

After Kanger, Now Heating Gadgets Face Medical Advisory In Kashmir

Auqib Javed

With people in Kashmir having very limited options available to keep themselves warm during harsh winters, medicos are now warning that even modern heating gadgets available in the market are unsafe for use.

First it was favourite Kangri which was marked as dangerous linking the prolonged use of Kashmir's traditional firepot with malignancy and now medicos have gagged modern

heating-gadgets for their proximate use during winters.

The medical advisory of sorts has come amid the intensifying cold in the valley creating a significant market demand for electric blankets, heaters, blowers, electric water bottles, rod heaters, room radiators and other gadgets. In fact, to keep cold at bay, some people are even installing electric hamams in their homes.

However, the medical experts warn that people need to take precautions and avoid proximate use of heating



appliances.

"Using heating appliances close to the body can lead to many skin-related issues

PEOPLE SHOULD OPEN THEIR BODY TO DIRECT HEAT and keep the heating appliance away from the children whose skins are soft and sensitive."

including Erythema ab igne (Naar tuet) and even skin cancers," Dr. Imran Majid, Director Cutis Institute of Dermatology Srinagar told Kashmir Observer.

To beat the cold, the medicos said, many people keep the heating gadgets close to their bodies without realizing the harm caused by the proximate use.

"Another issue with heating appliances is that they cause skin dryness, itching and allergies," Dr. Imran continued. "Elderly persons, especially diabetic patients using hot water bottles in close proximity to the skin, can have burns because of the heating appliances."

Earlier, some medicos had proscribed the prolonged use

of Kanger to avoid skin cancer. The traditional winter firepot is tucked in-between the thighs and legs or kept in contact with the abdominal wall to generate warmth during the winter months.

However, with the advent of technology, the people adopted a number of modern heating gadgets, especially in urban areas. But now, these modern heating appliances are facing the traditional firepot fate in Kashmir.

Lately, Fareeda, a 48-year-old homemaker from Srinagar, felt a sudden itching **More on P6**

Srinagar Has Coldest Night At -2.2 °C

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Srinagar witnessed the coldest night of this winter as the mercury slipped below freezing point at most places in Kashmir on Monday night, officials said.

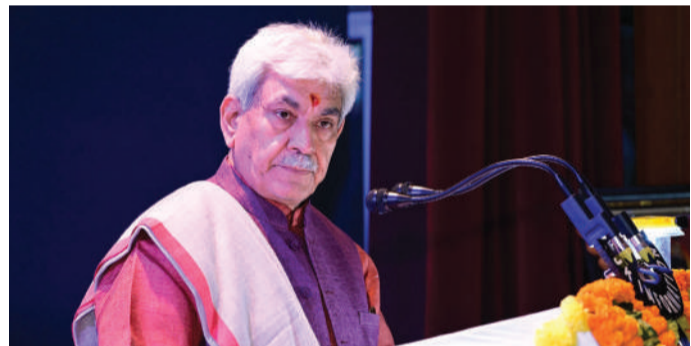
"Srinagar recorded a low of (-) 2.2 degrees Celsius, the lowest of the season so far," a Meteorological Department official said here on Tuesday.

He said the Jammu and Kashmir summer capital had recorded a temperature of (-) 1.8 degrees Celsius on Sunday night.

Pahalgam in south Kashmir, which serves as the base for the annual Amarnath yatra, was the coldest place in the Valley at (-) 4.2 degrees Celsius while Gulmarg in north Kashmir recorded a temperature of (-) 1.5 degrees Celsius, he added. **More on P6**

LG Launches Key Initiatives Of NEP-2020

'NEP Will Play A Significant Role In Making India A Knowledge Superpower'



Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday launched key initiatives of National Education Policy (NEP)-2020 in Jammu and Kashmir to prepare students for varied & comprehensive knowledge in a rapidly shifting world.

"Environmental, scientific, technological transformation & globalisation has increased the pace of socio-economic changes. Problem-based learning will make the students familiar with real-world situations & develop thinking and creativity skills," the LG said, during an event held here on Tuesday.

Sinha underlined that Interdisciplinary curriculum and multi-disciplinary education are at the heart of NEP to train

future innovators and leaders.

On this occasion, several MoUs were signed between J&K's Higher Education Department with SKUAST-Jammu, SKUAST Kashmir, Jammu University, Kashmir University for sharing of agro based skills, and research based knowledge, life skills courses and mentoring of colleges respectively, to better equip the students.

"National Education Policy will play a significant role in making India a Knowledge super power. Since, the government educational institutions are equipped with requisite tools and resources at par with private institutions, we need to assess our national and global ranking and take corrective measures," he said.

"The recommendations implemented in the **More on P6**



An elderly woman joined by her relative takes a stroll over the fallen leaves of might Chinar trees inside Srinagar's Arts Emporium. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Land Acquisition Under Lens

Govt Seeks List Of Officers Who Created Liabilities

Agencies

Srinagar: In a significant move, the Jammu & Kashmir government on Tuesday directed departments to compile a list of officers who have authorized execution of works without proper sanction or have created liabilities on account of land acquisition without proper authorization.

The General Administration Department (GAD) today directed all the departments to furnish a list of such officers to the Finance Department for appropriate action within one month. "All departments shall compile list of officers who have authorized execution of work(s)/ project(s) without proper sanction or have created/ admitted liabilities on account of land acquisition/ works without proper authorization/



authority and furnish the same to the Finance Department for appropriate action within one month," reads the circular issued by the General Administration Department.

The GAD has also advised all the administrative secretaries/ heads of departments against authorizing the execution of

any work/ project without proper authorization and to utilize government land for developmental activities as far as possible. "It shall be ensured that land compensation component is incorporated in the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of all the projects, in case land is required to be **More on P6**

Govt Okays HR Policy For Anganwadi Workers, Helpers

Observer News Service

Jammu: As a major step towards the empowerment of women in Jammu and Kashmir, the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha led administration on Tuesday approved the human resources policy for female Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and Helpers working in the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) in the Union Territory.

The decision in this regard was taken in the Administrative Council (AC) meeting held here under the chairmanship of the LG, an official spokesperson said.

The AC, he said, approved the proposal of comprehensive Human Resource Policy to govern the engagement, leave(s), promotion and other important aspects of this very vital work force of the department.

The spokesperson said that

AWWs and AWHs shall be redesignated as Sanginis (AWWs) and Sahayikas (AWHs).

"The unit for selection has also been re-defined in terms of electoral ward to remove any ambiguity in the selection process. The new policy also clearly lays down age criteria for selection, with domicile of UT being pre-requisite eligibility for competing in the selection process," he said.

As per the spokesperson, the minimum qualification for Anganwadi Worker shall be 10+2 and maximum graduation and in case no 10+2 candidate is available in the Ward, 10+2 pass candidate from the adjoining ward shall be considered which would require prior approval of Mission Director, ICDS.

He said weightage shall be given to marks obtained in 10+2 and selection shall be done purely on merit basis.

"Candidates with **More on P6**

Seeks Status Of Steps Taken To Meet Power Demand

Directs PDD To Address Problems Of People With Seriousness, Commitment

Observer News Service

The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday directed the Power Development Department to address the problems of common man with seriousness and commitment. The LG passed these directions while chairing a review meeting of Power Development Department **More on P6**

6 NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY PROMOTES COLLABORATIONS between disciplines to foster innovation and creativity. In future sustainable technological advances will be driven by people having an interdisciplinary approach."

S H O R T T A K E S

BSF Shoots Down Two Pak Drones

Two Pakistani drones were gunned down by the Border Security Force along the India-Pakistan border in Punjab, thus foiling the cross-border drugs smuggling bids in Amritsar and Tarn Taran districts, officials said on Tuesday. Two hexacopters were carrying around 10 kg of heroin which were recovered by the BSF troops. In the first incident in Amritsar, a women squad of the BSF shot down a hexacopter, an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) with six rotors, which was entering India from Pakistan with 3.11 kg of narcotics. The troops noticed that the drone was entering the Indian territory **More on P6**

Punjab Man Dies Inside Vehicle

A man from Punjab died and another was hospitalised apparently due to 'asphyxiation caused by gas leak' in Sopore in North Kashmir's Baramulla district this morning. News agency GNS quoting officials reported that two persons were found lying in an unconscious condition in a vehicle (PB0A6AU 2925) at Fruit Mandi Sopore. The duo, they said, was immediately evacuated to SDH Sopore, where the doctors declared one of them as brought dead on arrival. The official identified the deceased as Ashwani Kumar, a resident and another under treatment person as **More on P6**

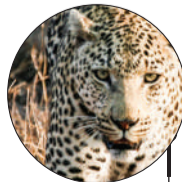
Woman Drowns In Power Canal



A woman drowned to death on Tuesday in a power canal in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. 42-year-old Rahati Begum, wife of Abdul Salam Chopan drowned in a power canal in her native Hariganiwan village of the district on Tuesday evening, reports said. After hectic efforts, her body was retrieved by police with the help of locals **More on P6**

Leopard Scare In Chadoora

Panic gripped Chadoora area of Central Kashmir's Budgam district on Tuesday after people spotted a leopard hiding beneath a vehicle, reports said. News agency GNS quoting locals reported that the leopard was apparently a full-grown one and continued to rest under the vehicle, creating panic among the locals. A wildlife department official said that a team of experts was sent to the area to tranquilize the leopard and shift it to a safe sanctuary.



3 'Drug Peddlers' Held In Jammu

Three suspected interstate drug peddlers were arrested on Tuesday following the recovery of 680 kg poppy straw worth lakhs from their Punjab-bound truck, an official here said. The truck, which arrived from the Kashmir Valley, was intercepted at the transport yard, leading to the recovery of the contraband substance, a spokesperson for the Anti-Narcotics Task Force said. The task force is a specialised unit of Jammu and Kashmir Police set up to check the rising drugs menace in the **More on P6**

Fire Damages PDD Office In Anantnag

A fire which broke out here on Tuesday morning damaged structure and accessories of billing section of Power Development Department office at Sangam Anantnag. An official told a local news agency GNS that a fire broke out at around 10:10 AM inside the billing section, and soon after spread to the whole chamber. "Fire tenders were immediately called in to the site and after hours of hectic efforts, the flames were put out", the official said. "Ceiling of the room and other electronic gadgets and accessories which included printers, intercom, Jio Fibre, locker and **More on P6**



To Change Corrupt Behaviour, Change The Message

360info.org

Every day we are bombarded with messages that try to persuade us to change our behaviour for the good of ourselves and society. Eat less food! Wear a mask! Get vaccinated!

Millions of dollars are spent each year on information campaigns designed to foster more cohesive and inclusive societies.

In developing economies, this includes efforts to foster democratic attitudes and more effective political systems.

Say no to gender-based violence! Reject corruption! Do not sell your vote!

Given how pervasive they are, the most surprising thing about these campaigns is that many just don't work.

Some even make the situation worse. The reason why is important, because it tells us something about why it's so hard to change human behaviour.

Take anti-corruption campaigns. Almost all of the programmes designed to reduce graft in high corruption countries include an awareness raising' component.

The idea is that through raising awareness about an issue, citizens will become more willing to reject requests for bribes and act against corruption.

The hope is they'll report it or vote against corrupt politicians.

But until the last five years, no one had systematically tested whether these messages were effective.

When researchers started to look into this, they got a nasty surprise: in most cases anti-corruption messages don't make citizens more likely to reject or condemn graft.

A test in Lagos, Nigeria, a nation with a history of high-level corruption, had some alarming results.

From 1200 randomly selected partici-



pants, it found people were actually more likely to pay a bribe.

The 1200 took part in a bribery game. They were told that paying a bribe would mean another participant would lose money much like in the real world.

