

Activists Up The Ante For RTI Online Services In J&K

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: RTI activists in Jammu and Kashmir have urged the government to make filing of RTI applications in online mode operational.

RTI activists have voiced their displeasure over how things have been going on with regards to the RTI in the JK UT.

Activists say in the digital age people have to manually file RTI applications which is tiresome and costs much more at the same time.

RTI activist and advocate Badrul Duja said for filing

RTI applications in physical mode people need to cover a long distance to file a simple RTI application. At a time when authorities are talking about digital India and E-governance, why isn't it being digital and online.

"In other states one can file an RTI application for 10 rupees but in physical mode we end up paying around 100 rupees for a simple RTI application" Badrul said.

Chairman RTI Movement Dr Raja Muzaffar voiced similar views saying in every central government department the



RTI has been made online. "We come under the domain of central government

why isn't it being made online and that there is no Information Commission at

present in JK"

"When we were a state, we had a state Information Commission. As we are UT now, there is no provision of State Commission in Union Territories. So we have been clubbed with the central information commission" Raja said. Raja further said that earlier an RTI case would get disposed of in two to three months but now it takes a lot more time.

"Now that we are under the Central Information Commission, the hearing takes fifteen to eighteen months. In some cases

because of an overdue time period, cases lose relevance. It becomes useless and a futile exercise" he said.

"the hearing time should be lessened and more importantly, RTI online filing should be made functional" Raja added.

Pertinently, on 16th December, 2022 the General Administration Department issued instructions on the Right to Information Act -2005, via circular no.50-JK (GAD) of 2022 wherein it is stated that "significant strides have been made by various,

departments, **More on P6**

LoC Situation Improved In 2021: India

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Only three minor incidents of "violations" were recorded along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir after Indian and Pakistani armies agreed to observe a ceasefire in February last year, the defence ministry said on Saturday.

At the same time, it said Pakistan continued to retain the "proxy war infrastructure" and "functionality" of terrorist training camps as well as the presence of terrorists in terror "launch pads" vindicated that country's "persistent intent" towards India.

In a year-end review, the ministry, referring to the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, also said Pakistan continues to exploit the "narco-terror nexus" to radicalise and motivate innocent youth undertake targeting of vulnerable civilians.

Referring to the Line of Control (LoC), the ministry said the situation has been relatively peaceful with both sides **More on P6**

Crackdown On Jama'at-e-Islami Continues

SIA Seals Rs 100 Cr Worth Jama'at Assets In Four Districts

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Continuing its crackdown against Jama'at-e-Islami, the State Investigation Agency (SIA) of Jammu and Kashmir police on Saturday seized about a dozen properties of the now banned socio-religious group in the four districts of Kashmir Valley.

The properties in Ganderbal, Bandipora, Kupwara and Baramulla districts on the Valley worth Rs 100 crore approximately were barred with restrictions on usage and entry after being notified by the respective District Magistrates on the recommendation of SIA, a spokesperson said.

"These premises/ structures have been barred and entry and usage has been prohibited reads the notification. Besides Red entry to this effect has been made in the relevant revenue records", he said.



The move, according to the spokesperson, is aimed to choke the availability of funds for secessionist activities and to "dismantle the eco-system of anti-national elements & terror networks hostile to India's sovereignty".

During the seizure proceedings, he said, it was found that about two dozen business establishments in the towns of Kupwara and Kangan are

currently running from out these Jel properties on rent basis.

"After due diligence, it was decided that these would be allowed to continue so that private persons who may not have any connections with Jel and are only tenants paying rent to Jel are not penalised and their livelihood not impaired," the spokesperson said.

Among the properties sealed

on Saturday included land, Jama'at office in Kupwara, shops, and buildings. The assets, the spokesperson said are the third set of properties to be notified in a series of properties belonging to Jama'at in Jammu and Kashmir.

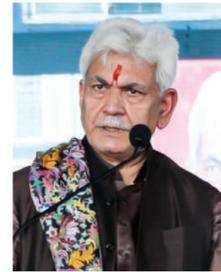
"The action would uproot the menace of terror funding to a great extent in UT of J&K besides being a stepping stone in ensuring rule of law & a society without fear," the spokesperson said.

Pertinently, he said, the SIA has identified as many as 188 Jel properties across the UT of J&K which have either been notified or are under the process of being notified for further legal action.

These are as a result of investigation of case FIR number 17 of 2019 U/J 10, 11 & 13 of Police Station Batmaloo being investigated by SIA. **More on P6**

J&K Has Emerged As One Of The Fastest-Growing UTs: LG

Says Youth Are Scripting J&K's Bright Future
Observer News Service



Mumbai: Asserting that Jammu and Kashmir has emerged as one of the fastest growing Union Territories in the country, the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Saturday that his administration has removed the difficulties that had cropped up in the implementation of people-friendly governance, setting up new businesses and industries.

"Youth are scripting J&K's bright future. The administration has taken many steps to create supportive schemes and policies to speed up economic

development and to meet the aspirations of our young population," Sinha said.

He made these remarks while speaking at a conference titled 'Badalta Jammu Kashmir' held here on Saturday. The LG shared J&K's remarkably robust and resilient growth story.

"We have removed the difficulties that had cropped up in the **More on P6**

Land Of Lashkar Commander Attached In Doda

Jammu and Kashmir authorities on Saturday attached the property of absconding Lashkar-e-Taiba commander Abdul Rashid alias "Jehangir" who is operating from across the Line of Control and making attempts to revive militancy, a senior police officer said.

The land measuring over four kanals at Khanpura village in Doda district's Thathri was attached by a joint team of revenue and police officials under relevant sections

of the CrPC on orders of the judicial magistrate, Senior Superintendent of Police, Doda, Abdul Qayoom said. He said the police is in the process of initiating proceedings against other local militants who have exfiltrated to Pakistan and trying to lure youth through the virtual mode or social media to join militant activities and revive militancy in the district. The SSP said Rashid went to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) in **More on P6**

ACCELERATED PACE OF DEVELOPMENT, improved socio-economic parameters, unprecedented progress in all priority sectors, massive tourist influx, and industrial investment is testimony of peaceful and prosperous Jammu Kashmir."

Sub-Zero Temperature Continues In Kashmir Valley

Agencies

Srinagar: Sub-zero temperatures continued in Kashmir Valley even as there was slight increase in the mercury on Saturday.

A meteorological department official said that Srinagar recorded a low of minus 2.4°C against the previous night's minus 3.6°C which was coldest so far this season. The mercury was around 0.9°C below normal during this time of the year, the official said, as per news agency GNS.

Qazigund recorded a low of minus 2.6°C against minus 3.4°C on the previous night while Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 4.3°C against minus 5.3°C on previous night and it was 1.0°C above normal for the famous tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Kokernag recorded a low of minus 0.6°C against minus 2.1°C on the previous night and it was 1.1°C above normal for the place, he said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 2.0°C against **More on P6**

Azad-Led DAP Announces Office Bearers

Three Ex-Ministers Appointed As Vice-Chairmen

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Nearly three months after launching his party, Democratic Azad Party (DAP) chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad on Saturday appointed three former ministers -- Tara Chand, Peerzada Mohd Sayeed and G M Saroori -- as vice-chairmen of the party.

Salman Nizami was given the responsibility of the chief

spokesperson of the DAP. Azad also named Jugal Kishore Sharma and Mohammad Amin Bhat as the provincial presidents for Jammu and Kashmir regions, respectively.

The party also announced the names of 10 new general secretaries, 12 secretaries, six spokespersons and media coordinators-cum-additional spokespersons and four social media coordinators. **More on P6**

....RAJOURI KILLINGS

Price Of A Life Can't Be Set In Monetary Terms: LG

Announces Rs 5L Ex-Gratia Each For Affected Families

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A day after two civilians were allegedly shot dead by a soldier outside an army camp in Rajouri, the Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Friday termed the incident 'unfortunate' and announced an ex-gratia relief of Rs 5 lakh each for the affected families.

"The incident in Rajouri is

very unfortunate. Condolences to the bereaved families. The price of a life cannot be set in monetary terms but still I announce an ex-gratia relief of Rs five lakh for each affected family (sic)," LG's office posted on its official Twitter handle.

Two civilians Kamal Kumar and Surinder Kumar, both residents of Pahlyana, were killed and another person, Anil Kumar of Uttarakhand was injured in a firing incident outside the Army camp near its Alpha gate in Rajouri town on Friday morning. The killings set off massive **More on P6**

Victims Cremated, Situation Peaceful: Police

Two persons, who died of firing outside an army camp, were cremated in the Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, officials said. Kamal Kumar and Surinder Kumar, both residents of Pahlyana, were killed and another person, Anil Kumar of Uttarakhand was injured in a firing incident outside the Army camp near its Alpha gate in Rajouri town on Friday morning. While the Army **More on P6**

BJP Holds Protests Against Bhutto's Remarks

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: BJP's Jammu and Kashmir unit staged a protest here on Saturday against Pakistan Foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto over his personal remarks on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

BJP workers raised slogans against Bhutto and demanded an apology from him. The protest was taken out from the party's office in Jawahar Nagar area here.

"This march is part of the country-wide protests by BJP against Bhutto's shameless comments against our beloved prime minister. This protest is

against Pakistan which is a terror state," party's Kashmir media incharge, Manzoor Ahmad, told reporters.

The party said the protests will continue till Bhutto tenders an apology.

"This is a protest against the Pakistan government. We appeal to hang Bhutto and until he apologises to the people of India, protests will continue," party activist Mohammad Yusuf Dar said.

Bhutto made the comments following India's External Affairs minister S Jaishankar's sharp attack on Pakistan over its support to terrorism at the United Nations Security Council meeting. **More on P6**

S H O R T T A K E S

Man Found Dead Inside Train In Samba



The body of a 70-year-old man was found in a train in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, an official of the Government Railway Police said. The unidentified man was found dead in the Diesel Multiple Unit (DMU) train, travelling from Pathankot to Udhampur, at the Samba Railway Station, the official said. He said the body has been shifted to district hospital Samba for post-mortem and identification. Preliminary investigation **More on P6**

Four Gamblers Held In Bandipora

Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested four alleged gamblers in a raid in Hajin area of North Kashmir's Bandipora district.

A team led by Station House Officer (SHO) Police Station Hajin raided a gambling site in Vijpara village and arrested four gamblers from the spot, a police spokesperson said Saturday. He said that the raid that was carried out on specific information and besides playing cards, an amount of Rs 6,890 was recovered from the accused. The police identified them as Bilal Ahmad Shah, Feroz Ahmad Goroo, Imtiyaz Ahmad Reshi and Manzoor Ahmad Shah, all **More on P6**

Police Nabs Drug Peddler In Ganderbal

Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested a drug peddler in Ganderbal and recovered contraband substance from his possession.

"A police party led by SHO Police Station Ganderbal under the supervision of DySP Hqrs Ganderbal during cordon and search operation at Gadoora recovered crushed Cannabis with seeds like substance from a Tin Shed of Ab Majeed Bhat son of Gh Mohamad Bhat resident of Baran Pattan A/P Gadoora. The accused has been arrested for his involvement in the commission of crime and shifted to police station where he remains in custody," a police spokesman **More on P6**

Tax Inspector Tries To End Life

A tax inspector of a municipal committee on Saturday evening allegedly tried to end his life in central Kashmir's Budgam district.

