

Jhelum Dredging Hits Roadblock Due To Funds Crunch, Poor Tender Response

Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: The irrigation & flood department has failed to start the second phase of much talked Jhelum river dredging project owing to paucity of funds and lack of response to the tenders worth Rs 229 crore. Sources from the department told Kashmir Observer that the phase-II has hit a few bottle necks even as the central government has released some portion of funds for the work. "We floated tenders for the second phase in the month of

October last year but received cold response. Some companies requested to extend the deadline. Even after doing so, we didn't receive any response," said an official wishing not to be named. He further said that the department will now float tenders afresh in the coming weeks. In phase-II, the official said, the department intends to re-sectioning and re-grading of existing Flood spill channel and acquire around 19 kilometer land from Ningli Sopore onwards up to Khadinyar, Baramulla.



"We need around 300 crore from the J & K government for land acquisition because there are many residential and commercial buildings between Ningli to Khadinyar. Work can

only be carried out once funds are released," the official said. The official further noted that the central government has so far released just Rs 114 crore out of 229 crore rupees. The work in phase-II includes flood protection works on Jhelum tributaries, Veshow, Brengi, Lidder and Arpath Nallahs. Construction of stone pitching with toe wall on left & right side of River Jhelum, construction of flood protection works on tributaries like Sasara, Romshi, Watalara, Arpal, Rambiarah nallahs at

various spots are also to be undertaken. Besides it, other works include construction of hydraulic gate at entry point RD 11950 m and exit point RD 16713 m of Hokersar Wetland of flood spill channel, construction of guide wall (Retaining wall) on right and left side of River Jhelum at spots. Protection works to tributaries of River Jhelum (Ningli Nallah, Gundari nallah, Balkul Nallah, Frashar Nallah, Khursi Nallah & Pohru Nallah). Protection works on Ferozpora Nallah (Magam **More on P6**)

Govt Forms Panels On Registration Of Births, Deaths

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The administration has ordered the constitution of Union territory Level Inter Departmental Coordination Committee and District Level Inter Departmental Coordination Committee(s) on registration of Births and Deaths in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to an order, the UT-level committee is headed by Administrative Secretary, Planning, Development & Monitoring Department, the members of the committee include Administrative Secretary or Representative not below the rank of Additional Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department, Administrative Secretary/ Representative not below the rank of Additional Secretary, Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj Department, Administrative Secretary/ Representative not below the rank of Additional Secretary, Health & Medical Education Department, Director Census Operations, J&K/Representative, Director General, Economics & Statistics, J&K (Chief Registrar, (Births & Deaths), Commissioner Municipal Corporation, Jammu/ Srinagar, Regional Director (E&S), (Additional Chief Registrar, Births & Deaths), Jammu Kashmir, Director Rural Development Jammu/Kashmir, Director, Health Services, Jammu/ Kashmir and Director, Urban Local Bodies, Jammu/Kashmir.

The 12-member committee has been tasked to ensure smooth implementation of Civil Registration System; to bring interdepartmental co-ordination of departments engaged in civil registration work; to discuss and resolve the issues which requires intervention at the top level; to co-ordinate, unify and supervise the work of registration for securing an efficient system of registration; any other issues for smooth implementation in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir; and to convene meeting(s) at UT Level at least once in a year. The District **More on P6**

Rains Lash Valley, Fresh Snowfall In Gulmarg

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Several higher reaches of Kashmir including the tourist resorts of Gulmarg and Sonamarg experienced fresh snowfall while the intermittent rainfall continued to lash plains including Srinagar for the fourth straight day on Friday, bringing the chill back to the Valley.

Quoting an independent weather fore-caster, Faizan Arif Keng Kashmir News Observer reported that Sonamarg, Zojila, Tulail, Gurez, Gulmarg, Dood Pathri, Sinthan Top, Margan Top, Sadhna Pass and others received fresh snowfall today.

The rains, however, continued to lash plains including the summer capital of Jammu & Kashmir today, bringing the chill back to the Valley.

Director Meteorological department (MeT), Sonum Lotus said that with 50% chances, there is a possibility of intermittent rain and thunder-storm at scattered places towards late afternoon or evening from April 29 (Saturday) to May 02 (Tuesday).

He said that the weather conditions in between April 29-May 02 would remain partly cloudy. On May 03-04, **More on P6**



G-20 Event Can Bring J&K On Global Tourism Map: Govt

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The upcoming G20 event in Jammu and Kashmir has the potential to promote the Union territory as a global tourism destination, Tourism department secretary Abid Rasheed Shah said here

on Friday.

"There is a very important event that is going to be organised in J-K in the last week of May. The third tourism working group meeting of the G20 countries is going to be held in Kashmir," Shah told reporters here. The Tourism department held a model **More on P6**

Landslide Blocks Highway Again

A massive landslide triggered by heavy rains prompted authorities to suspend traffic on the strategic 270-km Jammu-Srinagar highway on Friday, officials said. The landslide struck the highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, at Shalgari, Banihal, the officials said. This was the second landslide to hit the treacherous highway in the mountainous district of Jammu and **More on P6**

Three Districts On Avalanche Alert

The Jammu and Kashmir Disaster Management Authority (JKDMA) on Friday issued an avalanche alert over higher reaches in three districts for next 24 hours. The DMA said that a 'low' danger level avalanche is likely to occur above 2800 to 3000 metres above sea level over Ganderbal, Baramulla and Kupwara districts. People living in these areas have been in **More on P6**

DGP Claims Local Hand In Poonch Attack

- Says 200 People Have Being Questioned Till Now
- 'The Explosives Had Come From Pakistan Through Drone'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rajouri: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Friday claimed that the militant plot in last week's Poonch ambush has been uncovered and six locals have been arrested for sheltering the militants before they carried out the attack on an army vehicle using explosives and

weapons that came from Pakistan through drones.

Director General of Police Dilbag Singh said the April 20 attack was a well-planned one and executed by three to five militants. They first did a reconnaissance of the area, understood the terrain and then chose the spot of attack.

He said over 200 people have been questioned till now and the operation to neutralise the militants involved in the attack is on. "Six persons (of a module) have been arrested. They include those who have provided material (weapons, ammunition, **More on P6**)

J&K INSURANCE SCAM

CBI Grills Ex- Guv Malik For 5 Hours Over Bribe Claim

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The CBI questioned former Jammu and Kashmir governor Satya Pal Malik for nearly five hours Friday in connection with its probe into the alleged insurance scam in the Union Territory which came to light after his statement that he was offered bribes to clear related files, officials said.

A Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) team arrived at the Som Vihar residence of Malik in the R K Puram area of the national capital around 11.45 am to seek clarifications over his claims, they said.

Officials said the exercise continued for nearly five hours during which several questions were lobbed at him about the claims made in his statements recorded with the CBI last year.

This is the second time in seven months that Malik, who served as governor of various states, was quizzed by the CBI.



Officials, however, clarified that Malik is not an accused or a suspect in the case so far.

His statement was recorded in October last year after he concluded his gubernatorial responsibilities in Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Goa, and Meghalaya.

After the latest CBI notice to seek clarifications from him, Malik had tweeted, "I have exposed the sins of some people by speaking the truth. Maybe

that's why I have been called. I am the son of a farmer, I will not panic. I stand by the truth."

The CBI registered two FIRs in connection with the corruption allegations levelled by Malik in awarding contracts for a group medical insurance scheme for government employees and civil work worth Rs 2,200 crore related to the Kiru hydroelectric power project in Jammu and Kashmir.

Malik had claimed that he was offered a Rs 300 crore bribe for clearing two files during his tenure as the Jammu and Kashmir governor between August 23, 2018, and October 30, 2019.

The agency has booked Reliance General Insurance and Trinity Re-Insurance Brokers Limited as accused in its FIR related to the medical insurance scheme for Jammu and Kashmir government employees reportedly cleared by Malik at a state administrative council meeting **More on P6**

'Education Nurtures Our Soul': LG Bats For NEP

Says Our Campuses & Classrooms Should Reflect Change And Issues Affecting The World

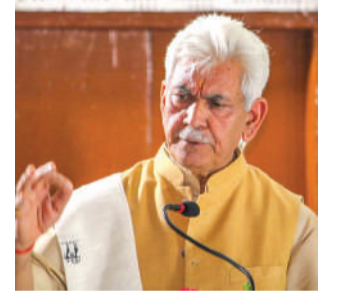
Observer News Service

Varanasi: Putting his weight behind the National Education Policy (NEP)-2020, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Friday that real education in the true sense starts from where the syllabus ends and a student begins to discover him or herself.

"Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, NEP 2020 has brought transformative reform in education. It has ensured that the education system meets the challenges of the 21st century and enables youth to become job giver rather than job seeker," Sinha said.

He made these remarks while addressing the National Seminar on "National Education Policy-2020: Exploring the Prospects" at Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith, here on Friday.

The LG highlighted various aspects of the National Education Policy and shared the vision to meet the challenges of



future workplace.

"The National Education Policy encourages Knowledge, Innovation and Independent thinking for students' Holistic Development. Global outlook with an emphasis on Indian knowledge tradition makes the learning a life-long process," he said.

Maintaining that latest innovations in Artificial Intelligence will have greater impact on the fourth industrial revolution, Sinha said since automation is changing workplaces across the world, the youth will need reskilling, tech upskilling & mental flexibility to adapt **More on P6**

S H O R T T A K E S

No Registration Of Vehicle To Minors

Authorities at the Regional Transport office here on Friday asked all the registered dealers, officers, officials of the Motor Vehicle Department and insurance agencies not to make any sale, purchase or register any vehicle involving a minor. A circular, issued by the Office of the Regional Transport Officer (RTO), Kashmir reads that it has observed that motor vehicle dealers have sold and registered motor vehicles in the name of minors, which **More on P6**

J&K Logs 38 New Corona Cases

Jammu and Kashmir reported 38 fresh covid-19 cases while there was one death due to the virus during the last 24 hours, officials said on Friday. They said that 19 cases each were reported from Jammu and Kashmir divisions, taking the overall tally to 481551. Among the cases, 174932 are from Jammu division and 306619 from Kashmir Valley. Providing district wise details of the cases, they said, Jammu reported 15, Udhampur 2, Rajouri 0, Doda 1, Kathua 0, Samba 1, Poonch 0, Ramban 0, Reasi 0, **More on P6**

3 Gamblers Held In Baramulla Forest

Police on Friday claimed to have arrested three gamblers during a raid in a forest area in North Kashmir's Baramulla district. Maqsood Ahmad Beigh, Ab Hameed Ganie and Ghulam Mohammad Sheikh were arrested by a team of cops from Police Station Chandooza from Bandi Balla forest area of the district on the basis of specific information, a police spokesperson said Friday. However, another gambler Ab Majeed Sheikh, he said, managed to flee from the **More on P6**

Teen Girl Falls Into Drain, Dies

A 15-year-old girl lost her life after she fell into a drain at Hirpora area of South Kashmir's Shopian district. An official said that a girl from Hirpora was on way to her uncle's house in Bhorihallen when she fell into a drain at Bhorihallen. He said that she was taken to hospital in an unconscious condition and was shifted to District Hospital Shopian where she died. She has been identified as Simran Jan, daughter of Sheraz Ahmad of Hirpora. She was a Class 10th student—(KNO)

Over 11,000 Stranded Vehicles Cross Zojila

After days of being stranded on the Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri (SSG) road, over 11,000 vehicles finally made their way towards Kargil as officials worked to clear the path through the Zojila pass. An official said that the vehicles, both private and commercial transports, had been stuck due to heavy snowfall and landslides in the region. According to reports, the stranded drivers and commuters were advised to check traffic updates and follow traffic advisories before setting out on their journey. **More on P6**

Chairperson NCW Visits Kupwara

Chairperson, National Commission for Women (NCW) Rekha Sharma on Friday visited frontier district Kupwara to review the empowerment of women and women friendly schemes in the district. On reaching Kupwara, the Chairperson paid a visit to SAKHI One Stop Centre at Geerhati in Zangli area of Kupwara district and inspected the office and other facilities of the centre and took stock of legal support, emergency Response & Rescue Service, assistance to women **More on P6**

Study Sheds Light On Role Of Glucose In Brain Activity

Press Trust Of India

Researchers have shed light on how neurons, or nerve cells, consume and metabolise glucose, as well as how these cells adapt to glucose shortages.

The researchers from Gladstone Institutes and UC San Francisco (UCSF), US, said that the new findings could lead to the discovery of new therapeutic approaches for those diseases and contribute to a better understanding of how to keep the brain healthy as it ages.

"We already knew that the brain requires a lot of glucose, but it had been unclear how much neurons themselves rely on glucose and what methods they use to break the sugar down," says Ken Nakamura, associate investigator at Gladstone and senior author of the study published in the journal Cell Reports.

Many foods we eat are broken down into glucose, which is stored in the liver and muscles, shuttled throughout the body, and metabolized by cells to power the chemical reactions that keep us alive.

Scientists had proposed that glial cells, or cells found in the tissue of the central nervous system, consume most

of the glucose and then fuel neurons indirectly by passing them a metabolic product of glucose called lactate. However, the evidence to support this theory had been scant.

