

25th year OF PUBLICATION

KASHMIR OBSERVER™

Sunday 06 November 2022 | 10 Rabi-ul-Sani | 1444 Hijri | Srinagar | Vol: 25 | Issue: 262 | Pages: 12 | Price: ₹3

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‘Sinking Ship’ Situation Installing Quick-Heal In Kashmir Houseboats

Saima Shakeel

Anticipating yet another harsh winter that signalled its early-arrival with the untimely snowfall this autumn, the houseboat community of Kashmir has gone for the advance-coring process.

Last year, many houseboats sank in the frosty waters of Dal Lake and river Jhelum due to decayed boat bases.

“Winter now makes me restless,” said Farooq Ahmad, a houseboat owner.

“We helplessly saw our houseboats sinking last year due to the want of repairing. That sinking ship



situation is now keeping all of us on our toes for rebuilding our boat-bases.”

The current

crisis-management cycle has started after a bumper tourist season in the valley. Houseboats being sightseeing showpieces

6 WE ALWAYS MAKE AN HONEST EFFORT TO ARRIVE at the spot and help the houseboat owners in their distress.”

always appeal and attract the tourist footfall.

But to keep up with its heritage and beautification, these floating houses need to go under numerous maintenance processes.

As autumn is now gradually paving way to winter in

Kashmir, houseboat proprietors are counting on the coring process to stay afloat in the chilly and challenging season.

Coring aka Sangkar is completed by exceptional craftsmen called Kouthur. Special grassmade of dried reed is imported from Assam and utilized in this process.

Brushed into a rope-like design, the grass is placed in the base and side-gaps of the houseboat with some uncommon tools to stop the spillage. The damaged base parts are replaced by expensive wood called deodar.

“This healing cycle requires more than 10 days,” said

Mushtaq Mir, a houseboat owner. “This interaction is done after each two to three years.”

The houseboats normally have a life-expectancy of around 50 to 100 years. But due to the harsh winters in the valley, proprietors are now resorting to the prompt defense cover.

“Coring should end before December when a heavy snowfall is usually expected in Kashmir,” said Mehraj Ahmad, another houseboat owner.

“We begin this compulsory interaction to save our houseboats from drowning in awful climate conditions.”

But with changing times and traditions, **| More on P10**

FM Hints Centre Considering Statehood To J&K



Press Trust Of India

Thiruvananthapuram: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday hinted at the possibility of the Centre considering restoring state status to Jammu and Kashmir.

She dropped the hint while talking about the distribution of funds to the states by the Centre as per the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission.

Delivering a lecture on Centre-State relations here, Sitharaman said Prime Minister Narendra Modi without any hesitation had accepted the recommendation of 14th Finance Commission in 2014-15 that 42 per cent of all taxes— an increase from 32 per cent till then— should be given to the states.

“That Finance Commission said now you raise it to 42 per cent...which means that Centre will have a lesser amount in its hand. Prime Minister Modi, without a second thought about it, fully accepted the Finance Commission and that is why today states get 42 per cent of the amount—now reduced by 41 per cent because Jammu and Kashmir is no longer a state.

“It will soon become may be sometime...,” Sitharaman said in her lecture on “Cooperative Federalism: The Path Towards Atma Nirbhar Bharat” organised here by Bharatiya Vichara Kendram in memory of Sangh idealogue P Parameshwaran.

In August 2019, the central government abrogated Article 370 of the Constitution, which accorded special status to Jammu and Kashmir, and **| More on P10**

Two-Day Rain, Snow Spell In J&K From Today

2-3Ft Snow Expected Over Higher Reaches: MeT Dept

Agencies

Srinagar: The weather department on Saturday forecast widespread rain and snowfall in Jammu and Kashmir for the next 2 days, leading to a significant drop in mercury.

On November 6 and 7, a meteorological department official said, moderate rain and snow (over higher reaches) was very likely to occur at most places of J&K. “Plains of Kashmir, mainly South, likely to receive (2-3) inches of snowfall during 6-7th,” he said, adding, “Heavy Snowfall (2-3feet) is very likely over higher reaches.”

Regarding probable impacts, he said, snowfall and

low temperature may lead to temporary disruption of surface transportation, mainly over Zojila, Jammu-Srinagar Highway, Sinthantop, Mughal road etc. during November 6-7. He said that snowfall may damage orchards.

The MeT department also issued an advisory, urging people to confirm the status of the roads prior to embarking journey to avoid inconveniences.

Farmers have been advised to harvest agriculture and horticulture produces which are vulnerable to snowfall and low temperature.

Meanwhile, he said, Srinagar recorded a low of 5.6°C against 5.0°C on the previous **| More on P10**



A man passes through a majestic Chinar tree along the boulevard road on a cold autumn morning on Saturday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

LG DISCUSSES ROADMAP FOR HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT OF J&K AGRICULTURE SECTOR

Tackling Vulnerability To Ensure Higher Productivity: LG

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday chaired a high-level meeting of the advisory board for development of farmers and the officials of the agriculture department to discuss the roadmap on holistic development of agriculture & allied sectors in the Union Territory.

The meeting had meaningful and in-depth discussions wherein the participants shared their assessment of the farming sector, examined apex committee’s recommendations and efforts by UT administration for a great agriculture transformation, an official spokesperson said.

Sinha stated in the meeting that the Apex Committee



on Holistic Agriculture has provided a roadmap to transform subsistence agriculture into sustainable commercial Agri-economy.

“We are adopting an integrated approach to tackle agriculture’s extreme vulnerability to ensure increased productivity and enhanced resilience,” the LG said.

“Our approach is farmer & community-centric enabling greater farmer participation in policies and ensuring their suggestions are taken into account in decision-making and benefit from increased productivity, diversification, access to credit & required technical assistance,” he added.

According to the spokesperson, the LG maintained that the integrated approach will enable and strengthen market access for small and marginal farmers.

“With inclusiveness we aim to improve credit flow by banks to the agriculture sector and particularly to small and marginal farmers,” the LG added.

The LG complimented the efforts of Dr. Mangala Rai, who headed the **| More on P10**

Srinagar-Leh Transmission line

CAG Fumes Over Delayed Decision, Heavy Losses

Says delay in decision over construction of Srinagar-Leh transmission line causes generation loss of 1602.64 MUs

Agencies

Srinagar: The Comptroller and Auditor General of India has slammed the authorities over delay in taking decision for construction of Srinagar-Leh transmission line, saying it not only led to huge cost escalation but also caused a generation loss of 1,602.64 MUs and an extra expenditure of Rs 700.25 crore due to billing of deemed generation to Power Development Department.

In its report, the CAG has revealed that delay in taking decision over construction of the transmission line caused huge financial losses.

“Due to delay in taking decision for construction of the line, not only huge cost escalation



had occurred but there was also a generation loss of 1,602.64 MUs and an extra expenditure of Rs 700.25 crore due to billing of deemed generation to Power Development Department,” reads the CAG’s compliance audit of activities selected Central Public Sector Enterprises.

In 2003, the Government of India announced a special package for J&K comprising a 375 km transmission system project from Srinagar to Leh via Kargil with four substations at Drass, Kargil, Leh and Khaltsi at an estimated cost of Rs 377.52 crore. **| More on P10**

RSS Leader Urges Special Prayers For ‘Return Of PoK’

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: RSS leader Indresh Kumar on Saturday asked the people of the country to offer special prayers every morning for the return of Kailash Mansarovar and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir from the “illegal occupation” of China and Pakistan.

He also slammed regional mainstream parties and said those who ruled Jammu

and Kashmir over the past 70 years have to be held accountable for the death and destruction.

“Kailash Mansarovar was part of India which is now under the illegal occupation (of China). It should reunite with India and the majority of the people of the country are of the belief that this is going to happen sometime in the future,” Kumar told reporters. Referring to **| More on P10**

Mortar Shell Defused In Poonch

A live mortar was defused at a forward village near the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir’s Poonch district on Saturday, officials said. Some labourers found the unexploded mortar shell while digging at Ajote village and informed the police, they said. A bomb disposal squad was rushed to the village and the explosive device safely defused, they said. The mortar shell had apparently landed in the village during cross-border shelling by Pakistan some years ago, the officials added.

625 Policemen Promoted To Next Rank

Jammu and Kashmir Police has granted promotion to the next rank to 625 head constables and constables, an official spokesperson said on Saturday. “On the recommendations of Departmental Promotion Committee, ADGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar has approved the promotions of 206 Head Constables and 419 Constables to the rank of ASI and Selection grade constables respectively having their lien and seniority with Kashmir Zone,” **| More on P10**

2 Hybrid Terrorists Held: Police

Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested two hybrid terrorists of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) in North Kashmir’s Baramulla district. On Friday evening, police and army’s 22 RR launched a cordon and search operation (CASO) at Shah Faisal Market in the Sopore town, a police spokesperson said Saturday. During CASO, he said, suspicious movement of a person coming from Bus Stand Sopore towards Shah Faisal Market was noted. The spokesperson said that the suspect carrying a bag, was asked to stop but he tried to **| More on P10**

Teen Electrocuted To Death

A teenager died on Saturday after receiving electric shock at a bakery shop in Central Kashmir’s Budgam district. 18-year-old Suhail Ahmad Dar, a resident of Eidgah Mohalla, Humhama received an electric shock, when he was at his friend’s Bakery shop, reports said. Dar was immediately shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment. However, the doctors there declared him dead on arrival. Meanwhile, an unnamed police officer told a local news agency KDC that cognizance of the incident has been taken.

Youth Held For Beating School Girl

A youth was arrested on Saturday in Anantnag district after a purported video showing him assaulting a school-going girl went viral on social media. An official said that a Class 11th student (name withheld), a resident of Zadipora Khanabal has been arrested by Anantnag Police in connection with thrashing of a school girl on KP road in the district. The incident was captured and posted on social media, which went viral and thus triggered widespread public outrage. As soon as **| More on P10**

Advocate Haq Khan Quits PDP

In a major setback to the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) senior leader and former minister Advocate Abdul Haq Khan on Saturday resigned from the basic membership of the party. “I announce in no uncertain terms that in view of the current political situation, I have suspended my political activities definitively and completely. From today onwards, I have no association with my previous political party, i.e PDP, and that my statement should be considered as my resignation,” Khan said in a statement. “He was the general **| More on P10**

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2

Study: Enzyme Engineering Made Easy Using AI

ANI

In a new study, researchers from Osaka University have imparted an analogous level of adaptability to enzymes, a goal that has remained elusive for over 30 years. The findings of the study were recently published in ACS Synthetic Biology.

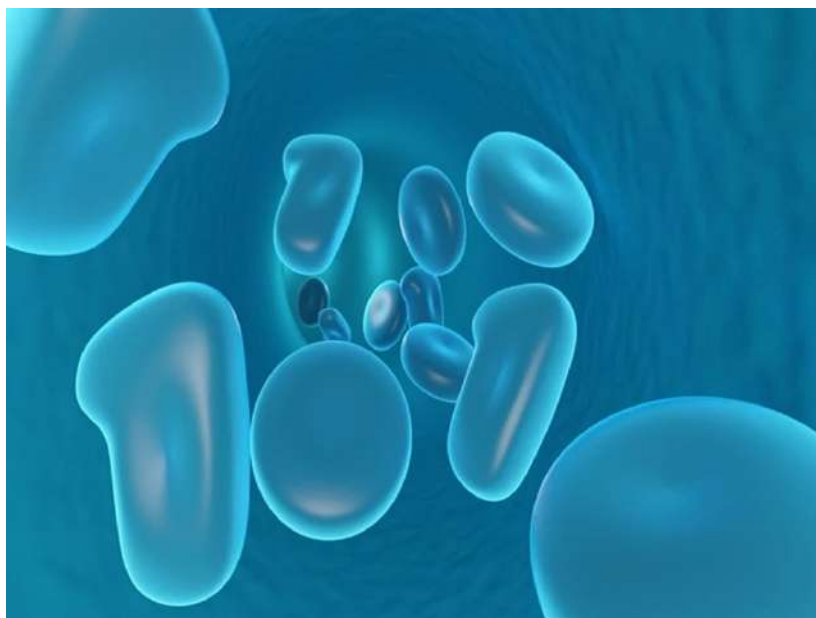
Enzymes perform impressive functions, enabled by the unique arrangement of their constituent amino acids, but usually only within a specific cellular environment. When you change the cellular environment, the enzyme rarely functions well—if at all. Thus, a long-standing research goal has been to retain or even improve upon the function of enzymes in different environments; for example, conditions that are favourable for biofuel production. Traditionally, such work has involved extensive experimental trial-and-error that might have little assurance of achieving an optimal result.

Artificial intelligence (a computer-based tool) can minimize this trial-and-error but still relies on experimentally obtained crystal structures of enzymes—which can be unavailable or not especially useful. Thus, “the pertinent amino acids one should mutate in the enzyme might be only best-guesses,” says Teppei Niide, co-senior author. “To solve this problem, we devised a methodology of ranking amino acids that depends only on the widely

available amino acid sequence of analogous enzymes from other living species.” The researchers focused on the amino acids involved in the specificity of the malic enzyme to the molecule that the enzyme transforms (i.e., the substrate) and to the substance that helps the transformation proceed (i.e., the cofactor). By identifying the amino acid sequences that did not change over the course of evolution, the researchers identified the amino acid mutations that are adaptations to different cellular conditions in other species.

“By using artificial intelligence, we identified unexpected amino acid residues in a malic enzyme that correspond to the enzyme’s use of different redox cofactors,” says Hiroshi Shimizu, co-senior author. “This helped us understand the substrate specificity mechanism of the enzyme and will facilitate optimal engineering of the enzyme in laboratories.” This work succeeded in using artificial intelligence to dramatically accelerate and improve the success of substantially reconfiguring an enzyme’s specific mode of action, without fundamentally altering the enzyme’s function.

Future advances in enzyme engineering will greatly benefit fields such as pharmaceutical and biofuel production that require carefully tuning the versatility of enzymes to different biochemical environments—even in the absence of corresponding enzymes’ crystal structures.



By using artificial intelligence, we identified unexpected amino acid residues in a malic enzyme that correspond to the enzyme's use of different redox cofactors

Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir.

Scholarship Name 1: Keep India Smiling Foundational Scholarship & Mentorship Programme 2022-23

Description: Colgate-Palmolive (India) Ltd. is giving young students an opportunity to pursue their academic/career aspirations by providing them with scholarships for education. This scholarship program aims to provide foundational support to individuals, who are deserving and meritorious but may lack the resources to pursue their dreams.

Eligibility: Students who have passed Class 10 with at least 75% marks or Class 12 with at least 60% marks in 2022 board exams are eligible to apply for the scholarship program for pursuing their higher secondary, 3-year graduation, and 4-year professional courses (Engineering/MBBS/BDS Dental) respectively. Annual family income of all applicants must be less than INR 5 Lakhs per annum.

Prizes & Rewards: Selected scholars can avail of scholarship awards of up to INR 50,000 per year for up to 4 years of studies depending on their current level of education.

Last Date to Apply: 31-12-2022
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/KISF6

Scholarship Name 2: L'Oréal L.E.A.D. 2022

Description: L'Oréal India invites applications from students in their final and pre-final years of diploma, undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.

