

BJP Retains Gujarat For 7th Straight Term

Congress
Wrests Himachal
From BJP

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Riding high on the charisma of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP on Thursday retained power in Gujarat for a record seventh straight term pulverising the opposition to secure the biggest majority ever in the state.

While the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) set new records in the home state of Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah with its "historic" and "phenomenal" victory for a three-fourths majority, it lost Himachal Pradesh to the Congress after a close fight, as the hill state continued with its tradition of nearly four decades in voting out the incumbent party.

The vote share difference for the winning Congress and the BJP in Himachal Pradesh was less than one per cent, a point also noted by Modi and BJP President J P Nadda in their address to party workers at the BJP headquarters in Delhi in the evening. While the Congress, which got a simple majority, polled 43.9 per cent votes, the vote share for the BJP in the home state of Nadda was 43 per cent.

As Modi continued to hold sway over voters and addressed 31 election rallies in Gujarat, the



BJP also checkmated the new entrant Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in the first ever triangular contests in the state and pushed the Congress down to its all time low.

Gujarat state BJP president C R Paatil said Bhupendra Patel, the party's 60-year-old soft-spoken face in the state, would remain as the chief minister and his swearing-in ceremony would be held on December 12. Patel won the Ghatlodia seat in Ahmedabad by a huge margin of 1.92 lakh votes.

Modi said he was overcome with lot of emotions on the "phenomenal election results" in Gujarat.

He lauded party workers in the state, saying each of them is a champion. "This historic win would never be possible without the exceptionally hard work of our Karyakartas, who are the real strength of our party."

"People blessed the politics of development and at the same time expressed a desire that they want this momentum to continue at a greater pace. I bow to Gujarat's Jan Shakti," he said in a tweet.

At the party event, Modi said Gujarat has broken all records and created history.

The BJP, which focused on a development agenda and overcame anti-incumbency yet

again without losing an election since 1995, also equalled the Left Front's feat of seven consecutive terms in West Bengal. The CPI(M)-led Front ruled the eastern state for 34 years from 1977 to 2011.

The BJP, for whom Hindutva remained a political strategy, got support from all sections bagging 155 seats and was leading in 1 in a House of 182. It garnered a vote share of nearly 53 per cent which was the highest for the party in the western state.

The BJP, which bagged 99 seats in 2017 Assembly polls with a 49.1 per cent vote share, surpassed its previous best showing of 127 seats **More on P6**

Killing of KPs

SC Tosses Out Curative Petition Over 'Mass Murder'

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has dismissed a curative petition seeking reconsideration of its 2017 order dismissing a plea which had sought investigation into the alleged mass murder of Kashmiri Pandits in the valley in 1989-1990.

A three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud rejected the plea and said no case is made out.

"We have gone through the Curative Petition and the connected documents. In our opinion, no case is made out within the parameters indicated in the decision of this Court in Rupa Ashok Hurra vs Ashok Hurra. The Curative Petition is dismissed," the bench also comprising Justices S K Kaul and S A Nazeer said.

The curative petition, filed by an organisation of Kashmiri Pandits, 'Roots in Kashmir', had said the apex court was not justified in dismissing the writ petition at the admission stage in 2017 merely on presumption that

the instances referred to in it pertained to 1989-1990 and no fruitful purpose would emerge as evidence is unlikely to be available at this late juncture.

"This really amounts to failure of justice or gross miscarriage of justice caused to the petitioner in view of the fact that the petitioner has stated in the writ petition as well as in review petition that this court has not only entertained the writ petition and also passed necessary direction for trial etc. in cases where the incident pertains to even more than 30-32 years," the petition had said.

A curative petition is the last legal recourse in the apex court and is generally heard in a chamber unless a prima facie case is made out for reconsideration of the verdict.

The organisation had initially filed a writ petition in the top court seeking investigation and prosecution of several persons in connection with killing of Kashmiri Pandits during 1989-90, 1997 and 1998.

Besides seeking other directions, it had **More on P6**



Kashmir Valley Braces For Fresh Snow Spell

1-2 Inches Snow
Expected In Plains: MeT
Agencies

Srinagar: Kashmir Valley is bracing up for two approaching wet weather systems which are expected to bring light to moderate snowfall from Friday evening to Saturday and from December 12-13, officials said Thursday.

"Cloudy weather with intermittent light to moderate rain at many places of Jammu and plains of Kashmir is expected on December 9-10. Light snow (1-2 inches) likely (50% chance) in plains of Kashmir during 9th Night-10th Forenoon whereas higher reaches may receive 9-10 inches of snow," **More on P6**

Mehbooba Vacates Govt House In Anantnag

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday vacated the government accommodation provided to her in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir, more than a week after the local authorities had asked her to move out.

Mehbooba, who was one of the eight former legislators to have been issued a notice, took her belongings from the bungalow in the morning, officials said.

The former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir and MP from South Kashmir also cleared her rent **More on P6**

Society Must Realize Futility Of Conflict, Utility Of Peace: LG

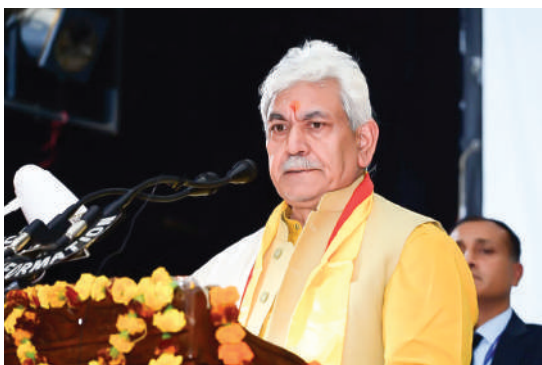
'We're Dealing With Threat Of Terrorism Firmly And Confident Of Rooting Out This Menace From Our Soil'

Observer News Service

Jammu: Asserting that social development and aspirations of people can be fulfilled only in conditions of peace, the Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Thursday that every segment of society must realize the futility of conflict and utility of peace, harmony and brotherhood.

"We are witnessing new threats to peace, and terrorism exported by the neighbouring country is one of them. We are dealing with threat of terrorism firmly and confident of rooting out this menace from our soil," the LG said.

He was addressing a



conference titled 'Message of Humanity' organised by Dogra Sadar Sabha, J&K, here on Thursday. The conference was presided over by Governor of Kerala, Arif Mohammed Khan.

Addressing the gathering, the LG said that the

convention provided a unique platform to spread the eternal & universal message of peace, social equality and communal harmony; aptly echoing the belief of all humanistic thinkers around the world. "We are the **More on P6**

Court Grants Bail To Journalist Fahad Shah

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: A local court here on Thursday granted bail to journalist Fahad Shah, arrested earlier this year.

According to Shah's lawyer Umair Ronga, the editor of online portal 'The Kashmir Walla' was granted bail by a special court designated under the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008.

"Special court designated under NIA today granted bail to the chief editor of @tkwmag @pzfahad in FIR No 70/2020 P/S Safakadal and FIR No 19/2022 P/S Pulwama," Ronga said in a tweet.

He said there was still one case pending in Jammu against the journalist.

"We have also challenged his detention under the Public Safety Act. It will come up for hearing on December 15," Ronga added.

Shah was arrested in February this year for "glorifying terrorism, spreading fake news, and inciting general public against law and order." Besides Jammu, cases have been registered against him in Pulwama, Shopian, and Srinagar.

'Mission Youth Encouraging Young Gen To Work Selflessly'

The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Thursday that discipline and determination are the defining attributes of youth, and his administration through 'Mission Youth' is encouraging the young generation to selflessly work for social development.

"Youth in different educational institutions should **More on P6**

SSRB Irregularities

HC Directs Govt To Probe, Cancels JE, SI Exams

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Thursday directed the Lieutenant Governor administration to probe the alleged "brazen irregularities and illegalities" by the Jammu and Kashmir Service Selection Board (JKSSRB) in the conduct of various recruitment examinations.

The court also cancelled the examinations to be conducted by the board for the posts of junior engineer and sub-inspector of police.

The CBI had in



November filed a charge sheet against 24 people, including a former BSF commandant, for allegedly leaking the question paper of the police sub-inspector recruitment examination conducted by the JKSSRB, according to officials.

"All the exams including junior engineer-civil (jal shakti department) and sub inspector (home department) held by (SSRB) through Aptech limited in furtherance of the aforementioned award of contract to conduct examinations are also set aside and cancelled at **More on P6**

Amarnath Yatra

Augment Infra At Distance From Riverbed: NGT

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The National Green Tribunal has directed that necessary safeguards be adopted for the safety of pilgrims and protection of the environment during the Amarnath Yatra.

Along with augmenting infrastructure, the NGT said "activities and arrangements" be made "at a distance from the riverbed".

The tribunal was hearing a petition, which claimed that environmental and safety norms were violated in setting up tents for pilgrims on the dry riverbed near the holy cave of Amarnath. It added that because of

non-compliance with norms, 16 persons on the yatra died during a flash flood on July 1.

In July, a bench of Chairperson Justice AK Goel said the tribunal sought a response on the issue from the Jammu and Kashmir administration. The authorities concerned had submitted a reply saying they were bound to comply with environmental norms and committed to ensuring that such disasters were never repeated.

The incident was a natural disaster and beyond the control of human efforts, the bench said noting the reply.

The bench, also comprising Judicial **More on P6**

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DIPP-14785/22 Dated: 08-12-2022



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Fat Around Organs More Susceptible To Severe Covid Than Fat Under Skin: Study

Press Trust Of India

Scientists have found that the fat around the liver, intestines and other organs, or visceral fat, contributes more towards severe COVID-19 than does subcutaneous fat, or fat under the skin as in "love handles", according to a study.

Visceral fat is usually considered a risk factor for cardiovascular disease, diabetes and high blood pressure.

The researchers at the State University of Campinas (UNICAMP) and the University of Sao Paulo (USP) also found that when visceral adipocytes, or tissues where fat is stored as an energy source, were infected, they produced a larger amount of pro-inflammatory cytokines, which warned the immune system of the existence of a threat to be combated.

To reach this conclusion, Marcelo Mori, a professor at UNICAMP and one of the leaders of the study, infected in the laboratory two types of adipocytes (fat cells): one obtained from human stem cells isolated from subcutaneous tissue and the other differentiated from stem cells taken from visceral fatty tissue.

"It was possible to observe that visceral adipocytes are more susceptible to infection by SARS-CoV-2. Viral load increased far more in this fat cell type than in subcutaneous adipocytes.

"We believe this was due mainly to higher levels of the protein ACE-2, to which the virus binds to invade cells, present on the cell surface," said Mori. The study is published in Nature Communications.

Mori's team at UNICAMP was the first in the world to show - in July 2020 - that SARS-CoV-2 can infect human fat cells and to suggest that adipose tissue serves as a reservoir for the virus, the study said.

"After that, other studies confirmed that adipocytes can indeed be infected, and when we analyzed samples from patients who died of COVID-19, we found the presence of the virus in adipose tissue to be relatively frequent, corresponding to about 50 per cent of cases," said Mori.

The group then decided to investigate whether there were differences between the way visceral and subcutaneous adipose cells responded to infection. As far as metabolic diseases were concerned, the evidence in the scientific literature showed



visceral fat to be the main villain, while subcutaneous fat tended to be neutral or even beneficial, the study said.

"We wanted to see if there was a similar association in the context of COVID-19," said Mori. "And in fact our model suggests that the more visceral adipose tissue there is in obese individuals, the more the virus can replicate, and this amplifies the inflammatory process." In subcutaneous adipocytes, on the other hand, the group observed a decrease in lipolysis, the breakdown of fats and other lipids by hydrolysis to release fatty

acids, which can be used as a source of energy during physical activity or fasting periods, the study said.

"Our hypothesis is that this represents an antiviral cellular response," said Mori. "There are studies showing that inhibition of lipolysis lowers the replicative capacity of SARS-CoV-2, which can be explained by the fact that the virus needs lipids to produce its envelope, as well as energy from cells to make copies of its genetic material." Reduced lipolysis in subcutaneous adipose tissue, therefore, could be positive for the patient and bad news for the virus.

Visceral adipocytes were exposed to different strains of SARS-CoV-2: the ancestral lineage originally from Wuhan, China, and isolated from one of the first Brazilians diagnosed with COVID-19; and the gamma variant (P.1.), which emerged in late 2020 in Manaus, the capital of Amazonas state in Brazil.

The difference in susceptibility compared to subcutaneous adipocytes was observed only in response to the ancestral virus.

