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2

IIT Mandi Researchers Generate Power From Artificial Light Sources

Press Trust of India

A team, including researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mandi, has developed a new material that can generate electricity from household light sources like LED or CFL.

A light-emitting diode (LED) is a semiconductor device that emits light when current flows through it while a compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) is a fluorescent lamp that uses a tube which is curved or folded to fit into the space of a light device.

The research, published in the journal Solar Energy, supports the internet of things (IoT) technology that is being increasingly used in mobile phones, smart homes, and other applications that require various kinds of real-time data.

These IoT devices are required to run independently without being dependent on electrical grids for power supply. Primary and secondary batteries are currently used to power such devices, the researchers said.

All batteries, irrespective of their kind, have a finite lifespan and are neither cost effective nor eco-friendly. Light-induced power generators are promising alternatives to batteries for powering such devices, they said.

Solar cells use the light from the Sun to produce power, but since many of the IoT are used indoors, solar light is not an option.

An alternative is to find methods to harness light from indoor lighting sources to generate enough power to run indoor devices such as sensors, gadgets, Wi-Fi routers, Radio-frequency identification (RFID) readers, etc.

The multi-institutional

team, including researchers from National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), Gurugram, Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida, and the University of North Texas, US, has developed thin-film efficient photovoltaic cells that can generate power from any kind of light.

These cells are based on perovskites - a family of crystals that can absorb sunlight and generate power. Perovskites have been studied for a long time for solar power generation.

The researchers explored new perovskite materials that can be used to harvest indoor artificial light, and not just sunlight. "We have synthesised a photoactive quasi-cubic structured perovskite material by incorporating Formamidinium (FA⁺) cation in Methylammonium Lead Iodide (MAPbI₃) perovskite material," said Dr. Ranbir Singh, from IIT Mandi. "The fabricated perovskites (PVs) demonstrated a photoelectric conversion efficiency of 34.07 per cent with in indoor illumination conditions," Singh said. The photoelectric conversion efficiency values, one of the crucial indicators to determine the overall performance - were on par with the best-in-class perovskites for indoor applications, the researchers said.

The research presents a potential candidate for the development of photovoltaic material to capture the energy of indoor light using perovskites, the researchers said.

Indoor light-induced power generation will be increasingly sought in the near future due to the exponential growth in use of smart devices in applications such as wellness and health monitoring, smart homes, logistics, smart manufacturing, the researchers added.

ASF ENTERPRISES

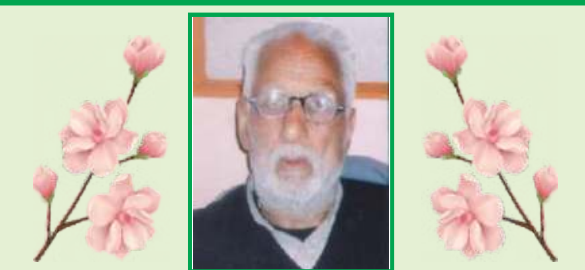
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وانی خاندان کو صدمہ عظیم

محمد صدیق وانی طویل علالت کے بعد انتقال کر گئے



روزنامہ سرینگر نیوز کے بانی مرحوم و مفتوحہ خواجہ معراج الدین وانی کے برادر اکبر محمد صدیق وانی ولد مرحوم عبدالغنی وانی ساکن خوشاب باغ سعدہ کدل سرینگر طویل علالت کے بعد بروز بدھوار 30 نومبر بمطابق 5 جماد الاول 1444ھ اس دار فانی سے انتقال کر گئے۔ مرحوم ایک شریف انشس، نیک سیرت اور نرم گفتار شخصیت کے مالک تھے جنہوں نے اپنے برادران اصغر کو ایک بڑے بھائی کے ساتھ ساتھ ایک باپ کی شفقت دیکر ان کے روشن مستقبل کیلئے جدوجہد کی۔ مرحوم نے بطور سرکاری آفیسر خدمت خلق کو اپنا شعار بنا کر انسانیت سے سرشار ہو کر ہر انسان کی خدمت کے ساتھ اپنے فرض منصبی کو خوش اسلوبی کے ساتھ نبھایا جس کیلئے ان کو پورے ساج میں عزت کی نگاہوں سے دیکھا جاتا تھا۔ مرحوم و مفتوحہ کا رسم چہارم بروز جمعہ المبارک 2 دسمبر 2022 کو انجام دیا جائیگا۔ بعد از نماز جمعہ 2 بجکر 30 منٹ پر آبائی مقبرہ پر فاتحہ خوانی اور ایصال ثواب کی مجلس منعقد ہوگی جس کے بعد گھر پر تعزیت پرستی کا سلسلہ جاری رہیگا۔

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GOVT. OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

DISTRICT EMPLOYMENT AND COUNSELLING CENTRE, SRINAGAR

(Mantoo House, Post Office Lane Rajbagh Srinagar-190008)

Mail ID: deandccsgr@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject:- Job Fair at Kashmir Government Polytechnic (KGP) Gogji Bagh, Srinagar.

It is notified for the information of all unemployed and desirous candidates residing in district Srinagar through the medium of this notice, that the Office of Deputy Director Employment, District Employment and Counselling Centre (DE&CC) Srinagar is organizing a day-long Job Fair at Kashmir Government Polytechnic (KGP) Gogji Bagh, Srinagar on 03.12.2022 from 11.00 AM to 3.00 P.M. The list of participating companies along with their available vacancies and eligibility criteria is given as under.

S.No	Name of the Private Company	Field of Operation/ Activity	Name of the Post	Vacancy Available	Eligibility
1	M/S PNB MET LIFE	Insurance	Chief Insurance Managers	20	10+2
			Life Insurance Managers	30	10+2
			Senior Business Manager	02	Graduate
2	Tribe 21	Training and development, Career Counselling and Market Research	Data Entry Operator	01	Graduate Preferably (Computer Knowing)
			Mobilizer	1	Graduate
			Receptionist	1	Graduate
			Field Supervisor	2	Graduate
			Recurrent Market Research Position	25	Graduate
3	GoodWit IT Solutions	Information Technology Web and Software development	Software Developer	12	MCA, BCA, M. Sc IT, B. Sc IT, M. Tech, B.Tech
4	Gatoes	Food Delivery	Office Executive	15	Minimum 12th (Computer Knowing)
5	Aala Cabs	Mobility/Transport solutions	IT/ Graphic Designers	2	B.tech Computer Science.
			Electrician/ GPS Technicians	2	Diploma in Electrical engineering.
			Driver	296	LMV License.
6	LIC	Insurance	Financial Advisor	No Restriction	10+2 - Commission Based Job for Selling Insurances Policies
7	SBI Life Insurance	Insurance	Financial Advisor	80	10+2
8	Kashmir Private Hospitals and Nursing Association	Health Care	NA	Recurrent vacancies	MBBS/MD, BDS, Accountant, Physiotherapist, Paramedical, Chefs/Cooks/Stewards/Receptionist, Drivers, Staff Nurses
9	Tata Kashmir Valley	Automobile, Servicing & Marketing	Sales Executive	Recurrent vacancies	10+2
10	Mahindra Shuhul	Automobile, Servicing & Marketing	Sales Executive	Recurrent vacancies	10+2
11	Tata Fairdeal Motors	Automobile, Servicing & Marketing	Sales Executive	Recurrent vacancies	10+2
12	Jamkash Maruti	Automobile, Servicing & Marketing	Sales Executive	Recurrent vacancies	10+2
13	Ashoka Leyland	Automobile, Servicing & Marketing	Sales Executive	Recurrent vacancies	10+2

Desirous and eligible candidates are advised to get multiple copies of their resumes and register themselves with the District Employment & Counseling Centre Srinagar online at <http://jakemp.nic.in> before participating in the said Job Fair.

For Further Details Contact:-

Deputy Director, District Employment & Counseling Centre, Srinagar

Email : deandccsgr@gmail.com

Phone : +01942310513

Sd/-

Dr. Sheeba Inayat (JKAS)

Deputy Director Employment

DE&CC, Srinagar

DIPK-14262/22

Dated:- 28.11.2022.

No: DE&CC/Sgr/JF/2022-23/ 2842-46

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office Of The Divisional Forest Officer Anantnag Forest Division Anantnag

e-NIT NO:-18 of 2022-23 DATED: 28-11-2022

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble President of India, e-tenders (Two cover system) are invited from registered, reputed and resourceful Contractors/ Firms registered with Jammu & Kashmir Govt./Central Govt. Organizations for the following work:-

Name of Work	Location	Adv. cost (Rs. in Lakh)	Bid Security (EMD) in Rs in	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Document	Time of Completion
1. Construction of BOs Hut at Akingam Kandiwara Kokernag Range	Akingam Comptt: 109/K	35.19	70380/=	"A&B" Class Civil contractor	Rs:1100/=	30 Calander Days
2. Construction of BOs Hut at Chittergull Kuthar Range.	Chittergull	35.90	71800/=	"A&B" Class Civil contractor	Rs:1100/=	30 Calander Days

The position of codal formalities in respect of above work(s) is as under:

Position of Funds	Budgeted
Position of AA	Accorded
Position of TS	Accorded

The e-NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, scope of work, Bills of Quantities, (B.O.Q), Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website:-www.jktenders.gov.in.

Publishing Date:	28-11-2022
Download Start Date:	30-11-2022 from 09:00 AM
Bid submission Start Date:	30-11-2022 from 09:00 AM
Bid submission End Date:	06-12-2022 Upto 06:00 PM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid through online:	07-12-2022 at 11:30 AM in the office of the office of Conservator of Forests Kashmir South Circle Bihbehara.
Date of Opening of Financial Bid through online:	To be opened (Online) after technical evaluation is completed, Date will be notified separately.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website: <https://jktenders.gov.in>.
- Bids uploaded must accompany Govt. Treasury Receipt (cost of tender document) in the shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406- Forest and Bid Security in the shape of EMD for requisite amount and pledged to Divisional Forest Officer Anantnag.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.
- The bidders have to submit their Technical & Financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No Technical or financial bid will be accepted in physical/hard form. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents i.e BSD Form, Valid Registration Card issued by PWD/CPWD/ Forest Deptt. duly renewed for the current year 2022-23, PAN, Valid GST Registration, Govt. Treasury receipt (Cost of Tender Document).
- The successful bidder has to produce Valid Labour Registration Certificate issued by Labour Department after issuance of award of contract.
- As per rule 171 of GFR-2017, Performance Security shall have to be deposited by successful bidder to the order of 3% of the value of contract and if there are compelling circumstances, performance security in excess of three percent may also be demanded.
- The Department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission of the bid due to any reason (technical or otherwise).
- The Department shall not be held responsible for selection criteria/policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of Information regarding publishing the NIT, in any of the newspaper under circulation.
- The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form 25 (double leaf) and as per the Detailed Tender document.

Sd/-

Divisional Forest Officer,
Anantnag Forest Division

No: DFO/Ang/Tender3441-46

DIPK-14354/22

Dated:30-11-20222

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUIVE ENGINEER PW (R&B) DIVISION SHOPIAN

e-mail:-rmbdivisonshopian@gmail.com (Phone/Fax No: 01933-26022)

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No: 174/ 10097-10106 / SPN/RnB/e-Tendering/2022-23

Dated:-30-11-2022

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor Union Territory of J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on (%age) basis / Item rate baiss (As the case may be) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Major Head of Account	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Class of Contractor	Time of Completion (In days)	Cost of T/Doc. (Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.)	AAA No / Dt	TS No / Dt
1	Construction of Drain at Shah Mohalla (Graveyard), Check Saidpora Shopian	MPLADS (Distt. Sector)	2.695	DEE	20 days	200/-	5390/-	339-DDCS of 2022 Dated:-21-11-2022	62-DS-R&B/Div/ Spn of 2022-23 Dated 29-11-2022
2	Construction of lane/ Drain from H/O Abdul Rashid Rather Up to H/O Gh Hassan Shah at Ganie Mohalla Ward 08	14 th FC Grants	6.058	DEE/CEE	20 days	300/-	12116/-	64-MC-R&B/Div/ Works/44 of 2022 Dated:-22-11-2022	64-MC-R&B/Div/ Spn of 2022-23 Dated 29-11-2022
3	Construction of link road from PMGSY road to Jatt Mohalla Zampathri (Balance Work)	Aspirational Block	5.006	DEE/CEE	20 days	300/-	10012/-	273-DDCS of 2022 Dated:-29-08-2022.	41/RnB/Div/ Spn of 2022-23. Dated:-31-08-2022.
4	Repair/Renovation of officers quarter allotted to Hon'ble Munisif Judge (Qtr. No:-07)	Distt. Sector NFB	0.999	DEE	20 days	200/-	1998/-	34-DDCS of 2022. Dated:- 23-11-2022.	65-DS-R&B/Div/ Spn of 2022-23 Dated 30-11-2022
5	-Maintenance and repairment / Desilting of Drain near H/O Nazir Ahmad Dalal upto H/O Abdul Hameed Dewa at Jan Mohalla.	Grant in Aid (M&R/ Desilting)	5.625	DEE/CEE	20 days	300/-	11250/-	MC/SPN/ Works/43/ of 2022 Dated:-22-11-2022	63-MC-R&B/Div/ Spn of 2022-23 Dated 29-11-2022

Position of funds=Approved

Percentage Rate method requires the bidder to quote a percentage above/below /at par of the schedule of rates applicable/as mentioned in the advertised BOQ

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	30-11-2022
2	Document downloading Start Date.	01-12-2022
3	Document Downloading End Date.	07-12-2022
4	Bid submission Start Date.	01-12-2022
5	Bid Submission End Date.	07-12-2022
6	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	08-12-2022

2. Bidders must upload the requisite cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan / Treasury Challan Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian (Tender receiving authority). (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian (Tender receiving authority).

