

Is Jammu & Kashmir Witnessing the Brunt Of Climate Change? 'In Last 28 Years, Mean Temperature Rose By 2.32°C and 1.45°C In Jammu and Kashmir Regions'

Observer News Service

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing the brunt of climate change and average mean temperature in the last 28 years has climbed up by 2.32 degree Celsius and 1.45°C in the two regions respectively, a senior official said Friday.

"In 2014, we witnessed a devastating flood situation in Kashmir and almost every year due to untimely rainfall, the crop of paddy in Jammu and apple in Kashmir suffer huge losses, he added saying that we should prepare ourselves and our farmers to adapt to these weather



changes so that they would not suffer on economic front,"

Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Atal Dulloo said Friday.

J&K IS ALSO WITNESSING THE BRUNT OF CLIMATE CHANGE and average mean temperature in the last 28 years has climbed up by 2.32°C and 1.45°C in Jammu and Kashmir region respectively."

He was speaking at the inauguration of two day International conference on "Existing Climate Change Scenario and its Arising Risks" being held at SKUAST-Jammu here, an official spokesperson said Friday.

The conference is being organized by Mahima Research Foundation in conjunction with

the Social Welfare Department and Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Jammu.

"J&K is also witnessing the brunt of climate change and average mean temperature in the last 28 years has climbed up by 2.32°C and 1.45°C in Jammu and Kashmir region respectively,"

Dulloo said.

The ACS, as per the spokesperson, strongly advocated that agriculture is the only sector that can help in reducing poverty by raising incomes and food security for 80 percent of the world's poor populace.

"But, today the prosperity of agriculture and the future of our farmers is being threatened by numerous impending challenges like climate change which needs to be tackled collectively," he said.

Dulloo, he said, further stated that the yield of rainfed and irrigated rice in India has been projected to **More on PIO**

Govt Appoints Commissioner To Survey Auqaf Assets

Agencies

Srinagar: In a significant move, the Jammu & Kashmir Government has appointed a Commissioner Survey Auqaf for carrying out a detailed survey of Waqf properties in the Union Territory.

The Revenue department has appointed Commissioner Survey & Land Records, J&K as Commissioner Survey Auqaf, J&K for a survey of Auqaf properties in the Union Territory, as mandated under the Waqf Act, 1995 which became applicable to Jammu & Kashmir from October 31, 2019.

According to a notification, Commissioner Survey and Land Records has been appointed as Commissioner Survey Auqaf while Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners, Revenue have been designated as Additional Survey Commissioners and Assistant Survey Commissioners within their concerned districts. The Waqf law

Congress Boycotts, BJP Sails Through Jammu Mayor Election

Agencies

Jammu: Amid boycott of election by Congress party, Bhartiya Janata Party's Corporator from ward number 16, New Plot Jammu, Rajinder Sharma was on Friday elected as new Mayor of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC).

Sharma defeated Congress' Dwarka Nath Choudhary, who got only one vote as his party decided to stay away from the polling to protest the open ballot system, which was adopted by JMC for the election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

In the house of 75 members, 59 votes were polled for mayor election. Sharma garnered 57 votes while Choudhary got only one vote. One vote was rejected. For Deputy Mayor's post, of total 58 votes polled, BJP's Baldev Singh Baloria got 56 votes while two votes were rejected. No vote was cast in favour of Congress candidate Sonika Sharma.

JMC Commissioner Rahul Yadav informed **More on PIO**

Action Soon Against Those Justifying Civilian Killings: LG

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said some people were trying to disturb the communal harmony by justifying the killings of innocent civilians in the Kashmir Valley and warned them of strict action as per law.

"We will have to be alert as some elements are trying to disturb communal harmony. We will have to keep an eye on them and deal with them strictly," Sinha said while addressing the Police Commemoration Day function at Zewan on the outskirts of the city.

The Lieutenant Governor said while the Constitution guaranteed freedom of expression for all citizens, some elements were trying to justify the killings of

civilians under the garb of this fundamental right.

"Some people, for their vested interests, are trying to justify the innocent killings. Everyone has the fundamental right to freedom of expression, as envisaged by the founders of the Constitution, but if anyone, through words or deeds, will play with the unity and integrity of the country, they will have to face action as per the law of the land in the coming days," he added.

Without naming Pakistan, Sinha said the neighbouring country and its stooges here could not digest the positive developments in Jammu and Kashmir over the past three years.

"Our neighbour cannot digest the developments taking place in Jammu and Kashmir and, through its **More on PIO**



A NOMAD FAMILY WITH THEIR ANIMALS PASS THROUGH SNOW COVERED PEAKS along the Mughal road to reach their winter destination in Jammu region. KO photo, Abid Bhat



Situation Improved In J&K In Last 8 years: HM Shah

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Union Home minister Amit Shah on Friday said the security situation in the insurgency-hit areas of the northeast and Jammu and Kashmir as well as in the states affected by Naxal violence has improved over the last eight years of the Narendra Modi government.

Shah said this while addressing top police and paramilitary commanders at the National Police Memorial in the Chanakyapuri area here on the occasion of the National Police Commemoration Day.

"In the northeast, we have removed the special powers



given to the armed forces (under the AFSPA) and instead, given special powers to the youngsters there, resulting in a decline of violence in these areas by more than 70 per cent," he said.

The situation in Jammu and Kashmir is such that those who used to hurl stones at security personnel earlier have now become "panches" and "sarpanches", Shah added.

In the states affected by Left Wing Extremism (LWE), the national anthem is being sung in Eklavya schools while the national flag flutters on these buildings, he added.

Shah said India is proceeding on the path of development due to the sacrifices made by the police and paramilitary personnel across the country.

Paying his tributes to these personnel, he said they played a leading role during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The National **More on PIO**

Govt Asks Mehbooba Mufti To Vacate Fairview Residence

Offers Alternate Accommodation On 'Request'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti has been served a notice to vacate her official bungalow in the high-security Gupkar area here.

"The notice to evict from Fair View was served to me a few days ago. This has not come as a surprise and is along the expected lines," the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister told PTI.

She said although the notice mentions that the bungalow is meant for the chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, that is not the case.



"This place was allotted to my father (Mufti Mohammad Sayeed) in December 2005, after he relinquished the chief minister's office. So the grounds mentioned by the administration are not correct," Mufti said.

Asked if she will challenge the notice in the court of law, the People's Democratic Party (PDP) chief said she **More on PIO**

S H O R T T A K E S

4 Soldiers Killed In Chopper Crash

Four Army personnel were killed in an defence chopper crash in Upper Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh on Friday and search is on for a fifth person, a defence spokesperson said. The bodies of the four Army personnel have been recovered from the crash site in a densely wooded mountain area 35 km from the borders with China, he said. The cause of the crash is not yet known and details are being ascertained, he said. The advanced light helicopter (ALH) WSI, carrying five **More on PIO**

Terrorist Held In Bandipora: Police

Jammu and Kashmir Police on Friday claimed to have arrested a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist from North Kashmir's Bandipora district. Shahid Hussain Bhat of Plan Bandipora was arrested by a joint team of Police, army's 14 RR and the personnel of CRPF 3rd battalion during an input based search operation about the movement of militants in Zalwan Nursery area of the district, a police spokesperson said. Bhat, he said, is a locally trained terrorist of LeT and was in touch with terrorist of LeT in POK and was given the task to target **More on PIO**

Girl Killed In Hit And Run Case

A minor girl was killed while her father sustained injuries on Friday in a road accident in Lar area of Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. Seven-year-old Zahida and her father Firdous Ahmad Magray sustained injuries when their scooty (JK05J-0306) was hit by a Tata mobile in Naitang village of Lar on Friday, reports said. Both of them were removed to the District Hospital Ganderbal for treatment. However, the doctors there declared the minor girl dead. According to reports, **More on PIO**

Mughal Road Reopens For LMVs

The Mughal Road connecting the twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri in Jammu with Shopian in south Kashmir, was thrown open for stranded traffic on Friday. Official sources said that stranded Light Motor Vehicles are being cleared on priority. DySP Traffic Rajouri-Poonch Range Aftab Bukhari confirmed to a local news agency GNS that the throughfare has been cleared of the snow to make it motorable. Also, sources said that SSG road also reopened as **More on PIO**

Mercury Falls After Snowfall In Hills

As higher reaches received snowfall and rains lashed plains, mercury recorded a considerable drop in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday. Weather department here has forecast "isolated very light rain/snow over Jammu and Kashmir" during next 24 hours and "mainly dry weather" thereafter. A meteorological department official here said that Srinagar recorded a low of 5.5°C against 6.4°C on the previous night. The temperature was 0.4°C below normal for the **More on PIO**

Police Commemoration Day Observed In Jammu

National police commemoration day was observed on Friday with full ceremonial tradition across the Jammu region as senior police officers led their personnel to pay rich tributes to those who laid down their lives in the service of the nation. The day is celebrated every year in memory and honour of Sub-Inspector Karam Singh and his 10 compatriots of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) who on October 21, 1959, had sacrificed their lives while holding the attack by Chinese forces at **More on PIO**

Vegetarian Protein Sources

Whether you're going veggie round-the-clock or want to swap some meaty meals for vegetarian ones (a smart choice for your health), choose one of these 10 vegetarian protein choices to satisfy you.

Edamame

These pale green soybeans, encased in fuzzy pods, are protein powerhouses that deliver 17 grams per cup. Keep them in your freezer for an easy-to-prepare snack. Just cook them according to directions and sprinkle them with a touch of salt. Or add shelled edamame to a veggie stir-fry or blend it up into a dip with this hummus recipe.

Peanut Butter

Two tablespoons of peanut butter give you 8 grams of protein. Look for natural peanut butter to avoid added sugars and partially hydrogenated oils. And it doesn't matter whether you choose chunky or smooth — both have the same nutritional profile. Try a tablespoon of peanut butter on a banana or celery stalk for a snack with staying power.

Quinoa

Quinoa has become a wildly popular whole grain, in part because it has a bit more protein than many other grains. One cup of cooked quinoa gives you 8 grams of "complete" protein, meaning it has all of the essential amino acids packaged together. Try it in this Chicken and Quinoa Soup from Food Network Magazine.

Low-Fat Cottage Cheese

One cup of low-fat cottage cheese has 28 whopping grams of protein — half the amount many people need in a day! Cottage cheese can be quite high in sodium, so look for low-sodium varieties. Top it with berries and sliced almonds for a healthy breakfast or snack.

Beans

Canned beans are a quick and easy protein source, delivering 8 grams in just a 1/2 cup. Beans are also a good source of iron,

another nutrient that you need to make an extra effort to get if you're not eating meat. Tuck them into a quesadilla or add to a soup or pasta dish for an easy protein boost.

Nonfat Greek Yogurt

Ultra-thick Greek yogurt has even more protein than regular yogurt (23 grams per cup, compared to 13 grams). Top plain yogurt with a spoonful of honey, fresh sliced fruit and nuts. Try making your own Greek yogurt at home with this recipe.

Eggs

Just 1 large egg gives you 6 grams of protein. Most of that comes from the white, so if you want to boost the amount of protein in your scrambled eggs without adding a lot of extra calories and saturated fat, add an extra egg white or two to a whole egg.

Tempeh

This nutty-flavored, nubby-textured vegan ingredient has 15 grams of protein per 1/2 cup. It's made from fermented soybeans, making it a slightly more nutritious alternative to tofu (it has more fiber and vitamins). Tempeh takes particularly well to a moist heat preparation, such as braising.

Seitan

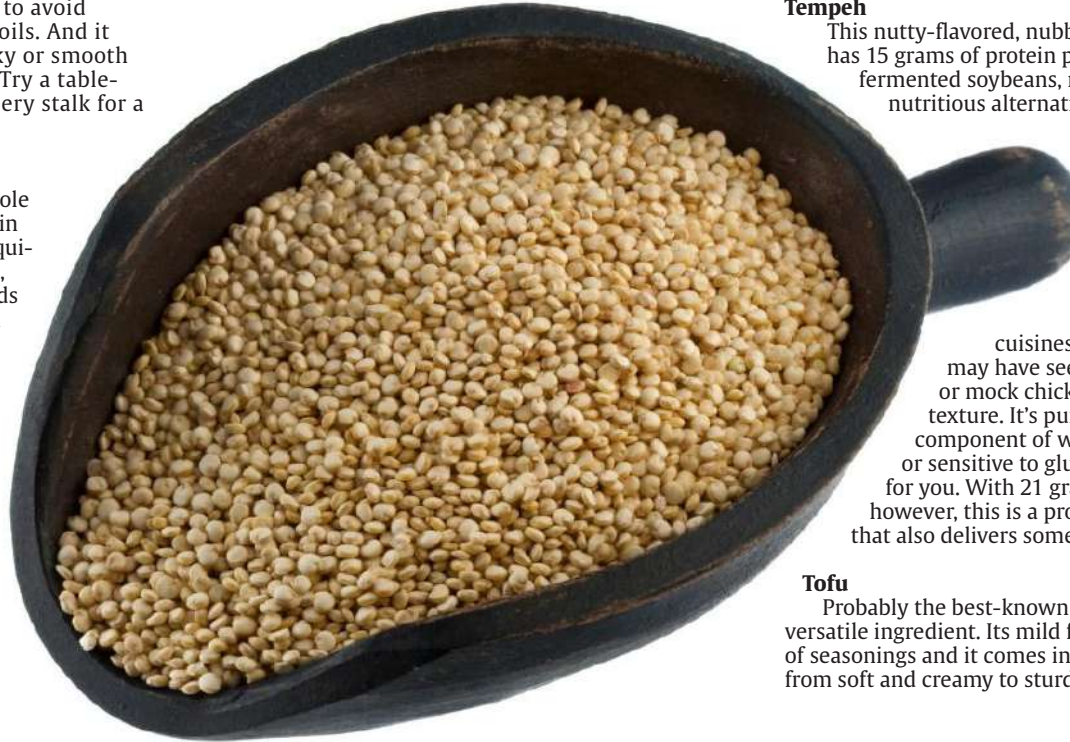
Often used in Asian cuisines as a meat replacement (you may have seen it on menus as mock duck or mock chicken), seitan has a chewy texture. It's pure gluten — the protein component of wheat — so if you're allergic or sensitive to gluten, this is not the choice for you. With 21 grams of protein per 1/3 cup, however, this is a protein-dense meat alternative that also delivers some iron.

Tofu

Probably the best-known vegetarian protein, tofu is a versatile ingredient. Its mild flavor adapts well to a variety of seasonings and it comes in several different textures, from soft and creamy to sturdy and firm. Plus, it's packed



with protein: a 1/2 cup of tofu has 20 grams. Try silken tofu in this Dark Chocolate Mousse or 2 Alarm Tofu Dip or grill firm tofu in Bobby Flay's Barbequed Tofu recipe.



One cup of low-fat cottage cheese has 28 whopping grams of protein — half the amount many people need in a day! Cottage cheese can be quite high in sodium, so look for low-sodium varieties. Top it with berries and sliced almonds for a healthy breakfast or snack.

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education
BRANCH OFFICE MAGAM

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 11th under Below mentioned particulars
 Name : Mashood Ahmad Bhat
 S/o Shabir Ahmad Bhat
 R/o Utterpora Beerwah

Details of Marks Certificate lost
 Higher Secondary School Examination (class 11th)
 Roll No 5150452 Session /Year Annual Regular 2015
 Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is treated as cancelled.

Sd/ Assistant Secretary
 Sub Office Magam

bmg

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
J&K Science, Technology & Innovation Council Science & Technology Department
 5-B/C Gandhi Nagar, Jammu / SDA Colony, Bemina, Srinagar
 Email: jkstic89@gmail.com

NOTICE

Sub: Extension of Date for submission of applications for award of Science Talent Promotion Scholarships at +10 /+12 / Post Graduate Levels from the eligible students of UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

In continuation to this Department Advertisement Notification No. JKST&IC/STPS/87/2022-23/294-95 dated: 26.09.2022 published in Daily Excelsior vide No. DIPJ / 9285 dated: 28.09.2022 & Greater Kashmir dated: 30.09.2022, the last date for inviting the applications from the domiciled students of UT of Jammu & Kashmir for award of Science Talent Promotion Scholarship is hereby extended upto 05.11.2022 till 5:30 pm.

Those applicants who have already applied to this Department in response to the earlier advertisement notifications issued by this Department are not required to apply again. However, eligible and interested students who have not applied as yet can apply and are essentially required to fill up the applications for award of scholarship at +10/+12 / PG Levels as per the prescribed format

1. Name: _____
 2. Parentage: _____
 3. Date of Birth: _____
 4. Domicile Certificate (Y/N): _____
 5. Class/Roll No. - (Presently studying): _____
 6. Name of the Institution: _____
 7. Level at which applying: _____
 8. Qualifying Examination: _____
 (Year with session) _____
 9. Permanent Address : _____
 10. Communication Address : _____
 11. Email Address / Mobile No: _____
 12. Aadhar Card No.: _____
 13. Saving Bank Acctt. No.: _____
 14. Bank Branch/ IFSC Code : _____

(attested)
 Passport Size Photograph

(Signature of the Applicant)

OBITUARY

With profound grief it is informed that Shabir Ahmad Bhat S/o Haji Abdul Ahad Bhat left for heavenly abode on the 21st of October, 2022 Friday, May Almighty Allah grant Jannat ul Firdous to the departed soul.
 The congregational Fataha Khawani shall be held on 24th of October, Monday at the ancestral graveyard in Awantipora.
 Bereaved
 Hajahad Family
 9419006043 inf

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
SKIMS Medical College - Hospital
 Bemina Srinagar, (J&K) - 190017
 E-Tender SKIMS MC (Estt) 03 /2022
 DATED 19-10-2022

Sub: - Annual Rate Contract for running MBBS Boys & Girls Students Mess of SKIMS Medical College Hospital Bemina Srinagar.

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of J&K UT, e-tenders are invited from reputed agencies having experience in catering service, for running of Boys and Girls Students Mess at SKIMS Medical College-Hospital, Bemina Srinagar.

S. No	Particulars of the tenders	Tender document fee	Earnest Money	Date of Opening of Bid.
01	Providing of Diet to Boys and Girls MBBS Students Mess at SKIMS Medical College.	₹1000	₹ 1:00 Lac EACH MESS	16.11.2022

- The tender document for the above job can be seen on the web site www.jktenders.gov.in from 25-10-2022 (16:00 hrs.)
- The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website from 25-10-2022 (17:00hrs) onwards.
- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on website www.jktenders.gov.in from 01-11-2022 (18:00 hrs) upto 12-11-2022 (16:00hrs) only .
- The uploaded bids on the website will be opened on 16-11-2022 (11:00hrs) in the office of Convener, Tender Opening Committee in presence of bidders who wish to attend. In case of holiday on the date of opening of bid, bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- Cost of tender document (in shape of DD) & earnest money (in shape of CDR/FDR) in original favouring Chief Accounts Officer, SKIMS Medical College, Bemina Srinagar should reach in office of Estates Officer, SKIMS Medical College, Bemina Srinagar through speed post/Regd. Post/Courier before due time of submission of bids. Tender Opening Committee shall not be responsible for any delay due to any reason.
- Original copy of affidavit on Rs.50/- stamp paper duly attested by 1st Class Judicial Magistrate to the effect that:-
 a) The documents/catalogues etc enclosed with the Tender are original & genuine and have not been tampered or fabricated.
 b) The firm has not been blacklisted in the past by any Govt./ Private institution of the country and there is no enquiry of vigilance/any other investigating agency or before any Court of Law or any petition case pending against the firm/supplier.
 c) In case if any document or statement is found forged/ fake or wrong at any point of time, I shall be personally responsible and liable to be punished in accordance with the law.
- Complete bidding process will be on line (Price bid not to be submitted in physical form)

No: SKIMS MC-362-2022/741-45
 Dated 20-10-2022

DIPK-NB-4524/22

Estates Officer
 SKIMS Medical College Bemina Srinagar

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
J&K Science, Technology & Innovation Council Science & Technology Department
 5-B/C Gandhi Nagar, Jammu / SDA Colony, Bemina, Srinagar
 Email: jkstic89@gmail.com

NOTICE

Sub: Extension of Date for submission of applications for award of Science Talent Promotion Scholarships at +10 /+12 / Post Graduate Levels from the eligible students of UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

In continuation to this Department Advertisement Notification No. JKST&IC/STPS/87/2022-23/294-95 dated: 26.09.2022 published in Daily Excelsior vide No. DIPJ / 9285 dated: 28.09.2022 & Greater Kashmir dated: 30.09.2022, the last date for inviting the applications from the domiciled students of UT of Jammu & Kashmir for award of Science Talent Promotion Scholarship is hereby extended upto 05.11.2022 till 5:30 pm.