Eligibility: Must be studying in the final or pre-final years* of a diploma, under-graduation or post-graduation programme at any recognised college or university within India

Must be within the age group of 18-30 years

*Final or second-last year of the course, depending on the duration of

the course. Click on the short source URL for more details.

Prizes & Rewards: Opportunity to participate into an elaborate online upskilling webinar, to be conducted by the top management professionals of L'Oréal India

A two-month free-of-cost unlimited access to 33 courses on Coursera, a learning platform with more than 5,000 courses, professional certificates, and degrees from universities and companies all around the world.

Exclusive one-to-one mentorship



sessions from industry experts at L'Oréal India

Last Date to Apply: 05-11-2022
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/LEAD1

Scholarship Name 3: Panasonic Ratti Chhatr Scholarship 2022-23

Description: Panasonic invites applications from students getting admission into the graduate program (B.E./B.Tech.) of Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) of India.

Eligibility: Open for students across India who are getting admission into B.E./B.Tech. courses at any of the IITs (Indian Institute of Technology) in 2022-23. Applicants must have cleared their Class 12 examination or are awaiting final results. Applicants must have scored more than 75% marks in Class 12. Annual fam-

ily income of the applicant must not be more than INR 8,00,000 from all sources. Only candidates from 2022-2023 batch are eligible to apply.

Prizes & Rewards: INR 42,500 per year for 4 years
Last Date to Apply: 11-11-2022
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/RCSP5

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Government of Jammu and Kashmir

JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT

Office Of Executtive Engineer, PHE

Mechanical Rural Division, Srinagar, Kashmir.

CORRIGENDUM- I

For E-NIT No. PHE/MRD/TS/ 116 of 10/2022 DT: - 29-10-2022 issued vide this office No: - PHE/MRD /TS/3092-96 DT: - 29-10-2022 and published vide No: 2022_PHE_194079_1, Kindly read :- Sr.No .04 as “Providing of fresh T.Oil for 50kva 3phase voltage stabilizer.” Instead of “Providing of fresh Oil for 50kva 3phase voltage stabilizer.”

Kindly read :- Sr.No .05 as “Providing /fitting /Replacement of 35 sq.mm 3.5core XLPE PVC insulated armoured LT al-uminium conductor cable” instead of “Providing /fitting /Replacement of 65 sq.mm 3.5core XLPE PVC insulated armoured LT aluminium conductor cable

No: PHE/MRD/3250-54
Dated: 05-11-2022

DIPK-12996/22

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
PHE Mechanical Rural Division,
Srinagar.

Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir

Skims Medical College/Hospital

Bemina, Srinagar 0194-2493226

Department Of Materials Management

Sub: -Extension of e-tender for supply of HSD (High Speed Diesel) on annual Rate Contract basis

Ref:
1. SKIMS MCH 03 Tender of 2022 dated: 07/10/2022.
2. Extension notice No: SKIMS/MCH/MMD/65/21/3429-33 Dated: 27/10/2022.

E-tenders for supply of HSD (High Speed Diesel) on annual Rate Contract basis, invited vide above referred NleT No., extended vide above referred No at 2, is hereby further extended up to 12/11/2022 as per following schedule.

1. The last date for depositing the bids in electronic format on website www.jktenders.gov.in 12/11/2022 upto 02:30 P.M.
2. The date of opening of e-tenders will be on 14/11/2022 at 2:30 PM.
3. Other terms and conditions of the NleT shall remain unchanged.

DIPK-NB-4799/22
No: SKIMS/MCH/MMD/65/21/3579-83
Dated: 05-11-2022

Sd/-
Materials Management Officer
(SKIMS MCH Bemina)

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

**District Employment & Counselling
Centre Pulwama**

INTERVIEW NOTICE

**Subject: - Implementation of Spurring Entrepreneurship Initiative in
District Pulwama.**

Spurring Entrepreneurship Initiative (SEI) is an ambitious scheme of Mission Youth aimed at encouraging young entrepreneurs, especially young women towards innovation in various enterprises. Under this scheme youth in the age group of [18 to 40] years shall be given financial assistance between { 2.00 Lakh to 20.00 Lakh} for creation or expansion of existing business venture within J&K with special focus on high growth entrepreneurship through business development plan competitions

The date for interview of applicants of District Pulwama for providing of Financial Assistant under Spurring Entrepreneurship Initiative has been fixed on 09.11.2022 [Wednesday] at 10:00 AM (SHARP) in the office chambers of District Industries Centre [DIC], Pulwama.

Sd/-
Deputy Director Employment,
DE&CC, Pulwama

DIPK-12870/22
NO: DE&CC/Pul/SEI/InterviewNotice/2022-23/834-836
Dated: 04.11.2022

From KO Archives

Taj Mahal Vanishes Under Magic Spell

Agencies

AGRA- The elegant 16th century embodiment of love, Taj Ma-hal, today had an altogether different date when noted magic wizard, P.C Sorcar junior, made it vanish.

Sorcar, master of the Indrajala magic snow, performed the feat at 1450 hours for over two minutes from a distance of about 400 me-tres behind Taj at a pot called Eachpura across the river Yamuna.

The mysterious entertainment, as Sorcar described it later, left hundreds of onlookers including policemen, administration officials and mediapersons absolutely stunned. The magic made the Mughal architectural marvel disappear in the thin air leaving a blank space at the site.

The magician was assisted by his daughter, Maneka, who made the historic monument reappear after two minutes. No it was not mass hypnotism, a jubilant Sorcar told PTI, adding on the contrary, it was a case of Application of 'Adrishya' (disap-pearance) Rasa' of the science of magic.

I just kept the Taj away from your eyes, it was a perfect illusion, the 53-year-old magician, whose late father had several in-credible feats to his credit, said. This was the junior Sorcar's first major performance since 1992 when he had made a running train disappear at Khana junction near Bardhaman in West Bengal.

Sorcar is also credited with having made Kolkata's famous-victoria memorial vanish in 1990 and an aircraft at Hamamata in Japan.

I don't possess any supernatural powers. I perform with the blessings of God and goodwishes of the people, the magician, who had challenged a famous godman of the south in the eight-ies, said. A beaming Sorcar, who says magic was in his blood since eight generations, maintained that there was nothing su-pernatural in his feat.

This is all science, the science of controlling the mind and the will-power to create a psychic balance with the environment, he added.

(Kashmir Observer, November 06, 2000)

'Jana Gana Mana' And 'Vande Mataram' Stand On Same Level: Centre To Delhi Hc

IANs

Responding to a plea for equal status to 'Vande Mataram' with 'Jana Gana Mana', the Centre has told the Delhi High Court that both stand on the same level and every citizen of the country should show equal respect to both.

"National song occupies a unique and special place in the emotions and psyche of the people of India," the Ministry of Home Affairs submitted.

The MHA, in its reply, also pointed out that on January 24, 1950, the President of the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the 'Jana Gana Mana' as the National Anthem of India.

The 'Orders relating to the National Anthem of India' were issued regarding the manner and the circumstances in which the National Anthem has to be played or sung.

In 1971, the action of preventing the singing of the National Anthem or causing disturbances to any assembly engaged in such singing was made a punishable offence by the enactment of the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971.

The Centre's response came on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL)

moved by BJP leader and lawyer Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay seeking parity of treatment between the National Anthem and National Song and also to frame guidelines for the National Song 'Vande Mataram' giving it the same honour and status at par with the National Anthem of India.

However, the Centre, clarified that similar penal provisions have not been made by the Government in the case of the National Song 'Vande Mataram' and no instructions have been issued laying down the circumstances in which it may be sung or played.

The Centre also referred to the Supreme Court order in Upadhyay's similar earlier plea. In its judgment dated January 17, 2017, the apex court observed that Article 51A (a) of the Constitution of India does not refer to 'National Song'. It only refers to National Flag and National Anthem.

"51A. Fundamental duties - It shall be the duty of every citizen of India-(a) to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag, and National Anthem. Therefore, we do not intend to enter into any debate as far as the National Song is concerned," the earlier SC order read.



This State Will Begin MBBS In Hindi From 2023, 2nd State To Do So In Weeks



Press Trust of India

DEHRADUN: Medical courses in Uttarakhand will be taught in Hindi (as well as English) from the next academic session, State Medical Education Minister Dhan Singh Rawat has said.

When implemented, Uttarakhand will be the second state to do so after Madhya Pradesh. Mr Rawat on Friday said the decision has been taken in view of the special importance being given by the Centre to Hindi.

The state's Medical Education Department has constituted a four-member expert committee in this regard. The panel is headed by Dr CMS Rawat, principal of Government Medical Col-

lege, Srinagar in Pauri district, the minister said.

According to the minister, the committee will prepare a draft of new syllabus for colleges after studying the MBBS Hindi syllabus in government colleges of Madhya Pradesh.

The MBBS course in Hindi will begin in the next academic session after receiving the panel's draft and completing formalities, the minister said.

On October 16, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had released textbooks in Hindi of three subjects for MBBS students as part of an ambitious project of the Madhya Pradesh government to impart medical education in Hindi.

Deadlock persists over filing of FIR over attack on Imran Khan

Press Trust of India

ISLAMABAD: A deadlock persists over filing an FIR in connection with an assassination attempt on Imran Khan after the former prime minister refused to withdraw the name of a senior Pakistan Army officer from the complaint, which also carries the names of the Prime Minister and the Interior Minister.

Khan, 70, suffered a bullet injury in the right leg when two gunmen fired a volley of bullets at him and others mounting on a container-mounted truck in the Wazirabad area of Punjab province, where he was leading a protest march against the Shehbaz Sharif government.

Khan, the chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, alleged that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah and Major General Faisal Naseer were part of a sinister plot to assassinate him in the same way former Punjab governor Salman Taseer was killed in 2011 by a religious extremist.

He also said that an FIR was not being registered as some people were afraid of (some names).

Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervez Elahi is caught between 'the devil and the deep blue sea' as Khan, who essentially calls the shots for the ruling coalition in Punjab, continues to insist on naming the Army officer in the FIR, the Dawn newspaper reported.

The matter was also taken up



by the Punjab Cabinet during its meeting on Friday, which was attended by police chief Faisal Shahkhan as well as other senior government officials and the provincial law minister.

An official privy to the development told the newspaper that the meeting discussed the serious issues pertaining to all the legal aspects of the registration of a case.

He said the meeting also discussed that a further delay in the registration of a case could spoil all efforts to secure evidence and punish the suspects involved in the armed attack on Khan's container truck in Wazirabad.

Sharing the political dimensions of the issue, the source said Elahi was against the 'logic' of naming the senior army officer in the case.

Elahi and PTI leaders held many meetings on the issue where the former attempted to convince them to drop the name of the Army officer, the source added.

"The matter of filing an appli-

cation with the police was under discussion between the PTI (ruling coalition partner) and the Punjab government," he said.

He said the police chief conveyed to the government that the FIR had been the first authentic document about the commission of the cognisable offence to start investigations.

Unfortunately, the investigation process in this respect has come to a grinding halt, despite the detention of three suspects, including the alleged shooter who was caught on the spot, and two more suspects who provided the weapon.

At the Cabinet meeting, the police chief told other participants that the police had not received any application to register the FIR of an assassination attempt on former prime minister Khan.

Regarding the formation of a Joint Investigation Team (JIT), the Punjab police were of the opinion it would be premature to form a JIT before even lodging the case.

Top Army Commanders To Assess National Security Challenges At 5-Day Conference

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Top commanders of the Army will carry out a comprehensive review of India's national security challenges along the borders with China and Pakistan, and ways to enhance combat prowess of the 1.3 million-strong force at a five-day conclave beginning Monday.

The commanders' conference will also focus on the evolving regional security situation and geopolitical implications of the Russia-Ukraine war, officials said.

The conference, to be held in the national capital from November 7 to 11, will hold discussions pertaining to "transformational imperatives for a future-ready force" for enhanced operational effectiveness, they said.

The activities planned as part of the conference include talks by eminent subject ex-



perts on 'Contemporary India-China relations' as well as 'Technological Challenges for National Security', according to the Army.

It will also brainstorm specific plans for capability development and boosting the operational preparedness of the force.

The Army Commanders' Conference is an apex-level biannual event that is held in April and October. The

conference is an institutional platform for conceptual-level deliberations, culminating in making important policy decisions for the Indian Army.

The commanders will also carry out a comprehensive review of India's military preparedness along the 3,400-km-long Line of Actual Control (LAC) in view of the lingering military stand-off with China in certain friction points in eastern Ladakh, the officials said.

The anti-terror operation in Jammu and Kashmir as well as the overall situation in the Union territory will also be deliberated upon extensively at the conference, they said.

"During the course of the conference, the apex leadership of the Indian Army will brainstorm on current and emerging security and administrative aspects to chart the future course for the Indian Army," the Army said.

Iran Admits To Sending Drones To Russia 'Months Before The Ukraine War'

Agencies

Iran has acknowledged for the first time that it supplied Russia with drones, insisting the transfer came before the war in Ukraine that has seen the Iranian-made drones target Kiev.

The comments by Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian on Saturday come after months of confused messaging from Iran about the weapons shipment.

"We gave a limited number of drones to Russia months before the Ukraine war," Amirabdollahian told reporters after a meeting in Tehran.

Previously, Iranian officials had denied arming Russia in its war on Ukraine.

Just earlier this week, Iran's Ambassador to the UN Amir Saeid Iravani called the allegations "totally unfounded" and reiterated Iran's position of neutrality in the war.

Position of 'neutrality'

The US and its Western allies on the Security Council have called on Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to investigate if Russia has used Iranian drones to attack civilians in Ukraine.

Even so, Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard has vaguely boasted of providing drones to



the world's top powers.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has extolled the efficacy of the drones and mocked Western hand-wringing over their danger.

During state-backed demonstrations to mark the 1979 US Embassy takeover on Friday, crowds waved placards of the triangle-shaped drones as a point of national pride.

As he acknowledged the shipment, Amirabdollahian claimed on Saturday that Iran was oblivious to the use of its drones in Ukraine. He said Iran remained committed to stopping the conflict.

"If (Ukraine) has any documents in their possession that Russia used Iranian drones in Ukraine, they should provide them to us," he said. "If it is proven to us that Russia used Iranian drones in the war against Ukraine, we will not be indifferent to this issue."

There Can Be No Curbs On Woman's Right To Reproductive Choice: Kerala Hc

Press Trust of India

KOCHI: There can be no restriction on a woman's right to exercise her reproductive choice to either procreate or to abstain from procreating, Kerala High Court has said while allowing a 23-year-old student to medically terminate her 26-week pregnancy.

Justice V G Arun, in an order on November 2, said the medical board has opined that the woman was having acute stress reaction and continuation of the pregnancy may risk her life.

The woman, an MBA student, had conceived from a consensual relationship with her classmate. According to her plea, she became aware of her pregnancy only after an ultrasound scan was conducted on the advice of the doctor whom she had visited complaining of irregular menstrual periods and other physical discomfort.

"There can be no restriction on a woman's right to exercise her reproductive choice to either procreate or to abstain from procreating," Justice Arun said in his order.

Referring to previous Supreme Court judgements, the Kerala High Court said a woman's right to make reproductive choice

comes under the dimension of her personal liberty, under Article 21 of the Constitution.