Nakamura's group provided more evidence in this regard by using induced pluripotent stem cells (iPS cells) to generate pure human neurons. This had been hard so far for scientists to generate cultures of neurons in the lab that do not also contain glial cells.

Then, the researchers mixed the neurons with a labelled form of glucose that they could track, even as it was broken down. This experiment proved the ability of neurons to take up the glucose themselves and process it into smaller metabolites.

Using CRISPR gene editing, the researchers removed two key proteins from the neurons to investigate how they were using metabolised glucose products. While one of them enabled neurons to import glucose, the other was required for glycolysis, the main pathway by which cells typically metabolise glucose.

They found that removing either of these proteins stopped the breakdown of glucose in the isolated human neurons.

"This is the most direct and clearest

evidence yet that neurons are metabolising glucose through glycolysis and that they need this fuel to maintain normal energy levels," said Nakamura, who is also an associate professor in the Department of neurology at UCSF.

The team next engineered mice's neurons, but not other brain cell types, to lack the proteins required for glucose import and glycolysis.

The mice were found to develop severe learning and memory problems as they aged, suggesting that neurons rely on glycolysis for normal functioning, Nakamura explains.

"Interestingly, some of the deficits we saw in mice with impaired glycolysis varied between males and females," he added. "More research is needed to understand exactly why that is." The team also studied how the neurons adapted themselves in the absence of energy received through glycolysis - as might be the case in certain brain diseases.

They found that neurons used other energy sources, such as the related sugar molecule galactose. However, the researchers found that galactose was not as efficient a source of energy as glucose and that it could not fully compensate for the loss of glucose metabolism.

Office Of The Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama.

CORRIGENDUM

It is notified for the information of all concerned that kindly read "Head of Account" for the work Viz "Providing and fixing of Foundation / Inaugural Stone for Clock Tower at Awantipora" advertised this office NIT NO: 08/868-78 /EEP/RNB/of 2023-24 Dated: 26/04/2023.

As
 "Normal Resources"
 Instead of
 "Grant In Aid - Drainage Sector"

All other terms & Conditions shall remain same as per NIT
 No: T-1/EEP/987-90 **DIPK-858/23** **Dated: 28-04-2023**

Sd/-
 Executive Engineer,
 R&B Division Pulwama.

Office Of The Executive Engineer (Distribution), Electric Division Kulgam, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited

Contact No/ Fax: - 01932-234398 E-mail:- exenedbij@yahoo.in
 NIT: - EDK/e-tender/05 of 2023-24
 Dated:-26-04-2023

For and on behalf of the Lt.Governor of UT of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders are hereby invited from **owners of commercial vehicles/registered contract carriages** having valid registration for **Fixing of rates for hire charges of Pick up van/Tata Mobile and Staff vehicle (Scorpio, Bolero, Tavera or equivalent) along with drivers for ED Kulgam for the year 2023-24.**

The bidder should separately bid for each category of vehicle

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost. (Lacs)	EMD	Cost of tender document
1	Fixing of rates for hire charges of Pick up Van/Tata Mobile and Staff vehicle (Scorpio, Bolero, Tavera or equivalent) along with drivers for ED Kulgam for the year 2023-24.	Rs 10 lacs	Rs 20000	Rs. 1000
1	Publishing Date & Time	26-04-2023 (1300Hrs)		
2	Document Download / Sale Start Date & Time	26-04-2023 (1300Hrs)		
3	Seek Clarification Start Date & Time	26-04-2023 (1300Hrs)		
4	Seek Clarification End Date & Time	12-05-2023 (1300Hrs)		
5	Bid Submission Start Date & Time	26-04-2023 (1300Hrs)		
6	Bid Submission End Date & Time	15-05-2023 (1300 Hrs)		
7	Bid opening date & Time	16-05-2023 (1300 Hrs)		
8	Venue of opening Bids	ED Kulgam		

Position of Funds = Authorized
 Please Read Document Carefully

The Quoted rates shall be Firm, inclusive of all taxes and duties, WCT, freight, transportation up to working sites. The rates shall include costs, if any attracted towards mandatory inspections / testing by the designated agencies and the department will not be required to pay / reimburse anything over and above the price quoted.

The bidders have to upload the cost of e bid document through e challan, treasury challan/receipt deposited to MH 0801-revenue misc of Executive Engineer ED Kulgam, J&K UT.

Executive Engineer, Electric Division Kulgam

No. EDK/TS/284-90 **DIPK-NB-418/23** **Dated: 28-04-2023**

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Ganderbal
 NOTICE INVITING TENDER
 EE/R&B/Divn/Gbl/e-tender NIT No.13 of 2023-24 issued under endorsement No.841-45
 Dated.27.04.2023

For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tenders are being invited on a Percentage age basis (as applicable) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with the J&K Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (with GST) (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (Rs. In Rupees)	Earnest money (in rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1.	Improvement/Upgradation of road from Jamia Masjid Sharief to PMGSY road via Baba Mohalla Yachinama Kangan under Potholes. (Machine Mix laid with Mechanically).	12.64	Rs.600/=	Rs.25280/-	30 Days	Pot Holes	AAY with HMPQ/ (DEE/CEE/BEE) Class Civil with Registered MoU with HMPQ
2.	Improvement/Upgradation of Higher Secondary School road and link from Highway to Eidgan Kangan and allied links of Kangan under Potholes. (Machine Mix laid with Mechanically).	21.36	Rs.800/=	Rs.42720/-	30 Days	Pot Holes	AAY with HMPQ/ (CEE/BEE) Class Civil with Registered MoU with HMPQ
3.	Improvement/Upgradation of inner links of Badampora under Potholes. (Machine Mix laid with Mechanically).	17.49	Rs.800/=	Rs.34980/-	30 Days	Pot Holes	AAY with HMPQ/ (CEE/BEE) Class Civil with Registered MoU with HMPQ
4.	Improvement/Upgradation of inner links of Sultan Bakery at Watlar and school link at Dar Mohalla Watalbagh under Potholes (Machine Mix laid with Mechanically).	29.13	Rs.1100/=	Rs.58260/-	30 Days	Pot Holes	AAY with HMPQ/ (BEE/AA) Class Civil with Registered MoU with HMPQ
5.	Macadamisation of Main road to WatSun at Manigam A under Potholes. (Machine Mix laid with Mechanically).	17.47	Rs.800/=	Rs.34940/-	30 Days	Pot Holes	AAY with HMPQ/ (CEE/BEE) Class Civil with Registered MoU with HMPQ
6.	Improvement/Upgradation of Balasathu under Potholes (Machine Mix laid with Mechanically).	17.48	Rs.800/=	Rs.34960/-	30 Days	Pot Holes	AAY with HMPQ/ (CEE/BEE) Class Civil with Registered MoU with HMPQ
7.	Improvement/Upgradation of road from Baba Canal to Runga Kadal via Cheervani Balapati including Dosi Mohalla and Pakhtoon Mohalla under Potholes (Machine Mix laid with Mechanically).	17.47	Rs.800/=	Rs.34940/-	30 Days	Pot Holes	AAY with HMPQ/ (CEE/BEE) Class Civil with Registered MoU with HMPQ
8.	Improvement/Upgradation of Inner link of Gamwara Wakoora under Potholes. (Machine Mix laid with Mechanically).	17.47	Rs.800/=	Rs.34940/-	30 Days	Pot Holes	AAY with HMPQ/ (CEE/BEE) Class Civil with Registered MoU with HMPQ
9.	Improvement/Upgradation of Kurhama Bypass link road b.w.o macadamisation under Potholes (Machine Mix laid with Mechanically).	17.47	Rs.800/=	Rs.34940/-	30 Days	Pot Holes	AAY with HMPQ/ (CEE/BEE) Class Civil with Registered MoU with HMPQ
10.	Improvement/Upgradation of temple road including Khan Mohalla at Manigam C.b.w.o Macadamisation under Potholes (Machine Mix laid with Mechanically).	17.47	Rs.800/=	Rs.34940/-	30 Days	Pot Holes	AAY with HMPQ/ (CEE/BEE) Class Civil with Registered MoU with HMPQ
11.	Improvement/Upgradation of Malpora Puttermulla under Potholes. (Machine Mix laid with Mechanically).	17.47	Rs.800/=	Rs.34940/-	30 Days	Pot Holes	AAY with HMPQ/ (CEE/BEE) Class Civil with Registered MoU with HMPQ
12.	Improvement/Upgradation of Lamnoora road at Batwina B under Potholes. (Machine Mix laid with Mechanically).	17.47	Rs.800/=	Rs.34940/-	30 Days	Pot Holes	AAY with HMPQ/ (CEE/BEE) Class Civil with Registered MoU with HMPQ

Project Authority: R&B Department
 Position of AAA: Accorded
 Position of funds: Available
 1.The bidding documents, which would include qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications/drawings, a bill of quantities (B.O.Q), a set of contract terms and conditions, and other details, can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in on the dates listed below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	27/04/2023
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	27/04/2023 from 6.00 PM
3.	Bid submission Start Date	27/04/2023 from 6.00 PM
4.	Bid Submission End Date	03/05/2023 from 4.00PM
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	03/05/2023 from 4.05 PM in the office of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Ganderbal

- Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.
- At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal. The successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.
- The date and time of bid opening shall be notified on the Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and automatically communicated to bidders via an e-mail message sent to their e-mail address. Responsive bidders' bids will be opened online on the same Web Site in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal (tender receiving authority).
- Bids for the work shall be valid for 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- Bidders are advised to download the bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as the "Bidders Manual Kit" option on the website www.jktenders.gov.in to familiarize themselves with the bid submission process.
- In order to participate in the bidding process, bidders must obtain a 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' under the Information Technology Act of 2000. Any approved Vendor can provide bidders with a digital certificate.
- Bidders must submit their bids in electronic form with a digital signature online. No physical bids will be accepted.
- Bids will be opened online in accordance with the time schedule specified in Para-1.
- Bidders must upload scanned copy of all required documents (within the document upload limits) with their technical bid.

Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
 The department will not be held responsible for any delays in online submission due to unanticipated circumstances.
 The original Treasury Challan (Cost of tender document) and other uploaded bid documents shall have to be produced on demand by the successful bidder at the time of contract signing, and in the case of unsuccessful bidders, 2% EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal, will be released only after production of Original Treasury Challan of uploaded Scanned copy (Cost of tender document).

Bidders are advised not to change the contents of the BOQ (Bill of Quantities). They should never attempt to create similar BOQ manually.
 Bidders should be fully cognizant that if the documents uploaded/submitted on the basis of which the contract was awarded are later discovered to be fake/not genuine, the contract will be cancelled and the Contractor/bidder will be blacklisted from participating in this Division/ Department for a period of three years, in addition to the performance security deposited for the said work being forfeited.

Price escalation and Taxes: The bidder's percentage shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes up to the completion of the work. Taxes shall be deducted from the contractor's bills on the gross amount of the bill at the time of recovery at the rates in effect at the time of recovery.
 Bidders are advised to use the "My Documents" area in their R&B e-Tendering portal user account to store any required documents.
 All bidders must UPLD the following information and documents with their bids, in addition to the qualification criteria / qualification information, (All documents pertaining to the bid must be in English):

- All bidders must submit copies of original documents defining their constitution/legal status, place of registration, and principal place of business, as well as their cell phone number and e-mail address.
- A valid Contractor/Firm Registration Certificate issued by a competent authority in accordance with the Contractor Registration Act.
- Treasury Challan & Earnest money
- Valid PAN Card
- Scanned copy of Registration Card with latest renewal on JKPWOMS portal
- Scanned copy of GSTIN registration and most recent clearance certificate FORM GST-3B of the Latest Quarter i.e. January-March 2023/Qualifying Month i.e. March 2023.
- Bidders are advised to quote Rate without GST. GST @ 18% shall be added at the time of allotment by allotting authority.
- The 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 excluding GST. GST @ 18% shall be added at the time of allotment by allotting authority upto completion of the work unless otherwise, specified.

In case the contractor/agency doesn't own/possesses Hot mix plant, it shall submit a MOU on notarised affidavit with any registered HPMD on conditions of providing of machine mixed material as mentioned in the NIT/SSD/ BOQ and in compliance to all the desired tests and checks required as per the guidelines or on the directions of engineer in charge.
 The HPMD with whom there is an MOU shall not be participant in the same tender and under the circumstances both participants shall be disqualified.
 In case work isn't started on the scheduled date as communicated by engineer in charge, the department shall put the work for fresh tenders without any notice keeping in view the limited season for macadamisation.

Scanned copy of GSTIN registration and most recent clearance certificate FORM GST-3B of the Latest Quarter i.e. January-March 2023/Qualifying Month i.e. March 2023.
 Bidder shall upload a Self-Certified Performance declaration (Annex format) in support of performance in respect of Bitumen Macadam Works executed by the agency during the year 2021-22.

Bidders are expected to submit technical bids along with scanned copies of all required documents. No document (s) that have not been uploaded will be accepted in hard copy for evaluation consideration. However, if need arises, Hard copies of any specific supporting documents, on the other hand, may be required on demand in support of documents posted online for clarification during technical evaluation.

