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Intravenous Opioid Use Surged in Kashmir's Young Population During Pandemic: Study

'Major Chunk Of Patients Relapsed Due To Non-Adherence To Medications', 'More Than 94 Percent Drug Addicts Use Heroin'

Agences

Srinagar: Intravenous opioid use has surged among young population in Kashmir during Covid-19 with many patients having relapsed due to non-adherence to medications during the two years of pandemic, a study conducted

by a Post Graduate Resident Department of Psychiatry (IMHANS) GMC Srinagar along with three other doctors has revealed. The study conducted to find the various sociodemographic variables of substance use disorder

among patients and to study the change in the pattern of substance use disorder has showed that percentage of intravenous opioid use has increased tremendously and that major chunk of patients also relapsed due to non-adherence to

TO COUNTER THESE EMOTIONS MANY PEOPLE INDULGED into and relapsed back and started taking drugs again. This negative coping has led to immense increase in substance use in various populations."

medications during Covid-19 when most of the drug de-addiction centres were closed. "The COVID-19 pandemic and

the various SOP measures have adversely affected substance use patterns adversely. Disruptions in health services and various

treatment plans of people who consume substances were seen in many parts of the world," one among the doctors who conducted the study said.

He said that the lockdown and restrictions during the pandemic could not affect drug trafficking. The curbs implemented to contain the Covid, **| More on P10**

Kashmir Upper Reaches Receive Fresh Snow

Zaid Bin Shabir

Srinagar: The higher reaches of Kashmir Valley, including famous tourist resorts of Gulmarg and Sonmarg received fresh snowfall on Saturday, dipping the day temperature sharply, even as the meteorological department has predicted more rain and snowfall across the Union Territory till Sunday afternoon.

According to officials, the ski resort of Gulmarg, including Appharwat peaks received fresh snowfall on Saturday much to the delight of locals and tourists present in the bowl-shaped Valley. Sonmarg, the gateway to Leh, also received **| More on P10**

Police Turns Heat Over Journalist 'Hit List'

12 Locations In Srinagar, Anantnag, Kulgam Raided

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Widening its probe into the hit list of scribes dubbed army and police agents by shadowy Lashkar group The Resistance Front (TRF), the Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday carried out searches at as many as 12 locations, most of them residences of journalists, in the three districts of Srinagar, Anantnag and Kulgam.

The raids were carried out by a team of 4-5 policemen led by an Inspector, Sub-Inspector rank officer monitored by the SDPO concerned, a police spokesperson said Saturday.

"The raids were supervised by SP South City Srinagar Shri Lakshya Sharma-IPS and launched simultaneous searches at 12 locations across the valley



including the houses of fugitives like Sajjad Gul, Mukhtar Baba, active terrorists of proscribed terror outfit LeT (TRF) and other suspects in Srinagar, Anantnag

and Kulgam Districts," he said. In Srinagar, the spokesperson said, the premises that were raided and searched belonged to Mohammad Rafi **| More on P10**

Centre Calls Back Kansal From J&K

Posted As Additional Secretary In Union Textile Ministry

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Rohit Kansal, Principal Secretary, Information and Higher Education department in Jammu and Kashmir administration will proceed on central deputation after being posted by the government of India as additional secretary in Union Textile Ministry.

Kansal's transfer was ordered by the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) in an order issued Saturday. The Appointment Committee of Cabinet has posted Kansal, a 1995-batch IAS officer of Union Territory cadre, as additional secretary in Union Textiles Ministry.

Apart from Kansal, over two dozen IAS and IRS have been shifted by the DoPT. After returning **| More on P10**

Will Fight Next Assembly Elections: Dr Farooq

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Only a day after the National Conference announced that Dr Farooq Abdullah has decided to step down from the post of president of the party former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister on Saturday said he will be contesting the next assembly elections.

Abdullah, who had hinted that he will be relinquishing the presidency of NC next month, said he is not escaping the responsibility and will continue to work to strengthen the party.

"Insha Allah, I am going to fight the next Assembly elections whenever held (in J&K)," Abdullah told reporters here on the sidelines of a function



organised to welcome new entrants into the party. Several political activists, including Gurjeet Sharma from Nagrota, joined the National Conference in presence of Abdullah and Jammu provincial president Rattan Lal Gupta. Asked about **| More on P10**

PEOPLE WILL FILE THEIR NOMINATIONS and the party delegates will decide who will be the next party president. I am going to contest the Assembly elections."


Sarah Rizvi, IPS Posted As DIG J&K Police

Observer News Service


Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday posted an Indian Police Service (IPS) officer from Gujarat as the Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) of police. Sarah Rizvi, a 2008 batch IPS officer was posted as DIG (Administration), at the Police Headquarters, J&K in an order issued by the Home Department.

In August this year, the central government approved inter-cadre deputation of **| More on P10**






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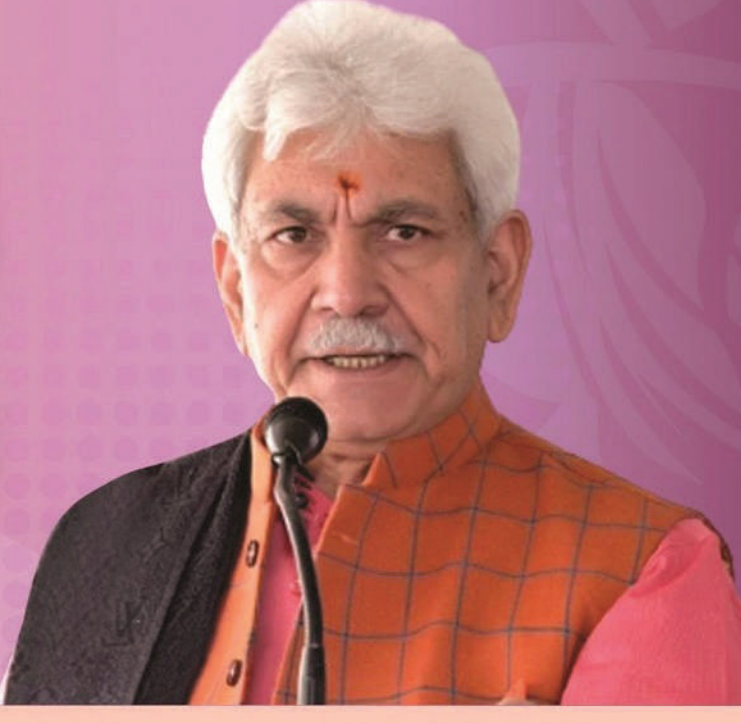


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How Bad Is It Really to Use Non-Stick Cookware?

Lacey Muinos
livestrong

Your frying pan is likely one of your most-used kitchen tools. Non-stick pans are especially convenient because they have a coating that makes them easier to use and clean. But while they're easier, there's some debate as to whether or not non-stick cookware is really safe.

Here, we take a deep dive into what the existing research has to say on the safety of non-stick cookware.

Non-stick cookware makes it easy to cook foods like eggs and hash browns with less butter or oil. But, there's some controversy surrounding the potential health risks of chemicals used to make non-stick pans.

At high temperatures, non-stick coatings break down and can release harmful chemicals, but there's a lot we still don't know about how these chemicals affect us. The long-term effects of these chemicals accumulating in the human body aren't well understood.

When used as directed and at lower temperatures, non-stick cookware is relatively safe to use, though alternatives also exist.

What Is Non-Stick Cookware?

Non-stick cookware includes pots and pans that are coated with synthetic compounds designed to make the cookware easier to use and clean. This can include saucepans, dutch ovens, utensils and other types of cooking equipment,

but it's mostly associated with frying pans and shallow skillet.

The most commonly used compound to make non-stick coatings is polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), according to an October 2017 review in Environmental Science and Pollution Research International. It's most commonly referred to as Teflon — a brand name of the material.

Teflon is popular in cookware because it is resistant to heat and acts as a water repellant, so it can get very hot but allows liquid ingredients to move around so they don't adhere to the pan. It's also found in some textiles.

Other cookware materials of concern include perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). These chemicals have been used for decades not only in cookware but in other household products like carpets and paper goods. It's highly resistant to heat, sticking and scratching.

Non-stick material is only used for the coating on the outer surface of the cookware. The core may still be made of other materials, such as stainless steel, aluminum, ceramic or other materials. Because chemicals like PTFE, PFOA and PFOS aren't as understood, ceramic non-stick coatings are becoming more common.

Potential Risks of Non-Stick Cookware

There are talks that non-stick pans and cookware made with chemicals like PTFE, PFOA and PFOS may raise the risk of certain diseases or have other negative health consequences.

The idea is that the non-stick coating breaks down and flakes off over time, allowing small pieces to get into the food that you eat, so the chemicals enter your body and cause harm.

Potential PTFE Risks

Aware of the concerns surrounding PTFE, the leading maker of non-stick coatings, Teflon, suggest that Teflon non-stick coatings are safe to use up to 500 degrees Fahrenheit and contribute to a heart-healthy lifestyle because they lower the need for oil



fat, per the Teflon website. But this may be biased, so let's take a look at the existing research.

Some studies show PTFE-coated cookware can release gasses and chemicals that are mildly to severely toxic to people, according to the October 2017 Environmental Science and Pollution Research International review. But the researchers say more studies are needed for firm conclusions on the long-term effects.

Non-stick coatings made with PTFE may

leach microplastics into food during the cooking process. Microplastics are very small pieces of plastic debris that enter our bodies through the degradation of plastics in our environment, and while we don't yet fully understand their effects on our health, they're a growing concern, according to a May 2021 article in Nature.

Thousands to millions of microplastics may be released during cooking with PTFE-coated cookware, according to December 2022 research in The Science of the Total Environment.

Potential PFOA and PFOS Risks

There are similar concerns for PFOA and PFOS coatings. Because it doesn't break down easily, PFOA exposure is very common in humans, but the health effects are largely unknown, according to the CDC.

Animal and human studies have linked these chemicals to a higher risk for various cancers, such as testicular and breast cancers, according to the American Cancer Society. But more research is needed on how they affect people.

What we do know is that agencies like the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have introduced measures to lower our exposure to PFOA and PFOS because they can accumulate in the human body over long periods of time. For this reason, many non-stick coatings no longer use PFOA and PFOS.

So, Is Non-Stick Cookware Safe?

Scholarships for Kashmir Observer

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

Scholarship Name 1: Credit Suisse Scholarship for MBA and MA (Economics) Students 2022

Description: Buddy4Study invites applications from students enrolled in MBA/MA (Economics) courses in selected institutions. The scholarship aims to provide the necessary financial support which can help qualified candidates bridge the gap between the cost of the program fees and their ability to pay the fee.

Eligibility: Applicants must be enrolled in MBA/MA (Economics) programs at one of the designated institutions.

They must have passed Class 12 or Graduation and scored at least 60% marks or above.

Prizes & Rewards: INR 50,000 per year
Last Date to Apply: 30-11-2022
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/YUUS1

Scholarship Name 3: Kotak Kanya Scholarship 2022

Description: Under the CSR Project on Education & Livelihood of Kotak Mahindra Group Companies, Kotak Education Foundation invites applications for Kotak Kanya Scholarship 2022 from Class 12th passed girl students, who have secured more than 75% and whose annual family income is less than or equivalent to INR



Demonstrate significant financial need, defined as family income less than or equal to INR 500,000 per annum (subject to verification by Buddy4Study)

Prizes & Rewards: Up to 80% of total fees or a fixed sum of up to INR 200,000, whichever is lesser
Last Date to Apply: 24-12-2022
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/CSE4

Scholarship Name 2: Laduma Dhamecha Yuva Scholarship Program 2022

Description: Laduma Dhamecha Yuva Scholarship Program 2022 aims at motivating meritorious students from financially weaker families and helping them in pursuing engineering and medical studies.

Eligibility: The scholarship is open for students from Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Delhi NCR who have successfully passed Class 10/Class 12 examination with a minimum of 85% marks. Applicants must be pursuing JEE/NEET coaching after Class 10 or first-year engineering/MBBS program. Annual family income of applicants must not be more than INR 3,00,000 from all sources.

3,20,000. The scholarship aims to help meritorious girl students from underprivileged sections of society to pursue professional graduation courses from acclaimed universities and colleges.

Eligibility: Meritorious girl students who have secured admission to 1st year graduation programmes in professional courses from institutes of repute (NAAC/NIRF accredited) can apply. Professional courses include professional graduation courses like Engineering, MBBS, Architecture, Design, integrated LLB, etc.

Applicants must have scored more than 75% marks in their Class 12th board examinations.

Annual family income must be INR 3,20,000 or less from all sources.

Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 1.5 lakh* per year
*Disclaimer: Please note, the renewal of the scholarship every year will be at the sole discretion of the Kotak Education Foundation

Last Date to Apply: 30-11-2022
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/KKGS12

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Office of the Executive Engineer, (Jal Shakti) PHE, Mechanical Rural Division, Sgr.

GIST of Short term e-Tender.

Short Term E-N.I.T. No:- PHE/MRD/TS/ 126 of 11/2022

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Short term e-tenders are invited in two cover system from approved and eligible Contractors having GST registration/registered with J&K Govt., Railways and other State/Central Government Organizations for the following work:-

Sr.	Nature of Work	Location	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of Tender	Time of Completion	Programme
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Repairs carried out at 100 KVA 11KV (HT/LT) Distribution Transformer at WSS	Doodpathri	0.365	100/=	07 days	M&R

Critical Dates/Information.

1.	Publishing Date	19-11-2022 (5:00 PM)
2.	Period of Downloading of Bids	19-11-2022 (5:00 PM) to 26 -11-2022 (11:00 AM)
3.	Period of Submission of bids	19-11-2022 (5:00 PM) to 26 -11-2022 (11:00 AM)
4.	Date of opening of Tender/Timing	26 -11-2022 (12:00 PM)
5.	Tender Receiving Authority: Executive Engineer , (Jal Shakti) PHE Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar	
	Document Cost : Non-Refundable in the shape of Treasury Challan/receipt shall be deposited to Account Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar. (The firm shall specify the e-NIT No. & name of work for which applied)	
6.		
7.	Bid Validity Period: 90 Days	
8.	The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on www.Jktenders.gov.in	
	Instead of EMD the firm has to furnish "Bid Security Declaration", format of the declaration is enclosed in the Bid Document	
09		

Note:- The tenderer who is declared as L1 after opening of price bid will deposit 3% of the Estimated cost of the work in shape of CDR/FDR before allotment is issued in his favour.

No: -PHE/MRD /TS/3541-45

DT:- 19-11-2022

Executive Engineer,

Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar.

DIPK-13759/22

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT)

PHE GROUND WATER DIVISION SRINAGAR.

Baghi- Ali- Mardan Nowshera Srinagar

EXTENSION NOTICE

In view of "No Response" for e-NIT No: - PHE/GWDS/ 26 of 11/2022, PHE/GWDS/4120-26, Tender ID:- 2022_PHE_195342_1 for the work:-

1. Providing and fixing of glass panes and floor matting at Divisional Office PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar/e-NIT No. PHE/GWDS/ 26 of 11/2022, PHE/GWDS/4120-26 which was scheduled to be downloaded till 19-11-2022 (02.00 P.M) are hereby Extended as per the details given below.

S.No	Item	Fresh Date
	Last date of Downloading of bids	22/11/2022 (04:00 P.M)
	Last date of Submission of bids	22/11/2022 (04:00 P.M)
	Date of opening of tenders	23/11/2022 (02:00 P.M)

Note:-

All other term and conditions shall remain same as laid down in Master NIT issued vide above referred endstt. No's.

DIPK-13804/22

No: PHE/GWD/4337-39

Dated:- 19-11-2022.

Executive Engineer

(JAL SHAKTI Department)

PHE Ground Water Div. Sgr.

Copy to be:-

Subject:- Grant Of Registration of the Proposed Travel unit under the name & Style "M/S M/S Waheel Travelon Kashmir" Situated At Srinagar-Gulmarg Road 1St Floor Naaz Complex Near SBI Magam

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas I Mr. Waheel Hussain Malla S/o Gh Mohd Malla R/o Kanterbugh Gund Khawaja Qasim Pattan Kashmir intends to apply in the department of Tourism for Registration of my proposed Travel unit under the name and style "M/s Waheel Travelon Kashmir" situated at Srinagar-Gulmarg Road 1st Floor Naaz Complex Near SBI Magam under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Before the case is processed for registration by the competent authority the matter is hereby notified for information of general public / Financial Institutions / Bank/ Organization, Etc For Objection, If Any And The Same Should Reach To The Deputy Director Tourism registration (email: ddtreg123@gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

bmj

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR, UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES (PREVENTION) TRIBUNAL, CHAMBER NO. 15, GROUND FLOOR, BLOCK 'A', DELHI HIGH COURT, NEW DELHI-110503

RE: Notification bearing No. S.O.4559(E) dated 27th September, 2022, published in the Official Gazette on 28th September, 2022 declaring the Popular Front of India (PFI) and its associates or affiliates or fronts including Rehab India Foundation (RIF), Campus Front of India (CFI), All India Imams Council (AIIIC), National Confederation of Human Rights Organization (NCHRO), National Women's Front, Junior Front, Empower India Foundation and Rehab Foundation, Kerala as "unlawful association" in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-sections (1) and (3) of Section-3 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention), 1967 read with Notification No. S.O. 4758(E) dated 06th October, 2022

To

Popular Front of India (PFI) and its associates or affiliates or fronts

WHEREAS the Central Government in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-sections (1) and (3) of Section 3 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (37 of 1967) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") has declared Popular Front of India (PFI) and its associates or affiliates or fronts vide Notification No. S.O.4559 (E) dated 27th September, 2022 [published in the Gazette of India: Extraordinary Part II, Section 3 (iii)].

AND WHEREAS by Gazette Notification No. S.O.4758(E) dated 06th October, 2022 [published in the Gazette of India: Extraordinary Part II, Section 3 (iii)], in exercise of powers under sub-section (1) of Section 5 read with subsection (1) of Section 4 of the Act, the Central Government has constituted a Tribunal comprising Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma, Judge of the High Court of Delhi, for adjudicating as to whether there is sufficient cause for declaring Popular Front of India (PFI) and its associates or affiliates or fronts including Rehab India Foundation (RIF), Campus Front of India (CFI), All India Imams Council (AIIIC), National Confederation of Human Rights Organization (NCHRO), National Women's Front, Junior Front, Empower India Foundation and Rehab Foundation, Kerala as "Unlawful Association" as required by sub-section (1) of Section 4 of the said Act.

NOW THEREFORE, a notice is hereby given under sub-section (2) of Section 4 of the Act and you are hereby called upon to show cause, within 30 days from the date of service of notice, as to why your Associations, declared as unlawful, be not adjudicated to be so and why an order confirming such declaration be not made under Section 4(3) of the Act.

The objections/reply affidavits, if any, may be filed/delivered, before the next date of hearing of the Tribunal, to the undersigned at his office in Chamber No. 15, Ground Floor, 'A' Block, Delhi High Court, Sher Shah Road, New Delhi-110503. In case the objections/reply and the documents are in regional language, true English Translation thereof be also attached.

You may appear through a duly authorized person before the Tribunal on 08.12.2022 at 4:00 pm in Court Room No. 24 Ground Floor, 'A' Block, Delhi High Court, Sher Shah Road, New Delhi-110503 for further proceedings.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal, High Court of Delhi, New Delhi this the 31st October, 2022.

