

وزارت برائے زراعت و پسماندہ
حکومت ہند

75
आज़ादी का
अमृत महोत्सव

”پردہان منتری فصل بیمہ یوجنا موسم کی بے یقینی ہونے سے جڑے
خطروں کو کم کر کے محنت کش کسان بھائی بہنوں کے معاشی فائدوں
کو تحفظ فراہم کرنے میں لگاتار اہم کردار نبھا رہا ہے۔ کسانوں کے مفاد
میں جاری بیمہ یوجنا کا فائدہ آج کروڑوں کسان اٹھا رہے ہیں۔“

– نریندر مودی، وزیراعظم

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The Metaverse Offers Challenges And Possibilities For The Future Of The Retail Industry

Press Trust Of India

In 1968, American computer scientist Ivan Sutherland predicted the future of augmented and virtual reality with his concept of the "Ultimate Display". The Ultimate Display relied on the kinetic depth effect to create two-dimensional images that moved with its users, giving the illusion of a three-dimensional display.

While the concept of virtual reality only focuses on the creation of three-dimensional environments, the metaverse — a term coined by Neal Stephenson in his 1992 book Snow Crash — is a much broader concept that surpasses this.

While no official definition of the metaverse truly exists, science and technology reporter Matthew Sparkes provides a decent one. He defines the metaverse as "a shared online space that incorporates 3D graphics, either on a screen or in virtual reality." Since the term was coined, the idea of the metaverse has remained more of a fictional concept than a scientific one. However, with technological advancements in recent years, the metaverse has become more tangible. Much of the recent hype happened after Mark Zuckerberg made the announcement to rename the Facebook brand to Meta. Many retailers have since jumped aboard the metaverse train.

Nike recently filed multiple trademarks allowing them to create and sell Nike shoes and apparel virtually. JP Morgan opened their first virtual bank branch. Samsung recreated their New York City flagship store in the virtual browser-based platform Decentraland, where they are launching new prod-

ucts and creating events.

While many retailers are capitalizing on the metaverse early, there is still uncertainty about whether the metaverse really is the future of retailing or whether it will be a short-lived fad.

Dispelling metaverse myths Much of that uncertainty around the metaverse stems from confusion about the technology. While examining the top keyword associations related to the metaverse on Google Trends, I found "what is metaverse" and "metaverse meaning" to be the top phrases customers searched for. To alleviate some of this confusion, it's important to dispel commonly held myths about the metaverse.

Myth 1: You need a VR headset to access the metaverse While an optimal experience in the metaverse can be achieved through VR headsets, anyone can access the metaverse through their personal computers. For instance, customers can create their avatars and access the metaverse in Decentraland on screen without a VR headset.

Myth 2: The metaverse will replace real-life interactions Rather than replacing existing modes of communication, the Metaverse provides a more interactive mode of communication. New technologies always bring about predictions of the end of physical interactions. It's helpful to compare the metaverse with the rise of smartphones. Smartphones enhance communication by allowing people to interact with their social networks, but have not entirely replaced face-to-face interactions. The metaverse will be the same.

Myth 3: The metaverse is just for gaming While gaming remains the dominant



driver of user involvement with the metaverse (97 per cent of gaming executives believe that gaming is the centre of the metaverse today), it's not the only activity people can take part in.

In a recent survey, McKinsey & Company asked customers what their preferred activity on the metaverse would be in the next five years. Shopping virtually ranked the highest, followed by attending telehealth appointments and virtual synchronous courses.

Keeping expectations realistic In its current form, the metaverse lacks the technological infrastructure to deliver on market expectations. It may be appropriate to compare the metaverse with the dot-com bubble between 1995 and 2000 that was caused by speculation in internet-based businesses.

Similarly, there appears to be tremendous hype and expectations around what the technology can deliver in its current form. A recent survey of 1,500 consumers

found that 51 per cent of people expect customer service to be better in the metaverse, 32 per cent expect less frustration and anxiety while dealing with customer service agents in the metaverse compared to phone interactions, and 27 per cent expect interactions with metaverse virtual avatar assistants to be more effective than online chat-bots.

While such expectations can appear reasonable, metaverse technology is still in its infancy stage, where the focus remains on developing infrastructure and processes for the future. The unrealistic expectations may potentially lead to a metaverse bubble as reality struggles to meet expectations.

Challenges for retailers As with any emerging technology, retailers need to be prepared for challenges posed by the metaverse. Some of these challenges include the following: Data security and privacy: With the novelty of metaverse technology and the wealth of personal data collected, the metaverse will be an attractive target for cyber-hackers. New approaches and methods need to be considered for a safe metaverse that customers can trust.

Experienced talent: Having the right talent that can create, manage and support experiences in the metaverse needs to be at the forefront of engaging with the technology. However, due to the novelty of the technology, finding such talent will be a challenge.

Regulations: With no clear jurisdictions and regulations in place, the safety of virtual spaces in the metaverse may be compromised and end up pushing customers away. Retailers need to ensure these spaces are safe and protected.

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In remembrance — Dr. Hamidullah Naqash

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to announce the sudden demise of Dr. Hamidullah Naqash on the evening of December 08, 2022 after a prolonged illness.

His Namaz-e-Janazah was offered at his residence in Iqbal Colony, Zainakote and he was buried next to his parents in our ancestral graveyard on the morning of December 09.

He was a grateful son, a kind sibling, and a loving husband and caring father to his children. He spent his life providing and caring for each of his family members to the best of his abilities. His demise leaves us with a permanent void.

The memorial service will be held at his residence in Iqbal Colony, Zainakote over three days and will conclude on Sunday.

With grief, his wife Asmat Ara Masoodi, sons Farhan Naqash and Rayan Naqash, and daughter Intinan Naqash. Brothers Mehrajudin Naqash and Khurshid Naqash, sisters Zeenat Naqash and Yasmeen Fayaz and brothers-in-law Showkat Ahmad Beigh and Fayaz Ahmad Fayaz. In laws Shuja Ahmad Masoodi, Masooda Masoodi, and Farhat Masoodi.

Bs.Ko

INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

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Advt.No. ICMRHQ/Addl.DG/2022/02- Pers.

VACANCY CIRCULAR

LAST DATE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS: 31.12.2022

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), an Autonomous Organization under Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare invites online application(s) up to 31st December, 2022 till 5.30 PM for the post of Additional Director General at ICMR Hqrs. New Delhi, in Level 15 of Pay Matrix (Rs. 182200-224100) (7th CPC Scale) and usual allowances as admissible to ICMR employees for appointment on regular basis under Direct Recruitment.

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Assistant Director-General (Admn.)

CBC- 17152/12/0022/2223

Public Notice

Whereas I, Mr. WAHEEL HUSSAIN MALLA S/O Mr. GH MOHD MALLA R/O KANTERBUGH GUND KHAWJA QASIM PATTAN KASHMIR intend to apply in the Department of Tourism for registration of my proposed travel unit under the name & style of M/S WAHEELTRAVELON KASHMIR, Situated at SRINAGAR- GULMARG ROAD 1st FLOOR NAAZ COMPLEX NEAR SBI MAGAM 193401 KASHMIR under tourist trade act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas I will submit state subject / Domicile certificate, Qualification Certificate, pan card \ Experience Certificate(Minimum 5years), Police character certificate, Bank statement (minimum balance 10000), site plan, Affidavit, Rent deed duly attested by sub Registrar, printing material (Latter head / Visiting card) Photograph of the unit (indoor and outdoor) and Two passport size photographs to the department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist I Prior to Registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency.

Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12) before my case is processed for my registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/ Financial institutions/Bank/ Organisation, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration(email id: ddtregl23@gmail.com) within a period of 7days from the publication of this notice in a leading newspaper/newspapers of the valley. No objection beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained.

bmrg_r

از نیابت وائلوکرالہ پورہ

مضمون کاغذات درخواست منجانب اقراء احمد اختر عبدل احدصونی

سائنس موضوع بابا بھٹی پورہ تحصیل کتنر برادر عطا یگی بیکوار ڈا ایرا

سٹریٹیکٹ تحت 294 SRO

استہتار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر پڑا میں زیر کار روٹی ہے اس سلسلے میں پڑا میں حلقہ سے رپورٹ منظور پکارہ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل مضمون بابا بھٹی پورہ میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے سال کنڈ کی مہوار آ مدنی جملہ ذرائع سے مبلغ

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اس کے علاوہ کوئی افراد کنڈ نہیں ہے سٹریٹیکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کوئی طرز یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا طرز یا اعتراض ساتھ ہم اندر دفتر پڑا میں پیش کرے معیا و گرنے بعد کوئی بھی طرز یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

نائب تحصیلدار AQ KUZ

Scientists Discover World's Oldest DNA, Breaks Record By 1 Million Years

IAN S

Scientists have stumbled upon two-million-year-old DNA for the first time -- breaking the record of world's oldest DNA discovery by one million years and opening a 'game-changing' new chapter in the history of evolution.

Microscopic fragments of environmental DNA were found in Ice Age sediment in northern Greenland.

Using cutting-edge technology, researchers discovered the fragments are one million years older than the previous record for DNA sampled from a Siberian mammoth bone.

far back in time. DNA can degrade quickly but we've shown that under the right circumstances, we can now go back further in time than anyone could have dared imagine," Willerslev said in a paper published in Nature.

The ancient DNA samples were found buried deep in sediment that had built-up over 20,000 years.

"The sediment was eventually preserved in ice or permafrost and, crucially, not disturbed by humans for two million years," said Professor Kjaer.

The climate in Greenland at the time varied between Arctic and temperate and was between 10-17 degree Celsius warmer than Green-



A new chapter spanning one million extra years of history has finally been opened and for the first time we can look directly at the DNA of a past ecosystem that far back in time. DNA can degrade quickly but we've shown that under the right circumstances, we can now go back further in time than anyone could have dared imagine

The team of scientists, led by Professor Eske Willerslev from St John's College at University of Cambridge and geology expert Kurt H. Kjaer from Lundbeck Foundation GeoGenetics Centre at the University of Copenhagen, hope the results could help to predict the long-term environmental toll of today's global warming.

"A new chapter spanning one million extra years of history has finally been opened and for the first time we can look directly at the DNA of a past ecosystem that

land is today.

Scientists discovered evidence of animals, plants and microorganisms including reindeer, hares, lemmings, birch and poplar trees. Researchers even found that Mastodon, an Ice Age mammal, roamed as far as Greenland before later becoming extinct.

The two-million-year-old samples also help academics build a picture of a previously unknown stage in the evolution of the DNA of a range of species still in existence today.

ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
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Tele: 01933-247954/247955. Website: www.iust.ac.in

RE-TENDER NOTICE
No: IUST/EW/22/TEND/PFH/14B; Date:07/12/2022

The work "Dismantling of Pre-Fabricated Structured Huts and Reusing the same at IUST Campus-I, Campus-II, and Synthetic Athletic Track" published vide E-NIT No: - IUST/EW/22/TEND/PFH/14 Dated: - 21-09-2022 & Retendered vide E-NIT No: - IUST/EW/22/TEND/PFH/14A Dated: - 22-11-2022 is again retendered.