Scientists Find Out If New Cancer Drug Can Come From Potatoes

ANI

Everyone is familiar with a cancer survivor. Around 10 million deaths and 19 million new cases were reported globally in 2020. Although treatments are constantly being improved, they can still harm healthy cells or have unpleasant side effects that are difficult for patients to deal with. Traditional medicine has a wealth of potential candidates for developing new, more targeted cancer treatments. The glycoalkaloids, bioactive substances found in many well-known crops including potatoes and tomatoes, were examined by a group of Polish researchers at Adam Mickiewicz University under the direction of Magdalena Winkiel to show their potential to treat cancer.

"Scientists worldwide are still searching for the drugs which will be lethal to cancer cells but at the same time safe for healthy cells," said Winkiel. "It is not easy despite the advances in medicine and powerful development of modern treatment techniques. That is why it might be worth going back to medicinal plants

that were used years ago with success in the treatment of various ailments. I believe that it is worth re-examining their properties and perhaps rediscovering their potential." Making medicine from poison: Winkiel and her colleagues focused on five glycoalkaloids - solanine, chaconine, solanone, solamargine and tomatine - which are found in crude extracts of the Solanaceae family of plants, also known as nightshades.

This family contains many popular food plants - and many that are toxic, frequently because of the alkaloids they produce as a defence against animals that eat plants. But the correct dose can turn a poison into a medicine: once scientists have found a safe therapeutic dose for alkaloids, they can be powerful clinical tools. Glycoalkaloids in particular inhibit cancer cell growth and may promote cancer cell death. These are key target areas for controlling cancer and improving patient prognoses, so have huge potential for future treatments. In silico studies -- an important first step -- suggest that the glycoalkaloids aren't toxic and don't risk damaging DNA or causing future tumours, al-

though there may be some effects on the reproductive system.

"Even if we cannot replace anti-cancer drugs that are used nowadays, maybe combined therapy will increase the effectiveness of this treatment," Winkiel suggested. "There are many questions, but without detailed knowledge of the properties of glycoalkaloids, we will not be able to find out." From tomatoes to treatments: One necessary step forward is using in vitro and model animal studies, to determine which glycoalkaloids are safe and promising enough to test in humans. Winkiel and her colleagues highlight glycoalkaloids derived from potatoes, like solanine and chaconine - although the levels of these present in potatoes depend on the cultivar of potatoes and the light and temperature conditions the potatoes are exposed to.

Solanine stops some potentially carcinogenic chemicals from transforming into carcinogens in the body and inhibits metastasis. Studies on a particular type of leukaemia cells also showed that at therapeutic doses, solanine kills them. Chaconine has anti-inflammatory properties, with the potential to treat sepsis.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my character certificate of class 12th. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Higher Secondary Khore Sharabad Pattan within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Nighat hamid
Father's Name: Abdul
Hamid Mir
Mother's Name:
Maimoona
DOB 13-03-2005

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NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

E-NIT No: -IUST/EW/22/TEND/PC/16 Dated: - 02-12-2022

For and on behalf of Vice Chancellor, Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora, J&K State, E-Tenders (in Two cover system) are invited on percentage basis, from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt. / CPWD / Railways or other State / Central Govt. Departments for the following work.

Name of work: Construction of Gate, Security Hut and other works at Govt. Polytechnic College-IUST	
Advertised Cost of Construction	Rs. 33,25,554.00/=
Class of Contract	"A & B"
Bid submission Start Date	02-12-2022
Bid submission End Date	17-12-2022 Up to 6:00 PM
Date of Submission of DD (Hard Copy)	19-12-2022 From 10:00 AM Up to 4:00 PM
Time & Date of opening of Technical Bids	Bids shall be opened at IUST on 20-12-2022 at 11:00 AM
Availability of Tender document: Tender document can be downloaded from website (https://jktenders.gov.in)	

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

DIPK-NB-5424/22 DATED : 07-12-2022

Sd/- Executive Engineer, IUST

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Executive Engineer JSD PHE Division Baramulla

E - Tender Notice No. 66 of 12/2022
Dated 07.12.2022

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir (UT), e-tender [in Two cover system] are invited from the Registered PWD Contractors for the works mentioned hereunder:

Total No. of works = (01 only)							
S. No.	Name of work	Estt. Cost (Rs in lacs)	Class of Contract	Earnest Money Deposit	Tender Receiving Auth.	Cost of doc. (in Rs)	T. Position of AAA Time of completion
1	Providing Water Supply to Government Medical College Baramulla and Performance based Operation and Maintenance for 06 Months and Defect Liability Period [DLP] of 01 Year	400.00 lacs	AAY	Rs. 800000/-	Distt. Superintending Engineer Hyd Circle Sopore	5000/-	Accorded vide Chief Engineer Kashmir JSD Srinagar's No. Order No 47-PMCB of 2021 dated 09.12.2021

Instruction/ Terms & Conditions:

1. The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, technical specifications, bill of quantities [B.O.Q.] set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given hereunder:

1	Date of Publishing	07.12.2022 from 18.00hrs
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	07.12.2022 from 18.00hrs to 28.12.2022 upto 16.00 hrs
3	Bid Submission Start date	07.12.2022 from 18.00hrs
4	Bid Submission End date	28.12.2022 from 16.00hrs
5	Date and time of opening of bids [online]	29.12.2022 from 14.00hrs

2. Bid must be accompanied
3. with cost of tender documents in shape of TREASURY CHALLAN against account No. 0215 and EMD 2% of the advertised cost of work in shape of CDR/BG favouring Executive Engineer, PHE Div. Baramulla [tender inviting authority].
4. The date and time of opening of Financial Bid shall be notified on website 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 on-line in the office of Superintending Engineer, Hyd Circle Sopore.
5. The tender receiving authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
6. No conditional tenders shall be accepted and such tenders are liable to be rejected even if rates quoted are the lowest.
7. 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 Vendor.
8. For item providing, laying and fitting/ successful testing commissioning of various dia's of pipes, the pipe shall be buried underground as per trench norms laid in the book of specification and as per direction of Engineer incharge at Site.
9. Laying of GI / DI Pipes
 - a. The pipe material ISI marked Galvanized Mild Steel tubes should confirm to IS: 1239 (pt. 1)/2004 6th revision read with up to date amendments in random length of 4 to 7 mtrs, screwed on both ends as per IS: 554/1990, socketed at one end & other end protected with plastic protector in various sizes Of nominal bore & classes. The socket conforming to IS: 1239 (pt. 1)/1992 (4th revision) with amendment No. 1 to 3 & latest on date & ISI marked Centrifuagly cast (Spun) DI Pipes with socket & spigot ends as per IS: 8329/2000 read with latest amendments in standard lengths of 4,5,5.5 & 6 mtrs for classification K7 & K9 ranging nominal diameters as indicated here under suitable for push on joint (Rubber Gasket-D joining) with cement mortar lining inside the pipes Without side Zinc coating with Bituminous finish coat as per IS 8329/2000 read with amendment NO. 1, hydrostatic tests as per clause -11 of IS: 8329 with latest amendments each pipe to be supplied with EPDM Rubber Gasket conforming to IS: 5382 Of 1985. The class of pipe is specified as light "A". All GI/DI pipes should be entrenched especially in hilly areas with a trench depth of 0.60 m to 1.00 m and were same is not technically possible the Pipes so kept naked will have to be insulated with PUF using Chicken mesh & tin foil of approved thickness & specifications against the proposed earthwork and nothing extra shall be paid to the contractor on this account.
 - b. The quality of the pipe material shall be supported by manufacturers quality and test certificates. Third-Party (to be nominated by the department) inspection certificate shall also be provided by the contractor at his own cost in respect of material provided and used by him. The same shall be approved by the departmental quality control committee. The pipe will be laid only after the certificate will be issued by the said committee.
 - c. The depth of pipe, the pipe material shall be supplied from reputed manufacturers. The agency shall initially establish a store at the project site for storing before the same is issued to sites after getting approved. The approval process shall be documented on material approval sheets duly signed by in charge engineer's quality control committee and contractor.
 - d. The department name "Jal Shakti Kashmir PHE" must be engraved/ painted on the barrel of the pipes, it shall be engraved in case of GI

No. PHE/Adm/Bla/ 9083-9106
DIPK-14755/22 Dated: 08.12.2022

Executive Engineer
PHE Division
Baramulla

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR,

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) MECHANICAL DIVISION SOUTH AWANTIPORA

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

GIST of e-NIT No. 75 of 2022-23 Dated: 07-12-2022

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South (Awantipora), invites e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Bidders/ Firms/Companies/ Consortiums between bidder/Firm and Financier of all classes registered in JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other state Government for "Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of electro-mechanical equipments at various water supply schemes of Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora". The bidding process shall be completed online on www.jktenders.gov.in in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of Pre-Qualification Criteria, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2nd shall consist of Financial Bid on item rate basis, in the prescribed BOQ.

Sr No	Particulars of the work	Esttd. Cost (Lacs)	Tender fee (in Rs)	Earnest money Deposit	Bid Validity	Time of Completion of work
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of electro-mechanical equipments of WSS Additional Source for water supply schemes affected due to Express Highway of Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora.	Work/Scheme wise details given in Form-I of Tender Document	Rs. 1000/-	02% of the estimated cost of each work	90 days	As indicate against each item in Form-I of Tender Document

Position of funds: Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

The tender inviting authority is Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora.

The awarding authority is District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM).

Critical Dates:

I	Publish Date on Tender Portal	07-12-2022 (04:00 pm)
II	Document Download/sale start Date	07-12-2022 (04:00 pm)
III	Date of Pre-bid meeting	15-12-2022 (11:00 am)
IV	Bid submission start date	07-12-2022 (04:00 pm)
V	Document Download/sale end Date	23-12-2022 (04:00 pm)
VI	Bid submission end date	23-12-2022 (04:00 pm)
VII	Date and time of Bid opening	24-12-2022 (01:00 pm)

1. Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in
2. The pre-bid meeting will be held in the office chamber of the Superintending Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Circle South Srinagar.
3. The whole bidding process shall be completed online on tender portal www.jktenders.gov.in. The intending bidders can download the bid document from the tender portal and can submit their bids by uploading them on the tender portal.
4. The bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Superintending Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Circle South Srinagar.
 - Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified against each item of work.
 - Bid Security to be pledged in favour of Superintending Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Circle South Srinagar. Bid Security will have to be in form of CDR/FDR/BG of any scheduled Bank and shall be valid for a period of 90 days from the last date of submission of bid.
 - The cost of tender documents should be in form of TR/e Challan in favour of Superintending Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Circle South Srinagar.
5. The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of DD/TR/e-Challan, Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as LI after opening of financial cover.
6. The bid shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the last date of submission of bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the said earnest money shall stand forfeited and the bid shall be declared non-responsive.
7. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website www.jktenders.gov.in.
8. Queries by email if any should be made at xenphemechsouthawp@gmail.com.

No. JSD/MDSA/4131
DIPK-14776/22 Dated: 08/12/2022

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
PHE Mechanical Division,
South Awantipora.



Two Day Houseboat Festival Concludes

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The two-day Houseboat Festival which started on Wednesday on the banks of Dal and Nigeen Lakes concluded Thursday evening. The festival was organised by the Tourism Department.

During the two day festival, emphasis was laid on the heritage value of the houseboats on these two lakes. There are about 900 houseboats in Dal and Nigeen lakes.

The visitors to the two-day festival were apprised about the history of houseboats, the celebrities who stayed in them and the unique role played by houseboats in attracting tourists from across the globe for decades now.

The festival had components of local Music, food, art, culture besides local folk artists performed during a laser show and live concert.

The main highlights of the two day festival were the display of live music, putting up an Art gallery besides showcasing varied culinary and cuisine specialties. Traditional folk music, a Floating stage and water screen on Dal waters, illuminated shikara carnival and live musical performances by local musical bands was also a part of the two day festival.

On the occasion, Secretary,

Tourism, Sarmad Hafeez said the idea behind holding the Houseboat festival has been to start the celebrations for the coming winter tourism season. He hoped the festival would be a harbinger of a great tourism season during winters in the Valley besides reinvigorating a sense of pride among the people about the rich heritage and memory attached to Houseboats.

Director Tourism Kashmir, Fazlul Haseeb said Houseboats have played a unique role in attracting tourists from across the globe. He said the Kashmir Valley's famed houseboats, which over the decades have emerged as dream stay for tourists, will be this winter season's main attraction.

In their responses, Houseboat owners were appreciative of the Department's move and said that the festival would go a long way in boosting winter tourism in Kashmir and send a message across the world that Kashmir is truly warm even in the harshest conditions around.

