.

Dr Mehta had an extensive round of the entire complex which houses cricket and football academy centres. He assessed the infrastructural and other facilities being made available to players there.

Meanwhile, a friendly T-20 match organized by J&K Sports Council was also played on the occasion between Chief Secretary XI comprising cricketers from various government departments and Dalgate XI comprising cricketers from the adjoining areas of TRC cricket academy ground. The Dalgate XI team won the match.

DG Budget distributed prizes and mementos among the winning and participating teams.



You Can't Be An Administrator Forever, Says Ganguly

Press Trust of India

KOLKATA: Amid the chatter around his imminent departure from the BCCI, board president Sourav Ganguly on Thursday said he "can't be an administrator forever".

The former India captain is set to be replaced as board president by 1983 World Cup winning-team member Roger Binny in the apex body's upcoming AGM (Annual general Meeting).

"You can't play forever. You can't be an administrator forever, but it's been fun doing both and seeing both sides of the coin. I will go for bigger things

in future," Ganguly said on the sidelines of an event related to Bandhan bank.

"I was a cricketer's administrator. Yes you had to make decisions because there's so much cricket happening, there's so much money around. There's women's cricket, there's domestic cricket. Yes you had to take calls at times as an individual," he added.

Ganguly was keen to continue as the BCCI chief, but things did not pan out that way, even as Jay Shah is set to continue as the secretary.

Ganguly also spoke about the high points of his tenure as BCCI president.

"I think I thoroughly loved it. If you see the last three years, so many good things have happened. IPL during COVID, such difficult times for all of us in the country. We didn't know how to deal with it. The broadcast rights which went to an all time high."

Ganguly added that the challenges as a cricketer were more than being an administrator.

"But when you do administration you realise that you contribute so much, you could make things better for a cricketer and me being a player who played for a long period of time, I understood that," he signed off.

Don't Just Survive Against Shaheen Afridi: Gambhir To India

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: India must counter Pakistan left-arm pacer Shaheeh Shah Afridi in an aggressive manner and not just look to see him off in their T20 World Cup opener, former cricketer Gautam Gambhir said on Wednesday.

India will take on arch-rivals on October 23 in Melbourne. Afridi, who is returning from a knee injury that ruled him out of the Asia Cup, is expected to pose a serious threat to the Indian batters at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in the upcoming T20 showpiece.

"When it comes to Shaheen Afridi, don't look to survive. Look to score runs from him. Because the moment you look to survive, everything becomes really small. Whether it's your backlift, whether it's your footwork, and obviously, in T20 cricket you can't look to survive," Gambhir said while speaking on Star Sports show 'Game Plan'.

"I know that he can be dangerous with the new ball, but again, irrespective, the Indian batters need to score more runs, get into better positions, and look to time the balls rather than to hit it.

"India will be fine because India has got the quality in their top 3 or 4 who can definitely take on Shaheen Shah Afridi," the former world T20 winner added.

Shaheen Afridi Is 90% Ready For T20 World Cup: Raja

Pakistan pace spearhead Shaheen Shah Afridi is 90 per cent ready for the upcoming T20 World Cup but his availability will depend on how he plays in the two warm-up games in Australia, PCB chairman Ramiz Raja said. The 22-year-old Afridi is set to join the national team in Australia on Saturday after completing his rehabilitation programme for a knee injury under the supervision of the PCB Medical Advisory Committee.



LG Inaugurates Asian Pencak Silat C'ship In Srinagar



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday inaugurated the 6th Senior Asian Pencak Silat Championship being held in Srinagar. The event brings together over 150 athletes from different countries.

Addressing the gathering, the LG extended his greetings to the members of sporting fraternity, jury members and welcomed all the guests to enjoy the hospitality and incredible sights of Jammu Kashmir during the wonderful tournament.

Over the next five days we will celebrate and honour the individual strength and sporting excellence, said the Lt Governor.

The LG observed that the ongoing sporting events across Jammu Kashmir have kindled hopes and it is a sign of a robust sports culture in the society.

Noting that Pencak Silat is relatively new to India and introduced only in 2014, the Lt Governor said within few years, Jammu Kashmir has witnessed an upswing in performance of our athletes in national and international events

and they have earned 540 medals in the national events and 17 medals in the International events.

Earlier, the LG interacted with the members of International teams of Pencak Silat from Singapore, Philippines, Vietnam, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Indonesia, India and Nepal.

Sarmad Hafeez, Administrative Secretary Youth Services and Sports, in his welcome address extended a warm welcome to the foreign sports persons and delegates arrived in Jammu Kashmir for the championship.