(Reetesh Singh)
Registrar

DP/9403/2022 Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal

از نیابت وائکولکر پورہ

با اجلاس نائب تحصیلدار انکیز ٹیکو مجسٹریٹ دجاول

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عادل طاریق لون 19 سال زیر تعلیم

مزل طاریق 16 سال زیر تعلیم

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نائب تحصیلدار ay kuz



Meet Aslam, A Coppersmith Whose Innovations Infuse New Life To Dying Art

Agencies

Srinagar: A well-known coppersmith's innovations has infused a new life to the dying art as he hasn't kept copperware confined with utensils only.

Muhammad Aslam Bhat, from KK Mohalla Shamaswari, Srinagar has given new life to this dying art by making innovative things with different designs.

Bhat said that his parents and even grandparents were associated with this craft and it was his passion to make innovative things and from an early age he started working at their workshop.

"I have faced many difficulties which everyone faces in any field but earning anything with hard-work always makes you feel happy," he said. "Despite working for decades, I am still passionate about making new things that are going to benefit the public".

He said: "The new things in this craft which I have made so far include motifs of shrines, lamp shades, table lamps and traditional utensils like Majma, handi and other things," he said. "When I see the new

things which I have made are giving any benefit to the public, it gives me a peace of mind and ignites my passion to make more such things".

Earlier there was no government support but now the government has started organising awareness programmes to keep this art alive which is a very welcome step, he said.

"Authorities had told me that registration is very hectic, however, when they saw my work, they provided me registration in just five minutes," he added. "I am now being invited by the government in Kashmir and other parts of India to make people understand about it and even students are sent here for practical work who are interested in this craft."

Bhat said that as the unemployment rate is increasing with each passing day, youth can easily establish their business in any craft and with the help of social media, they can sell pure products easily and not only earn livelihood for themselves but create opportunities for others as well—(KNO)



Auto Mechanics burn firewood to warm themselves on a Chilly winter morning. KO Photo Abid Bhat

DC Reviews Status Of Works Under District Capex Plan

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to review the physical and financial status of the works taken up under District Capex Plan 2022-23 in the District, a meeting of all Sectoral/District Officers was held under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad on Saturday.

Besides, Additional District Development Commissioner, Srinagar, Zahoor Ahmad Mir and Chief Planning Officer, Mohammad Yaseen Lone, the meeting was attended by all District/Sectoral Officers, Engineers and other concerned.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review of funds released and expenditure incurred under R&B, PHE, Education, Health, RDD PMGSY, NRLM, ICDS and

other sectors, besides progress of works taken up under DDC, BDC and PRI grants were also discussed in threadbare.

The DC after taking sector wise review of all works directed the officers to ensure 100 percent expenditure in the set time line by accelerating the pace of the works scheduled for completion during the current year. He directed the officers to work in coordinated manner with line Departments to achieve development goals well in time keeping in view the limited working season.

The DC also exhorted for mobilizing men and machinery for completing the projects being implemented in the larger interest of the public in stipulated time frame besides urged to ensure productive and fruitful utilization of the available resources.

The DC asked all the line Departments to ensure timely submission of works bills to concerned Treasuries. While Treasury Officers were asked to clear all bills on time.

The DC also asked the RDD officers to ensure judicious utilization of funds and achieve target under stipulated time with visible impact on works on ground.

On the occasion, the DC was apprised that under District Capex, total 697 works were taken up out of which 307 works have been completed while rest of works are going on.

Similarly, under Centrally Sponsored Schemes, 176 works were taken up out of which 57 works were completed. While 15 works taken up under NABARD sector one is completed and remaining works are being carried out in the District.

Food Alert:

Authorities Declare ‘A Batch Of Nestle Milkmaid’ Unsafe

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir have issued a ‘food alert’ asking consumers to stop using ‘Sweetened Condensed Partly Skimmed Milk’ (Nestle Milkmaid).

In this regard, a notice has been issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir's office of the Commissioner Food and Drugs Administration.

Commissioner Food and Drugs Administration, J&K, Shakeel-Ur-Rehman as per has informed that a sample of food article, ‘Sweetened Condensed Partly Skimmed Milk’ (Nestle Milkmaid) was lifted by Food Safety Officer, Zone II, Srinagar from the premises of M/S ‘Daily Bazar Provisional Store, Saida Kadal, Rainawari area of Srinagar on 19 September 2022 for analysis of quality and safety parameters under Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006.

The Commissioner said that the Food Analyst,

National Food Laboratory, Ghaziabad, where the said sample was analyzed has declared the sample as ‘Unsafe & Sub-Standard’.

The banned product ‘Sweetened Condensed Partly Skimmed Milk’ (Nestle Milkmaid) vide batch number 00-520451ZA is being manufactured by M/S Nestle India Limited at Ludhiana Ferozpur region of Punjab.

The product has been declared unsafe as the sample shows the total plate count above the maximum prescribed limit and the milk protein in milk solids not fat below the maximum prescribed limit.

The general public has been informed to discontinue the usage of the food product with batch or lot number 00-520451ZA.

Commissioner Food and Drugs Administration, J&K, has asked all the stakeholder in possession of this product to recall this product from the market and also inform the Designated Officers about the stock position. (with KNT inputs)

79 Shopkeepers At Sangarmal Complex Owe Rs 2.83 Cr To SDA

Agencies

Srinagar: At least 79 shopkeepers allotted shops at Sangarmal Complex Srinagar owe more than Rs 2 Crore rent to Srinagar Development Authority.

The information as per news agency Kashmir News Trust was revealed by Srinagar Development Authority in response to an applica-

tion filed under the Right to Information Act by social activist Mir Mubashir Shujah.

The rent pending from the occupants of Sangarmal Complex Srinagar is till August 2022 while SDA claims that it has taken several steps to recover the outstanding from these shopkeepers.

As per the official document, 79 occupants owe Rs 2,83,81,217 to Srinagar Development Authority. (KNT)

LCMA Conducts Demolition Drive In Various City Areas

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Enforcement Wing of Lake Conservation & Management Authority (LCMA) today conducted a demolition drive in the area of Brein Nishat, Ishber Nishat, Saderbal, Check Saderbal, Doodh Mohalla NFR, Pazwalpora Shalimar, Saida Kadal, Wangund Teilbal and Danpora Teilbal.

During the drive, 04 Single Storeys, 01 3rd Storey, 01 Shuttering for Plinth, 01 Shop and Shuttering for

Compound Walling were demolished / removed.

Moreover, illegal earth filling dumped in the area of Brein Nishat and Saida Kadal were also removed on the spot.

Further, legal action against the violators was also initiated.

Meanwhile, LCMA has warned people not to resort to any illegal constructions/ encroachments and asked them to get proper building permission from the competent Authority before taking any construction in hand.

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- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS
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RAILWAYS

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- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJBHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
24 Rabi ul Sani
1444

PRAYERS

FAJR	5:40
ZUHR	12:14
ASR	3:50
Magrib	5:30
ISHA	7:51

This Day In History

- 1815 - 2nd Treaty of Paris: France & her allies agree France pay indemnities after Battle of Waterloo, ending Napoleonic Wars
- 1817 - First Seminole War begins in Florida
- 1917 - 1st successful tank use in battle, at the Battle of Cambrai in World War I as Britain uses the new technology to break through German lines
- 1917 - Ukrainian Republic declared
- 1940 - World War II: Hungary, Romania and Slovakia join the Axis Powers
- 1959 - UN adopts Universal Declaration of Children's Rights
- 1965 - UN Security council calls for boycott of Rhodesia
- 1977 - Egyptian President Anwar Sadat becomes the 1st Arab leader to address Israeli Knesset.
- 1980 - United Nations Gulf War mediator Olof Palme makes first unsuccessful peace shuttle between Tehran and Baghdad
- 1984 - SETI Institute (Search for ExtraTerrestrial Intelligence) is founded.
- 1985 - Microsoft Windows 1.0 is released
- 1990 - British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher fails to defeat Michael Heseltine's bid for leadership of the Conservative Party
- 1990 - US 68th manned space mission STS 38 (Atlantis 7) returns from space
- 1990 - Saddam Hussein announces plans to release German hostages
- 1990 - Soviet Union shows reluctance to endorse the use of force against Iraq
- 1994 - Kosmos 2294/2295/2296 launches
- 1994 - Angolan government and UNITA rebels sign the Lusaka Protocol in Zambia, ending 19 years of civil war.
- 1997 - Iraq's Revolution Command Council formally endorses an agreement, arranged by Russia, that enables UN weapons inspection teams to resume operations in Iraq.
- 1998 - Court in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan declares Osama bin Laden "a man without a sin" in regard to the 1998 U.S. embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania
- 2003 - After the November 15 bombings, a second day of the 2003 Istanbul Bombings occurs in Istanbul, Turkey, destroying the Turkish head office of HSBC Bank AS and the British consulate.
- 2008 - After critical failures in the US financial system began to build up after mid-September, the Dow Jones Industrial Average reaches its lowest level since 1997.
- 2009 - The Mexican government declares its economy technically out of recession after 2.93% GDP growth in the third quarter of 2009; Mexico had been in a severe economic crisis for over a year prior to its economic rebound

From KO Archives

Pir Baba Makes Hostile Soldiers Freeze Their Enmity

Observer News Service

Srinagar- The inhabitants of Tangdhar and the adjoining villages heave a sigh of relief as the booming guns have all of a sudden fallen silent. Call it cherisma of the Pir Baba whose shrine falls just across the Line of Control or sanity that prevailed over the minds of the ever hostile soldiers facing each other on this Line, that the hapless people of the area have got a breather.

The soldiers on both the sides have entered in to a truce to facilitate locals to celebrate the Urs of Pir baba. The Shrine of the revered Pir Baba Sai Mitha, is located in the Pakistani controlled part of Kashmir and the devotees from this side of the line have been deprived to pay a visit to the shrine ever since the turmoil began in Kashmir.

The Pir Baba is held in high esteem by one and all irrespective of the religious beliefs. Locals believe that all incurable diseases like deafness, dumbness, paralysis and contagious diseases like leprosy get cured by the blessing of the Pir, but consequent to the outbreak of turmoil in Kashmir people have been craving for a visit.

The army in Tangdhar started organising the Urs in its own side last year. Seeing enthusiasm and response of the local populace it was decided to proceed in a big way to celebrate the event this year. There was tremendous response noticed from the local population from the very first day, wherein close to 600 devotees from all villages of Tangdhar turned up to offer their prayers. People were seen walking from distant villages and offering prayers to fulfillment of their wishes.

(Kashmir Observer, 20 November, 1998)

Differences Intensify In Pak Govt Over Appointment Of New Army Chief

Press Trust of India

Differences seem to have intensified in the Pakistan government over the appointment of the new Army chief with top brasses of the ruling coalition making contradictory statements on the key issue.

The appointment of a successor to Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa, 61, who is set to retire on November 29, is an administrative matter. Under the law, the incumbent prime minister is empowered to select any one of the top three-star generals. But politically it means installing someone who may pull the strings and even determine the fate of the person who appointed him.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday initiated the keenly anticipated consultations with his government allies on the all-important appointment of a new Army chief, even as Defence Minister Khawaja Asif revealed that a name would be announced by Tuesday or Wednesday, the Dawn News reported on Saturday.

Interestingly, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said consultations had been completed and the new Army chief would be appointed in a day or two. He said any delay in the matter would not be "appropriate".

In another significant devel-



opment, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Asif Ali Zardari said his party believed in the promotion system for the army and the appointment of the military head should not be politicised, otherwise it could harm the institution.

"All three-star generals are equal and capable [to hold the office]," the former president said, noting that the top army boss's appointment would be made by the prime minister as per the Constitution.

PPP is Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) largest ally in the Shehbaz Sharif-led government.

Quoting sources, the Dawn report said that Prime Minister Sharif, who is currently under quarantine after testing positive for Covid-19, has also spoken to Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on the Army chief's appointment.

A formal meeting between the two leaders is expected on Saturday or Sunday.

Iran Accuses Israel, Western Spy Agencies Of Plotting 'Civil War'

Agencies

Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abolmohammadi has accused Israel and its Western allies of plotting a "civil war" in the protest-hit country.

Security services, Israel, and Western politicians had "made plans for a civil war and the destruction and disintegration of Iran", Amir-Abolmohammadi wrote on Twitter on Thursday.

"Today, enemies have targeted the integrity of Iran and Iranian identity."

But, he added, they "must know that Iran is not Libya or Sudan" and that the "wisdom of our people has thwarted their plan".

His comment came after state media said 10 people, including a woman, two children and a police officer, were killed in two separate attacks by gunmen on motorbikes during protests in southern Iran.

General Hossein Salami, head of the Revolutionary Guards, said Iran was facing a "conspiracy".

"The United States, England, Germany, France, Israel, Saudi Arabia and their allies are preparing to fight God, his prophet and the martyrs," Salami said, quoted by Fars news agency.

"This is a huge conspiracy against the nation, and some people inside the country have become puppets of the enemy to destroy the Iranian nation," he added.



UNREST AND DEATHS Demonstrations have rocked Iran since the September 16 death of Mahsa Amini, after her arrest for an alleged breach of the country's dress rules for women.

Amini's death and the following protests have drawn international condemnation of Iran's leadership, which has struggled to suppress the unrest and blamed foreign enemies and their alleged local agents.

Police Colonel Hassan Yousefi was stabbed to death on Thursday in Sanandaj, state media reported.

A video posted by the state news agency IRNA showed protesters attacking a municipality building and other public properties in the West Azerbaijan region.

Iran was hit by a spate of attacks on Wednesday.

Seven people were killed in the southwestern city of Izeh in what state media described as a "terrorist attack".

Elsewhere, gunmen riding a motorcycle shot several members of the security forces in the central city of Isfahan, killing two people and injuring eight, according to state television.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attacks, which state TV blamed on "rioters".

Palestine Declares Day Of Mourning After Fire Kills 21 In Gaza

Agencies

At least 21 people have been killed and several others injured after a fire broke out in a building where residents attended a party in Gaza, health and civil emergency officials said.

Footage circulated on social media showed and witnesses said the whole residential building caught fire on Thursday in the Jabalia refugee camp in northern Gaza, sending up flames and smoke from the site. Witnesses said they could hear screaming but they could not reach the victims to offer help because of the intensity of the fire.

Gaza's civil defence unit confirmed in a statement that 21 people had been killed.

Jabalia is one of eight refugee camps in Gaza, home to

2.3 million people, and one of the most densely populated areas in the world.

Hamas, which governs the Israel-blockaded Palestinian enclave, said the cause of the fire remained unknown and that several others had been injured, without providing figures.

PALESTINE TO MOURN DEATHS

The head of the Indonesian Hospital in Jabalia, Saleh Abu Laila, told the AFP news agency that the facility had received the bodies of at least seven children.

While the cause of the fire remained unknown, a spokesperson for the civil defence unit told AFP that supplies of fuel were stored in the house.

Palestine's President Mahmoud Abbas, based in the Israeli-occupied West Bank — a

separate Palestinian territory — called the fire "a national tragedy", his spokesperson said.

Abbas declared a day of mourning on Friday, with flags to be flown at half-mast, and offered to send aid to families of the victims to "ease their suffering", spokesperson Nabil Abu Rudeineh said in a statement.

A senior official with the Palestinian Authority in the occupied West Bank, Hussein Al Sheikh, said in reaction to the blaze that the PA had urged Israel to open the Erez crossing between Gaza and Israel for urgent medical evacuations of serious cases.

ISRAELI BLOCKADE

Gaza, densely populated with 2.3 million people, has been under Israeli blockade since 2007.

New Israeli Airstrikes On Syria Leave Several Dead



Agencies

In the early hours of 19 November, the Israeli air force attacked Syria for the second time in the span of a week, killing and injuring several soldiers of the Syrian Arab Army (SAA).

"Around 6:30am in the morning, the Israeli enemy carried out an air aggression from over the Mediterranean Sea towards Baniyas, targeting the central and coastal regions. Our air defenses engaged the incoming missiles," reads a statement by the SAA in the wake of the attack.

Reportedly, at least two soldiers from the air defense units were killed inside their vehicle, as the Israeli jets suppressed Syrian defenses to ensure a successful hit on their targets, per procedure.

Hours earlier, at least three Israeli jets were reported over southern Lebanon, causing several sonic booms over Hasbaya province. Sonic booms were also heard over Tel Aviv, as the Israeli air force was on standby for order to attack.

The attack followed notable activity of two US Boeing RC135U and Boeing RC135W electronic intelligence planes, that monitored the Syrian coastal and eastern cities throughout the day, on 18 November.

Six day ago on 13 November, Tel Aviv attacked several military installations in Homs governorate, killing three soldiers and injuring

20 others.

The unprovoked attack was launched from the direction of northern Lebanon, targeting an ammunition warehouse at Shayrat airfield. Additionally, the attack destroyed a Russian-made Buk air defense missile system and the entrance of two flight hangers.

According to informed sources that spoke with The Cradle, a total of four targets were destroyed at the airfield, while 4 Israeli missiles were successfully intercepted by SAA AD. The attack coincided with the landing of an Iranian Ilyushin Il-76 plane a few days earlier and intense Israeli aerial activity over Lebanon.

For years, the undeterred Israeli aggression on Syria has not confronted by Russia, despite the strategic alliance between Moscow and Damascus. Russian President Vladimir Putin continues to abstain from interfering in favor of the SAA against the Israeli army.

However, since the start of the Russian operation in Ukraine, Israeli officials have decided to go against their western allies on public support to Kiev, in fear of provoking a Russian retaliation in Syria.

Nonetheless, Tel Aviv is showcasing a change of heart, as Israeli media has reported that NATO member states were allowed to provide Ukraine with weapons that contain Israeli-made components, ending their ban on exports.

No Criminal Law Allows Bulldozing Houses In Name Of Investigation: High Court

Press Trust of India

GUWAHATI: The Gauhati High Court has stressed that bulldozing of a house is not provided under any criminal law, even if an agency is investigating a very serious matter.

Chief Justice RM Chhaya made this observation while hearing a suo motu case taken up by the high court regarding the demolition of the house of an accused in an arson case in Nagaon district of Assam.

The Batadrava Police Station was set on fire on May 21 by a mob following the alleged custodial death of a local fish trader, Safikul Islam (39), who was picked up by police the night before.

A day later, the district authorities had demolished at least

six houses, including Islam's, using a bulldozer purportedly in search of weapons and drugs hidden beneath the structures.

"Even if a very serious matter is being investigated by an agency, bulldozing of a house is not provided under any criminal law," Justice Chhaya observed.

Emphasising that it requires permission to even search a house, he said, "Tomorrow if you need something, you will dig up my courtroom." The chief justice said that nobody will be safe if pulling down anyone's house is permitted in the name of an investigation. "We are in a democratic set-up," he added.

Pointing out that one 0.9 mm pistol was recovered by demolishing the house, as submitted in

the government affidavit, Chief Justice Chhaya also raised apprehension that it could have been planted.

He maintained that incidents of such bulldozing of houses are done in movies, and even in those, the search warrant is shown before the act.

The chief justice equated the bulldozing of the houses to an act in a 'gang war' and asked the Home department to find better ways of carrying out their investigation.

