

No Security Problem For Bharat Jodo Yatra: LG



LG Manoj Sinha greets people with folded hands at Zewan, where he laid the foundation stone of a housing project for Kashmir migrant employees. READ FULL STORY ON PAGE 5

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said all necessary security arrangements have been made for the Jammu and Kashmir leg of the Bharat Jodo Yatra led by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

The march entered Kashmir on Thursday and will culminate with a rally in Srinagar on January 30.

"There will be no problem from the security point of view for the yatra. All security arrangements have been made," Sinha told reporters after laying the foundation stone of a mega housing project for Kashmir migrant employees under the PM package at Zewan, 12 km from here.

The march started from Kanyakumari on September 7. On the eviction drive launched by the | [More on P10](#)

Cong Wants Admin To Take Call On Yatra Route

The Congress wants to take the Bharat Jodo Yatra, led by Rahul Gandhi, through the interiors of the Kashmir valley, but has left the decision on the route of the foot march to security agencies and the Jammu and Kashmir administration, party leader Chetan Chauhan has said here.

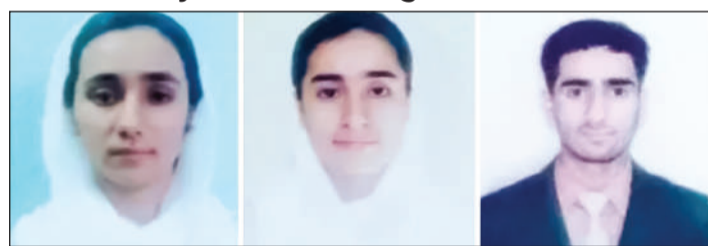
"We have carried out reconnaissance and submitted two routes -- one through the national highway and another | [More on P10](#)

No March Today

The Bharat Jodo Yatra resumed on Friday from Hatli Morh in Kathua district. As per Kashmir News Observer, amidst chill and inclement weather conditions Yatra resumed after a delay of more than one hour in this border district of Jammu and Kashmir. Yatra was scheduled to start at 7.00 am but was delayed | [More on P10](#)

3 Siblings From Doda Qualify KAS Exam

Trio Lived Without Cell Phones, Studied 8 Hours A Day To Get Through The Exam



Agencies

Srinagar: Three siblings from the far-off area of Doda in Jammu division have qualified J&K Administrative Service (JKAS), the results of which were declared on Thursday evening.

Three siblings have been identified as Huma Anjum Wani, Ifra Anjum Wani and Suhail Ahmad Wani from village Kahi Trankhal in Bhaleesa area of Doda and are now settled in Jammu.

Suhail who is younger to sisters has secured 111th rank and

obtained 1055 points followed by Huma Anjum Wani having 117th rank with 1050.5 points and Ifra Anjum Wani having 143rd rank with 1034.5 points.

Their father Munir Ahmad Wani, who was working as labourer in Baglihar project and now a contractor said that it is a very proud moment for him and all people of J&K as his children have qualified JKAS without any coaching.

He said that since their childhood, their aim was to qualify IAS/ JKAS and finally after working hard for years together, | [More on P10](#)



A man walks through a rough road during early morning snowfall in the outskirts of Srinagar city on Friday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

5 Killed After Bus Rolls Into Gorge

Press Trust of India

Jammu: Five people, including a woman, were killed and 15 others sustained injuries after a mini bus skidded off the road and plunged into a deep gorge in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, police said. The accident took place at Sila village of Billawar in the evening when the driver lost control of the private bus while negotiating a blind curve, they said.

According to police, the bus was on its way to Dhanu Parole village from Mondli village.

Four people including a 60-year-old woman were found dead at the spot by rescuers, while 16 others were rushed to a hospital where one of them succumbed to injuries, they said. (PTI)

SC Refuses To Stay J&K Govt's Anti-Encroachment Drive

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Supreme Court on Friday refused to pass any order seeking a stay on a circular issued by the Jammu & Kashmir government directing deputy commissioners (DCs) to remove encroachments on State Land including Roshni and Kacharie land by January this month.

A bench of Justices MR Shah and CT Ravikumar, though expressed its disinclination in not passing an order today, it orally



asked the Union Territory to not demolish any houses, legal website Live Law.in reported Friday.

"We are not passing any order today. You instruct them

orally not to demolish any houses. But we will not grant a general stay... others should not get benefit", the bench orally told the counsel of J&K.

During the hearing, the advocate for the petitioner argued that many tribals are residing on the land and took the Court through the reliefs prayed for.

"If stay is granted then it will benefit land grabbers also?", Justice Shah asked.

The counsel appearing for the Union Territory clarified that the circular | [More on P10](#)

983 Kanal Govt Land Retrieved In Ganderbal

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Continuing its ongoing anti-encroachment drive, the Jammu and Kashmir administration on Friday retrieved nearly 1000 kanal state and Kahcharai land in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. Acting tough against illegal land encroachers, the District Administration Ganderbal retrieved 983 kanals of state and Kahcharie land across the district, an | [More on P10](#)

asked the Union Territory to not demolish any houses, legal website Live Law.in reported Friday. "We are not passing any order today. You instruct them

J&K Slowly Heading Towards Peace, Stability: HM

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Asserting that Jammu and Kashmir is slowly heading towards peace and stability, the Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said the amount of investment that has come in the last four years is more than what it had come to the erstwhile state in the last 70 years.

"In Jammu and Kashmir, terror incidents, deaths and terrorist-dominated areas have drastically diminished," Shah said at the inaugural session of a three-day conference of DGPs and IGPs here.

"Today, we can say that Jammu and Kashmir is slowly heading towards peace and stability," he said.

The home minister said a record tourist footfall in Jammu and Kashmir was recorded last year.

The number of tourists who visited the Union Territory was 1.80 crore, which shows that the entire nation is convinced that peace is returning to the region, he said.

"I congratulate the Jammu and



Kashmir Police, CRPF (Central Reserve Police Force), BSF (Border Security Force), IB (Intelligence Bureau), RAW (Research and Analysis Wing) as their efforts are slowly bearing fruit," the minister said.

Referring to the situation in Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370, he said there was a time when children from Jammu and Kashmir used to go to study in other parts of the country due to militancy.

"But today 32,000 children from other parts of the country are studying in Jammu and Kashmir which has reflected the trust of the people there and also that of the nation," Shah said.

"Similarly the | [More on P10](#)



PRESS NOTE

Srinagar 21st Jan 2023: Various print media outlets and social media have been circulating unverified articles about the Nedous Hotel Gulmarg's "Unauthorized" encroachment of 100 kanals of state land.

The Nedous through this press note is giving a statement saying " We would like to make it absolutely clear that we - the Nedous Hotel Gulmarg are in LEGAL possession of 98 kanals which had been leased out in the name of Col. Gulam Qadir Nedou in 1965. We have been paying the annual ground rent as mentioned in our lease deed for the ENTIRE lease period and beyond.

To further substantiate our claim, we are in possession of all the relevant documents that require us to prove our legal possession of the said property and these documents have been submitted in the Honorable High court of J&K.

We are informing all media outlets and social media handles that we will take legal action against any defamatory statement/articles made against our name. We kindly request all media outlets to refrain from publishing or sharing any unverified information about the Nedous Hotel Gulmarg.

Management

Soldier Shoots Self Dead

A soldier on Friday committed suicide by shooting himself dead inside an army camp in North Kashmir's Handwara town. Lance Naik Shiv Kumar shot himself dead in his head using his service rifle inside the army's 21 RR camp in Bagatora area of Handwara, reports said. Kumar's colleagues rushed to the spot after hearing the gunshots. The sentry, reports said, was found in a pool of blood with a head injury. He was taken to Sub District Hospital where | [More on P10](#)

Probe Underway In IED Case

Security agencies have launched a probe into the recovery of an IED in Rajouri town early this week and issued an advisory to the general public asking them to remain vigilant. Official sources said on Friday that teams of different intelligence agencies visited the site in Kheora area of Rajouri town, where an IED was recovered and defused on Tuesday evening. Investigation into the matter has started and different aspects are being looked into, they said. | [More on P10](#)

Shots Fired During CASO

The government forces on Friday launched a cordon and search operation (CASO) in Damhal Hanjipora area of South Kashmir's Kulgam district. The search operation was launched jointly by Police, army's 9RR and the personnel of CRPF 18 Battalion following information about the movement of suspected persons in DH Pora area, police said. "Suspicious movement was reported during late afternoon in the main town DH Pora Kulgam. CASO was launched to search the area | [More on P10](#)

Army Evacuates Ailing Woman

The soldiers in North Kashmir's Baramulla district on Friday evacuated an ailing elderly woman from a snowbound village in Uri and shifted her to a public health facility. In the early morning hours, Indian Army detachment at Paro proactively acted on a distress call from Mir Mohd, a resident of the remote Jabri village, who desperately sought an evacuation of his 80-year old wife, who had developed severe fever, vomiting and | [More on P10](#)



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'Star Visibility Falls As Light Pollution Enhances Night Sky Brightness'

Press Trust Of India

People around the world are seeing fewer and fewer stars in the night sky, owing to an increase in the night sky brightness due to light pollution, according to a study.

The change in star visibility can be explained by an increase in the sky brightness of 7-10 per cent per year, the study said.

The rate of change is faster than satellite measurements of artificial light emissions on Earth would at first suggest, the study said.

The study analysed more than 50,000 naked-eye observations by citizen scientists around the world from 2011 to 2022 as part of the "Globe at Night" Citizen Science Project. The results show that citizen science data are an important supplement to previous measurement methods.

The findings of the study have been published in the journal Science.

Over a large part of the Earth's land surface, the sky continues to glow with an artificial twilight long after sunset.

This "skyglow" is a form of light pollution that has serious effects on the environment and should therefore be the focus of research, as Constance Walker, co-author of the study and head of the Globe at Night project of US National Science Foundation's NOIRLab since its inception, emphasised.

After all, many behaviours and physiological processes of living creatures are determined by daily and seasonal cycles - and thus influenced by light.

"Skyglow affects both diurnal and nocturnal animals and also destroys an important part of our cultural heritage," says Walker.

The appearance of the night sky is changing, with negative effects on stargazing and astronomy, the study said.

The change in skyglow over time has not previously been measured globally. While it could in principle be measured by satellites, the only current sensors that monitor the entire Earth do not have sufficient accuracy or sensitivity, the study said.

A promising approach is therefore to use the observational power of people using the human eye as a sensor, and in doing so - within the framework of Citizen Science experiments - to rely on the power of the crowd.

The "Globe at Night" project, initiated by the US National Science Foundation's NOIRLab, has been running since 2006. People all over the world can participate in this project.

Participants look at their night sky, and then report which of a set of eight star charts best matches what they see using an online form. Each chart shows the sky under different levels of light pollution, the study said.

"The contributions of individual people work together as if they were a global sensor network, making new science possible," said Christopher Kyba from the GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences in Potsdam and the Ruhr University Bochum.

Kyba's team has analyzed data from 51,351 participants around the world taken on cloud-

the number of visible stars can be explained by increases in night sky brightness. In Europe, they found a 6.5 per cent increase in brightness per year matched the data; in North America, it's 10.4 per cent.

To put these numbers into a more understandable context, Kyba explains the consequences for seeing stars in a place with a 9.6 per



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and moon-free nights between 2011 and 2022. They were obtained from 19,262 locations worldwide, including 3,699 locations in Europe and 9,488 locations in North America.

In order to calculate a rate of change in sky brightness from this data and to take into account that the observers were also at different locations over the years, they made use of a global model for sky brightness based on satellite data from 2014.

"The rate at which stars are becoming invisible to people in urban environments is dramatic," summed up Christopher Kyba, lead author of the study.

The researchers found that the change in

cent per year increase, which was the average over all locations worldwide.


"If the development were to continue at that rate, a child born in a place where 250 stars are visible will only be able to see 100 stars there on his 18th birthday," said Kyba.

Based on the slower growth in upward emissions seen in satellite data, the researchers were surprised by the speed of this development in skyglow.

In fact, for the locations of the observers, the artificial brightness measured by satellite had slightly decreased - by 0.3 percent per year in Europe, by 0.8 percent in North America.

G20 NORTHERN RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
NIT published vide E-Auction Notice No. 19-AC/224/E-Auction/Parking/22 dated 06.01.2023 for allotment of Parking Good Shed contract at Railway Station, Bari Brahman for the period of three years was scheduled to open on 23.01.2023 on 11:30 hrs. Now this e-auction will be open on 03.02.2023 on 11:30 hrs.
No.: 19-AC/224/E-Auction/Parking/22 Date: 19.01.2023 215/2023
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Public Notice
Whereas, I Mr./Ms. Rumaisa Wani W/o Sajad Ahmad Mir R/o Gulab Bagh Sgr, Kashmir intends to apply in the Department of Tourism for registration of my Proposed travel unit under the name and style "M/S Travel Magnet Kashmir" Situated at Gokadal Sgr Kashmir under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.
Whereas, I will submit State Subject/Domicile Certificate, Qualification Certificate, Pan Card, Experience Certificate (Minimum 05 Years), Character Certificate (Police Department), Bank Statement (Minimum Balance 100000), Site Plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested by Sub-Register, Printing Material (Letter Head/Visiting Card), Photograph of the Unit (Indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport size Photographs to the Department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist prior to Registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency.
Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12, before my case is processed for registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/Financial Institutions/Bank/Organization, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration (e-mail id: ddtregl23@gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/newspapers of the Valley. No objections beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained.
inf

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education
SUB-OFFICE BANDIPORA
The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10th session Annual Private 2013 issued by the board of School Education under Below mentioned particulars
Name: Saqib Tariq
S/o: Tariq Ahmad Mir
Roll No: 412428
Year & Session 2013 Private

Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is treated as cancelled.
bb
Sd/ Assistant Secretary
Board Of School Education
Sub Office Bandipora

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir
Sub: -Application for transfer of registration certificate of Guest House "Nayeema Sultan" situated at Kohankhan, Dalgate, Srinagar.
Public Notice
Whereas, Mrs. Daulti, Widow of Late Mohammad Sultan Pakhtoon has approached this office for transfer of Registration certificate of Guest House under name and style "Nayeema Sultan" situated at Kohankhan, Dalgate, Srinagar, in her favour;
Whereas, Guest House under name and style "Nayeema Sultan" situated at Kohankhan, Dalgate, Srinagar is registered with the Tourism Department under Registration No. Reg/3969-72/269/111/96/IL/1/96 dated 21.10.2004 in the name of Mr. Mohammad Sultan Pakhtoon S/o Mr. Sonal-ulaj Pakhtoon R/o Kohankhan Dalgate, Srinagar and the Registration Certificate stands renewed upto 31.03.2021;
Whereas, said Mr. Mohammad Sultan Pakhtoon S/o Mr. Sonal-ulaj Pakhtoon (Registration Certificate holder) has passed away on 02.10.2016 leaving behind following legal heirs, as per legal heir certificate issued by Tehsildar Khanyar Srinagar dated 10.01.2023:-
a) Anjali Sultan D/o Late Mohammad Sultan Pakhtoon
b) Daulti W/o Late Mohammad Sultan Pakhtoon
c) Mr. Khazir Mohammad Pakhtoon S/o Late Mohammad Sultan Pakhtoon
d) Masooda Bano D/o Late Mohammad Sultan Pakhtoon
e) Mohammad Ismail Pakhtoon S/o Late Mohammad Sultan Pakhtoon
f) Naseema Sultan D/o Late Mohammad Sultan Pakhtoon
g) Nusrat Sultan D/o Late Mohammad Sultan Pakhtoon
Whereas, all the legal heirs have given an affidavit authenticated by 1st class Magistrate dated 27.12.2022 wherein they have given consent for transfer of Registration certificate of the Guest House "Nayeema Sultan" situated at Kohankhan, Dalgate, Srinagar in the name of their mother namely Mrs. Daulti Widow of Late Mohammad Sultan Pakhtoon;
Whereas, the applicant in this behalf has submitted following documents in support of her application:-
a) Affidavit authenticated by 1st class Magistrate.
b) Legal heir certificate
c) State Subjects/Domicile Certificate
d) Pan Card
e) Death Certificate of registration certificate holder.
f) Aadhar Cards
g) Character Certificates issued by District Magistrate, Srinagar.
h) Original Registration Certificate.
Whereas, transfer of registration certificate of the guest house is purely for purpose of running operation and management of the said guest house and does not confer any right of ownership of the guest house upon the transferee;
Now therefore, in exercise of powers conferred on me under section 39 of J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12, before effecting change in the registration records in respect of the Guest House "Nayeema Sultan" from Mr. Mohammad Sultan Pakhtoon S/o Mr. Sonal-ulaj Pakhtoon R/o Kohankhan Dalgate, Srinagar in favour of Mrs. Daulti Widow of Late Mohammad Sultan Pakhtoon R/o Kohankhan Dalgate, Srinagar, the matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/Financial Institutions/Banks/Organizations, etc that in case of any objections, the same should reach the office of undersigned within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. Objections received beyond a period of 07 days shall not be entertained and the request of the applicant will be considered under rules, after submission of requisite documents.
DIPK-16383/22
dated: 20-01-2023
Deputy Director Tourism,
Registration
No: Reg/GH-80/DTK/861

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
Phone: 0194-2470466, 2470465 Fax: 0194-2476931
Email: commissioner-smc@jk.gov.in Website: www.smcsrinagar.in
Email: smcmvo@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
Registration of Pet Dogs

All the pet dog owners residing within the SMC limits are required to get their pet dogs registered within 30 days of the publication of this notice with the Srinagar Municipal Corporation in accordance with the Jammu & Kashmir Municipal Corporation Act, 2000 and Animal Birth Control (Dog) Rules, 2001. Pet Dog Registration Certificate can be obtained online at www.smcsrinagar.in. The registration fee is Rs. 500/- for fresh registration and Rs. 300/- for renewal of registration (yearly). Following documents are required to be uploaded on the online portal:

1. Photograph of pet dog.
2. ID and Address proof of applicant
3. Anti Rabies Vaccination Certificate duly stamped and signed by Registered Veterinary Doctor (Download template from www.smcsrinagar.in)

Anyone found keeping a pet dog without SMC registration shall be challaned and fined upto Rs. 5000/- and may even lead to impounding of the dog. Pet dog keepers are also informed through this notice to get their dogs sterilized (neutered/spayed) and also vaccinated against Rabies.

SMC Helpline Numbers: 7006276005, 0194-2474499, 0194-2470465, 18001807038.