Name of work: Dismantling of Pre-Fabricated Structured Huts and Reusing the same at IUST Campus-I, Campus-II, and Synthetic Athletic Track	
Advertised Cost of Construction	Rs. 9,92,709.00/=
Class of Contract	"C & D"
Bid submission Start Date	07-12-2022
Bid submission End Date	14-12-2022 Up to 6:00 PM
Date of Submission of DD (Hard Copy)	15-12-2022 From 10:00 AM Up to 4:00 PM
Time & Date of opening of Technical Bids	Bids shall be opened at IUST on 16-12-2022 at 11:00 AM
Availability of Tender document: Tender document can be downloaded from website (https://iktenders.gov.in)	

The rest of the terms and conditions remain same as per the Tender Document. Detailed Tender Notice is available on university website: www.iust.ac.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, IUST

DIPK-NR-5472/22 DATED : 09-12-2022

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DATE SHEET

FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL EXAMINATION (CLASS 10th) SPECIAL (SUPPLEMENTARY) PRIVATE EXAMINATIONS 2022 (U.T of J&K and U.T of Ladakh)

Timing : 12:00 Noon	
Date & Day	SUBJECT/S
20-12-2022 Tuesday	Social Science
22-12-2022 Thursday	English
24-12-2022 Saturday	Hindi/Urdu
27-12-2022 Tuesday	Science (Physics, Chemistry & Life Science)/ Home Science
30-12-2022 Friday	Mathematics/ Music/ Painting/ Art & Drawing
01-01-2023 Sunday	Additional/Optional Arabic/ Kashmiri/ Dogri/ Bhoti/Punjabi/Urdu/Hindi/Persian/Sanskrit/ Computer Science
03-01-2023 Tuesday	Vocational Subjects Agriculture/ Apparels, Makeup and Home Furnishing /Automotive/ Beauty and Wellness/ Health Care /IT & ITES/ Media and Entertainment/ Physical Education and Sports/ Plumber/ Retail/ Security/ Telecommunication/ Tourism and Hospitality/ Electronics and Hardware/Multi-skilling

Note:-

- All Heads of Govt./Private Institutions concerned shall collect the Admit Cards of their candidates from the concerned JKBOSE Offices.
- The Internal/External practical for fresh/old failure/re-appear, if any, shall be conducted by the respective Affiliated Academic Institutions at their own level and internal awards shall be submitted by the respective Affiliated Academic Institutions before commencement of examination and External Practical awards shall be submitted within 15 days after termination of examination to the concerned Sub/Branch Offices/Secrecy Section.
- The Examinees are advised to strictly adhere to the instructions given on the back side of the Admit Cards, candidates shall bring the Admit Card on all days of examination for verification.
- All the examinees are advised not to bring any kind of material including electronic gadgets like mobile phone, head phone etc. which can help them to indulge in unfair means in any way in the Examination.

No.: F:(Acad-C)-X-Exam/SSP/22
DIPK-NB-5475/22 DATED 09-12-2022

Director Academics



Pharmaceutical Godown Gutted, 2 Firemen Injured In Rajbagh Blaze

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar- A pharmaceutical godown was gutted while a residential house and hotel were partially damaged in a fire incident in Rajbagh area of the city on Friday.

An official said that two fire-fighters were also injured during fire-fighting operations.

"Both the injured were rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment" he said.

The official said a fire broke out inside a house that was being used for commercial purposes to store pharmaceutical products.

He said in the incident the godown was gutted, while two nearby houses and a hotel were also damaged.

The official said the fire has been put off while the reason for the fire was likely due to the explosion of LPG cylinders.

Govt Constitutes Panel To Determine Buffers Around Dal Lake

Agencies

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday constituted an experts committee to determine the buffers around Dal Lake and allied water bodies falling in the Srinagar metropolitan region.

According to an order, issued by Secretary to the Government, Piyush Singla, dated 19-12-2022, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer, the government members who have been included in the committee include Vice Chairman, Lake Conservation & Management Authority (Member-Convener), Vice Chairman, Srinagar Development Authority, Representative of Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment, not below the rank of Conservator of Forests, Chief Town Planner, Town Planning Organization, Kashmir and

Chief Engineer, Irrigation & Flood Control, Kashmir or his representative having sound knowledge and understanding of lakes and wetlands.

The Expert members includes Dr. A. B. Akolkar, Former Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board, Ministry of Environment & Forest, Government of India, Prof. A. A. Qazmi, IIT Roorkee, Prof. Meenakhshi Dhote, Environment Planning Department, SPA, New Delhi, Prof. Ariti Grover, Landscape Architecture Department, SPA, New Delhi, Prof. K. K. Pandey, Prof. of Urban Management, Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi, Prof. Zahoor Ahmad Rather, SKUAST, Kashmir (Flori-culture & Landscape Department), Dr. Pratab Singh, Expert in Hydrology, RMSI and Dr. Himayun Rahid, Scientist, Department of Environment and Remote Sensing, J&K.

Admin. Gears Up For Dealing With Winter Challenges

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to gear up the District Administration and machinery to deal with winter challenges particularly with regard to current weather advisory, a meeting of all District/Sectoral Officers was held under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner(DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad here on Friday.

The DC took a detailed review of overall winter preparedness in the District including power and water supply position, availability of ration, fuel, LPG and other essentials, besides arrangements put in place for timely snow clearance across the District.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner stressed on taking preventive and precautionary measures well in advance so that

routine functioning at all essential installations, besides trade, transport, essential supplies and other routine works are not affected.

The DC also stressed the Officers on readying men and machinery to ensure timely redressal of weather vagaries and subsequent interruptions of supply of water, electricity and road closure due to snowfall during the winter months.

While reviewing the status of the power supply scenario in the District, the DC asked the Engineers of KPDCL to take all required measures in order to ensure that power supply is restored at earliest during snowfall particularly at essential installations in the District. He asked the Officers to keep men and machinery ready for the restoration of the power supply in case of disruption due to snowfall.



Pic - Abid Bhat/ KO

Ahead Of Launch, Trial Run Of E-Bikes Held

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: As E-Bikes are set to hit the roads of Srinagar city in a few days, a trial run of the E-Bikes was held from Dalgate to Hazratbal on Friday.

Sheikh Yamin Co-founder and Managing Director of Curve Electrics said that they have started the initiative of public sharing E-bikes in Srinagar and a successful trial run was held from Dalgate to Kashmir University on Friday.

Pertinently, E-bikes draw power from a battery which makes commuting significantly easier. The battery driven two wheeler has transformed cycling from a strenuous exercise into a joy ride.

Yameen said the authori-

ties have permitted them to run 200 E-Bikes and in the next few days the E-bikes will be seen plying on the city roads.

"To begin with we will launch 50 E-bikes at 11 docking stations in the city and in a few weeks we will ensure all 200 of them hit city roads" he said.

The docking stations are being set up at Islamia College, Dalgate, Botanical Garden, Nishat, Kashmir University, Illahi Bagh, Soura, TRC, Kothi Bagh, Raj Bagh, Sanat Nagar, Bemina among other places.

He said the E-Bikes are technology driven, GPS enabled and the maximum speed of the E-bike is 25km/hour. These battery driven cycles can run up to 55kms per charge.

"On throttle, it has a speed

of 25km/hr but seeing the kind of traffic we have in the city, one can run at 17km/hr on an average," Yameen said.

"One can avail the commuting facility by showing his or her Aadhar card and phone number for the first time, thereafter they will only have to use their phone number" he said.

Yameen said the customers will be charged 0.90 paise per minute and the Payments have to be made at the docking station in online or offline mode.

"We want to make it a mode of transport and people should use it on a daily basis. It is expected to be a safe ride and it will save time, money, effort & above all environment" Yameen added.

Students Complain Of Heating Facilities At KU Hostels

Agencies

Srinagar: In one of the premier institutions of Valley at University of Kashmir (KU), the officials are being provided with all types of heating facilities amid the bone-chilling winters while its more than 900 female boarders of the hostels 'sans' the facilities.

The students in hostels of the University said that the four hostels for females are functioning with only two transformers that cause them to stay without heating arrangement for majority of the time.

They said that instead of fixing the issue, the concerned wardens of all the hostels and the concerned higher ups are threatening the boarders not to report the issue to the Vice-

chancellor.

One of the boarders of Qurat-Ul-Ain hostel wishing anonymity said "Besides having the issues of heating arrangements, several window panes of the hostel are broken and when we requested the warden to fix them much before the winter, they paid no heed to it."

Another female boarder student of the varsity said, "Sometimes, the hostel authorities deliberately cut the electricity during evening hours to avoid use of heating gadgets."

"Sometimes, we are being told that we can use one electric blower and electric kettles each in a room and sometimes they are frisking our rooms and taking away those gadgets," she said.

She also said, "From last year, we were only allowed to use electric blankets but unfortunately, the electricity doesn't last for a long time due to the shortage of transformers."

The students also said that many boarders have fallen ill because of the bone-chilling cold and some of them have returned to their homes.

"Most of the boarders have left for their homes due to non-availability of facilities. If our issues are not resolved immediately, we will protest in university Campus," they added," the students said.

In the meantime, Girls Hostel Provost, Professor Zahida Jabeen said that some of the female boarders were using an excessive heating gadget that was causing damage to the transformers.

KASHMIR OBSERVER™

Srinagar | Saturday | 10-12-2022

3

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HIGHWAY STATUS

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

 HIJRI CALENDAR 15 Jumad al-Awwal 1444	PRAYERS	
	FAJR	5:54
	ZUHR	12:22
	ASR	3:45
	Magrib	5:25
	ISHA	6:50

This Day In History

- 1510 - Muslim ruler of Goa, Yusuf Adil Shah and his Ottoman allies surrender to Portuguese forces led by Afonso de Albuquerque who puts the Muslim population to the sword
- 1684 - Isaac Newton's derivation of Kepler's laws from his theory of gravity, contained in the paper De motu corporum in gyrum, is read to the Royal Society by Edmond Halley
- 1899 - Battle at Storm Berge South Africa - Boers vs British army
- 1905 - Austrian pacifist and writer Bertha von Suttner becomes the 1st woman to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize
- 1906 - US President Theodore Roosevelt is the 1st American awarded the Nobel Peace Prize
- 1913 - Bengali poet Rabindranath Tagore becomes the first non-European to be presented with the Nobel Prize for Literature for "Gitanjali"
- 1914 - French government returns to Paris
- 1919 - Nobel Peace Prize awarded to US President Woodrow Wilson
- 1926 - 2nd part of Adolf Hitler's Mein Kampf published
- 1931 - Manuel Azaña becomes Prime Minister of Spain with Niceto Zamora as President
- 1940 - British anti-offensive in Libya (Sidi Barrani)
- 1941 - Japanese troops overrun Guam
- 1943 - British 8th Army (1st Canadian Infantry Division) occupies Orsogna/Ortona Italy
- 1948 - UN General Assembly adopts the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- 1961 - USSR & Albania break diplomatic relations
- 1964 - Nobel Peace Prize presented to Dr Martin Luther King Jr. in Oslo
- 1966 - Nobel for chemistry awarded to Robert S. Mulliken
- 1967 - Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine awarded to Ragnar Granit, Haldan Keffer Hartline and George Wald "for discoveries about the make-up of the eye
- 1967 - Guatemalan author Miguel Ángel Asturias is awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in Stockholm
- 1968 - Japan's biggest heist, the still-unsolved "300 million yen robbery", occurs in Tokyo.

From KO Archives

12 Bangladeshis killed near Jammu

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Twelve Bangladesh nationals were killed when Border Security Force (BSF) jawans opened fire at a group of people attempt-ing to sneak into Jammu region from across the border today, official reports here said.

The reports said BSF personnel noticed a group of persons attempting to sneak into Indian territory from Pakistan-controlled Kashmir (PcK) near Sangral village in R.S.Pura sector of Jammu in the wee hours today.

They mistook the intruders for militants and opened fire at them when they tried to flee back after being asked to surrender, the reports said, adding the deceased were totally unarmed.

In the past, a number of Bangladeshi nationals were either arrested or killed while making attempts to sneak into this side.

However, a Jammu datelined PTI report, weaving a cock-and-bull story, said: "On being confronted by the BSF jawans and asked to sur-render, the intruders started running back, they (official sources) said.