"There is a purpose why 'law and order' words are used together...this is not the manner in which law and order is controlled," he said in his observation on Thursday.

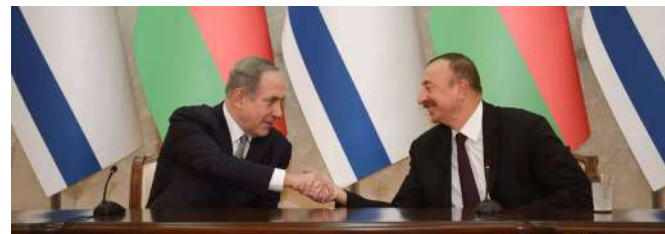
The matter will be heard again on December 12.

Azerbaijan parliament approves opening embassy in Israel

Agencies

The Azerbaijani Parliament on 18 November approved the opening of an embassy in Israel, making it the first embassy in Israel from a Shia Muslim majority country, according to the Times of Israel.

The new embassy will be based in Tel Aviv, where Baku already has a Tourism Office and a Trade Representative Office. Israel and Azerbaijan have had relations for 30 years, and there has been an Israeli embassy in Baku since 1993.



Outgoing Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid praised the decision, calling Azerbaijan "an important partner of Israel and home to one of the largest Jewish communities in the Muslim world," according to the Times of Israel.

"The decision to open an embassy reflects the depth of relations between the countries," Lapid added.

Azerbaijan's move comes during a time of heightened tensions with Iran, including military exercises on both sides of the border area.

Iran and Azerbaijan share a 420-mile border, and there has long been speculation that Israel has launched covert operations in Iran from its northern

neighbor. Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian accused Israel of having "established its presence in several regions of Azerbaijan," which Baku denied, according to Mehr News Agency.

Israel and Azerbaijan have a close defense relationship. Jerusalem has supplied military drones to Baku, which were used in its war against Armenia over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region.

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute found that 69 percent of Azerbaijan's

arms imports in 2016-2020 came from Israel, accounting for 17 percent of Israel's arms exports in that period. About 40 percent of oil imported to Israel comes from Azerbaijan, according to Fars News Agency.

On 11 November, the Iranian Foreign Ministry summoned the ambassador of Azerbaijan to Tehran to protest the propaganda campaign waged by the country's officials and media against Iran, according to Armenpress news.

As Iranian authorities currently grapple with months-long protests and nationwide demonstrations, the Iranian government views with concern the growing influence of Israel in Azerbaijan.

Shraddha's Ex-Colleague Reveals Shocking Details Of Abuse By Aaftab, Intervention Of His Parents

Press Trust of India

It was in November 2020 that Shraddha Walkar first spoke to me about the physical assault she was facing from Aaftab Amin Poonawala, says her colleague Karan, adding that she was about to approach the police but things were sorted between the couple due to the intervention by Aaftab's parents.

Karan, who worked with Walker in Mumbai till March 2021, remembers her as a "lively and energetic person". His chats with Walkar about the assault are doing the rounds on social media.

Talking to PTI in a Zoom interview, he says, "On normal days, Shraddha used to jump around in office, but on some days when she had fights with Aaftab, she isolated herself so that she does not have to lie. I cannot imagine Aaftab going to this extent..."

Poonawala allegedly strangled Walkar, 27, on May 18 and sawed her body into 35 pieces which he kept in a 300-litre fridge for almost three weeks at his residence in South Delhi's Mehrauli before dumping them across the city over several days past midnight.

Demanding justice for Walkar, Karan says he is ready to cooperate with the police in whatever way he can.

The WhatsApp chats between Karan and Walkar have revealed a pattern of abuse when the victim lived with Poonawala in their



hometown Vasai near Mumbai. Similarly, pictures of Walkar dating back to 2020 with visible injury marks also surfaced on social media.

"Those chats are from November 2020 and that was the first time when she opened up about the domestic violence and the beatings that she was going through in her relationship with Aaftab," he says.

Recollecting how she had sent him a picture in which a black mark under her right eye and neck bruises were visible, Karan says he does not have that picture now.

All that is left with him are the chats and a medical report that Walkar had shared with him in December when she had to seek treatment for her injured spine and neck due to the beating by Poonawala.

Hearing about the abuse, did he counsel her to move out of the volatile relationship?

Karan says, "When she started working with me, she never told me about it (domestic violence)... It was only in November (2020) when she was badly hurt and could not trust anyone that she talked about it..."

NEWS MAKERS

PM Modi, Congress Pay Tributes To Indira Gandhi On Her Birth Anniversary

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Congress leaders on Saturday paid rich tributes to former prime minister Indira Gandhi on her 105th birth anniversary.

Remembering her, Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted, "Tributes to our former PM Mrs. Indira Gandhi ji on her birth anniversary." Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and former party chief Sonia Gandhi paid floral tributes at Indira Gandhi's memorial Shakti Sthal in the morning. A number of leaders also visited her memorial and paid tributes.

"Paid floral tributes to the Iron Lady of India, former Prime Minister Smt Indira Gandhi ji on her birth anniversary at Shakti Sthal. She will always be remembered for her indomitable spirit, courage and commitment towards a strong and unit-



ed India," Mr Kharge said on Twitter.

In another tweet in Hindi, he said, "Salutes to the 'iron lady' of India Mrs Indira Gandhi on her birth anniversary, an example of lifelong struggle, courage and efficient leadership."

He also said that she sacrificed her life to preserve the unity and integrity of India and dedicated her life to the nation and Indians will remember her for her political determination.

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi also paid tributes to Indira Gandhi during his Bharat Jodo Yatra in

Maharashtra. He also shared a video of her life on Twitter.

"She grew up in the freedom struggle, learnt from the great leaders of India, and was her father's darling. She was Durga for the country, and Kali for her enemies - fearless, bright, Priyadarshini..." Rahul Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi.

BJP MP Varun Gandhi also shared a picture of him with his grandmother. "Not just leadership, but generosity, not just power, but motherhood, tributes to the country's mother and my dear grandmother on her birth anniversary," he said in a tweet in Hindi.

The Congress also shared a video of Indira Gandhi's life and said, "Today, we remember the Iron Lady of India Late Indira Ji. Her role in the 1971 war was exemplary. She embodied service, patience, restraint and a decisive leadership."

Daily Wager Contesting In Gujarat Polls Pays ₹10,000 Deposit In ₹1 Coins

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: A daily wage worker whose slum colony in Gujarat capital Gandhinagar was razed in 2019 to make way for a hotel, raised Rs 10,000 in Re 1 coins from his supporters and deposited that amount with the Election Commission so that he can contest the next month's Assembly polls.

Mahendra Patni, who is fighting the election from the Gandhinagar North seat as an independent candidate, paid the security deposit in coins earlier this week. He said the displaced residents of 521 huts in a slum near Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar that were demolished three years ago, asked him to contest the election as their representative.

Patni was one of the residents of the slum which was twice displaced, first in 2010 when the government constructed the Dandi Kutir museum dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi not far from the hotel

and then in 2019 when slum-dwellers were again forced to shift to a nearby area so that the hotel can be constructed on the land.

"I am contesting as an independent. I belong to a family of labourers and make my living as a daily wage. There were 521 huts which were razed to make way for a big hotel. Many of them were rendered jobless. We shifted to a nearby area, but have no water or electricity supply," he told PTI.

Aggrieved by the government's apathy, the residents of the slums as well as other daily wagers in the area collected Rs 10,000 in Re 1 coin and offered the money to him so that he can pay it as security deposit to contest the upcoming election, he said.

"Before being displaced, we had electricity in our slum. After we were forced to relocate to another area near the hotel, there is no water or electricity and no politician comes to our aid," Patni said.

Man Hires Killer To Murder Father For Insurance Money

Press Trust of India

A man allegedly hired contract killers to murder his father to claim his accidental insurance money in Madhya Pradesh's Barwani district, police said on Saturday.

The death came to light when the accused approached Sendhwa police station on November 10 claiming that his 52-year-old father had died after being hit by an unidentified vehicle, superintendent of police (SP) Deepak Kumar Shukla said. After examining the accident site, the police concluded that it was a case of murder, he said. The CCTV footage from the area revealed that the vehicle that hit the victim had been doing rounds of the locality, Sendhwa police station in-charge Rajesh Yadav said.

The victim used to go for a walk every morning. On November 10, the accused allegedly telephoned the contract killers to tell them that his father had left for his morning walk, he said. Following the investigation, one of the suspects Karan Shinde was arrested from Pune and during interrogation, he revealed the victim's son had promised to pay ₹2.5 lakh for the murder, he said.

Nephew-Uncle Brought Out Of Well After 11 Hrs



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: An uncle-nephew duo was rescued from a well after a tedious rescue operation, which spanned for over ten hours, at Chak-e-Hatmulla in Nagri area of North Kashmir's Kupwara district.

A joint operation was launched by police, army, SDRF, Fire & Emergency Department and locals soon after news about the trapping of a boy and a person in a well spread, reported news agency GNS.

A local source earlier said that a minor boy namely Firdous Ahmad Mir, son of Nazir Ahmed Mir fell into a well, while he had gone to fetch a cricket ball. "Soon as the news spread, his uncle Mohammad Shafi Mir son of Abdul Aziz Mir, went inside the well to save him, however instead of saving him he too got trapped as a mudslide occurred in the meantime", the sources said.

The news soon spread to nuke and cranny with people from different areas gathering at the spot, who made frantic efforts to save them. However the efforts didn't yield much even as the district administration had to rope in various agencies to evacuate the duo.

The rescue operation kept on getting hampered as the caved in well witnessed more fre-

quent erosions throughout.

Deputy Commissioner Kupwara Doifode Sagar Dattatray, who himself supervised the operation towards its conclusion, earlier termed the operation sensitive and tough of its kind. He said that men and machinery which included four JCBs were moved within ten minutes of the incident, with three ambulances and a team of doctors also kept on standby.

Tehsildar, DySP Headquarters, SHO and other functionaries also oversaw the rescue operation till its conclusion at around 2:06 AM.

"Soon after evacuation, the duo was removed to SDH Kupwara for immediate treatment", said a few locals.

Medical Superintendent of the Hospital Dr Abdul Gani Dar said that the boy has been sent back home being "absolutely fine." "The elderly male (boy's uncle) had humerus fracture (the medical name for breaking the bone in the upper arm) and he was referred to Bone and Joint hospital for orthopedic consultation. Otherwise, by other parameters he is also normal", the MS added.

Meanwhile, the locals extended heartfelt gratitude to the Deputy Commissioner and other officers and officials who remained present throughout the operation.

School Admissions To Start After Annual Exams: DSEK

Director Says Parents Liable To Pay Tuition Fee Only



Agencies

SRINAGAR: The School Education Department Kashmir on Saturday said that the admission process in all schools of the Valley will commence only after the culmination of annual exams.

Talking to reporters on the side-lines of a function here, Director School Education Kashmir, Tasaduq Hussain Mir,

as per the news agency KNO said as of now no new admissions will take place because no annual exams have been conducted so far.

He said there are guidelines from the administration that the new admission process should be started only after exams are over.

He further said as far as the admission fee is concerned,

only that fee shall be charged which has been fixed by the fee fixation committee.

About the winter fee, he said parents are liable to pay tuition fee only for their wards and they are not supposed to pay any other fee, be it transport fee.

Mir also said the government has started providing heating arrangements in a phased manner from November 15.

AMU Cricket Violence

Case Filed Against Injured J&K Student

Press Trust Of India

ALIGARH: A counter case has been registered against an Aligarh Muslim University student who suffered serious injuries after allegedly being hit on the head earlier this week when a tiff during a cricket match turned violent, a police official said on Saturday.

Sajid Husain, the victim, and Shobhit Singh -- who allegedly hit him on the head with a cricket bat -- are second-year students of the varsity's Zakir Husain College of Engineering and Technology, spokesperson Omar Peerzada had earlier said.

Husain, a native of Jammu and Kashmir, was rushed to Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College in an unconscious state, he said.

Doctors at Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College have described the condition of Husain, who suffered serious head injuries, as "stable".

The police action follows a report by Singh's father. Singh was arrested on Wednesday and is currently lodged in the district jail.

Circle Officer (Civil Lines) Shwetab Pandey on Saturday said based on CCTV footage from the varsity hostel, a case was registered against Husain under sections 323 (punishment for voluntarily causing hurt) and 506 (Punishment for criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) on Friday at Civil Lines police station.

On Friday, BJP MLC Manendra Pratap Singh, who had met senior police officials, asserted

that "one-sided action" in the case was not acceptable. Pushpendra Pachuri, regional joint convenor of the BJP's teachers' cell, demanded that both sides should be held accountable.

The varsity authorities have also constituted a three-member fact-finding committee to probe into the incident. The committee had been asked to submit its report within five days.

Peerzada said immediately after Wednesday's clash, Singh was escorted from the hostel and handed over to the police.

He has been suspended and barred from the varsity campus pending further inquiry, he said.

A case has been registered against him under Section 307 (attempt to murder) of the IPC at Civil Lines police station, officials had said.

DDC RE-POLL

Relief Organization Sets Up Special Counters For Migrant Voters

Observer News Service

JAMMU: With State Election Commissioner notifying the re-poll in DDC Dragmulla in Kupwara and Hajin-A, Bani-dipora, Kashmir division on December 5, the Relief Organisation has established 16 facilitation counters for the convenience of migrant voters.

According to a communique received in this regard, each counter would have specifically designated Nodal Of-

ficers with availability of DDC Migrant Postal Ballot (DMPB) Forms. The migrant voters can obtain and submit the duly filled postal ballot forms by or before 21.11.2022.

The facilitation counters have been established in all the Migrant Camps of Jammu and Kashmir, Zonal Offices at Jammu, in the Non Camp areas (Sharda Mandir Pounichak, Sanjeevani Sharda Kendra Anand Nagar Bohri), Relief Office, Indra Nagar Srinagar

and Relief Office, Canal Road Jammu. Besides, DNIPB forms, copies of Electoral Rolls have also been made available at the said locations.

Relief Organisation has also authorized Zonal Officers/Camp Commandants for signing the certificates of forms DMPB-1.

The SEC as well as the Relief Organisation has urged upon all the migrant voters of these two DDC constituencies to avail the facility and exercise their right to franchise

BJP Distorting Facts About Nehru-Gandhi Family: JKPCC

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: BJP is trying to distort historical facts to belittle the great works of party stalwarts, especially that of the Nehru-Gandhi family, to serve their vested interests, Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) president said here on Saturday. The party unit paid rich tributes to former prime minister Indira Gandhi on her 105th birth anniversary on Saturday.

Congress workers led by president Vikar Rasool Wani assembled at Indira Chowk here to garland the statue of Gandhi, followed by the main function at party headquarters where senior leaders paid their tributes to the first female prime minister of the country, a party spokesperson said.

He said similar functions were also held at several district and block headquarters across the union territory.

"The present BJP regime (at the centre) is making every effort to distort the historical facts to divert the attention of the nation from the contribution of Congress and its great leaders, especially the Nehru-Gandhi family," the PCC presi-

dent said.

He said these forces are trying to belittle the role and great works of top stalwarts for their political vested interests.

Paying floral tributes to the 'Iron lady', Wani recalled her bold leadership and said she led the nation to great heights and took courageous decisions for the might of the nation.

"The Country progressed on all fronts and faced numerous challenges successfully under her dynamic leadership," he said.

He said the Congress party and its leadership right from Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi to date always stood for unity in diversity and fought against the "communal and divisive" forces.

Wani referred to the ongoing Bharat Jodo Yatra of the party being led by Rahul Gandhi and said it generated a tremendous response from the entire country against the divisive policies and the alleged failures of the government to tackle large-scale unemployment, price rise and economic distress. He appealed to the common people to join the Yatra when it reaches Jammu and Kashmir in January.

Apni Party Is The Party Of Masses, It Belongs To J&K People: Bukhari

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A large group, representing the Sikh community from north Kashmir's Rafiaband and Baramulla constituencies joined Apni Party on Saturday. Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari



welcomed the new entrants from the minority community.

The joiners included Surjeet Singh, Diljeet Singh, Surjeet Singh (Deedarpuri) Prof. HS Balli, Sardar Baldev Singh (Rtd Principal), Sardar Manjeet Singh Ji (Master), S Nirmal Singh, and others.

They announced their joining into Apni Party during a special event organised at the party's central office in Srinagar today.

Besides Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, Senior Vice President Gulam Hassan Mir, Chief Spokesper-

son Javid Hussain Baigh, Senior Leader Yawar Dilawar Mir, Media

Advisor Farooq Andrabai, District President Baramulla Khursheed Ahmad Khan, District President for Party's Youth Wing Mohammad Irfan, Party's District Coordinator for Srinagar Tanbir Singh Sodhi, and others were present on this occasion.

While greeting the new entrants into the party fold, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari said, "I wholeheartedly welcome you into Apni Party. This party stands for the rights and well-being of the J&K people, irrespective of their geographical location and religious affiliations." He added, "I am pleased to see that Apni Party holds members and leaders from all the regions in J&K and from the various communities. We stand for the unity of Jammu and Kashmir."

Mehraj-Ud- Din Shah Assumes Charge As ADC Ganderbal

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: Mehraj-Ud-Din Shah on Saturday assumed the charge of Additional Deputy commissioner (ADC) Ganderbal who was serving as Assistant Commissioner Revenue of the district previously.

After assuming the charge, Shah was congratulated by SDM Kangan, Javid Ahmad Rather and other officers for his new assignment.

Soon after the joining he held introductory meetings with

various sections of his office and urged the employees to work with a legacy of dedication and transparency for the Welfare of the general public.

While interacting with the officials, Shah said that the focus shall remain on providing prompt and efficient public service by strengthening transparency and punctuality in offices.

Besides serving as ACR Ganderbal, Shah has previously also served as BDO Srinagar, SDM Kangan, Deputy Director Rural Sanitation Kashmir and ACD Kupwara.

J&K And Ladakh Will Be Single State Once Again: Dr Farooq Abdullah

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The National Conference never sided with Pakistan and always stood rock-solid with India, its president Farooq Abdullah asserted on Saturday, as he targeted separatist-turned-mainstream politicians for trying to weaken the party.

The former chief minister advocated for restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir and said the time is not far when Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh will be a single entity once again.

In 2019, the Centre had abrogated Article 370, which granted special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, and bifurcated it into union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

"The National Conference (NC) never sided with Pakistan...when tribal raiders were at our doors and Pakistan founder Muhammad Ali Jinnah came rushing to my father Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah to seek his support, he decided



to go with India," Abdullah said.

"Sometimes youngsters tell me that my father had done wrong but I make it clear to them that oppression will end. We should be thankful that we did not go to Pakistan, where a former prime minister (Imran Khan) was fired upon in the recent past, the military is dictating terms and people have no power," he said addressing a function here.

Referring to the 2019 development, the NC chief said that "we hope they will restore the statehood to Jammu and Kashmir without any further delay".

"It (restoration of statehood) is imperative. It was unfortu-

nate that our state was downgraded and divided. This time will also change. If you support us at the opportune time (at the time of elections), the time is not far when we will be together again as a single entity Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh," he said.

Later talking to reporters, Abdullah launched a veiled attack on separatist-turned-mainstream politicians and said they made every attempt earlier to weaken the NC after getting money from Pakistan.