The festival was organized in the backdrop of a record number of tourists visiting the Valley this year, breaking all the previous records and to showcase the contribution of iconic houseboats in the tourism sector of Kashmir.



5 Day Techfest 'Roshnaas' Begins At Kashmir University

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Vice-Chancellor University of Kashmir Prof Nilofer Khan Thursday inaugurated a five-day techfest 'Roshnaas', a first of its kind event that brings together a vast number of students to showcase their talent, innovations and creative abilities.

The techfest, which includes nearly 30 competitions in diverse domains, has been organised by the varsity's Institute of Technology (IOT), Zakura Campus.

In her presidential address, Prof Nilofer said the techfest will offer the participating students from schools, colleges and universities across Kashmir an exposure to the present and future requirements of the Industry and the Corporate Sector.

"I am glad to see young boys and girls joining this programme, which is an open platform for them to learn from experts and develop a vision to move ahead with clear-cut career goals in life," she said.

Complementing the organisers for holding the important pro-

gramme, Prof Nilofer expressed satisfaction that IOT Zakura has secured three patents in the last three months. She said the University is determined to become a hub of innovations and startups and contribute to the country's economic growth and development.

"In future, we intend to hold this festival as an annual feature involving other universities in the UT so that its real objectives are attained holistically," the VC said.

Commissioner-Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, J&K, Mr. Saurabh Bhagat, who was a guest of honour, urged the students to avail benefits of various central and UT-level schemes on promotion of science and technology among youth. He congratulated the University of Kashmir for working towards building an ecosystem for innovations, and for holding regular programmes in this endeavor. Mr Bhagat also highlighted the Central Government and UT administration's initiatives on boosting the culture of startups.

Prof Shakil A Romshoo, Vice-Chancellor Islamic University of Science and Technology, also

a guest of honour, said entrepreneurship is the key to realise our national aspirations on economic progression, especially the goal of making the country a 10-trillion dollar economy by 2030.

He said the NEP-2020 demands universities to become "economic enterprises furthering the national aspirations."

Director NIT Srinagar, Dr Rakesh Sehgal, a special guest on the occasion, said Roshnaas will help students to showcase their talent and aptitude and learn from each other's experiences in today's world of interdisciplinary learning.

Prof Gowhar Vakil, Director IOT Zakura delivered the welcome address and spelt out the objectives of the techfest, which includes sessions on debating, brainstorming, arts competition, quiz for schools and colleges, project exhibition, call for ideas and 'open mic'.

The inaugural session was attended by top University officers including Dean Academics, Dean Research, Registrar, Controller of Examinations, Joint Registrars, besides senior faculty members and students.

State Taxes Deptt Raides Coaching Centres, Seizes Documents

Agencies

Srinagar: State Taxes Department on Thursday raided more than twenty coaching centres and other business premises on complaints of tax evasion in central Kashmir's Srinagar.

As per sources on the directions of Additional Commissioner, State Taxes Department J&K Sha-keel Maqbool (ICAS), more than

twenty teams led by State Taxes Officers raided coaching centres in Parraypora and other areas of Srinagar district. Department had received complaints of tax evasion by these coaching centres. During searches, Tax officers seized books of accounts and electronic gadgets for ascertaining the tax evaded, sources said. It is pertinent to mention that 18% GST is chargeable on coaching classes. (KPS)

Anganwadi Workers Protest, Demand Enhancement In Retirement Age

CNS

Srinagar: Hundreds of Anganwadi workers, helpers working under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme under the banner of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers Union J&K affiliated with CITU on Thursday assembled at Press, Enclave, Srinagar and held protest demonstration, chanted slogans in favor of demands.

Protesters urged the administration to enhance their honorarium at par with the adjoining states of Haryana, Punjab and Delhi.

While addressing the protesters Suraya Bhat General Secretary said that there should be no retirement of

ICDS workers till retirement benefits including gratuity Rs 4 lakh per worker and monthly pension is provided as they have given their previous time while serving the department. Instead of changing the names, designations of workers and Helpers, the delay tactics and meagre wages policy needs to be changed.

She further added that there are some states and even in our neighborhood Ladakh where the upper age limit of workers is 65 years of age. In West Bengal, ICDS workers are being given Rs 4 lakh gratuity on retirement.

"We appeal to the LG administration to enhance the retirement age upto 70 years and provide gratuity Rs 4 lakh and pension.

DC Withholds Salary Of 162 Employees For Unauthorized Absence

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to ensure punctuality in Government Offices, the Senior Officers of District Administration Srinagar on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Thursday conducted surprise inspections of various Government Offices in Srinagar and checked the attendance of employees.

The inspection teams headed by Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Srinagar, Sub Divisional Magistrate, East and Sub Divisional Magistrate West undertook surprise inspection of different Government Offices across the District including

Rural Development Department, District Panchayat Office, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Chief Agriculture Officer, R&B, I&FC, FCS&CA, RTO, Revenue Training Institute, R&B, Health Institutions in Medical Zone Batamalo, Kothibagh Higher Secondary, Middle School Kothibagh, Executive Engineer Water Works Division, UPHC, Qamarwari, BH School, Barthana, PHC, Zainakote, GGMS Zainakote.

During the visit, the teams found 162 employees of various Offices either unauthorizedly absent from their duties or reporting late in the Office causing inconvenience to the public.

Taking serious note of their unauthorized absence

and late office reporting, the Deputy Commissioner has ordered withholding salary of all 162 employees. Further explanation was also sought from the all said employees.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar reiterated that such inspections will continue in future also and dereliction of duty including unauthorized absence and late office reporting will not be tolerated at all.

He also passed strict instructions to the concerned District heads against allowing any employee to remain absent without proper permission. He asked them to adhere to the office timing to avoid inconvenience to the general public.

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



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• BIJBHERA: 01932-228243
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• PATTAN: 01954-293507
• QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR 14 Jumad al-Awwal 1444	PRAYERS	
	FAJR	5:54
	ZUHR	12:22
	ASR	3:45
	Magrib	5:25
	ISHA	6: 50

This Day In History

- 1910 - French troops occupy Moroccan harbor city Agadir.
- 1917 - British forces under General Allenby capture Jerusalem.
- 1918 - French troops occupies Mainz.
- 1924 - Netherlands & Hungary trade treaty signed.
- 1931 - Japanese army attacks Chinese province of Jehol.
- 1931 - Spain becomes a republic.
- 1941 - 1st US WW II bombing mission in Far East, Luzon, Philippines.
- 1941 - China declares war on Japan, Germany & Italy.
- 1948 - UN General Assembly unanimously approves Convention on Genocide.
- 1951 - West German voters approve merger of 3 states to form Baden-Württemberg.
- 1957 - 1st Japanese ambassador to Israel.
- 1961 - SS-Obersturmbannführer (lieutenant colonel) Adolf Eichmann found guilty of war crimes in Israel.
- 1961 - Tanganyika gains independence from Britain, takes name Tanzania.
- 1962 - Tanganyika becomes a republic within British Commonwealth.
- 1965 - Nikolai Podgorny replaces Anastas Mikoyan as president of Soviet Praesidium.
- 1968 - NLS (a system for which hypertext and the computer mouse were developed) is publicly demonstrated for the first time in San Francisco.
- 1970 - OPEC meeting in Caracas establishes 55 percent as minimum tax rate and demands that posted prices be changed to reflect changes in foreign exchange rates.
- 1973 - Arab oil ministers announce a further production cut of 5 percent for January for non-friendly countries.
- 1975 - Jelen Bonner receives Andrei Sacharov's Nobel Prize.
- 1975 - Iraq completes nationalization by taking over the BP, CFP, and Shell shares of the Basrah Petroleum Company.
- 1978 - Pioneer Venus 2 drops 5 probes into atmosphere of Venus.
- 1983 - US performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site.
- 1984 - Great Britain performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site.
- 1984 - Iranian commandos end day hijack of Kuwaiti plane.
- 1987 - Palestine uprising begin in Israeli-occupied West Bank.
- 1990 - Gunda Niemann skates ladies world record 3k ladies (4:10.80).
- 1994 - 5m meteor 1994 XM1 passes within 100,000 km of Earth.
- 2006 - Moscow suffers its worst fire since 1977, killing 45 women in a drug rehabilitational center.
- 2012 - 13 people are killed and 10 are injured after a bus rolls of a cliff and falls 100 meters in Taiwan.
- 2012 - Incumbent Ghanaian president John Mahama wins the general election amidst allegations of fraud.
- 2012 - The Social Liberal Union Party and Romanian Prime Minister Victor Ponta win by a landslide in the parliamentary elections.
- 2014 - CIA Torture Report released, detailing the CIA's use of torture on detainees between 2001-2006.
- 2015 - Attack on Kandahar airport by Taliban forces kills at least 37 before Afghan forces retake control.

From KO Archives

American FBI Team Arrives In Sgr

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: A two-member team of US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) today left for Srinagar in connection with the mysterious disappearance of the four foreigners kidnapped in 1995, official sources said.


The sources said this was a routine visit by the FBI officials as per the requirement of the United States laws where they have to submit a report every quarter.

Six foreigners — John Childs and Donald Fred Hutchings (both US nationals), Paul Wells and Keith Mangan (UK nationals), Dirk Hasert (German) and Hans Christian Ostro (Norwegian) — had been kidnapped in July 1995 from Pahalgam hills in South Kashmir.

The group responsible for kidnapping identified itself as Al-Faran. While Childs managed to give a slip to his abductors, the head of Norwegian abductee was found severed near Anantnag in August 1995.

The fate of other four hostages despite hectic search operation carried by the government and later by German and British police remains unknown.

(Kashmir Observer, 09 December, 2000)



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

Possession Notice

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

Whereas Mr. Asaf Rasool Kanue, as the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 28.09.2022 thereby calling upon the **Faiz Shawls Prop. Faiz Ahmad Shora S/O Ghulam Mohammad Shora R/O Deewan Bagh Karanagar (Borrower/Mortgagor)**, **Gulzar Faiz Shora S/o Mr. Faiz Ahmad Shora R/o Deewan Bagh Karanagar (Guarantor)**, **Mr. Ghulam Rasool Dar S/O Mr. Mohammad Ismail Dar R/O Barbarshah Srinagar (Guarantor)** and **Mr. Ghulam Nalbi Khan S/O Ghulam Qadir Khan R/O Khan-e-Khan Dalgate Srinagar (Guarantor)** to repay an amount of **Rs. 3,57,06,545.00 (Rupees Three Crore Fifty Seven Lac Six Thousand Five Hundred And Forty Five Only)** being the balance outstanding as on **31.08.2022** in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken **symbolic possession** of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this the **3rd day of month of December of the year 2022**.

The said borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount aggregating to **Rs. 3,72,28,733.00 (Rupees Three Crore Seventy Two Lac Twenty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred And Thirty Three only)** together with future interest thereon from 01.12.2022 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

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

Description of the Immoveable Property (As per the schedule provided in mortgage deed/latest particulars including any accreditations)

1. Mortgage of three storied Residential house (with attic floor) along with land underneath and appurtenant thereto measuring 1350sqft falling under khasra No.287, khewat No. 138 & Khata No. 281 situated at Deewan Bagh Karanagar standing in the name of Mr. Faiz Ahmad Shora.

2. Mortgage of two residential buildings along with land measuring 5598 sqfts falling under khasra No. 287 Khewat No. 138 & khata No. 281 situated at Deewan Bagh Karanagar in Estate Tashwan Tehsil Khas District Srinagar standing in the name of Mr. Gulzar Faiz Shora.

Ref. No. JKB/ZO/KC/IAPM/SRFS/2022-
Dated: 03.12.2022
Place : Srinagar

Sajad Ahmad Wani
Authorized Officer

Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India
CIN: L65110JK19385GC000048 ; T : +91 (0)194 2481 930-35 ; F : +91 (0)194 248 1928 ; E : info@jkbank.com ; W : www.jkbank.com

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KASHMIR OBSERVER
Friday| 09-12-2022

Fallout of
Ukraine war

That global geopolitics is in flux following Ukraine war is clear from Saudi Arabia's decision to host Chinese president Xi Jinping for three days from December 7. During the visit, Jinping will attend a China-Arab summit. The visit will include a bilateral summit chaired by Saudi King Salman and attended by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. As regional skepticism about the region's relationship with the United States, a vital security ally, has grown in recent years, Gulf Arab states have strengthened their ties with China and Russia. In doing so, Arabs have defied US pressure to choose sides. The relationship between the US and Saudi Arabia has soured in recent weeks after OPEC+ chose to decrease output despite the US urging an increase to offset current inflation.