"A careful scrutiny of the opinion shows that the petitioner is having acute stress reaction and continuation of the pregnancy may cause an exacerbation of her medical distress which may entail risk to the petitioner's life," the court noted.

The High Court permitted the woman to get her pregnancy terminated at the government medical college hospital or any other hospital having facilities mandated by the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act.

The woman had told the court that she had been suffering from polycystic ovarian disease, a condition characterised by irregular menstrual periods and hence, she had no clue of her pregnancy till the scan report was received on October 25.

Adding to her woes, the classmate, with whom she was in a relationship, had left the country for higher studies and she moved the High Court seeking permission to medically terminate the pregnancy as continuing with the pregnancy would aggravate her stress and mental agony and would impact her education and ability for a livelihood.

NEWS MAKERS

FIR Against Rahul Gandhi Over Use Of Music



Press Trust of India

A case has been registered against three senior Congress leaders including Rahul Gandhi for alleged unauthorised usage of the music from the blockbuster Kannada film 'KGF-2' during the party's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'.

The FIR was registered in the Yashwanthpur police station on Friday under the provisions of Copyright Act, the Information Technology Act and the Indian Penal Code against Gandhi, Jairam Ramesh and Supriya for using KGF-2 music for the on-going Bharat Jodo Yatra, led

by Rahul Gandhi on a complaint lodged by M Naveen Kumar, who manages MRT music.

The complainant alleged that Jairam Ramesh had on his official twitter handle posted two videos of the yatra, in which popular songs from KGF-2 film were used without permission.

The said videos were made using the popular sound recordings owned and held by the complainant. The said sound recordings are that of the cinematographic film KGF Chapter 2 (Hindi version) which is popular globally, Kumar alleged. On perusal

of the videos it is clear that all the accused have fraudulently, blatantly and slavishly with an intention of making wrongful gains have unauthorised and illegally used the sound recording owned and held by the Complainant." The Congress' Bharat Jodo Yatra began from Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu on September 7 and is expected to reach Jammu on January 30, 2023. The march has so far covered five southern states, namely Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. It will traverse through different states in this course.

Imran Khan Hails His Saviour, Says 'You Are Pakistan's Hero'

Press Trust of India

Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan who survived an assassination attempt has hailed the man who foiled the attack and apprehended the shooter during his long march in Punjab province as the country's "hero".

Khan, 70, suffered a bullet injury in the right leg on Thursday when two gunmen fired a volley of bullets at him and others mounting on a container-mounted truck in the Wazirabad area of Punjab province, where he was leading a protest march against the Shehbaz Sharif government.

A day later on Friday, Khan met with Ibtisam, who foiled the attack and apprehended the shooter during the march, at the Shaikat Khanum Hospital here where he is being treated for the bullet wounds which pierced through his lower limbs, causing a fracture, the Geo News reported.

"You are Pakistan's hero. You showed immense courage. It felt very nice," Khan told Ibtisam.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman also signed an autograph for his saviour on the same shirt that he wore while apprehending the shooter who is currently in the custody of Punjab Police.

Meanwhile, Khan's ex-wives have also condemned the assassination attempt.

The cricketer-turned-politician has married thrice. His previous two marriages have ended in divorce.

His first marriage was with Jemima Goldsmith, daughter of a British billion-



aire, in 1995, which lasted 9 years. Khan has two sons from her. His second marriage with TV anchor Reham Khan in 2015 ended after 10 months.

In 2018, Khan married for the third time with his "spiritual guide" Bushra Maneka.

Goldsmith, the ex-wife of Khan, expressed relief as her former husband is stable after the assassination attempt. She also called Ibtisam a "hero".

She also conveyed their sons' gratitude to the man who caught the attacker. The news we dread... Thank God he's okay. And thank you from his sons to the heroic man in the crowd who tackled the gunman, 48-year-old Goldsmith, who separated from Khan in 2004, tweeted.

Reham Khan tweeted, "Firing on PTI chairman Imran Khan & other party members is shocking & condemnable. Security for public events for all our politicians must be ensured by provincial/federal law enforcement & our agencies."

Twitter Spews Lies Across The World, Says President Joe Biden

Agencies

US President Joe Biden said on Friday that Elon Musk had purchased a social media platform in Twitter that spews lies across the world.

Twitter laid off half its workforce on Friday but said cuts were smaller in the team responsible for preventing the spread of misinformation, as advertisers pulled spending amid concerns about content moderation.

Biden said at a fundraiser: "And now what are we all worried about: Elon Musk goes out and buys an outfit that sends - that spews lies all across the world... There's no editors anymore in America. There's no editors. How do we expect kids to be able to understand what is at stake?"

White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters earlier that Biden had been clear about the need to reduce hate speech and misinformation.

"That belief extends to Twitter, it extends to Facebook and any other social media platforms where users can spread misinformation," she said.

Musk has promised to restore free speech while preventing Twitter from descending into a "hellscape." But major advertisers have expressed apprehension about his takeover for months.



DC Ganderbal Discusses Implementation Of NEP-2020 In District

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyamir on Saturday chaired the meeting of the education department to discuss the progress on implementation of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in the district.

At the outset, threadbare discussion was held regarding the action plan and activities carried out in the district as per the guidelines of the NEP.

Nodal officer for NEP 2020 from DIET Ganderbal gave a brief about the features of NEP 2020 through the powerpoint presentation and activities being carried out as per the guidelines besides role of DIET in implementation of NEP 2020.

It was informed that DIET has conducted various training programs among the stakeholders/ teachers on various aspects including Vidya Pravesh Training Programme, School Based Assessment Programme, Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, train-

ing among SMDC members, school leadership development programme and others.

On the occasion, the DC sought feedback from the ZEOs and Head of Institutions regarding the implementation plan of NEP in the district. They also shared their valuable suggestions for successful implementation of NEP.

Speaking during the meeting, the DC said that NEP 2020 leads the way for transformational reforms in the education system and Government intendants to bring the development of the country based on the education from primary to higher education.

He urged all the stakeholders to work in an accountable manner to implement NEP 2020 in letter and spirit in the district. He also directed the DIET Ganderbal to hold brainstorming sessions, proper training and counselling and interaction programs with all the stakeholders to pave the way for the total implementation of NEP 2020.

DC Kupwara Reviews Winter Arrangements



Observer News Service

KUPWARA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Doifode Sagar Dattatraya on Saturday convened a meeting of all concerned officers to review the arrangements of winter preparedness ahead of winter season in the district.

Regarding electricity, the DC directed the Executive Engineer PDD to keep adequate buffer stock of transformers available in the district to meet peak requirements. The Ex. Engineer was also directed for restoration of damaged transformers within 48 hours.

Executive Engineers of R&B, PMGSY, MED were directed to keep their men and machinery available for snow clearance of the roads in case of snowfall.

OC BEACON was directed for clearance of snow bound border roads including Karnah, Keran and Machil.

Regarding water supply, the Executive Engineer PHE was directed to ensure availability of drinking water through tankers in water stressed areas of the district.

Regarding Food Safety & Con-

sumer Affairs, the DC was informed that sufficient stock of essential commodities including rice, flour, LPG and kerosene is available in the godowns of the district to meet the requirements of the people especially in far flung areas.

The DC directed the AD Food to ensure that 15 percent strategic reserve oil is maintained by the petrol pump dealers to meet requirements in times of emergencies in the district.

Regarding availability of firewood depots, the Tehsildars were directed to provide an additional list of depots which need to be created for supply of firewood.

The DC also took a detailed review of other arrangements including availability of medicine, firewood and Helicopter services for evacuation/medical exigencies and the concerned officers were directed to ensure fool-proof arrangements on the ground so that people do not face difficulties at the time of requirement.

The DC directed all the District/Sectoral officers not to leave their station without proper permission from his office.

Fogging Drive Intensified In Jammu To Curb Dengue Spread



Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) on Saturday intensified fogging drive to control spread of dengue which has claimed 11 lives and left nearly 6000 people sick in Jammu and Kashmir this season, an official said.

Jammu district alone accounted for the highest 4,464 dengue cases, he said.

The fogging drive was launched by JMC Mayor Rajinder Sharma from M A stadium to cover the areas where a high number of dengue cases

has been reported, the official spokesman said.

He said the areas covered during the drive included Rehari, Paloura, Janipur, Sarwal, Rajpura, Subashnagar, New Plot, Roopnagar, Talab Tillo, Bakshinagar, Muthi, Gandhinagar and Channi Himmat.

The spokesman said the fogging drives will be done in all wards of the JMC in coming days in coordination with the anti-malaria wing of health department Jammu.

"Such drives shall continue to completely eradicate dengue from the city," Sharma

said, directing the health wing of JMC to put in place a sufficient number of men and machinery for conducting fogging in each and every area of the city.

According to health officials, a total of 11 persons died due to dengue in Jammu and Kashmir this season, while nearly 6000 others have tested positive for the infection.

The mayor appealed to all the inhabitants of Jammu city to avoid accumulation of water at their homes, empty water coolers, pots and keep the surroundings neat and clean

Paid Holiday For HP Employees Working In J&K On Voting Day

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday announced "paid holiday" for its employees from Himachal Pradesh on allow them cast vote in the home state on November 12.

"In terms of Section 135-B of the Representation of People Act, 1951, sanction is hereby accorded to the grant of paid holiday in favour of Government employees/ Semi Government employees/ Industrial Workers, who are registered voters in the

State of Himachal Pradesh and are working in Jammu and Kashmir, for casting their vote on the day of Poll i.e. 12.11.2022 on account of General Elections to the Legislative Assembly of Himachal Pradesh," reads a government order.

Dir Tourism Reviews Winter Season Preparations In Gulmarg

Observer News Service

GULMARG: Director, Tourism, Kashmir, Fazlul Haseeb, who was on a day's visit here, reviewed the preparations by the Department for the coming winter season and other arrangements put in place at the world famous resort.

The Director Tourism took a detailed briefing regarding snow beating, rescue operations, snow safety activities and other snow related activities. He emphasized upon the officers and field functionaries of the Department that all preparations be made at the resort at the earliest so that tourists coming to witness the winter and snow here do not

face any difficulty.

Haseeb directed upgradation and improvement of the recreational activities like skiing and other snow activities being undertaken at the resort during winters so that the experiences of visitors to the resort are enhanced.

The Director Tourism also inspected various works like baby lift, baby slope etc being undertaken by the Department at the resort and impressed upon the engineering staff to complete the left over parts at the earliest. He also visited

undertaken there.

Later, the Director Tourism held a meeting with representatives of service providers like snowmobile owners, sledge owners etc and impressed upon them to make the coming winter season at the resort a success in terms of satisfaction and variety of services to the visitors.

MD, J&K Cable Car Corporation & CEO GDA, Ghulam Jee-lani Zargar, senior officers and engineers of Tourism Department and other officials were present on the occasion.

Fire Damages Several Houses in Anantnag

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A massive blaze damaged several residential houses in Kapran of Verinag in South Kashmir's Anantnag district, officials said Saturday.

They said that a fire broke out from a residential house at Yak-erboru Bala village this afternoon, and soon after spread to several houses in proximity. "A rescue operation was initiated by locals and police following which men and machinery from Fire & Emergency Department reached the site to douse off the raging

flames", the official said adding "after hours of operation, the fire was contained, not before it had damaged at least four residential houses and another structure."

The official said the residential houses belonged to; Abdul Rashid Ganie, son of Gull Mohammad, Abdul Rehman son of Mohammad Jamal, Bashir Ahmad Chopan son of Mohammad Ramzan and Mushtaq Ahmad Chopan son of Abdul Rehman.

A police official in the meantime told a local news agency GNS that a case has been registered into the incident.

2 Missing J&K Sisters Rescued From Punjab, 4 Arrested

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Two sisters, reported missing from their village in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, were rescued from Punjab and four people allegedly involved in their abduction arrested, police said on Saturday.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Poonch, Rohit Baskotra had constituted a special investigation team following a complaint lodged by the mother of the duo

on October 26, stating that her two daughters had gone missing from their home about a month ago.

The police team conducted several raids at different locations and finally rescued the two sisters from Anandpur Sahib in Punjab, a police official said.

Anil Kumar of Sunderbani, Rajouri, Munish Kumar of Jammu, and Lovejeet Singh and Ram Krishan of Punjab were arrested, they said.

'Mirchi 98.3 Successfully Conducts Scholarship983 Exam Across The Valley'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: 'Mirchi 98.3 in association with Mission E, a renowned coaching centre in the Valley conducted a month-long scholarship campaign.

During the scholarship campaign, students from the length and breadth of the Valley were counselled about career opportunities and were also entertained via fun interactive sessions with RJ Mehak, RJ Vijdan, and RJ Rafia from Mirchi 98.3, as they visited schools across Kashmir.

"The idea behind the Scholarship 983 campaign is to provide support, guidance, and opportunity to students in the valley amidst an ever-increasing merit

and competition. The campaign culminated with the scholarship test conducted at three centres – Kashmir Harvard in Srinagar, Oxford Presentation school in Anantnag, and SRM Welkin in Baramulla," reads a handout issued to Kashmir Observer.

It further said that the top three performers in the test are all set to avail cash prizes worth Rs. 1,00,000, 50,000, and 25,000, respectively.

Apart from the cash prizes, the top 15 performers in the test will get a free tuition for a year worth 60,000. The test was conducted successfully, amidst all the candidates filled with passion and excitement about the opportunity. The result and the list of winners will be announced soon.'

5 Drug Peddlers Booked Under PIT NDPS: Police

SRINAGAR: Police in South Kashmir's Kulgam district have booked five notorious drug peddlers under PIT NDPS act and have been lodged in Bad-erwah and Rajouri district jails.

In a statement, a spokesperson said that in its continuous offensive against drug peddling and its propagators, to eradicate the menace of drugs complete-

ly from the society, 05 chronic offenders and notorious drug Peddlers have been booked under PIT NDPS.

Those who have been booked include Gulzar Ahmad Sheikh of DH Pora, Tariq Ahmad Lone of Yariyora, Sajad Ahmad Baghat of Yariyora, Barkatullah Mir of Kulgam and Aijaz Ahmad Ganie of Gadihama.

IUST To Celebrate 17th Foundation Day On Nov 7



Observer News Service

AWANTIPORA: Islamic University of Science and Technology is all set to celebrate its 17th foundation day on 7th November 2022 with much fervour and zeal.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo will be the Chief Guest and Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, P.K. Pole will be the Guest of Honour for the event.

Marking the 17 years of growth and success and celebrating the establishment of the University, the foundation day event will see multiple sessions and talks along with unveiling of the Annual Report and releasing the commemorative souvenir.

Vice Chancellor IUST Prof.Shakil Ahmad Romshoo said, "On the 17th foundation day of the IUST, I would like to acknowledge all of the stakeholders for their contributions to the growth and development of the university. Every faculty member's contributions and efforts have been exceptional and deserves a special recognition. It is gratifying to see that the IUST has quickly become one of the most important educational institutions in Jammu and Kashmir and offers

research-based and job-oriented education at par with the best universities in the country. The university is well-positioned to play a key role in developing qualified and skilled human resources in various fields who will be better able to address our societal concerns."

The University came into existence with a mandate to advance and disseminate knowledge, wisdom and understanding amongst all segments of the society within and outside the State.

