

25th year OF PUBLICATION

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Thursday 17 November 2022 | 19 Rabi-ul-Sani | 1444 Hijri | Srinagar | Vol: 25 | Issue: 271 | Pages: 08 | Price: ₹3

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Over 1 Billion Youngsters At Hearing Loss Risk Due To Headphones, Loud Music: Study

Press Trust Of India

Washington: Over one billion teenagers and young people are potentially at risk of hearing loss due to their use of headphones and earbuds, and attendance at loud music venues, according to a study published in the journal BMJ Global Health.

The international team, including researchers from Medical University of South Carolina, US, noted that the governments around the world

need to urgently prioritise "safe listening" policies to safeguard aural health.

"There is an urgent need for governments, industry, and civil society to prioritise global hearing loss prevention by promoting safe listening practices," the authors of the study said.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that over 430 million people worldwide currently have disabling hearing loss, the researchers said.

Young people are particularly



vulnerable because of their use of personal listening devices (PLDs), such as smartphones, headphones and earbuds, and

6 THERE IS AN URGENT NEED FOR GOVERNMENTS, industry, and civil society to prioritise global hearing loss prevention by promoting safe listening practices."

attendance at loud music venues, amid poor regulatory enforcement, they said.

Previously published research suggests that PLD users often choose volumes as high as 105 decibel (dB) while average

sound levels at entertainment venues range from 104 to 112 dB.

This far exceeds the permissible sound levels of 80 dB for adults and 75 dB for children even if for very short periods of time.

The researchers gauged the prevalence of unsafe listening practices among teens and young adults to create a global estimate of the numbers who could therefore be at risk of hearing loss.

They trawled research databases for relevant studies published in English, French, Spanish and **More on P6**

Cab Falls Into Kishtwar Gorge, 8 Dead

LG, Bukhari, Azad Grieved Over Loss Of Lives

Observer News Service

Jammu: Eight passengers, four among them women, were killed Wednesday when a cab skidded off the road and fell into a gorge in Kishtwar district, a senior officer said.

Deputy Commissioner, Kishtwar, Devansh Yadav said preliminary information has suggested that eight people were travelling in the private cab and all of them died in the accident.

"Bodies of eight persons have been recovered, but the rescue operation is still on," he said.

The deceased have been identified as cab driver Umer Gani, Mohammad Amin, Mohammad Irfan, Afaq Ahmed, Safoora Bano, Muzamula Bano, Asia Bano and Mohsina Bano.

This was third major accident on Doda Kishtwar roads in last one week in which 16 people including Superintending Engineer, Executive Engineer, Assistant Executive Engineers (AEE) and the driver were killed.

On November 14, four employees of the Roads and Building department died in an accident in the Doda district when the government vehicle skidded off the road and fell into a 200 meters deep gorge near Assar on Batote-Kishtwar National Highway.

On November 8, four young boys had drowned after their car skidded off the road and plunged into the fast flowing water body near Karara Premnagar in Doda district.

Meanwhile, Jammu And Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha and several mainstream politicians have expressed grief over the loss of lives in the tragic accident.

"Anguished to learn about the loss of lives in a road accident in Kishtwar. My deepest condolences to bereaved families. Directed district administration to provide all necessary assistance," LG Sinha Tweeted.

Former Chief Minister J&K and Chairman of Democratic Azad Party also expressed his heartfelt **More on P6**

KATHUA RAPE AND MURDER CASE

'Juvenile' Lie Nailed, To Be Tried As An Adult



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: A shoddily drafted application for a birth certificate was the loose string that led to the unravelling of the conspiracy to proclaim one of those accused in the 2018 gang rape and murder of an eight-year-old in Kathua as a juvenile.

On Wednesday, that story, told multiple times over the last four years, ended with the Supreme Court ruling that the accused claiming to be a juvenile can be treated as an adult and a trial should be initiated against him. **More on P6**

Gangrape Victim's Family Hopeful Of Justice

The family of the eight-year-old nomadic girl, who was raped and murdered in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district in 2018, welcomed the Supreme Court judgement on Wednesday that one of the accused claiming to be a juvenile can be treated as an adult.

Mohammed Yusuf, who had adopted the minor, and Mohammed Akhtar, her biological father, said the verdict generated a hope of complete justice.

The apex court set aside the orders of the chief judicial magistrate of Kathua and the high court which had held that

accused Shubam Sangra was a juvenile and should to be tried separately.

"Medical opinion regarding age in absence of any other conclusive evidence should be considered to determine the age range of the accused...Whether medical evidence can be relied upon or not depends on the value of evidence," a bench of justices Ajay Rastogi and J B Pardiwala said. The court held that medical opinion regarding the age of an accused cannot be "brushed aside" in the absence of any statutory proof on the same issue. "We welcome the judgement of **More on P6**

Investigators Feel Vindicated

Crime branch officials of Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday said they felt vindicated after Supreme Court verdict which upheld their findings that main accused in the gang rape and murder of eight-year-old girl in Kathua was not a juvenile.

The officers, some of whom have retired now, expressed happiness after their painstaking probe findings in the gruesome rape and murder of the nomadic girl in 2018 were upheld by the top court.

The apex court trashed the claims of accused Shubam Sangra that he was a juvenile at the time of crime, which limits maximum punishment to just three years, and held him to be an adult to face the trial. The then **More on P6**

6 THE CRIME BRANCH CHARGE SHEET DETAILED Sangra's alleged involvement in the horrific crime. It said Sangra was responsible for an overdose of sedatives forcibly administered to the eight-year-old, rendering her "incapacitated" to resist sexual assault on her as well as her murder.

J&K's New Political Map

SC To Hear Plea Against Delimitation Panel On Nov 29

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court said on Wednesday it will hear on November 29 a plea challenging the government's decision to constitute a delimitation commission for redrawing the Legislative Assembly and Lok Sabha constituencies in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir on the ground that it violated constitutional provisions.

A bench of Justices S K Kaul and A S Oka was told by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that he has to put some documents on record in the matter.

Mehta said he had a word with the secretary concerned

who dealt with the issue.

The bench, while taking note of his submission, said the documents be filed within a week and posted the plea by two residents of Kashmir for hearing on November 29.

The apex court had on May 13 observed the petitioners have not challenged the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution and therefore, pleadings concerning that were to be ignored.

It had noted in its order that the challenge really was to the exercise undertaken in respect of the delimitation pursuant to the notifications, including those of March 6, 2020 and March 3, 2021. **More on P6**



PDD Hikes Power Tariff Days After Issuing Curtailment List

Agencies

Srinagar: Amid the complaints of pesky power cuts across Kashmir, the government has increased the monthly tariff by 8-12 percent to the consumers across Jammu and Kashmir while the people have expressed resentment against the move, appealing to the authorities to revisit the decision.

The consumers received bills as per hiked tariff, barely two days after the KPDCL announced fresh curtailment schedule for Kashmir—four and-a-half hours cut in metered areas and 8 hours power cut in non-metered areas.

A local news agency KNO quoted the consumers from different areas of the Valley claiming that their monthly



tariff of electricity has been increased by the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) from around Rs 700/ month to Rs 920.

I-T Raids Khyber Business Group In Kashmir

Agencies

Srinagar- Sleuths of the Income Tax (I-T) Department carried out raids at multiple units of the Khyber business group in Kashmir on Wednesday, sources said.

According to the sources, the raids were carried out at various units of the group in Srinagar and Gulmarg.

"I-T sleuths assisted by police raided the residence of Abdul Rouf Trambo in Gogijabagh area of Srinagar city. He is the owner of Khyber business group," they said.

"Another team headed by a deputy director raided another office of Khyber group owned



by Rouf Trambo in Hazuri Bagh area of Srinagar.

"A third team raided The Khyber Himalayan Resort & Spa at Gulmarg. All the entry and exit points have been sealed and searches are being carried out," the sources said, adding that further details will be out after the raids are over. (IANS)

6 I-T SLEUTHS ASSISTED BY POLICE RAIDED the residence of Abdul Rouf Trambo in Gogijabagh area of Srinagar city. He is the owner of Khyber business group,"

S H O R T T A K E S

Bear Injured Wildlife Employee, 3 Others

Four persons including a wildlife employee were injured after being attacked by a bear in Chattrogam area of Tral in South Kashmir's Pulwama district on Wednesday. News agency KNO quoting an official reported that a wildlife employee and three other local residents were injured after they were attacked by a bear in Chattrogam. He said that all the injured were given first aid at Health and Wellness Centre Chattrogam and were referred to SDH Tral for further treatment.



Truck Mows Down SPO In Jammu

A 27-year-old Special Police Officer (SPO) was killed after being run over by a speeding truck at Narwal bypass here early Wednesday, police said. The truck driver also suffered injuries when he lost control of his vehicle and hit another parked truck, Station House Officer (SHO) of Bagh-e-Bahu Police Station Sikander Singh Chouhan said. SPO Rajat Choudhary, a resident of Bishnah, was part of a police party engaged in checking vehicles near forest check post on the bypass when he was hit by a speeding truck bearing Tamil Nadu registration number, **More on P6**

Fire Damages Jamia Masjid In Drass

A massive fire gutted a grand mosque in Drass area of Ladakh this evening, official sources said. They said that the fire broke out at Qadeem Hanfia Jamia Masjid Shareef and soon after spread to whole of the structure. "Locals alongside police and army reached the spot and launched an operation to douse the fire. However the flames engulfed and damaged the mosque in entirety", they said. There was no injury reported in the incident, they said. A local in the meantime told a local news agency GNS that there is no Fire Service Station in Drass. "Fire tenders" were sought **More on P6**

Wet Weather Predicted On Weekend

Weatherman on Wednesday forecast mostly dry to partly cloudy weather till Friday and light rain and snowfall on weekend. "On November 19th (late afternoon) to 20th November (morning), light rain/snow is expected over many places of Kashmir Division especially over higher reaches and plains of Kupwara, Baramulla, Bandipora, Ganderbal and parts of Srinagar and Budgam districts," an official of the Meteorological department said. He said dry weather is expected thereafter from 21st to 23rd November. **More on P6**

Criminal Booked Under PSA In Rajouri

A notorious criminal involved in eight cases was booked under the stringent Public Safety Act in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Wednesday. The PSA is an administrative law that allows detention without charge or trial for up to two years in some cases. Abrar Afzal, a resident of lower Panghai village, was involved in eight criminal cases registered at different police stations, said Senior Superintendent of Police, Rajouri, Mohammad Aslam. He repeatedly engaged in criminal activities **More on P6**

Masks Not Compulsory During Air Travel

The civil aviation ministry on Wednesday said the use of masks is not compulsory during air travel but passengers should preferably use them, a decision that comes amid declining number of coronavirus cases. Till now, the use of masks or face covers while travelling in flights was mandatory. In a communication to the scheduled airlines, the ministry said the latest decision has been taken in line with the government's policy of a graded approach to COVID-19 management response. "... the in-flight announcements henceforth may only **More on P6**

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JVC SHOCKER

Our Baby Was Male, Were Handed Over Female Baby, Alleges Family

Agencies

Srinagar: A family from Budgam has alleged that the authorities at SKIMS Bemina also known as JVC have given them a female baby when their baby was male and demanded investigation into the matter.