"Meanwhile, Pakistani troops resorted to firing from across the bor-der forcing BSF jawans to retaliate. In the exchange of fire, the intrud-ers were killed, the sources said.

"Senior BSF and police officers have rushed to the area and the bod-ies of the intruders are being handed over to police for further investi-gation", the sources said."

Elsewhere in Kashmir valley, militants shot dead a civilian, in-jured a surrendered militant and a BSF jawan and abducted a villager, while security forces repulsed a militant attack on a police station since last evening, an official spokesman said.

Unidentified gunmen shot dead a farmer Abdul Aziz Dar inside his house at Putshahi-Lalpura in frontier district of Kupwara early today, he said.

Jammu and Kashmir police and CRPF jointly repulsed a militant at-tack on police station Lalpora in frontier district of Kupwara late last night, the spokesman said.

A group of militants opened heavy fire and hurled grenades on the police station. However, the police and CRPF contingent stationed there retaliated and repulsed the attack. No casualty on either side was reported, he added.

(Kashmir Observer, 10 December, 2000)

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Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Assistant Labour Commissioner Ganderbal

Address: Mini-Secretariat Complex Duderhama Ganderbal Pin-191201
(Email ID: alcebl@gmail.com)

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform through the medium of this notice that the registered construction workers have submitted their education forms through online mode on the website jkbocw.gov.in without uploading the E-shram cards. Since it has been made mandatory that no forms/files shall be entertained without E-shram cards for renewals, registration and welfare assistances.

In view of the above, all the construction workers who have uploaded the education assistance cases without E-shram cards are hereby informed that their cases have been reverted back for uploading their E-shram cards. Besides, the registered construction workers are advised to renew their registration cards before submitting the assistance cases through online mode.

Furthermore, it is to inform that no bonafide certificate will be entertained without proper dispatch No. and date from the issuing authority.

Sd/-
Assistant Labour Commissioner
Ganderbal

DIPK-14835/22
dated: 09-12-2022

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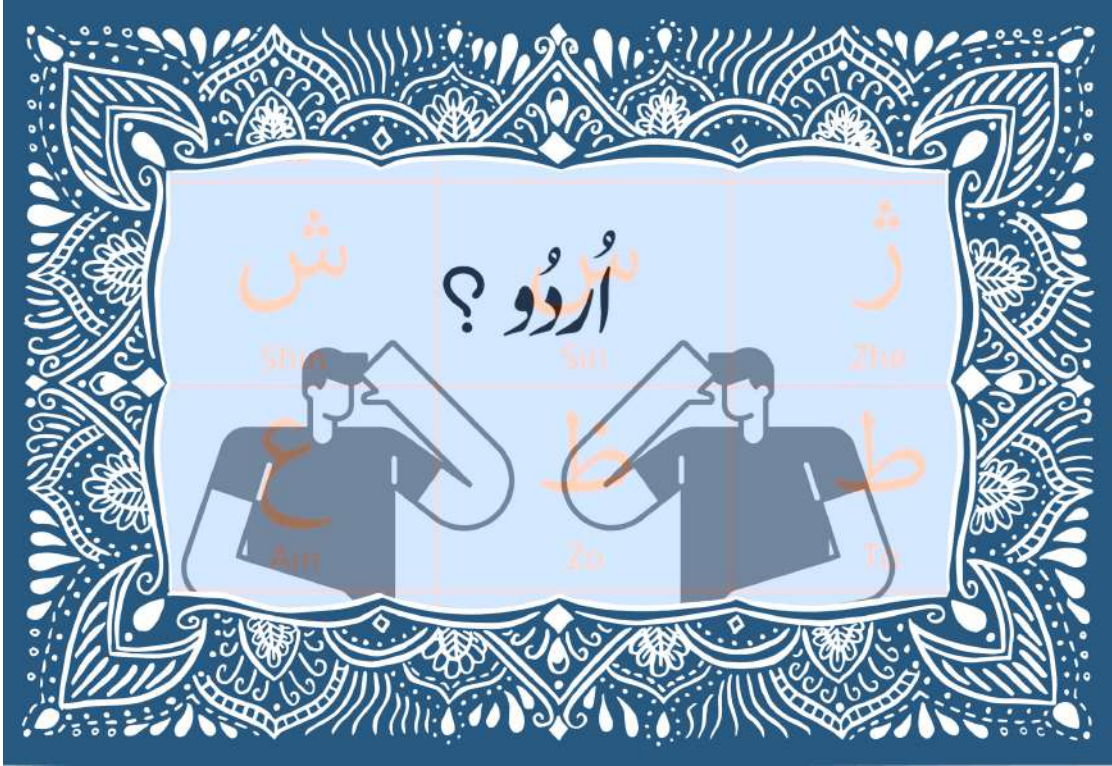
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In absence of personnel well trained and efficient in Urdu language, it will be difficult and in a sense impossible for the officials to interpret land and revenue records, which stand transcribed in a typical Persianate-Urdu jargon. This will not only negatively impact the efficiency of persons entrusted with responsibilities in the revenue department, but is sure to give birth to flaws and failings

In a recent order, Jammu & Kashmir administration removed Urdu as a mandatory language of competency in the recruitment of Naib Tehsildar posts in the Revenue Department. Earlier, the J & K government had removed the Urdu language requirement for recruitment of the posts of Patwaris, who are the primary authority in the maintenance of land records and documentation. The move has received widespread condemnation from society, academicians and others concerned. People are aghast over the move and the repercussions of the move are being discussed widely. Earlier, the status of Urdu language as administrative lingua franca was diluted, causing anguish and anxiety in people.

Languages take decades and centuries to secure a place of prominence among people and cultures, before they rise to the status of official languages, touching upon the emotions and intellect of people. Not only do the people share an emotional bond with Urdu language, but it has been the official language



Urdu – The Language of Heart

Amir Suhail Wani

of the state for more than one and half a century. To demote a language of such long standing official demeanour with a single stroke of a pen without any consideration for the consequences of such a drastic move is an act of immaturity.

Urdu language served the purpose of indefatigable link and timeless anchor in strengthening the relationships of Kashmir with the immediate neighbours in general and India in particular. It served the irreplaceable role of a grand unifier, uniting the people from different climes and contexts in a unified ideological whole. The corpus of century old

land and revenue records stands archived in Urdu language and to remove it as mandatory subject in a service like that of Patwari or NT is a gross miscalculation and misadventure. One is often left wondering as to what are the intentions beyond such moves, which not only betray the professional prerequisites and necessities and public sentiments, but fly in the face of logic and commonsense. In absence of personnel well trained and efficient in Urdu language, it will be difficult and in a sense impossible for the officials to interpret land and revenue records, which stand transcribed in a typical Per-

sianate- Urdu jargon. This will not only negatively impact the efficiency of persons entrusted with responsibilities in the revenue department, but is sure to give birth to flaws and failings. In a scenario like this, efforts should have been made to foster and fasten our ties with Urdu language, quite contrary to what appears to be the administrative mandate.

Urdu is the language of culture, civilization and tradition. It is the repository of one of the world's richest literary and academic traditions. It houses apical works of scholarship on Islam and other themes of diverse span. It has raised and garnered poets and writers like Ghalib, Daag, Iqbal, Patras, Yusufi and thousands others, whose wit and wisdom continues to illuminate and inspire people across geographical and linguistic divides. It has exerted magnetic influence on people across the globe by virtue of its uniqueness, rich literary tradition and a sonorous aesthetics particular to it.

Jashn E Rekhta, as is being celebrated these days and the global attendance to this event is a testimony to the versatile and captivating nature of Urdu language. In such a situation, where Urdu is captivating people globally and it is accelerating in its outreach, the government, authorities and administration shall invest all men and machinery in collaborating with this process of global import, instead of turning the face away from it and leaving it in a state of shambles.

Urdu doesn't merely serve intellectual, administrative and international purposes, as outlined above, but is a grand unifier, a reference to which has already been made. A humongous industry like Bollywood moves on the levers of Urdu and all acts of movie making involve Urdu as an indispensable medium of communication. People from different parts of India are able to communicate with one another in Urdu easily – the ease and universality that is offered by no other language. The role of Urdu during India's struggle for independence stands well documented and needless to say that it continues to serve an indefatigable and indispensable role in defining and maintaining the morphology of the country. When these languages are discouraged and side-tracked in exams like the ones mentioned above, the treatment not only looks step motherly, but pushes the language to peripheries, something which spills beyond the boundaries of state and country and claims to have global consequences, and bad ones.

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

The author is a srinagar based columnist

Alphabet Games

Acronyms Are Now A Serious Verbal Currency

Sukanta Chaudhuri

Humans are the only animals that talk in any true sense. The rudimentary exchanges of other species bear no comparison. A small part of human speech is carried over into writing. In this century, that proportion has drastically increased thanks to social media. We tap out messages where earlier we would talk on the phone, or, in most cases, do nothing. At whatever level, a hugely greater section of human-kind now composes texts.

Yet like tossing a few sandbags to stem this flood of verbiage, we contract words and phrases as never before. We splurge on words but skimp on letters. 'B4 u r' and 'C u l8r' have lost ground to the autoprompt: but FOMO, YOLO, ROFL, NIMBY and the like are extending their empire, sometimes themselves starring in autoprompt. (I leave the unenlightened reader, if there be any, to work out the puzzles.)

Such practices are new, but not the motive behind them. People have always tended to compress what they write. Medieval European scribes used a mystifying range of contractions. As the same squiggle served several functions, readers might be left unsure of the meaning. The motive was to save not only time but the costly vellum used to write on.

Even earlier in origin is shorthand or stenography, transcription keeping pace with speech. Abbreviations will not suffice for this: it needs a separate set of signs calling for special training. Those confined to the alphabet have to summarize as well as abbreviate, like students taking notes in class (another dwindling practice given surreptitious recording on mobile phones). There is excellent precedent for such speed writing. A problematic version of Shakespeare's King Lear is ascribed, though controversially, to a transcript made during a performance.

Acronyms were rare in earlier English. We find Latin tags like AM or AD, with the occasional English parallel like BC. In these examples, the letters are pronounced separately: technically, they are initialisms rather than acronyms. 'Cabal' is sometimes derived from the initials of five councillors of King Charles II of England in the seventeenth century; but the word actually refers to the mystical Jewish Kabbalah. The nineteenth century saw a few instances like OK, for the



“Some poetic licence might be employed to allow the acronym to roll off the tongue. An element may be omitted (like Naturopathy in AYUSH), an extra vowel introduced, or the letters juggled around. As Malvolio says in Shakespeare's Twelfth Night, “to crush this a little, it would bow to me, for every one of these letters are in my name.”

facetious 'orl korrek', and 'on the Q.T.' (quiet). OK is now a word in its own right, 'okay'. The earlier twentieth century yields AWOL and 'aka' (usually in lower case). But these are jokey coinages at a colloquial level.

At what stage did acronyms become serious verbal currency? When did UNESCO, NASA, OPEC and SAARC find favour as nifty shortcuts, with enough vowels for easy utterance? Moving a step further, when did people designedly start naming their organizations with this factor in mind? When did they embark on a little harmless cheating by juggling the letters or adding extra vowels?

Today acronyms virtually constitute a reserve army of words. Just as we call our friends PK or KC, or famous people GBS or NaMo (a Hindi acronym, one of a growing list headed by Bhajpa), the Times Literary Supplement is now officially TLS, and Times Higher Education (the 'Supplement' long dropped) an awkward THE, complicating Google searches that ignore 'the' by default.

Bureaucrats love acronyms. They browbeat common people by claiming mastery over a mystical world walled in by a random cluster of letters: ICDS or KMWSA, like an unguessable password. Even items unquestionably for public use, like the new names for Calcutta streets, can be lengthy constructs where initials are the only recourse: BBD Bag or BBRBB Sarani, which is scarcely respectful to the person commemorated (three people in the case of BBD Bag).