The bidder should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submitting a bid, and no claim based on constrained site conditions will be entertained after the bid is accepted.

No.841-45
 Executive Engineer
 R&B Division Ganderbal
DIPK-857/23 **Dated: 28-04-2023**

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Younis Saleem Bhat S/O, Bashir Ahmad Bhat R/O Sazan Village Bijrani Doda have purchased Plot No. 297 in Housing Colony Bagh-e-Mehtab from Bashir Ahmad Bhat S/O Abdul Aziz Bhat R/O Baghi Mehtab Srinagar originally allotted in favour of Dr. Mohammad Abbas Mir S/O Late Mohammad Abdullah Mir R/O Youre Khoshipora Qazigund District Anantnag. I have applied for transfer of leasehold rights of above said plot in my favour. Objection, if any, may be conveyed to the Managing Director, J&K Housing Board, Green Belt Park, Gandhinagar, Jammu within a period of 15 days from the date of publication of this Notice. However, no objection will be entertained after the expiry of the above said period.

Younis Saleem Bhat
 S/O, Bashir Ahmad Bhat
 R/O Sazan Village Bijrani Doda nj

By The Honble Court Of Passanger Tax (Sub-Judge/JMIC), Srinagar.

Ms. Fariqa Nazir

Nazir Ahmad Gangyal
 S/o Bagh Ali
 R/o Rampora Chattabal, Srinagar

Vs
 1.Registrar births & Deaths SMC, Srinagar.
 2.Public at large

Name of Ward: Sumaya Nazir Gangyal
 Date of Birth: 13-05-2009
 Sex: Female
 Father's name: Nazir Ahmad Gangyal
 Mother name: Mumtaz Begum
 R/o Rampora Chattabal Srinagar
 Place of birth: Rampora Chattabal, Srinagar

Applicant is seeking directions to Registrar Deaths and Births SMC, Srinagar for issuance of birth certificate of the ward/child as such if anyone is having any Objection from general public, same can approach this office along with his/her objections By or before next date of hearing 06-05-2023, thereafter any objection is not considered. Listen on 06-05-2023.

Sd/-
 nj

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to correct my name in my passport from Saahil Manzoor son of Manzoor Ahmed Wani resident of Jeelanabad peerbagh Srinagar to Saahil Manzoor Wani. Anybody having any objection, he or she make contact the regional passport officer within period of 7 days after that no objection will be entertained

Saahil Manzoor
 S/o Manzoor Ahmed wani
 R/o Jeelanabad peerbagh Srinagar nj

ازعدالت سیشن موہاں بمبھریٹ لیجسٹریٹس کمیٹی پیش سرینگر

سائل اسانک: منظور احمد
 درخواست: بغرض اندراج تاریخ وفات

نام علی محمد
 تاریخ وفات: 23/08/2006

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل اسانک نے عدالت نے ہذا میں ایک درخواست بشمول جعلی بغرض اندراج تاریخ وفات علی محمد ولد غلام رسول بٹ ساکن شہید سٹیٹ سربنگر موہنہ 28-01-2023 پیش کی ہے۔ لہذا انعام اناس کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ نسبت درخواست کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہونے کی صورت میں اسے عدالت اشاعت اشتہار کے اندر پندرہ یوم عدالت میں آکر پیش کرے۔ بعد از اسے معیار کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ تاریخ آئندہ عدالت ہذا میں 02-05-2023 کو قیام ہے۔

تحریر امیر الصدر nj_r

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notice for general public that I lost my id card bearing AEP NO. SXR20209470 Validity of this card is From 28-07-2022 To 30-06-2023. Origin of this id is Indigo Airlines. Now I want to apply for its Duplicate, if anybody having any objection may contact indigo airlines Sringar Airport with in a period of 7 days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

Mohammad Ramzan Sheikh
 S/o Gh Qadir Sheikh
 R/o Ichigam Budgam cell. 6006832011 mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

My particulars in my passport bearing no: K6936190 has been wrongly written as Ishfaq Ahmad Parra S/O Ghulam Mohammad Parra Mother's Name: Hasina Begu. whil the correct particulars as per my school records is Ishfaq Ahmad Parra S/O Gh Mohammad Para Mother's Name: Hasena Begum which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Regional Passport Office Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Ishfaq Ahmad Para
 S/o Gh. Mohammad Para
 R/o Ward No 2 Plan Bandipora BB

از نیابت وائلوکر لہرہ

با اجلاس نائب تحصیلدار ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول

مضمون کا تعلق درخواست منجانب عارف احمد راولد غلام احمد راتھر ساکن محمود پورہ تحصیل کنڈر برادر اعلیٰ RBA سرٹیفکیٹ تحت 294

SRO بحق خود

اشتہار برآمد گاہی برخلاف وعام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر ہذا میں زیر کار رہی ہے اس سلسلے میں پتواری حلقہ سے پورٹیشنولر پیکارڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل اور اس کا والد گزشتہ پندرہ سال سے ہذا میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور بھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے سائل کی موبو آء آئی۔۔۔ روپے جتنا کافی ہے کہ بذیل آفرڈ پر مشتمل ہے

غلام احمد راتھر ولد رمضان راتھر

زینداری	50 سال	سربرہ کبہ
گھریلو کام	48 سال	مسماہ سرود
مزدوری	25 سال	عارف احمد راتھر
تعلیم	12 سال	رائجہ جان
زینت	22 سال	مزیل احمد راتھر
پس	12 سال	اس کے علاوہ کوئی افراد کبھی نہیں

اس کے علاوہ کوئی افراد کبھی نہیں ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ اجرا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ پتا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہی آمد دفتر ہذا میں پیش کرے معیار کرنے بعد کوئی بھی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

نائب تحصیلدار fko

مجلس ترمیم

بجانب ترمیم ایس کے ساہواری جانی ہے کہ آصف علی
 فرزند سید علی سابق چیف انجینئر (PDD) ساکن تالہ
 بل منڈی علی نوشہرہ سربنگر ۲۷ مارچ ۲۰۲۳ء کو
 امریکہ میں دارالافتاء سے دارالافتاح انتقال کر گئے۔

مردم کی اجتماعی توجوئی ان کے دولت خاندانی میں
 بروز اتوار مورخہ ۰۳ مارچ ۲۰۲۳ء کو گنج ساڑھے نو
 بجے (9:30) انجمنہ ہاؤس جانی کی جعبہ نماز میں
 جاری رہے گی۔

سوگواران
 ارشد حسین، ڈاکٹر چوہدری، شوکت رسول عالمگیر

9419008278, 9419001580, 9419462399

Presentation Convent School 'Violates' FFRC Transportation Fee Orders

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Government Fee Fixation Committee for Private Schools (FFRC) Friday said that Presentation Convent Higher Secondary School Rajbagh was violating its orders by charging excessive transportation fees from the students.

In this regard, the Chairperson of the committee, Justice (Retd) Sunil Hali has given one last opportunity to the school to appear before FFRC to explain its position by or before May-02.

Hali in a communiqué to the school has said that in pursuance to the complaint filed by the parent, notices were issued to the School Management.

"The main grievance of the complainant was that the School was charging Rs 1480 per month from the students as bus fee," Hali said.

It also said that the committee in October-2022 after detailed discussion with the stakeholders including the school had allowed a hike of 14 percent to the schools on the fee being charged by them in October 2019.

In September-2021, the school admitted that the school was charging Rs 1480 per month.

FFRC also said that the order was resolved in presence of the complainant, Transport Service provider, Principal and Manager of the school.

"Therefore as per the order issued in October-2022 you were required to hike the bus fee by 14 percent from the amount which was being charged," Hali said, adding the school could hike the fee from 1480 by 14 percent as provided by the order in October-2022.

The committee also said that a notice was issued to the school management to appear before the committee on April-26-2023 to explain their position as to why their school was charging fees over and above the prescribed fee by this committee.

It said that in reply, the school management has said they have referred to some dispute between the complainant and school which is pending in the court of law. "It has no bearing to the present context in which the notice has been issued to you."

Hali said that the law will take its own course in case the complainant has committed any crime and it was irrelevant for the present proceedings.

He also said that the reply to the notice issued by this office is that the order issued in October-2022 relating to the fixation of Transport Charges does not apply to your school as it applies to those schools who are providing their own transport.

"Also as per your explanation you have outsourced this business to some Private transporter,"



Holding umbrella, a man walks through SKICC lawns at Boulevard Road amid intermittent rainfall in Srinagar on Friday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Special Summary Revision 2023

DEO Srinagar Conducts Voter Sensitization Camps Under SVEEP

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The District Election Office, Srinagar today organized a number of Special Voter Sensitization Camps as part of its voter literacy program under Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) Program in connection with ongoing Special Summary Revision 2023.

The Camps were held on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, who is also the Dis-

trict Election Officer (DEO) in compliance to the instructions of Election Commission of India under the supervision of Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) and dedicated Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) at various Educational Institutions including Kashmir University, Degree Colleges, Polytechnic Colleges, Women's Polytechnic, ITIs, Coaching Centers and other Professional Institutions.

During the Camps, the AEROs and DLMTs educated students about the value of their registra-

tion in the Electoral Rolls. Special focus was laid on the registration of all eligible prospective electors by or before 6th May 2023.

The efforts of the District Election Machinery were widely acclaimed by the student community and a large number of students were provided different forms related to the ongoing SSR-2023 for registering their claims.

The endeavor continues for tomorrow's Special Camp as well to maximize the registration of all eligible electors in District Srinagar.

Bandipora Youth Found Dead In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A 21-year-old youth was found dead in Dalgate area of Srinagar, officials said on Friday.

An official said the body was found near HB lighthouse Dalgate.

The deceased has been identified as Tanveer Ahmad Khan (21), son of

Mohammad Lateef Khan a resident of Sumlar Bandipora in north Kashmir.

"It seems that Tanveer has died of drowning," he said, adding the dead body has been taken to SMHS Hospital for medico-legal formalities.

"Inquest proceedings u/s 174 CrPC have been initiated in this regard," he said

Rotatory Internship: KU To Hold Counseling Session For Foreign Medical Graduates

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The University of Kashmir will be holding the counseling session on Monday for foreign medical graduates (FMGs) whose general merit list is available on the University website to finalize their admission and preferences for the rotatory internship in af-

filiated colleges of the University.

The counseling program will be held at Centre for Career Planning and Counseling (CCPC), Main Campus, University of Kashmir, from 9.30am to 5pm in two sessions. The candidates figuring in merit list from Serial No. 01 to Serial No 200 shall report at CCPC from 9.30am to 1pm, and the remaining candidates

from Serial No. 200 onwards shall report at 1pm onwards to 5pm at the venue.

This will be the last and final opportunity for the eligible candidates to finalize their admission and preference, following which no claim for admission or preference shall be entertained by any candidate under any circumstances whatsoever.

Florence Hospital Srinagar Organizes 3 Day Fellowship Course In Laparoscopy

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Florence Hospital Srinagar in Association with Indian Association of Gastrointestinal Surgeons (FIAGES) has organized a 3 days fellowship course in laparoscopy.

This course will immensely benefit young surgeons of Jammu and Kashmir. Imminent faculty of FIAGES have come together to train J&K Surgeons in laparoscopic procedures this will help local surgeons to treat Kashmiri patients in the valley itself.

IAGES is the largest surgical community in

the world.

Live workshops will give local surgeons practical knowledge, Tips and Tricks of safely performing advanced laparoscopic procedures. Fellowship will be conferred by IAGES to all successful candidates after appearing in Assessment protocol.

IAGES intends to conduct more such programs in the valley as told by the President (FIAGES) Dr. S. Easwaramoorthy.

Dr Imran Muzaffar, Senior Laparoscopic & Bariatric Surgeon (MD of Florence Hospital) said that this program is really beneficial to the local surgeons.

Zonal Police Hqr's Kashmir Srinagar.

Phone/Fax No. 01942450299 e-mail: jgkpmr@jkpolice.gov.in
01942457689

CORRIGENDUM.

In view of technical reasons, the tender floated by this office vide bid No. GEM/2023/B/3328330 dated 04.04.2023 for hiring of commercial vehicles for subordinate units of J&K Police Kashmir Zone during the financial year 2023-24 is hereby cancelled.

(Vijay Kumar) IPS
Addl. Director General of Police, Kashmir Zone.

No.- Acctts/HoV-183/23/30428-47
DIPK-845/23
Dated:- 28/04/2023.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
Office Of The Executive Engineer
Estates Division, Srinagar.

B

E-TENDER NIT NO. 12/XEN/EDS/2023-24 OF 04/2023, Dated: - 27-04-2023

Executive Engineer Estates Division Srinagar on behalf of Lt. Governor of Union Territory J&K invites tenders by E-tendering on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Registered Electric Contractors with Union Territory J&K /CPWD/Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works.