Speaking about the Foundation Day, Prof. Naseer Iqbal, Registrar IUST said, "I congratulate each and every individual who has put their efforts in making a dream of IUST true. My sincere thanks to UT Govt. for supporting us in building good infrastructure."

It is pertinent to mention that in order to supplement and complement the academic cooperative participation within the broad framework of its vision and objectives and to promote and further the cause of IUST in developmental process of the state; it has established linkages with various Universities and other institutions of higher education across the globe.

Apni Party Happy At Pahari Inclusion In ST List

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Apni Party has hailed the government for conceding the long pending demand of granting Scheduled Tribes (ST) status to the Pahari community.

Pertinently, the Registrar General of India (RGI) and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) sealed the recommendations of the three-member Backward Class Commission to include the tribe in the Scheduled Tribes (ST) category.

In a statement issued here, Apni Party said, "Finally, the years of struggle by the Pahari community has yielded results and the government conceded the long-pending demand of granting the ST status to the community."

The statement added, "Apni Party extended greetings to the Pahari community for their success to achieve the ST status that it undoubtedly deserved."

The party has hoped the ST status to the Pahari community will enable the Pahari population, especially the youngsters to have the benefits of the ST status and will help to ensure the prosperity and development of the community. Apni Party hopes that the Pahari community's inclusion in the ST list will not harm the interests of the other communities.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

R&B ELECTRIC DIVISION SRINAGAR

RED CROSS ROAD, BARBARSHAH, SRINAGAR-190001

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NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No: 124/e-tendering of 2022-23/R&B DATED:- 05.11.2022

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

S.No.	Name of Work	Est. cost in lacs	Earnest money (In Rupees)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Time of Completion	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	M.H. of account
1	Providing , Installation, testing and Commissioning of LT Panel with allied material and construction of shed for housing of DG Set at Directorate General Accounts and Treasuries J&K at Solina Srinagar	2.72 lacs	5440.00	200.00	10 days	12.11.2022	"A" class Electrical	2054

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

1. Date of Issue of Tender Notice	05-11-2022
2. Period of downloading of bidding documents	05/11/2022 04.00 P.M
3. Bid submission Start Date	05/11/2022 from 04.00 P.M
4. Bid Submission End Date	12/11/2022 up to 4.00 P.M
5 Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	12/11/2022 at 6.00 P.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer (R&B) Electric Division Sgr

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division , Srinagar (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division , Srinagar (tender receiving authority).
- The bids must be accompanied with Earnest Money @ 2% of advertised cost in shape of CDR/FDR and the EMD of 2% of successful bidder shall be released after receipt of 3% Performance security
- The successful /IST Lowest bidder has to submit Performance security @3% of allotted cost.
- Bidder must read term/condition in tender document carefully.

AAA/TS = Accorded
Position of Funds = available
No.124/e-tendering/ERB/3098-3105
Dated: 05-11-2022
DIPK-13015-22

Executive Engineer,
(R&B) Electric Division
Srinagar

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

Disabled SAC

The State Accountability Commission is reported to have stopped functioning, amazingly for the most unlikely reason, that it doesn't have enough space on the dais to enable all its members - the chairperson and two newly appointed members - to conduct the hearing as required under its Act. The chairperson, Justice (retd) R P Sethi, is believed to have sent a letter to the chief minister, Ghulam Nabi Azad, to empower the Commission to decide on the nature of cases which can be heard by the Commission's double bench and full bench by amending the Accountability Commission Act. Quoting sources, reports said he urged Azad "to ensure that the functioning of the Commission doesn't suffer in the absence of the chairperson or any of the two members." In case the government agrees to amend the Act, the Commission can also hold the sitting in Jammu and Srinagar simultaneously. As of now, the Commission has to function for three days at Srinagar and other three days at Jammu. For the first time since its establishment, the Commission on Monday adjourned all the cases listed for the day to May 15. The decision was taken in the case titled Tahir Enterprises v/s Mushtaq Ahmad Dar. An order passed in the case said, "In the absence of chambers and supporting staff for the new members of the Commission and in absence of adequate space on the dais for all the members, it is not practical to hold the joint sitting of the Commission as required under sub section (2) of section 13 of J&K Accountability Commission Act." As per the Act, the sittings of the Commission are required to be held jointly by its chairperson and the other two members who were sworn in only a couple of days earlier. Responding to the extraordinary situation, the state's law secretary has said that the government would provide the Commission adequate space. Indicating a further deepening of the crisis, the chairperson is reported to have informed the government that he would not be available till the section 13 of the Act were amended so that cases could be attended bench-wise as the SAC sans adequate staff and office accommodation made it difficult for the members to hear cases simultaneously in joint sittings.

On the face of it, all these developments seem to be bizarre in that the Commission head has to knock at the door of the chief minister for a trivial matter like provision of enough accommodation to make the high-profile body functional. It goes without saying that the Commission is a constitutional body with a mandate to hear cases even against the chief minister. It is travesty of circumstances that an institution created to root out corruption, although in its infancy yet, has to suffer from a handicap like it does at the moment. The government which had taken up construction of a building on the MA Road to house the Commission is believed to have developed cold feet subsequently for unknown reasons. As if the pin-pricks were not enough, the chief minister had recently given an offence to the Commission chairperson by making a less circumspect observation in response to an issued raised by a member in the state legislature. Earlier, one of his ministers, who had been implicated in a corruption case, had approached the governor seeking a stay on the proceedings against him. The developments leave one with an unmistakable impression that the government, particularly its head, the chief minister, Ghulam Nabi Azad, is not serious enough about the crusade he has launched against the menace of corruption. On the one hand he spares no occasion to go on reiterating his government's determination to stamp out the canker from both the administration as well as politics, but on the other, a sustained effort is being made to erode the Accountability Commission's position and to render it disabled. It may well require a magic wand to reconcile to the two mutually opposed situations. Needless to recall that in the very first instance the state government did not seem to be earnest in its decision to set up the Accountability Commission. After all it took no less than about three years to find a chairperson for it. In between, Jammu and Kashmir earned the dubious distinction of being the second most corrupt state, next only to Bihar. Interestingly, when, at long last, a retired Supreme Court judge was found to head the august body, the chief minister and several of his ministers went eloquent to praise his integrity and judicial acumen. Unless he relishes the drift, the chief minister is expected to come clean on the growing chasm between the SAC and his government.

The article is an editorial from KO's archives and was originally published on April 22,2006

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Commoners don't want to marry off their sons and daughters prior to their safe induction into government services. Our marriages are restricted to government jobs, mansion type houses and plenty of dowry. Our young people are excessively obsessed with government jobs because they have been programmed to weigh their lives in terms of material achievements

TALL, FAIR
And Govt
EMPLOYEE

The New Age
Suitable Boy?



Mushtaq Hurra

Jammu and Kashmir in general, and Kashmir valley in particular is known across the globe for its picturesque beauty, pleasant weather, rich biodiversity, unparalleled hospitality and uncluttered social setup. But, of late, the erstwhile border state of the Indian republic is grabbing headlines for diabolical reasons. From drastic climate changes to our cultural dilution, the quondam state of India is confronting swingeing social issues which have not only assumed dangerous proportions but have lacerated our social health. Consequently, our fragile social fabric is torn and stained.

Since marriage is the most important institution of human societies, fiddling with it and setting new standards for it, have blemished our great cultural ethos and legacy. The social health of the valley is not all well. Many evils which were considered alien to us, have now crept into our social system.

It is shocking to learn that no metropolitan city, no industrially advanced state or union territory of India but Jammu and Kashmir tops the list of unmarried youth in the entire country. According to reports, the number of both male and female never-married youth has considerably gone past 29% during the last decade. According to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation's 'Youth in India 2022' study, Jammu and Kashmir has a higher percentage of 29.1 percent of young people (aged up to 29 years) who are not married compared to the national average. According to the most recent study, it is the highest percentage reported by any state or union territory in India.

The above figures are alarming, appalling and a matter of concern for us all. Something is terribly wrong with our social setup. Contrary to our ancestors and forefathers, we have probably set difficult benchmarks and standards for our marriages and married lives. Extravaganza and lavish spending has deepened the crisis. In contrast to our beautiful old traditions and teachings, we have infused materialism into the veins and arteries of our youth. We often see everything through the prism of materialism.

For instance, we prioritise earning men for nuptials. That's the minimum eligibility and is justified to some extent. However, in Kashmir, this has assumed more stringent forms. Only a man in the government services is considered worthy of being an eligible suitor. Why is this the case? Honour and dignity are not restricted to Sarkari jobs. A labourer toiling hard to earn his livelihood through legitimate means, is far better than a government employee who evades his assigned work or goes for illegitimate ways to earn extra bucks. We haven't stopped here.

Infact, women without government jobs are not considered for marital matches now. I pity this mindset!

This perception has been a stumbling block in our social renaissance. Now, if the earning men are made a benchmark, it should not be synonymous to government services and luxurious lifestyle only. Hefty and heavy amounts as wages should not be the yardstick to measure one's earnings. Ways and means must be fair though the amount is meagre and scanty.

Happy and prosperous married life is not subject to swanky ways of life. Here, I am reminded of an anecdote of Ali and Fatima's (RA) marriage. When Fatima Binti Mohammad (SAW) was about to leave for her in-laws home, prophet Muhammad (SAW) went to bid farewell to His most beloved daughter. Prophet Muhammad (SAW) witnessed melancholic symbols on her daughter's face, and said, " O the light of my eyes ! Are you dejected and sad because Ali is very poor? Wallah ! There is no parallel of Ali (RA) in the entire Arab. Fatima (RA) bowed her head down, and didn't open her mouth. And it is pertinent to mention here that Ali (RA) had

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Contrary to our ancestors and forefathers, we have probably set difficult benchmarks and standards for our marriages and married lives. Extravaganza and lavish spending has deepened the crisis. In contrast to our beautiful old traditions and teachings, we have infused materialism into the veins and arteries of our youth

no house of his own. But, still, prophet Muhammad (SAW), preferred Ali (RA) as the groom of Fatima (RA).

Marriage, a few decades ago, was considered a fundamental religious obligation and was easy to solemnise. But, now, the very thought of marriage sends shivers down the spine of people. Commoners don't want to marry off their sons and daughters prior to their safe induction into government services. Our marriages are restricted to government jobs, mansion type houses and plenty of dowry. Our young people are excessively obsessed with government jobs because they have been programmed to weigh their lives in terms of material achievements. Our youth is mad after it. I wonder if degrees, diplomas and certificates have really educated us at all! Education is not all about fetching us a government job. Our education has infatuated us more than enlightening us.

Preferring people with government jobs for marital knots over those who earn through other means, has worsened the situation. With the growing number of unmarried youth, we are caught up in serious social conundrum. The growing number of unmarried youth is not just confined to the number of married and unmarried people, but it has caused ripples in our society, and its repercussions have taken an ugly turn. When marriages are made difficult, cohabitation and fornication prevail like dirt. Incidence of rape attempts and molestation bids have awfully increased. Immodesty and indecency among youth has terribly shot up . Thousands of girls have crossed the marriageable ages. Young people have fallen prey to substance abuse. Infertility among married couples is rapidly increasing. Thousands are seen circumambulating clinics and diagnostic labs. Yet, we consider ourselves prosperous, wise and advanced. Our materialistic perspective regarding marriages must change, otherwise we may end up worse than savages and beasts.

Now, the onus is on us all. We must educate our masses about the ill effects of the menace. We should take concrete steps to nip the evil in the bud. Our clerics and scholars should edify people to make our social fabric immaculately clean. Youth, particularly educated ones must set glaring examples of courage to curb the peril of late marriages.

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 Teacher and a Columnist. He can be reached at mushtaqhurra143@gmail.com

INTERVIEW

Of Changing K-Campus, Women Education In Conversation With Dr Seema Naz

Syed Mohammad Burhan

On an icy November morning in Srinagar's Government College of Education, Dr. Seema Naz's spirits are high as she marshals her staff and students with an effortless executive expertise.

The institution-insights have been a hallmark of her progressive career. As a symbol of woman empowerment, the educationist has been heralding a campus change as head of Kashmir's top institute. "Things related to education have improved a lot in Kashmir," Dr. Naz, Principal Govt College of Education, tells me in a freewheeling chat. "We now have around 142 colleges and 12 universities. Students should avail the opportunities and they are doing very well."

Back in the day, the woman-in-command continues as she keeps a hawkish gaze on the campus affairs, there was no Psychology course at Kashmir University. "But today there's a total revamp in our education system and technology has also been integrated," she asserts. "Apart from new universities and colleges, a number of new programmes have also come up. The infrastructure in our colleges and universities has improved."



But how did you become part of this campus change?

Well, it began with my formative education from Presentation Convent School. At that point, it was the best school for girl education.

After completing my schooling, I did my graduation from Women's College M.A Road. I was very much interested in studying Psychology but back then Kashmir University did not have a Psychology Department. I had secured very good marks in my graduation and sought admission in Bombay University. I did specialization in Clinical Psychology there. After that I got married and had to leave Bombay and came back to Kashmir.

After that I got selected through Public Service Commission and was first appointed as Assistant Professor Psychology at Women's College Baramulla and was later posted at Nawa Kadal College.

Following that, I taught at B.Ed College for 23 years. During my service there, I completed my B.Ed and M.Ed through distance mode and did my Ph.D in Education from the Kashmir University.

In 2018, I was placed as Principal B.Ed College, where teacher education has been part of my personality.

How was the education scenario in Kashmir when you were coming of age as an educationist?

Well, at that time, girl education was

already in progress in Kashmir. We studied at the best of the colleges. The support system was there, like in my case, my father who retired as a Chief Engineer was very interested in his daughters' education. Both my sisters were doctors and my brother was in the United States. So, education was very much prioritized in our family regardless of gender.

Later, when I got married, I was never stopped by my in-laws from studying and from availing opportunities. We were focused in our education and were brought



up according to morals and values.

But what change did you find once you became head of a campus?

I always found eagerness and sense of participation in Kashmiri students. I tried to channelize that spirit in a right direction as a Psychology teacher. This student-centric made me a very popular teacher.

Students would come up to me with their problems. If you would ask me to make choices between being an administrator and a teacher, I would say I love being a teacher. As a teacher, you make connections with students. I've always enjoyed and cherished being a teacher.

But what motivated you to get into the

field of education in the first place?

It was my father who motivated me for education. Apart from giving me a good education, he brought me up with good values and morals.

Later, my learned upbringing and institution shaped me a person and professional. I've learned a lot working with my colleagues.

As a progressive woman, how did you see changes in women education over the years?

What I have been observing from the last many years is that the number of girls in the class outnumber boys. Their regularity, punctuality and their motivational level is way better. If girls secure education, our whole society will get educated.

I think girls are very hard working and are progressing in every field. With reference to education, girls are very focused on education and jobs.

Being a woman myself, I tell girls to come to our college and try to provide them with the best of opportunities. I try my level best to secure the future of our students by helping them in the best possible way.

Now that you're at the helm of affairs, what changes have you brought to evolve



education in Kashmir?

Well, we have initiated a lot of changes in the college. You must be knowing about National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The policy has come after 34 years and it has transformed education.