No. SMC/JCS/85-90
DIPK-NB-6074/22
Date: 20/01/2023

Sd/-
Joint Commissioner,
Srinagar Municipal Corporation

Govt. Of Jammu & Kashmir (U.T.)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PWD(R&B) DIVISION VAILOO
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
NIT NO. 190/9775-84 OF R&B/VAILOO /2022-2023/E-TENDERING/ DATED:17/01/2023

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF UNION TERRITORY J&K E-TENDERS (IN SINGLE COVER SYSTEM) ARE INVITED ON %AGE BASIS FROM APPROVED AND ELIGIBLE CONTRACTORS REGISTERED WITH J&K STATE GOVT., CPWD, RAILWAYS AND OTHER STATE/CENTRAL GOVERNMENTS FOR THE FOLLOWING WORKS:

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. in form of Treasury challan / Receipt (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (2% of Adv. Cost) (in Rs.)	Time of completion	Project Intending Department	Class of Contr actor	Major Head of account
1	Purchase/To hire on rent below mentioned items for celebration of Republic Day on 26-01-2023 MC Kokernag	1.50	200	3000	02 days	MC Kokernag	DEE Class	Normal Sources of the Committee

THE BIDDING DOCUMENTS CONSISTING OF QUALIFYING INFORMATION, ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, SPECIFICATIONS, DRAWINGS, BILL OF QUANTITIES (B.O.Q), SET OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT AND OTHER DETAILS CAN BE SEEN/DOWNLOADED FROM THE DEPARTMENTAL WEBSITE WWW.JKTENDERS.GOV.IN AS PER SCHEDULE OF DATES GIVEN BELOW:

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	17.01.2023
2.	Period of Downloading of bidder documents.	From 17.01.2023 4.00 pm
3.	Bid submission Start Date	From 17.01.2023 4.00 pm
4.	Bid Submission End Date	To 23.01.2023 4.00 pm
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	24.01.2023 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Vailoo

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Receipt/ challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Vailoo (Head-0059) (tender inviting authority) and Earnest Money for 2% of Advertised Cost in shape of CDR/ FDR only, Pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Vailoo (tender receiving authority) (Name of work to be mentioned on the Treasury receipt/ challan) (Refer Govt. order No. A/ 24(2017)-65 DT: 07.06.2018 & Superintending Engineer R&B Circle Ang/Kul's No. 3867-70 dated: 04.08.2018. (The date of Treasury receipt / Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Vailoo (Tendering Inviting Authority). 3% Performance Security of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/ FDR by the Successful bidder. Minimum of Two bids are necessary to decide L-1 bidder in case of Contractors.
2. The 1st Lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of allotted cost as performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR within 07 days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of defective liability period of the work.
3. The EMD of 2% of successful bidders shall be released after receipt of 3% Performance Security.
4. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Vailoo (tender receiving authority).
5. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids
6. The earnest money shall be forfeited, if-
a. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms 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.
7. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
7.1. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
7.2. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.
7.3. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.
6.4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
6.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including earnest Money and tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid
The Earnest money in favour of unsuccessful / Non-responsive bidders shall be released only after ensuring submission of Tender document Fee in original.
Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
8. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
9. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Receipt/ Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Vailoo and Earnest Money for 2% of Advertised Cost in shape of CDR/ FDR only, Pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Vailoo (tender receiving authority) must be uploaded with the documents of the bid.
10. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the item rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
11. Price escalation and Taxes:- The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work, unless otherwise specified. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
12. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
13. In case of CRF and any other specified project, the relevant guidelines / standard bidding document shall be followed.
All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD(R&B) Division Vailoo
No:- 9775-84 of RnB/Vailoo/2022-23
DIPK-16372/22 **Dated: -20/01/2023**

LEAD Transforms Student Learning In Schools

Observer News Service

Srinagar: LEAD, India's largest School Edtech unicorn, is boosting learning outcomes and building student confidence in schools across J&K including Srinagar city.

With its international standard curriculum, multi-modal teaching-learning methods and technology-driven solutions, LEAD's NEP-aligned Integrated School System ensures that students are able to gain deep conceptual understanding and mastery across subjects. Over 40 schools in Jammu and Kashmir have already implemented LEAD's Integrated School Edtech System.

Moreover, over 700 teachers in J&K schools have already been trained and certified by LEAD. Over the next few years, LEAD aims to transform 250+ schools in Jammu and Kashmir.

Humaira, ELGA Teacher,

"I, as an ELGA teacher, have come across something novel which has widened my horizon. I have been able to add a lot to my experience. Moreover, the ELGA method ensures that students are able to learn in an easy way, and are responsive," she added.

Sumeet Mehta, Co-Founder and CEO, LEAD, said, "A child in India spends 6-7 hours in school each day. Yet only a fraction of these students - those studying in high-fee schools in India's metros - enjoy access to internationally benchmarked, high quality education.

"At LEAD, we are committed to changing this by empowering schools across India with our Integrated School Edtech system. Jammu and Kashmir is an important part of this vision, and we will continue to focus on growing our presence in the region as part of our aspiration to reach 60,000 schools and 25 million students over the next 5



Aspire World School, Srinagar said, "LEAD's teaching-learning technique has inspired me both as a teacher and a parent to a LEAD student.

"I have been noticing since the introduction of the technique that my child is more attracted towards his learning and has developed a remarkable interest in learning. He also appears to be stress-free, unlike previously. The credit goes to LEAD for freeing learning from being exam-oriented. LEAD has done away with the tension of exams, which always overwhelms kids and parents." Humaira said.

years." Sumeet said.

Sumeet further said that LEAD enables operational excellence and efficiency for school administrators; boosts teacher skills and productivity; and helps better engage parents in its partner schools.

"It is solving some of the biggest challenges facing affordable private schools in Jammu and Kashmir, including student proficiency in English, ineffective teaching-learning methods, academic calendar planning, teacher effectiveness in the classroom and subject-specific pedagogy. LEAD-powered



Representational Pic

Non-Availability Of Govt Jobs Leaves Rehabilitation Therapists In Jeopardy

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: The Rehabilitation therapists have urged the government to provide them with jobs. The BRT graduates said they had pursued their degrees with high hopes but in absence of jobs they have been left to fend for themselves.

Speaking to Kashmir Observer, the 'unemployed' Rehabilitation therapists said specially-abled people from lower middle class families in Kashmir cannot afford to visit private clinics and are not able to get proper treatment or rehabilitation therapy because of the high treatment costs.

"We are trained and qualified professionals having a Bachelor's Degree in rehabilitation. We have pursued our degrees for four and half years which are monitored by the Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI)" said Mehraj Din Joo, who has completed his graduation from CRC Bemina.

"We have been trained specifically to deliver the rehabilitation services to the specially-abled persons of the society, especially children suffering from various kinds of disabilities but in absence of jobs we have forgotten all that we had learnt." Mehraj Din added.

They further said that people suffering from mental retardation, neurological problems, locomotor disability, impaired vision, autism speech and language problems and cerebral palsy are at the receiving end.

Barjeesa Mohiuddin, another aspirant eyeing a job in the Health Department said that from hearing impairment to visual disability, rehabilitation therapists are trained to help specially-abled people over-

habilitation Therapists in J&K. The proposals were submitted by the Directors of health services Jammu / Kashmir.

The Director Health Kashmir vide his letter No.DHSK/Plg / Creation/19/2001 on 16.09.2019 recommended 90 posts of Rehabilitation Therapists at the District hospitals, Sub-District hospitals, PHCs and Community Health Centers (CHCs) across Kashmir.

"We are trained and qualified professionals having a Bachelor's Degree in rehabilitation. We have pursued our degrees for four and half years which are monitored by the Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI)

come these disabilities. "The number of persons with disabilities is increasing and the government needs to avail the services of these trained professionals. Around 4 years back, the health department had proposed creation of 90 posts, till date no creation has been accorded." Barjeesa said.

It is pertinent to mention, the Health and Medical Education Department vide Order No.HD/189/2017 29.5.2019 had asked the Directors of the health department Kashmir and Jammu to submit a proposal for creation of the posts of Re-

habilitation Therapists in J&K. The proposals were submitted by the Directors of health services Jammu / Kashmir.

The Director Health Kashmir vide his letter No.DHSK/Plg / Creation/19/2001 on 16.09.2019 recommended 90 posts of Rehabilitation Therapists at the District hospitals, Sub-District hospitals, PHCs and Community Health Centers (CHCs) across Kashmir.

Almost four years have passed but the Government has not created these posts. The Director Composite Regional Center-CRC Bemina Srinagar vide his letter No.CRC/Sgr/state-corps /21/195 Dated 4.08.2021 addressed to Financial Commissioner Health and Medical Education Department urged for the early creation of these posts but till now the government is yet to respond positively.

The Rehabilitation therapists pinned hope that the LG administration will come to their rescue and will order the creation of posts.

Enquiry Officer Appointed To Enquire Allegations Against College Principal

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday appointed an inquiry officer to enquire the allegations leveled against the Principal Government Dental College Srinagar.

"Sanction is, hereby,

accorded to the appointment of Sh. Hashmat All Yatoo (IAS), Administrator, Associated Hospitals, Government Medical College, Srinagar as Inquiry Officer to conduct an enquiry into allegations leveled by Dr. Mohammad Altaf Tantray against Dr.

Reyaz Farooq, Principal, Government Dental College, Srinagar." Reads an order issued by Secretary to the government, a copy of which lies with the Kashmir Observer.

"The Inquiry Officer shall submit the report within a period of 15 days." It reads further.

Only NC Can Galvanize The Dev Tempo Of Srinagar: Sagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference General Secretary Haji Ali Muhammad Sagar on Friday said that only NC can galvanize the developmental tempo and tap the tourism potential of the Srinagar city to fullest. He said this while interacting with a number of public, and worker's delegations that had called on him here at the party headquarters Nawa-e-Subha, Srinagar.

He stated that the previous NC government led by Omar Abdullah sahib had pursued policies to materialize its vision of ensuring core civic facilities and effective public utility services to the city dwellers across the length and breadth of the city.

Referring to the absence of elected representatives, Sagar said, "Like every other region in J&K, development in Srinagar too has been confined to paper work only. There is a coterie of unrelated officials who have no understanding of the ground situation taking the calls."

Referring to the LCMA's insensitive eviction drive that has put livelihoods and habitats in Nishat, Shalimar and Harwan at risk, Sagar said, "Lack of stakeholder involvement in policy conception and design and then decrees by government that, at times, tend to be irrational. All in all, people's lives get affected and misery ensues. This has to end. Conservation of the Dal Lake, its ecosystem has to be carried out expeditiously but the process has to be least disruptive to adjoining populations."

The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited
Impaired Assets Portfolio Management Department (IAPMD)
Zonal Office Pulwama

TENDER NOTICE FOR SALE OF HYPOTHECATED VEHICLE

Notice is hereby given to the public in general that the below described Vehicle, hypothecated to **J&K Bank Ltd. Branch Zainpora, Shopian** will be sold on "As is, Where is", "Whatever there is" and "No Recourse" basis for part recovery of outstanding amount due from **Mr. Nisar Ahmad Itoo.**

Details of the Borrower	Model	Type/make of vehicle	Registration No.
Nisar Ahmad Itoo S/O Abdul Gani Itoo R/O Riban, Shopian	2015	TATA High Deck Load Body, LPT 1613	JK22-9212

The reserve price for the proposed sale has been fixed at **Rs. 7.70 lacs (Rupees Seven Lacs Seventy Thousand Only)**. The Vehicle is available for inspection on any working day between 11:00 a.m to 04:00 p.m at J & K Bank's Premises at Zonal Office Pulwama. Sealed quotations in format given at the foot of this notice, affixed with ten rupees revenue stamp are invited from the interested parties for the purchase of said Vehicles to be accompanied by EMD amount in the form of Demand Draft for **Rs.1,50,000/= (Rupees One Lac Fifty Thousand Only)** drawn on any nationalized/scheduled Bank in favour of In-Charge IAPM Department, J&K Bank, Zonal Office Pulwama and payable at Pulwama, which is to be deposited with the undersigned on or before 01.02.2023 during working hours at Zonal Office Pulwama. The sealed tenders will be opened on **02.02.2023 at 02.30 P.M.** at the office of the undersigned in presence of the Bidders who choose to remain present on the given day and time. The successful bidder/shall have to deposit the entire qualified auction amount within 07 days from the date of opening of the tenders.

Other Terms and Conditions:

- The Bank has the absolute right and discretion to accept or reject any bid or adjourn/postpone/cancel the sale or add/delete/change any of the terms and conditions of this sale at any time without prior notice to the borrower, owner, bidder, public etc. and without assigning any reasons therefor. The auction sale is subject to confirmation by the Bank. If the borrower/guarantors pays the amount due to the Bank in full before date of sale, no sale will be conducted. The successful bidder shall not have any claim in this regard.
- The offers below the Reserve Price, and/ or not accompanied by the EMD shall be invalid.
- Conditional/contingent Bids shall be treated as invalid.
- Bidders shall not be entitled to withdraw or cancel the Bids once submitted.
- The EMD of the successful bidder shall be included in the sale price and the EMDs of the unsuccessful bidders will be refunded within thirty days from the date of opening the tenders. However, the tenderers shall not be entitled to claim any interest if the refund of the EMD is delayed for any reason whatsoever.
- All attendant charges/dues/taxes including transfer of ownership /permits etc. shall have to be borne by and be the responsibility of the purchaser exclusively.
- The GST applicable on the sale of the vehicle shall be borne by and be recoverable from the purchaser.
- The purchaser will be delivered the physical possession of the auctioned vehicle and the available related documents only after receipt of full purchase price and the purchaser will have to take the vehicle from the above mentioned premises at his/her own costs and expenses.

(Altaf Ahmad Ringshawli)
In-charge, IAPM Department,
J&K Bank Ltd.
Zonal Office Pulwama

Dated: 19.01.2023

Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India
CIN: L6510JK19385GCO0048 ; T : +91 (0)194 2481 930-35 ; F : +91 (0)194 248 1928 ; E : info@jkbank.com ; W : www.jkbank.com
DIPK-NB-6076/22 dated: 20-01-2023

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

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJBHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
28 Jumad al-Sani
1444

PRAYERS	
FAJR	6:08
ZUHR	12:38
ASR	4:09
Magrib	5:52
ISHA	7:16

This Day In History

- 1287 - The treaty of San Agayz is signed. Minorca is conquered by King Alfons III of Aragon.
- 1324 - Zen Buddhist religious debate between Tendai & Shingon
- 1664 - Count Miklos of Zrinyi sets out to battle Turkish invasion army
- 1720 - Sweden and Prussia sign a peace treaty ending hostilities between them during the Great Northern War
- 1732 - Russia & Persia sign Treaty of Riascha
- 1793 - Prussia & Russia sign partition treaty, dividing Poland.
- 1864 - The Tauranga Campaign of the New Zealand Wars begins
- 1900 - The second contingent of Canadian troops sails from Halifax to fight in South Africa against the Boers
- 1910 - British-Russian military intervention in Persia
- 1913 - Aristide Briand forms French government for the 2nd time
- 1919 - Irish militant nationalist party Sinn Fein creates its own parliament in Dublin and declares Ireland independent of Great Britain, sparking the Irish War of Independence
- 1924 - Vladimir Lenin's Testament is handed over to the Communist Party; it calls for changes to the Soviet governing structure and criticizes Joseph Stalin, Leon Trotsky and other members
- 1925 - Albanian parliament announces itself a republic; Ahmed Zogoe president
- 1926 Belgian parliament accepts Locarno treaties
- 1932 - USSR and Finland stop non-attack treaty
- 1941 - Australian and British troops attack Tobruk, Libya
- 1943 - Soviet forces reconquer Worosjilowsk
- 1943 - Soviet forces reconquer Gumrak airport near Stalingrad
- 1944 - 447 German bombers attack London
- 1944- 649 British bombers attack Magdeburg
- 1945 - British troops land on Ramree, near coast of Burma
- 1952 - Jawaharlal Nehru's Congress party wins general election in India
- 1954 - USS Nautilus, the first nuclear-powered submarine, launched on the Thames River in Connecticut
- 1960 - Little Joe 4 suborbital Mercury test reaches 16 km

From KO Archives

PDD Now Says Power Only For 2.5 Hours

SRINAGAR- With break-downs in two major transmission lines, the valley shall have to do with just 2.5 hours of electricity in every twenty four hours for some time to come. The near round-the-clock curtailment shall continue till such time as the tower, total damage to which has been cited as the cause of the crisis, has been re-erected.

Bomb blasts at transmission towers in Qazigund and Wagoora have reduced power supply to the valley by 90 per-cent, a chief engineer of the PDD said today in Srinagar.

Addressing a press conference summoned ostensibly to explain away unprecedented power cuts, the chief engineer, Abdul Majeed Mattoo, denied reports that power supply from the northern grid had been cut off following non-payment of dues by the state. "Power has not been cut off. There is a fault in the transmission line," he said. Mattoo said that efforts were on to re-erect the tower but declined to set a specific time-frame for the complete restoration of power supply. The chief engineer said that a mere 85 MW of power were available to the valley as against a requirement of 750 MW. Out of this 85 MW, thirty went to essential services like hospitals, telephone exchanges, army and broadcasting institutions, he said.

Abdul Majeed Mattoo said that on the night intervening the 13th and 14th of January a breakdown of the 220 KV Kishenpur-Pampore line and the 132 KV Udhampur-Srinagar line occurred because of a blast in one special 220 KV tower in Qazigund, completely damaging the tower. This, he said, had deprived the valley of 230MW of peak power and about 50 lakh units of energy. The chief engineer claimed that the department had quickly swung into action and restored the 132 KV Udhampur-Srinagar line thereby ensuring supply of about 60MW of power and 12 to 14 lakh units of energy.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 21 January, 2000)

Custodial Death Among Worst Crimes In Civilised Society: Bombay High Court

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Custodial death is one of the worst crimes in a civilised society and the police cannot torture citizens in an inhuman manner under the guise of power, the Bombay High Court observed while asking the state government to pay ₹15 lakh as compensation to the mother of a man allegedly killed in police custody.

The Aurangabad bench, comprising Justices Vibha Kankawadi and Abhay Waghvase, on Wednesday passed its judgment on a petition filed by one Sunita Kute who alleged that her 23-year-old son Pradip had died after being tortured and assaulted by two policemen attached to the Solapur police.

Kute sought a compensation of ₹40 lakh from the police and disciplinary action against the errant policemen.

"Custodial death is perhaps one of the worst crimes in a civilised society governed by the rule of law," the bench said.

Though the police have the power to control the actions of people and the crime, it was not unfettered, it said. "Under the guise of exercise of the said power they cannot torture or deal with a citizen in an inhuman manner," the judgment said.

"The state is the protector of the life of its citizens and if its employee undertakes torturous acts under the guise of power, then it has to compensate such a citizen," the court said. The bench noted that in the present case, the victim was a 23-year-old man who had married just four months before his death. The bench directed the Maha-



rastra government to pay a compensation of ₹15,29,600 to the victim's mother.

"It will be open to the state to recover the amount from respondent 4 and 5 (the two errant policemen), as they have been revealed to be the persons responsible for the death of Pradip," the court said.

As per the plea, the petitioner's son Pradip, who was a sugarcane harvester, was stopped by the police when he was driving a tractor in November 2018.

The policemen started assaulting Pradip and others in the tractor for playing music, the petitioner claimed, adding that while the others managed to flee, Pradip died on the spot.

A FIR was then lodged by the petitioner against the policemen who had assaulted Pradip.

The errant police officials, however, refuted the allegations and claimed that they did not have any motive to kill the victim, who suffered from a brain disease and was feeling dizzy. He was taken to a hospital, where he was declared dead.

"We would like to say that there was no reason for the police to intercept the tractor driven by Pradip, even if they were having some objection regarding the sound, they could have told the same to Pradip in a dignified manner," the court said in its judgment.

Colonial Mindset: MEA Slams BBC Documentary On Gujarat Riots

Agencies

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has criticised the BBC documentary on the 2002 Gujarat riots, describing it as a "propaganda piece" designed to push a particular "discredited narrative".

