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Protests Rock Rajouri After 2 Civilians Shot Dead

Eyewitnesses Accuse Sentry Of Army Camp For Opening Fire, Army Blames 'Unidentified Terrorists'; Police Files FIR

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Two civilians were killed and another was injured in firing outside an army camp in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district on Friday, leading to massive protests and demands for a fair probe.

While the army said in a tweet that some "unidentified terrorists" had started firing at the camp, eyewitnesses claimed a sentry posted at the gate opened fire at approaching locals, resulting in the casualties.

However, a senior army officer later termed the incident "very unfortunate" and assured action against those involved in it.

"FIR has been registered with regard to the early morning incident. We assure a fair probe in a professional manner. Police were the first to reach the scene after the firing and they shifted the Inspector General (DIG) of Police Haseeb Mughal told reporters.

residents Raiouri Kamal Kumar and Surindar Kumar, both in their late 30s, were killed and Anil Kumar from Uttarakhand was injured, police said.

Following the incident, locals, carrying their bodies, blocked Jammu-Poonch national highway for nearly seven hours and demanded a probe into the matter and adequate compensation to the families of the victims.

They relented only after senior administration, army and police officials assured them of action, including registration of FIR.

The bodies were taken to the Rajouri Government Medical College for postmortem and other legal formalities, Mughal said.

Police said the firing took place around 6.15 am when a



INDEPENDENT AND IMPARTIAL **PROBE** into the killings should be initiated. Civilian killings call for outright condemnation and cannot be condoned on any ground whatsoever."

Traditional markets in old Srinagar are witnessing brisk sale of variety of dried vegetables a winter delicacy in Kashmir. KO Photo Abid Bhat

Cold, Dry Spell To Continue Till Dec 31

Srinagar: Even as Srinagar and Kupwara in north recorded coldest night of the season, the night temperature would likely plummet further across Kashmir Valley as the dry spell is likely to continue till December end. Night temperatures in Srinagar are set to touch – 5 to - 6 degrees Celsius

till the end of the ensuing month.
As per the details available,
Srinagar recorded the coldest night of the season at minus 3.6 degree Celsius. Kupwara district in north Kashmir also recorded the coldest night of the season at minus 3.6 degree Celsius.

The night temperature settled below freezing point at most stations of Kashmir amid the persistent dry spell in the Valley. The mercury settled at minus 2.5 degree Celsius at Gulmarg, a world famous ski-resort while in Kokernag, the mercury settled at minus 2.1 degree Celsius.

In Qazigund, the mercury settled at minus 3.4 degree Celsius while Pahalgam was once again the coldest place at minus 5.3 degree Celsius. More on P6

Govt Calls For More Steps To Realise Vision Of RTI Act

Observer News Service

Srinagar: J&K administration on Thursday called for more measures in realizing the vision of Right to Information (RTI) Act to "usher in accountability in governance and fuse authority with accountability at all levels."

to Information Act. 2005 is to empower citizens by way of promoting transparency and accountability in the working of the Government and eradicating corruption to make democracy work for the people in real sense," the government said in a circular.

'The objective of the Right

"An informed citizen is well equipped to keep necessary vigil on the instruments of governance and make the government more accountable towards the citizens." it said.



All government agencies come under the purview of the Act, and it contains mechanisms devised on multiple levels to ensure that the legislation is followed in letter and spirit, the government said. "Postreorganization, the Right to Information Act, 2005 was made applicable to the Union Territory of Jammu to empower the citizen as

a responsible and active

participant in the workings of the Government," it said, adding, "Although significant strides have been made by the various departments, offices and other agencies of the Government in realizing the vision of the Right to Information Act, 2005, more steps need to be taken to usher in accountability in governance and fuse authority with accountability at all levels.

The Act casts important obligations on public authorities so as to facilitate the citizens of the country to access the information held under their control, it underlined.

"It is accordingly enjoined upon all public offices to ensure strict adherence to the provisions of the Act ibid, and facilitate speedy semination of information to the information More on P6

University Campuses Network Of Ideas, Aspirations: LG

'Need To Inspire Students And Institutions To Promote Science, Technology; Innovation To Bridge Motivational Divide'

Observer News Service

Gujarat: The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Friday that the future will belong to those universities which will work with inspiration and motivation with the students from different disciplines to realize the ideas on the ground.

"I believe University campuses are truly a network of ideas and aspirations for an inclusive society. These networks of ideas are creating human capital for nation building and their potential in achieving sustainable development while providing opportunities to all is limitless", Sinha said.

He made these while addressing birth anniversary celebration of Mahamana



Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya at the Central University of Gujarat here on Friday.

The LG said that due to environmental, technical-scientific advancement and globalization, rapid changes are sweeping socio-economic landscape

"We can reshape the future by creating new More on P6

Two Sisters Held With Heroin Near LoC: Police

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Two school-going sisters were nabbed along with 890 grams of heroin near the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, police said on Friday.

The apprehension of the two girls, residents of Deri Dabsi village of Mendhar, in a joint operation by the J-K Police, BSF and Army thwarted the narcotic smuggling bid from across the border, a police official said.

Acting on a lead, a joint team of police and BSF along with the executive magistrate apprehended a girl at village Jaba and seized 400 grams of drugs from her possession, he said. More on P6

Encroachment Of State Land

Govt Constitutes Panels To Deal With Court Matters

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The government on Friday constituted a District Level Standing Committee(s) for dealing with court matters regarding encroachment of State and Departmental land in Jammu and Kashmir.

4-member Deputy comprises mittee Commissioner (concerned) as Chairperson and its members include Superintendent of Police, Representative of the concerned Department and Representative of Director Litigation.

Committee



finalize the draft objections to be submitted by the concerned Officer in Charge (OIC) Litigation within a period of 15 days within receipt of the draft objections by the concerned

Department," reads a government order, adding, "The draft objections so finalized shall be thereafter submitted to the appropriate office within a period of 15 days thereof."
The Deputy Commissioner

shall take periodic review of all pending cases, on monthly basis, preferably on second Monday to expedite the draft objections, it said.

"It is further ordered that the Deputy Commissioner shall nominate the seniormost officer of the concerned Department as Officer-In-Charge (OIC) for each case.'

Amid New Measures To Ensure Fair Selection

SSB Recruitment Process Back On Track

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Hit by scandals in the recent past, the recruitment process in Jammu and Kashmir is back on track with the Services Selection Board introducing new measures, including third-party audits and low-frequency jammers to ensure transparency and fairness.

In July, the Jammu and administra-Kashmir tion headed by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha cancelled the exams conducted for the posts of police subinspectors, junior engineers and finance account assistants (FAA), following allegations of paper leak and other malpractices.

The CBI, which is investigating the sub-inspector recruitment scam after registering a case on August 3 on a reference from the J&K administration, has already filed a charge sheet on November 12 against 24 people, including a BSF commandant, arrested for alleged involvement in the scam.

"After a hiatus of several months, we started conducting the written examination after putting in More on P6

Visa Fraud: CBI Carries Out Searches In J&K

Searches Also Conducted In New Delhi, Punjab

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The CBI on Friday searched six locations in Delhi, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir after registering an FIR against several people, including two former workers in the French Embassy here, for alleged visa fraud, officials said.

The agency has alleged that Shubham Shokeen and Aarti Mandal, both former workers at the embassy's visa department, committed the fraud in conspiracy with

others between January and May. "It was further More on P6



Instagram To Help Hacked Users Regain Account Access

hoto and video sharing platform, Instagram announced that it will now help users to regain access to their hacked accounts. The platform said in a blogpost on Thursday that it has created Instagram.com/hacked, a new destination for users where they can report and resolve account access issues.

Users will need to visit Instagram.com/hacked on their mobile phone or desktop browser, if they are unable to log in to their account.

They will be able to select if they think they have been hacked, forgotten their password, lost access to two-factor authentication or if their account has

Then the platform will guide them through a series of steps to help them regain access to their

If someone has multiple accounts associated with their information, they will be able to choose which account needs support.

"We know losing access to your Instagram account can be stressful, so we want to ensure people



have multiple options to get their accounts back if they lose access," Instagram said.

The company also provides the option to choose two of your Instagram friends to verify your identity and get back into your account.

Additionally, Instagram is testing new ways to prevent hacking on the platform.

t will remove accounts that its automated systems find to be malicious, including ones that impersonate others and which go against its community guidelines.

Moreover, the blue verified badge for verified accounts will now appear in more places across the platform including Stories and DMs.

How The James Webb Space Telescope Has Revealed A Surprisingly Bright, Complex And Element-Filled Early Universe

The Conversation

f you want to know what happened in the earliest years of the universe, you are going to need a very big, very specialized telescope. Much to the joy of astronomers and space fans everywhere, the world has one the James Webb Space Telescope.

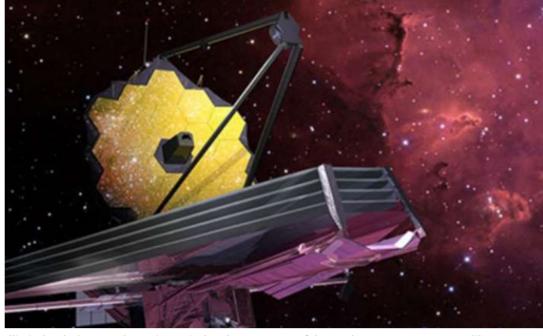
We talked to three experts about what astronomers have learned about the first galaxies in the universe and how just six months of data from James Webb is already changing astronomy.

The James Webb Space Telescope was successfully launched into space on December 25, 2021. After about six months of travel, setup and calibration, the telescope began collecting data and NASA published the first stunning images.

One of Webb's nicknames is the first light telescope. This is because Webb was specifically designed to be able to see as far back as possible into the earliest days of the universe and detect some of the first visible light.

You can see these galaxies in the images NASA has released.

Jonathan Trump, an astronomer at the University of Connecticut, is on one of the teams working on some of the early James Webb data. He was watching the release of the first images live and noticed some things many nonastronomers might have missed. In the background, behind these beautiful arcs and spirals and massive



elliptical galaxies are these tiny, itty-bitty red smudges. That's what I was most interested in because those are some of the first galaxies in the universe.

To see any of these galaxies from the earliest days of the universe would be exciting, but right off the bat, Jeyhan Kartaltepe, an astronomer at the Rochester Institute of Technology, found something exciting when she started digging into the data.

One of the things we've learned

is that there are more of these galaxies than we expected to see. In addition to working on identifying these early galaxies, Kartaltepe has been using Webb's incredible resolution to study their structure and shape. We expect there to be discs because discs form pretty naturally in the universe whenever you have something that's rotating. But we've been seeing a lot of them, which has been a bit of a surprise.