In the past, digital initiatives were not there. But during the Covid-19 pandemic, our classes were held online and we integrated them in our education system.

There has been a total shift in pedagogy. The old teaching methods did not work and will not work anymore.

Our institution is a teacher training college. We put an emphasis on integrating new initiatives that is the main job of this college. We have knitted ourselves in technology. Technology has gone into teaching and evaluation and the whole teaching mechanism has been revamped.

As per NEP 2020, we are moving into a multidisciplinary perspective and trying to integrate skill programmes as well. As it's said, change is gradual. We try to sustain good quality work.

But since a lot of new campuses have come up during the last two decades, how has it shaped the overall educational scenario in Kashmir?

See, education at any place has to be

driven by quality. No doubt, a number of new colleges have come up and every effort is being made to make education available at doorsteps.

At the same time, quality and quantity are two different things. I think quality should be the number one parameter. Students should be given quality education.

Apart from new universities and colleges, a number of new programmes have also come up. The infrastructure in our colleges and universities has also improved.

In J&K, there are around 142 colleges and 12 universities. So, things have changed for the good. Students should avail the opportunities and they are doing very well.

But how has your parent college responded to this campus change?

It's a very old college. In its inception, it was a school. It was known as teacher training college. It was famously known as TT College.

After TT College it was changed to B. Ed College. At that point in time, the college had only one course that was B.Ed. programme. It was a one year course. After that, M.Ed programme was started.

In 2014, the administration changed the nomenclature and duration of B.Ed. and M.Ed courses from one to two years.

In 2016, a team from MHRD visited the college and they suggested the college be changed into a research institute.

In 2017, a formal government order was issued and it was named IASE. In the same year, Cluster University was formed and our college was merged into Cluster University. It became a constituent college and we started M.A Education. And after that we started three Integrated B.Ed M.Ed programmes.

So, in terms of growth, the college has grown in all spheres. It is good for the students as the campus has been accredited "A" by the NAAC team.

At this age and achievement, how do you see your campus career?

Well, I have had a beautiful journey of life. Every year we are joined by new students and others leave. In my opinion, every year is a learning and a memorable experience.

Five Alternatives to Elon Musk's Toxic Wasteland

KO Web Desk

Out in the rugged and toxic landscape of Twitter-land, the future seems bleak. With mass lay-offs, varied and often disturbing ideas of what free speech means, and Elon Musk haggling with Stephen King over \$8 Blue subscriptions, it seems like the day Twitter falls flat on its face is not far. Are you looking to escape this circus before the curtain falls? Here are a few alternatives to the blue bird.

Reddit

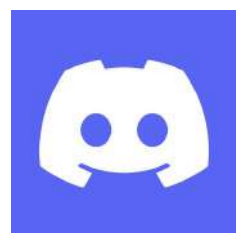


With nearly 17 years of active existence under its belt, Reddit is as steady and simple as any social media platform can be. You can upvote a post you like, downvote one that you don't, and with enough upvotes you can earn karma - a reflection of your positive presence amongst the user community. Unlike Twitter and Instagram, the focus is not showing off individual thoughts or curated

lifestyles. Reddit is more of a message board on which you can find a variety of interesting topics for discussion by a range of diverse communities.

If you are looking for a community that shares your interests and is willing to talk about them civilly, Reddit is the place for you.

Discord



Originally established for gamers, Discord has grown to include a mixed range of communities. From friend groups looking to keep in touch through chat, video and voice calls, to communities on general topics such as Artificial Intelligence or music, Discord is a service on which you can join established communities or create your own. The process is simple: once you have signed up for an account you are free to set up or join servers based on your interests.

A note of caution to those new to the service would be to be careful of what you post on public servers and check the content before joining one.

Tumblr



Almost as old as Reddit, this platform has seen its share of rises and falls. Some might wonder if the platform is still a thing in 2022 and to answer them - yes, it very much is. With Gen Z discovering Tumblr in the course of the pandemic and flocking to it, more than half of its active user base is now under 25. A combination of blogging and social networking allows users to create and meet communities with shared interests, post original content, and find anything from memes, nuanced commentary on media and culture, to aesthetically pleasing pictures and art.

If you are looking for a more low-key vibe in social networking, you are likely to find it on Tumblr.

Pinterest



If you are geared towards social media that predominantly features visual content, Pinterest might be the place for you. As a site renowned for its collections of aesthetically pleasing images, it allows you to find, collect and share a variety of visual media. On Pinterest, you can create customized boards on your topics of interest, comment on posts, and share your own content. It is a great resource for artists, both those who are looking for references and those looking to promote their original work. Whether you are a photographer, graphic designer, com-

ics illustrator or sketch artist, you can find a niche for yourself on Pinterest.

As many artists made use of Twitter for visibility and reach, Pinterest is a valuable alternative with a base of almost 400 million monthly active users.

LinkedIn



LinkedIn is a platform that enables its users to network with people - colleagues, employers or classmates - as well as professional organizations within their industries. Those using Twitter for professional networking would find a good alternative in LinkedIn. Apart from connecting communities of professionals, LinkedIn has its own job section where you can become aware of new opportunities and take a step towards finding new roles.



It's been long-established that menopause can have an effect on females' bones. Less clear is how preceding life-cycle events, such as reproduction, can influence skeletal composition

Female Bones Change Permanently After Giving Birth, Shows Study

Our findings provide additional evidence of the profound impact that reproduction has on the female organism, further demonstrating that the skeleton is not a static organ, but a dynamic one that changes with life events

ANI
Did you know female bones permanently change after giving birth to a child. A team of anthropologists recently discovered that reproduction permanently changes the bones of females in ways that were previously unknown.
The findings of the study were published in the journal PLOS ONE.
"Our findings provide additional evidence of the profound impact that reproduction has on the female organism, further demonstrating that the skeleton is not a static organ, but a dynamic one that changes with life events," explains Paola Cerrito, who led the research as a doctoral student in NYU's Department of Anthropology and College of Dentistry.
Specifically, the researchers found that calcium, magnesium, and phosphorus concentrations are lower in females who have experienced reproduction. These changes are linked to giving birth itself and to lactation.
However, they caution that while other clinical studies show calcium and phosphorus are necessary for optimal bone strength, the new findings do not address overall health implications for either primates or humans. Rather, they say, the work illuminates the dynamic nature of our bones.
"A bone is not a static and dead portion of the skeleton," notes NYU anthropologist Shara Bailey, one of the study's authors. "It continuously adjusts and responds to physiological processes."The other authors

of the study, which appears in the journal PLOS ONE, are Timothy Bromage, a professor in NYU College of Dentistry, Bin Hu, an adjunct professor at NYU College of Dentistry, Justin Goldstein, a doctoral candidate at Texas State University, and Rachel Kalisher, a doctoral candidate at Brown University.
It's been long-established that menopause can have an effect on females' bones. Less clear is how preceding life-cycle events, such as reproduction, can influence skeletal composition. To address this, the researchers studied the primary lamellar bone--the main type of bone in a mature skeleton. This aspect of the skeleton is an ideal part of the body to examine because it changes over time and leaves biological markers of these changes, allowing scientists to monitor alterations during the life span.
In the researchers examined

the growth rate of lamellar bone in the femora, or thigh bones, of both female and male primates who had lived at the Sabana Seca Field Station in Puerto Rico and died of natural causes. Veterinarians at the field station had monitored and recorded information on these primates' health and reproductive history, allowing the researchers to match bone-composition changes to life events with notable precision.
Cerrito and her colleagues used electron microscopy and energy-dispersive X-ray analysis--commonly deployed methods to gauge the chemical composition of tissue samples--to calculate changes in concentrations of calcium, phosphorus, oxygen, magnesium, and sodium in the primates' bones.
Their results showed different concentrations of some of these elements in females who gave birth compared males as well as females who did not give birth. Specifically, in females who gave birth, calcium and phosphorus were lower in bone formed during reproductive events. Moreover, there was a significant decline in magnesium concentration during these primates' breast-feeding of infants. "Our research shows that even before the cessation of fertility the skeleton responds dynamically to changes in reproductive status," says Cerrito, now a research fellow at ETH Zurich.
"Moreover, these findings reaffirm the significant impact giving birth has on a female organism--quite simply, evidence of reproduction is 'written in the bones' for life."

If You Put On A Smiling Face You Can Trick Your Mind Into Happiness

Agencies

Just like the famous lyrics suggest, if you put on a happy face you will feel a little brighter, according to a new study published in Nature Human Behaviour.
A new study has found that by posing our facial muscles in a smile we can feel happier.
Led by Stanford University, and conducted with the Florida State University and the University of South Australia, and working with a team of international collaborators, the study assessed whether people's subjective experiences of emotion could be influenced by their facial expressions.
Collecting data from 3878 participants across 19 countries, the study found a noticeable increase in happiness from people who mimicked smiling photographs or pulled their mouth toward their ears.
UniSA researcher, Dr Fernando Marmolejo-Ramos says it's a timely finding as the world heads toward a fourth year of the COVID-19 pandemic.
"There's no doubt that the world's been struggling amid the current pandemic. While individuals naturally respond differently to adverse situations, it's encouraging to think that we can sway our emotions by simply putting on a happy face," Dr Marmolejo-Ramos says.
"The concept of being able to influence our emotions by simply moving our facial muscles has long been debated by researchers, but until now, no test or theory has been globally agreed upon.
"In this study, we assembled a team of sceptics and a team of believers (called the 'Many Smiles Collaboration') to test a mutually agreed methodology, and what we found was reliable evidence that the physical formation of a smile can produce feelings of happiness."
The study tested three well-



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In this study, we assembled a team of sceptics and a team of believers (called the 'Many Smiles Collaboration') to test a mutually agreed methodology, and what we found was reliable evidence that the physical formation of a smile can produce feelings of happiness

known techniques:
1) mimicking facial expressions of actors seen in photos;
2) moving the corners of their mouths to their cheeks using only their facial muscles; and
3) using the 'pen-in-mouth' technique which moves the facial muscles in a simulated smile shape.
"Two out of three of these conditions generated noticeable increases in happiness, providing a compelling argument that human emotions are linked to muscle movements," Dr Marmolejo-Ramos says.
"But as the pen-in-mouth technique didn't achieve the same mood changes (possibly because the simulated mouth shape wasn't as representative of a smile as we thought) we can't say with absolute certainty that one always causes the other.
"Still, the evidence is strong, and knowing that we can somewhat 'fake it 'til we make it', is definitely a reassuring proposal."

Office of the District Soil Conservation Officer, Department of Soil and Water Conservation, Anantnag/Kulgam

PRESS REPORT
E-TENDER NOTICE of
NIT No: 08 of 2022-23 Dated:- 04-11-2022

For and on behalf of the Governor, Jammu& Kashmir (UT), e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Government / Central Government Organizations for the following work:

S.No	Name of Work	Advertised Cost (Amount in rupees)	Earnest Money (Amount in rupees)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Document (Amount in rupees)	Time of Completion (Days)	Receiving /Opening Authority
1	Erection of DRSM Check dams as anti soil erosion measures including all operation at Chandergil (Comptt.No.27NA),District Kulgam	3.297	6600	D	200	30	Authority Tender Opening Authority

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

Publishing Date	05.11.2022
Download Start Date	05.11.2022
Bid Submission Start Date	05.11.2022 from 11.00 A.M
Bid Submission End Date	11.11.2022 upto 3.00 P.M
Date of opening of Financial Bid(online)	11.11.2022 at 3.30 P.M (in the Office of District Soil and Water Conservation Officer Anantnag).

- The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the Departmental Website:- www.jktenders.gov.in
- The price bids uploaded on the website in time will be opened on 11.11.2022 at 3.30 P.M in the office of District Soil and Water Conservation Officer Anantnag).. In case of public holiday on the date of opening of the bid, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- Bids must be uploaded along-with cost of tender document as shown against the work in the shape of Scanned copy e-challan / copy of receipt from treasury favouring"Assistant Conservator of Forests, Department of Soil & Water Conservation Anantnag/Kulgam" by crediting the requisite charges to the MH 0406 – FOREST (Revenue). Scanned copy of the earnest money / bid security in shape of CDR / FDR pledged to "Assistant Conservator of Forests, Department of Soil & Water Conservation Anantnag/Kulgam" shall also need to be uploaded.
- The amount advertised has been worked out at par with the rates of Jammu & Kashmir Sanctioned Schedule of rates 2012.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" options as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per IT Act, bidders can get Digital Signature Certificate from approved vendor.
- The Bidders have to submit their financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical /hard form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bidders must ensure to positively upload scanned copies of below mentioned documents for Technical Bid.
Earnest Money for 2% of advertised cost in the shape of CDR/FDR only
Valid PAN CARD
GST Registration Certificate with latest return of GSTR-3B
Registration Card with latest renewal .
Verification certificate of Registration Card.
e-challan / copy of receipt from treasury as cost of Tender Document.
- In case bid of the lowest bidder found un-balanced, the successful bidder shall have to produce additional performance security in shape of CDR/FDR within 7 Days after opening of price bids, as per following breakup:

S.No.	Percentage of un-balanced cost on account of low rates	Additional performance security
1	Up to and including 15% below	Nil
2	Greater than 15% and up to 20% below	5%
3	Greater than 20% and up to 25% below	10%
4	Greater than 25% and up to 30% below	15%
5	Greater than 30% below	20%

- The EMD of 2% of successful bidder shall be released after receipt of performance security.
- The Department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission of the bid due to any reason (Technical or otherwise).
- The Department shall not be held responsible for selection criteria/policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of Information regarding publishing the e-NIT, in any of the newspaper under circulation.
- The accepting authority however reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons thereof.
- The contractor shall arrange all construction materials for the above said works from genuine source accompanied by its test check report for key material and quality of materials shall have to be verified / passed by the concerned Assistant Executive Engineer and Officers of the Department up to their satisfaction before start of work / its utilization.
- The serviceable material retrieved from the site of work if any shall have to be used in the fresh construction by the contractor and the unserviceable material will have to be disposed-off to an authorized dumping site for which no additional payment shall be made to the contractor.
- All other terms and conditions as per PWD Form 25(double leaf) and as per the detailed document shall be binding on the contractor.
- The original documents, when submitted by L-1 for the cost of tender papers/document, EMD specified in the tender notice should be same as uploaded on-line (scanned copies) other-wise the allotment will not be issued.
- In order to qualify, only L-1 bidder shall provide copies of documents as defined below:-
i) Photocopies of Registration Card duly renewed for the financial year 2022-23.
ii) Photocopy of GST No.
iii) Photocopy of PAN Card.
iv) Treasury Receipt/ e-Challan as per amount mentioned in the N.I.T pledged to "Assistant Conservator of Forests, Department of Soil & Water Conservation Anantnag/Kulgam".
No: DSCO/ANG/KUL/E-Tender/2022-23/491-96
Dated: 05-11-2022

Sd/-
District Soil & Water Conservation Officer,
Department of Soil and Water Conservation
Anantnag/Kulgam

DIPK-12951/22

Govt Committed To Encourage Entrepreneurship In Far Flung Areas: Dir JKEDI



Observer News Service

KUPWARA: A one-day Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme (EAP) was Saturday organized by the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) in collaboration with the Government Degree College at Kupwara.

Director, JKEDI, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat presided over the event.