Some participants received an anti-corruption message and some did not.

Those who received an anti-corruption message were on average more likely to pay a bribe. In other words, the effect of the messaging was the opposite of what was intended.

This means the millions of dollars being spent on anti-corruption messaging in countries like Nigeria may not just be wasted it may actually be making things worse. Blame human nature.

Recent research in political and social psychology found that when we hear

about topics that are pervasive, we tend to become cynical and focus on how big the problem is.

The way we behave is less shaped by what we are told to do than by what we believe our peers are already doing.

So, we are more likely to get vaccinated and follow social distancing protocols if we think all our friends have already done so than if the government tells us. The consequences of this for how governments need to communicate are profound.

If a campaign focuses on how corrupt the police are, or how few people are recycling, we point out how big the problem is and so run the risk of undermining people's confidence that a better future is possible while simultaneously suggesting that bad' behaviours are socially acceptable.

The effect of this double whammy is

perfectly illustrated by anti-corruption messaging which confirms people's most cynical inner beliefs that the system is beyond repair and the only way to get things done is to take part in corruption by paying bribes.

Individuals who were already particularly pessimistic about the prevalence of corruption were significantly more likely to be negatively affected by reading an anti-corruption message.

The biggest worry is that this logic doesn't only apply to corruption.

One study tested messages designed to prevent the theft of wood from Arizona's Petrified Forest National Park.

It found that signs that described the problems caused by others' behaviour stealing wood were most likely to increase theft.

A more recent paper on how to encourage people to respect social distancing protocols during the pandemic in Australia concluded that telling citizens that others are not following the rules is dangerous because people match their behaviour to perceived social norms.

Similar conclusions have been reached with campaigns to stop gender-based violence and vote-buying.

It's important, then, to realise that raising awareness may actually make the problem worse.

Before embarking on awareness-raising campaigns policymakers could try and design less problematic messages.

One way to do this may be by focusing on those who behave appropriately', and the negative feelings people hold about those who do not, rather than highlighting the extent of the problem.

Emphasising the strength of feeling within society and the number of people who want to see change can inspire and motivate rather than depress and discourage.

Black Tea Found To Be Reliable Predictor Of Dementia: Study

ANI

Drinking black tea has a number of health benefits that can last till old age. However, in an astounding discovery, research led by Edith Cowan University showed that it can reliably predict dementia as well. According to the study, published in a journal named "Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis, and Vascular Biology", the key is flavonoids, which are naturally occurring substances found in many common foods and beverages such as black and green tea, apples, nuts, citrus fruit, berries and more.

They have long been known to have many health benefits -- however new Edith Cowan University (ECU) research shows they may be even better for us than previously thought. The Heart Foundation supported a study of 881 elderly women (median age of 80), which found they were far less likely to have extensive build-up of abdominal aortic calcification (AAC) if they consumed a high level of flavonoids in their diet.

AAC is the calcification of the abdominal aorta -- the largest artery in the body which supplies oxygenated blood from the heart to the abdominal organs and lower limbs -- and is a predictor of cardiovascular risk such as heart attack and stroke. It has also been found to be a reliable predictor for late-life dementia.

ECU Nutrition and Health Innovation Research Institute researcher and study lead Ben Parmenter said while there were many dietary sources of flavonoids, some had particularly high amounts. "In most populations, a small group of foods and beverages -- uniquely high in flavonoids -- contribute the bulk of total dietary flavonoid intake," he said.

NOTICE

I Shafiq Akther D/o Ab Ahad Sofi R/o Watelpora, Chadoora was reading in Govt Boys Middle School Machoo, Chadoora, (Zone B.K.Pora) in Class 8th in the year 1990. I have not received my school leaving certificate. Now I have applied for school leaving certificate with school authorities. If anybody has any objection he/she may file the same before school authority within seven days from the date of issue of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after that date.

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

RURAL ENGINEERING WING BARAMULLA.

E-NOTICE INVITING TENDER (RE TENDER)

NIT No: 226/Xen/Rew/Bla/2022-2023 Dated. 28/11/2022 (RE TENDER 3rd call)

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders (In Single Cover System) are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors Regd. With J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following work:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rs.)	EMD AMOUNT	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account	Position of AAA/TS
1	C/O Fencing at panchayat Ghar Harnow and C/o tile path and P wall with foot steps Shripura Khaipora under ADP(PRI) Block Khaipora	13.25	600	26500	30days	BEE, CEE, DEE	ADP	AAA Accorded
2	C/O Agriculture building at Kachwa Muqam A under ADP(PRI) Block Wagoora	23.00	800	46000	30days	BEE, CEE, DEE	ADP	AAA Accorded
3	Fencing wall at Graveyard W.No. 03 Machikrand under Area Development Plan (PRI) 2022-23 Block Uri	4.00	200	8000	45days	DEE	ADP	AAA Accorded
4	C/O Water Catch drain on the both sides of Panchayat Ghar to Hathlanga Road Under ADP (BDC) 2022-23 Block Uri	2.50	200	5000	45days	DEE	ADP	AAA Accorded
5	C/O P walls at Graveyards at Khan and Geelani Mohalla Dachi Under ADP (PRI) Block Noorkhah	2.27	200	4540	45days	DEE	ADP	AAA Accorded
6	C/O Drain from Batagwali to Khrie ward no 4 Nawarunda Under ADP (PRI) Block Parenpeela	3.76	200	7520	45days	DEE	ADP	AAA Accorded
7	Fencing with R wall at Graveyard in panchayat Halga Gantmulla Bala under Area Development Plan (DDC) 2021-23 Block Narwa	4.80	200	9600	45days	DEE	ADP	AAA Accorded

- The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the scheduled date given below.
- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | Date of Issue of Tender Notice | 28-11-2022 |
| 2 | Period of downloading of bidding documents | From 28-11-2022 to 05-12-2022 up to 6:00 PM |
| 3 | Bid submission Start date | 28-11-2022 |
| 4 | Bid Submission End Date | 05-12-2022 up to 6:00 PM |
- Technical Bids will be opened on 06-12-2022 at 11:00 AM in the office of the Executive Engineer REW Baramulla and Financial Bid opening will be declared online.

- The G.O No.238-F OF 2021 DATED:07.09.2021 issued by the Govt(Finance deptt) that the participation in the tendering process of works upto an amount of Rs 3.00 lacs is restricted to the resident of concerned panchayat. In the event of inadequate response to a tender, participation from adjoining panchayat shall be permitted.
- If the Bidder quotes his Bid exceeding the tendering Cost, his bid will be automatically rejected.
- In case of dilemma /confusion , the rate and the unit against any item shown in BOQ , the SOR rate along with its units will be applicable.
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of treasury challan/receipt under HEAD 0515 mentioning therein Name of work and NIT No. in favour of the Executive Engineer, REW Division Baramulla (Tender inviting Authority).
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site at the office of the Executive Engineer, REW Division Baramulla.
- All The Bidders has to deposit Earnest Money (2% of Advertised cost) in shape of CDR/FDR at the time of tendering as per the Circular of Finance Department.
- The 1ST Lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3 % of allotted cost of Contract as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/ BG within 02 Days after opening of financial bid and shall be released after successful completion of DLP as per norms. The EMD of 2% of successful bidders shall be released after receipt of 3% performance security.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical bids.
- The earnest money/performance security shall be forfeited, if:-
 - Any bidder/ tenderer withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
 - Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
 - Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid. Besides, original documents related to bid be submitted physically by the bidder who is declared as LI immediately after opening of financial bid.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of necessary documents in terms of soft copies with the technical bid & 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.
- DOCUMENTS TO BE UPLOADED IN SOFT: Scanned copy of valid registration card along with Latest Renewal , EMD/TR as per NIT, GST, Latest clearance, PAN.
- The earnest money in favour of un-successful /non-responsive bidders shall be released only after ensuring submission of tender document fee in original, irrespective of Hard copies, failure of submission of tender document fee by the bidder using site shall entail him for blacklisting.
 - Extension of time shall be admissible in the event of temporary suspension of work.
- The department will not be responsible for any damage/destruction caused to the work or any material for the work during its execution (by flood, fire, earth quake/theft or any other reason what so ever and other natural climates) contractor has to arrange watch& ward of the material and shall be responsible for the safety/ custody of departmental supplies from the time of issuance to its consumption at site.
- The tender/ bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill requirements as laid down in NIT.
- All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).

Executive Engineer,
REW Baramulla

DIPK-14303/22

Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd.

Board Secretariat

J&K Bank

Serving To Empower

Board Secretariat
Corporate Headquarters
M. A. Road, Srinagar - 190 001
Tel: (0194) 2481930-35 ; Fax: (0194) 2481928
Visit us at: www.jkbank.com
Email: sharedeptt_gc@jkmail.com
CIN: L6510JK1938SGC000048

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the certificates in respect of the under - mentioned shares of J&K Bank have been lost/misplaced and the holders of the said shares have applied to J&K Bank Ltd/ M/s KFin Technologies Ltd. (Share Transfer Agent) for issue of Duplicate Share Certificates.

S. No	Name of the Shareholder	Folio No.	Certificate No.	Distinctive No.'s	No of Shares	Address
1.	Gh Hassan Dar	JKB015835	506469	12231731-12232730	1000	R/o Bemnipora, Tehsil Shopian, Dist Pulwama, Kashmir-192303
2.	Khurshid Ahmad Dar	JKB026625	505752	10900301-10901300	1000	Nanail, Anantnag, Kashmir-192125
3.	Peer Mohammad Amin	JKB014813	504728	9254041-9255040	1000	R/o PO Seer Hamdan, Dist Anantnag, Kashmir J & K State-192129
4.	Ab Rashid Payer	JKB027640	507457	14349301-14350300	1000	Rehmat Colony, Kalarosa, Kupwara Jammu and Kashmir-193222
5.	Bashir Ahmad Gani	JKB016561	507135	13707301-13708300	1000	S/o Late Ab Rehman Gani R/o H.No 59, Modeltown, Sopore, J & K State-193201

The Public is hereby warned against purchasing or dealing in any way with above share Certificate(s). Any Person(s) who has/have any claim(s)/objection in respect of the said shares should lodge such claim(s)/objection with the Bank at the Corporate Headquarters, M. A. Road, Srinagar/Share Transfer Agent at the address given below, within fifteen days from the date of Publication of this notice, after which no claim(s) will be entertained and the Bank/Share Transfer Agent will proceed to issue Duplicate Share Certificates.

Jammu and Kashmir Bank Limited

Board Secretariat

Corporate Headquarters

M. A. Road, Srinagar - 190 001, Kashmir

For Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd.

Ref. No.: 11/2022-23

Place: Srinagar
Date: 29th November, 2022

Share Transfer Agent

M/s KFin Technologies Ltd.

Selenium Tower B, Plot 31&32

Financial District, Nanakramguda, Serilingampally Mandal, Hyderabad 500 032

Sd/-
(Mohammad Shafi Mir)
Company Secretary

DIPK-NB-5286/22 DATED 29-11-2022

2019
DECEMBER
30

IN LOVING MEMORY

Remembering And Honoring You On This Day. 3Rd Year After This World Lost A Precious Soul .

3 years had been passed & yet we can't get over the pain of losing you. Our heart still can't accept that you are not with us.

Even in your death we had missed your wisdom of the many years of experience and the pure love of an understanding heart

'MAY ALLAH GRANT YOU HIGHEST PLACE IN JANNAH'



Div Com Conducts Extensive Tour Of City Lakes

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir Pandurang K. Pole on Tuesday conducted an extensive tour of Khushalsar / Gilsar lakes and inspected the ongoing cleansing operation that is being carried out by by LCMA in Nigeen Lake and by Nageen Lake Conservation Organisation (NLCO) in collaboration with Srinagar Municipal Corporation under the supervision of Divisional Administration at Khushalsar.