A local news agency KDC quoting sources reported that a tax inspector (name withheld) of Municipal Committee Budgam allegedly tried to commit suicide by consuming some poisonous substances. He was immediately shifted to district hospital Budgam. However, the doctors there referred him to a hospital in Srinagar for further treatment. The report also quoted an unnamed police officer saying that a case is being registered in this regard.

DC Srinagar Suspends 3 Revenue Officials

The Deputy Commissioner Srinagar has ordered the suspension of Mohd Ayoub Naib Tehsildar Nandpora, Amir ullah Khan (GQ) Nandpora and Ashiq Husain Patwari Halqa Saderbal with immediate effect over the dereliction of duties. An order issued by the Deputy Commissioner/ District Magistrate Srinagar on Friday, stated that information of critical official nature was sought from all the Tehsil offices of Srinagar District, whereas, the required information was submitted by all Tehsil Offices except Tehsil office North. The order stated that on 16.12.2022, the dealing officials of Tehsil Office North were repeatedly reminded **More on P6**

Mystery UFO seen Hovering Sky

A mysterious floating object which appeared to fly through the sky for several minutes has left onlookers baffled. The bright moving light was spotted hovering across several districts of West Bengal on Thursday evening by puzzled residents. Extraordinary footage showed the luminous object in the night sky in several clips shared on Twitter. Some local UFO enthusiasts claimed the sight was of an alien ship, while others reckoned it was a satellite. "It is very close," one resident remarked. "Doesn't it look like a UFO. The light has vanished". Initially, officials **More on P6**



Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir.

Scholarship Name 1: Kotak Kanya Scholarship 2022

Description: Under the CSR Project on Education & Livelihood of Kotak Mahindra Group Companies, Kotak Education Foundation invites applications for Kotak Kanya Scholarship 2022 from Class 12th passed girl students, who have secured more than 75% and whose annual family income is less than or equivalent to INR 3,20,000. The scholarship aims to help meritorious girl students from underprivileged sections of society to pursue professional graduation courses from acclaimed universities and colleges.

Eligibility: Meritorious girl students who have secured admission to 1st year graduation programmes in professional courses from institutes of repute (NAAC/NIRF accredited) can apply. Professional courses include pro-

essional graduation courses like Engineering, MBBS, Architecture, Design, integrated LLB, etc.

Applicants must have scored more than 75% marks in their Class 12th board examinations.

Annual family income must be INR 3,20,000 or less from all sources.

- Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 1.5 lakh* per year
- *Disclaimer: Please note, the renewal of the scholarship every year will be at the sole discretion of the Kotak Education Foundation
- Last Date to Apply: 31-12-2022
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/KKGS12

Scholarship Name 2: Saksham Scholarship Program for

Drivers' Children

Description: Mahindra Finance invites applications for the 'Saksham Scholarship Program for Drivers' Children' from students belonging to Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Telangana. The scholarship is meant to support underprivileged and meritorious children of drivers (all light motor vehicles and small commercial vehicles such as Taxi, Jeep, Car & delivery vans such as Pickup, magic, school van etc) holding a valid driving license who are studying in Class 1 to postgraduation level

Eligibility: The applicants must be currently studying at Class 1 to post-graduation level in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Telangana. Applicants who are pursuing studies from Class 9 onwards must have scored 60% or more marks in the previous final examination. The annual

family income of the applicant from all sources must not be more than INR 4,00,000.

- Prizes & Rewards: Scholarship ranging from INR 5,000 to INR 20,000 for 1 year
- Last Date to Apply: 31-12-2022
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/SKSP1

Scholarship Name 3 Technip Energies India Scholarship Program 2022-23

Description: Technip Energies India invites applications from female students coming from Delhi NCR, Bihar, Assam, Rajasthan, Chennai and Mumbai who are currently enrolled in the first-year of B.E./B.Tech. courses.

Eligibility: Open for female students from Delhi NCR, Bihar, Assam, Rajasthan, Chennai and Mumbai (NOTE: Applications from Ghaziabad, Navi Mumbai, and Thane are also acceptable).

Applicants must be currently enrolled in the first-year of B.E./B.Tech. (Chemical, Electrical, Civil, and Mechanical Engineering) courses.

Must have scored 70% or more marks in Class 12.

Annual family income of the applicant must not be more than INR 4,00,000 from all sources.

- Prizes & Rewards: INR 30,000
- Last Date to Apply: 31-12-2022
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/TSPSS1

عبدالاحد شاہ ساکنہ شاہ آباد سجدہ کدل کا انتقال
فاتحہ خوانی 19 دسمبر، سوموار 10:30 بجے انجام دی جائے گی

یہ شہر انتہائی دکھ اور افسوس کے ساتھ ہی جاتی ہے کہ عبدالاحد شاہ ساکنہ شاہ آباد سجدہ کدل رحلت فرما کر آسمانِ برحق سے انتقال کر گئے۔ مرحوم ایک خوش اخلاق اور نیک سیرت انسان تھے۔ مرحوم کے ہم چہرام کے سلسلے میں 19 دسمبر 2022 بروز سوموار صبح 10:30 بجے ان کے آبائی مقبرہ واقع شاہ آباد سجدہ کدل رحلت فرمائی۔ انتہائی فاتحہ خوانی کی تقریب منعقد ہوگی جس کے بعد گھر واقع مصطفیٰ آباد، زکوٰۃ روڈ، ایک جنوں شہر تک پر تعزیت پڑھی جائے گی۔

سوگواران
شاہ خاندان

نوٹ: مستورات سے گزارش ہے کہ وہ میٹرو وغیرہ ساتھ نہ لائیں۔

9149588756, 9419972200

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the renewal of my Fertilizer licence bearing Regd No: CAOB/FL/2010-11/393. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Chief Agriculture Officer District Baramulla within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohammad Akbar Khan
S/o Ghulam Mohammad Khan
R/O Palhallan Tantraypora fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my original Provisional Cum Character Certificate of class 12th bearing Admission No: 2927, Regd No: N17441400064 Roll No: 33132217. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Govt. Boys Higher Secondary Institute Palhallan Pattan within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Yaseen Sultan
S/o Mohammad Sultan Waza fko

SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RIGHT RIVER WORKS DIVISION
Regal lane Lal Chowk Srinagar
Email id: eerrwsmc@gmail.com

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING E- TENDER No. 36 of 2022-2023
Dated: 15.12.2022

NOTE: - 1. The Bidders who have not started the works allotted in their favour in Right River Works Division need not to apply for bidding. As per the directions they are debarred from participating in bidding. Their Bid if they apply shall be deemed invalid.
2. Bidders should participate keeping in consideration their financial and physical capacity to execute the works as per the time schedule and in case of being successful for multiple works they will have to start/complete all allotted works simultaneously and failure at one place/work shall be treated as failure at all other allotted places (Works).
3. The lowest quoted items to be executed in full. In case any deviations, the deductions as per the rates in vogue shall be implemented on the final comparative work done. For percentage tenders, variations in quantity if any shall be strictly as per financial code (PWD)
4. In order to protect any default on a/c of low bidding (20% below or more) by the intending bidders and in order to protect specification and workmanship of work, the EMD 2% of Adv Cost and performance security 3% of the advertised cost shall be retained for one complete year as DLP. In addition to this 5% of Bill Deposit shall be retained for the DLP period also.

For and on behalf of the Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Commissioner (and as approved by Commissioner/ Joint Commissioner/Works) vide No. SMC/PS/Com/FM/1916 dated 09.12.2022 for uploading of NIT but allotment shall be issued only after NOC is received from LCMA/Hon'ble Court., e-tenders are invited on percentage basis (as per the J&K PWD Engineering Manual 2020) from approved registered eligible Civil Contractors/ Self Help Groups for the below mentioned works.

S.No	Name of the Work	Adv. cost in lacs	Cost of T/ Doc. in Rs	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time of Completion	Head of Account	Class of contractor
1	Construction of 3 No. steel bridge connecting with Dal with main road	220.00	5000	440000	6 months	CAPEX	AAY

Position of AAA: Accorded (Order no. 135 of 2022 dated:26.01.2022)
Technical Sanction: Accorded (Order no. 84-SSCL of 2022 dated: 23.05.2022)

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

S.No.	Particulars	Date from to
1	Date of issuance/ Publication of NIT online e-portal	15.12.2022
2	Date of Downloading of bid documents for said NieT	15.12.2022 from 05:00 PM
3	Date of uploading of bid document / bid submission starts	15.12.2022 from 06:00 PM
4	Date of uploading of bid document/ bid submission Ends	02.01.2023 up to 06:00 PM
5	Date of Bid opening	03.01.2023 at 11:00 AM
6	Date of Submission of Uploaded documents (Hard Copies) by Successful Bidder including Bid Security (CDR/FDR) fresh dated and all other relevant documents (GST clearance, Bank Receipt/ Registration duly renewed etc.	04.01.2023 up to 04:00 PM

Note: - Fresh Date means the Documents Drawn after the issuance of said NieT.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- The intending tenders should attach call deposit receipt equivalent to 2% of the total cost of the work shown against each work pledged to the Executive Engineer Right River Works Division, SMC, drawn from any schedule Bank without which no tender will be entertained.
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in the shape of Bank Receipt / challan as a tender fee paid in the Municipal Account No. 021601020000007 payable at J&K Bank Branch Dood Ganga Balgarden, Srinagar payable at Srinagar (with NIT No and Serial No of work mentioned) and Earnest Money/ bid security in the shape of CDR/FDR (The date of Bank Receipt/ Challan and earned money/bid security should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date). The tender fees is non-refundable and can also be paid through online mode via NEFT/RTGS in favour of F/A/ Chief Accounts officer, Srinagar Municipal Corporation with Bank Details as given below:-
Name of the Bank :- Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd.
Branch :- Balgarden, Srinagar
Bank Account No:- 021601020000007
IFSC CODE:- JAKA0GARDEN
MICR CODE:- 190051008
- For one particular work, Only one bank Receipt / challan (not more than one) of the exact amount of tender fees (neither lesser nor greater) as shown against that particular work must be paid and uploaded with the tenders. The tender fees paid and uploaded for a particular work should not be again used/ uploaded for any other work in the NieT (i.e. one Bank Receipt / Bank Challan for one work only)
- Tender Fee and other relevant documents including Bid security (CDR/FDR) duly filled up, if found uploaded, with any ambiguity or un-attested correction/ over writing for any work such tender /bid shall be considered as invalid bid and shall be out rightly rejected and action under rules shall be initiated. Further use of pencil in writing tender fees and EMD must be avoided.
- Both the tender fees and Bid Security should be uploaded as coloured document (not as black and white document).
- The participating agencies/ contractors are advised in their own interest not to resort to any cheating while submitting and uploading the tender document Fees or any other document.
- The bidders are requested to upload the coloured scanned copy of the following documents:
o Tender fees.
o EMD in the shape of CDR and FDR.
o Registration card and its latest renewal.
o Verification of Registration Card from competent Authority
o Latest GST clearance.
o PAN Card.
o Correspondence Address of the Agency with active Mobile No.
o Any other document required to be uploaded as per the NieT.
- The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an E-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on the same website in the office of the Executive Engineer, Right River Works Division, SMC (Regal Lane, Lal Chowk, Srinagar) or in the office of the Informatics officer, SMC (Karan Nagar Srinagar). In case of holidays/ offices happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids, or there is any Net problem the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical bids.
- The earnest money in favour of the unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of Bank Receipts/challans.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-
a) Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any Modifications the terms and conditions of the bid.
b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
c) Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Right River works Division
Srinagar Municipal Corporation