A family from Patlibagh, Budgam said that their daughter-in-law has given birth to a baby on November 03 at JVC hospital and everyone that time told them that she has given birth to baby boy and even staff members congratulated them for giving birth to baby boy and informed his condition is not well and he has been incubated.

They said since the last 13 days no body from their family was allowed to enter the ward where the baby was kept, however, on Tuesday evening they were informed that the baby had died.

"We took body of the baby home without looking if whether the baby is male or female when even on death certificate and other documents male baby has been clearly written and on Wednesday when we asked a local Molvi to give baby last bath, he informed us that baby is female not male," they said.

"We buried the baby and went to the hospital again to enquire about the issue. The

officials at the hospital misbehaved with us and even snatched out documents," they alleged.

They said the government must look into the matter and enquire about it so that justice will be delivered.

Meanwhile, Medical Superintendent JVC Dr Shifa Deva told KNO that a lady namely Rukhsana was admitted in JVC on Nov 03, prime with left Ventricular failure and a senior surgeon conducted her surgery and as per the operation notes, she has given birth to a female baby and she was intubated as baby was having perinatal asphyxia and was admitted in ward 07 where baby was being treated.

"When the attendant went to the MRD section to get the ticket, he told the person there they had a male baby which he had written on the ticket," she said. "Our doctor never comes to congratulate anyone and inform anyone congratulations you have given birth to male or female and attendants must come and identify those persons who have informed them."

She, however, said that they will look into the issue from all angles definitely and will constitute a committee. "It seems to be a technical error and will definitely try to do whatever is needed," she said—(KNO)

DC Reviews Performance Under Jal Jeevan Mission

Observer News Service

Srinagar: - In order to review the functionality status of Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) in all rural households of the District, a meeting was held under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad on Wednesday.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the Village wise progress achieved with regard to set parameters and indicators under JJM including Har Ghar Jal certification by Gram Sabhas, Water Quality Monitoring & Surveillance and Institutional Arrangements. He also reviewed measures undertaken for water quality testing at HHS and PWS source, besides training imparted to women for FTK testing for a sustained surveillance on quality of water by the community itself.

On the occasion, the DC was apprised that all the villages of the district have been

saturated with piped tap water connections and certification to this effect has been completed during the recently concluded B2V4 programme. With regard to Water quality it was given out that the target of testing household tap water and PWS source using FTKs or Labs is being achieved under set timeline.

The DC directed the officers to adhere strictly to the laid guidelines and maintain the highest level of transparency and accountability in the implementation process. He also exhorted the officers to put in coordinated efforts to achieve the desired results and meet the timelines targeted for completion of tasks at all levels.

The DC further asked the concerned Officer to work with added zeal and determination in implementation of flagship programme of the Central Government envisaged to provide safe and adequate drinking water through tap connections to all households in rural areas.



At 'Insha-E-Darab' People Talk Of Persian Revival

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: In the ongoing week long Exhibition "Insha-e-Darab" being held in memory of Kashmir's last Persian poet, Mohammad Amin Darab, a talk was held on Wednesday in which speakers talked about the revival of Persian imprints in Kashmir.

The Talk session which was held in the afternoon was attended by prominent personalities from diverse backgrounds.

Speaking on the occasion Convener INTACH Saleem Beg said that when we talk about the Persianate revival, we talk about our collective memory. As of now, we are in the process of locating our cultural footprints so that we revive what we have lost" Saleem said.

"Persian language has been an intangible part of Kashmir history. Language, literature and Culture are streams that form the basis of a civilization. So, it is in our interest to revive it" he added.

Saleem further said that Persian language being part of the Persianate culture, so, it is important to learn the language. It is a moment of happiness that people from diverse backgrounds show a lot of interest in learning Persian language but we need to channelize that interest and energy.

Speakers also voiced concern over the decreasing number of students opting for Persian language in Srinagar city and other towns.

Dr Shadab Arshad, Assistant Professor from Depart-

ment of Persian Kashmir University said that the number of students seeking Master's degree in Persian at the University is decreasing by the day and is a matter of concern.

"Surprisingly, people from other backgrounds want to learn but it is not feasible for everybody to join a regular course at the University of Kashmir but we are trying to formulate a part time course so that more people join that course" Shadab said.

He further said that the Department of Persian has translat-

overwhelming," Danish said.

He further said that these are not just phrases comprising of words but are cultural artefacts reflecting an extraordinary aesthetic appeal that we don't probably see in any other part of the literary history of the Muslim world.

Others who participated in the event were Mohammad Yousf Teng, Former Secretary Cultural Academy, Hamidullah Bhat Former Director, National Council of Promotion of Urdu Language, Hakim Sameer

Surprisingly, people from other backgrounds want to learn but it is not feasible for everybody to join a regular course at the University of Kashmir but we are trying to formulate a part time course so that more people join that course

ed and edited 40 manuscripts till now. We have the requisite infrastructure which can help in the promotion of Persian language.

Voicing his opinion on the event Danish Iqbal, a Srinagar based Columnist and a PhD Scholar in International Politics said the exhibition not only showcases the works and the manuscripts of the poet Mohammad Amin Darab but it reflects the aura and the ambience of Persian Literature.

"I haven't studied Persian Literature as a serious student but have the phrases of the poets like Bedil and Firdousi in my heart. The phrases are always an emotional catharsis whenever the meaninglessness of the current world gets too

Hamdani, Design Director at INTACH, Prof Mufti Mudassir, Prof Abid Gulzar, Khursheed Ahmad Wani Former Station Director, Doordarshan Journalist Peerzada Ashiq among others.

Pertinently, the event is being held to commemorate the Life and Times of Kashmir's last Persian poet Mohammad Amin Darab.

The weeklong event organized by INTACH in collaboration with HELP foundation seeks to bring forth the contribution of Mohammad Amin Darab in Persian poetry and literature before the Kashmiri people.

In addition to Darab's poetic works, rare Persian manuscripts have been put on display for the visitors.

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HIGHWAY STATUS

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

PRAYERS	
FAJR	5:38
ZUHR	12:14
ASR	3:52
Magrib	5:32
ISHA	7:56



HIJRI

CALENDAR

21 Rabi ul Sani

1444

This Day In History

- 473 - The future Zeno I is named associate emperor by Emperor Leo I.
- 1183 - Battle of Mizushima: Japanese Taira clan defeat the Minamoto
- 1278 - 680 Jews arrested (293 hanged) in England for counterfeiting coins
- 1292 - (O.S.) John Balliol becomes King of Scots.
- 1511 - England, Spain and the Holy Roman Empire sign anti-French covenant The Treaty of Westminster.
- 1555 - William of Orange becomes member of Council of State.
- 1558 - Elizabeth I aged 25 ascends English throne upon death of her half sister Queen "Bloody" Mary.
- 1558 - The Church of England is re-established.
- Event of interestEvent of Interest
- 1603 - English explorer, writer and courtier Sir Walter Raleigh goes on trial for treason.
- 1636 - Henrique Dias, Brazilian general, wins a decisive battle against the Dutch in Brazil.
- 1659 - Peace of the Pyrenees is signed between France and Spain.
- 1796 - Battle of Arcole-Napoleon I's French forces beat Austrians in Italy.
- 1812 - Napoleonic Wars: Battle of Krasnoi during Napoleon's retreat from Moscow.
- 1869 - Suez Canal in Egypt opens, linking Mediterranean and Red seas
- 1877 - Russia launches a surprise night attack that overruns Turkish forces at Kars, Armenia.
- 1903 - In the Treaty of Petropolis, Bolivia cedes the territory of Arce to Brazil; Bolivia gains rail and water outlets in the east.
- 1913 - The first ship sails through the Panama Canal, which connects the Atlantic and Pacific oceans
- 1917 - Lenin defends "temporary" removal of freedom of the press.
- 1918 - German troops evacuate Brussels.
- 1922 - The last sultan of the Ottoman Empire Mehmed VI is expelled to Malta on British warship
- 1933 - United States recognizes Soviet Union, opens trade.
- 1945 - New world air speed record 606 mph (975 kph) set by HJ Wilson of RAF.
- 1951 - Britain reports development of the world's first nuclear-powered heating system.
- 1953 - United States joins the United Nations in condemning Israel's raid on Jordan on October 4, 1953.
- 1956 - USSR performs atmospheric nuclear test.
- 1967 - Surveyor 6 becomes 1st man-made object to lift off Moon.

From KO Archives

Graveyards To Pave Way For Golf Course

Srinagar- To turn the State Chief Minister's 'dream-project' of laying a golf-course on the shores of Dal lake into reality, few of the blue-eyed officials are torching trees and even exhuming dead for leveling the course.

This is in addition to the inconvenience caused to hundreds of inhabitants, who were asked to vacate their ancestral houses in order to pave way for CM's 'dream course'. That, however, does not affect the green belt in any way, say the officials, who are busy in cajoling the CM.


Even the Lakes and Water Ways Department has no objection to the dream project for the reasons best known to its high-ups. Perhaps this is CM's project, under whom comes every ministry and not to talk of officials.

While the pristine beauty of Dal Lake has already been desecrated, the proposed golf course on 209 kanals of land may eventually remain an everlasting had patch on its shores. The green trees are being axed and wild shrubs and precious herbs torched to ashes at the orders of few of the officials.

The golf-course that will come up after complete deforestation in the area would be known by the name of International Golf Course. The officials say it will lure foreign golfers to the state.