"The bias, lack of objectivity and continuing colonial mindset are blatantly visible," said Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi at a media briefing today in reply to several questions on the first part of documentary "India: The Modi Question" that deals with the riots that broke out in Gujarat when Narendra Modi was the Chief Minister. The MEA also made light of the then British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw's comments that an investigation by the British government had concluded that as CM, Modi had "proactively" prevented the police from stopping riots. "Investigation? Inquiry?" asked Bagchi, going on to wonder whether the British were ruling India that they conducted an inquiry. The documentary has been taken off air in India but can be viewed on virtual private networks. "Do note that this has not been screened in India... We think that this is a propaganda piece, designed to push a particular discredited narrative. The bias, lack of objectivity and continuing colonial mindset is blatantly visible," said Bagchi. The documentary is a reflection on the agency and individuals that are peddling "this narrative" again. "There is an agenda behind it," he added.

Then Foreign Secretary Kanwal Sibal recalled that he was "aware of mischief by the UK mission". The UK mission had sent a diplomat to Gujarat and then circulated a highly slanted "report" to EU envoys in Delhi. "I was informed by an EU envoy

which prompted me to issue warning to missions in Delhi to not interfere in our internal affairs," he recalled on Twitter. Meanwhile, responding to criticism, the BBC said its documentary was "rigorously researched".



UK PM RISHI SUNAK DEFENDS PM NARENDRA MODI

LONDON: UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has come out in defence of the Indian PM over the controversial BBC documentary. To a query by Pakistan-origin MP Imran Hussain in the House of Commons, Sunak said: "Of course, we do not tolerate persecution anywhere, but I am not sure that I agree at all with the characterisation that the honourable gentleman has put forward."

BIAS, LACK OF OBJECTIVITY BLATANTLY VISIBLE: MEA

NEW DELHI: MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said it was a "propaganda piece designed to push a particular discredited narrative". "The bias, the lack of objectivity and a continuing colonial mindset are blatantly visible.... I heard words like investigation and inquiry. What inquiry, investigation, are they ruling the country? They were diplomats here," said Bagchi.

Then Foreign Secretary Kanwal Sibal recalled that he was "aware of mischief by the UK mission". The UK mission had sent a diplomat to Gujarat and then circulated a highly slanted "report" to EU envoys in Delhi. "I was informed by an EU envoy

which prompted me to issue warning to missions in Delhi to not interfere in our internal affairs," he recalled on Twitter. Meanwhile, responding to criticism, the BBC said its documentary was "rigorously researched".

BBC Defends Modi Documentary As 'Rigorously Researched'

Agencies

LONDON: The BBC on Friday defended its controversial series on Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a "rigorously researched" documentary that sought to highlight important issues, a day after the Indian government condemned the programme as a "propaganda piece" lacking objectivity.

"The documentary was rigorously researched according to the highest editorial standards," a BBC spokesperson said in a statement.

The statement came a day after Prime Minister Rishi Sunak came out in defence of Prime Minister Modi after the BBC documentary claimed that the British government was aware of the Indian leader having an alleged role in the 2002 Gujarat riots.

Sunak said he does not agree with the characterisation of Prime Minister Modi by Pakistani-origin Imran Hussain, an Opposition Labour Party MP, when he asked if the British premier agreed with claims in the BBC programme that some UK Foreign Office diplomats be-



lieved that "Modi was directly responsible".

"The UK government's position on that is clear and longstanding, and it has not changed," Sunak responded.

"Of course, we do not tolerate persecution anywhere, but I am not sure that I agree at all with the characterisation that the hon. gentleman has put forward," the British prime minister said.

While making the series, the taxpayer-funded licence fee-backed British Broadcasting Corporation, said it has approached a range of voices.

"A wide range of voices, witnesses and experts were approached, and we have featured a range of opinions - this includes responses from people in the BJP. We offered the Indian Government a right to reply to the matters raised in the series

- it declined to respond," the spokesperson said.

The BBC said it was committed to highlighting important issues from around the world and the documentary series examines the "tensions between India's Hindu majority and Muslim minority and explores the politics of India's PM Narendra Modi in relation to those tensions".

"This has been the source of considerable reporting and interest both in India and across the world in recent years," the spokesperson noted.

The Indian government has condemned the BBC Panorama programme, which has not been screened in India, as a propaganda piece with a questionable agenda behind it.

"We think that this is a propaganda piece, designed to push a particular discredited narrative. The bias, lack of objectivity and continuing colonial mindset is blatantly visible," MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi told reporters during a press briefing in New Delhi on Thursday when asked about the controversial series.

BBC Apologies For Sexist Headline On Jacinda Ardern's Resignation

Agencies

LONDON: The BBC conceded Friday it was wrong for writing about Jacinda Ardern's shock resignation as prime minister of New Zealand with the headline: "Can women have it all?"

The since-deleted headline was posted Thursday on Twitter with a link to an article by BBC World, the UK broadcaster's global newroom.

Angry commentators contrasted it with BBC headline writers' ungendered coverage of male politicians including Boris Johnson, the thrice-married father of seven who quit as UK prime minister last year.

One labelled it "staggering sexism" while others accused the BBC of "misogyny".

The headline was later changed to say: "Departure reveals unique pressures on PM." The story mentioned Ardern's life as a working mother of a small child.

"We quickly recognised the original headline wasn't suitable for the story and changed it accordingly. We also deleted the associated tweet," a BBC spokesperson told AFP.

The 42-year-old Ardern



-- who steered New Zealand through natural disasters, the Covid pandemic, and its worst-ever terror attack -- said she no longer had "enough in the tank".

While Ardern has not shied away from discussing the strains of office, she has been quick to shoot down sexist lines of questioning.

In November, at a joint news conference with her Finnish counterpart Sanna Marin, they were asked by a male journalist if they were meeting because they were "similar in age and got a lot of common stuff there".

Referring to former US and New Zealand leaders, Ardern queried "whether or not anyone ever asked Barack Obama and John Key if they met because they were of similar age?"

Menstrual, Maternity Leave To Students Of Higher Education Institutes In Kerala

Press Trust of India

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Thursday said that in a first in the country, menstrual and maternity leaves would be granted to all women students in all institutions under the State government's Higher Education Department.

Vijayan announced this decision of the government on his Twitter handle and Facebook page.

He said such a pro-women step by his government was the first of its kind in the entire country and was an indication of the Left government's commitment to ensure gender justice in society.

"Once again, Kerala sets a model for the nation. Menstrual and maternity leaves will be granted to female students of all institutions under our Department of Higher Education, reaffirming the LDF government's commitment to realising a gender-just society," he tweeted.

He said although menstruation was a normal biological process, it creates a lot of mental stress and physical discomfort in women.

Therefore, the government has decided to give a relaxation of two per cent to female students in the attendance requirement, he said in his Facebook post.

"This is the first time in the country that a State government has taken such a pro-women decision for female students in universities and colleges under the Higher Education department," he said.

The Higher Education department has also decided to



allow a maximum 60 days of maternity leave for female students who have completed 18 years of age, he further said.

Taking a cue from the Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) in providing menstrual leave to its students, Higher Education Minister R Bindu on Monday had said the government has decided to implement the same in all State universities under the purview of the department.

CUSAT had taken the decision following a representation made by the SFI-led students' union of the university.

Considering the long-pending demand of the students, the varsity, on January 11, had sanctioned an additional two per cent condonation of shortage of attendance to female students, in each semester.

Prior to that in December last year, the Mahatma Gandhi University (MGU) had decided to grant maternity leave of 60 days to degree and post graduate students of 18 years and above so that they can continue their studies without any interruptions.

NEWS MAKERS

Surat Jeweller Carves PM's Gold Bust To Celebrate BJP's Gujarat Win

Press Trust of India

SURAT: A jeweller from Gujarat's Surat city has carved a bust of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, weighing 156 gm in 18-carat gold to commemorate the Bharatiya Janata Party's landslide victory in the recently held state Assembly election.

As the BJP won 156 out of 182 seats in the polls held in December last year, the weight of the prime minister's gold bust was kept at 156 gm, said Basant Bohra, owner of the jewellery-making firm, Radhika Chhains.

The bust has become an instant hit among the masses and many are interested in purchasing it, but the jeweller has not decided to sell his creation as yet.

"I am a fan of Narendra



Modi and wanted to make something as a tribute to him. It took around three months for nearly 20 artisans to make this bust at our factory. I am satisfied with the final outcome. There is no price tag because it is not for sale as of now," said Mr Bohra, a native of Rajasthan who settled in Surat for 20 years.

Gold worth ₹11 lakh has

been used to make the bust, he said. Earlier, Mr Bohra had made a gold replica of the Statue of Unity, which he had later sold.

Though the bust was ready by December, it had weighed little more than 156 gm, but on learning that the BJP had bagged 156 seats, the artisans made some changes to bring the weight down, the jeweller said.

Milkman Jailed After 32 Yrs Of Selling Adulterated Milk

Press Trust of India

MUZAFFARNAGAR: A court here sentenced a man to six months in jail for selling adulterated milk, more than 32 years after the complaint in the matter was registered.

Additional chief judicial magistrate Prashant Kumar on Thursday also imposed a fine of ₹5,000 on accused milk vendor Harbir Singh after holding him guilty in the case.

Prosecution officer Ramavtar Singh told PTI on Friday that Harbir Singh was found selling adulterated milk. A sample of the milk sold by him was collected and sent to the laboratory where it was found to be adulterated, the prosecution officer said. Food inspector Suresh Chand filed a complaint against the milk vendor in the court on April 21, 1990, Ramavtar Singh said.

"Do You Receive Fresh Vegetables," Xi Asks Troops At India-China Border

Press Trust of India

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping has held a video conversation with the soldiers stationed along the India-China border in eastern Ladakh and inspected their combat readiness, official media here reported on Friday.

Xi addressed the troops from the People's Liberation Army (PLA) headquarters here on the border defence situation in Khunjerab under the Xinjiang Military Command.

Xi, who is also general secretary of the ruling Communist Party of China and the commander-in-chief of the PLA, in his remarks to the troops, referred to how "in recent years, the area has been constantly changing" and how it had impacted the



Army, according to the video shown in the official media.

During the call, he "inspected their combat readiness", the report said.

One of the soldiers replied that they were now carrying out "dynamic" and "24-hour" monitoring of the border. Xi asked about their condition and whether they were able to "receive fresh vegetables" in the inhospitable terrain.

The official media report-

ed, Xi had asked the border troops "about their border patrol and management work" and "hailed the soldiers as models of border defence and encouraged them to persist in their efforts and make new contributions." Eastern Ladakh is the region where a stand-off erupted on May 5, 2020 between India and China following a violent clash in the Pangong lake area.

The two sides have held 17 rounds of high-level military talks on the eastern Ladakh border stand-off, but there was no significant forward movement in resolution of the remaining issues.

India has asserted that peace and tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) are essential for overall development of bilateral relationship with China.

Govt Forms UT-Level Health Committee For G20 Summit

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The government on Friday ordered the constitution of the Union territory level health committee for ensuring medical care arrangements and advance operationalization of medical services for various G20 events to be held across Jammu and Kashmir.

Headed by Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Home Department, the 5-member committee comprises of Administrative Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department, Administrative Secretary, General Administration Department, Representatives of G20 Working Groups (if any) and Additional Secretary to the Government, Health and Medical Education Department (Convener), according to a government order issued here.

The terms of reference of the UT level G20 Health Committees among others is to work with relevant stakeholders to oversee and ensure suitable adoption and adaptation of SOPs for medical care arrangements for India's forthcoming G20 Presidency; Inspection and need assessment of all medical care arrangements at identified international and domestic airports, G20 meeting venues, hotels, excursion sites etc. as part of planned official itinerary; formation of dedicated Medical Task Force at UT

and District(s) level, with identified Nodal Medical Officer(s) for provision of medical services at the various host city venues; Identification and earmarking of hospital(s) with requisite specialities and services (including blood bank services) at the host city and reserving of hospital beds at these facilities for the duration of G20 event in the city.

Besides, the committee has been tasked with to ensure placement of mobile ambulances with necessary medical equipment as per international standards or protocols to cater for in any emergency, provisioning of Air Ambulance services, for medical evacuation, wherever deemed to be required, particularly in far-flung and difficult to reach areas, according to the order.

The other terms of reference include training/orientation of deployed medical personnel and support staff; Promulgation of COVID-19 protocols and testing facility as per protocols; Sharing of operational plans and details of key stakeholders with G20 (Security), Ministry of External Affairs and Coordination with the Home Department for antecedent verification of deployed medical personnel/support staff in conjunction with local police.

"The Committee shall be serviced by the Health and Medical Education Department," the order added.

R-Day: Security Stepped Up In Rajouri, Poonch

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Security arrangements in the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch have been strengthened further in view of the upcoming Republic Day celebrations and the recent recovery of an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) from Rajouri town.

The region was already under heightened security after the January 1 terror attack in Dhangrri village, while massive cordon and search operations (CASOs) are going on across Rajouri district to track terrorists.

Official sources said that strengthening the security apparatus is a necessary SoP before Republic Day, but forces are extra cautious this year in view of the IED recovery in Kheora Rajouri on Tuesday evening.

An official source said, "Security apparatus in the district was

already on high alert mode after January 1 terror attack that left seven civilians dead and fourteen injured but in view of forthcoming Republic Day and also after IED recovery more measures for tight security have been taken."

There has been an increase in Motor Vehicles Check Points (MVCPs) and Area Domination Patrols (ADPs), especially in sensitive as well as border areas.

They said the Cordon and Search Operations (CASOs) going on across Rajouri district are being carried out by Jammu and Kashmir police, Indian Army and CRPF and many villages are still under cordon where even movement of local population is regulated.

On being contacted, SSP Rajouri Mohammad Aslam said that forces are on task in every possible manner.

"Our operations are going on and forces are on job," he said.

DERELICTION OF DUTIES

BMO Mattan Recommends Suspension Of 10 Officials

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Block Medical Officer (BMO), Mattan in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Friday recommended suspension of several health officials in Frislan and Aru blocks of the district for dereliction of duties.

According to an order, BMO stated that he has received complaint about HWC Aru that no staff was present to perform their duties on January 19.

The order stated in this connection he visited Aru on same date and assured locals about HWC's functionality. "But today the institute was locked again which

creates a difficulty for locals for want of health care."

It reads in view of this employees including Ruhi Rehman (MLHP: NHM), Auzma Ali (FM-PHW: NHM), Fareed Ahmad Wani (MTS, N/O), Farooq Ahmad (Pharmacist), Neyaz Ahmad Sheikh (SW), Nazir Ahmad Bhat (FW: N/O), and Raveeda Akhtar (Helper: HDF) are hereby recommended for suspension.

In a separate order BMO Mattan also recommended for suspension of several officials at HWC Frislan. The employees include Dr Najeeb (MLHP), Sami Jan (FMPHW), Feroz Ahmad (Pharmacist) and Mehbooba Akhtar (Helper). (KNS)



A GROUP OF STUDENTS WALKING cautiously over a snow-covered hilly road in the outskirts of Srinagar on Friday. KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

LG Lays Foundation Stone Of Transit Accommodation For PM Package Employees

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Friday laid foundation stone of Transit Accommodation for PM Package Employees at Zewan here, an official spokesperson said.

The housing colony, under PMDP, is being constructed on 113 Kanals of land by R&B Department. It will have 39 blocks comprising of 936 flats.

The LG, the spokesperson said, interacted with officials at the site and laid emphasis on timely completion of the project.

"He said the maximum PM Package employees are based in Srinagar and with the creation of this facility, their housing problem will be solved," he added.

Earlier in the month of De-



ember, the spokesperson said, the LG conducted on-site inspection and took first hand appraisal of the ongoing construction work of Transit Accommodations for PM Package employees at Baramulla and Bandipora. Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Pandurang K Pole, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Vijay Kumar, ADGP, Kashmir; Nazim Zai Khan, Secretary to Government, Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction were present on the occasion.

Govt Appoints R&B As Nodal Dept For 'Call Before u Dig' Mobile App

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Government on Friday appointed Public Works (R&B) as nodal Department for "Call Before u Dig" Mobile App to facilitate smooth coordination between excavating agencies and underground utility asset owners to save utilities from avoidable damages during digging.

The App has been developed by Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, Government of India and with a view to operationalize the application, the government ordered that Public Works (R&B) Department shall be the Nodal Department for implementation of the application at the UT level, according to a government order.

"The Department shall appoint a UT CBUd Nodal/Admin Officer of senior level to operate the UT 'Admin' Account and shall further create user admin accounts for each Department involved in infrastructure development," it reads, adding, "All Departments involved in excavations shall, in coordination with the PW(R&B) Department appoint 'UT Department Admin/Nodal' Officer to operate their Admin Account and shall create user admin of utility agencies under their respective departments."

The Departments shall create sub users in their respective agencies



area/district wise with contact details of such offices, the order reads.

"The Department utility Agencies which have underground infrastructure assets shall map their utility assets with GIS coordinates on PM Gati Shakti NMP platform in different layers," it said, adding, "After activation of the CBUd app, all digging Agencies mandated by the Departments shall perform digging only after prior intimation through CBUd app."

The Transport Department shall also direct all owners of excavators to enroll on CBUd app, the order reads. "While granting approval for any type of excavation anywhere by the Departments, the approval letter shall mention "Any agency excavating public places, roads shall report the location on the CBUd app before excavation." (GNS)

Waqf Board Orders Valuation Of Commercial Assets Across J&K

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board here has launched a comprehensive exercise for valuation of its hundreds of commercial properties across the Union Territory.

"Continuing with its reformative agenda initiated under the leadership of Chairperson, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi, J&K Waqf Board has started an exhaustive Valuation exercise of its hundreds of commercial assets spread across the UT of Jammu & Kashmir," a statement said.

Interestingly, despite being the second largest asset-rich organisation in the UT after the Govt itself, no significant efforts have been made till date for assessment of Commercial Properties by the previous au-

thorities at the helm of affairs in Waqf over the last several decades, revealed the sources in Waqf, it said.

In an order issued by Executive Magistrate, Tehsildar J&K Waqf Board, it has been revealed that, in absence of proper valuation, "random assessment values have been used to insure commercial properties in the past and that has also created difficulties in settlement of claims with insurers".

The move is also expected to "result in creation of a permanent data base for smooth rent assessment of structures in future".

The Administrators and other Waqf Supervisory staff have been directed to facilitate and provide all necessary support & manpower for smooth conduct of the exercise, the order said—(KNO)

Bukhari Greet Students For Qualifying JKAS Exams

'J&K Has No Dearth Of Talent; All Our Youth Need Is Proper Platforms, Equal Opportunities, And A Peaceful Environment'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Friday congratulated the J&K students for qualifying Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) exams. Pertinently, Public Service Commission has declared the final result of the Combined Competitive Examination for the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) declaring 187 candidates as successful in the final test.

In his message, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari said, "I am pleased to know that in the final test of JKAS 2021, as many as 187 candidates have been shortlisted for the medical exam. I extend my warmest congratulations to

all of these young and bright students and wish them all the best in their future endeavors. I also want to congratulate Mega Gupta from Jammu who grabbed the first rank and topped the results."

He also extended his greetings to the parents of the three siblings, including two sisters, from the Kahra Bhaleesa area of the Doda region for cracking the JKAS exam.