"Don't they (central government) fund those who were earlier sided with Pakistan. I do not want to name them. They were the same people who were getting money from Pakistan and distributing it here to weaken the NC," Abdullah said.

However, Abdullah said he will identify them when the time comes.

"The NC was their target because it was standing rock-solid with India and is still doing the same," he said.

On the seizure of properties

linked to proscribed Jamaat-e-Islami (Jel) for terror funding, he said he has no information about it.

Appealing to people to remain cautious against attempts to divide them on the basis of religion, Abdullah said that "if we want to make our country strong, we have to stand together".

"When elections are near, they will come to you and tell you that Hindus are in danger. India has a Hindu population of 70 to 80 per cent and do you think they will be in danger," he said, adding deliberate attempts are being to create doubts in the minds of people for vested political interests.

He said the strength of India is unity in diversity and "we have to maintain this unity and strengthen it to make our country powerful".

Stressing on the need for restoration of a democratically elected government in Jammu and Kashmir, the NC leader said bureaucratic rule is no alternative to a popular government.

Div Com Jammu Reviews Status Of Land Acquisition For Airport Expansion

Transfer Of Land To Jammu University, Revenue Training Institute Also Reviewed

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner, Ramesh Kumar on Saturday reviewed the status of land acquisition, land issues pertaining to the Jammu Airport Expansion Project, Transfer of Army land to Jammu University, Transfer of JDA land to Army at Nagrota, Transfer of state land to JDA in lieu of land to be provided to Army, Transfer of land 100 Kanals JDA land to Revenue Training Institute at Birpur in lieu of RTI land at Gole Gajral.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Avny Lavasa; Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation, Rahul Yadav; Deputy Commissioner Samba, Anuradha Gupta; Vice Chairman JDA, Pankaj Magotra; Director Animal Husbandry Shubhira Sharma; AC Central, Pritam Lal Thappa; besides officers of Airport Authority, Revenue Training Institute and other concerned officers.

Seeking the details about Jammu Airport Expansion project, the concerned officers apprised that the land acquisition has almost



been completed and only the land for Animal Husbandry Belicharna is pending. However, they said that around 240 Kanal land with structures and buildings was yet to be acquired.

It was further informed that alternative land has been provided to the Animal Husbandry Department for shifting its hatchery and office buildings. The land was provided in Nagrota and Chatha areas.

The Div Com also inquired about the present status of work on construction of Animal Husbandry buildings at Nagrota and Chatha. It was informed that the work was in progress at both the locations.

The Div Com instructed Director Animal Husbandry to person-

ally monitor the pace of work and ensure expeditious completion.

Responding to the issues related to allotted land, the Div Com asked DC Jammu to resolve the same for smooth execution of work on Animal Husbandry buildings.

The Div Com stressed to vacate the prioritized buildings at the earliest for smooth execution of work on airport expansion.

While reviewing Transfer of Army land to Jammu University, the Div Com asked VC JDA to expedite the process and transfer identified land to Army at Nagrota at the earliest, while the DC Jammu was asked to transfer state land to JDA in lieu of land to be provided to Army.

We contacted and communicated with different stakeholders—academicians, officers, avid/ voracious readers, renowned writers/ columnists, budding writers, (school and college) students, booksellers, etc. to know their opinion and viewpoint on these questions (especially on this question: Is the Book Reading Culture in Kashmir Declining in the Age of the Internet?)

Dr Tauseef Ahmad Parray and
Rehana Imtiyaz Wani



Book Reading Culture in Kashmir in the Age of the Internet

Fading, Flourishing or Fluctuating?

“Is the culture of book reading dying or flourishing in Kashmir?”; “Fading Reading Culture”; “Book Reading Habit on Decline among Youth”; “Dwindling book-reading culture affecting Kashmir’s young generation”; “Decline in Reading Culture”; “The changing habits of reading”; “Reading habits face challenge in internet age”; “Importance of Reading books”; “Books transport us to new worlds”; “Only way to Progress is to Read”; “Attracting youngest to reading culture”; “promotes book reading culture by encouraging establishment of domestic libraries”. These are some of the headings—either of the opinion pieces or write-ups, editorials or news items, that were published in our local daily newspapers, mostly in the last few months (and few in the last year too). However, when we tried to peep into it a bit deeper, we found that last year too, there were few write-ups and news items which highlight the same issue.

In fact, some studies have been published in journals as well on this issue; two such examples (published in 2010 and 2019) are: “Reading Habits among College Students of Kashmir across Genders” (by S. M. Shafi and Fayaz Ahmad Loan, both from University of Kashmir) published in Trends in Information Management/ TRIM (6, 2, July-Dec 2010, pp. 92-103) and “Reading Habits of College Students of Jammu & Kashmir: A Case Study of District Anantnag” (by Hamid Amin Mir, Ashfaq Ahmad Rather and Mohammad Rayees Bhat) in Library Philosophy and Practice (2019, pp. 1-12). Prof. Shafi and Dr Loan, in their study, concluded that gender is “the principal factor affecting reading habits of students as reading tastes and preferences between genders differ quite drastically” (p.101). Mir et. al., (who are working as Librarians in the J&K Education Department) in their study focused on the students of four (4) colleges of South Kashmir’s Anantnag district with the objectives to ascertain and assess their “reading habits” and (most importantly) “the role of parents, teachers and librarians in promoting the reading habits”. Their findings reveal that the “students mostly read books and other materials with an intellect of resolution and with explicit objectives” and they are mostly “assisted and motivated by their parents in promoting their reading habits”.

All these titles, whether opinion pieces, news items or research studies, have one theme in common: ‘Book Reading Culture in Kashmir’. While some question on this narrative, others are of the opinion that the general trend is that book reading culture has declined in recent years and the major reasons put forward by most of them are the use of smartphones, social media platforms and handles by youth—for they spend most of their time either on using social media (like Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, Twitter, etc.) and (playing) online games.

Reading, no doubt, is a wonderful habit; it is a kind of therapy, which not only works wonders but acts as a relaxing balm to frenzied minds and distressed nerves as well. Reading is considered one of the pleasant practices and spending time with books, or making friendship with books is considered as one of the most loyal camaraderie for books never betray the reader; they stay with him in ups and downs, in delight and distress, in company and solitude. Garrison Keillor has rightly said that a “book is a gift you can open again and again”.

Reading, no doubt, increases knowledge; improves language; helps us to remain updated; increases our creative and critical thinking; imagination; clear perspective on various topics and issues; communicating one’s ideas in different ways; and in understanding the actual picture.

However, we are living in an era,

which is described either as the age of internet, age of smartphones or an era of technology and electronic gadgets (like i-pads, kindle, etc.). That is to say, modern technology and the revolution it brought have impacted the functional activities of all walks of life, forcing some drastic lifestyle changes in humans everywhere in the world” (Haroon Reshi, “Is the culture of book reading dying or flourishing in Kashmir?” Kashmir Images, 13th December 2021). The ‘technological revolution’, and the changes that the world went through in the last few years (including the COVID-19 global pandemic), have reinforced many of these changes; and Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) is no exception to these changes and challenges. All these changes have transformed our world significantly; and one such significant change is the use of internet-driven devices (especially smartphones and digital media) which has had an impact on the (style of) book reading culture in Kashmir.

It is generally observed that people now prefer to watch visuals and read electronic mode of content than (physical) book reading. “Earlier, the book lovers would be enthused to hold a book in hand, shuffle through its pages and smell the paper and ink. Now it is a small device you scroll, no smell of ink or paper, just lifeless words” (Reshi, 2021).

The fact is that the ‘age of internet’ and the ‘era of smartphones’ as well as ‘excessive use of social media platforms/handles’ have impacted (significantly) the book reading culture. How much helpful or harmful has this impact been? What changes has the use of the internet/ smartphones brought (especially in book reading culture)? Has book reading culture faded or flourished with the use of the internet and smartphones?

In this context, we contacted and communicated with different stakeholders—academicians, officers, avid/ voracious readers, renowned writers/ columnists, budding writers, (school and college) students, booksellers, etc. to know their opinion and viewpoint on these questions (especially on this question: Is the Book Reading Culture in Kashmir Declining in the Age of the Internet?). Interestingly,

“Dr Muhammad Maroof Shah refutes the argument that internet has brought book reading culture to a standstill and is of the opinion that “there was no great book reading culture (in Kashmir) before internet that could decline. Only insignificant percentages (among avid readers) have shifted to e-books or soft copies (PDFs) of books. The rest keep their attachment to books intact.”

there are varied opinions on the question/ issue at hand. Some say it’s good and has helped in making accessible the books which were unavailable or inaccessible; others believe that technology has no doubt brought changes, but it has not reduced the number of avid and voracious readers in our society. While others are of the opinion that the internet and smartphones have increased the number of readers, still others offer different opinions. Below are provided all these types of opinions and are arranged thematically.

VIEWPOINT 1: Avid Readers (Reading Section) in a society are always there, but in minority. Internet and Technology has affected them but their number has not declined

The avid readers, in the opinion of many, are always present in every society; but are found in the minority. This “Reading Section”, despite different odds, keeps intact with the books, but history is witness to the fact that “Reading as an intellectual exercise ... can never be a mass activity.”

Dr Muhammad Maroof Shah (scholar, author and a prominent columnist) refutes the argument that internet has brought book reading culture to a standstill and is of the opinion that “there was no great book reading culture (in Kashmir) before internet that could decline. Only insignificant percentages (among avid readers) have shifted to e-books or soft copies (PDFs) of books. The rest keep their attachment to books intact.” For him, there has been a “marked shift” in mode and style of reading, for “e-books (have) replaced(d) conventional books and as such (there is) decline in the conventional mode of reading but not (in overall) reading culture” in our society.

Prof. Javaid Hassain (Assistant Professor of Urdu at GDC Sogam) also shared a similar viewpoint on this question.

For Dr Altaf Hussain Yatoo (Assistant Professor of Islamic Studies and a regular bilingual columnist), “reading culture” in Kashmir has not declined but has been affected because he believes that the “‘Reading Section’ of our society, amid all odds and pressures, is always on book hunt! However, that section which is over-possessed in phubbing was never serious in reading. The case of students, in my opinion, has not changed, because students, by and large, have always been note gatherers which now they find in the digital form. It is a positive sign that the number of booksellers, publishers and writers has shown no decline at all.”

Similarly, Mushtaq Ul Haq Ahmad Sikander (a Srinagar-based Writer-Activist and Researcher) believes that the general trend found in Kashmir is that reading as an intellect activity has remained confined to a minority only and the use of social media handles has reduced this number further though he appreciates the use of electronic gadgets for reading purpose. “Reading culture in Kashmir like other parts of the world”, for him, “is declining”. Earlier too, only a few literate people were avid readers”. For him, it is an “irony” that even “teachers and academics (in our

“The new generation has lost touch with the book reading culture—thanks to the omnipresence of the internet (especially social media)”. Book lovers are very rare these days and owing to excessive use of smartphones and social media sites/ handles, “book reading culture in Kashmir is on the verge or brink of extinction.”

society) have very poor reading habits” and “with the advent of social media, the attention span of people has gone down. The constant habit of remaining connected 24x7 has adversely impacted the reading habit.” However, “many readers are now opting for digital, kindle, e-books and audio-books which gives the perception about the declining culture of manual hard copy book reading”, he argues. “Reading as an intellectual exercise”, he asserts, “will continue among the minority, as history is a witness and will continue like that, and it can never be a mass activity.”

VIEWPOINT 2: Internet and Smartphones have affected the readership Qualities especially among youngsters

Syed Mustafa Ahmad (a columnist from Hajibagh, Budgam), who has himself published a few write-ups on the theme of “Decline in Book Reading Culture”, is of the opinion that the internet has affected the readers and readership qualities in the valley, especially among the young generation. Sharing his views, he said: “The book reading culture in Kashmir in the age of the internet has almost vanished. There are hardly any people who read books. The new generation has lost touch with the book reading culture—thanks to the omnipresence of the internet (especially social media)”. Book lovers are very rare these days and owing to excessive use of smartphones and social media sites/ handles, “book reading culture in Kashmir is on the verge or brink of extinction.”

Peer Jafar Akbar (a BA 6th semester student from our college, GDC Sogam), an avid reader, shares a similar viewpoint. For him, from the last decade, “technology boom has hit the reading habit in the younger generation. Students in this age of the internet prefer to spend time on mobile phones rather than reading some productive book”. For him, “Kashmir valley, which was the hub of intellectualism once, is gradually losing its charm (of reading culture and readership qualities)”. Few other students, being budding writers as well, also shared a similar viewpoint. All of

them see excessive use as well as misuse (especially by spending more time on social media sites/ handles) as the main cause of the fading of book reading culture. “Book reading is of utmost importance”, says Shahid Shafi Shah (pursuing BSc from GDC Sogam and a budding writer) for they help “not only to improve the writing skills but also enable us to build a great vision”. But “haplessly the habit of book reading had been diminished in Kashmir amid various causes. The root cause is the internet because nowadays, the youth of Kashmir are indulged in myriad execrable activities like (excessive use of) social media, drugs and other awful things which later have havoc ramifications”. Another student from our college, Saqib Sarwar (an avid reader and a budding and passionate writer) also agrees with our question saying that the activity of “book reading is being ignored with the passage of time, because of quick access to the information through the internet”. Fayaz Ahmad (BA 6th semester student and a writer) also shares a similar opinion on the harmful effects of reading culture; for him, “it’s right to say that the internet (has) snatched book reading culture from us. Nowadays, every literate youth is busy with using social media and hardly anyone finds time for reading books”, and thus one finds the “reading culture on a decline”. Shayista Shaban (BSc 6th semester at GDC Sogam), shared similar opinions. She blames the internet for the cause of decline in book reading culture, especially in the younger generation. For her, “internet has affected badly the book reading culture in Kashmir”, for everyone in his/ her “day-to-day life, depends wholly and solely on the internet”. Even for finding quick answers to their minor problems or in clarifying their basic concepts, students hardly “consult any book or discuss (with their colleagues or teachers). They consult the internet for solving their problems and in getting quick answers for their questions”. She further states that, “no doubt using the internet provides us basic information on all topics but it doesn’t increase our mental ability and intellectual power.”

It is interesting to add here that school students also view the use of the internet as the main cause of decline in book reading culture in Kashmir. Saniya Zehra Dar (a class 9th student at the Army Goodwill School, Hanjik, Shariefabad, Budgam and a writer who has published a number of write-ups) also shared a similar opinion. For her, it’s true that “the book reading culture in Kashmir is on decline in the age of the internet. Being a student, I have witnessed there is no inclination among the students towards reading books. The main topic of discussion among the students is social media. There is hardly any student who talks about books”. For her, “the internet has brought the book reading culture to its knees and reviving it needs a collective effort and some serious thinking.” Nighat Wani (a teacher from North Kashmir’s Kupwara) too agrees with this viewpoint and considers use of internet, or spending extra time on screen, as a matter of serious concern: “Obviously book reading culture is declining in Kashmir; only a handful of book readers are present in the whole valley, that too of old generations. Our younger generation is least interested in reading books, magazines, etc. because they have become attracted to screens. It is a major concern and needs to be addressed”. However, another school teacher (wishing anonymity), while sharing her viewpoint on the basis of her experiences and observations in the school, says that the diminishing book reading culture in Kashmir is because of two major reasons: (1) “books are expensive and school libraries have no updated stock of books”; and “students are not encouraged to spend their leisure time in the library”, and thus it has “become very easy and cheap to find desired content on digital platforms.”

Bilal Ahmad Sofi (a teacher and writer from Khushipora, HMT, Srinagar with a Master’s in English Literature) also shares similar opinion and agrees with the question (posed) and is of the opinion that a reader of (physical) books is disregarded and someone reading on a gadget is considered to be a ‘modern’. For him, “Teachers, as well as students, are not interested in reading books. The person who reads books now is being looked down upon, though exceptions are there. In the present times, book reading culture is (considered) a symbol of the traditional society. Modern age is all about PDFs and e-learning. So, reading books is an affront to society. In short, it is on decline”. [To Be Contd.]

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WHAT THE FUSS

Has Kashmir Lost Its ‘Saving Grace of Humour’?

Kashmir Humour These Days Looks Like A Race Of Struggling Chickens Crossing The Road To Get To The Other Side



Zaid Bin Shabir

In a bid to sound funny, many youngsters are following a mad race driven by Kashmir's love for domino effect. At the heart of this madness are some youthful faces whose social media broadcasts only depreciates



the art of humour they tend to justify in the name of making Kashmir smile. While one is focusing on the cultural commentaries, the other is deeply pushed into damaging the intricately knotted threads of society. Perhaps, it all looks like "sarcastic" content, instead of pulling out masses from the dark-gorge, is taking everyone on

a trip down the distress lane. In fact, there's hardly anyone these days whose content gives a sigh of comedy-snob satisfaction. Or perhaps, it won't be wrong to say that it looks like a race of struggling chickens crossing the road to get to the other side. In his 1921 memoir, Cecil Earle Tyndale-Biscoe, the British missionary educationist who founded Kash-



mir's grand old Tyndale Biscoe School, wrote "The Kashmiris have a virtue, a very important one - viz. the saving grace of humor". Even Kashmir's veteran comedians think that humour in Kashmir is no longer a creative pursuit. But the new-age satirists disagree and call it a nebulous observation driven by the old school philosophy.



AYASH ARIF

In our days, people performed as per a script. That script used to go through proper channels, following a roadmap that existed for things to be addressed. Comedy was never supposed to institutionalize discrimination or hate against anyone. It's so disappointing to see the latent resentments used in today's humor. Social media content is nowhere near polished. Today, people are making satirical videos for followers and likes. Veterans never sought such ideology. They believed in 'social message through humor'. Young content creators have even resorted to using slurs quite freely. What lingers in today's comedy is distress that flourishes in corners of the internet in the name of 'humor'. Earlier, satirical content was made keeping in mind its repercussions on the targeted audience. This content lacks ideation.

FARUQ SHAIKH

There are two ways of expressing evil in a society. One is the serious mode of expression and the other is through melodrama. In melodrama, we can express things through disciplined-satire. There are several topics which cannot be used in satire. That does not seem to be the case today. This content is slap-stick. It gives a wrong signal to the young generation. Just see how today's humor highlights drug issues. Instead of giving a social message, young kids are normalizing drugs through their content. Young people quickly tend to imitate things. Commercialisation of content in Kashmir has destroyed creativity. A society is a conglomerate of different minds and ideologies. Satirical content should never pollute minds. However, this content is polluting minds. Comedy has its own timing and relevance. When people make videos out of proportion, the content loses its shine. These young kids are unaware of the fact that a stage is a score house of an artist.



NAZIR JOSH

This new satire is an extempore way of expression—whatever word comes to their mind, they say that. But, in any event, words do matter, and vulgar words never meet basic standards of human decency. It's mainly crude and cheap humor. And as a result, this field has suffered a major blow. It's very easy to make content today and if these young kids follow a proper script, they can make a huge difference. Above all, satire should be used for some social message. Many among them are not able to see how disastrous slurs actually are. They've no idea about the satire's grammar.