To add to it all the officials have now ordered to raise to ground some four graveyards that fall in the area, which is being converted into a golf courses. Sources said that Ziethyar, Theed, Chashma Shahi, Male Taing and Prahpora graveyards have been levelled by the bulldozers, pressed into service by the officials. (CNS)

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 17 NOVEMBER, 1998)



The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited
Impaired Assets Portfolio Management Department (IAPMD)
Zonal Office Srinagar
M.A. Road Srinagar, Kashmir-190001

Possession Notice

Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002

Whereas Mr. Asaf Rasool Kanue, as the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 22.08.2022 thereby calling upon the Borrower namely 1) Mr. Waseem Ahmad Bhat S/o Mr. Abdul Ahad Bhat R/o Pahlol Brein Nishat, Present address Phaloo Brein Srinagar (Borrower) 2) Mr. Bashir Ahmad Bhat S/o Mrs. Noori & Mohammad Abdullah Bhat R/o 127 Brein Nishat Srinagar (Mortgagor cum Guarantor) 3) Mr. Javid Ahmad Bhat S/o Kh. Gula Qadir Bhat R/o Pati Brein Nishat Srinagar (Guarantor) 4) Mr. Ayjaz-ul-Assad S/o Kh. Assadulah Bhat S/o Kh. Assadulah Bhat R/o Main Market Brein Nishat Srinagar (Guarantor) to repay an amount of Rs 1,10,24,028.76 (Rupees One Cror Ten Lakhs Twenty Four Thousand Twenty Eight And Paise Seventy Six Only) being the balance outstanding as on 01.08.2022 in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken **symbolic possession** of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this the **10th day of month November of the year, 2022.**

The said borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating to **Rs. 1,11,94,981.08 (Rupees One Cror Eleven Lakhs Ninety Four Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty One And Paise Eight Only)** together with future interest thereon from 01.11.2022 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

The borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property
(As per the schedule provided in mortgage deed/latest particulars including any accreditations)
Mortgage of residential house along with land underneath and appurtenant hereto measuring one kanal bearing Khasra No. 2652 min, khata no. 29 khewat no. 6 and mutation No. 8599 in mouza Brein Tehsil Khas Srinagar in the name of Mr. Bashir Ahmad Bhat S/O Mst Noori.

DIPK-NB-5016/22
Sajad Ahmad Wani
Authorized Officer

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KASHMIR OBSERVER

Thursday | 17-11-2022

G20 Summit: Ukraine Shadow

The G20 summit in Bali has brought together leaders from twenty countries to discuss the major problems facing the world, with the geopolitical and economic fallout of the ongoing Ukraine war figuring at the top. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has been the singlemost factor for the current setback to the global economy. In today's globalized world, events in one part of the world trigger far-reaching fallout in other parts. There have been foodgrain and fuel shortages which have driven up prices and this has been a matter of great concern for developing countries.

The continuing war, however, is bad for the world economy as the shrinking of the US economy through the April to June quarter shows. A slowing US economy will have far-reaching effects on the world. And this is happening at a time when the global economy was gradually recovering from the debilitating fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic, a once-in-a-century event. The countries were opening up and letting the economy function normally. International travel has also returned to pre-pandemic levels.

World leaders thus want an early end to the war. The United States and its allies heaped pressure on Russian president Vladimir Putin to resolve the crisis, pinning the high global food and fuel prices at his door. However, Russia still has allies in China, India and South Africa at the summit, who have so far not gone entirely along with the western narrative on the war.

India's economy has also been hit hard by the Ukraine war. Record inflation has pushed food prices of many essential commodities beyond the purchasing power capacity of the common man. Thankfully, India has imported oil from Russia at subsidized rates. This has made it possible for the government not to hike the fuel rates.

That said, India's economy is not out of woods yet. India's growth has been projected to decline to 6.8 percent after registering a healthy increase of 8.7 percent in the last fiscal year. The war in Ukraine thus remains a danger. If it drags on, the global economy, and with it, the Indian economy, is likely to come under severe stress again. Therefore it is incumbent on the world to come together to resolve the crisis in Ukraine and find a solution that addresses the concerns of all the parties involved. Otherwise, as prophesied by leading economists, the world is heading inexorably toward recession. And there can't be a more appropriate occasion to do so than the G20 summit, which brings together the leaders of the twenty most



The Other 'Chai'
Corruption and Why It Must End

Dr Tauseef Ahmad Parray and Danish Bashir

“
The most common form of corruption that is seen almost everywhere, is the giving and taking of bribes ('Chai' in common parlance)

Corruption creates an imbalance in the moral fabric of the society and diminishes the faith of common man in the legitimacy of the politico-administrative sector. Both trust and credibility are critical for a developed nation; for people's trust helps in enhancing government's self-confidence

Careless Threats: On the Ukraine War and the Dirty Bomb Talk

Russia's allegation that Ukraine was planning to launch a so-called dirty bomb shows how dramatically the Ukraine conflict has escalated. Russia's Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu held talks with many of his global counterparts, including Rajnath Singh, accusing Ukraine of potential "nuclear terrorism". A dirty bomb is not a nuclear bomb but a conventional explosive device with radioactive materials, the explosion of which could turn swathes of land uninhabitable for decades. Ukraine and its western backers have rejected the Russian allegations, saying the Russians, who have suffered setbacks, are making unfounded claims for a false flag attack. It is difficult to ascertain what is going on behind the fog of a full-scale war, but the talk of dirty bombs and nuclear terrorism does not bode well. Ever since the U.S.'s nuclear bombing of Japan in 1945, the world has largely treated the nuclear option as taboo. Even in 1962, when the Soviet Union and the U.S. were on the brink of conflict, their leaders managed to end the crisis amicably through dialogue. But unfortunately, Vladimir Putin's threat of using all means available to him to protect his country and Joe Biden's warning of a "nuclear Armageddon" are tantamount to normalising the nuclear option in the middle of a conflict that is in an escalatory spiral.

What is more surprising is that even as the war is steadily deteriorating, there is no conscious effort by any side to start a dialogue. Russia says it is ready for talks but has not given any concrete proposals, and its offer for talks cannot be trusted, especially after it announced the annexation of four partially controlled Ukrainian regions. Ukraine says it will not hold talks with Russia as long as Mr. Putin is in power and that it intends to fight till all Ukrainian regions are liberated, including Crimea. Ukraine's western backers say they would continue to support Ukraine's resistance "as long as it takes". As all sides take maximalist positions, escalation is creating its own dynamic, taking the whole world hostage. Eight months of war have already created economic and humanitarian disasters. And there are greater fears of a direct conflict between Russia and NATO, two nuclear forces. What more do the stakeholders of this war want before they actually begin serious talks? They should realise that unchecked escalation with an open possibility of a Russia-NATO war would be catastrophic for the whole world. The stakes are higher than their geopolitical goals. The rhetoric on nuclear attacks and retaliation should stop immediately and Russia, Ukraine and the West should begin talks to end the conflict. The alternative would be cataclysmic.

The Hindu

Have you ever talked to someone about a task at hand that involves some red tape? At any point, have you wanted access to a place which, at that point, seems inaccessible? When you ask someone for a way out, what do they suggest?

More often than not, they ask you to pay yourself out of the predicament. This process has an English word, 'bribe' but in this part of the world, a more creative alternative has been the word, 'chai'. No, it's not a cup of tea you have every morning but a few small or big bucks that you pay in day-to-day life to get things done.

Whether it is to bypass a long waiting time at the doctor's clinic or to get away with an illegal construction in the middle of a residential area or to buy yourself out of a traffic fine, 'chai' is what might work here.

The word, its unremarkable and mundane usage, sums up how we've normalised it in our society — so much so that god forbid, if someone thinks they can follow due procedure, they're thought naive and dumb.

If you talk to an elder in your family, they will definitely tell you that without 'bribe' (Chai) you can't do anything. This mind-set has sanctioned the 'acceptability' and 'legalization' of this 'illegal activity'—a menace and a cancer for the social fabric of our society.

Corruption has such deep roots in our society that we have taken it for-granted and have welcomed it as if it is a nice and acceptable act. This, however, does not mean that we can't do anything against it. This too can be eradicated from our society. But there are certain parameters that are to be focused at the primary level. There is a fear of complaint that the person might be harmed as s/he has to disclose the identity. There are certain cases where the officials are themselves a part of these malpractices so one has to raise his/her voice against them as well. The public servants, of any level or grade, must reflect their morality, honesty, integrity, etc. during the service and in practice as there behavioral set-up is much more rigid. The most common form of corruption that is seen almost everywhere, is the giving and taking of bribes ('Chai' in common parlance).

This menace starts from an individual, as it's an individual who gives or takes the bribe. So, starting from an individual is a much more fruitful process as far as the eradication of this menace is concerned.

A recently held one-day Awareness Program on "Corruption Free India for a Developed Nation" organized by Anti-

Corruption Bureau (ACB) North Kashmir in collaboration with Debates and Seminar Committee of our College (3rd November, 2022) under the banner, and in continuation, of the activities organized under 'Vigilance Awareness Week' (31st October to 6th November) also tried to throw more light on this issue.

What's it about the issue that makes it so urgent to address?

It is a universally acknowledged fact that corruption is the biggest impediment towards the development of a nation. It is equally true that corruption is not indigenous to any country or nation, but is a global phenomenon. It affects all the strata of a society. It is also worrying that corruption has not only hindered our country internally in terms of socio-political and economic development, but has undermined the democracy and democratic set up as well. Jennifer Lawrence (a hollywood actress) has rightly said, "We need to tell each other our stories. We need to show that everyone — our neighbors, our families, our community leaders — everyone we know is touched by corruption."

There will hardly be anyone who would disagree with the fact

Corruption has such deep roots in our society that we have taken it for-granted and have welcomed it as if it is a nice and acceptable act

that as far as the concept of a developed nation is concerned, the process of developing a nation is a collective process (collectivization). It is the collective effort of the people (citizens of a nation)—ranging from different age groups and professions—who play their selective role in each and every sector to evolve, harmonize and develop their nation. On the other hand, this process is not an easy one in the present era, because there are several menaces prevailing in our society that become major hindrances in the path of nation's development; and one such menace is that of corruption.

Corruption creates an imbalance in the moral fabric of the society and diminishes the faith of common man in the legitimacy of the politico-administrative sector. Both trust and credibility are critical for a developed nation; for people's trust helps in enhancing government's self-confidence.

Corruption has raised the public interest deficit as no longer could a person believe that any civil/ public servant could do anything without being corrupted. Thus, the image that has been created against this

backdrop must be reshaped to enhance more trust among the common people. We have to change the mind set-up in our society as well which has normalised the 'chai' culture.

In Jammu and Kashmir, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has been working efficiently on the same procedures and regulations (Anti-Corruption Act) to curb this menace. However, what is more important is people's participation as there should be a strong bond and rapport between the two (parties) in order to drive campaigns against the same. These respective departments should be cardinal and much more interactive with the common masses in order to have a smooth and easier process.