No: SMC/EERRWD/2662-2672
DIPK-NB-5624/22 Dated: 17/12/2022

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Divisional Forest Officer Shopian Forest Division Shopian.
e-NIT NO: - 38 OF 2022-23 DATED: - 13-12-2022

Retender of e-NIT NO: - 35 OF 2022-23 DATED: - 17-11-2022
Retender of e-NIT NO: - 32 OF 2022-23 DATED: - 19-10-2022
Retender of e-NIT NO: - 29 OF 2022-23 DATED: - 11-10-2022
Retender of e-NIT NO: - 26 OF 2022-23 DATED: - 30-09-2022
Retender of e-NIT NO: - 22 OF 2022-23 DATED: - 16-09-2022
Retender of e-NIT NO: - 16 OF 2022-23 DATED: - 31-08-2022

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble President of India, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir /Central Govt. Organizations for the following works:-

S, No	Name of Work	Adv. cost (Rs. in Lakh)	Bid Security (EMD) Amount in Rs	Class of contractor	Cost of Tender Document	Time of completion
1	Construction Of Boundary Pillars at Chamder Daji Forest (Comptt.V-2c), Shopian Forest Range, Forest Division Shopian.	7.126	14252=	"C & D"	Rs. 300/=	45 calendar days.
2	Construction Of Boundary Pillars at Dirnar, Narpur Doninar Forest (Comptt.Rb-23), Shopian Forest Range, Forest Division Shopian	1.66	3320=	"D"	Rs. 200/=.	20 Calendar days
3	Construction Of Boundary Pillars at Karewa Manloo (Za-woora) Forest (Comptt.Rb-21 and Rb-22), Shopian Forest Range, Forest Division Shopian	2.16	4320=	"D"	Rs. 200/=.	25 Calendar days

The e-NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bills of quantities, (B.O.Q) set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Website: - www.jktenders.gov.in.

Position of AA: Accorded
Position of T/S: Accorded
Position of Funds: Budgeted

Publishing Date:-	13-12-2022
Download Start Date:	14-12-2022 from 06:00 PM
Bid submission Start Date:	14-12-2022 from 06:00 PM
Bid submission End Date:	21-12-2022 Up to 06:00 PM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid Online.	22-12-2022 at 02:00 PM in the Office of the Conservator of Forests Kashmir South Circle Bijbehara Anantnag.
Date of Opening of Financial Bid Online:	To be opened (Online) at any convenient date and time after complete Evaluation of Technical Bids Received.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

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

No: DFO/SPN/2022-23/1065-70
DIPK-15266/22 Dated: 17-12-2022

Sd/-
DFO: Shopian Forest Division,
Shopian.

DOMINANTLY, we link school life to a part of our lives which is stress free and is all smiles. It seems, however, that this connotation attached to school life is limited. The experiences of students run quite contrary. Students generally feel relieved and liberated when they finally leave school because what should have been the best experience of their lives is often mentally exhausting and horrifying.

Coming from the system itself, I cannot help but wonder about the horrors I have had to witness as a school captain, while having to implement the school 'decorum'. The system of schooling precisely lacks almost everything but disrespect for every student's self-image. Even when the underlying impulse is to 'guide' students, the ways are often outmoded and inappropriate. Although some 'reputed' schools have given up on physical punishments, the disciplining of students remains violent as ever.

Schools here may rationalise this disciplining model but to the aware eye, it is mostly driven by a culture of shame and moral policing. Schools play a significant role in every individual's life as they spend their developmental and formative years here. However, schools have taken upon a role beyond them and often end up being the purveyors of morality, sometimes at the cost of doing the actual work of educating students in real sense.

In one instance, in my school, a 16-year-old girl's hair was forcefully trimmed by the teacher herself because her hair wasn't braided. In another incident, a male teacher asked a 15-year-old girl to take off her hijab and give it to him. He then used the hijab to clean his shoe and justified this harassment by guilt tripping the girl into thinking that since she wasn't wearing it 'consistently', she was hopeless and "characterless". Emotions aside, this amounts to harassing women and stripping them. It is not only inhumane but also illegal. It is not only inhumane but also illegal. It tantamount to physical and mental harassment of girls.

As a woman, I can speak for the negative fallout of such exercise on women students. They're morally policed to the extent of being slut shamed. They're classed into groups of "good girls" and "bad girls" – a shameful alienating exercise for children in their adolescent years.

Shockingly, it is not confined to mental harassment through words alone but actions too, especially for girls. They are often reduced to their appearance and are told that they don't deserve respect and won't achieve any success in life because they look or dress a certain way. Their caliber is reduced to dust irrespective of their merit and metal.

While the same schools organise extravagant events in the name of women's empowerment, numerous debates on women's rights and long speeches about gender equality; the hypocrisy is clearly evident.

In the name of 'discipline' and 'decorum', school teachers and administration usually label girls "characterless" for wearing something as normal as kajal/eye kohl. While it is true that students should follow a proper uniform and attend school in a formal style, teachers should know of better ways to deal with it rather than resorting to character assassinating young girls.

It is deplorable how young girls are treated in schools. They are brainwashed into thinking that they are somewhat inferior and are internalised with the notion which makes them think they have no control or stake on their bodies. Even as the educational system in the rest of the world is advancing in science, technology and techniques of teaching, our system is still stuck on promoting patriarchy and misogyny.

Such behavior towards young girls isn't detrimental to their growth and self-image alone. This treatment leaves an impact on young boys who learn such violent and misogynist values. We often won-

Moral Policing – A Teaching Menace

Sarah Koul



As a woman, I can speak for the negative fallout of such exercise on women students. They're morally policed to the extent of being slut shamed. They're classed into groups of "good girls" and "bad girls" – a shameful alienating exercise for children in their adolescent years

der what cultivates tendencies in men which make them treat women unfairly. It is in schools that literate men learn that women are secondary, should be "shown their place" and "controlled" through whatever means available. This is how most end up committing the worst crimes against women.

Why is it that highly educated men have little to no respect for their peers from the other gender? It is because school teaches young boys that women exist to be under constant supervision by practically policing women and showing young boys that girls should be "pulled by the leash" if they cross patriarchal boundaries. When young boys see teachers who are the idols of righteousness in their eyes scrutinizing young girls, they learn the same sexist values.

Add to this the culture of hostility that schools breed between girls and boys. Socialising between girls and boys is considered so out of question that schools end up raising youngsters who have no etiquettes to respectfully engage with each other.

When schools make cross gender interaction impossible for children as small as 8-year-olds, they start to think that the other gender is somewhat alien. Should someone dare to have a casual or even formal conversation with a fellow student from the other gender, they're chided scornfully. In essence, this teaches students that the other gender is nothing more than their sexual selves. Adolescence is a sensitive age. You and growing children start their journey into adulthood with new experiences that they have no control over.

By assuming that completely isolating girls and boys is the way out for reducing unwanted and unsavoured interactions between them, we are fooling no one but ourselves. School is the only place where interaction between boys and girls can be monitored. There can be healthy interactions which may take different forms but will eventually stay just that – new adolescent experiences. It is especially more relevant for boys, who do not know how to productively channelise their feelings and end up making stalkers out of themselves.

Additionally, had schools facilitated healthy and decent ways for girls and boys to interact, we'd have a bunch of men who wouldn't have to rely on our society's skewed views of women. They would have learnt how to decently interact with the other gender and to respectfully engage or disengage. Boys should not be left to learn about women from popular culture which objectifies women and stereotypes them. When young boys grow up alongside intelligent and confident girls – they'd not have to borrow their view of women from such harmful sources.

We can have our own views about the extent to which we want girls and boys to interact. These kinds of restrictions can in fact be right as well. However, reprimanding, slut shaming, and character assassinating is not going to make the cut. It just makes adults look spiteful and ignorant.

Schools have a very different meaning of morals. Their fixation on student's sexual morality is

almost perverted and sexualising. They care less about imparting the ideals of humanity, like the virtues of kindness, mercy, humility, sympathy, justice, truthfulness, tolerance which the human beings of today lack the most.

Isn't it bad that a place full of girls, instead of cultivating in them a sense of solidarity and sisterhood, encourages them to demean each other? Why are young girls who are yet to figure out anything about themselves dismissed as "bad" girls or "good" girls; as though there is something intrinsically irredeemable about them?

While the stereotypical 'good' girls are oppressed in a way they don't openly understand, the 'bad' girls are openly and evidently criticized and practically abused. They are forced into thinking that they are somewhat inferior to others because they dress or talk or behave in a certain manner. The school authority or teachers pronounce this judgment not understanding that school is entirely a place of learning and no judgments should be made for someone who is still in the process of discovering themselves and has a long way to go.

This kind of labelling and discrimination is extremely discouraging for young girls. We, as a society, should pave the way for women to be leaders and teach them the right values in a meaningful and positive way. What schools do instead, leads to them thinking that they are not capable and are in fact outcasts. This embeds in them a lack of self-confidence and gives them a lifetime of trauma.

What we don't realize is when we blame girls for provoking boys, we make boys think that they are not accountable for their actions, and somehow end up justifying their actions. This kind of apologetics is not unfamiliar to our society as it is the same thinking that goes on to blame women for every crime against them.

Yet another negative aspect of contemporary schooling in Kashmir is that it does not acknowledge the concept of mental health which even small kids are aware of now. The school counselors who claim to be the epitome of psychological knowledge and present themselves as the flag bearers of mental health awareness in Kashmir, often aid school authorities in their quest of demeaning little girls. They often sully the sanctity of secrecy and aggravate the process of shaming girls. Instead of providing students a safe space, free of judgment, they end up being a cog in the machinery of naming and shaming.

It is very easy to blame impressionable youngsters for falling prey to substance abuse when they find the entire process of growing up so isolating and hostile. Where are school authorities when students stray a bit? Why do schools have one and only one way of guiding – punishment?

Students of today are aware. Yes, we do have easy access to risky content through our phones. However, we also have access to information that teaches us to value ourselves and let one abuse us in the name of disciplining. We refuse to play by the sexist, patriarchal and unethical books of schools which cannot step up to treat students respectfully. We need an education that teaches us values in a positive manner and trusts us with our choices. We want schools that raise women who uplift each other rather than shame each other. We are young girls of today and we refuse to watch ourselves or our friends being harassed and labelled 'wayward'. We deserve better. Guide us better. Step up!

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

The author is an intern at Kashmir Observer and has graduated 12th standard recently. She was her school's Head Girl and is writing the student's side of the story at Kashmir Observer

Will 2023 Be a Year of Economic Crisis?

Project Syndicate

ANAT ADMATI

Multiple plausible scenarios may trigger what would qualify as an "economic crisis" in 2023. If the war in Ukraine escalates further, or tensions with China – for example, over Taiwan – intensify, supply chains may be affected, causing shortages and price increases. Cyberattacks can disrupt key infrastructure at any time and anywhere, with potentially significant repercussions. And since the financial system is as fragile, dangerous, and distorted as it has ever been (perhaps even more so), a crisis there is certainly possible. Regulators have repeatedly missed opportunities to reform the system since the 2007-2009 crisis, making it clear that "further crises will come."