He said, "I have been informed that many successful candidates belong to the far-flung areas and from humble backgrounds. This is a glaring example of the fact that there is no dearth of talent in Jammu and Kashmir. Our youth only need proper platforms, equal opportunities, and a peaceful environment to express their aptitude."

ZONAL POLICE HEADQUARTERS JAMMU

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

Subject:- Advertisement notice for the post as In-charge Drug De-addiction Centre Jammu.

Applications, as per enclosed format are invited from the eligible domiciles of post as In-charge Drug De-addiction Centre Jammu on monthly consolidated

S. No.	No. of post	Qualification	Consolidated monthly honorarium
1.	01	MD Psychiatry and experience in psychiatry of atleast 3 years.	Rs. 50,000/-

Other terms & Condition:-

- a) The engagement is purely for a period of six months or till the project is completed whichever is earlier. However, in case of unsatisfactory performance indiscipline including absence from duty can be dis-engagement without an intimation/prior notice by the Appointing Authority.
- b) The candidate would have no claim for his/her continuous engagement/ permanent absorption.
- c) The selected candidates may be required to undergo induction trainings/workshops within or outside the UT.
- d) Initially, the contract shall be for a period of six months and further yearly extension will be subjected to satisfactory performance of the candidate/approval of the Competent Authority. In case performance of the selected candidate is rated as unsatisfactory by the controlling officer at any point of time, the contract is liable to be terminated without any notice.
- e) The selected candidates will have to work under the overall supervision of Appointing Authority.
- f) Application forms incomplete in any manner or not filled up properly shall be rejected.
- g) Appointing authority reserves the right to terminate any candidate's engagement at any point of time without any notice or assigning any cause of disengagement.

REQUIREMENT OF DOCUMENTS:-

- a) Date of birth (D.O.B) Certificate (Matriculation).
- b) Academic Qualification/Technical qualification/experience Certificate, if any.
- c) Domicile Certificate.
- d) 04 recent passport size photographs.

LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION:-

Application form completed in all respects should reach the office of Superintendent of Police (Hqrs) Jammu, at DPL Jammu (Nodal officer Drug De-Addiction Centre Jammu) by or before 28th of January 2023.

No. SPHQJ/23/Adv/ 415
Dated:- 16.01.2023

Ramnish Gupta-JKPS
Superintendent of Police (Hqrs) Jmu
For Additional Director General of Police
Jammu Zone, Jammu.
TELEPHONE:- 01912439919-(0), 94695-23888-(M)

APPLICATION FORM

Name of candidate: _____
(in capital letters)

Parentage: _____

Address: _____

Date of birth: _____

Mobile No. _____

E-mail ID (if any) _____

Year of passing MBBS: _____

Name of College: _____

Year of passing (MD Psychiatry): _____

Name of College: _____

Documents to be attached:

1. Date of birth certificate
2. MBBS Degree
3. MCI Registration Certificate
4. MD Psychiatry Degree
5. Experience certificate
6. Domicile Certificate
7. 04 recent passport size photographs

Signature of the Candidate

DIPK-16387-22
DT: 20-01-2023

'Panchaloha' Idol Of Goddess Sharada From Sringeri To Adorn New Temple In Kashmir

Press Trust Of India

BENGALURU: The 'panchaloha' idol of Goddess Sharada, the main deity of Kashmiri pandits, would be carried from Sringeri in Karnataka on January 24 to Teetwal near the Line of Control in Kashmir where she would be installed in the newly built temple, said the Save Sharada Committee Kashmir (SSCK) founder Ravinder Pandita on Thursday.

A vehicle has been purchased and converted into a chariot to carry the idol of the 'Goddess of Knowledge.' The idol would pass through different States before being installed in the temple on

March 22, Pandita said in a statement.

According to Pandita, Sringeri Dakshinayam Sharada Peetham is giving the consecrated idol made of five metals (panchaloha) to the SSCK for newly constructed Sharda Temple at LoC Teetwal.

The chariot would proceed from Sringeri on January 24 and pass through Bengaluru, Mumbai, Pune, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Delhi-NCR, Chandigarh, Amritsar, Jammu, Kupwara and Tikker Asthappan in Kupwara.

"The primary aim to move the chariot from one Kashmiri Pandit Bhawan to another is to allow community

members to have 'darshan' of Sharada, as they will not be able to make it to Teetwal on consecration day," Pandita said in his statement.

The idol would finally be consecrated in the newly built temple on 22 March on the first day of Chaitra Navratri, the nine auspicious days of Goddess-worshipping.

Pandita said the committee has also invited its civil society members across LoC for the inauguration of the temple on March 22 as a goodwill gesture via Chilhana in the Pakistan controlled Kashmir.

The temple is likely to be presided over by a local sar-

panch of Teetwal, he added.

The SSCK founder expressed his gratitude to the Sringeri Peetham for having supported them in reclaiming the lost heritage of 1947 at Teetwal. The Save Sharada Committee of Kashmir has been set up to revive the ancient Sharada temple, which used to be a major seat of learning in ancient India but now in ruins in the Pk after being plundered and ravaged by the invaders.

The Teetwal temple is significant as the pious Chhadi Mubarak used to be taken out from Teetwal to the main Sharada temple which is now located in the Pk Last December, the SSCK

handed over a Gurudwara to Sikh Sangat of Karnah at Teetwal which has been built adjacent to the newly built Sharada temple.

There used to be a Sikh Gurudwara adjacent to the Teetwal temple which was also burned down in tribal raids in 1947.

"The bhumi puja of this new Gurudwara took place on December 2, 2021 and was constructed under the aegis of SSCK. Local Sikh community from nearby Tribwani village led by committee member Sardar Joginder Singh took the keys from Ajaz Khan, member of Sharada Yatra Temple Committee," Pandita said.

The Russia-Ukraine war is now in its 11th month, and there are no signs of it 'going slow' as new war plans unfold with every passing day. Russia has been slapped with economic sanctions by the West in their overall strategy to bring Russia on its knees. But, Russia has not shown signs of fatigue and is raging with war against Ukraine. Iran which has been overtly supportive of Russia's war, too has been reeling under economic sanctions from around five-decades, and no wonder, both the nations have come together to fight-the-economic-isolation, this time with India's help.

News in Asia.Nikkei has informed about Russia-Iran-India coming together. 'Russia and Iran are working on a new shipping corridor that cuts Europe and its sanctions out of the picture, and are looking to partner with India, which has kept its distance from the Western-led isolation campaign against the two countries. The plan is an answer to the U.S.-led push for "friendshoring," an effort to relocate supply chains to allies and friendly countries.

This bonhomie between Russia, India and Iran is quite understandable as despite the sanctions on Russia, India has greatly benefitted from the purchase of heavily discounted oil from Russia, which kept afloat the Russian economic fortunes, and also made India cater to the needs of more than a billion people. But, ironically, the government in India did not relax the oil prices domestically! Iran too is into selling its oil to India, mainly through the grey-market, as India, due to US pressure, has almost stopped buying Iranian oil, since mid-2019. What however is also worth to speculate is despite the US sanctions on Russia and Iran, Russia remains to be the ninth largest economy while Iran retains an 11th rank on it.

Considering the weight and lure of the Indian market, it is quite a natural corollary for both Russia and Iran to look towards India, more so particularly, when both the nations have been handicapped by the US sanctions. The big question is will India become a partner to it? This probable trade-route or corridor is now almost complete, as construction is underway on 3,300 kilometers of railways throughout Iran, and 560 km of new track is set to open for operation by March. Completing all of these projects would expand the country's (Iran) rail network by 20%. Iran seeks to leverage its potential as a transport hub between Asia, Russia and Europe. Moscow, New Delhi and Tehran signed an agreement back in 2002 laying out plans for the International North-South Transport Corridor, which would connect India and Russia through Iran and Azerbaijan, bypassing the Suez Canal. When Russian



Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi visit the Zvezda shipyard in Vladivostok, Russia, September 4, 2019. Photo: Reuters/Alexander Nemenov

How Ukraine War Is Shaping A New Axis

Will there be a Moscow-New Delhi-Tehran trade corridor sans US?

Haider Abbas

President Vladimir Putin visited Iran in July, he and counterpart Ebrahim Raisi agreed on the need to finish the Rasht-Astara rail link in northern Iran, part of the proposed route.' However, what seeks to be answered is the intention of India to start to supply its missiles to Armenia, a foe of Azerbaijan and Iran alike!

It is worthy to note that Russia-Iran idea of mutual trade has been into for more than two decades and it is only now that India is entering this conglomerate, which has been strengthened by India's neutral stand vis-à-vis the sanctions particularly on Russia, and hence, this shipping-corridor with India, which would bypass European sanctions, is now almost on the anvil. This coming together of these three nations is getting

How New Delhi is going to respond to this effort to relocate supply-chains is yet to be seen. India has restrained itself from 'punishing' Russia due to pressures from the West, and has also by-and-large remained neutral to the anti-Hijab protests inside Iran since September 2022, hence, India has gained in its stature for both countries

considered an-answer to US sanctions, but will the US be able to endure it? India through this move, will however, be able to placate Russia, if in case, things spill-out between China and India. However, in this new built scenario Iran is likely to get benefitted which is one of the worst bête noir of the US. Will the US not try to make India follow its line on Iran? These are the questions which are still in uncertain waters.

Iran has openly supplied its drones to Russia against Ukraine, inviting an ire from US, and now Iran has announced that it would import 9 million cu. meters of Russian natural gas a day through Azerbaijan. Iran's national oil company and state-owned Russian energy giant Gazprom (have) signed a memorandum

of understanding on energy cooperation last year worth \$40 billion. A key issue will be winning over New Delhi, a strategically important player for the democratic camp in dealing with Russia and China. Iran's Chabahar Port in its south would connect India with the rest of the corridor. Tehran and Moscow argue that the route would benefit New Delhi politically and economically. It would open up the possibility of more trade with resource-rich Central Asia through Iran, as well as further India's goal of developing alternatives to the Belt and Road (BR) link between China and the Pakistani port of Gwadar that New Delhi has opposed,' elaborates the Asia.Nikkei report.

India and US have both been against China's BRI project, from the day-one, but given this new developing situation, where India is also to cater to its large populace, such trade corridor with Russia and Iran, will help make India reach to the outside world i.e. Central Asian republics etc more openly, irrespective of US reservations. Moreover, this will also help India to make Russia remain 'neutral' if China and India are to be at war. Here the US is slated to help India, but will then Russia also remain neutral, particularly when China has remained supportive of Russia throughout the last 11 months of war against Ukraine. In fact Russia has in the past one year become the highest exporter of its oil to China and both the countries have started to trade in Rouble and Yuan, in order to De-Dollarize their economies!

How New Delhi is going to respond to this effort to relocate supply-chains is yet to be seen. India has restrained itself from 'punishing' Russia due to pressures from the West, and has also by-and-large remained neutral to the anti-Hijab protests inside Iran since September 2022, hence, India has gained in its stature for both countries. Russia is all likely to go ahead with its exports to reach Asia nations via Iran, will India also make use of Iran to reach the Asian market as well as to Central Asian nations, is all yet to unfold. Will the US make it happen under its nose? Will India step up to take the cudgels despite the US is all to be seen. However, for geo-political and economic wizards India is now on a threshold of new vistas of economic avenues. Let's see what happens next.

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

The writer is a former UP State Information Commissioner and writes on international politics

Inequality Hits Davos

WINNIE BYANYIMA

One particularly urgent step must be the elimination of tax havens. By allowing super-wealthy corporations and individuals to avoid paying their fair share of taxes, tax havens are denying governments revenue that could and should be spent on schools, health care, and other essential services

Sixty-two. That is how many of the world's wealthiest people own as much as the poorest 3.6 billion, down from 388 people in 2010. This shocking figure has made the rounds at this week's annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, as political and business leaders debate how to improve the state of the global economy. The question is whether the global elite attending Davos will take action to combat damagingly high (and growing) economic inequality.³

World leaders have been worried about the rise in inequality for several years now; last September, they agreed to a Global Goal to reduce it. Yet the gap between the richest and the rest has continued to grow. This time last year, Oxfam predicted that the wealth of the top 1% would overtake that of the rest of the population by 2016; that milestone was reached two months ahead of schedule.

The longer we wait to take action, the more serious the consequences will be. Economic inequality is a corrosive force that undermines economic growth, hampers the fight against poverty, and sparks social unrest. In 2012, the WEF's global risk report highlighted severe income inequality as the single greatest threat to social and political stability. Oxfam estimates that, without strong efforts to tackle inequality, the much-heralded goal of eradicating extreme poverty by 2030 will be impossible to reach.¹

The very real damage inequality does to people's lives is evident across the globe. For example, garment workers in Myanmar told Oxfam that, even with overtime, they could not afford housing, food, and medicine. At the other end of the retail chain, the CEO's of the clothing companies enjoy multimillion-dollar pay deals.

As World Bank President Jim Yong Kim noted last year, wealth is not trickling down; it is being sucked up by a powerful – and very small – minority. And this is not a blip; it is hard-wired into our economies. Today's global inequality crisis is the result of 30 years of unchecked deregulation, privatization, financial secrecy, and globalization.¹



Large companies and wealthy individuals use their power and influence to capture and retain an ever-increasing share of the benefits of economic growth, while the poorest get by on a persistently shrinking piece of the pie. Over the last five years, the wealth of those richest 62 people on the planet has increased by a staggering \$542 billion, or 44%, while the poorest 3.6 billion people have lost over a trillion dollars, or 41% of their wealth.

In this context, tackling inequality will require fundamental changes to the way we manage our economies. Action must be taken to ensure that all workers receive a living wage; more progressive tax systems must be introduced; governments must increase spending on public services; policymaking must be more transparent; and financial regulations must be strengthened.

One particularly urgent step must be the elimination of tax havens. By allowing super-wealthy corporations and individuals to avoid paying their fair share of taxes, tax havens are

denying governments revenue that could and should be spent on schools, health care, and other essential services. Almost a third of all African financial wealth – a total of \$500 billion – was held offshore in tax havens in 2014, costing African countries an estimated \$14 billion per year in lost tax revenues. This is enough money to pay for health care that could save the lives of four million children on the continent and employ enough teachers to get every African child into school.¹

G-20 governments agreed on steps to curb tax dodging by multinational companies last year. But these measures largely ignore the problems posed by tax havens, and do little to help poor countries claim their fair share of taxes. With tax havens becoming an ever more common way of doing business – 109 of the WEF's 118 partners have a presence in at least one tax haven – it's time to put a stop to this practice.

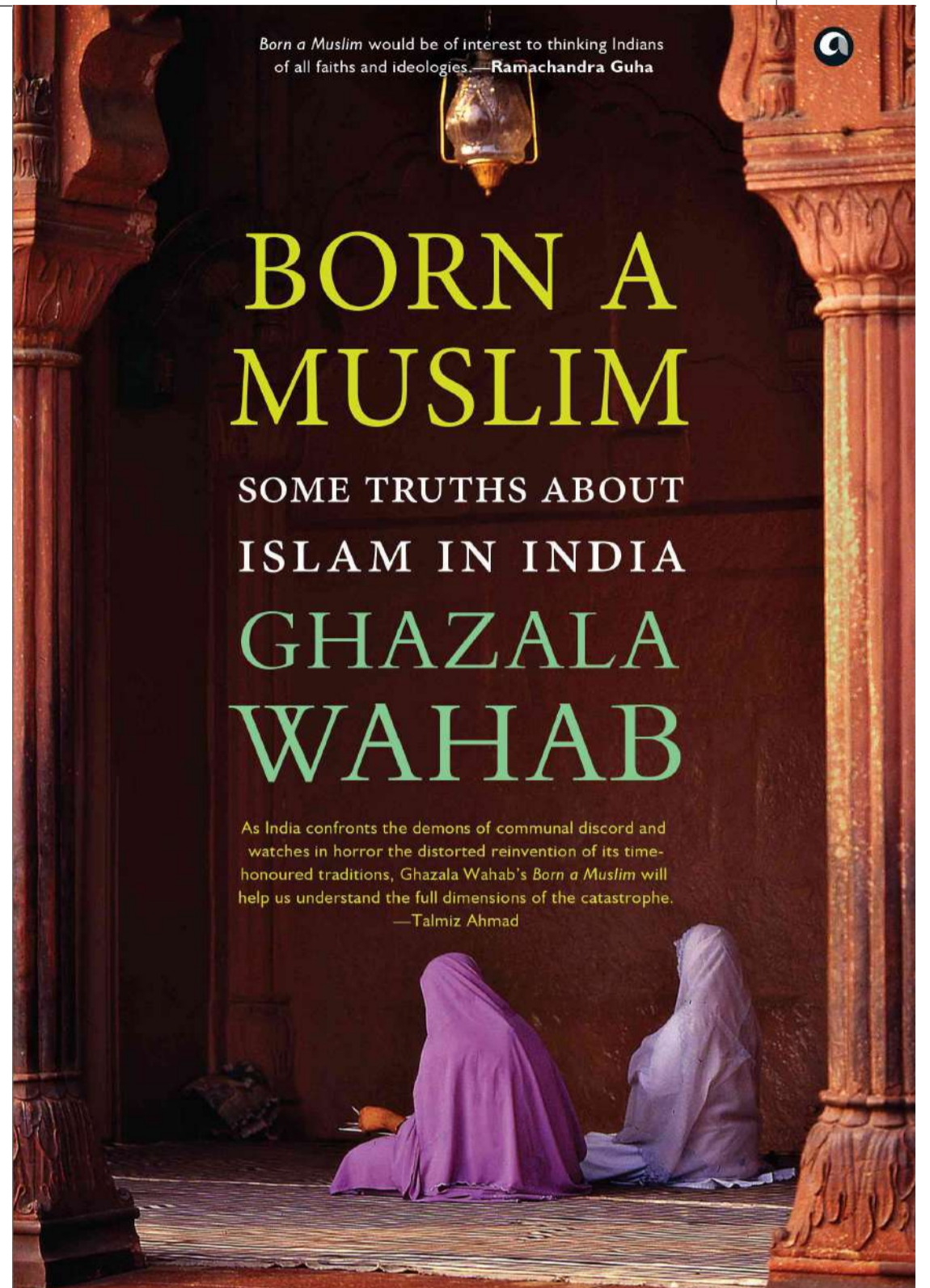
That is why I am pressing political leaders, CEOs, and other participants at Davos this year to act. I'm asking wealthy individuals and business leaders to commit to bringing their money back onshore, and I will urge politicians to work together to agree on a robust new global approach to end the era of tax havens.

After years of talk about income inequality, the WEF's annual meeting should be a moment for action. Participants must recognize that helping the poorest get a foot on the ladder also means stopping the extremely wealthy from pulling it up behind them. If the men and women in Davos take strong action to address tax havens, 2016 can be a turning point, when we begin to create a new global economy that works for the majority – not just the top 62.

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

BOOK REVIEW

BETWEEN
PREDICAMENT
AND HOPE
GHAZALA
WAHAB
ON INDIAN MUSLIMS



Saleem Rashid Shah

Ghazala Wahab starts her book, 'Born a Muslim: Some Truths about Islam in India' with a striking proposition: "Is it not possible to be Muslim and forward looking at the same time?" In her book, she probes into the fears and insecurities which confront Indian Muslims and comes up with a two fold analysis that explains the pathology of this fear and the concomitant underdevelopment that India's largest minority has faced since partition.