RJ NASIR

One should always keep in mind the sensitivities of a place. As someone who does satire, comedy or humor, we think that our product is the best. It's absolutely normal to feel like that because content creators are just like that. But then, as content creators it's our responsibility to introspect. Content, it seems, is moving away from its traditional focus on quality, to pure distraction of likes and shares. This shift has surprisingly coerced creators to create anything and everything. Today, a random content where the person dances like a madman is more engaging than an intricately made story. And it turns out that content creators are lured by such fame. But, the difference is significant. There is a very thin line that, as a content creator, we need to understand. It's our responsibility to maintain the social graphs through our content. One has to maintain a limit in his/her content. And I think, onus also lies on viewers and consumers who need to check the modicum of decency in any content.

RAYEES MOHIUDDIN

An artist has to change with time. For the new-age content creators and consumers, the classic comedy is obsolete. There's a general sense that a young content creator has to shake hands with the new content—which may be right. If they fail to do so, it's likely, at this point, that another creator will be able to build a social graph of a magnanimous size or a huge level of influence on consumers. Due to the rising competition in Kashmir, a content creator can be easily outnumbered by other creators. But, the responsibility still lies on the shoulder of a content creator. It's important for new-age satirists to show the evils of a society. But since the social media platform is much bigger than the traditional stage, it's impossible to control content today. However, as a credible person, a creator has to see whether his content will bring any reform, or does it touch anyone's sentiment or does it raise any social issue. Instead of showing someone in the bad light, people should focus on constructive criticism. Veterans should share experience with the younger generation. Demoralizing someone will bring nothing. There's already a generation gap in Kashmir and the criticism will only increase.



RJ VIJDAN

I don't think, as it's being said, that the new-age satire is misogynistic. I personally try to stay vigilant about all these things before making any video. Instagram and social media in general have given a platform to Kashmir. Many content creators juggle around South-East Asia stencil but I don't follow any stencil. My content is purely societal. We've no avenues here except social media. Before social media, we'd Doordarshan or Zoon Dab. There was a time when satire was available on Radio Kashmir. Then it transitioned to DD Kashmir. But no one among the bigwigs could sustain its quality. Where are those traditional platforms now? That demographic is struggling with its quality. With social media's boom, everybody has a platform. Since the virtual media platform rise, the hyper local content has boomed. This is the trend now. I've never attended a drama school and I don't realize what the method is. But, what matters is that people are entertained. Social media has made me what I'm today. I don't agree that you need to have some kind of a sophisticated degree to step in this field. I believe that only the audience's verdict works. Content is of two types, one for niche and other for masses. I've named my character Titli because I'm targeting a mass audience. I won't name my character Zulaikha because that's for a niche audience.

Do You Need To Take A Multivitamin? Here's What Experts Say

By Korin Miller And Audrey Noble | Allure

For a lot of people, their daily health and wellness routine includes taking a multivitamin every day. With the rise of personalized vitamins and more than a third of all Americans taking daily multivitamins, according to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), it's never been easier to cocktail the perfect nutritional regimen for your specific health needs. But all these options can also make things more confusing. What are multivitamins exactly? And does everyone need them?

"Multivitamins are generally a combination of various vitamins (and minerals) put together in a supplement and often referred to as a form of insurance against nutritional deficiencies," says registered dietitian and adviser for Precision Nutrition Ryan Adams tells Allure. Adams adds that not every multivitamin is the same, as they contain different amounts of nutrients and can be tailored to specific types of people and lifestyles (like if you're pregnant or vegetarian).

"Multivitamins are great ways to pack a variety of essential vitamins into one or

two daily pills," adds board-certified endocrinologist Brittany Henderson. "Other vitamins are more targeted whereas a multivitamin acts as a nutritional foundation to optimal health."

That said, multivitamins aren't magic pills that you take to fix all of your nutritional needs. Experts warn against solely relying on multivitamins to stay healthy. "A multivitamin can't take the place of eating a variety of foods and food groups," Alissa Rumsey, a registered dietitian in New York City and founder of Alissa Rumsey Nutrition and Wellness, tells Allure. "Vitamins and minerals found in foods are more readily absorbed and used than those found in supplements."

It's all about balance and knowing that multivitamin use isn't totally cut and dry. So if this supplement is something you've been wanting to incorporate into your routine, here's what the experts want you to know about multivitamins, and how to tell if they're right for you.

What is a multivitamin?

There's no standard definition for what nutrients in what quantities need to be in a

supplement to make it a multivitamin, according to the NIH. However, there are a few common vitamins and minerals found in a range of multivitamins, says registered dietitian nutritionist Beth Warren, founder of Beth Warren Nutrition and author of *Living a Real Life with Real Food*. These include calcium, magnesium, vitamin E, vitamin D, several B vitamins, vitamin A, vitamin K, potassium, iodine, selenium, borate, zinc, manganese, molybdenum, beta-carotene, and iron.

How To Keep Your Hair Healthy

Generally, multivitamins are made in pill, tablet, or gummy form with nutrient levels close to their Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA), the NIH says. However, there are variations: Some multivitamins are designed specifically for kids, men, women, pregnant women, or senior citizens, and presumably contain more of the vitamins or minerals that these groups might need.

What does a multivitamin do for your body?

Despite what some ads may imply, a multivitamin won't magically turn you into an energetic superhero, and an oral vitamin

for skin is not an instant fix for your complexion concerns. What it can do, though, is cover for deficiencies in your diet says, Gina Keatley, a certified dietitian-nutritionist practicing in New York City. "The more processed a food item is, the more likely it is that it will be deficient in vitamins and minerals," she explains. A multivitamin is supposed to provide for what processing can remove from our food. Registered dietitian and nutritionist Keri Gans, author of *The Small Change Diet*, points out that multivitamins can help us make up for nutritional shortfalls when we're not getting an adequate range of whole foods in our diets. They're "almost like a safety net to ensure that you are consuming plenty of important vitamins and minerals," she says.

Who can benefit most from taking a multivitamin?

Unless you're planning to become pregnant or are pregnant or have a particular nutrient deficiency, you probably don't need a multivitamin, Rumsey says. (And yes, there are risks to taking supplements if you don't actually need them — more on that below.) While research has found that multivitamins probably won't boost your

health as much as we've been lead to believe, they have the potential to be useful for certain groups of people. Keatley cites people who have poor-quality diets, people who have difficulty with digestion (such as those who have had gastric bypass surgery or have Crohn's disease), and the elderly as some potential candidates for multivitamin use. Rumsey also points to those who avoid animal products as a group that could benefit: "Vegans and vegetarians should consider taking a supplement that contains vitamin B12, and potentially calcium, iron, and zinc," she says.

According to the NIH, it's also generally recommended that people who want to become pregnant get 400 micrograms of folic acid a day (either through their diets or a supplement) to lower the risk of neural tube defects in newborns. In terms of other people who may want to consider a multivitamin, Keatley says the most common deficiencies in the U.S. are iron, calcium, and vitamins B12. Being deficient in any one of these will make you feel tired, which is a pretty vague symptom. Still, if you're struggling with fatigue, it's worth asking your doctor for a blood test to see if a deficiency could be to blame.

What Really Happens to Your Body When You Drink Diet Soda Every Day

Anthea Levi | LiveStrong.com

The science is clear when it comes to the ill effects of too many added sugars in our diets — but what about zero-calorie sweeteners like those found in diet sodas?

Ongoing research on the sugar alternatives used to sweeten diet beverages has muddled the waters, leaving us all wondering whether diet soda is really as innocuous as we previously thought.

To set the record straight, we asked registered dietitians to shed light on what really happens to your body when you drink diet soda daily.

Your Gut Health May Take a Hit

"Consumption of any carbonated beverage, including soda, can cause stomach irritation, along with bloating and heartburn," says Amanda Wahlstedt, RDN, a registered dietitian and founder of the private practice Roots to Leaves.

"This is one of the many reasons why soda consumption can be particularly problematic for those with GERD or irritable bowel syndrome."

The non-nutritive sweeteners (NNS) found in diet sodas may also alter the makeup of the gut microbiome, the trillions of microbes that live in the GI tract. Regular intake of NNS like saccharin and sucralose has been linked to dysbiosis, or an imbalance of bacteria in the gut, per a January 2019 review in *Advances in Nutrition*.

Interestingly, the same study reported that aspartame, the primary NNS found in beverages like Diet Coke and Sprite Zero, may be less likely to alter the gut microbiome due to its rapid breakdown in the small intestine.

Yet other studies conducted in animals have reported that even low doses of aspartame may increase the concentration of bacteria like *Enterobacteriaceae* — which includes pathogenic bugs like *Salmonella* and *E. coli* — in the gut.

How drinking too much diet soda influences gut health is not entirely understood just yet. And experts point out that whether these study findings are even meaningful remains to be seen.

"The main limitation of these studies is that it is not known if the observed changes [to the gut microbiome] are actually bad and if these changes have any clinical relevance," says Paula Doeblich, MPH, RD, registered dietitian and founder of the private practice Happea Nutrition.

"In many studies, people do not consume sweeteners as frequently pre-trial, so changes to the microbiome are to be expected. We also need to know more about what constitutes a 'good' microbiome in order to draw recommendations from the current body of evidence."

You Might Lose Weight

Swapping regular soda for diet soda can promote weight loss by reducing caloric intake. For example: If you typically sip a 16-ounce Coca-Cola every day, you'll cut out more than 1,300 calories a week by switching to Diet Coke instead.

But because not all calories are created equal, it's not guaranteed that opting for diet soda will deliver lasting weight loss. That's because the NNS found in diet sodas can influence blood sugar management

as well as taste preferences, both of which affect weight. (More on each of these topics below.)

It Could Affect Your Heart Health

Cracking open a can of the diet stuff daily isn't great news for your ticker. Researchers observed that people who drank the most artificially sweetened beverages (think: more than two per day) were significantly more likely to develop heart disease or have a stroke compared to those who rarely or never had the drinks, according to a February 2019 study in *Stroke*, a journal of the American Heart Association.

A comprehensive April 2022 meta-analysis by the World Health Organization also supports this association, with findings from prospective cohort studies showing that regularly having zero-sugar drinks is associated with a 19 percent greater risk of heart disease-related mortality.

It bears noting that these studies were observational, meaning they can only show association, not causation. More clinical research is



needed in order to determine cause and effect.

Your Pancreas May Get Confused

Whether you gulp down a glass of regular soda or the calorie-free version, your body may not actually know the difference — at least at first.

"Artificial sweeteners confuse our brains and bodies to some extent," says Nicole Avena, PhD, a neuroscientist and the author of *Why Diets Fail* (Because You're Addicted to Sugar).

"When we taste something sweet, our body and brain react by releasing insulin in expectation of the glucose that circulates in our blood as a result of eating something with sugar. But when we consume an artificial sweetener, we end up releasing insulin when it isn't necessary, since the sweeteners don't impact blood glucose in the way that caloric sweeteners can."

The problem? This can lead to an excess of insulin (which is produced by the pancreas) circulating in the body. That excess can cause cells to become resistant to insulin, creating issues with blood sugar regulation and increasing one's risk of developing type 2 diabetes over time.

Indeed, people who drank diet soda every day were found to have a 67 percent greater relative risk of developing type 2 diabetes compared to people who did not drink diet soda, per a January 2009 observational study in *Diabetes Care*.

Again, observational studies cannot establish causation. Still, current research seems to suggest a potential association between greater diet soda intake and condi-

tions of glucose dysregulation.

Your Sugar Cravings Could Spike

On one hand, replacing regular soda with diet soda can be helpful for battling feelings of restriction. "Diet soda can be a great alternative for people who usually consume regular soda, as it can be an easy way to wean yourself off of sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs) without depriving yourself of the taste," Doeblich says.

But because aspartame tastes 200 times sweeter than table sugar, per the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), some worry that drinking diet soda daily could actually set us up for more sugar cravings.

"There is some evidence suggesting that artificial sweeteners can actually alter our taste buds, making us more inclined to reach for high-sugar foods," Wahlstedt says. "Since NNS tend to be much sweeter than table sugar, there is a concern that they may overstimulate our sugar-based taste receptors and make naturally sweet foods,

like fruit, less appealing."

The bottom line: Diet soda, in moderation, can be a solid choice for those looking to break up with SSBs. But if drinking diet soda leads you to gravitate towards hyper-palatable, ultra-sweet products, it might just negate the supposed benefits (such as blood sugar control and weight management) of choosing a zero-calorie beverage.

What to Drink Instead

"Simple is better," says Wahlstedt, who recommends minimizing soft drinks and diet sodas and instead opting for DIY fizzy drinks. Here are a few options:

Sparkling water with fresh herbs (such as mint or basil) and fresh-cut fruit or veggies (like cucumber) added

"My favorite combination is lemon juice, sliced ginger and a little bit of honey in sparkling water for a homemade ginger ale," says Wahlstedt.

Add a splash of orange or cherry juice to sparkling water

Kombucha

Buy naturally sweetened fizzy beverages such as Spindrift seltzers or Sound sparkling teas

The Bottom Line

When it comes to diet soda, the old adage "everything in moderation" applies.

Given the conflicting research findings around the health effects of artificial sweeteners, it's probably best to proceed with caution. But don't sweat it if you can't pass up the occasional diet ginger ale.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DIVISION, PULWAMA

email : xenphepulwama@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
E-NIT S. No. 41/PHEP of 2022-23 (SHORT)

For & on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir (UT) (Short) e-tenders in single cover system are invited on overall percentage rate basis from Registered PWD Contractors whose registration cards are valid in terms of standing rules & are active for the following works :-

S. No	Name of work	Estimated Cost (in lacs)	EMD (in)	Cost of TD (in)	Time for completion	Class of Contract	Programme
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Providing water supply facilities to Honipora and adjacent areas by providing fixing of GI pipes for WSS Wanpora Bangund.	1.82	3640	200	20 days	DEE	NRDWP

The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (BOQ), terms and conditions of contract can be seen/downloaded from the departmental web site (jktenders.gov.in) as per the dates shown below :-

S. No.	Description	Date	Time
1	Publishing date of NIT	DD MM YYYY	1600 Hrs
2	Download start date	19 11 2022	1600 Hrs
3	Bid submission start date	19 11 2022	1600 Hrs
4	Bid submission end date	26 11 2022	1600 Hrs
5	Bid opening date	28 11 2022	1400 Hrs.

>

Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "download bid submission".

>

To participate in bidding process bidders, must get digital signature certificate (DSC) as per information technology-2000 bidders can get digital certificate from approved option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website (jktenders.gov.in) to acquaint vendors.

>

The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital signature.

>

Bids must be accompanied by bid security deposit & cost of tender document as specified in column (4&5) of the above table. Bid security will be in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Pulwama and the cost of tender document shall be deposited in the Treasury under MH 0215 PHE in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Pulwama. (Name of work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt)

>

Bidders must ensure to upload their bids in SINGLE COVER containing documents as under:

i)

Scanned copies of Treasury Challan/Receipt and Earnest Money Deposit CDR/FDR

ii)

Scanned copy of Valid Registration Card.

iii)

Scanned copy of Valid GST Registration.

iv)

Rates submitted by the bidders in the BOQ.

>

Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents in terms of soft copies with the technical bid and no documents in terms of hard copies shall be entertained. However, in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.

>

The original instrument in respect of Treasury Receipt, EMD and relevant attested copies of Technical Bid documents as specified above must be submitted by Lowest Bidder (L1) to Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Pulwama by hand or by speed/registered post before processing of allotment. If the bidder fails to produce the same within the prescribed time period, he will be debarred from taking part in tendering process in this division for at least two years.

>

No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

>

The bid shall be deposit in electronic format only on the web site of (jktenders.gov.in)

>

The bid(s) shall be opened online on above mentioned date or any other subsequent date in presence of the tender opening committee to be constituted by the competent authority.

>

No claim shall be entertained on account of disruption of internet services being used by bidders and are advised to upload their bids well in advance to avoid any technical snags in last hours.

>

Videography record through the professional person before, during & after execution and progress reports in soft copies and hard copies for works register & office record. Taking levels by Auto Level / ETS before and after execution. Preparation of work abstract of executed work, preparation of Bills. The information and data stated and incorporated in tender document elsewhere is for the General guidance only and may vary as a result of more detailed construction drawings and as per site requirements.

>

The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason whatsoever claimed by the bidder

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1-

The tenders shall remain valid for 90 days only.

2-

The successful tenderer shall have to arrange, construct and maintain at his own cost necessary walkways, platform, ladders, stairways, water and other facilities of usual and suitable character for all operations of construction and inspection.

3-

As soon as the contract is fixed with the successful bidder it is mandatory for him to enter into an agreement with the department. However, non-drawal of agreement will not prevent the contract from being enforced upon him.

4-

Third Party Monitoring: The allotted works shall be subject to check by the third party monitoring agency (TPQM) appointed by the Department. The agency shall check the quality of works executed by the agencies, quality of materials used for construction and quality of machinery installed in each scheme. The TPQM's role shall be that of an assistant to the Employer's Representative for the purpose of monitoring and evaluation of the performance of the Contract during the Contract Period.

5-

Laying of GI / DI Pipes

a.

The pipe material ISI marked Galvanized Mild Steel tubes should conform to IS :239 (pt.1)/2004 6th revision read with up to date amendments in random length of 4 to 7 mtrs, screwed on both ends as per IS: 554/1990, socketed at one end & other end protected with plastic protector in various sizes OF nominal bore & classes. The socket conforming to IS:1239 (pt-II/1992) (4th revision) with amendment No. 1 to 3 & latest on date & ISI marked Cast (Spun) DI Pipes with socket & spigot ends as per IS : 8329/2000 read with latest amendments in standard lengths of 4.5, 5.5 & 6 mtrs for classification K7 & K9 ranging nominal diameters as indicated here under suitable for push on joint (Rubber Gasket joining) with cement mortar lining inside the pipes Without side Zinc coating with Bituminous finish coat as per IS 8329/2000 read with amendment NO.1, hydrostatic tests as per clause -11 of IS :8329 with latest amendments each pipe to be supplied with EPDM Rubber Gasket conforming to IS: 5382/1985. The class of pipe is specified as light "A". All GI/DI pipes shall be entrenched especially in hilly areas with a trench depth of 0.60 m to 1.00 m and were same is not technically possible the Pipes so kept naked will have to be insulated with PUF using Chicken mesh & tin foil of approved thickness & specifications against the proposed earthwork and nothing extra shall be paid to the contractor on this account.

b.

The quality of the pipe material shall be supported by manufacturers quality and test certificates. Third-Party (to be nominated by the department) inspection certificate shall also be provided by the contractor at his own cost in respect of material provided and used by him. The same shall be approved by the departmental quality control committee. The pipe will be laid only after the certificate will be issued by the said committee.

c.

The depth of pipe, the pipe material shall be supplied from reputed manufacturers. The agency shall initially establish a store at the project site for storing before the same is issued to sites after getting approved. The approval process shall be documented on material approval sheets duly signed by in charge engineer's quality control committee and contractor.

d.

All electro Mechanical equipments/items/regulatory/Control Valves and other specials shall be SCADA compatible having latest/up to date version technology available

e.

Technical Specifications and type of materials:-

6-

The earnest money shall be forfeited and debarring the contractor for next two years in respect of further competing the contractor in PHE Department without assigning any notice to the contractor, if

a)

Any bidder withdraws his bid during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in terms and conditions of the bid.

b)

The Successful contractor fails to execute an agreement within 10 days after fixation of contract.

c)

The successful bidder fails to start the work within one week from date of fixation of contract.