In addition to noting the shape of the galaxies in the early universe, astronomers like Trump are starting to be able to assess the chemical composition of these galaxies. He does this by looking at the spectrum of light James Webb is collecting. We look at these distant galaxies and we look for particular patterns of emission lines. We often call them a chemical fingerprint because it really is like a particular fingerprint of particular

elements in the gas in a galaxy. The universe started with just hvdrogen and helium, but as stars formed and fused elements together, bigger, heavier elements started to emerge and fill in the periodic table as it is today. And just like Kartaltepe, Trump is finding evidence that things were happening faster in the early universe than astronomers expected.

I would've guessed that the universe would have struggled to make the periodic table and build up things. But that's not what we found. Instead, the universe seems to have proceeded pretty rapidly.

The discoveries coming out of James Webb are already changing how astronomers think of the early universe and challenging much of the existing theory. But the truly exciting part is that we are just beginning to see what this telescope is capable of, as Michael Brown, an astronomer at Monash University, explains.

I've been on science papers that have used literally just a couple of minutes of data, Brown says. The image quality is just so good that a couple of minutes can do amazing things.

But soon Webb will begin to do follow-up surveys, take deep-field images and stare at parts of the sky for days and even weeks. Over the coming months, years and decades, Webb is going to keep giv-ing astronomers plenty to work on, and astronomers like Brown are excited.

There is just all this complexity there, and we are barely scratching the surface. This will be the stuff that people who are students now are going to devote their careers to. And it's going to be marvelous.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my Discharge Certificate of class 9th issued by Govt High School Aripanthan Bearing Admission No: 457. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the above mentioned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be enter-

Abdul Hameed Palla S/O Abdul Rasheed Palla R/O Pallapora

BMG

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

R&B ELECTRIC DIVISION SGR

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No: 157/e-tendering of 2022-23/R&B DATED: - 13.12.2022 For and on behalf of the LT Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Electrical Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following

S.No.	Name of Work			Cost of T/Doc.(In Rupees)		Time & Date of Opening of Bid		M.H. of account
1	Internal Electrification of Administrative infrastructure	01.42lacs	2840.00		10 days	21.12.2022	"A" class Electrical	NFB

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	14-12-2022
2.	Period of downloading of bidding Documents	14/12/2022 04:00 P.M
3.	Bid submission Start Date	14/12/2022 from 06.00 P.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	21/12/2022 up to 4.00 P.M
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	21/12/2022 at 6.00 P.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer (R&B)

01. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division, Srinagar (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division, Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

02. The bids must be accompanied with Earnest Money @ 2% of advertised cost in shape of CDR/FDR and the EMD of 2% of successful bidder shall be released after receipt of 3% Performance security $03. \ \ \, \text{The successful /IST Lowest bidder has to submit Performance security @ 3\% of all otted cost.}$

03. Bidder must read term/condition in tender document carefully.

AAA/TS = Accorded Position of Funds = committed

No. 157/e-tendering/ERB/4151-58 DIPK-15208/22 **DATED: 16-12-2022**

Executive Engineer, (R&B) **Electric Division Srinaga**ı

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ANANTNAG PWD(R&B) DIVISION KHANABAL

NIT NO 190 OF R&B/Khanabal/2022-23 /E-TENDERING/20559-68 DATED 15-12-2022

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&Ke-tenders are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-Estimated Cost of Earnest Time of Major Head Position Of AA

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			Cost	T/Doc.	Money (In	Completion	of Account		Contractor
L			(Rs in Lacs)	(in Rs)	Rs)				
þ	1.	Development of parking space at	20.00	800	40000	30 Days	FC Grants	Accorded Vide Order No. MC/	BEE, CEE Class
		Mehandi Kadal Ashajipora Bypass						ANG/298 of 2022, Dated	& MSME's Only
		road.						13. 12.2022.	,
	2.	Construction of children park by	11.25	600	22500	30 Days	FC Grants	Accorded Vide Order No. MC/	BEE, CEE,
		way of open-air gym at W. No. 10 MC						ANG/171 of 2021, Dated	DEE Class &
l		Anantnag						15. 09.2021.	MSME's Only
		•							

Project Authority: Municipal Council Anantnag.

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

S. No.	Particulars			Dated	
	Date of Issue of Tender Notice		15-12-2022		
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From		(09:00AM)	
		10	22-12-2022	(04:30PM)	
3	Bid submission Start Date	From	16-12-2022	(09:00AM)	
4	Bid Submission End Date	To	22-12-2022	(04:30PM)	
5	Date and time of opening of bid (online)		23-12-2022	(10:00AM)	
		In the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Khanabal			

Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt (Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Khanabal [Tender Inviting Authority] (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Khanabal (Tender receiving Authority).

All the Ridders have to submit Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) and Bid S (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BGpledged

All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG. Non submission of Earnest Money/

Bid Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive.

The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) B The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favourof Executive Engineer R&B Division Khanabal (Tender receiving authority) within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor be forwarded. to Higher Authorities for a period of 01 Year.

The Earnest Money Denosit (F

The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance and the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance and the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance and the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance and the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance and the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance and the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance and the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance and the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shape of CDR/FDR/BG of CDR/security @3% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work.

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail me sage on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Khanabal The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bid

8: Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.ir to acquaint bid submission process.

To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital

The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

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

Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents including tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid.

Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

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

Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. Price escalation and taxes: The %age quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees, shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto complework. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.

DIPK-15187/22 Dated: 16-12-2022

(ErQaziJaveed Amin) **Executive Engineer** R&B Division Khanabal

INDIRA GANDHI GOVT. DENTAL COLLEGE, JAMMU

Ph. 0191-2565630, 2564962, 2565588 (Fax) E-mail: iggdcjprincipal@yahoo.com

Sub: Selection for the post of Jr.Dental Hyginiest on Academic Arrangement basis Advertisement vide No. IGGDCJ/Estt/NG/121-30 dated 28/11/2019.

NOTICE

Whereunder vide this office Advertisement No.IGGDCJ/Estt/NG/121-30 dated 28/11/2019, Twenty One (21) candidates have applied for the post of Jr. Dental Hygienist on Academic Arrangement basis.

Whereunder the merit calculation committee after scrutinizing the application forms found that most of the application forms were deficit of documents. In this context this office issued another notice vide No. IGGDCJ/Estt/5103-05 dated 5/7/2021 for information of all the aspirant to submit the deficit documents by or before 11-7-2021 on online mode but none of the candidate have submitted the requisite documents

Whereunder the merit calculation committee has submitted the merit list as per academic merit of the candidates for matriculation and 10+2 with weightage of 30% each and diploma with weightage of 40%. Only Two (2) candidates have complete documents as per notification and the remaining 19 candidates have not found eligible due to deficit documents. The merit list is as under:-

S.No	Name and Parentage	Merit
1	Sandeep Sharma S/O Sh. Rajinder Kumar R/O Janipur Colony Jammu P.O Old Janipur Tehsil Jammu North Distt Jammu	52.3
2	Pankaj Anand S/O Sh.Rajinder Kumar R/O H.No:514 ward No.37 Lane No.2 near Govt High School Janipur Colony, Janipur Jammu.	49.4

The candidates failing at serial No 1 and 2 are hereby directed to appear personally for verification of documents in the office of the undersigned within 10 days from the date of issuance of this notice.

(Dr. Rakesh K. Gupta) Principal. Indira Gandhi Govt. Dental College, lammu.

No:-IGGDCJ/Estt/NG/7127-33 DIPK-15210/22 Dated:-16.12.2022



SKUAST-K Conducts 64th Research Council Meeting

Observer News Service

Srinagar: SKUAST-Kashmir conducted its 64th Research Council Meeting on Friday. The meeting is held twice a year to discuss and deliberate upon the Research programmes of the University. The 64th Research Council Meeting assumes importance in light of the comprehensive Policy for Holistic Development of Agriculture in the UT of J&K being developed by Agricultural Production Department.

The Meeting was chaired by Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice-Chancellor SKUAST-K and attended by Sh. Atal Dulloo Financial Commissioner/Additional Chief Secretary Agriculture Production Department, Dr. N.S. Rathore former Vice-Chancellor MPUAT. Udaipur Rajasthan as expert member, Directors and Deans of University, Heads of Development Departments of Agriculture and allied fields, HODs of subject Matter Divisions of SKUAST, Scientists and the representatives of farmers and agro-industries.

Prof. Sarfaraz Wani, Director Research presented on overview of Research activities during 2022 and the R&D issues identified and the strategies proposed to address the issues. Overview of 29 projects approved by UT level Apex committee was also presented.

Dr. N.S. Rathore, Former Vice-Chancellor MPUAT and DDG Education ICAR highlighted the need for research in frontier areas, good agricultural practices, innovations and digital technology with a human touch. He expressed concern about depletion of soil, natural resources and bio-diversity.

Atal Dulloo in his remarks appreciated the role of farm Universities in development of DPRs for holistic development of agriculture. He highlighted certain projects that are central to development of agriculture and allied structure that includes strengthening the seed multiplication chain, promotion of niche crops, farm mechanisation, marketing strategies, processing and value addition and innovative extension approach.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Nazir A. Ganai SKUAST-K in his remarks highlighted the paradigm shift in approach towards organizing Agricultural Research wherein Farm Universities and Development departments together will plan and execute the Research and Development Programmes. He stressed upon reducing the production cost through better resource and water use efficiency, mechanisation automation and deployment of other smart solutions.

He also highlighted the need of processing and value addition to increase the returns from Agriculture and allied activities.

Later during the day various projects approved by APEX Committee were discussed and deliberated upon and strategies for effective implementation and monitoring of projects were proposed.

DC Reviews Progress Of Works Under District Capex Plan 2022-23

Observer News Service

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

At the outset, the DC took a detailed review of funds released and expenditure incurred under R&B, PHE, Education, Health, RDD, NRLM, ICDS and other sectors, besides progress of works taken up under DDC, BDC and PRI grants were also discussed in threadbare.

The DC after taking sector wise review of all works directed the officers to ensure 100 percent expenditure in the set time line by accelerating the pace of the works scheduled for completion during the current year.

The DC stressed on achieving 70 percent physical/ financial target of total allocated funds/ works taken up for current fiscal by December 31.

He directed the officers to work in coordinated manner with line Departments to achieve development goals well in time keeping in view the limited working season.

The DC asked all the line departments to ensure timely submission of works bills to concerned Treasuries.

On the occasion, the DC was apprised that under District Capex, total 682 works were taken up out of which nearly 400 works have been completed while rest of works are going on.

It was informed that against the approved budget an expenditure of 48% percent has been made for year 2022-23.