The power/authority, socio-political or economic, should not be vested in these corrupted ones—whether it be a politician or any officer holding charge of any specific department or a lower grade public servant—as those who are in power use it illegally by indulging themselves in these malpractices.

We have to fully impart in ourselves the sense of morality, truthfulness, transparency, sincerity, etc. and try to disseminate these core values among all sections of the society. "Integrity, transparency and the fight against corruption", as aptly articulated by Angel Gurria (General Secretary of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development [OECD]) "have to be part of the culture. They have to be taught as fundamental values."

Individual awareness about rights and obligations is a must. The youth, especially, should walk the talk on being completely against corruption and discourage it around them as well as within their own lives.

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

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Thoughtful Kashmir in the Frame

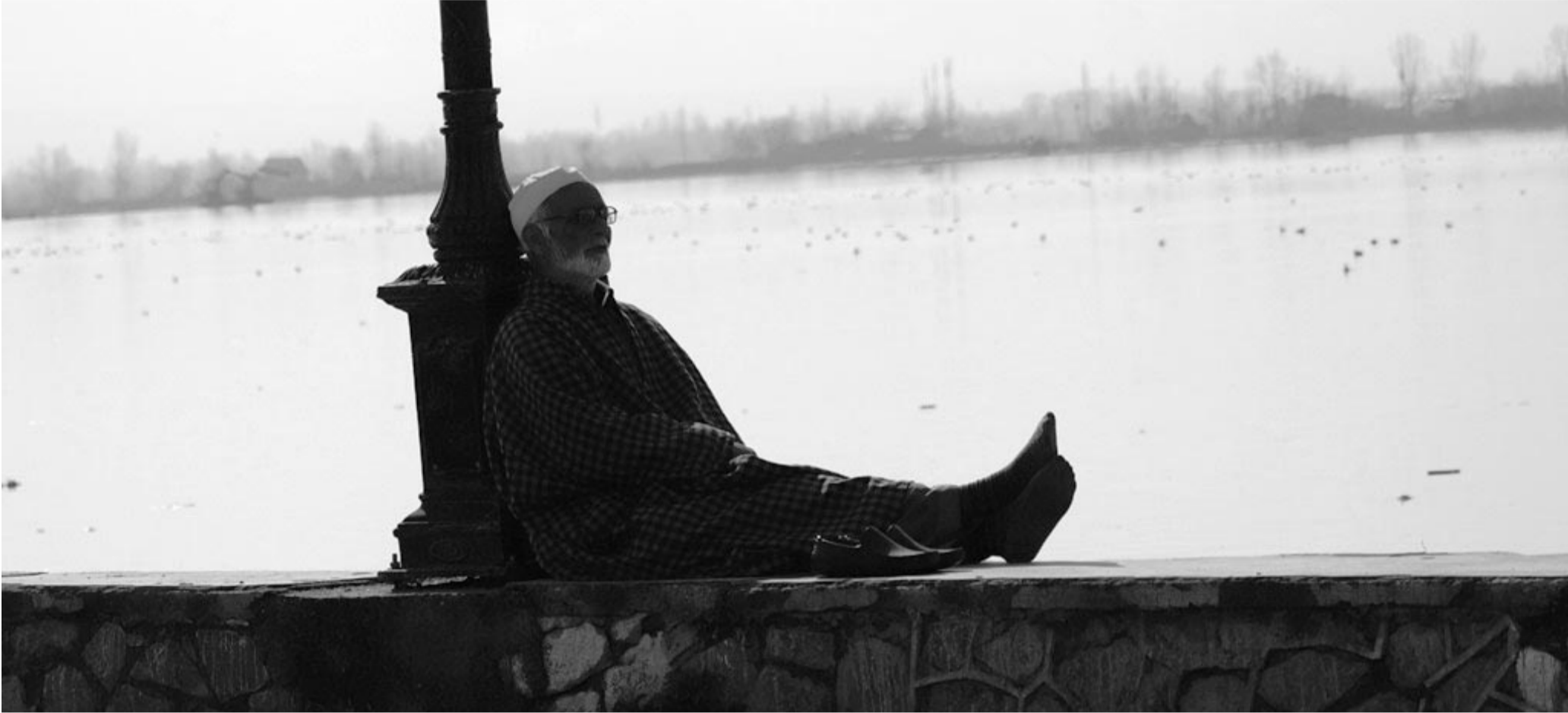
The silent spectators now make subtle statements about life and times in the landlocked region.

Taha Wani

Three old men in their sixties and seventies are reliving their heydays at a milkman's shop in Srinagar. Apart from flashing their toothless smiles, they take turns to recount their youthful days when they would rule the roost around. But now, they lament over the lost spaces, quality of life and travesty of the idea of Kashmir.

Away from this reflective outlet, a young man is staring at a shriveled Jhelum. In the shade of Shah-e-Hamdan's sanctum, the man seems combating his own thoughts drawing him on the riverbanks for some soul-searching.

Kashmir in winter is a gloomy picture. The pervasive shades of grey make the landscape low. At the same time, countless faces frown over their everyday troubles. What's utopia for trippers feels a dystopia for home-grown.



"Life in Kashmir exists in grey," said a man basking in an autumn sun inside a Srinagar park. "It's so because the severity of our weather and woes leave us numb and restless." The man stretched his arms in respite and came out of his thoughtful frame. "In fact," he declared, "life in Kashmir is winter, because it's always numb with a chilling reality." Metaphors now soothe the scarred souls of the city where nonconformists have long gone into hibernation. The measured meanings now derive conversations. The art of lucidity is dying. It makes most of these commoners caught in trials as some unformulated folks. Perhaps, between-the-line was never this customary.



"You see these stakeouts around you?" another thoughtful Kashmiri said. "Don't they remind you of Galwans of yore?" Discreet debates now create a literal vibe in the valley where a sense of scrutiny dominates a common sense. And rightly so, as the deluge of diktats hardly leave anything for imagination now. "These things make you believe," a wise man on the bund said, "that we've to be Troys of our own troubled lives now."



These anxious faces tell tale of times in Kashmir in its shifting-sand stage. They're vale's quiet watchers tracking the unfolding moments with hawking gazes. They understand the pulse of times and the ever-changing moods. Their sullen gazes make subtle statements about life and times in landlocked region now. "There's nothing wrong in sharing grief in open spaces," said a young man. "At least, we refuse to make our collective woe a captive emotion of four walls."



The thoughtful Kashmir is full of oddities and vocals. They follow their own rules and reflective routine. "You see that lad out there," said a youth in a Srinagar's park. "The poor guy comes here often to nurse his aching heart. The bad bonds of this city break you badly. Guess he needs a consoling hug, like all of us!"



Amid this anguish, many people are now losing their anchor, said eagle-eyed Byul on the ghats of Dal Lake. "Don't go by numbers, the reality is beyond them. Life demands some kind of certainty, no? If it's not there, nothing matters — not even this so-called festive footfall." The mainland merry-makers walk in droves passing smiles to their sullen counterparts guarding mountains. "I tell you something," Byul broke his long pause, "most of us crave for the times when earning was less and solace was in abundance. We've many earning hands in our families now, but it never suffices. I can't explain this life. Even more is less now."



On the battered bund of Dal Lake, these native drifters hardly seem to respond to the lively eagerness around them. They tend to make most of their moments of musings. "Anglers and idlers have one thing in common," said an elder stealing some moments of seclusion. "If not a prized catch, they certainly walk away with some clarity at dusk."



The fluid nature of these characters merges them with the flow of life. They seem to carry no burden and remain in an endless search. But then they face slurs for being impractical. "Ever wonder why a poet visits graveyard at twilight?" asked a man on Bund. "Well, that's an existential excursion to capture the haunting reality of one's celebrated life. These men—like this young boy—are wandering here for a reason. They're seeking some meaning in their lives."



These characters create a different vibe in the city witnessing some 'smart' change these days. While the old reality is waning, the fresh outlook is hardly creating any hook. "This city makes you think," said an observer around Lal Chowk. "The very soul of this heritage center is undergoing some shock therapy right now. There's no panacea in it, as the heritage is beyond revamp."



The thoughtful Kashmir is quite stark in its appearance and articulation. And this realism makes the valley a doleful place where different shades of grey create a sense of bleakness.

Govt Asks Employees To Register On iGOT Karmayogi Portal

Srinagar: The government on Wednesday asked all employees to register themselves on iGOT Karmayogi portal.

"The Government of India has launched the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB) Mission Karmayogi, aimed at developing potential of officers/officials and training institutes by focusing on capacity building and HR management

structure in government, including regulation and governance," reads a government circular, a copy of which lies with GNS.

"The Programme is designed to cover all government employees across departments, organizations and agencies to enhance their competencies for effective and efficient public service delivery." The platform, it said, enables officials to explore, acquire

and certify their competencies that are critical to discharging their duties, besides, helping them to connect and collaborate across silos for more efficient execution of their responsibilities. "Instructions have been issued that all employees should take benefits of this capacity building initiative," it said, adding, "Accordingly, it is enjoined upon all the Government employees

working in various Departments/ Organizations/PSUs to register themselves on the iGOT Karmayogi portal (<https://igot-karmayogi.gov.in>) using their Government e-mail IDs and undertake the Competency Assessment on the portal to identify potential areas that need improvement, for enhancement of their existing competencies and acquiring new ones."

Workshop Held On ‘Strengthening Child Protection System/Mechanism’ In J&K

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Union Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) in association with Department of Social Welfare (DSW), J&K Government Wednesday organised a day-long workshop on 'Strengthening Child Protection System/Mechanism in Jammu and Kashmir' for the Social Welfare officers including

District Child Protection Officers(District Social Welfare Officers), members of District Child Protection Units and officers from Mission Vatsalya along with officials of J&K Police including officers of District Special Juvenile Units here.

Director, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Navendra Singh; Director, Programme CARA, Ministry of Women and Child

Development, Jagannath Pati; Chief of Child Protection, UNICEF, India, Soledad Herrero; Director General, Women and Child Development, J&K, Mir Tariq Ali; Mission Director, Mission Vatsalya, J&K, Harvinder Kour; senior officers of J&K Police, Prosecuting officers, District Social Welfare officers and other concerned officials were present during the workshop.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Over 1 Billion Youngsters

Russian, involving 12-34 year-olds, and reporting on objectively measured device output levels and length of exposure.

The research included 33 studies, corresponding to data from 35 records and 19,046 participants. 17 records focused on PLD use and 18 focused on loud entertainment venues.