The Div Com was accompanied by VC LCMA & Commissioner SMC Dr Bashir Bhat besides various officials of the Divisional Administration and President NLCO Manzoor Ahmad Wangnoo who is spearheading the cleansing operation under Mission Ehsaas.

The Div Com Started the Tour with the visit of Nigeen Lake from Kanitar / Saderbal side. The efforts of LCMA was appreciated for restoring this part of the Lake which otherwise was in shambles for last three decades.

This delegation of high level officers headed by Div Com then visited Gilsar where the Div Com passed standard instructions to the concerned officers. The restoration of the Gilsar will be restarted for its speedy rejuvenation.

The visit concluded at Khush-

alsar Sazgaripora where the progress of the ongoing restoration was witnessed which was started by NLCO under its flagship program Mission Ehsaas. It is in place to mention that the community led initiative Mission Ehsaas saw an overwhelming response from the people and it paved a way to get the restoration and rejuvenation of the twin urban lakes of Khushalsar and Gilsar started.

Div Com during his visit to the place informed all the concerned officers to make sure that the restoration of these lakes is taken seriously and assured that the bottle necks, if any, must be removed at the earliest.

While inspecting the works, the Divisional Commissioner met the local stakeholders of Gilsar & Khushalsar who hailed his visit.

President NLCO Manzoor Wangnoo in the statement issued has thanked Div Com and his team for their visit and expressed gratitude for his concern and supervision. Wangnoo also thanked SMC for their dedicated support and help in the restoration process. He also thanked VC LCMA for their efforts in revival in the Nigeen Lake from Kanitar side. President NLCO said that the present administration is serious and working diligently for the revival of water bodies.

FCS&CA Fines Erring Shopkeepers In City

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In view of complaints regarding overcharging on essential commodities, a team of officials of FCS&CA on Tuesday launched a drive and inspected 72 business establishments in District Srinagar.

During the drive, a penal sum of Rs.15,100 was collected as fine from 13 erring shopkeepers for violation of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Besides, one mutton shop and two tea stalls were also sealed.

The drive was conducted under the supervision of Assistant Direc-

tor Enforcement (Exe. Magistrate 1st class), Mushtaq Ahmad Wani.

It is worth mentioning here that during the current financial year in the valley, an amount of Rs 76,58,880 has been recovered as fine from 16489 erring traders. Besides, 208 establishments have been sealed and police complaints against 16 erring traders also stand lodged.

Moreover, the erring lot has been reprimanded to remain careful in future. The drive will continue in the same passion in future as well and whosoever is found violating the norms will be brought to justice.



Central Market ‘Kashmir Haat’ Losing Sheen

Agencies

Srinagar: Nearly a century old market—Government central market Kashmir Haat, is losing its sheen with each passing day as the business at the once famed marketplace has got badly affected with the businessman stating that bringing the bazaar on tourism map would help them to revive their business.

Almost every shopkeeper at the market is claiming that despite the tourism boom in the Valley, the tourists don't visit them as the market is off-route and has been ignored so far.

Khurshid Ahmad, one of the traders, said that the market was started in 1937 when Maharaja Rulers forced the artisans to come up with the market to promote the local product.

“The tourists, parliamentarians and others would visit the market every day. But now,

it's unfortunate that the tourists hardly visit the market where everything is available including Shawls, dry fruit, papier Mache, woodcarving and other local produce,” he said.

Ahmad further said that the tourists, who throng the other places have to move from one place to another to get the local produce, but the market despite having everything has been ignored.

“The tourism department should look into the matter so that the tourists would be able to get knowledgeable where the tourism market is,” he said, adding that ignoring the market has forced many to switch to other jobs.

President of the market, Nisar Ahmad Kitaba said that the market is completely defunct at present. “This market is solely dependent on the tourists. There are 127 shops in the market and it is famous among people all across the globe.

However, the official apathy has deteriorated the situation of the businessman as well as the market,” he said.

He added that the department concerned is now extending its support as the exhibitions are being organized here. “But, the situation has worsened to a large extent. We have appealed to the government to allow us to make local items available here till the situation improves and the tourists start visiting the place again,” he said.

“Although the tourism is witnessing a boom in Kashmir, the market has become an odd-site for the tourists as mostly they visit Dalgate, Boulevard, Lal Chowk and other areas only. Now, we have appealed the administration to bring the market on tourism map, which would ensure the tourists visit the marketplace so that the business can be revived once again,” he said—(KNO)

Srinagar Court Directs Traffic Police To Halt Issuing E-Challans

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A local court here on Tuesday directed the Traffic police Kashmir to halt issuance of E-challans for seizure of vehicles till the time technical glitches faced by the system are resolved and also asked the traffic police authorities to release all vehicles seized in gross violation.

Special Mobile Magistrate (Traffic) Srinagar observed that the seizure of vehicles by E-challan without following the required procedural formalities renders citizens remediless.

In an order, a copy of which lies with the news agency—Kashmir Observer the court directed IGP Kashmir (Traffic) and SSP Traffic Srinagar to ensure halting of E-challans

for seizing vehicles till the time technical glitches are properly resolved.

The court was hearing a plea of an applicant, who vehicle was challaned by the Traffic police Srinagar through e-Challan.

“Undisputed position is that seizure of vehicle in question by E-challan has been issued without following the required procedural formalities. Noncompliance of required procedural formalities has not only rendered the applicant remediless but had also denied him the right of a fair trial. The seizure of vehicle as well the fine of Rs. 6000/- imposed upon the applicant is not in accordance with the law,” the court observed.

It said accordingly, SSP traffic is hereby di-

rected that the amount of fine recovered from the applicant be returned to the applicant.

“SSP traffic is also directed to ensure the removal technical glitches faced by the system so that public at large does not suffer,”

It also said it has been brought to the notice of this Court that a number of other vehicles have been seized by the traffic officials in the same manner through E-challans without ensuring the delivery of corresponding copy of E-challan to this Court.

“All those vehicles which have been seized in gross violation of standard operating procedure of providing a copy of E-challan to this Court be released without realizing fine from them,” the court said.

Stray Dogs On Prowl At Chattabal

Agencies

Srinagar: Residents of Bhagiyas area in Chattabal have expressed concern over the presence of a large number of stray dogs in the area.

The residents of the area said that the unchecked menace of stray dogs in the area

has hampered their movement and despite requests to authorities there has been no action on the ground.

They added that a group of stray dogs have attacked more than one dozen people including dentist and minors since the past few days.

“The canines have

spread a reign of terror among inhabitants as they are making it difficult for the residents to move around,” said Dr. Arshid.

Meanwhile, the residents appealed to the authorities to look into the issue so that they can move around freely without fear of being attacked by stray dogs. (CNS)

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LCMA Starts Dredging Navigation Channels In Dal Lake

Observer News Service

Srinagar : The Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA) has started dredging five navigation channels as part of the plan to restore around 13 navigation channels in Dal Lake by the end of this year.

As per officials, the dredging has been started in five navigation channels viz. Tengbagh to Bakhuri Mohalla, Tengbagh to Aanchari Mohalla, Jalla Mohalla to Shamshan Ghat, Imam Barah Hassan Abad to Gurpora, Babademb outflow channel existing depth is 2 to 3 feet. He said after dredging it will be increased by 8 to 9 feet.

The concerned official said that for the first time dredging is going on in

these Navigation channels, 13 outflow channels for approx length of 8.711 kms shall be cleared. The main cause of silt/ sedimentation deposition is 2014 flood-silt, earth, debris and other waste materials which shall be removed.



He added the average breadth of existing channels is 8mtr and after dredging it will be increased to approximately 10mtr. Also water carrying capacity will be increased. Once the work is completed there will be no more foul smell, the official added.

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS



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



HIJRI
CALENDAR

05 Jumad al-Awwal
1444

PRAYERS

FAJR	5:46
ZUHR	12:17
ASR	3:46
Magrib	5:27
ISHA	7:50

This Day In History

- 1786 - Grand Duke of Tuscany Leopold II promulgates a penal reform, making his the 1st state to abolish the death penalty. November 30 commemorated as Cities for Life Day.
- 1803 - Spain cedes her claims to Louisiana Territory to France
- 1864 - Battle of Franklin, Tennessee: Confederate attack fails, 7,700 casualties
- 1864 - Battle of Honey Hill, South Carolina (Broad River) 96 dead, 665 wounded
- 1876 - Archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann finds the gold Mask of Agamemnon at Mycenae (modern Greece) "the Mona Lisa of prehistory"
- 1908 - The US Secretary of State and Japan's ambassador to the US exchange notes in what becomes known as the Root-Takahira Agreement: they affirm support for an independent China with an 'open door' policy and for the status quo in the Pacific
- 1909 - British House of Lords rejects David Lloyd George's 'People's Budget', which tried to shift tax burden to the wealthy. Leads to the Parliament Act; intent to stop unelected house overruling will of the elected house.
- 1916 - Costa Rica becomes a signatory to the Buenos Aires copyright treaty.
- 1922 - 1st speed test of 1st genuine Japanese aircraft carrier Hosho.
- 1922 - Hitler speaks to 50,000 national-socialists in Munich.
- 1944 - Biggest & last British battleship HMS Vanguard launched.
- 1950 - US President Harry Truman threatens China with atom bomb.
- 1961 - USSR vetoes Kuwaits application for UN membership.
- 1962 - U Thant of Burma becomes the 3rd Secretary-General of the United Nations.
- 1964 - USSR launches Zond 2 towards Mars; no data returned.
- 1967 - People's Democratic Republic of Yemen declares independence from the UK.
- 1967 - The Pakistan Peoples Party is founded by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto who becomes its first Chairman later as the Head of state and Head of government after the 1971 Civil War.

From KO Archives

‘50 Percent Indians Are Corrupt’

Agencies

NEW DELHI: Almost 60 per cent of Indians using government services end up paying bribes, according to a recent survey commissioned by India's Central Vigilance Commission (CVC). But only 20 per cent actually filed complaints against such corrupt practices.

The study was carried out by the Centre for Media Studies (CMS), which interviewed 2,576 visitors to government offices in five cities across the country in November.

More than 60 percent of respondents said the problem of corruption was not being tackled seriously and that the judiciary was largely ineffective. Most of the respondents agreed the offices for securing driving licenses and civil supplies were the most corrupt in all five cities — New Delhi, Lucknow, Madras, Hyderabad and Pune.

One-third of respondents admitted to using "influence or favour" to get the service they needed. The survey noted that members of the business community and the self-employed topped the list of bribe givers. According to the survey, the government departments in Lucknow and Hyderabad were the most corrupt. About 42 per cent of people said the departments operated "Middle men" who acted as a paid conduit between the public and officials. The public departments covered by the survey included electricity and telephone boards, civil supplies, driving license and local and urban development offices.

(Kashmir Observer, 30 November, 2000)

KASHMIR OBSERVER
Wednesday| 30-11-2022

Improving Security
Situation

The Assistant Director General of Police Vijay Kumar on Saturday said that Bandipora, Kupwara and Ganderbal districts in Kashmir have zero active militants currently and the two prominent outfits, Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed, have gone headless after security forces killed their commanders. He set a two year deadline for completely wiping out the militancy. And as for the estimate of the militants active in the Valley, Kumar said the number has dwindled to two-digits. The Kashmir region comprising 13 police districts has 81 militants at present with 29 being local while 52 being of foreign origin. This is one of the lowest numbers, the militancy has been reduced to over the past three decades and should thus constitute a significant turn in the events following the withdrawal of Article 370 in August 2019. It is true that the last three years have witnessed a disproportionate increase in the killings of militants in Kashmir creating a possibility that militancy could be eradicated from the Valley. More so, at a time when the armed forces have also killed a majority of militants at Shopian, Pulwama and Kulgam, the places in South Kashmir that have emerged as militant strongholds in recent years.