The meeting was further informed that under NRLM, 100 percent, ICDS/Mid-day meals over 98% and JJM, 95%, target has been achieved in the District so far.

While reviewing the Health sector, the DC asked the CMO Srinagar to expedite the process of face lifting and infrastructure upgradation of Health Centres in Srinagar including PHC, Zeewan, PHC Mujgund. He also asked him to take up works for making the ground floor of the new building of PHC S R Gunj operational so that the present makeshift health centre is shifted to that new building.

The DC also asked the PWD Engineers to evolve a mechanism to avoid resurfacing of roads during macadamization.

The meeting also reviewed the progress of works achieved under the Area Development Plan.

Besides, Chief Planning Officer, Mohammad Yaseen Lone, the meeting was attended by all District/Sectoral Officers, Engineers and other concerned.

NIT Gets 'Engineering Educational Excellence Award' From IEI

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar has received a Certificate of Appreciation under the Engineering Educational Excellence Award category from 'The Institute of Engineers India among all Engineering Institutions including NITs and IITs in India.

The award was given during the 37th Indian Engineering Congress hosted by The Institute of Engineers Tamil Nadu State Centre in Chennai. NIT Srinagar got a "Certificate of Appreciation" under the Engineering Educational Excellence Award category by The Institute of Engineers India.

The certificate was awarded by Dr. K Ponmudy, Honourable Minister of Higher Education, and Padmabhusan Dr. A S Pillai,

Founder CEO & MD of Brahmos Aerospace to Dr. Harveer Singh Pali, Nodal Officer Institute Rankings NIT Srinagar at Chennai on 16th December 2022.

Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Sehgal congratulated the faculty, research scholars, and staff. "NIT Srinagar has done well in the Engineering Educational Excellence Award and it was a joint effort and all have performed well," he said.

Prof. Sehgal also commended the work put in by Dr. Harveer Singh Pali, who was the Nodal Officer for Institute rankings. He said there is a lot more to do and such results are encouraging.

Institute's Registrar, Prof. Syed Kaiser Bukhari extended his greetings to all faculty colleagues and stated that NIT Srinagar has performed well in all parameters.



Six Houses Damaged In Habba Kadal Blaze

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: At least six residential houses were partially damaged in a fire incident at Gudood Bagh locality of Habbakadal Srinagar.

Sources said that a fire broke out from a residential house Friday evening and soon after spread to several other houses in the vicinity.

Amid chaos, the Fire and Emergency Department called in more men and machinery to contain the spread of fire at the site.

Joint Director F&ES De-

partment Bashir Ahmed Shah said that six residential houses were partially damaged in a fire incident in Gadood Bagh and the timely action of their men prevented the fire from spreading to the neighboring structures.

'Crowds of people visiting the site hindered our work to douse the flames. We had called fire fighting tenders from other stations as well which helped in restricting it" Bashir said.

Meanwhile, concerned over the steep spike in fire-related incidents, Srinagar police on Friday urged citizens to keep basic fire safety equipment handy and also advised them to only use authentic heating appliances.

"There are many incidents of fire being reported in Srinagar district daily. Citizens are advised to keep basic fire safety equipment handy & also to only use authentic heating appliances", Srinagar Police tweeted.

"Legal action will be taken as per law against shopkeepers selling fake & duplicate equipment", the tweet reads further.

"No Ban On Photography" Clarifies Anjuman Augaf Jamia Masjid

Permission needed for clicking pictures for professional purposes

Agencies

Srinagar: Anjuman Augaf Jama Masjid Srinagar said that there was no ban on the photography inside the masjid but permission is needed for clicking pictures for professional purposes.

Anjuman Auqaf also in the statement issued clarified being a place of worship visitors are requested to respect its sanctity as a mosque and observe decorum while visiting the mosque.

"It is not a public park or a recreational facility. So while clicking photographs visitors both local and outsiders should keep this in mind. For professional purposes permission needs to be

sought from Anjuman Augaf before taking any pictures or video of Jama Masjid."

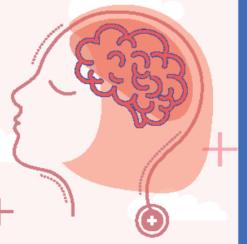
People should refrain from carrying food items to the mosque, and worshippers both men and women, should use their specific spaces while praying in the mosque, designated for both the genders, the statement added.(KNO)

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HIGHWAY STATUS



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



PRAYERS FAJR 5:58

ZUHR 12:25 **ASR** 3:46 5:27 Magrib ISHA 6:52

This Day In History

- 1638 French and Swedish troops occupy Breisach on the Rhine
- 1788 Russian army of Grigory Potemkin occupies Ocharov
- 1790 Aztec calendar stone discovered in Mexico City
- 1885 France declares Madagascar a protectorate
- 1893 Russia ratifies Double Alliance with France 1908 - In Turkey the new parliament convenes with
- reformist Young Turks as the majority 1912 - Albania's de facto independence from the Ottoman Empire is recognized at the London Conference of
- 1918 A conference of workers' and soldiers' councils take control of German government in Berlin, until elections in
- January selects new national assembly 1920 - Japan receives League of Nations mandate over
- Pacific islands 1920 - South Africa receives League of Nations mandate
- over SW Africa 1922 - Last British troops leave Irish Free State
- 1925 Soviet Union & Turkey sign non-aggresion pact
- 1925 Sultan Abdulaziz Ibn Saud conquers Jeddah, the last major stand of the Hashemites against the Saudis 1927 - US submarine S-4 sinks after collision killing all 34
- aboard 1938 - Discovery of nuclear fission using uranium by Otto
- Hahn and his assistant Fritz Strassmann 1939 - German pocket battleship Graf Spee scuttled by its
 - crew off Uruguay 1940 - British troops occupy Sollum, Egypt
- 1941 Dutch & Australian troops land on Portuguese Timor 1941 - German submarine U-31 sunk
- 1941 World War II: Beginning of the Siege of Sebastopol. 1944 - US Army announces end of excluding Japanese-
- Americans from West Coast, detainees released 1944 - US destroyers sink in storm off Philippines, 790 killed 1947 - British industrial company BTH receives a patent for
- holography, invented by Dennis Gabor in their development lab 1954 - 1st fully automated railroad freight yard (Gary, 1957 - US successfully test-fires Atlas intercontinental

From KO Archives

Gul Shah Up In Arms Against Faroog

Observer News Service

rinagar-Ghulam. Mohammad Shah, the former chief minister of the state today urged the leading militant groups in the state to help him in ousting the state's present chief minister, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, who is also his brother-in-law.

In an across the board appeal, Shah urged militant groups, Hurriet Conference and mainstream opposition parties to join him in ousting the present govt which he called inefficient and ineffective.

Shah who heads Awami National Conference was addressing an impressive gathering of over one thousand workers at a party meet in Srinagar today. The groups and parties from which ANC head sought help include Harkatul Ansar Hizbul Mujahedin, JKLF Hurriet Conference, Congress, BJP and

The former chief minister, thanked militants for raising the "dead Kashmir issue through their sacrifices." He said the time has come to start a political battle against the corrupt rule of Farooq Abdullah. Praising the role of militants, Shah said, "I salute all of them. It is they who have highlighted and revived the issue at local, national and international level." He said Kashmir is now a serious debate. He, however, said the gun was not the ultimate solution. "Issues are finally settled and resolved through vote and across the table," he said.

He said fighting elections is a part of political battle. "We can raise the Kashmir issue in our elected assembly and decide our future ourselves'. "If that fails, "Shah said, "We will choose

some other course."
Shah said Kashmir is a dispute and "both India and Pakistan should recognise that it is the people of the state of J&K who are the principal party to the problem." "The legitimate and true representatives of the state of Jammu and Kashmir will, therefore, have to be consulted for a just, equitable, honourable and a practicable solution to the problem," he said.

while his workers applauded. He further said, "Election is not an alternative to plebiscite till the Kashmir is resolved according the wishes and aspirations of the people of the State, participation in elections is necessary to relieve the people of the untold miseries and difficulties being faced by them.

(Kashmir Observer, 17 December, 1998)

The Rise of Superbugs

The World Health Organization says antimicrobial resistance is one of the top 10 global public health threats facing humanity today and calls superbugs a global health threat requiring urgent action

Javaid Igbal

According to an ICMR study, many patients in India may no longer benefit from carbapenem, a powerful antibiotic administered mainly in ICU settings to treat pneumonia and septicemia, as they have developed antimicrobial resistance. Resistance to Imipenem used to treat infections caused by the bacteria E Coli, has increased from 14% in 2016 to 36% in 2021. Things are so worrying that only 43% of the pneumonia infections caused by one pathogen in India could be treated with the first line of antibiotics in 2021, down from 65% in 2016 he average life expectancy in the early 20th century was 47 years in the industrialized world. There was no treatment for smallpox, cholera, diphtheria, and pneumonia. Something as simple as a scratch could get infected and lead to death.

Out of the 10 million soldiers killed in World War I, about half died not from bombs or shrapnel but rather from untreatable infectionsfrom often relatively minor wounds and injuries. During World War 2, penicillin production became the War Department's No. 2 priority after the Manhattan Project's drive to build a nuclear bomb. Antibiotics changed the course of human history, and they were rightly called miracle drugs for their ability to cure people.

But now, these miracle drugs are giving rise to superbugs. Antimicrobial resistance or drug resistance happens when organisms such as bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites change in ways that cause the medicines used to cure the infections they cause to be ineffective. When the microorganisms become resistant to most antimicrobials, they are often called "superbugs." These superbugs are a significant concern because a resistant infection may kill, spread to others, and impose huge costs on individuals and society. Each time we use antibiotics, we allow the few superbug bacteria that can survive the antibiotic to thrive. Over time, the entire population of bacteria is made up only of these superbugs, and our antibiotics no longer work. Every time an antibiotic is used, it contributes to developing resistance and diminishes that drug's effectiveness

Globally, drug-resistant infections caused due to antimicrobial resistance contribute to about 700 000 deaths annually and, without effective intervention, are projected to cause 10 million deaths and a global economic loss of US\$100 trillion by 2050. By 2030, antimicrobial resistance could see up to 24 million people in extreme poverty. In the United States alone, antibiotic-resistant microbes cause more than 2.8 million infections and over 35,000 deaths annually. But recent research from Pew and the CDC shows that nearly 1 in 3 antibiotics prescribed at doctor's offices and other outpatient settings is unnecessary. That's some 47 million unnecessary prescriptions a year, all contributing to antibiotic resistance.

Researchers feel that with the increasing number of drug-resistant bacteria, they will be forced to stop organ transplantation, chemotherapy, or even the most minor surgeries. They don't expect this to happen in a decade but within a few years. For example, bacteria causing Typhoid fever are becoming increasingly resistant to some of the most important antibiotics for human health, according to a study published in The Lancet Microbe journal.