Government reports carry a list of abbreviations. (So do scholarly tomes: 'academic bureaucracy' can have more than one meaning.) But the most ingenious instances play off an acronym against its expanded form in a kind of pun, often bilingual. Till the other day, government acronyms were really initialisms. Nobody complained that BSNL or ONGC was unpronounceable and mystifying. MGNREGA, which has brought immense benefit to the common Indian, is an opaque tongue-twister. Aadhaar cards carry the ex-

pansion 'Aam Admi ka Adhikar', but apparently as an afterthought.

We have now progressed to designer-made acronyms that serve as slogans or publicity tools. Their creators have worked out an ingenious language formula. A Hindi word, understood by most, serves as the acronym, while the expanded form spells out the meaning in English: thus AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy) or PM POSHAN (Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition). In the latter, the prime minister features in the expansion; but an extra 'PM' is prefixed for good measure, as with virtually every recent scheme of the Union government. We all know what PM means.

Some poetic licence might be employed to allow the acronym to roll off the tongue. An element may be omitted (like Naturopathy in AYUSH), an extra vowel introduced, or the letters juggled around. As Malvolio says in Shakespeare's Twelfth Night, “to crush this a little, it would bow to me, for every one of these letters are in my name.” Malvolio's tweaking of random letters brought him to grief. Today's word shrinkers know better. Government schemes sport acronyms like snappy brand labels, as though devised by professional marketing managers.

Such alphabet games afford harmless pleasure in these stressful times. Yet a nagging unease might spoil the fun. The scheme itself threatens to take on the colour of a publicity exercise: we may wonder whether its serious benefit is short-changed in consequence. To fuel our doubts, the original PM POSHAN, a child nutrition scheme, did not spend a paisa on actually dispensing food. Its successors work cosmetic changes, if that, on decades-old schemes without increasing the budget.

Shakespeare intrudes relentlessly. What is a word but air, says Falstaff in Henry IV. “Will it not live with the living? No.” He might have said the same of acronyms had he encountered them.

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 Telegraph India

Muntaha Mehraj Hafiz

As dawn breaks in Kashmir on 6 November 2022, an obituary flashes all across the social media: “Kashmir’s Reshma is no more.”

Soon people start heading towards the ancestral house of this popular transgender, originally named Abdul Rasheed, to mourn her demise, and pay condolences to the family and largely, transgender community.

“We’re devastated,” says Bablu, president of Transgender community as she rushes to prepare for the funeral of her life-long friend who after a brief ailment of six months passed away at SMHS hospital, Srinagar.

In the early hours of the hazy frigid season, a huge crowd congregated to pray the Islamic funeral prayer. Reshma’s body was finally put to rest in her inherited graveyard at Merjanpora.

At home, everyone sit together to recollect the unforgettable memories of this 58-year-old who is looked upon as an “icon” in his community. A hardworking sensational singer and a tailor by profession left with an everlasting impact on everyone who knew him as “Reshma.”

Born in 1965, Reshma lived a simple life, and valued little things that she earned by the virtue of her relentless hardwork and innovative personality. Living an invisible yet meaningful life, it was in 2018, when one of her songs went viral on internet and she became a household name.

Soon after this, her enticing personality and her singing style gave her prominence, and she started receiving invitations for wedding ceremonies, and concerts from families all across the valley.

Knowing her liabilities, she decided to take this opportunity. At this time, despite being a member of a marginalized community with fewer resources, she pledged to invest in the family of her departed sibling - a family of five, and get them married and settled before her eyes.

“She supported my family when there was no one to take care of us,” says Shahzada, Reshma’s sister-in-law. “She was a father and a mother to my children.”

Reshma’s flair for composing songs, and pidginizing lyrics in a humorous way not merely helped her grow as an artist but bestowed her with a wider acceptance amongst the society – something that she yearned for last 53 years.

Her popularity also unexpectedly deposited confidence in other members of her community, and helped them become vocal about their rights. Standing at the forefront of the fight for her community, she guided and inspired many.

“Reshma urged us to work hard and live our lives with dignity,” says Rahat, her colleague, a 40-year-old transgender. “She once told me: *Do something that keeps your name alive even after your death.*”

A struggle of years, family support and patronage from her own community helped Reshma defer the jeers aimed at her but ordeal of 4000 transgenders in a conservative and conflict-ridden Kashmir still remains unattended.

This marginalized community continues to struggle for their rights, and fight discrimination in every aspect of their life. From finding home to homelessness, traumatic childhood to depressed adulthood and gender dysphoria to death on roads, the story is manifold.

LIFE OF A TENANT

Muhammad Ramzan emerges from her bed silently, and out-of-routine looks into the mirror that’s hanging haphazardly on the wall of her single-room apartment.

This sexagenarian trans-woman lives on rent at one of the posh colonies of Srinagar. The building accommodates 25 people, among which 12 are from transgender community. “I’ve been living here for last 28 years,” says Ramzan, who migrated from Pulwama to Srinagar in 1995.

The quality of this unvarnished room that’s divided in two sections reflects the ordeals of her life – a make-shift kitchen with a row of utensils tucked in an open cupboard in one section.

And the other section is a place for sitting and sleeping. The accommodation feels cold, not like something that one would call home. Besides, there’s no television or any other means of recreation.

This is how 90 per cent of the transgenders live in Kashmir– as tenants.

“This is our life,” says Ramzan as she wears *surma* in her eyes. “We only come here to sleep.”

Her face looks tired as she didn’t sleep enough the other night. She arrived late after attending marriage ceremony of one of her clients.

In Kashmir, most of the weddings are managed by transgenders, and many of them either work as match-makers or artists who sing and dance at wedding ceremonies.

A match-maker for over 35 years now, Ramzan has presided over 300 marriages. Though intermittently, her encounter with the families has been disappointing.

“Even those families that are affluent negotiate too much, and sometimes they even don’t pay,” says Ramzan earning barely Rs 10 thousand a month. “They fail to understand that this is the only

Distorted Image of Kashmir’s 'Other Humans'

“Even my father told me, Cze chukh mye gonhan hund saza (You’re a punishment of my sins). He never beat me, but his words pierced my little heart like an arrow.”



source of livelihood we have. My room rent is Rs 3000 per month. Please tell me how much do I spend on my necessities and how much do I save?”

Earlier Ramzan had contemplated shifting to some other place after her tussles with the landlord but being the only bread-winner, she would hardly find a place that she could afford. Moreover, her difficulties escalated when she had to spend most of her savings, during the Covid-19 pandemic phase.

Back in March 2021, the union ministry of social justice and empowerment issued a pandemic advisory stating “a subsistence allowance of Rs 1500 should be disbursed to each transgender as immediate support to meet their basic requirements”.

But transgenders in Kashmir couldn’t avail the benefit as they lack basic documentation such as proof of residence, election cards and ration cards required for verification. Due to lack of awareness programmes by the concerned department, many remained uninformed of this “special scheme.”

For the community, this failure of identification process has also been one of the major hindrances in receiving remuneration of Rs1000 which they’re entitled to under pension scheme.

“After Covid-19,” continues Ramzan, “many from our community were left with no work at all. We received no financial compensation from government. It was only with the support of some NGOs that we were able to make our ends meet.”

Amid this apathy and at her ripe age, Ramzan wakes up early and wanders around in the city to find prospective clients, most of the times, by foot.

“I get tired now,” she sighs. “Sometimes I feel hungry but I don’t have energy to cook for myself so I go to sleep without taking dinner. Having my own shelter was my dream but I don’t think I can fulfil that now.”

In the same apartment, another transgender—Sahiba *aka* Arshad Sufi—calls Ramzan to inquire about a client.

“She accompanied us here in 2019 after the revocation of Article 360,” pointing to Sahiba, a trans-woman in her mid-40s says.

Sahiba was evicted of her rented place when she couldn’t pay the rent. She’s a matchmaker and a beautician too.

“My landlord abused me savagely, and called me names,” says Sahiba, with a deprived tone. “I couldn’t take it anymore, so I left. After all I am also a human being.”

After she left the place, she struggled to get a place on rent and had to sleep in a shrine for a week.

The debate on the need for government sponsored accommodation for trans-people has been on-going for the past few years now.

On 12th February, 2022, the ministry

of social justice and empowerment formulated a scheme – SMILE (support for marginalized individuals for livelihood and enterprise) which includes comprehensive rehabilitation of transgender persons including housing facility in the form of “Garima greh” that ensures clothing, recreational facilities and skill development programmes. However, no such work has been initiated in the Jammu & Kashmir.

MISUNDERSTOOD AND STIGMATIZED

One in hundred families sees the third gender an integral part and do not belittle their presence, says Shabnum, a 48-year-old transwoman residing in an old city. “Everyone else doesn’t even want to stand next to us,” she says. “We make relationships. What other job is more pious than this?”

Wearing a grey Kameez Shalwar and hand-knitted black skullcap, Shabnum with a youthful look turns unhappy. “I wanted to study,” she says, “but my father got me discharged from school when I was 10.”

Her typical feminine behaviour—wearing makeup, sitting with girls in the class and playing with them—was what got him in trouble.

Her father told her to stop behaving like a girl. “But how I could tell my father that I can’t stop behaving like something that I really am,” Shabnum says.

Transgender, in medical terminology, refers to a person with a gender identity different from the sex assigned to them at birth. Like a transgender woman who lives as a woman today, was thought to be a male when she was born and a transgender man who lives as a man today was thought to be a female when he was born.

Moreover the term “transgender” is used to encapsulate various gender identities, including gender diverse individuals who identify outside the socially-constructed gender binary of male and female.

At the age of 16, due to constant trauma from her siblings and relatives, Shabnum had to run away from her home in Baramulla. Three decades later, hardly any of her family members except her father has paid her a visit to Srinagar home.

There are instances when a tinge of gloom passes over Shabnum’s face, and it’s when she talks about her parents. “My mother was ill and nobody took care of her,” she says. “I had to return home despite knowing that nobody wants me there. I served my mother like a daughter, and she passed away in my arms.”

After her mother’s death, her relatives provoked her father to kill her as she would bring disgrace to their entire clan. “They tortured him with their words and ultimately his health deteriorated too.”

“One of my relatives even spat to my father’s face and called him a father of filth.”

In his last days, Shabnum’s father visited her for the first and the last time and asked for forgiveness.

“This is an indelible mark on my heart,” she says. “My father didn’t die a natural death. The taunts of people killed my father. And they’re the ones who call themselves ‘normal’.”

BUDDING TRAUMA

In Kashmiri society, transgenders are placed at fringes and face a lot of abuse, humiliation and discrimination, however the startling revelation is how this cycle of violence starts at home, followed by victimization at school and ultimately being ostracized by the society, says Dr. Aijaz Bund, academic and prominent LGBT activist from Kashmir.

“We see gender in binaries or dichotomies,” Dr. Bund added. “Anyone who transgresses these rigid binaries is eventually ‘othered’. Existence of such a person is considered an abomination to family honour. Also, transgender phobia is so much that families disown their own children – sometimes unknowingly due to fear of the society, which is awful.”

Amid these troubles, Sara unwittingly started to dress like a girl at the age of 8. She was taken birth as a boy to her parents.

“But I loved to powder my face, and wear Dupattas,” says Sara, a 19-year old transgender. “But my mother used to beat me with a bathroom bucket, telling me: *Cze kyah laans chuke* (Are you a eunuch)?”

Sara was clueless as why she was treated so badly by her own mother. Most of times, her mother’s unusual behaviour made her impulsive and she would start banging doors and windows.