Those applicants who have already applied to this Department in response to the earlier advertisement notifications issued by this Department are not required to apply again. However, eligible and interested students who have not applied as yet can apply and are essentially required to fill up the applications for award of scholarship at +10/+12 / PG Levels as per the prescribed format

1. Name: _____
 2. Parentage: _____
 3. Date of Birth: _____
 4. Domicile Certificate (Y/N): _____
 5. Class/Roll No. - (Presently studying): _____
 6. Name of the Institution: _____
 7. Level at which applying: _____
 8. Qualifying Examination: _____
 (Year with session) _____
 9. Permanent Address : _____
 10. Communication Address : _____
 11. Email Address / Mobile No: _____
 12. Aadhar Card No.: _____
 13. Saving Bank Acctt. No.: _____
 14. Bank Branch/ IFSC Code : _____

(attested)
 Passport Size Photograph

(Signature of the Applicant)

Eligibility:
 i) For +10 Level:
 The applicant should be 10th pass with at least 60% of marks and shall be pursuing Science Subjects at higher Secondary Part 1st (11th class) in any recognized School/Institution.
 ii) For +12 Level:
 The applicant should be 12th pass with at least 60% of marks and shall be pursuing Science Subjects in the first year at any recognized College /Institution.
 iii) For PG Level:
 The applicant should be B.Sc Pass with at least 60% of marks and shall be pursuing Science Subject at first year Post Graduation (M.Sc) in any recognized University.

How to Apply:
 The applications neatly computer typed and filled in, as per the prescribed format, duly forwarded and attested by the head of the School / College / HOD of the concerned Department accompanied with the bonafide certificate from the School /College /University, attested documents like Domicile Certificate, Qualifying Marks certificate (either 10th class marks / 12th Class marks / B.Sc marks certificate), as the case may be. The applications along with the necessary documents in sealed envelope should be sent through speed post / registered post strictly as per the following addresses, as under;

For Kashmir Division
 i) Additional Director, J&K Science, Technology & Innovation Council, Science & Technology Department, SDA Colony, Bemina, Srinagar. For any query, please contact: Joint Director (B), Mobile No.7006959315.
 ii) Joint Director (SK), J&K Science, Technology & Innovation Council, Science & Technology Department, 5-B/C Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. For any query, please contact: Assistant Director, Mobile No. 9419196296.

(Sanjay Kharoo)
 Joint Director J&K Science, Technology & Innovation Council
 Science & Technology Department
 J&K Government
 DIPK-12185/22

NOTICE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC

It is information for the general public that i have changed my son's name from XYGUM ABBAS to XYGUM ABBAS WANI in future he will be konwn as XYGUM ABBAS WANI. If any body having any objection he/she may contact Passport office, Srinagar with in 07 days no objection will be accepted.

Mohd Hussain Wani
 F/o XYGUM ABBAS WANI
 R/O ZOORIGUNG BUDGAM mcb

از نیابت چوکر با اجلاس انگریزی کمیٹی مجسٹریٹ درج اول

مضمون در خواست : کفایت احمدوان ولد غلام محمدوانی ساکنہ موضع ننگر پورہ مہماہہ تحصیل کنڈر برآمد وطنی unemployment certificate بنج خود سائل

اشتمار بر مراد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملاً مندرجہ مضمونان الصدور کے نسبت پیواری حلقہ سے ریپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے برے ریپورٹ پیواری حلقہ ساکنہ مذکورہ موضع ننگر پورہ مہماہہ تحصیل کنڈر کا مستقل پاس شدہ ہے اور وہ پڑا سے جمعی کئی ٹرک سکونت نہیں کی ہے۔ سائل مذکورہ تاحال کسی بھی سرکاری انشم سرکاری نکل میں کام نہیں کرتا ہے اور تاحال بے روزگار ہے۔

Unemployment Certificate حاصل کرنے کا خواہاں ہے اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی مذمور یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا اعتراض سات یوم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ یہ عداوت کرنے کے بعد کوئی مذمور یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار AK

اشتمار برائے خاص و عام

منظور کی دختر ذکرا گورنمنٹ ہائی سکول شالینگ سری نگر میں زیر تعلیم ہے دختر کی ولدیت سکول ریکارڈ میں غلطی سے ذکرا نبی دختر غلام نبی جو نبی اندراج ہو ہے۔ اب سکول ریکارڈ میں درستی کرانا مطلوب ہے اور ولدیت فاروق احمد خان کرنا ضروری ہے۔ اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی مذمور یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات یوم کے اندر پیش کرے۔ بعد گزرنے معیا کوئی مذمور یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

فاروق احمد خان ولد عبدل حمید خان
 ساکنہ ڈاکو تحصیل کوار ہاہہ
 bmg
 Cell: 6006866525

Cluster University Proposes New Job-Oriented Courses

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Cluster University Srinagar has proposed to introduce several new courses in the varsity's second Academic Council meeting chaired by Vice Chancellor, Prof. Qayyum Husain here Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Qayyum stressed on the need to introduce new job-oriented professional and vocational courses keeping in view the mission and vision of the university. "These courses not only meet the industry requirements and technological advances made in the respective fields, but are also in line with the implementation of National Education Policy (NEP-2020)," he said.

The proposed courses include Masters/Honors programmes in Artificial Intelligence and Data Science, M.Sc in Geology and Community Science; M.A. in Urdu, Kashmiri, Hindi and Gender Studies; Honors programmes in Sports Science & Exercise, Sports Management, Graphic Designing & Visualization; B.A.-B.Ed., B.Sc-B.Ed, B.A.-LLB; Diploma programmes in Digital Marketing, GST & Taxation, Block Chain Management, Cloud Computing, Cyber Security, German and French language. The university will approach Higher Education Department for requisite faculty positions and infrastructural support to run the proposed courses.

Earlier, Incharge Registrar, Dr. Khurshid Ahmad

Mir briefed the members about the various items on agenda, including the matters meant for ratification and those proposed for consideration in the higher decision making bodies.

Those present on the occasion included Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. Mush-taq Ahmad Lone; Deans of various faculties, Principals of constituent colleges and coordinators of integrated programmes. Director Education SKUAST-K, Prof. Mohammad Nisar Khan was the special invitee on the occasion. Members from Cluster University Jammu, including Dr. Naveen Anand, Dr. Geetanjali Rana, Dr. Sanjay Kumar and Dr. Sindhu Kapoor attended the meeting in the online mode.

Among other items put forth for consideration of the Academic Council included amendments in the statutes regarding re-evaluation procedure, changing of examination pattern in view of NEP-2020, recognition of college teachers as research supervisors, five-day week working schedule, establishment of Women Study Centre and introduction of NCC as a vocational/elective subject.

The major agenda items put forth for ratification included changes brought in admissions, curriculum and examination besides some contingency matters. The ratified items also included renaming of constituent and affiliated colleges, temporary affiliation to the newly sanctioned colleges and establishment of Abdul Ahad Azad Chair.

SMC Asks Dog Owners To Get Their Pets Registered

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has issued a public notice on 19th October and asked all the dog owners residing within the limits of Srinagar city to get their pet dogs registered.

A public notice issued by the Municipal Veterinary Officer SMC states that "All the owners/keepers of pet dogs residing within the limits of Srinagar Municipal Corporation

are required to get their pet dogs registered in accordance to the section 304 (regulation and control of Dogs) of the Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Corporation Act 2000 and section 3 of Animal Birth Control (dog) rules 2001 in the office of the undersigned"

The notice further states that "the requisite forms will be available in the office of the Municipal Veterinary Officers Tengpora, Bypass Srinagar".

DLSA Organises Lok Adalat In City

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A Special Lok Adalat was today organized by District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar under the directions of J&K LSA, here.

The Special Lok Adalat was organised under the Chairmanship of Jawad Ahmad, Chairman DLSA (Pr. District & Sessions Judge) Srinagar.

A total of Nine Benches

were constituted on the occasion to take up cases of different nature.

A total of 8346 Cases were taken up for their amicable settlement out of which 8295 cases were settled. This involves an amount of Rs. 50,55,000 settled by MACT, Srinagar, Rs 48,98,874 in Bank cases and in addition an amount of Rs. 4125038 was imposed as fine in traffic cases. In total an amount of Rs 1, 40, 83,712 was realized in total.

ASF ENTERPRISES

Sale And Service Of Computers

2nd. Floor Munir Manzil Regal Chowk Srinagar (J&K)
Ph. 0194-2477949, 9419001176, 7006122596, 7006997583

Sale and Service of Laptops, Desktops, Printers, Photocopiers, Faxes, and Refilling of all Types of Cartridges, Toners Registered Government order Suppliers.

inf

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my pan card while travelling from Habakadal to Bemina Srinagar on 21/10/2022. If anybody has found the same may contact below given phone number otherwise I have to apply for the duplicate of the same in this regard anybody having any objection can file in the concerned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

Bilal Ahmad Badyari
cell 7006955321

INF



Cobblers striving for their livelihood outside Hazratbal Shrine on Friday. KO Photo Syed Mohammad

Ropeway To Connect Shankaracharya Temple

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta reviewed the modalities for development of ropeway project to the Shankaracharya temple here in Srinagar city besides assessing the pre-feasibility reports for ropeway projects planned for Pahalgam-Baisaran and Baltal-Amarnath holy Cave.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, PWD; Secretary Tourism; representatives from National Highways Logistics Management Limited (NHLML) and other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary called all these projects significant tourist attractions for the visitors to these places. He said that the ropeway projects are eco-friendly and most suitable for such places. He observed that these projects besides being an attraction would be highly beneficial for the devotees and would help in increasing footfall to these religious places.

Dr Mehta impressed upon the officers that the projects should be in sync with the local culture and associated religious sentiments. He said that these should reflect the religious significance associated with these places besides being a very easy and reliable method of visiting these shrines of great religious importance.

He highlighted that these projects would directly or indirectly create employment opportunities for the local youth. He asked the executing agencies to take into consideration the development of allied facilities like parking lots, food courts, shopping areas, around the boarding stations of these projects.

The Chief Secretary was informed that initially two projects for Shivkhori Cave and Shankaracharya Temple would be taken in hand for completion in the coming year. It was further informed that these projects would possibly be dedicated to the public around the year 2025. Both these places are very popular in public and attract lakhs of visitors each year. It was also revealed that on completion of these projects each of the sites would be visited by around 10-20000 pilgrims each day with an annual growth rate of 4% and 2% for Shiv Khori Cave and Shankaracharya



to reach there. While reviewing the pre feasibility reports for ropeway projects for Pahalgam-Baisaran and Baltal-Amarnath Cave, it was said that the Baltal-Amarnath Cave axis is proposed to be of the length of 11.60 kms with intermediate stations at D-mail, Brarimarg and Sangam on the way to the Holy Cave. Both these projects had been termed significant for the visitors and benefitting lakhs of visitors on their completion.

The meeting was informed that both these shrines are located at hilltops requiring 2.35 Kms of line length from Darshan Dropadi-Shivkhori Cave and 2.70 Kms for Shankaracharya Temple. It was further given out that these projects would have 2 stations with an upper station near the shrines requiring a travel time of just 09 min-

DC Reviews Implementation Of Nikshay Mitra Initiative

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to review the implementation of Ni-Kshay Mitra initiative launched under PRADHAN MANTRI TB MukT BHARAT ABHIYAN to provide additional patient support to improve treatment outcomes of TB patients, a meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad at Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex, here.

At the outset, the DC, who is also the Chairman District TB Control Society was given a detailed appraisal about the implementation of Ni-Kshay Mitra initiative in Srinagar District through a Power-Point presentation.

While highlighting the objectives of the initiative, the DC said this is a part of the Pradhan Mantri TB MukT Bharat Abhiyan launched with the view to combat challenges of tuberculosis through multi-sectoral response. He said the Nikshay Mitra initiative has been envisioned to bring together all community stakeholders to support those on TB treatment and accelerate the progress towards TB elimination.

The DC said though the efforts of the Administration are



being registered in the District.

He was also informed that a Corporate Sector of Srinagar has agreed to adopt 180 patients for a year under Ni-Kshay Mitra scheme.

On the occasion, the DC asked the concerned officers to work in mission mode for such noble cause and ensure registration of 2000 NIKSHAY MITRAS in Srinagar District within next two weeks.

The DC also laid emphasis on mass awareness about the scheme so that desired targets are achieved in a time bound manner.

During the meeting, it was given out that as many as 13112 Presumptive Examination for TB detection were conducted during 2021, while more than 24000 such test were also conducted from January to September this year by District TB Society Srinagar.

It is worth mentioning here that Srinagar District is well on the path to become TB free District by March 2023.

HIV, Diabetes, UDSP testing rate has increased to above 90 percent. Active TB case finding, presumptive examination has been done at around 4000 Tests against 1906 tests done during in year 2021.

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
BIJBHERA: 01932-228243
PAMPORE: 01933-294132
PATTAN: 01954-293507
QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI CALENDAR

25 Rabi ul Awwal
1444

PRAYERS	
FAJR	5:19
ZUHR	12:16
ASR	4:13
Magrib	5:55
ISHA	7:14

This Day In History

- 1721 - Tsar Peter the Great becomes "All-Russian Emperor"
- 1746 -Princeton University (NJ) received its charter
- 1797 -Andre-Jacques Garnerin makes 1st parachute descent from a balloon in Paris
- 1799 - Russia leaves second anti-French Coalition
- 1812 - Duke of Wellington seizes Burgos, Spain
- 1861 - 1st telegraph line linking West & East coasts completed
- 1862 --Battle at Old Fort Wayne, Indian Territory
- 1879 -Thomas Edison perfects carbonized cotton filament light bulb
- 1897 - World's first car dealer opens in London
- 1913 -Explosion at Dawson NM coal mine kills 263 mine workers
- 1928 - China expels all Russian instructors & civil servants
- 1946 - 2 British ships sink near Albania
- 1948 - Egyptian flagship King Farouk sunk by Israel
- 1953 - Laos gains full independence from France
- 1954 - West Germany joins North Atlantic Treaty Organization
- 1956 - Great Britain performs nuclear test at Maralinga Australia
- 1961 - 75,000 Flemings demand equal rights & Flemish language in Belgium
- 1962 - Cuban missile crisis: US President John F. Kennedy addresses TV about Russian missile bases in Cuba and imposes a naval blockade on Cuba, beginning the missile crisis
- 1964 - French philosopher and author Jean-Paul Sartre refuses Nobel prize
- 1964 - US performs underground nuclear test at Hattiesburg, Mississippi
- 1966 - USSR launches Luna 12 for orbit around Moon
- 1973 - Israeli troops reconquer mountain Hermon
- 1973 - Security Council Resolution 338-cease fire to Yom Kippur War

From KO Archives

RSS Asks Farooq To Move JK Trifurcation Plan

Observer News Service

S himla- RSS leader incharge Kashmir affairs, Indresh, today asked Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Farooq Abdullah to bring a resolution in the assembly for trifurcation of the state saying there was both logic and merit in such a move.

It is neither a regional nor a communal demand but expression of people's aspirations. There was both logic and merit in growing demand for trifurcation of the state into Jammu and Kashmir states and Ladakh union territory, he told reporters here. He said the autonomy resolution passed by Jammu and Kashmir assembly had no relevance after its rejection by the government.

Indresh asked the union government to destroy the militants train-ing camps run by Pakistan's ISI. He said India should garner support against Pakistan on the issue of militancy and running of training camps for militants. ONS adds from Jammu: It may be recalled the RSS had formally launched its campaign for the state's trifurcation coming out in the open, for the first time, in support of the division of the only Muslim majority state. Advocating 'reorganisation of the state by what it perceives as isolation of the Muslim majority valley from rest of the state, the organisation visualises the move as a step towards early solution of the Kashmir problem. According to reports, the RSS has planned 'mass action programme' and even floated an umbrella organisation the Jammu and Kashmir Nationalist Front (JKNF) -and is 'subtly' promoting groups to organise mass agitations to get the state divided into Hindu Jammu, Muslim valley and Buddhist Ladakh. The Front held its first dharna in Jammu on Gandhi Jayanti recently.

In fact, according to the report, the RSS plan would not stop at the mere 'trifurcation' of the state. It favours further division of the Muslim dominated valley by carving out a separate home-land for the migrant Kashmiri Pandits. The movement envisages mobilisation of public opinion in the Muslims majority districts of Poonch, Rajouri and Doda, besides the Gujjar community against what it describes as Kashmiri hegemony.

(Kashmir Observer, October 22, 2000)

Israel, Ukraine Discuss Air Defence Systems After Drone Strikes



Agenceis

Ukrainian and Israeli officials have held talks about Kyiv's request for Israel to provide air defence assistance, days after Russia allegedly deployed Iranian "kamikaze" drones as part of a new wave of air raids on the war-torn country. Ukrainian foreign minister Dmytro Kuleba said on Thursday he had spoken on the phone to Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid and "discussed in detail" the provision of air and missile defence systems and technology. "I informed him [about the] unspoken suffering, loss of life, and destruction caused by Russian missiles and Iranian-made drones," he tweeted. Lapid's office said in a statement on Thursday that the Israeli prime minister had expressed "deep concern" over the military ties between Russia and arch foe Iran. Ukraine this week accused Russia of using four Iranian-made drones to bomb Kyiv and said its air defences have shot down 223 Iranian drones since mid-September. The Kremlin said it had no knowledge of its army using Iranian drones in Ukraine and Tehran said the claims that it is providing Russia

with weapons are "baseless". European Union countries, however, said they had found evidence supporting Kyiv's claim and on Thursday adopted sanctions on Iran over its provision of drones to Russia. The phone call between Kuleba and Lapid came two days after Ukraine stepped up appeals for Israeli help with air defence systems to intercept Iranian drones and ballistic missiles. In the request, Ukraine also demanded that Israel train its forces in operating the systems, Axios reported. Israel has walked a delicate diplomatic line since the start of the Russian invasion in late February, seeking to preserve ties with Moscow. While condemning Russia's move, it has limited its assistance to humanitarian relief, citing a desire to ensure the wellbeing of Russia's Jews and to continue co-operation with Moscow over war-ravaged neighbour Syria. On Wednesday, Israeli defence minister Benny Gantz reiterated Tel Aviv's position that it would not sell weapon systems to Ukraine. According to a statement by his office, however, Gantz had asked Ukraine "to share information about their needs for air defence alerts".

Imran Khan Disqualified From Holding Public Office For 5 Years

Agenceis

Islamabad: Former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan was disqualified Friday from running for political office for five years, after the country's election commission ruled he misled officials about gifts he received from foreign leaders while in power. The decision is another twist in political wrangling that began even before Khan's April ouster and is one of several legal battles being fought by the former international cricket star and his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party. "The ECP (Election Commission of Pakistan) has declared Imran Khan was involved in corrupt practices," Gohar Khan, one of his lawyers, told reporters, adding he had been disqualified for five years. "We are going to challenge it in the Islamabad high court right now." Pakistan's courts are often used to tie up lawmakers in lengthy proceedings that rights monitors criticise for stifling political opposition, but the commission's involvement, in this case, stems from the obligation of elected officials to declare all their assets. The case centres on a government department known as "Toshakhana", which during the Mughal era referred to the "treasure houses" kept by the princely rulers to store and display gifts lavished on them. Government officials must declare all gifts but are allowed to keep those below a certain value. More expensive items must go to Toshakhana, but in some cases the recipient can buy them back at around 50 percent of their value -- a discount Khan raised from 20 percent while in office. Pakistan newspapers have for



months carried lurid stories alleging Khan and his wife received lavish gifts worth millions during trips abroad. They included luxury watches, jewellery, designer handbags, and perfumes. Khan is accused of failing to declare some gifts, or the profit made from selling them. The complaint to the election commission was first brought when Khan was still in office by the Pakistan Democratic Movement, a coalition whose members now make up the government. At the time, Khan said he had not made public some gifts on national security grounds, but in a written submission admitted buying items worth nearly 22 million rupees (\$100,000), and later selling them for more than twice that amount. He says the valuation was done through proper channels. This week, Khan won six of eight national assembly seats he stood for in a weekend by-election, a vote he called a referendum on his popularity. Individuals can stand in multiple constituencies in Pakistan elections and choose which to

forfeit if they win more than one, but it is rare for a candidate to contest as many as Khan. The 70-year-old has attempted to disrupt Pakistan's political process since his April ouster when he ordered all his lawmakers to give up their seats, leaving no PTI members in the National Assembly. He has also vowed to soon announce the date of a "long march" of his supporters on the capital to pressure the government to announce an earlier national election than that scheduled for October next year. Khan regularly holds rallies drawing tens of thousands across the country, giving fiery speeches criticising state institutions -- including the powerful military -- for allegedly conspiring to topple his government. He rode to power in 2018 on a populist platform promising social reforms, religious conservatism, and a fight against corruption, overturning decades of rule by two feuding political dynasties interspersed with military takeovers. But, under his tenure, the economy stagnated and he lost the support of the army, which was accused of helping to get him elected.