7-

Any kind of damage which may occur to any work during the course of execution due to incessant/torrential rains /heavy snowfall/ cyclone/ flood etc. shall be the responsibility of the bidder until the work is finally handed over to the PHE Department.

8-

The taxes etc. shall be deducted from the bidders claim as admissible under rules.

9-

The bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities). In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same nomenclature as it contains.

10-

The rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes up to the complete execution of work unless otherwise specified.

11-

The date of start of work shall be reckoned within one week from the date of issuance of letter of intent/contract allotment as the case may be.

12-

Performance guarantee 3% of allotted cost in form of CDR/FDR/DD/BG shall be submitted before the allotment is issued which will be released after successful completion of the AMC plus DLP, of six months, certificate of which shall be primarily issued by the Assistant Executive Engineer of the Respective Sub division(s) and duly signed by the Engineer-in-charge.

13-

Beside the Performance Security, Security Deposit 10% from each payment shall be deducted from all the running bills of contractors. Performance Security and Security Deposit shall not bear any interest.

14-

The final payment of the work will be made only after successful completion. If any defect is found, the contractor will be bound to repair the same at his own risk & cost.

15-

Penalty of delay on account of contract: In case of delay not justified and caused due to the fault of the contractor, the penalty at a reasonable rate not exceeding 10% of the contract value shall be enforced.

16-

The contractor shall be deemed to have satisfied himself before tendering as to the correctness and sufficiency of his tender for the works and of the rate quoted, which shall cover all his obligations under the contract and all matters and things necessary for the proper completion and maintenance of the works including defective liability period.

17-

Before submitting the tender, the tenderer will be deemed to have satisfied himself by his actual inspection of the site, climatic condition records from government and/or Indian Meteorological Department and the locality of the works that all conditions liable to be encountered during execution of the works are taken into account and that the rates quoted by the tenderer in the tender schedule are adequate and all-inclusive for the completion of works to the entire satisfaction of the Engineer in charge.

18-

Bidder should note that terms and conditions of the contract circulated by the authorities from time to time applicable on the contract even if not incorporated in this tender notice.

19-

In case of any dispute regarding the work Chief Engineer Kashmir PHE Department, Srinagar shall be the sole ARBITRATOR.

20-

Misconduct/Misbehaviour observed during the tender opening process with any officer/official shall be dealt under rules and in terms of the enlistment of registration of contractor in the Department and shall be subject to cancellation of registration card issued by this department or any other department.

21-

In case of firm/contractor fails to start the work within the stipulated time, a registered notice or notice sent through special messenger to the firm/contractor for non-start of the work that amounts to the breach of the contract and will be sufficient to windup or cancel his contract.

22-

The accepting authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders before or after their opening without assigning any reason thereof. The allotting authority in view of the exceptional circumstances reserves the right of granting the contract to any of the tenderer if deems proper in the interest of the work of course at the lowest received rates without assigning any reason thereof.

23-

The department may execute the work left by the contractor at the risk and cost of the contractor. Any additional amount involved for execution of work shall be recovered from the contractor.

24-

In case of any typographical error, if found in the rates, quantities or units etc. the same shall be corrected and paid as per sanctioned schedule of rates 2020 in vogue with contractor's Tender appreciation/depreciation.

25-

The contractor shall be personally liable for civil and criminal prosecution under law, if specification of the work found in contravention to the specifications prescribed during execution of work and even after completion and finalization of contract i.e. at any stage.

26-

The contractor will abide by all prevailing labour laws and will be personally responsible for any causality/ eventuality/accident during the period of contract.

27-

Any item or items of work found necessary during execution of work though not advertised in the Rate list shall have to be got executed and paid as per sanctioned schedule of rates 2020 with contractor's appreciation/depreciation which shall be worked out on the basis of overall appreciation / depreciation rather than of any individual item whichever is less.

28-

Any item if found not necessary at site during execution of work through advertised can be deleted and no claim what so ever shall be entertained on this account.

29-

Any other information can be obtained from the office of the undersigned on any working day during office hours.

30-

All other terms and conditions will remain same as laid down in PWD form No.25-double

31-

Any rules/terms and conditions, if not stipulated in the bidding document, shall be strictly dealt in accordance with the relevant rules /guidelines stipulated in the General Finance Rules (GFR 2017) and Manual for procurement of Works 2019 Government of India.

NO: PHEP/4184-93
Dated:-19-11-2022

DIPK-13734/22

SD/-Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti (PHE) Division,
Pulwama

Director Handicrafts & Handloom Kashmir Leads 9th Edition Of Craft Safari

Traverses through the narrow lanes of Nallahmar to highlight the skills of artisans



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Director Handicrafts & Handloom Kashmir Saturday led a team of the departmental officers, intellectuals, Academic Scholars, Journalists, Tour operators, students and people from other fields for the 9th edition of Craft Safari through the narrow lanes of Nallahmar where the old houses, hand-made items, and creative outputs narrate the tales of craftsmanship.

Nallahmar area has witnessed numerous artisans whose skills are a repository of craft tradition and today's craft safari, was focused on highlighting various crafts, including Wood Carving, Kani weaving, Pashmina Weaving, Namda Aari Work, Crewel Chain Stitch, and copperware. The onlookers were elated during the journey to reminisce by diving deep into the process of the artifacts being brought to life by the artisans who have been responsible for the preservation of the art over the centuries.

The team started today's safari from the unit of Muneer Ahmad Mattoo who is a pioneer in the

field of wood carving and has carved some amazing patterns on the walnut wood, which separate him from many individuals in this trade. The team proceeded to the Kani Shawl unit of Naseer Ahmad Mir who owns the pride of being awarded a National Award by the President of India for his exceptional skills in Kani Shawl making. Naseer has been manufacturing Kani shawls for the last 27 years and his skills of masterful manipulation of threads on needles have no equal.

Javid Ahmad Malik who has been creating hugely acclaimed pashmina shawls was the next point of attraction for today's safari. The shawls he produces are sought all over the world and he has been evolving his designs to keep up with the constantly evolving needs of the market that have changed dramatically over the years. The team treaded through the narrow lanes to the workplace of Ghulam Nabi Malik who has started his journey of Namda making thirty years ago and credits his father for teaching him the skill.

There Is Need To Focus On Seed Processing To Increase Productivity: Dulloo

Reviews availability of seed in allied sectors of Agriculture Production Department

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) Agriculture Production Department (APD), Atal Dulloo Saturday impressed upon the officers to focus on seed processing so that productivity could be increased manifold.

The ACS stated this while charging a review meeting on seed availability of allied sectors of agriculture department.

Atal Dulloo said that an apex committee headed by former Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Dr. Mangala Rai seed processing is focused area in his report for holistic development of Agriculture & allied sectors in J&K and transformative change in farmer's income.

During the meeting, respective Heads of the Departments delivered their presentations over the steps to be taken to improve seed production in these sectors.

The meeting held a threadbare discussion over the availability and status of silkworm seed and status of nurseries and farms of Sericulture Department.

The meeting was told about the upgradation of seed units and upgradation of adopted seed rears in mulberry pro-



duction in Sericulture sector.

Similarly, in Animal Husbandry Sector, the meeting discussed the implementation of Bovine Artificial Insemination Programme in J&K with focus to increase AI coverage to 70 percent. Besides, infrastructure for sustained liquid nitrogen production, storage and delivery system.

In order to increase seed production, it was given out that the introduction of New MAITRIs and refreshing training to these MAITRIs.

The meeting was also told about the steps being taken to strengthen the semen stations to increase the production of semen to 15 Lakh doses per year for which DPR has already been submitted to Government of India.

It also discussed the import of HF/JY breeding bulls to achieve the target of increasing semen production in the UT.

Likewise, the meeting dis-

cussed Sheep Husbandry Department with focus on importing animals and embryos and implementation of Sheep/Goat breeding programme and availability of breeding arms, bucks and introduction of AI programme in sheep and goat sector.

The meeting also discussed in detail the dish production in Trout And Carp with main focus on upgradation of existing hatcheries and establishing new hatcheries across the two divisions of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Secretary in APD, Director General Sericulture Department, DG Sheep Husbandry Kashmir, Director Animal Husbandry Jammu/Kashmir, Director Sheep Husbandry Jammu, Director Finance APD, CEO, Livestock Development Board Jammu/Kashmir and other concerned. Kashmir based officers attended the meeting through video conferencing.

Forex Kitty Swells By USD 14.72 Bn To USD 544.72 Bn; Steepest Accretion Since Aug 2021

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: India's foreign exchange reserves soared by USD 14.72 billion to reach USD 544.72 billion for the week to November 11, making it the steepest accretion since August 2021.

However, the reserves have fallen by over USD 110 billion since March as the RBI has been propping up the rupee amid global volatility.

According to the latest weekly data from the Reserve Bank, the forex kitty swelled by USD 14.72 billion to USD 544.72 billion for the week to November 11. The reserves were at USD 529.99 billion as of November 4.

Of the total addition, the value of foreign currency assets, which is the largest component of the reserves, rose by USD 11.8 billion to USD 482.53 billion for the reporting week.

Foreign currency assets consist of the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US currencies like the euro, pound, and the yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.



Gold reserves increased by USD 2.64 billion to USD 39.70 billion.

In the week to October 21, the reserves had fallen by USD 117.93 billion to USD 524.52 billion.

The reserves had climbed by USD 16.7 billion in the week to August 27, 2021, but the addition included USD 12.6 billion of one-time COVID restructuring support from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

According to a treasury head at a private sector bank, the record USD 14.7-billion surge is due to the impact of an estimated USD 8 billion worth of recent overseas currency purchases by the RBI. The sharp jump is also driven

by a softer dollar and changes in the central bank's forward book.

According to the Reserve Bank's weekly statistical supplement, despite the massive accretion in the reporting week, the forex kitty is still down from around USD 630 billion at the beginning of this year. The reserves peaked in September 2021 at over USD 642 billion.

The RBI has sold a portion of the reserves to prevent a sharp fall in the rupee since the Ukraine war began.

The Reserve Bank has sold USD 10.36 billion worth of foreign currency on a net basis in September. The rupee tumbled from around 79.5 per dollar to over 81.5 in September. It plunged to a record low of 83.29 in October.

The rupee climbed 2.3 per cent between October 21 and November 11, and closed at 81.74 on Friday, down 10 paise.

The rupee logged its first weekly fall in four weeks due to weakness in Asian currencies. The domestic unit declined by 96 paise or 1.18 per cent in the week to Friday.

Export Duty On Steel, Iron Ore Cut; Tax On Some Raw Material Imports Hiked

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The government has cut the export duty on steel products and iron ore with effect from Saturday in order to provide a fillip to the domestic steel industry and boost exports.

Besides, import duty on anthracite, coking coal and ferronickel -- used as raw material in the steel industry -- has been hiked, as per a finance ministry notification issued late on Friday.

The export duty concessions and import tax have been restored after a gap of six months. In May, the tariffs were tweaked in the wake of a sharp and steady rise in prices of steel and in order to augment the availability both of finished steel as well as raw materials required for steel manufacture.

With effect from Saturday, exports of specified pig iron and steel products as well as iron ore pellets will attract 'nil' export duty. Also, export duty on outward shipment of iron ore lumps and fines with less than 58 per cent iron content will be 'nil'.

In the case of iron ore lumps and fines with more than 58 per cent iron, the rate of duty will be 30 per cent.

As per the notification, import duty on anthracite/PCI, coking coal and ferronickel has been hiked to 2.5 per cent, while for coke and semi-coke it has been raised to 5 per cent, from 'nil' earlier.

The duty cut follows a meeting of Steel Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman earlier this week. The meeting was attended by Revenue Secretary designate Sanjay Malhotra, among other senior officials.



The finance ministry had in May hiked the export duty on pig iron and steel products to 15 per cent from 'nil', a move which was intended to discourage exports and increase domestic availability to help lower prices.

The tax on export of iron ores and concentrates was hiked to 50 per cent from 30 per cent, while on iron pellets a 45 per cent duty was imposed.

Steel industry has been demanding a rollback of the duties, saying local demand was not sufficient for domestic production.

In a statement, the finance ministry said, "The current measures will provide a fillip to the domestic steel industry and boost exports." Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) said in the last few months in terms of volume, exports of major stainless steel and alloy steel items have shown a declining trend.

During October, engineering exports fell 21 per cent to USD 7.4 billion, primarily due to decline in shipments of steel and its products, EEPC said in a statement. Deloitte India Partner M S Mani said the reduction of export duties will bring cheer to domestic ore producers and make them freely compete in the international markets.

Adani Group's Dr. Rupesh Honoured For Outstanding Leadership



Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: Head of Corporate Affairs for Adani Group Punjab and Haryana, Dr. Rupesh Kumar Singh, was recently conferred the *Dainik Jagran* Group's award for excellence in recognition of his remarkable work in the area of business leadership. Dr. Kumar received the honour at a ceremony that took place in Azerbaijan.

The *Jagran* Prakash Group Ltd, which bestows the honour in the field of business leadership excellence, hosted its sixth achievement award event in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan.

Ajay Kumar Pandey, the second secretary at the Indian Embassy in Baku, and Robshan Rahimov, the head of the South Asia Division of the Azerbaijan Tourism Board, attended the event.

Dr. Singh has expertise in a variety of disciplines, including corpo-

rate affairs, company development, corporate communications and public relations, corporate social responsibility, and government relations. Equipped with a wide variety of skills, he holds a master's degree in business administration, and has worked in the industry for more than 25 years.

Dr. Singh holds the charge of the Adani Group corporate communications, government relations, corporate social responsibility initiatives, and corporate affairs. The Group counts him among the most skilled and accomplished individuals in the field right now.

Dr. Singh, who works from Chandigarh, is a business development executive with a wide range of abilities, making him a good fit for the job. Pertinently, he has consistently received accolades and recognition for the effort and expertise he has put into his area at various periods in his career.

SHORT TAKES

'Gem, Jewellery Exports Decline 15% In Oct'

MUMBAI The gem and jewellery exports declined 14.64 per cent in October at Rs 25,843.84 crore due to seasonal trend as manufacturing activities are limited or closed during Diwali, GJEPC said on Saturday.

In October 2021, the exports stood at Rs 30,274.64 crore, the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) said in a statement.

India's robust gem and jewellery export performance in the first 6 months of 2022-23 helped maintain growth for the period April-October, despite a sharp dip in exports last month, GJEPC noted.

The decline in exports in October or November is a seasonal trend as manufacturing activities are either limited or units are closed because of Diwali, it stated.

"We had witnessed the usual pre-Diwali buzz as factories in India rushed to complete export orders in time for Thanksgiving and Christmas. The temporary closure of units, and absence of workers during Diwali usually results in a decline in exports post Diwali," GJEPC Chairman Vipul Shah said.

The upcoming holiday season in the West and the Chinese New Year will give a boost to exports in November and December, he said. **PTI**

Air India To Introduce Premium Economy Class: CEO

MUMBAI: Air India will be introducing premium economy class in some of its long haul international flights next month, its chief Campbell Wilson said on Saturday as the Tata group-owned airline works on ways to expand its market share as well as the global network.

In his speech at an event by the JRD Tata Memorial Trust in Mumbai, Mr. Wilson said the airline will increase its market share to at least 30% in domestic and international routes.

The airline is implementing a long-term revival plan and over the next five years, it aims to grow its wide-body and narrow-body fleet as well as expand the global network.

"The short-term actions have been to replace carpets, curtains, seat cushions and covers. To fix defective seats and inflight entertainment systems as fast as supply chains will allow. And where parts are no longer available in the market, to work with the likes of Tata Technologies to design and manufacture parts ourselves.

"We've recently completely revamped the domestic inflight menu, and will be doing likewise, as well as launching premium economy on certain long haul international flights next month," the Air India CEO and MD said. **PTI**

Progress On PM- KSK Reviewed

JAMMU: Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo, Saturday chaired a meeting to review PM-KSK (One Nation One Fertilizer) at Civil Secretariat, Jammu.

The concerned officers and representatives of fertilizer companies including CCFCL, IFFCO, IPL and NFL briefed the Additional Chief Secretary about progress on PM-KSK in Jammu and Kashmir.

Additional Chief Secretary took stock of progress and present status of district/company wise list of PM-KSK besides giving details about districts allotted to fertilizer companies for developing PM-KSK in J&K and Ladakh UTs. He was informed that 6 PM-KSK are already functional in different districts.

Additional Chief Secretary directed the concerned authorities to ensure 100 percent cashless payments between whole sellers and retailers besides 100 percent installation of Quick Response (QR) codes at all retailer outlets for digital payments.

ACS also directed Fertilizer Companies to develop all the 140 district HQ retailers as PM KSK as per guidelines given by the Department of Fertilizer. Gol within the time frame ensuring all facilities at the outlets. **ONS**

Dir Agri Inaugurates High Tech Poly House

SHOPIAN: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal Saturday visited different areas of Shopian and inaugurated High Tech Poly House at Pinjora besides two Community Bore Wells at Safanagri.

On the occasion, the Director formally initiated the sowing operations of different vegetable crops of peas in 10 Kanals of land at Safanagri Shopian and was briefed by the concerned technical officers regarding the latest seedling production techniques that would be provided to the farmers by using the hi-tech technology.

Addressing a large gathering of farmers, the Director reiterated the Department's commitment to reach to the farmers of far flung areas.

He instructed the officers to continue organizing awareness/ training programmes regarding different schemes and flagship programmes being implemented by the department for the development and prosperity of farmers of the region.

He said our goal is that every farmer on the field gets benefited by the schemes and flagship programmes of the department and contributes to the progress and prosperity of the agriculture sector in the district. **ONS**

Training Programme On Soil Health Management Held

BANDIPORA: The Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Bandipora Saturday organized a daylong training programme on Soil Health Management for extension functionaries of the Department of Agriculture.

20 Officials including Agriculture Extension Officers, Junior Agriculture Extension Officers and SMSS from ATMA participated in the programme. Dr. Nazir Ahmad Mir, Subject Matter Specialist Animal Science also participated in the event.

Dr. Hilal Ahmad Malik, Subject Matter Specialist Agri-Extension welcomed the participants and briefed them about the programme. Programme Coordinator KVK Bandipora, Dr. Tariq Sultan delivered a detailed powerpoint presentation on soil nutrient management.

He said that proper soil fertility is essential for achieving optimum yields and plant health. It is also critical for minimizing the costs of inputs like fertilizer or irrigation water, as well as for reducing the environmental impacts of production agriculture, he added.

Dr. Tahir Saleem, Subject Matter Specialist Vegetable Science, while addressing the participants said that Healthy soil is the foundation for profitable, productive, and environmentally sound agricultural systems. **ONS**

Russian strikes force Ukraine to face hours-long power cuts

AGENCEIS

Kyiv, Nov 19 (AP) Ukraine's electricity grid chief warned of hours-long power outages on Friday as Russia zeroed in on Ukraine's energy infrastructure with heavy artillery and missile attacks that have interrupted supplies to as much as 40 per cent of the country's people at the onset of winter.

Freezing temperatures are putting additional pressure on energy networks, grid operator Ukrenergo said.