3. All the Bidders have to upload / submit Earnest money deposit / Bid security deposit in shape of CDR/FDR/BG

4. All the Bidders have to upload / submit Earnest money deposit / Bid security deposit in shape of CDR/FDR/BG. Besides that, it is mandatory to mention the name of advertised work/ reference to (NIT & S.No.) in case the Earnest money deposit / Bid security deposit is in the form of BG (Bank Guarantee) by the bidders while submitting their bidding documents.

5. Additional Performance Security is to be asked from the Lowest bidder in case of an Un-Balanced Bid strictly in accordance to JK-PWD Engineering Manual-2020 and office memorandum of finance department from time to time

6. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the Bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same web site in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian (Tender receiving authority)

7. The earnest money shall be forfeited, If:-
a.) Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any Modifications in the terms & conditions of the bid.
b.) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

c.) Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

8. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

A. 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.

B. 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.

C. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.

D. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

E. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid.

F. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents in terms of soft copies with the technical bid and no documents in terms of Hard copies shall be entertained. However in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises. The Lowest responsive bidder (L1) must submit the original Treasury Challan (cost of Tender Document) and other relevant bid documents including EMD/Bid Security

G. Scanned copy of EMD/Bid Security in shape of CDR/FDR and cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Shopian must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The Original Treasury Challan (Cost of Tender Document) and other relevant Bid documents including EMD/Bid Security shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract.

9. All other terms and conditions are as per PWD form-25(Double agreement form)

No.:- NIT/e-Tendering/RnB/Spn/ 10097-10106

DIPK-14368/22

Dated:-30-11-2022

Sd/- Camp.Clark	Sd/- Head Assist.	Sd/- Technical Officer	Sd/- Executive Engineer
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Our Aim Is To Build Strong, Prosperous Rural J&K: LG



Observer News Service

Jammu: Asserting that welfare of poor and vulnerable sections is the top priority of the government, the Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Wednesday that the aim of his administration is to build a strong and prosperous rural Jammu and Kashmir. Sinha made these remarks after transferring installments to the tune of Rs. 149.17 crore directly to the bank accounts of 35,097 beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)-Gramin, at the Civil Secretariat here on Wednesday, an official spokesperson said. The LG said that the PMAY-G will fulfill beneficiaries' dream

of a 'Pucca House' with basic amenities, boost their self-esteem, social status and standard of living. Highlighting that the welfare of the poor & vulnerable section is the top priority of UT administration, the LG said that PMAY-G benefits genuinely homeless, those living in dilapidated houses and a large number of women & households from vulnerable groups. "Basic needs assistance will give impetus to rural development and empower the poorest," he added. The LG praised the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for bringing welfare schemes like PMAY-G that have transformed people's lives. He

also asserted that the aim of his administration was to build a strong and prosperous rural J&K. "Despite being a slow starter, J&K has gained momentum in realizing the vision of 'Housing for all'. Our target is to build more than 2 lakh houses. Special camps have been organized to identify the left out deserving beneficiaries of PMAY," Sinha said. "Housing provides stability to poor families and contributes to poverty reduction, and the families who have got their own house are now ready to fulfill other developmental aspirations of their family members," he added. The LG maintained that dedicated efforts are **More on PII**

'People Expect Quick Action From Admin'

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Wednesday that effective handling of complaints and grievances is fundamental to accountability and prompt resolution of public concerns in a timely & cost-effective way. Sinha made these remarks while interacting with people during the latest edition of "LG's Mulaqaat"- Live Public Grievance Hearing **More on PII**

Discusses Security Scenario With Army General

The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Wednesday discussed the prevailing security scenario in Jammu and Kashmir with a senior army General. The General Officer Commanding (GOC) 9 Corps, Lt General Pushendra Singh called on LG Manoj Sinha, at the Raj Bhavan here Wednesday, **More on PII**

FAA Recruitment Scam

CBI Files Case, Searches 14 Places In J&K

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The CBI on Wednesday conducted searches at 14 locations in Jammu and Kashmir after registering a case of alleged irregularities in the examination conducted by JKSSB for recruitment of Accounts Assistant in the Finance Department, officials said. The CBI has booked 20 people in the case, including Neelam Khajuria, former member of the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB), section officer Anju Raina and Karnail



Singh, who was then Medical Officer of the BSF frontier headquarters and also an accused in the JK Police Sub-Inspector recruitment examination scam case. The examination was conducted by the **More on PII**

BSF Officer Denied Bail In SI Recruitment Scam

The Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Wednesday rejected the bail plea of BSF Commandant (Medical) Karnail Singh who was among the 24 people charge-sheeted by the CBI in the police **More on PII**

DySP Crime Jammu Suspended 19 Days After Arrest

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday placed a police officer under suspension, over a fortnight after he was arrested by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) while accepting a bribe of Rs 50,000 from a man to

settle a property dispute. The suspension order of Varinder Singh, Deputy Superintendent Of Police (DSP) in the Crime Branch was issued by the Home Department. "In terms of Rule 31(2) of the Jammu and Kashmir (Civil Services Classification, Control and Appeal) **More on PII**

Cold Conditions Intensify In Kashmir Valley

Pahalgam Shivers At Minus 3.4 Degrees Celsius

Agencies

Srinagar: Amid dry weather, freezing cold conditions continued unabated in Kashmir Valley and Ladakh on Wednesday. A meteorological department official here said that amidst mist this morning, the summer capital of J&K recorded a low of minus 1.6°C against minus 2.2°C on the previous night which was coldest so far this season. The temperature was 0.7°C below normal during this time of the year for the capital city, he said. Qazigund **More on PII**

IB In Jammu Frontier Incident Free, Safe: BSF IG

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Border Security Force (BSF) has foiled all cross-border infiltration attempts this year and the International Border in the Jammu frontier is incident free and safe, a senior official said.

Drone activity has also largely decreased in Jammu and the majority of weapons and explosives dropped from unmanned aerial vehicles have also been recovered, BSF Inspector General (Jammu Frontier) DK Boora said at a press conference here. "The (International) border is incident free despite huge pressure on the forces **More on PII**

BASIC NEEDS LIKE ELECTRICITY, TOILET, drinking water, LPG connection and other facilities for the PMAY-G houses are being met through convergence of other government schemes,"



وزارت برائے زراعت و بہبودی کسان
حکومت ہند





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— نریندر مودی، وزیر اعظم



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سال اس یوجنا میں
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محفوظ فصل، بے فکر کسان
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QR کوڈ
اسکین کریں

16 Students Killed in Afghanistan School Bombing

Agencies

KABUL (AFP): At least 16 people were killed and 24 others wounded Wednesday by a blast at a madrasa in Afghanistan's northern city of Aybak, a doctor at a local hospital told AFP.

There have been dozens of blasts and attacks targeting civilians since the Taliban returned to

"many others" were injured.

"Our detective and security forces are working quickly to identify the perpetrators of this unforgivable crime and punish them for their actions," tweeted Interior Ministry spokesman Abdul Nafay Takor.

Images and video circulating on social media -- which could not immediately be verified --



power in August last year, most claimed by the local chapter of the Islamic State (IS) group.

A doctor in Aybak, about 200 kilometres (130 miles) north of the capital Kabul, said the casualties were mostly youngsters.

"All of them are children and ordinary people," he told AFP, asking not to be named.

A provincial official confirmed the blast at Al Jihad madrasa, an Islamic religious school, but could not provide casualty figures.

The Taliban, which frequently plays down casualty figures, said 10 students had died and

showed Taliban fighters picking their way through bodies strewn across the floor of a building. Prayer mats, shattered glass and other debris littered the scene.

Lull between blasts

Aybak is a small but ancient provincial capital that came to prominence as a caravan stopping post for traders during the fourth and fifth centuries when it was also an important Buddhist centre.

There has been a lull of a few weeks between major blasts targeting civilians in Afghanistan, although several Taliban fighters have been killed in isolated attacks.

WhatsApp Bans Over 2.3 Million Accounts In India In October

Agencies

NEW DELHI: Instant messaging and voice-over-IP service WhatsApp on Wednesday said the firm banned over 2.3 million accounts in the month of October, according to a spokesperson of WhatsApp.

In another statement, it said as many as 811,000 of these 2.3 million accounts were proactively banned, before any reports from users.

A WhatsApp's spokesperson in a statement said, "WhatsApp is an industry leader in preventing abuse, among end-to-end encrypted messaging services. Over the years, we have consistently invested in Artificial Intelligence and other state-of-the-art technology, data scientists and experts, and in processes, in order to keep our users safe on our platform."

The spokesperson said, "In accordance with the IT Rules 2021, we've published our report for the month of October 2022. This user-safety report contains details of the user complaints received and the corresponding action taken by WhatsApp, as well as WhatsApp's own preventive actions to combat abuse on our platform."

As captured in the latest monthly report, WhatsApp banned over 2.3 million accounts in the month of October, according to the spokesperson.

In a statement released by the firm, 2,685,000 WhatsApp



accounts were banned from the instant messaging service between September 1 and 30 this year. As many as 872,000 of these accounts were proactively banned, before any reports from users.

According to the firm's statement, in addition to responding to and taking action on user complaints through the grievance channel, WhatsApp also deployed tools and resources to prevent harmful behaviour on the platform. It said, "We are particularly focused on prevention because we believe it is much better to stop harmful activity from happening in the first place than to detect it after harm has occurred."

It said the abuse detection operates at three stages of an account's lifestyle: At registration, during messaging, and in response to negative feedback, which we receive in the form of user reports and blocks.

The statement from WhatsApp said a team of analysts augments these systems to evaluate edge cases and help improve our effectiveness over time.



China Warned US Not To Interfere In Its Relations With India: Pentagon Report

Press Trust of India

China has warned American officials not to interfere in its relationship with India, the Pentagon has said in a report to the Congress.

Throughout its standoff with India along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), Chinese officials sought to downplay the severity of the crisis, emphasising Beijing's intent to preserve border stability and prevent the standoff from harming other areas of its bilateral relationship with India, the Pentagon said in a report on Tuesday.

"The PRC (People's Republic of China) seeks to prevent border tensions from causing India to partner more closely with the United States. PRC officials have warned U.S. officials to not interfere with the

PRC's relationship with India," the Pentagon said in its latest report to the Congress on Chinese military buildup.

In a section on the China-India border, the Pentagon said throughout 2021, the PLA sustained the deployment of forces and continued infrastructure build-up along the LAC. Negotiation made minimal progress as both sides resist losing perceived advantages on the border, it said.

Beginning in May 2020, Chinese and Indian forces faced off in clashes with rocks, batons, and clubs wrapped in barbed wire at multiple locations along the LAC. The resulting standoff triggered the buildup of forces on both sides of the border.

"Each country demanded the withdrawal of the other's forces and a return to pre-

standoff conditions, but neither China nor India agreed on those conditions," it said.

"The PRC blamed the standoff on Indian infrastructure construction, which it perceived as encroaching on PRC territory, while India accused China of launching aggressive incursions into India's territory, it added.

Since the 2020 clash, the PLA has maintained a continuous force presence and continued infrastructure build-up along the LAC.

The 2020 Galwan Valley incident was the deadliest clash between the two nations in the past 46 years, the report said.

On June 15th, 2020, patrols violently clashed in Galwan Valley resulting in the death of approximately 20 Indian soldiers and four PLA soldiers, according to PRC officials, it said.

"Historic" Alzheimer's Drug Helps Slow Down Cognitive Decline: Reports

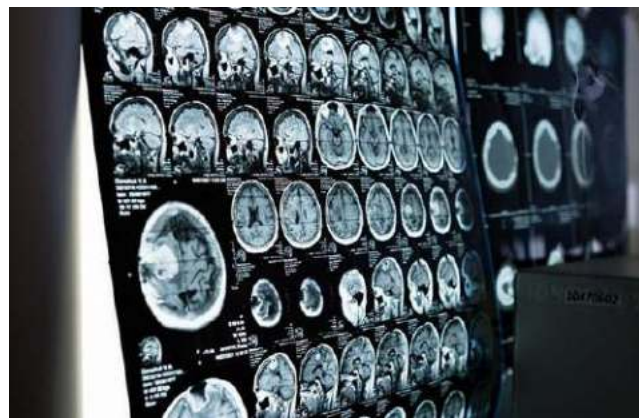
Agencies

A clinical trial of a drug has proven that it can help slow down cognitive decline in patients with early stage Alzheimer's, the most common type of dementia.