At Village Bordering China, What PM Modi Said Today

Agenceis

Badrinath: As part of the Local for Vocal initiative, Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Uttarakhand on Friday appealed to people, particularly tourists, to spend money on purchasing locally made products. "I appeal to all tourists in the country to spend at least 5 per cent of their travel budget on buying local products," Prime Minister Modi said at a public event held at Badrinath's Mana, the last village bordering China. Earlier too, he had appealed

worth around 1,000 crore. According to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), the two road widening projects -- from Mana to Mana Pass (NH07) and from Joshimath to Malari (NH107B) -- shall be another step towards providing last-mile all-weather road connectivity to our border areas. Apart from boosting connectivity, these projects will also prove beneficial from a strategic point of view as well. Prime Minister Narendra Modi reviewed the progress of development work of the riverfront in Badrinath on Friday.



to fellow Indians on various occasions to purchase indigenous products to sustain the local economy. Talking about villages situated near international borders and far-flung areas, the prime minister said every village located in the border areas will be now considered as the first village of India. On the occasion, Prime Minister Modi laid the foundation stone for road widening projects

Earlier in the day, the prime minister offered prayers at Badrinath and Kedarnath. In Kedarnath, he laid the foundation stone for a ropeway project, which will be around 9.7 km long and will connect Gaurikund to Kedarnath, reducing the travel time between the two places from 6-7 hours at present to only about 30 minutes. The ropeway is estimated to cost 2,430 crore.

Iran Warns Saudi Arabia Over 'Reliance' On Israel

Agenceis

On 18 October, Iran assured that the leaders of its regional rival Saudi Arabia should stop relying on Israel, in an apparent reference to the growing connections between Israel and the Gulf Arab states, according to Tasnim news agency. The top commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Hossein Salami said, "you are dependent on a collapsing Israel, and this will be the end of your era," in what he called a "warning" to the Kingdom's ruling al-Saud family. However, according to The New Arab, on 17 October, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said that "we are Saudi Arabia's neighbors and we must coexist. The embassies of the two countries should be reopened to solve our problems in a better way". Following years of tensions between the regional rivals, the two have held five rounds of talks in Baghdad, which the foreign ministry described as "promising". "The delay in holding the next round of Iran-Saudi talks is due

to efforts to take an important step forward in the next Baghdad meeting," the spokesman for Iran's foreign ministry remarked. Relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia broke down in 2016 after Iranian protesters stormed Riyadh's embassy in Tehran following the execution of a Shia cleric in the kingdom. On 16 June, talks were held between Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa Kadhimi, Iranian President Sayyed Ebrahim Raisi, and Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, who met to discuss negotiations between Saudi Arabia and Tehran. On the other hand, the Pentagon has been collaborating with Israel, Saudi Arabia, and other nations in West Asia over the past six months to create a network of unmanned drones with the goal of countering Iran across the Persian Gulf. According to US navy officials that spoke with the Wall Street Journal (WSJ), Washington expects to have 100 small surveillance drones operating "from the Suez Canal in Egypt to waters off the Iranian coast" by next summer.

Supreme Court To Hear Plea Challenging Release Of Bilkis Bano Rapists

Agenceis

New Delhi: The Supreme Court agreed on Friday to hear a fresh plea moved by a women's organisation, challenging the remission of sentence and the release of convicts in the 2002 Bilkis Bano gang-rape case, which also involves the killing of seven of her family members during the Gujarat riots. A bench of justices Ajay Rastogi and CT Ravikumar tagged the matter with the main petition and said it would be heard along with it. The top court was hearing a plea filed by the National Federation of Indian Women, challenging the remission of sentence and the release of convicts in the case. The court had, on October 18, said the Gujarat government's reply to petitions challenging the remission is very bulky, wherein a series of judgments have been quoted but factual statements are missing. It granted time to the petitioners to file their response to



the Gujarat government's affidavit and said it will hear the matter on November 29. Bilkis Bano was 21 years old and five-month pregnant when she was gang-raped while fleeing the riots that broke out after the Godhra train burning incident. Her three-year-old daughter was among the seven family members killed. The 11 men convicted in the case walked out of the Godhra sub-jail on August 15 after the Gujarat government allowed their release under its remission policy. They had completed more than 15 years in jail.

ter was among the seven family members killed. The 11 men convicted in the case walked out of the Godhra sub-jail on August 15 after the Gujarat government allowed their release under its remission policy. They had completed more than 15 years in jail.

448 Prisoners Released In A Day: How Chhattisgarh Is Decongesting Its Jails

Agenceis

Raipur: At least 448 inmates were released from various prisons in Chhattisgarh under the Jail Lok Adalat initiative undertaken for speedy disposal of cases and to decongest jails in the state, an official said on Friday. The Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority (CGLSA) has launched an initiative to conduct Jail Lok Adalat to facilitate release of prisoners who are languishing in jails despite being granted bail or first-time offenders of crimes that are not heinous in nature, he said. Several prisoners who have been "unnecessarily" languishing in jails, and their family members, have welcomed the move, the CGLSA official said. As a part of the drive, the Jail Lok Adalat was held for the first time in all 33 jails of the state on October 15, during which 448 prisoners were released, he said. Earlier this year, the Supreme Court had sought suggestions to decongest jails while hearing a special leave to appeal (Criminal) Sonadhar v/s Chhattisgarh state, following which the CGLSA had submitted a proposal to hold Jail Lok Adalat, member secretary of CGLSA Anand Prakash Wariyal

told PTI on Friday. The proposal was accepted by the Supreme Court, and Chhattisgarh became the first state in the country to introduce such an initiative, he said. Justice Goutam Bhaduri of the Chhattisgarh High Court, who is also the executive chairman of the State Legal Services Authority, virtually launched the Jail Lok Adalat from Raipur central jail in all prisons of the state on October 15, he said. The chief judicial magistrate/judicial magistrate first class and executive magistrate were present in jails, during which 448 cases were disposed off, Mr Wariyal said. The highest number of prisoners -- 163 -- were released in Jashpur, while 85 were freed in Raipur, he said. The Jail Lok Adalat will be held every working Saturday in all jails of the state, the official said. According to the prison authority, the state has five central jails, 12 district jails, and 16 sub-jails, and most of them are overcrowded. The Jail Lok Adalat will cover cases which are heard in the CJM courts related to theft, house trespass, minor brawl etc, the official said.

NEWS MAKERS

Congress Says Its Ex Minister's Remarks On Bhagavad Gita Unacceptable

Agenceis

New Delhi: The Congress on Friday said the remarks made by party leader and former Governor Shivraj Patil on the Bhagavad Gita were unacceptable and asserted the scripture was a key foundational pillar of Indian civilisation. Mr Patil has claimed the concept of jihad was not just in Islam, but also in the Bhagavad Gita, and in Christianity. The BJP hit out at the Congress over Mr Patil's remarks and accused it of playing vote bank politics. "My senior colleague Shivraj Patil reportedly made some comments on Bhagavad Gita that's unacceptable. Subsequently, he clarified. The Congress's stand is clear. Bhagavad Gita is a key foundational pillar of Indian civilisation," Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh said on Twitter. He also shared excerpts from Jawaharlal Nehru's book 'The Discovery of India', wherein the



former Prime Minister wrote: "The message of the Gita is not sectarian or addressed to any particular school of thought. It is universal in its approach for everyone, Brahmin or outcaste. 'All paths lead to me,' it says. It is because of this universality that it has found favour with all classes and schools." "During the 2,500 years since it was written, Indian humanity has gone repeatedly through the pro-

cesses of change and development and decay; experience has succeeded experience, thought has followed thought, but it has always found something living in the Gita, something that fitted into the developing thought and had a freshness and applicability to the spiritual problems that afflict the mind," Mr Nehru also said in his book. Speaking at the launch of Congress veteran and former Union minister Mohsina Kidwai's biography, the former Lok Sabha Speaker and Ex Union Minister Patil stated that it is said there is a lot of discussion of jihad in the religion of Islam. The concept comes to the fore when despite having the right intentions and doing the right thing, nobody understands or reciprocates, then it is said one can use force, he said. "It is not just in Quran, but in Mahabharata also, the part in Gita, Shri Krishna also talks of jihad to Arjun and this thing is not just in Quran or Gita but also in Christianity," he claimed in his remarks in Hindi.

He Wanted To Be Appointed President Of India. What Supreme Court Said



Agenceis

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday rejected a man's plea seeking to be appointed as the President of India and asked the Registry not to entertain his further petition on similar issues in the near future. The court also directed the registry to expunge "scurrilous" remarks made by Jagannath Sawant from the record. Jagannath Sawant, the appeared petitioner-in-person, alleged that he was not allowed to contest the recent Presidential polls.

The court had turned down the plea filed by Kishore Jagannath Sawant and directed the Registry not to entertain his further petition on similar issues in the near future. The court also directed the registry to expunge "scurrilous" remarks made by Jagannath Sawant from the record. Jagannath Sawant, the appeared petitioner-in-person, alleged that he was not allowed to contest the recent Presidential polls.

Fearing Mob Justice, Thief In Bangladesh Calls Cops On Self

Agenceis

Dhaka: An alleged professional burglar in Bangladesh brought a premature end to his career when he called the police and reported his own crime after an angry mob caught him in the act. Yasin Khan, 40, broke into a closed grocery store in southern Barisal city early on Wednesday morning to steal goods from the shelves, local police chief Asad uz Zaman said. "When he finished the job and was about to go out, Khan realised it was not dark anymore and people woke up and started coming to the market," Zaman told AFP Friday. "With an angry crowd gathered, and fearing a violent attack, Khan called the police emergency line to plead for a rescue. "We went to the shop and brought him out and took him in our custody before the mob



could touch him," Zaman said. "I have never seen such an incident in my career," the police chief added. Jhontu Mia, the store owner, told reporters that Khan had stuffed a big bag with valuable items but had been unable to escape the scene. Khan was arrested and sent to jail after admitting to the break-in, the local police station said.

Lumpy Skin Disease

Govt Frames District Level Committees For Controlling Spread



Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Government on Friday constituted district level committees for controlling spread of the lumpy skin disease in the UT.

As per order, a Deputy Commissioner concerned will be Chairman of the committee while Chief Executive Officer/Executive Officer Municipal Council, Chief Planning Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, District Sheep Husbandry Officer and District Panchayat officer will be members of the committee.

The terms of reference of the committee as per order include that the Committee(s) shall implement all bio security measures as circulated in the advisories issued by the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, GoI and Agriculture Production Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, from time

to time, implement the vector control program with application of insecticides and fly repellents in and around cattle farms by involving municipalities, panchayats and local bodies, prevent the inter-district and intra-district movement of cattle by involving law enforcement agencies as a measure to prevent cause for spread of disease to new epicentres, monitor whether the sick animals are being isolated from healthy animals and shall ensure the isolation of affected stray animals, ensure that all susceptible animals are vaccinated against Lumpy Skin Disease and sufficient quantity of vaccines, drugs and fly repellents are available in each district for treating the sick animals and preventing the further spread of lumpy skin disease and ensure that the animals which die due to lumpy skin disease should be buried deep in the ground with application of lime—(KNO)

Govt Revamps ARI & Trainings Dept With Emerging Technologies

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In an initiative towards promoting e-governance to improve performance and efficacy with better utilization of limited resources, ARI and Trainings department has revamped its functioning with introduction of all emerging technologies like digitization of different services, new and updated departmental websites besides provisioning of various services through online mode.

The department has also overhauled the functioning of Government Press by equipping it with modern machinery and switching over to digital printing processes thereby catering to the need of quality printing jobs of various departments. The Government Presses have also introduced Bar Code, QR Code and variable data printing techniques.

In order to enhance efficiency and work culture among employees, the department has cleared Service Recruitment Rules in respect of 18 departments. Moreover, Service Recruitment Rules of 19 departments are at final stage of completion. This updation of Service Recruitment Rules will attract best human resource, ensure uniformity in the service rules, minimize the

incidence of litigations and thus making sure that the government departments cater to the needs of general populace in a more efficient and proactive manner.

Similarly, administrative inspections of 22 departments including major head of departments have been conducted till date. Besides, the calendar for administrative inspection of another 35 departments has been issued. Administrative Inspections ensure that field offices are compliant with the rules and regulations of the land and thus help in better public service delivery system.

In another achievement, migration of 33 MBBS students has been sanctioned by the department in a time bound and transparent manner. Besides, the department of Stationery and Office Supplies has been wound up, which had become redundant, and Government e-Market Place (GeM Portal) has been introduced.

The department has conducted an extensive Administrative Inspection exercise across the UT of J&K regarding provisioning of online services and its integration with Rapid Assessment System (RAS) covering a total of 1694 government offices in all 20 districts of the UT.

3-Days Programme On JJ Act, POCSO Act Concludes At Shopian

Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: To enhance the capacities of various child protection functionaries and ensure proper implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act 2015, POCSO Act 2012 and various child protection services, a three-day training programme for police officers and officials concluded Friday at Meeting Hall of District Administrative Complex Shopian.

The programme was organized by Integrated Child Protection Services (ICPS) in collaboration with

District Administration Shopian with the support of UNICEF.

During the training, Police officers and officials of District Police Shopian posted in different police stations and establishments were sensitized about the Juvenile Justice Act 2015, POCSO Act 2012, child rights and their roles and responsibilities with respect to child protection during the three days event.

Senior police and civil officers and other officers and officials of the district administration were present on the occasion.

PM Committed To Strengthen Grassroot Democracy In J&K: MoS Singh

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Friday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi is committed to strengthen grassroots democracy in Jammu and Kashmir.

Singh said from the day he took over as the prime minister in 2014, Modi made it clear that he would bring all the peripheral regions of the country like Jammu and Kashmir and the Northeast at par with the rest of the country.

The minister was interacting with deputy mayor and corporators of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation at the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) here after the completion of the three-day orientation programme on



urban governance.

Responding to complaints of corporators that 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts that brought the Panchayati Raj system and the Municipality system in rural and urban areas are not being fully implemented in Jammu and Kashmir, he said these are legacy issues and will get resolved in course of time.

Prime Minister Modi is com-

mitted to strengthen grassroots democracy in Jammu and Kashmir, he added.

Singh, the Minister of State for Personnel, said the passion and intensity with which the prime minister has worked towards this goal is borne out by the fact that he not only demonstrated an uncompromising determination but also made history by holding the first-ever District Development Council election in the Union Territory.

"Not only is Jammu and Kashmir on the fast track of development in the last few years, but a conscious effort has been made to ensure that there is equitable development in every region," he was quoted as having said in a statement issued by the Personnel Ministry.

BJP's Rajinder Sharma Elected Mayor Of Jammu

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Rajinder Sharma and Baldev Singh Billoria of the BJP were elected mayor and deputy mayor of the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), respectively, on Friday.

The BJP and the Congress were in a straight contest for the posts of mayor and deputy mayor, but the Congress corporators boycotted the election in protest against the change of procedure of voting from the secret ballot to open ballot.

The Congress mayoral candidate, Dwarka Nath Choudhary, however, polled one vote.

JMC Commissioner Rahul Yadav told PTI that Rajinder Sharma was elected as mayor and Baldev Singh as deputy mayor.

"The election for the post of mayor has taken place. A total of 59 votes were polled -- 57 went to BJP candidate Rajinder Sharma, one vote was declared invalid and one vote went to the Congress candidate," BJP corporator Baldev Singh Billoria told reporters here.

For the post of deputy mayor, the BJP candidate defeated Sonika Sharma of the Congress.

The posts fell vacant last month following the resignation of incumbent mayor Chander



Mohan Gupta and his deputy Purnima Sharma, both from the BJP, to focus on strengthening the party ahead of the assembly elections scheduled to take place after the conclusion of on-going special summary revision of electoral rolls.

In the 75-member Jammu Municipal Corporation, the BJP has 44 corporators, the Congress 13 corporators and the rest are Independents.

Chief spokesperson of the Jammu and Kashmir Congress Ravinder Sharma told PTI, "Although we did not have the majority, we put up candidates for the contest. The change of procedure from secret voting to open ballot was undemocratic.

It had not been done in the past. This undemocratic step forced us to boycott it."

Two candidates each -- Rajinder Sharma and Baldev Singh of the BJP and Dwarka Nath Choudhary and Sonika Sharma of the Congress -- submitted their papers for the two posts on the last day of the filing of nominations on October 17, officials said.

Chander Mohan Gupta and Purnima Sharma took over their respective posts on November 15, 2018 after the BJP won the civic body during the Urban Local Bodies elections which were held in four phases from October 8-16 in 2018 after a gap of 13 years.

The current council is completing its five-year term next year.

Union MoS Education Chairs Review Meeting In Budgam

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: Union Minister of State for Education, Annpurna Devi, who is on a visit to Jammu and Kashmir under the Central Government's outreach programme on Friday toured Budgam district and took a detailed review of implementation of centrally sponsored schemes and welfare initiatives during a meeting at Conference Hall Budgam.

The Minister appreciated the District Administration for the overall work and impressed upon the continuation of engagements with same spirit, conviction and dedication. The minister said that district Budgam shall be pilot district for introduction of new skill development and vocational courses.

The Minister said there should be no gap between J&K and other areas of India. She said every beneficiary should get benefit of all schemes of GOI. There are complete facilities like class rooms, toi-



lets, uniforms, books, mid-day meals served under PM Poshan scheme and further development will take place in the education sector, she added.

The Minister said all the genuine demands of public will be adhered to by GOI and Government of UT of J&K. She said that the Union Government is committed towards welfare of its masses and outreach of its welfare schemes to genuine beneficiaries in fixed timeline.

On the occasion, she also inaugurated various projects and laid e-foundation stone of three road projects of R&B sector worth Rs 1939.00 crores, eight Water Supply Schemes

under JJM worth Rs 65.71 crores, six roads under PMJSY and R&B worth Rs 39.17 crores and construction of Baba Naseer Mamath canal worth Rs 7.26 crore.

Director School Education Kashmir Tassaduq Hussain said that under the scheme "Talaash", school drop outs and those who were never enrolled are searched and brought back to schools. So far as health is concerned, there are primary health centres functional in various areas of Budgam. DC Budgam apprised the Minister that 108 emergency number is functional in Budgam district and Covid vaccination and immunization is 100 percent.

'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'

CS Asks DCs To Intensify Activities



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta Friday impressed upon all the Deputy Commissioners to intensify their activities under the pan nation programme of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

The meeting was attended by both the Divisional Commissioners; Commissioner Secretary, Culture; Deputy Commissioners and other concerned officers physically or through virtual mode.

The Chief Secretary took note of activities conducted under this programme so far. He enquired from each of the Deputy Commissioner about the nature and number of activities carried out during this month. He directed them to keep a target of uploading atleast 100 events per day on the portal.

Dr Mehta urged each of them to ensure that only relevant activities with good quality photographs and videos are uploaded only. He stressed on coordination between the Youth Services and Sports, Higher Education, School Education, Rural Development, R&B and other departments for conducting as many activities as possible in each district.

He asked for the participation of masses in these activities as these are actually meant for

them. He emphasised on giving opportunity to each citizen of J&K to either hone his/her skills in the arena of sports or culture. He observed that all these activities are prelude to the 'Amritkaal', the nation is passing through. He declared that the activities should go on daily basis till 15th of August, 2023.

Pertinent to mention here that Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is an initiative of the Government of India to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of independence and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements.

The official journey of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav commenced on 12th March 2021 which started a 75-week countdown to our 75th anniversary of independence and will end post a year on 15th August 2023.

Later on the Chief Secretary also reviewed arrangements ahead of the festival of lights, Diwali. He asked both the Divisional Commissioners to ensure that all amenities are provided to people on this special eve. He directed for ensuring quality power and water supply to all the areas where people are observing this festival. He stressed on maintaining disciplined traffic on roads and proper law and order everywhere so that the festival is celebrated with full fervour and religious gaiety—(KNO)

Five Day Workshop Organised By JK SCERT, Jammu Concludes

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Academic Unit II of JK SCERT, Jammu Division concluded five day Workshop on "Development of Manual on Content Awareness, Enrichment and Pedagogical Skills for Secondary level Masters/ Teacher teaching Social Science" here on Friday.

The workshop was conducted under the able guidance of H.R Pakhroo, Joint Director JKSCERT, Jammu, the Head of Academic Unit II Swarn Singh Jaral (Professor), Parshotam Singh, Co-ordinator, Mr.Amit Sharma, Academic Officer (Associate Co-ordinator) with effect from 17.10.2022 to 21.10.2022.