The current phase of renewed militancy had begun around 2015 when the then Hizbul Mujahideen militant Burhan Wani used social media to persuade youth to take up arms. Soon scores of youth joined, taking the number beyond 300 in the following two years. The number stayed at over 200 up until last year. But now that number has reduced below 100, which is something that has probably happened for the first time. It almost now seems that militancy is on the way out. And should this happen, it would be the biggest development of the past three decades. And it would be a major milestone for New Delhi on the road to normalcy in Kashmir. This is happening against the backdrop of the loss of J&K's special status, and the evolving geopolitics of the region where India is now at loggerheads with China and Pakistan. The pacification of Kashmir would mean an end to India's Kashmir troubles and let the country focus on its economy and its other geopolitical challenges.

However, it is still premature to declare victory. Earlier also, the militancy in Kashmir came close to eradication twice: first around 1993 when pro-government insurgency spread and second around 2013 when number of militants had reduced to around 100 and South Kashmir had just 15 of them. So the situation in the coming months would be keenly watched. This could make it clear which way the valley is headed.

OTHER OPINION

The Covid test

Sometimes all it takes is a spark. In China, it was a blaze. Within a month of President Xi Jinping securing an unprecedented third term after seeing off perceived or potential rivals, a challenge to his untrammelled powers and authority has arisen from the unlikelyst quarter — the Chinese street. A fire in an apartment block in the Xinjiang capital Urumqi killed 10 people because the fire services could not access the building locked down by local authorities in line with the state's zero Covid strategy. The awfulness of this incident seems to have touched a raw nerve across the country. Even if only in the hundreds yet, people, mainly youngsters, have been stepping out to protest over the last few days against President Xi's strict anti-Covid policies, with some momentum building up over the week-end as members of the public in major cities like Shanghai and Nanjing and the capital Beijing joined. The numbers at each protest site are not high, still they are unprecedented, organic and innovative — protestors are using blank white A4 sheets to demand freedom of speech.

Since the Tiananmen Square protest was brutally put down in 1989, there has been only one other instance of a large public protest, in 1999 by Falung Gong followers. That ended with a crackdown and the jailing of thousands. In 2020, the realisation that the government ignored a whistleblower doctor's warnings about Covid led to an outpouring of anger on social media, especially after he died of the disease himself, but there were no street protests. This time around, zero Covid has strained national patience with its sudden lockdowns — in an apartment block, or a neighbourhood, even an amusement park with its visitors not allowed to leave. Towns and big cities have not escaped either, making China the only country in the world that is still using this measure to tackle its Covid cases. Travel to and from China has also not normalised yet. The football World Cup in Qatar, with lakhs of people flying in, must have been the last straw for audiences in China.

The expectation that President Xi would use the platform of the Communist Party of China Congress that took place in October to relax zero Covid rules, especially because of the damage the policy has wreaked on the economy, did not come true. In fact, he stressed the opposite — there would be no relaxations to the zero Covid policy. Xi, who has centralised powers in his hands, now personifies the Chinese state. Therefore it is not surprising that some of the anger is being directed at him openly. The long arm of the Chinese state may yet find a way to nip the protests before they turn into anything bigger. The world is watching to see how strongman Xi deals with this new domestic challenge.

Indian Express

Not Just a Bajwa Protege

During General Qamar Javed Bajwa's term, Pakistan largely adopted a non-combative policy towards India. The key question is whether new Army chief General Asim Munir will change that



Feature image caption: Outgoing Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa hands over the baton of command over to the newly appointed Army Chief General Asim Munir (L), during a ceremony at the army headquarters in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, on 29 November 2022 | ISPR/handout via Reuters

RIYAZ WANI



Would General Munir review his predecessor's internal and external policies? He might very well do so. It remains to be seen whether he takes steps to resolve the current crisis in Pakistan and order elections ahead of their due date, as desired by Khan

The appointment of General Asim Munir as Pakistan's new Army chief has generated a lot of media buzz in South Asia. And understandably so. His appointment follows a contentious tenure of his predecessor, General Qamar Javed Bajwa which saw Imran Khan's ousting as Pakistan's prime minister in its final year. General Munir has inherited a country which seems at war with itself with Imran Khan leading a nationwide protest. What is more, Khan is now at the peak of his popularity and his party is tipped to sweep the general elections whether they are held in the near future or on their scheduled time in October next year.

An Army chief is considered the sole sovereign in Pakistan's political structure, so General Munir holds the power to sort out the ongoing turmoil in the country. But how he would seek to achieve this has become the subject of intense media and political speculation. More so, when General Munir is believed to hold a grudge against Khan: He is said to have been shunted out by the latter as the Director General of the ISI after a short stint of eight months.

So, there are two scenarios that can play out. One, General Munir would work to hold fresh elections which could end the current political instability in Pakistan. And second, the elections are held at their scheduled time which would mean a continuation of the current turbulence for a little more time, as by March the country would already be in an election mode. This may be why Khan has given up the demand for elections and instead sought to resign from all assemblies in a bid to force early polls. For now, Khan's priority

seems to be to keep his vast support base mobilized.

In any case, current turmoil in Pakistan has an expiry date. It can, however, prolong if the elections are not seen as free and fair by Khan and his party is denied power. A lot of how the situation turns out depends on how General Munir handles it as part of his internal challenges.

On the external front, it would be interesting to see how the new Army chief deals with India, particularly in regard to Kashmir. During Bajwa's term in office, Pakistan largely adopted a non-combative policy towards India. This despite the fact his term witnessed the 2019 Pulwama attack that killed over 40 security personnel leading to the first aerial dogfight between the two neighbours in 48 years. Earlier in 2016, Pakistan didn't respond when India carried out a surgical strike across the LoC.

What is more, Pakistan balked at militarily escalating the situation when in August 2019 New Delhi revoked Article 370 that granted J&K an autonomous status under the Indian constitution - albeit, it did raise diplomatic ante which, in turn, achieved nothing. Pakistan also didn't escalate militancy in Kashmir, as many analysts had warned. Instead, a year after Kashmir's merger with India, Pakistan engaged in a back-channel dialogue with India and by February 2021 the two countries re-affirmed the 2003 ceasefire agreement along Line of Control.

There was suddenly a brief spell of bonhomie between the two countries. Both the then Pakistan prime minister Khan and General Bajwa called for dialogue and resolving Kashmir in a peaceful manner.

Bajwa even made a pitch for the two countries to "bury the past," and move on. He also called for "geoeconomics" to replace geopolitics as Pakistan's worldview to ensure peace and prosperity in the region. India, however, remained cool to these overtures.

Would General Munir review his predecessor's internal and external policies? He might very well do so. It remains to be seen whether he takes steps to resolve the current crisis in Pakistan and order elections ahead of their due date, as desired by Khan. But considering he was removed as DG ISI by Khan, it seems unlikely he will take the side of Khan in the ongoing political tussle in the country. And this is also why he is believed to have been selected by the prime minister Shahbaz Sharif in the first place. In such a situation, the current instability in Pakistan is likely to linger on.

General Munir's approach towards India will be keenly watched. There is some apprehension in New Delhi that he might reverse General Bajwa's policy. But considering the tough geopolitical and the economic situation Pakistan is in, there seems little room for the country to return to its earlier belligerent approach towards India. But the Pakistan Army is known in India to be traditionally unpredictable and adventurous, so General Munir's moves will be closely monitored, particularly so, in the weeks and months to come.

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

The author is the Political Editor at Kashmir Observer



OBSERVER
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Abandoned Dustbins

This in response to the article titled "A Tale of Forlorn Garbage Bins" By Raja Muzaffar Bhat (Kashmir Observer 21-11-22). It is a matter of concern that there is only one landfill site in the vicinity of Srinagar city where all the municipal solid waste is dumped that too not in a scientific manner. Now I'd like you to put this in ratio with the increasing population (almost 7,000,000) of Kashmir. One landfill site for the waste products of 7,000,000 people? So that's exactly why we need garbage bins to dispose of waste products but they should be cleared as well on regular intervals.

Ucts but they should be cleared as well on regular intervals.

We live in a society where people prefer living a comfortable and luxurious life for themselves and not care about the environment or for the future generation?

Instead of putting any effort on the implementation of Municipal Solid Waste Rules 2016, the government preferred supplying thousands of steel trash bins and the majority of these bins do not hold any waste or even if they do, no one is there to empty them. This is so

strange. So here we have two types of bins, one that is more of an empty container than a dustbin, and the other overflowing with garbage and none of them are doing any favor to the environment?

Even though the government of India from the past few years has launched various programmes like the Swachh Bharat Mission & adopted Solid Waste Management Rules 2016 I don't think that any of them has made our situation better. What we need is immediate action.

When Apollo 11 landed on the

moon and for the first time, humans set their feet on the moon, a picture was taken by the astronauts that showed us how our planet looked from the outside for the first time ever. It is considered to be the best picture taken in history because of the message that was sent after it. It said, "We set out to explore the moon, but discovered the Earth instead" and this is the picture that inspires millions of people to protect what is most important to us- our blue planet.

Zainab Muzaffar

‘Journalists Have Been Affected By The Rise Of Fake News’



TECHNOLOGY HAS MADE IT DIFFICULT TO IDENTIFY FAKE NEWS BUT THAT VERY SAME technology also has tools we can use to identity if pictures have been picked up from another place, the source of a video, who is behind an account. All this does take time and effort but can be useful in identifying culprits and bringing them to book



Aashiq Hussain Andrabi

As a data editor and media trainer, Sanjit has over a decade experience in the digital news and data space and has conducted media trainings across Asia.

Before working as a certified trainer of FactShala which is a news and information literacy programme, he worked with some of the top news sites — handling strategic editorial positions in organisations like The Quint, Moneycontrol, IndiaSpend, Firstpost, FactChecker.

In a candid chat with Kashmir Observer, the fake news buster talks about the menace of misinformation and the need of strengthening the newsroom fact-checking system.

TO BEGIN WITH, LET'S TALK ABOUT FACTSHALA.

FactShala is a news and information literacy programme launched in India by Internews in collaboration with DataLEADS with support from Google.org and the Google News Initiative.

This programme aims to educate the Indian people about media literacy and empower them to consume information critically. It's designed to help people across India — especially in states with low literacy to understand the nature and characteristics of content published online.

I'm associated with FactShala as a trainer and we have trained to empower people to consume information critically.

TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT MEDIA LITERACY AND WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT?

Media literacy has become of paramount importance today. With the ever increasing rise in fake news, we need to train and empower citizens and journalists alike to counter this rapidly growing misinformation disease. This can only be done through keeping abreast of latest tools and skill sharing from experts in various domains.

FactShala aims to bridge this gap between the two.

AS THEY SAY, MEDIA LITERACY DOES NOT MEAN “DON'T WATCH”, IT MEANS “WATCH CAREFULLY, THINK CRITICALLY”. WHAT'S THE FACTSHALA'S PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION?

FactShala has been built in mind not only on misinformation generated by conventional and social media but also on educating people about understanding media, analyzing content and equipping them with the skills needed to consume information critically.

Our training takes into account how one can think critically and out of the box. One has to be very observant when dealing with fake news and critical thinking helps to analyse patterns.

As BuzzFeed editor Craig Silverman puts it, “I also want to remind you of the first thing I talked about, which is that your brain is the most important tool. You have to be willing to look at the same sites and in-



SANJIT

formation again and again, to monitor them over time, and to apply the investigative mindset in order to find the points of connection or flaws.”