The developers of the drug called Lecanemab, Eisai Co. and partner Biogen Inc., had announced the results of the large-scale clinical trial in September. It had shown that the drug helped slow down the pace of cognitive decline by 27 per cent over 18 months in those suffering from an early stage of Alzheimer's. With this, according to the companies, they achieved the main goal of the trial.

The detailed data of the study, where out of 1,795 volunteers 898 of them were given Lecanemab and the others a placebo, has been published in the New England of Journal of Medicine. It confirmed that Lecanemab can effectively slow the progression of the disease.

The drug is an antibody therapy that targets clumps of a toxic protein called amyloid



that builds up in the brain of Alzheimer's patients and led to a slower decline in cognitive function.

Several researchers have lauded the results of the drug describing it as historic and momentous. "This is the first drug that provides a real treatment option for Alzheimer's patients. While the clinical benefits appear somewhat limited, it can be expected that they will become more apparent over time," Bart De Strooper, director of the UK Dementia Research Institute at University College London,

was quoted as saying by The Guardian.

While the new therapy looks promising, it is associated with some serious side effects including brain swelling and bleeding. Out of the 1,795 volunteers, 21.3 per cent of those who received the drug experienced brain bleeding and brain swelling while only 9.3 per cent of those on placebo faced these issues. Most of these cases were asymptomatic but 2.8 per cent who were given Lecanemab had symptomatic brain swelling, according to the developers.

Ahead Of Gujarat Polls, ₹300 Crore In Cash, Liquor Seized; 10 Times 2017

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Cash, drugs, liquor and freebies worth over ₹290 crore have so far been seized in poll-bound Gujarat, which is over 10 times the recoveries made during the entire 2017 assembly election period in the state.

Gujarat is going for two-phase elections on December 1 and 5.

According to the Election Commission, its planning and

mephedrone drug manufacturing units and unearthed about 143 kg of mephedrone (synthetic drug) worth about ₹478 crore. They have detained five persons from Nadiad and Vadodara and a criminal case is being registered in ATS Police Station, Ahmedabad under relevant sections of the NDPS Act, 1985.

"The operation is in progress and complete details will be made available once the op-



monitoring through various enforcement agencies have led to record seizures during the election process in the state.

One significant "ongoing seizure process of heavy consignments of drugs" is being led by a team of officers of ATS Gujarat which is carrying out an operation in Vadodara (Rural) and Vadodara City.

The team has identified two

eration is completed," the poll panel said.

The total seizures in the 2017 Gujarat assembly election were ₹27.21 crore. As on November 29, total seizures stood at ₹290.24 crore -- 10.66 times of seizures in 2017.

Besides the contraband seized in the ongoing operation by Gujarat ATS, drugs worth ₹61.96 crore have been recovered.

Suicide Blast Targeting Police Truck Kills 3, Injures Over 20 In Pakistan

Press Trust of India

A suicide bomber from the banned Pakistani Taliban blew himself up near a patrolling police truck carrying security personnel to protect polio workers in the restive Balochistan province on Wednesday, killing at least three people and injuring 23 others, including 20 policemen.

The attacker targeted the paramilitary Constabulary truck in Quetta's Baleli area, which was going to provide security to polio workers at the ongoing drive.

Quetta Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIGP) Ghulam Azfar Mahesar confirmed the attack and said that 20 policemen were among the injured.

"Looking at the crime scene and given that the truck toppled, it is estimated that 25 kilograms of explosives were used," he said, adding that a total of three vehicles were hit in the blast.

The banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) group claimed responsibility for the attack which came just two days after the group announced to call off its ceasefire.

It said the attack was in retaliation for the killing of Abdul Wali also known as Omar Khalid Khurrassni, who was killed in Afghanistan in August.

Mahesar said that the explosion was a suicide attack as they have found the remains of a suicide bomber near the crime scene. Preliminary police investigations showed that



At least 23 other people sustained injuries in the attack, including 20 policemen and three civilians, he said.

a rickshaw hit the police truck. Authorities have declared an emergency in the hospitals of Quetta to treat the victims.

NEWS MAKERS

Prannoy Roy, Wife Radhika Resign As Adani Group Nears Takeover Of NDTV

Agencies

NEW DELHI: NDTV founders Prannoy Roy and wife Radhika Roy have resigned as the directors of promoter group vehicle RRPR Holding Private Limited as the Adani Group neared takeover of the television channel.

RRPR, which has been acquired by Adani Group, held 29.18 per cent stake in the news channel.

The Roys, however, still hold a 32.26 per cent stake in NDTV as promoters and have not resigned from the board of the news channel.

In a stock exchange filing late on Tuesday, New Delhi Television Limited said the two had resigned as directors on the board of RRPR Holding Private Limited (RRPRH) with immediate effect.

Prannoy Roy is the Chairperson of NDTV and Radhika Roy is an Executive Director.

The board of RRPR Holding has approved the appointment of Sudipta Bhat-



tacharya, Sanjay Pugalia and Senthil Sinniah Chengalvarayan as Directors on its board with immediate effect, NDTV said.

The three are nominees of Adani Group which had earlier this week had taken control of RRPR Holdings.

More than a decade ago, Roys had taken an interest-free loan of over Rs 400 crore from a company that the Adani group acquired in August. In exchange, they issued warrants that allowed the company to acquire a 29.18 per cent stake in the news group.

RRPR, or Radhika Roy Pran-

noy Roy Holdings Private Limited, is the promoter of NDTV. It held 29.18 per cent stake in the news channel. The conversion of warrants into equity because of non-payment of the loan, gave the Adani group entity almost all shares of RRPR Holdings.

Pugalia is the chief executive officer and editor-in-chief of media initiatives at the Adani Group.

Post its acquisition, the Adani Group is also conducting an open offer running between November 22 and December 5 for a 26 per cent stake in NDTV.

Senior Journalist Ravish Kumar Resigns From NDTV

Agencies

Amid the takeover process of NDTV by the Adani Group, senior journalist Ravish Kumar quit the media giant on Wednesday, effective immediately.

This comes a day after the founders of the channel, Prannoy Roy and Radhika Roy resigned from the Board of Directors of the RRPR Holding Pvt Ltd (RRPRH). NDTV informed via an internal mail that the senior journalists' resignation was effective immediately. This effectively means that the takeover bid by Gautam Adani led Adani Group of New Delhi Television Ltd is nearing completion.

Meanwhile, the board has appointed Sanjay Pugalia and Senthil Chengalvarayan as directors of RRPRH board with immediate effect.

It may be noted that the transfer of shares will hand Adani group control over 29.18 per cent stake in the media company. Adani Group is also conducting an open offer for another 26 per cent stake, making them majority shareholders.

The open offer began on November 22 and has so seen shareholders tender 5.3 million shares, equaling 31.78 per cent of the issue size of 16.7 million shares, according to exchange data.



Lalu Yadav To Undergo Kidney Transplant On December 5: Son Tejashwi Yadav

Press Trust of India

KURHANI, BIHAR: Rashtriya Janata Dal president Lalu Prasad will go under the knife at Singapore on December 5 for a kidney transplant, his son and Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav said on Wednesday.

The RJD heir apparent made the disclosure at a rally in Kurhani assembly segment, where the disqualification of the party's MLA Anil Sahani has necessitated a by-poll, which, incidentally, is also scheduled for December 5.

"Lalu ji wanted to be here, but he is in Singapore where he will undergo a kidney transplant on December 5. He has, however, asked me to convey his message to you that he wants the BJP to be defeated," said Tejashwi Yadav, whose party is backing Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U) in Kurhani.

"Lalu ji has asked me to remind you all that his poor health is to be blamed on the vendetta politics of the BJP, which has forced him to spend a long time in jail," said Tejashwi Yadav.

Tejashwi Prasad enjoys a cult status among the OBCs and the minorities, despite allegations of corruption dur-



ing the tenure as Bihar CM and Railway Minister. "The vendetta continues. Even on the day we were proving majority on the floor of the House, raids were being conducted on the premises of our people," Tejashwi Yadav said.

Alleging that the BJP serves the interests of the supper rich and is least bothered about the common people, the young RJD leader claimed there were attempts to convert Bihar into a communal cauldron.

Referring to Nitish Kumar's exit from NDA in August, Tejashwi Yadav said, "We thank him for the courageous step which has strengthened our fight against forces hell bent upon destroying the Constitution, and selling off national assets to private players."



IMHANS Imparts Training To SUKOON Counsellors

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to enhance the capacity of psychologists and counselors of SUKOON, the Divisional Administration Kashmir started training module on essentials of online and telephonic counseling as well as didactic training for psychologists and counselors at Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (IMHANS), Srinagar.

The objective of the training programme is to make SUKOON versatile and compatible to address issues of substance abusers and mental health issues of the general public.

Pertinently SUKOON Helpline line 1800-180-7202 has proved very fruitful in addressing the substance induced mental disorder.

SUKOON works as an interface between the training users and experts who pull drug abuse victims out of the

menace through counseling and medicine.

Incharge Divisional Control Room Kashmir and SUKOON Mental Helpline, Tahir Magrey while speaking about the training programme said that the aim of the training programme is to equip the counselors with the communication skills incongruous with the needs of psychological counseling.

He added that SUKOON is a platform where people, particularly youth can give vent to their anguish in a conducive atmosphere besides guidance regarding detoxifying themselves in case involved in substance abuse.

Magray said, Divisional Administration is committed to purge the society from the evil of drug and substance abuse and concerted efforts are being made by administration to eradicate drug abuse and to remove stigma associated with post rehabilitation.



Students of Tyndale Biscoe School pose for a picture as they leave school premises on Wednesday. KO Photo Abid Bhat.

Youth Festival ‘Sonzal’ Concludes At KU

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The annual youth festival Sonzal-2022 concluded at the University of Kashmir on Wednesday.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Nilofer Khan chaired the closing ceremony of the eight-day event, which was inaugurated by Honorable Lieutenant Governor, J&K UT (Honorable Chancellor KU), Shri Manoj Sinha, on November 23.

Addressing the students after presenting trophies to the first three winners each in 25 competitions held during the talent-hunt festival, Prof Nilofer congratulated the students from the University's teaching departments, affiliated colleges and other academic institutions in Kashmir for their active participation in this year's Sonzal.

She said the University of Kashmir will continue to widen the canvas of competitions every year to encourage more and more students to showcase

their talent in new and emerging domains of art, culture, literary activities and music.

“This (Sonzal) is a platform that leads to your overall holistic personality development. We will continue to provide you with a space where you can vent your hidden talent and develop confidence to participate in the national and international-level competitions,” she told the stu-

live concert sponsored by Zee5, at the varsity's jam-packed Convocation Complex. Several student artists from Kashmir also performed during the programme, where glittering performances drew rounds of applause from the audience.

Registrar Dr Nisar A Mir and Dean Students Welfare Prof Aneesa Shafi also shared the dais at the award-distrib-

“This (Sonzal) is a platform that leads to your overall holistic personality development. We will continue to provide you with a space where you can vent your hidden talent and develop confidence to participate in the national and international-level competitions

dent participants.

The VC congratulated the Dean of Students Welfare and her team for their efforts to make the Sonzal-2022 a success.

Earlier, before the valedictory session, well-known Bollywood singer Ameya Dabli performed with his group of musicians and artists during a

bution ceremony. Members of civil society, parents of several student participants, noted Kashmiri singers and artists, besides senior academics and officers of the University were present on the occasion.

Cultural Officer KU Shahid Ali Khan conducted proceedings of the valedictory session.

DC Inspects Progress On Ongoing Dev. Projects

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad on Wednesday undertook a visit to Tengpora Bemina area of the City to oversee the progress of works being carried out on several major developmental projects including Animal Birth Control & Anti Rabies Centre, Slaughterhouse House Alochi Bagh, STP Tengpora and 150 MVA GIS Power Sub Station Alochibagh.

The DC was accompanied by Chief Planning Officer Srinagar, Mohammad Yaseen Lone, Joint Commissioner Works, SMC, Rajindra Singh, Executive Engineer, JKPC and other concerned.

While reviewing the progress of work on Ani-

mal Birth Control Centre at Tengpora being constructed at a cost of Rs 1.43 crore with all the modern facilities, the DC was apprised that the Centre is having a capacity of conducting 60 sterilization surgeries in a day, besides will also house an Anti Rabies Vaccination Centre,

The DC was informed that the project is near to completion and over 90 percent work on the Sterilization cum Vaccination Centre has been completed and the remaining work is going at a faster pace.

The DC asks the concerned Officers to expedite the works on Administrative block, Operation theatre, procurement surgical equipment with OT table, besides works for construction of walkways, greenspace and allied face lifting works.

Two Day Art Exhibition ‘SatRang’ Held At Nigeen Club

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Two day Art exhibition ‘Satrang’ organized by Green Valley Educational Institute in collaboration with Department of Tourism concluded at Nigeen Club on Wednesday.

The exhibition was aimed at providing a platform to budding artists of the School and other artists.

During the two day event, students showcased their work while demonstrating it to all the visitors.

Badrun Nisa, a Research Scholar at University of Kashmir was among the artists whose work caught everyone's attention. Nisa's artworks

revolved around spirituality and Sufism.

Nisa said she has been painting since her school days and she draws admiration from Sufi poets and personalities.