The researchers also estimated the number of people who could be at risk of hearing loss by considering the estimated global population of 12-34 year-olds in 2022 (2.8 billion) and the best estimates of exposure to unsafe listening practices from PLDs or loud entertainment venues.

The research indicates that the prevalence of unsafe listening practices from PLD use and attendance at loud entertainment venues is common worldwide -- 24 per cent and 48 per cent, respectively, among teens and young people.

The researchers estimate that the global number of teens and young adults who could potentially be at risk of hearing loss as a result ranges from 0.67 to 1.35 billion.

Cab Falls

condolences to the bereaved families.

In a condolence message, Azad said "May almighty give enough strength and courage to the bereaved families to bear such irreparable loss. I once again expect that authorities will ensure enough safety measures as occurrence of such accidents are witnessed every alternate day," he said.

"Smooth traffic movement on such hilly terrain needs immediate attention. I am sure that adequate compensation and immediate relief will be provided to the next kin of those who got killed in this devastating accident," he added.

Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari also expressed grief and sorrow over the casualties in the road accident.

"I am deeply saddened to hear about the tragic accident that took the as many as eight human lives. My heart goes out to the families of the deceased," Bukhari said.

He added, "In this hour of grief, I stand in solidarity with the families of the deceased and I prely to Almighty Allah to give them enough strength to bear the pain of this irreparable and inconsolable loss and rest the departed souls in eternal peace." (With agency inputs)

‘Juvenile’ Lie

The case of the young man in his early 20s, who can now be identified as Shubam Sangra, was being heard by the Juvenile Board in Kathua in Jammu. He was lodged in a juvenile home in Jammu and was expected to be released soon.

With Sangra being tried in the gang rape-murder, the quest for justice for the child who was smothered to death in captivity in January 2018 takes a decisive turn.

The inconsistencies in dates and false information in the application for a birth registration certificate filed by Sangra's father on April 15, 2004 were crucial in nailing the lie.

According to the charge sheet in the case filed by the Jammu and Kashmir Crime Branch, Sangra was instrumental in the abduction, gang rape and killing of the child, eight people, including Sangra, were accused in the case that shook the nation with its details of brutality.

The affidavit filed in the court cited the inconsistencies in the application to buttress its claim that Sangra was a juvenile. This was submitted in court along with medical reasons by the Crime Branch, which was contesting the trial court's decision to treat Sangra as a minor.

The application at the tehsildar's office in Hiranagar, Jammu, was filed by Sangra's father who wanted birth registration certificates of his three children. The eldest, a boy, whose date of birth was stated to be November 23, 1997, a daughter said to be born on February 21, 1998, and Shubam Sangra on October 23, 2002, police said.

The difference in the birth days of the two elder children was just two months and 28 days, "which by any medical standard is impossible", the affidavit states.

This, it says, indicates the father's casual approach in furnishing the particulars of the dates of birth.

Moreover, no place of birth was mentioned for the older two, but Shubam Sangra was stated to be born in a Hiranagar hospital. A subsequent investigation to test the veracity of that statement did not bear that out, officials said.

A special investigation team sent a questionnaire to the Hiranagar block medical officer and asked for records of Sangra's birth along with the particulars of the parents. The block medical officer verified the record and categorically stated that no delivery in the name of the Sangra's mother had taken place on October 23, 2002, police said in the affidavit before the apex court.

"...in fact these entries were imaginary, and without any supporting birth record of either Municipal Committee or Primary Health Centre where the birth of the respondent (juvenile) is stated to have taken place," it said.

The painstaking Investigation, which resulted in the affidavit, was backed by a report of a board of medical experts that determined Sangra's age as not less than 19 and not more than 23 on January 10, 2018 when the brutal assault took place.

The report by specialists from different departments, including a physiologist, dental examiner, radiologist and forensic scientist, based its conclusion on various clinical tests as well as Sangra's physical appearance.

The Crime Branch charge sheet detailed Sangra's alleged involvement in the horrific crime. It said Sangra was responsible for an overdose of sedatives forcibly administered to the eight-year-old, rendering her "incapacitated" to resist sexual assault on her as well as her murder.

"She was forcefully administered five tablets of Clonazepam of 0.5 mg each on January 11, 2018 which is higher than the safe therapeutic dose. Subsequently more tablets were given...The signs and symptoms of an overdose may include drowsiness, confusion, impaired coordination, slow reflexes, slowed or stopped breathing, coma (loss of consciousness) and death," a medical expert was quoted as saying.

The peak concentration of clonazepam is achieved in the blood after one hour to 90 minutes of oral administration and its absorption is complete, "irrespective of administered either with or without food", according to the concluding opinion.

Doctors were of the opinion that tablets given to the child could have pushed her into a state of shock or coma.

The case was transferred out of Jammu and Kashmir and shifted to Pathankot on orders from the Supreme Court on May 7, 2018.

The special court on June 10, 2019 sentenced three men to life imprisonment "till last breath". These were Sanji Ram, the mastermind and caretaker of the 'devasthanam' (temple) where the crime took place, special police officer Deepak Khajuria and a civilian called Parvesh Kumar.

Three other accused -- Sub Inspector Anand Dutta, Head Constable Tilak Raj and special police officer Surender Verma -- were convicted for destruction of evidence to cover up the crime and handed down five years in jail and Rs 50,000 fine each. They are at out on parole.

The seventh accused, Vishal Jangotra, son of Sanji Ram, was acquitted.

Gangrape Victim's

the Supreme Court, and we are hopeful that we will finally get complete justice as Sangra is the main accused in the case," Yusuf said.

Yusuf and Akhtar, who are relatives, reached Samba district along with their families over a fortnight back after spending six months in search of greener pastures in Kargil district of Ladakh.

The case triggered a nationwide outrage when the minor was found murdered on January 17, 2018. After initial hiccups, the case was handed over to the crime branch on January 27 the same year which unravelled the conspiracy behind the heinous crime where the little girl was kidnapped and brutally raped for four days before being killed in a barbaric manner.

"We did not get complete justice so far as some of the convicted persons are already out on bail over the past one year," Akhtar said, referring to the release of former sub-inspector Anand Dutta and head constable Tilak Raj by

the Punjab and Haryana High court, which suspended the rest of their sentences pending an appeal.

Yusuf said they were dejected by certain developments, including the release of the culprits on bail, but the latest verdict came as a major relief for them as "we feel the victim will get justice finally".

On February 7, 2020, the top court had stayed the proceedings before the Juvenile Justice Board against Sangra after the Jammu and Kashmir administration claimed that the high court had erroneously affirmed the order of a trial court holding him as juvenile at the time of the offence in 2018.

The Union territory administration had said the medical board constituted by the high court by its order of February 21, 2018 had opined that the accused was aged between 19 and 23 years at the time of offence.

The top court on May 7, 2018 had transferred the trial of the case from Kathua in Jammu to Pathankot in Punjab and ordered for a day-to-day trial after some lawyers prevented the Crime Branch officials from filing a charge sheet in the sensational case.

The special court on June 10, 2019 sentenced three men to life imprisonment till last breath for the ghastly crime.

Investigators Feel

Inspector General (crime branch) Ahfadul Mujtaba, who has retired, exclaimed with joy that the hard work of his team has finally yielded desired results.

"We have been saying from day one that Shubam Sangra had used juvenile card to escape the punishment. But never mind, the law has finally caught him," Mujtaba told PTI.

He refused to be drawn into politics in the case and said "as a police officer, I believe that justice has been done and now the main culprit will face the law and I am sure that he will be punished for the heinous crime that he committed".

R K Jalla, the then senior superintendent of police and chief investigator of the case, said, "It is finally victory of truth" and "I hope that trial against the accused will begin soon."

Jalla, along with his team comprising Superintendent of Police Naveed and Deputy Superintendent of Police Shwetambari Sharma, had faced a lot of criticism after the arrest of Sanji Ram, one of the main accused serving life sentence in Gurdaspur jail.

"All that has happened is over now and a lesson to people that one should never lose faith in judicial process of the country. The fringe elements will try to create roadblocks but eventually, the law catches up with the criminal," Jalla, who is leading a retired life, told PTI.

Recalling the case, he said it was like looking for a needle in a haystack till an unusual sweat on Sanji Ram's face on a chilly January morning hinted he was hiding something.

Sanji Ram, along with two others, were convicted for life in the case by a sessions court in Pathankot on Monday.

Retired from service in February 2019, Jalla was handed the case that was given to the crime branch on January 27, 2018.

"After having investigated the crime scene, we went to meet Sanji Ram (one of the accused in the case). As I and my team started enquiring about his family members, including his arrested juvenile nephew, I asked about his son Vishal Sangha.

"Sanji Ram immediately conveyed to me in a boastful voice that his son was studying in Meerut and I can go and check from his CDR (call detail record). I started wondering about two things -- why is he insisting that I should go and check Vishal's call records and second, why the hell is he sweating on a chilly morning of January," Jalla, one of the most decorated Jammu and Kashmir Police officers, recalled.

Jalla's only regret in the case was that Vishal had been released on benefit of doubt by the court but hoped that the new twist would soon catch on him also.

The case had assumed political dimensions with two former BJP leaders, Lal Singh and Ganga Singh, joining a protest march on March 2018 during which a demand for release of Sanji Ram and others was made.

The case saw straining of ties between PDP and BJP alliance government but as investigators in the case, Jalla said he "had received not a single

call from any of the BJP leaders".

"There was no political pressure whatsoever on me or my team and we were doing our job with complete dedication and honesty," he added.

Jalla was part of the first batch of police officers that joined Special Operations Group - an anti-militancy crack forces formed in early 1990s.

The officer, with a smile, also added that this case made him revisit all that had been taught to him during training at the police academy.

LG Calls For

opportunities, an official spokesperson said.

Sinha encouragement to spatial thinking, development of new Geographic Information System (GIS) tools, real-world applications are accelerating the growth in business, government and society.

"GIS technology ecosystem is offering new communication tools to different sectors and making greater impact in areas like Weather Forecast, Urban & Transport Planning, Security, Biodiversity Protection, Telecom, Agriculture, Environment, Asset Management and Navigation Services," he added.

Speaking on the reforms introduced in the past 8 years to revolutionize the GIS technology across the country, the LG said that under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, GIS has now become the mainstay of development planning and being widely used in the planning and monitoring of development works".

"About 1000 GIS applications every day are being used by professionals, researchers, common citizens in more than 50 sectors to address various challenges and opportunities," he said.