If anything, the Arab defiance of the US is yet another stark example of how geopolitics is shaping up following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Even though the US-led western coalition against Russia is holding up well, the rest of the world is increasingly asserting its autonomy in their response to the war. India too has refused to choose sides. For 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 far 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.

New Delhi 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. But New Delhi has refused to budge from what it sees in its core national interest. 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. War is continuing nevertheless. Ukraine is far from being defeated. So isn't Russia, although it has suffered some reverses. But, meanwhile, the world around the site of war is changing.

OTHER OPINION

BJP's Latest Win

As CM, Modi first addressed a national audience from the Gujarat stage before throwing his hat in the prime ministerial ring. And in this election if anything seemed more certain than a BJP victory, it was PM Modi's undimmed popularity. So yes, the BJP could have been forgiven for taking its winning streak, and Gujarat and the Gujarati voter, for granted in this election. It didn't – on the day after, its rivals would do well to pay attention to that story.

The BJP gave this election all it had. Its top leaders from Prime Minister Modi to central ministers, including Union Home Minister Amit Shah, campaigned in the state extensively. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and star campaigner came calling too – in stark contrast to a listless Congress campaign that had shrunk and splintered into its local candidates and constituencies. In fact, the BJP was at work long before the campaign began – in the state's tribal belt, where the Congress has dominated traditionally, its push was visible, for instance, in the installation in district headquarters of Birs Munda statues. In Saurashtra, where the Patidar quota agitation had contributed to the Congress's good showing in 2017, the BJP weaned away several Congress MLAs – of the Congress MLAs who crossed over to the BJP, raising its tally from 99 to 112, 9 belonged to Saurashtra. Congress complaints about money and muscle power sound much too plaintive – if even elected MLAs leave, not just those in search of a ticket, then it is a signal that the party must turn the mirror inwards. In 2021, in a sudden decision, the BJP's high command removed Vijay Rupani as chief minister, along with his entire cabinet, to blunt anti-incumbency – one of the party's many moves that showed that, a year before elections, even in its bastion, Modi's party was not banking on traditional formulas, but experimenting and thinking on its feet.

Of course, there was anti-incumbency in Gujarat. Distress had gathered at the lower ends of the class ladder, on issues like price rise, unemployment and the state's perceived retreat from education. There was discontent, as well, against a government that was seen to have become inattentive to the people because of long years of power. But in the end, if that restiveness did not show up at all on the final scoreboard, it owes not just to its opponents' lack of imagination and sloth, but also, and far more, to the BJP's own willingness and ability to keep working at it.

Indian Express



When Voters Become Fans

KAUSHIK BASU

In authoritarian countries, such as North Korea and China, one usually cannot see authentic public expression of political demands. Yet the politics are still there, and they can become apparent during periods of severe strain, as is happening with the widespread backlash in China against the government's zero-COVID policy

The state of global politics has economists, political scientists, and political philosophers floundering. We are witnessing a level of polarization rarely seen. From Turkey, Brazil, and the Philippines to Sri Lanka, India, and the United States, the center has not held, because people have either veered left or clustered around figures on the far right.

In authoritarian countries, such as North Korea and China, one usually cannot see authentic public expression of political demands. Yet the politics are still there, and they can become apparent during periods of severe strain, as is happening with the widespread backlash in China against the government's zero-COVID policy. Such moments suggest that the opposition is much larger than it may have seemed.

In any case, political polarization tends to nurture authoritarianism and empower self-aggrandizing demagogues who are skilled at rallying their followers behind hyper-nationalist causes. We have seen this dynamic play out to tragic effect with Russian President Vladimir Putin's war of aggression in Ukraine, and with the crack-down on minorities in Myanmar by the military junta.

All this poses a challenge to global stability, and calls for corrective policy interventions that straddle law, economics, and politics. However, it is not clear what those interventions should look like. We first must step back to consider what is underpinning the polarization in the first place.

One interesting hint comes from the FIFA World Cup in Qatar. Mainstream economics tells us that people's goals and ambitions are "exogenously" given, meaning they are hardwired into us. We want more and better food, clothes, cars, electronic gadgets, and so on. And since getting them requires money, people naturally strive to earn more and build up greater wealth. Yet what is not recognized – even though prominent past thinkers from Thorstein Veblen to Tibor Scitovsky were acutely aware of it – is that many of our ambitions are endogenously created. Rather than being born with them, we acquire and cultivate them along the way.

Sports offer a perfect example of this. Though professional footballers get monetary rewards when

they succeed, they would still try to win as many matches as possible even without that incentive. Scoring a goal is the ultimate aim. Even if one believes that the prospect of more money does drive some athletes to push themselves to the limit, what about the fans who travel great distances and commit inordinate amounts of time and money to the game? The desire to see "their team" win is an end in itself – a created target.

The lengths to which fans will go was evident recently in India, when a fight broke out between supporters of Brazil and Argentina. These were ordinary Indians with no connection to either country. Yet there they were, ready to scrap and risk their safety for an acquired cause. If nothing else, a soccer brawl is another exhibition of polarization.

But political trends in recent years indicate that voters' ideological preferences are not necessarily exogenous, but rather created and fostered over time

Today's political polarization calls into question longstanding assumptions about how electoral politics works. Consider the American mathematician Harold Hotelling's seminal 1929 paper, which deeply influenced our understanding of electoral democracy and led to the influential "median voter theorem" (absorbed into political science by Duncan Black and Anthony Downs). According to Hotelling and the theorists he inspired, if you assume that people have exogenously given political preferences – spanning from extreme left to extreme right – it is easy to see how two political parties might maneuver to get the most votes. The right-wing party will move leftward on some issues, knowing that right-wing voters will still support it; and the left-wing party will do the same from the other direction.

In theory, then, the equilibrium will feature a clustering around the middle, where one finds half the voters from the left and half of those from the right – the very definition of the median. Hence, electoral democracy supposedly leads political parties to appease the me-

dian voter, a tendency that affords the country a great deal of political stability, even if it also makes politics dull.

But political trends in recent years indicate that voters' ideological preferences are not necessarily exogenous, but rather created and fostered over time. After a voter decides to support Democrats or Republicans, that voter's partisan commitment will gradually acquire the character of sports fandom. Republican voters want Republicans to win, and Democrats want Democrats to win, not because they are expecting some fundamental change in their lives, but because they want to beat the other side. Scoring goals is an end in itself.

Acknowledging this endogeneity of preferences could open up new avenues for analyzing politics

and polarization. Among other things, it implies that political parties do not just try to garner the support of voters with pre-existing preferences. Rather, they strategize to create those preferences. As we have seen, this can lead to vile forms of political competition, especially in an age of social-media filter bubbles that segregate news consumers and are designed to exploit their biases.

Escaping this trap will probably require novel forms of regulation. But since the most promising solutions are not yet evident, we had better start thinking creatively about what it will take to protect democratic institutions and the social fabric in an age when preferences have never been easier to manipulate.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by Project Syndicate



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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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Plastic Waste in Space Getting Recycled

Plastic waste is an ongoing problem not only on Earth but in space also. A team of scientists in renowned organisations is now testing a novel way to convert discarded plastic in space into useful material. For example NASA is experimenting with space management in space through the reactor project. The system will subject waste material from space to

high temperatures to convert it into usable material. As part of the waste to base materials program, a team of scientists recently built reactors that successfully converted space debris into useful gas. In another example,

Scientists at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory are also developing a machine that turns plastic into a material usable in space itself. In this experiment the PETase

enzyme breaks down Poly Ethylene Terephthalate (PET) plastic into its basic components of terephthalic acid, (which initiates the entire process of recycling PET in space). The acid is then fed to bacteria, which convert it into another compound that can be used to make useful nylon. Scientists have already launched a soup of bacteria and enzymes into space as part of an autonomous sys-

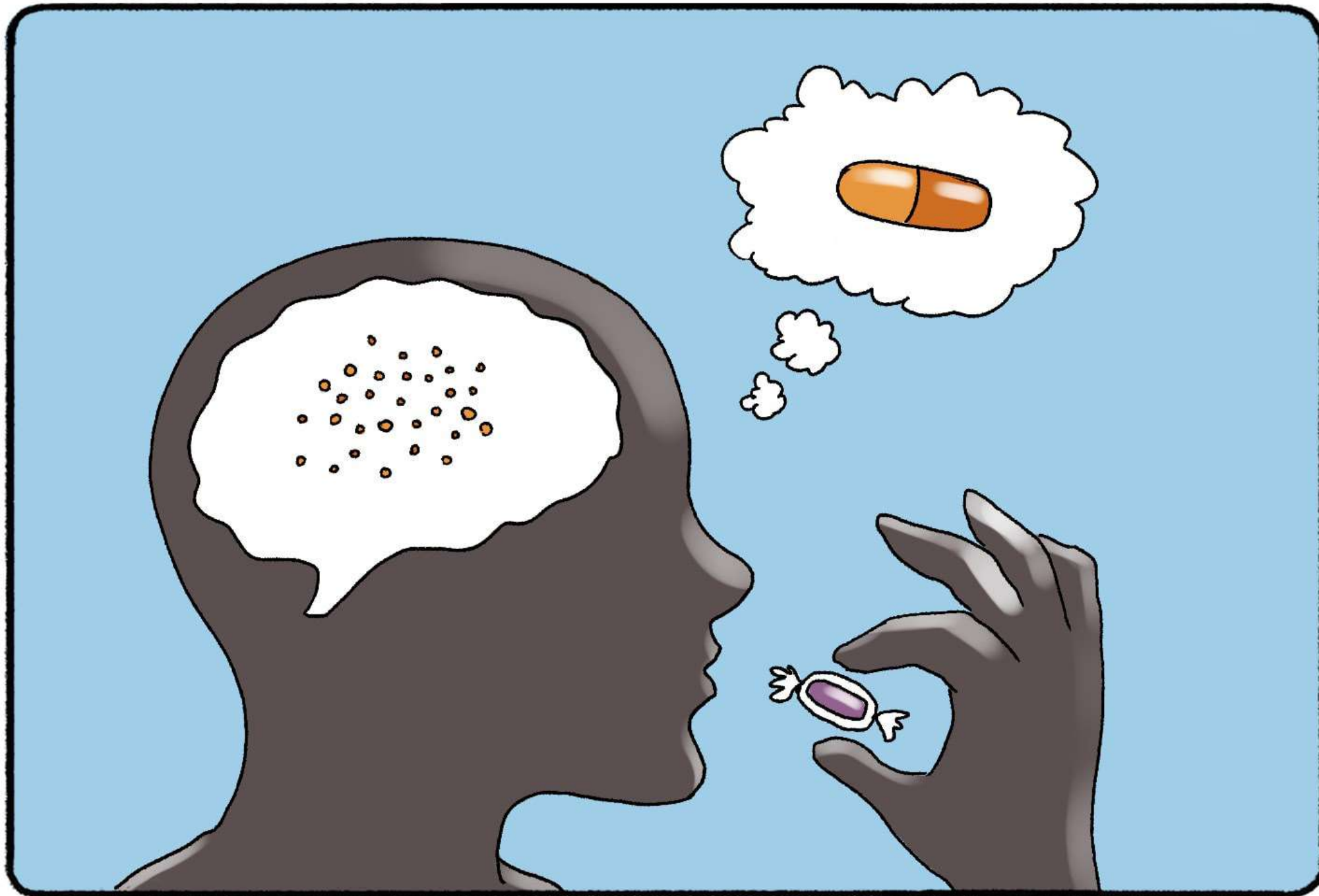
tem designed to convert plastic waste into usable material. The most promising aspect of the latest experiment is that it works completely autonomously, allowing the bacterial soup to slowly break down the plastic, according to latest news reports.

Vijay Kumar HK

MINDFUL FRIDAYS

PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATIONS

The Only Option or Is There More?



Wasim Kakroo

I frequently receive questions from my clients seeking my opinion as a clinical psychologist regarding psychotropic medications. I'm frequently asked if I advise taking medicine to treat mental health issues including anxiety, depression, and other such problems. After evaluating the severity of the condition, if I find that the severity of the client's condition is greater than a moderate level, I advise them to consult a psychiatrist to decide upon the medications. I want to clearly state my opinion on the usage of psychotropic medicines for mental disorders in this article and offer my point of view based on what I observe and understand about the role of medications in treating mental disorders.