“I have been brought up with love for Sufi poets and personalities. I am a great admirer of Maulana Rumi. My grandfather would narrate poetic verses of Hafiz and Saadi when I was young”

“Unfortunately, these days, we are more into materialism than spirituality. In reality, we are spiritual beings first human beings later” Nisa said.

Zainab Zargar, a student of 10th Class said that she draws and paints to define herself.

“I draw to express my feelings and vent out good and bad feelings”

“This is a painting drawn against racism and color based discrimination” Zainab points towards painting of a Black woman. Zainab said that she believes the skin color of a human does not define beauty and nobody should be marginalized for his or her color orientation. Hundreds of art lovers thronged the art exhibition which lasted for two days.

Artists, however, voiced concern over the fact that there are very few art-lovers in Kashmir who purchase paintings. They sought government intervention to promote art in Kashmir.

National Seminar On ‘Developing Life Skills’ Held

Observer New Service

Srinagar: The chairperson of National Commission for Women Ms Rekha Sharma said on Wednesday that women must learn “new life skills” in tune with the “changing circumstances” to be able to move forward with

greater empowerment.

Addressing a national seminar on ‘Developing Life Skills’ at the University of Kashmir, Ms Sharma, who was the chief guest on the occasion, said: “With changing times, women are working as leaders in every field. How they will attain these leadership skills is what we are here for.

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HIGHWAY STATUS



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

HIJRI CALENDAR
06 Jumad al-Awwal
1444

PRAYERS	
FAJR	5:50
ZUHR	12:17
ASR	3:45
Magrib	5:26
ISHA	6:49

This Day In History

- 1626 - Pasha Muhammad ibn Farukh tyrannical govt of Jerusalem, driven out.
- 1640 - Portugal regains independence after 60 years of Spanish rule.
- 1641 - Massachusetts becomes the first colony to give statutory recognition to slavery.
- 1653 An athlete from Croydon is reported to have run 20 miles from St Albans to London in less than 90 minutes
- 1656 - Germany promises Poland aid against Sweden.
- 1708 - Great Alliance occupies Brussels.
- 1887 - Sino-Portuguese treaty recognizes Portugal's control.
- 1915 - The US requests that Germany withdraw its military and naval attaches from the Embassy in Washington.
- 1916 - There is virtual civil war in Greece as royalists fight Venizelist, and the Allies determine on a Venizelist victory
- 1917 Boys Town founded by Father Edward Flanagan west of Omaha Neb.
- 1918 - Danish parliament passed an act to grant Iceland independence under Danish crown.
- 1918 - Serbian-Croatian-Slovic kingdom proclaimed in Belgrade.
- 1918 - Yugoslavia declares independence; monarchy established
- 1941 - Japanese emperor Hirohito signs declaration of war.
- 1948 - Arabic Congress names Abdullah of Trans Jordan as King of Palestine.
- 1959 - The 1st color photograph of Earth received from outer space.
- 1961 - The independent Republic of West Papua is proclaimed in modern-day Western New Guinea.
- 1963 - Nagaland becomes a state of Indian union.
- 1970 - Independent People's Republic of South Yemen renames itself as People's Democratic Republic of Yemen
- 1971 - Cambodian Civil War: Khmer Rouge rebels, intensify assaults on Cambodian government positions, forcing their retreat from Kompong Thmar and nearby Ba Ray.
- 1973 - Australia grants self-government to Papua New Guinea.
- 1974 - Boeing 727 crashes in Upperville Virginia, 92 died.
- 1975 - Kuwait and Gulf and BP agree on terms of nationalization.
- 1988 - Benazir Bhutto named 1st female Prime Minister of a Muslim country (Pakistan)
- 1991 - Colorado party wins Paraguay parliamentary election
- 1991 - Nursultan Nazarbayev sworn in as president of Kazakhstan
- 1991 - US 75th manned space mission "STS 44" Atlantis 10 lands
- 1991 - Ukrainian people vote for independence
- 1998 - Exxon announces a \$73.7 billion USD deal to buy Mobil, creating Exxon-Mobil, the world's largest company.
- 2002 - Davis Cup Tennis, Paris: Mikhail Youzhny beats Paul-Henri Mathieu 3-6, 2-6, 6-3, 7-5, 6-4 to give Russia 3-2 win over France; only time in event history that a 2-set deficit turned around in a live 5th rubber of a Final
- 2008 - The US economy has been in recession since December 2007, the National Bureau of Economic Research announces today

From KO Archives

4 Kids Among 6 Killed In JK

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Six people, including four children, were killed and two others injured in separate incidents across Jammu region since yesterday.

According to reports, unidentified gunmen barged into the house of a village defence committee (VDC) member, Gyan Singh, after hurling a grenade towards it and resorted to indiscriminate

firing on the inmates killing four of his minor children and injuring two others at Sharjao village in Mahore area of Udhampur district last night.

Official sources said today that about 10 suspected militants first threw grenades on Singh's house at Jailanmarh- Sharjao village at around 2245 hours and then barged into it. The victims were sleeping at the time.

The victims were identified as Hoshair Singh (15), Bika Devi (12), Anju (3) and Darshana Devi (12). Singh and another member of his family, who were injured in the attack had been admitted to hospital, the sources said.

However, a NAFSA report said Singh's house was adjacent to an army camp. Security forces cordoned off the entire area this morning. However, no arrests were made.

In an encounter between the security forces and militants, two militants were killed at Gudesra in Banihal area of Doda district yesterday. The deceased were identified as Muhammad Hasil alias Usman r/o Banihal and Muhammad Raliq alias Bamber s/o Ghulam Tarqal.

Unidentified gunmen intruded into the compound of the house of Abdul Rasheed Peer at Churan in Kellar area of Shopian last night. The inmates raised an alarm at which some neighbours came to their rescue. However, while fleeing from the place, the intruders fired some shots without any harm. Official sources said they intended to kill Mst Malla, wife of Peer who they accused was an 'Informer'

(Kashmir Observer, 01 December, 2000)

ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.
Tel: 01933-247954/247955. Website: www.iust.ac.in

RETENDER NOTICE

The work "Construction of Boundary Wall Fencing at IUST Campus" published vide E-NIT No: - IUST/EW/22/TEND/BWF/12 dated: - 15-09-2022 is hereby retendered.

Name of work	Construction of Boundary Wall Fencing at IUST Campus.
Advertised Cost of Construction	Rs. 1,05,84,089.00/=
Class of Contract	Class "A"
Bid submission Start Date	25-11-2022
Bid submission End Date	10-12-2022 Up to 6:00 pm
Date of Submission of DD (Hard Copy)	12-12-2022 From 10:00 am Up to 4:00 am
Time & Date of opening of Technical Bids	Bids shall be opened at IUST, on 13-12-2022 (11:00 am)
Availability of Tender document	Tender document can be downloaded from website (https://iktenders.gov.in .)

Note: The Earnest Money Submitted by the Contractors in previous tender published vide E-NIT No: - IUST/EW/22/TEND/BWF/12 stands valid & the same can be Submitted for this tender also. The rest of the terms and conditions remain same as per the Tender Document.

Detailed Tender Notice is available on university website: www.iust.ac.in

No: IUST/EW/22/TEND/BWF/12A
Date: 25/11/2022

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Lingering War

Nine months after it began, the ongoing war in Ukraine has slipped under the radar. But the war is, meanwhile, going on, and the two sides are nowhere closer to either a military victory or on the path of a negotiated settlement. It is, however, true that Ukraine backed by NATO support has made some important battlefield gains. Russia despite reverses, remains still in a commanding position on the ground. While the war looks set to go on for now, it has left far-reaching implications for the geopolitics. In South Asia too, Ukraine war has tested the ability of the countries to navigate their relationship with the US-led bloc and China-Russia sphere of influence.

example, in South Asia, India has found itself in a tough situation to straddle its alliance with the US and its longstanding relationship with Russia. And so far it has been successful in pursuing a tight balancing act. While New Delhi has gone along with the west as for as the illegitimacy of the war, it has refused to abandon Russia. The west has found it difficult to countenance this assertion on the part of India. As a probable result, recent months have witnessed a newfound warmth between the west and Pakistan. This shift became apparent by the sudden rekindling of US-Pakistan ties.

Though the US tilt towards India is still there, the US in recent weeks has made an effort to accommodate Pakistan which under Imran Khan was threatening to draw closer to China-Russia axis. But with Khan's loss of power in a no-confidence vote which he blames on the US, Washington has sought to repair its otherwise frayed relations with Islamabad and has also begun to respond to its concerns. The US has also made it known that it may be playing a furtive role to get India and Pakistan to restore engagement.

Developments like these have been a source of concern for New Delhi which sees it as a renewed appeasement of Pakistan. Many analysts in India see it as a punishment for India's pursuit of an independent foreign policy in response to the ongoing war in Ukraine. Besides abstaining from western resolutions against Russia, India continues to import oil from the country at discounted rates, something that has not pleased western countries.

But India has stood firm. Rather than joining the western camp, India has sought to play a mediatory role in resolving the Ukraine crisis. Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his meeting with Russian president Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the recent Shanghai Cooperation Organization meeting told him that "this is not an era of war" and that the Ukraine issue should be settled by diplomacy. At the end of the day, India will be better served by serving its own interests and this requires the country to strike a balance between the demands of the west and the concerns of Russia, its longstanding ally.

OTHER OPINION

The Collegium Debate

In a recent interview, Riju, who described the Collegium system as "alien" to the Constitution, said, "Never say that the government is sitting on the files, then don't send the files to the government, you appoint yourself, you run the show." Justice S K Kaul's response to this petulant framing of the matter as a Court versus government faceoff was measured: "It came from somebody high. Should not have. All I can say is, it should not have happened." The bare facts are that there are vacancies in the apex court while the government is refusing to approve the names cleared by the Collegium for appointment as judges. The Court had reiterated the same suggestions after the government returned the files for reconsideration. If propriety and the law suggest that the government approve them, the law minister has sought to discredit the process itself by suggesting that it is also unconstitutional.

For long, the judiciary and the government have had their disagreements on how SC judges are to be appointed. The Centre proposed the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) to replace the Collegium system in 2015, but a five-judge constitutional bench of the Supreme Court struck down the Act a year later. Clearly, the executive has not reconciled with the rejection of the NJAC. But as Justice Kaul said on Monday, "maybe you have reservations on the law... But till the law stands, it is the law of the land... if the government says it will delay or not adhere to the law of the land, tomorrow somebody else may say something like this about another portion of the law". As Justice Kaul said, the government should "look at the larger picture". The larger picture is dismal. Despite a 2020 judgment that fixed timelines to clear appointments, recommendations are stuck at the government's end. Such delays, Justice Kaul remarked, have affected recruitments with good candidates reluctant to join the judiciary. Shortage of judicial officers is a major reason for pendencies, which has been repeatedly flagged by the Court.

Yet, Riju has a point about the opacity in the system and, fortunately, judges, too, are veering towards the idea of institutionalising a system of transparency and evaluation that brings some sunlight into the appointment process without compromising its integrity. As this government has said so many times, and with reason, especially during Emergency anniversaries, that Indira Gandhi's idea of a "committed judiciary" is the death knell of a democracy. The Constitution is clear on the balance of powers, the Supreme Court's pushback against what tantamounts to overreach by the political executive is timely and welcome. In parallel, the court should step into overdrive when it comes to reforms within — that make it more transparent and accountable, the twin pillars on which independence often rests.

The Indian Express

India's G20 Presidency

Today, India commences its G20 Presidency



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Indonesia's President Joko Widodo hold hands during the handover ceremony at the G20 Leaders' Summit | Photo Credit: WILLY KURNIAWAN/Reuters



Narendra Modi



During our G20 Presidency, we shall present India's experiences, learnings and models as possible templates for others, particularly the developing world. Our G20 priorities will be shaped in consultation with not just our G20 partners, but also our fellow-travellers in the global South, whose voice often goes unheard

The previous 17 Presidencies of the G20 delivered significant results - for ensuring macro-economic stability, rationalising international taxation, relieving debt-burden on countries, among many other outcomes. We will benefit from these achievements, and build further upon them.

However, as India assumes this important mantle, I ask myself - can the G20 go further still? Can we catalyse a fundamental mindset shift, to benefit humanity as a whole?

I believe we can.

Our mindsets are shaped by our circumstances. Through all of history, humanity lived in scarcity. We fought for limited resources, because our survival depended on denying them to others. Confrontation and competition - between ideas, ideologies and identities - became the norm. Unfortunately, we remain trapped in the same zero-sum mindset even today. We see it when countries fight over territory or resources. We see it when supplies of essential goods are weaponised. We see it when vaccines are hoarded by a few, even as billions remain vulnerable.

Some may argue that confrontation and greed are just human nature. I disagree. If humans were inherently selfish, what would explain the lasting appeal of so many spiritual traditions that advocate the fundamental oneness of us all?

One such tradition, popular in India, sees all living beings, and even inanimate things, as composed of the same five basic elements - the panch tatra of earth, water, fire, air and space. Harmony among these elements - within us and between us - is essential for our physical, social and environmental well-being.

India's G20 Presidency will work to promote this universal sense of oneness. Hence our theme - 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'.

This is not just a slogan. It takes into account recent changes in human circumstances, which we have collectively failed to appreciate. Today, we have the means to produce enough to meet the basic needs of all people in the world.