“Even my father told me, *Cze chukh mye gonhan hund saza* (You’re a punishment of my sins),” says Sara. “He never beat me, but his words pierced my little heart like an arrow.”

Most of the times, Sara had to lull herself to sleep as she had grown fearful of her own parents. Both of them are educated and work in a reputed government organization.

At school, Sara’s misery intensified as she was harassed by her classmates for the way she talked and behaved. “When I reached my puberty, my friends frowned at me,” says Sara.

At that time, her sense of gender was still unclear to her. This psychological abuse pushed her into gender dysphoria.

Everyone was sceptical about Sara’s identity, but her anxiety wouldn’t have escalated if her parents would’ve listened, and helped her through this. “Back home,” she says, “I wanted to talk to my parents about this humiliation, but they never received my cues.”

According to psychologists, transgenders and gender-diverse persons experience significant health and well-being disparities when compared to their cis-gender peers and can be mitigated by individual-level factors such as strong family relationships.

“We shouldn’t instil shame in our children,” says Waseem Kakroo, a clinical psychologist of Srinagar. “If parents find themselves in a fix, they should find a professional to help them. It’s better to talk to people with expertise in the field instead of hiding or perpetrating violence on your child.”

Kakroo also feels contrite about the absence of awareness programmes in educational institutes and in the society at large which could help sensitize people about gender issues, and protect transgenders from this trauma.

“Gaps in sex education creates confusion, and leads to misgendering,” he says. “Due to which many transgenders live a life of uncertainty and have mental health issues such as depression, anxiety disorder and suicidal thoughts.”

At this time Sara is seeing a psychiatrist. She still feels impulsive, and has sleepless nights. The memories of her harrowing childhood are there, frozen in the corner of her mind, in the same room that she never dared to escape from.

LURED AND EXPLOITED

Farah shies away from seeing a visitor. She has been reprimanded by her Guru. She was not home since morning and returned after a daylong get-together with her friends.

“For the entire day,” says Saniya, a 34-year-old transgender – also the leader of the group, sternly like a mother, “Farah either is grooming herself or roaming unnecessarily.”

Saniya sits on the edge of her kitchen counter, staring at Farah with anger. “The conditions are worse,” she says. “We cannot trust anyone.”

In this rented space, there’re two rooms — a bathroom and a kitchen joined to a living room. Five transgender women live together in this apartment.

From a distance, not raising her eyes, Farah stands nervously to wash cups in the basin. She steals some moments to check views on her recent WhatsApp status. She has just uploaded her picture in a new look.

Farah owns makeup from top-class international brands and loves to experiment with her face. She’s not interested in match-making or singing. “I want to be a designer,” she says excitedly.

Farah dresses like a woman, and no one would take her as a Trans until she speaks. “At home I saw daylight in cracks, as I was not allowed to socialize,” says this 17-year-old trans-woman. “I told my parents that I want to live with my own community, so I came here.”

It has been three months since Farah

is here. She’s friends with her other roommates, but is terrified of Saniya.

Saniya is the elder one and knows how to guard these abandoned teenagers who come to live with her. She’s worried about the younger generation that could be vulnerable to exploitation by men and women in the society.

“Since there’s an emotional distress,” Saniya says, “we easily fall in love.”

She names few transgenders who were abused physically and emotionally, and then robbed off all the money they had earned. There’re incidents of transgenders being gang-raped by a group of six drug addicts, and the one who was raped at a wedding ceremony, and a case of a minor who was abused at the school in the preceding year, to list a few.

In India, the sentence for rape is up to ten years in prison for a cis-gender. However, in the legislation set up in 2019 by the ministry of social justice, the penalty for any sexual abuse against a transgender doesn’t exceed two years.

This bill ironically has been passed to empower and safeguard the rights of this marginalized community.

Saniya wants to raise these issues but is apprehensive about being misjudged and ignored. “Nobody comes forward to speak about these crimes,” she says. “People are reluctant. We are facing multiple levels of oppression and don’t have mainstream opportunities to report them.”

She also points out how a section of people think that transgenders, significantly transwomen, dress to get exploited. “We know our limits,” Saniya says. “It’s unfortunate how people think we dress to attract men. If a cis-gender woman grooms herself, does that mean she should be raped?”

She extensively talks about the myth in the society that being a transgender is pretence involving emotions that are deceptive. However, medical science is providing long insights about their ‘actual’ condition.

“Fundamentally,” says Dr. Hamid Zargar, a top endocrinologist of the valley, “sexual identity comes from proper development of sexual organs, and the endocrine system associated with them. However if there’re some structural or hormonal anomalies it can lead to sexual ambiguity. This is a medical condition, and person needs to be evaluated on time. Most can be helped by assigning them a proper biological sex.”

Apart from the field of endocrinology, researchers in neuro-anatomy have been exploring the science of gender identity.

Many studies have revealed that there’s a neurological difference between the brain of a cis-gender and transgender.

With reference to this, a research by Dr. Murat Altinay, MD Head of Transgender Mental Health at Center for Adult Behavioural Health, U.S.A, shows structural and functional similarities between the transgender brain and the gender it identifies with.

For example, a person who’s born with male genitals and ends up identifying as a female often actually has some of the structural characteristics of a “female” brain. Moreover, the brain activity of transpeople tends to look like that of the gender they identify with.

Other research studies, as Dr. Altinay writes, also show that brains of transgender people are somewhere in between, sharing characteristics of both male and female brains.

For now, Saniya is worried about Farah and other transgenders in her community, and believes that it’s only education that can unfetter them from the cycle of oppression, “and awareness is the first step towards acceptance”.

DEATH ON ROADS

Living a substandard life, transgenders who’ve been forsaken by their families often die on roads, and denied burial by their own families.

“Two of our elderly transwomen died on footpaths during the harsh winter season in 2018,” says Aijaz Bund.

One among them was a 90-year-old transgender who was suffering with dementia and her body was lying outside UN office in minus 2 degrees for 20 days.

In 2021, another incident raised hue and cry when a dead body of a transgender was lying on the road with stray dogs mauling over it. “The body was burnt and spoiled like roadside debris,” Dr. Bund says.

In Kashmir, each household owns a family graveyard which is a private land for burying the dead but the abandoned trans-genders are rejected by the families even after their death.

“Strict action will be taken against such families who deny cremation of their family member,” says Mohammad Shafiq Chak, Director Social Welfare Department. “We’re devising a policy to set up rehabilitation homes, and a community graveyard for transgenders in Kashmir.”

But the death isn’t an end to their troubles, says Bund as he recollects one of the family members callously telling him: *She has always humiliated us. Please don’t bring her here.*

“We need a place where we can bury them,” he says, “with dignity like other human beings.”

- Names in this story—produced as part of Laadli Media Fellowship—have been changed to protect the identity of the characters.

DC Bandipora Chairs District Road Safety Committee Meeting

Directs Concerned To Deal Strictly With The Problem Of Roadside Encroachment

BANDIPORA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmad today chaired a meeting of the District Road Safety Committee (DRSC) meeting at Mini Secretariat, here.

During the meeting, the DC took department wise review of measures taken in connection with the different achievable targets as set by DRSC in the previous meeting and sought Action Taken Reports from all concerned departments.

It was informed that signage boards, posters, hoardings, removal of black spots, construction of crash barriers have all been done across the district to ensure road safety.

The DC also enquired about measures taken to regulate traffic in Bandipora town and directed all concerned departments to regulate traffic more effectively in the town and immediate measures be taken for decongestion. He also directed authorities to remove road side encroachments and take strict action against violators.

Motor Vehicles department, Traffic authorities were also directed to enhance enforcement of Motor Vehicles Act across the district and intensify checking on main routes.

Dr. Owais also directed for conduct of Road Audit across

the district so that further remedial measures by way of structural augmentations be made for ensuring better road safety.

Barricading at identified road stretches, road safety measures including shifting of stands, introduction of e- rickshaws, establishment of Trauma Centre and awareness on traffic regulations were also discussed in detail.

Dr. Owais asked the concerned traffic police and motor vehicle Department to take stern action against the violators of the traffic laws as per relevant provisions.

He directed to take immediate action against illegally parked vehicles on the road and removal of obstructions to traffic on the road.

The DC warned of strict action against those dumping garbage and construction material on roadsides.

He directed officers to deal strictly with the problem of roadside encroachment for hassle free movement of public.

The meeting was attended by ADDC/Nodal Officer Coordination, Mohd Ashraf Hakak, CEO MC Bandipora, ARTO, DIO, Dy. SP, Dy.CEO, Executive Engineers, and representatives of Health, Beacon, Traffic police and other concerned.

Private Member's Bill On Uniform Civil Code Introduced In Rajya Sabha

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: A controversial private member's Bill that seeks to provide for a panel to prepare a Uniform Civil Code was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on Friday.

"The Uniform Civil Code in India Bill, 2020" was introduced in the Upper House amid protests from opposition parties.

BJP MP Kirodi Lal Meena moved for leave to introduce the Bill to provide for the constitution of the national inspection and investigation committee for preparation of a Uniform Civil Code and its implementation throughout India and for matters connected therewith during the private member's business.

However, opposition members from Trinamool Congress (TMC), Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK), Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), Samajwadi Party (SP), Communist Party of India (CPI), CPI (Marxist), Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), and Congress protested against the introduction of the Bill saying, if passed, it will "destroy" the social fabric and unity in diversity that is prevalent in the country.

With the Opposition members seeking withdrawal of the Bill, Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar called for

division and the motion for introduction of the Bill was passed with 63 votes in favour and 23 against it.

In the past, although the Bill was listed for introduction, it was not moved in the Upper House.

The Bill envisages a collection of laws to protect the personal rights of all citizens without considering religion.

"We have a private members' Bill that is totally unconstitutional, unethical, anti-secular. It is being introduced as a private member's Bill by an indulgent government to test the waters in a very dangerous game. This is brinkmanship," Jawhar Sircar of the Trinamool Congress said.

He further said, "There is still time to refrain from making demonstrations of a temporary majority and inflict one sided opinion on a very secular and plural India."

MDMK MP Vaiko accused the ruling dispensation of "implementing one after another agenda of the RSS and BJP" and said, "They have finished Kashmir. Now they have come to common civil code."

He said it is leading towards "disaster of the country and its disintegration and minority people are terribly hurt".

Similarly, Abdul Wahab of Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) said the Bill has been attempted to be introduced many

times in the past and "this is a sort of provocation deliberately the BJP" and asserted that the uniform civil code cannot be implemented in India.

Leader of the House, Piyush Goyal objected to the allegations of the Opposition members.

"It is a legitimate right of a member to raise an issue, which is a directive principle of the Constitution...Let this subject be debated in the House. At this stage to cast aspersion on the government, to use the names of the very members of the constituent assembly to try to criticise at the introduction stage is uncalled for," he retorted.

Manoj Kumar Jha of the RJD said when the Bill came for introduction on many occasions earlier, the BJP requested Meena not to proceed further and good sense prevailed then.

"I am witness to six such occasions. What has changed I don't know," he said, adding at a time when cities, villages and families have been "divided", if such Bill was brought it would further divide the country.

Ram Gopal Yadav of SP said the Bill was against provisions of the Constitution related to fundamental rights and it should not have been allowed to be introduced in the Upper House at all, requesting the Chairman to ask Meena to withdraw the Bill.

DC Kulgam reviews progress of works in KPDC, PMGSY & other sectors

KULGAM: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr Bilal Mohi Ud Din Bhat today chaired a meeting of officers of KPDC, PMGSY and other departments to review their functioning and implementation status of schemes.

During the meeting, the Executive Engineer KPDC informed the chair that under District Capex 134 works are completed and 93 are under progress.

The DC instructed him to ensure completion of under process works within stipulated time frame. He also instructed him to follow the curtailment schedule properly.