In a searing forty two-page-long introduction, she lays bare an archetype and a path that the reader would undertake in the next 8 chapters of her book. The point of departure in her narrative is the assumption that for 'Indian Muslims' the source of their understanding of Islam does not come from a rational and an educated study of their religion but is rather handed down to them in their families and later concretised by semi-literate mullahs operating from single room madrassas.

In a bid to reconcile with the changing realities of a 21st century world, a template that is set in the 7th century often misses the mark. By misunderstanding the rationality of their faith 'Indian Muslims' tend to prioritize afterlife by paying a hefty cost of backwardness and underdevelopment in the present world.

She talks of a double edged sword that a moderate and a progressive muslim has to face in such a socio-political set up. On one side he tries to break free from the clutches of the conservative interpreta-



tions of Islam and aspires towards bettering his lot in the present world. On the other, he cowers and shrinks under the threat of being ostracized by the relatively conservative society he lives in.

Gazala Wahab delineates the factors that have been central in the depredation of Indian Muslims from the past 70 years and the most pivotal among them has been the partition of India. She cites a pathbreaking paper written by Prashant Bhardwaj, Asim Khawaja, and Atif Mian for Yale university which suggests that

the outflow of a creamy layer of Muslims to Pakistan and the inflow of a well to do population of Hindus and Sikhs to India had a huge impact on the literacy rate of Muslims in India. The best had migrated and what had remained was a poor lot, disadvantaged both socially, politically and economically. It's these Muslims who had to start from zero and rise up the socio-economic ladder in India which they did to some extent but still fumble on this upward march of theirs.

Apart from many external factors responsible for this downfall, Gazala Wahab also rests the blame with the community itself. She talks of Wajahat Habibullah's doctrine of 'Perception of Exclusion' among Indian Muslims and explains the existence of an inertia and reluctance in the community itself to even try and claim their space in a competitive socio-political milieu.

The author cites Hamid Ansari, the ex-vice president of India, who has argued along the same lines and said, "Of course there is prejudice, but despite



THE POINT OF DEPARTURE IN HER NARRATIVE IS THE ASSUMPTION that for 'Indian Muslims' the source of their understanding of Islam does not come from a rational and an educated study of their religion but is rather handed down to them in their families and later concretised by semi-literate mullahs operating from single room madrassas.

that the Indian system has room for people to find their own place, provided they go out and claim it. If you start with the conviction that you wont get a fair deal, you will not get it."

Many Muslims, she says, make it as an excuse to not make an effort although the real reason for their lack of success might lie elsewhere. In her section on the evolution of Islam in India, Ghazala Wahab tracks a trajectory of the religion that was completely alien to India and how it got assimilated in the country with the coming of Mohammad Bin Qasim, a commander of the Umayyad Caliphate in early 8th century to the later and much established empire of Mughals that was deeply rooted in the cultural ethos of this country. Mughal emperors, she says, never went for Hajj and instead patronized the Sufi shrines, and the sufis in turn accorded spiritual and moral legitimacy to the emperors.

In the later part of the book, she talks about the different schools of Islamic thought that pervade the length and breadth of the country. She examines how these divergent interpretations of the same religion have had tremendous consequences on moderate muslims of the country who somehow want to get on with their lives.

Of all the minorities living in India, Muslims, says the author have been the least capable of availing governmental ameliorative schemes and scholarships. The level of education among muslims is the poorest in the country in proportion to their population. The reason that she cites is their disdain towards secular and modern education. Non-Islamic education has not attracted the community much and in the case of women it has been even a sorry affair. The women are generally expected to be only Quran literate and any exposure of theirs to modern education is considered to be rebellious.

Knitting together a wide range of scholarship, reportage, interviews and her personal accounts, the author entirely humanizes the account and gives to the readers a panoramic view of the predicament of Muslims in India. By examining and analyzing all these issues in depth she paints an extraordinarily compelling portrait of one of the largest and the most diverse communities in India.

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 non-fiction book critic and student of English Literature based in New Delhi



THE LEVEL OF EDUCATION AMONG MUSLIMS IS THE POOREST IN THE COUNTRY in proportion to their population. The reason that she cites is their disdain towards secular and modern education.

High BMI May Metabolise Vitamin D Differently, Could Diminish Supplement Effects: Study

Press Trust Of India

Scientists have uncovered new evidence that vitamin D may be metabolised differently in people with an elevated body mass index (BMI), diminishing the impact of supplementation in such individuals, according to a new study.

The study, by researchers from Brigham and Women's Hospital, US, is a new analysis of data from the VITAL trial, a large nationwide clinical trial led by Brigham researchers that investigated whether taking vitamin D or marine omega-3 supplements could reduce the risk of developing cancer, heart disease, or stroke, it said.

"The analysis of the original VITAL data found that vitamin D supplementation correlated with positive effects on several health outcomes, but only among people with a BMI under 25," said first author Deirdre K. Tobias.

"There seems to be something differ-

ent happening with vitamin D metabolism at higher body weights, and this study may help explain diminished outcomes of supplementation for individuals with an elevated BMI," said Tobias.

The study appears in the Journal of American Medical Association (JAMA) Network Open.

Vitamin D is an essential nutrient involved in many biological processes, most notably helping our body absorb minerals, such as calcium and magnesium.

While some of the vitamin D we need is made in the body from sunlight, vitamin D deficiencies are often treated with supplementation. Evidence from laboratory studies, epidemiologic research and clinical research has also suggested that vitamin D may play a role in the incidence and progression of cancer and cardiovascular disease, and it was this evidence that prompted the original VITAL trial, the study said.

The VITAL trial was a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial in



25,871 U.S. participants, which included men over the age of 50 and women over the age of 55. All participants were free of cancer and cardiovascular disease at the time of enrolment, the study said.

While the trial found little benefit of vitamin D supplementation for preventing cancer, heart attack, or stroke in the overall cohort, there was a statistical correlation between BMI and cancer incidence, cancer

mortality, and autoimmune disease incidence, the study said.

Other studies suggest similar results for type 2 diabetes.

The new study aimed to investigate this correlation.

The researchers analyzed data from 16,515 participants from the original trial who provided blood samples at baseline (before randomization to vitamin D), as well as 2,742 with a follow-up blood sample taken after two years, the study said.

The researchers measured the levels of total and free vitamin D, as well as many other novel biomarkers for vitamin D, such as its metabolites, calcium, and parathyroid hormone, which helps the body utilize vitamin D, the study said.

"Most studies like this focus on the total vitamin D blood level," said senior author JoAnn E. Manson.

The researchers found that vitamin D supplementation increased most of the biomarkers associated with vitamin D metabo-

lism in people, regardless of their weight. However, these increases were significantly smaller in people with elevated BMIs.

"We observed striking differences after two years, indicating a blunted response to vitamin D supplementation with higher BMI," said Tobias.

"This may have implications clinically and potentially explain some of the observed differences in the effectiveness of vitamin D supplementation by obesity status," said Tobias.

"This study sheds light on why we're seeing 30-40 per cent reductions in cancer deaths, autoimmune diseases, and other outcomes with vitamin D supplementation among those with lower BMIs but minimal benefit in those with higher BMIs, suggesting it may be possible to achieve benefits across the population with a more personalized dosing of vitamin D," said Manson.

"These nuances make it clear that there's more to the vitamin D story," said Manson.

Study Reveals Key Reason Behind Spread Of Fake News On Social Media

ANI

USC researchers may have found the biggest influencer in the spread of fake news: social platforms' structure of rewarding users for habitually sharing information.

The team's findings, published Tuesday by Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, upend popular misconceptions that misinformation spreads because users lack the critical thinking skills necessary for discerning truth from falsehood or because their strong political beliefs skew their judgment.

Just 15 per cent of the most habitual news sharers in the research were responsible for spreading about 30 per cent to 40 per cent of the fake news.

The research team from the USC Marshall School of Business and the USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences wondered: What motivates these users? As it turns out, much like any video game, social media has a rewards system that encourages users to stay on their accounts and keep posting and sharing. Users who post and share frequently, especially sensational, eye-catching information, are likely to attract attention.

"Due to the reward-based learning systems on social media, users form habits of sharing information that gets recognition from others," the researchers wrote. "Once habits form, information sharing is automatically activated by cues on the platform without users considering critical response outcomes, such as spreading misinformation." Posting, sharing and engaging with others on social media can, therefore, become a habit.

"Our findings show that misinformation isn't spread through a deficit of users. It's really a function of the structure of the social media sites themselves," said Wendy Wood, an expert on habits and USC emerita Provost Professor of psychology and business.

"The habits of social media users are a bigger driver of misinformation spread than individual attributes. We know from prior research that some people don't process information critically, and others form opinions based on political biases, which also affects their ability to recognize false stories online," said Gizem Ceylan, who led the study during her doctorate at USC Marshall and is now a postdoctoral researcher at the Yale School of Management.

"However, we show that the reward structure of social media platforms plays a bigger role when it comes to misinformation spread." In a novel approach, Ceylan and her co-authors sought to understand how the reward structure of social media sites drives users to develop habits of posting misinformation on social media.

Why fake news spreads: behind the social network. Overall, the study involved 2,476 active Facebook users ranging in age from 18 to 89 who volunteered in response to online advertising to participate. They were compensated to complete a "decision-making" survey approximately seven minutes long.

Surprisingly, the researchers found that users' social media habits doubled and, in some cases, tripled the amount of fake news they shared. Their habits were more influential in sharing fake news than other factors, including political beliefs and lack of critical reasoning.

Frequent, habitual users forwarded six times more fake news than occasional or new users.

"This type of behaviour has been rewarded in the past by algorithms that prioritize engagement when selecting which posts users see in their news feed, and by the structure and design of the sites themselves," said second author Ian A. Anderson, a behavioural scientist and doctoral candidate at USC Dornsife. "Understanding the dynamics behind misinformation spread is important given its political, health and social consequences." Experimenting with different scenarios to see why fake news spreads—in the first experiment, the researchers found that habitual users of social media share both true and fake news.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

OFFICE OF THE SUB DIVISIONAL MAGISTRATE CHADOORA

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Private Negotiation Committee (PNC) meeting under the Chairmanship of District Collector/Deputy Commissioner, Budgam held on 24-11-2021, undersigned is going to release the compensation in favour of the beneficiaries/land owners with respect to the land acquired for Hanjura to Brenwar PMGSY road.

S. No.	Name of Village	Name of land owner / Title holder	Survey No.	Quantum of land under acquisition						
				K	M	Sft.				
1	Surasyar	Mohammad Rajab S/o Abdul Ahad Beigh R/o Nowhar	1534	0	0	150				
2	Surasyar	Mukhtar Ahmad S/o Ghulam Mohammad Beigh R/o Nowhar	1537	0	1	8				
3	Surasyar	Bashir Ahmed S/o Hassan Rather R/o Surasyar	4130 min	0	2	243				
4	Surasyar	Ghulam Mohiuddin S/o Abdul Ahad Beigh R/o Nowhar	4129 min	0	1	90				
5	Surasyar	Bashir Ahmad and Altaf Hussain Ss/o Ghulam Rasool Mir Rs/o Nowhar	4128 min	0	2	31				
6	Surasyar	Ghulam Nabi S/o Sula Mir R/o Surasyar	1550 min	0	2	121				
7	Surasyar	Ghulam Rasool S/L Amma Dar R/o Surasyar	4127 min	0	3	152				
8	Surasyar	Gulam Nabi and Ghulam Mohammad Ss/o Mehda Rather Rs/o Surasyar	4123 min	0	7	76				
9	Surasyar	Ghulam Ahmad S/o Sultan Shah R/o Surasyar	4126 min	0	1	242				
10	Surasyar	Mohammad Abdullah S/o Mohammad Rather R/o Surasyar	1552 min	0	1	226				
11	Surasyar	Mst. Raja D/o Mali R/o Surasyar	1552 min	0	0	226				
12	Surasyar	Ghulam Mohammad Mir S/o Rahmi R/o Surasyar	4125 min	0	3	30				
13	Surasyar	Ghulam Ahmad son of Sultan Shah R/o Surasyar	4125 min	0	0	60				
14	Surasyar	Ghulam Mohammad Mir S/o Rahmi / Ali Mir R/o Surasyar	1554 min	0	2	242				
15	Surasyar	Ghulam Nabi and Ghulam Mohammad S/o Mehda Rather in equal shares Rs/o Surasyar	1555 min	0	2	242				
16	Surasyar	Abdul Salam S/o Gani Shah R/o Surasyar	1556 min	0	2	61				
17	Surasyar	Ghulam Qadir S/o Shaban Rather R/o Surasyar	1564 min	0	2	160				
18	Surasyar	Mohammad Latif and Muhammad Aashiq Ss/o Abdul Gani Rs/o Surasyar	4119	0	1	91				
19	Surasyar	Abdul Hamid S/o Mohammed Wani R/o Surasyar	4119	0	1	91				
20	Surasyar	Mohammed and Qadir Ss/o Gafoor Rather in equal shares Rs/o Surasyar	4113 min	0	1	30				
21	Surasyar	Abdul Salam S/o Abdullah Rather R/o Surasyar	4099 min	0	1	173				
22	Surasyar	Gulam Qadir S/o Mohammed Shaban Rather R/o Surasyar	4098	0	2	182				
23	Surasyar	Mohd Latif and Muhammad Aashiq Ss/o Abdul Gani Rs/o Surasyar	4118	0	0	121				
24	Surasyar	Abdul Hamid S/o Mohammed Wani R/o Surasyar	4118	0	0	121				
25	Surasyar	Sultan S/o Shaban Rather R/o Surasyar	4096	0	3	31				
26	Surasyar	Mohammed Ayub S/o Hassan Rather R/o Surasyar	4114	0	0	242				
27	Surasyar	Amma, Muhammad and Nabir Ss/o Hamza Rahtar in equal shares Rs/o Surasyar	1561	0	8	244				
28	Surasyar	Mohammed Son of Hamza Rather R/o Surasyar	4115	0	1	30				
29	Surasyar	Fata D/o Qadir Rather (W/o Ghulam Mohammad) R/o Surasyar	1560	0	2	182				
30	Surasyar	Fata D/o Qadir Rather (W/o Ghulam Mohammad) R/o Surasyar	4122	0	2	0				
31	Surasyar	Mohammad Latief and Mohammad Aashiq Ss/o Abdul Gani Rs/o Surasyar	1557	0	4	50				
32	Surasyar	Abdul Hamid S/o Mohammed wani R/o Surasyar	1557	0	4	50				
33	Surasyar	Mohammed Sultan S/o Mohammed Wani R/o Surasyar	1559	0	3	152				
34	Surasyar	Ghulam Rasool and Mushtaq Ahmed Ss/o Ahad Rather Rs/o Surasyar	1558	0	2	61				
35	Surasyar	Mohammed Ramzan S/L Abdul Ahad Bhat R/o Nowhar	4120	0	1	151				
36	Surasyar	Fata D/o Qadir (W/o Ghulam Mohammad) R/o Surasyar 4122	4116	0	0	269				
37	Surasyar	Ahmad S/o Sona Para R/o Surasyar	1565	0	2	160				
38	Surasyar	Ghulam Mohammad S/o Abdullah Para R/o Surasyar	1568	0	0	143				
39	Surasyar	Gulam Mohammad S/o Wali para R/o Surasyar	1567	0	5	136				
40	Surasyar	Hafiza W/o Rtyaz Ahmed R/o Surasyar	1566	0	0	176				
41	Surasyar	Mushtaq Ahmed S/o Zena R/o Surasyar	1743	0	0	132				
42	Surasyar	Akram S/o Ghulam and Mumtaz D/o Mohammed Wani in equal shares Rs/o Surasyar	1743	0	0	132				
43	Surasyar	Mumtaz Banu Ad/o Mohammed Wani R/o Surasyar 1743	4088	0	2	182				
44	Surasyar	Jamal S/o Jani (S/o Ahad Dar) R/o Surasyar	4087	0	5	48				
45	Surasyar	Mushtaq Ahmed Wani S/o Zaina R/o Surasyar 1743	4095	0	5	92				
46	Surasyar	Ali Mohammad S/o Ghulam Rasool Ganie R/o Surasyar	3577	0	0	60				
47	Surasyar	Aziz S/o Ismail Ganie R/o Surasyar	3572	0	4	100				
48	Surasyar	Makht D/o Nabir Doom R/o Surasyar	3591	0	3	124				
49	Surasyar	Mohammad S/o Ahad para R/o Surasyar	3595	0	1	31				
50	Surasyar	Khati W/o Ali Beigh (D/o Rajab) R/o Surasyar	3567	0	2	182				
51	Surasyar	Hassan S/o Rajab Para R/o Surasyar	3564	0	0	182				
52	Surasyar	Hassan S/o Rajab Para R/o Surasyar	3566	0	1	31				
53	Surasyar	Ghulam Mohammad and Habib Ss/o Qadir para Rs/o Surasyar	1745	0	0	210				
54	Surasyar	Ghulam Mohammad and Habib Ss/o Qadir para equal share Rs/o Surasyar	4082	0	2	115				
55	Surasyar	Ghulam Mohammad and Habib Ss/o Qadir para two shares and Ali S/o Aziz Para one share Rs/o Surasyar	1569	0	4	182				
56	Surasyar	Ali S/o Aziz Para R/o Surasyar	4086	0	2	182				
57	Surasyar	Zena D/o Ahsan Doom R/o Surasyar	3585	0	1	16				
58	Surasyar	Mohammed Ashraf S/o Ghulam Muhammad Gani R/o Surasyar	3587	0	0	36				
59	Surasyar	Zena D/o Ahsan Doom R/o Surasyar	3583	0	3	119				
60	Surasyar	Ghulam Mohammad S/o Abdullah Doom R/o Surasyar	3576	0	2	72				
61	Surasyar	Ghulam Mohammad S/o Abdullah Doom R/o Surasyar	3588	0	0	264				
62	Surasyar	Mohammad Yousuf S/o Shaban para R/o Surasyar	3568	0	0	242				
63	Surasyar	Ghulam Hassan S/o Rajab para R/o Surasyar	3565	0	4	12				
64	Surasyar	Ghulam Hassan S/o Rajab para R/o Surasyar 3564	3563	0	0	91				
65	Surasyar	Ghulam Hassan S/o Rajab para R/o Surasyar 3564	3603	0	1	80				
66	Surasyar	Abdul Gani S/o Ramzan Chopan R/o Surasyar	3570	0	3	152				
67	Surasyar	Gulam Mohammad S/L Ambr Shalkh 268 sft , Mehda S/o Rajab 183 sft, Raja D/o Ali 203 sft, Mehda S/o Rasool 203 sft, Raja D/o Ali, Mehda S/o Rasool, Aziz D/o Ramzan 780 sft Dar(In equal shares), Ghulam Muhammad S/o wali Hajam 324 sft total 1961 sft. All residents of Surasyar	1765	0	7	57				
68	Surasyar	Ghulam Qadir S/o Abdul khatiq Hajam	1766	0	2	17				
69	Surasyar	Mohammed Ramzan S/o Ghulam Mohammad Hajam 1475 sft, Ghulam Ahmad S/o Ghulam Mohammad 210 sft all residents of Surasyar	1866	0	1	83				
70	Surasyar	Ghulam Mohammad and Feroz Ahmad Ss/o Abdul Salam Najar R/o Surasyar	1867	0	0	198				
71	Surasyar	Nazir Ahmad, Farooq Ahmad and Firdous Ahmad Ss/o Ahad Dar R/o Surasyar	378	0	0	151				
72	Surasyar	Mohammad Hussain and Ghulam Nabi Ss/o Ahsan Dar	366	0	0	176				
73	Surasyar	Mohammad S/o Ali Dar R/o Surasyar	381	0	2	151				
74	Surasyar	Gulla Dar S/o Khatji R/o Surasyar		376	0	1	68			
75	Surasyar	Nisar Ahmad S/o Khatiq Dar R/o Surasyar		367	0	1	152			
76	Surasyar	Mohammad Sidqi Adopted Son of Qadir Dar R/o Surasyar		373	0	1	0			
77	Surasyar	Hameeda Bano W/o Abdul Gani Dar R/o Surasyar		374	0	1	0			
78	Surasyar	Ismael S/o Rehman Dar R/o Surasyar		375	0	1	0			
79	Surasyar	Mohammed Ramzan , Abdul Gani and Ghulam Hassan Ss/o Ahad Dar Rs/o Surasyar		379	0	2	91			
80	Nowhar	Abdul Majid S/o Sonaullah Beigh R/o Nowhar		80	0	2	120			
81	Nowhar	Abdul Majid S/o Sonaullah Beigh R/o Nowhar		81	0	1	149			
82	Nowhar	Ghulam Nabi S/o Ahad Sheikh R/o Nowhar		64	0	0	121			
83	Nowhar	Mohammed Yousuf S/o Ghulam Mohammed Sheikh R/o Nowhar		6301	0	2	242			
84	Nowhar	Abdul Rashid S/o Ghulam Mohammed Sheikh R/o Nowhar		6301	0	2	0			
85	Nowhar	Noor Mohammad S/o Nabir Sheikh R/o Nowhar		6301	0	0	60			
86	Nowhar	Ghulam Nabi S/o Ahmad Sheikh R/o Nowhar		61	0	3	150			
87	Nowhar	Abdul Rahman S/o Ghulam Muhammad Beigh R/o Nowhar		317	0	1	239			
88	Nowhar	Ghulam Ahmad S/o Abdul Razaq Beigh R/o Nowhar		319	0	2	90			
89	Nowhar	Abdul Gani S/o Ghulam Ahmad Beigh R/o Nowhar		78	0	0	121			
90	Nowhar	Abdul Razaq Beigh S/L Ghulam Hassan Lone R/o Nowhar		350/1	0	2	60			
91	Nowhar	Ghulam Mohammad S/o Ghulam Qadir Beigh R/o Nowhar		350/1	0	2	180			
92	Nowhar	Mehfooz Khacaharia		352	0	4	65			
93	Dadompura	Maqboosa Sarkar		2589 min	0	0	55			
94	Dadompura	Ahmad S/o Mohammad Teli R/o Dadompura		2588 min	0	2	60			
95	Dadompura	Aziz D/o Shaban Teeli R/o Dadompura		2587 min	0	1	225			
96	Dadompura	Ghulam Mohammad S/o Abdullah Rasrey R/o Dadompura		2434 min	0	0	215			
97	Dadompura	Ghulam Qadir S/o Rahim Rasrey R/o Dadompura		2434 min	0	0	210			
98	Brenwar	Mohan Ashraf S/o Ghulam Ahmad Jahar R/o Brenwar		917	0	0	250			
99	Brenwar	Ghulam Hassan S/o Shakoar Gojar Jahra R/o Brenwar		946	0	0	270			
100	Brenwar	Ghulam Hassan S/o Sardar Gojar Jahra R/o Brenwar		947	0	0	270			
101	Brenwar	Saifuddin S/o Sardar Gojar Jahra R/o Brenwar		947	0	0	180			
102	Brenwar	Ghum Ahmad S/o Gaffar Wani R/o Brenwar		943	0	3	174			
103	Brenwar	Mohd Jamal S/o Gaffar Wani R/o Brenwar		943	0	0	162			
104	Brenwar	Ghum Hassan S/o Gaffar Wani R/o Brenwar		943	0	0	200			
105	Brenwar	Zina W/o Mohd Akram Wani R/o Brenwar		941	0	1	80			
106	Brenwar	Bilal Ahmad S/o Ghulam Rasool Lone R/o Brenwar		985	0	1	94			
107	Brenwar	Noor Mohammad S/o Wahab Kuchey R/o Brenwar		996	0	0	54			
108	Brenwar	Jamal S/o Habib Kuchey R/o Brenwar		996	0	0	42			
109	Brenwar	Ghulam Mohammad S/o Habib Kuchey R/o Brenwar		996	0	1	88			
110	Brenwar	Mama Din S/o Shakoar Gojar Jahra R/o Brenwar		863	0	1	36			
111	Brenwar	Mohammad Yousuf S/o Kamal Hajam R/o Brenwar		631	0	16	174			
112	Brenwar	Mohammad Yousuf S/o Kamal Hajam R/o Brenwar		809	0	6	230			
113	Brenwar	Lalah S/o Aziz Hajam R/o Brenwar								