1. Medicines can be beneficial. For some who suffer from crippling anxiety, for instance, medicines can lower down the severity of emotions and bodily sensations caused due to anxiety. Medication can give someone a "kick-start" if depression has robbed them of all motivation and they are unable to get out of bed in the morning. Additionally, medication may be necessary for stability and/or safety in those with severe mental health conditions including schizophrenia and Bipolar Affective Disorder and in such cases the patient may have to take such medicines the whole life. Therefore, depending on the individual circumstances, some persons may benefit from taking psychotropic medications that a psychiatrist has prescribed. For instance, a National Institute of Mental Health-funded study found that some patients who were prescribed the SSRI Paxil for moderate to severe depression also experienced improvements in their depressive symptoms, as well as decreases in neuroticism and increases in extroversion. These personality traits changed roughly twice as much in eight weeks after taking medications as they do for most adults over the course of their lifetime. In addition, psychotropic medicines can be a life saver especially in those with suicidal intent and can help have a better quality of life in those who have developed some organic mental illnesses such as Dementia, Alzheimer's Disease, Traumatic brain injury etc. Psychotropic medications can be very essential part of treatment for those who have developed substance use disorder.

2. The psychotherapy process can be assisted by medication. As is understood, most people find it challenging to concentrate on symptom alleviation and



IT IS ALWAYS BETTER TO START WITH PSYCHOTHERAPY AND IF THE CONDITION is severe enough to warrant the use of psychiatric medication, the patient should still be referred for psychotherapy so that basic root cause of the illness is addressed while medicines treat the symptoms

personal growth when they are in crisis or are dealing with anxiety, depression, or other mental health issues. In such instances, medication can help in symptomatic relief, allowing them to put efforts they are expected by their therapist and hence it may increase their progress in psychotherapy. For instance, a study that was published in the Journal of the American Medical Association demonstrates that patient's attention deficit hyperactivity (ADHD) symptoms tend to significantly improve when cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) is used in conjunction with specific psychotropic medication. However, the need for psychotropic and other medications is, of course, frequently reduced or eliminated as a result of effective psychotherapy.

3. Medication may turn out to be harmful. We acknowledge that for some people, taking medicine is a critical component of the therapeutic process. However, like all drugs, psychotropic medications can have risks and side effects. These include physical side effects like dizziness, drowsiness, changes in appetite, disturbed sleep, and/or weight gain, as well as emotional and psychological side effects like mood swings, lack of interest in activities, or emotional numbness.

Antipsychotics can harm the brain permanently by causing Parkinsonism or Tardive Dyskinesia, or they can even be fatal if taken for too long or at the wrong dosage. This is corroborated by a 2005 Harvard Mental Health Letter article that describes the growing understanding of the dangers of SSRI antidepressants, including the potential rise in suicidal thoughts and behaviors in adolescents under the

age of 24.

While studies have shown that some people benefit from taking these drugs, they have also revealed that other people may suffer long-term harm as a result of using antidepressants.

For those who keep on taking Benzodiazepines for years together to deal with their anxiety or any other such mental health issue, they need to know that it creates more problems than solves it. Benzodiazepines are generally safe when taken as prescribed for short periods of time—no more than a few weeks. The chronic use of benzodiazepines can develop tolerance with repeated usage over time, which can manifest in one of two ways: either the person needs to use more benzodiazepines to get the desired effect, or the impact is noticeably lessened with continuing use of the same dose of benzodiazepines. Benzodiazepines increase the risk of addiction, withdrawal, cognitive decline, motor vehicle crashes, and hip fracture. The risk of overdose is particularly great when combined with sedative drugs such as opioids or alcohol. Thus, patients need to discuss the potential side effects of medication use with their consultant psychiatrist so that one may weigh the dangers against the potential benefits and determine whether an alternate form or parallel form of treatment such as psychotherapy would be more appropriate.

4. It's not always necessary to take medicine. While some mental illnesses may benefit from the use of psychotropic medicines, researchers at University of Pennsylvania found that a 16-month course of cognitive therapy was found to be both more affordable and marginally more effective at preventing a relapse into

depression than antidepressants alone when used for the same amount of time. According to a study that was published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, while antidepressants were beneficial for those with severe depression, people with mild to moderate depression benefited more from other types of treatment, such as counseling, than they did from medication.

5. Medications may not be at all a treatment of choice. Research has shown that no psychiatric medicine can treat personality disorders such as Borderline Personality Disorder, Schizoid Personality Disorder etc. per se, though they may treat the depression, anxiety, mood dysregulation that develop alongside personality disorders. It has been found that psychotherapies of different modalities such as Dialectical Behavior Therapy, Schema Therapy, Psychodynamic Psychotherapy etc. is more beneficial in such cases than medicines.

6. Both the emotional process and the psychotherapy process might be hampered by medication. Once the medicine accumulates in a person's system over a long period of time, the patient may develop inability to feel certain emotions. For instance, a lot of people complain about their diminished capacity to laugh or cry or their diminished libido. Research from Evolutionary Cognitive Neuroscience shows how SSRI side effects, including decreased sexual interest, may alter one's sexuality and romantic relationships. Medication may also make it difficult for certain people to understand their emotions, masking underlying problems and delaying or pre-

venting the effects of psychotherapy.

ROLE OF PSYCHOTHERAPY:

Many emotional and mental health problems cannot be reduced to a physiological/chemical imbalance. It would be quite immature to reduce psychological problems to just a chemical imbalance. Events in our lives—things that happen to us and around us—often serve as the source of and effect on psychological problems. Medication alone cannot "cure" every psychological condition because it does not alter how people mentally relate to their experiences. Medication—as the only therapy has the potential to be as ineffective as bandaging a bullet wound without first removing the bullet.

Focusing too much on psychotropic medications such as antidepressants as the only cure makes treatment of mental disorders such as depression too mechanical. Psychotherapy, as an add on, on the other hand, is frequently able to identify and treat some of the mental health issues, such as problems in temperament, abuses of different kinds, psychological trauma and anxiety, that may contribute to depression.

Through psychotherapy, a patient may be able to understand what they are battling with and hence it may eliminate confusion in their minds about their mental health issues. It may also make them well equipped to handle their life despite having symptoms of various emotional disorders and hence increase their quality of life. It may also eliminate the victim's attitude from their lives as just relying on medicines only decreases their self esteem and self confidence as they consider themselves victim of their mental illnesses.

As a conclusion to this article, I may say that we as a society need to be more mature in understanding the role of medications and psychotherapy while treating and receiving treatment for mental disorders so that we don't skew to only one side of treatment and hence pay huge prices. It is always better to start with psychotherapy and if the condition is severe enough to warrant the use of psychiatric medication, the patient should still be referred for psychotherapy so that basic root cause of the illness is addressed while medicines treat the symptoms.

The author is a licensed clinical psychologist (alumni of Govt. Medical College Srinagar) and works as a consultant clinical psychologist at Centre for Mental Health Services (CMHS) at Rambagh Srinagar. He can be reached at 8825067196

MD KPDCL Chairs Meeting Of Officers, Members Of FCIK

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A meeting was convened under the chairmanship of Managing Director (MD) KPDCL, Yaseen. M. Choudhary, wherein senior officials of KPDCL, President (FCIK) and other senior members of Federation of Chambers of Industries Kashmir (FKIC) were present.

The meeting discussed Tariff Revision by JERC in detail and queries raised regarding latest amendments in tariff were also discussed.

The FCIK members were apprised of the fact that the tariff revision has come after a period of more than 6 years and it was revised by the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC). The members of the FCIK were made aware of the fact that no changes can be made in revised tariff order, wherein the LT industries are mandated to install meters that can read KVAH readings too.

The MD, KPDCL along with Chief Engineer (Distribution) and other senior officials of the KPDCL gave a patient hearing to the concerns of FCIK. MD KPDCL assured them that their genuine demands will be met.

During the course of discussion, FCIK requested the top officials of KPDCL to look into their problems, wherein MD, KPDCL assured them that necessary action on replacing the damaged meters, that have developed technical snag due to the fault on 11KV Line of Bagh



Ali Mardan Khan Industrial Estate shall be done out of their own.

He said KPDCL will take up maintenance of the transformers and relieve SICOP/SIDCO/I&C from this burden besides, KPDCL will also ensure uninterrupted power supply to organized industrial sector and clusters.

The MD said that KPDCL will take stock of the progress of project being executed and assured FCIK, that Power supply to new units in Khunmoh/ Wuyan will be made available within one month.

The meeting was attended by the Officers and officials of KPDCL including Chief Engineer (Distribution), KPDCL; Superintending Engineers, Circle 1st and 2nd, KPDCL; Executive Engineers of Div 1st/ 2nd/ 3rd/ 4th, KPDCL; All AEEs of concerned divisions.

On behalf of FCIK, Shahid Kamili (President-FCIK), Syed Shakeel Qalandar, Zahoor Ahmed Bhat, Mehraj Qureshi and other senior members of FCIK were present.

DC Baramulla Chairs Officers Meet To Discuss Revenue Matters

BARAMULLA: In order to review the progress achieved on the Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP), the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar today chaired a meeting of concerned Officers of Revenue Department at meeting hall of DC Office, here.

At the outset, the DC took a detailed review of the computerization of Land Records including digitization of Jamabandies, authentication of Jamabandies, quality check of scanned data, implementation of Online Services, DPR for upgrading Tehsil Offices/ Patwar Khanas and other related matters.

While discussing the Digitization of Land Records, the DC directed the concerned authorities to complete the process of Digitization of Masavis (Maps) in the district by the end of this month besides rectification of digitized land Records. She also exhorted upon the departments to all-together implement the online services for the ease of the general public.

It was also given out that the process of generating Land Passbooks should be completed for its timely distribution among the beneficiaries.

Regarding online services, the DC asked the officers to ensure effective, efficient and prompt implementation of Public Services Guarantee Act. She directed them to work with added zeal and missionary approach to ensure hassle free public services delivery system and time bound redressal of online grievances of the people.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Sopore, Parvaiz Sajad; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Baramulla, Peerzada Mumtaz Ahmad; Tehsiladars besides officials of the concerned departments were present in the meeting.

AAP, AIMIM Split Minority Votes Of Congress In Gujarat, BJP Gains

Press Trust of India

Ahmedabad: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Asaduddin Owaisi-led AIMIM seem to have dented the Congress's sway over votes of minorities in Gujarat in the just concluded Assembly polls, bringing down the main Opposition party's vote margin considerably in various seats across the state.

The minorities, primarily Muslims, have been loyal voters of the Congress for the last several decades, especially after the 2002 post-Godhra riots.

Assembly polls were held on December 1 and 5, and votes were counted on December 8.

According to Congress sources, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), on most occasions post the 2002 riots, has made electoral calculations keeping in mind consolidation of Hindu votes irrespective of castes.

This prompted the main Opposition party to secure its minority votes, one of the last components of the Congress's old strategy of KHAM (Kshatriya, Harijan, Adivasi and Muslim) social engineering, which once used to be its winning formula in the state, they said.

However, the entry of the AAP and the Hyderabad-headquartered All India Majlis-E-Itehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) has not only disturbed Congress's minority vote bank but has also



helped the ruling BJP, which did not field a single Muslim candidate in the elections, at the cost of the Congress.

In the 2022 Assembly polls, traditional political parties fielded very few Muslim candidates in Gujarat, which has a 182-member Assembly. The Congress had fielded six Muslim candidates, while the Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP gave tickets to three members of the minority community.

The AIMIM contested 13 Assembly seats and fielded Muslim nominees on 12 of them.

The AIMIM might have failed to win a single seat and the AAP might have won just five, but they derailed the Congress's prospects and vote share in numerous seats by splitting their traditional votes.

In the minority-dominated Dariapur seat, considered a Congress bastion, sitting Congress MLA Gyasuddin Shaikh lost to BJP's Kaushik Jain by a margin of 5,243 votes. Shaikh polled 55,847

votes, whereas his nearest BJP rival bagged 61,090 ballots. The winning difference was made by AAP and AIMIM candidates, who polled 4,164 and 1,771 votes, respectively.

In Jamalpur-Khadia, the Congress's Imran Khedawala got a third consecutive term, but with a reduced mandate of 58,487 votes, down from 75,000 in 2017. AIMIM's state president Sabir Kabliwala bagged 15,677 votes and the AAP 5,887 in the constituency in Ahmedabad district.

In the Bapunagar seat, sitting Congress MLA Himmatsinh Patel lost to BJP's Dineshsinh Kushwaha by a margin of 12,070 votes. AAP and Samajwadi Party's (SP) Muslim candidates made the difference in margin between the Congress and the BJP. The AAP and the SP polled 6,384 and 3,671 votes, respectively.