Sinha also shared the efforts of the government for introducing GIS to address the efficiency of urban & industrial planning, better decision-making for new reforms in agriculture, modernization of land records, road safety, smart city projects, connecting producers & markets, preserving biodiversity and ensuring equity in the society.

"GIS is playing a crucial role in the identification of forest boundaries, GI tagging, J&K green drive, conservation of wetlands, and census of water bodies," he said.

Observing that Geographic approach is the only way to integrate all the information available for sectoral growth, the LG stressed the need to prepare a report on the encroachment of water bodies through comparative analysis of latest and earlier data.

"The latest census of 2815 water bodies in J&K by Remote Sensing department can be used for mapping flood risk areas and sharing information with all concerned departments in an integrated manner. With the help of GIS, traffic accidents can be tackled through identification of accident locations, hotspots," he said.

Sinha also advised all the concerned departments to collaborate to use GIS in network design, network optimization and data enhancement in remote areas.

"GIS can help in better planning of schemes and asset allocation according to the population and their needs," he said.

"All stakeholders, GIS professionals, Research Scholars, Administrative Officers need to prepare scientific framework based on GIS for data capturing & optimum utilization of Remote Sensing, GIS technology applications for better decision making," he added.

The LG also called for spreading awareness among the people about benefits of the GIS and its various applications in the development of society.

On the occasion, Sinha launched Jammu & Kashmir Remote Sensing Information System - JKRIIS, a Spatial Data Infrastructure initiative and g-SAM (Gram Panchayat Spatial Assets Mapper) Mobile app.

He also released reports of Department of Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing on the "Assessment of Inherent Vulnerability of Climate Change" & "Internal Monitoring of Wular Lake & its Immediate Catchment - a geospatial approach".

He also inaugurated the second edition of the Green life Contest and felicitated the winners of the Green Life Contest-1 from Jammu Region.

A postal cover on "Chinar Tree" was also released on the occasion.

SC To Hear

The top court had asked the respondents -- the Centre, the Jammu and Kashmir administration and the Election Commission of India -- to file counter affidavit within six weeks.

The counsel appearing for the two petitioners, Haji Abdul Gani Khan and Mohammad Ayub Mattoo, argued the delimitation exercise was carried out in contravention of the scheme of the Constitution and that alteration of boundaries and inclusion of extended areas should not have been done.

The plea has sought declaration that the increase in the number of seats from 107 to 114 (including 24 seats in Pakistan controlled Kashmir) in Jammu & Kashmir is ultra vires the constitutional provisions such as Articles 81, 82, 170, 330 and 332 and the statutory provisions, particularly under section 63 of the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.

It said the last Delimitation Commission was set up on July 12, 2002 in exercise of powers conferred by section 3 of the Delimitation Act, 2002 after the 2001 Census to carry out the exercise throughout the country.

The plea said the commission had issued guidelines and methodology for the delimitation of assembly and parliamentary constituencies vide letter dated July 5, 2004 along with the constitutional and legal provisions.

"It clearly stated that the total number of existing seats in the Legislative Assemblies of all states, including UTs of the National Capital Region and Pondicherry, as fixed based on the 1971 census shall remain unaltered till the first census to be taken after the year 2026," the plea said.

It sought to declare as unconstitutional the notification dated March 6, 2020 constituting the delimitation commission to take up delimitation in the UT of J&K and states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, and Nagaland by the Centre.

The plea has also challenged the consequential omission of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland from the process of delimitation vide notification dated March 3, 2021, claiming that it amounts to classification and violates Article 14 (equality before law) of the Constitution.

On March 6, 2020, the Union Government, Ministry of Law and Justice (Legislative Department) had issued a notification in exercise of power under Section 3 of the Delimitation Act, 2002, constituting a Delimitation Commission, with former Supreme Court judge (Retd) Ranjana Prakash Desai as the chairperson.

PDD Hikes Power

in the last two or three months and how the tariff has been increased to such an extent," he said. He added that the monthly tariff has been hiked at a time when there has been almost no change in the power schedule this winter.

People from other areas echoed similar views, saying that the daily unscheduled and frequent power cuts have taken a heavy toll on them while on other hand the PDD was giving a hike in their monthly bills.

He said people living in these areas are financially weak and this hike will add to the miseries of the consumers further.

"If government is increasing monthly tariffs then they must upgrade the infrastructure as well. The power lines are tied with trees as the department did not provide adequate electric poles in the area," he said.

The residents appealed to the PDD to reconsider their decision to hike the monthly bills especially in the prevailing tough times.

Meanwhile, Chief Engineer, KPDCIL, Javed Yousuf Dar admitted the hike of 8-12 per cent in monthly tariff across Kashmir, saying that the previous tariff was as per 2014-15 as there was no change since then and the regulator has allowed to hike the tariff by 8-12 per cent this year. "In certain cases, the hike may be less or in certain cases, it may be more. In spite of this hike, the tariff in J&K is still less than other parts of the country."

"The people should understand how much electricity they are using. I have personally paid over Rs 3656 for the last month as electricity bill. The tariff is still less compared to the other parts of the country" he said.

Truck Mows Down

resulting in critical injuries to him.

His colleagues rushed him to Government Medical College (GMC) hospital where he succumbed to injuries, the officer said.

The truck driver is being treated at a hospital under custody, Chouhan said, adding a case under relevant sections of law was registered and further investigation is on.

The body of the deceased was handed over to his family for last rites after completion of legal formalities, he added.

Fire Damages

from Kargil to put off the flames. "Had there been any Fire Service Station in Drass, the loss could have been avoided", he said and urged authorities to establish a Fire Service Station in Drass to tackle any such eventuality in future.

Wet Weather

"Mostly dry weather over Jammu Division is expected during next 1 week," he added.

Regarding the temperature, he said, Srinagar recorded a low of 2.4°C against 4.5°C on the previous night. The temperature was 1.2°C above normal for the summer capital during this time of the year, he said.

Qazigund recorded a low of 4.7°C against 4.8°C on the previous night. The temperature was 3.4°C above normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, he said.

In Pahalgam, the mercury settled at minus 2.4°C against minus 3.4°C on the previous night and it was 1.2°C below normal for the south Kashmir resort, he said.

Kokernag recorded a low of 3.2°C against 3.5°C on the previous night and it was 0.9°C above normal for the place, he said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 3.6°C against minus 4.6°C on the previous night, the official said. It was 3.3°C below normal for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, the official said.

In Kupwara town, the mercury settled at 0.8°C against 1.9°C on the previous night, the official said. It was 0.8°C above normal for the north Kashmir place, he said.

Criminal Booked

like theft and burglary which are prejudicial to the maintenance of public order and posed a serious threat to the safety and security of lives and property of citizens, he said.

The detention order of the accused was issued by the district magistrate of Rajouri on the basis of a report submitted by the police. Afzal has been lodged in Kot Bhalwal jail here, the SSP said.

Aslam said the police will continue to take such action against anti-social elements.

Masks Not Compulsory

mention that in view of the threat posed by COVID-19, all passengers should preferably use mask/face covers," the communication said.

It also said that any specific reference to fine/penal action need not be announced as part of the in-flight announcements.

The requirement for mandatory use of mask or face covers during air travel has been reviewed in consultation with the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, it added.

The subject of the communication is 'review of COVID-19 guidelines for domestic & international flight operations - In flight announcements regarding mask/face covers'.

A senior ministry official said the decision is applicable for airlines.

An airline industry official said the ministry's decision is with immediate effect and the carriers will be communicating the same to the crew.

The total number of active coronavirus cases in the country accounted was only 0.02 per cent of the total infections and the recovery rate increased to 98.79 per cent, according to the latest official data.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,41,28,580 and the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent.

In the wake of the pandemic, scheduled domestic flight services were suspended for two months starting from March 25, 2020. Scheduled international flight services, which was also suspended from the same day, was restored only from March 27 this year.

SEC Orders Repoll In 2 DDC Constituencies In North Kashmir

Drugmulla, Hajin-A To Go For Polls On Dec 5

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The State Election Commission (SEC) on Wednesday announced date of repoll in District Development Constituencies (DDCs) of Drugmulla in Kupwara and Hajin-A in the neighbouring Bandipora district on December 5.

Pertinently, the counting of these constituencies was withheld by the (Election Authority) and subsequently through an order the voting in these constituencies was declared Void and it was ordered that a re-poll shall be held in both the DDCs by drawing the list of eligible candidates.

It is pertinent to mention that Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) Drugmulla, in terms of rule 21 (A) of Registration of Electors Rules 1960) had deleted the name of one elector, Sumaiya Sadaf, 'ab-initio' from the Panchayat electoral roll of Halka Badergam on 21.12.20, after complaint against her Citizenship status and subsequent inquiry into the matter revealed that she has entered wrong information in form-6 during her registration as an elector. Similarly, the Electoral Registration Officer Hajin-A, 'had ab-initio' deleted the name of one elector, Ms Shazia Begum from the Panchayat Halqa Sidunara-A for entering wrong information in form 6 during registration as an elector.

The DDC constituency Hajin-A has total electorate of 15351 (8039 males and 7312 females), having 57 polling stations and total number of 12 polling locations. Similarly, in DDC constituency Drugmulla (Kupwara) there are 32845 electorates comprising of 16688 males and 16157 females with 42 polling stations and 24 polling locations.

The Commission has also notified a postal ballot scheme for migrant voters for which they can apply to ARO (Migrant) upto 21.11.22 to avail this facility, apart from that Migrant voters can also vote in three special poll stations set up at Jammu (2) and Udhampur (1) for the re-poll. The timing of re-poll is 7am to 2pm.

Probe Finds Ex-Cop Worked As JKCA Joint Secy While In Service

Govt Orders Deduction Of Remuneration Drawn By Him From Cricket Governing Body From His Pension

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Government on Wednesday ordered deduction of remuneration from pension which was drawn by a former police officer while working simultaneously as joint secretary in Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association.

According to government, its inquiry into a complaint made to DGP in June 2018 established that the police officer (the then I/c Dy.SP) Sudershan Kumar Mehta worked as full-time Joint Secretary, Jammu & Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) in different spells between 2003 to 2016, without seeking prior permission of the Government as was required in terms of Sub-rule 2 of Rule 21 of J&K Government Employees (Conduct) Rules, 1971 and drew remuneration from the cricket governing body while as he was drawing salary from government as a Police Officer.

Mehta retired from Government service on 31 May 2021.