DOES MEDIA LITERACY APPLY TO SOCIAL MEDIA AND USER-GENERATED CONTENT? ALSO DOES IT INCLUDE ONLINE SAFETY?

Media literacy is a holistic approach. It is inclusive and adopts a whole-of-society approach.

INTERNET WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A DEMOCRATIZING FORCE, WHAT WE SEE IS THAT WE ARE EXPOSED TO INACCURATE INFORMATION. AS MISINFORMATION AND SO-CALLED “FAKE NEWS” CONTINUES TO SPREAD RAPIDLY ON THE INTERNET, OUR SOCIETY HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY SHAPED BY FALSE INFORMATION. WHY ARE PEOPLE SO SUSCEPTIBLE TO FAKE NEWS?

Unfortunately, many of us live in ‘filter bubbles’ or enter into ‘echo chambers’. We do not realise that we have been dragged so deep into these mines that regularly posting of articles makes us believe that they are true and we end up sharing them.

Most of the people who create fake news rely on evoking underlying biases that are already present in us and they stimulate that with morphed pictures or videos to shock or invoke a strong reaction.

AS IS RIGHTLY STATED, MISINFORMATION HAS CREATED A NEW WORLD DISORDER. IT'S BIG, IT'S SPRAWLING, IT'S HARD TO GET A HANDLE ON. IT'S FRIGHTENING WHAT IT CAN DO TO OUR LIVES. WHAT IS DRIVING THIS MISINFORMATION?

We have seen the effect of misinformation across various areas like

politics (elections), health, etc. Some of these can be potentially devastating and lead to harmful actions taken by communities.

An incident which happened a few years back led to the unfortunate death of two people who were just passersby when the village folks mistook them for ‘child snatchers’. The gruesome act was also recorded and shared online.

Fake news is deadly and needs to be curbed by putting in laws that penalise those who are creating them.

HOW IS MISINFORMATION ON SOCIAL MEDIA EVOLVING AND HOW “FAKE NEWS” AND MISINFORMATION ONLINE IS CHANGING THE SOCIETY?

Social media is the place where fake news is thriving.

It's unfortunate that a lot of people have suffered because of the spread of fake news. Many people have been wrongly quoted up to ten times or past statements have been given a new twist to suit current ongoing news thereby stimulating propaganda.

HOW RESPONSIBLE ARE SOCIAL MEDIA OUTLETS FOR MISINFORMATION SPREADING ON THEIR PLATFORMS? HOW DOES TECHNOLOGY ENABLE THE SPREAD OF DISINFORMATION? ALSO, WHAT ROLE SHOULD MORE TRADITIONAL MEDIA PLAY IN ELEVATING OR DEBUNKING GOOD OR BAD INFO?

Social Media platforms like Twitter, Facebook, etc have to play an important role in debunking or atleast bringing to light the page or person behind the spread of mis/disinformation as these are the very places where such news is thriving.

Facebook has tied up with fact checkers across the globe to ensure

that there is some transparency coming up.

AND HOW HAS MISINFORMATION TROUBLED JOURNALISTIC COMMUNITIES?

Journalists have been affected by the rise of fake news as they have gone out of their way to bring light to the truth.

Some of them have been intimidated, attacked, while video journalists have been at risk for the evidence they hold.

As journalists, we need to use the citizen's right to freedom of expression to keep them informed and that often leads us to go to areas by putting ourselves at risk to gather and investigate factual information to stop and curb wrongdoings.

Authorities need to understand that fake news should not be used to suppress journalist.

NO DOUBT TECHNOLOGY HAS BROUGHT US TO A POINT WHERE WE CAN NO LONGER BELIEVE EVERYTHING WE HEAR, READ, OR EVEN SEE. IN THIS ERA OF INFORMATION DISORDER, TELL US HOW WE CAN NAVIGATE THE POLLUTION OF INFORMATION OUT THERE AND AVOID BEING DUPED BY ‘FAKE NEWS’.

Yes, that's true. Technology has made it difficult to identify fake news but that very same technology also has tools we can use to identify if pictures have been picked up from another place, the source of a video, who is behind an account, etc.

All this does take time and effort but can be useful in identifying culprits and bringing them to book.

IN THIS REGARD, HOW MEDIA LITERACY CAN HELP DISCERN FAKE NEWS?

Training is the key point here.

one knows how to fact-check. Many prominent folks and companies often tend to get misquoted or used in pictures or quotes they have not said.

In this case, having a fact-checker in your organisation will help in correctly dealing with a situation and averting bad press.

Fact-checking is now globally recognised as a principal branch of journalism and almost all leading newsrooms across the globe have dedicated fact checkers.

To understand the reach we can look at the initiative called International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN) by the Poynter Institute which looks to bring together fact-checkers worldwide.

And to answer whether it is enough to stop misinformation — No. Fact-checking alone cannot stop the spread of misleading information, nor can the media alone do this. We have to act as a society together and work on this.

BUT WHO WILL CHECK THE FACT CHECKERS?

This is a good one.

I would say ‘other fact checkers’.

Today we have multiple fact checking organizations in India and almost everyone is tracking and correcting fake news. If one organization does put out a misleading statement, there are many others who would jump to correct them and this is also something we have seen in the past.

HOW DID YOUR TEAM AT THE FACTSHALA STEP UP YOUR COMMUNICATIONS EFFORTS TO MAKE SURE PEOPLE HAVE THE BEST, MOST CREDIBLE INFORMATION?



WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF FACT-CHECKING? WHEN IS IT HELPFUL AND IS IT ENOUGH TO STOP MISINFORMATION?

It is very useful at many levels. A full blown PR crisis can be averted if

One area where we have focused on is to train as many people as possible and tell them to verify before sending. There are many tools like ‘Google Reverse Image’, ‘Invid’, ‘archive.org’ etc which can be used to

find out the sources of images and videos.

Of course, this takes time but it is important to know nonetheless. There are also sites like Google's ‘Fact Check Explorer’ which picks up articles from various fact-check websites.

ONE SHOULD KEEP IN MIND THE FOLLOWING POINTS WHEN UNSURE ABOUT THINGS:

1. Look at the domain name and URL
2. Do check the ‘About Us’ section
3. If there is an image, do a google reverse image search to see where else the image has appeared
4. Keep track of Fact check sites like Boom Live, Alt News, Vishwas News, etc
5. Become part of Facebook pages of Fact checkers and ask your queries there if you have a doubt.
6. Write to fact check organisations to verify claims. Most of them have Whatsapp groups you can send your queries to.

Essentially, one will have to learn the skills and tools required to debunk the fake news pandemic.

Tell us what are some of the tools that can be used to fight misinformation?

TOOLS ONE CAN USE TO VERIFY IMAGES & VIDEOS:

1. <https://images.google.com/>
2. Search By Image by Armin Sebastian
3. InVid extension (<https://www.invid-project.eu/tools-and-services/invid-verification-plugin/>)
4. YouTube/Vimeo
5. Socialcatfish.com helps you find people and verify information like images, email addresses, phone numbers and online profiles.
6. Capturing: Snagit - Screen Capture & Reco Software
7. InstaDP: Instagram profile pictures are very small. Using this tool, you can see anyone's Instagram profile pic in high quality. You can search any account. (<https://www.instadp.com>)
8. Archiving: WayBack Machine: Capture a web page as it appears now for use as a trusted citation in the future. <https://archive.org/web>
9. Archive.is: It takes a ‘snapshot’ of a webpage that will always be online even if the original page disappears. (<http://archive.is>)
10. Virus Total: Analyze suspicious files and URLs to detect types of malware, automatically share them with the security community (<https://www.virustotal.com>)
11. Twitter Analytics Tools: FollowlowerWonk (<https://followlowerwonk.com/>) and for tweet beaver (<https://tweetbeaver.com/>).

Qatar Says Worker Deaths For World Cup 'Between 400 And 500'

Agences

Doha: A top Qatari official involved in the country's World Cup organisation has put the number of worker deaths for the tournament "between 400 and 500" for the first time, a drastically higher number than any other previously offered by Doha.

The comment by Hassan al-Thawadi, the secretary-general of Qatar's Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy, appeared to come off the cuff during an interview with British journalist Piers Morgan.

It also threatened to reinvigorate criticism by human rights groups over what the toll of hosting the Middle East's first World Cup for the migrant labour that built over 200 billion worth of stadiums, metro lines and new infrastructure needed for the tournament. The Supreme Committee and Qatar's government did not immediately respond to a request for comment Tuesday.

In the interview, portions of which Morgan posted online, the British journalist asks al-Thawadi: "What is the honest, realistic total do you think of migrant workers who died from as a result of work they're doing for the World Cup in totality?"

"The estimate is around 400, between 400 and 500," al-Thawadi responds. "I don't have the exact number. That's something that's been discussed."

But that figure hasn't been discussed publicly previously. Reports from the Supreme Committee dating from 2014 through the end of 2021 only include the number of deaths of workers involved in building and refurbishing the stadiums now hosting the World Cup.

Those released figures put the total number of deaths at 40. They include 37 from what the Qataris describe as

nonwork incidents such as heart attacks and three from workplace incidents. One report also separately lists a worker death from the coronavirus amid the pandemic.

Since FIFA awarded the tournament to Qatar in 2010, the country has taken some steps to overhaul the country's employment practices. That includes eliminating its so-called kafala employment system, which tied workers to their employers, who had say over whether they could leave their jobs or even the country.

Qatar also has adopted a minimum monthly wage of 1,000 Qatari riyals (275) for workers and required food and housing allowances for employees not receiving those benefits directly from their employers. It also has updated its worker safety rules to prevent deaths.

"One death is a death too many. Plain and simple," al-Thawadi adds in the interview. Activists have called on Doha to do more, particularly when it comes to ensuring workers receive their salaries on time and are protected from abusive employers.

Al-Thawadi's comment also renews questions on the veracity of both government and private business reporting on worker injuries and deaths across the Gulf Arab states, whose skyscrapers have been built by labourers from South Asia nations like India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Mustafa Qadri, the executive director of Equidem Research, a labour consultancy that has published reports on the toll of the construction on migrant labourers, said he was surprised by al-Thawadi's remark. "For him now to come and say there are hundreds, it's shocking," he told The Associated Press. "They have no idea what's going on." (AP)

Ulema Have A Key Role To Play In Fighting Extremism: Ajit Doval



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi: Ulema have a leading role in educating the people on the original tolerant and moderate principles of Islam and countering extremism with progressive ideas and thought, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval said Tuesday.

In his opening address at dialogue on the "Role of Ulema in fostering a culture of Interfaith Peace and Social Harmony in India and Indonesia", Doval said we need to work together to develop common narratives on deradicalisation.

A delegation of Ulema and representatives of other religions has come here with Indonesia's Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs, Mohammad Mahfud MD.

The Ulema held a day-long dialogue with their Indian counterparts and other religious leaders at India Islamic Cultural Centre on varied topics. In his opening address, Doval said, "Extremism and terrorism are against the very meaning of Islam because Islam means peace and well-being (Salamati/Asalaam)."

"In a democracy, there is no place for hate speech, prejudice, propaganda, demonization, violence, conflict and misuse of religion for narrow ends," he said.

Underlining that both India and Indonesia have been victims of terrorism and separatism, Doval said while the challenges have been overcome to a considerable extent, the phenomenon of cross-border and ISIS-inspired terrorism

continue to pose a threat.

"Cooperation of the civil society is essential in countering the threat from ISIS-inspired individual terror cells and returnees from theatres like Syria and Afghanistan," he said.

He said the essence lies in disseminating our positive discourse far and wide and not merely reacting to the agenda set by inimical forces.