While reviewing PMGSY, the Executive Engineer shared that 128 schemes were completed so far and there was a

target of 66 habitations and the target was completed and all the targeted habitations were connected.

He also added that this year macadamization on 36 Kilometers was completed.

AEE JK Sports Council was instructed by the DC to complete finishing work on Indoor Stadium in Qaimoh so that it can be dedicated to youth for sports activities.

All other Executive Engineers were also instructed to mobilize men and machinery to complete work projects within timeline and without compromising the quality of work.

The meeting was attended by ACR, Executive Engineers from KPDC, R&B, PMGSY, Jal Shakti and JKPC besides CMO, EO and other officers.

SC Dismisses PIL On Religious Processions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed a PIL filed by an NGO seeking framing of guidelines to regulate religious processions, brandishing swords and firearms, and grant of permission to such events by state administration, asking why such festivals are portrayed in poor light as a reason for riots.

A bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justice P S Narasimha refused to entertain the PIL filed by NGO Citizens for Justice and Peace, of which social activist Teesta Setalvad is the Secretary, saying law and order is a state subject and, moreover, issues like laying down the SOP (standard operating procedure) for grant of permission for religious processions are "judicially manageable" in a diverse nation like India.

"Why do we always want to portray that religious festivals are the time for riots? Let us look at the good which happens in the country. See, in Maharashtra during 'Ganesh Puja', lakhs of persons gather but there are no riots," the CJ observed during the brief hearing.

Senior advocate C U Singh, appearing for the NGO, said the guidelines dealing with

permissions for procession are there but they are not implemented.

"There has to be overall guidance and no court, except the Supreme Court, is equipped to deal with the national issue," the senior lawyer said, adding, "Processions are taken out brandishing swords, firearms during religious festivals".

"In case of violation of permission, one has to invoke Article 226 (before the high court)," the bench said, adding the country is diverse and the conditions in one part are different from other parts.

It said law and order is a state subject and has to be handled by the state administrations.

"The law and order is the state subject. The issues from Kashmir to Kanyakumari are different. How can this court monitor this? These prayers are not judicially manageable. It seeks the roving writ of mandamus..." the bench said.

It said the Supreme Court cannot be dragged into every area of law and order. The counsel for the NGO then sought to withdraw the PIL which the court disallowed.

"Sorry. No withdrawal with these prayers. Dismissed," the bench said.

Pakistan appoints officer on ad hoc basis to manage the affairs of Kartarpur Corridor

Lahore: Pakistan's federal government has appointed an official on an ad hoc basis for a period of three months to handle the affairs of the landmark Kartarpur Corridor.

The 4-km long Kartarpur Corridor links Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan's Punjab province, the final resting place of Sikhism founder Guru Nanak Dev, to Dera Baba Nanak shrine in India's Punjab state.

The corridor allows Indian Sikh pilgrims to visit one of their holiest sites, situated in Pakistan, without a visa.

Evacuee Trust Property Board

(ETPB), the federal body, which looks after holy places of minorities in Pakistan, issued a notification on Wednesday of the appointment of the Project Management Unit Kartarpur Corridor Chief Executive Officer for three months.

According to the notification, ETPB Additional Secretary (Admin) Sanaullah Khan was handed the charge of the CEO Project Management Unit Kartarpur Corridor for three months 'as a stop-gap arrangement.'

"Moreover, the selection of the CEO Project Management

Unit Kartarpur Corridor has been processed so that the deputed officer may be advised to handle the affairs of the Kartarpur Corridor project carefully in coordination with all law enforcement agencies due to its strategic and international significance," it said.

Before Khan, a senior officer of ETPB, Rana Shahid was in charge of handling the affairs at the Kartarpur Corridor.

When the Kartarpur Corridor project was launched in November 2019, Brig (R) Muhammad Latif was appointed the first CEO Project

Management Unit Kartarpur Corridor (Gurdwara Darbar Sahib).

Several months ago, Latif's contract was terminated, for which the federal government offered no valid reasons.

Since then, the ETPB has been managing the affairs of the Kartarpur Corridor by appointing officers on an ad hoc basis.

The Economic Coordination Committee of the Federal Cabinet had in 2020 approved the establishment of the Project Management Unit (PMU) Kartarpur Corridor, a self-financing body for the

management and maintenance of Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur under the administrative control of ETPB.

Earlier, the ETPB was only looking after the affairs of the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib.

In November 2019, the then Prime Minister Imran Khan formally inaugurated the Kartarpur Corridor as part of the commemoration of the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak at a ceremony that paved the way for Indian Sikh pilgrims to visit one of their holiest sites, situated in Pakistan, without a visa.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Fresh Scars

the goal of achieving highest satisfaction.

"Initially," Dr. Shah continued, "the drug addicts take the substance orally but when they don't get the desired satisfaction, they inject the drugs into their veins. But after some time when the veins get blocked, they inject the drugs into their skin and because of contamination, the skin gets infected. It leads to scars and ulcers."

Dr. Shah who treated both the patients told Kashmir Observer that the duo's legs and other body parts were severely involved.

"But they weren't alone facing that torment," Dr. Shah said. "Due to substance abuse, there are thousands of drug addicts in the valley that had become victims of skin popping."

Earlier, Dr. Shah had carried out a study titled, "Prevalence and pattern of dermatological manifestations among substance users across Kashmir in north India" which revealed that "dermatological manifestations" are quite prevalent among substance users of the valley.

The study noted that Pruritus or itching was found to be the most common dermatological manifestation overall and statistically significant among heroin users.

The study included a total of 710 cases with 657 males (92.5 per cent) and 53 females (7.5 per cent). The male/female ratio was 12.4:1. The mean age of patients was 25 years.

According to the study, over 439 patients among 710 cases were infected with Pruritus, while 244 young patients were infected with oral problems—periodontal disease, thrush, stomatitis nicotinic, black hairy tongue.

The study, which Dr. Shah carried along with Dr. Shagufta Rather and Dr. Ifat Hassan (HOD Dermatology) under the guidance of Dr. Arshad Hussain, professor at IMHANS, further revealed that 213 substance-abuse patients were found to be infected with Hyperhidrosis, 203 patients had stigmata of injectable drug use (track marks and sooting tattoos), 125 had acne vulgaris. Hesitation cuts were found in 116 patients, while facial hypermelanosis with Periorbital darkening were found in 89 patients. Plus, 69 patients were infected with skin popping scars.

The study was a cross-sectional research and was carried out for a period of 18 months. The samples were taken from patients of all age groups and gender, admitted at various drug de-addiction centres (DDC) from multiple districts within Kashmir valley.

The study further noted that the recognition of such "cutaneous signs" is important in these cases for more effective diagnosis and treatment. Creating awareness regarding such

manifestations and their probable association with substance use is also imperative.

"The pattern of substance use has seen a shift toward opioid use being highly prevalent in Kashmir Valley with heroin being most commonly abused among them compared to cannabis, being the most common substance used in the past," the study noted.

The most common substance used by study cases was heroin (515) followed by cannabis (334).

It noted that the oral involvement was fairly common in heroin users where the mode of administration was smoking. "Tooth decay and periodontal disease could be seen in many of these heroin users (19 per cent)," the study says. "30.7 per cent of injectable heroin users ended up with the presence of skin popping scars."

It further observed that 18.8 per cent of injectable drug users had active skin ulcerations and skin and soft tissue infections.

Fresh Snowfall

The MeT office has said the weather will remain cloudy with intermittent light rainfall at many places of Jammu and in the plains of Kashmir.

There is a possibility of light snowfall in the plains of Kashmir during December 9-10 forenoon, whereas few areas in the higher reaches of the valley may receive moderate snowfall, it said.

The weather office has predicted slight respite in cold during the next two or three days.

Meanwhile, Mughal road, connecting twin districts of Poonch and Rajouri with Shopian, remained closed overnight while authorities on Friday also shut Srinagar-Leh highway after fresh snowfall.

A traffic department official here however said that traffic was plying on Jammu-Srinagar highway, the only surface link connecting Kashmir Valley with the outside world. "Mughal road and SSG road closed for vehicular movement due 2 fresh snowfall," the official said.

Meanwhile, authorities in Anantnag have urged people of Larnoo and tourists to refrain from venturing out in landslide and shooting stone prone areas as well as from travelling on Sinthan pass and Margan pass roads from till December 11.

"In view of predictions by the meteorological Department for widespread rains, snowfall and bad weather conditions, people of Tehsil Larnoo and tourists are advised to refrain from venturing in landslide and shooting stone prone areas," Tehsildar Larnoo said in an

advisory.

"Moreover rainfall/thunderstorm/snowfall may lead to disruption of traffic on Sinthan pass and Margan pass roads. People are advised to refrain from travelling on these two roads from (till) 11th of December 2022."

Also in compliance to the directions of SDM Kokernag, he said, SHO Larnoo and Naib Tehsildar Larnoo are directed to setup naka at Daksum and Gowran and restrict all kinds of vehicular traffic on Sinthan pass and Margan pass roads till December 11. "Moreover Assistant tourist officer Kokernag shall place 4 tourist guards at Daksum naka and Range officer Daksum shall place 4 forest guards at Gowran naka from 4pm to 9am on the days when the aforementioned roads are closed." (With agency inputs)

LG Calls For Tough

"Senior officers of Transport and Traffic departments must monitor all aspects of Road Safety on priority and there has to be effective coordination of all Departments in this endeavour," he added.

On being apprised about the installation of CCTV cameras on National Highways by the National Highway Authority of India, the LG asked the NHAI officials to carry out the task on all NHs of UT within a predefined time frame.

He also passed explicit directions to concerned officials for conducting safety audit of all major and internal roads at the earliest.

The LG also called for ensuring enforcement of safety laws and generating greater awareness among all stakeholders including drivers, transporters and youth.

"Involve School Education and Higher Education Departments for spreading the message of road safety," he added.

Divisional Commissioners were directed to take strict measures for removal of all encroachment from Roads including hoarding that creates barriers for safe driving.

The LG asked the Traffic Police to put a crackdown on over-speeding and ensure regular highway patrolling.

"Installation of road signs and speed limits boards should be given special focus," he said.

Health department was instructed to explore the possibility of developing trauma centres facilities, if required anywhere.

Directions were also passed on adopting digital and automated systems and ensuring optimal utilisation of the existing equipment and digital technology installed on Highways and roads.

The LG further called for replicating the best models in the country for developing a robust

system of Audit of accidents.

G.Prasanna Ramaswamy, Administrative Secretary, Transport Department presented the Action-taken report on the directions of the previous meeting and in-depth analysis of road safety components and proposals.

Vikramjit Singh, IGP Traffic apprised the chair of the measures adopted and checks put in place to implement all road safety measures in letter and spirit.

Discussion was also held on identification of black spots and ensuing measures and proper functioning of District Road Safety committees established in all Districts, and rationalization of the staff of Motor Vehicle Department.

J&K Polls

abrogation of provisions of Article 370. Later, the constituencies were redrawn following a delimitation exercise.

Following the delimitation, the number of assembly seats have gone up from 83 to 90, excluding the seats allocated to Pakistan controlled Kashmir.

The final electoral rolls of Jammu and Kashmir were published on November 25 with the highest-ever addition of more than 11 lakh voters, officials had said.

Taking into account the deletion of names from the electoral rolls, the net increase stood at 7,72,872 electors, they said.

The final electoral rolls have a total of 83,59,771 electors -- 42,91,687 males, 40,67,900 females and 184 third gender.

During this special summary revision period, a record 11,40,768 claims were received for inclusion of names in the electoral rolls across the Union territory.

Out of these, 11,28,672 claims were accepted and only 12,096 claims were rejected. These included 3,01,961 claims of inclusion in the age group of 18-19.