The World Health Organization says antimicrobial resistance is one of the top 10 global public health threats facing humanity today and calls superbugs a global health threat requiring urgent action.

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in India may no longer benefit from carbapenem, a powerful antibiotic administered mainly in ICU settings to treat pneumonia and septicemia, as they have developed antimicrobial resistance. Resistance to Imipenem used to treat infections caused by the bacteria E Coli, has increased from 14% in 2016 to 36% in 2021. Things are so worrying that only 43% of the pneumonia infections caused by one pathogen in India could be treated with the first line of antibiotics in 2021, down from 65% in 2016. During the chaotic treatment of Covid-19, patients were treated with antibiotics, resulting in more adverse effects. Last year, an ICMR study of 17,534 Covid-19 patients in Indian hospitals found that more than half who acquired drug-resistant infections died.

The US Center for Disease Dynamics, Economics, and Policy have developed the Drug Resistance Index (DRI) tool, which maps out the efficacy of antibiotics for particular pathogens in a specific location. In a 2019 study, India was found to have the lowest DRI among 41 countries, indicating that the country has high levels of resistance to the most commonly consumedantibiotics. Other countries with extremely low DRI scores include Ecuador, Thailand, and Venezuela. Conversely, wealthy countries such as Sweden, Canada, and Denmark were the best stewards of antibiotics.

The researchers determined that a total of 16.29 billion doses of antibiotics were sold in India in 2020, slightly less than the amounts sold in 2018 and 2019. However, when researchers focused on adult doses, usage increased from 72.6% in 2018 and 72.5% in 2019 to 76.8% in 2020. Yet another factor is that many drugs are expensive, especially the higher class of antibiotics. For example, if amoxicillin, a type of penicillin, costs about 100 for a strip of 10,

meropenem can cost 2,500-3,000. The high costs often prompt patients to discontinue their medicines midway through a course when the symptoms of the disease have disappeared. But the bacteria remain in the body and are not killed when the same antibiotic is administered later.

Due to the rise in multi-drug-resistant infections. By 2032, it is predicted that it will not be possible to treat 85 percent of TB cases in India with common drugs. According to government statistics, resistant infections already claim the lives of 700,000 Indians annually – and some experts say this is an underestimate due to poor healthcare surveillance across the country.

There are also quality concerns over many of the antibiotics used. In 2019, more than 47 percent of antibiotics consumed had not been approved by the country's official pharmaceutical regulatory body. Doctors also routinely prescribe antibiotics for patients without ascertaining whether they are genuinely warranted, partly because medical diagnostic services such as blood tests are expensive, and the infrastructure is scarce outside big cities. For instance, antibiotics do not cure viral infections, but the drugs are often prescribed anyway.

Antibiotic resistance leads to longer hospital stays, higher medical costs and increased mortality. Without urgent action, we are heading for a post-antibiotic era, in which common infections and minor injuries can once again kill.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer The author Javaid Iqbal is a Health Economist

ading through the 18,000-word transcript of an hours-long meeting that President Vladimir Putin took with the "soldiers' mothers" last Friday in Moscow, one gets the impression that the fighting in Ukraine may continue well into 2023 — and even beyond.

In a most revealing remark, Putin acknowledged that Moscow blundered in 2014 by leaving Donbass an unfinished business — unlike Crimea — by allowing itself to be lured into the ceasefire brokered by Germany and France and the Minsk agreements.

Moscow took some time to realise that Germany and France connived with then leadership in Kiev to scuttle the implementation of Minsk accord. Then Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko admitted in a series of interviews with western news outlets in recent months, including on Germany's Deutsche Welle television and Radio Free Europe's Ukrainian unit, that the 2015 ceasefire was a distraction intended to buy time for Kiev to rebuild its military.

In his words, "We had achieved everything we wanted, our goal was to, first, stop the [Russian] threat, or at least to delay the war — to secure eight years to restore economic growth and create powerful armed forces."

The so-called Steinmeier Formula (proposed by German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier back in 2016 when he was foreign minister) on the sequencing of the Minsk agreement, had called for elections to be held in the separatist-held Donbass territories under Ukrainian legislation and the supervision of the OSCE; and, if the OSCE judged the balloting to be free and fair, then a special self-governing status for the Donbass territories would be initiated and Ukraine's control of its easternmost border with Russia restored.

Putin admitted that Russia accepted the Minsk agreements ignoring the wishes of the Russian population in Donbass. To quote him, "We sincerely went to this. But we didn't fully feel the mood of the people, it was impossible to fully understand what was going on there. But now it has probably become obvious that this reunion [of Donbass] should have happened earlier. Maybe there wouldn't have been so many losses among civilians, there wouldn't have been so many dead children under shelling..."

For the first time, perhaps, an incumbent Kremlin leader admitted making mistakes. The above poignant passage, therefore, becomes a touchstone for Putin's future decisions, as the Russian mobilisation approaches the final stage and by end-December, an estimated 4 lakh additional Russian troops will have been deployed in forward positions.

The bottom line is that Putin slammed the door shut on another Minsk-like hodgepodge of modern

What To Expect In Russia's Winter Offensive In Ukraine

M. K. BHADRAKUMAR

furniture and antiques. How does this translate as political reality?

First and foremost, much as Moscow is open for dialogue without preconditions, Russian negotiators will be bound by the recent amendments to the country's Constitution, which incorporated Donetsk, Lugansk, Kherson, and Zaporozhye regions as part of the Russian Federation.

Second, Friday's meeting has been, by any reckoning, an audacious initiative by Putin — risky, politically speaking. His interlocutors included mothers drawn from far-flung regions, whose sons are either actively fighting on the war-front, or have experienced the tragedy of sons hav-

our people can't provide our soldiers with hot meals, I, as a master of sports and a shooting CMC, would love to go there, to the front line to cook."

Putin replied gently, "It would seem that the issues have already been mostly resolved... it means that not everything is normal..."

What stands out in such frank exchanges is Putin's massive political capital, derived out of the great consolidation he has mustered in getting the nation to rally behind him. The overall mood at the meeting was one of commitment to Russia's cause and the confidence in ultimate victory. Of course, this strengthens Putin's hands.

This is where the analogy of the 1962 Cuban

For the first time, perhaps, an incumbent Kremlin leader admitted making mistakes. The above poignant passage, therefore, becomes a touchstone for Putin's future decisions, as the Russian mobilisation approaches the final stage and by end-December, an estimated 4 lakh additional Russian troops will have been deployed in forward positions

ing been killed in the fighting, or seriously wounded and need prolonged rehabilitation.

They were strong-willed women, for sure, and yet, as one of them from the small town of Kirovsk in Luhansk told Putin while recalling the death of her son Konstantin Pshenichkin on the frontline, "My heart bleeds, my soul freezes, gloomy memories cloud my mind, tears, tears, and suddenly my son asks me: "Mom, don't be sad, I'll see you – you just have to wait. You will go through this life for me, and in that life, we will be together again."

Putin claimed openly — highly unusual for a Kremlin leader — that he went prepared for the meeting. But he still had surprises in store. Such meetings are impossible to be choreographed as pent-up emotions are in play in front of TV cameras.

Thus, Marina Bakhilina from Sakha Republic, mother of three sons (one of whom is a highly decorated soldier from the elite Airborne Forces, 83rd Brigade and recipient of the Order of Courage) complained that there's no hot food on the frontline. She told Putin: "Do you understand what's going on? If

Missile Crisis comes unstuck. Public opinion wasn't a key factor 60 years ago. In a nutshell, common sense prevailed in 1962 as realisation dawned that any failure to take into account the rival power's security interests could have an apocalyptic outcome.

The difference today is that while President Joe Biden has insulated himself and is not accountable for his dogged pursuit of a Russian defeat on the battlefield in Ukraine and an ensuing "regime change" in Moscow, Putin insists on holding himself accountable to his people. Will any western "liberal" politician in power dare emulate Putin's extraordinary meeting with the "soldiers' mothers"?

If economic hardships lead to social unrest and political turmoil in western Europe, the politicians in power will be at a disadvantage. Putin is fighting a "People's War," while western politicians cannot even admit that they are fighting Russia. But how long can it be hidden from the public view in Poland or France that their nationals are getting killed in Ukraine's steppe? Can the western politicians

pledge that their "volunteers" didn't die in vain? What happens if a refugee flow out of Ukraine into western Europe begins as winter advances?

In military terms, Russia enjoys escalation dominance—a markedly superior position over its NATO rival, across a range of rungs as the conflict progresses. The accelerating Russian operation in Bakhmut is a case in point. The deployment of regular troops in the recent days shows that Russia is on the escalation ladder to wrap up the 4-month old "grind" in Bakhmut city in Donetsk, which military analysts often describe as a lynchpin of Kiev's defence in the eastern Donbass region.

A New York Times report on Sunday highlighted the enormous scale of losses Ukrainian forces suffered in recent weeks. Evidently, the Wagner Group of Russian military contractors who were doing the fighting pinned down the Ukrainian forces in defensive position, estimated in the region of 30000 troops including crack units "that have been worn down by nonstop Russian assaults."

The Times report admits, citing a US defence official, that the Russian intention could have been to make Bakhmut city "a resource-intensive black hole for Kyiv." This paradigm will repeat elsewhere, too, except that the Russian forces will be much stronger, far superior in numbers and vastly better equipped and will be fighting from heavily fortified positions.

Putin made it clear at Friday's meeting that vanquishing the neo-Nazi Banderites will remain a firm objective. Although regime change in Kiev is not a stated purpose, Putin will not settle for a repetition of the ceasefire and peace as in 2015, which left an anti-Russian, proxy regime of the US in power.

That said, Putin underscored that "despite all the issues related to the special military operation, we do not change our plans for the development of the state, for the development of the country, for the development of the economy, its social sphere, for national projects. We have huge, big plans..."