An enormous buildup of risks across the financial system – often ignored by regulators and investors, only to emerge suddenly – is concerning. Many European banks already appear quite weak. According to a 2018 study, "off-balance-sheet" debt levels have grown since 2007. A recent report shows that there is \$65 trillion in hidden US-dollar debt in foreign-exchange markets – a much larger sum than prior to 2008 – and points to other risks. According to the World Bank, since 2000, the world's poorest countries have been spending the highest share of their export revenues on debt-service payments to rich countries, and debt-related risks are rising in low- and middle-income economies as well. Central banks routinely intervene to calm turbulent markets, as the Bank of England recently did to prop up the government-bond (gilt) market and protect pension funds. But a crisis involving multiple jurisdictions and key institutions with unsustainable commitments may not be eas-

ily contained.

Any "new" crisis will ultimately be rooted in the ongoing, intertwined crises of capitalism and democracy. Our economic system appears rigged and unjust, and many are rightly angry. When asked recently to write a short essay on "what has gone wrong with capitalism and how to fix it," I argued that "financialized capitalism" has undermined, overwhelmed, and corrupted democratic governments, and that flawed narratives have created confusion and blocked reforms. Martin Wolf, whose forthcoming book is entitled *The Crisis of Democratic Capitalism*, expresses similar concerns. Unless and until we diagnose the problems properly and fix the rules of the game, our world will be in peril.

JIM O'NEILL

Iam, frankly, not at all sure. There remain so many known unknowns out there, not to mention possible new developments that no one can predict. At the same time, after three years of the pandemic, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and the unexpected surge in inflation, we are all so scarred that we are probably not ready for positive surprises.

What would happen if a resolution is reached on the Ukraine war? What if China's exit from its zero-COVID policy goes smoothly, enabling a sharp economic rebound? What if, on top of these developments, world trade suddenly rises sharply? If you throw in more effective action by monetary policymakers to rein in inflation – a probable scenario, in line with the latest central-bank forecasts – it is not difficult to imagine a large rally in global equity markets. I think the chances of this happening are not negligible.

Of course, less sanguine scenarios are also probable. China's exit from zero-COVID could lead

to more negative health outcomes, jeopardizing economic recovery and leaving political leaders in a quandary. Given some of the economy's persistent underlying issues stemming from high debt leverage in property-related sectors, Chinese stocks confront the rumbling of the bears.

Likewise, inflation might not ease in line with central banks' expectations, and the modest signs of a knock-on effect in labor markets – in the form of rising wages – start to become embedded in behavior. In these circumstances, short-term interest rates would almost certainly rise a lot more than currently expected. This would set the scene for a repeat of 2022, and could lead to a full-blown financial crisis.

On balance, however, I find myself a bit more inclined toward the optimistic scenario. That is certainly a sharp contrast to this time last year, when it seemed reasonably obvious – even before the Ukraine war started – that 2022 would be challenging.

ESWAR PRASAD

Next year is shaping up to be a rough one for the global economy. Weakening growth momentum across the board, the fallout from a series of self-inflicted policy wounds, and severe constraints on policymakers' room for maneuver portend heightened risks of further economic pain and financial turmoil in 2023.

On a positive note, the world economy seems to have adapted to a series of unfavorable shocks over the last year, including a protracted war in Ukraine, volatile energy prices, and the disruptions from China's draconian zero-COVID policy. Inflation in the major economies seems to have stabilized, and is even showing signs of edging down.

To be sure, as the chaos arising from China's attempted exit from zero-COVID shows, policy-

makers are operating on a knife's edge, with little margin for error. Nonetheless, an explosive worldwide economic or financial crisis does not seem likely, unless policymakers in any of the major economies act capriciously or orchestrate a major geopolitical flare-up.

That said, some parts of the world are arguably already in crisis. Low-income countries have been hit hard by surges in food and commodity prices, the devastating effects of climate change, and limited access to foreign finance. Even in middle- and high-income economies, a combination of factors is hammering poor people's living standards.

Whether or not a major crisis occurs in 2023, economic inequality – both within and across countries – is likely to deepen further, unless policymakers take resolute and constructive steps to rebuild consumer and business confidence.

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

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Unrealistic Beauty Standards for 'Beautiful' Kashmiri Women?

Women can wear makeup but not too much, they should look 'natural', should be slim but not too slim, almost everything a woman does, criticism is instantly derived

Sarah Koul

Typically, Kashmiri women are perceived to have a fair white complexion and bright red cheeks, the perfect example of standard beauty. But what we mostly don't realize is that Kashmir is situated in the South-Asian geographical belt, which implies that naturally, people have an inherent tendency to have more melanin, which is the main component in brown skin. Here in Kashmir, if you are slightly brown skinned, you will be constantly asked if you're Kashmiri or not, because god forbid a Kashmiri woman be brown skinned. Kashmiris use the word 'gyeshoum' meaning 'brown skinned', as a slur to describe someone as undesirable. Kashmiris fret brown skin so much that it is impossible to find skin products as a brown skinned person here, for example- while buying a concealer, even at one of the best supermarkets in Kashmir, the only option you have is white - as if brown skin does not exist. Moreover, the salespersons have the audacity to tell you that brown products will make you look wheatish and ask you to opt for white products to conceal your skin colour.

"Don't be out in the sun for too long", "Don't play outdoor sports too often, you will catch a tan", "Don't eat too much of your favorite dessert, you could gain some pounds", are some statements that most of us often get to hear, in some instances on a daily basis. From a very young age, women are exposed to a variety of unrealistic beauty standards imposed upon them by society. Throughout history, women have felt the pressure to measure up to these standards which are lauded and labeled as beautiful.

In the early years of our childhood, we mostly looked at an ice cream as a source of utmost delight and happiness but as we grow older, we only come to think of it as a source of few calories that could make us look fat. This constant worry of gaining a few pounds eventually eradicates every such sense of joy which we earlier related to food that made us happy.

Although it is significantly important to have a healthy lifestyle, it is important for us to understand that a flat stomach is not an indication of good health and that body toning is simply an aesthetic practice.

In innumerable instances, the idea of a toned body emphasizes more on appearance rather than health



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and physical well-being. In Kashmiri society, it is inherently impossible to live in peace in your body. People are constantly fat shamed and if not, then shamed for being too skinny or dark-skinned. The list just goes on.

In 21st century, with easily accessible social media platforms these unrealistic 'ideal' body types have consumed more and more of young women's minds. Social media has also provided a stage for ceaseless body shaming and criticizing people

for their appearance has become an overlooked evil for society.

Body shaming is a phenomenon that almost everyone has to face, in many instances from their family and friends, "You are too heavy for a young girl", "You are too skinny, men should be more muscular", "You are so skinny you could get carried away by the wind", "Young women shouldn't be so fat, stop eating that!", are some of the very common phrases we hear daily, even

from people who are close to us.

We mostly tend to confuse self-hate with self-care pertaining to the ideals set by the society, which require us to shun every other practice of self-care except the ones that make us look more attractive. This materialistic idea of self-care is a silent mental assault- seeing oneself as just as an entity that needs to be constantly spruced up becomes a significant predictor of substandard mental health. These unrealistic body standards create an extreme sense of pressure among teenage girls to achieve a 'perfect' body, the idea of which is perpetuated through impractical photos of women portrayed in the media. Underweight and photoshopped- models or 'ideals of beauty' are everywhere, acting as examples of what young girls should aspire to look like.

While growing up young girls often find themselves in an amalgam of various standards they feel they need to measure up to in order to look 'prettier' and 'perfect'- small waist, clear skin, silky hair- the quintessential perfect woman. But it is clearly evident that these standards are very utopian, unrealistic and unachievable- having clear skin is a myth, real skin is textured has pimples, scars, pigmentation and facial hair- contrary to the made up and photo-shopped looks of otherwise 'beauty' and 'fashion' icons. Not just body type and weight, young girls face criticism for the color of their skin too- colourism exists in almost every sphere of the society, there is a rigid sense of perception that correlates lighter skin tone with beauty and femininity - even in the 21st century. Colourism is widely prevalent in Indian society, where fairer skinned women are considered to be beautiful and brown skinned women mostly have to hear unsolicited advice on skin whitening procedures. It is humorously ironic that in a country colonized and tortured upon by white people, the standard of beauty is white skin, while most of its population is brown skinned.

Western beauty ideals, including fair skin, dominate the world, while it is clearly factual that people belonging to different races have different skin and hair. Colourism is so deeply imprinted on people's minds that they knowingly or unknowingly pass it on to the next generation.

For instance, cartoon and animation is the very first interaction a child has with media, and media has

unrequited power to deeply influence a human's mind, it is mostly observed that animations feature 'fairies' and 'princesses' as fair skinned and 'villains' as dark skinned. This representation makes a child recognize white skin to beauty and positivity and dark skin to ugliness and negativity. Although in the contemporary time, media has adopted a more liberal approach which gives representation to skin of all colours,

quite prevalent in young girls. Social media, magazines, and the entertainment industry keep introducing high and unachievable standards, making people think that they need to look a certain way for society or the masses to perceive them as beautiful or desirable. Even if they try to achieve these, there is always criticism behind everything.

Women can wear makeup but not too much, they should look 'natural', should be slim but not too slim, almost everything a woman does, criticism is instantly derived.

While makeup is very popular among young girls, it has unhealthy implications too- more often, they feel the need to wear makeup to hide their 'flaws' which are inherently normal but not acceptable by the society, it becomes more of a mask for them behind which they hide their insecure self- they never get to admire who they really are. Having to mask up almost every day, to hide their real skin makes them think low of themselves, as if there is something wrong with who they really are and end up with extremely low self-esteem, low confidence and often body dysmorphia. Young girls mostly end up hating their normal features like scars, discolouration, body shape and push them to the edge of mental crises.

Why are these images slammed and forced upon women? The society leaves no stone unturned to burden women with stereotypes and expectations, which mostly put women under constant pressure. Human civilization should have been past these ignorant notions of treating another human differently owing to how the person looks, way long ago.

These standards are not just mere standards but chains imprisoning women from being able to express themselves freely, to be comfortable in their own skin, these standards strip women off the very basic right of existing unfiltered. Women and young girls need to realize that there is no harm in not accepting these standards, they don't stand for beauty or grace but are yet another societal norm made up to hold back and put women down.

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

The author is an intern at Kashmir Observer

BODY SHAMING IS A PHENOMENON THAT ALMOST EVERYONE HAS TO FACE, in many instances from their family and friends. "You are too heavy for a young girl", "You are too skinny, men should be more muscular", "You are so skinny you could get carried away by the wind", "Young women shouldn't be so fat, stop eating that!", are some of the very common phrases we hear daily, even from people who are close to us

but the ratio of non-white skin depiction is fairly unequal. This sense of relating white skin to 'beauty' and 'superiority' roots back to the colonial era where white people had an unspoken privilege over people of colour, the phenomenon has a very dark history that we are all aware of. Yet for Indian society, white skin is somehow essential, as if the effects of colonization are still prevailing.

Having a normalized yet unrealistic societal standard drilled into your mind as soon as you start to grow, can have serious mental and physical consequences, which is

'I'm Not Your Advertisement': Kashmir's Makeup Industry's Unfair Bargain

Farheen Fayaz

Services industry, as opposed to a goods industry, provides a deliverable, sometimes intangible but valuable to the customer. Noteworthy point about a service is that it should meet the benchmark for even being deemed a service from a customer's perspective.