A total of 4,12,157 requests for deletion were received, out of which 3,58,222 were accepted and 53,935 were rejected.

There has been an addition of 613 new polling stations in the Union territory.

The gender ratio of the final electoral Roll has increased from 921 to 948.

Hurdles Removed

in the way of holding the elections had been removed, Chugh said, "Delimitation has taken place. The enrollment of votes has taken place. The voters' list will be given to political parties for filing their objections, according to the Election Commission (of India's) procedure."

The BJP unit has raised the demand to conduct elections, he said.

Replying to a question on the BJP's record

victory in Gujarat, Chugh said, "It is to support him to continue doing the good work for this nation to make this country a world power. Such blessings will continue in the elections in Jammu and Kashmir and for the Parliament."

The BJP leader said people would bless Modi and the margin in 2024 would be much higher than in 2019.

Minor Dies

The minor girl has been identified as Mayra Gulzar.

Block Medical Officer, Yaripora Dr Nighat Nasreen said that a medical team has been rushed to the village for collection of samples.

"Medicine is also being given to the infected children", she said.

AMU Student

filed in the concerned police station.

They appealed people to contact on the numbers 8308876880 and 8491878812 if they have any information about their son.

Meanwhile, People's Democratic Party (PDP) chief Mehbooba Mufti also tweeted, "Masroor Abbas Mir, a tenth grade student at the Aligarh Muslim University has been missing since yesterday morning. Please spread the word in helping his family trace his whereabouts."—(KNO)

SSB Announces

the Jammu and Kashmir Service Selection Board (JKSSB) Friday announced fresh dates for the Computer Based Written Test (CBT) examination for the post of SI.

"It is hereby notified for the information of all such candidates whose Computer Based Written Test (CBT) examinations for the post of Sub Inspector Home Department advertised vide Notification no. 06 of 2021 which was scheduled on 09-12-2022 and was postponed vide Notice no. JKSSB-COE0EXAM (UT)/54/2022-03 (7057013) Dated: - 08-12-2022 shall now be held on 20-12-2022," reads a notice issued by Controller of Examinations, JKSSB.

The notice further reads that the Admit cards downloaded for the examination n of 9-12-2022 by the candidates shall not be valid for examination on 20-12-2022 and the candidates need to download admit cards afresh for the CBT examination to be held on 20-12-2022. The Fresh Level 1 and Level 2 admit cards for the examination of 20-12-2022 shall remain available on JKSSB website w.e.f 13-12-2022 and 17-12-2022 respectively, it adds.

"Further the examinations scheduled from 11.12.2022 to 19.12.2022 shall be conducted as per the schedule issued already", the notice adds.

SEC For Timely Updation Of Panchayat Electoral Roll In J&K

Observer News Service

JAMMU: State Election Commissioner, KK Sharma on Friday asked the officers to undertake the exercise for updating and revising the Panchayat Electoral Roll of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in a time bound manner.

The SEC was chairing a meeting to discuss the schedule for updation/revision of Panchayat Electoral Roll in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners through virtual mode, Director RDD, Jammu/ Kashmir, Director Panchayati Raj; Secretary State Election Commission; Additional Secretary Chief Electoral Office Jammu, State Informatics Officer, NIC Jammu, AERO Migrant Jammu, Deputy District Election Officer Jammu District Informatics Officers NIC (All), District Panchayat Officer, Jammu and other Senior officers.

The meeting held a threadbare discussion with regard to the revision of schedule for updation and revision of Panchayat Electoral Roll which included availability of soft /hard copies of the last Electoral Rolls, position of updation of supplements due to updation of voter lists, printing of Electoral rolls / forms and availability of Infrastructure, Publication of draft rolls in online/ offline modes. Besides SVEEP activities to be undertaken by the Districts and



tentative schedule of revision was also discussed.

Also, the meeting discussed availability of ERO/AERO/Panchayat Level Booth Officials (PLBO) for revision of electoral roll. The new rolls will be prepared with reference to 01.01.2023 as the qualifying dates for all those who have attained the age 18 or were left out.

The meeting was informed that under the guidelines to be issued by State Election Commission the concerned Election Officer shall also refer to the names of all persons whose name figure as electors in the latest electoral rolls (of concerned Assembly Constituency). It was also given out that after due process and through proper outreach names of all those

found eligible as electors with reference to 01.01.2023 as qualifying date would be included in the Panchayat Electoral Rolls.

The SEC directed the officers to work in a coordinated manner to ensure that the revision is done in accordance with the guidelines already prescribed for the same. He said that we have to ensure that the Panchayat Electoral rolls updated with in the stipulated time in a very systematic and hassle free manner.

SEC also deliberated on the suggestions put forth by the Deputy Commissioners.

Earlier the Secretary, SEC gave a brief overview about importance of the revision of the Panchayat Electoral Rolls.

Panchayat System Cannot Replace Elected Govt: PDP

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Though the 2018 local body elections in Jammu and Kashmir were a success, the panchayat system cannot replace an elected government, the Peoples Democratic Party has said.

The former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti-led party made these remarks in its monthly newsletter 'Speak UP', amidst demands by the mainstream political parties in Jammu and Kashmir for conducting assembly polls in the union territory.

"The Supreme Court recently reserved its judgment on delimitation and GO's justification for early delimitation was that they wanted to give Kashmiris 'immediate democracy'."

"The panchayat elections were a success but a panchayat cannot replace an elected government. Democracy can never be instant or immediate because it is a process that goes beyond polling day," the party said.

The PDP as well as the National Conference had boycotted the local body polls, seeking a guarantee from the Centre over the protection of Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370 of the Constitution. However, the government revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status and divided the erstwhile state into two union territories on August 5, 2019.

Both the parties have since asserted that boycotting the

polls was a huge mistake as they ceded space to the BJP and other parties.

The newsletter claimed that since the abrogation of Article 370, the "atrocities" on Kashmiris have crossed all limits.

"Since the abrogation (of Article 370), Kashmiris have seen nothing but strife. In some ways, the constant lockdowns and never-ending communication blackouts incalculated us to the Covid lockdowns that came next."

"While people elsewhere were complaining about boredom and loneliness, Kashmiris were for the most part silent," it said.

However hard the circumstances are, Kashmiris have learnt to make do, the newsletter said.

"The dystopian nightmare of these past few years has devastated us, but it has also made us anti-fragile. Since ancient times, people have been fortifying themselves with small doses of toxins to achieve hormesis."

"It really makes you wonder if we've undergone a societal hormesis of some kind that enabled J-K to survive the worst circumstances that would have brought any other state to its knees," it said.

Although adversity in small doses can be beneficial to achieve robustness, "it doesn't change the fact that we are being poisoned, slowly and steadily, one deadly measure at a time, be it our economy, industry, press, education or our civil society", the PDP said.

DC Bandipora Reviews Minor Mineral Mining Scenario In District

Stresses For Scientific & Sustainable Extraction Of Minerals



Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmed on Friday convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the lifting and transportation of minor minerals for Government works.

The meeting discussed various issues related to lifting and transportation of minor minerals for Government projects besides the DC also reviewed minor mineral mining sce-

narios in the district.

Dr. Owais urged the officers to work in close coordination and liaison in the best interest of checking illegal mining in the district.

He stressed for scientific and sustainable extraction of minerals for developmental works without damaging the ecology of the area.

The DC urged the public not to indulge in illegal mining and warned of severe punishment as per law against violators.

Sarpanch, SHG Members Call On LG



Observer News Service

JAMMU: A delegation of Self-Help Group members from Pouni, Reasi called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at the Raj Bhawan here Friday.

The delegation led by Ms Neelam Rani, Sarpanch Kothian Reasi apprised the Lt Governor about the issue pertaining to augmentation of facilities at Dogra Haat.

The Sarpanch also projected various issues of public importance of her panchayat including strengthening of road connectivity and other developmental needs.

The Lt Governor assured the members of the delegation that all their genuine issues and demands would be taken up for examination and early redressal.

BIS, NMDC Jointly Hold One-Day National Seminar In Hyderabad



Observer News Service

HYDERABAD: One day National Seminar was organised by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), New Delhi and NMDC Limited jointly on the subject "Importance of Sieving and Sizing in Research and Industry" at NMDC Head Office in Hyderabad on Friday.

The seminar was attended by Academia, Research Institutions, Equipment Manufacturers and Industry stakeholders.

More than 100 delegates from Mining, Metallurgy, Agriculture, building materials (Civil Engineering), Cement Industry, Pharmaceutical Industry, Food and Drinks, Nano Technology, Paint and Pigment Industry Powder Metallurgy participated in the seminar from all over India.

K V Rao, Head, BIS, Hyderabad welcomed the gathering. Dr. R. P. Singhal, Chairman, CED 55, BIS introduced the seminar theme. He informed about the various Indian standards which come under CED 55.

Dilip Kumar Mohanty, Director (Production), NMDC Limited was the chief guest for the seminar.

Mohanty in his address highlighted the importance of size in various industries.

He also emphasised that the quality of future technologies like 3-D Printing, Additive Manufacturing, Image Processing, Machine Learning and Nano Technology are fully dependent on the powder size and size distribution. He also gave examples for sizes of various raw materials used in various industries.

Dr. R.P. Singhal from BIS said that the standards followed by India are on par with international standards and also informed that BIS standards can be downloaded from the website free of cost.

Technical experts from industry, Research and Equipment Manufacturing were invited to deliver the lectures on Indian standards of CED 55. Experts from BIS, NMDC, CSIR-IMMT, AIMIL, ARCI, Reddy Labs, Associate Soapstone Company and Champion Manufacturing shared their expertise with the delegates.

Dr. G V Rao DGM (MP), NMDC Limited, Technical Committee Member CED 55, BIS informed about the latest works and revision of BIS Standards of CED 55 Technical Committee.

Dr. Manoj Kumar Rajak, Member Secretary, CED 55, BIS New Delhi extended a vote of thanks.

Jammu Youth Have Talent, Potential To Represent Country: Azad

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Democratic Azad Party Chief & Former Chief Minister J&K, Ghulam Nabi Azad hailed the people of Jammu for composite culture and maintaining religious harmony & said that the credit for it goes to its educational institutions.

"The religious harmony and the composite culture in Jammu is all because the educational institutions promote it. Schools and other educational institutes accept all faiths and believe in the rich and core diversity of India," he said during an Annual Day cum Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav function of Lawrence Public School, Jammu at General Zorawar Singh Auditorium.

Azad said that across the country Jammu is emerging as an epicentre of tolerance and brotherhood and that is eventually offering it rich economic benefits.

He said its rich cultural and religious diversity has become its identity now. "If you look at the students who are performing here in an annual day function, they hail from diverse communities, cultures and religions. And this is perfectly what our country is known for," he added while pointing towards the group of students performing at an annual day function.

He said time and again, Jammu is proving its core secular values. "I have seen Jammu as one of the most secular places. That is why I love this place and want to see it one among the top cities of our country," Azad said that the educational institutions in Jammu are the main source for cultivating and honing the talent for the country. It provided many stars in sports, entertainment etc.

Besides, no one can forget the role of freedom fighters from this land. "They will continue to remain in our hearts with utmost respect and love".

On the occasion, Cricketer Abdul Samad was award 'Ghulam Nabi Azad rolling trophy' by Azad and said that Lawrence Public School is making all efforts to explore the talent of Jammu and Kashmir. He said in nation building the youth of UT must have its contribution and our institutions have a role in it. "When I was chief Minister, I made many efforts to ensure our youth get all the facilities to channelize their talent and energy. If we are in power again after elections, the youth will be my first priority,".