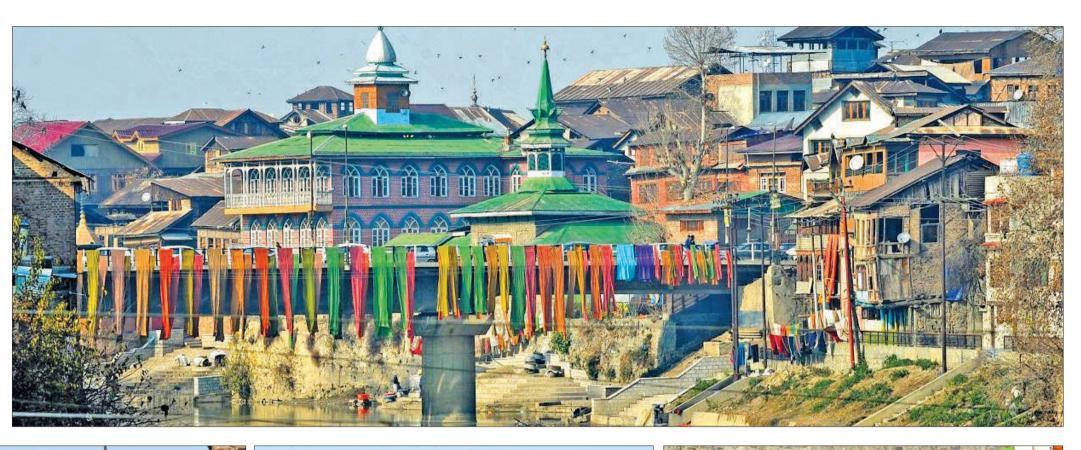
Taken together, all these elements define Russia's so-called winter offensive. Putin's hand-picked theatre commander in Ukraine General Sergei Surovikin is not in the mould of Patton or MacArthur. Basically, he holds the compass of the special military operations, while incorporating the experience accruing through the past 8 months of NATO involvement in the fighting. But never once did Putin use the expression "war" to characterise the conflict.

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 India Punchline

Rainbow of Shawls THE STRIKING SIGHT OF AALI KADAL

Abid Bhat

t's a frigid December morning and the men with stacks of bundled shawls have arrived at the ghats of river Jhelum for another cleaning outing. Much waters have already passed before their eyes and yet they remain constant witness of shifting sands of Aali Kadal – one of the seven iconic bridges of old city dotted with heritage structures and primary faithful centre. As pivotal members of Kashmir's craft community, these washermen ensure the final sanitised touches to the iconic shawl before it graces some big global shelves. For now, as they wash, the rainbow of Kashmir's craft colours only uplift the witheredwintery mood of the place.





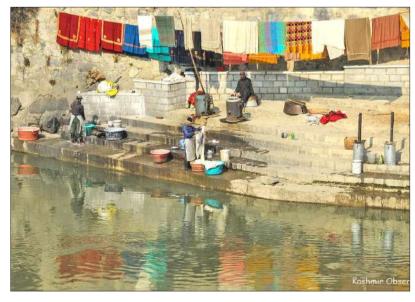




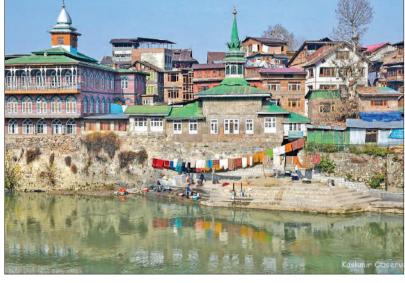


















Chief Secretary Chairs Meeting To Review Outcomes Of MTMP 2.0

Compliments H&UDD, Deputy Commissioners And All Connected With The Programme In Making It A Resounding Success

Department and uploaded on

Chief Secretary complimented

Deputy Chairman/

all the Departments/ Divisional

Presidents of the ULBs for their

efforts in the successful conduct

of MTMP 2.0 across all the ULBs

of J&K UT and achieving the de-

sired outcomes for various ac-

tivities. He further laid emphasis

for rapid transformation of all

the Towns to be led by the re-

spective visiting officers, desig-

He also applauded the H&UDD

for organizing the interactive

sessions on Municipal Finance,

including urban reforms in-

centive fund (URIF) by inviting

public representatives, trade associations, Residents Welfare

Associations, NGOs involved

in municipal and allied fields,

besides, other City Specific Plans viz; City Livelihood, City

Smart Vending, Green City, City Tourism & Culture, City

Beautiful and Encroachment

Free City for all 78 Urban Local

nated as "Prabhari Officers".

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Commissioners,

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Friday chaired a meeting to review the outcomes achieved under 2nd iteration of the programme, 'My Town My Pride 2.0' across all the urban areas of J&K. The meeting was attended by the Principal Secretary, H&UDD, Secretary, Culture, Secretary Tourism, Secretary IT, and Officers of the Finance, PDMD, RDD& H&UDD.

The meeting was informed that the recently concluded MTMP 2.0 was a resounding success where a record number of 7.16 lac people participated in the programme across the UT, from 28th November 2022 to 6th December 2022. Special awareness camps were arranged by variousDepartments involved in delivering public services like issuance of domicile certificates, widow/ old-age/ disability pensions, Aadhaar, water and power connections, issuance of birth and death certificates, land revenue extracts, sewage and cleanliness services, etc at the venue of the programme itself and through a weeklong "Shahri Jan Abhiyan"..

During MTMP 2.0, 2,740 Street vendor licenses, 1144 Kisan Credit Cards, 6251 Soil Health Cards, 38973 Golden cards, 40482 e-challans, 3402 e-Shram Cards, 53923 Passbooks, 4680 Disability Cards have been issued by the concerned Departments during MTMP 2.0. In addition, 2843 awareness camp were held for saturation of various schemes viz



PMAY(U), DAY-NULM (Deen Dayal Antodaya Yozana), Self Employment Programme (SEP), PM SVANIDHI (Atam Nirbhar Bharat) AMRUT 2.0 and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (SBH-U), 1,33,524 Households covered under door-to-door awareness drive under ban on single-use plastic, 1,362 beneficiaries covered under Grah Pravesh (PMAY-Urban), Sports activities were carried out in 80 towns during Jan Abhiyan and 140763 sports persons were participated, 5002 individuals covered under self employment drive in the ULBs. 248 CSC camps organized in Corporation and ULBs, inheritance mutation done, 1743 Ladli Beti and 36556 Anganwadi beneficiaries seeded with Adhaar during Jan Abhiyan, 96 Divyang Camps held during Jan Abhiyan, 560 Senior Citizens clubs were got formed in various ULBs.

Besides 837 works completed during 2021-22 under District/ UT Capex physically verified by the senior Officers of Planning Bodies to enable towns and cities embark upon the journey of becoming Aspirational Towns.

It may be recalled that two years back, in a first of its kind initiative, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir embarked on an ambitious and extensive programme of reaching out to the people at the grassroots level. The landmark initiative in urban areas, called 'My Town My Pride', with a focus on - Public outreach in towns, Service Delivery at doorsteps, and Strengthening Grassroot Democracy, was a huge success in its first version conducted in October 2020. People participated in large numbers in the "My Town My Pride 'programmes, and it gave the Government a much better insight on various issues considered important by the people in urban areas.

To meet the expectations of the urban populace, it was decided to launch the 2nd iteration of the programme, 'My Town My Pride 2.0' across all the urban areas of J&K. This programme involved the people of J&K and government officials in a joint effort to deliver the mission of equitable development in urban areas.

The programme was aimed at energizing Urban Local Bodies and directing development efforts in urban areas through community participation. As part of this programme, more than 170 senior officers of the Government reached out to Urban Local Bodies in J&K, where they interacted and obtained feedback from the grassroots, so as to tailor the government efforts in improving delivery of services specific to that area.

Simultaneously, routine issues related to delivery of services were also resolved at the special camps arranged by departments at the venue of the programme itself and through a weeklong "Shahri Jan Abhiyan".

Apart from this, a major focus in the second iteration of the My Town My Pride Programme was the Municipal Finances and preparation of City Specific Plans to enable our towns and cities embark upon the journey of becoming Aspirational Towns. As in the case of the 'Back to

Village' programme, this programme was also conceived with the objective of ensuring that developmental initiatives are built on the feedback and cooperation of the people, thus being more result oriented, with greater probability of success than those which are top down. The programme revolves around the concept that while the official machinery must guide and assist, the primary responsibility to improve local conditions rests with the people themselves. Therefore, they must be encouraged to own a programme so that benefits are maximized. Therefore, the essence of this programme is to emphasize the importance of ensuring, people's participation, not merely as an agent in the execution of the development works but as owners of the entire programme.

No Fresh Infrastructure Development In Doklam Area: Gen Kalita



Press Trust of India

Kolkata: Eastern Army commander Lieutenant General R P Kalita on Friday said there were no fresh developments on construction of infrastructure by China at Doklam, the strategic valley in Bhutan at the tri-junction of three countries.

His statement came in the backdrop of media reports of construction of a ropeway at Torsa Nala near Doklam by the Chinese People's Liberation Army.

"There has been no fresh development as far as Doklam is concerned with regard to infrastructure development," General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C), Eastern Command, Lt General Kalita said.

The Doklam standoff in 2017 occurred when a PLA combat engineering unit started building a road in the high plateau leading to a 73 day standoff between Indian and Chinese forces. The imbroglio was resolved through talks.

"Thereafter there is a protocol which is being followed in Doklam area by both sides in which there is regular interaction between the local commanders so that there is no new construction on both sides," he said in answer to a question on whether China is actively building infrastructure such as roads and ropeways on its side in Doklam.

Indian security establishment has been always aware of the strategic importance of the Doklam plateau given the fact that the high ground can be used to target the narrow Siliguri corridor which connects mainland India with the Northeast.

India has over the last few decades been upgrading its own border infrastructure keeping in mind the threat perception from the North as also raised a mountain strike formation XVII corps based in Panagarh in West Bengal.

With regard to development of new roads, bridges and tunnels by India in the northeastern states, especially in the border areas, Kalita said improvement in infrastructure primarily helps in enhancing the armed forces' operational capabilities in terms of force mobilisation in designated areas in the shortest time frame.

He said that apart from roads, infrastructure development means railways, airports, helipads and communication infrastructure as well.

"In last about 10-15 years, (there has been) a huge focus on infrastructure development, particularly in the border areas which definitely are going to assist and enhance our op (operational) capabilities," he added.

CONTD. FROM **FRONT PAGE**

Protests Rock

camp, located along the highway and about 150 kms from Jammu.

Though the army claimed that "unidentified terrorists" started firing at the camp and in retaliatory fire, the two people were killed, eyewitnesses, denied it and alleged unprovoked firing by the sentry.

Locals raised doubts over the army's statement as they saw no standard operating procedures being followed -- cordoning off the area and calling of a quick reaction team.

Rajouri Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal, Deputy General Officer Commanding (GOC) 25-Infantry Division Brigadier S Malik and DIG Mughal, along with other officials, pacified the protesters, who burnt tyres to block the highway and also threw stones at the camp.

While Kundal assured the demonstrators of a magisterial probe, Malik said the army will extend full support in the investigation.

"Senior district administration officials were on the ground to persuade the protesters and stop the violence. Forensic and ballistic tests, and spot inspection will be done as part of the investigation, the report of which will be shared later," Mughal said.