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (Amt In Rs)	Earnest Money	Time of Completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account
1	Providing and fixing of Sign Board (LED Type) at Civil Secretariat Srinagar.	2.00 lacs	200/-	4000/-	20 Days	DEE	2216-NON PLAN

Position of AAA:
Position of Funds:
1. 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:-

Sl	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	27-04-2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	27.04.2023 from 5.00 PM.
3	Bid submission Start Date	27.04.2023 from 5.00 PM.
4	Bid Submission End Date	03.05.2023 upto 3.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	03.05.2023 at 3.05 PM. In the office of Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar.

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan under Major Head-0216/Revenue (others) in favour of Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan/Earnest Money should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

3. All bidders must upload EMD in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer Estates Division Srinagar @2% of advertised cost and the 2% EMD shall be released in favour of the successful bidder only after the receipt of 3% performance security.

4. The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of advertised cost as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR within 02 Days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work/DLP is over.

Earnest money of the bidder(s) will be forfeited in following cases:
a. When the bidder withdraws his bid during the period of bid validity on account of any reason.
b. The successful bidder (LI) will be required to submit all original documents of the bid in the office of Executive Engineer, Estates Division, Srinagar within 3 days of opening of the financial bids. Failure of which the CDR/FDR of the LI bidder shall be forfeited and he will be also debarred from participating in future tendering in this Division for next 2 years.

6. 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 Estates Division, Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

7. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.

8.1. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
8.2. 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.
8.3. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.
8.4. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.
8.5. Bids must be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
8.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.

Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

9. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
10. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar (The date of Treasury Challan/Earnest Money should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The original Treasury Challan (cost of tender document), and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of contract.
11. 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.
12. Price escalation and Taxes:- The rate quoted by the bidder shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work. 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.
13. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on Estates e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Estates Division, Sgr.

No.- E-Tender/NIT/EDS/1758-68/2023-24/T-1
DIPK-876/23 Dated:- 28-04-2023

- 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
- BUBHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR

07 Shawwal
1444

PRAYERS	
FAJR	4:16
ZUHR	12:28
ASR	5:16
Magrib	7:15
ISHA	8:43

This Day In History

- 08 Shawwal
- FAJR---4:14
- ZUHR---12:28
- ASR---5:17
- Magrib---7:16
- ISHA---8:44
- Xxx
- 1429- Joan of Arc arrives at the siege of Orleans
- 1540- Emperor Charles declares all privileges of Ghent ended
- 1550- Emperor Charles V gives inquisitors additional authority
- 1553- Flemish woman introduces practice of starching linen into England
- 1587- English naval officer Francis Drake sails into Cadiz, Spain and sinks the Spanish fleet, thereby "Singeing the King of Spain's Beard" and delaying the Spanish invasion by a year
- 1628- Sweden & Denmark sign defense treaty against Duke of Wallenstein
- 1648- Beginning of the 18 day battle of Zhovti Vody in Ukraine - Polish King Casimir eventually defeated by Cossacks
- 1661-Chinese Ming dynasty occupies Taiwan
- 1670- Pope Clemens X elected
- 1672 -Franco-Dutch War: Louis XIV of France invades the Netherlands.
- 1707- English and Scottish parliaments accept Act of Union; creates the United Kingdom of Great Britain (comes into being 1st May
- 1781- French fleet occupies Tobago during American War of Independence
- 1813- 1st US Rubber patent granted to Jacob F Hummel
- 1852- 1st edition of Peter Roget's Thesaurus published
- 1853- Comet C/1853 G1 (Schweizer) approaches within 0.0839 AUs of Earth
- 1856 -Peace between Britain & Russia following the Crimean War
- 1922-1st official Intl Weightlifting Federation Champ (Tallinn, Estonia)
- 1926-France & US reach accord on repayment of WW I
- 1930- Telephone connection Britain-Australia goes into service
- 1942- Japanese troop march into Lashio, cut off Burma Road
- 1945-Japanese army evacuates Rangoon

From KO Archives

Fire Devastates Dachigam Jungle

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A fire that broke-out in Pahlipora jungles of Dachigam this afternoon had spread to a larger area by this evening, devastat-ing flora and fauna, reports said.

The cause of the fire could not be ascertained. Residents told ONS on phone in the evening that they could see flames raging in the jungles

According to the residents of the nearby areas smoke was seen billowing from out of the forest at around 4 pm and officials were immediately informed, who rushed to the spot in about an hour's time. By then the fire had caught speed and it spread in all directions devastating the thick forest cover in the area. Dachigam is known for its thick plant growth, which is home to hundreds of wild animals, including rare species of Hangul.

Residents living in Nishat Shalimar and Harwan areas told Observer News Service this evening that fires raging in the jungles could be seen from a distance. They feared that by morning it could spread to other jungles nearby and devastate entire Dachigam, which is a national wildlife park. It bears mention that Valley witnessed widespread forest fires last year which left vast tracts of forests in ashes.

(Kashmir Observer, 29 April, 1999)

On World Veterinary Day

Animal Cruelty: The Malevolent Exploitation

Peer Mohammad Amir Qureshi

As I perused my Facebook feed very recently, a chilling headline caught my eye: "Man Arrested for Cruelty to Dog Tied to Scooter." This begs the question: how many more instances of this kind of depravity, or even organised animal cruelty, are happening beyond our awareness? The sad truth is that animal cruelty has been a pervasive issue for ages, from inflicting pain and harm for specific gain, such as entertainment or zoosadism, to neglect and omission. This despicable behaviour has taken on different forms, from malnutrition, beating, transportation, research, and even slaughter. Even though animals were created to serve humans, we have always added to their misery and agony in one way or another.

Regrettably, humans have continued to exploit animals for their own gain, indulging in organised cruelty such as dogfighting, cockfighting, and other offenses that frequently accompany other crimes. Behold, the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) once imparted these words of wisdom: "Verily, a virtuous deed done unto an animal is akin to a virtuous deed done unto a human, while an act of cruelty towards an animal is akin to an act of cruelty towards a human." With fervent conviction, the noble Prophet denounced the heinous practices of notching and slitting the ears of animals, as well as the barbaric custom of adorning the necks of camels with grievous rings.

It is no secret that equine creatures hold great significance during the summertime, serving as a primary mode of transportation for tourists in popular destinations such as Sonamarg and Pahalgam. Alas, fate has dealt these majestic beasts a cruel hand.

In the frigid winters of Kashmir, one may often witness the pitiable sight of horses scavenging in the snow, abandoned by their owners who deem them unprofitable during the season. These magnificent beasts are left to languish for months on end, as the fields are shrouded in a blanket of snow. The heartless inhabitants, infuriated by the horses' presence, resort to pelting them with stones in a misguided attempt to safeguard their crops, plants, and trees. As the summer season arrives, the owners of these noble steeds scour the land in search of their missing companions, often attributing their disappearance to the horses' own volition.

Yet, one cannot help but question the circumstances that have led to the dire state of these magnificent beasts. It is imperative that those responsible for their mistreatment be held accountable under the full extent of the law. Moreover, one cannot help but be dismayed by the inhumane practice of transporting animals on two-wheelers, with these hapless creatures dangling precariously in the face of human selfishness, as their proprietors refuse to bear the expense of proper transport. Adding insult to injury, the wanton cruelty meted out to hapless hens who innocently stray into a neighbour's yard or kitchen garden is nothing short of barbaric, with their legs broken as a punishment for their transgressions. Does the flagrant disregard for the sanctity of life not give one pause, and compel us to contemplate our accountability before the Almighty? Perchance, you have also beheld the



Provide shelter to abandoned animals by fostering them to help them recover and find permanent loving homes. Interfere and report incidents of animal abuse, cruelty or neglect. Take action to stop animal mistreatment and seek help from others if necessary. Teach children to respect animals and demonstrate how to treat them with kindness

appalling sight of chickens being ruthlessly packed into vehicles, left without sustenance or hydration for days on end.

Animals Taking Sufferings Out of Science

A ghastly truth lurks behind the walls of US laboratories, where over 100 million animals, ranging from mice to monkeys, suffer a dreadful fate each year. These hapless creatures are subjected to grotesque experiments including inhaling toxic fumes, enduring immobilisation for hours, having holes drilled into their skulls, or even having their skin burned off and spinal cords crushed. Not only are they tormented during experimentation, but they are stripped of all that is natural and meaningful to them. They languish in sterile cages, are socially isolated and suffer severe psychological trauma. Alas, these sentient beings, capable of emotion and empathy, are treated as nothing more than expendable laboratory tools.

Despite the declining acceptance of animal testing, a significant portion of the population still believes it to be vital for medical advancement. However, the truth is that the majority of animal experiments fail to contribute to improving human health. In fact, the reliability of animal experimentation in medical research is questionable, with numerous studies indicating that findings from animal testing do not often translate to humans. A research article published in *The Journal of the American Medical Association* highlights the poor replication of even high-quality animal studies, and cautions patients and physicians to be wary of

extrapolating findings from animal research to the care of human disease.

The Futility of Animal Experiments

Diseases artificially induced in animals in a laboratory are never identical to those that occur naturally in humans. Additionally, the biological differences between animal species further undermine the usefulness of animal experimentation in predicting human outcomes. As Dr. Richard Klausner, former National Cancer Institute Director, pointed out, "We have cured mice of cancer for decades, and it simply didn't work in humans." Former National Institutes of Health Director, Dr. Elias Zerhouni, admits that animal experimentation in predicting human outcomes. As Dr. Richard Klausner, former National Cancer Institute Director, pointed out, "We have cured mice of cancer for decades, and it simply didn't work in humans." Former National Institutes of Health Director, Dr. Elias Zerhouni, admits that animal experimentation has been a boondoggle and urges the adoption of new methodologies to understand human diseases. The sobering truth is that despite at least 85 successful HIV/AIDS vaccines in nonhuman primate studies, every single one has failed to protect humans. One such vaccine even made humans more susceptible to the disease. Even the National Institutes of Health concedes that the therapeutic development process, which includes animal experimentation, has a failure rate exceeding 95 percent and costs over \$1 billion per successful drug. It's time to stop relying on ani-

mal experimentation and invest in innovative and effective alternatives that will truly advance medical progress. A startling revelation has been uncovered by a research published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*. It exposes that universities often overstate the findings of animal experiments conducted in their labs and frequently promote research that has little to do with human health, all while failing to provide crucial details and recognize important limitations. The media also doesn't seem to be presenting the complete picture, as one study found that news stories about scientific meetings often leave out essential information, leading to a distorted perception of the science presented. Additionally, scientists rarely share the results of animal experiments that didn't yield expected results, leaving the public in the dark about the inefficacy of animal experimentation.

Strategies to Combat Animal Cruelty

Assume responsibility as a pet owner. Attend to your pet's needs and enrich its life with positive experiences. By setting an example of kindness, we can combat animal cruelty. Provide shelter to abandoned animals by fostering them to help them recover and find permanent loving homes. Interfere and report incidents of animal abuse, cruelty or neglect. Take action to stop animal mistreatment and seek help from others if necessary. Teach children to respect animals and demonstrate how to treat them with kindness. Support strict laws for animal welfare and stricter penalties for animal cruelty. Provide shelter to animals in need. You can make a significant difference in the life of an animal that has been mistreated by taking them out of harm's way.

Recognize that animal neglect can be linked to domestic violence. Often, animal abuse and domestic violence go hand in hand. By reporting suspected incidents, you may be able to help both the animals and the affected family. See "The Link Between Cruelty to Animals and Violence to Humans" for more information. Enlighten your peers about the cause. Empower them with knowledge to help combat animal cruelty. It is vital to recognize that animals have the right to live free from fear and suffering. We all have a duty to intervene when these rights are not upheld.

Assist those who are struggling to care for their pets. Neglect is not always an indication of a lack of love. In certain circumstances, the animal's owner may be unable to provide the necessary care due to psychological limitations. In such cases, it is crucial to remove the pet from the neglectful environment and provide it with the care it deserves. Any act of kindness towards an animal has the potential to positively impact a human's life as well.

Let us pray that Allah guides us towards compassion for animals and helps us become their voice in the face of adversity. May we all work towards making this world a better place for all living beings.

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 columnist and poet pursuing MSc in zoology. He tweets at @peermohdamir and can be mailed at ehsaanamy133@gmail.com

Women and Intellectual Property

Apoorva Murali

This year, the theme for World IP day is "Women and IP: Accelerating innovation and creativity", a topic which is relevant and keeping with the tone of inclusivity and promoting diversity, at the workplace, whether it be a science lab, the court room, a class room or a board room.

Studies have shown that a woman can play a pivotal role in the growth of the economy and society, when empowered with education and opportunity. The pandemic saw women being impacted in a disproportionate manner when it came to loss of employment and withdrawal from work force. Empowering women and encouraging their participation in the economy helps in the overall health of an economy. Furthermore, incentivising participation, by providing recognition and protection to the contribution of women towards innovation and creativity, causes a ripple effect which can motivate the generations of young girls to come. I can still recall the day in 1997 when Kalpana Chawla flew

into space for the very first time in the Space Shuttle Columbia. Millions of girls in India felt the ripple effect of Kalpana Chawla's accomplishment. It was a glimmer of hope and the spark igniting the courage in millions of girls to dream, and to dream big.