Heli Services To Chenab Valley Starting Next Week

Div Com Reviews Preparedness; Asks DCs To Conduct Recce Of Helipads, Notify Rates & Timing Of Sorties

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The people of Pir Panjal and Chenab region of Jammu division will soon be provided Heli services to air travel to the winter capital and back home.

In this regard, Divisional Commissioner, Ramesh Kumar today held a meeting with Deputy Commissioners of Poonch, Rajouri, Doda, Kishtwar and other concerned officers to review the preparedness for starting the services.

The meeting was attended by Additional Commissioners, Pawan Kumar Sharma; Pankaj Katoch; Joint Director Tourism, Sunaina Sharma; Director Airport Jammu; Representative of Global Vectra Helicorp Pvt. Ltd; CISF; Civil Aviation Department and other concerned officers, while Deputy Commissioners of Poonch, Rajouri, Doda and Kishtwar participated in the meeting through Video Conferencing.

The meeting was informed that to concede the long pend-

ing demand of hilly districts for resuming heli services, the UT Government has recently finalised the tenders for the same.

The Div Com directed the concerned DCs to appoint Nodal Officers and conduct joint inspection with the technical team of Global Vectra Helicorp to ensure readiness of the designated helipads in their respective districts.

The Div Com also discussed in detail the modalities for starting the services and asked the DCs to notify timing and fare schedule to all designated places. He also directed Global Vectra Helicorp to explore the provision of on-line ticket booking for the convenience of the people.

The Div Com appointed Joint Director Tourism as Nodal Officer for coordinating with Global Vectra Helicorp for hassle free services. The Joint Director Tourism was directed to establish a dedicated counter and appoint a team of officials for ticket booking at TRC Jammu.

BDOs Of Kupwara Get Executive Magistrate Powers

Observer News Service

KUPWARA: On the recommendation of District Magistrate, Kupwara, Doifode Sagar Dattatray, all BDOs in Kupwara district have been granted Executive Magistrate powers to help them resolve ROW issues and implement projects faster.

Those who shall exercise Executive Magistrate powers in their respective territorial jurisdictions include BDO Qadi-

rabad/Hyama, BDO Natnussa/Magam, BDO Machill/Kalarooose, BDO Trehgam/Kralpora, BDO Rajwar/Handwara, BDO Tarathpora, BDO Wavoor, BDO Sogam, BDO Meelyal/Reddi Chowkibal/Keran, BDO Drugmulla/Kupwara, BDO Tangdar/Teetwal, BDO Qadir abad/Langate/Mawar and BDO Headquarters.

The notification in this regard has already been issued by Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs J&K Government.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DIVISION KULGAM

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 55 FRESH OF 2022-23 Dated:08/12/2022

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Kulgam invites e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Bidders/ Firms/Companies/ of all classes registered in JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other state Government for below mentioned works at various Water Supply schemes of PHE Division Kulgam of Kashmir Province of UT of J&K, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). The bidding process shall be completed online on www.jktenders.gov.in in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2nd consisting of Financial Bid on overall percentage rate basis, in the prescribed BOQ.

Sr No	Particulars of the work Tender fee (in Rs)	Estimated cost	Earnest money Deposit	Bid Validity	Time of Completion of work (days)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Laying & fitting of delivery mains consisting of GMS Tubes ductile iron pipes of different nominal bores along with pipe fitting and control valves incl other allied works Execution of ancillary civil works like spring covers boundary walls, SRs Slow sand filtration plants, protection works etc at various water supply schemes of special PHE Jal Shakti Division Kulgam	An per Annexure-I to this bid document-	02% of the estimated cost	As per Annexure	As per ANNEXURE-I to this bid document.

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

The tender inviting authority is Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Kulgam

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

Critical Dates:

I	Publish Date	08/12/2022
II	Document Download/sale start Date	08/12/2022
III	Bid submission start date	08/12/2022
IV	Bid submission end date	19/12/2022
V	Date and time of Bid opening	20/12/2022

- Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in
- 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.
- The valid bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer PHE Division Kulgam. Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 4 & 5 of the table and shall be payable at Srinagar.
 - The cost of tender documents should be in form of DD/TR/e challan in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Division Kulgam
- The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of 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 L1 after opening of financial cover.
- The bid shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the last date of submission of bids. If any bidder withdraws his bid before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the same shall be considered to be in violation of bid security declaration and shall be dealt with accordingly and the bid shall be declared non-responsive.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website www.jktenders.gov.in.
- Queries by email if any should be made at phedivisionkulgam@gmail.com

No: PHEK/6950-63

Date: 08/12/2022

Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Kulgam

ANNEXURE-I SCHEME WISE LIST OF WORKS

S.No	Name of WSS	Description of work	PHE Kulgam	Estimated cost (in Lacs)	CDR /FDR amt (Rs lacs)	Class of Contract	Time for completion
1	H M Guri	Laying/ Fitting of pipes, Construction of 0.3 lac gallons SR, sluice chamber, chain link fencing, road restoration and allied works including installation of FHTCs for WSS H. M. GURI under JJM	Kulgam	85.46	170900	AAY	70 days
2	Badjihallan	Laying/ Fitting of pipes, Construction of 0.3 lac gallons S.R, sluice chamber, 02 no. sluice chambers, chain link fencing, Saddle/ Anchor blocks, Chowkidar Quater and Road restoration WSS Badjihallan under jjm programme including installation of FHTCs	Kulgam	111.78	223500	AAY	70 days
3	Ashthel GB	Laying and fitting of pipes, Construction of 0.1 Lac Gallons capacity RCC Service reservoir, 01 No. sluice chamber, Chain link fencing and allied works for WSS ACHTAL GB under JJM including installation of FHTC's.	Kulgam	23.16	46320	BEE/CEE	70 days
4	CS Rather	Laying/ Fitting of pipes, Construction of 0.1 lac gallons S.R, sluice chamber, Chowkidar Quater & Road restoration and allied works including installation of FHTC WSS C S RATHER under JJM	Kulgam	57.84	115600	AAY	70 days
5	Mirwani Adbal	Construction of 0.30Lac Gallons SR 02Nos Sluice Chamber Anchor Blocks and Laying/ Fitting of pipes, WSS Mirwani Addebal including installation of FHTC under JJM	Kulgam	110.33	220600	AAY	70 days
6	Nagam Salkhahan	Laying/ Fitting of pipes, Construction of 0.40 lacs and 0.2 lac gallons SRs, 4 no. sluice chambers, Collection chamber and chain link fencing and allied works including installation of FHTC WSS NAGAM SALKHANEN under JJM	Kulgam	160.30	320600	AAY	80 days

DIPK-14802-22
DT: 09-12-2022

Executive Engineer
Special PHE Division Kulgam

Srinagar Boys Dominate J&K Team For Santosh Trophy



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Football Association on Friday announced the 22-member J&K team for the upcoming 73rd Senior National Football Championship Santosh Trophy.

As many as 13 footballers from Srinagar city have made it to the final list. The championship will take place from December 23, 2022 in Kerala. With Ladakh all set to make history by playing its first senior football match against Uttarakhand.

The team was selected during a selection camp in Jammu by JKFA's selection committee.

J&K will play its first match on December 26 against Bihar. The team will face Mizoram on December 29. On Matchday 3, Jammu & Kashmir will battle Rajasthan. The team will then face off with host Kerala on January 5, 2023. In the final group stage match on January 7, J&K will take on Andhra Pradesh.

Here's the full list of selected players.

S. NO	NAME OF PLAYER	PARENTAGE	ADDRESS
1.	Furqan Ahmad Dar	Ghulam Quadir	Gangbug, bypass Srinagar
2.	Majid Ahmad	Tariq Ahmad Rather	Zonimar, Babapora Srinagar
3.	Shabir Hussain	Ghulam Hassan Ganai	Chattergam Budgam
4.	Farhan Ganai	Nazir Ahmad Ganai	Hawal Srinagar
5.	Urfan Hamid	Abdul Hamid Bhat	Baramulla
6.	Zahid Yousuf	Mohammad Yousuf Mir	Shahzadpora Budgam
7.	Faisal Thokar	Maqsood Ahmad Thokar	Solina, Srinagar
8.	Hyder Yousuf	Mohammad Yousuf	Alamgari Bazar, Srinagar
9.	Arun Nagial	Satpal Nagial	Bari Brahmana Jammu
10.	Syed Ali	Syed Muzaffar Rizwi	Lal Bazar, Srinagar
11.	Faisal Wangnoo	Mohammad Yousuf	Lal Bazar Srinagar
12.	Rishab Mehra	Manoj Kumar	Mangotrian Gali Jammu
13.	Mohammad Inam	Nisar Ahmad Wani	Rainawari Srinagar
14.	Sheikh Talib	Jan Mohammad Sheikh	Rajouri KadaL, Srinagar
15.	Shahmir Tariq	Tariq Hussain	Naseem Bagh Srinagar
16.	Dimpen Bhagat	Rattan Lal	Paharian Mohalla Jammu
17.	Mehran Hilal Dar	Hilal Ahmad Dar	Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar
18.	Furkan Nabi	Ghulam Nabi Zarger	Baramulla
19.	Nikhil Sambyal	Madan Gopal Singh	Kelli Mandi Samba
20.	Aakif Reshi	Javaid Ahmad Reshi	Anantnag
21.	Adnan Ayub	Mohammad Ayub	Hazratbal, Srinagar
22.	Ateeb Shaffi	Mohammad Shaffi Dar	Old Barjulla Srinagar
STANDBY PLAYERS			
S. NO	NAME OF PLAYER	PARENTAGE	ADDRESS
1.	Rajbeer Singh	Devinder Singh	Majalta Udampur
2.	Gagandeep Singh	Kulwant Singh	Sainik Colony Jammu
3.	Shivam Gupta	Rakesh Gupta	Krishna Nagar, Jammu
4.	Amritpal Singh	Ravinder Singh	Model Town Jammu
5.	Liyaqat		Srinagar

World Cup: Morocco vs Portugal, England vs France Today



Agencies

DOHA: These really are pinch-yourself times for Morocco: A first ever spot in the quarterfinals of a World Cup – the first to take place in the Arab world, no less – and now a meeting with Portugal and its superstar striker, Cristiano Ronaldo.

The nation is in uncharted territory after becoming only the fourth African country to reach the quarterfinals at soccer's biggest tournament, after Cameroon (1990), Senegal (2002) and Ghana (2010). None of them reached the semifinals. Morocco is also the only team from outside Europe or South America to make it to the last eight in Qatar.

Portugal doesn't appear to have such problems,

with Santos' squad depth so impressive that he could afford to leave players like Ronaldo, Joao Cancelo and Ruben Neves on the bench against Switzerland after they started every group game.

Meanwhile, France will have to be on their toes when they face England in their World Cup quarter-final clash as their opponents have players capable of hurting them on the counter-attack and at set-pieces, coach Didier Deschamps said on Friday.

The teams have not met at a major tournament since they drew in the group stage of Euro 2012 but the focus has very much been on the game between two countries that share a sporting rivalry.

The spotlight has been on how forward Kylian Mbappe, the tournament's top scorer with five goals, will fare against the England

defence, with Kyle Walker saying he would count on his experience of playing him in the past when they square up.

"I'm sure England will have prepared to face him but Kylian is in a position to make a difference," Deschamps said. "Even in his last match he wasn't at his best, not in top form but still decisive (scoring twice in a 3-1 win against Poland). We have other players that can be dangerous as well."

France won the World Cup with a stellar run in Russia four years ago but France skipper and goalkeeper Hugo Lloris said it was the England squad that has more tournament experience than the reigning champions. "If we compare both sides, there were more English players here who were at the World Cup in Russia than France players," Lloris added.

"Some of us play and train with the English players on a daily basis. If we can help our team mates with knowledge from playing with the clubs, we do," Lloris said.



BunMaska

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6 Boulevard, Srinagar