Today, we do not need to fight for our survival - our era need not be one of war. Indeed, it must not be one!

Today, the greatest challenges we face - climate change, terrorism, and pandemics - can be solved not by fighting each other, but only by acting together.

Fortunately, today's technology also gives us the means to address problems on a humanity-wide scale. The massive virtual worlds that we inhabit today demonstrate the scalability of digital technologies. Housing one-sixth of humanity, and with its immense diversity of languages, religions, customs and beliefs, India is a microcosm of the world.

With the oldest-known traditions of collective decision-

clution, and electronic payments. For all these reasons, India's experiences can provide insights for possible global solutions.

During our G20 Presidency, we shall present India's experiences, learnings and models as possible templates for others, particularly the developing world.

Our G20 priorities will be shaped in consultation with not just our G20 partners, but also our fellow-travellers in the global South, whose voice often goes unheard.

Our priorities will focus on healing our 'One Earth', creating harmony within our 'One Family' and giving hope for our 'One Future'.

For healing our planet, we will encourage sustainable and environment-friendly lifestyles, based on India's tradition of trusteeship towards nature.

For promoting harmony within the human family, we will seek to depoliticise the global supply of food, fertilizers and medical prod-

Today, the greatest challenges we face - climate change, terrorism, and pandemics - can be solved not by fighting each other, but only by acting together.

making, India contributes to the foundational DNA of democracy. As the mother of democracy, India's national consensus is forged not by diktat, but by blending millions of free voices into one harmonious melody.

Today, India is the fastest growing large economy. Our citizen-centric governance model takes care of even our most marginalised citizens, while nurturing the creative genius of our talented youth.

We have tried to make national development not an exercise in top-down governance, but rather a citizen-led 'people's movement'.

We have leveraged technology to create digital public goods that are open, inclusive and interoperable. These have delivered revolutionary progress in fields as varied as social protection, financial in-

ucts, so that geo-political tensions do not lead to humanitarian crises. As in our own families, those whose needs are the greatest must always be our first concern.

For imbuing hope in our future generations, we will encourage an honest conversation among the most powerful countries - on mitigating risks posed by weapons of mass destruction and enhancing global security.

India's G20 agenda will be inclusive, ambitious, action-oriented, and decisive.

Let us join together to make India's G20 Presidency a Presidency of healing, harmony and hope.

Let us work together to shape a new paradigm - of human-centric globalisation.

The author is the Prime Minister of India



OBSERVER
MAIL

All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, space and accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

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Declining Book Reading Culture

The editorial page came up with something special. I, as a student, had almost forgotten about the decline in book reading culture in Kashmir. The main cause behind it is the

mushrooming growth of the Internet. However, the diverse opinions on the page nudged me and compelled me to read these at the earliest. Though I shared my views regarding this, I was enthusiastic to know what others

think about it. From academicians to budding writers and students, everyone shared their ideas. Variety of opinions opened the closed doors of the mind and I began to ponder over the reality of book reading culture in

Kashmir. In short, congratulations to the authors and the team of the Kashmir Observer for this out-of-box idea. Let the book reading culture prevail again in the age of the Internet.

Syed Mustafa Ahmad

Climate Change Warriors on an Assertive Streak

After successfully getting a Loss and Damage Fund established, the climate change warriors have also launched legal actions against unresponsive governments



Asad Mirza

“What is needed, however, is not less but more aid to help developing countries tackle the dramatic consequences of an unprecedented series of crises. Indeed, developing countries, unlike advanced economies, had no fiscal, monetary, or social space at the onset of these crises, to raise the issue

It seems that Climate Change is now gaining real traction and importance for the common people more and more, but our politicians are not ready to take any notice of these changes, which are going to have immeasurable negative impact on the lives of billions of people across the globe.

Besides calls for wealthier nations to provide compensation to underdeveloped countries to cover the costs of severe damage and losses, citizens of some countries have also initiated legal proceedings against their governments for inadequately addressing the climate change fallout.

The month of November saw two environment-related incidents taking place. First, at the latest COP summit at Sharm El Shiekh in Egypt, termed as ‘Africa’s COP’, the voice of the most-vulnerable and most-affected countries was heard with an agreement to establish a loss and damage facility.

However, progress is still snail-paced in terms of raising ambitions to curb greenhouse gas emissions. Leaders attempted to keep that goal alive at the Egypt conference, but did not increase calls to reduce carbon emissions.

November also saw hundreds of activists, including Greta Thunberg, marching through the streets of Stockholm to a court to file a lawsuit against the Swedish government for what they claim is insufficient climate action.

Lawsuit by Swedish citizens

Over 600 young activists signed an 87-page document, which would serve as the foundation for the lawsuit, which was filed in the Stockholm District Court.

They want the court to rule that the country’s climate policies violate the human rights of its citizens. According to Anton Foley, spokesman for the youth-led initiative Aurora, which prepared and filed the lawsuit, Sweden has never treated the climate crisis as a crisis. Sweden is failing to fulfil its responsibilities and is breaking the law.

Earlier, in one of the most high-profile cases, Germany’s highest court ruled last year that the government’s climate targets must be adjusted to avoid undue burden on the young.

The German government responded by pushing back its target for net zero emissions by five years to 2045 and laying out more ambitious near and medium-term steps to achieve that goal.

What emerges from this is that people all across the world are increasingly becoming aware of the damages wrought by the Climate Change, and also understanding that who is the main culprit for unleashing this catastrophe, in pursuance of greed and lucre.

What is loss and damage?

The Alliance of Small Island States at international climate negotiations in Geneva in 1991, first introduced the concept of loss and damage, but it was not seriously considered again until 2013 at the COP-19 climate conference in Warsaw, Poland.

The Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage was created with the aim of enhancing knowledge of the issue and finding ways to approach it. There has been little progress since then.

The Glasgow COP, last year rejected a proposal made by members of the G-77 group of over a hundred developing countries and China for a formal loss and damage financial facility. Instead, in a bureaucratic manner, the Glasgow Dialogue was established for further discussion on the issue and it’s funding.

Critics have described the dialogue as “an excuse to delay further action.” It seems as if the rich countries are dragging their feet on financing any such endeavour.

While historically, between 1751 and 2017, the United States, the European countries and the UK were responsible for 47% of cumulative carbon dioxide emissions, as compared to just 6% from the entire African and South American continents. Yet, the culprits have been slow to make financial contributions to ease the impact on the most affected countries. In 2010, Global North nations agreed to pledge \$100 billion (101 billion) annually by 2020 to help developing countries adapt to the impacts of climate change.

But according to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), which tracks funding, in 2020 wealthy countries pledged just over \$83 billion. That was a 4% increase on the previous year, but it still falls short of the agreed amount.

What’s the impediment?

Though in principle, developed nations acknowledge the need to address loss and damage,



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Former British PM and WHO ambassador for global health financing, Gordon Brown has realistically opined that the announcement of the new initiative – the global loss and damage fund – to right historical wrongs by compensating climate-hit developing countries, might be a good feel factor but the real question is whether the developed world will really loosen its purse strings?

some amongst them argue for financing through existing climate funds, insurance schemes and humanitarian aid. Their reluctance is reflected in the European Union’s briefing, for example, which said that it was “open to discussing L&D (loss and damage) as a topic but hesitant about creating a dedicated L&D fund.”

Former British PM and WHO ambassador for global health financing, Gordon Brown has realistically opined that the announcement of the new initiative – the global loss and damage fund – to right historical wrongs by compensating climate-hit developing countries, might be a good feel factor but the real question is whether the developed world will really loosen its purse strings?

This breakthrough, he says, brought back memories of another initiative, the £100 billion a year agreed at the 2009 Copenhagen climate summit to help poor countries mitigate the effects of the climate crisis.

Brown says further that that money has never fully materialised. If 13 years’ experience of the £100 billion fund that never was is anything to go by, eulogies of praise will soon turn into allegations of betrayal. Far from the loss and damage fund narrowing the credibility gap on climate action, it is likely to bridge nothing if money fails to flow from rich to poor.

What is needed, however, is not less but more aid to help developing countries tackle the dramatic consequences of an unprecedented series of crises. Indeed, developing countries, unlike advanced economies, had no fiscal, monetary, or social space at the onset of these crises, to raise the issue.

One key priority for the global community should be not only to increase aid but also to make it much greener to help developing countries tackle the challenge of climate adaptation in an effective manner. Green aid encompasses financial and technical assistance to governments and direct investments in projects in both mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

Asad Mirza is a political commentator based in New Delhi. He was also associated with BBC Urdu Service and Khaleej Times of Dubai.

He writes on Indian Muslims, educational, international affairs, interfaith and current affairs.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer
Srinagar Smart City Limited.

Telcos To Stop 5G Services In High-Frequency Bands In And Around Airports

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Telecom operators will need to shut down 5G services in high-frequency bands in and around airports following restrictions imposed by the Department of Telecom at the request of the civil aviation ministry, according to sources.

Based on buffer and safety zone details provided by the aviation ministry, the DoT has asked telecom operators to not install 5G base stations in the 3.3-3.6 Ghz band in the area of 2.1 kilometres from both ends of the runway and 910 meters from the centre line of the runway of Indian airports with immediate effect.

"Telecom operators will need to shut down 5G service in the 3.3-3.6 Ghz band only in and around airports based on the order. It is a temporary restriction. The services can be restored after DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation) ensures that altimeters at all aircraft have been replaced. DGCA has not shared any timeline for completing the replacement exercise," a source told PTI.

Airtel is the only telecom operator that has installed 5G services at select airports, including at Patna, Bengaluru, Pune, Varanasi and Nagpur.



The DoT notice dated November 29 has asked telecom operators to tilt down 5G base stations to avoid interference of 5G signals with that of altimeters-- a device which helps pilots maintain the desired height of the aircraft.

The DoT in the notice said that DGCA is expected to complete the altimeter replacement exercise in a proactive and time-bound manner.

DoT has requested DGCA to provide a timeline for replacement of radio altimeters and its filters with a sharp cut-off date.

"Further, DGCA should communicate geo-coordinates of four corners of all the airports where such limitations or restrictions are required to be placed on 5G systems, within 30 days from issue of this letter," the notice dated November 29 said.

Centre's Fiscal Deficit Touches 45.6% Of Full-Year Target At End-Oct

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The government's fiscal deficit in end-October touched 45.6 per cent of the full year Budget Estimate, according to the data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) on Wednesday.

In actual terms, the fiscal deficit -- the difference between expenditure and revenue -- was Rs 7,58,137 crore during the April-October period of 2022-23.

In the corresponding period last year, the deficit was 36.3 per cent of the Budget Estimates of 2021-22.

For 2022-23, the fiscal deficit of the government is estimated to be Rs 16.61 lakh crore or 6.4 per cent of the GDP.

As per the CGA data, the net tax revenue at Rs 11.71 lakh crore was 60.5 per cent of BE 2022-23. During the corresponding period of 2021-22, the tax revenue (net) was 68.1 per cent of that year's BE.

Central government's total expenditure during April-October works out to be Rs 54.3 per cent of BE 2022-23, higher than 52.4 per cent of BE in the year-ago period.

Commenting on the data, Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, ICRA said in April-October 2022-23, while the Government of India's net tax revenues reported a healthy growth of 11 per cent, the 14 per cent contraction in non-tax revenues, combined with the 10 per cent rise in revenue expenditure, and the robust 62 per cent expansion in capex, widened the fiscal deficit to Rs



7.6 lakh crore from Rs 5.5 lakh crore in the first seven months of 2021-22.

"Taking into account the estimated additional expenditure that is likely in FY2023, we estimate the extent of the overshoot in the fiscal deficit at a modest (about) Rs 1 lakh crore, given the considerable upside seen in non-excite tax revenues as well as savings expected under other expenditure heads," she said.

Going by the buoyancy in the revenue collections in the first seven months, Shailendra Kumar, Chairman of the TIOL Knowledge Foundation, said that the Union Government has done much better than expected in bridging the fiscal deficit for the current fiscal.

"At the present pace, my expectation is that the Union Finance Minister would be tapping her feet by lowering the projected deficit of 6.4 per cent by a good measure," he said.

As per the CGA data, the central government's total receipts, including non-tax revenue, stood at Rs 13.85 lakh crore or 60.7 per cent of the current year's BE. In the year-ago period, the total receipts had touched 64.7 per cent of BE 2021-22.

RBI's Modified Digital Lending Norms To Come In Effect From Today

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Reserve Bank's modified guidelines on digital lending that seek to protect customers from exorbitant interest rates by certain entities and also check unethical loan recovery practices will come into effect from Thursday.

Under the new norms, all loan disbursements and repayments are required to be executed only between the bank accounts of borrower and the regulated entities (like banks and NBFCs) without any pass-through/ pool account of the Lending Service Providers (LSPs).

Also, "any fees, charges, etc, payable to LSPs in the credit intermediation process shall be paid directly by RE and not by the borrower", the Reserve Bank said in a press release while conveying the regulatory stance.

Executive Chairman of Andromeda Loans, V Swaminathan, said, that since digital loans and online repayments have gained more prominence post-pandemic, the need of the hour is competent systems and processes that would further strengthen data privacy and security of confidential information shared between customers and regulated entities.