The programme was attended by 50 Masters/teachers from 10 Districts of Jammu Division, five from each District. The participants were trained by the Resource Persons having proficiency in Social Science. The resource persons

of the programme were Puneet Thukral, Dr.Neeraj Jandial, Bheem Bakshi, Dr. Harpreet Kour, Pawan Vivek, Aneeta Koul, Neeraj Sharma, Yamini Atrey, Dr Mehreen Sheikh, Navneet Gupta and Jeevan Singh.

The purpose of this workshop was to enhance and upgrade the teaching skills and to develop Teacher's Resource Manual which shall help the teachers to enrich their content and improve pedagogy while classroom transactions.

The Joint Director SCERT (J&K), Jammu while addressing the participants in the valedictory session of the programme encouraged them to promote the pedagogical and innovative skills to the grass root level to develop creativity and the ability to solve the problems in the teaching of Social Science. The participants were also addressed by Prof. Swarn Singh, Associate Professors N P Singh, Pawan Kumar, Kishore Kumar and Neeraj Jandial, Assistant Professors Dr. Sanjeevni and Irvinder Kour.

Kashmiri Couple Bags Shining World Compassion Award For Rescue, Rehabilitation Of Animals

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A couple from Kashmir that works for the rescue and rehabilitation of animals in distress has bagged the Shining World Compassion Award, an honor recognizing efforts of kindness towards God's creations.

Renowned spiritual leader 'Supreme Master' Ching Hai has chosen Animal Rescue Kashmir (ARK), a Srinagar-based organization for its Shining World Compassion Award. The organization has further been awarded a contribution of \$10,000 for 'medical help to special needs of animal residents.'

The letter of award by Supreme Master Ching Hai International Association mentions the various acts of kindness that ARK has been responsible for.

It reads, 'Supreme Master Ching Hai thankfully wishes to present the Shining World Compassion Award to both of you, Dawood Mohammad and Mariya Mushtaq plus a humble contribution of US\$10,000 for medical help to special needs animal residents in your benevolent care, with love and appreciation. May you, all involved, as well as the gentle animal people be forever safe and blessed, in Divine Grace.'

Dawood Mohammad and Mariya Mushtaq, founders of Animal Rescue Kashmir have been actively involved in efforts of rescue and rehabilitation of injured, sick, and distressed animals in Kashmir. The organization is majorly self-funded for its medical, transport, and upkeep of animals in its care. The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) and Animal Husbandry Department have been supporting the organization in extending medical care to animals in need.

The Supreme Master Ching Hai has lovingly created a series of awards to recognize some of the most exemplary, generous, caring, and courageous people who walk amongst us and go beyond the call of duty to help others unconditionally reads the communication from the awardee.

In the past few years, the award has been given to Menaka Gandhi, Laxman Molleti founder of AWBP Trust, Bark India Charitable Trust, and Satyandra Pal among others in India. ARK founders expressed their humble gratitude for the award and donation money and said it will help in strengthening the weak animal rescue and rehab efforts in the Valley. (KNS)

Saint Xain's Int'l School And Embibe Partner To Deliver Learning Outcomes To Students

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Anantnag based Saint Xain's international School is partnering with JIO EMBIBE, a leading education technology platform to empower teachers with Artificial Intelligence enabled personalised teaching solutions.

Teachers will be able to impart quality education and provide personalised attention to every student and deliver

learning outcomes as defined by the New Education Policy.

Speaking on the importance of personalised learning that helps teachers fix learning gaps in students, Mr. Bilal Ahmad, Chairman, Saint Xain's International School, said, "This initiative will give students more access to high quality education content and deeper insights on their own performance and learning behavior. This will of course be

highly beneficial for teachers who can now at a simple click of a button understand the strengths and weaknesses of every student and take necessary action."

"The aim is to create an adaptive learning environment around the teachers and the students, catalysing high quality digital education with 3D content aligned to our syllabus, while fueling the imagination of young minds.

"Teachers can now create impactful lessons using innovative technology. The teacher can teach with just a click of a button through both online and offline mode. Assigning homework that is personalised to students and conducting tests using the platform is also now very simple and efficient.

Moreover, he said, it also helps keep track of a student's grade, syllabus coverage, score progress, ascertain

behavioural change and class engagements, among other things. All this has been made possible due to partnership with JIO EMBIBE

"We are working to ensure that both teachers and students, regardless of the medium of learning would benefit with this technology enabled alliance, specially when the pandemic cast a heavy shadow over school education," said Rakesh Dahiya of JIO EMBIBE.

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

Mufti's Scope And Limitations

With barely having completed sixteen weeks in office, the PDP-Congress coalition government has started losing its vibrancy and vivacity with which it had started its maiden innings. There can be no denying that the coalition government after having drafted a common minimum programme had raised public expectation. Resolution of the fifty-three years old Kashmir dispute, or changing the status of the Jammu and Kashmir State was not expected but people hoped for good governance from the new set of political leaders. It also cannot be denied that the Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed and some of his prominent cabinet ministers have been quite innovative in inventing slogans, hitherto unknown to the people of the State. Majority of the newly invented slogans such as 'human touch', 'Goli Nahin Boli or not bullets but talks', 'peace with dignity', 'return to home and hearth', 'public accountability', 'Politics with fairness' and 'beautification drive'. But just in four months time, tall talk and Mufti Muhammad Sayeed have become synonymous. Majority of his slogans have failed to grow in scope beyond the official handouts and space in 'quick look' columns of news papers. One could understand Chief Minister's compulsions in making some top level administrative changes with out seeking approval from New Delhi but there seems nothing that prevented him from going ahead with his programmes like beautification of cities and towns and providing basic facilities to the people.

No doubt Chief Minister, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed taking a cue from famous Hollywood film 'Dirty Dozen' tried to utilize the services of some tainted officers for carrying out some people friendly programmes with unpopular connotations, such as cleaning roads and markets of illegal constructions. But drive lost all its sanctity after the government failed to demolish the illegal structures and buildings of influential people with deeper connection at New Delhi. People expected the bulldozers to move along the Gupkar and Boulevard in Srinagar, Bhatindi, Sidhra, Trikuta Nagar and Gandhi Nagar in Jammu, little realizing that powerful people are not covered by laws governing the common people. It would be naive to expect bulldozers demolishing mansions constructed in greenbelts and restoring thousands of acres of pastureland usurped by politicians and senior bureaucrats during past thirty years. It can be understood that the vested interest that thrived in the previous government on public money has enabled its self to find a safe sanctuaries in the present government also but nothing prevents the new government from going ahead with its beautification programme with out harming the interests of the 'connected people in the capital'. Nothing prevents it from improving sanitation of the Srinagar city. Nothing prevents it from restoring streetlights. Nothing prevents it from removing dunes of dirt and filth from the lanes and by lanes of the old city. Nothing prevents it from bringing a semblance of discipline in the transport system. Nothing prevents it from taking measures for reducing crime rate in the cities. There is hardly anything that prevents it from improving education standards in government schools and making dispensaries functional and cleaning the hospital. The people of the state, particularly of the Kashmir valley are mature enough to understand the scope of the state government vis-à-vis finding a solution to the vexed Kashmir politics. The only expectation that they have with new government are improving the living conditions in the state. Instead of dabbling in games like initiating a dialogue with New Delhi for hammering out a solution of the vexed Kashmir issue, the coalition government needs to work on the limited canvass of providing good governance.

The article is an editorial from KO's archives and was originally published on 26 March, 2003

Malice of 'Mullah' Bashing

Amir Suhail Wani

A video has been making rounds on Facebook and people have been indiscriminately sharing and commenting upon it. The video is in itself the trailing of a growing paradigm of thought which insists upon ascribing all evils, the causes of decadence and the pervasive presence of all sorts in a Muslim society to Mullahs, Maulanas, religious clerics and the preachers in general. A consensus seems to have been built around the narrative that religious figures or Mullahs, as they are heuristically called, are intrinsically evil, retrograde, mischief makers and embodiments of evil. To worsen the situation and to win the argument, irrespective of truthfulness and consequences, Sufis/Mystics/Sages have been portrayed as standing parallel and in opposition to Mullahs and their open-mindedness, liberating praxis, love for and hatred for none have been posited as the ultimate antithesis to the theory and practice of Mullahs. This has served the dual purpose of deepening fault lines between the mystic and Mullah and has been a tremendously successful tactic to malign and mischaracterize Mullahs and to create among masses the image that is repugnant, disrespectful and demeaning. It is intended here to look at the contours and consequences of this mischaracterisation, its deviation from facts, the covert intentions behind the ploy and the impact it has on religious and spiritual consciousness in general.

Every facet of life derives its legitimacy and rulings from the men of expertise and specialisation who dedicate their lives to the particular field and thereby qualify themselves to form an opinion or take the custodianship of that particular enterprise of human life. A layman is not supposed to propose a scientific theory or disagree with a particular scientific view on the mere pretext of his "feeling" for he lacks the necessary training and requisite qualification to make any judgements to this effect. This respect for specialisation is maintained everywhere except in matters of religious import where every one of us takes liberties to express him/herself on the issues of utmost complicity and sensitivity.

It has happened, unfortunately, that each one of us feels entitled to the religious opinion - an uninformed opinion without giving a prior thought to our abilities in these matters and without caring an iota about the consequences of these ill formed opinions. This trend was set in motion long ago, when Muslims were reeling under colonial pressure and every attempt was made by the colonisers to deface and efface the identity of Muslims and for the fact that Mullahs were the foremost symbols of Islam, they were indiscriminately maligned and presented in bad colours. These are not the conspiracy theories but hard historical facts which authors like Edward Saeed et al have well commented upon and traced the pedigree of this line of thinking. Religion in general and the religion of Islam in particular was antidote to all placebos of progress and Modernity West was peddling across the globe. Leaving apart if the progress has been real

or hallucinatory, but it is an agreed upon fact that the West mobilised its men and machinery to present the image of religious scholars in worst terms possible and made words like Mullahs, Maulvis, Maulanas synonymous to regress, backwardness, inhumanity and all colours of evil. Mullahs were, as history shows, at the forefront bellion against the imperial and no wonder that they faced a strong backlash and were so presented in their societies that the word itself became abusive and derogatory. A more profound historical reason is to be traced to the spread of Islam beyond the boundaries of Arabia. In an attempt to fight and deter the spread of Islam, cultures like Persia and India created a dichotomy of Rind O Zahid, Shaikh O Salik, Sufi O Mulla and many other binaries. In this binary, an attempt was made to posit Zahid/Shaikh/Mulla with artificiality, narrow mindedness and anti-intellectual tendencies and to associate Rind/Salik/Sufi with progression, enlightenment, universalism, inclusion and all elements of human nature. This approach, to say the least, is both historically falsifiable and factually incorrect. Let us recall Maulana Rumi, Imam Ghazali, Mohiuddin Ibn Arabi, Mulla Jami, Mulla Sadra and countless

thinking and in effect is that there shall be no norms of behaviour, no laws of ethics and morality, no bounds on human behaviour in any way conceivable. But what religion shall it be that does not discourage evil and promote virtue, define the contours of acceptable and normal paradigms and patterns of behaviour, draw a line of distinction between the good and the evil and forewarn people of the consequences thereof. It is said that the Mullahs emphasise the "Jalaali" or the majestic aspect of God and thereby generate fear and repulsion in the hearts and minds of people. But is not jalaal an aspect of divinity and if it is so, on what grounds shall it be discounted and seen in a negative framework and haven't Sufis said that divine wrath is actually a different manifestation of divine mercy.

What is wrong if Mullahs remind us of divine laws and the consequences of the violations thereof, the laws and regulations which are enshrined in the scripture itself? And divine wrath is not what people usually make out of it. It is not a bloodthirsty and revengeful God spying upon his creatures with a whip in his hand. It is not a dictator who is annoyed and irked at the disobedience of his orders. It is nothing like that and what it is in reality has been well explicated by our scholars and Sufis in their valuable texts. And what do these people mean (as has been well articulated in the link given above) that Mullahs

A consensus seems to have been built around the narrative that religious figures or Mullahs, as they are heuristically called, are intrinsically evil, retrograde, mischief makers and embodiments of evil

others. These are the names Muslim modernity and western scholarship have come to take special interest in and have come to be identified as the icons of Progress, Enlightenment, Universal message of salvation and as the exemplars of highest manifestation of religion. But how many of us know or bother to know that all these were scholars in the traditional sense of the word and were actually what we now derogatorily label as Mullahs. They were all taught and brought up in traditional and orthodox schools of learning and had a strong and rigorous training in the sciences of Shariah. It is left to the judgement of the reader to judge if this upbringing and training played a positive or negative role in making them what they became and it makes us rethink if the category of Mullah is truly so bad as to demonise and derange it?

There is another subtle and deeper aspect of the problem which, as raised in the above quoted video, needs immediate response. Time and again it has been said that Mullahs represent the harsher, legalistic and "wrathful" aspect of God as opposed to their Sufi compatriots, who represent mercy, grace, forgiveness and the "Jamaali" aspect of divine. What this line of

push people away from God, whereas Ibn I Arabi, the greatest of the sufi theoreticians asked surprisingly "Is there anything, anywhere away from God"? Even when we think, by our finite human minds that this and that is farther and away from God, we are actually ignoring the basic ontological principle that the Quran says "I am, where you are", also "Wherever you turn, there is the Face of God". So Mullahs and Maulvis do not push anyone away from God, they wake us to the aspects of Divine which compensate for and equilibrate the liberty and infinite mercy preached by sufis, which if allowed to run its course freely, can usurp the normative order of the world. Human and Muslim well being lies not in positing Mullah and sufi against one another, but to look at them as complimentary and to benefit from the sobriety of Mullah and the intoxication of Sufi, for partialities are always incomplete and the whole includes all opposites in its perfection.

*Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer
The author is a Srinagar based columnist*

The word, crisis, has a deceptive normalcy to it. We apply it to institutions like the State, nation, bureaucracy to hide the fact that our very concepts are outdated. The crisis of institutions that we flaunt is more a crisis of the modes of thought that are imbued in them. It is, in fact, a crisis of social science masquerading as policy. Social science needs new categories to create a process of ethical and cognitive repair.

One witnessed this in a stark way during the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa. Citing the Holocaust, Western-educated theorists insisted that there could be no forgiveness. Anglo-Saxon law could not go beyond compensation and punishment. Political scientists ruled that forgiveness was a oneway street to forgetting, to erasure, arguing that the Holocaust needed justice, not forgiveness. Confronting them, Bishop Desmond Tutu insisted that African folklore had possibilities that Anglo-Saxon law and social science would not allow. Tutu picked up a folk word rich in cosmology. He called it Ubuntu. Ubuntu allowed forgiveness as well as the ritual of forgiveness as part of a society redeeming itself. Tutu showed how an Old Testament social science made little sense in a post-apartheid world. Ubuntu, he felt, needed translation, a poetics of language, that would make it acceptable to Western law and science. Despite his success, he was treated as a folk idiot, mumbling his way to success. As he himself wickedly suggested, "I am content that Tu and Tu make four."

Such a crisis of categories is appearing all over. The immediacy of Covid still haunts us. But Covid reflected the failure of social science as policy. It had little sense of suffering, pain, loss, or memory. All it did was create a behaviouristic science around social distancing. It sanitised society without creating a sense of community. It talked of death in terms of body counts where Covid

Resurrect Thought Covid reflected the failure of social science as a policy

Shiv Visvanathan

became an Olympiad of casualties, measuring the index of State competence. As a friend put it, the real casualty of Covid was the patient. A sociology of medicine around the voice and epistemology of the patient needs to be done to redeem the iatrogeny of medicine. Iatrogeny is doctor-induced illness. Social science as policy is often iatrogenic. The question facing us today is how does one create an alternative sense of pain, body, and suffering. By over-emphasising time and timetable, we panopticonise life as time, monitoring every moment. As a result, we read old age as obsolescence and regard the old as dispersible. As cost-benefit replaced care and control, we banalised spirituality by blending it with management.

One needs a sense of laughter to read social science categories while retaining a sense of critique. One recalls an interview with the Dalai Lama where he claimed he was a Marxist. He then explained there were two aspects to the Marxist worldview. One was compassion, a sense of justice, and equality. This was laudable. The other was a horrific theory of the State as genocidal. Neither Stalin nor Mao or Lenin could separate the two. Respect and critique combine in Dalai Lama's sense of Marxism. He showed the difference between categories that are life-giving and those that are genocidal. Social science needs such a filter. Only his Holiness could sense the unholiness Marxism was capable of.

Social sciences need a sense of exegesis and an

openness to a variety of interpretations. Consider a tree. Even science still has to learn to read it. Suzanne Simard, a Canadian scientist, shows that tribal wisdom extended to a vision of the tree as an epistemic range of connectivities. A tree is a poetics of connectivity. Trees have to be reread to be understood by a science in pursuit of profit.

Patrick Geddes, the biologist and sociologist, claimed the same thing about the city. To reduce it to a Haussmannic machine is a form of violence. Geddes extended these ideas to peace. He realised that peace was a way of thought connected to a way of being. He was always searching for a holistic view that connects part and whole in different ways. Peace is deeply linked to the categories of knowledge and Geddes suggested we need a knowledge that does not echo of jackboots. He tried to build such a world along with Tagore at Santiniketan.

In this sense, a social science celebrating certainty and predictability can be counterproductive. It needs to grasp pluralism, uncertainty, risk and go beyond linear time. Social science needs a regular reworking of categories. Otherwise, it gets reified into positivism or ideologies. A supple, plural social science is a prelude to democracy as an imagination.

The social sciences need a sense of experiment - not on people but with themselves. The citizen has to become a repository of knowledge pursuing a new epistemol-

ogy, following new possibilities into the future. Politics and pedagogy are in constant interaction in this sense. As Geddes said, a city should be such that a child should celebrate it as memory, experiment, and citizenship. Our categories need that sense of play and suppleness.

The idea of the Anthropocene as a new sense of the wrath of the earth rather than the impersonality of the globe becomes critical. This idea of the Anthropocene returns a sense of healing and sanctity to the earth, becomes a pilgrimage beyond ethnocentrism, and constitutionalises a new relationship between humans and non-humans. Peace on earth is peace in the Anthropocene where man has to overcome his ethnocentricity to create peace through a dialogue of new plural categories. Peace returns the I-Thou as a dialogic frame to the Anthropocene. Peace needs exemplars like Abdul Ghaffar Khan or Simone Weil to show us how to move beyond the rigidities of the paradigm. In this pursuit, social science becomes experimental, searching for different solutions.

The crisis of science is a crisis of the monolingual and the monologic. It is a search for a choreography of pluralism, dialogue, and a celebration of difference. Security and the nation state lack the poetics of it. One needs a different playfulness. When peace is pilgrimage and discovery, social science becomes a celebration of a meaningful world. One hardly needs to add that a search for categories is a search for ethics. New concepts demand a different trusteeship of language and action. Crisis demands invention and an ethical and cognitive repair of the relationship with the world.

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 Telegraph India

BOOKER PRIZE

Sri Lankan Political Satire

Lucy Christopher

Sri Lankan novelist Shehan Karunatilaka has won the 2022 Booker Prize for his second novel, *The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida*. The win couldn't come at a better time for Sri Lanka, a country once more engaged in political and economic instability, as it suffers through one of the world's worst economic crises, with soaring inflation, food and fuel shortages, and low supplies of foreign reserves. And of course, the government was overthrown in July, after President Gotabaya Rajapaksa fled following mass protests.

KARUNATILAKA SAID IN HIS ACCEPTANCE SPEECH:

My hope for *Seven Moons* is this: that in the not-too-distant future, 10 years, as long as it takes, Sri Lanka [...] has understood that these ideas of corruption and race-baiting and cronyism have not worked and will never work.

POLITICAL BLACK COMEDY

Karunatilaka's novel is extraordinary – and hard to pin down. It is at once a black comedy about the afterlife, a murder mystery whodunit, and a political satire set against the violent backdrop of the late-1980s Sri Lankan civil war. It is also a story of love and redemption.

Malinda "Maali" Kabalana, a closeted war photographer, wakes up dead in what seems to be a celestial waiting room. The setting will be familiar to many who've spent time in Colombo (as I have – it's where my husband's family is from). We open in a busy, bureaucratic office, filled with confusion, noise, a propensity against queuing – and a healthy dose of "gallows" humour. In other words, Maali is in some sort of purgatory.

Maali soon discovers he has seven days – seven moons – to solve his own murder. This isn't easy – he is interrupted by sardonic ghosts (often with grudges, questionable motives, and a tendency towards extreme chattiness), the violent reality of war-torn Colombo, and piecing together his memories of who he was.



He also has seven moons to lead his official girlfriend and his secret boyfriend to a cache of photographs, taken over time, which document the horror of the war – and incriminate local and foreign governments.