While the gender gap in innovation and creativity is far from closing, the last year has seen some amazing women showcase their talent and brilliance, which has been appreciated and recognised at a global stage. We saw Guneet Monga and Kartiki Gonsalves make India proud with their win of the esteemed Oscar for the Best Documentary Short category. Guneet Monga and Kartiki Gonsalves were lauded for their short film "The Elephant Whisperers", which is based on the lives of a tribal couple who care for baby elephants. This win is historic for many reasons. However, if one were to solely focus on the creative aspect of the film, the recognition of these two women's creative talent is a thrust towards promoting women participation in creative fields such as film making, directing, producing etc. These lines of work have historically been male dominated with little to no

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It is also a reminder to us as a society that inclusivity of women in the work force and recognition of their accomplishments in a timely and fair manner is a very real issue which remains to be addressed even in 2023

participation by women, specifically in more pivotal and leadership roles. Ironically, most women centric roles and films that have been produced, directed and even written over the years, have been by men.

2022 also saw women excelling in other fields, one example being, the Nobel Prize in Chemistry granted to Carolyn Ruth Bertozzi jointly with Karl Barry Sharpless and Morten P. Meldal "for the development of click chemistry and bioorthogonal chemistry". While women still form part of a mere 6% of the recipients of all Nobel Prize, since its inception, it is encouraging to see wins for women such as Carolyn Ruth Bertozzi. It is also a reminder to us as a society that inclusivity of women in the work force and recognition of their accomplishments in a timely and fair manner is a very real issue which remains to be addressed even in 2023.

The International Chamber of Commerce published a study which showed that copyright-based industries and related sectors account for approximately 4-11% of the GDP in G8 countries. In addition, the World Bank has published that bridging the gen-

der employment gap is likely to have a long term impact on the GDP per capita by almost 20%.

Accordingly, there have been initiatives by the government to promote women in the field of innovation.

In India, the National Intellectual Property Rights Policy, which was adopted in 2016 makes a specific reference to "encouraging and supporting capacity building among Women Creators, Innovators, Entrepreneurs, Practitioners, Teachers and Trainers". In fact, the Patent Rules, as amended, provided a mechanism for expedited examination, wherein this option was available inter alia where the applicant or one of the applicants is a woman. While encouraging, there is definitely a need for more such measures to ensure a full and inclusive participation by women in the work force and for them to reach their full creative and innovative potential.

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 Financial Express

On World Veterinary Day 2023

Promoting Diversity, Equity and Inclusiveness

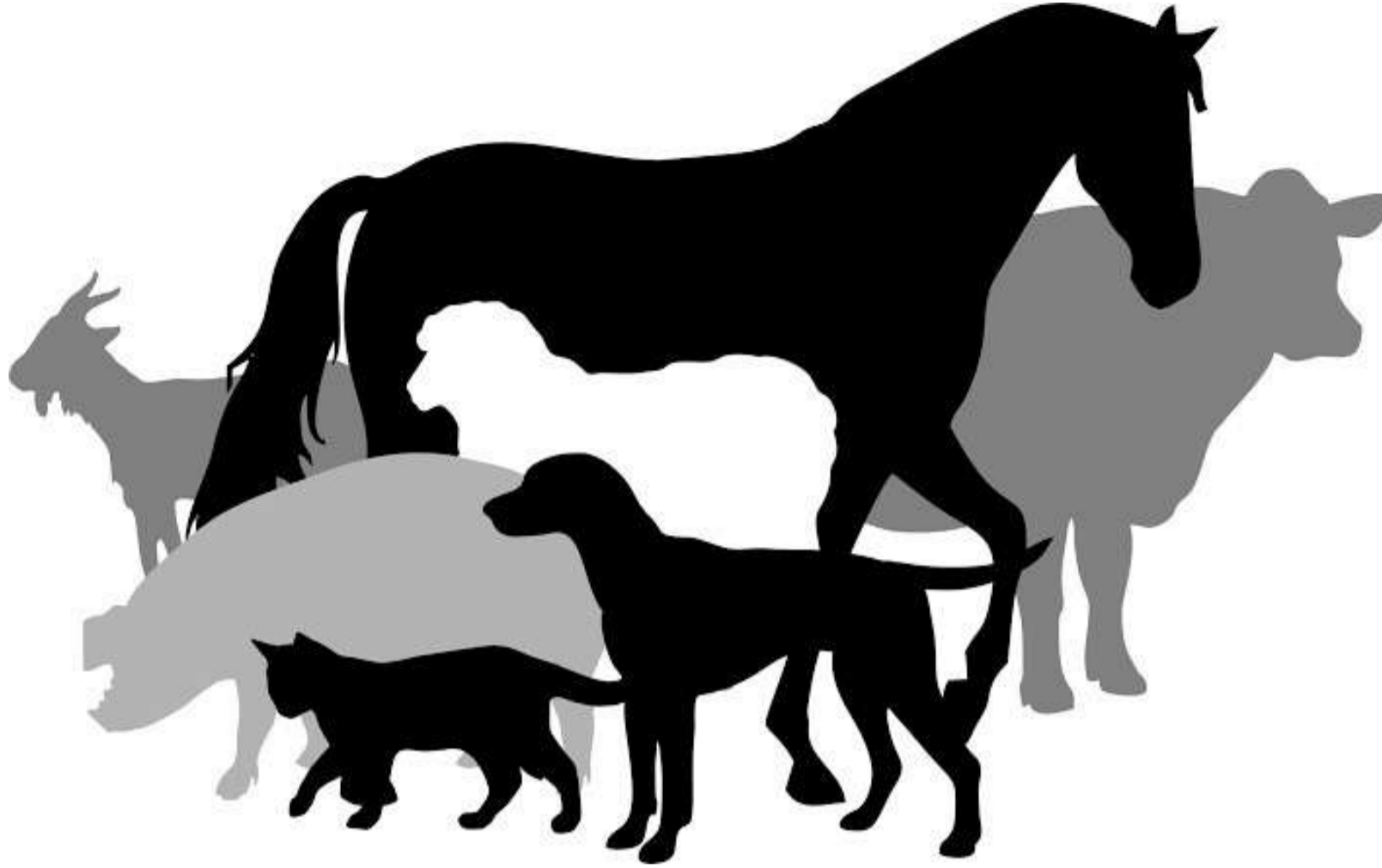
Dr Ishfaq Jamal

Veterinarians are the unsung heroes of our society, whose impact goes far beyond the health and well-being of animals. From agriculture and industry to environmental conservation and public health, their expertise is critical in ensuring the safety and welfare of both animals and humans. The role of veterinarians is multifaceted and diverse, encompassing different areas of expertise.

Every year, on the last Saturday of April, the world celebrates World Veterinary Day, to honor the contributions of veterinarians and raise awareness about animal health and welfare. This day serves as a reminder of the significant responsibilities that veterinarians shoulder towards society, nations, and the world.

Most of us are aware with the crucial role veterinarian's played in Covid-19 mitigation by using their expertise. The contributions in the fields of research, diagnostics, vaccine production and logistical support to their human counterparts has been immense.

The emerging challenges due to global climate change, change in trading patterns in Livestock Industry including animal and animal products have put Veterinarian's at the forefront in dealing with increased threat of emerging and reemerging diseases, most importantly zoonotic diseases. In the year 2022, India experienced a devastating outbreak of Lumpy Skin Disease, which wreaked havoc on the country's cattle population. The disease proved fatal for over 1 lakh cattle, while more than 2 million animals were affected by it. In Jammu and Kashmir the outbreak was serious and widespread. But the timely efforts of Govt. in collaboration with Vets as frontline workers resulted in timely containment of the disease. The strategy comprised of awareness among general masses, treatment and isolation of affected animals on scientific lines and carpet vaccination of cattle. The strategy involved several key components, including raising awareness among the general public, treating and isolating affected animals based on scientific protocols, and undertaking a wide-



IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR A LOT OF WOMEN HAVE JOINED VETERINARY PROFESSION. Erstwhile a male dominated profession, off late we are witnessing a surge in number of Women joining the veterinary profession. A lot of practicing female vets are bringing laurels to the field and it has a positive impact on society. Mostly in Kashmiri households women deal in rearing of Dairy cows and it becomes easy for them to connect with female Vets

spread vaccination campaign aimed at protecting the cattle population. Thanks to these efforts, the spread of Lumpy Skin Disease was successfully curbed in Jammu and Kashmir, and other affected areas throughout the country. By prioritizing the

health and safety of the country's livestock, the government and veterinary professionals were able to mitigate the impact of this deadly disease and prevent further loss of life among India's cattle population and financial losses to dairy farmers.

The purpose of citing this example of LSD here on World Veterinary Day is to highlight the role and capabilities of Vets despite serious lag of infrastructure and facilities. In an ever-changing world that is fraught with novel and multifaceted challenges,

the significance of veterinarians is only poised to grow in importance.

This year the theme for World Veterinary Day 2023 is Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusiveness in the Veterinary Profession. The well-being of all veterinarians can

be enhanced when diversity, equity and inclusion is promoted and applied. There is a value in increasing diversity, equity and inclusiveness in Veterinary profession. We choose the professions we see have an impact on social issues, society and communities. Increased diversity will improve the access to animal health care, job creation in livestock sector especially of downtrodden communities. Tribal and downtrodden communities will prefer a Vet from their community, locality and ethnicity thus diversity in Vet profession will positively impact animal health and welfare.

The theme also emphasizes on Vets developing compassion towards animal owners and pet owners from diverse backgrounds they deal with. In Jammu and Kashmir a lot of women have joined veterinary profession. Erstwhile a male dominated profession, off late we are witnessing a surge in number of Women joining the veterinary profession. A lot of practicing female vets are bringing laurels to the field and it has a positive impact on society. Mostly in Kashmiri households women deal in rearing of Dairy cows and it becomes easy for them to connect with female Vets. The diversity and inclusiveness is also witnessed in the two Veterinary colleges of J&K. A lot of students from Jammu province and other parts of Country are enrolled in SKUAST-K, hence helping students in developing more civic mind and develop a stronger interpersonal and intellectual skills.

As humanity confronts unprecedented global issues like climate change, biodiversity loss, and emerging zoonotic diseases, veterinarians remain at the forefront of efforts to combat these perils. The veterinary profession is uniquely equipped with the knowledge and skills to address a wide gamut of animal health concerns, including the interplay between animal and human health, the environmental impact of animal production, and the prevention and control of infectious diseases.

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Growing Stray Dog Problem Is Evidence That The Sterilisation Programme Has Failed

Abi T Vanak

The conflict between people and stray dogs in India has crossed the threshold of tolerance. While cases of young children being mauled to death by packs of dogs are in the news now, this phenomenon is not new. Over the last five years, more than 300 people — mostly children from poor and rural families — have been killed by dogs. Worse still, dogs are responsible for over 20,000 rabies deaths. A 2017 study showed that homeless dogs in rural areas can also be devastating for wildlife. Over 80 species, of which more than 30 are on the endangered list, were targeted by dogs in wilderness areas. This mounting evidence points to a failure on the part of the government to implement policies that are both practical and humane to dogs, people, and wildlife.

But why are we facing such a problem with dogs? There is no one answer. The concept of dog "ownership" is nebulous for most Indians, with only a small fraction of urban dwellers falling into the category of what is now called "pet parents". Most dogs in rural areas are associated with households that feed them but do little else in terms of healthcare or welfare. In urban areas too, people from all walks of life feed dogs on the streets but very few take any direct responsibility. Ultimately it is the responsibility of the state to ensure that the lives of humans and domesticated animals are safe and secure. This is where the problem lies. The Animal Welfare Board of India, a statutory body under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, promulgated the Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules in 2001 (now replaced with the even more draconian ABC Rules 2023). This policy was meant to control both the dog population, as well the deadly rabies virus.



However, the ABC rules are not based on scientific evidence and violate guidelines provided by the World Health Organisation and

the World Organisation for Animal Health for preventing rabies. The ABC Rules require a programme named after this year's Oscar-winning

movie — Everything Everywhere All at Once. A sterilisation programme is most effective when it targets the majority of the popu-

lation in one go, is carried out continuously over the years, and when there are very low chances of new individuals coming into the popula-

tion. This scenario is applicable only on islands, or where human settlements are very widely spaced.

It is easier said than done for a country with a dog population of 60-80 million. To expect a developing country like India to invest thousands of crores of rupees to set up the necessary infrastructure, and deploy lakhs of people to catch dogs, operate on them and take care of them, is a pipe dream. Especially considering that many regions of this country do not have adequate infrastructure for public health

Even if they are sterilised, dogs that continue to live on streets will still bite, chase people and vehicles, get into accidents, suffer from hunger and disease, and remain in conflict with people. Where resources are available, dog density will continue to increase, especially if people feed dogs on the streets. The only long-term solution is to implement strict pet ownership laws, prohibit people from carelessly feeding dogs everywhere, and set up facilities funded by animal welfare organisations that can either house dogs for life, or humanely euthanise them so they don't suffer on the streets. This policy is implemented across the world and was also espoused by Mahatma Gandhi over a century ago when he exhorted local authorities to build a pinjrapole for dogs or eliminate them altogether.