Kashmir has recently stepped up its game in the services industry, a thriving industry right now. All praises to the service providers, who took an extra mile to offer distinctive services to the people of Kashmir. One such service and a personal favourite of mine is the one associated with makeup. Makeup products were always accessible but no one would provide a professional makeup service until recently. This industry undoubtedly performed quite well within a closed community of people who had never had this luxury before. Well, the good news here is, it is not a luxury anymore. However, with the services came exploitation. Yes, that's right, Exploitation!

How can a service probably manipulate its customers, you might think? Financial exploitation? Probably, something even worse. Let's spool back a bit. It started off with a few artists launching their service on the market. How did they launch it? Social Media, probably? That is right, multiple platforms over social media were used to introduce a campaign or advertise the services provided by makeup professionals. This motivated other such professionals to go along and take the lead. Then came the growth in this industry, with plentiful options available at distinct price ranges and an assortment of fantastic styles of work by numerous makeup professionals.

Let us get back to the point where they promoted their work on social media. Makeup is a service that needs not a mannequin but a person, a human being to work on. Where did the professionals get these persons from? Did they

hire someone, did they ask a friend for help? Certainly yes, how else would they do it, you might think? Let me tell you this, it is costly to hire someone or at least it is for start-up businesses. They work quite hard for marginal returns to start off with. As a result, many went for the easy solution, the brides themselves! Yes, hundreds of girls, if not more, get married every year. It is a treat to the eyes to see them on every social media platform. It is their red-carpet moment, isn't it?

Why do I care or why should you care? Well, the brides love it, to be on a public platform,

open to millions and billions of people. Oh yeah, and they certainly look remarkable, so why not? Sounds about right. What doesn't sound right is when the makeup artists won't deliver a service if a certain bride disagrees to be photographed and put on their social media page. What doesn't sound right is, what used to be paid service, becomes a free modelling run for a service provider. If anything, the bride pays a hefty amount to get ready and then act as a prototype for which she isn't paid. You see the irony there, don't you?

During a personal encounter with one such



Kashmiri makeup artist, mind you, a very talented one, I enquired about the makeup services and packages. However, the first and an extremely important personal restriction (customer perspective) I mentioned was, "NO PICTURES OF ME". To my surprise, she replied, and I quote, "How else can we show our work, hopefully you will understand." No miss, I do not understand. I do not understand the fact that you are using my personal pictures and violating my right to privacy for the sake of promoting your business. I also do not happen to understand if I paid for a service and I got the service, why not just stop there? I certainly fail to understand that I am a customer asking for a service just like we buy a product from a goods store, I am not your model used to promote your business. I am not the one you can use for advertisement. That is a service you need to avail for yourself. That is a service you need to pay for. Your services are not supposed to boom from the exploitation of your customers.

There are certain people who are happy to be on your social media and create content for you. That is totally a personal decision for them, but what everyone needs to understand is that it is customer's decision, not the service providers (makeup artists). A service provider cannot exploit a basic right of a customer when they are entirely hostile to it. Any artist has a right to their work and what they do with it, but not the service availed by a customer for a price.

So, the real question here is; Is the makeup industry really a service industry or is it just another glorified business exploiting the customers, mentally and monetarily?

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

The author is a Researcher

I am not the one you can use for advertisement. That is a service you need to avail for yourself. That is a service you need to pay for. Your services are not supposed to boom from the exploitation of your customers

Rajnath Lauds Army's Unmatched Bravery In Galwan & Tawang

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Bravery and valour displayed by the armed forces during the Galwan valley clashes and the recent face-off in the Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh is commendable and no amount of praise for them is enough, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Saturday.

In an address at industry chamber FICCI, Singh also said that India aspires to become a superpower to ensure global prosperity, but it does not have any intention to dominate other nations or capture even one inch of land of any country, in comments seen as a thinly veiled reference to China's aggressive behaviour along the borders.

The defence minister also took an indirect dig at Rahul Gandhi over his comments on the border row with China, a day after the Congress leader accused the government of downplaying the threat posed by the Chinese military along the Line of Actual Control.

"Any amount of praise is not enough for the armed forces for the way they displayed bravery and valour, be it in Galwan or Tawang," Singh said.

"We have never questioned the intention of any leader in the opposition, we have only debated on the basis of policies. Politics should be based on truth. Politics cannot be done on the basis of falsehood for a long time," he said, without naming anyone.

"The process of taking the society towards the right path is

called 'rajniti' (politics). I do not understand the reason behind doubting anyone's intention always," Singh added.

Citing the stiff opposition faced by the government in rolling out the GST (Goods and Services Tax), the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme and agricultural reforms, he said the trend of opposing any decision or scheme for the sake of opposition should stop as it is not a good sign of a healthy democracy.

Indian and Chinese troops were engaged in a fresh clash in the Yangtse area of Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang sector on December 9, in a first such major flare-up after the deadly hand-to-hand combat in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades.

"When I am saying we aspire to become a superpower, it should never be construed that we want to dominate over countries in the world. We do not have any intention to even capture one inch of land of any country," he said.

"If we want to become a superpower, then we want to become a superpower for global good and prosperity. The world is our family," Singh added.

The defence minister also said that India's economy was among the six-seven large economies during the time of Independence and when China witnessed a new system following the 1949 revolution, its GDP was less than that of India.

He said though India and China kept marching together till 1980, the neighbouring country went ahead, riding on economic reforms.

"In 1991, economic reforms started in our country too. But China has made such a long jump in a short time that, except the US, it has left behind all other countries of the world in the pace of development," he said.

"India returned to the list of top 10 economies in the 21st century. But the kind of development that should have happened in India was not happening," the defence minister said, adding that a new era of development began in 2014 when Narendra Modi became the prime minister.

Singh said when Modi took charge of the government, the Indian economy used to be the ninth-largest economy globally and its size was about two trillion dollars.

"Today, India's economy has become the fifth-largest economy with a size of three-and-a-half trillion dollars," he said.

The defence minister also referred to former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi's famous remark in 1985 that only 15 paise of every rupee meant for the welfare of the downtrodden reaches them and said that now, with some systemic changes, the entire rupee reaches the people.

"I am not doubting his (Rajiv Gandhi's) intention. He genuinely expressed his concerns. I can now say that because of some changes in the system, if 100 paise is sent from above, that

entire 100 paise reaches the poor or people of the country," he said.

In his address, Singh also gave an account of the achievements of the Modi government in areas of infrastructure, health, education, banking, trade and investment, foreign direct investment and overall economic reforms.

"Remember the time of 2013, when investment firm Morgan Stanley coined the term 'Fragile Five', which is the five countries of the world whose economy was faltering badly. The countries in this 'Fragile Five' were Turkey, Brazil, South Africa, Indonesia and India," he said.

"Today, India has moved out of the category of 'Fragile Five' and joined the 'Fabulous Five' economies of the world," he said. Singh said India's stature has gone up significantly on the world stage under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

Now, India is working on setting the agenda on the world stage, he added.

At the same time, the defence minister talked about some problems facing the nation, including that of inflation.

He said inflation has gone up due to disruptions in the global supply chain and other logistical bottlenecks as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine conflict.

"The problem of inflation is before us as a major issue. In fact, the world had not fully recovered from the supply chain disruptions and logistical bottlenecks caused by COVID-19, when the Ukraine conflict came before us," Singh said.

SC Dismisses Bilkis Bano's Plea For Reviewing Order Asking Gujarat To Examine Convict's Remission Application

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has dismissed a plea filed by Bilkis Bano seeking a review of its May 13 verdict by which it had said the state of Gujarat was the "appropriate government" competent to examine the application for the pre-mature release filed by a convict in the gang-rape and murder case.

Bano's separate petition challenging the remission of the sentences of the 11 convicts by the state government is pending before the Supreme Court. She was gang-raped and seven members of her family were killed during the 2002 Gujarat riots.

In its May 13 order, the apex court had asked the state government to consider the plea of a convict for pre-mature release in terms of its policy of July 9, 1992, which was applicable on the date of conviction, and decide it within a period of two months.

All the 11 convicts were granted remission by the Gujarat government and released on August 15.

Bano's plea seeking review of the May 13 order came up for in-chamber consideration on December 13 before a bench of justices Ajay Rastogi and Vikram Nath.

"In our opinion, there appears no error apparent on the face of record, which may call for review of the judgment dated May 13, 2022 and as regards the judgments on which the reliance has been placed, none of the judgments are of any

assistance to the review petitioner," the bench said in its order which was uploaded on the top court website on Saturday.

"In our opinion, no case for review is made out. The review petition is accordingly dismissed," it said, while also rejecting the application for listing in the open court.

According to procedures, review pleas against apex court judgments are decided in chambers by circulation by the judges who were part of the judgment under review.

The gang-rape survivor had sought a review of the top court's May 13 order on a plea moved by one of the convicts.

Earlier in the day, Bano's counsel Shobha Gupta said they would decide the future course of action after perusing the order of the apex court.

"...we were seeking review of that order because of the legality aspect. But remission, the legality, the correctness of remission is still open for discussion. There is no setback when it comes to merit to be tested of the remission order and whether the state of Gujarat could have taken it," she said.

"The issue completely remains open, no setback on the merits of the case. Only one petition on the legal aspect has been dismissed," Gupta said.

Apart from the review plea, Bano has also filed a separate petition in the top court, challenging the remission of the sentences of the 11 convicts by the state government, saying their premature release has "shaken the conscience of the society".

Bano was 21 years old, and five months pregnant, when she was gang-raped while fleeing the riots that broke out after the Godhra train burning incident. Her three-year-old daughter was among the seven family members killed.

The review plea had said Bano was not made a party to the petition filed by the convict, who along with others was released under the state's remission policy, which is not in force.

"In view of the development that the policy dated July 9, 1992 stood cancelled vide circular dated May 8, 2003 of State of Gujarat, it was necessary to be examined whether still the policy dated July 9, 1992 would be the relevant policy for remission application of the convicts to be considered, if at all the State of Gujarat is the appropriate government under section 432, CrPC," the plea had said.

On December 13, Bano's separate plea challenging the remission of the sentences of the 11 convicts came up for hearing before a bench of justices Ajay Rastogi and Bela M Trivedi.

Justice Trivedi recused herself from hearing the plea. "List the matter before a bench in which one of us is not a member," the bench had said, without specifying any reason for Justice Trivedi's recusal.

In her petition against the grant of remission, Bano has said the state government passed a mechanical order, completely ignoring the requirement of law as laid down by the Supreme Court.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Activists Up The Ante

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 at all levels"

The circular further stated that it is enjoined upon all public offices to ensure strict adherence to the provisions of the act and facilitate speedy dissemination of information to the information seeker.

"All public offices shall sensitize their CPIO's on important provisions of the RTI regime viz. voluntary disclosure of information, adherence to the prescribed timelines for disposal of RTI applications and appropriate disposal of appeals by the appellate authorities" the circular reads.

LoC Situation

adhering to the ceasefire understanding reached between the director generals of military operations.

"As compared to 4,645 ceasefire violations during its peak in 2020, only three minor incidents have been recorded since the Understanding in February 2021 with only one incident during 2022," the ministry said.