Karunatilaka's subject matter and plot highlight, question and explore Sri Lanka's legacy – and its continued, difficult relationship with its civil war, which spanned 1983 to 2009, though the reverberations continue. And his novel's provocative, intimate, second-person style implicates us – the readers.

Karunatilaka has mastered his craft as a novelist. He never once wavers from a second-person perspective that might be unwieldy (perhaps even gimmicky) in a lesser writer's

hands. The novel tells us, "Don't try and look for the good guys, 'cause there ain't none".

It realises a combined responsibility for the tragedy of that 25-year civil war, in which the country's colonial history is also implicated. British colonialists brought Tamil workers from South India to Sri Lanka, to work as indentured labourers on their coffee, tea and rubber plantations. Their descendants' fight for an independent Tamil state was a strong component of the civil war.

DIFFUSING VIOLENCE WITH HUMOUR

As a novelist and lover of second-person narration and a long-time follower of Karunatilaka's accomplished work, I couldn't be more de-



lighted by this Booker win.

I first came across Karunatilaka through his debut novel, *Chinaman*, which was handed to me by my sister-in-law several years ago on a family visit to Colombo. That book taught me about cricket, but it also taught me the sardonic brilliance of Sri Lankan humour.

Karunatilaka once again uses humour to great effect in *The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida* – to diffuse confronting moments of violence, to engage his reader, and for pure enjoyment. This novel follows a murder victim through a bloody civil war – and it's laugh-out-loud funny.

It's also a tighter, more focused book than *Chinaman*: here is an author in control of his craft and what he wants to say with it. The Booker judges, too, praised the "scope and the skill, the daring, the audacity and hilarity" of the book.

Karunatilaka's winning novel took time to write. Ten years have passed since *Chinaman*. His skilful

KARUNATILAKA'S NOVEL IS EXTRAORDINARY – and hard to pin down. It is at once a black comedy about the afterlife, a murder mystery whodunit, and a political satire set against the violent backdrop of the late-1980s Sri Lankan civil war. It is also a story of love and redemption

use of craft to tell this complicated story is testament to the idea that good books take the time they need: something that all authors know but

publishers are not always willing to accept. However, Karunatilaka has been busy in that ten years, not just writing literary fiction, but writing for children – and having a family. The 47-year-old is now married with two kids.

Karunatilaka is only the second Sri Lankan novelist to have won the Booker Prize. (The first was Michael Ondaatje in 1992 for *The English Patient*.) But last year, his countryman Anuk Arudpragasam was also short-listed, for *A Passage North*, another accomplished novel set in the aftermath of the civil war.

I'm excited by what this means for Sri Lankan authors and the Sri Lankan publishing scene. Here is a country with stories to tell and enormous skill to tell them with: let's hope this leads to more Sri Lankan novels achieving wide readership, success and deserved acclaim.

By arrangements with The Conversation

In Praise of Silence



Firdous Ahmad Mala & Rouf Ali

Expressing oneself is both an art and a skill. Not all are versed and acquainted with it. Being good at rhetoric and eloquence can make success and popularity come to fruition. However, when nuances of words become nuisances, it is better to sing songs with no lyrics. And one must remember that silence is better than a misuse of the tongue.

A lot of wise people have broken their silence in praise of silence. In the words of Will Rogers, "Never miss a good chance to shut up." One must acknowledge the fact that though it seems counterintuitive, yet silence is sometimes louder and more powerful than speech. This is more suitably the stance to take when one knows not what words to substitute for silence. In the absence of a good and well-knit speech, silence could be a more befitting choice. In the words of Ansel Adams, "When words become unclear, I shall focus with photographs. When images become inadequate, I shall be content with silence."

Strangely enough, the tongues seem to be outnumbering the ears. All tongues seem to be wagging like anything. Most ears appear to have been deaf-

ened. And all but a few ears seem to have been lent to the tongues. The art of listening ought to be mastered naturally and this skill must be harnessed before one masters the skill of speaking.

Misunderstanding is often a result of hasty judgements, unverified reporting and irresponsible misuse of the tongue. Delaying judgements, scrutinizing reports and responsibly choosing one's words is the need of every hour. Silence is a panacea to a plethora of behavioral ailments.

To Francis Bacon, "Silence is the sleep that nourishes wisdom." To Thomas Carlyle, "Speech is silver, silence is gold." And to Lau Tzu, "Silence is a source of great strength." It seems difficult to overstate the importance of silence in a restless and maddening world.

Now, if by silence, we mean discipline, the tongue is not the only organ to watch out for. The heart is to be silenced from wanting the unrealistic and desiring the immoral; the eye is to be silenced from watching the immodest and goggling the opposite; and the hand is to be silenced from making objectionable gestures and grabbing what belongs to others.

It is pertinent to mention that the tongue is a reflection of the brain and the heart. A thought or an emotion can affect one's choice of words. An uneducated and corrupt heart can lead to a spoiled tongue and a selfish idea can lead to a sabotage of peace. A spoiled tongue spits more venom than saliva. It has the potential to wreak every kind of havoc. One must remember that a spark neglected could burn the house.

Having praised silence, one should not and must not take it to mean that one must always be a mute spectator and not be well-versed with the judicious and artful use of the gift of gab. One may, on a jocular note argue that silence is sometimes a thing that is detested the most for a newborn's silence and the silence of a loved one can be signs of danger and that of frustration

As a middle path, silence and speech ought to be used complementary to each other. An intelligent role-play of silence and speech is precisely what the doctor prescribes. The Greek polymath, Pythagoras is reported to have said, "A fool is known by his speech; and a wise man by silence."

Let silence be the default, especially when your words are no likely to be better. Let words be the choice when they are likely to result in more good than harm. Regarding the need to exercise silence, Federico Fellini said, "If there were a little more silence, if we all kept quiet, maybe we could understand something." In the words of Charles Colton, "When you have nothing to say, say nothing." And as per Epictetus, "Keep silence for the most part, and speak only when you must, and then briefly."

ESSENTIAL LITERATURE

The Best Of Urdu Books

Essential Writings On History, Culture, Philosophy And Religion

Based On Literary, Cultural, And Historical Importance, This List Tries To Present Some Of The Most Remarkable Works In Urdu. It Is Not Limited To Literature And Includes Books On History, Culture, Philosophy And Religion. Readers May, Of Course, Disagree And Make Their Own Lists. The List Is Not In Order Of Preference.

1. Kulliyat-i-Sauda: collected works of Mirza Rafi Sauda, one of the classical Urdu poets.
2. Kulliyat-i-Meer: collected works of Mir Taqi Mir, one of the greatest of Urdu poets.
3. Bagh-o-bahar: a dastan, written by Mir Amman, is an example of simple yet idiomatic classical prose.
4. Fasana-i-ajab: a dastan, penned by Rajab Ali Baig Suroor, is among the samples of the most ornate classical Urdu prose.
5. Gulzar-i-Naseem: one of the best Urdu masnavis, composed by Daya Shankar Naseem.
6. Kulliyat-i-Insha Allah Khan Insha: collected poetical works of a maestro.
7. Kulliyat-i-Nazeer Akberabadi: collected works of a classical yet modern poet.
8. Divan-i-Ghalib: one of the greatest works in Urdu poetry.9. Khutoot-i-Ghalib: letters by the great bard.
- Khutoot-I-Ghalib Was Written By Allama Iqbal
10. Kulliyat-i-Zauq: collected works of one of the maestros of Urdu poetry and idiomatic expression.
11. Sahr-ul-bayan: one of the best Urdu masnavis, composed by Mir Hasan.
12. Marasi-i-Anees: the elegies composed by one of the greatest poets of the genre.
13. Rubaiyat-i-Anees: the maestro offers the best quatrains in Urdu.
14. Marasi-i-Dabeer: elegies composed by a great poet rivalled only by Anees.
15. Kulliyat-i-Aatish: collected works of another great poet of the Lucknow school.
16. Mazameen-i-Sir Syed: a selection of essays of one of the pioneers of the genre of essay in Urdu.
17. Bahr-ul-fasahat: a masterpiece on the art of prosody by Najm-ul-Ghani Rampuri.
18. Kulliyat-i-Akber Allahabadi: collected poetical works of a humorist and satirist.
19. Kulliyat-i-Nazm-i-Hali: collected poetical works of one of the pioneers of modern Urdu poetry.
20. Aab-i-hayat: a critical study of Urdu poetry and poets by Muhammad Hussain Azad.
- Aab-I-Hayat
21. Khayalaat-i-Azad: collected satirical essays of Nawab Syed Muhammad Azad.
22. Kala pani: an autobiography by Jafer

Thanesari.

23. Seerat-un-Nabi: life of Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) in seven volumes, by Shibli Naumani and Syed Sulaiman Nadvi.

24. Shair-ul-ajam: critical analysis of Persian poetry by Shibli Naumani.

25. Ibn-ul-vaqt: a satirical novel by Nazeer Ahmed Dehlvi.

26. Fasana-i-Azad: a humorous novel-like dastan by Pandit Ratan Nath Sarshar.

Mir Anis

27. Sanam khana-i-ishq: a collection of ghazals by Ameer Meenai.

28. Gulzar-i-daagh: a collection of ghazals by Daagh Dehlvi.

29. Kulliyat-i-naat: by Mohsin Kakorvi, one of the best naat-writers of Urdu.

30. A dictionary of Urdu, classical Hindi and English: by John T. Platts.

31. Farhang-i-Asifiya: compiled by Syed Ahmed Dehlvi, it is one of the most authentic of Urdu dictionaries.

32. Umrao jaan ada: a novel by Mirza Hadi Rusva.

33. Muqaddama-i-shair-o-shaeri: a treatise on modern Urdu criticism and poetics by Altaf Hussain Hali.

34. Yadgar-i-Ghalib: a biography of Ghalib by Altaf Hussain Hali.

35. Miftah-ul-qavadi: Urdu grammar in two volumes, by Fateh Muhammad Jalandhari.

36. Qavadi-i-Urdu: Urdu grammar by Moulvi Abdul Haq.

37. Kulliyat-i-Iqbal: collected works of one of the greatest poets of Urdu.

38. Kulliyat-i-Zafar Ali Khan: collected poetical works.

39. Noor-ul-lughat: compiled by Noor-ul-Hasan Nayyar, a dictionary much underrated despite its merits.

40. Mazameen-i-Farhat: humorous essays by Farhatullah Baig.

41. Prem Chand ke afaane: a selection of short stories.

42. Ghubaar-i-khatir: a collection of letters by Abul Kalam Azad.

43. Anarkali: drama by Imtiaz Ali Taj.

44. Manto ke afaane: a selection of short stories.

45. Tlism-i-khayal: a collection of short stories by Krishan Chandr.

46. Mazaameen-i-Rasheed: satirical essays by Rasheed Ahmed Siddiqi.

47. Majmooa Hasan Askari: collected critical works of Muhammad Hasan Askari.

48. Pitras ke mazameen: humorous essays by Pitras Bukhari.

This Piece First Appeared On Dawn.Com.

Read the full article on KO's website

India's Typhoid Burden Decreasing, Study Of Antibiotic Prescription Trends Shows

Press Trust Of India

Typhoid burden is decreasing in India, although overall cases are higher than previously estimated, shows a multi-year study of nationally representative antibiotic prescription data.

The researchers found that young adult patients account for close to one-third of the typhoid cases and children less than 10 years old account for more than a million cases annually.

The study, published in the BMJ Open journal, calls for including India's own typhoid vaccine in its national immunisation programme.

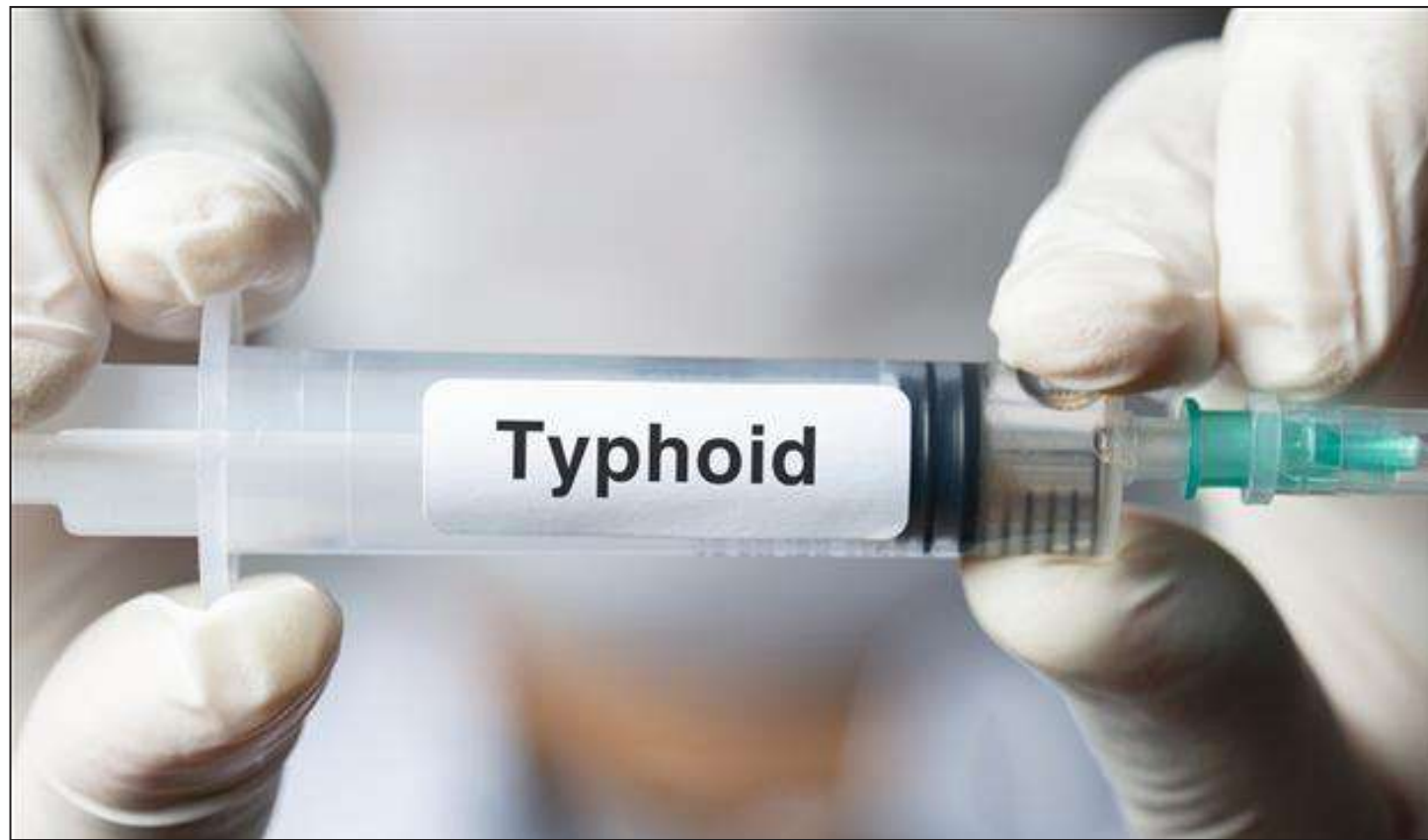
"The key findings of the study include decline in cases from 9.9 million in 2013 to 7.9 in 2015 -- largely in the north and west regions, but children less than 10 years account for more than a million cases annually, males and boys have the highest burden," Dr. Shaffi Koya, Research Fellow at Boston University School of Public Health, US, told PTI.

"10 different antibiotics accounted for 73 per cent of all prescriptions. Combinations and cephalosporins were the most prescribed antibiotics. Cefixime ofloxacin combination is the preferred choice except in south India," Koya said.

The data came from prescriptions of a panel of 4,600 private sector primary care clinicians selected through a multistage stratified random sampling.

The data had 671 million prescriptions for antibiotics extracted from the IQVIA database for the years 2013, 2014 and 2015.

The study provides the first age-spe-



cific typhoid antibiotic prescription estimates for India, using a large volume of geographically representative medical prescription audit data.

It shows a high rate of antibiotic prescription (714/100,000 population) for typhoid indicating a higher disease burden than previously estimated, especially among young adults and children, the authors said.

The team, including researchers from Public Health Foundation of India,

New Delhi and Qatar University, noted that the lack of laboratory confirmation of typhoid may lead to some degree of misclassification.

However, this is reflective of the real-world setting, where laboratory confirmation is not the norm in India, they said.

There were 8.98 million antibiotic prescriptions per year for typhoid, accounting for 714 prescriptions per 100,000 population, according to the study.

Children 10-19 years of age represented 18.6 per cent of the total burden in the country in absolute numbers, 20-29 year age group had the highest age-specific rate, and males had a higher average rate (844/100,000) compared with females (627/100,000), the researchers found.

Ten different antibiotics accounted for 72.4 per cent of all prescriptions. Cefixime ofloxacin combination was the preferred drug of choice for typhoid

across all regions except the south, they said.

Combination antibiotics are the preferred choice of prescribers for adult patients, while cephalosporins are the preferred choice for children and young age, according to the researchers.

Quinolones were prescribed as monotherapy in 23 per cent of cases, they said.

"Introduction of conjugate typhoid vaccine in routine immunisation programme can further reduce the typhoid burden and antibiotic demand in India," Koya added.



10 different antibiotics accounted for 73 per cent of all prescriptions. Combinations and cephalosporins were the most prescribed antibiotics. Cefixime ofloxacin combination is the preferred choice except in south India

'Air Pollution Linked To Higher Mortality Risk In Lung Disease Patients'

Press Trust Of India

People with a disease characterised by lung scarring are at a higher mortality risk if they live in areas with increased levels of air pollution from industrial sources and vehicular traffic, according to a study.

The research, published in the journal JAMA Internal Medicine, is the first to link

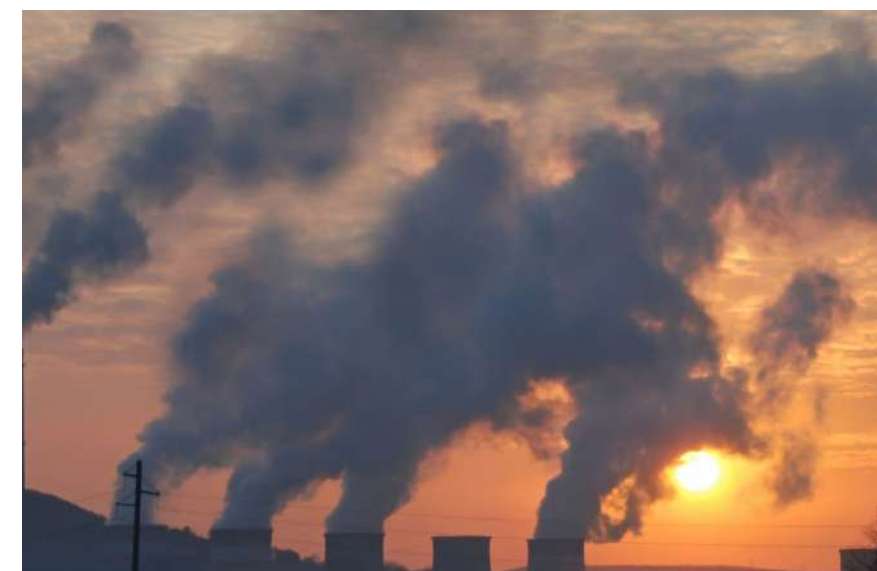
air pollution -- specifically pollutants from factories and vehicles -- as potentially driving faster disease progression and premature death in these patients," Goobie said.

The researchers obtained data from 6,683 patients with ILLDs in the US and Canada and linked their home addresses with satellite and ground-monitoring air pollution data to determine air pollutant com-

position to an accuracy of less than half a mile. They specifically looked at a pollutant known as PM2.5, which refers to particulate matter that measures less than 2.5 microns across, a size invisible to the naked eye. This type of pollution is so small that it can infiltrate deep into the lungs and even cross into the blood stream, where it can contribute to other diseases outside of the lungs, such as heart disease.

"In the past, most environmental health research has focused on the simple definition of PM2.5 as anything of that size. But PM2.5 is chemically diverse, with a different composition depending on whether it came from a forest fire or a tailpipe," said study co-author James Fabisiak, associate professor in Pitt Public Health.

"Research has lacked in determining if the type of PM2.5 matters when it comes to health effects. Our new research is a big step towards filling in that knowledge gap," Fabisiak said.



the chemical composition of fine particulate air pollution to worsened fibrotic interstitial lung disease (ILLD) outcomes.

It is also the largest study ever done to evaluate the impact of air pollution on these patients, the researchers said.

"Some people with these lung diseases have an expected lifespan from diagnosis to death of only a few years, and yet it's a mystery as to why they developed the disease, why their lungs become so scarred," said lead author Gillian Goobie, doctoral candidate at the University of Pittsburgh, US.