As long as dogs are homeless on the streets, the idea of a rabies-free India, with harmonious co-existence between people and dogs, will be a utopian dream. Keeping dogs homeless is bad for dogs, bad for people, and bad for wildlife.

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 Indian Express

India-China border situation 'generally stable': China's defence minister Gen Li tells Singh

Beijing: After India firmly told China that its violation of the border pacts has "eroded" the entire basis of bilateral ties, China's defence ministry on Friday said the situation at the border is "generally stable" and both sides should put the boundary issue in an "appropriate position" and promote its transition to "normalised management".

China's defence minister General Li Shangfu, who is in New Delhi to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers conference, held a 45-minute-long meeting with his Indian counterpart Rajnath Singh on Thursday during which the two ministers discussed the standoff at the eastern Ladakh area since May 2020.

At the meeting, Singh told Gen Li that China's violation of border agreements "eroded" the entire basis of ties between the two countries and that all issues relating to the frontier must be resolved in

accordance with the existing pacts.

A Chinese Defence Ministry statement issued here on Friday said that during the meeting the two sides exchanged views on militaries and bilateral relations.

Gen. Li pointed out that "currently, the situation on the China-India border is generally stable and the two sides have maintained communication through military and diplomatic channels".

"The two sides should take a long-term view, place the border issue in an appropriate position in bilateral relations, and promote the transition of the border situation to normalised management," he said.

"It is hoped that the two sides will work together to continuously enhance mutual trust between the two militaries and make proper contributions to the development of bilateral relations," Li told Singh.

He said that as major neighbouring countries and important developing countries, China and India share far more common

interests than differences.

"The two sides should view bilateral relations and each other's development from a comprehensive, long-term and strategic perspective, and jointly contribute wisdom and strength to world and regional peace and stability", he said.

The Indian government sources in New Delhi said Singh conveyed to Li that after disengagement in remaining friction points in eastern Ladakh, there should be a movement towards de-escalation and expressed hope for a "positive response".

In a statement, India's defence ministry said the two ministers had "frank discussions" about the developments in the India-China border areas as well as bilateral relations.

"The Raksha Mantri categorically conveyed that development of relations between India and China is premised on the prevalence of peace and tranquillity at the borders," it said.

"He added that all issues at

the LAC need to be resolved in accordance with existing bilateral agreements and commitments," the ministry said in New Delhi.

Singh "reiterated that violation of existing agreements has eroded the entire basis of bilateral relations and disengagement at the border will logically be followed with de-escalation," it said.

The talks took place hours after Li arrived in Delhi to attend the meeting of defence ministers of the SCO on Friday.

Singh also conveyed to Li that India wants to improve relations with China but it can happen only after peace and tranquillity are restored at the border, the sources said.

Defence Minister Singh categorically stated in the meeting that military cooperation between the two countries can progress only if peace and tranquillity are established at the border, they said.

In a tweet, Singh said: "Held discussions with China's

Defence Minister, General Li Shangfu in New Delhi."

India has been slamming China's deployment of a massive number of troops and its aggressive behaviour along the LAC in eastern Ladakh in violation of pacts on border management.

The meeting between the two defence ministers took place days after the Indian and Chinese armies held the 18th round of military talks on ending the border row.

In the Corps Commander talks on April 23, the two sides agreed to stay in close touch and work out a mutually acceptable solution to the remaining issues in eastern Ladakh at the earliest.

However, there was no indication of any clear forward movement in ending the three-year row.

On March 2, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held talks with his Chinese counterpart Qin Gang on the sidelines of a conclave of the G20 grouping in New Delhi.

Govt Constantly Working For Democratisation Of Technology: PM Modi

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday inaugurated 91 FM transmitters and said this would revolutionise the radio industry, while asserting his government was working constantly for the democratisation of technology.

Underscoring the emotional connect of his generation with the radio, Modi said he has a relationship with the medium as a host too as he referred to the upcoming 100th episode of Mann Ki Baat this Sunday.

"This kind of emotional connect with the people of the country was possible only through the radio. Through this, I remained linked to the strength of the country and the collective power of the duty among the people of the country," he said.

Modi said government initiatives such as the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, and Har Ghar Tiranga became people's

movements through the Mann Ki Baat.

"Therefore, in a way, I am part of your All India Radio Team," the prime minister said after virtually inaugurating 91 FM transmitters covering two crore people across 85 districts.

Modi underlined that the inauguration of 91 FM transmitters was in line with the government policy to give preference to the underprivileged who have been deprived of this facility so far. "Those who were considered to be distant will now get a chance to connect at a greater level," Modi said.

The prime minister said the government is continuously working for the democratisation of technology. "No Indian should feel scarcity of opportunity if India has to rise up to its full potential."

Making modern technology accessible and affordable is key to this, he added.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Jhelum Dredging Hits

& Kunzar branch) Providing of Toe Crate Protection works on Hudi, Farkan, Kalaroo, Hyhama, Varnow, Vij and Pohru Nallah at spots

It may be noted that following the devastating floods in 2014, the central government sanctioned a plan for the comprehensive flood management of the Jhelum River and its tributaries. The project was funded through the Prime Minister's Development Package, and divided into two phases.

The phase-I was completed by the end of 2020 after missing several deadlines. The government said that this phase - which mostly involved the dredging of the river to remove sediment - would enhance the discharge carrying capacity of the Jhelum from 31,800 cusecs to 41,000 cusecs.

The official said Phase II of the plan would increase the carrying capacity of river Jhelum and its flood spill channel by 20,000 cusecs through dredging. At present, the carrying capacity of Jhelum is around 31,000 cusecs while that of the flood channel is around 8,700 cusecs.

Following the incessant rainfall in the valley from the last four days, the river Jhelum has once again swelled up and giving nightmare to the people who witnessed 2014 deluge.

However, Chief Engineer I&FC Kashmir, Naresh Kumar told Kashmir Observer that there were no flood threats and the Jhelum was flowing below danger mark.

"There were floods in the Tangmarg area of North Kashmir. The authorities have issued advisory to people not to venture out in that particular area but overall the situation is good. The rains have stopped now," he added.

While responding to the halt of Jhelum dredging phase-II project, he said, the work is partly underway.

"Right now the work is going on in Bemina, where people would always complain of floods. However, the work on flood-spill channels has been delayed." Kumar said adding "We had invited the tenders but no company qualified for the same"

Pertinently, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) pulled up the irrigation & flood control (I & FC) department for lapses in achieving required targets for dredging Jhelum that had hamstrung the disaster management response post 2014 floods.

The audit by the CAG last February noted that there was a shortfall of targets by I&FC department in terms of dredging that was required under the Prime Minister's Development Package for Crisis Management project's to increase the carrying capacity of flood waters of the Jhelum river and through the Flood Spill Channel (FSC).

Govt Forms Panels

level Inter Departmental Coordination Committee(s) comprises Deputy Commissioner (Concerned) as chairman and its members include Additional Deputy Commissioner (Concerned).

Chief Medical Officer (District Registrar, Births & Member, District Statistics & Evaluation Officer District Registrar, Births & Deaths), Block

Development Officer Blocks, Chief Executive Officer (Registrar) Cantonment Board Badamibagh Srinagar/Satwari Jammu, Executive Officer (Registrar) concerned Council /Municipalities, Health Officer Jammu/Srinagar (Registrar) Municipal Corporation Jammu/Srinagar.

The terms of reference include to ensure smooth implementation of Civil Registration System; to bring interdepartmental co-ordination of departments engaged in civil registration to resolve the operational problems affecting the registration work; to discuss and resolve the issues which requires intervention at the top level; iv. to co-ordinate, unify and supervise the work of registration for securing an efficient system of registration; any other issues for smooth implementation in the districts; and to convene quarterly meeting(s) at District Level.

Rains Lash

the widespread light to moderate rain/thunderstorm is expected in J&K while some places would likely receive heavy rainfall as well, he said. He further said that the weather would overall remain erratic till May 04.

Furthermore, he advised farmers to postpone spraying of orchards till May 04.

Meanwhile, Srinagar received a rainfall of 18.6 mm till 8:30 A.M while Qazigund, Pahalgam and Kupwara received a rainfall of 6.8mm, 7.7mm and 15.3mm respectively. Moreover, Srinagar recorded a low of 6.5 degree Celsius while Qazigund and Pahalgam recorded a low of 6.8 degree Celsius and 4.2 degree Celsius respectively.

In Kokernag, the night temperature settled at 5.7 degree Celsius while a famous ski-resort, Gulmarg recorded a low of 1.0 degree Celsius

Landslide Blocks

Kashmir. On Thursday, two persons identified as Jaswant Raj and Narinder Singh were injured when their vehicle was hit by debris brought down by a landslide on the highway.

The officials said that road clearance agencies have pressed men and machinery to remove the landslide and make the highway traffic worthy.

Reports said that an unspecified number of trucks carrying essential commodities to the Valley, besides light motor vehicles (LMVs) are stranded along the highway.

Three Districts

the meantime advised to take precautions and avoid venturing in the avalanche prone areas till further orders.

DGP Claims Local

explosives) to the terrorists besides shelter and food and guided them from one to another place," Singh told reporters during a visit to Rajouri district.

"We are getting clues during questioning. We are working on that," he said.

Singh, who visited Darhal and remote Budh Khanari area in the foothills of snow-covered Pir Panjal mountains, also said that such incidents are not possible without local support.

"One full module in this has been caught. They were giving them support for past two

to three months. A local named Nisar and his family were providing all support from food to shelter. The material (explosives) had come from Pakistan through drone. They picked up the weapons and provided them to the terrorists. Weapons, grenades and ammunition explosives were included in that," he said.

He added that security forces are identifying more local support.

"They will be working on it strongly. The terrorists choose places close to forests, where they get local support and also have escape route into forests," he said.

Giving further details about the module, Singh said Nisar has been a militant for a long time.

"He was working as OGW of Pakistan origin LeT commander in the 1990s. He was under our radar. We had picked him two to three times in the past for interrogation. He was in our list of suspects and was picked this time too," he said.

"When interrogated, we found he was fully involved along with other family members," the DGP said.

On the modus operandi, he said that the militants first did reconnaissance of area, understood the terrain and considered aspects like speed of the vehicle to come down to zero in view of downhill terrains and sharp turn at the place of attack.

"They came close and ambushed the vehicle. Then they fired on the vehicle which got damaged. The troops got injured. They planted an IED, set it afire and exploded it," he said.

Singh said there is floating population of militants coming from Pakistan.

"They remain here for several months. They do reconnaissance and such acts. We have neutralised several of them also in the past. Two to four such terrorists remain active during a period of time," he said.

According to Singh there are 10 to 12 such elements operating in the area.

On the use of Chinese steel core ammunition, he said that it was used in the Dhangri incident too.

"The terrorists come better prepared for such attacks," he said.

CBI Grills Ex- Guv

on August 31, 2018. The scheme was subsequently scrapped.

Unknown officials of the finance department of the government of Jammu and Kashmir, by abusing their official positions in a conspiracy and connivance with Trinity Reinsurance Brokers Limited, Reliance General Insurance Company Limited and other unknown public servants and private persons, have committed the offences of criminal conspiracy and criminal misconduct," one of the FIRs allege.

They caused "pecuniary advantage to themselves and wrongful loss to the state exchequer during the period 2017 and 2018 and thereby, in this manner, cheated the government of Jammu and Kashmir", it further alleges.

In the second FIR about alleged malpractices in the awarding of contracts for the civil work package of the Kiru hydroelectric power project, the CBI alleged that the guidelines related to e-tendering were not followed.

"The case was registered on allegations of malpractices in the award of the contract worth Rs 2,200 crore (approximately) of civil works of the Kiru Hydro Electric Power Project (HEP) to a private company in the year 2019," it has said.

The probe agency has booked senior IAS officer Navin Kumar Chaudhary, former chairman of Chenab Valley Power Projects (Private) Limited, M S Babu, former managing director, M K Mittal and Arun Kumar Mishra, former directors, and Patel Engineering Limited.

"Though a decision was taken in the 47th board meeting of CVPL (Chenab Valley Power Projects Limited) for re-tender through e-tendering with the reverse auction after the cancellation of the ongoing tendering process, the same was not implemented (as per the decision taken in the 48th board meeting) and the tender was finally awarded to Patel Engineering Limited," the FIR alleged.

'Education Nurtures

to ever-changing needs of the industry. The LG called upon the Universities & educational institutions to focus on 6Cs - Curiosity, Choice, Collaboration, Creativity, Communication and Critical Thinking, to empower youth.

"Our campuses & classrooms should reflect the change and issues affecting the world," he said, while highlighting the advantages of multidisciplinary Education.

"Education nurtures our soul. NEP emphasises on establishing balance in living & life and to inculcate the desire for lifelong learning process. Real education in the true sense starts from where the syllabus ends and a student begins to discover him or herself," the LG said.

The NEP, the LG said, aims to transform higher educational institutions as knowledge hubs that will create vibrant communities; bridge the gap between disciplines; enable artistic, creative development of students; promote research & innovation and make the education more inclusive.

"As we are moving towards multi-disciplinary education, it is important that we focus on bridging the technology gap and make our campuses a nursery of talents, who will make immense contributions to India's knowledge economy," he added.