In the Mangrol seat, two-time sitting Congress MLA Babubhai Vaja lost to BJP's Kargatiya Lakhbhai by

22,501 votes. The AAP and the AIMIM polled 34,314 and 10,789 votes, respectively, thus contributing in the defeat of the grand old party in the Assembly segment in Junagadh district.

The Congress won the Muslim and Dalit-dominated Danilimda Assembly segment in Ahmedabad, despite the AAP and the AIMIM cutting into its votes and the BJP putting up a strong fight. Sitting Congress MLA Shailesh Parmar won by defeating his nearest rival, BJP's Nareshbhai Vyas, by a margin of 13,525 votes.

Parmar polled 68,906 votes as compared to 55,381 ballots cast in favour of Vyas. AAP candidate Soma Kapadia polled 22,934 votes, while AIMIM's Kaushika Parmar garnered 2,464. Although Parmar won, his victory margin was much lower than in 2012 and 2017.

In the Godhra seat, Bharatiya Janata Party's CK Raulji defeated his Congress rival Rashmitaben Chauhan by 35,198 votes. Raulji bagged 96,223 votes, while Chauhan got 61,025. In 2017, the BJP's victory margin was just 358 votes.

Aam Aadmi Party's Rajeshbhai Patel secured 11,827 votes, while the AIMIM's Hasan Kachaba garnered 9,508 ballots, eating into Congress traditional votes in the communally-sensitive Assembly seat of Godhra, where the burning of an express train had triggered state-wide communal riots 20 years back.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

BJP Retains

in 2002 when Modi was the chief minister. Congress holds the all-time record of 149 seats that it had won in 1985 under the leadership of Madhavsinh Solanki.

With a nearly 13 per cent vote share, the Arvind Kejriwal-headed AAP won only five of the 181 seats it contested. In a video message, the Delhi Chief Minister said though the AAP has not won many seats the votes the party got helped it attain the national party status. The AAP also called its showing impressive.

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel credited Modi for the party's "historic victory".

"The biggest credit for this victory goes to public's trust in the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, his popularity and credibility. Congratulations to him and thanks to the public," Singh said.

Amit Shah said Gujarat has rejected those who do politics of hollow promises, revadi (freebies) and appeasement. "Gujarat has given an unprecedented mandate to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's BJP, which worked for public welfare and development."

After giving a tough fight to the BJP in 2017 Assembly polls in Gujarat by winning 77 seats, the Congress has hit a nadir in the western state where the party's campaign, mostly shouldered by local leaders, has leaned on door-to-door canvassing for votes as its leader Rahul Gandhi chose to stay away to focus on the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'. Rahul had aggressively campaigned in 2017.

The AAP also appeared to have played spoilsport for the Congress. With a vote share of nearly 28 per cent, the Congress won 17 seats.

The BJP managed to improve its 2017 tally as the issues it faced in the 2017 state polls like the state-wide outburst of anger among the Patidar community and restlessness among the traders over the GST regime appear to have faded.

Hundreds of BJP workers thronged the party office in Gandhinagar as they danced and distributed sweets outside the Gujarat state party headquarters.

Though the opposition in Gujarat took on the Modi government over rising inflation, slowing growth and joblessness, the economic troubles apparently did not dent BJP's popularity in the state that has been a bastion of the party for decades and where Modi was chief minister from 2001 to 2014.

While the Congress was not expected to replicate its creditable performance of the last Assembly elections, a good showing by the AAP could have helped Kejriwal cement his place as a key challenger to Prime Minister Modi in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. The AAP is also in power in Punjab.

The AAP had carried out a high-decibel campaign and emboldened by the victory in the Delhi municipal elections it had hoped its politics of welfarism will be accepted by the people in Gujarat.

Journalist-turned-politician Isudan Gadhvi, who was AAP's chief ministerial face, and Gopal Italia, the party's state president, were among the prominent losers from the party camp.

Several state leaders of the Congress party including its former leader of opposition Pares Dhanani lost. However, its senior-most leader in the state, Arjun Modhwadia won while firebrand Dalit leader Jignesh Mevani reversed early losses to post a victory.

Patidar leader Hardik Patel, Alpesh Thakor and cricketer Ravindra Jadeja's wife Rivaba Jadeja were among the prominent winners for the BJP.

In Himachal Pradesh, the Congress won 40 of

the 68 seats at stake followed by the BJP, which bagged 25. Independents won three seats.

The AAP, which had fielded candidates in 67 seats, failed to make a debut and had a meagre vote share of 1.1 per cent.

Congress leaders in Himachal Pradesh credited its general secretary Priyanka Gandhi for its win which came as a boost for the grand old party.

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, who won for the sixth time from Seraj assembly seat in Mandi district, said he respects the mandate of the people and submitted his resignation to Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar.

Anti-incumbency against the BJP government and the issue of price rise coupled with the Congress promising restoration of the old pension scheme and providing Rs 1,500 to every adult woman in the state seemed to be the main factors that worked in favour of the Congress.

With the BJP slogan of 'Raj nahin, riwaj badlenge' (changing tradition and not the government) being rejected by voters, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi thanked the people for the "decisive win" and assured them that every promise made by the party will be fulfilled.

All India Congress Committee (AICC) in charge of Himachal Pradesh Rajeev Shukla hailed Priyanka Gandhi's campaign and leadership, lauding the "hard work" put in by her.

Senior Congress leader Anand Sharma said the Congress victory will have resonance and ripple effect in the poll-bound states next year.

SC Tosses Out

also sought transfer of investigation of all the FIRs and cases of murder and other allied crimes against Kashmiri Pandits in the years 1989-90, 1997 and 1998 to some independent investigating agency like the CBI or the NIA or any other agency appointed by the top court.

The organisation had said in its plea that the Jammu and Kashmir Police had failed to make any progress in hundreds of FIRs pending with them.

The apex court had dismissed the plea in April 2017. Later, it had also dismissed the review petition filed in the matter.

In the curative petition, the organisation sought reconsideration of the orders passed by the apex court.

It also urged the apex court to hear and decide the writ petition afresh on merit by giving opportunity to both the parties to argue.

The petition said communal harmony is the hallmark of a democracy and no religion teaches hatred and that if in the name of religion, people are killed, that is essentially a slur and blot on the society governed by rule of law.

"The Constitution of India, in its preamble, refers to secularism. Religious fanatics really do not belong to any religion. They are no better than terrorists who kill innocent people for no rhyme or reason in a society," the petition said.

It said the apex court had appointed a special investigation team (SIT) in the post Godhra riots cases on the petitions filed before it.

The plea said, in the review petition, the organisation had mentioned that in similarly placed cases of 1984 anti-Sikh riots, the court had taken cognizance even after a lapse over 33 years.

If the state's machinery fails to protect a citizen's life, liberty and property and the investigation is conducted in a slipshod manner to help the accused, it is but appropriate that this court should step in to prevent undue miscarriage of justice which is perpetrated upon the victims and their family members, it said.

The plea claimed the top court had failed to appreciate that more than 700 Kashmiri

Pandits were murdered from 1989 to 1998 and FIRs were lodged in more than 200 cases, but not even a single FIR reached the stage of filing of charge sheet or conviction.

Kashmir Valley

a meteorological department official here said.

While there is no forecast of any major snow during this spell, the MeT official said that there may be temporary disruption in surface transportation over Sinthan Top, Mughal Road, Razdan pass, Bandipora-Gurez, Zojila during December 9 -10th when a fresh Western Disturbance is likely to affect J&K and adjoining areas.

A feeble WD is also expected to hit J&K on the night of December 12 and 13. There is a possibility of snowfall over higher reaches under its influence in Kupwara, Bandipora and Ganderbal, he said. Dry weather is expected thereafter till November 18, he said.

Meanwhile, Srinagar recorded a minimum of minus 2.5°C against minus 3.0°C on the previous night, he said. So far the coldest night at minus 3.4°C this season in the summer capital was recorded on December 5.

While there was also special weather phenomenon of mist this morning, the MeT official said, today's temperature was 2.2°C below the normal for this time of the year in Srinagar.

Qazigund recorded a low of minus 3.0°C against minus 3.6°C on the previous night while Pahalgam recorded a low of 3.6°C against season's coldest night at minus 5.6°C on previous night.

Kokernag recorded a low of minus 1.8°C against minus 1.9°C on the previous night and it was 1.1°C below normal for the place, he said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 2.8°C against minus 4.0°C on the previous night, the official said. It was 0.9°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 3.1°C on the previous night, the official said. It was 0.7°C below normal for the north Kashmir place, he said.

Jammu recorded a low of 7.6°C against 6.9°C on the previous night. It was 2.4°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said. Banihal recorded a low of minus 0.2°C (below normal by 2.3°C), Batote 4.2°C (0.2°C above normal), Katra 8.0°C (0.6°C above normal) and Bhadarwah 1.8°C (0.5°C above normal).

In Ladakh, Leh recorded minus 8.2°C, Kargil minus 12.1°C and details regarding mercury in Drass, the world's second coldest place after Siberia, were not immediately available, the official said. (With GNS inputs)

Mehbooba Vacates

dues before vacating the premises, they said.

According to officials, she has shifted to her sister's house. However, security agencies have termed the location of the residence unsafe in view of her political stature.

Earlier, Mehbooba had vacated her high-security official bungalow in Gupkar area here after getting a notice from the authorities.

Society Must

inheritors of a great civilisation that has always believed in world peace and universal brotherhood. Thinkers and individuals must take advantage of the immense moral force of the two and contribute to create an inclusive ecosystem for the society," he said.

Noting that social development and aspirations of people can be fulfilled only in conditions of peace, the LG said every segment of society must realize the futility of conflict and

utility of peace, harmony and brotherhood.

"As India has assumed G20 Presidency for the next one year, the message of peace, friendship and cooperation enshrined in our cultural heritage should become the guiding principle for the world," he added.

Earlier, Governor of Kerala in his presidential address spoke elaborately on the message of different religions. He said secularism has been a core characteristic of India society since ages and organisations like Dogra Sadar Sabha represent the inherent values and traditions of our ancient Indian culture.

"Prosperity and growth require unity and oneness. Our nation is home to unity in diversity and it has always welcomed every religion that ever came to this land. Many prominent religions have their deep connections with this land about which many people do not know," he added.

Prominent religious scholars from different religions, including Padma Shri Vishwamurti Shastri, Moulana Shahzad Azam Anwar Qasmi, President SGPC, S Ranjit Singh and Fr.Lawrence Tharsis, spoke about the message of fraternity and love as taught by all religions which need to be instilled in the hearts of younger generations.

Thakur Gulchain Singh Charak, President Dogra Sadar Sabha, in his welcome address threw light on the foundation of Dogra Sadar Sabha and the vision behind organising the conference on "Message of Humanity".

'Mission Youth

join Scouts & Guides in large numbers and play a positive role in nation building," the LG said.

He made these remarks while interacting with officers and volunteers of J&K Bharat Scouts & Guides at the Raj Bhavan here Thursday.

The LG observed that Scouts & Guides symbolize selfless service, unity in diversity.

"Volunteers are actively working for the cause of social equity and strengthening values like self-discipline, comradeship in the society," he said.

"It is a matter of great pride for us that the Scouts & Guides are discharging their duties with efficiency and effectiveness. The spirit of the Scouts & Guides needs to be replicated in other spheres of community to bring about constructive transformation," he added.

Observing that discipline and determination are the defining attributes of youth, the LG said that through Mission Youth, his administration was encouraging the young generation to selflessly work for the social development.

Sinha, who is also the Chief Patron of J&K Bharat Scouts & Guides, was briefed about the activities of the Scouts & Guides in the UT and the achievements of the last one year.

The LG assured full support of the UT Administration to Bharat Scouts and Guides movement.

The delegation was led by J&K Chapter Commissioner, Wg Cdr M.M Joshi comprising Administrator, Nasreen Khan; HQ Commissioner Capt. Sharma; Training Commissioner Guide Wing, Manjeet Kaur; Guides Captain, Jyoti Verma; Guide, Pooja Gupta & Scout, Sumkit Jain.

HC Directs Govt

whatever stage they are as on date", a single-bench of the High Court headed by Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal said.

The court said keeping in view the peculiar facts and circumstances of the case and for the foregoing reasons, it was of the opinion that the process adopted and decision made by awarding contract to Aptech Limited is "malafide" and change of condition in tender

was intended to favour Aptech Limited.