Pee-Gate: Air India Fined 30 Lakhs, Pilot's Licence Suspended



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Aviation regulator DGCA on Friday imposed a penalty of Rs 30 lakh on Air India as well as suspended the license of the pilot-in-command of the New York-Delhi flight in which a person allegedly urinated on a female co-passenger.

In the incident, which happened on November 26, 2022, the watchdog has also slapped a fine of Rs 3 lakh on Air India's Director of in-flight services for failing to discharge her duties.

The enforcement actions for violation of applicable norms come nearly two months after the incident, which came to the notice of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) only on January 4.

This is also the first time that DGCA has penalised an airline for unruly passenger behaviour onboard a flight. In a statement, an Air India spokesperson said it is in receipt of the DGCA order and studying it.

"We respectfully acknowledge the gaps in our reporting and are taking relevant steps to ensure that the same are addressed. We are also strength-

ening our crews' awareness of and compliance with policies on the handling of incidents involving unruly passengers," the airline spokesperson said.

On Thursday, Air India had imposed a four-month flying ban on Mishra, who is in jail now. Earlier, the airline had barred him from flying for 30 days.

In its statement on Friday, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said enforcement actions have been taken in the incident, which came to the notice of the regulator on January 4. The watchdog had issued show cause notices to Air India's Accountable Manager, Director in-flight services, all the pilots and cabin crew members of that flight as to why enforcement action should not be taken against them for dereliction of their regulatory obligations.

DGCA examined the written replies of Air India and the personnel involved and decided on the enforcement actions.

A "financial penalty of Rs 30,00,000 has been imposed on Air India for violation of applicable DGCA Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR)," the regulator said.

Agri Deptt Sends Consignment Of Kashmir Vegetables To UAE

Sending Vegetables to UAE opens global window to Kashmir specific agri produce: Director Agriculture

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Pursuing the vision of introducing/ promoting Kashmir based vegetables, spices and other agricultural commodities on global platform and increasing the participation of farmers, agripreneurs of Kashmir in the global agriculture trade, the Department of Agriculture Kashmir in collaboration with an international marketing group (Lulu) has sent this year's first consignment of Kashmir specific vegetables (Radish, Turnip, Carrot) to UAE.

It is worth mentioning here that last year a number of vegetable consignments were sent to Dubai, Sharjah, Abu Dhabi and other Gulf markets.

Today's vegetable consignment of Dal area of Srinagar was procured by FAIR exports pvt ltd. from an FPO namely Dal Lake Stem producer company Ltd. The consignments was flagged off by Director Agriculture Kashmir Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Agriculture said that the department is working on a long term ambitious plan to strengthen the export pro-



motion policy of UT of J&K. He said that department is endeavoring to get more and more farmers, agripreneurs attracted towards the international trade of Kashmir specific agriculture produce with the aim to fetch high returns for their produce.

Director Agriculture said that under the holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors, the proper marketing of Kashmir specific vegetables, spices and other agriculture produce at international level is one of the top priorities and different strategies have been devised in this direction by the department.

Pertinently the entire operation of grading, packing, label-

ing of the vegetable consignment was conducted under the strict supervision of Director Agriculture Kashmir and all the set global standards for the international trade of vegetables and other agricultural commodities were upheld while sending the vegetable consignment to UAE.

Sending vegetables, agriculture produce to Dubai, Sharjah, Abu Dhabi and other gulf markets has opened a global window for Kashmir specific agri-produce, Director Agriculture said.

Chief Agriculture officer Srinagar Mohammad Younis Chowdhury and various officers of the department were present on the occasion.

Govt May Announce Production-Linked Incentives For More Sectors In Budget

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The government is likely to extend fiscal incentives for the production of toys, bicycles and leather and footwear in the forthcoming budget as it looks to expand production linked incentive (PLI) scheme to cover more high-employment potential sectors, sources said.

The government has already rolled out the scheme with an outlay of about Rs 2 lakh crore for as many as 14 sectors, including automobiles and auto components, white goods, pharma, textiles, food products, high efficiency solar PV modules, advance chemistry cell and speciality steel.

The scheme aims to make domestic manufacturing globally competitive and create global champions in manufacturing, and it is yielding solid results,

lakh crore which could be considered for other sectors.

Budget for 2023-24 is scheduled to be presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1.

The PLI scheme is aimed at making Indian manufacturers globally competitive, attracting investment in the areas of core competency and cutting-edge technology; ensuring efficiencies; creating economies of scale; enhancing exports and making India an integral part of the global supply chain.

As of September 2022, the PLI scheme for LSEM (Large-Scale Electronics Manufacturing) has attracted investment of Rs 4,784 crore, and led to total production of Rs 2,03,952 crore, including exports of Rs 80,769 crore, according to a government statement.

The PLI for LSEM has attracted



sources said.

A proposal to extend PLI scheme benefits to different sectors such as toys and leather are at advanced stages of finalisation and there is a likelihood that it may figure in Budget, they added.

One of the sources said there are some savings from this Rs 2

leading global players, including Foxconn, Samsung, Pegatron, Rising Star and Wistron while leading domestic companies, including Lava, Micromax, Optiemus, United Telelinks Neolyncs and Padget Electronics, have also participated in this scheme.

Adani Is Hooked To ChatGPT, Says Race For Artificial Intelligence To Get Complex

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Asia's richest man Gautam Adani, besides looking at opportunities to expand his vast empire, is hooked on ChatGPT - the programme that trawls vast amounts of information to generate natural-sounding text on virtually anything - from crafting jokes to writing ad copy, debugging computer code, to even generating poems and essays.

Adani, whose conglomerate has in recent years diversified from mines, ports and power plants into airports, data centres and defence, penned musings from his visit to Davos to attend the World Economic Forum meeting.

"From a meetings perspective, this was perhaps my busiest WEF as I met over a dozen heads of states and several business leaders," he wrote on LinkedIn, talking of new geopolitical couplings, climate change and tight-lipped evangelists and AI.

Advancements in AI, or generative AI, was the buzzword at all the discussions at the WEF.

"The recent release of ChatGPT (I must admit to some addiction since I started using it) is a transformational moment in the democratization of AI given its astounding capabilities as well as comical failures," he said.



Stating that generative AI will have massive ramifications, he said pioneering of chip design and large-scale production put the US ahead of the rest of the world and paved way for precision and guided weapons used in modern warfare.

"Generative AI holds the same potential and dangers, and the race is already on, with China outnumbering the US in the number of most-cited scientific papers on AI," he said.

In fact, Chinese researchers in 2021 published twice as many academic papers on AI as their American counterparts.

"This is a race that will quickly get as complex and as entangled as the ongoing silicon chip war," he added.

ChatGPT is an AI-powered chatbot prototype, which is developed by OpenAI. Users can ask questions and the bot will respond with relevant, natural-sounding answers and topics.

IIM Jammu's MDP On Effective Leadership For Branch Managers Of J&K Bank Ltd Ends

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, as part of its Executive Education and Consultancy offering, Friday successfully completed the five-day power-packed Management Development Programme (MDP) on Effective Leadership for the Branch Managers of J & K Bank Ltd. at its transit Campus in Jammu and Srinagar Off-Campus.

The program was a five-day program from 16th to 20th Jan 2023. The program was carefully tailored to address the changing landscapes in the banking sector and to contribute to the skill development of J&K bank professionals. All the participants at Jammu visited the IIM Jammu state-of-the-art campus coming up at Jagti.

The valedictory session at Jammu Transit Campus was graced by Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, Dr. Pankaj. K. Agarwal, Chairperson, Executive Education &



Consultancy (EE & C) joined by Dr. Rashmi Ranjan Parida and Dr. Mahima Raina, the program director of MDP. The valedictory session at Srinagar Off Campus was graced by Dr. Baljeet Singh and Dr. Gaana, J, the program director of MDP, and other faculty of IIM Jammu.

Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu interacted with all the participants and invited their feedback on the entire program from each participant. During his address, he quoted many real-life examples from his life and provided meaningful insights from his long

journey as an academician. He also gave an overview of Anandam-The Centre of Happiness at IIM Jammu contributing to the overall development of students, faculty, officers, and staff members.

He also mentioned working on mission mode as an Institution of national importance along with IIT Jammu, and AIIMS Jammu and contributing to the overall progress of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir. He also quoted that the people from the UT of J & K are very friendly and they should keep this characteristic intact.

Google To Axe 12,000 Workers; CEO Pichai Says 'Sorry'

Press Trust Of India

NEW YORK: Google will lay off 12,000 jobs across the globe, its CEO Sundar Pichai announced on Friday, becoming the latest tech giant after Microsoft, Facebook and Amazon to retrench staff en masse amid the global economic downturn.

In an email to employees, the Indian-origin CEO said: "I have some difficult news to share. We've decided to reduce our workforce by approximately 12,000 roles."

Pichai said the layoffs at Google were carried out after a "rigorous review" of its operations. The jobs being eliminated "cut across Alphabet, product areas, functions, levels and regions," he said.

"Over the past two years, we've seen periods of dramatic growth. To match and fuel that growth, we hired for a different economic reality than the one we face today," Pichai said in his mail, which was also posted on the company's news blog.

Earlier this week, Microsoft announced 10,000 job cuts, or nearly 5 per cent of its workforce.

Amazon is also cutting 18,000 jobs and Facebook parent Meta is trimming 11,000 positions.

"I'm deeply sorry for that. The fact that these changes will impact the lives of Googlers weighs heavily on me, and I take full responsibility for the decisions that led us here," he elaborated.



Digital consumption soared during the years of the pandemic, prompting companies to diversify portfolios and scale up hiring.

But as consumers cut back on their digital footprint as normalcy returned after the pandemic, companies have been forced to restructure and cut costs.

Pichai said he was confident about the huge opportunity for the company due to "our early investments in AI" for which Google would need to make tough choices.

"As an almost 25-year-old company, we're bound to go through difficult economic cycles. These are important moments to sharpen our focus, re-engineer our cost bases, and direct our talent and capital to our highest priorities," Pichai said.

"Being constrained in some areas allows us to bet big on others. Pivoting the company to be AI-first years ago led to groundbreaking advances across our businesses and the whole industry," he said.

SHORT TAKES

Retail Inflation For Rural Workers Eases 6.6% In Dec

NEW DELHI: Retail inflation for farm and rural workers sequentially eased to 6.38 per cent and 6.6 per cent, respectively, in December 2022, mainly due to lower prices of certain food items.

"Point-to-point rate of inflation based on the CPI-AL (consumer price index for agricultural workers) and CPI-RL (rural workers) stood at 6.38 per cent & 6.60 per cent in December 2022 compared to 6.87 per cent & 6.99 per cent, respectively, in November 2022, and 4.78 per cent and 5.03 per cent, respectively, during the corresponding month (December 2021) of the previous year," a labour ministry statement said.

Similarly, it stated that food inflation stood at 5.89 per cent and 5.76 per cent in December 2022 compared to 6.19 per cent and 6.05 per cent, respectively, in November 2022. It was 2.99 per cent and 3.17 per cent, respectively, during the corresponding month of the previous year.

The all-India Consumer Price Index Number for Agricultural Labourers for December 2022 remained stationary at 1,167 points and for rural labourers increased by 1 point to stand at 1,179.

The CPI-AL was at 1,167 points in November 2022, while CPI-RL was at 1,178 points in the previous month. **PTI**

Jammu to host 11 day SARAS Fair 2023: Chib

JAMMU: The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is going to host SARAS Fair 2023 from 4th to 14th February with participation of artisans and women Self Help Groups' from across the country.

The national level food and cultural fair will exhibit unique and famous indigenous products from various states and UTs of the country. The event will provide platform to the participants to sell and promote their self made products.

This was informed by Mission Director, J&K Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM), Indu Kanwal Chib, while chairing a meeting with different departments held to discuss arrangements regarding SARAS Fair 2023 or SARAS Aajeevika Mela to be held in the UT. The annual SARAS fair will be held in Jammu in which over 75 stalls and food courts will be set up at the exhibition site, aquaplex crown, near Bagh e Bahu, Jammu.

The meeting was attended by Additional Mission Director Jammu, Mridhu Slathia, senior officers from different line departments including district administration Jammu, Jammu Municipal Corporation, Fisheries, JDA, Floriculture, Information and Public Relations, Hospitality and Protocol, Fire and Emergency Services, JKAACL, PDD, Jal Shakti, Traffic, district Police Jammu, Health and Medical Education among others. **ONS**

Development Of New Industrial Estates Reviewed

SAMBA: Principal Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Prashant Goyal, on Friday toured industrial area of Samba and reviewed development of new Industrial Estates besides assessing status of land availability.

Secretary in Industries and Commerce Department, Samita Sethi, Deputy Commissioner, Samba, Anuradha Gupta, MD, SIDCO, Raman Kumar Kesar, SDM Vijaypur, ACR Samba besides officials of Revenue, Industries and SIDCO were present on the occasion.

Principal Secretary visited Bari Brahmana tehsil where he was apprised that after demarcation all available land has been handed over to SIDCO. He inspected work undertaken by the Industries Department for establishment of the Industrial Estate. He also inspected the site for alternative approach road for Kartholi.

Later, Prashant Goyal visited Karandi in Samba tehsil where about 364 kanal of land has been identified for developing the Industrial Estate there. He asked the Industries department to immediately start development of the industrial estates to enable setting up of Industrial units.

Principal Secretary also visited the Dry Port and reviewed progress on ongoing development works there. He was apprised that efforts are being made to ensure that the dry port shall start its functioning by the end of this financial year. **ONS**

EPFO Adds 16.26 Lakh Net Subscribers In Nov, 2022

NEW DELHI: Retirement fund body EPFO added 16.26 lakh subscribers on a net basis in November 2022, which is 16.5 per cent higher compared to a year ago, the labour ministry said on Friday.

The provisional payroll data of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) released on Friday by the ministry highlighted that the EPFO has added 16.26 lakh net members in the month of November 2022.

The data indicate a 25.67 per cent increase in net additions compared to the previous month in October 2022, a labour ministry statement said. Of the total 16.26 lakh members added during the month, around 8.99 lakh new members came under the ambit of EPFO for the first time thus, showing that new members joining EPFO has increased by 1.71 lakh, from 7.28 lakh in October 2022.