"Our study points to

position to an accuracy of less than half a mile.

They specifically looked at a pollutant known as PM2.5, which refers to particulate matter that measures less than 2.5 microns across, a size invisible to the naked eye. This type of pollution is so small that it can infiltrate deep into the lungs and even cross into the blood stream, where it can contribute to other diseases outside of the lungs, such as heart disease.

"In the past, most environmental health research has focused on the simple definition of PM2.5 as anything of that size. But PM2.5 is

According to the team's calculations, if exposure to industrial pollutants had not occurred, most premature deaths among participants living in areas of North America with a heavier burden of industry could have been avoided.

Participants of colour were disproportionately exposed to higher levels of man-made air pollutants: 13 per cent of the high-exposure group were non-white, but only 8 per cent of the low-exposure group, highlighting the impact of environmental injustice in these findings as well, they added.

Government of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
(R&B) DIVISION CHADOORA

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS
E-NIT No. 178 of R&B/ET/ 7704-13 of 2022-23 Dated: - 20/10/2022

E-tenders (In single cover system) from qualified contractors registered with the J&K UT Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments are invited for Snow Clearance (Stage-wise) on a Percentage Rate basis for a contract period of one year that may be extended to three years depending on the performance of the successful bidder.

S. No	Stage Name	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Snow clearance for the year 2022-23 Stage No 01	200.00	5000.00	B054 Snow	All Classes
2.	Snow clearance for the year 2022-23 Stage No 02	200.00	5000.00	B054 Snow	All Classes
3.	Snow clearance for the year 2022-23 Stage No 03	200.00	5000.00	B054 Snow	All Classes
4.	Snow clearance for the year 2022-23 Stage No 04	200.00	5000.00	B054 Snow	All Classes
5.	Snow clearance for the year 2022-23 Stage No 05	200.00	5000.00	B054 Snow	All Classes

Note: Stage Details are enclosed as Annexure 'A' to this NIT

1. The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, (if any), 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	20-10-2022
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	20-10-2022
3	Bid submission Start Date	20-10-2022
4	Bid Submission End Date	27-10-2022
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	27-10-2022 upto 4.10 PM in the office of the Superintending Engineer (R&B) Circle Srinagar/ Budgam

2. Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.

3. All bidders are required to submit bid security or earnest money for an amount of Rs.5000/- at the time of tendering in the form of CDRs, FDRs, or BGs pledged to the authority responsible for receiving bids, in this case Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Srinagar / Budgam (tender receiving authority). In strict accordance with the Government's circular and other instructions as required, the successful bidder will be required to provide performance security in the amount of Rs. 10,000/- at the time of contract award. Following the fixing of the contract in favour of the successful bidder, the unsuccessful bidders will receive the earnest money/bid security. The successful bidder's performance security will be released only after completed successfully performance of the Contract.

4. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Srinagar / Budgam (tender receiving authority).

5. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 30 days from the date of opening of technical bids.

Name of the Executive Engineer
Er. Asif ul Khan
Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora
Cell No 7006489437
xennrbchd@gmail.com

No. 7704-13 Executive Engineer,
DT: 21/10/2022 R&B Division Chadoora
DIPK-12131/22

Annexure A to this office Snow Clearance
NIT S.No 177 of R&B/ET/ 7675-84 of 2022-23 Dated: - 19/10/2022

STAGE-01	STAGE
LENGTH= 32.45 KM	

S no.	Sub Division	Name of Road	Road Length (KM) to be cleared	Stage Code
1	Rambagh	Ladakh Colony & Gurez Colony (Padshahi Bagh)	2.00	CHAD-1
2		Link Road At Padshahibagh	2.00	
3		Nowgam Padshahibagh Road	7.00	
4		Kursoo Ghat Bund Road	1.10	
5		Lasjan Link A & B	10.00	
6		Soiteng , Syedabad Colony	3.00	
7		Soiteng To Padshahibagh Via Gundbal Koundbal	4.25	
8		Zoo bund Lasjan Bridge To Dewatering Station	2.00	
9		Kursoo Bund Road	1.10	
Total			32.45	

STAGE-02				
LENGTH= 37.50 KM				
S No.	Sub Division	Name of Road	Road Length (KM) to be cleared	Stage Code
1	Rambagh	Bagi shakur Shah to Zoonipora Road	4.00	CHAD-2
2		Bagi shakur Shah to Masjid Hanfia	1.00	
3		Kadalbal Tengan Imambada Gangipora Road	12.00	
4		Golipora Karnabal Link	0.50	
5		Golipora Link & Al Mustafa Link	1.00	
6		Golipora Shalina Road Via Summerbug	4.00	
7		Karnabal To Shalina Bund Road	4.00	
8		Rakhshalina Ahlayhadees Masjid Link	1.00	
9		Shalina Mokdam mohalla & Gulhain and Healthcare link	1.50	
10		Shalina Road To Highway	1.50	
11		Shalina To Seerbagh Road	2.50	
12		Summerbugh Boatman Colony & Batpora Link	3.00	
13		Summerbugh Colony	1.50	
Total			37.50	

STAGE-03				
STAGE LENGTH= 21.50KM				
S No.	Sub Division	Name of Road	Road Length (KM) to be cleared	Stage Code
1	Rambagh	Kenihama Link Road	5.00	CHAD-3
2		Bypass To Gulshan Nagar Main Road, Via Sikh Bagh With Allied Links.	4.50	
3		Nowgam A&B with allied links roads	12.00	
Total			21.50	

STAGE-04				
STAGE LENGTH= 15.50KM				
S No.	Sub Division	Name of Road	Road Length (KM) to be Cleared	Stage Code
1	Rambagh	Natipora Mehjoor Nagar Road	4.00	CHAD-4
2		Lal Nagar Nowgam Main Road	2.50	
3		Khanday colony and allied links roads	5.00	
4		Pohru and allied links roads	4.00	
Total			15.50	

STAGE-05				
STAGE LENGTH= 16.51KM				
S No.	Sub Division	Name of Road	Road Length (KM) to be Cleared	Stage Code
1	Rambagh	Link Road Airport Drop Gate To CRPF Camp	0.50	CHAD-5
2		Highland Colony Gogoo (Link Road)	3.00	
3		Hari Angan Hyderpora (Link Road)	0.36	
4		Jawhar Lane (Link Road)	0.35	
5		Friends Lane (Link Road)	0.40	
6		Green Avenue Sector I (Link Road)	0.24	
7		Green Avenue Sector II (Link Road)	0.58	
8		Green Avenue Sector B (Link Road)	0.73	
9		Al-Reyan Link (Link Road)	0.85	
10		Gym Lane (Link Road)	0.13	
11		Rose Avenue (Link Road)	0.55	
12		Umerabad Sector A (Link Road)	2.34	
13		Umerabad Sector B (Link Road)	4.15	
14		old Peerbagh (Link Road)	0.36	
15		Co-operative Colony (Link Road)	1.97	
Total			16.51	

'J&K To Be Developed As World Class Health & Wellness Tourist Destination'



Observer News Service

RAMBAN: Saying that Jammu and Kashmir would be developed as a World Class Health & Wellness Tourist Destination, the Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Women & Child Development and Ministry of AYUSH, Dr. Munjapara Mahendrabhai said the Union Government has launched various social and health sector schemes in this regard.

The Minister said this while interacting with the Media persons at Patnitop on culmination of his two days tour to district Ramban under Public Outreach Programme. The Minister said that the Union Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the Public Outreach Programme to reach out at the grass-root level to listen to the issues of the general public, besides reviewing development scenarios of the districts of UT of J&K. He said that the Centrally Sponsored Schemes launched for the development and welfare of people have a great impact in ameliorating the socio-economic conditions of the people.

Dr. Munjapara said, the Prime Minister has assured for providing liberal funding and all necessary supports to develop necessary infrastructure and human resources under Social Welfare sector for the upliftment of women and children, destitute and other weaker and marginalized sections of society, besides developing infrastructure in AYUSH Department to provide

quality health services under the sector to the people of UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

Earlier, the Minister inaugurated an exhibition-cum-demonstration camp organised by the AYUSH department at Patnitop in which various stalls including NCD screening, Diet and Nutrition under Ayush Poshan, Prakriti Assessment, Yoga & Lifestyle Counselling, Health check-up, medicine distribution and promotion of medicinal plants and Herbs for plantation on commercial purpose. He also distributed medicinal plants among farmers on the occasion.

Dr. Munjapara also launched a promotional film 'Ayush ke Badhte Kadam in Jammu & Kashmir' highlighting journey of development of infrastructure in AYUSH sector and promotion of treatment of all diseases especially life style diseases with Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha & Homoeopathy, besides launching of AYUSH IEC material to launch UT wide campaign to sensitize the people about benefits of AYUSH treatment at Patnitop on the eve of 7th National Ayurveda Day.

Dr. Munjapara directed the AYUSH, Agriculture and allied departments to promote the cultivation of medicinal plants to meet the requirement of herbs for the preparation of medicines, saying that it would also go a long way in enhancing the income of the farmers. He also directed the ICDS department to plant more identified plants in Poshan Vatikas of Anganwari Centres under the Prime Minister's Programme 'Healthy Bharat, Strong Bharat'.

J&K Bank's Q2 Net Up 119% At Rs 243.49 Cr

Below 8% GNPA after 7 years is icing on the cake: MD & CEO

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Bank's net profit is 119% up Year-on-Year (YoY) at Rs. 243.49 Cr in September Quarter of current financial year when compared to Rs 111.09 Cr recorded for the corresponding quarter previous year, while as, its half-yearly (H1) profit rose 90% to Rs 409.46 Cr from Rs 215.41 Cr recorded for H1 last year.

The Bank announced its financial numbers after its Board-of-Directors reviewed and approved the quarterly and half-yearly numbers during a meeting held here at Corporate Headquarters.

PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

The Bank's Net Interest Income (NII) is up 24% YoY at Rs 1204.12 Cr for the September quarter and 15% up at Rs 2238.35 Cr for the half year compared to corresponding periods of previous year, while the Operating Profit rose YoY by 56% and 29% for respective periods.

The Bank's NIM has also improved to 4.04% against 3.51% recorded for the corresponding quarter last year, while as the Return on Assets has improved to 0.71% for the quarter and 0.62% for the HY. The Bank's steadily moderating cost-to-income ratio has also come down to 64.19% for the Q2 from the above 70% levels recorded last year.

Commenting on the Bank's healthy growth, MD & CEO Baldev Prakash said, "Along with markedly improved bottom-line, our Q2 numbers do reflect Bank's ability to deliver on its commitments and to improve upon all its key financial indicators necessary to redirect its focus on realizing the short-term business goal of Rs 2.2 Lac Cr by the end of current fiscal."

"While setting right tone for the future course of our action, I see these numbers heralding a new era of productivity and growth for the Bank and all its stakeholders", he added.



IMPROVED ASSET-QUALITY

The Gross NPA Ratio has sharply come down 142 basis-points in sequential terms to 7.67% from 9.09% while as by 128 basis-points on Year from 8.95% recorded in September, 2021. The Net NPA ratio has also moderated by over 90 basis-points to 2.10% from 3.02% recorded a year ago. Provision coverage ratio (PCR) of the Bank has improved to 85.58% from 81.57% a year ago.

Expressing satisfaction over the Bank's asset-quality, MD & CEO said, "With single-minded institutional focus on improvement of asset-quality during the September quarter, I feel very proud that we have brought down the GNPA figure to below 8% mark – a feat achieved after seven years is like icing on the cake. And with proactive monitoring and management of SMAs, we are on course to deliver what we have assured to our stakeholders."

"With resolution process of NPAs gathering more steam post activation of the Bad Bank (NARCL) – our bank too has a significant share of above Rs 900 Cr in the NPA pie being assigned to NARCL in the first phase," he added.

BUSINESS GROWTH

Deposits and Advances of the Bank have grown by 9% each on YoY basis to Rs 115714.57 Cr and Rs 74549.73 Cr respectively with an increase of 3% and 4% respec-

tively over the June quarter, 2022. The Bank's overall business increased to Rs 190264.30 Cr against Rs 174609.19 Cr recorded last year. The Bank's Yield on Advances has significantly improved to 9.01% for the quarter from 8.34% while as the CASA is slightly down but still near the 55% mark.

"Despite single-digit increase in overall loan-book, we have maintained about 10% growth in advances in J&K and 15% in Ladakh, which form the bulk of our business", said MD & CEO while commenting on growth numbers, adding, "With improved operational parameters during the September quarter, I feel encouraged to believe that we will achieve our top-line growth numbers as envisaged in our business plan."

SUITABLE CAPITAL CUSHION

Capital Adequacy (CAR) of the Bank is slightly higher at 12.86% against 12.80% recorded last year. "As of now we are adequately cushioned in terms of capital. With an augmented capital (T1 & T2) by fresh infusion of Rs. 1100 Cr and total plow-back of profit (Rs. 500 Crore) during last FY, our CAR for the September quarter is at 12.86% and CET-1 is at 9.99% without inclusion of the Profit after Tax (PAT) for the half-year, which if included would result in further improvement of 55 basis points in these ratios", remarked MD & CEO Baldev Prakash.

Govt Extends Deadline For Filing Sep GST Return Till Oct 21

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The government has extended the deadline for filing GST returns for the month of September by a day to October 21, the CBIC said on Friday.

On Thursday, taxpayers faced a slow functioning of the GST portal, which was the last date for filing monthly GST returns for some taxpayers.

Following that, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) had said that an extension of the due date was being considered.

"The GST Implementation Committee of GST Council has approved extension of the due date of filing GSTR-3B return for the month of September 2022, for the monthly filers, from 20th Oc-



tober, 2022 to 21st October 2022," the CBIC tweeted on Friday.

Monthly return and tax payment form GSTR-3B is filed in staggered manner between the 20th, 22nd, and 24th of each month by taxpayers in different states.

GST Network (GSTN) provides the technology backend for running Goods and Services Tax (GST). Infosys is the service provider for GSTN.

Reliance Digital's Festival Of Electronics Sale Is Live!

Observer News Service

MUMBAI: This Diwali, bring home your kind of latest tech with Reliance Digital's Festival of Electronics sale. Get 10% instant discount* with leading bank credit and debit cards along with the option to opt for easy EMI and insta-delivery, plus an additional 10% discount vouchers redeemable at the next purchase.

Being set for festive new beginnings for yourself and family is all easy. Grab your favourite electronics only at Reliance Digital stores, My Jio Stores and www.reliancedigital.in with your kind of festive offers.

1. THE WORLD IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND.

These days phones seem like an extension of our hands. With great offers on iPhone 12 starting at Rs. 29,900/-*, Samsung M13 5G starting at Rs. 13,999/-*, and Samsung S22 starting at Rs. 52,999/-* only, give this vital part of you the much-needed upgrade it deserves.

2. STAYING CONNECTED MADE EVEN EASIER.

Reliance Digital has something for those constantly on-the-move too. With offers on smartwatches starting at only Rs. 999/-*, tracking daily movement has never been easier. What's exciting watches starting at Rs. 1499/-* and Apple watches starting at Rs. 14990/-* only, you can keep track of all your work and calls with just a flick-of-your-wrist.

3. ENTERTAINMENT THE WAY YOU LIKE IT.

Nothing says 'Diwali' like some great quality time with your family. And nothing says 'family time' like sitting around an amazing TV watching entertainment that all of you love. Offers on Samsung Neo QLED and TCL QLED at Rs. 36990/-*, af-

ter cash back and will let you do just that. What's even more exciting; with every Samsung Neo QLED, you can get a Samsung Mobile A32 worth Rs. 21,490/-* with 5 years warranty. With deals this good, it will certainly be a happy Diwali.

4. AN AUDIO EXPERIENCE LIKE NEVER BEFORE.

No Diwali party is really a Diwali party with some great tunes. With the JBL Soundbar 5.1, you can really elevate everyone's Diwali experience. It is available at only Rs. 56,999/-* after cashback and no cost EMI for up to 12 months. But what if the tunes at the family Diwali party aren't up to your standards? Plug in your Apple AirPods Pro and enjoy your own solo party. You can get 39% off on your AirPods Pro at Rs. 15,999/-* after cashback. So, crank up the music and let loose.

5. HOME GOODS TO START THE FESTIVITIES.

Don't let Diwali cleaning get you down. With front-load washing machines available at only Rs. 19,490/-* plus 2-year warranty, laundry woes are about to be a thing of the past. What's even more exciting, you can get exciting gifts including smartphones, tablets, vacuum cleaners, and single door refrigerators with the purchase of side-by-side refrigerators, only at Reliance Digital.

6. FOR THE GAMERHEADS.

You haven't been forgotten, there are exclusive gaming laptop offers for you too- enjoy this Diwali your way, take a pick from a range of gaming laptops starting at Rs.49,999 & Intel powered core i5 laptops starting at Rs.38,999. With your gifts all sorted now, let's bring in fantastic Diwali.

Global Smartphone Market Falls 9% Amid Low Consumer Spending

IANS

NEW DELHI: Marking the worst third quarter since 2014, the global smartphone market recorded its third consecutive decline this year, dropping 9 per cent year-on-year (YoY) in the third quarter of 2022, says a new report.

According to market research firm Canalis, this will likely continue to dampen the smartphone market for the next six to nine months.

"The smartphone market is highly reactive to consumer demand and vendors are adjusting quickly to the harsh business conditions," Amber Liu, an analyst at Canalis, said in a statement.

Samsung retained its leading position with a 22 per cent market share driven by heavy promotions to reduce channel inventory.

Apple was the only vendor in the top five to record positive growth, improving its market



position further with an 18 per cent share during the market downturn thanks to relatively resilient demand for iPhones.

"For most vendors, the priority is to reduce the risk of inventory building up given deteriorating demand. Vendors had significant stockpiles going into July, but sell-through gradually improved from September owing to aggressive discounting and promotions. The pricing strategy of new products is cautiously crafted, even for Apple, to avoid significant pushback from consumers who now tend to be very sensitive to any price hike," Liu added.

Airlines To Operate 21,941 Flights On Domestic Routes In Winter Schedule

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Scheduled airlines will operate 21,941 flights on domestic routes every week in the winter schedule starting from October 30.

The number of weekly flights will be 1.55 per cent lower than 22,287 flights operated in the previous winter schedule.

The winter schedule will be effective from October 30, 2022 till March 25, 2023.

"In the upcoming Winter Schedule 2022, 21,941 departures per week have been approved from 105 airports.

"Out of these 105 air-



ports Deogarh, Shimla and Rourkela are the new airports proposed by the scheduled airlines," aviation regulator DGCA said in a release on Friday.

Out of the total 21,941 departures, the maximum will

be by IndiGo at 10,085 followed by SpiceJet at 3,193.

Air India will have 1,990 departures, Vistara (1,941), Air Asia (1,462), Go Air (1,390), Alliance Air (1,034), Akasa Air (479), Fly Big (214) and Star Air (153).

SHORT TAKES

Farmers Encouraged For High Density Plantation

Observer News Service

DODA: Horticulture Department Doda, organised Awareness camp under Jan Abhiyan programme at Kotli Kashthigar Zone Assar. Chief Horticulture officer, Rakesh Kotwal was the Chief Guest. Among other Manager cum Chemist Bhaderwah B.B Pangotra, Horticulture Development Officer Assar, Rohan Kumar and officers of Allied Department viz Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and JK Bank were also present on the occasion. The Chief Horticulture Officer, in his address, asked the participant to bring more and more areas under High Density plantation of Fruit plants in the coming season, especially Apricot, Pear plum and lime for which the land and climate is most suitable.

"The department is providing 50% subsidy to the interested and eligible applicant under all schemes like Area expansion, Irrigation facilities, Mechanisation, Nursery establishment etc," he informed. The Manager cum Chemist Bhaderwah, in his address, stressed on establishment of Processing units for fruit and vegetables under CAPEX scheme for which the department is providing 50-60% subsidy to the applicant. The HDO Assar presented the vote of thanks to the participant. The programme was widely hailed by the participants and asked the department to organise more such programmes in near future.

Training Programme On Mushroom Cultivation Held

Observer News Service

SAMBA: Career Counselling Cell, IQAC & NSS of Government Degree College Ramgarh organized a Mushroom Cultivation training programme for the Students of the College under the aegis of 'Attam Nirbhar Bharat.'

The training in Mushroom Cultivation was conducted under the guidance of the College Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Satinder Kaur. Avtar Singh, AEO; Satvir Singh, AEA & Kushal Singh Jamwal, AEA, DCTC, Samba imparted training to the students.

Speaking on the occasion, the College Principal congratulated the organising team for hosting this fruitful training programme on mushroom cultivation and expressed optimism that this step will prove beneficial in enhancing the skill of the students. She stressed on Students to adopt mushroom cultivation to become self dependent. She extended gratitude towards the resource person, who despite his busy schedule, spared time for the event.