In a significant move aimed at reducing tensions, the Indian and Pakistani armies on February 25 last year announced that they would cease firing across the LoC while recommitting themselves to a 2003 ceasefire agreement.

"This year, Pakistan's attempts to push in terrorists have resulted in 12 infiltration attempts being eliminated along the LoC. Eighteen foreign terrorists were eliminated in these attempts and large quantities of arms and ammunition recovered," the ministry said.

It said though the situation improved, Pakistan continued to retain the infrastructure for the proxy war.

"However, Pakistan continued to retain proxy war infrastructure and intent to prosecute Proxy War in J and K. Functionality of training camps, presence of terrorists in launch pads and continuing infiltration attempts vindicate persistent intent of Pakistan," it said.

"Pakistan continues to exploit narco-terrorism to radicalise and motivate innocent youth undertake targeting of vulnerable civilians using pistols and grenades," the ministry said.

It said the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir continues to witness consistent improvement since the abrogation of Article 370. "The 'Whole of Nation Approach' has resulted in a reduction of violence, stone pelting and agitations in the Kashmir Valley," it said.

"Incipient normalcy has resulted in a consequent focus on tourism with 3.65 lakh pilgrims visiting the holy Amarnath shrine and a significant increase in the number of tourists visiting the Valley in 2022," it said.

The ministry said the "incident-free" conduct of Amarnath Yatra this year is not only a "testimony of the robust security architecture in the valley but also vindicates the desire for peace amongst locals and their willingness to reap its dividends and the locals of Kashmir deserve due credit for this."

It said the situation along the international boundary in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab largely remained peaceful.

Sub-Zero Temperature

minus 2.5°C on the previous night, the official said. It was 2.8°C above normal for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, the official said.

In Kupwara town, the mercury settled at

minus 3.8°C against minus 3.6°C on the previous night, the official said. It was 1.4°C below normal for the north Kashmir place, he said.

Jammu recorded a low of 7.2°C against 9.3°C on the previous night. It was 1.7°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said. Banihal recorded a low of 2.6°C (above normal by 1.1°C), Batote 4.3°C (0.9°C above normal), Katra 7.8°C (0.2°C below normal) and Bhardarwah 2.1°C (1.7°C above normal).

Ladakh, Leh recorded minus 7.6°C and Kargil minus 12.1°C, the official said. The MeT department has forecast mainly dry weather for now and no major weather activity till December 25.

J&K Has Emerged

implementation of people-friendly governance, setting up new businesses and industries. It is our responsibility to provide equal opportunities to all," the LG said.

The conference was attended by various distinguished guests and prominent personalities including Ram Naik, former Governor, Uttar Pradesh; Vinod Tawde, Former Minister of Maharashtra Government; Members of Parliament; Ministers, Legislators, former Ministers and senior politicians.

Speaking on the transformational journey of the UT, Sinha said that J&K has emerged as one of the fastest-growing UTs.

"The progress that UT has made in last three years has given new hope and confidence to the people. Never before had PMEGP, Infrastructure development, and projects completion taken place at the kind of speed witnessed in the past three years," he said.

"Accelerated pace of development, improved socio-economic parameters, unprecedented progress in all priority sectors, massive tourist influx, and industrial investment is testimony of peaceful and prosperous Jammu Kashmir," he added.

The LG also highlighted the reforms introduced by the government to empower every section of the society and made all the citizens, especially the youth as agents of change and providing equal opportunities to the aspirational society.

He also stated that his administration is taking decisive and stringent steps against terror ecosystem and corruption.

"Article 370 was the root cause of secessionism, terrorism, nepotism, discrimination & corruption and kept J&K underdeveloped. Three years after break from past, it is moving forward on a new developmental journey," Sinha said.

"The world is changing. India as the world's largest democracy has emerged as a global economic power and the achievements are inspiring J&K UT to make the country stronger and contribute in building modern India," he added.

The LG further said that with setting up of an unprecedented 21,640 new manufacturing and service units and the creation of over 1.70 lakh jobs, Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme - PMEGP has emerged as the most powerful medium to contribute to society.

Sinha also spoke on the revival and promotion of Jammu Kashmir as preferred Film-shooting destination and the strong bond it shares with Mumbai Film industry.

On the occasion, the distinguished guests and key speakers also shared their views on the transformative changes taking place in Jammu Kashmir.

Land Of Lashkar

1993 and returned after getting arms training with an intention to carry out subversive activities.

"After his infiltration from Pakistan, he remained active along with other dreaded and hardcore terrorists and was found involved in number of attacks on civilians and security forces besides incidents of arson and explosions in the district."

"Apart from that, a number of local youths were instigated and recruited by him into militancy," the officer said.

He said another militant commander Mohd Amin alias "Khubaib" of Thathri was initially motivated and recruited by Rashid.

"Amin is also at present operating from Pakistan and making desperate attempts to revive terrorism in the Chenab valley - Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban districts of Jammu region."

"He masterminded a number of terror-related incidents, including IED blasts, drone dropping and smuggling of weapons in the recent past," he said.

Both Rashid and Amin managed their ex-filtration to Pakistan over a decade back and have been declared as proclaimed offenders by the local court.

A number of FIRs are registered against them at various police stations in Doda and other districts of the Jammu region, the officer said. (PTI)

Azad-Led DAP

Azad, 73, who quit the Congress on August 26, launched the DAP in Jammu on September 26 with the support of dozens of former ministers, ex-legislators and other prominent leaders, majority of whom also resigned from the Congress in his support.

On October 1, Azad was unanimously elected as the chairman of the DAP following a resolution passed at a founder members' session, which was held both in Jammu and Srinagar.

Two days later, former ministers -- Taj Mohiuddin and R S Chib -- were appointed as treasurer and general secretary, respectively, for smooth functioning of the party.

Announcing the office bearers of DAP state committee J-K, Azad appointed former deputy chief minister Tara Chand and Sayeed and Saroori as party's vice chairmen.

M K Bhardwaj, Aslam Goni, Manzoor Ganai, Muzaffar Parrey, Abdul Gani Ahangar and Nizami were appointed as six working committee members, the party said, adding Mohiuddin and Chib will continue to be treasurer and general secretaries as appointed earlier.

The party said all vice chairmen, general secretaries, treasurer and both provincial presidents would be members of the working committee, while all secretaries will be special invitees to the committee.

Chib will be general secretary in-charge media and communication department, it said.

Power Never Been

interactive session of with party office-bearers of Jammu and Samba districts at the NC headquarters at the Sher-e-Kashmir Bhavan here.

"National Conference has always cherished to render sincere, selfless public service and power has never been its goal. Achieving welfare of the masses has been the longstanding commitment of the party," he said.

Peace, progress and equitable development of all regions and sub-regions of Jammu and Kashmir have remained the buzzword of the political agenda of the National Conference, Abdullah said.

During the interactive session, the party functionaries gave a detailed account of the

ongoing political activities in their respective segments to the vice president.

The meeting also witnessed deliberations on organisational issues, prevailing political situation and the future course of action, a party spokesperson said.

Abdullah asked the functionaries to take the mission, and vision of the party to every doorstep across the Jammu province.

Meanwhile, Abdullah visited the Gandhi Nagar residence of former Additional Director General of Police and founding Vice Chancellor of Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University Masud Choudhary who breathed his last after a prolonged illness here on Friday.

The former chief minister offered his condolences to the bereaved family.

He was accompanied by provincial president, Jammu, Rattan Lal Gupta and other senior party colleagues, the spokesperson said, adding Abdullah prayed peace for the departed soul.

Price Of A Life

protests in the town with the protesters demanding an impartial probe into the incident.

Victims Cremated,

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

District Development Commissioner Vikas Kundal, Deputy Inspector General of Police Haseeb Mughal and other senior civil and police officers joined thousands of people in the cremation of the deceased at the local crematory.

The cremation passed off peacefully without any untoward incident, an official said.

Leaders of different political parties visited the bereaved family and demanded a time-bound probe into the incident and adequate compensation to the families of the deceased.

"It is a tragic incident and whosoever is found involved will have to face the law. Army is conducting a court of inquiry and police have launched its investigation after registering a case," J&K BJP president Ravinder Raina told reporters after meeting the families of the deceased in Rajouri.

He said Lt Governor telephoned the victims' families to assure that justice will be done to them, adding, "I have talked to the General officer Commanding-in-Chief, northern Command and GOC 25 Infantry Division based in Rajouri over the incident."

Raina said the Army is a professional force and known for its discipline, bravery and upholding human rights, adding, "I have full faith that the investigation will be completed in a time-bound manner to award exemplary punishment to the guilty."

Referring to the killing of three local youths of Rajouri in a fake encounter in Shopian on July 18, 2020, the BJP leader said the Army's court of inquiry nailed the guilty and took stern action against them.

A delegation of the Pradesh Congress Committee led by former Member of Legislative Council (MLC) Ravinder Sharma also visited the families of the deceased and demanded a time-bound judicial probe into the killings to fix the responsibility.

"We have gone to share the grief of the Dalit families who lost their members in the tragic incident. A high-level time bound probe or a judicial inquiry is a must to provide justice to the victims," Sharma, chief spokesperson of the committee said.

He said Congress has always stood with the armed forces in the fight against terrorism

which has ruined the lives of the people in Jammu and Kashmir over the past 30 years.

Sharma demanded adequate compensation, free education to the minor children of the deceased and government jobs to their family members as part of their rehabilitation. (PTI)

Man Found Dead

suggested that the man had died of natural causes, the official said.

Four Gamblers

residents of Khomina Baharabad Hajin. "They have been shifted to police station where they remain in custody," the spokesperson said, adding "Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 87/2022 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Hajin and investigation has been taken up."

Police Nabs Drug

said. Accordingly, he said, a case under FIR number 334/2022 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Ganderbal and further investigation has been taken up.

DC Srinagar

about the urgency of the assignment and were directed to submit the relevant information by or before 04:30 PM, while as the concerned dealing officials did not comply with the directions, expressed their inability to submit the information and later on switched off their phones, thereby indicating their contempt to the direction of this office and their non serious attitude towards urgent official assignments.

"Now therefore, Mr. Mohd Ayoub Naib Tehsilidar Nandpora, Mr. Amir ullah Khan (GO) Nandpora and Mr. Ashiq Husain Patwari Halqa Saderbal are hereby placed under suspension with an immediate effect. The suspended employees Mr. Mohd Ayoub Naib Tehsilidar Nandpora will remain attached with Grievance Cell of DC Office, Mr. Amir ullah Khan (GO) Nandpora and Mr. Ashiq Husain Patwari Halqa Saderbal will remain attached with Naibat Khonnoh. Mr. Mohsin Lateef Khan, Naib Tehsilidar in DC Office Srinagar will look after the charge of Naib Tehsilidar Nandpora in addition to his own duties", read the order copy.

The order further states that Assistant Commissioner (Revenue) Srinagar will enquire into the matter and furnish his findings/recommendations within 03 days positively. (GNS)

Mystery UFO

were just as stunned as civilians and launched an investigation into the mystery object.

The light trails are now suspected to be the result of rocket testing from the nearby Bay of Bengal.

India TV reported the object was likely an InterContinental ballistic missile - known as an Agni-5 - which is capable of speeds of up to 3100mph.

The outlet noted that the Indian military last tested an Agni-5 back in October 2021.