Among the new members, the highest enrolment is registered in the age-group of 18-21 years with 2.77 lakh members, followed by age-group of 22-25 years with 2.32 lakh members.

The age group of 18-25 years constitutes 56.60 per cent of the total of new members during the month. This shows that first-time job seekers are largely joining the organised sector workforce of the country. **PTI**

Rupee Gains 19 Paise To Close At 81.17 Against US Dollar

MUMBAI: The rupee appreciated by 19 paise to close at 81.17 against the US dollar on Friday on broad dollar weakness.

However, weak domestic equities and a surge in crude oil prices capped the gains for the local currency, forex traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened strong at 81.24, and settled for the day at 81.17, registering a rise of 19 paise over its previous close.

During the trading session, the local unit witnessed an intra-day high of 81.09 and a low of 81.28 against the American currency. On Thursday, the rupee closed at 81.36 against the US dollar.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, advanced 0.21 per cent to 102.26.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures rose 0.48 per cent to USD 86.57 per barrel. According to Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, the Indian rupee appreciated on Friday on soft US dollar and FII inflows on Thursday.

Forex market volatility has waned amid fewer market-moving data this week and expects thin volume and low volatility next week following the China Lunar Year holiday. **PTI**

HC Raps CBI For 'Casual' Arrest Of Dhoot In Loan Case, Grants Him Bail; Bizman Walks Out Of Jail

Press Trust of India

Mumbai: The ground cited by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to arrest Videocon Group founder Venugopal Dhoot in a loan fraud case was "quite casual and without any substance", ruled the Bombay High Court on Friday as it granted interim bail to him, days after his two co-accused got similar relief.

Stating that an investigating officer cannot arrest an accused as per his "whims and fancies", the HC also rapped the special court - which had earlier rejected Dhoot's plea for release from jail - saying it did not make any "serious efforts" to scrutinise the (CBI) remand application as well as the case diary.

A division bench of Justices Revati Mohite Dere and P K Chavan noted there has been a calculated move by the CBI to "concoct non-attendance and non-cooperation" in the probe by Dhoot, but in face the material placed before the court demonstrated Dhoot's diligence and bona-fide.

Dhoot, arrested in the

Videocon-ICICI Bank loan fraud case on December 26, 2022, walked out of central Mumbai's Arthur Road Jail, where he was lodged under judicial custody, in the evening, hours after securing interim bail.

This is the second time the CBI has received flak from the HC in the high-profile case. The same bench had on January 9, while granting interim bail to white collar Chanda Kochhar, former MD and CEO of ICICI bank, and her businessman-husband Deepak Kochhar - had come down heavily on the premier probe agency for arresting the couple in a "casual and mechanical manner and without application of mind".

The bench granted interim bail to Dhoot on a surety of Rs one lakh. It permitted the 71-year-old businessman to furnish cash bail and deposit the surety amount two weeks thereafter.

The order was passed on a petition filed by Dhoot seeking interim bail and to quash the CBI FIR (first information report). The HC would hear on February 6 the petition on the main issue

of quashing the FIR.

The bench, in its 48-page judgment, said arrest is not mandatory in each and every case, and added that in the present case the ground of arrest mentioned by the CBI was "quite casual and without any substance".

"The investigating officer cannot arrest the accused at his whims and fancies. Non-compliance of section 41 of the CrPC (Code of Criminal Procedure) is apparent," the court said.

Section 41 of the CrPC mandates a police officer to first issue a notice to an accused for questioning and to make arrest only when the custody of the accused is necessary.

The HC noted in the present case, the CBI had issued summons to Dhoot and in two such instances, the summons were sent to someone else or pasted on the wall of Dhoot's former office building.

"Prima facie, this seems to be nothing but a calculated move by the CBI to concoct non-attendance and non-cooperation by the petitioner," the HC said.

It added that despite all this, Dhoot wrote emails to the CBI in response to the summonses issued.

"The diligence and bona-fide of the petitioner (Dhoot) can be demonstrated from the email. From the language of the email, it appears that the petitioner had already handed over all the documents and co-operated with the investigating agency by appearing in its office on several occasions despite his deteriorating health," the HC noted.

The court refused to accept the CBI's arguments that Dhoot intentionally did not appear to avoid confrontation with the co-accused in the case - Chanda Kochhar and Deepak Kochhar - and said this argument is to be "accepted with a pinch of salt."

"There is no satisfactory answer from the investigating agency as to why for a period of three years, it has neither confronted all the accused before one another or demonstrated the progress of the investigation," the HC said.

The court noted that the grounds of arrest mentioned by the CBI in the arrest memo is without any particulars as to

how Dhoot's statements were inconsistent and how he had not co-operated with the investigating agency.

The high court further held that even the special CBI court, while remanding the accused (in the CBI custody), has not adhered to the provisions of law.

"Merely mentioning in the arrest memo that the petitioner (Dhoot) has been inconsistent in his statements and has kept on changing his versions and has not co-operated with the investigation in disclosing full and true facts, is not sufficient and the same cannot be a ground of arrest as it is unacceptable," the HC said in its judgment.

It added that merely because an accused does not confess does not "ipso facto" (by the fact itself) mean that the accused is not co-operating with the investigation.

The court also dismissed an application filed by an advocate seeking to intervene in the matter and for the bench to recall its earlier order granting bail to the Kochhars. The bench imposed a cost of Rs 25,000 on the advocate.

Congress To Launch Two-Month Campaign To Spread Rahul Gandhi's Message Across India

Press Trust of India

Kathua: The Congress will launch a two-month door-to-door campaign across India from next week to spread Rahul Gandhi's message among the masses, senior leader Jairam Ramesh said on Friday.

The Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra is a fight between the BJP-RSS combine's ideology and the Congress, which has always believed in unity and brotherhood, Ramesh said and mentioned that his party had prepared a "charge sheet" against the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led central government.

"The Congress has prepared a charge sheet against the Modi government that will be released in Delhi on Saturday. We will go with copies of the charge sheet along with the message of Rahul Gandhi to every household in the country," the Ramesh, the Congress general secretary said at the end of the Bharat Jodo Yatra's first day here.

Ramesh, who was flanked by senior colleagues, including former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Digvijay Singh and Jammu

and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee chief Vikar Rasool Wani, said the 'Haath Se Haath' campaign would run from January 26 to March 26.

Under the campaign, Congress workers will be mobilised in all 2.5 lakh panchayats, six lakh villages and 10 lakh polling booths to spread the message of Gandhi, who launched the Kanyakumari-Kashmir yatra to remove hatred and spread the message of love, Ramesh said.

The march, which started from Kanyakumari on September 7, is in its final phase. It is scheduled to culminate in Srinagar with Gandhi hoisting the national flag at the party headquarters on January 30.

Calling economic inequality, social polarisation and political dictatorship the three major worrisome issues for the country, Ramesh said, "While others subscribe to the view that unity is diversity, we believe it is diversity which leads to unity. When we are suppressing the diversity, which BJP and RSS is doing right now, it means our unity is in

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

No Security

union territory administration, the LG said ordinary and poor people do not need to fear it. "Action is being taken against influential people who misused their positions and violated the rules to occupy large tracts of lands," he added.

On the housing project for Kashmiri migrant employees, he said the administration is trying to resolve the difficulties being faced by them.

"Last time we had started efforts for making accommodation for Kashmiri migrants in Bandipora and Baramulla. The maximum number of Kashmir migrant employees is in Srinagar. So today we have started a mega housing project for them in Srinagar. The chief engineer has said the project (930 flats) will be completed by December this year," Sinha said.

The LG said the administration was sensitive to the genuine issues of the Kashmiri migrant employees and trying to resolve their problems, whether in Kashmir or in Jammu.

"The administration has been in touch with them and we are solving their genuine problems. There was a time when the posts used to be vacant but now all posts have been filled. Earlier, land was not available for housing but now work has started at all places. Twelve hundred flats will be ready soon and 1,800 flats will be ready by end of the December," he added.

He said from the security point of view, the administration, in consultation with the police, has posted these employees at "appropriate places".

Cong Wants

through the interiors of Kashmir. Now it is up to security officials and the administration whether they will allow us or not," Chauhan told PTI as the yatra entered Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday.

He said the Congress has not released the yatra's route plan in Kashmir due to security reasons.

"We have not released the route of this yatra in Kashmir (yet) because we have not received a clearance from the security officials so far," he added.

Chauhan, the All India Congress Committee (AICC) coordinator, is here to review the arrangements for the yatra, which is likely to enter the valley on January 27.

"Some hoardings have been installed. As the yatra comes closer to Kashmir, more will be installed," he said.

The Congress leader said the yatra, which began from Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu in September, will culminate in Srinagar on January 30, after covering a distance of almost 3,500 kilometres.

"On January 30, a huge rally will be held at the cricket stadium in Srinagar for which all preparations have been made. It will be a historical event. People are enthusiastic (about it)," he added.

Chauhan said 12 to 15 political parties of Jammu and Kashmir, including the National Conference (NC) and the People's Democratic Party (PDP), will join the yatra. "We are getting a huge response and support from the locals in the valley," he said.

Chauhan said the aim of the Bharat Jodo Yatra is to counter the hate being spread in the country and raise the real issues being faced by people.

"Since the beginning of the yatra, the BJP has been trying to fool the country. This yatra is to create awareness about what the BJP has done to the country. Earlier, they did politics on (Gandhi's) T-shirt, now they are saying it is the 'Bharat Todo Yatra'. The BJP is not addressing the problems people are facing, such as unemployment and inflation. It is just trying to divert people's attention from the real issues," he added.

Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Jammu and Kashmir unit spokesperson Altaf Thakur took a dig at the Congress, saying the march taken out by the opposition party is a "Khandaan Jodo Yatra".

"Family politics was wiped out in 2014 when the country decided to vote for the BJP. In Kashmir, the Muftis, the Abdullahs and the Congress were wiped out. This yatra is a Khandaan Jodo Yatra where the Gandhis are trying to unite the Abdullahs and the Muftis,"

he said.

Thakur also said the Bharat Jodo Yatra is "merely a joke".

"It was the Congress that divided the country in 1947. Who gave Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) to Pakistan? It was the Congress. The Bharat Jodo mission was accomplished on August 5, 2019, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi made Jammu and Kashmir completely a part of India," he added.

The provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution were abrogated on August 5, 2019 and the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir was bifurcated into Union territories.

No March

by an hour and fifteen minutes apparently due to the winter rains.

Donning a jacket over his famous White T-Shirt due to chilled waves in the morning, Rahul started the yatra flanked by Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut.

Rahul removed the jacket with some improvement in the weather after walking for over the first two hours from Hatli Morh towards Chadwal, a 21-km stretch along the Jammu-Pathankot highway which was virtually sealed as part of the stringent security arrangements.

Speaking to reporters, Raut said "I had come all the way to join yatra because Rahul Gandhi is a leader of masses and he is on the right path to raise voice against unemployment, inflation and other issues bothering people in the country."

"Only Rahul Gandhi could challenge Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2024 and end the BJP's "dictatorial regime", Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut who joined the last leg of the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Jammu told reporters.

He added that an Opposition front without the Congress would be meaningless.

Several gallantry award winners, including Param Vir Chakra recipient Captain Bana Singh, too joined the Yatra and walked with Gandhi for more than 40 minutes.

"Whenever there is talk of protecting India and its ideals, the names of brave sons of the country like Bana Singh are taken. Captain Bana Singh, a Paramveer Chakra winner who hoisted the tricolor on the icy heights of Siachen, is an inspiration to me and every patriot," senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi tweeted.

Several Congress leaders, including the party's J&K unit president Vikar Rasool Wani and his predecessor G A Mir, former MP Chief Minister Divijay Singh, Congress spokesperson Jai Ram Ramesh, firebrand student leader Kanhaiya Kumar accompanied Gandhi during the final leg of the Bharat Jodo Yatra. The yatra covered 25 km and halted at Chadwal in the Kathua district for the night. There will be no march on Saturday.

The yatra will resume on Sunday from Hiranagar in Kathua and will reach Jammu on January 23. It will have another break on January 26 (Republic Day) before commencing in Kashmir valley.

The march, which started from Kanyakumari on September 7, entered Jammu and Kashmir from Punjab on Thursday evening and is scheduled to end in Srinagar on January 30. A tight security ring, composed of police and CRPF personnel, was thrown around Gandhi. Entering Jammu and Kashmir in the last leg of his Bharat Jodo Yatra, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday invoked his connection with the land, saying his ancestors had moved from Kashmir to Uttar Pradesh and he felt he was "returning home".

He said he had come here to share the pain and agony of the people of J&K. "I know how much pain the people of Jammu and Kashmir have faced. I understand it... Everybody has got hurt, everybody has suffered," he said while addressing a crowd that had gathered in huge numbers at the entry point to J&K from Pathankot-Punjab to receive him.

The march entered Kashmir on Thursday and will culminate with a rally in Srinagar on January 30.

Snowfall Blocks

temperatures rose in Kashmir but still settled below the freezing point across the Valley. Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of

minus 0.1 degrees Celsius on Thursday night -- up from minus 1.4 degrees Celsius the night before. Qazigund, the gateway to the Valley, registered a low of minus 0.6 degrees Celsius.

Kokernag in south Kashmir recorded a low of minus 1.4 degrees Celsius, while the minimum temperature in Kupwara settled at minus 1.5 degrees Celsius. The mercury in Pahalgam, in the Anantnag district, which serves as a base camp for the annual Amarnath Yatra, settled at minus 2.9 degrees Celsius.

The minimum temperature at Gulmarg in Baramulla district was minus 7.6 degrees Celsius.

The meteorological office had forecast wet weather in Jammu and Kashmir from January 19 to 25 due to western disturbances. It said there were chances of light to moderate rain or snow in parts of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday and Saturday.

It predicted a much higher intensity of precipitation from January 23 to 25, with a possibility of moderate snow in the plains of Kashmir, moderate to heavy snow over middle and higher reaches and rains in Jammu.

Kashmir is currently under the grip of 'Chillai Kalan', the 40-day harshest weather period when chances of snowfall are maximum and most frequent. Chillai Kalan begins on December 21 and ends on January 30.

Avalanche Warning

Authority has expressed its apprehension of 'Medium' Danger Level above 2500 metres over Doda, Kishtwar, Poonch and Ramban districts. People living in the notified areas have been advised to take precautions and avoid venturing in the avalanche prone areas.

SC Refuses

is mainly focused on the Roshni land. He also questioned the locus of the applicants.

"The Application was served on me yesterday. It does not even mention that the applicants live there", he pointed out while adding that the said land only had shops and such establishments. The Court then adjourned the matter. The matter was mentioned before the Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, this week.

Pertinently, on January 9, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Commissioner Secretary to the Government, Revenue Department issued an order directing all the DCs to ensure 100% removal of encroachments from state land, including Roshni and Kahcharai by January 31. Bidhuri had also listed a set of instructions for effective monitoring of the anti-encroachment drive.

According to the order, DCs were asked to furnish daily reports by 4 pm while Divisional Commissioners were asked to furnish the compiled reports through Financial Commissioner Revenue, J&K by 5 pm to the Administrative Department Revenue in a given format.

According to the given formats for State Land including Roshni, besides Kahcharai the DCs were directed to submit details of total encroached land as on the day, encroachment removed day wise, balance encroachment to be removed and percentage of encroachment yet to be removed.

983 Kanal Govt

official spokesperson said Friday. In the last two days, he said, over 1701 kanal of land has been freed from encroachment.

"The total retrieved land has increased to 13431 Kanals throughout the district and so far 56 percent of State land and over 47 percent of Kahcharai land has been retrieved during anti-encroachment drives in the district," he added. Meanwhile, 4021 kanal state and Kahcharai land has been retrieved from encroachers across Kupwara district since the drive started, official spokesperson said.

Giving further details, he said, 301 kanal of Kahcharai land has been retrieved in Drugmulla tehsil which includes 276 kanal single patch of land and 25 kanal which was used for commercial purposes.

Likewise, 280 kanal of land have been retrieved during the drive till date in Kupwara tehsil, including 205 kanal Kahcharai and 75 kanal state land.

"In Keran tehsil, 712 kanals of land have been retrieved as per Tehsildar Keran, which include

617 kanals of state land and 95 kanals of kahcharie land," the spokesperson said.

In Vilgam tehsil of Kupwara district, he said, 1863 kanals, including 758 state land and 1105 kanal Kahcharai have been retrieved till date.

Likewise, in Kralpora Tehsil, he said, 247 kanal of land have been retrieved in the tehsil which include 142 kanals state and 105 kanal Kahcharie land.

In Sogam and Lalpora tehsils, 114 kanal and 14 marlas of land have been retrieved from Dardpora Lolab, 20 kanals from Chandigam and 20 kanals from Sogam tehsil.

"Similarly, 70 kanals of kahcharari/ state land have been retrieved from Trehgam tehsil, 50 kanals in Karnah Tehsil, 46 kanal 15 marlas in Handwara tehsil, 26 kanal 5 marlas in Zachaldara tehsil, 5 kanals in Taratpora tehsil, 80 kanals in Langate, 70 kanals in Qalamabad tehsil and 116 kanals in Qaziabad-kralgund tehsil during the ongoing drive against land encroachers," the spokesperson added.

3 Siblings From

they have qualified JKAS. Suhail and Huma Anjum have pursued masters in Political Science while Ifra has pursued MSC physics and all started preparing for JKAS/ IAS when they were in Class 12th, he said, as per news agency KNO.

Everyday they used to study for about 12 hours for the last several years, he said.

If the focus and goal of any person is one, he/she can achieve any dream even after facing difficulties, he said, adding that whenever any person tries, the way comes by itself and parents must support their children well.

He claimed that their children don't have mobile phones as of now and whenever they were in need of the internet, they used to connect their mother with their laptops.

J&K Slowly

amount of investment that has come in the last four years is more than what it had come to Jammu and Kashmir in the last 70 years," he said.

The Union Home Minister also said Indian security agencies have succeeded in establishing their supremacy and no one can ignore the country anymore in any field.

"India is now definitely safe, strong and on a good footing under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he said.

On the conference's first day, the home minister also distributed the police medal for meritorious service and gave trophies to the top three police stations of the country.

Topics such as security challenges along the land borders with Nepal and Myanmar, strategies to identify overstaying foreigners in India and targeting of Maoist strongholds were discussed, officials said.

Over the next two days, the top police leadership of the country will deliberate on emerging security challenges and opportunities along with experts, field functionaries and academia.

"Under the leadership of Modi, Indian security agencies have succeeded in establishing their supremacy. Today, no one can ignore India in any field, nor anyone can stop you from moving forward," he said.

Shah said earlier, the country's problems were geographical, now the problems are becoming thematic, and for this security agencies have to bring about a paradigm shift in their strategy and approach.

"Earlier we had single dimensional problems, but now the problems are multi-dimensional. To deal with them, we have to be two steps ahead of those who commit crimes. We have to change the method of urban policing rapidly. Even on capacity building of the police, a lot of attention has to be paid," he said.

Shah said to make internal security impenetrable, the police have to be empowered and the Modi government and the home ministry will fully cooperate with states.

On the upcoming G20 meetings and summit, the home minister said everyone knows that India is chairing the G20 and the prime minister has made a unique effort of selecting 56 cities to host more than 200 G20 meetings.