Besides assuring a magisterial probe into the incident, the deputy commissioner also said exgratia relief, according to norms, will be given to the kin of the deceased.

"Demand for employment to the kin of the deceased will be looked into," Kundal was heard telling the protesters.

Brigadier Malik termed the incident "very unfortunate" and said those found guilty will be punished according to the law.

"The army will extend full support to police and in material probes. As far as compensation to the victims' families is concerned, we will help them as the army is here to help and protect the people," Malik told the protesters.

Officials said though the highway was reopened, but the situation in the town remains tense but under control.

Earlier in the day, the army's White Knight Corps, in a tweet from its official handle, said "In an early morning firing incident by unidentified terrorists at Rajouri near Military Hospital, there has been fatal casualty of two individuals. The police, security forces and civil administration officials are on the site."

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president and former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti said, "Tragic that two innocent lives were lost allegedly due to firing by the army. An impartial probe must be carried out to ensure that culprits are punished and justice is served."

BJP Jammu and Kashmir president Ravinder Raina said he will take up the issue with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and assured the victims' families of a fair investigation in the incident.

"It is a grave incident and I have talked to the concerned army, police and civil officers who assured that it will be investigated and the guilty will be punished," he said.

National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah also condemned the killings and called for an impartial probe into the incident.

"The public perception on the killings is inconsistent with that of the army. Therefore, it is imperative for the government to ascertain the circumstances that led to the two fatal casual-

"Independent and impartial probe into the killings should be initiated. Civilian killings call for outright condemnation and cannot be condoned on any ground whatsoever," he said.

The NC president expressed sympathies with bereaved households and asked the government to reach out to them with ex-gratia

and rehabilitation packages.

Abdullah also prayed for the swift and complete recovery of the person who sustained serious injuries in the incident.

Govt Calls For

seeker. All public offices shall sensitize their CPIOs on the important provisions of the RTI regime viz," the circular said, adding, "Voluntary Disclosure of information, adherence to the prescribed timelines for disposal of RTI applications, prompt transfer of applications and appropriate disposal of appeals by the appellate authorities."

Further, it said, all Administrative Secretaries, Heads of Departments and Managing Directors shall conduct fortnightly reviews to ascertain the status of disposal of RTI applications received in their offices and furnish the compliance report in this regard to the General Administration Department.

"These instructions are brought into the notice of all concerned for immediate compliance," it added.

Cold, Dry Spell

Weathermen say that the intense cold wave would grip Kashmir in the upcoming days as the temperature would go further down amid the forecast of continuous dry spell till December 31.

He said that the weather would remain completely dry till 31 December with 90 percent chances. "In the coming days, a significant decrease is likely in night temperatures," he said.

He added that the maximum decrease is expected in the Chillai-Kalan days. As per the forecast, he said that the night temperature in Srinagar would go down up to minus 5degree Celsius to minus 6 degree Celsius.

In Anantnag, Kulgam, Budgam, Baramulla, Bandipora and Ganderbal, it would go up to minus 6 degree Celsius while in Kupwara and Gulmarg it would go up to minus 5 degree Celsius to minus 6 degree Celsius.

According to the forecast, he said that the night temperature Pahalgam, Shopian, Awantipora and Pampore areas in South Kashmir will go down up to minus 8 degree

University Campuses

knowledge, utilizing digital revolution, multi-dimensional development of students and innovative policy response," Sinha said.

"We have become the 5th largest economic power in the world because every sector is working in cohesion. By engaging people from all sectors and encouraging them to work together, we can trigger positive spillover of ideas in universities," he added.

The LG further asserted that when more and more people from diverse fields share a common vision of future, the resolve for strengthening the education system, nation building and solving social issues will be

"In the last decade, we were confronted with the challenges of digital divide, but now gradually that gap has been reduced. However, society and the education system will face the challenge of motivational divide in the future," he said.

The LG underlined the need to inspire students and institutions to promote science, technology and innovation to bridge the moti-

"The future will belong to those universities only, which will work with inspiration and motivation with students from different disciplines to realize the ideas on the ground," he

Sinha spoke on the efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in overhauling the education system through National Education Policy (NEP) for promoting student engagement, innovation, incubation, curiosity and developing an ecosystem where knowledge society and economic growth can complement each other.

The LG also mentioned about the youth of J&K, who are making significant contributions to policy initiatives and implementation of UT government's several flagship schemes and initiatives focusing on scaling women entrepreneurship, tangible & intangible heritage conservation, film policy, Jammu and Srinagar Smart City projects driving urban transformation and various other priority sectors.

He also interacted with the faculty members and students and urged them to follow the values and ideology of Mahamana and work for the public welfare and upliftment of the society.

The LG also appreciated the endeavors of the Central University of Gujarat in encouraging the students to contribute towards nation-building.

Earlier, Sinha paid tributes to Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya and termed him the greatest educationist, thinker, freedom fighter and proponent of new education model based on ancient wisdom and modern science.

"Mahamana always envisioned Education & University campus as a platform for social change and economic growth. As a pioneer in technical education and Industrial development, Mahamana focused on knowledgeintensive economy to bring about a historic transformation in Indian society," the LG said.

Two Sisters

A case under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act was registered at Mendhar Police Station and further investigation was taken up, the official said.

During questioning, the girl confessed that she has hidden one more packet in her house and her sister is also in close touch with one of the handlers in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir who supplied drugs to them for further sale, the official said.

"After getting this lead, police with tactical assistance from the Army apprehended her sister and recovered 490 grams of the heroin-like substance from their house in presence of the

executive magistrate," the official said. He said further investigation is going on and more arrests cannot be ruled out.

According to sources, the school-going girls have their residence ahead of the LoC fence and a Pakistani handler, Ashaig used to hand over the narcotics to them.

A number of Indian habitations are located ahead of the India-Pakistan LoC fence, also known as the anti-infiltration obstacle system (AIOS), in Jammu and Kashmir.

The intelligence agencies have reported that Pakistanis living on the other side "frequently" visit the houses here to push drugs and weapons and to gather inputs about Indian security forces deployed to guard the front, prone to infiltration of terrorists.

place several new measures to strengthen transparency and accountability for fair selection of candidates," Rajesh Sharma, who took over as the SSB chairman in May, told PTI.

SSB, the government's recruitment agency, had last conducted the written examination to recruit police sub-inspectors in March which was later cancelled.

Sharma said the board successfully conducted the examination to fill up 148 vacancies in the horticulture department and 217 posts of junior stenographers in two shifts on November 29, which was followed by a written test of junior engineers to fill up 163 posts in the Jal Shakti department on December 5 and

"The fresh examination for recruitment of sub-inspectors (home department) started on December 7 and is scheduled to end on December 20. So far, 32,000 candidates have already appeared in their examinations on given dates and we are hopeful of completing the process successfully," Sharma said, adding that 1.14 lakh job aspirants have applied for the 1,200 posts of police sub-inspectors.

On December 8, a single bench of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court ordered the cancellation of the processes relating to exams of police sub-inspectors and junior engineers after hearing a petition filed by some candidates over the decision of the SSB to hand over the contract for conducting exams to a "blacklisted agency".

However, a division bench of the court stayed the single bench's judgement the next day, allowing the completion of the examination but restrained the SSB from declaring the results till its final judgement.

"The matter is sub-judice," Sharma said in response to a question about the hiring of Aptech, a company which was blacklisted in 2019, for the conduct of the examination.

However, he said the company was hired as per government guidelines as it has already completed the blacklisting period of three years in May this year.

"When we are selecting a company for conducting a written examination, we also employ checks and balances on our side to ensure transparency, accountability and fairness in the selection. We are following the procedure which is matching the standards of major national level recruitment agencies in the country," he said.

Sharma said the SSB, for the first time, introduced a third-party audit by Ernst and Young LLP to review the processes before the exam, during and after the same, besides installing low-frequency jammers at designated centres

after getting required permissions to render electronic gadgets useless.

"OMR (Optical mark recognition) was replaced by computer-based test (CBT). The centres where there was even an iota of doubt regarding credibility were cancelled in consultation with the district administration and the

investigating agencies," he said. Besides the SSB, the district administration and the General Administration Department (GAD) have deployed experts and observers at the centres, while the police have put in place strict frisking, Sharma said.

In addition to regular staff, he said the board as also deployed one member to coordinate with other departments to avoid any confusion and promptly address the issues, if any, being faced by candidates.

He said technical experts from the information technology department were made part of flving squads, which were deployed in both Srinagar and Jammu for random inspection, while senior officers of the board were divided into teams to conduct surprise visits to each

"All these steps have been taken to ensure transparency, accountability and fair selection. besides restoring the confidence of job aspirants in the system. It is a matter of satisfaction that some of the candidates who have moved the court have also appeared for the SI examination as per their scheduled date," Sharma said.

He said bringing reforms with changing times is imperative as "we have to remain two steps ahead of conspirators trying to undermine the system for their self-interest, without caring for the hard work of the students".

Visa fraud: CBI

alleged that in pursuance to the said criminal conspiracy, applicants from Punjab and Jammu submitted fake and forged letters purportedly written by a private company based at Bengaluru to the Consulate General of France, Bengaluru, for issuing entry visas for their joining private companies in Port-Le-Havre, France," a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) spokesperson said in a statement.

The agency has alleged that Shokeen and Mandal issued the visas to three other accused persons by taking Rs 50,000 as bribe for each visa without the knowledge and approval of the head of the visa department at the Embassy of France here.

The duo allegedly destroyed documents and files from the visa department to leave no traces of this illicit activity, the officials said.

"During five months, several files were allegedly handled by these accused which mostly pertain to individuals that is young farmers or unemployed people from Punjab who had not earlier travelled. It was further alleged that during the said period, the accused had perpetrated the fraud of huge amount in the visa department of the embassy," the spokesperson said.

The officials said others booked in the FIR, include Navjot Singh, Chetan Sharma, Satwinder Singh Purewal and Manpreet Singh.

"Searches are being conducted today at six locations including Delhi, Patiala, Gurdaspur and Jammu, at the premises of the accused. Incriminating documents/articles, including laptops, mobile phones, suspicious passports etc. have so far been recovered," the spokesperson said.

Ex-ADGP And Founding VC Of BGSB University Masud Choudhary Is Dead

Press Trust Of India

IAMMU: Former additional director general of Jammu and Kashmir Police and founding vice chancellor of Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah (BGSB) University Masud Choudhary died after a prolonged illness at his residence here on Friday. He was 78.

Choudhary, who was also the chief patron of the Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust, breathed his last at his Gandhi Nagar residence in the morning. He is survived by a son and two daughters.

Choudhary was a prominent educator, social reformer, thinker and administrator.