"You always need to prepare for the worst. We understand that the enemy wants to destroy our power system in general, to cause long outages," Ukrenergo's chief executive Volodymyr Kudrytskyi told Ukrainian state television. "We need to prepare for possible long outages, but at the moment we are introducing schedules that are planned and will do everything to ensure that the outages are not very long."

The capital of Kyiv is already facing a "huge deficit in electricity", Mayor Vitali Klitschko told The Associated Press. Some 1.5 million to 2 million (15-20 lakh) people -- about half of the city's population -- are periodically plunged into darkness as authorities switch electricity from one district to another.

"It is a critical situation," he said.

Klitschko added that Russian President Vladimir Putin's military planners apparently are hoping "to bring us, everyone, to depression", to make people feel unsafe and "to think about, maybe we give up". But it will not work, he said.

"It is wrong, it is (a) wrong vision of Putin," he said. "After every rocket attack, I talk to the people, to simple civilians. They (are) not depressed. They were angry, angry and ready

to stay and defend our houses, our families and our future."

Kudrytskyi added that the power situation at critical facilities such as hospitals and schools has been stabilised.

Those facilities were targeted overnight in the north-eastern Kharkiv region, where energy equipment was damaged, according to governor Oleh Syniehubov. Eight people including energy crews and police were injured trying to clear up the debris, he said.

Moscow's attacks on Ukraine's energy and power facilities have fuelled fears of what the dead of winter will bring. Ukraine's energy infrastructure had again been targeted on Thursday, two days after Russia unleashed a nationwide barrage of more than 100 missiles and drones that knocked out power to 10 million (one crore) people.

Those attacks have also affected neighbouring countries like Moldova, where a half-a-dozen cities across that country experienced temporary blackouts.

In the past 24 hours, Russian forces unleashed the breadth of their arsenal to attack Ukraine's southeast, employing drones, rockets, heavy artillery and warplanes that killed at least six civilians and wounded six others, the president's office said.

In the Zaporizhzhia region, part of which remains under Russian control, artillery pounded 10 towns and villages. The death toll from a Russian rocket attack on a residential building in the city of Vilniansk on Thursday climbed to 10 people, including three children.

In Nikopol, located across the Dnieper River from the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, 40 Russian missiles damaged several high-rise buildings, homes and a power line.

Beijing under semi-lockdown as new COVID-19 cases hit China



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing: The coronavirus situation in China has become grim again with the number of COVID-19 cases rising to over 25,000, including more than 500 in Beijing, prompting the city officials to advise millions of residents to stay home this weekend and undergo daily testing.

Beijing wore an eerie look on Saturday with most of its residents staying home after several districts in the city on Friday issued advisories to people, calling for less cross-district personnel flow and avoid unnecessary trips during the weekend.

An official from Chaoyang district, the worst-hit area and also the most populous district in the city, told residents to stay indoors during the weekend.

The sprawling district houses all top government offices, commercial hubs and thousands of

residential communities.

The district government of Chaoyang also advised residents not to leave the area unless necessary, and if they do, they must provide negative nucleic acid test results taken within 48 hours, official media here reported on Saturday.

After Chaoyang, other districts of Dongcheng, Xicheng, Tongzhou, Yanqing, Changping, Shunyi and Haidian uploaded letters on their official media accounts, urging people to reduce cross-district personnel flow and avoid unnecessary trips.

Some major shopping malls across the city have also suspended dining-in services following the current epidemic prevention and control measures.

Beijing on Friday reported 515 COVID-19 cases while the Chinese mainland recorded 25,000 cases, a very high by

Chinese standards, according to official data.

The periodic spikes in coronavirus cases in almost all the cities in China for the past two years which led to lockdowns and disrupted people's lives, supply chains and the economy, is wearing down people.

There are reports of sporadic public protests in the industrial city of Guangzhou.

Early this month, China modified its zero-COVID policy by doing away with its much-criticised "circuit breaker" policy of suspending international flights if any positive COVID-19 cases were detected on arrival and cut the quarantine time for international travelers from 10 to eight days.

With continued spikes in the virus, observers doubt whether China will further modify its COVID-19 policy to gradually open up to the world to revive its economy.

Dalai Lama receives Gandhi Mandela Award, 'Any problem can be solved through dialogue and peace'

Press Trust of India

Dharamsala: Himachal Pradesh Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar on Saturday bestowed the Gandhi Mandela Award on Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama in a ceremony organised by the Gandhi Mandela Foundation in McLeodGanj.

Arlekar said the Dalai Lama was "perhaps the most deserving person in the world today" for the award and called him a "universal ambassador of peace".

His principles of non-violence and compassion are required in today's world as these are more effective than

any army. The Dalai Lama has taken forward the centuries-old culture of goodwill, compassion and love, he said.

Congratulating the Gandhi Mandela Foundation, he said only the Dalai Lama had the potential to become a world citizen after Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela as he was not bound by borders.

Accepting the award, the Dalai Lama said non-violence and compassion were essential for world peace and these principles had been ingrained in Indian culture for thousands of years.

"Any problem cannot be solved by war but through dialogue and peace," he said.

SDA Bans Constructions, Vehicular Movement To Thajiwas Glacier

AGENCIES

Srinagar: Sonmarg Development Authority has imposed a blanket ban on the construction of activities and plying of vehicles towards Thajwas glacier area.

The order has been issued in compliance with the court directions that came up in 2017. Besides the ban on construction activity, repairs or renovations to the existing structures at Sonamarg has also been banned.

It has also accorded directions for the restriction of vehicular traffic and human interference towards Thajwas area in view of its eco-sensitivity.

"As such it is enjoined upon all the field officers/officials (Engineering Wing) of Sonamarg Development Authority not to allow any

construction activity including the internal repairs and renovations at Sonamarg"

Further, the officials posted at the toll post are directed to keep a close vigil on every movement of the vehicles entering in the tourist destination Sonamarg and not to allow any construction material within the jurisdiction of Sonamarg Development Authority.

The order reads that if any construction material is found at the tourist destination Sonamarg, it shall be treated as a dereliction of duties on the part of the enforcement team of SDA constituted under endorsement under the supervision of Ex. Engineer, SDA and shall be dealt with the iron hand under relevant provisions of Law presently in vogue in J&K.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Intravenous Opioid

according to the doctor, triggered social isolation, frustration, boredom, stress and panic among people

"To counter these emotions many people indulged into and relapsed back and started taking drugs again. This negative coping has led to immense increase in substance use in various populations," he said.

The doctor said that study reflects that people belonging to the age group 21-30 years are mostly using substances, specifically opioids and the percentage of people affected was significantly higher in this study (64.5%) as compared to the study conducted earlier (50.5%).

"This finding would reflect the frustration and free time this age group experienced due to the confinement in homes and closure of various recreational facilities as this group in the most active and outgoing age group) In the study, rural and urban population constituted 68.60% and 31.40% respectively. "This is because our hospital is a government hospital which is preferred by the rural population as compared to the affluent urban population who mostly visit private facilities due to the stigma associated with substance use disorder," he added.

"The closure of various educational institutions and change in the delivery of education services such as online classes led to build up of tension and anxiety in young students besides that the lack of technical knowledge and excessive screen time spent in view of online classes has fuelled up the anxiety and stress among students. Likewise, people belonging to the economic sector, especially the self-employed, faced huge economic setbacks due to closure of various business establishments and start ups and it is seen that people with substance use disorder develop increased severity when faced with unemployment or financial crisis," the doctor said.

Heroin was the most commonly used opioid (94.12%) compared to pharmaceutical opioids (5.88%). In contrast to a study conducted earlier, in which heroin was 84.33% and pharmaceutical opioids was 24.33%, he said.

He explained it by saying the resilience of the opioid market to various pandemic measures but pharmaceutical opioids were restricted.

In the study, the most common route of administration of drugs was intravenous 79.42% in contrast to studies conducted earlier where percentage of intravenous users is 7.91% and 51.53%) and it reflects that the

shortage of resources to procure the substance leading to a switch from oral/chasing to intravenous route as the amount required for the same effect is quite low when opioids are used intravenously, he added.

"The percentage of patients having positive serology was also greater. This could be explained by increase seen in reusing of needles due to lack to procure fresh needles and also increasing frequency of injecting in people with substance using behaviour and the percentage of patients who had sought treatment in the past was about 38.31% in comparison to only 13% and 11% of patients as per studies conducted earlier and this finding would be due to increased relapse during the pandemic as the various treatment facilities were shut down," he added.

The IMHANS de-addiction centre where the study was conducted was the only centre in the valley that continued providing services both IPD and OPD to substance users during COVID times.

The need to continue services was felt by the IMHANS department because drug addiction was a parallel epidemic in Kashmir with more mortality and morbidity rate compared to Covid--(KNO)

Kashmir Upper

another spell of heavy snowfall since Saturday evening. Reports of snowfall have also been reaches from the upper reaches of Pahalgam as well.

In Srinagar and other districts in the plains of the Valley, the sky remained generally cloudy with cold breeze.

Deputy Director, meteorological department in Srinagar, Mukhtar Ahmed told Kashmir Observer that precipitation is expected over the higher reaches of the Union Territory till Sunday afternoon.

"We aren't expecting any severe precipitation to occur in this system in lower areas. However, there will be a heavy spell of rain and snow in higher reaches till 21 November," he said.

From November 21, he said, the weather would remain partly cloudy to occasionally sunny.

"There's a possibility of rains in plains after 28," Ahmed said, adding that the weather will improve in plains from Monday afternoon and will continue to stay dry for a week.

The official further added that the temperatures are still around normal.

He further said that Srinagar-Jammu national Highway, Srinagar-Leh National Highway, Mughal road, road connecting Anantnag-Kishtwar, Sinthan Top, Sadhna Pass and hilly roads of higher reaches like Gurez,

Tulail and Karnah may be affected due to the weather disturbance till 21 November.

"People should plan their travel accordingly," Mukhtar said.

Meanwhile, a meteorological department official here said that all places recorded below than normal maximum temperature with Gulmarg recording lowest 3.6°C which was below 4.6°C than the normal for the world famous skiing resort.

However in terms of the highest fall, it was Kupwara which recorded a plunge by 6.0°C, recording maximum of 9.3°C.

Srinagar recorded maximum of 11.3°C (below 3.8°C), Qazigund 12.4°C (below 2.9°C), Pahalgam 9.4°C (below 2.2°C) and Jammu 23.7°C (below 2.4°C).

Regarding the night temperature, the Met official said, Srinagar recorded a low of 2.2°C against 0.4°C on the previous night. The temperature was 1.6°C above normal for the summer capital during this time of the year, he said.

Qazigund recorded a low of 1.8°C against minus 0.4°C on the previous night, while the mercury settled at minus 1.3°C against minus 4.2°C in Pahalgam.

Kokernag recorded a low of 2.8°C against 0.6°C on the previous night and it was 1.2°C above normal for the place, he said.

In Ladakh, Kargil recorded a low of minus 4.6°C, Leh minus 10.1°C and mercury in Drass, the world's second coldest place after Siberia, settled at minus 7.1°C, the official said.

DC Kupwara Issues Weather Advisory

Meanwhile in the wake of rain and snowfall prediction, the district administration in north Kashmir's Kupwara on Saturday issued an advisory asking the residents of higher reaches to refrain from venturing in avalanche prone areas till improvement of weather.

In view of prediction by Meteorological Department for wide-spread snow and rain spell of moderate intensity during 19 to 21 of this month, DC Kupwara, Doifode Sagar Dattatray on Saturday issued an advisory for the people of the district in general and the people residing in the areas like Keran, Karnah, Machil, Budnamal, Jungumud, Nowgam, Kumkadi and on the periphery of different Nallahs/rivers prone to floods, sloppy areas of the district in particular, an official spokesperson said.

"Further, the general public have been advised to avoid traveling to these areas without proper information on the weather system and in case

of accumulation of snow on roads," he said.

According to the advisory, the residents have been asked to contact the District Administration Control Room on phone number 01955-253522 and Police Control Room (PCR) Kupwara on 01955-252451 and PCR Handwara on 01955-262295 in case of any urgency.

Meanwhile, the spokesperson said, all district and sectoral officers especially the officers and officials of Irrigation & FC, PHE, PDD, R&B, Mechanical and Revenue have been directed not to leave their respective Headquarters without permission from DC office and keep their men and machinery ready to meet any exigency.

Sarah Rizvi, IPS

Sarah from Gujarat cadre to AGMUT cadre for a period of three years.

She was given inter-cadre deputation from Gujarat cadre to the UT of Jammu & Kashmir earlier this month.

"In the interest of administration, Sarah Rizvi, IPS (RR: 2008), awaiting orders of posting, is hereby posted as Deputy Inspector General of Police (Administration), Police Headquarters, J&K, against an available vacancy, with immediate effect," reads an order issued by Raj Kumar Goyal, Finance Commissioner/Additional Chief Secretary, J&K government.

Born and brought up in Mumbai, Sarah completed her bachelor's degree in commerce from Mithibai Motiram Kundnani (MMK) College of Commerce and Economics, Mumbai. She cleared Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) exams in her third attempt in year 2008.

After receiving her training from the IPS from Mussoorie, Uttarakhand, Sarah's first posting was in Jamnagar district of Gujarat. She remained on probation of six months in Jamnagar before transferred to Gondal, Rajkot as Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP)

Police Turns

at Nigeen, Rashid Maqbool at Lal Bazar, Momin Gulzar at Eidgah, Sajjad Kralyari at Rainawari, Gowhar Geelani at Soura, Mukhtar Baba at Nowgam, Waseem Khalid at Rawalpura, Adil Pandit at Khanyar and Sajjad Sheikh at Sajjad Gul at HMT in the city outskirts. In Anantnag district, raids were carried out at the residence of Khalid Gul and Qazi Shibli, while in the neighbouring Kulgam the house of Basit Dara was searched.

During the searches, the spokesperson said, all the legal formalities were followed professionally and consequent to the searches some suspects have been brought for examination

and questioning.

"The seized materials by the respective search teams include mobiles, laptops, memory cards, pen-drives & other digital devices, documents, bank papers, rubber stamps, passports, other suspect papers, cash, Saudi currency etc," he said.

"The investigation in the instant case is in full swing and the general public is requested to bring any information that is relevant to this case in the notice of Srinagar Police," he added.

The police action comes in the backdrop of online publication & dissemination of direct threat letters to some journalists & reporters based in Kashmir.

Police have already registered a case FIR No. 82/2022 at the Police Station Sherghari against terror handlers, active terrorists & terrorist associates of proscribed terror outfit LeT & its offshoot TRF for issuing threats to the journalists.

Over the last few days, as many as five journalists have resigned from local publications.

Quoting an intelligence dossier, a news agency PTI claimed Mukhar Baba as a mastermind behind issuing the threats to scribes.

Baba (55) used to work for various newspapers in Kashmir. He was a resident of Srinagar in the 1990s and is believed to have escaped to Turkey, an intelligence dossier said.

Baba has built a network of informers in the journalist community and used their inputs to prepare a list of scribes to threaten, the dossiers says, according to PTI.

On Friday, the Editors Guild of India (EGI) condemned the threats, saying such pronouncements have further worsened the sense of fear and insecurity, which makes it impossible for the journalists to work freely.

The Guild strongly condemned the threats and called upon the union territory administration to create an atmosphere of security and trust, wherein the media is not compelled to take sides, and is able to work in a free environment with full security, it said in a statement.

The EGI said the journalists in Kashmir now find themselves in the firing line from both the state authorities as well as terrorists, in what is a "throwback to the years of heightened militancy in the 1990s". (With PTI inputs)

Centre Calls

from central deputation in 2013, Kansal has held key posts in Jammu & Kashmir during his 9-year stint.

As administrative secretary of the

Power Development Department, Kansal played a crucial role in augmenting and strengthening infrastructure in the sector in both Kashmir and Jammu.

He played a key role in the implementation of the Government's initiative to reach out to the people at the grassroots level through a programme named as 'Back to Village'.

Will Fight Next

the next party president, he said the National Conference is a democratic party and the party elections will take place on December 5 to elect a new leader.

"People will file their nominations and the party delegates will decide who will be the next party president. I am going to contest the Assembly elections," he said.

He said the NC is ready for the assembly elections and will emerge as a victor to pull out J&K from its troubles.

"Let them announce the dates, we will show them where they stand," he said, apparently referring to the BJP which has claimed it will win 50-plus seats in the next assembly elections.

Abdullah said the time has come for the youth to take the lead in the party. "Whatever was possible from me, I have done that. I am not escaping as I am a party man and will remain so. I will continue to work for the success of the party."

Welcoming the new entrants into the party fold, he said their joining will further strengthen the party at the grass-roots level.

"We will together strengthen the National Conference and will address all the issues of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Referring to 1996, when the National Conference formed the state government under his leadership, he said the party worked hard to bring J&K back on the track at a time when everything was finished and only his party was on the ground.

"What the National Conference has done is history. When we came back to power in 1996, gun and bombs attacks were taking place everywhere... schools were closed and there were no roads and bridges.

"We restored order, reopened closed schools by deploying 'Rahbar-e-Taleem' teachers, posted 300 doctors in far flung areas and also restored the damaged infrastructure to bring J&K back on track," he said, adding that parties which were nowhere then were trying to claim credit today.

He urged the people to join hands with the National Conference to pull out Jammu and Kashmir and ensure that it marches alongside the rest of the country.



FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022: Schedule, Timings, Stadiums & More

Agencies

DOHA: On Sunday, the first World Cup in the Arab world will kick off at the Al Bayt Stadium in Doha when hosts Qatar take on Ecuador.