The Home Department in an order said that after the retirement of the officer, the issue was examined in detail in terms of Article 168-A of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Service



Regulations (CSRs), and also in consultation with the General Administration Department. "Accordingly, a decision was taken to initiate departmental proceedings against (him) as the period of one year was still not over from the date of his retirement, for accepting the assignment of Joint Secretary, JKCA without prior permission of the Government and for drawing remuneration from JKCA," the order reads.

The officer, it said, was served a charge-sheet on 12 May this year along with Statement of Imputation of misconduct in support of Articles of Charge. "The officer was given an opportunity to submit his written statement of defence along with an option to appear in person as well."

'Dacoits of 1987 Responsible for Filling Graveyards In Kashmir'

Will Strive For Restoration Of Special Status: Sajad Lone

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: People's Conference president Sajad Gani Lone on Wednesday said his party will strive politically and legally for restoration of the special status to Jammu and Kashmir that was repealed by the Centre in 2019.



"Jammu and Kashmir had a legacy which was destroyed in 2019. We will strive to get that legacy back, be it politically or legally. And if there is any sacrifice to be made for it, it should be the leadership and not the children of ordinary masses," Lone said after taking oath as People's Conference president for a four-year term.

Lone, who was elected president of the party unopposed earlier this month, hit out at Jammu and Kashmir's oldest regional party, National Conference, saying they cannot claim to lead the people when they were responsible for the mess people are in.

Sajad Lone attacked NC patron Farooq Abdullah left, right and centre, accusing him of being responsible for the mayhem Kashmir was plunged into by the rigging of 1987 elections.

"One who does not talk about the 1987 elections, the rigging that happened in those elections, he will never understand the Kashmir issue. If 1987 had not happened, would the gun infiltrate here? Would there be so many new graveyards? Who filled those graveyards? No one is asking this question," Lone said, blaming the National Conference for rigging the assembly elections which is believed to have led to the eruption of militancy.

The PC president said those who punished youngsters and sent them to Kathua and Hira Nagar jails cannot represent Kashmiris.

Sajad Lone said while Farooq Abdullah made a chief minister out of his son Omar Abdullah, JKLF chief Yasin Malik was

slapped with nine cases and put behind bars for becoming election agent of opposition candidate in 1987.

"Farooq Abdullah became the leader and he made his son a chief minister. Yasin Malik was slapped with nine cases and sent to jail for becoming an election agent of an opposition candidate. And he is still in jail. Malik took to arms, we do not support that, but is anyone asking why he took up a gun? Who put him on that path?" he asked.

Lone said those who questioned the National Conference from time to time were labelled as agents of New Delhi.

"When my father Abdul Gani Lone, Jamaat-e-Islami and Muslim United Front questioned them, they were dubbed as agents of New Delhi. Those who were labelled as agents of New Delhi spent their lives in jails," he said.

Lone said that leadership in the present "challenging times means rising up to the occasion and rescuing the Kashmiris."

"The leadership has to save the youth from bullets and jails," he said.

Lone further asserted that People's Conference is the party that has the legacy of sacrifice and will continue to strive to accord people a dignified way of living.

"We will make every effort to promote political inclusiveness and tirelessly strive to restore and retrieve the glorious political legacy that the people of J&K deserve. A unique legacy which we all cherished and zealously guarded for so long. We will do what it takes to ensure that legacy is restored," he added.

Those present on the occasion included Abdul Gani Wakil, Imran Reza Ansari, Nizamuddin Bhat, Syed Mansoor Hussain, Mir Fayaz, Nazir Laway, Bashir Ahmed Dar, Abid Ansari, Khurshed Alam, Raja Aijaz Ali, Mohammad Abbas Wani, Yasin Reshi, Ashraf Mir, Hilal Rather, Irfan Ansari, Irfan Pandit-pori, Rasheed Mehmood besides others.

'Flower Valley' Carved Out In Patnitop To Attract Tourists

Press Trust Of India

NATHATOP (PATNITOP): Patnitop Development Authority (PDA) has carved out a 'flower valley' in its high-altitude meadow land by planting thousands of seedlings to create a riot of colours in its green landscape.

Done under a project in the ever-enchanted Patnitop tourism circuit, the move is aimed at spurring tourism, biodiversity and socio-economic development at the famous health resort.

"We are carving out a flower valley in meadowland of Patnitop to add another attraction to tourism destination," a senior officer said.

The organisation teamed up with experts from different domains and Panchayati Raj Institutions to herald the project flower valley in our jurisdiction, chief executive officer (CEO) Thakur Sher Singh said.

"Flowers are big business. Millions of them are sold, processed into oils, dyes, edibles, beverages, medicines, cosmetics, incense sticks, powders, and various other value-added products. When they bloom, their ephemeral beauty attracts admirers," he said.

"Throughout their natural life cycle, and even beyond, they are source of beauty and business," he said.

In the initial phase of the project, more than 90,000 seedlings of flowering plants, mostly lavender, have been planted over an area of 12.50 acres, he added.

Seventy thousand lavenders procured from the Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir have been planted at multiple locations of the PDA jurisdiction in September and October.

Other flowering plants, including varieties of cosmos and marigolds, nearly 20,000 in number, have been planted as per their appropriate seasons in the years 2021 and 2022, he said.



Nathtop has become a destination for tourists to stop and click pictures as some of these seedlings planted around the ancient Mani Mahesh temple burst into flowers.

"The visitors are stopping by to capture their stunning sight and scent. The temple has supported the initiative by giving its land," he said.

"However, full bloom is expected to most likely occur in the months of March-April, 2023. Around the same time of the year, Sanasar Lake witnesses the annual Tulip Festival, celebrating the brief appearance of colourful Tulip bulbs," officials said.

Given the highly conducive climate and soil of this region, various kinds of flowers, especially perennial flowers, will be planted at different locations under the project flower valley in the coming times.

"A little patience and woods, meadows and mountain slopes will be dotted with blossoms and blooms. It will be a floral, rather a botanical spectacle, adding to the avenues of attraction for the tourists in the Patnitop Tourism Circuit. It will expand the itineraries, as well as the stay of the tourists," the CEO said.

"Furthermore, it will provide plenty

of opportunities for new, young and innovative entrepreneurs to start flower-based initiatives and provide gainful employment to the locals," he said.

"From flower farming to flower selling to flower processing, locals can venture into the huge flower industry however they like," he added.

Explaining the calculations, the officer said 70,000 flowering plants produce approximately 156 litres of oil per year, which is sold at a rate of Rs 1,500 per litre, generating an annual revenue of Rs 23,40,000.

In addition, these plants produce approximately 4,50,000 seedlings in a year which when sold at a rate of Rs 5 per seedling, will bring a revenue of Rs 22,50,000. The annual revenue of Rs 45,90,000 will be generated from oil extraction and selling seeds. The project will come to fruition in at least three years.

In twelve years, the number will rise to Rs 5,50,80,000.

"Patnitop Tourism Circuit has always been a tourist's favourite, but in real sense, it is now that is being explored, developed and promoted, and the socio-economic benefits of tourism are starting to reach the local rural population," Parkash Chand, BDC Chairman Chenani said.

ADG Lauds BSF Troops For Foiling Evil Designs Of ANEs

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: BSF Additional Director General, Western Command, P V Rama Sastry on Wednesday interacted with the troops deployed along the International border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir and lauded their efforts in foiling the nefarious designs of anti-national elements.

Sastry on the last day of his three-day tour of Jammu frontier visited Sunderbani and Indreshwar Nagar sectors along the IB and was briefed about complexities of management, overall deployment of BSF and domination plan under prevailing security scenario, a spokesperson of the border guarding force said.

BSF Inspector General, Jammu frontier, D K Boora and other senior officers of

the force accompanied Sastry who reviewed the security situation on Jammu IB, the spokesperson said.

Deputy Inspector General of BSF, Sunderbani and Indreshwar Nagar sectors, and battalion commanders briefed Sastry on the ground about complexities of management, overall deployment of BSF and domination plan of IB area under prevailing security scenario, he said.

The ADG BSF also visited the vital areas of Sunderbani and Indreshwar Nagar Sectors and examined the operational preparedness of field formations.

During the visit, Sastry interacted with troops in 'Prahari Sammelan' and applauded their professional acumen in safeguarding the IB in such stringent conditions, the BSF spokesperson said.

Secy H&ME Assesses Issues Of JKMSCL

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Secretary, Health & Medical Education (H&ME), Bhupinder Kumar on Tuesday chaired a meeting to assess various issues related to Jammu and Kashmir Medical Supply Corporation Limited (JKMSCL) at Civil Secretariat here.

During the meeting, issues regarding the procurement of essential machinery and equipments affecting functionality of public Health institutions were discussed in detail.

The Secretary appreciated the efforts of JKMSCL for expanding the penetration of Drugs Vaccine Distribution Management System (DVDMS) portal upto Chief Medical Officer's Level and directed both the Directorates of Health Services to ensure its implementation upto PHC level. He said that implementation of DVDMS portal in all

the health institutions shall ensure supply chain management and proper distribution of drugs, vaccine, machinery and equipments in a transparent manner besides ensuring timeliness.

Bhupinder further directed all intending departments to project complete requirements for drugs, machinery and equipments and other logistics, duty vetted by concerned HOD in their annual demands to JKMSCL in time, so that process of procurement is initiated by JKMSCL. He stressed upon them that all the end users shall ensure that requisition is routed through their respective HODs and funds for the same are transferred only after the vetting of the requisition by HOD concerned. Further, it was directed that HOD concerned shall reconcile the fund position with JKMSCL on regular basis.

(GOVERNMENT OF INDIA)
(UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER CITY ROADS (SMC) DIVISION SRINAGAR.

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No:- E-NIT/45/CRD/SMC/SGR/2022-23 DATED: 15-11-2022.

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of J&K, e-tenders (in Single cover System) are invited on **Percentage basis** from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments.

S.No	Name of Work	Adv't. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit @2% of Adv. cost	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	M.H of A/C
1	Improvement/ upgradation of inner road at Abi Nowpora Srinagar.	5.62	300/-	11240/-	20 Days	CEE/ DEE Class Civil	4217 City Grants
2	Improvement/ upgradation of road from Danihama to Darbagh via Bhat Mohalla.	1.22	200/-	2440/-	10 Days	DEE Class Civil	4217 City Grants
3	Improvement/ upgradation of roads at Kawji Mohalla, Kuthoo Mohalla, Dar Mohalla to Ehal including main road to house of Nazir Ahmad Dar.	9.84	600/-	19680/-	20 Days	CEE/ DEE Class Civil	4217 City Grants

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

Scheduled Dates & Time of Online Tenders.			
1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice Online	16-11-2022.	
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	FROM	16-11-2022 10:00 A.M
3.	Bid submission Start Date	16-11-2022	FROM 10:00 A.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	21-11-2022	UPTO 4:00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	22-11-2022 at 10:00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer City Roads (SMC) Division Srinagar.	