It's not the first time that locals have been spooked by bizarre shapes in the night sky.

Previously a fireball spotted in the sky above India left witnesses speculating the object was a UFO or an out of control rocket hurtling to earth.

The object was seen moving in the night skies of the Kishtwar district of the Jammu region of the territory of Jammu and Kashmir - prompting several reactions online. (The Sun)

'Battle of Garibpur' Heralded Final Victory In 1971 Bangladesh War: Military Records

Press Trust Of India

DHAKA: A fierce three-day battle took place between the Indian and Pakistani security forces in a forested finger-shaped village in a swampy area that paved the way for the final victory in the 1971 war and resulted in the formation of a new country - Bangladesh, according to the military records.

Dhaka emerged as the free capital of independent Bangladesh on December 16, 1971 after the war between India and Pakistan broke out on December 3 when the Indian troops directly stood beside the Mukti Bahini soldiers.

Bangladesh's wartime history records that even before the Liberation War of Bangladesh started, a little-discussed but fierce three-day battle known as the 'Battle of Garibpur' was fought on the western borders of what at that time called East Pakistan. The battle took place between the two forces and both sides used their tanks and airpower from November 20 to November 23.

India used Russian-made PT-76 tanks against Pakistan's US-made M-24 Chaffee tanks, and Indian Air Force's (IAF) Jinaat

fighter jets countered attacks by Pakistani Saber F-86 fighter jets. The Pakistani side suffered disastrous losses in terms of both men and machines.

According to military strategists, the tactics of the Indian armoured troops backed by crucial artillery and Mukti Bahini support were key to the success of this crucial strategic battle, which the victors preferred to keep in a low key since the two countries were yet to enter a declared war.

"If we were allowed on that day, we could have directly driven to Jashore (deep inside Bangladesh) expediting the victory, bringing the war itself to an end," retired armoured core brigadier Balram Singh Mehta, who took part in the battle, told PTI.

Mehta, who is in Dhaka as part of an Indian veterans' delegation coinciding with the Victory Day celebrations, led the tank troops during the battle as the commander of his 'C' Squadron of Indian 45 Cavalry Major DS Narang' was killed at the very beginning of the encounter.

Several military experts have described the 'Battle of Garibpur' as the biggest tank battle of the 1971 war that took place in foggy weather in a forested fin-



ger-shaped village in a swampy area on the Chuadanga border.

"After this war, the defense system of the Pakistani invaders became unbalanced...both sides fought to the best of their ability and left a large number of war lessons," said retired Bangladeshi major general Imamuz Zaman, who is also a 1971 veteran.

Liberation War veteran retired major Nasir Uddin, who was an armoured core officer of the Bangladesh Army, said despite being light in weight with thin armour, the allied troops won the battle with an element of surprise and backup support, particularly the air power and artillery shells.

Garibpur is located 6 kilometres inside Bangladesh along India's Boira, on both sides of the highway from India to Jessore via Chougacha. For this reason, Garibpur is considered an important road connection between the two countries.

According to Pakistani military experts, their high command was of the opinion that this swampy area was "inaccessible to tanks" and was shocked by the presence of Indian tanks. On the other hand, the soldiers of Mukti Bahini continuously harassed the Pakistanis there from the beginning with their hit-and-run tactics.

Various writings suggest that an accidental skirmish resulted

in a Mukti Bahini patrol being spotted by a Pakistani reconnaissance group in the area, and the allies lost an opportunity for a complete surprise attack.

Then Pakistani military spokesman Major Siddique Salik later wrote in his book "Witness to Surrender" that their troops always believed the area was "inaccessible for tanks" while the battle proved that their troops had lost their staying power and, simultaneously, the fact that the "allied forces were fully determined".

"Enemy forces (allied forces) crossed the border near Boira (Jessore sector) on November 13. They hid there for seven days. At this time, the Indians formed two full battalions. We came to know about their presence around November 19," he wrote.

"The attack was launched at 6 am on November 21. It progressed well initially (for Pakistanis) when the (Pakistani) attacking force advanced towards the enemy position in a grove of trees, and enemy tanks opened up from hidden positions. This was a major surprise for us because we had always regarded it as an 'untankable' area," he wrote.

The military records suggested that Indian artillery forces crossed the border quickly and joined the battle. There, Pakistani troops sought the assistance of PAF fighter jets and soon after, three Pakistani Saber fighter jets were seen circling in the sky to counter the India's Gnats fighter jets.

"The attack was then withdrawn," Salik said.

Mehta said against the backdrop of a well-assumed imminent full-scale military warfare, the Indian forces needed some assault launching pads against Pakistani troops and "Garibpur was among the key launch pads because of its proximity to Jessore".

Imamuz Zaman supplemented Mehta, saying the allied forces in a preliminary operation plan in mid-November decided to use as a launching pad the area around Chougacha in Jashore for subsequent operations in enemy-occupied western region.

Bangladesh's wartime army records suggest the Mukti Bahini guerrillas found the Garibpur area to be largely unguarded by Pakistanis for a major battle, a piece of intelligence, that helped the plan formulation.

Residents in the neighbourhood recalled Mukti Bahini soldier Abdus Sattar escorted the Indian tanks to the site escaping enemy eyes while fellow guerrillas with villagers' support paved the way for the tanks by putting trees on muddy paths.

Then Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi herself highlighted the success and importance of the war in Parliament while Salik wrote that their top commander Niazi, felt that this frontal battle had "started his all-out war".

"The attack on Garibpur was the strongest that Pakistan launched in the war... (but) eventually as a result of this battle, Pakistan had been completely unbalanced," Brigadier Hayat Khan, who led the Pakistani side in the battle, later said.

A total of 28 allied troops including affiliated Mukti Bahini soldiers lost their lives while 42 were wounded in the battle the Pakistani casualty was estimated to be around 300 soldiers, including three officers. Six enemy Prisoners of War were apprehended.

The international boundary along the region remained in allied hands until the final victory.

Chemists Told Not To Put Discount Boards Outside Their Shops

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Authorities have asked chemist shops Kashmir Valley not to display discount percentage flex boards outside their premises in the best interest of the patient care.

"It has been reported by the empowered authorities of various Districts of Kashmir Division that some chemist shops are displaying the Discount rates/Discount percentage of medicines outside their shops thereby creating chaos and confusion among the needy patients," Dy. Drugs Controller Kashmir Division said in circular.

"Discount is a kind of reduction or deduction in the cost price of a product. It is mostly used during consumer transactions, where patients are provided with discount on various medicines," the circular reads, adding, "Such practices are intolerable and violation of the pharmacy ethics. All the retail chemist shops in the Districts of Kashmir Division are directed not to display discount percentage flex boards outside premises in the best interest of the patient care."

The authorities also asked stakeholders dealing in Pharma business in Kashmir to obtain medical products from outside J&K only when they are able to obtain dealer particulars, address, contact details, bank details, GST details and valid License copies as well as certificate from local Drug Authority of concerned State/UT certifying the good standing of the supplying vendor.

"The Drugs and Cosmetic Act & Rules have been enacted to regulate the import, manufacture distribution and sale

of drugs and cosmetics. Under such regulations, licenses are granted by the competent authority to eligible persons to run business of wholesale/retail drugs," the circular said, adding, "However instances of licensees indulging in purchase of medicines from some sources (suspected) located outside the U.T of J&K have been reported by the empowered inspectorate staff and some Pharma trade Associations in the Division."

Good Trade Practices support any purchase from sources located outside the UT in exceptional circumstances where local sources of supply are not available, it said. Rules 65(5)(3) of the Drug & Cosmetic Rules 1945 provides the complete procedure regarding sale or resale by the wholesale.

"In order to reform the scenario regarding procurement particularly from sources located outside Union Territory, it is mandatory to exercise stringent regulatory Control," it said, adding, "As a prudent measure all the stakeholders dealing in Pharma business in the Kashmir Division are hereby notified to obtain medical products from outside state only when they are able to obtain documents from the supply sources including dealer particulars, address, contact details, bank details, GST details and valid License copies .documentary evidence to suggest that the supplying firm is an authorized dealer/stockiest /vendor of the manufacturing firm, challan details, transportation record and certificate from local Drug Authority of concerned State/UT certifying the good standing of the supplying vendor." (GNS)

20% Govt Schools In J&K Lack Loo Facilities For Girl Students



Agencies

SRINAGAR: The infrastructural promises in government schools fall flat as at least 3093 public institutions in Jammu and Kashmir are without loo facilities for the female students.

The official figures reveal that among the total government run schools in Jammu and Kashmir, at least 3093 government schools that amount to nearly 20 percent of the institutes are without toilet facilities for the female students.

According to a local news agency KNO only 12,265 government schools were availing the facilities.

The case of toilet facilities for

the female students in private schools in Jammu and Kashmir is worse than the government schools as the official figures reveal that at least 45 percent of functional private schools in Jammu and Kashmir san the toilet facilities for its female students.

It reveals that out of the total number of private schools of Jammu and Kashmir, only 55 percent private educational institutes were having the toilet facilities for the female students.

Likewise, 50 percent of the aided schools functioning here were also lacking the toilet facilities for the female students. "In aided 8978 schools

did not have the toilet facilities for its female students while only 8979 such schools were providing the facilities to the student's."

It also states that in an overall situation of all schools of Jammu and Kashmir, 11 percent of the schools were lacking the toilet facilities for the female students and staff that includes all the government, private, aided and other schools.

The official figures reveal that among the total number of government run schools in Jammu and Kashmir, at least 18,431 schools that amount to nearly 80 percent of the institutes are without medical facilities—(KNO)

Pole Seeks Details Of Land Identified For Industrial Estates

Chairs Meeting On Status For Grant Of Permission For Establishment Of Industries Under SWS

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole on Saturday convened a meeting of concerned Officers to review the progress on grant of permission with respect to establishment of Industries under Single Window System (SWS), at his office here.

The meeting was attended in person by Javed Y Dar, Chief Engineer KPDCIL; Mehmood Ahmad Shah, Director Handicraft and Handloom; Saloni Rai, Director Industries and Commerce; GM SICOP; SE PWD; SE PHE; DC State Taxes; Project Engineer SICOP; RD PCE PCB and Assistant Director H&H.

Besides, the meeting was also attended by DCs/ ADCs of all districts of Kashmir through video conferencing. At the outset, the meeting discussed threadbare status of linkage of services for operationalizing the unified platform for availing different services for establishment of units by the industrialists.

The Div Com directed that till the time the platform gets started URL linkage of various services provided by different departments can be done with the I&C deptt website.

The Director I&C informed the chair that so far 3500 applications have been received in Kashmir division out of which appraisal of 2500 has been done which

has been approved by High Level Land Allotment Committee and of these 1300 units have been provided allotment orders and 750 have also made payment.

Termining the Single Window System as novel initiative of government, the Div Com said that SWS will help applicants to track the status of their cases and it will also ensure transparency on part of resolution of cases.

The meeting also held discussion on approach roads of industrial estates and other necessary facilities like electricity, water etc. The Div Com sought details of width of approach roads to Industrial Estates in various districts and directed District Administrations to ensure widening of existing approach roads where ever required by acquiring state or kachcharai land to ensure smooth movement of even bigger vehicles like trawlers.

He also directed Chief Engineer KPDCIL to resolve power related issues at these Industrial Estates.