Lauding the effort of security agencies, he said that "so far, on the question of internal security, we have been successful in maintaining

peace in the country by and large despite many odds".

"I congratulate all of you for your efforts to strengthen the security apparatus. The police forces, paramilitary forces and central agencies have responded promptly in challenging times, which has also been appreciated by citizens," the home minister said.

In his address at the conference, organised by his ministry and the Intelligence Bureau, Shah said that Jammu and Kashmir, the Northeast and the Left- Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas were the three hotspots.

Under Modi's leadership, the situation has drastically improved there, he said. "This shows that we are on the right track and our goal lies at the end of our path," the minister said.

Shah said the government has removed the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act from 30 per cent area in the Northeast and asserted that this has not been done to fulfil any political demand.

"We assessed the situation and removed it, after we found it normal. It shows that there is increasing peace in the Northeast and a steep decline of more than 42 per cent in violence in the region," he said.

On LWE, Shah said security agencies have attained massive success in taming Maoist terror. In 2010, there were 96 LWE-affected districts. This has now come down to 46, he said.

Shah said that security vacuum has been plugged and he was sure that security agencies will be able to take absolute control of the situation.

In LWE-affected regions all kinds of violence have witnessed a 40 to 60 per cent decline, he said.

Modi will also attend the conference of director generals and inspector generals of police being held at the National Agricultural Science Complex in Pusa here, according to a release issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

"Since 2014, the prime minister has taken a keen interest in the DGP conference. Unlike the symbolic presence of prime ministers earlier, he sits through all major sessions of the conference," it said.

The prime minister not only listens patiently to all the inputs, but also encourages free and informal discussions so that new ideas can come up, the PMO release said.

This provides a congenial atmosphere for the top police officials of the country to directly brief the prime minister on key policing and internal security issues, and give open and frank recommendations, it said.

The release said guided by the vision of the prime minister, the conference has started discussions on futuristic themes in policing and security.

Soldier Shoots

doctors declared him dead. Meanwhile, Police have initiated proceedings under section 174 Cr.PC in this regard.

Probe Underway

Additional SP, Rajouri, Vivek Shekhar Sharma said. "We have advised people especially shopkeepers and street vendors to stay extra cautious and to inform the police control room in case they see any suspicious object."

Shots Fired

and some speculative shots were also fired. Police Kulgam, 9RR and CRPF 18 Bn are jointly conducting search," Kulgam police posted on its official Twitter handle.

Army Evacuates

abdominal pain, a defence spokesperson said.

Jabri Village, he said, is located along a steep gradient, from which evacuation during heavy snowfall, is extremely challenging.

The soldiers, he said, walked through knee deep snow and reached the ailing lady's home.

"They carried the aged lady on their back, to minimise injury to the patient, due to mountainous nature of tracks, steep gradient involved and heavy snowfall conditions," the spokesperson said.

On reaching Paro, he said, the lady was swiftly shifted to a waiting Army ambulance and successfully evacuated to PHC, Boniyar.

Kashmir's Cricket Bat Industry Stares Into Oblivion Amid Growing Willow Cleft Shortage

Press Trust of India

SRINAGAR: The 102-year-old cricket bat industry in Kashmir has upped its standards over the years to compete with manufacturers that work with the fabled English willow. But bat-makers fear a shortage of clefts might force closure of the ₹300-crore enterprise that provides livelihood to over 1,00,000 people.

"We have been manufacturing cricket bats for the past 102 years. The quality of our bats is good and approved by the International Cricket Council (ICC). So quality-wise, we are not lacking. We are at par with (manufacturers that use) English willow, if not better," Fawzul Kabir, spokesperson for Cricket Bats Manufacturing Association of Kashmir.

"This was evident from the fact that the longest six in the recent ICC Men's T20 World Cup in Australia was hit using a Kashmir willow bat," Kabir told PTL.

The UAE's Junaid Siddique hit the 2022 ICC Men's T20 World Cup's longest six against Sri Lanka using a bat manufactured by Anantnag-based GR8 Sports.

However, the 400-odd bat manufacturing units are staring at an uncertain future as they fear a shortage of willow clefts might force



their factories to close within five years. "Willow produce is dwindling fast and we fear that it might become extinct within the next five years. We have been requesting the government to go for a willow plantation drive to ensure a sustainable supply," Kabir said, pointing to the

afforestation drives in Canada and Pakistan to underline his point.

He said more than one lakh people, not only from Jammu and Kashmir but from Jalandhar in Punjab and Meerut in Uttar Pradesh, relied on the industry for their livelihoods. "In a scenario where an industry is

on the verge of collapse, the government needs to work on a war footing," he said.

Kabir said while the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology provided them 1,500 willow saplings last year for replacement, each unit needs a

supply of around 15,000 clefts a year. "As cricket is growing fast, the demand for bats will also increase. We had a dozen countries playing cricket two decades ago. Today, that number has gone up to around 160."

"Ten years ago, 2.5 lakh to 3 lakh bats were manufactured in Kashmir. These days, 30 lakh bats are made every year," he said, adding that the industry's annual turnover was over ₹300 crore.

Kabir suggested that the government should consider allowing sapling plantations in the wetlands and on the riverbanks where willow trees used to be grown earlier.

"If willow trees are planted in these places again, the bat industry can survive," he said.

GR8 Sports Production Manager Mohammad Niyaz said the government had taken steps for plantation of willow saplings but it was not at the scale required to support the industry.

"More and more cricket leagues are coming up around the world and the demand for bats is only going to increase. While the industry can provide employment to artisans, finished bats can keep youngsters involved in sports and away from evils such as drug abuse," he added. An Industries and Commerce De-

partment official said while there was no dearth of willow in Kashmir, the main issue facing the units was a lack of modern seasoning technology and smuggling of clefts to factories outside Kashmir. "In Kashmir, seasoning of clefts is still done in the traditional way and it can take anywhere between six months to a year. It blocks precious capital of the unit holder and puts strain on his financial situation. This has, in some cases, led to the closure of a unit," the official, who is not authorised to speak to the media, said on the condition of anonymity.

The official said a proposal to set up a seasoning plant was approved a few years ago but was shelved due to the outbreak of COVID-19. "A new proposal to set up an electric or solar plant that will reduce the seasoning time to just 15 days is under consideration of senior officials," he added. Steps had to be taken to curb cleft smuggling from the Valley to factories in other parts of country, mainly in Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, the official said.

He said land measuring 20 hectares had been earmarked for growing willow trees that have been developed by scientists at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology.



J&K-Tripura Ranji Trophy Match Ends In A Draw

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Bad weather forced no play on Day 4 of the J&K versus Tripura Ranji Trophy match at Hostel Ground JKCA in Jammu, ending the match in a draw.

J&K had declared their first innings at 446/6 after winning the toss and opting to bat first. The first day of four-day test was lost to bad weather, while wet outfield curtailed play on Day 2. J&K declared on Day 3 and had Tripura in a crunch at 76/4 when the umpires called it a day. How-

ever, both teams had to accept a draw on Friday as no play was deemed possible on Day 4.

J&K batter Abhinav Puri was named player of the match for his 121 runs off 316 balls in the first innings.

J&K will next play Chandigarh on Tuesday, January 24. It will be the team's last match of their disappointing 2022-23 Ranji Trophy campaign. J&K is currently seventh in the eight team Elite Group D table with seven points from six matches, having lost four, drawn one and won one in the process.

Real Kashmir Humbled 2-0 By Gokulam In I-League



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Real Kashmir FC was on Friday defeated 2-0 by defending champions Gokulam Kerala FC in an I-League match at the EMS Corporation Stadium in Kozhikode, Kerala.

Midfielder Thahir Zaman opened the score for the hosts in the 35th minute of the match,

while striker Jobby Justin doubled Kerala's lead in the 85th minute. The defeat condemned Real Kashmir to fifth spot in the I-League table, with 18 points from 12 match. Gokulam rose to third in the table, having taken 21 points from 12. Real Kashmir will next play Churchill Brothers FC on Tuesday, January 24 at Tilak Maidan in Vasco da Gama, Goa.

J&K Police To Host All India Police Football C'ship In Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The J&K Police is all set to host the 71st All India Police Football Championship 2022-23 at Srinagar from March 11 to March 21, 2023.

S.J.M Gillani-IPS ADGP Armed J&K, chaired a meeting on Friday in this regard at APHQ Conference Hall, Srinagar to chalk out the arrangements and preparations. He also issued some significant instructions to ensure smooth and successful conduct of the event.

During the meeting, all important issues like accommodation, transportation, media publicity coverage, medical arrangements,

reception/sightseeing security, traffic arrangements, security arrangements for participating teams were discussed.

During the meeting all officers were asked to assess the availability of accommodation at APC Zewan, CTC Lethpora, PTS Manigam. APC Perhaspora and APC Humhama, and report to the respective DIGPs within three days. The concerned supervisory officers were directed to renovate the identified accommodation and get it completed within stipulated time.

On the occasion it was decided that practice matches of the event shall be held at the grounds of SP College and Amar Singh College in Srinagar.

Bowling A Worry As India Aim To Seal ODI Series Against NZ



Press Trust of India

RAIPUR: India will be expecting more runs from the middle order and discipline in the death overs as they look for a series sealing win against New Zealand in the second ODI in Raipur on Saturday.

With the city hosting its first-ever international game, a sell out crowd of 60,000 plus is expected to cheer the home team.

After being down and out at 131/6, New Zealand were allowed to score another 206 runs in the chase of 350 and that should worry India.

The visitors looked like getting a remarkable come-from-behind win but the individual brilliance of Mohammed Siraj stopped them.

With the bat, Shubman Gill, who smashed a scintillating double century, had single-handedly taken India to a competitive total with the others falling by the wayside. Virat Kohli's individual effort had

stood out in the previous game against Sri Lanka.

However, bigger concerns lie in the bowling department after the hiding the bowlers got from Michael Bracewell, who put the Indian attack to sword on Wednesday.

India brought Shardul Thakur into the team at the expense of the super quick Umran Malik considering his batting abilities. But the move backfired as Thakur, after a tidy start, went for plenty of runs to finish with 2/54 in 7.2 overs. The team management will need to figure out if it wants a bowler who can bat or a specialist fast bowler who can rattle the opposition with extra pace and get wickets in the middle overs.

Siraj has developed into an all phase bowler but others need to step up. Mohammad Shami was brilliant with the new ball but was taken to the cleaners by Bracewell, while Hardik too was expensive.

In the spin department, Washington Sundar had a game to forget while Kuldeep Yadav continued his impressive run. The team also has the option playing Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep together but it has stuck to one wrist spinner and one finger spinner policy.

New Zealand's never-say-die spirit came to the fore in the series opener and they would take a lot of heart from that. It won't be a regular occurrence that a number seven in Bracewell and number eight in Mitchell Santner will bring back the team from a hopeless situation.

Finn Allen started off aggressively but could not make it big. And in the absence of Kane Williamson, New Zealand need someone to anchor the innings.

The pace trio of Henry Shiple, Lockie Ferguson and Blair Tuckner will be looking for more accuracy after being mercilessly attacked by Gill. It remains to be seen if Ish Sodhi regains full fitness for the must-win game for his team.

WFI Chief Compares Wrestlers' Protest With Shaheen Bagh

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Under-fire Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh on Friday termed the protest by the country's top wrestling as the "dharna of Shaheen Bagh" and reiterated that he won't quit from his post.

The agitating wrestlers on Friday reached out to the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), demanding formation of an enquiry committee to probe the allegations of sexual harassment against Singh, a day after threatening to lodge multiple FIRs against the WFI chief.

However, Singh has stuck to his stand to not relinquish the post.

"The protest by wrestlers against me is the dharna of Shaheen Bagh," Singh, who is also a sixth-time Lok Sabha MP from UP's Kaisarganj constituency, told reporters in Gonda. Singh also termed the pro-



test in Delhi's Jantar Mantar an attack on BJP and orchestrated by the Congress party.

IOA Forms Seven-Member Committee To Probe Wrestlers' Claims

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on Friday formed a seven-member committee, including M C Mary Kom and Yogeshwar Dutt, to probe the allegations of sexual harassment against Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh by top grapplers.

Besides legendary boxer Mary Kom and wrestler Yogeshwar, the panel also includes archer Dola Banerjee and Indian Weightlifting Federation of India (IWLF) president Sahdev Yadav.

The decision was taken during IOA's emergency Executive Council meeting which was attended by the likes of Abhinav Bindra, Yogeshwar along with IOA president PT Usha and joint secretary Kalyan Chaubey. Shiva Keshvan was special invitee in meeting.

Ronaldo, Messi Roll Back The Years In Nine-Goal Thriller

Reuters

RIYADH: Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi transported fans back in time to the heyday of their storied rivalry, as both forwards got on the scoresheet in an exhibition match on Thursday before Hugo Ekitike earned 10-man PSG a 5-4 win over the Riyadh Season Team.

While the match may not have much significance for the teams involved, soccer fans around the world got plenty of

national Salem Al-Dawsari.

Both teams kept their foot on the gas in the second half, but Ekitike's 78th-minute strike eventually made the difference on the night.

Decked in a new black and gold kit, PSG made a blistering start to the game, racing into the lead in the third minute thanks to a deft finish from Messi.

Despite going behind early, the Riyadh Season Team - a combined Saudi Pro League XI featuring players from Al Nassr



bang for their buck as a story that has dominated the sport for over a decade appeared to come to an end in a memorable goalfest.

In an action-packed first half at the King Fahd Stadium in Riyadh, goals from Messi and Marquinhos were cancelled out by a Ronaldo brace, while PSG's Juan Bernat was sent off for a lunging tackle on Saudi inter-

and Al Hilal - had numerous chances.

Ronaldo was an ever-present threat and won a penalty when goalkeeper Keylor Navas clattered into him.

Their lead would not last long, as Ronaldo once again levelled the game on the verge of halftime, hammering home a rebound after Sergio Ramos botched a straight-forward clearance.

Dani Alves Jailed In Spain For Alleged Sexual Assault



Agencies

BARCELONA: Brazilian soccer player Dani Alves was arrested Friday after being accused of sexually assaulting a woman in Spain and a judge later denied bail for the former Barcelona defender.

The alleged assault took place on Dec. 31 at a night club in Barcelona, police told The Associated Press.

Alves was taken into custody after he answered a police summons. State prosecutors had asked for him to be held without bail, and a judge agreed after charging him with sexual assault following several hours of testimony.

A charge of sexual assault in Spain can mean anything from unsolicited and unwanted sexual groping to rape. Police said they could not give any details

on the case.

Alves denied the allegations last week in a video he sent to Spanish television channel Antena 3. While acknowledging he had been at the club, he said he did not know the woman and added "I have never invaded the personal space of anyone."

The 39-year-old Alves is one of soccer's most successful players, winning major titles with several elite clubs, including Barcelona, Juventus and Paris Saint-Germain, over his long career. He currently plays for Mexican club Pumas.

The defender was a key part of Barcelona's golden years playing between 2008-16 on the team's right flank behind Lionel Messi. He won the Champions League three times with the Catalan club, which he briefly rejoined last season.

Punjab Man, 88, Wins 5 Crores Lottery. Here's What He'll Do With The Money



Agenceis

Mohali (Punjab): An 88-year-old man in Punjab's Dera Bassi became a 'crorepati' overnight after winning a 5 crore lottery. Mahant Dwarka Dass, a resident of Trivedi Camp in Dera Bassi, won the Lohri Makar Sankranti Bumper Lottery which completely changed his life. Celebrations have erupted in his area with people thronging his house to congratulate and even garland him.

Mr Dass said he was a frequent buyer of lottery tickets as he wanted to impose the condition of his family. After winning the lottery, he will divide half the money for the 'dera' and will distribute it equally among both his sons. "I am happy. I have been buying lotteries for the last 35-40 years. I will distribute the winning amount among my two sons and to my 'Dera'," he said.

His son, Narender Kumar Sharma, said, "My father gave money to my nephew to buy a lottery ticket for him. He won it and we are feeling happy."

Lokesh, who runs a lottery business in Zirakpur and sold the ticket to the family,

claimed that Dwarka Dass will get around 3.5 crore after the deduction of taxes.

"Punjab State Lohri Makar Sankranti Bumper Lottery 2023 results were announced on January 16. He (Dwarka Dass) won the first prize of 5 crore. After completing the prescribed procedure, the amount will be given to him after deducting 30% tax," said Karam Singh, Assistant Lottery Director.

In December, Ajay Ogula, a Dubai-based driver from India, won a prize worth Dh15 million (Rs 33 crore), in the Emirates Draw.

After winning the lottery prize, Mr Ogula said, "I still cannot believe I hit the jackpot", reported UAE daily, Khaleej Times.

Mr Ogula, who hails from a village in southern India, came to the UAE four years ago. Currently working as a driver at a jewellery firm, he earns Dh 3,200 every month, Khaleej Times reported.

"I will continue building my charity trust with this amount. This will help many people get the basic needs in my hometown and neighbouring villages," said Mr Ogula.

GODDESS KALI POSTER ROW SC Says No Coercive Action To Be Taken Against Filmmaker Leena Manimekalai

Agenceis

The Supreme Court on Friday granted interim protection from coercive action to filmmaker Leena Manimekalai in connection with FIRs registered against her in various states over a controversial poster of her upcoming documentary film showing goddess Kali smoking a cigarette.

A bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice P S Narasimha issued notices to the Centre, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand governments on her plea.

The top court noted that a look out circular has been issued against her.

"No coercive action should be taken against the petitioner in respect of the FIRs lodged against her. At this stage, it may be noted that lodging of FIRs in multiple cases may be of serious prejudice. We are inclined to issue notice so that all FIRs can be consolidated in one place in accordance with law," the bench said.

Advocate Kamini Jaiswal, appearing for Manimekalai, submitted that there is no intention



to hurt religious feelings.

The plea filed by Manimekalai sought to club and quash the FIRs registered against her in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand over the poster, which shows Manimekalai her-

self dressed as goddess Kali and smoking a cigarette while holding a pride flag.

The filmmaker has also sought an ex-parte stay on criminal proceedings emanating from these FIRs.

Umar Khalid Moves Delhi Court For Daily Inmate Calling Facility

Agenceis

Former JNU student Umar Khalid has moved a Delhi court seeking direction to the prison authorities concerned for having access to daily inmate calling facility.

Khalid is in prison in a case of larger conspiracy behind the 2020 northeast Delhi riots, which is being probed by the special cell of Delhi police.

"Let a notice of this application be issued to the jail superintendent concerned, who will file a report in this regard for the date already fixed in the present case i.e., January 21," Addi-

tional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat said in an order passed on Wednesday.

The court noted that Khalid's application sought directions to the superintendent of Tihar jail number 2 or any other authorities concerned to continue allowing him access to the inmate calling facility on a daily basis.

Earlier, three other accused in the case- Sharjeel Imam, Gulfisha Fatima and Shifa-ur-Rehman had filed applications seeking access to daily calling facility for having telephonic conversation with their families.

After the jail superintendent



concerned filed a report in response to the applications on January 7, the court posted the matter for passing order on January 21.

"Let conduct reports of all the accused persons be filed by all the jail superintendents concerned," the court had said.

On January 7, Khalid had also filed two applications for access to the facility and for an electric kettle, books and other reading material.

"Let both the applications be forwarded to the jail superintendent concerned for its disposal as per rules," the court had said.

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