The awareness programme was organized by JKEDI as part of its efforts to create mass awareness among the educated youth in the border and far flung areas of J&K about the realities of the labour market in the Union Territory and the scope for entrepreneurship and self-employment across various sectors.

This programme is intended to identify and network eligible candidates so that they can take advantage of different government schemes for entrepreneurship development after proper registration and screening.

In his address, Director JKEDI discussed the current economic situation of the UT and how entrepreneurship can revolutionize J&K's development. Innovation

and value addition are essential to traditional businesses.

He said the Institute will reach every area of the UT, regardless of how far flung and Government is committed to developing remote, border and far flung areas of the UT.

"In order to be a successful individual, one must be his or her own boss and simultaneously create employment opportunities for others. The government may not be able to provide job opportunities to all, but one should view this as a positive and search for other options and there is nothing better than entrepreneurship," said Ajaz Ahmad Bhat. Senior faculty members of JKEDI also participated in the event and spoke about various activities and initiatives of the Institute.

District Nodal Officer, Aijaz Ali, gave a detailed presentation about the achievements of the Institute. Dr. Meiraj Ud Din Bhat, In Charge Training, enumerated different opportunities available to the youth. Dr. Naila Khanday, In Charge CWE, spoke about the importance of women entrepreneurship and its challenges.

16 Tejaswini Scheme Aspirants Trained At JKEDI Budgam



Observer News Service

BUDGAM: As many as 16 self-employment aspirants completed their training on Saturday under Tejaswini scheme of Mission Youth at JKEDI, Budgam.

The Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP) was held at Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) District Centre, Budgam with effect from October 25 to November 05 in which 16 women aspirants within the age group of 18-35 years were trained for self-employment and entrepreneurship development.

The candidates were trained for services and agri-allied activities under the Tejaswini-the Radiant scheme of the Mission Youth J&K. The training program based on simulations lasted for 10 days and the trainees were provided basic business training to help them establish small business ventures like retail outlets, shawl embroidery, pharma, readymade garments, boutiques, salons, elec-

trical good, provisional stores, pashmina weaving in different areas of Budgam district.

The trained youth hailed from Beerwah, Chadoora, Soibugh, Sebdan, Magam etc, areas of the district.

A field-visit of the trainees to the successful business ventures in Budgam district was also part of the training program.

Officials from the J&K Bank and District Employment and Counseling Centre, Budgam and Labour Department were invited as guest faculty to brief the trainees about different facets of the livelihood generation scheme.

An interaction and experience sharing of a successful entrepreneur was also part of the program to motivate these young aspirants towards self-employment.

The program was coordinated by JKEDI District Centre, Budgam while the training was imparted by a team of trainers including Waseem Raja, Assistant Faculty and Fahim-Ud-Din Malik, APM.

Borrower Can't Claim Extension Of Time Under OTS As Matter Of Right: SC

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has said a borrower cannot claim further extension of time as a matter of right for making payment under the one-time settlement (OTS) scheme.

The apex court said the borrower has to establish any right in its favour to claim the extension as a matter of right.

A bench of Justices M R Shah and Krishna Murari quashed the Punjab and Haryana High Court judgement delivered in March, which had granted further six weeks to a borrower, a company, to make the payment of balance amount with interest to the State Bank of India according to the sanctioned letter of OTS.

The top court observed that rescheduling the payment under the OTS scheme and granting extension of time would tantamount to "rewriting the contract", which is not permissible while exercising the powers under Article 226 of the Constitution.

The modification of the contract can be done only by mutual consent under section 62 of the Indian Contract Act, it said.

Article 226 of the Constitution deals with the power of high courts to issue certain writs.

"The borrower as a matter of right cannot claim that though it has not made the payment as per the sanctioned OTS scheme, still it be granted further extension as a matter of right. There cannot be any negative discrimination claimed," the bench said.

The top court delivered its verdict on an appeal filed by the SBI against the high court judgement. It noted that the bank had



sanctioned a cash credit in favour of the borrower.

Later, the bank came out with OTS scheme in September 2017 which specifically provided for making payment as settled under the scheme within six months from the date of sanction, else infructuous.

The apex court noted that the bank sent OTS offer to the borrower, who accepted it.

It said under the sanctioned OTS, the borrower was required to deposit 25 per cent of the amount by December 21, 2017, and the balance amount with interest was to be deposited within six months from the date of the letter.

The borrower requested extension of eight to nine months for repayment of balance amount of Rs 2.52 crore, which the bank declined and directed it to make the payment by May 21, 2018.

The borrower then approached the high court seeking eight to nine months to pay the outstanding amount beyond May 21, 2018.

In its verdict, the apex court noted that the bank had floated other OTS schemes and offered

to the borrower to settle the account but the company did not opt for them.

It said the question which arises for consideration of the top court is whether in the facts and circumstances of the case, the high court was justified in extending the period to make the payment of balance amount under the sanctioned OTS scheme while exercising powers under Article 226.

The bench said in the sanctioned letter dated November 21, 2017, it was specifically provided that the entire payment was to be made by May 21, 2018.

"It is an admitted position that the borrower did not make the payment due and payable under the sanctioned OTS scheme on or before the date mentioned in the sanctioned letter," it said.

While allowing the appeal, the bench said the judgement passed by the high court granting further time to the borrower to make balance payment under the OTS scheme in exercise of powers under Article 226, was "unsustainable and the same deserves to be quashed and set aside and is accordingly quashed and set aside.

Financial Strength Critical For 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat': FM Sitharaman

Press Trust Of India

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said indiscriminate borrowing and spending by certain States on non-merit goods and expenditure is a matter of concern, and fiscal strength is a critical component for 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat'.

The temptation to borrow beyond capacity would create inter-generational burden and affect fiscal soundness of the country, she said.

"The tendency to get into such not-so-viable, non-merit expenditure is very high in some States," she said.

As per the Constitution, the Centre can discuss with and raise questions to the States on borrowing but many of them see it as an interference in their space of authority, she said.

Sitharaman was delivering the P Parameshwarji Memorial Lecture on "Cooperative Federalism: The Path Towards Atma Nirbhar Bharat" organised here by Bharatiya Vichara Kendram in memory of Sangh ideologue



P Parameshwaran. Lamenting that a wrong political narrative is being made to spoil the Centre-State relations, she said federal relationship should be governed by three Cs -- cooperation, collectiveness, and coordination.

The economy in the globalised world must address the vulnerabilities it faces and the Centre and the States would have to work together in that regard, she said.

Despite hurdles and challenges, the country surged ahead in areas of development and even reached the fifth position in the global economy index overtaking the United Kingdom, the Minister added.

Govt Resumes Sugar Exports; Allows 6 Mn Tons On Quota Basis Till May 31



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The government on Saturday allowed export of 6 million tonnes of sugar on quota basis till May 31, according to a food ministry notification.

As per the notification, the ministry has allocated a uniform export quota of 18.23 per cent of the three years average production of the sweetener in operational sugar seasons.

Sugar mills can export themselves or through exporters or swap with domestic sale quota of any other mills, it said.

Sugar season runs from October to September.

"In order to prevent uncontrolled export of sugar or with a view to ensure sufficient availability of sugar for domestic consumption at a reasonable price, government has decided to allow export of sugar upto a reasonable limit with effect from November 1 till May 31, 2023," it said.

According to official sources, the first tranche of quota has been allowed only till May-end. Further allocation of quota for export will be decided based on the domestic sugar production.

The sugar production in the new 2022-23 season commenced in Maharashtra and Karnataka from October onwards, whereas in Uttar Pradesh and rest of the cane growing states, it will kick off in a week's time.

In October month alone, mills had manufactured 4.05 lakh tonnes of sugar, which was lower by 14.73 per cent from the year-ago period, according to cooperative body National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories Ltd.

The government had restricted sugar exports towards the end of the 2021-22 season (October-September) to ensure sufficient stocks for domestic consumption and prevent any rise in retail prices during the festive period.

Despite restrictions, about 11 million tonnes of sugar were exported during the entire 2021-22 season, according to official data.

Sugar production stood at a record 35.92 million tonnes in the 2021-22 season. Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka are the top three sugar producing states in the country.

69% Indian Households Struggle With Financial Insecurity: Survey

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Despite robust growth in financial inclusion and the burgeoning financial services industry, almost 69 per cent of Indian households struggle with financial insecurity and vulnerability, according to a personal finance survey conducted by Money9.

India's Personal Finance Pulse maps Indian households' income, savings, investment and spending, said a statement issued by Money9, promoted by TV9 Network.

Providing insights into how India earns, spends and saves, the survey has also unveiled the country's first-ever state ranking of citizen financial security -- the Money9 Financial Security Index.

"The survey finds that the average income of an Indian family of 4.2 persons is Rs 23,000 per month. Over 46 per cent of Indian families have an income of less than Rs 15,000 per month i.e. belong to the aspiring or lowest-income cohort," it said. "Only 3 per cent of Indian households have a luxury standard of living and most of them belong to higher income cohorts (High-Middle and Rich)."

Also, the survey found that 70 per

cent of Indian households do some financial savings in the form of bank deposits, insurance, post office savings, and gold. The highest penetration is for bank and post office savings, followed by life insurance and gold.



Over 64 per cent of savings are parked in bank accounts, while only 19 per cent households have insurance.

"The incidence of saving is less prevalent among the aspiring class. Also, two-fifths of the Indian households in the same class are unable to do any financial savings. There is a clear need to address this segment by the policy makers/market

players," it said.

The survey found that 22 per cent of Indian households invested in stocks, mutual funds, ULIP and physical assets. However, investment in property/land is high (18

per cent), followed by mutual funds (6 per cent), stock market (3 per cent), and Unit Linked Insurance Plans or ULIPs (3 per cent). Only 11 per cent of Indian households have active loans with banks or NBFCs. Among all retail loans, the consumption of personal loans is highest, followed by home loans. "India's Money9 Financial Security Index which ranks states in

security across several parameters. This index finds 42 per cent... of the Indian households are 'insecured' (this includes households having monthly earnings of Rs 15,000 or more). The level of financial insecurity further increases to 69 per cent after including the lowest income cohort i.e. households having monthly earnings up to Rs 15,000," the statement said.

The Money9 Personal Finance Survey, done in collaboration with Research Triangle Institute (RTI) Global India, is a nationally representative household survey with a sample size of 31,510 households across 1,154 urban wards and villages in 100 districts and 20 states or state groups.

The survey was conducted between May and September 2022. Commenting on the importance of the survey, Barun Das, MD and CEO, TV9 Network, said, "The Survey is poised to fill a critical gap in quality financial data as it exclusively focuses on the demand side of the personal financial needs of Indian households. It is all about creating the demand side so that 130 crore citizens of this country can leverage the existing well-established financial services ecosystem."

India Faces Global Shocks With Better Balance Sheets; Medium-Term Growth Outlook Good: CEA

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India is encountering global shocks with a position of strength backed by far better household, corporate and financial sector balance sheets and its medium term growth outlook is good, said Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran.

"Overall, all things considered, including the risk of oil price, I do believe that the external situation will be manageable, of course with some anxious moments to come," he said while speaking at an event organised by National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) here.

He further said that given all the short-term unknowns, it was better to focus on medium-term prospects and what lies ahead of the country in the next six years until 2030.

"The medium-term growth outlook is actually constructive very simply because we have paid our growth dues last decade and that was because we had to undergo balance sheet repair in the financial and non-financial sector. We are encountering global shocks fortunately with a far better household, corporate and financial sector

balance sheet," he added.

On the high debt-to-GDP ratio, Nageswaran said, it is sustainable as India's macroeconomic fundamentals are strong.

Even in the ongoing global turmoil India's borrowing cost is lower than countries which have better ratings than India, he said.

"India's bond yield has not really spiked up. It is doing better than countries that have better credit ratings than India. That tells us a little bit about the overall macroeconomic stability that is there under the current circumstances," he said.

He also said that the country's current account deficit could range between 3-3.5 per cent during the current financial year depending on evolving external factors.

With regard to the medium term outlook for growth, he said, it would be closer to 6.5-7 per cent rather than closer to 6 per cent taking a baseline scenario of oil under USD 100 a barrel.

This growth would be largely driven by the capital formation and robust public digital infrastructure leading to formalisation of the economy, he added.

Court Charges Tahir Hussain For Attempt To Murder, Criminal Conspiracy During 2020 Delhi Riots

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Saturday framed charges against former AAP leader Tahir Hussain for attempt to murder and criminal conspiracy in a case related to the 2020 riots in northeast Delhi. The court was hearing a case on the basis of a statement by complainant Ajay Goswami, who suffered a bullet injury during the riots at Main Karawal Nagar Road on February 25, 2020.

"I find all accused persons liable to be tried for the offences punishable under sections 307 (attempt to murder), read with 120 B (criminal conspiracy) and 149 (every member of unlawful assembly guilty of offence committed in prosecution of common object) of the Indian Penal Code," Additional Sessions Judge Pulastya Pramachala said.

Eight persons, including Hussain, have been charged. The judge also said six of the accused -- Tahir Hussain, Shah Alam, Nazim, Kasim, Riyasat and Liyakat -- were liable to be tried under Section 505 (statements



conducting to public mischief) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) as they were "instigating others to teach a lesson to (the) Hindus".

The court discharged two accused, Gulfam and Tanvir, for the offence under Section 505, saying there was no evidence to show that they also instigated others.

The court said the presence of the accused persons among the riotous mob was established

by the statements of several witnesses.

"It can be said that this mob acted out of a criminal conspiracy, and hence, all (eight) accused are liable to be tried for hatching a criminal conspiracy to indulge in the riot and kill Hindus and harm properties of Hindus and consequent to such conspiracy firing and causing gunshot injury to Ajay

Goswami," the court said.

The court further said "all accused indulged into targeting Hindus and their such acts were apparently prejudicial to the harmony between the community of Muslims and Hindus and they disturbed the public tranquillity as well".

Saying that the description of the specific role of every accused was not required, the

court further said "participating and being a member of the mob, being conscious of its objectives, is sufficient to make all accused liable for the deeds of the mob".

The court also noted that for the same criminal conspiracy and acts resulting in the various offences, which were common for several incidents of injuries to different persons, charges were already framed under the IPC and the Arms Act in a separate FIR in the same police station.

As a result, there was no need to again frame charges under sections 147 (rioting), 148 (rioting, armed with a deadly weapon), 153 A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence) of the IPC and under relevant provisions of the Arms Act.

During the hearing, Special Public Prosecutor Madhukar Pandey said all accused persons were liable to be tried for the alleged offences by virtue of Section 149 of the IPC.

An FIR against the accused persons was registered at Dayalpur police station.

India's first voter dies in HP after voting for 34th time, PM, Kharge and others mourn death



Press Trust of India

Shimla: Three days after casting his vote for the 34th time, India's first voter Shyam Saran Negi died on Saturday at his home in Kalpa in Himachal Pradesh. He was 106.

Negi, who was the Election Commission's brand ambassador, voted for the Himachal Pradesh assembly polls through postal ballot on November 2, the poll panel said. It was the last vote for the man who was 31 when India gained its Independence and witnessed the passage of democracy through the decades.

As news came in of the death of the indefatigable voter, who emblemized the conscientious Indian citizen and performed his electoral duties almost till his dying day, scores of people gathered at his home in Kalpa in Kinnaur district to bid him farewell. Police personnel also paid their respects to Negi.