"State institutions also need to come together in detecting and identifying potential negative influencers and share information to counter their activities. In this, Ulemas, due to their deep connect with civil society, can play a vital role," he said.

He said the Ulema have a leading role in "educating the people on the original tolerant and moderate principles of Islam and countering radicalisation and extremism with progressive ideas and thought".

"Our youth should receive special attention towards this end. They are often the primary target of radicalisation, but if their energies are nurtured in the right direction, they can emerge as harbingers of change and building blocks of progress in any society," he said.

Doval said the Ulema must also be adept in the use of technology and use it to thwart propaganda and hate.

He said against the backdrop of tectonic shifts in the global order, India and Indonesia, given their rich history, diversity, shared traditions and increasing bilateralism, have the potential to enhance prospects of peace, regional cooperation and prosperity in Asia.

India and Indonesia are home to the world's largest Islamic populations, Indonesia is the world's largest Islamic country, and India is home to the third largest Muslim population in the world, he said.

"Countries like India and Indonesia, with their experience of multi faith harmony and coexistence, can send a joint message to the world to eschew violence and conflict. This will be a powerful symbol of the determination of two large countries (together we have 1.7 Billion of the world population) to preserve and promote the true values espoused by religion," he said.

Doval said that together we should strive to propagate the moderate virtues of Islam as a beacon of hope and cooperation for the entire world.

In his keynote address, visiting minister Mahfud MD, NSA's counterpart in Indonesia, said we have many times witnessed people who use their religion as a doctrine of absolute truth and are quick to blame others.

"We have to go out of this and improve. Religion, I think, should be a source of peace, not the reason for discord, conflict, or violence. Religion should be a unifying tool, not a divisive instrument," he said.

The minister said the world is facing difficult challenges, ranging from poverty, climate change, food insecurity, pandemic, corruption, unemployment, armed conflicts, income inequality, and human rights abuses.

"Where are religions when the world fights against all these common concerns?," he said.

Industries, Businesses Can Never Flourish In Country Where National Security Isn't Strong: Rajnath

AGENCES

New Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday said industries and businesses can never flourish in a country where national security is not strong.

In his address at the Armed Forces Flag Day CSR Conclave here, he also asserted that the "welfare of soldiers, who ensure our national security, should not be the responsibility of only the government but it should be the duty of all".

He also appealed to the nation to contribute generously to the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund, terming it the moral responsibility of every citizen to ensure the welfare of soldiers and their families.

In his address, he emphasised that industries and businesses can never flourish in a country where national security is not strong.

Appreciating the support of big corporate donors in the last few years which has led to a substantial increase in the fund, he exhorted the fraternity to contribute even more for the well-being of soldiers and the nation at large. The event was organised by the department of ex-servicemen welfare, the Ministry of Defence.



Singh expressed gratitude to the retired as well as serving armed forces personnel whose valour and sacrifice safeguarded the sovereignty and integrity of the country.

Singh made special mention of a soldier's message enshrined on the Kohima War Memorial in Nagaland, which reads: "When you go home, tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow, we gave our today."

"Since independence, whether it was to win wars or counter terrorist activities from across the border, our soldiers have given a befitting reply to all challenges with courage and promptness. In the process, many of them made the supreme sacrifice and many became physically disabled.

Grand Slam Fitness Expand Its Footprints In J&K

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar: A leading fitness equipment company Grand Slam Fitness expanded its footprints in J&K by inaugurating a new store wherein top-quality international fitness equipment will be provided under one roof.

By this store opening, Grand Slam has ensured one more step towards becoming one of the very few players to be providing international fitness equipment in a tier 2 city in India.

Grand Slam has been making fitness easier & more accessible since 1992 by bringing world-class, award-winning fitness brands from across the world to the homeland. Making premium fitness equipment available to top players in the Industry.

In these blissful 30 years, they've established almost 2000+ gym setups and sold nearly 3 million gym equipment. In addition to equipment for commercial and home gyms, they also provide outdoor gym

equipment for public use and they are working with several key government departments to bring this facility to the public.

The Grand Slam store in J&K will have some of the top international brands like TRUE, WATBIKE, SONY ADVAGYM and nine others under their portfolio. It is located in RV Square, Greater Kailash, J&K.

"Our target is to target exclusive clientele across several industries and institution types. We are taking steps to ensure a continued legacy with our new partnerships with other international fitness brands and by bringing new opportunities for fitness professionals and aspiring fitness enthusiasts to start their own Gyms and Sports Clubs. People have made Grand Slam Fitness their favorite gym equipment company, from celebrities to famous sportsmen to bodybuilders. Creating a highly functional relationship with clients will always be the mission and vision of Grand Slam Fitness," said Prateek Sood, Director, Grand Slam Fitness



CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

After Kanger, Now

around her legs and feet. When the "needle-pricking" didn't stop for three days, she was rushed to City's Noora Hospital where the doctors gave her immediate treatment and told her to avoid using electronic heating gadgets.

Apart from itching, there were rashes all over her legs. When she used to scratch them, she could sense skin cracking. "I was very worried," she said.

When Fareeda didn't respond to the treatment, she was rushed to the dermatology unit of SMHS Hospital where she found many patients like her.

"Most of them were using the heating blowers frequently," she said. "I wasn't alone facing the skin torment due to the heating appliances."

The people of Kashmir have sensitive skin which quickly reacts to any allergy, said Dr. Sajjad Ahmad, a dermatologist posted at Jawahar Lal Nehru Memorial Hospital, Rainawari, Srinagar.

"There are four basic types of healthy skin — normal, dry, oily and combination," Dr. Sajjad said. "Kashmiris fall in fourth category, as we've seen people with dry skin, eyes and lips getting skin related diseases more often."

During winters, the dermatologist said, people step out of their warm homes and develop cracks and become prone to infection. "Even if the people had to use the heating appliances during winter, they should use it judiciously," Dr. Sajjad said.

"People should open their body to direct heat and keep the heating appliance away from the children whose skins are soft and sensitive."

But while people argue that they can't afford to spend winters without the heating gadgets, many medics call for a monthly gadget review.

"A few years ago," said Dr. Nisar ul Hassan, President Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK), "an associate professor

of the SKIMS was charred to death during the night due to short-circuit in his electric blanket."

But while it's better to buy branded items to avoid any untoward incident, the doctor said, the heating appliances should get timely repairs and there should be ventilation in the room to avoid the rise of carbon monoxide inside the room.

"People should use these gadgets only when needed the most," Dr. Nisar said.

Srinagar Has

The minimum temperature is expected to fall further with the Met department forecasting dry weather over the next five days.

Drone Flying

"Prima facie it has emerged that the drone was being used to photograph a private event. Any further detail emerging shall be accordingly shared," Senior Superintendent of Police (Jammu) Chandan Kohli said.

LG Launches

UG Program of all the colleges from the 2022-23 session will bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge & practical skills, provide resources and choice for research and flexibility in completing degree programmes," he added.

Highlighting the transformation taking place in the education sector under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the LG said that the future higher education & learning will be more dynamic, adaptable and personalized like a liquid learning model platform to seamlessly blend the ideas from different disciplines to prepare students for varied & comprehensive knowledge in rapidly shifting world.

He also emphasized that teachers-students need to capitalize on the advances in Science & Humanities for

reorganizing classrooms and working world experience with focus largely on research and values that provide skills and knowledge relevant for today and tomorrow.

"National Education Policy promotes collaborations between disciplines to foster innovation and creativity. In future sustainable technological advances will be driven by people having an interdisciplinary approach," he said, while stressing on development of future-oriented skills among the youth, promoting research and strengthening the academia-industry relationship.

"Degree Colleges shall be encouraged to start the skill development courses identified from the skill sector council under the National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF). These courses shall be taught in partnership with industry where component of 12 credits taught by the College as professional knowledge and the component of 18 credits taken as professional training from industry. In the initial stage, 50 colleges have been identified to start the skill development courses," he added.

The LG also asked the teachers and faculty members to promote the start-up ecosystem in Higher Education. He further called upon students to nurture critical thinking.

Sinha also launched a book on "Implementing National Education Policy". Principals of different Colleges were felicitated by the Lt Governor for getting NAAC accreditation.

Seeks Status

at the Civil Secretariat here on Tuesday, an official spokesperson said. He said the meeting discussed various measures for enhancing sustainability, resilience and efficiency of the power sector and steps to achieve targets to reduce AT&C losses.

Issuing directions to the PDD

officers present in the meeting, the LG said that the monitoring mechanism of power projects should be strengthened to meet the energy goals and aspirations of the people and businesses.

"We need to have a multi-pronged strategy for energy security and decisions taken during winter preparedness meetings should be followed in letter and spirit," Sinha said.

He impressed on the Department to address the problems of the common man with seriousness and commitment.

During the meeting, the LG sought the status of the steps taken to meet power demand; required energy and peak availability; demand-supply deficit, status of ongoing projects; implementation of the short-term, medium term and long-term action plans.

Earlier, the spokesperson said, H. Rajesh Prasad, Principal Secretary, Power Development Department gave a detailed presentation on the power scenario of Jammu Kashmir.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Dr RP Singh, Chairman JKPCIL; Jagmohan Sharma, Chairman JPDCIL; Shiv Anant Tayal, Managing Director, JPDCIL; Ch. Mohd. Yasin, Managing Director, KPDCL, besides senior officers of Power Development Department and Power Distribution Corporations were present.

Govt Seeks List

acquired," the circular states. It is worthwhile to mention that authorization of the competent authority is a prerequisite for ordering execution of work/project. The regulatory regime governing acquisition of land for various developmental projects prescribes utilization of government land, as far as possible, for the purpose of infrastructural development.

Land should ideally be acquired only in case of non-availability/ non-feasibility of government land for

execution of the project—(KNO)

Govt Okays

qualification higher than graduation shall not be considered," he added.

For selection as Anganwadi Helper, the spokesperson said, the minimum qualification shall be Matriculation. He said that the new HR policy also stipulates the quantum of leave, eligibility for training/capacity building and process for termination of services.

"The services of both AWW/AWH shall end on attaining the age of 60 years and vacancy so arisen, shall be filled as per prescribed procedure. Moreover, if the AWW/AWH, after engagement, permanently shifts/changes her place of residence outside the Ward on the basis of residence of which, she was selected, then she shall be deemed to have been disengaged from the post of AWW/AWH and the vacancy so accrued shall be filled as per the stated procedure," he added.

LG's Advisor Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar and Chief Secretary Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta also attended the meeting.

BSF Shoots Down

near Chaharpur village, around 40 km north of Amritsar city, on Monday night, according to officials.

Two female constables of the 73 battalion fired 25 rounds at the drone and brought it down at 11.05 pm. During a search operation, the BSF recovered a partially-damaged hexacopter.

The drone, weighing 18 kg, was carrying 3.11 kg of narcotics, which was wrapped in a white polythene that was attached underneath it, the BSF said.

Another hexacopter, carrying 6.6 kg heroin, was shot down near Kalash Havelian village in Tarn Taran district by the BSF troops, the officials said.

The second drone was spotted on Monday night, prompting the BSF personnel to open fire at the UAV.

During the search operation, the hexacopter weighing 20 kg was found in a partially-damaged condition near village Kalash Havelian, the BSF officials said.

"Alert troops of the BSF once again were able to capture a drone and foil a smuggling attempt," an official of the border guarding force said.

Another drone was spotted near the Vadai Cheema border outpost at 10.57 pm on Monday, an official said.

After the BSF troops opened fire at the UAV, it went back to Pakistan.

Last Friday, the BSF troops had also shot down a Pakistani drone near the international border in Amritsar.