While the cost of compliance may be significant for busi-



nesses that haven't revamped their core business models, we need to trust the central bank as it tackles government issues and consumer complaints related to digital lending platforms, such as the deployment of arbitrary collection strategies," he said.

While issuing the guidelines in August, the RBI had said the instructions are applicable to the 'existing customers availing fresh loans' and to 'new customers getting onboarded'.

Anil Pinapala, CEO and Founder, Vivifi Finances said the RBI has standardised the cost disclosures with a uniform Key Fact Statement (KFS) that details an all-in APR (Annual Percentage Rate), which factors in all the fees and interest

that are being charged to the customers, empowering them with the ability to compare this rate across banks and NBFCs.

"Licensed and compliant players will have an edge over fintechs with other NBFC partnerships, and are likely to see rising market share in the future," Pinapala said, and added the decision by the RBI will protect the consumer and level the playing field from the customer's perspective.

Nageen Kommu, Founder & CEO, Digitap said the RBI's guidelines on digital lending is a crucial development in the credit ecosystem, considering the rapid rise of profound credit tools and the country's progressive financial inclusion imperative.

Sensex Hits 63k Mark For First Time; Nifty Ends At Fresh Lifetime High

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Benchmark BSE Sensex settled above the 63,000-level for the first time on Wednesday, extending its winning momentum to seventh day amid a largely positive trend in global markets and continuous foreign fund inflows.

The 30-share barometer rallied 417.81 points or 0.67 per cent to settle at 63,099.65, its fresh record closing high. During the day, the benchmark jumped 621.17 points or 0.99 per cent to 63,303.01, its lifetime intra-day peak.

The broader NSE Nifty advanced 140.30 points or 0.75 per cent to end at 18,758.35, its fresh record closing high.

Among the Sensex pack, Mahindra & Mahindra, UltraTech Cement, Power Grid, Hindustan Unilever, Bharti Airtel, Asian Paints, Tata Steel and Titan were major gainers.

IndusInd Bank, State Bank of India, HCL Technologies and ITC were among the laggards.

"Domestic market continued its quest for gains, boosted by FII inflows. However, markets will be sensitive to the Fed Chair's remarks later in the day, as investors



are expecting a moderation in the pace of rate hikes. An in-line comment will help to sustain the rally while loosening COVID-19 restrictions in China is providing relief to global markets," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge jumped 1.06 per cent and smallcap index climbed 0.61 per cent.

All sectoral indices ended in the green, with utilities rallying 2.52 per cent, power jumped 2.35 per cent, metal (1.96 per cent), auto (1.74 per cent), commodities (1.62 per cent), realty (1.54 per cent), telecommunication (1.44 per cent) and consumer discretionary (1.25 per cent).

"Sentiment turned extremely bullish towards the

closing stages, as renewed foreign institutional buying propelled both the benchmark indices to scale fresh highs. Also, strong European markets opening further bolstered investors' sentiment ahead of the Q2 GDP data announcement," Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd, said.

Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended higher, while Tokyo settled lower.

Equity exchanges in Europe were trading higher in the afternoon trade. Wall Street had ended on a mixed note on Tuesday.

International oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 1.83 per cent higher at USD 84.55 per barrel.

India GDP Growth Slips To 6.3% In Q2, Dragged Down By Manufacturing, Mining Sectors

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India's economic growth slowed down to 6.3 per cent in the July-September quarter of this fiscal, dragged down mainly by the poor performance of manufacturing and mining sectors, official data showed on Wednesday.

However, India remained the fastest-growing major economy as China registered an economic growth of 3.9 per cent in July-September 2022.

The Indian economy grew by 8.4 per cent in July-September, 2021-22, as per the data re-

this month in one of the articles published in its bulletin.

"Real GDP or GDP at Constant (2011-12) Prices in Q2 2022-23 is estimated at Rs 38.17 lakh crore, as against Rs 35.89 lakh crore in Q2 2021-22, showing a growth of 6.3 per cent as compared to 8.4 per cent in Q2 2021-22," the NSO statement said.

The real GDP in absolute terms stood at Rs 33.10 lakh crore in the July-September quarter of 2020. It had contracted by 6.6 per cent in the second quarter of 2020-21 on account of the staggering impact of lockdown restrictions to curb the spread



leased by the National Statistical Office (NSO). The gross domestic product (GDP) expanded by 13.5 per cent in the April-June quarter this fiscal.

The second quarter GDP growth is almost at par with the RBI's projection of 6.1 per cent to 6.3 per cent released earlier

of coronavirus.

As per the data, Gross Value Added (GVA) grew by 5.6 per cent to Rs 35.05 lakh crore in July-September this year.

The GVA growth in the farm sector is 4.6 per cent in the second quarter compared to 3.2 per cent a year ago.

Govt Making Efforts To Boost Farmers' Income: Agriculture Minister

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi- Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Wednesday stressed on improving the lives of small farmers and said the government is making efforts to boost their income.

The minister was speaking at second FICCI sustainable agriculture summit and awards here.

Stating that India is primarily an agriculture country, Tomar said it is the duty of the government and people to make farm sector stronger for ensuring food security.

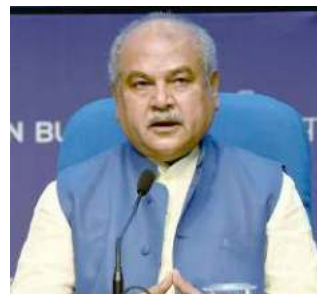
The minister said the government has taken a holistic view on the agriculture sector in the last eight years and taken several measures to boost productivity and production of agriculture crops.

The government is also making efforts to reduce input cost and increase the income of the farmers, he added.

Tomar pointed out that 86 per cent of the total farmers are small and marginal ones. "There is a need to improve their situations," he emphasised.

To boost the income of small farmers, the minister highlighted that the government is setting up 10,000 Farmers Producer Organisations (FPOs) and has also announced an infrastructure fund of Rs 1 lakh crore.

New schemes with huge central outlays have been introduced



for the animal husbandry sector.

The Centre, Tomar said, is providing farm loan worth Rs 18 lakh annually at a subsidised interest rate.

The minister said the government is also focusing on introducing new technologies in the farm sector.

He highlighted that the ministry has already issued standard operating procedures for usage of drone technology in the agriculture sector.

The government is also trying to promote organic and natural farming so that the use of chemicals is reduced in the farm sector.

Tomar highlighted that the youth are now getting attracted towards agriculture because of the reforms taken by the government during the last eight years to make Indian agriculture profitable.

Today, Tomar said, an educated youth are confident that they can earn money in agriculture sector.

SHORT TAKES

Core Sector Output Growth Slows To 20-Month Low

NEW DELHI: The growth rate in the production of eight key sectors slowed down to a 20-month low of 0.1 per cent in October on account of contraction in the output of crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, and cement, according to the official data released on Wednesday.

In October last year, these sectors expanded by 8.7 per cent. In September this year, the core sectors' output growth stood at 7.8 per cent.

Last time it was in February 2021, when the eight infrastructure sectors -- coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertiliser, steel, cement and electricity -- recorded a negative growth of 3.3 per cent.

The growth rate during April-October this fiscal was 8.2 per cent as against 15.6 per cent a year ago. In October, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, and cement output recorded negative growth rate.

However, fertiliser output rose by 5.4 per cent in the month under review.

The growth rate in the production of coal, steel and electricity slowed down to 3.6 per cent, 4 per cent and 0.4 per cent respectively.

These numbers have implications on the IIP (index of industrial production) data.

The IIP data for October is expected to be released by the government in the second week of December. **PTI**

Agri Deptt Holds Awareness Camp At Devsar

KULGAM: A daylong awareness camp on Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises was Wednesday organized by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare in collaboration with Planning and Marketing department Kulgam at Devsar, here.

A number of local farmers, Self-help group members, prominent citizens, unemployed youth and PRI representatives from different villages of Block Devsar and Pahloo attended the awareness camp.

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kulgam, Showkat Ahmad Rather was the chief guest.

While addressing the participants, the ADDC deliberated upon the benefits of the scheme and appealed to the youth to come forward and establish food processing units in the primary sector of the economy so that employment can be generated besides food is also preserved.

Chief Agriculture Officer, Sartaj Ahmad Shah raised awareness about the PMFME scheme. He said that the scheme has a number of benefits like 35% subsidy, hassle free loan from Financial Institutions, complete hand holding for registration under Udyam, FSSAI, GST along with full guidance about Packaging, Labeling, Branding and Marketing. **ONS**

2nd Coordination Meeting Between STD, CGST Officers Held

JAMMU: The 2nd Coordination meeting between the officers of State Taxes Department (STD), J&K and Central GST (CGST) officers was jointly held by Commissioner State Taxes J&K, Dr. Rashmi Singh and Commissioner Central Goods and Service Taxes, H.S. Negi Wednesday at Excise and Taxation Complex here.

The meeting was held with an aim of exploring common ground in areas of information exchange and for closer coordination in field activities.

During the meeting, the follow up action of 1st Coordination Meeting by both the departments was also discussed in detail.

Speaking during the meeting, the Commissioner State Taxes stated that through the collaborative efforts of both State Taxes Department and Central GST Chandigarh Zone, we have established this platform of coordination and today held the 2nd meeting to take this discussion forward. She added that the positive outcome yielded from this platform will benefit not just tax administering of just Centre and State but also taxpayers.

Commissioner CGST, while speaking in the meeting, said that we look forward for more such meetings and closer coordination with UTGST officers for augmentation of the Government revenue. **ONS**

VC J&K-KVIB Chairs Awareness Camp/ Interaction Programme

ANANTNAG: J&K Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB) Wednesday organised an awareness camp cum interaction programme with aspiring entrepreneurs and educated unemployed youth of Kokernag area at Meeting Hall (KDA) Kokernag, here.

Dr. Hina Shafi, Vice Chairperson (VC) J&K KVIB was the chief guest on the occasion and was accompanied by the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Anantnag, Deputy CEO KVIB Kashmir Division, Deputy CEO (P/R/S), District Officer KVIB Anantnag, Officers from different Nationalised Banks viz. J&K Bank, SBI, PNB, etc and other senior officers of the Board and line departments.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Hina gave a brief of details about various initiatives being taken up by the Government with regard to promoting "Ease of Doing Business".

She informed the general masses, especially educated youth that the aim and objective of today's programme was to make the unemployed educated youth and aspiring entrepreneurs as partners in the economic development of the UT of J&K thereby improving their standard of living.

Dr. Hina assured the aspiring entrepreneurs of the area that the government is committed to extend every type of hand-holding support for development of the Micro-Industrial Sector in UT of J&K. **ONS**

India To Grow 6.8-7% This Fiscal: CEA

NEW DELHI: The Indian economy is on track to achieve a 6.8-7 per cent GDP growth in the current fiscal, Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran said on Wednesday.

He said the economic recovery momentum is continuing and the GDP is averaging the 2019-20 level.

"Overall, the real GDP growth in 2022-23 is on track to be in the range of between 6.8-7 per cent," he said, adding that festival sales, PMI, bank credit growth and auto sales data show that the economy has maintained momentum despite strong global headwinds, especially higher input cost and monetary tightening.

After clocking a 13.5 per cent growth in April-June quarter, the economic expansion slowed to 8.4 per cent in July-September period. The growth in the first half of this fiscal (April-September) stood at 9.7 per cent. The economic growth last fiscal (2021-22) was 8.5 per cent.

The IMF (International Monetary Fund) has projected Indian economy to grow at 6.8 per cent this fiscal, while the RBI has pegged it at 7 per cent.

"In uncertain external environment and despite exports not doing as well as it did last year, domestic demand will drive GDP growth... Domestic inflation is expected to ease further on softening commodity prices and expectation of some good rabi crop," Nageswaran told reporters after the September quarter GDP numbers. **PTI**

2022 FIFA World Cup: Australia Beat Denmark, Tunisia Stun France

Australia 1-0 Denmark



AL WAKRAH: Australia advanced to the round of 16 at the World Cup, beating favoured Denmark 1-0 Wednesday on Mathew Leckie's 60th-minute goal.

It is Australia's first time in the knockout stage since 2006, the only other time they advanced out of the group stage.

Leckie took a pass just around the center circle and moved in and around a Danish defender, eventually lacing a left-footed shot that beat goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel

diving to his left.

Australia finished with six points in Group D.

The World Cup proved to be a major disappointment for Denmark after reaching the semifinals in the 2020 European Championship. They slogged through a 0-0 draw in their opening match with Tunisia and then recovered in a 2-1 loss against France.

The Danes attacked from the start against Australia but could never break through with the Socceroos.



A pitch invader ran onto the field with what appeared to be a Palestinian flag midway through the second half of the World Cup match between Tunisia and France on Wednesday. The man ran across the field at Education City. He did some acrobatic jumps before security sprinted onto the field. He was then dragged off the field as one Tunisia player appeared to ask the security officials to go easy on him. Tunisia was leading 1-0 at the time.

Tunisia 1-0 France



AL RAYYAN: Defending champion France won its World Cup group despite losing to Tunisia 1-0 Wednesday.