Here's the full schedule of FIFA World Cup 2022. All times in IST:

1.	November 20	Qatar vs Ecuador	9:30 PM	Al Bayt Stadium
2.	November 21	England vs Iran	6:30 PM	Khalifa International Stadium
3.	November 21	Senegal vs Netherlands	9:30 PM	Al Thumama Stadium
4.	November 22	USA vs Wales	12:30 AM	Al Rayyan Stadium

FIFA WORLD CUP 2022 GROUPS

GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D
Qatar	England	Argentina	France
Ecuador	Iran	Saudi Arabia	Australia
Senegal	USA	Mexico	Denmark
Netherlands	Wales	Poland	Tunisia

GROUP E	GROUP F	GROUP G	GROUP H
Spain	Belgium	Brazil	Portugal
Costa Rica	Canada	Serbia	Ghana
Germany	Morocco	Switzerland	Uruguay
Japan	Croatia	Cameroon	South Korea

Source: FIFA

5.	November 22	Argentina vs Saudi Arabia	3:30 PM	Lusail Stadium
6.	November 22	Denmark vs Tunisia	6:30 PM	Education City Stadium
7.	November 22	Mexico vs Poland	9:30 PM	Stadium 974
8.	November 23	France vs Australia	12:30 AM	Al Janoub Stadium
9.	November 23	Morocco vs Croatia	3:30 PM	Al Bayt Stadium
10.	November 23	Germany vs Japan	6:30 PM	Khalifa International Stadium
11.	November 23	Spain vs Costa Rica	9:30 PM	Al Thumama Stadium
12.	November 24	Belgium vs Canada	12:30 AM	Al Rayyan Stadium
13.	November 24	Switzerland vs Cameroon	3:30 PM	Al Janoub Stadium
14.	November 24	Uruguay vs South Korea	6:30 PM	Education City Stadium
15.	November 24	Portugal vs Ghana	9:30 PM	Stadium 974
16.	November 25	Brazil vs Serbia	12:30 AM	Lusail Stadium
17.	November 25	Wales vs Iran	3:30 PM	Al Rayyan Stadium
18.	November 25	Qatar vs Senegal	6:30 PM	Al Thumama Stadium
19.	November 25	Netherlands vs Ecuador	9:30 PM	Khalifa International Stadium
20.	November 26	England vs USA	12:30 AM	Al Bayt Stadium
21.	November 26	Tunisia vs Australia	3:30 PM	Al Janoub Stadium
22.	November 26	Poland vs Saudi Arabia	6:30 PM	Education City Stadium
23.	November 26	France vs Denmark	9:30 PM	Stadium 974
24.	November 27	Argentina vs Mexico	12:30 AM	Lusail Stadium
25.	November 27	Japan vs Costa Rica	3:30 PM	Al Rayyan Stadium
26.	November 27	Belgium vs Morocco	6:30 PM	Al Thumama Stadium
27.	November 27	Croatia vs Canada	9:30 PM	Khalifa International Stadium
28.	November 28	Spain vs Germany	12:30 AM	Al Bayt Stadium
29.	November 28	Cameroon vs Serbia	3:30 pm	Al Janoub Stadium
30.	November 28	South Korea vs Ghana	6:30 PM	Education City Stadium
31.	November 28	Brazil vs Switzerland	9:30 PM	Stadium 974
32.	November 29	Portugal vs Uruguay	12:30 AM	Lusail Stadium
33.	November 29	Ecuador vs Senegal	8:30 PM	Khalifa International Stadium
34.	November 29	Netherlands vs Qatar	8:30 PM	Al Bayt Stadium
35.	November 30	Iran vs USA	12:30 AM	Al Thumama Stadium
36.	November 30	Wales vs England	12:30 AM	Al Rayyan Stadium
37.	November 30	Australia vs Denmark	8:30 PM	Al Janoub Stadium
38.	November 30	Tunisia vs France	8:30 PM	Education City Stadium
39.	December 1	Poland vs Argentina	12:30 AM	Stadium 974
40.	December 1	Saudi Arabia vs Mexico	12:30 AM	Lusail Stadium
41.	December 1	Canada vs Morocco	8:30 PM	Al Thumama Stadium
42.	December 1	Croatia vs Belgium	8:30 PM	Al Rayyan Stadium
43.	December 2	Costa Rica vs Germany	12:30 AM	Al Bayt Stadium
44.	December 2	Japan vs Spain	12:30 AM	Khalifa International Stadium
45.	December 2	Ghana vs Uruguay	8:30 PM	Al Janoub Stadium
46.	December 2	South Korea vs Portugal	8:30 PM	Education City Stadium
47.	December 3	Cameroon vs Brazil	12:30 AM	Lusail Stadium
48.	December 3	Serbia vs Switzerland	12:30 AM	Stadium 974

Round of 16

49.	December 3	1A vs 2B	8:30 PM	Khalifa International Stadium
50.	December 4	1C vs 2D	12:30 AM	Al Rayyan Stadium
51.	December 4	1D vs 2C	8:30 PM	Al Thumama Stadium
52.	December 5	1B vs 2A	12:30 AM	Al Bayt Stadium
53.	December 5	1E vs 2F	8:30 PM	Al Janoub Stadium
54.	December 6	1G vs 2H	12:30 AM	Stadium 974
55.	December 6	1F vs 2E	8:30 PM	Education City Stadium
56.	December 7	1H vs 2G	12:30 AM	Lusail Stadium

Quarterfinal

57.	December 9	Winner of Match 57 vs Winner of Match 54	8:30 PM	Education City Stadium
58.	December 10	Winner of Match 49 vs Winner of Match 50	12:30 AM	Lusail Stadium
59.	December 10	Winner of Match 55 vs Winner of Match 56	8:30 PM	Al Thumama Stadium
60.	December 11	Winner of Match 52 vs Winner of Match 51	12:30 AM	Al Bayt Stadium

Semifinal

61.	December 14	Winner of Match 57 vs Winner of Match 58	12:30 AM	Al Bayt Stadium
62.	December 15	Winner of Match 59 vs Winner of Match 60	12:30 AM	Lusail Stadium

Third Place Match

63.	December 17	Loser of Match 61 vs Loser of Match 62	8:30 PM	Khalifa International Stadium
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Final

64.	December 18	Winner of Match 61 vs Winner of Match 62	8:30 PM	Lusail Stadium
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Real Kashmir Win 2-0 As I-League Returns To Valley

Press Trust of India

SRINAGAR: Passion was high and the excitement grew greater with each minute as locals came out in huge numbers to support Real Kashmir FC in their I-League match against Rajasthan United FC here -- the first such game in the valley since the COVID-19 outbreak.

The synthetic turf at the TRC Grounds -- the venue of the game -- came alive after three years as football supporters filled up the stands on a chilly Saturday afternoon.

The match -- won by RKFC 2-0 -- was the first high-profile game in the valley since the outbreak of COVID-19.

As the players took to the ground, the spectators cheered for their team. The match referee's whistles could hardly be heard amid the applause, drumbeats and whistles, and the occasional boos for the opponents.

The match had its moments -- power-packed volleys, numerous headers, heated arguments between players, unruly scenes, as well as injuries.

There was no dull moment in the game and the crowd loved every single minute, with the cold conditions failing to dampen their spirit. They backed the RKFC players, sometimes tried to act like coaches, telling the players what to do.

With the crowd backing them to the hilt, the RKFC players kept the pressure on the visiting team throughout the game. Their defence was strong, and the attack stronger.

The team did not disappoint its supporters as it struck one past the rival team goal-keeper in the 21st minute through Moro Lamine, the 28-year-old Ghanaian centre-back, as the crowd stood on its feet.

The teams changed ends, but RKFC continued with their impressive ways. The Real Kashmir continued to dominate the match and struck again in the 77th minute through Jerry Pulamte.

Not only did the second goal break the back of the visiting team, it sent the spectators into a state of frenzy. The cheering grew louder and the atmosphere became electric.

The Real Kashmir FC flags flew high, the drum beats got louder and sloganeering shriller.

The acceptance of an imminent defeat could be sensed among Rajasthan players as they dropped their shoulders. When the referee signalled the end of the game, the Real Kashmir players rejoiced, and so did the crowd.

Tasaduq Amin, a football lover, said he enjoyed watching the Snow Leopards roar and expressed hope that the Real Kashmir would keep the momentum going in the next game.

J&K Trounce Odisha By 3 Wickets In Vijay Hazare Trophy

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K senior men's cricket team defeated Odisha by three wickets on Saturday to go level at the top of the Elite Group D table.

J&K won the toss and decided to bowl first at the MCA Cricket Ground in Mumbai.

The Odisha batters stuttered in the early stages of the match and were 38/2 after 7.2 overs. However, opening batter Abhishek Raut 75 (99) was ably supported by Kartik Biswal 47 (73) and Rakesh Pattnaik 53* (31) to help Odisha post a competitive 268/6. For J&K, Yudhvir Singh took 3 wickets while Mujtaba Yousuf chipped in with 2 wickets.

In reply, the J&K batters got off to a great start and were cruising at 181/4 after 35.4

overs. The Odisha bowlers got wickets at regular intervals to pile the pressure on J&K batters. However, the J&K lower order batters held their nerve to reach the target with 7 balls left. J&K made 269/7 thanks to some brilliant batting by opener Shubham Khajuria 78 (77), captain Shubham Pundir 57 (61) and Sahil Lotra 44 (40). Tarani Sa took 3 wickets for Odisha.

The win took J&K to 16 points after 5 matches in the Elite Group D table, level with Punjab who have one match in hand. J&K next play Uttarakhand on November 23.



Infantino Scolds World Cup Critics In Extraordinary Diatribe

Agencies

DOHA: Gianni Infantino said he feels gay. That he feels like a woman. That he feels like a migrant worker. He lectured Europeans for criticizing Qatar's human rights record and defended the host country's last-minute decision to ban beer from World Cup stadiums.

The FIFA president delivered a one-hour tirade on the eve of the World Cup's opening match, and then spent about 45 minutes answering questions from media about the Qatari government's actions and a wide range of other topics.

"Today I feel Qatari," Infantino said Saturday at the start of his first news conference of the World Cup. "Today I feel Arab. Today I feel African. Today I feel gay. Today I feel disabled. Today I feel a migrant worker." Infantino later shot back at one reporter who noticed he left women out of his unusual declaration.

"I feel like a woman," the FIFA president responded.

Qatar has faced a litany of criticism since 2010, when it was chosen by FIFA to host the biggest soccer tournament in the world.

Migrant laborers who built Qatar's World Cup stadiums often worked long hours under harsh conditions and were subjected to discrimination, wage theft and other abuses as their employers evaded accountability, London-based rights group Equidem said in a 75-page report released this month.

Infantino defended the country's immigration policy, and praised the government for bringing in migrants to work.

"We in Europe, we close our borders and we don't allow practically any worker from those countries, who earn obviously very low income, to work legally in our countries,"

Infantino said. "If Europe would really care about the destiny of these people, these young people, then Europe could also do as Qatar did.

"But give them some work. Give them some future. Give them some hope. But this moral-lesson giving, one-sided, it is just hypocrisy."

Qatar is governed by a hereditary emir who has absolute say over all governmental decisions and follows an ultraconservative form of Islam known as Wahhabism. In recent years, Qatar has been transformed following a natural gas boom in the 1990s, but it has faced pressure from within to stay true to its Islamic heritage and Bedouin roots. Under heavy international scrutiny, Qatar has enacted a number of labor reforms in recent years that have been praised by Equidem and other rights groups. But advocates say abuses are still widespread and that workers have few avenues for redress.

Infantino, however, continued to hit the Qatari government's talking points of turning criticism back onto the West.

"What we Europeans have been doing for the past 3,000 years we should be apologizing for the next 3,000 years before we start giving moral lessons to people," said Infantino, who moved last year from Switzerland to live in Doha ahead of the World Cup.

In response to his comments, human rights group Amnesty International said Infantino was "brushing aside legitimate human rights criticisms" by dismissing the price paid by migrant workers to make the tournament possible and FIFA's responsibility for it. "Demands for equality, dignity and compensation cannot be treated as some sort of culture war -- they are universal human rights that FIFA has committed to respect in its own statutes," said Steve Cockburn, Amnesty's head of economic and social justice.

A televised speech by Qatar's emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, on Oct. 25 marked a turning point in the country's approach to any criticism, claiming it had been "subjected to an unprecedented campaign that no host country has ever faced." Since then, government ministers and senior World Cup organizing staff have dismissed some European criticism as racism, and calls to create a compensation fund for the families of migrant workers as a publicity stunt. (AP)



NZ vs IND 2nd T20: India Face Selection Dilemma

Press Trust of India

MOUNT MAUNGANUI: Bhuvneshwar Kumar faces an arduous challenge of remaining relevant in shortest format as a young Indian team, seeking some game time, is expected to face tough resistance from New Zealand in the second T20 International in Mount Maunganui on Sunday.

The series-opener in Wellington was abandoned due to inclement weather and the Indian players must be itching to get onto the park which, inarguably, has the most scenic backdrop.

Ironically, the region where the ground is located is known as 'Bay of Plenty' and Indian cricket at this point has plenty to ponder as far as its approach in T20 format is concerned.

While the Sky Stadium was shorter in terms of dimensions, the Indian team will have to make adjustments as the 'Bay Oval' ground has bigger side boundaries and is an open ground unlike Wellington.

Squads:

India: Hardik Pandya (captain), Rishabh Pant (vc and wk), Shubman Gill, Suryakumar Yadav, Sanju Samson, Shreyas Iyer, Ishan Kishan (wk), Deepak Hooda, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Washington Sundar, Harshal Patel, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Umran Malik, Mohammed Siraj, Arshdeep Singh

New Zealand: Kane Williamson (captain), Devon Conway, Finn Allen, Glenn Phillips, Devon Cinway, Daryl Mitchell, Adam Milne, Michael Bracewell, Ish Sodhi, Mitchell Santner, Lockie Ferguson, Tim Southee, Blair Tuckner

Match Starts: 12 noon IST



Smith Leads Australia To Series Win Over England



Agencies

SYDNEY: A battling 94 from Steve Smith saw Australia to a series win against England with a game to spare after a 72-run victory in the second one-day international in Sydney on Saturday.

Both sides rested their captains, with Moeen Ali deputising for Joss Butler, while Josh Hazlewood was the surprise pick to lead Australia with Pat Cummins sitting out.

After Hazlewood won the toss and elected to bat, two early wickets brought Steve Smith and Marnus Labuschagne (58) to the crease.

The pair put on 101 before Labuschagne departed with a top edge to mid-off trying to sweep Adil Rashid.

Smith was the slower starter of the two, with his 50 coming off 70 balls and containing only two boundaries.

But he upped the pace soon after, especially through his favoured leg side, and was assisted by Mitchell Marsh (50).

Chasing 280, a decent total on a dry, bowler-friendly pitch, England got off to the worst possible start, losing two wickets without scoring a run.

Mitchell Starc (4-47) had Jason Roy strangled down the leg side off the second ball of the innings. Three deliveries later, he bowled Dawid Malan with a beautiful outswinger.

England eventually slumped to 208 all out.

The two sides meet for a third and final match in Melbourne on Tuesday.

As Climate Change Progresses, Trees In Cities Struggle

Agenceis

As the driest summer in Seattle's record books ended, trees across the city were sounding silent alarms.

It was the latest in a string of Seattle summers in the last decade, including a record-breaking heat dome in 2021, to feature drier conditions and hotter temperatures that have left many trees with premature brown leaves and needles, bald branches and excessive seeding - all signs of stress.

You see it in big leaf maples and hemlocks, just loaded with cones or seeds, it's kind of their last-ditch effort to reproduce, said Shea Cope, an arborist at Washington Park Arboretum, a sprawling 230-acre (93 hectare) park north of downtown.

This summer was fatal for three significant trees in the park's pine collection, including an 85-year-old Japanese red pine infected with



fungus left by beetles.

We're losing conifers faster than our broad leaf, deciduous ones, Cope added as he surveyed a towering knobcone pine with half its canopy dead.

Cities worldwide have promised to plant more carbon-absorbing trees to help fight climate change. Research has shown the shade of mature trees also helps reduce unhealthy heat islands, especially in poor neighbourhoods.

President Joe Biden's Inflation Reduction Act infused USD 1.5 billion into the Forest Service's urban

tree programme money for cities to do even more planting and maintenance.

Life in a city can be especially hard for a tree, and those challenges are escalating with global warming.

Researchers from France and Australia analysed the impact of hotter temperatures and less rain on more than 3,100 tree and shrub species in 164 cities across 78 countries. They found about half the trees already were experiencing climate conditions beyond their limits. They also concluded that by 2050 nearly all tree species planted in Aus-

lian cities will not be able to survive in urban areas.

If trends hold, we are going to have a lot of trees die, said Nicholas Johnson, an arborist for Seattle City Parks. Under heat, trees get weak just like people.

Heat and drought force trees to spend energy surviving that would otherwise go to regeneration, growth or fighting off disease and pests, Johnson said. Everything outside is trying to eat a tree. The stresses become compounded.

Human-caused climate change also fuels more extreme weather such as intense wind, rain and freezing temperatures.

It's not the gradual change that's going to be the problem, it's these extreme swings of too much water, too little water, too much wind, and storm intensities are going to cause these rapid changes, said David Nowak, a retired scientist for the US Forest Service.



CANCER SOCIETY OF KASHMIR

کینسر سوسائٹی آف کشمیر

4-Bagh-i-Islam Colony Lal Nagar, Chanapora Srinagar-190015 TELEFAX 0194-3500478-79 / 2441899

Website: www.cancersocietykashmir.org E-mail: cancersocietyofkashmir@gmail.com

Ref. No. CSK/DCC-66/2022-23/1721

Dated:-15-Nov-2022

Subject: -

Notice for inviting tenders for Anti Cancer Drugs and other related supportive drugs etc.

(TENDER NOTICE)

- Sealed tenders in two cover bid system affixed with **Rs.10/-** Revenue Stamps are invited for and on behalf of Chairman Cancer Society of Kashmir from Manufacturers/Firms/Companies/Stockists/Authorised distributors for one year W.e.f. date of approval of rate contract which must reach this office by or before **01-12-2022** for the following groups.

Group-A Anticancer Drugs

Annexure A

Group-B Colostomy / Urostomy / ileostomy Bags

Annexure B

Group-C Surgical Items / Supportive Drugs

Annexure C

- The tenders should be accompanied with Earnest Money Deposit for Group "A" of **Rs. 1.00 lac**, for Group "B" **Rs, 60,000/-** & for Group "C" **Rs, 10,000/-** in shape of **CDR/FDR** to be drawn on any Nationalized/Scheduled Bank pledged to the Cancer Society of Kashmir. Without which tenders shall not be entertained.
- The tenders should be addressed to the Chairman Cancer Society of Kashmir 4-Baghi Islam Colony Lalnagar Chanapora.
- Tenders should invariably be submitted in two Bid System containing two parts as detailed below:-

Part I ----- Techno Commercial Bid in separate sealed cover

Part II ----- Price Bid/Financial Bid for all groups in another sealed cover.

Both sealed covers to be put in outer cover.

- Detailed tender notice along with list of drugs can be had from **CSK** office on all working days from **10:00 Am to 04:00 Pm**.
- Authorised distributor shall enclose copy of authorisation letter of the concerned company.
- CSK** reserves the right to accept/reject any tender/tenders without assigning any reason thereof. On acceptance of tender and its communication to the successful tenderer, the same shall be binding upon the successful tenderer with immediate effect.

SD/-
General Secretary
CANCER SOCIETY OF KASHMIR.

Twitter's Fate In Doubt As Employees Defy Elon Musk's Ultimatum

The future of Twitter seemed to hang in the balance Friday after its offices were locked down and key employees announced their departures in defiance of an ultimatum from new owner Elon Musk.

Fears grew that the fresh exodus would threaten the very existence of one of the world's most influential internet platforms, which serves as a key communication tool for the world's media, politicians, companies and celebrities.

Mr Musk, also the CEO of Tesla and SpaceX, has come under fire for radical changes at the California-based firm, which he bought less than a month ago for \$44 billion.

JAMMU & KASHMIR BANK OFFICERS ASSOCIATION (KASHMIR)

(Affiliated to AIBOA)

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Email: riyazbhat66@gmail.com

CONGRATULATIONS

Mr Riyaz Ahmad Bhat president JKBOA(K) & Gen. Secretary AIJKBOF has gracefully been chosen to be State Secretary (J&K) of ALL INDIA BANK OFFICERS ASSOCIATION. It is pleasurable moment for us all that he has attained such prestigious position. We all are very well aware of his abilities and devotional behaviour. He has always been there to hold the hands of fellow colleagues in testing times. His selfless service towards the Co Cadre holders has always been appreciated. The undersigned on behalf of membership congratulate him from core of my heart.



SECRETARY
TARIQ AHMAD MIR

ABBAS ADS: 7006444730

Bun Maska



Chai

Chai Ka Chaska With Bun Maska



JK Bank Lawns, Opp Ghat
6 Boulevard, Srinagar