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of introducing Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer City Roads (SMC) Division Srinagar (tender receiving authority) by simply uploading a copy of necessary Treasury Challan Receipt and bid security Declaration as per format attached.
- Bids must be accompanied with Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) @2% of the advertised cost in the shape of CDR/ FDR pledged to Executive Engineer City Roads (SMC) Division Srinagar which shall be uploaded with the tender documents at the time of tendering. The same shall be released after receipt of 3% of performance security.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer City Roads (SMC) Division Srinagar. (Tender receiving authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain Valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.
- As per the circular issued by the Govt. of Union Territory of J&K Finance Department vide No.FD- Codes/233/2021-02-27 dated 10.02.2022 duly endorsed by Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Department Kashmir vide No.CE/RBK/WS/37104-36 dated 15.02.2022.
 - All the bidders have to submit bid security declaration which shall be duly signed by the bidder with full residential address, Card registration details & active Phone / Cell Nos. Form of bid security declaration attached as Annexure-A.
 - The lowest bidder (L1) also called the successful Bidder has to produce a performance security amount equal to 3% (Three percent) of the contract value in the shape of CDR/ FDR/ BG immediately after the opening of financial bids, but prior to fixation of contract. The validity period of the FDR/ BG for requisite amount shall be upto DLP. Any FDR/ BG having less validity period shall not be entertained. The CDR/ FDR/ BG shall be released after successful completion of the Defect Liability Period (DLP).
 - In case of abnormally low bids, the tender inviting Authority reserves the right to ask from the bidder for additional performance security with the approval of the next higher Authority which shall be binding upon the bidder in such case.
 - If any bidder / tenderer withdraws/ modified his bid during the period of validity etc, the Department is at liberty to suspend the bidder for one year or as shall be deemed suitable by the tender inviting Authority. Same shall hold good if the bidder fails to produce performance security within the specified time.
 - The successful bidder (L1) shall have to furnish hard copy of the uploaded documents viz Registration card duly renewed, Valid GST Registration, PAN Card, GSTR-3B etc. alongwith Treasury Challan Receipt and Bid security declaration form (Annexure-A) in original.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
 - Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
 - To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
 - The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
 - Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
 - Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
 - Bidders must ensure to upload the clear scanned copies of all necessary documents with the bid.

DOC-1	DOC-2	DOC-3
CLEAR SCAN COPY OF CONTRACTOR REGISTRATION CARD DULY RENEWED. (2022-2023)	CLEAR SCAN COPY OF TREASURY CHALLAN/ Earnest Money Deposit. Note: The Date of Treasury Challan Earnest Money Deposit should be between the bid submission dates of NIT/ Fresh NIT, any Treasury Challan/ EMD which is before the bid submission date of published NIT shall summarily be rejected.	Scanned Copy of:- <ol style="list-style-type: none">PAN CardCopy of GSTIN RegistrationGSTR-3B Return of previous Quarter to the issued date of NIT upto SEPTEMBER 2022 or after that.
Note	The bidder should upload all the necessary documents details given above in One "01" No. PDF file.	

- All the bids online shall be open in light of Finance Department communication O.M No: A/24 (2017)-651 Dated: 07-06-2018 No.FD-Codes/233/2021-02-27 dated 10.02.2022.
- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the item rate / (%) percentage rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
- Price escalation and Taxes: - The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder (item rate basis or %age rate basis whatever the case may be) entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work unless otherwise, specified. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
- In case of CRF and any other specified project, the relevant guidelines/ standard bidding document shall be followed.
- All bidders shall upload the information and documents with their bids such as Copies of original documents defining constitution / legal status, place of registration and Principal place of Business, GST Registration and PAN Card.
- The bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submission of bid.
- A pre-bid meeting will be held to clarify any issues and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage by the bidders. However participation in the pre-bid meeting shall not be binding on bidders.
- All documents relating to the bid shall be in the English language.
- The bidders shall have to quote the rate percentage in the prescribed rate percentage column in case of percentage based BOQ and in case of item rate based BOQ if the bidder does not quote rate for any item or items of the BOQ, cost of such item / items shall be deemed to be part of overall / total contract value and no rate shall be allowed for such item / items in the allotment of contract.
- The successful bidders shall execute the work strictly as per J&K macadamization (execution and quality control) and DLP enforcement manual issued vide Govt. Order No.- 42/PWR&B of 2022 Dated: 03-02-2022.
- Bitumen to be used as per circular of MORTH vide No.RE/NH-35072/05/2018-S&R (R&B) dated 24th August 2018 (Clarification issued by Joint Commissioner (Works) Superintending Engineer Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Srinagar vide no. SMC/JCW/SE/3436-38 Dated: 11-09-2021).
- The execution of work shall have to be carried out in continuous shifts during day & night to enhance the progress of work.
- Class "A", "B" & "C" Civil contractors can participate in E-tendering for macadamization works (within the limits upto which works can be allotted) subject to condition that they will upload an agreement deed on affidavit (duly authenticated) with any HMPO from whom the materials / Machinery shall be procured.
- The Contractor shall concentrate on the condition appearing at S.No.18(a) prior to uploading the tender.

NIT/45/CRD/SMC/SGR/2022-23/e-tendering/
DATED:- 16-11-2022.

Executive Engineer,
City Roads (SMC) Division Srinagar.

JKFA Announce Election Results For DFA Pampore

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Football Association (JKFA) on Wednesday announced the election results of DFA Pampore.

JKFA's Election Committee headed by Wasim Aslam have been conducting elections of various DFAs/Zones of J&K. The election of Football Association DFA Pampore (Awantipora) was held on 15th of Nov 2022 at Hotel Parsa Pampore at Mir's Town In Maal, Frestabal.

Gowhar Bhat (Spectrum) was

elected as President, Zahid Shafi was elected as General Secretary while as Sajid Nazir Treasurer.

The election were supervised by Wasim Aslam Chairman JKFA (Chairman Elections), Prof. B.A Shah General Secretary JKFA, Mohamad Lateef Bhat, Aslam Pervaiz Dar (On Video Conference), Rafiq Ahmad Makdooi, Mohamad Amin. Dr. Towseef, Amjid Rizvi were neutral observers.

President Gowhar Bhat told the media that we will collectively try to restore the glory of football in entire Pampore (Awantipora).

Kashmir Gold Cup Taekwondo Concludes At Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The closing ceremony of 3rd Kashmir Gold Cup Taekwondo was held on Wednesday at S.K Indoor Stadium Srinagar.

Players from Jammu and Kashmir and outside participated in this event which was organised by National Sports Club in collaboration with J&K Sports Council, and was also live telecasted on Doordarshan Kendra New Delhi.

On this occasion, chief guest Raja Ghulam Nabi Wani, Organizing Secretary Kashmir Gold Cup 2022 thanked all the participants and handed over the Trophy to winning team Aglow Institute Chadoora Budgam and distributed Gold/Silver/Bronze Medals among different players for their outstanding perfor-



mances across various events.

Shabir Ahmad, Secretary All India Youth hostel; Maqsood Ahmad Khan, Manager Sheri Kashmir Indoor Stadium Srinagar along with Zahoor Ahmad Dar and Mohammad Amin the renowned sports personalities of Jammu & Kashmir and International Taekwondo Coach, Peer Mohammad from Nepal as Observer were present on the occasion.

Inter-College Pencak Silat Championship Begins At KU

Adil Khan

SRINAGAR: The three-day long Inter-College Pencak Silat (Men/Women) Championship 2022 was inaugurated on Wednesday at Kashmir University. The championship is organised by the Directorate of Physical Education and Sports in collaboration with Pencak Silat Association of J&K.

About 200 students from 14 different colleges of the valley are participating in the event.

Dr. Musavir Ahmad Coordinator DPE&S welcomed all Physical Directors, President Pencak Silat Association and the participants. The coordinator DPE&S encouraged and



wishes the students to give best performance in this championship and assured full support.

An impressive demonstration of the various skills of the

Pencak Silat was performed by Amina National Gold medalist.

Irfan Aziz chief coach of India, Ravees Ahmad were also present on the occasion.

SP College Wins Inter-College Table Tennis

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: SP College Srinagar defeated GDC Bemina on Wednesday in the finals of Inter-College Table Tennis (Men) competition organised by Islamia College of Science and Commerce, to clinch the title.

With a levelled score in the singles sets, the match ended in the 5th set of doubles with a score of 3-2. The final ceremony of the event was held in the TT Hall of the Department of Physical Education and Sports of the College and was graced by Principal ICSC Prof. Sheikh



Ijaz Bashir, Team incharges of different participating Colleges and other faculty of the host college.

All the players were felicitated by the individual medals and trophies were awarded to both winning and losing teams.

3-Day Sports Festival 'Harud' Starts At South Kashmir

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: A three-day long sports festival 'Harud' organised jointly by the J&K Sports Council and team Seven Stars under the 'My Youth My Pride' programme commenced on Wednesday at the Indoor Hall of Nilandrusu, Bijbehara in South Kashmir.

The event witnessed massive participation of athletes and officials besides officers from various government departments on day one.

The festival was inaugurated by

Dr Basharat Qayoom, District Development Commissioner (DDC) Anantnag. He presided over the inaugural function as chief guest while Bashir Ahmad Bhat Joint Secretary J&K Sports Council was the guest of honour on the occasion.

Officers and officials from the Education, Revenue, Sports Council and other government departments attended the event. Secretary J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gull while addressing the gathering over phone assured the team Seven Star of all possible support.



Coaching Camp For Specially-Abled Children Ends At Bandipora

Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: A two-day para-sports coaching camp for specially-abled children concluded on Wednesday at S.K Stadium, Bandipora.

The programme was organised by Ali's Sports Academy Bandipora in collaboration with District Administration Bandipora. The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmed interacted with the specially-abled children to encourage them to perform better in sports.

He said such coaching camp has been organised for the first time in the district and appreciated the efforts of Ali's sports Academy and Padmashree Faisal Ali Dar for identifying and grooming specially-abled children in para-sports.

He said the coaching for Martial Art, Wheelchair Basketball, wheelchair Handball and other sports activities were provided during the coaching camp. Around 15 specially-abled children participated in the two days coaching camp.

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