Former J and K chief ministers Farooq Abdullah, Omar Abdullah, Mehbooba Mufti and Ghulam Nabi Azad joined people from all walks of life to express their condolences to the deceased.

The Jammu and Kashmir Congress and the Apni party also expressed grief over the passing away of Choudhary.

Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana visited the residence of the deceased to convey his condolences to the bereaved family.

Vice Chancellor of BGSB University Prof Akbar Masood chaired a condolence meeting at the university on the death of Choudary and declared threeday mourning on the campus. The university is located in Rajouri district.

Thousands of people attended the funeral prayers of Choudhary who was laid to rest at Gujjar Čolony graveyard here. A police contingent also presented a guard of honour as a tribute to him.

Tribal research and cultural

Shyambir Orders

Bhawani Temple

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: The Deputy Com-

missioner (DC) Ganderbal,

Shyambir on Friday took an

extensive tour of Kheerbawani

Temple Tullamulla and archeo-

logical site Shuhama to oversee

the necessary development

works to be needed for the de-

velopment and renovation of

While visiting Kheer Bha-

wani Temple Tullamulla, the

DC took round of the shrine to

have firsthand appraisal about

the developmental needs for its

renovation and to further aug-

ment the facilities at the shrine.

tives of Darmath trust apprised

the DC about several develop-

mental needs for the renova-

tion and overall development

of the shrine which include de-

velopment of ghat, upgradation

of daba site, repairing works

of temple, upgradation of rain

sheds, washrooms, hawan shalla, landscaping and other

On the occasion representa-

both sites.

Development Of Kheer

MATA KHEER BHAWANI JEE TEMPLE

J&K DHARMARTH TRUST

requirements.

The Executive Engineer R&B

informed the DC about the reno-

vation works to be undertaken

to further augment the facilities

within the shrine for the devotees.

structions to the Executive En-

gineer for drafting a plan of im-

portant works that are required

for the overall development of

the shrine including landscap-

ing, fencing, drinking water, development of paths and other

works within the shrine. Be-

sides, Tehsildar Tullamulla was

directed to ensure demarcation

of the land at an earliest so that

fencing plan is done accordingly.

ical site Shuhama where he also

gave necessary instructions to the

concerned for its conservation.

Later, the DC visited archeolog-

During the visit, the DC was

accompanied by Additional

District Development Commis-

sioner, Mushtaq Ahmad Sim-

nani, Executive Engineer R&B,

AEE R&B, Tehsildar Tullamula

The DC gave necessary in-



foundation headed by noted tribal researcher Javaid Rahi also paid rich tributes to Choudhary and said he has done unparalleled work for the upliftment and betterment of Gujjar and Bakerwal communities.

National Conference president Farooq Abdullah and vice president Omar Abdullah prayed for peace to the departed soul and expressed solidarity with the bereaved family.

In her condolence message PDP president Mehbooba Mufti said, "I am personally grieved by Dr Choudhary's demise. His death leaves behind a void that's difficult to fill."

She said Choudhary was widely known as 'Sir Syed of Gujjar Community' for his untiring efforts in areas of social and educational awakening of the tribals. Institutions patronised by him will continue to uplift the tribal community even after his demise, she added.

Democratic Azad Party chief Ghulam Nabi Azad termed Choudhary's demise as a "big loss" to the Gujjar community.

"He was an outstanding personality who made contributions in every sphere of life and worked tirelessly for his community till his last breath. He was a cop with a human heart, an educationist with inclusive

All Services To Go Online By Jan 15: Chief Secretary

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Friday impressed upon all the offices to make all the services online provided by them by 15th of Ĵanuary next year. He made these remarks while reviewing the performance of IT Department in a meeting here.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, IT Department; Scientists from NIC and other officers of the department.

Dr Mehta directed the officers to prepare a list of all the services provided by the departments. He asked them to separate the services still offered in offline mode and prepare a roadmap for offering them in online mode with end to end digitization by 15th of January next year.

He exhorted upon them to



advise the departments to conduct security audit of their respective websites forthwith without any fail. He told them to extend handholding to these departments to comply with the direction. He asked them to frame a list of offices that fail to conduct this audit so that action is initiated against those responsible.

emphasized on the need of synchronizing the services with auto appeal as per the provisions of Public Services Guarantee Act. He also asked them to put all the services on e-UNNAT and Service Plus for their availability from a common platform for the ease of seekers around the length and breadth of J&K.

He enjoined upon them to look for increasing the number of CSCs/Khidmat Centres to take services closer to the doorsteps of people besides generating employment for youth. He advised them to link them with Banks for financial support and other benefits. He also directed them to notify the rates for different services which are uniform across the UT and suitable for both the service providers and seekers

Protest Held Against Opening Of

SRINAGAR: Scores of people took out a protest in Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district against the opening of a liquor shop in the

The protest was organised by the managing committee of the central Jamia Masjid, Pahalgam,

The protesters raised slogans against the opening of the liquor shop and demanded its

ism significance and this has hurt the sentiments of the people, Rafi Mir. ex-MLA Pahalgam and chairman of the mosque's managing committee told reporters. He said the people took out

demonstration to impress upon the authorities to revisit this decision and cancel the licence of the outlet.

"It has spread anxiety among the people. Not only this area, but we want all of J-K to become alcohol-free," Mir added. Social activist Mushtaq Pa-It is an unfortunate move as halgami said the decision to open the liquor shop has hurt the sentiments of people in Pahalgam which is a religiously significant place.

"This place is also a base camp of the annual Amarnath Yatra and has a religious significance. There are many states in the country where alcohol is prohibited, so why not in this area?" he said.

"A large number of people from across the country come here for the yatra, every religion has prohibited it, so we want the liquor shop to be closed," Mushtaq said.

Liquor Shop In Pahalgam Press Trust Of India this place has religious and tour-

and civil society groups.

5-Day Science Filmmaking Workshop Ends At CUK

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: The five-day science filmmaking workshop organised by the Department of Convergent Journalism (DCJ), Central University of Kashmir (CUK) in collaboration with University of Kashmir under the Science Communication, Popularization and Extension (SCoPE) project sponsored by Vigyan Prasar, New Delhi, concluded at varsity's Tulmulla

Addressing the valediction, Vice Chancellor Prof. Farooq Ahmad Shah said that it was necessary to popularise and communicate the essence of everyday science to the masses.

Talking about the importance of the SCoPE project, he said that for the purpose of popularizing science among the common people, there is a need to go beyond the walls of educational institutions and SCoPE has been doing a wonderful job.

He added that science filmmaking is all about the science related to the common man's life and the themes on which films have been produced in this workshop were successful in showcasing the same.

Addressing the participants, Registrar, Prof. M Afzal Zargar congratulated all the students and the scholars for putting in their efforts to make this workshop a success. While talking about the significance of this workshop, he said that videos are the best commu-



about science," he added. CUK Registrar, further said the workshop was aimed at preparing students in busting the myths through technology and social media where science filmmaking can play an important role.

Speaking on the occasion, Dean School of Media Studies, and SCoPE Project Coordinator, Prof. Shahid Rasool, said the idea of the whole workshop was to sensitize the participants about filmmaking by using the gadgets that they have in hand. He further added, "Media is a powerful tool to create mass awareness about any issue. Through science films, we can take science to the doorsteps of common

people. Senior producer, EMMRC, Dr. Tariq Abdullah said this workshop provided participants and the teachers with a learning opportunity to ex-

plore the wonders of collaborating filmmaking and science. Independent filmmaker, Mr. Jalal-ud-Din Baba said that this workshop was an initiation towards social transformation in the realm of disseminating scientific information among the masses.

During the ceremony also attended by Deans of School, Heads and Coordinators of departments, four films made by participating students, under the supervision of Dr. Tariq Abdullah and Mr. Jalal-ud-Din Baba were screened.

In his address, Head DCJ, Dr Arif Nazir said that 10 sessions were held over the period of 5days and during these sessions, the participants were apprised of science filmmaking. He said, "The main objective was to impart skills among the science students so that they could become torch bearers in the popularisation of science through films.'

Later the Vice Chancellor, Registrar and Dean SMS distributed certificates among the participants. Sr. Assistant Prof. Dr Asif Khan, presented the vote of thanks.

LG Pays Tributes To Pujya Pramukh Swami

Observer News Service

GUJARAT: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday attended the Janm Shatabdi Mahotsav of Pujya Pramukh Swami Ji Maharai in Gandhinagar.

Paying his tribute to Pujya Pramukh Swami Ji Maharaj, the Lt Governor said his timeless wisdom, values and blessings continue to guide and serve the humanity.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, the Lt Governor said Pujya Pramukh Swami Ji's life and message, emphasizing harmonious co-existence, compassion, selfless service, truth, simplicity and equality of all human beings can help the world to lead a happier, meaningful and peaceful life. Pujya Pramukh Swami Ji considered the world as one family & dedicated every moment of his life for the welfare of others, he added.

The Lt Governor observed that Pujya Swamiji's birth centenary celebration provides us an opportunity to renew our resolve for building an inclusive society.

Today the world needs to embrace Pujya Swami Ji's vision of equality and compassion so that humanity can overcome differences and work together to create a society without discrimination and distinction, said the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor also spoke about the immense impact of the noble work of Pujya Pramukh

During his lifetime, Pramukh



Swamiji worked for the upliftment of the poor, education and empowerment of women. He personally visited more than 2.5 lakh homes to impart wisdom and values to those families, said the Lt Governor.

Pramukh Swamiji started drugfree society campaign and more than 40 lakh people were weaned away from this menace. He established more than 9500 Bal-Yuva Sanskar Kendras and 9000 men-women satsang centers, 31 educational institutions, 7 multispecialty hospitals and 11 mobile hospitals in tribal rural areas, the Lt Governor added.

Pramukh Swamiji also initiated and established 1000 youths as Kalyan Mitras in the society. His teachings inspire us to work for the welfare of the society. This will be our true tribute and reverence to Pujya Swamiji, the Lt Governor noted.

HH Mahant Swamiji Maharaj; Pujya Swami Ishwar Charan Das; saints associated with BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha, devotees and other dignitaries were present

DC Shopian Chairs Meet On Revision Of Panchayat **Electoral Roll**



Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, who is also District Panchayat Election Officer on Thursday, chaired a meeting of EROs and AEROs to review the preparations for Revision of Panchayat Electoral Roll.

The meeting discussed various modalities for revision of

The DC on the occasion instructed officials to work dedicatedly so that the final publication of the voters' list is flawless for the upcoming elections.

He instructed the concerned to conduct revision strictly in accordance with the guidelines and complete the process within the given timelines.

He also emphasized upon the concerned to take utmost care while making the addition of new voters/left out voters.