Tunisia was aiming to bounce back after failing to score in its last two group stage outings. On the other side, France was aiming to capitalize on the momentum built after back-to-back wins to start the tournament.

Wahbi Khazri scored in the 58th minute to give the Tunisians the victory, but it wasn't enough

to get them into the round of 16. Australia beat Denmark 1-0 in other Group D game and finished second on goal difference.

Khazri ran at the heart of the French defense and beat two players before poking the ball into the bottom corner. It was Tunisia's third victory at a World Cup.

France forward Antoine Griezmann thought he had evened the score in the eighth minute of stoppage time but he was ruled offside following a video review.

Real Kashmir Take On TRAU FC Today



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Real Kashmir FC will face TRAU FC in their I-League fifth-round fixture at Synthetic Turf TRC in Srinagar on Thursday.

The Snow Leopards defeated Churchill Brothers 1-0 on Monday and have now moved to the top of the I League table with ten points. RKFC is the only team who are yet to concede a goal in the competition.

Highlighting the importance of the game, RKFC head coach Mehrajuddin Wadoo told reporters at the pre-match conference, "TRAU are a good team, they have had good results and it's going to be a really competitive game. For us, it's important because we are on top of the table and to maintain that, we need three points tomorrow."

RKFC's midfielder, Samuel Kynshi, who hails from Meghalaya, has become a key part of

the team this season and feels the team spirit can take them through.

"The mood is really good in the dressing room, we have been working hard on the pitch and all the players are ready to perform. I think we will do really well if we can maintain this momentum and work hard on the things the coach tells us," Kynshi said.

TRAU FC come into the match on the back of successive 1-0 defeats against Greenidi Deccan and Mohammedan Sporting.

The Imphal-based side is yet to lose to Real Kashmir in their five previous I-League meetings, with four draws and one win. The Snow Leopards defeated Churchill Brothers for the first time and will be hoping to do the same against TRAU with the support of their noisy home fans.

The match between Real Kashmir and TRAU will kick off at 2 PM.

New Zealand Win Series Against India After Rain Washes Out 3rd ODI

Press Trust of India

CHRISTCHURCH: A sloppy India lost the three-match ODI series against New Zealand 0-1 after rain washed out the third and final game here on Wednesday.

Chasing 220, New Zealand were cruising at 104/1 in 18 overs, 50 runs ahead of the Duckworth-Lewis par score, when rain interrupted the game yet again in the white-ball series.

Kane Williamson and Co, needing just 116 runs from as many as 32 overs, though had to be content with a 'no result' as the game was two overs short to be technically called complete.

Having won the first ODI in Auckland by seven wickets, New Zealand thus sealed the series 1-0.

The second match in Hamilton, too, was abandoned after two stoppages.

Overall, only two matches in the six-ball white-ball series produced result, exposing the



poor planning on part of the concerned authorities. The series was organised less than a week after the T20 World Cup in neighbouring Australia. As for India, the series exposed their flawed selection policy.

The likes of Rishabh Pant (10 off 16 balls), Suryakumar Yadav (6; 10b) and Deepak Hooda (12; 25b) were the biggest failures as they lacked application and failed to bide time after Milne rocked the top-order.

Seeking to save the series, India found themselves in a spot of bother, losing half of the side in 25.3 overs.

But thanks to the efforts by Washington Sundar (51 off 64 balls; 5x4s, 1x6) and Shreyas Iyer (49; 59b) India managed to get past the 200-run mark.

Dhawan and his men were further disappointed by an inexperienced bowling attack as they struggled to get a breakthrough.

PAK vs ENG: Virus Hits England Camp, May Delay Rawalpindi Test



Reuters

England's preparation for the opening test against Pakistan has been thrown into disarray by a virus sweeping through the camp, which could delay the start of the match scheduled in Rawalpindi from Thursday.

Captain Ben Stokes is among several England players who skipped Wednesday's optional training session after being laid low by the bug. Former captain Joe Root was one of five players who did attend.

"As far as I'm aware, a few guys are not feeling 100%,"

Root told a news conference. "I didn't feel great yesterday and I woke up a lot better today. So, hopefully, it's a 24-hour virus. Don't think it's like food poisoning or COVID or anything like that."

"We are trying to do absolutely everything right to make sure we are prepared for this game." England have named their starting 11, giving a test debut to Liam Livingstone and recalling Ben Duckett to open with Zak Crawley.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said it was in touch with its English counterpart and added late on Wednesday that

the two unanimously agreed to delay the decision on the commencement of the test until 7.30 a.m local time (0230 GMT) on Thursday.

"The two boards also agreed, subject to the England players not recovering well enough to take the field on Thursday, then the test will commence on Friday and will be a five-day match," the PCB said in a statement.

"In this scenario, the schedule of the second test in Multan and the third test in Karachi will remain unaffected and will be played as per original schedule -- Dec. 9-13 and Dec. 17-21."

Germany Needs A Win To Avoid WC Exit

Agencies

TODAY'S MATCHES

DOHA: After getting a favour from Costa Rica, Germany needs a win against the Central American team on Thursday to have any chance of reaching the knockout stages at the World Cup.

Costa Rica's surprise win over Japan on Sunday ensured Germany did not face the prospect of immediate elimination with a loss to Spain later that day. With the pressure off, Germany fought back from a goal down and drew 1-1 thanks to Niclas Fullkrug's late equalizer to postpone its fate to its final game in Group E.

Teams Kick Off
Croatia vs Belgium 8:30 PM
Canada vs Morocco 8:30 PM
Japan vs Spain 12:30 AM
Costa Rica vs Germany 12:30 AM

"There isn't much reason to be really euphoric."

Even a draw would be enough for Costa Rica to reach the knockout stages if Spain beats Japan in the group's other game being played at the same time.

Spain leads Group E with four points after two games, followed by Japan and Costa Rica



Germany will advance to the round of 16 with a win if Spain also beats Japan in the other group game. Costa Rica controls its fate and will advance with a win.

"We have a lot of humility," said Germany midfielder Thomas Müller, who pointed to the team's position in the table.

both on three, while Germany has just one.

If Japan wins or draws it could go down to goal difference between Germany and Japan or Spain, depending on the result.

Costa Rica will go through with a win, while a draw will be enough if Japan loses.

Neymar Continues Ankle Treatment In Pool At The WC

Agencies

DOHA: Brazil forward Neymar was undergoing ankle treatment in a swimming pool Wednesday to try to recover in time to play again at the World Cup.

Neymar continued his physiotherapy in a pool at the team's hotel along with right back Danilo, who also has an injured ankle. They were jogging and doing other exercises in the pool.

Both players, along with left back Alex Sandro, aren't available for the team's final group match against Cameroon on Friday. Neymar and Danilo got hurt in the 2-0 win over Serbia last week. They missed the 1-0 win against Switzerland on

Monday. Alex Sandro injured his left hip against Switzerland.

Brazil reached the round of 16 in advance with its win over Switzerland. A draw against Cameroon will be enough to give Brazil first place in Group G.

Brazil doctors haven't given a timetable on Neymar's recovery, or said if he would return.

The forward injured his back in the quarterfinal against Colombia during the 2014 World Cup in Brazil and missed the rest of the tournament. He also missed the 2019 Copa America because of another right ankle injury.

The five-time champions haven't won the World Cup in two decades. (AP)



VC's Cricket Tournament Concludes At IUST

Observer News Service

AWANTIPORA: The third Vice Chancellor's Employees Cricket Tournament, which ran from Nov. 17 - 30, 2022, concluded at the Islamic University of Science and Technology on Wednesday. The finale of the tournament organised by the Directorate of Physical Education & Sports, IUST was played between School of Sciences, IUST and IUST Admin Group A teams.

The tournament was inaugurated by Prof. Shakil A. Romshoo, Vice Chancellor, IUST and Prof. Naseer Iqbal (Registrar, IUST) was the Guest of Honour. Talking on this occasion, Prof. Romshoo praised both teams for making it to the finals and emphasized the relevance of such activities for psychological well-being and

cultivating team spirit.

The tournament was won by the IUST Admin team. Both the winning and runner-up teams were awarded. Faheem Gul was adjudged Man of the Series and Owais Rah was awarded the Man of the Series. Congratulating the winning team on their victory, Prof. Naseer Iqbal said that such activities should be encouraged on the campus as they endow confidence.

Other dignitaries who watched the tournament along with hundreds of students and teachers include included Prof. A. H Moon (Dean, School of Engineering and Technology), Prof. Khuroo (Dean, School of Sciences), Mr. Samir Wazir (Finance Officer, IUST), and Dr. Fozia Qazi (Head, Department of Mathematical Sciences).



BSF Procures 2 SUV-Mounted Jammers, 100 Drones



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi: The BSF has procured two SUV-mounted jammers, more than 1,400 hand-held thermal imagers and about 100 drones for surveillance and security activities along important Indian frontiers with Pakistan and Bangladesh, a senior officer said Wednesday.

The Border Security Force (BSF) has also identified a total of 635 "vulnerable patches" all along the 2,289-km-long international border with Pakistan and along West Bengal and Assam (as part of the India-Bangladesh border) for installing surveillance systems developed in-house by the force.

The force has procured two vehicle-mounted jammers, onboard Mahindra Scorpio vehicles, for protecting troops against remotely triggered IEDs during their movement in Jammu and Kashmir (from Jammu to Srinagar in convoys), the officer said.

A CRPF bus carrying 39 personnel, apart from one official on road opening duty,

were killed when a terrorist rammed an explosive-laden vehicle in their convoy on February 14, 2019 while they were moving on the Jammu-Srinagar highway.

The BSF has also placed orders for procuring a total of 1,424 hand-held thermal imagers (HHTIs) for its border security units, he said. The gadget is used to detect movement of terrorists along the front during night time and foggy climate.

Almost 100 small and big drones have been procured by the force for watching the border areas and "we have also received a sanction from the Union home ministry for purchase of an equal number of more such drones or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs)", the officer said.

The BSF, raised in 1965, has 193 battalions on ground at present and has an overall strength of 2.65 lakh personnel. It is primarily deployed for guarding Indian frontiers with Pakistan and Bangladesh apart from rendering a variety of duties in the internal security domain of the country.

India-US Military Drills Near LAC Violate The Spirit Of Sino-India Agreements: China

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing: China on Wednesday said it was opposed to the joint Indo-US military exercises being held near the Line of Actual Control (LAC), asserting that it violates the spirit of the two border agreements signed between New Delhi and Beijing.

The 18th edition of the India-US joint military exercise 'Yudh Abhyas' is currently underway in Uttarakhand, about 100 km from the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

It aims to enhance interoperability and share expertise between both armies in peace-keeping and disaster relief operations.

The nearly two-week exercise began earlier this month.

"The joint military exercise between India and the US close to the LAC at the China-India border violates the spirit of the agreement between China and India in 1993 and 1996," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing here.

"It does not serve the mutual trust between China and India", he said in response to a question posed by a correspondent from Pakistan.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry's reference to the 1993 and 1996 agreements is interesting as India termed the People's Liberation Army's (PLA) attempts to move a large number of troops to the disputed areas in the LAC in eastern Ladakh in May 2020 violated the bilateral agreements which state that the boundary question is resolved through peaceful and friendly consultations.

The military exercise is



conducted annually between India and the US with the aim of exchanging best practices, tactics, techniques and procedures between the armies of the two nations.

"The 18th Edition of India-US Joint Exercise #YudhAbhyas commenced today at Foreign Training Node, Auli. The aim of Joint Exercise is to enhance interoperability & share expertise between both the Armies in Peace Keeping & Disaster Relief Operations. #IndianArmy #IndiaUSFriendship," the Indian Army tweeted on November 19.

The previous edition of the exercise was conducted at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, Alaska, the US in October 2021, officials said.

The Ministry of Defence here on November 15 had said that US Army soldiers of 2nd Brigade of the 11th Airborne Division and Indian Army soldiers from the Assam Regiment will be participating in the

exercise. The joint exercise will also focus on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) operations.

Troops from both nations will practice launching swift and coordinated relief efforts in the wake of any natural calamity, the ministry said.

The exercise between the armies of India and the US will facilitate both armies to share their wide experiences, skills and enhance their techniques through information exchange.

In August, the Chinese military expressed similar concern over the India-US military exercises.

Since the June 2020 Galwan Valley clash between Chinese and Indian armies, bilateral ties between the two countries have taken a severe hit.

India has consistently maintained that peace and tranquility along the LAC are important to the overall development of bilateral relations with China.

Karnataka HC upholds ban on PFI with immediate effect

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bengaluru: The High Court of Karnataka has upheld the recent ban imposed on the Popular Front of India (PFI) and stated that the Centre has the power under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 to ban an organisation with immediate effect.

A single judge bench of Justice M Nagaprasanna on Wednesday pronounced the judgment in a petition challenging the Union government's recent ban on PFI. The ban was challenged by Nasir Pasha, a resident of Bengaluru and the state president of the proscribed outfit.

"The proviso to sub-section (3) of Section 3 permits the Central Government that in the event it is of the opinion that circumstances exist which renders it necessary for the Government to declare an association to be unlawful with immediate effect, it may for reasons to be stated in writing direct that the notification shall have effect from the date of its publication in the official gazette," Justice Nagaprasanna said in his judgment.