"These decisions will have an effect on public interest as the respondent number 2 (Aptech) has been assigned to conduct examinations, wherein the selectees will be appointed to hold public posts, accordingly this writ petition is allowed and the contract awarded by respondent No 1 (SSRB) in favour of Aptech pursuant to e-NIT for conduct of its various examinations through computer-based tests mode is quashed," the court said in its order.

It further said the present writ petition has been filed by the petitioners, who claim to be the aspirants and have responded to the advertisement for various examinations to be conducted by the JKSSB. The two such examinations are JE and SI to which all the petitioners have responded to and applied.

The petitioners had sought a direction to the JKSSRB not to conduct any examination through Aptech Limited, which has been "blacklisted" in the past.

The board had announced tentative dates from December 5 to December 20 to conduct the recruitment examinations.

The petitioners had further sought a direction to appoint some other agency, which is not previously blacklisted, for conducting such examinations through Computer Based Test Mode (CBTM) involving public employment.

It has been brought to the notice of the court that the matter at present is being investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and recently it had filed a charge sheet in these matters, the court said.

It ordered a probe and directed the government to constitute a high-level committee headed by not less than a retired high court judge to enquire into the conduct of Service Selection Board for its "brazen irregularities and illegalities" in changing the terms and conditions of the tender.

Questioning the process, the court, in the order, said "as to what weighed with them to award a contract to conduct an examination by an organisation which has previously facilitated malpractices in public examinations and accordingly appropriate action be initiated against those found guilty".

"I would like to say that by its own act of omission and commission, the functioning of Board does not inspire confidence in holding public examinations. It has become incumbent on all stakeholders to review the functioning of the Board," the judge observed.

Meanwhile, in an order issued on Thursday, the JKSSB said, "It is hereby notified that the examination (CBT) for the post of Sub Inspector, Home Department advertised vide Notification no. 06 of 2021, scheduled for 9th December.

Augment Infra

Member Justice Sudhir Agarwal and Expert Member A Senthil Vel, said, "It is well known that Amarnath Yatra is an important programme involving the visit of a large number of pilgrims to the holy cave and it is thus necessary that safeguards are adopted for the safety of the pilgrims and protection of the environment.

"Apart from flood protection measures and discouraging overnight stay at the cave camp, augmentation of infrastructure is necessary and this may include hygiene, sanitation, safety and catering to the other basic needs."

The tribunal also said the activities and arrangements should be at a distance from the riverbed in the interest of the safety of visitors and the environment "as far as possible".

The tribunal also directed that a copy of the order be sent to the Union Territory's chief secretary and the Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Board for compliance.

For J&K's Metro Project, Source Of Funding 'A Major Challenge'

Project Cost Close To Rs 11000 Cr; Formalities Finalised, Waiting For GoI's Approval: MRTC Official

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The much awaited J&K's mega metro project set to come up at the whopping Rs 11,000 Crore is set to begin but the technical glitch is that the sources of funding are yet to be explored to set the ball rolling. Mass Rapid Transit Corporation (MRTC) has completed all the formalities and have also sent the Detailed Project Report (DPR) in this regard.

An official not authorized to speak to media, told a local news agency KNO, on the condition of anonymity, that the DPR submitted for the metro rail projects are still in the approval process as the involvement of huge funds remains the reason for the delay in the project.

"There is a lot of funding involved for the mega project and there is a need to find the sources of funding as well. This is something we are looking at....," the official said, adding that nonetheless the project is well created and well made.

"The alignments and other mandatory processes are well designed and created. They are touching on urban hubs, which require a modern urban mobility planning. Everything has been kept in mind and the DPR has been submitted in this regard," sources, privy to the project said.

Sources said that everything has been finalized by the MRTC, but the project has not been approved yet and would likely take some more time to get approved. "The ball is in the court

of the Government of India now. The project can be carried forward only after the nod of the union government," they said.

Pertinently, the Jammu and Kashmir government had submitted a Detailed Project Reports (DPR) of Rs 10, 599 crore for the metro rail projects in Jammu and Srinagar to the centre for the approval, which include Rs 5,734 crore for Srinagar and Rs 4,825 crore for Jammu.

Notably, on completion, Srinagar and Jammu will become the first two non-major cities in India to have the rapid transport network functional.

As per the project, Jammu Light Metro will operate 17 hours a day round the year while Srinagar Light Metro will operate 17 hours daily during summers and 14 hours daily for winters.

The metro rail lines will have only elevated corridors as the underground tunnels were not found feasible. The coaches of the Metrolite system will be modern, lightweight and made from stainless steel and aluminium with an air-conditioning system, as per the DPRs.

The Jammu Light Rail System will have a 23-kilometre length with 22 stations between Bantala and Bari Brahmana whereas Srinagar light rail system will have a 25-kilometre length which includes a 12.5-kilometre length from Indira Nagar to HMT Junction and 12.5-kilometre length from Hazuri Bagh to Osmanabad with 24 stations (12 stations on each corridor).

Delegation Of Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust Calls On LG



Observer News Service

JAMMU: A delegation of Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust (GDCT) called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, at the Raj Bhavan here on Thursday.

The members of the delegation led by Arshad Ali Choudhary, Vice Chairman, GDCT, expressed their gratitude towards the Lt Governor for several schemes and initiatives implemented for the welfare and development of Gujar and Baker-

wal of Jammu and Kashmir.

The delegation acknowledged the unprecedented steps taken by the government to uplift the nomadic community of UT by providing them their due rights as enshrined in the constitution. During the interaction, the members also raised several issues concerning the community.

The Lt Governor gave a patient hearing to the visiting delegation and assured the redressal of their all genuine issues and problems.

CS Reviews Progress On Aadhaar Penetration Across J&K

Directs Officers To Launch ALBR By 15th December, CRS By End Of This Month

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Thursday emphasized upon all the stakeholders to complete the 100 percent Aadhaar penetration across J&K, underlining that the Union Territory has completely moved to digital means by offering all the citizen centric services through online mode and Aadhaar is a prerequisite to avail those services.

The Chief Secretary made these remarks while chairing a meet to review the Aadhaar saturation across Jammu and Kashmir at Civil Secretariat here.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, PDD, H Rajesh Prasad; Commissioner Secretary, Forests, Sanjeev Verma; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, P.K. Pole; Commissioner Secretary, Information Technology, Purna Puri; Secretary Health and Medical Education, Bhupinder Kumar; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, CGM, BSNL, all Deputy Commissioners and other concerned officers both in person and through video conferencing. Addressing the officers, Dr. Mehta highlighted that Aadhaar

is a unique identity of every citizen by which they are able to avail any government service in hassle free manner. He directed all the Deputy Commissioners to take up the Aadhaar saturation in mission mode so that effective and efficient public services are provided to the people.

The Chief Secretary enjoined upon the DCs to formulate re-deployment plan for optimum utilisation of Aadhaar stations in order to achieve the 100% penetration. "Mobilise people to Aadhaar stations through awareness campaigns, local representatives", Dr. Mehta instructed the DCs.

The Chief Secretary further asked the DCs to hold meetings of District Level Aadhaar Monitoring Committee meetings on regular basis in order to assess the requirement of additional enrollment and update centres timely and ensure availability of these centres in uncovered areas. He directed the officers to start the Aadhaar Linked Birth Registration (ALBR) by the 15th of this month in all district hospitals and subsequently launch the Civil Registration System (CRS) by the end of this month across the J&K.

Independents Win Bypoll To 2 DDC Seats In North Kashmir



Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Independent candidates on Thursday won both Hajin and Drugmulla seats in the District Development Council (DDC) bypolls held in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

While National Conference-backed Amina Majeed won the Drugmulla seat in Kupwara district by a slender margin of

39 votes, Nazah Bano won the Hajin seat in Bandipora district by 423 votes.

Majeed got 3,259 votes while her nearest rival Shabnam Rehman got 3,220 votes.

Nazah Bano got 2,706 votes against Peoples Conference candidate Ateeqa Begum's 2,283 votes.

The BJP candidates in the two seats fared poorly, managing less than 1,000 votes each.

The bypolls for these seats were necessitated after objections were raised against two women candidates who hail from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir but are married to local men, leading to a legal battle.

Not only were the two women barred from contesting the elections, their names were also struck off from the electoral rolls.

J&K Assembly Should Be Held Within Six Months: Azad

Press Trust Of India

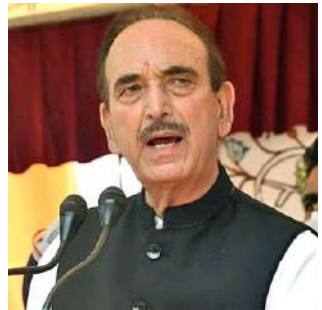
SRINAGAR: Democratic Azad Party (DAP) chief Ghulam Nabi Azad on Thursday said the Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir should be held within the next six months as people cannot wait till 2024.

He said holding of the elections was important to take J-K out of economic and political crisis.

"We do not want to wait for 2024. We have been waiting for change for the last so many years," Azad told reporters in Kupwara district in north Kashmir.

The former Congress leader said there was no need to dissolve the J-K assembly in 2018. But after it was done, the elections should have followed in six months, he added.

"When it was done, there was no terrorism in the state, there was no tension, and the elections should have taken place within six months. However, almost five years have gone by since then, many things, which were unthinkable, happened," Azad said.



Things like abrogation of Article 370, downgrading of such an old state and its division, which were unthinkable, took place, he added.

Azad said "untoward things" happened in these five years "because of which, the situation in every respect in our state became worse".

"Then, there is no representative, no MLA, no minister, no chief minister, where will people go? There are no doctors, no teachers, no roads, no employment, whom will the people approach. So, every person here is frustrated, be it labourers, youth - who are into drugs after securing high education," he said.

Process Finalized To Leasing Out JKTDC Properties

EOI Invited From National International Players In Hospitality Sector, Investors Asked To Submit Applications By Dec 15

Agencies

JAMMU: To develop the tourism infrastructure on public private partnership (PPP) mode, Jammu and Kashmir Government has finalized the process to lease out 14 posh properties under J&K's Tourism Development Corporation's (JKTDC).

Official sources said that the government has initiated a process to boost development, operations and maintenance of various hospitality infrastructures at 14 identified locations in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir on PPP mode.

These locations included JKTDC's properties in Pahalgam, Aru Pahalgam, Pahalgam Hutments, Pahalgam Golf Course, Patnitop & Padora, Kud, Sanasar, Ramban cafe-teria, Hotel Alpine Ramban, Wayside Amenity Seri Ramban, Hotel Alpine Banihal, Hotel Maple Banihal and Qazigund.

Sources said that the government invited Expression of Interest (EOI) from the interested national, international entities, companies having experience in hospitality, tourism industry, restaurants, wayside amenities etc. "The pre-EOI meeting of interested investors including dozens of representatives from national, international and regional chain of hotels resorts were conducted yesterday wherein the they were briefed in details about the properties to be developed on PPP mode. The representatives were also requested to physically verify the properties there are interested in, so clear any future doubt," the sources said, adding that the interested investors also asked to submit complete applications by December 15.

Sources said that the form can be downloaded from the JKTDC website mentioned below: www.jktdc.co.in. Furthermore, Expression of Interest is to be submitted in the prescribed manner through email only on outsource@jktdc.co.in by 5.00 pm of December 15, 2022 in English only.

"The interested investors asked to go through the checklist before submission which includes letter of application including preference towards bundling of project assets, details of the applicant in terms of firm details, experience in restaurant, hotel, resort etc. or any other hospitality business, financial details in terms Net Worth, Annual Turnover/ Revenue from operations and Revenue from similar projects (Hospitality / Tourism Industry / restaurants / wayside amenities etc.) for last five years etc, comments & suggestions on the proposed facilities at each of the project location, copy of Registration Certificate of the Firm, copy of GST registration certificate," sources said—(KNO)

KP Employees Seek PM's Help After Fresh Threats

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Striking Kashmiri Pandit employees on Thursday sought Prime Minister Narendra Modi's intervention into their demand to be relocated from the Valley over targeted killings of non-muslims by terrorists.

The fresh demand comes after a militant group recently released a "hit-list" of 56 employees from the community.

Recently, a blog linked to The Resistance Front (TRF), an offshoot of the Lashkar-e-Taiba, published a list of 56 Kashmiri Pandit employees under the Prime Minister's Rehabilitation Package (PMRP), and warned of mounting attacks on them.

Kashmiri Pandit employees assembled under the banner of "The All Migrant (Displaced) Employees Association Kashmir (AMEAK)" at the relief commissioner's office here for the 211th day of the strike and staged a sit-in to press their demand for relocation from the Valley to Jammu.