Kishore Prakash Yewela, President Indian Pencak Silat Federation; Teddy Surat Madji, Secretary General, International Pencak Silat Federation, Indonesia; Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council; Vijay Kumar, ADGP Kashmir; P K Pole, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Mohammad Aijaz, DC Srinagar; Rakesh Balwal, SSP Srinagar, besides scores of young sports enthusiasts were present on the occasion.

A-Division: 4 Matches Played, Saturday's Fixtures Announced



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In the ongoing Annual Football League 2022-23, four matches of the A-Division League were played on Thursday at Polo Ground West and Synthetic Turf TRC here.

At Polo Ground West, the first match was played between Ali Jana B and Al-Quds Sharifabad HMT, wherein Ali Jana B defeated Al-Quds by a solitary goal. The second match at Polo Ground was played between Muslimeen United FC and Young Eidgah FC wherein Muslimeen United won by 2 goals to nil.

At Synthetic Turf TRC, the first match was awarded walk-over in favour of Central Football Academy (CFA) Soiteng as their opponents Shunglipora FC did not attend the field. The

second match was played between Almadar FC Gopalpora and Nishat FC wherein Almadar FC won 3-0.

DFA Srinagar also announced the upcoming fixtures on Thursday. According to the list, Saturday, October 15, will see four A-Division matches take place.

At Polo Ground, Shunglipora FC will take on Al-Quds Sharifabad with kick off at 2 pm. In the other match, Shaheen KFC will face Flying Kashmir at 3 pm.

At Synthetic Turf TRC, Ali Jana B will play J&K Finance Department, with kick off at 2 pm. In the second match at the venue, Valley XI FC will go head-to-head against Lasjan FC at 3 pm.

The A-Division League 2022-23 is being organised by DFA Srinagar in collaboration with Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council.

Pakistan Beat Bangladesh By 7 Wickets In NZ tri-series

Agencies

CHRISTCHURCH: Mohammad Rizwan and captain Babar Azam shared a 101-run opening partnership as Pakistan edged Bangladesh by seven wickets with one ball remaining Thursday at the New Zealand Twenty20 cricket tri-series.

Babar made 55 and Rizwan went on to 68 to help guide Pakistan past Bangladesh's total of 173-6. Pakistan lost Babar's wicket and another in the 13th over and had to rely on Mohammad Nawaz, who struck an unbeaten 45 from 20 balls to close out the win.

There was a flicker of concern when Rizwan holed out in the deep in the 19th over with Pakistan needing nine from seven



balls. At the start of the last over Pakistan needed eight from six balls but with seven wickets in hand and Nawaz still at the crease, they were in command.

Asif Ali took a streaky single from the first ball and Nawaz played an overhead tennis shot from the second

ball for two. Nawaz continued to find gaps in the field for two runs until a four behind point by Nawaz from the fifth ball of the over clinched the win.

"I think if you give a chance to the Bangladesh bowlers they don't make it easy because they bowl very well," Rizwan said.

"I would give credit to Nawaz for the way he batted on this wicket. If you ask me honestly, the Bangladesh bowlers bowled extremely well but Nawaz innings was the moment that changed the whole match."

The match was the last in the round-robin section of the tri-series and came after the tournament finalists already had been determined. Pakistan and New Zealand will meet in the final on Friday.

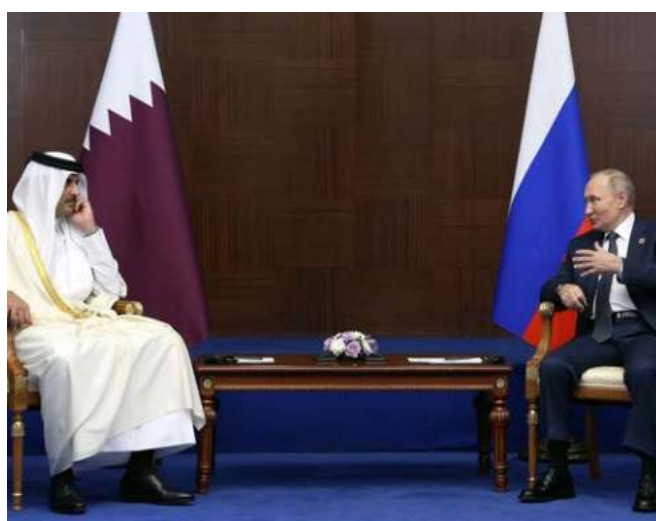
Qatar Emir Thanks Putin For Support In Organising WC

Agencies

ASTANA: Qatar's emir thanked Vladimir Putin on Thursday for what he said was Russia's support organising the upcoming World Cup.

Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani also lauded Russia's hosting of the football tournament in 2018.