Punjab Man

Rakesh Kumar son of Amarnath – both residents of Gurdaspur Punjab.

Confirming it, a police official said that a case has been registered in this regard. "Prima facie the incident seems to be caused by asphyxiation due to gas leakage but further investigations are underway", the official said.]

3 'Drug Peddlers'

Union Territory.

Driver Javid Shah, co-driver Abid Shah and another occupant Irfan Bukhari, all residents of Rajouri district, were arrested and booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, the spokesperson said.

"Preliminary investigations revealed that the arrested inter-state drug peddlers were heading for Punjab... We are investigating forward and backward links of this racket," the spokesperson added.

Fire Damages PDD

several trunks containing record worth lacs of rupees were damaged in the mishap", the official said.

"Cause of the fire is believed to be a short circuit", the official said further.

No Space For Religious Politics In Modern Era: Azad

'Challenged Other Parties To Debate With Him On Developmental Issues'

Observer News Service

DODA: Hitting out at the political parties in Jammu and Kashmir for dividing people on religious lines, former Chief Minister J&K and Democratic Azad Party Chief Ghulam Nabi Azad said Tuesday that 'the politics of UT shall be based on developmental issues'.

He also termed the prevailing trend of infusing religious divide for political gains by some political parties as "unfortunate" and challenged them to debate with him on developmental issues.

"It is unfortunate that some political parties are trying to divide the people on religious grounds to secure their political interests. Instead they shall focus on developmental issues, creating job avenues for our youth. But they know they can't deliver so they adopt the communal strategy to gain power," Azad said, while addressing a public meeting at Kastigarh here.

He reminded the people of his tenure as Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir for two and a half years and termed that as a golden developmental era of erstwhile state.

"The Chenab valley was overlooked by successive regimes and no real development had taken place. When I became the chief minister of erstwhile state, I built roads, schools, and hospitals for the Chenab valley.



In my tenure even University was established here when the schools were unavailable for basic education in this landlocked region," he said.

This all, Azad said, was possible when I ensured inclusive development and didn't believe in power games while dividing people on caste and religion basis.

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir and Chenab valley in particular must reject the divisive agenda and join the Democratic Azad Party to ensure peace, harmony and development of the entire Jammu Kashmir," he said.

He said religious politics has deeply harmed our country and people have suffered with no progressive roadmap available ahead.

"The people should vote for candidates and parties on the basis of development. They must check the track record of every candidate and his party before casting the ballot. That is the only way to defeat the divisive designs," he said, adding "In the contemporary world religious politics has no space and the world has rejected it.

More Special Cells For Women In J&K, Ladakh: NCW Chief

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: National Commission for Women (NCW) chairperson Rekha Sharma on Tuesday said special cells will be increased in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh to expand the commission's reach in the two Union territories.

"In the near future, we will increase the number of special cells in order to expand our reach. We need to strengthen the visibility through active engagement in communities on gender-based violence," Sharma said while chairing a meeting of the monitoring committee for 12 pilot special cells here.

She stressed on the need for increasing awareness programmes in coordination with police and other allied departments for effective functioning of the special cells.

The meeting was attended by NCW Joint Secretary A Asholi Chalai; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Sheetal Nanda; DIG Central Kashmir Range, Sujit Kumar Singh; DIG, UT of



Ladakh, S Junaid Mehmoor; NCW Special Coordinator Neha Mahajan; Director of Mission Shakti Harvinder Kaur; Assistant Professor, Central University Jammu, Dr Vinay Kumar; and Coordinator, J&K Special Cell for Women, Saima Shah, among others.

The NCW chairperson was briefed about the work progress of 12 pilot special cells for women in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh since April, 2022 to October, 2022.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on the special cells and suggestions for way forward from respective members of monitoring

committee for effective functioning of the cells.

The meeting was informed that 256 outreach activities about women safety and empowerment had been conducted by special cells for women during that period.

It was also revealed that a total of 1,307 interventions have been carried out by special cells and 2,755 meetings have been conducted in 575 cases of women registered at such cells.

Sharma enquired about the number of complaints received by women cells in different districts and said that all help should be provided to women who are facing violence in any form.

Govt Nod To Fly Over Bridge In Jammu, CA Store In Baramulla



Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Administrative Council (AC) which met here under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, accorded administrative approval to several projects of public importance.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, J&K attended the meeting.

The Administrative Council gave its approval for Construction of 250 mtr span Fly over Bridge with approaches, connecting Circular Road near Jullaka Mohalla with Heritage Complex, Jammu at an estimated cost of Rs. 23.50 Crore.

In recent years, Jammu Old City has experienced a fast growth of population and increasing rate of urbanization process. Due to it the traffic has increased manifold on that specific area and vehicular congestion is increasing day by day on major old city roads. As such an approach to the Eastern side of Palace has been explored by Jammu Metropolitan Regional Development Authority (JMRDA) by way of constructing of Fly over taking off from Jullaka Mohalla on Circular Road and landing on the Ground of Palace on East-

Land Transfer Approved For Developmental Projects

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Administrative Council (AC) which met here under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, approved the proposals of different departments for transfer of land for various developmental projects, an official spokesperson said Tuesday.

The AC, he said, approved the proposal for transferring State (Mehfooz Kahcharie) land measuring 60 Kanal situated at village Badala, Tehsil & District Kathua in favour of Skill Development Department for establishment of Polytechnic College.

He said that the Polytechnic College in District Kathua shall provide opportunity to youth of

the area to get technical education in different streams and would thus serve an important public purpose.

Besides, the spokesperson said, the AC also transferred State land measuring 17 Kanal 15 Marla situated at Bhajmasta, Tehsil & District Ramban in favour of Northern Railways for construction of re-aligned portion of approach road from Digdole to Bhajmasta.

"It would simultaneously enhance the connectivity to Tunnel T-49 from NH-44 and will cater to the needs of local villagers of Bhajmasta, Urnilhal and nearby villages," he added.

LG's Advisor Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar and Chief Secretary, J&K Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta also attended the meeting.

ern River Tawi side.

Another Proposal of JKHPMC seeking approval for Design and Construction of 5000 MT Controlled Atmosphere Cold Store at Behrampora, Baramulla was also approved by the AC.

The Cold Store would have 20 chambers of 250 MT capacity each. The project will deploy

state of the art fully automatic technology of 5 TPH capacity for color sorting and grading line for apples.

The Facility will provide modern storage facilities to fruit growers and traders of the region near the production area and thereby increase the shelf-life of the produce considerably.

AAP Urges ECI to Hold Assembly Elections in J&K

NEW DELHI: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) led by Arvind Kejriwal, on Tuesday, urged the Election Commission of India (ECI) to hold assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir which has been without an elected government for the past more than four years.

A delegation of the AAP led by Harsh Dev Singh, former minister and chairman of the party's J&K co-ordination committee, submitted a memorandum to the ECI seeking early elections and restoration of democratic government in J&K at the earliest.

Except the BJP, all political parties in Jammu and Kashmir have been demanding assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir. Earlier government had hinted that the poll process would begin after the revision of electoral rolls was completed. The Delimitation Commission published the revised electoral rolls last week.

"The Constitution continues to be subverted by taking freakish excuses to deny Democracy to the people of J&K. The rulings of Supreme Court on time-bound restoration of democratic governments in States/UTs continue to be violated with impunity by the present rulers," read the memorandum.

In the memorandum, AAP has quoted various Supreme Court rulings on holding Assembly Elections within a period of six months in states and Union Territories where the assembly

is prematurely dissolved.

"It is now believed that the BJP may never allow elections in J&K as long as it remains in power. It is high time, therefore, that the ECI save the Constitution and democratic rights of the people of J&K," the memorandum read.

The memorandum further said that the J&K Legislative Assembly was suspended in June 2018 due to withdrawal of support by the BJP to the PDP. Thereafter, the Opposition parties, including the National Conference, Congress and the PDP offered to form the government claiming that they had the requisite numbers. They staked claim before the then governor on the strength of their majority in the legislature, yet the governor preferred to dissolve the Assembly.

The AAP pointed out that the Supreme Court on various occasions has held that Assembly Elections must be held within six months in all those States/UTs where Assemblies are pre-maturely dissolved.

In June 2018, the BJP withdrew support to the People's Democratic Party-led coalition government in Jammu and Kashmir. Since then, J&K has been without an elected government.

In August 2019, Jammu and Kashmir was stripped of its statehood and the special status granted under the Constitution. It was divided into union territories --- Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir.

KU, JU Thank LG For 'Historic Announcement'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The teaching fraternity of twin universities of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday thanked Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for his announcement about the enhancement in the age of superannuation of teaching fraternity.

A joint statement issued by teaching fraternity of Kashmir University and Jammu University here said that the decision was awaited since 2007 when the then union Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Higher Education, enhanced the age of superannuation from 62 to 65 years for teachers in centrally funded institutions in higher and technical education.

"University Grants Commission (UGC) Committee in its report has also strongly recommended an increase in the age of superannuation of teachers to 65 years throughout the country in both State and Central Universities. The

Committee reached this conclusion after an in-depth analysis of the pros and cons of the matter," it reads.

It added that the Economic Survey report for 2018-19 also recommended an increase in the retirement age considering the declining fertility rate and increased life expectancy. It stated that the services of healthier faculty beyond the age of 62 years needs to be better utilized because of the investments that have been made on them by the State during their studies, research career and for their capacity building.

"This decision is also far-reaching since it addresses the disparity that existed in the age of superannuation of teachers in the Central and State Universities in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir despite similar recruitment, promotion and workload. This disparity was discouraging very qualified and well-trained faculty from joining the State universities at higher positions," it reads.

Bukhari Vows Equivalent Development Of J&K

Says No Place Should Be Rendered Underdeveloped Just Because Of Its Geographical Location



Observer News Service

URI: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, who is on a three-day visit to north Kashmir's Uri, on Tuesday said that Apni Party, after getting people's mandate to serve, will ensure equivalent development to all the regions in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to a press release issued here, on the second day of his tour, Bukhari visited Dumping Boniyar Baila Migrant Camp, Trikanjan, Dhundhran, Dundhran Kohi Kohinaka, Madan and other places where-in people belonging to different walks of life met the Apni Party leader and informed him about the public issues and their grievances.

While addressing a public rally at Trikanjan, Bukhari expressed deep concern over the lack of development and basic facilities in Uri.

He said, "This border region has been left underdeveloped and people have been deprived of even the basic facilities here.

Uri's infrastructural deficit and lack of development clearly indicate that the politicians, who remained at the helm during the past 75 years, have deceived the people and neglected this region completely."

He promised that Apni Party, when it comes to power, will ensure every place gets equivalent development and prosperity to all the people in J&K.

He said, "Times have changed. Due to the technological revolution, the world has become a global village, thus no place should be left underdeveloped just because of its far-flung location. I promise you that Apni Party, when it gets a mandate to serve the people, will ensure equal development of all the regions irrespective of their geographical locations and prosperity to all irrespective of caste, creed, political affiliations, and religious identities of the people."

Several public delegations and including some social and religious personalities met Apni Party leader and informed him about the public issues and grievances.

Army Sets Up 'Youth Empowerment Centre' In Jammu

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Army on Tuesday facilitated the establishment of a 'Youth Empowerment Centre' here with the twin objective of conducting skill development courses and de-addiction drives to promote awareness against drug abuse, a defence spokesman said.

The centre at Gangyal on the outskirts of the city was set up in coordination with civil administration through Jammu Municipal Corporation to raise awareness against drug abuse and facilitate constructive engagement of youth, the spokesman said.