They raised slogans and displayed placards in support of the demand.

"We urge Prime Minister to look into our demand for relocation from the Valley in wake of the hit-lists of Kashmiri Pandits issued by terrorist outfits and indifference of the government here," a protester told reporters here.

He said the administration is rubbing salt in the wounds

of the displaced employees instead of giving a healing touch and ensuring confidence building among the community.

On one side terrorists are killing Kashmiri Pandits through selective and targeted pattern, issuing hit-lists against them, on the other side LG administration is issuing diktats against the employees to return to duties in Kashmir, the protestors said.

The administration is also stopping the salaries of the employees, thereby punishing their families, they said.

The majority of Kashmiri Pandits, who were employed under the Prime Minister's package in 2012, have been staging protests threatening mass exodus since the killing of Rahul Bhat.

Bhat, a state revenue department employee, was shot dead by terrorists in the teshil office in Chadoora town of Budgam district of J-K's Badgam district on May 22.

Bhat's killing sparked demonstrations by around 6,000 Kashmiri Pandit employees at various places demanding relocation outside the Valley.

Dogra employees, who returned to Jammu following the killing of their colleague Rajni Bala, are demanding their transfer to their native places in Jammu from Kashmir.

A resident of Samba district, Bala was shot dead by terrorists at a school in south Kashmir's Kulgam district on May 31

CUK's English, Chemistry Deptt Holds Induction Prog For Freshers

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: The departments of English and Chemistry of the Central University of Kashmir (CUK) organised separate induction programmes for the newly admitted students at Arts Campus Duderhama and Nuner Campus respectively.

Inaugurating the 2-day programme in the English department, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Farooq Ahmad Shah highlighted the prospects and potentials of NEP 2020 to prepare an effervescent manpower to tackle the challenges in nation building. He reiterated the need of transforming the university department into centres of intellectual integrity and effective skill

enhancement.

Addressing the students and faculty, Registrar, Prof. M Afzal Zargar, enunciated that the centres of higher learning like Universities are 'of the students, by the students, but for the society.' Hence, the student community today, he said, needs to grow in the course of their studies in the university to be socially committed and responsible individuals.

Dean School of Languages, Prof. Md. Gayasuddin, impressed upon the students to utilise the resources for intellectual nourishment and brighter future. Department Coordinator, Mr. Sunil K Mannil, welcomed the gathering and Dr. Tajamal Islam proposed the vote of thanks. Dr. Ishrat Bashir was the moderator.

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

ROYAL SPRINGS GOLF COURSE, SRINAGAR

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Fresh E-NIT No. 43 of 2022-23 Dated: 07.12.2022

For and on behalf of the Secretary Royal Springs Golf Course, e-tenders are invited by Executive Engineer Royal Springs Golf Course Srinagar by e-tendering mode on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Suppliers /Dealers of J&K UT , PWD, CPWD, Railways and other State/ Central Govt. for the following works:-

S No	Name of work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Earned Money (in Rs)	Cost of T/Doc	Time of Completion	Class of Contract
01	Anti Rodent Treatment for Royal Springs Golf Course, Srinagar	4.42	8,840/- in shape of CDR/FDR in favour of Executive Engineer RSGC	236 /= Non Refundable in shape of Bank Challan SB-12341 J&K Bank Brain Branch Nishat Srinagar in favour Secretary RSGC	One Year	Registered for Commercial Pest control Operations by Competent Authority.

Position of AA: AccordedPosition of TS: Obtained

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	07.12.2022 4:30 PM
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 08.12.2022 to 19.12.12.2022 (4.00PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	08.12.2022 5:00 PM
4	Bid Submission End Date	19.12.2022 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids(Online)	20.12.2022 11:00 AM in the office of Executive Engineer RSGC Srinagar

SPECIAL CONDITIONS:-

I. The intending tenderers must have sufficient skilled /unskilled labour force.

II. Intending bidders shall upload scanned copies of documents of valid Registration card of the concerned Department for pest control of Animal Privants / PAN / GST registration and Bank Receipt and CDR or FDR. However successful bidder shall produce the original copies of same within 3 days after opening of tenders.

III. The Earnest Money Deposit of 2% of successful bidder shall be released after receipt of 3% performance security.

General Conditions:

1. The financial bid (BOQ) of only eligible, responsive bidders shall be opened on line on the date mentioned above in the office of Executive Engineer, Royal Springs Golf Course Srinagar. In case of any avoidable circumstances the tenders shall be opened on the next working day or any subsequent date convenient to the Authority.

2. The 1st lowest bidder (Successful) has to submit performance security @ 3% of the Contract Value in the shape of CDR /FDR pledged to Executive Engineer, Royal Springs Golf Course Srinagar drawn from any recognized Bank, which should reach to the office of Executive Engineer, Royal Springs Golf Course Srinagar within 05 days from the date of opening of on line bids. In case of failure the bid shall be treated as non response.

3. The bidders will submit the e-mail address, postal address and cell No.s on a separate page along with their bids.

4. The bids for the works shall remain valid for 90 days from the date of opening of tenders.

5. The department shall not be responsible for any technical error or delay in submission of on line bids due to any reason.

6. The department can modify the terms and conditions, specification of work if need arises before the dead line date of receipt of tenders.

7. The bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ down loaded should be used for filling the item rate/ Percentage inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.

8. The supplier is bound to supply the material of best quality as per specifications. Any material found defective shall not be entertained and supplier is bound to replace.

9. The Executive Engineer, Royal Springs Golf Course Srinagar reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

10. The date of start of work shall be reckoned within one week from the date of issue of LOI / allotment.

11. In case of delay in completion of the work beyond stipulated period of completion, penalty up to 5% of the allotted cost shall be imposed.

12. No advance payment shall be paid to the contractor.

13. The contractor shall ensure execution of an agreement with the Department within 15 days from the date of issue of LOI / allotment.

14. All disputes and differences between the parties arising out of any relating to the NIT, Letter of intent, Allotment, work done bills and agreement to be signed between the Officer of RSGC and the contractor including interpretation of its terms and conditions shall be referable to Secretary, Royal Springs Golf Course Srinagar whose decision shall be final and binding upon all the parties

15. The bidders are advised to quote their rates in Percentage which includes Income tax, GST, Labour cess etc

16. The employer may terminate the contract if the contractor causes a breach of the contract.

17. The tender is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in the NIT/ Agreement

18. All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in PWD form-25 double /FC-31.

19. Any item found to be necessary execute on site not covered by allotment the same shall be paid on in vogue rate along allotted percentage.

20. The DLP shall be reckoned from the date of successful completion of work/supply & shall be upto the warranty period of item but not less than six months.

No: RSGC/EE/2022-23/799-801
Dated: 07.012.2022

DIPK-NB-5461-22
Dt: 08/12/2022

Executive Engineer
Royal Springs Golf Course
Srinagar

CS Declares National Tennis
Ball Cricket C'ship Open



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Thursday declared the 33rd Senior National Tennis Ball Cricket Championship open here at M.A Stadium.

Speaking as a Chief Guest he remarked that the government is committed to create a world class infrastructure for the sports lovers of the UT. He further said that the administration is determined to organize the marquee events of National & International championships across J&K.

Dr Mehta declared that it had been made a reality to have a playfield in every panchayat and atleast an Indoor Stadium in each district.

He stated that youth in areas like Downtown Srinagar and other districts can be seen playing games till late hours at such venues.

The Director, YS&S in his remarks stated that the Sports Council & J&K Tennis Ball association has been very active in organizing the 33rd National Championship from 8-11 December.

The Secretary JKSC while presenting the welcome address of the 4-day long championship said that the championship confirms the participation of 36 Men & 28 Women teams of the country. She gave out that the participation of around 1000 sports persons from 28 States including 8 UT's took part in the inaugural function.

'Trekking For Environment
Awareness' Held At IUST



Observer News Service

AWANTIPORA: A trekking program to Wasturwan was held on Thursday at Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) with an aim to generate awareness among the students about the environment. The event organised by the Dean of Students in collaboration with the Directorate of Physical Education and Sports IUST was flagged off by Prof. Manzoor A Malik, Dean Academic Affairs IUST.

The program held under University Community Outreach Program had an overwhelming response from staff and students in which about sixty students, scholars, and faculty members participated. Underlining the relevance of such programs in developing socially responsible citizens, Prof. Malik said that an academic institution holds the responsibility to sensitize its pupil towards environmental protection and IUST regularly organizes such programs to connect the youth to its environment and make them responsible for its protection.

FIFA World Cup: Brazil
Battle Croatia For A
Semifinal Spot Today



Agencies

AI RAYYAN: The Round of 16 is now complete, and the final eight standing teams will now compete for a semi-finals position. Brazil and Croatia will lock horns at the FIFA World Cup 2022 in the quarter-finals on Friday. It will mark just the fifth time these two football nations have played each other, and the third in the history of this competition.

Brazil clinched a spot in the final eight with a commanding 4-1 win over Korea, leading at halftime by four goals. Vinicius Jr, Neymar, Richarlison, and Lucas Paqueta all scored as Tite's side dominated the first 45 minutes.

Paik Seung-ho grabbed one back with 15 seconds remaining, but it was too late for the Koreans. Croatia entered the last-eight match having played an extra 30 minutes following a 1-1 draw inside 90 minutes in their round-of-16 clash with Japan. The 2018 runners-up triumphed on penalties, with goalkeeper Dominik Livakovi stopping three.

The last time these two sides met was in a friendly four years ago as they prepared for the World Cup in Russia. Brazil was eliminated in the quarter-finals, while Croatia advanced to the final before being defeated by France. But it was the South Americans who appeared ready for business in that June friendly, defeating their opponents 2-0.

Midfield stalwart Luka Modric is an ever-present fixture for his national side and will lead them out on Friday. The Brazilians have also changed their lineup in the last four years, and their firepower up top is unrivalled. In addition to Neymar, they have Vinicius Jr, Raphinha, and Richarlison, not to mention a plethora of talent on the bench.

The head-to-head record does not bode well for Croatia's chances in the forthcoming quarter-final, with Brazil leading the series. The South Americans have won three of the four games they have played, with a friendly in 2005 resulting in a draw. Two of their three triumphs have come in this competition, the first in 2006 and the second in the tournament's opening game in 2014.

Croatia would need a historic first-ever win over Brazil to reach the World Cup semi-finals in 2022 if they are to advance to the final four.

Match starts at 8:30 PM IST. Argentina play Netherlands at 12:30 AM. (ANI)



Nagpur To Host India-
Australia Test Series Opener

Agencies

NEW DELHI: India's four-test home series against Australia will begin in Nagpur on Feb. 9 next year, the Indian cricket board said on Thursday. Delhi, Dharamsala and Ahmedabad will host the other matches of the series for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, which will become a five-test affair going forward.

Australia will also play three one-day international matches in India in March. India's home international series will begin in Mumbai on Jan. 3 with a three-match T20 series against Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka will also play three ODIs in India. New Zealand will also arrive in January to play three ODIs and an equal number of T20 Internationals.

Sehwag Slams Outdated Approach

Former player Virender Sehwag slammed India's "outdated" approach following their ODI series loss in Bangladesh.

In his usual quirky style, Sehwag took to Twitter to describe his anguish: "Cryptos se bhi tez gir rahi hai apni performance year. (Our performance is falling faster than cryptos). Need to shake up - wake up."

WC: Croatia, Serbia Fined
For Balkan Statements

Agencies

DOHA: The Croatian and Serbian soccer federations were fined by FIFA on Wednesday for making Balkan political statements at the World Cup.

FIFA fined the Croatians 50,000 Swiss francs (\$53,000) after the team's fans verbally abused and taunted Canada goalkeeper Milan Borjan, who has Serbian family ties.

The Serbian soccer federation was fined 20,000 Swiss francs (\$21,300) for a political banner about neighbouring Kosovo displayed in the locker room before playing Brazil in the team's opening game.

It showed a map of Serbia that included the territory of its former province, which has been an independent state for nearly 15 years, and the slogan "No Surrender."

The Kosovo soccer federation formally complained to FIFA about the banner, which was hung over two Serbia players' lockers on Nov. 24.

FIFA said the charge against Croatia related to "use of words and objects to transmit a message that is not appropriate for a sports event."

Borjan was born in an ethnic Serbian region of Croatia. He and his family left their hometown in 1995 when it was taken by Croatian forces. The ethnic Serbs are said to have fled on tractors.

Bun
Maska



Chai

Chai Ka Chaska
With Bun Maska



JK Bank Lawns, Opp Ghat
6 Boulevard, Srinagar