"After Russia made a great success in organizing the 2018 World Cup, Russian friends have provided great support to Qatar, especially in terms of organization, with the organizing committee of the 2022 World Cup," the emir said. "We thank you for this and we are proud of this relationship. This will continue until the end of the World Cup. I am very happy to see you, Mr. President.



Thank you." The Russian president wished Qatar success in hosting this

year's event, which starts on Nov. 20. "We are also doing everything

we can in terms of transferring the experience of preparing for the World Cup, you know this, we just had the opportunity to talk about it with you," Putin said. "I would like to wish you success in holding this major event. I'm sure that it will be (a success)."

Neither leader specified how exactly Russia had helped Qatar, the first Arab country to host the World Cup.

One area in which Qatar has followed Russia's example is by requiring fans to sign up for a mandatory ID, known as a Hayya Card.

Russia reached the World Cup quarterfinals as host in 2018 but is not playing in Qatar after being barred from the qualifying playoffs following its invasion of Ukraine. (AP)

This Is World's Most Expensive Art Collection To Be Auctioned

Agenceis

Los Angeles: Auctioneers unveiled the most expensive art collection ever to go under the hammer Wednesday, which belonged to Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen and is valued at \$1 billion.

Five centuries of touchstone works featuring some of the most significant creators in history are being sold next month. The collection of more than 150 pieces includes work by Vincent Van Gogh, Claude Monet, Paul Gauguin and Jasper Johns.

"I think this is a sale that sort of exhausts superlatives," said Johanna Flaum, vice-chairman



of 20th and 21st Century Art at auctioneers Christie's.

collection ever sold at auction. It's really a once-in-a-generation type of event."

Highlights include "La montagne Sainte-Victoire" by Paul Cézanne, which is expected to fetch at least \$120 million, and "Verger avec cypres" by Van Gogh, whose hammer price is estimated at over \$100 million.

Allen co-founded Microsoft with Bill Gates in 1975, becoming fabulously rich as the company grew into the computing behemoth it is today.

By the time he died in 2018 at the age of 65, he had bought some of the most important works created in the last half a

millennium.

"The collection is quite wide-ranging, it really makes Paul Allen a unique collector in that sense," said Flaum.

The previous most expensive collection sold at auction was the Macklowe collection whose two tranches netted \$922 million.

The auction will take place in New York on November 9 and 10. All proceeds due to Allen's estate are to be dedicated to philanthropy, in line with his wishes. Parts of the collection will be available for public viewing in Los Angeles, London, Paris, Shanghai and New York ahead of the sale.

Musk Launches New Perfume To Fund Twitter Purchase

Agenceis

Elon Musk now has his own musk: the Tesla entrepreneur announced the release of a new fragrance dubbed "Burnt Hair", which sold \$1 million in a few days. "Please buy my perfume, so I can buy Twitter," he wrote on the platform Wednesday.

Musk is poised to finalize

his \$44 billion acquisition of Twitter before the end of the month. If he fails to do so, a breach-of-contract trial will be held in November.

The SpaceX founder announced on Tuesday that he has already sold 10,000 bottles of the fragrance. "With a name like mine, getting into the fragrance business was inevitable -- why did I

even fight it for so long!?" he joked on Twitter.

The world's richest man's Twitter bio now portrays him as a "Perfume Salesman", and a pinned tweet includes a link to the product's selling page via his firm The Boring Company's website.

The ad for the perfume shows a ruby red bottle with the name engraved on

the front in the script. The tagline reads, "The Essence of Repugnant Desire." Each bottle retails for \$100.

Musk is no new to his jokes going viral on the internet as a result of his legions of fans. In the past, the billionaire has promoted a variety of strange products that make reference to his sense of humor.



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Global Wildlife Populations Have Sunk 69% Since 1970: Report

Agenceis

LONDON: The world's wildlife populations have declined by more than two-thirds since 1970 as forests have been cleared and oceans polluted, according to an assessment released on Thursday.

This "serious drop ... tells us that nature is unraveling and the natural world is emptying," said Andrew Terry, director of conservation and policy at the Zoological Society of London

(ZSL). The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) report, which used 2018 data from ZSL on the status of 32,000 wildlife populations covering more than 5,000 species, found that population sizes had declined by 69% on average. Deforestation, human exploitation, pollution, and climate change were the biggest drivers of the loss.

Wildlife populations in Latin American and the Caribbean were hit especially hard,



experiencing a 94% drop in just five decades. One population of pink river dolphins in the

Brazilian Amazon plummeted by 65% between 1994 and 2016, the report said.

Its findings were broadly similar to those in WWF's last assessment in 2020, with wildlife population sizes continuing to decline at a rate of about 2.5% per year, Terry said.

"Nature was in dire straits and it is still in dire straits," said Mark Wright, director of science at WWF-UK. "The war is definitely being lost."

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