His death was consoled by leaders across the spectrum, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge as well as Rahul Gandhi.

"I learnt about the death of Shyam Saran Negi when I was leaving from New Delhi in the morning. The 106-year-old had voted more than 30 times in his life, Modi said at a rally in Sundarnagar in Mandi district.

"Just a few days ago, Negi had cast his vote through postal ballot for the Himachal Pradesh polls. Even before his demise, he discharged his duty." Negi's outlook towards democracy will inspire the country's youth, the prime minister added.

"With a heavy heart, I bow my head to pay homage and express my deepest condolences to his kin," the prime minister said.

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur took to Twitter to console the death. "I am pained to learn about the passing away of India's first voter Shyam Saran Negi. Adhering to his duty, he cast his vote for the 34th time on November 2 though postal

ballot. This thought will always make me emotional.

While Himachal Pradesh Chief Electoral Officer Maneesh Garg said Negi was the brand ambassador for the Election Commission, a spokesperson from the poll panel described him as a "man with exceptional faith in democracy".

"He inspired millions to vote, even before his demise, he voted for Himachal Pradesh Assembly Elections 2022 through postal ballot on November 2, 2022," the Election Commission said on Twitter.

The BJP and Congress, too, consoled Negi's death.

"The BJP expresses deep sadness and condolences on the demise of independent India's first voter Shyam Saran Negi. May God grant peace to the departed soul," the party said on its Twitter handle.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi wrote, "The demise of India's first voter Shyam Saran Negi is a sad news. He has seen the country take its first breath in a free sky and held on to the strings of democracy till his last breath. Negi will always remind us of our obligation towards the nation."

Congress president Kharge said he was pained to hear the news.

"The best example of his unwavering devotion towards democracy is that he cast his vote for the 34th time on November 2. My condolences to the departed soul," Kharge said in a tweet in Hindi.

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said Negi gave a unique example of his duty towards democracy by voting in every election.

The Election Commission had announced the elections on October 14. The single phase election will take place on November 12 and the votes will be counted on December 8.

The poll panel said voters above 80 years, persons with disabilities and Covid patients would be allowed to vote through postal ballot. However, the secrecy of their votes would be ensured and the facility of voting would be made at the comfort of their homes.

Four doctors of Gurugram hospital booked over UK citizen's death

Gurugram: Four doctors of a private hospital at Sector 51 here have been booked in connection with the death of a 22-year-old UK citizen, officials said.

Police said a case under sections 304-A (death due to negligence) and 34 (common intention) of the Indian Penal Code had been registered.

Amit Kataria, a citizen of the UK, was studying music in India and lived at Sector 66 in Gurugram, his father Atul Kataria said. He hailed from Chandigarh.

On May 10, Amit Kataria suffered critical injuries while parking his vehicle in the basement of his apartment, his father said.

He was rushed to the private hospital where the accused doctors obtained consent from the attendants for intubation to secure his airways,

his father said in a complaint to the police.

After intubation, the doctors conducted tests to measure his blood pressure and chest expansion, among others. Despite several tests, the doctors "miserably and deliberately" failed to check the condition of Amit Kataria's ribcage and ascertain why his lungs were filling up with blood, according to the complaint.

The doctors then administered heavy direct current shocks and resumed cardiopulmonary resuscitation, Atul Kataria alleged in his complaint, adding their negligent action led to the deterioration of his son's condition and his eventual demise.

The post mortem report lists "Massive Subcutaneous Emphysema" as the cause of death, according to the complaint.

Citizens Should Show Equal Respect To Jana Gana Mana, Vande Mataram: Centre To Delhi HC

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: The Centre has told the Delhi High Court that the national anthem 'Jana Gana Mana' and the national song 'Vande Mataram' "stand on the same level" and citizens should show equal respect to both.

While unlike the national anthem there are no penal provisions or official instructions about singing or playing 'Vande Mataram', the song occupies a unique place in the emotions and psyche of Indians and all directions of the high courts and the Supreme Court concerning the song are being followed, it said.

The submission was made by the Ministry of Home Affairs on an affidavit filed in response to a public interest litigation by lawyer Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay

to ensure that the song 'Vande Mataram' is as honoured and given equal status as the national anthem.

Emphasising that both the national song and the national anthem have their own sanctity and deserve equal respect, the Centre stated that the subject matter of the present proceedings can never be a subject matter of a writ petition.

"Both Jana Gana Mana and Vande Mataram stand on the same level and every citizen of the country should show equal respect to both. National song occupies a unique and special place in the emotions and psyche of the people of India," said the "short counter affidavit" filed through Central government lawyer Manish Mohan.

The court was informed that the issue of promoting 'Vande

Mataram' was earlier dealt with by the top court which refused to "enter into any debate" as there was no reference to a national song in the Constitution.

Subsequently, the high court, the response added, dismissed another petition seeking guidelines for singing and playing 'Vande Mataram' while noting that there could be no dispute that the song deserves the regard and respect, which has been recognised by the authorities.

"The National Anthem and the National Song both have their sanctity and deserve equal respect. However, the subject matter of the present proceedings can never be a subject matter seeking a writ of the Hon'ble High Court more particularly in view of the settled position, the response by Centre said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

'Sinking Ship' Situation

many of these houseboat owners struggle to find a coring master. However, someone like Sajjad Ahmad is still serving the bases of the valley's floating houses with his craft legacy.

"I used to go with my father for houseboat repairing during my childhood and picked up the skills," Sajjad said. "Right now, I'm one of the few masters in this craft left in the valley."

Whenever someone houseboat proprietor faces any trouble in halting the spillage, they call these handful craftsmen for emergency measure.

"We always make an honest effort to arrive at the spot and help the houseboat owners in their distress," Sajjad said. "But the rescue calling is only increasing from the last two years due to extreme winter in Kashmir."

FM Hints Centre

bifurcated the state into Union territories.

Two-Day Rain,

night. The temperature was 3.1°C above normal for the summer capital during this time of the year, he said.

Qazigund recorded a low of 4.6°C against 3.6°C on the previous night. In Pahalgam, the mercury settled at 2.0°C against 1.3°C on the previous night and it was 2.2°C above normal for the south Kashmir resort, he said.

Kokernag recorded a low of 6.3°C against 4.6°C on the previous night and it was 2.5°C above normal for the place, he said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 0.5°C, the same as on the previous night and it was 1.2°C below normal for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

In Kupwara town, the mercury settled at 4.5°C against 4.6°C on the previous night, the official said. It was 2.6°C above normal for the north Kashmir place, he said.

Jammu recorded a low of 16.4°C against 15.8°C on the previous night. It was 1.0°C above normal for J&K's winter capital, he said. Banihal recorded a

low of 5.8°C (above normal by 1.2°C), Batote 9.5°C (2.0°C above normal), Katra 14.7°C (above normal by 2.1°C) and Bhardarwah 7.2°C (above normal 2.7°C).

RSS Leader Urges

his meeting with Lt Governor Manoj Sinha earlier during the day, he said they held a brief interaction over the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and also in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK).

"PoJK is part of Jammu and Kashmir which is an integral part of the country. We request the countrymen to pray, every morning, for the return of Kailash Mansarovar and PoJK... Prayers have the power and we should also pray that Kailash Mansarovar and PoJK again becomes part of India," he said.

He said the people need to have faith in the Narendra Modi-led government and extend full support to its policies and measures which are aimed at stopping China.

"China is pursuing the policy of expansionism, while as our policy is to stop those having the tendencies of expansionism," the RSS leader said, adding the aggressive approach of China has harmed mankind as it tried to take over world economy, grab land and was also behind the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kumar said some people in Pakistan claimed that the country is incomplete without Kashmir. "The common man in India is of the opinion that India is incomplete without Karachi, Nankana Sahib and Sharada Peeth." He accused Pakistan of oppression against its minorities and praised the BJP led government for taking steps to provide protection to the victims.

On the unabated target killings by terrorists in Kashmir, he said such type of action is aimed at disturbing peace and communal harmony.

"The situation in Kashmir has marked a sea change and all the evil designs of the enemy will be foiled," he said, adding the return and

rehabilitation of Kashmiri pandits is bound to happen as government measures taken in the recent past restored peace.

He said three former chief ministers -- National Conference president Farooq Abdullah, his son Omar Abdullah and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti -- are answerable to the country about the steps which their governments have taken for putting an end to innocent killings in J&K.

"There should be an accountability as precious lives have been lost," he said, adding "those who are misleading the public needs to be given a befitting reply."

Tackling Vulnerability

UT level apex committee and prepared a vision document on holistic development of agriculture & allied sectors and the farming community.

"Dr. Mangala Rai's detailed report has addressed each and every aspect, issues and concerns related to the farmers and farming," Sinha said, adding "The report of the Apex Committee in itself is a revolutionary policy document and is historical not only for J&K but also for the country. The recommendations would bring a great agriculture transformation in UT."

The LG, the spokesperson said, stressed on promoting integrated and diversified farming. Sinha, he said, also directed NABARD and Banking sector to aggressively increase lending in the Agri and allied sectors.

He further said that Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, briefed the meeting on the key aspects of the aims, strategies and outcomes of the recommendations of the Apex Committee.

"Prof. JP Sharma, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu and Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST Kashmir also shared their views on the vision document prepared for the holistic development of Agriculture and allied sector in J&K," the spokesperson said.

Dr Anjum Andrabi gave a detailed

powerpoint presentation on the salient features and gist of the projects cleared by Apex Committee and their likely impact.

CAG Fumes Over

However, in September 2004, the scope of the transmission system was revised by shifting overhead line between Gagangir to Zojila Pass to underground line along with change in the transmission capacity at Kargil sub-station, being an avalanche prone area, which led to an increase in estimated cost to 633.79 crore," reads the report.

On December 15, 2004, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir accorded its approval for execution of the project by Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL); however, the project was put on hold by the Ministry of Power on June 27, 2005.

The project was finally approved by the Government of India in January 2014 at an estimated cost of Rs 1,788.41 crore with scheduled completion period of 42 months from the date of release of first installment of fund. The first installment was received on March 01, 2014 and the approved commissioning schedule of the project was September 2017.

The project was planned and implemented by PDD and commissioned in January 2019 with a delay of 16 months from the scheduled date.

The CAG has said that due to time lag in approval/ implementation of the transmission system, completion cost has escalated to Rs 1,583.36 crore from initial estimated cost of Rs 633.79 crore.

The audit further noticed that in the absence of national grid connectivity due to delay in commissioning of Srinagar -Leh transmission system, Chutak and Nimmo Bazgo hydro power stations were operated in isolation mode and could not be optimally utilized upto their designed capacity and their generation had to be curtailed up to the limited requirements of the Ladakh region only. "As a result, 1,602.64 MUs of power could not be

generated which resulted in generation loss," the report states.

According to the report, NHPC raised a bill of 1,166.56 crore for deemed generation from these two projects on the Power Development Department.

"Actual generation from these two power stations was only 736.75 MUs (29 percent) against their generation capacity of 2,524.36 MUs. The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, however, allowed NHPC to claim the tariff in respect of deemed generation. Accordingly, NHPC raised a bill of 1,166.56 crore for deemed generation on Power Development Department (J&K) and received part payment of 267.59 crore from the Power Development Department and the balance amount is yet to be paid," the report states--(KNO)

625 Policemen

a police spokesman said on Saturday.

Out of 206 Head Constables (HCs), 50 have been formally promoted to the rank of Assistant Sub inspector (ASI). The formal promotion orders in respect of 156 HCs shall be issued after qualifying their pre-promotion course, he added.

Kumar felicitated the promoted officials and their families and expressed hope that they will strive to work hard for the interests of general public in maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the Union Territory of J&K, the spokesman said.

2 Hybrid

flee from the spot

"However was tactfully apprehended by the security forces. Upon search of the bag, 1 Pistol, 1 Pistol magazine, some pistol rounds and an Improvised Explosive Device were recovered," he said, adding that during preliminary questioning the suspect revealed his identity as Rizwan Mushtaq of Hamray Pattan.

"Preliminary investigation has revealed the arrested person is a hybrid militant of proscribed organization LeT and was in search of an opportunity to

carry out attacks on non locals, minorities, security forces and peaceful citizens," the spokesperson said.

Accordingly, he said, an FIR No. 250/2022 has been registered at Police station Sopore under relevant sections of law, he said.

On further questioning, the spokesperson said, Mushtaq revealed the name of his accomplice Jameel Ahmad Parra, a resident of Tappar, Pattan.

"This led to the arrest of the above said second hybrid militant alongwith Baramulla police during late hours and further war like stores/ recoveries like pistol and grenades were effected," he said.

"Further questioning of the arrested duo is going on and further disclosures as well as recoveries are expected," he added.

Youth Held For

the video went viral, police launched a speedy manhunt and arrested the accused.

"The arrested person is a drug addict," an official said--(KNO)

Advocate Haq

secretary PDP and a member of the state executive committee, added that he had already suspended his political activities because of the changed political situation post August 2019, his failing health and personal engagements," he said.

"Four years ago, many changes took place in the situation of Jammu and Kashmir, and the entire political landscape changed. I thought there was nothing left for me to do. And I didn't even feel the need to publicise my disengagement with the politics," he added.

"Technically, I was a part of the PDP during this time. But the party has nominated my replacement in my assembly constituency. This has given rise to a number of rumours and speculations, which have hurt my family and well-wishers," he said, adding that to put these speculations to rest, Khan said, he has decided to publicise his resignation from the party.

South Africa, India Eye T20 World Cup Semi-Finals

Agencies

MELBOURNE: South Africa and India will look to seal places in the Twenty20 World Cup semi-finals with regulation wins over cricketing minnows as the Super 12 phase wraps up with a flurry of matches on Sunday.

South Africa suffered their first major setback with a 33-run defeat to Pakistan in Sydney on Thursday but Temba Bavuma's team will aim to restore normal service against the already-eliminated Netherlands in the early match at Adelaide Oval.

A win would ensure South Africa finish in the top two of Group 2 and advance to next week's semis, but defeat would see them miss the knockout rounds for a third T20 World Cup in succession while opening the door for Pakistan and Bangladesh.

India, who lead the group with six points, one ahead of the Proteas, will be strong favourites to fend off Zimbabwe in the evening match at the Melbourne Cricket Ground



and sew up top spot.

"We need to be as clinical as possible," all-rounder Ravichandran Ashwin told reporters on Saturday.

"We know no team is a brush-over ... We can't go in there and expect them to crumble."

Third-placed Pakistan play fourth-placed Bangladesh in the second leg of the Adelaide Oval double-header and will be cheering on the Netherlands before taking the field.

With both Asian sides on four points, one less than South Africa, the winner will reach the semi-finals if the Proteas slip up. However, if South Africa advance, only Pakistan would likely still be in contention given Bangladesh's net run rate (-1.276) is well behind India's (+0.73).

With victories in their last eight completed T20 matches against Bangladesh, Pakistan will be expected to keep the semi-final race alive until at least the final match and pray Zimbabwe can do the unthinkable against Rohit Sharma's India.

"You don't need any motivation, whether it's the World Cup or not," said Pakistan batsman Shan Masood.