He also shared the efforts to implement NEP-2020, in letter and spirit, in J&K UT.

Vice Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth, Prof. Anand Kumar Tyagi, HoDs; faculty members, resource persons and students in large numbers were present on the occasion.

G-20 Event Can

G20 summit -- a prelude to the main event which is scheduled to take place from May 22-24. The prelude event was attended by more than 60 students from various colleges and universities.

The Tourism secretary said it is a massive event for J&K and has the potential to promote tourism at the international level.

The general public of Jammu and Kashmir, including students, are widely participating in various events in the run-up to the main meet.

Tourism is the backbone of Jammu and Kashmir's economy and the maximum share of the Indian territory's GDP comes from tourism, he said.

No Registration Of

amounts to a violation of Section 10 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872.

In the circular, it is underlined that under the Indian Contract Act, 1872, any sale agreement executed with a minor is deemed void ab initio, adding that a registered motor vehicle along with its registered owner is a legal person and in case of violation of provisos of motor vehicle laws and rules made thereunder, by any such vehicle invokes penal action against the owner.

"Now, therefore, in the interest of law and justice, it is enjoined upon all the registered dealers, officers/officials of the motor vehicle department, the general public, insurance agencies, and other stakeholders, not to make any sale/purchase or to register any vehicle involving a minor," the order reads.

J&K Logs 38

Srinagar 2, Baramulla 2, Budgam 2, Pulwama 1, Kupwara 7, Anantnag 2, Bandipora 0, Ganderbal 1, Kulgam 2 and Shopian 0.

There was one death from Jammu division during the time. So far 4790 people have succumbed to the virus and among them include 2357 from Jammu division and 2433 from the Valley.

Besides, they said, 39 Covid-19 patients recovered during the last 24 hours--29 from Jammu division and 10 from Kashmir Valley. There are now 325 active cases-- 166 in Jammu and 159 in Kashmir.

Over 11,000 Stranded

SSP Traffic Rural, Ravinder Paul Singh (SSP) Traffic in rural Kashmir said that more than 1,100 vehicles had crossed through the pass in the last two days alone.

The clearing of the pass by officials has brought a sense of relief to the stranded commuters who had been facing difficulties due to the unavailability of food and basic amenities--(KNO)

Chairperson NCW

and social counseling being provided to women. She also inspected the stalls set up by ICDS.

Chairperson interacted with domestic violence affected women and specially-abled persons.

Later the Chairperson convened a meeting of the concerned officers at the Mini Meeting Hall of the DC office Complex. The Chairperson NCW took detailed review of various schemes related to empowerment of women.

Addressing the meeting the Chairperson asked women to come forward to take benefit of women friendly schemes of Government of India.

She emphasized that women have to lead from the front in every sphere of life.

The Chairperson complimented the District Administration Kupwara for showing good progress in empowerment of women.

Despite being geographically distant from Kashmir how Kashmiris in West maintain cultural, social, and emotional linkages with their homeland. Tune-in to latest KO podcast

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Govt Forms IDCC For Digital Communication Readiness Index

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Government on Friday accorded sanction to the constitution of Inter-departmental Coordination Committee (IDCC) for recommending policy reforms for implementing Digital Communication Readiness Index (DCRI) framework and recommend policy reforms in J&K.

Headed by Chief Secretary, J&K, the 12-member committee has also been tasked to conduct quarterly review of progress on the implementation of DCRI framework, according to an order issued by the government.

As per the order, the Committee is required to start preparatory exercise and undertake initiatives for implementing DCRI framework and recommend the policy reforms in the J&K.

The members of the committee include Principal Secretary to the Government, Department of

Forest, Ecology & Environment; Principal Secretary to the Government, Industries and Commerce Department; Principal Secretary to the Government, Power Development Department; Principal Secretary to the Government, Housing & Urban Development Department; Principal Secretary to the Government, School Education Department; Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj; Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Information Technology Department; Secretary to the Government, Health & Medical Education Department; Chief Executive Officer, JaKeGA-Information Technology Department; Representative of Department Telecommunication, Government of India (Not below the rank of Director LSA, J&K) and any officer/official/expert to be co-opted as Special Invitee with the approval of Chairman. (GNS)

Shop Owner Held For 'Secretly' Recording Videos In Changing Room



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Baramulla police on Friday said to have arrested a ready-made garments shop owner for secretly recording videos in a changing room.

In a statement, a police spokesman said that police Station Chandoosa received a written complaint from one minor girl (name withheld) accompanied by her sister wherein she stated that on 26th April 2023 she went to a readymade shop at Bandi Payeen belonging to one Aijaz Ahmad Sofi S/O Gh Nabi Sofi R/O Bandi Payeen Chandoosa and selected some clothes and went to changing room for trial. After entering in the changing room she found a hidden mobile phone which was kept there for secretly recording the customer's videos

while changing clothes, he said. Acting promptly upon the complaint, case FIR under sections of IPC, IT act & POCSO Act was registered in Police Station Chandoosa and investigation was taken up, the statement said.

He said, during the course of investigation, a team headed by SHO PS Chandoosa, Inspr. Irfan Ahmad under the supervision of SDPO Kreeer, Khalid Aahraf-JKPS was constituted and the accused person namely Aijaz Ahmad Sofi S/O Gh Nabi Sofi R/O Bandi Payeen Chandoosa (owner of the shop) was taken into custody immediately in the instant case. Mobile devices of the accused have also been seized and further investigation is going on.

Community members are requested to be careful while using trail rooms, the spokesman added.

Special Camps On SSR 2023 Held Across Shopian



Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: On the directions of the Chief Electoral Officer, the District Election Office Shopian on Friday held a series of special camps and awareness meetings in degree colleges, higher secondary schools, polytechnic colleges and ITIs of the district.

The camps were attended by large gatherings of eligible voters, prospective voters, BLOs and BLO Supervisors and staff members of the concerned institutions of both 36-Zainpora and 37- Shopian Assembly Constituencies.

Addressing the gatherings, Dy District Election Officer, Jahangeer Ahmad said that because of good response to the enrolment, the time limit of the special summary revision 2023 has been extended up to 6th May 2023 and same need to be informed to general public and encashed to fetch more enrollments.

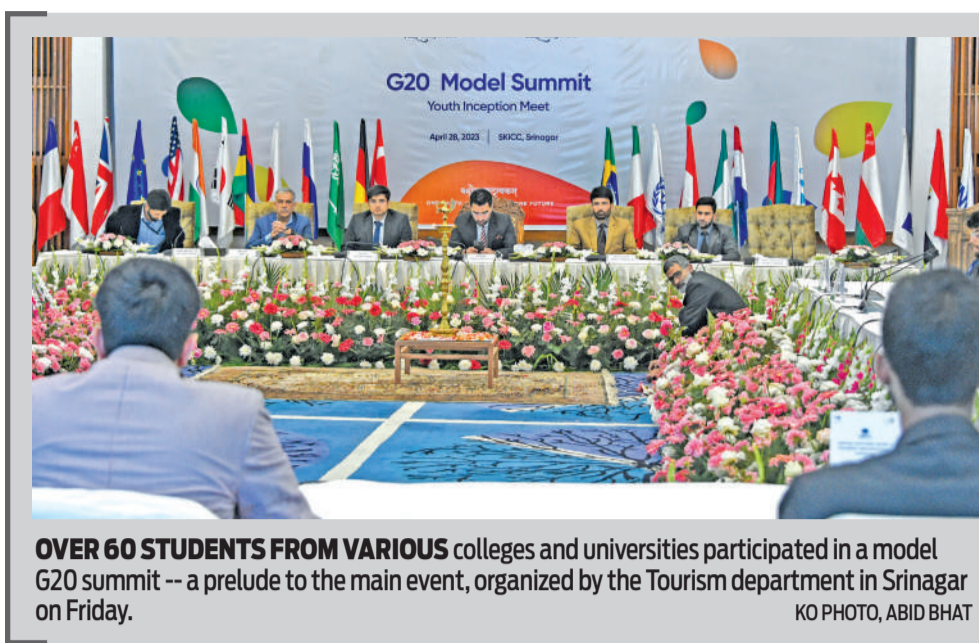
BLOs were urged to verify the Assured Minimum Facility (AMF) Status of the polling stations and report the gaps at earliest for the redressal of the same.

During the camps, on spot registrations were done by the BLOs and information about online methods viz nvsp.in and voter helpline app was also imparted. The authorities of the concerned institutions were also requested to identify the left out eligible students and ensure their registrations.

The special camps at institution level shall continue on upto 30 April.

So far there has been an addition of 4520 new voters. All EROs and AEROs have been urged to impress upon BLOs to improve the numbers of claims and objections and digitize all the pendency of claims by due dates.

Further all BLOs were asked to deliver all the EPICs to the concerned voters including migrant voters at an earliest.



OVER 60 STUDENTS FROM VARIOUS colleges and universities participated in a model G20 summit -- a prelude to the main event, organized by the Tourism department in Srinagar on Friday.

KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

Y20 Pre-Summit Concludes Successfully In Leh

India's Rich Art, Culture And Heritage Has Left Lasting Impression On The G20 Delegates From Across The World: Thakur

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: The Y20 pre summit has concluded successfully despite statements and confusing statements by many that the event should not be organized in Leh, Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur said Friday.

The Y20 Pre-Summit was organized from 26th to 28th April. Addressing a press conference here on the conclusion of event, Thakur said that G20 under India's Presidency has set new milestones. He said that the discussions and deliberations are going on successfully and also India's rich art, culture and heritage has left lasting impression on the delegates from across the world.

He also said that around 103 delegates participating in the Y20 pre summit in Leh are mesmerized by the monasteries, sangam and landscape of Leh and they want to return to Ladakh again.

"Despite statements by many that the pre summit should not be organized in Leh and creating confusion about it, the Y20 pre summit has concluded successfully," he added.

The Minister informed that as an outcome of the Pre Summit in Leh there is a consensus on the five themes of Y20 summit among the participating countries and international organizations. He also informed that im-

portant suggestions have come on the future challenges including reskilling and Upskilling.

The meeting focused on the five Y20 themes of Shared Future: Youth in Democracy and Governance; Future of Work: Industry 4.0, Innovation & 21st Century Skills; Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction; Making Sustainability a Way of Life; Peace Building and Reconciliation: Ushering in an era of No War and Health, Wellbeing & Sports; Agenda for Youth.

Earlier the Union Minister held Yuva Samvaad with the delegates and said that the runway is ready for youth to take off, whether it is for economy or education, sports or entrepreneurship, skill development or digitisation, and the youth - now have a mission to make a global impact.

He also said that the Y20 summit is providing an extraordinary opportunity for the youth and the world alike to shape their national as well as international discourse and in many ways be proactive in finding solutions to problems our respective regions face.

"This is a historic time when optimism and opportunity are coming together! Alliances of tomorrow are being formed at forums like Youth20," he said.

He also asked youth to Discover new ideas, develop new ties and Drive change and said

that Change is the only constant, so you stay ahead of the curve, anticipate change and drive it.

"We are living in greatest era of human history, you know that you have inherited a world which is equipped with more comforts, opportunities, structure, systems and order for you to make something of yourself and your surroundings than ever before!," Thakur said

"I am confident that the young generation will make the advancements of the last century look miniscule compared to the milestones that this new (youth) generation will discover," he added.

The Minister said that Young people should know that you are living in the greatest time to be alive and encouraged them to - Dream, read, write, think and act fearlessly!

He also added that the Y20 themes have been carefully selected to empower young people to create, collaborate, and contribute to the G20's development agenda and the global community as a whole.

"We firmly believe, that at the end of this decade, emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, and the Internet of Things will have evolved significantly, and data science would have occupied much deeper parts of our lives. Youth should be prepared with these skills," he said.

KPDCL Engineers Seeks Regularization, Fulfillment Of 700 Vacant Posts

Incumbent Chief Engineers, SEs, XENs Draw Salaries Of JEs

Majid Nabi

SRINAGAR: The Engineers of Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (KPDCL) Friday urged the Union Territory government to ensure their regularization and timely promotion at all levels in a time bound manner.

Taking potshots at the administration for alleged delay in their regularization, the aggrieved engineers said despite the State Administrative Council (SAC) decision to complete the regularization of all engineers working in Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (KPDCL), no concrete steps were taken in this direction thus far.

They alleged that even incumbent Chief Engineers of the department have not been promoted on a regular basis, while the majority of Superintending Engineers (SEs) and Executive Engineers (XENs) have been drawing salaries of Junior Engineers (JEs).

Addressing a press conference here, Pirzada Hidayatul-

lah, who represents Jammu and Kashmir Electrical Engineers Graduate Association (JKEEGA) as General Secretary, while expressing dismay over the delay in regularization of engineers working in KPDCL, urged LG Manoj Sinha to look into the issue and impress upon the concerned authorities to ensure their regularization without further delay.

"We urge the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to intervene in the matter and impress upon the authorities concerned to ensure our regularization as per service rules. Despite the SAC decision vide 258/22/2019 Dated-22/10/2019 to complete the regularization of all power engineers as a one time exemption in two months, more than four years have passed, no tangible progress has been made in this direction so far," he added.