During the training programme, Avtar Singh, Agriculture Extension Officer, Samba highlighted the scope and importance of mushroom in context with J & K. He further demonstrated the technique for utilizing the Spent Mushroom Substrate for making compost etc.

Jio Net Profit Rises 28 % In September Quarter

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India's largest telecom operator Reliance Jio Infocomm on Friday posted a 28 per cent year-on-year rise in its net profit for the September quarter at Rs 4,518 crore, as subscriber additions and ARPU boosted realisations.

Its net profit stood at Rs 3,528 crore in the same period previous fiscal, the telco said in a regulatory filing.

The revenue from operations of Reliance Jio Infocomm (RJIL) increased 20.2 per cent to Rs 22,521 crore for the just-ended quarter from Rs 18,735 crore in the year-ago period.

The Q2 scorecard comes amid large-scale network deployments across the country for 5G services, the much-talked-about next-generation technology that promises to ring in a new era of turbocharged speeds, lag-free connectivity, and new-age applications in India, the world's second-biggest smartphone market after China.

RJIL parent firm Jio Platforms (JPL) net profit increased by about 27 per cent to Rs 4,729 crore during the reported quarter from Rs 3,728 crore it recorded in the September 2021 quarter. The revenue from operations of JPL, which holds both telecom and digital business, grew by 22.7 per cent to Rs 24,275 crore from Rs 19,777 crore in the year-ago quarter.

SBI Hikes Term Deposit Rates By Up To 0.80%

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: The country's largest lender SBI on Friday upped its interest rates on term deposits by up to 0.80 per cent amid a 'war for deposits' in the banking system.

Fixed deposits of under Rs 2 crore for a period of over 211 days but less than 1 year will earn an interest of 5.50 per cent from October 22, as against 4.70 per cent earlier.

For other maturities, the quantum of the rate hike is lower at 0.25-0.60 per cent, while the 7-45 days deposit rate has been left untouched at 3 per cent per annum, as per a statement.

Credit growth in the system has touched 18 per cent, as per the latest data, while deposits are still trailing by barely touching the double-digit mark amid rate hikes by the RBI to tame inflation.

Lenders have been depending on market-linked instruments on the liability management side as well.

Some of the banks which have announced their numbers for the September quarter have reported that deposit growth has been trailing by a wide margin, leading some bankers to opine that there is a 'war for deposits' in the system.

Rupee Slips 9 Paise To Close At 82.88 Against Dollar

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: The rupee slipped 9 paise to close at 82.88 against the US dollar on Friday amid a strong greenback overseas.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 82.89 and witnessed a high of 82.59 and a low of 82.91.

It finally settled at 82.88 against the American currency, registering a drop of 9 paise over its previous close.

On Thursday, the rupee had rebounded from its lifetime low to close 21 paise higher at 82.79.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, advanced 0.47 per cent to 113.41.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures fell 0.11 per cent to USD 92.28 per barrel. On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex rose 104.25 points or 0.18 per cent to end at 59,307.15, while the broader NSE Nifty advanced 12.35 points or 0.07 per cent to 17,576.30.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the capital markets as they purchased shares worth Rs 1,864.79 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data.

West Bengal Braces For Possible Cyclone, Odisha On Alert

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata: A low-pressure system over the Andaman Sea is likely to intensify into a cyclonic storm and reach West Bengal-Bangladesh coasts on October 25, causing wind gusting to 110 km per hour, the IMD said on Friday.

Sanjib Bandopadhyay, the deputy director-general of Regional Met Centre in Kolkata, said that the system is likely to cause light to moderate rain in Gangetic West Bengal, with isolated heavy rain in the coastal districts of South 24 Parganas, North 24 Parganas and Purba Medinipur.

He said that it is likely to cause light to moderate rain in Kolkata on October 24 and 25.

"Wind speed of 45 to 55 km gusting to 65 kmph will occur in the coastal districts of South 24 Parganas, North 24 Parganas and Purba Medinipur on October

24, while on October 25, wind speed will reach 90 to 100 kmph gusting to 110 kmph," he told reporters here.

Wind speed of 30 to 40 kmph gusting to 50 kmph will occur in Kolkata and adjoining districts of Howrah and Hooghly, he said. "It will not be a super cyclone and further movement of the system will be updated by the IMD in due course," Bandopadhyay said.

Super cyclone Amphan, which ravaged the coastal districts of West Bengal in May 2020, had a wind speed of 185 kmph when it made landfall near Sundarban, officials said. The National Crisis Management Committee, headed by Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba, reviewed the preparedness of central and state governments for the possible cyclonic storm.

The director general of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) briefed the NCMC about the current status

of the weather system in the Bay of Bengal, a statement said.

The chief secretaries of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal and Andaman and Nicobar Islands apprised the committee of preparatory measures being taken to protect the population in the expected path of the cyclonic storm. Reviewing the preparedness, Gauba stressed that preventive and precautionary measures should be taken by authorities.

The aim should be to keep the loss of lives at zero, and minimise damage to property and infrastructure such as power and telecom, he said. The cabinet secretary assured the states and the Union Territory that all central agencies are ready and will be available for assistance.

In Kolkata, West Bengal's Chief Secretary HK Dwivedi chaired a high-level meeting with top state officials on the prevailing situation. He directed South 24 Parganas, North 24 Parganas,

Purba Medinipur, Paschim Medinipur and Hooghly districts to take necessary precautions in the wake of the forecast.

Leaves of all senior officers in these districts as well as those in the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) and Kolkata Police were cancelled, an official said.

Control rooms will be opened in these south Bengal districts, and those living in low-lying areas will be moved to safe shelters, he said.

Twenty teams of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and 15 teams of the NDRF will be on standby. Kolkata's Mayor Firdhad Hakim said his team is ready to face any eventuality.

"All community halls have been asked to remain open. We will start using mikes to alert people. All pumping stations will be active to drain out accumulated water. We are also preparing cyclone shelters," he told PTI.

Demand For Separate State By People Of Eastern Nagaland Not Wrong: CM

Press trust of India

Kohima: Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio on Friday said the demand for a separate state by the people of the eastern part of the state is "not wrong".

Eastern Nagaland comprises six districts Mon, Tuensang, Kiphire, Longleng, Noklak and Shamator which are inhabited by seven tribes of Chang, Khiamniungan, Konyak, Phom, Sangtam, Tikhir and Yimkhuing.

Nagas, we speak our mind and it is not wrong for them (Eastern Nagaland people) to say what their thinking and desire is but all these issues will be resolved," Rio said.

During a function here, the CM was asked by reporters that Eastern Nagaland Peoples' Organisation (ENPO) has decided not to participate in the ensuing Hornbill Festival and also asked 20 legislators from the region to resign in support of their demand for the separate state.



We are talking with them and will give an appointment to ENPO during the union home minister's (proposed) visit to the state. If the prime minister also comes, we will request him to have a talk with them," Rio said.

The clamour for the separate state in eastern Nagaland has gained momentum ahead of the assembly polls due early next year, with the 20 MLAs from the region extending support to a call not to take part in any election until the demand is met.

The CM, however, said that

the state government is yet to receive any final schedule for the proposed visit of the home minister or the PM.

On ENPO's decision not to participate in Hornbill Festival, Rio said it will be held as usual and every tribe should take part.

It is a responsibility of the state, and one cannot dishonour the state but all have to take responsibility to make it successful, Rio said.

The ENPO has been demanding 'Frontier Nagaland' since 2010, alleging "negligence" by the government in all aspects

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Is Jammu & Kashmir

reduce by 2.5 percent and 7 percent respectively by 2050.

Further, he said, wheat yield has been projected to be lessened by 6-25 percent in 2100 and maize yields by 18-23 percent.

The ACS, the spokesperson said, informed that the government have constituted a High Powered Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Mangla Rai, Former DG, ICAR and Secretary DARE for formulating a comprehensive policy for holistic agriculture development in J&K.

He said that Dulloo, during his inaugural speech congratulated the SKUAST Jammu for holding this mega event of great relevance in present era.

The ACS, he said, maintained that Agriculture is an integral part of world's economy and is the lifeline of underdeveloped and developing countries like India.

He appreciated the Vice Chancellors of both farm universities for playing outstanding role in drafting proposals with the target to enhance incomes of farmers in J&K.

He said that SKUAST Jammu is a hub of various technological innovations in the field of agriculture and has achieved numerous milestones under the stewardship of Vice Chancellor Professor J P Sharma.

Professor Sharma, the spokesperson said, appreciated Dulloo for his outstanding efforts during the COVID period and now in agriculture sector which has been recognized and rewarded at UT level and national level as well.

"He said that J&K administration has initiated several initiatives which would definitely transform the agriculture profile of the UT. He added that farm universities and all the development departments are now working collectively for development of farmers and agriculture in J&K," he added.

According to the spokesperson, Professor Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST Kashmir, who was the guest of honour, said that in the present era, agriculture is facing a lot of challenges regarding water scarcity, declining land availability, land fragmentation, wastage of agricultural produce, and disinterest of youth towards agriculture and migration of rural people towards urban areas."

Govt Appoints

mandates State and UT Governments to appoint a Survey Commissioner Auqaf for carrying out a survey of Waqf properties.

As per Waqf Act-1995, the Survey Commissioner Auqaf shall submit his report to the Government in respect of the number of Auqaf in the State showing the Shia and Sunni Auqaf separately and the nature and object of each Waqf.

The Commissioner Survey Auqaf shall also submit details about the amount of land revenue, cesses, rates and taxes payable in respect of each Waqf.

The Survey Commissioner shall, while making any inquiry, have the same powers as are vested in a civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 in respect of the summoning and examining any witness; requiring the discovery and production of any document; requisitioning any public record from any court or office; issuing commissions for the examination of any witness or accounts.

Upon receipt of the report from the Survey Commissioner, the UT Government would forward a copy of the same to the Waqf Board. The Board would examine the report and send it back to the Government within six months for publication in the official gazette—(KNO)

Congress Boycotts,

that Rajinder Sharma was elected as mayor and Baldev Singh as deputy mayor.

Pertinently, in the 75 members' corporation, there are 73 corporators as two of them have passed away.

The strength of BJP corporators in the corporation is 44 while Congress has 13 corporators and rest of them are independents.

The Congress party that has 13 corporators in the Jammu Municipal Corporation, boycotted the polls against open ballot system of polling.

Addressing media persons in the premises of Jammu Municipal Corporation, Congress' Mayor candidate Dwarka Nath Choudhary said: "We've decided to boycott the polls against BJP's move of conducting elections through open ballot system of polling".

"Last time, the polls were conducted through a secret ballot system. But since BJP leadership was worried about cross-voting by its own corporators as it happened in Udhampur and Kathua, the party deliberately amended the laid down law and changed the system of polling to ballot system. This is undemocratic," he said.

"If the polls would have been conducted through secret ballot system, we could have won both Mayor and Deputy Mayor posts," he added.

Congress party's Chief spokesperson Ravinder Sharma said, "Although we did not have the majority, we put up candidates for the contest. The change of procedure from secret voting to open ballot was undemocratic. It had not been done in the past. This undemocratic step forced us to boycott it."

Soon after the elections were over, BJP State President Ravinder Raina congratulated the winners.

Addressing media persons, Raina said that the landslide victory of BJP candidates in Mayor and Deputy Mayor polls is an indication that people love BJP.

"These polls are an indication that BJP is an indomitable force in Jammu region. We're pretty sure that in the coming Assembly polls, BJP will form a government on its own in Jammu and Kashmir," Raina said, adding, "next Chief Minister would be from BJP".

Replying to a question about Congress' boycott of the JMC polls, he said, "Congress party has been completely decimated in the country. As such, there is no fun discussing this party".

Meanwhile, Ravinder Raina congratulated all the corporators, especially the independent corporators.

Earlier, the posts fell vacant last month following the resignation of incumbent mayor Chander Mohan Gupta and his deputy Purnima Sharma, both from the BJP, to focus on strengthening the party ahead of the assembly elections scheduled to take place after the conclusion of ongoing special summary revision of electoral rolls.

Chander Mohan Gupta and Purnima Sharma took over their respective posts on November 15, 2018 after the BJP won the civic body during the Urban Local Bodies elections which were held in four phases from October 8-16 in 2018 after a gap of 13 years

Action Soon

stooges, is now targeting innocent civilians. There are some elements who are trying to incite people. Anyone who tries to disturb the peace and development of Jammu and Kashmir will have to pay a heavy price for their cowardly acts," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Sinha added that it was due to the efforts of the police and security forces over the past three decades that the country had been successful in combating militancy and separatism.

"It is because of your courage and

bravery that we have been successful in defeating the efforts of the neighbouring country and some elements within the country to spread terrorism and separatism.

"The sacrifices of the jawans have played a big role in the activities of development that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have witnessed in the past three years. If tourism has increased in any region of the union territory, it is not only because of the efforts of the tourism department. The atmosphere of sense of security has been created by our jawans that people from all over the country and abroad feel safe to visit," he added.

Sinha said India was the "the strongest democratic society" in the world and providing opportunities of development to all citizens was an ongoing endeavour.

"If anyone is trying to sow the seeds of discord among us, it is the responsibility of the society to go for a social boycott of these elements. The way people have protested, and shown their anger, against the recent incidents of civilian killings has given me hope that terrorism has a life of few days left now."

"We should take a pledge to hammer the last nail in the coffin of terrorism and that would be a true tribute to the fallen jawans," he added.

"The new Jammu Kashmir has also brought new hopes, new aspirations for the younger generation. The enthusiasm of all sections of the society in the Har Ghar Tiranga Utsav has infused a new inspiration in Jammu and Kashmir," Sinha said.

Earlier, the LG laid a floral wreath at Martyrs' Memorial and paid homage to the police martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the security of the country. He also visited the Blood Donation Camp organized to mark the occasion and interacted with the donors.

SJM. Gillani, ADGP J&K Armed Police read the names of brave hearts of Police who attained martyrdom during the year fighting crime and ensuring safety of the nation.

Launches Two

of J&K, two contemporary digital shows created by the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) to engage, entertain and inspire the youth of J&K, an official spokesperson said Friday.

The LG, he said, also inaugurated the Study Lounge and Reference Library and dedicated DIPR Auditorium, Srinagar as 'Pandit Bhajan Sopori Auditorium' in the honour of the Santoor Maestro. He also congratulated the Information & Public Relations Department and the talented youth of the UT of J&K.

According to the spokesperson, the LG said that the new initiatives of DIPR are like windows that open up to an infinite world of ideas, imagination, wisdom and culture.

"From communicating Government programmes and policies to the public to disseminating cultural tradition, the Information Department is playing an important role by offering new ideas and perspectives," Sinha said.

"Youth is the hope of our nation. Young generation of J&K wants to drive social progress, contribute to the economic growth and a better future for the society and the nation. Our effort is to ignite their dreams and aspirations and to ensure they realise their true potential of changemakers," he added.

The LG, the spokesperson said, further observed that the dreams and aspirations of people can be truly realised only in conditions of peace and terrorism is one of the gravest threats to peace.

"I call upon the young generation to come together to foil the efforts of elements disrupting normal life and economic progress of J&K," the LG said.

"Young generation should always rise above narrow considerations of caste, religion to build an inclusive and equitable society in today's inter-dependent world. The spirit of oneness can bring the most effective transformation in our society," he added.

As per the spokesperson, the LG called upon the officials and employees of the Information department to play the role of master communicators.

"There is a need to counter deliberate dissemination of falsehoods, propaganda with the intent to cause harm to the society. We also need to safeguard press freedom. A large number of newspapers, TV Stations & digital users reflect the vitality and vibrancy of our media and democracy," Sinha said.

"We have to keep in mind that medium is the message. So we must choose the right mass media tools to reach out to the people with factual information," he added.

On the occasion, the spokesperson said, the LG also urged all departments and common citizens to purchase local products.

"On this Diwali, we must strengthen the resolve of self-reliant J&K and Vocal for Local campaign by giving preference to local products and empower youth, women associated with the self help groups," the LG said.

Rohit Kansal, Principal Secretary to the Government, Information Department, while speaking on the occasion, congratulated the Department and everyone associated with the new initiatives.

"With the new shows launched today, we are aiming to take the talent of J&K to the national and international level in digital, contemporary and modern forms and show the world what the youth of the UT are capable of," Kansal said, as per the spokesperson.

Akshay Labroo, Director, Information & Public Relations, J&K, in his welcome address, provided an insight into the new initiatives and programmes of the department to showcase the inspirational stories of change makers and providing a platform to the talented youth of the UT.

"State-of-the-Art Reference Library will not only be limited to archival use but also provide a space to the intelligentsia to hold seminars and discussions," he informed.

On the occasion, the LG honoured Prof. Aparna Sopori, wife of Santoor Maestro Pandit Bhajan Sopori. He also felicitated the winners of National Anthem Round-2.

Live performances by the renowned artists of J&K including Gulzar Ahmed Ganai, Kusha Sharma, Chinmaya Sharma, Irfan and Bilal remained one of the major highlights of the evening.

Short videos highlighting the objectives and vision of the initiatives were also showcased.

Besides other, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi, Chairperson J&K Waqf Board; R R Swain, Special DG, CID; Pandurang K Pole, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Sujit Kumar DIG; Mohammad Aijaz, DC Srinagar; Naresh Kumar, Sapna Kotwal and Inam Ul Haq Siddiqui, Joint Directors, DIPR; Family members of Pandit Bhajan Sopori, besides senior officials, artists, youth, students, volunteers of Gen-Z and prominent citizens from all walks of life were present on the occasion.

Situation Improved

Police Commemoration Day is observed in the memory of 10 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel who were killed on this day in 1959 in an ambush by Chinese troops in

Ladakh's Hot Spring area.

Govt Asks Mehbooba

will consult her legal team.

"I do not own a place where I can stay. So I have to consult my legal team before making a decision," she said.

Sources in the government also disclosed that an alternate accommodation has been offered to Mehbooba Mufti in lieu of Fairview residence.

The Fairview residence of Muftis was formerly an infamous torture center, known as PAPA-2.

Until 1989, it served as an official guest house. The building was occupied by the Border Security Forces in 1990 who named it PAPA-2.

It continued to function as an interrogation and torture center till 1996.

In 1996, Ashok Jaitley, former Chief Secretary of the State moved in and used it as his residence. In 2003 it was renovated and served as the residence of then Finance Minister Muzaffar Hussain Baig.

4 Soldiers Killed

Army personnel including two pilots, was on regular sorties when it crashed at 10.43 am around Migging, around 25 km south of Tuting, the district headquarters.

"There were five Army personnel onboard. The mortal remains of four personnel were recovered from the crash site so far. Search for the other person is on, Tezpur based defence spokesperson Lt Col A S Wallia said.

A joint search and rescue operation by the Army and Air Force was immediately launched in which a MI-17 and two ALHs along with three columns of the Indian Army were deployed and the four bodies were found, he said.

The district police sent a team to the spot for the search operation, Upper Siang superintendent of police Jummur Basar said.

The Army chopper, also known as HAL Rudra, had taken off from Likabali in Lower Siang district. The HAL Rudra is an attack helicopter manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the Indian Army. It is a weapon system integrated (WSI) Mk-IV variant of the Dhruv advanced light helicopter (ALH) and is the first armed helicopter produced indigenously in India.

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju who, represents the frontier state in Parliament, expressed shock over the incident.

Received very disturbing news about Indian Army's Advanced Light Helicopter crash in Upper Siang District in Arunachal Pradesh. My deepest prayers, he tweeted.

This is the second accident by an Army helicopter in Arunachal Pradesh this month.

A Cheetah helicopter crashed in Tawang district on October 5 and claimed the life of one of its two pilots.

According to records, Arunachal Pradesh has witnessed 13 crashes since 1995 and 47 people were killed in them.

Terrorist Held In

police and security forces in Bandipora. Besides, the spokespersons said that he was also tasked by his handlers across the border to mobilise the youth for recruiting them in LeT.

On Bhat's disclosure, the spokesperson said, two Hand Grenades were recovered which he had kept in paddy fields near Ward No.04 Plan Bandipora.

"In this connection Case FIR No. 168/2022 was registered in PS Bandipora and further investigation has been taken up," he added.

Girl Killed In Hit

Magray was referred to SKIMS Soura for specialized treatment.

The reports further added that the driver fled from the spot after hitting the father-daughter duo.

Meanwhile, Police have registered a case in this regard and a manhunt has been launched to nab the driver.

Mughal Road

traffic was released from Minimarg towards Srinagar.

The road was closed for a day on Tuesday as well due to snowfall and nearly 100 stranded passengers were rescued on Wednesday.