"Just playing for your country, putting that shirt on, I think for every individual in this camp, it means a lot."

Zimbabwe played giant-killer by beating Pakistan in their Super 12 clash but crashed out of the tournament with a deflating defeat to the Netherlands.

Zimbabwe captain Craig Ervine said the chance to take the wicket of India's talismanic batsman Virat Kohli should be motivation enough for his bowlers.

"How often do you get the opportunity to put Virat Kohli in your pocket?" he asked.

"I'm pretty sure that our fast bowlers will be raring to go come tomorrow."

"Obviously with the win against Pakistan, it's given us a huge amount of belief that we can beat any side in the tournament."

"I don't think that will change going into tomorrow's game."

J&K Bank Beat FC One In Positive Kashmir Final

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Bank lifted the 2nd Positive Kashmir Cup after defeating FC One 1-0 on Saturday evening at Synthetic Turf TRC here.

The match was a closely contested one with both teams fighting tooth and nail to get their hands on the trophy, as huge crowds watched the two sides battle it out under floodlights.

J&K Bank scored the match's only goal early in the first half after Furqan Zargar found the back of the net from a brilliant finish. FC One came out strongly in the second half of the match and tried to create goal-scoring chances. However, the Bank team stayed focused and was able to see the match through with conceding.

J&K Bank's Furqan was named man of the match.

The event was attended by Div Com Kashmir P.K. Pole, IG BSF Raja Babu, DGM Law J&K Bank Saadat Hussain, Mentor Positive Kashmir Bharat Rawat and Zahoor Mir Director HK group.

The prize ceremony was overseen by Div Com Pole, with winners J&K Bank receiving a cash prize of INR 1 lakh and the runner ups, FC One, receiving a cash prize of INR 50 thousand.

Shafqat of FC One was adjudged man of the series and the top scorer of the tournament for his contribution in FC One's road to the final. Furqan of FC One was adjudged as the best goalkeeper for his performances through the tournament.

The event was held by Positive Kashmir (NGO).



Kupwara LG's Rolling Trophy Final Held

Observer News Service

KUPWARA: The Department of Youth Services and Sports Kupwara on Saturday conducted the final ceremony of LG's Rolling Trophy at Galizoo Stadium Kupwara.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Doifode Sagar Dattatray was chief guest on the occasion while Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kupwara, Yougal Manhas was guest of honour.

DYS&S Officer, Jitender Singh and concerned officers also witnessed the sports event.

Speaking at the occasion, the DC said that he felt delighted to witness the cricket match in the Galizoo Stadium. The DC directed them to promote extra-

curricular activities in schools.

In the match, Zone Langate locked horns with Zone Kupwara, winning the toss and put Zone

Langate to bat first. Langate posted 139 on the board losing 9 wickets. Chasing the target, Kupwara were all out on 127 at the last ball losing the final by just a margin of 12 runs. From Langate, Junaid Ahmed Dar played a blistering knock of 32 ball 42 runs and was adjudged Man of the Match. Junaid played prominently during the whole tournament and showed a spectacular performance.

It is to mention here that in the Trophy, teams from all the zones of the district participated at multiple venues viz. Karihamma, Nutnussa and Galizoo Stadium Kupwara. The teams were selected after carrying out selection trials at all zonal headquarters of the District.

Later, a prize distribution cer-



emony was conducted during which trophies and cash prizes were distributed among winning team members.

England Reach T20 WC Semis, Champions Australia Out



Agencies

SYDNEY: England qualified for the Twenty20 World Cup semi-finals with a nervy victory by four wickets over Sri Lanka in their final Super 12 match on Saturday, sending hosts and defending champions Australia out of the tournament in the process. Superb death bowling from Mark Wood (3-26) and Sam Curran restricted Sri Lanka to 141 for eight and although they made heavy work of it, England reached their target with two balls to spare.

The 2010 champions claimed a spot in the last four along with Group 1 winners New Zealand. The two semi-finalists from Group 2 will be decided on

Sunday. Australia had needed a Sri Lanka upset to keep alive their chance of progressing but those hopes looked to have been dashed when Pathum Nissanka was dismissed for 67 in the 16th over of the Asia Cup champions' innings.

Nissanka clubbed Ben Stokes for the first of his five sixes from the second ball of the innings and by the end of the 15th over Sri Lanka were 116 for three and looking good for a decent score at a ground where chasing can be hard.

Spinner Adil Rashid had Nissanka caught at the long on boundary by substitute fielder Chris Jordan to take his first wicket of the tournament and Sri Lanka fell apart, scoring 25 for five

over the last five overs.

Openers Alex Hales and Jos Buttler put on 75 for the first wicket before the England captain was dismissed for 28 by Chamika Karunaratne's fine diving catch at deep midwicket off the bowling of Wanindu Hasaranga. Hasaranga removed Hales caught and bowled for 47 soon afterwards before Harry Brook, Liam Livingstone and Moeen Ali followed cheaply to leave England wobbling on 111-5 in the 15th over.

The victory target was never much more than a run a ball away, however, and Stokes (42 not out) and Chris Woakes (five not out) got them across the line in the final over on 144 for six.

Messi To Sit Out PSG Game Against Lorient As A Precaution



Agencies

PARIS: Lionel Messi has some inflammation on his Achilles tendon and is being rested for Paris Saint-Germain's trip to Lorient on Sunday as a precautionary measure.

PSG said Saturday that the Argentina star, who will look to win the World Cup for the first time in his stellar career, is expected to resume training next week.

PSG will then have one more game, at home against

Auxerre next Sunday, before Messi heads to Qatar.

Argentina's first game of the World Cup is against Group C opponent Saudi Arabia on Nov. 22. Argentina then faces Mexico and Poland.

The 35-year-old Messi has been in great form for league leader PSG this season, netting seven league goals to go with a league-high 10 assists. The record seven-time Ballon d'Or winner also has four goals and four assists in the Champions League.

Messi has netted nine goals in his past three games for Argentina, including a five-goal haul against Estonia at the end of last season. He holds the national record with 90 goals for Argentina, including eight hat tricks.

PSG defender Presnel Kimpembe also has a minor Achilles tendon issue and is being rested for Lorient. He hopes to line up in central defense for defending champion France at the World Cup.

Mumbai Clinch First Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy Title

Agencies

KOLKATA: Top-class performances from star player Sarfaraz Khan and Tanush Kotian helped Mumbai clinch their first-ever Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy title after defeating Himachal Pradesh in the final by three wickets at Eden Gardens, Kolkata on Saturday. Both the teams, who had reached the final for the very first time, played their hearts out in a thrilling final.

Chasing 144, veteran all-rounder Rishi Dhawan delivered two jolts to Mumbai, sending back openers Prithvi Shaw (11) and skipper Ajinkya Rahane (1).

Jaiswal and Iyer by dismissing the former for 27 runs. Medium pacer Vaibhav Arora strengthened Himachal's control over Mumbai by sending back Iyer (34), Shivam Dube (7) and Aman Hakim Khan (6). Mumbai sunk to 116/6 in 16.5 overs, still needing 28 runs in 19 balls. All-rounder Shams Mulani (2) became Dagar's second victim.

Sarfaraz played a vital knock of 36*.

Earlier, put to bat first by Mumbai, Himachal Pradesh had posted 143/8 in their 20 overs. Spinner Tanush Kotian and pacer Mohit Avasthi had delivered a cocktail of pace and spin that left Himachal bamboozled in



Mumbai was reduced to 28/2. At the end of the powerplay in six overs, Mumbai was at 43/2, with Shreyas Iyer (9*) and Yasir Jaiswal (15*) unbeaten at the crease.

Mayank Dagar put an end to this 41-run stand between

a sorry position at 58/6 in 9.4 overs. Kotian (3/15) and Avasthi (3/21) destroyed Himachal with their lethal spells. Aman Hakim Khan and Shivam Dube also took a wicket.

Kotian was adjudged as 'Man of the Match' for his spell. (ANI)



'I-League Winner To Be Promoted To ISL Next Season'

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The All India Football Federation (AIFF) on Saturday said that the winner of the I-League, which begins on November 12, will play in the Indian Super League (ISL) next season, without paying any fee as per the roadmap finalised three years ago.

But the participation of I-League winners of 2022-23 season -- as well as 2023-24 -- in the ISL will be subject to fulfilling the club licensing criteria.

"We can confirm that the I-League winner of this season will be promoted to the ISL (2023-24 season) subject to fulfilling the Premier one licensing criteria and sporting merit," AIFF secretary general Shaji Prabhakaran told PTI.

"They (I-League winners) will not give any (participation) fee. Since all the clubs playing in the

ISL will have to fulfil Premier one licensing criteria, they (I-League winners) also will have to fulfil the criteria."

According to the roadmap approved in 2019 with the involvement of Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and agreed upon by the stakeholders, the I-League champion team of this season (2022-23), as well as that of next year (2023-24), will get direct slot in the next season of the top-tier ISL.

The promotion and relegation system was to kick in the ISL from 2024-25 season onwards.

The I-League, which begins on November 12 at Manjeri with defending champions Gokulam Kerala hosting last year's runners-up Mohammedan Sporting, will be telecast live on two channels -- Eurosport and DD Sports -- and will be live-streamed on the Discovery Plus OTT platform.

Black Hole Closest To Earth Found. It Is 10 Times Bigger Than The Sun

Agenceis

Washington: The nearest known black hole to Earth has been found by astronomers utilising the International Gemini Observatory, run by the NOIRLab of the NSF.

It has been confirmed that a dormant stellar-mass black hole exists in the Milky Way for the first time. With only 1600 light-years between it and Earth, it is a fascinating subject for research to improve our knowledge of the development of binary systems.

The most extreme things in the universe are black holes. All huge galaxies presumably have supermassive versions of these unfathomably dense objects at their centres.

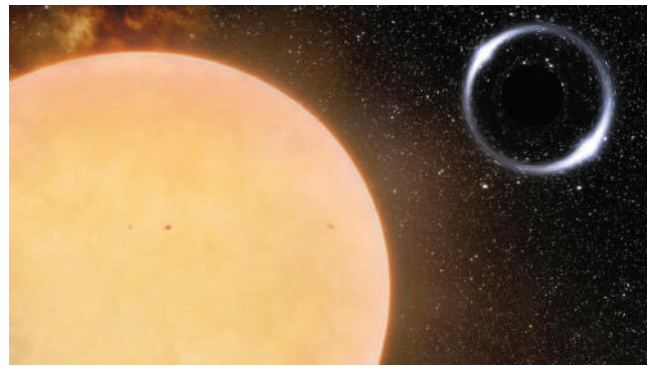
There are an estimated 100 million stellar-mass black holes in the Milky Way alone, which are significantly more prevalent and weigh five to one hundred times as much as the Sun. In contrast to dormant black holes, which do not flash strongly in X-rays as they consume matter from a nearby star companion, only a small number have been confirmed thus far, and nearly

all of these are "active."

The closest black hole to Earth has been named Gaia BH1 by astronomers using the Gemini North telescope on the island of Hawaii, one of the twin telescopes of the International Gemini Observatory, which is run by NSF's NOIRLab.

It is three times closer to Earth than the previous record-holder, an X-ray pair in the constellation of the Monoceros. This dormant black hole is around 10 times as big as the Sun and is situated about 1600 light-years away in the constellation Ophiuchus. Exquisite studies of the motion of the black hole's partner, a star similar to the Sun that orbits the black hole at around the same distance as the Earth orbits the Sun, allowed for the new finding.

"Take the Solar System, put a black hole where the Sun is, and the Sun where the Earth is, and you get this system," explained Kareem El-Badry, an astrophysicist at the Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian and the Max Planck Institute for Astronomy, and the lead author of the paper describing this discovery.



UK House Worth ₹ 3.7 Cr Up For Grabs For Just ₹ 280. Here's How



Agenceis

A stunning four-bedroom home worth £400,000 is set to be raffled off – and tickets cost just £3. Daniel Twenefour, alongside brothers Jason and Will, is offering one lucky winner the chance to live rent and mortgage-free in a modern home located in Medway, Kent.

The luxurious property spans three storeys and boasts four large bedrooms, a spacious eat-in kitchen and diner, living room and a low maintenance garden. While it does not come furnished, the property has been staged to show its full potential, with chic furniture as well as a luxurious golden fireplace.

Inside the swanky home, the new owner can imagine putting their feet up on a lavish L-shaped sofa and cooking up a storm in the modern, fully-fitted kitchen. With big open windows and a spacious floor plan, the lucky new owners will be living the high life for as little as £3.

Not only is the house situated in a thriving area, it is also close to Chatham Train Station where you can get a train directly into central London in under one hour. The raffle is now live and participants have until 4 November to get their hands on a ticket.

The home is the ninth property to be raffled off by the Twenefour brothers, who have previously given away three apartments in

one go worth £500,000 in Bristol city centre. Whilst the property is perfect for a family to move into, the winner will have the freedom to do as they please with the prize and even have the option to rent it out.

The average rent for this type of property in the area would fetch up to £2,000 per month. To flog the home, the Twenefours will need to sell around 155,000 tickets to include transfer costs such as stamp duty and legal fees.

But if 155,000 tickets are not sold, the winner will be offered 70% of the ticket receipts instead. Luckily, so far the trio have been successful at raffling off a hoard of other properties under their business name, Tramway Path.

'No Choice', Says Musk As He Justifies Massive Layoffs At Twitter

Agenceis

Amid massive layoffs at Twitter across the world, including in India, and the subsequent backlash, the microblogging site's new owner Elon Musk on Saturday justified the move, saying there was "no choice" when the company was losing millions of dollars daily.

The company posted a net loss of USD 270 million in the second quarter ended June 30, 2022 compared to a profit of USD 66 million in the same period a year ago.

"Regarding Twitter's reduction in force, unfortunately there is no choice when the company is losing over \$4M/day," Musk tweeted.

"Everyone exited was offered 3 months of severance, which is 50% more than legally required," he added.

Hundreds of employees were handed the pink slips at Twitter on Friday as Musk, 51, started overhauling the social media platform which he bought for a whopping USD 44 billion late last month.

In a letter to employees obtained by multiple media outlets on Friday, the company said employees would find out by 9 am Pacific Standard Time if they had been laid off. The email did not say how many people would lose their jobs.

Twitter has also fired the majority of its over 200 employees in India. Sources said the layoffs are across engineering, sales and marketing, and communications teams.

However, there is no clarity yet on the severance package to be paid to employees laid off in India. The entire marketing and com-



munications department in India has been sacked, the sources said. Musk has blamed activists for a significant drop in the company's revenues.

"Twitter has had a massive drop in revenue, due to activist groups pressuring advertisers, even though nothing has changed with content moderation and we did everything we could to appease the activists. Extremely messed up! They're trying to destroy free speech in America," Musk tweeted on Friday.

Twitter's roughly 7,500 employees have been expecting layoffs since Musk took the helm of the company. After he completed the acquisition of Twitter, Musk ousted CEO Parag Agrawal, legal executive Vijaya Gadde, Chief Financial Officer Ned Segal and General Counsel Sean Edgett.

He also removed the company's board of directors and installed himself as the sole board member.

Musk has also announced Twitter will charge USD 8 (around Rs 660) per month from verified (blue tick) accounts – triggering intense debate on the social media platform

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