DC stressed on timely addition of eligible voters and urged eligible voters to contact esignated officials at village level to get registered in the electoral roll.

The meeting was attended by SDM Zainapora, ACD, Dy.DEO, BDOs and other concerned.

272 Km Road Length Macadamized In Kupwara

Observer News Service

KUPWARA: Road length of 272.25 kilometers has been macadamized out of a target of 278.52 km till ending November 2022 in Kupwara district.

This information was stated during a review meeting of concerned officers chaired by District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kupwara, Doifode Sagar Dattatray here, today.

The meeting was informed that out of 272.25 km, 187.90 km have been macadamized by R&B department, 52.30 km by PMGSY and 32.5 km by BEACON.

The meeting was further in-

AJKPC Opposes Preponement Of Panchayat Polls In J&K

formed that during the year 2021-22, 248.39 km were macadamized in the district by all the 3 executing agencies. The district has a total road length of 2956.42 km which is maintained by R&B department. PMGSY and BEACON. Out of this road length, blacktopped road length is 2158.64 km.

The meeting was also informed that District Administration plays a vital role in coordination and sport of all executing agencies to ensure that maximum road length is blacktopped.

DDC directed concerned officers to further augment road connectivity across the district with priority of far flung areas.

Court Quashes PSA Of Shopian Youth Lodged In Agra Jail

and Tehsildar Ganderbal.

SRINAGAR: The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has quashed the detention of a South Kashmir youth lodged in Agra Jail of Uttar Pradesh under the Public Safety Act.

After being arrested by police in 2020 the accused Jahangeer Ahmad Malik son of Ghulam Qadir Malik, a resident of Kiloora Shopian was shifted to Kathua Jail where from he was taken to outside Jammu and Kashmir and detained at Agra Jail.

The Counsel for the accused, Advocate Bashir Ahmed Tak argued that the detaining authority has not attributed any



specific allegation against the detenue. Furthermore, it was also stated that the detenue has been incapacitated in filing a representation as the grounds of detention were not in a language which could

be understood by the detenue. The Counsel for the detenue as per a local news agency KNT contended that the detenue was detained in old cases for which the court had

already bailed him out. The court of Justice Mu-

hammad Akram Chowdhary observed that the detaining authority has based his detention order on old cases without mentioning the fact that detenu had already been released on bail in those cases by court of competent jurisdiction, which reflects nonapplication of mind on the part of detaining authority.

"Detention Order vide number 94/DMS/PSA/2021 dated 18.10.2021, passed by District Magistrate, Shopian is quashed.

Respondents, including concerned Jail Superintendent, are directed to release the detenu forthwith, provided he is not required in any other case," the court said.

Leopard **Caught In Pulwama**

SRINAGAR: A leopard was captured by the wildlife department in Arigam area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district on Friday.

An official told a local news agency, Kashmir News Observer (KNO), that they received a call that a leopard was roaming in Arigam area, "Soon after we rushed to the spot and captured the leopard alive," he said.

He also said three black bears were captured in the Pulwama district in the last one week. Meanwhile, locals hailed the wildlife department for acting swiftly in capturing the animal as there was panic. (KNO)

Demand Two-Year **Extension For** Panchayats

Press Trust Of India JAMMU: An organisation

representing panches and sarpanches in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday opposed any move to prepone the panchayat elections and sought two-year extension for existing panchayats in

the Union Territory. The Jammu and Kashmir State Election Commission (SEC) had on Monday issued its schedule for revision of the panchayat electoral rolls in the UT.

All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference (AJK-

PC) president Anil Sharma said the term of existing panchayats will be ending in November-December 2023 and there are rumors that the government may dissolve the existing panchayats and prepone the elections to

the grassroots level bodies. "This (preponing of panchayat elections) is not acceptable to us and we will oppose it," Sharma told reporters here.

The SEC released the schedule for revision of panchayat electoral rolls on December 12, leading to speculations that the government is planning to prepone the panchayat elections. As per the schedule, January 1, 2023 has been fixed as qualifying and the final panchayat electoral rolls will be published on February 10. "Lt Governor Manoj Sinha

date for the electoral rolls

and the Union government should extend the term of the existing Panchayats for at least two years and hold the elections in January 2026," Sharma said.

Justifying the demand for the two-year extension in terms of panchayats, he said the Union Territory remained disturbed for a long period following August 2019 developments when the central abrogated Article 370 and later by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The panchayat members could not concentrate to the disturbance and it is justified that the term of existing panchayats be extended for at least two years," he added. The AJKPC leader said

on development work due

under the 73rd Amendment of the Constitution of India, all three tiers of the panchayats should have coterminus and as the term of the district development councils shall end in 2025, therefore, there is no logic to end the term of the panchayats prior to that.

The elections for all the three tiers of the panchayats should be conducted simultaneously and all the PRI members are unanimous in this regard," Sharma said.



JKFA Meet CS Mehta, Departmental **Teams' Issues Raised**

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kash-J&K Dr Arun Kumar Mehta at sues regarding football's development in J&K.

The meeting was attended by Chairman Election Committee, JKFA Wasim Aslam and General Secretary JKFA Bashir Ahmad Shah, who put forth the demands of various departmental football teams. CS Mehta also inaugurated "Nation First Winter Sports Festival", organised by J&K Sports Council (JKSC) and JKFA, on the occasion.

Commissioner Divisional Kashmir P.K. Pole, Secretary JKSC Nuzhat Gul and Secretary J&K Tourism and Youth Services other dignitaries were also pres- statement concluded.

ent on the occasion.

'Thousands of young footballers from numerous sports mir Football Association (JKFA) teams and academies had gathon Thursday evening held a ered from all across the valley meeting with Chief Secretary of Kashmir region. Nuzhat Gul appreciated the efforts of Wa-Synthetic Turf TRC to discuss is- sim Aslam for his contribution towards making the festival a success," a JKFA statement said.

"Wasim Aslam briefed Chief Secretary regarding various important matters and different grievances pertaining to football. All the departmental football teams, such as SRTC, JK Forest, Food and Supplies, PDC, Roads and Buildings, gave representation to the Chief Secretary through Chairman IKFA."

"The Chief Secretary gave a patient hearing and promised that in coming days people will see positive response from the Sports Sarmad Hafeez and few J&K UT administration," the

Gill, Pujara Tons Help India Set Bangladesh 513-Run Target

Press Trust of India

CHATTOGRAM: India set Bangladesh a massive victory target of 513 after declaring their second innings at 258 for 2, riding on maiden Test hundred from young Shubman Gill and the 19th ton from veteran Cheteshwar Pujara on third day of the opening match of the series.

In the morning, Bangladesh were dismissed for 150 with leftarm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav taking a career-best 5 for 40.

Skipper KL Rahul didn't enforce the follow-on and Gill (110 separated but India look primed for off 152 balls) and Pujara (102 not a 1-0 lead in the two-test series.



out off 130 balls) scored a century after nearly four years.

The hosts finished day three on 42 for no loss, still needing 471 to pull off what would be a record chase. Bangladesh openers Najmul Hossain (25) and Zakir Hasan (17) survived 12 overs without being

Morocco & Croatia Play For 3rd Place At **Qatar World Cup Today**



Press Trust of India

DOHA: To some, it's little more than a meaningless exhibition match. To others, it's a chance to become "immortal." The third-place playoff at the World Cup can be a confusing concept.

'You are so disappointed, you've just lost a semifinal and then two days later you have to go back out there," Morocco coach Walid Regragui said Friday.

Regragui's history-making team — the first African nation to reach the World Cup semifinals — will play Croatia on Saturday at Khalifa International Stadium.

"It's like the booby prize," Regragui said. "I am sorry for speaking like this. I understand that it should be important, I understand that it is better to

finish third than fourth, but for, me my takeaway is that we just didn't get to the final.'

Morocco's run to the semifinals in Qatar provided the most improbable story of the tournament. The team was also the first Arab nation to go so far in soccer's biggest event, generating an outpouring of pride among Arab countries.

Croatian side has been more upbeat.

The runners-up from the last World Cup in Russia lost to Argentina 3-0 in the other semifinal match, but their players have spoken of the importance of winning another medal.

Forward Andrej Kramaric described it as the chance to "become an immortal hero in your

Luka Modric, who is likely group stage.

playing in his last World Cup. had similar thoughts.

"We need to leave everything to win the bronze medal and let our fans celebrate one more time," he said.

To finish second and third in back-to-back World Cups would further secure the legacy of a golden generation for Croatia.

"Saturday's match is not a The atmosphere from the small one for us, but a big final, a fight for third place, for a medal," Croatia coach Zlatko Dalic said. "We have to prepare in every sense. It's a big thing if we take the bronze medal, that would be great.

"The difference is being third or fourth in the world, we will do everything to do that." Morocco and Croatia have already played each other at this year's World Cup, a 0-0 draw in the



Gurez Gears Up For Winter Games On Frozen Snowfield

Agencies

of tourists and to promote winter sports, the Bandipora Administration in collaboration with local youth in the remote valley of Gurez is planning to organise several sports tournaments including cricket, football and other on a frozen snowfield in winters.

An official told news agency KNO, that the remote valley has a great potential for winter sports as it remains covered under heavy snow during winters, andf the locals, like every year, start several sports activities including cricket and football tournaments, besides Snow Ski-

ing course on a frozen snowfield. Notably, the cricket on the **GUREZ:** To attract the attention frozen grounds over the years has become popular among the

residents of Gurez as the place

has the potential to become a hotbed of winter sports. The residents said that the main objective behind organising these tournaments is to attract the attention of the government to the region, as Gurez has

great potential for winter sports

activities. Meanwhile, an official said that adequate arrangements are being made for the successful conduct of the several sports activities during winter in the val-

Sydney Thunder Bowled Out For 15, Lowest In Senior T20

Agencies

ydney Thunder crumbled in remarkable style on Thursday against Adelaide Strikers as they recorded the lowest score ever seen in a men's professional T20 cricket history. Playing a match in the Big Bash League, Henry Thornton and Wes Agar bowled sensational spells and ended up picking five wickets and four wickets respec-

Sydney Thunder lost a couple of early wickets due to some bril- leading the way with 4, thanks liance in the field by the Strikers to an inside edge that raced to fielders, but Thornton and Agar the rope.

ripped them apart thereafter. Harry Nielsen ended with five catches and the Thunder batters literally had no answers against the new ball.

Only 5.5 overs were needed to bowl out Thunder, the men's T20 innings had never been shorter. They lost by 124 runs against Strikers, who had won the toss and chosen to bat first amassing 139 for 9.

Between them, Thunder's hitters recorded five ducks, with fast bowler Brendan Doggett