Taking review of additional land allotment for Industrial Estates in all ten districts of Kashmir, the Div Com directed the concerned to send details of land identified in each district till Monday. He also directed them to allot a minimum of 1000 kanals land with a patch no less than 150 kanals to ensure all infrastructure pertaining to different departments is housed at the same place.

Bukhari Slams BJP For 'Aggressive, Destructive' Policies On J&K

Press trust of India

JAMMU: Apni Party (JKAP) president and former minister Altaf Bukhari on Saturday accused the BJP-led central government of following "aggressive and destructive" policies on Jammu and Kashmir.



Accusing the saffron party of trying to undermine the constitutional and political rights of the people, Bukhari said it was disturbing to see that new aggressive laws undermining the rights and interests of J-K are being brought into effect with each passing day.

The latest is the new land lease rules, which might terminate the old leases, he said addressing a party convention in Samba district.

He also denounced the BJP government for not restoring statehood to J-K and also not holding assembly elections.

"They say that the promise of abrogation of article 370 was

in their election manifesto. But, then why did they also snatch the statehood away and divided J-K into two union territories? And, why don't they hold elections here even after a state of normalcy is restored here? These things are creating apprehensions among the masses," he said.

"To elect their own representatives to place them at the helm of affairs is a democratic right of the people, and they cannot be deprived of this right for so long without any plausible reason," Bukhari said. The JKAP president said people of both Jammu and Kashmir regions ought to stand united and maintain harmony so that they can protect their constitutional rights and mutual interests.

"We need to initiate a movement to demand our rights such as the restoration of statehood, holding of immediate assembly polls, and reversal of hostile laws which have been brought into effect for the past some time.

SKUAST-K Holds Skill Training On CA Storage, Processing

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A weeklong skill training programme on 'Opportunities in CA Storage and Processing of Horticulture Produce' Saturday concluded at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir, Shalimar campus.

The training was organised by SKUAST-K's Division of Food Science and Technology under the sponsorship of the Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises as part of the initiatives being taken by Vice Chancellor, Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganai for strengthening innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem in agriculture and allied sectors.

The aim of the workshop is to aware the apple growers, CA store owners and food processors of the opportunities in CA storage and processing of apples. Speakers from industry, financial institutions, and academia from within and outside J&K were invited to deliberate upon prospectives in post-harvest management and processing of apples. Participants included industry personnel, CA store operators/owners and young graduates desirous of setting up their units in this field.

Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganai, who was the chief guest at the valedictory function held on Saturday, interacted with the participants and encouraged them to come up with their own startup ideas which will be supported by the university.

Director, Horticulture Kashmir, GR Mir, who was the guest of honour at the occasion, gave information regarding schemes and subsidies provided by the government for establishing food processing units.

SKUAST-K's Director Planning & Monitoring, Prof Haroon Rashid Naik, highlighted that the goal of the university is to become an 'innovation lead University'.

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, (JAL SHAKTI) PHE, MECHANICAL RURAL DIVISION, SGR.

GIST of E-Tender.

E-N.I.T. No:- PHE/MRD/TS/ 138 of 12/2022

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, E-tenders are invited in two cover system from approved and eligible Contractors having GST registration/registered with J&K Govt., Railway and other State/Central Government Organizations for the following work:-

Sr.	Nature of Work	Name of the Water Supply Scheme	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Doc.	Time of Completion	Programme
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
A	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 250KVA HT/LT Distribution Transformers, 100KVA Voltage Stabilizer and Vertical type open well Submersible pumping units at various WSSs	Rural Sub-Division Srinagar	9.43	Reg. of Electrical/Mechanical Nature of work	100/=	15 days	(M&E) Plan

AAA : Accorded vide order NO : SE/PHE/MCN/Works 10 of 06/2022 Dated:- 30-06-2022

Technical Sanction : Granted

Critical Dates/Information.

1. Publishing Date	17-07-2022 (5:00 PM)
2. Period of Downloading of Bids	17-12-2022 (5:00 PM) to 24-12-2022 (11.00 A.M)
3. Period of Submission of bids	17-12-2022 (5:00 PM) to 24-12-2022 (11.00 A.M)
4. Date of opening of Tender/Timing	24-12-2022 at (12:00 P.M)
5. Tender Receiving Authority:	Executive Engineer, (Jal Shakti) PHE Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar
6. Document Cost :	Non-Refundable in the shape of Treasury Challan/receipt shall be deposited to Account Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar (The firm shall specify the e-NIT No. & name of work for which applied)
7. Bid Validity Period:	180 Days
8. The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on	www.Jktenders.gov.in
09	Instead of EMD the firm has to furnish "Bid Security Declaration", format of the declaration is mentioned in the Bid Document

Note:- The tenderer who is declared as L1 after opening of price bid will deposit 3% of the Estimated cost of the work in shape of CDR/FDR before allotment is issued in his favour.

No: -PHE/MRD/TS/4013-17
DT: - 17/12/2022

DIPK-15279-22
DT: 17-12-2022

Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Rural
Division Srinagar.



21 J&K Cricketers In 2023 IPL Auction

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As many 21 cricketers from Jammu & Kashmir have been included in the Indian Premier League 2023 Player Auction, which will be held in Kochi on 23 December at 2:30 pm IST.

Among the 21 players selected, 14 are fast bowlers. It's for the first time that J&K has the most number of selected players in the 2023 edition of the IPL auction.

A number of bowlers have already attended trials organised by various franchise teams. Delhi Capitals held a scouting camp in the Valley in August and some of those selected in the talent hunt were later called up for the main trials in October. Meanwhile, some reports suggest that Gujarat Titans and Mumbai Indians have

also been keen on giving J&K pacers a trial. Basit Bashir and Sha-ruk Dar played as net bowlers for Punjab Kings and SRH in the 2022 edition of the IPL.

Reportedly, a number of IPL scouts saw the J&K senior cricket team play during the recently concluded Syed Mushtaq Ali Tournament and Vijay Hazare Trophy.

J&K players in the IPL 2023 auction list include:

Shubham Khajuria, Vivrant Sharma, Mujtaba Yousuf, Abid Mushtaq, Yudhvir Charak, Basit Bashir, Rasikh Dar, Waseem Khanday, Avinash Singh, Aman Sharma, Fazil Makaya, Ateev Saini, Sha-ruk Dar, Lone Mu-zaffar, Auqib Dar, Asad Jamil Ahmed, Aashish Bhatt, Gourav Koul, Rajeev Singh, Mohd. Wasim, Sampark Gupta.

1st Test: India Edge Closer To Victory Over Bangladesh

Press Trust of India

CHATTOGRAM: Seasoned Axar Patel upped the ante with a triple strike just when it mattered as Indian bowlers compensated for an insipid first session by reducing Bangladesh to 272 for 6, closing in on a big victory, on the fourth day of the opening Test here on Saturday.

Debutant Zakir Hasan (100 off 224 balls) showed a lot of character, scoring a patient hundred but saving the Test match by batting out for nearly 180 overs

in two days was always going to be an uphill task, as also chasing a target of 513.

Bangladesh need another 241 runs on the final day on Sunday but skipper Shakib Al Hasan (40 batting) could be more keen on delaying the inevitable.

While Zakir and his young opening partner Najmul Hossain Shanto (67, 156 balls) frustrated the Indian bowlers for an entire session and added a record 124 for the first wicket, the visitors pulled back things in the second session to re-gain control of the proceedings.

2022 World Cup Final: Messi Seeks Glory As Argentina Meets France



Agencies

DOHA: It is now or never for Lionel Messi. The Argentina superstar's once-in-a-generation career will be defined — for many — by whether he leads his country to the World Cup title on Sunday.

Can he finally, at the age of 35, win soccer's biggest prize to secure his place alongside Pelé and Diego Maradona in the pantheon of the game's greatest ever players?

Standing in his way is France, the defending champion, and Kylian Mbappé, the player best positioned to take over from Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo as soccer's marquee name.

That's if he hasn't already. Mbappé also is standing on the cusp of history heading into the match at the 80,000-seat

Lusail Stadium, a title decider that is filled with storylines.

The 23-year-old France forward is looking to emulate Pelé by being a champion at his first two World Cups and set up the prospect of a third title, a feat only ever achieved by the Brazil great who has been hospitalized during this year's tournament because of a respiratory infection.

Mbappé was 19 when he led France to its second World Cup title in 2018, becoming the youngest scorer in a final since a 17-year-old Pelé did so in 1958.

Indeed, Mbappé enters the final tied as the tournament's leading scorer with five goals. The player alongside him? Messi, of course.

Who wins the Golden Boot — the award for the top scorer — is just one of the many other nar-

ratives around the final.

There's France, the dominant national team of this generation, looking to become the first to win back-to-back World Cups since Brazil in 1962.

Like France, Argentina is seeking a third World Cup title — after 1978 and 1986 — to move into outright fourth place in the all-time list.

Anyone who isn't French, or maybe a fervent fan of Ronaldo, is likely to be willing on Argentina's diminutive No. 10 in the biggest match of his career.

Eight years ago, Messi walked away from the 1-0 loss to Germany in the 2014 final with the Golden Ball award for the tournament's best player.

This time, he'll want instead to be lifting another trophy, made of 18-carat solid gold, to cap a career like no other. (AP)



Jammu Beats Srinagar To Win J&K Baseball Gold

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu baseball team on Saturday defeated Srinagar 4-2 to win gold in J&K UT Level Baseball Championship 2022-2023, held under the banner of Amateur Baseball Federation of India (ABFI) and under My Youth My Pride initiative of J&K Sports Council at Gindun Sports Stadium Raj- jbagh, Srinagar.

Raju Sharma, President, J&K Baseball Association and Farooq Ahmad, General Secretary J&K Baseball Association presided over the event, which was was

organised by Srinagar District Baseball Association.

The championship saw competitions in Men's section, including Junior, Sub Junior and Senior teams, in which different districts of J&K participated.

For Jammu Division, Vikram Singh Chib, Rahil and Sumeet Jam- wal hit home runs in the finals.

At the last President J&K Base- ball Association Raju Sharma present vote of thanks to Chief Guest, Guest of Honours, Special

Guest, Coaches, Officials, Play- ers, and members of organising committee for making the event a grand success.

Croatia Beats Morocco To Take 3rd Place At WC

Agencies

AL RAYYAN: Luka Modric led Croatia to third place in what was likely the midfield great's last ap- pearance at the World Cup.

The runners-up from four years ago secured another medal by beating Morocco 2-1 in the third-place match on Saturday.

Mislav Orsic scored the deci- sive goal shortly before halftime at Khalifa International Stadium to ensure Modric finished on a winning note, if this does turn out to be his last World Cup match.

At the age of 37, that seems likely, even if there are hopes he will lead his country at the 2024 European Championship. Josko Gvardiol put Croatia ahead in the seventh minute, but Achraf Dari



evened the score in the ninth.

After becoming the first Afri- can team to reach the World Cup semifinals, Morocco's tournament ended in two losses. But then team's achievements in Qatar will be remembered for the outpour- ing of pride among Arab nations.

The World Cup final between defending champion France and Argentina is scheduled for Sun- day at Lusail Stadium. (AP)

Bun Maska



Chai

Chai Ka Chaska With Bun Maska



JK Bank Lawns, Opp Ghat
6 Boulevard, Srinagar