He said the centre was inaugurated by Commander Tiger Artillery brigade of the Tiger division of Army Rising Star Corps, Brig N R Pandey along with Secretary J&K Sports Council Nuzhat Gull, Deputy Mayor, JMC, Baldev Singh Billawaria and other civil dignitaries in presence of locals including youth.

"The Youth Empowerment Centre is designed for the conduct of various skill development courses, events, lectures and other youth oriented events for the empowerment of the local youth in Jammu. In addition, the venue will be used to conduct de-addiction drives to promote awareness against drug abuse," the spokesman said.

He said the Centre would be a valuable addition for the youth in the region making a key difference in shaping their future by providing assistance in result oriented areas. Brig Pandey said the Indian Army always stands shoulder to shoulder in undertaking development initiatives for the youth of the region.

Entrepreneurship Only Way Forward For Solving Joblessness: CUK VC

Varsity's IIC Holds 'My Story- Motivational Session'

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: Central University of Kashmir (CUK), Vice Chancellor, Prof. Farooq A Shah Tuesday said that entrepreneurship is the only way forward for solving the issue of rising unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The focus of education in colleges and universities has now shifted from emancipation and learning to acquiring of special skills, in order to establish entrepreneurial units, and become a job provider than the job seeker," Prof. Farooq Ahmad Shah said, while addressing the students during a programme on "My story- Motivational session," organized by the Institution Innovation Council (IIC). Prof. Shah said the National Education Policy-2020 has given huge thrust to experiential learning in order to encourage the youngsters to start their own business ventures. He said the events like these motivate and encourage the aspiring entrepreneurs to take cues from

the individuals who have been successful in starting and sustaining their start-ups. "Every person has a dream to be successful, but only those having distinctiveness, creativity and innovation, achieve feats in their professional careers," he added.

Addressing the gathering, Registrar, Prof. M Afzal Zargar asked the students to work in collaborations rather than individually while starting any venture. "Almost all the successful startups across the world have one thing in common and that is team work and a positive mindset" he said. Prof. Zargar said, the entrepreneurs face several challenges and difficulties while setting up their business units and only those succeed who fight these with valor and persistence. He further said that innovation is always against the common perception of people and thus attracts criticism initially. Prof. Zargar called for holding of more such programmes to aware and sensitize the students about the benefits of entrepreneurship.

تعزیتی اجلاس

جوں و کشمیر سیکاپ ایپلاز یونین کا ایک تعزیتی اجلاس منعقد ہوا جس میں سیکاپ کے ڈویژنل منیجر جناب مہراج دین بٹ کی والدہ بنتی انتقال کر گئیں انا اللہ وانا الیہ راجعون۔
مشفق احمد ملک کے ایک بیان کے مطابق جوں و کشمیر سیکاپ ایپلاز یونین کا ایک تہذیبی اجلاس منعقد ہوا جس میں تمام مہران اور باقی ایپلاز نے شرم مہراج دین صاحب کے ساتھ تعزیت کی اور اس غم میں برابر کے شریک ہیں اور اللہ تعالیٰ سے دست بدعا ہے مرحومہ کو جنت الفردوس میں اعلیٰ مقام عطا کرے اور لواحقین کو صبر جمیل عطا کرے۔ آمین
منیاب۔

پریذیڈنٹ مشفق احمد ملک
جوں و کشمیر سیکاپ ایپلاز یونین

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
TOURIST RECEPTION CENTRE SRINAGAR (J&K)
Telephone No 0194-2500124 e-mail:- jkfdkrm@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
Abridged Short Term E-NIT No 04 OF 2022-23

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UT, e-tenders are invited by Director Fisheries, Fisheries Department J&K Srinagar by e-tendering mode on percentage basis from approved and the eligible registered Event Management agencies / R&D Agencies registered with J&K Government, or other Central/ State Governments mentioned here under in strict accordance with conditions noted below.

S. No	Name of work	Approx. Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender Document	Time of opening of bid	Event to be conducted on and at
01	Management of event for Promotion , Branding, Publicity and Marketing of JK Trout across the country	Rs 15.00 lacs	Rs 30000/-	Rs 1000/-	06-12-2022 at 2.00 pm	11-12-2022 at JK House/Prithvi Raj Road New Delhi

Position of Approval = Accorded Position of Funds = Available

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q.), set of terms & conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from www.jktenders.gov.in under ASH/Director Fisheries as per the schedule of dates given below.

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	29-11-2022
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	29-11-2022 from 5.00 pm to 05-12-2022 upto 4:00 pm
3	Bid submission Start Date	29-11-2022 from 5:00 pm
4	Bid submission End Date	05-12-2022 upto 4:00 pm
5	Date & Time of opening Bids (Online)	06-12-2022 at 2.00 pm In the Office of the Director Fisheries Deptt TRC Dalgate Srinagar

No:DF/Adm/2022/ Misc/04
Dated: 29-11-2022
DIPK-14315-22

Sd-
Director Fisheries
Fisheries Department
Srinagar



Kashmiri Fans Buy LED TVs Ahead Of US-Iran Clash

Syed Mohammad Burhan

SRINAGAR: Ahead of the much-awaited 2022 FIFA World Cup match between arch-rivals the US and Iran on Tuesday evening, some elated Iran's national team (nicknamed Team Melli) fans have purchased fresh LED TVs for the match.

Ibrahim Mukhtar, a sales marketer from Moti Mohalla, Dal, said that he is not a very big fan of football but likes Iran as a country.

Ibrahim said although he purchased the LED TV for around INR 13,000 yesterday, installing the 'gadget' is still an issue.

"The man from the company is coming to install it. He told me he is on the way, I categorically told him that if he doesn't install it by tonight, he will have to take it back," Ibrahim said.

"Being a Muslim, I support the Iranian team; I don't like the US; I hope the match turns in our favour," Mukhtar said.

Hilal Akbar, from north Kashmir's Delina town, said he is thankful to his brother, who purchased an LED TV for the match.

"My brother bought this out of his own pocket. We plan to watch the match together with family and friends. We desperately want Iran to win," Hilal said.

Javeed Ali is another Team Melli fan from the Downtown area of Srinagar. His reasons for supporting the Iranian team are political.

"I purchased a gigantic smart TV for the Wednesday clash between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the US. I desperately want Iran to beat the US to crush its arrogance and conceit.

"I want to watch it live on the fresh gadget," Ali said.

"The Western powers from all sides are currently targeting Iran. Massive media propaganda and misinformation are being spread against the country. In this scenario, Iran needs a win which can bring some solace to the people of Iran in general and the Muslim World in particular," Ali added.

"We are praying that Iran hammers the US in Wednesday's encounter, Insha Allah," he concluded.

Iran was thumped 6-2 by England in its opening Qatar World Cup match, while the Americans earned a 0-0 draw against the English. The Iranian side registered a 2-0 victory over Wales; the US could only hold the Welsh to a 1-1 draw. After two games, Iran stands second in the table with 3 points, while the US has 2.

The final Group B match between Iran and the US will decide which of the two will advance to the competition's knockout rounds. A loss will end either side's 2022 World Cup campaign.

The last time the two played was 24 years ago at the 1998 tournament in France. Iran won 2-1.

Messi, Argentina Play Poland For Survival At Qatar World Cup



Agencies

DOHA: Lionel Messi has already come to Argentina's rescue at the World Cup. He might just have to do it all over again.

Another emotionally charged evening awaits Messi and the football-mad south American nation that worships him when Argentina meets Poland on Wednesday for a match with so much on the line.

For Messi, who is playing in likely his last World Cup. For Poland striker Robert Lewandowski, who might also be too old when football's biggest tournament rolls up next in 2026.

There are multiple permutations at play for the Group C finale: A win for the Argentines and they are sure to advance, likely as

TODAY'S MATCHES

Teams	Kick Off
Tunisia vs France	8:30 PM
Australia vs Denmark	8:30 PM
Poland vs Argentina	12:30 AM
Saudi Arabia vs Mexico	12:30 AM

goals for Argentina in 2022 – already a career-high haul in a single calendar year.

Concerns about Messi's health have dogged the seven-time world player of the year at the World Cup, starting from when he trained alone for two days before Argentina's opening game. He played the full 90 minutes against Saudi Arabia and also in the Mexico game, which he finished in some discomfort after turning his ankle late on.

Messi later confirmed it was nothing serious. But it only adds to the worries about the physical wellbeing of a 35-year-old player who is clearly pacing himself during matches, picking and choosing his moments to explode into life.

Can he do it one more time? (AP)



JKFA Announce DFA Election Results For Kashmir Valley

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Football Association (JKFA) on Tuesday announced the election results of its District Football Associations (DFAs)/Zones in Kashmir Valley.

A total of 16 districts/zones elected their office bearers during the election process, which were conducted under the supervision of Wasim Aslam, Chairman, Election Committee JKFA.

The elections were held for the posts of President, Secretary and Treasurer. The FA said in a statement:

"In pursuance to the J&K Sports Council directions to undertake the process of Elections of DFA/Zones of J&K UT in accordance with the Constitutional Provisions of JKFA and the directions of the Hon'ble Court, the J&K Football Association conducted the elections of the DFA/Zones of Kashmir Province of J&K UT to as per the following details."

District/Zone	Date of Election held on	Names of the elected Office Bearers		
		PRESIDENT	SECRETARY	TREASURER
Srinagar	13th Sept 2022	B.A Malik	Showkat Masoodi	Zahoor Ahmad Teli
Pulwama	5th Nov 2022	MD. Mudasir dar	Mudasir Majeed	Inayat Nazir
Kulgam	5th Nov 2022	Showkat Pandith	Ab.Rehman Dar	Sajad Ahmad Malik
Anantnag	6th Nov 2022	Md.Amin Malik	Fayaz Ahmad Shah	Zubair Bashir
S Shopian	6th Nov 2022	Bilal Ahmad Ganai	Mudasir Ahmad Dalal	Shahzad Ahmad Wani
Pattan	9th Nov 2022	Gulzar Ahmad	John Mohammad	Md. Lateef Shah
Hajin	9th Nov 2022	Asim Alijaz	Zubair Ahmad Parray	Alijaz Parray
Kupwara	10th Nov 2022	Imtiyaz Malik	Malik Shahnewaz	Mubashir Jabar
Handwara	10th Nov 2022	Firdous Ahmad Dar	Ubaid Majeed	Naseer Ahmad Najar
Bandipora	12th Nov 2022	Irshad Ahmad Wani	Farooq Ahmad Rather	Mudasir Ahmad
Pampore	15th Nov 2022	Gowher Ahmad Bhat	Zahid Shafi	Sajid Nazir
Budgam	15th Nov 2022	Tariq Ahmad Wani	Javed Ahmad Dar	Ishfaq Bashir
Ganderbal	16th Nov 2022	Qayoom Ahmad Sheikh	Alijaz Ahmad Dar	Ghulam Jeelani Malik
Rafiabad	25th Nov 2022	Ghulam Mohammad Bhat	Rizwan Qayoom	Muzamil Hameed Dar
Baramulla	25th Nov 2022	Altat Hussain Dar	Towfeeq Ahmad Lone	Israr Ahmad
Sopore	28th Nov 2022	Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat	Noor Mohd Lone	Ghulam Mohd Dar

Other members of the Election Committee include Prof.B.A Shah, Hony. General Secretary JKFA, Mohd. Lateef Bhat, Rafeeq Makhdoomi, Mohd. Amin, Amjid Rizvi, Aslam Parvaiz Dar and Mohammad Shahid Khan. The tenure of the Office Bearers of DFA's/Zones will be of four years as per the Constitution of JKFA.

"The Election of DFA's of Jammu Province will be held after few days," the FA added.

Bun Maska

Chai

Chai Ka Chaska With Bun Maska

JK Bank Lawns, Opp Ghat
6 Boulevard, Srinagar