There was heavy snowfall in high altitude areas of Pir Ki Gal, Poshana and other adjoining areas on the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday.

The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway also faced a brief shutdown due to shooting stones in Ramban district, they said, adding that traffic on the road had been restored.

Mercury Falls

summer capital during this time of the year, he said.

Qazigund recorded a low of 3.8°C against 7.0°C on the previous night. The temperature was 0.6°C below normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, he said.

In Pahalgam, the mercury settled at 2.0°C against 3.2°C on the previous night and it was 0.5°C above normal for the south Kashmir resort, he said.

Kokernag recorded a low of 2.8°C against 5.3°C on the previous night and it was 3.1°C below normal for the place, he said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 2.0°C the same as on the previous night and it was 0.9°C below normal for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

In Kupwara town, the mercury settled at 5.5°C against 4.1°C on the previous night, the official said. It was 1.0°C above normal for the north Kashmir place, he said.

In last 24 hours till 0830 hours, Srinagar recorded 7.5mm of rainfall, Qazigund 31.0mm, Pahalgam 14.8mm, Kupwara 0.0mm, Kokernag 22.0mm, Gulmarg 5.4mm, Banihal 34.4mm, Batote 25.8mm, Katra 22.0mm and Bhandarwah 33.3mm. (GNS)

Police Commemoration

Hot Spring in Ladakh at a height of 4,681 metres above sea level.

Impressive functions were organised in all the 10 districts of Jammu zone where a large number of senior police and civil officers, retired personnel, civil society and family members of slain personnel participated, a police spokesman said.

He said the main function was held at Gulshan ground in Jammu city where Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Jammu zone, Mukesh Singh took the salute of the commemoration day parade.

He paid rich tributes to all those who laid down their lives for the unity and integrity of the country during the past one year, the spokesman said.

ADGP also interacted with the kin of slain policemen and heard their grievances, assuring time-bound redressal.

Police commemoration day was observed at BSF frontier headquarters here as 'Smriti Parade' in memory of the CRPF personnel, who sacrificed their life in Ladakh on this day in 1959. D K Boora, IG BSF laid the wreath at the war memorial and paid homage to the police and para-military personnel who laid down their lives in the line of duty.

He read out the names of martyrs and said during the last one year a total of 264 Police and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) personnel laid their lives in service to the nation, out of which 27 belong to BSF.

All officers and jawans were present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering Boora said the sacrifice made by these martyrs for safeguarding the honour and pride of the country will certainly remain a source of inspiration for the coming generation.

BJP President Ravinder Raina also laid wreaths at the memorial and paid tributes to martyrs.

Santosh Trophy: J&K Placed In Group II

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir men's football team was on Friday placed in Group II for the upcoming 76th Senior National Football Championship Santosh Trophy 2022. The semifinals and finals of the championship are scheduled to be held for the first time in Saudi Arabia.



The draw for the group-ings were held on Friday, with the championship all set to be played in a new format as all 36 states battle it out for the ultimate honour.

second-placed teams, will qualify for the final round of senior men's national championship.

In the final round, the 12 best teams will be divided into two groups of six teams each, as they will subsequently play in a round robin format, before proceeding to the knockout rounds.

The 36 state FAs were also invited to bid for the hosting rights of the group stages and the final round.

Group II: Kerala, Mizoram, Rajasthan, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir.

Meanwhile, Leh & Ladakh has been placed Group I alongside Karnataka, Delhi, Gujarat, Uttarakhanda and Tripura.

AJKMF Mountaineer Explores 100+ Alpine Lakes

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: All Jammu Kashmir Mountaineering Foundation (AJKMF) on Friday issued a statement congratulating a member of its team for successfully exploring 100+ alpine lakes in Kashmir Valley.

The AJKMF statement started with a quote by Paulo Coelho which said: "There is only one thing that makes a dream impossible to achieve: the fear of failure."

"Hearty congratulations to the Sober guy of Team All Jammu Kashmir Mountaineering Foundation, Mr. Wajid Sami for achieving the feature of exploring 100+ alpine lakes in Kashmir

valley. He covered his 100th lake during recent trek expedition at Dakiyar Sar," the statement said.

"This feat involves a great team work, high dedication and motivational levels. Its a proud moment for Mr. Wajid Sami and team All Jammu Kashmir Mountaineering Foundation (AJKMF)," it added.

Mr. Wajid Sami hails from district Budgam of the Jammu and Kashmir and works in Department of Anesthesiology at SKIMS Soura.

The Managing Director of AJKMF congratulated him and said, "We are working on our basic objective which is to promote the spirit of adventure among the youth of J&K."



YSS Conducts Sports Activities Across Srinagar



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As a pre run to Back to Village Programme (B2V4) under Jan Abhiyan, Youth Services & Sports Office Srinagar has been conducting various sports activities and related awareness programs in all the 21 panchayats of the District Srinagar.

The main focus and aim of Jan Abhiyan is to aware people especially youth regarding various activities/opportunities being provided by the department besides conduct of sports activities and talent hunt in games and sports.

During Jan Abhiyan since 15th October, DYSSO Srinagar has engaged hundreds of youth from 21 panchayats in sports activities

and other relevant programs. In one such event held on Friday at Candid Higher Secondary School Nowgam- A, Director Youth Services & Sports J&K, Joint Director Kashmir YSS, Vice Chairman District Development Council Srinagar, DYSSO Srinagar and other officers and officials of the Department attended a Mass Yoga Display event.

About 170 Boys & Girls from Lasjan A & B, Nowgam A & B (Srinagar Block) participated in the colourful event.

Sports activities/programs were also conducted at Theed A & B and Syedpora panchayats in Block Harwan, where a large number of sports lovers/enthusiast participated in the activities.



Rain Threatens To Curtail India-Pakistan Match

Press Trust of India

MELBOURNE: The much awaited marquee clash between India and Pakistan may have an anti-climactic end as 'rain gods' threaten to play spoilsport during the Super 12 clash of the T20 World Cup on Sunday.

According to local Met department, there is 80 to 90 per cent chance of rainfall, volume of which could be between 1mm to 5 mm.

There is also prediction of thunderstorm, which is, however, a lowly 13 per cent.

On Friday evening, there was sharp spell of shower in Melbourne and something like this

on Sunday could spell doom for the cricket fans.

However, the locals, who have a fair idea about change of weather, are confident that even if the heavens open up, there could still be a curtailed match.

The MCG is expected to be full house with at least 85 to 90 per cent Indian fans and a no-match situation will simply break their hearts.

It is not the first time that an India versus Pakistan T20 World Cup match has been threatened by rain.

In 2016, the two neighbouring countries played at the Eden Gardens and a sharp spell of

evening showers and puddles of water in the outfield was a massive concern.

However, the revamped drainage system at the Eden did the trick.

If such a situation arises, the Victoria's state cricket body is well equipped with enough resources to handle the situation.

Since the advertisement revenue generated for this game surpasses all other other games, the broadcasters incur losses if an India-Pakistan match is not held. In such a scenario, Victoria state cricket body might have to refund full price of tickets as per terms and conditions.

Rohit Gets Ready For Shaheen Afridi Duel With Extended Session

Press Trust of India

MELBOURNE: Those who know Rohit Sharma well would vouch for the fact that the Indian captain doesn't get amused when he hears the term "lazy elegance" liberally thrown at him during formal and informal conversations.

Forty-eight hours before the marquee clash against Pakistan, it seemed Rohit, the skipper at least on the day, made way for Rohit, the batter, who is thinking of how to counter the menacing pace and swing of Shaheen Shah Afridi.

Maybe that's the reason, he was trying to focus on not hitting any horizontal bat shots, which is a recipe for disaster against someone like Shaheen, who will not only bowl fast but also swing it late at a brisk pace.

It was an optional net session for the Indian team on Friday and it was the skipper, who became the centre of attention for



30-odd spectators as he entered the arena. Rohit went through the grind for close to one and half hours along with Dinesh Karthik for company.

It seemed he was intent on playing within the 'V'. He defended, left deliveries, and played front-foot and back-foot push drives with elan.

The way he kept the shape while lunging forward for the cover drives was sheer beauty.

But if one thought that the skipper was done for the morning, they were mistaken.

Having taken a break for some time, Rohit was back in the nets and this time facing the sharp left-arm throwdown of Sri Lankan specialist Nuwan Senewiratne. But one thing can be said with a degree of certainty that Rohit Sharma is not leaving any stone unturned to turn the heat on Shaheen Shah Afridi.

Ronaldo Refused To Come On As Sub For United, Says Ten Hag

Agencies

MANCHESTER: Cristiano Ronaldo refused to come on as a substitute for Manchester United in its 2-0 win over Tottenham in the Premier League, United manager Erik ten Hag said Friday.

Ronaldo headed to the locker room before the final whistle of Wednesday's game at Old Trafford in a show of dissent and has since been omitted from United's squad for the trip to play Chelsea on Saturday.

Ten Hag held talks with Ronaldo on Friday and said the Portugal striker "remains an important part of the squad."

However, Ten Hag said Ronaldo had to be disciplined for the sake of the culture within



the team, having already been critical of the player and some of his teammates for leaving a preseason friendly against Rayo Vallecano early in July.

"I have to set standards and values, and control them," Ten Hag said.

"I set a warning at the start of the season, and the next time there has to be consequences. Otherwise when you are living together, when you are playing together — and football is a team sport — you have to fulfill certain standards and I have to control it."

The 37-year-old Ronaldo took to social media late Thursday to explain his behavior in the Tottenham game.

"I've always tried to set the example myself for the youngsters that grew in all the teams that I've represented," Ronaldo wrote on Instagram. "Unfortunately that's not always possible and sometimes the heat of the moment (gets) the best of us."

Ronaldo trained away from the first team on Friday.

Chinar Women's National Cricket C'ship Begins In Ganderbal

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: The six day long Chinar Women's Cricket Championship 2022 organized by 24 RR in collaboration with J&K Women's Cricket Association kick-started on Friday here in Qamaria Sports Stadium.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir attended the inaugural ceremony as the Chief Guest and announced the championship open. SSP Ganderbal Nikhil Borkar and District Youth Services and Sports Officer Ganderbal were the guests of honour.

Besides, dignitaries from various organizations/institutions were also present.

Twelve teams from different districts of Kashmir and Women's cricket team from Rajasthan and UP are also taking part in the championship which is being played on league cum knockout basis.

The inaugural match was played between Kulgam and Bandipora in which Kulgam after winning the toss elected to bat first and posted a score of 155 for the loss of 3 wickets in their allotted 15 overs.

In reply, Bandipora were bundled out on 73 in 13.3 overs. Kulgam registered their first win and first points on the points table.

The latest update from the PCB team in Australia is that Masood's neurological observations are normal.

"The CT scan revealed a superficial bruising in the area where he was struck, but he is currently asymptomatic. The batter will undergo a concussion re-test on Saturday," the PCB said in a statement on Friday.

In a freak incident, the left-hander suffered the blow on the right side of his head from a stray shot off the bat of Mohammad Nawaz while playing against a spinner.

The 33-year-old was wearing pads but not the helmet as he was waiting for his turn to bat. Masood fell on the ground and

T20 WORLD CUP Ireland Knock West Indies Out, Reach Super 12

Press Trust of India

HOBART: Ireland sprang the biggest upset of the T20 World Cup, eliminating two-time champions West Indies with a stunning nine-wicket win that also sealed their Super 12 berth here on Friday.

It was their 32-year-old veteran opener Paul Stirling who smashed an unbeaten 66 from 48 balls (6x4, 2x6) to seal the chase with 15 balls to spare after leg-spinner Gareth Delany's career-

stage with just one win from three matches.

The Nicholas Pooran-led side who were without the likes of Shimron Hetmyer and Andre Russell lacked depth and looked out of sort, suffering to a 42-run defeat against Scotland.

They went on to beat Zimbabwe by 31 runs to revive their campaign but only to be outplayed by the Andy Balbirnie-led side.

Stirling and skipper Balbirnie



best figures of 4-0-16-3 restricted the Windies to 146 for five.

Playing their seventh T20 World Cup, it is only the second time Ireland reached the second stage following their Super 8 appearance at the 2009 edition in England.

West Indies, who are the most successful side of the T20 World Cup having won the titles in 2012 and 2016, thus cut a sorry figure, crashing out of the group

(37) took the attack to the West Indian bowlers, blazing to 73 off 44 balls to give them a perfect start.

Once Balbirnie departed in the eighth over, the experienced Stirling and Lorcan Tucker (45 not out) kept scoring freely and completed the job with consummate ease.

It was Tucker, who knocked off the final runs with a four in the 18th over.

Zimbabwe Make Super 12 For First Time, Eliminate Scotland

Press Trust of India

HOBART: Zimbabwe made it to the Super 12 stage of the T20 World Cup for the first time after an easy five-wicket win over Scotland in a Group B match here on Friday.

The win ensured Group B top spot for Zimbabwe as they joined India, Pakistan, South Africa, Bangladesh and Netherlands in the Group 2 of Super 12. For Scotland, it was the end of their campaign after the loss. Pacer Tendai Chatara led a

rava (2/28) was a tad expensive, but he also gave a twin blow to Scotland who never managed to get going after captain Richie Berrington opted to bat.

In reply, Zimbabwe cantered home in 18.3 overs with their star all-rounder Sikandar Raza slamming a 23-ball 40, studded with three fours and two sixes. Raza earlier chipped in with 1/20 with his off-spin to be adjudged man-of-the-match.

Zimbabwe captain Craig Ervine top-scored for Zimbabwe with a 54-ball 58 as he anchored



spectacular bowling show with figures of 4-1-14-2 as Zimbabwe restricted Scotland to a below-par 132 for six.

Chatara, who also became the first from Zimbabwe to take 50-plus wickets in T20 Internationals, checked the run flow with his accurate bowling.

Left-arm pacer Richard Nga-

the chase after they were reduced to 7 for 2 inside two overs.

First, he put together 35 from 39 balls with Sean Williams to repair the damage before Raza's impactful knock dashed Scotland's hopes of making the Super 12. The duo put together 64 from 43 balls in their fifth wicket stand.

Pakistan Batter Shan Masood 'Normal' After Blow To Head

Press Trust of India

MELBOURNE: Pakistan top-order batter Shan Masood, who was hit on the head during a practice session at the Melbourne Cricket Ground here ahead of their T20 World Cup opener against India on Sunday, is "normal" and his CT scan revealed superficial bruising.

The latest update from the PCB team in Australia is that Masood's neurological observations are normal.

"The CT scan revealed a superficial bruising in the area where he was struck, but he is currently asymptomatic. The batter will undergo a concussion re-test on Saturday," the PCB said in a statement on Friday.

In a freak incident, the left-hander suffered the blow on the right side of his head from a stray shot off the bat of Mohammad Nawaz while playing against a spinner.

The 33-year-old was wearing pads but not the helmet as he was waiting for his turn to bat. Masood fell on the ground and

looked in pain. He was soon attended by the team doctor and



then rushed to the hospital.

It remains to be seen whether Masood will be fit for Pakistan's T20 World Cup opener. They have another left-handed batter Fakhar Zaman in the squad to replace him.

Masood, who made his T20I debut in their home series against England in September this year, has played all seven T20Is and slammed two half-centuries. But he struggled in the recent tri-series against New Zealand and Bangladesh.

Google Says "Major Setback For Indian Consumers" After ₹1,338 Crore Fine

New Delhi: Google on Friday said that the India's antitrust watchdog's decision to fine it ₹1,338 crore or about \$162 million for anticompetitive practices was a "major setback" for consumers and businesses in the country.

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) on Thursday said Google leveraged its dominant position in markets such as online search and app store for Android to protect the position of its apps like Chrome and YouTube in mobile web browsers and online video hosting.

Besides the fine, the CCI also ordered Google to change its approach to its Android platform and restricted it from certain revenue sharing agreements with smartphone makers.

"Android has created more choice for everyone, and supports thousands of successful businesses in India and around the world," a Google spokesperson said on Friday.

"The CCI's decision is a major setback for Indian consumers and businesses, opening serious security risks for Indians who trust Android's security features, and raising the cost of mobile devices for Indians."

Google said it will review the decision to evaluate next steps.

The CCI, in its statement, had said, "Markets should be allowed to compete on merits and the onus is on the dominant players (in the present case, Google) that its conduct does not impinge this competition on merits."

The U.S. company is facing a series of antitrust cases and the tightening of existing tech-se-



tor regulations in India.

The competition watchdog is separately looking in to Google's business conduct in the smart TV market and its in-app payments system.

The Android-related probe, started in 2019, was sparked by a complaint from two junior Indian antitrust research associates and a law school student. The Indian case is similar to one faced by Google in Europe, where regulators imposed a \$5 billion fine on the company for forcing manufacturers to pre-install its apps on Android devices.

Google was ordered by India on Thursday not to restrict smartphone users from uninstalling its pre-installed apps like Google Maps and Gmail.

CCI also asked Google to allow users to pick their search engine of choice for all relevant services while setting up a phone for the first time.

Google's Android operating system powers 97 per cent of India's 600 million smartphones, according to Counterpoint Research.

Cervical Cancer Vaccine To Be Launched In India Next Year: Adar Poonawalla



Agenceis

Pune: Serum Institute of India (SII) had to defer HPV vaccine production by two years due to the focus on COVID, and will start supplying small quantities of the dose to the Indian government in early 2023, a top official has said.

Exports will have to wait till 2024, its chief executive Adar Poonawalla told reporters in Pune on Thursday evening, adding that the company has to build a scale of manufacturing to over 150 million for that.

HPV vaccines prevent certain kinds of cervical cancer.

SII is the world's largest vaccine manufacturer which rushed with the production of multiple Covid vaccines at its facilities located here once the shot was approved for use.

"The HPV facility was used by the Covid vaccines during the pandemic. That's why we had to delay the larger launch to next year," Mr Poonawalla said, speaking on the sidelines of an event.

"We will be making a very small quantity and launching with the Indian government in the first quarter of next year. Followed by a capacity for 70 million doses which can go up to 150-200 million doses the year after that," he added.

Mr Poonawalla said the company already has an approval from the Drugs Controller General of India for domestic use of the HPV vaccines and added that once the domestic use starts, it hopes to get the prequalification from the World Health Organisation.

The company has already be-

gun paperwork with the World Health Organization (WHO), and hopes to start exporting to Unicef, the vaccine alliance Gavi and African countries by 2024, by which time it would have ramped-up the capacities.

He added that the Indian immunization programme will also place a lot of orders.

"We are just one year later than what I'd have wanted to be in terms of our capacity," he said, adding that in 2023, it will start with a capacity of 20 million doses which will be supplied to the Indian government.

"We've used the original HPV vaccine building for covovax. So, we had no choice during the pandemic. There were so many other vaccines like dengue and so many developments which were deferred by two years," he said.

Take Suo Motu Action Against Hate Speeches, Register Cases Immediately: SC Tells 3 States

Agenceis

New Delhi: Holding that the Constitution of India envisages a secular nation, the Supreme Court Friday directed Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand governments come down hard on hate speeches, promptly registering criminal cases against the culprits without waiting for a complaint to be filed.

The apex court warned any delay on the part of the administration in taking action on this "very serious issue" will invite the court's contempt.

"The Constitution of India envisages a secular nation and fraternity among citizens assuring the dignity of the individual...The unity and integrity of the nation is one of the guiding principles enshrined in the preamble.

"There cannot be fraternity unless the members of the community from different religions are able to live in harmony. The petitioner points out despite various penal provisions, no action has been taken and there is a need to serve constitutional principles. We feel this court is charged with a duty to protect the fundamental rights and also protect and serve the constitution where the rule of law is maintained," the top court said.



A bench of Justices KM Joseph and Hrishikesh Roy also issued notices to Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand on the petition filed by journalist Shaheen Abdullah.

The court said action must be taken against those making hate speeches irrespective of their religion to preserve the secular fabric of the nation.

"Respondents 2-4 (the three states) will file a response as to what action has been taken for the speeches highlighted. They shall ensure that as and when any (hate) speech or action takes place without any complaint being filed, suo motu action is taken in such cases in future without waiting for complaints.

"Respondents will issue directions to their subordinates for appropriate action and such action will be taken irrespective of religion against the person who delivers such hate speech so that the secular character of this country as envisaged in the preamble is maintained," it said.

RESPONDENTS WILL ISSUE DIRECTIONS to their subordinates for appropriate action and such action will be taken irrespective of religion against the person who delivers such hate speech so that the secular character of this country as envisaged in the preamble is maintained."

Meals on the Go...

NOW ON BOULEVARD INTRODUCING FISH & CHIPS

Bun Maska

Chai

Who Says Healthy Food Can't Taste Good?

BRING YOUR KIDS ALONG

JK BANK LAWNS, NEAR GHAT 6, BOULEVARD-SRINAGAR