Pirzada also claimed that 700 posts are lying vacant in the department including that of the post of Managing Director, Transmission Cor-

poration for the past seven months, while posts of Executive Directors (E) in DISCOMs and TRANSCO are vacant since their initiation in February 2022. Furthermore, 04 posts of Chief Engineers and 13 posts of Superintending Engineers, he said, are also vacant.

Pirzada said the recruitment process has also taken a halt since the year 2016, which has badly affected the functioning of various corporations. 400 posts of Junior Engineers, he said, have been vacant since the last so many years, thereby putting the field functioning of the department in shambles.

"The irony is that no major reorganization has been done since 1988, despite the fact that assets have increased by 1000's of percent and under such circumstances it is almost impossible to realize the dream of providing 24x7 power supply," he said, adding the situation at lower management level is so grave that Executive Engineer's are holding charge of 3-4 Divisions spread across multiple Districts.

Honorary Doctorate Conferred To Prof Achyuta Samanta

Observer News Service

Eminent educationist and social worker and Founder, KIIT and KISS, Prof. Achyuta Samanta has been conferred with honorary doctorate by Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankaradeva University of Assam.

He was conferred with D.Litt. by the university on the occasion of its 5th con-

vocation ceremony. This honorary doctorate has been awarded to Prof. Samanta for his outstanding contribution to the field of education and social service. He received the honor from Gulab Chand Kataria, Governor of Assam. This is the 51st doctorate for Prof. Samanta.

He expressed his gratitude to the authorities of Mahapu-

rusha Srimanta Sankaradeva University for the recognition. It will motivate him to do more, said Prof. Samanta. Among others, Union Minister of State for External Affairs, Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Chancellor Sjt. Bhabendra Nath Deka, Vice-Chancellor Dr. Mridul Hazarika, and Registrar Prof. Mrinal Kumar Borah were present on the occasion.

KPs Perform Hawan After 32 Years In Budgam Temple

Agencies

BUDGAM: After a gap of 32 years, Kashmiri Pandits from different parts of the country on Friday thronged the Regnya Mata Asthapan temple at the Badipora area of Chadoora in central Kashmir's Budgam district and performed Maha Yagye (Hawan).

They expressed joy over returning to their native village after such a long time and celebrating the festival "with our Muslim neighbours". They said

love from the local residents," a local devotee, Bhushan Lal Koul, told a local news agency KNO.

"We received such love and support from our Muslim brethren during the festival that we couldn't hold our tears when we hugged them," Koul said, adding, "These Muslims were continuously looking for those Pandits who were separated decades ago."

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam S F Hamid also paid a visit to the temple and partici-



ated in the Hawan.

"Seeing Muslims and Pandits attending each other's functions after a 32-year break is a testament to our community's brotherhood and solidarity," the DC said, adding, "This event showcased the changing ground realities in the region where Kashmiri Pandits are gradually returning to their homes and rebuilding their lives."

Setting an example of communal harmony and brotherhood, the local Muslims came together to extend best wishes to Pandits and helped the devotees in the smooth celebration of the religious event.

"This event was held after 32 years and we received a lot of

National School Bag Policy-2020

DSEK Proposes JKSCERT To Conduct Survey On Implementation

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The School Education Department Friday proposed conducting a survey on implementation of National School Bag Policy 2020 and reduction of School Weight and Homework burden of students.

Director of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) in a communication to Director of Jammu and Kashmir State Council of Education Research and Trainings (JK-SCERT) has requested to conduct of survey on the implementation of Rule 8A of JK School Education Act, 2002, Rules & National School Bag Policy 2020 are being followed in the schools or not.

DSEK has requested that a survey may be conducted in six Schools including two government and four private institutions in each district and 12 Schools in Srinagar district that includes four government and eight Private schools.

"The survey shall be involving DIETs of the Kashmir division in collaboration with Chief Education Officers so that the findings are shared with Administrative Department," DSEK said--(KNO)

Justice Tashi Rabstan Visits District Jail Amphalla In Jammu



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Justice Tash Rabstan, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority accompanied by Amit Kumar Gupta, Member Secretary, J&K LSA on Friday visited District Jail, Amphalla Jammu, where he was received by Secretary DLSA Jammu, Superintendent District Jail, Additional SP, City Jammu, Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel, Jammu and other jail staff.

On his arrival, Justice Tashi was given a ceremonial guard of honour, where after, he visited the e-mulakat center, where a jail inmate hailing from district Pulwama in Kashmir valley was having a virtual meeting with his parents and other family members. Justice Tashi was informed that whenever a jail inmate or his family member approaches the jail authorities for e-mulakat, the same is organized.

The Executive Chairman, J&K LSA enquired about the number of convicts serving their sentences and also about the under trial prisoners belonging to UT of J&K as well as other States and foreign nationals, upon which the Justice Tash Rabstan was informed that there were 06 foreign nationals lodged in the jail, out of which one is a national of Burma detained under PSA, one Bangla-

happy childhood and impede their different developmental domains to a greater extent," reads the official communique.

The director said that in this regard, a survey needs to be conducted as desired by School Education Department, as to whether the guidelines in Rule 8A of JK School Education Act, Rules 2002 and National School Bag Policy 2020 are being followed in the schools or not.

DSEK has requested that a survey may be conducted in six Schools including two government and four private institutions in each district and 12 Schools in Srinagar district that includes four government and eight Private schools.

"The survey shall be involving DIETs of the Kashmir division in collaboration with Chief Education Officers so that the findings are shared with Administrative Department," DSEK said--(KNO)

deshi national convicted in Foreigners Act, one Dutch national facing trial under 302 RPC, one Pakistani national and 3 Bangladeshi nationals whose trial is going on.

Justice Tashi Rabstan later visited the male as well as female blocks and interacted with the inmates to enquire about the medical and other facilities provided to them. Subsequently, he also inspected the V.C facility, OPD unit, dental section, inmate calling area, vocational center as well as 10 bedded hospital located inside the jail.

The Superintendent of the jail informed Justice Tashi that the District Jail Amphalla, Jammu has a capacity of 426 persons, whereas, presently more than 700 inmates are residing in the jail. He further informed that out of the sanctioned strength of the staff he is managing the affairs of the jail with only 50% staff.

Justice Tashi appreciated the efforts made by the Govt. in general and Dept. of Prisons in particular for maintaining the standard of living in jail and providing all the basic necessary facilities like hygienic food, medical facilities and skill training etc., to the inmates. All the inmates of the jail during interaction admitted that they are being represented in their respective cases by the lawyers either engaged by them or provided by Legal Services Authority.

Downtown Heroes Play Delhi FC In Must-Win Home Game

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Downtown Heroes FC are all set to take on Delhi FC today, Saturday, April 29, at Synthetic Turf TRC, in a must-win I-League 2 matchup. This will be the final game in the Group Stages of the competition.

Both teams are vying for the top two spots in the Group A table and a chance to progress to the next stage of the third-tier league. Downtown Heroes are currently third in the standings, taking 13 points from 7 matches, while Delhi is placed first, with 15 points from 7. Second-placed team Jagat Singh



Palahi FC have accumulated 13 points from their 7 games but has a better goal difference than the Heroes.

Only a win would ensure the Downtown Heroes a top-two finish, and the pressure would be high on the Hilal Rasool Parray-coached team. The veteran coach has placed his trust in local talent and hopes that home support can pull the team through today.

The Heroes have not been beaten in a Group Stage match at home this season but did lose 3-0 to Delhi in the reverse fixture on March 17. The game is slated for a 3:30 PM kick-off.

Neeraj Chopra Extends Support To Protesting Wrestlers

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Olympic gold medalist Neeraj Chopra on Friday extended his support to the protesting wrestlers and called for "quick action" from the authorities in order to ensure that justice is served.

Chopra expressed his disappointment a day after Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president PT Usha came down heavily on the wrestlers for hitting the streets to resume their protests instead of approaching its athletes' commission to lodge their complaints against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who has been accused of sexual harassment and intimidation.

Ace javelin thrower Chopra, who scripted history by winning India's first-ever gold medal in athletics at the Olympics, said "it hurts" to see fellow athletes taking to the streets in search of justice.



He tweeted, "It hurts me to see our athletes on the streets demanding justice. They have worked hard to represent our great nation and make us proud. As a nation, we are responsible for safeguarding the integrity and dignity of every individual, athlete or not. What's happening should never happen."

"This is a sensitive issue, and must be dealt with in an impartial and transparent manner. Pertaining authorities must take quick action in order to ensure that justice is served."

IPL 2023: GT Stands In Way Of KKR's Revival



Press Trust of India

KOLKATA: A resurgent Gujarat Titans, boasting a power-packed bowling unit, will come in the way of Kolkata Knight Riders' revival hopes when the two teams cross swords in the IPL here on Saturday.

The home side's misfiring campaign finally came on track after they fired in unison to snap their four-match losing streak with a convincing win at Bangalore.

In a season their Caribbean star duo of Andre Russell and Sunil Narine are yet to fire, the low-profile KKR side without their regular skipper Shreyas Iyer may just have found a trump card in Jason Roy.

The Englishman set the tempo with a fiery half-century for the likes of Nitish Rana, Rinku Singh and David Wiese to capitalise and set a winning total of 201 against Royal Challengers Bangalore.

Included only in their sixth match of the season, Roy has

scores of 43, 61 and 56 in three matches and KKR's batting will once again centre around him.

The win lifted KKR to seventh in the 10-team standings but they still have a long way to go to make the playoffs.

From here on, KKR (six points) will have to win at least five out of their remaining six matches to assure themselves a playoff berth.

Of the six matches, KKR play two away matches, including one in Chennai, and skipper Rana and coach Chandrakant Pandit will have their task cutout against the Pandya-led defending champions.

Pandya has put out a perfect T20 template and his ability to seal close matches has caught everyone's eyes, especially after they choked Lucknow Super Giants while defending a paltry 135 for 6.

Pandya has been a revelation as a captain since January 2022, winning 23 out of 31 matches with a victory percentage of 76.67.

GT (10 points from seven matches) have been a well-oiled unit and looks set for a successive playoff berth, sitting behind leaders Rajasthan Royals on net run-rate with a match in hand.

The Titans boast of a tempting bowling line-up in India pacer Mohammad Shami who along with Pandya have caused enough flutter in the powerplay.

But the likes of Rana and in-form Rinku will face the biggest challenge when they are up against the GT spinners, led by the wily Rashid Khan, who has found a new ally in his countryman Noor Ahmed.

Following the footsteps of Rashid, the 20-year-old left-arm spinner has been relentless especially in the middle overs.

With in-form Shubman Gill (three fifties) at the top and the powerhitting trio of David Miller, Abhinav Manohar and Rahul Tewatia in the bottom-half, GT also has a fearless batting unit. Match starts: 3.30pm.

Guardiola Keeps Focus On PL As Real Madrid Looms

Agencies

MANCHESTER: Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola is ignoring the widely held narrative that his team has pretty much wrapped up another Premier League title and can now start focusing on winning the Champions League for the first time.

For Guardiola, one of his biggest challenges now is to keep his players in the present following City's 4-1 win over Arsenal on Wednesday.

Nothing, he said on Friday, has been decided.

"The reality is, we are behind," Guardiola said. "If the championship finished today, they are champions."

City might be in second place and two points behind Arsenal, but the defending champions are in charge of the title race after outplaying the long-time leaders at Etihad Stadium. City has two games in hand — against West Ham and Brighton next month — and can move into first place, albeit possibly for only a couple of days, by winning at Fulham on Sunday.

Arsenal next plays against Chelsea on Tuesday and will be seeking its first win in five games after a dip in results right at the wrong time.

Listen to most soccer fans and scroll through social media, and you'd be forgiven for thinking the title race is already over.

"It's normal," Guardiola said, "that is the tendency — after what we have done in the past, Arsenal not being champions for a long time, we being undefeated in 15 games, seven in the Premier League."

"But I said to the players after Arsenal, what happened to Arsenal in the last games — three draws and one defeat — can happen to us. They say it's impossible. No, my friend, it can be possible. You can lose games and drop points in one week. If we are aware of that, it will be easier for us to not drop points."



For that reason, Guardiola has no intention of even starting to think about the two-legged meeting with Real Madrid in the Champions League semifinals as City seeks the one big title to elude the club.

The first leg is in Madrid on May 9, before which City plays three times in the Premier League — a competition Guardiola has previously said is his priority.

Now, as City bids for a Premier League-Champions League-FA Cup treble to match Manchester United's achievement from 1999, Guardiola is treating every game the same.

"When you are 10-15 points behind the leader, then maybe you prioritise the Champions League but we haven't got the time to prioritise anything," he said. "The Premier League is so nice, so attractive. Being the champion is right now a similar level than you can tell me about the Champions League."

"The people say, Why? Because you don't have it (the Champions League). But the Premier League is the Premier League. It's 11 months, it's every week, every week. My attention is Fulham, then West Ham and then it will be Leeds, 100%. After Leeds, I have enough time — not much because it is Saturday-Tuesday — but of course my (coaching) team will help me a bit to prepare for Madrid." (AP)

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