The Centre is empowered under the proviso to bring in any notification declaring any organisation to be unlawful with immediate effect, the judge said, adding that the only rider to this is that reasons should be recorded in writing.

The government had issued an order banning the organisation and its allied outfits for a period of five years with immediate effect on September 28. The Centre took this action after raids on the offices of PFI and the residences of its members across the country.

The senior counsel for the petitioner had argued that there

was no warrant to bring the notification into operation with immediate effect and there are no separate reasons recorded for the said purpose.

The counsel had submitted that a fundamental right under Article 19(4) of the Constitution cannot be taken away in a perfunctory manner without recording separate reasons for bringing into effect the notification with immediate effect.

However, the Union government contended that "in the notification itself sufficient reasons are indicated for bringing into effect the notification with immediate effect. Though no separate notification is issued, it is not a case where there are no reasons recorded in writing as is necessary under the proviso to sub-section (3) of Section 3 of the Act."

The High Court accepted the government's arguments. "A perusal at the notification under challenge would indicate that reasons are present in the notification itself. Article 19(1) (c) of the Constitution of India on which much emphasis is laid on is also hedged with reasonable restrictions to be imposed in certain circumstances under Article 19(4) of the Constitution of India," it said.

Citing earlier judgments that had upheld bans on organisations in similar circumstances, the HC dismissed the petition stating, "In the light of the judgment rendered by the High Court of Delhi in the case of Islamic Research Foundation which was considering the case of Mohammad Jafar rendered by the apex court and the fact that reasons are found in the impugned notification itself, I do not find any warrant that would entail interference at the hands of this court."

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Our Aim Is

being made to fill the gap between policies and implementation.

"Basic needs like electricity, toilet, drinking water, LPG connection and other facilities for the PMAY-G houses are being met through convergence of other government schemes," he added.

The LG also highlighted the major role of the Rural Development Department and Deputy Commissioners in formulating precise Statistics for effective implementation of welfare schemes.

Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta called for collecting realistic data of left-out eligible beneficiaries of PMAY-G followed by corrective measures to realize the goal of 'Housing for all'.

He further asked the district administrations to make district-wise compendium of houses being provided under the scheme.

Commissioner/Secretary, Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj Mandeeep Kaur apprised the LG about the targets of PMAY and Awaas Plus and the achievements made till date.

It was informed that against the target of 2, 00,619 houses, as many as 1, 03,577 have been completed. Further, Block level camps were organized in all districts wherein an exhaustive exercise was conducted to update the permanent waiting list of PMAY-G beneficiaries.

To mark the occasion, 20 PMAY-G beneficiaries were handed over cheques of Rs 50,000 each by the LG.

'People Expect

programme, at the Civil Secretariat, an official spokesperson said Wednesday.

The LG directed the officers to strengthen public confidence and passed on-spot directions to resolve their complaints.

"People want to be heard and expect quick action from the administration. LG's Mulaqaat has emerged as a people-friendly platform, which enables & values complaints & ensures grievances are handled promptly and accountability is fixed for further improvements," the LG said.

"Listening to people first is the top priority of the administration. The ease of conversations through LG's Mulaqaat stimulates different departments to support citizen-centric system that provides seamless and integrated public services to meet the increasing societal expectations," he added.

Sinha further said that feedback system on complaints handling have ensured equitable, objective, and unbiased process.

"All the departments are working in an efficient, effective, integrated, and coherent manner with increased

citizen participation," he said.

Noting that Deputy Commissioners and SPs are the face of the administration, the LG called upon officials to discharge their responsibilities and serve the common man with utmost sensitivity, besides adhering to the time-lines of developmental projects and ensuring close synergy between different government agencies to achieve optimal results on the ground.

Taking serious note of grievances regarding delays in issuance of revenue extracts, the LG directed all the Deputy Commissioners to personally monitor the extension of revenue services.

On the issue of damaged building of Government Middle School, Gadyara, Ramban, the chair was informed by the concerned Deputy Commissioner that the said school has been declared unsafe during the safety audit.

He further informed that the school has been included among the unsafe schools by the Union Ministry for the repair and reconstruction works.

Similarly, an applicant namely Sumair Javed Khan drew the attention of the authorities to the dilapidated condition of the road from Rajouri town to Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University.

The LG assured the applicant that the administration was aware of the issue and necessary action in regard has already been initiated to provide relief to the people at the earliest.

On the issue of functioning of the street lights at Pahalgam raised by an applicant namely Showkat Ahmad from Anantnag, concerned officers briefed the chair on the measures taken to address this issue with alacrity.

During the interaction, most of the randomly selected applicants expressed their gratitude to the LG for prompt redressal of their grievances by the authorities.

On the occasion, the LG directed the DCs and other officials to coordinate with the Science and Technology Department for effective implementation of PM-KUSUM (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan) scheme, and installation of solar pumps and roof top solar panels.

Discusses Security

an official spokesperson.

The GOC and the LG discussed various important aspects pertaining to the prevailing security scenario, he said. Major General Neeraj Gosain, GOC Tiger Division accompanied the GOC 9 Corps.

Earlier, the spokesperson said, a delegation of Borderless World Foundation headed by its founder, Adhik Kadam also called on the LG and apprised him on the issue pertaining to GI registration for Doda Gucchi Mushroom.

"They also briefed the LG on the efforts of their foundation in promoting the local products and protecting the

interests of the farmers," he said.

The LG, he said, assured the members of the delegation of due consideration of all genuine issues projected by them.

CBI Files Case

board on March 6 and its results were published on April 21.

The results showed a high percentage of selected candidates were from the districts of Jammu, Kathua and Reasi, leading to allegations of paper leak and other irregularities, they said.

"There were allegations regarding malpractices in the examination and the Government of Jammu and Kashmir constituted an inquiry committee to look into the same. The report of the committee revealed the alleged conspiracy amongst officials of JKSSB, a private company based in Bengaluru, beneficiary candidates and others causing gross irregularities in the conduct of the said examination," the CBI spokesperson said.

It was also alleged that JKSSB violated rules in assigning the task of setting question paper to the Bengaluru-based private company, they said

BSF Officer

sub-inspector recruitment scam in the Union territory.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) arrested Singh on October 18 for allegedly using touts to get his son the question paper of the recruitment examination conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) in March.

Rejecting the bail plea, Justice Mohan Lal said there is every danger of the course of justice being thwarted, if the petitioner is freed on bail.

"Offence indicated against the petitioner is heinous and grave in nature and such types of offences are to be dealt with severity and with iron hands. Showing leniency in such matters would be really a case of misplaced sympathy," Justice Lal said in his 14-page order.

Additional Advocate General Monika Kohli, appearing for the respondents in the case, vehemently opposed the grant of bail to the accused arguing that the petitioner has indulged in criminal conspiracy with officials of JKSSB and the company assigned the task of conducting the written examination.

She said as many as 33 accused persons are indicted in the case registered against the petitioner who is the "mastermind" of the scam.

Kohli said the investigation is underway and more accused are likely to be arrested for sustained interrogation and if the petitioner/accused is enlarged on bail it will be difficult for the investigating agency to unearth the inter-state gangs operating in several states.

Agreeing with the argument of Kohli, who is also the CBI counsel, the

judge said the investigating agency must be provided sufficient time to unearth the paper leak scam and bring the offenders to book.

"...I am of the considered opinion that at this stage when the investigation is yet to be completed, it is the fittest case, where bail ought not be granted and the petitioner too has failed to carve out a strong case for bail in his favour. The bail application being misconceived under law is disallowed, rejected and dismissed," Justice Lal said.

The judge said the petitioner being a Border Security Force (BSF) personnel in the rank of chief medical officer was required to exhibit high integrity, official conduct and decorum above board, but has displayed a character of "unbecoming of a person of defence force".

"He has been found indulged in criminal conspiracy with other accused persons in a huge scam of irregularities in the written examination of J&K Police Sub-Inspectors posts in regard to leak of question papers and their sale in lieu of money, wherein the investigating agency so far has recovered a cash amount of Rs 61.79 lakh," he said.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration had cancelled the police sub-inspector recruitment process in July following allegations of irregularities and recommended a CBI probe.

On November 12, the CBI had filed a charge sheet against 24 persons, including Singh, who along with co-accused allegedly used a network of middlemen and officials of Jammu and Kashmir Police and central paramilitary forces to target aspirants willing to cough up Rs 20-30 lakh to get through the recruitment process.

DySP Crime

Rules, 1956, Varinder Singh, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Crime Branch, Jammu, shall be deemed to have been placed under suspension with effect from 11.11.2022, i.e. the date of arrest of officer in case No. FIR No.15/2022, U/s 7 of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, in P/S Anti Corruption Bureau, Jammu," reads the order issued by Additional Chief Secretary, Raj Kumar Goyal.

The order said the officer would remain attached to the police headquarters during the period of his suspension

According to the anti-graft body, the DySp was caught red-handed on November 11 from Trikuta Nagar while accepting a bribe of Rs 50,000 from a complainant to favour him in settling a property dispute. The deal, the ACB has said, had settled at Rs 2 lakh.

Cold Conditions

recorded a low of minus 1.6°C against minus 1.8°C on the previous night, while in Pahalgam, the mercury settled at minus 3.4°C against minus

4.2°C on the previous night and it was normal for the south Kashmir resort, he said.

Kokernag recorded a low of minus 0.3°C against 0.1°C on the previous night and it was 0.1°C above normal for the place, he said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 1.0°C against minus 1.5°C the previous night, the official said. It was 2.1°C above normal for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, the official said.

In Kupwara town, the mercury settled at minus 2.5°C against minus 2.4°C on the previous night, the official said. It was 1.4°C below normal for the north Kashmir place, he said.

Jammu recorded a low of 10.0°C against 9.8°C on the previous night. It was 0.3°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said. Banihal recorded a low of 1.2°C (0.7°C below normal), Batote 4.1°C (0.5°C above normal), Katra 8.9°C (0.3°C above normal) and Bhardarwah 2.8°C (1.5°C above normal).

In Ladakh, Leh recorded minus 6.8°C, Kargil minus 10.7°C and mercury in Drass, the world's second coldest place after Siberia, settled at minus 9.6°C, the official said. The MeT department has forecast mainly dry weather till December 7. (GNS)

IB In Jammu

and attempts from across the border to carry out infiltrations," he said.

"All infiltration attempts have been foiled. Seven infiltration bids were foiled and all the guides and infiltrators eliminated," he said, adding that none of the infiltration attempts this year had been successful.

Boora added that four AK assault rifles, seven pistols and nearly 50 kg heroin had been seized.

"The border in Jammu is totally safe. We have been able to ensure safety and security throughout the year. We hope that there will be no infiltrations from across the border in 2023," he said.

Boora said he hoped that such a situation would prevail on the borders in the days to come.

"We promise that there will be no compromise with the security of the borderline. We will work to ensure zero infiltration," he added.

Referring to the pressure on troops along the International Border during the winter months as the focus of infiltration shifts from the Line of Control (LoC), he said there was always pressure on them.

"Our motto is zero infiltration. Whether it is winter, summer, fog or rain, our focus is not to allow anyone to cross the International Border," he said.

Admitting that drone activity was a problem, Boora said, "As the problem intensified, the measures to contain it were upgraded," he said.

Boora added that the deployment

of the new measures and equipment had largely decreased drone activity in Jammu.

Comparing the drone activity with that in the Punjab sector, he said that unlike before, the BSF was shooting down unmanned aerial vehicles every two to three days.

"The troops are alert to the drone threat. In the future, we are confident of fully containing it. In Jammu, it has been contained with the joint effort and coordination of security forces and police," he said.

He said security forces and police had recovered most of the weapons and explosives dropped from drones in various places of the Jammu region and the Kashmir Valley.

Boora said Jammu had won the award for best border management among all 11 frontiers while the 48th battalion bagged the DG's Trophy for best operational work during the year.

The border is made of three components -- border, bordermen and border population. He said, "It is very important that all the three components have coordination to ensure security, safety and peaceful borders."

He said there was full coordination between the BSF and the border population, adding that the force was reaching out to people living in the area and providing them all help.

Boora added that farmers, who stopped agriculture along the International Border due to firing, had started farming with the BSF's support.

When asked about the smuggling of Turkey- and China-made weapons into the country, Boora said, "It is immaterial for us from where Pakistan and terror outfits get them. Our aim is to seize them and not allow anyone to use them."

Replying to a question on Pakistan's alleged involvement in terror activities along the International Border, he said, "It is not possible that such activities (infiltration, drone flights) are done without the involvement of their (Pakistan) security agencies. They fully support them (terrorists) and are part of these operations."

"We keep protesting with our Pakistan counterparts for these activities," he added.

When asked about the terrorists who entered through the tunnel via Samba and engineered the attack on Sunjwan, he said, "The tunnel was detected and the terrorists who came through killed. It shows the coordination of the security forces."

Calling narco-terrorism an effort to finance terror operations, Boora said, "We did not allow it to be successful on the Jammu border."

Asked about the alleged involvement of a BSF officer in the recruitment scam being investigated by the CBI, he said the officer was being probed.

"The BSF has nothing to do with. He has done it in his personal and individual capacity," Boora said.



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