

Unpredictable Weather, Unprepared Farmers: Kashmir Fruit Growers Hit Hard

Farzana Nisar

A short month ago, the blooming trees in Ghulam Rasool Ganaie's apple orchard in South Kashmir's Kulgam were a sight to behold, with their vibrant hues of white filling his heart with anticipation for a good yield this year. He watched over the orchard day and night, tending to each tree with utmost care, but nature threw a wrench in his plan. It felt like the skies were conspiring against the fate of his produce as the quick burst of hailstorm earlier this month rendered his

fruit worthless.

"The pea-sized hails have caused deep depressions and deformed the young fruit. We didn't earn any profit last year despite a bumper crop, and it seems like this is going to be another year of loss for us," Ghulam Rasool said. "I am struggling to pay off my previous debts. This is a disaster," he added, as he tried to avoid the sight of the bruised apples.

As dark clouds loomed overhead on the first day of June, Aadil Ahmad, another fruit grower stood motionless in front of what remained of his beloved orchard in Manzgam



Kulgam. The apple crop was in the petal fall stage when heavy pellets raged on for about 15 minutes and turned the village

into a snowy abode, "70% of my crop got destroyed. Even if I try to protect whatever is left, I know it is going to be a no-win

6 THE PEA-SIZED HAILS HAVE CAUSED DEEP DEPRESSIONS AND deformed the young fruit. We didn't earn any profit last year despite a bumper crop, and it seems like this is going to be another year of loss for us."

situation for us," he said. "We were not prepared for this, but can one really be?" Aadil wondered.

Erratic weather conditions have prevailed in Kashmir for

more than a month now. From north to south, large parts of Kashmir received untimely rainfalls, hailstorms coupled with thunderstorms and even snow at higher reaches. But these are not isolated events. In 2021, untimely snowfall in the month of October caused extensive damage to both the unharvested apple crop and trees in many parts of South Kashmir. Similar instances of inclement weather during late autumn were recorded in 2018 and 2019. Such weather vagaries leading to destruction of crops has become an annual occurrence, **More on P10**

Coordinated Security Grid In Place for Amarnath Yatra This Year: IG BSF

Agencies

Srinagar: Inspector General of BSF Kashmir frontier Ashok Yadav Saturday said that a "coordinated security response grid" will be in place to ensure incident-free Amarnath Yatra while melting of snow may open traditional infiltration routes along the LoC. He, however, said that BSF along with other security agencies will ensure all possible infiltration bids are foiled.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of a walkathon event organized by the BSF from Nishat to Tulip garden, the IG BSF, as per Kashmir News Observer said that BSF will ensure a peaceful and smooth Amarnath Yatra this year. "Amarnath Yatra is being conducted under the supervision of UT administration and the Police. BSF has made preparations for its role as per the requirement. Our men will be deployed at strategic and vulnerable locations to ensure incident free pilgrimage," he said, adding that "our quick response teams will also be deployed along the route in case of any natural disaster." The annual pilgrimage of Amarnath is likely to commence from July 1.

About the situation along the LoC, he said that past data shows that once the snow starts to melt, **More on P10**

Adequate Arrangements Being Made For Amarnath Yatra: Advisor

Agencies

Srinagar: The government on Saturday said that adequate arrangements are being put in place to ensure smooth conduct of the annual Amarnath yatra—2023 in Jammu and Kashmir.

Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, J&K, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar said that the government has already geared up to make adequate arrangements for the yatra this year.

"We are making adequate arrangements to ensure smooth conduct of the Amarnath Yatra," he said.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant General Rajeev Chaudhry, Director General **More on P10**

Days Gone When Polls Were Rigged In J&K: LG

Says Nobody Will Be Allowed To Hijack Democracy Unlike Past

Observer News Service

Budgam: Stating that the security forces have been given clear-cut directions "not to touch any innocent", Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Saturday said elections in J&K will be held in a transparent manner first time and nobody will be allowed to "hijack democracy" as seen in the past.

Addressing a public gathering at Beerwah here, the LG said that gone are the days when elections were rigged and democracy hijacked in J&K.

"Everything is taking place in a transparent manner. Whenever elections are held in J&K, the process will be held in a transparent manner as well for the first time. Nobody will be allowed to hijack democracy as seen in the past," he said.

The LG said that "clear-cut directions" have been passed to the security agencies and "I can tell you with full authority, no innocent will be touched by the



security agencies in J&K."

Taking a jibe at the previous governments, Sinha said that people were given hollow promises and tall claims in the past.

"Things changed immensely after 2019. Our motive has been to serve people and to come up to the expectations of the masses. Every challenge has been turned into opportunities," he said, adding that before 2019, development was confined

to few families. Lot of promises were made but they were never fulfilled,"

He said the pace of development was so slow in J&K as many projects were languishing in the past five, ten, fifteen and even twenty years. "We have inaugurated 1500 such projects worth Rs 2500 Crore," the LG said.

Sinha said that before 2019, jobs were given to only influential people and the poor were

left alone. "Impression was given to the people that there was nothing beyond government jobs. Backdoor appointments were the first priority of previous regimes," he said.

"In the past three years, 30,000 people were given jobs. Not a single person got the job through a backdoor channel. "Seven lakh people were given training to become entrepreneurs in the past three years," he added.

The LG said that the G-20 event in Srinagar has sent a message across the world that J&K is not thinking about the past anymore and moving ahead on the path of peace and prosperity. He urged people to isolate the elements who are trying to disrupt peace.

The LG also said that in the last 34 months, the effort of his administration has been to build Jammu and Kashmir of people's dream and fulfill the aspirations of all sections of society so they can contribute to the nation's progress.

"From roads **More on P10**

Seeks Support Of Locals For Successful Amarnath Yatra

MAJID NABI

Asserting that the record arrival of devotees from across India will increase livelihood opportunities and boost local economy, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Saturday urged people to chip in the

administration for the successful Annual Amarnath Yatra, scheduled to begin next month.

Sinha said elaborate arrangements have been put in place to make the upcoming annual pilgrimage successful and that Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) and the UT administration have **More on P10**

Bandipora 'Potential Hub' Of Narcotic Trade: Court Rejects Bail Plea Of Woman Drug Supplier In North Kashmir District

M Ahmad

Srinagar: A court in Bandipora has rejected the bail application of a woman who was arrested by police with a claim that 140 kilogram of charas was recovered from her Kitchen earlier this year in the north Kashmir District.

"No doubt the accused being a lady can claim ball in a non-bailable offence but where there exist sufficient evidence on record of the CD file then the concession can be declined to the accused lady because the interest and life of the innocent youth are always at higher pedestal than the personal liberty of the lady

accused," Principal Sessions Judge Bandipora, Amit Sharma, said.

The court said that unless and until these accused should not be dealt with stern hands only then the message will be travelled to the other women folk from indulging in such type of activities. "Therefore the evidence on record of the CD file reflects the sufficient ground for believing that the accused person is involved in the commission of this offence, as the recovery was effected from the kitchen definitely being the lady she has every knowledge about the things lying inside the kitchen," the court said **More on P10**

Law Enforcement Agencies Have No Access To Public Data

Smart Cameras, Wi-Fi Hotspots Deterrent For Criminals: Jain

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Allaying concerns about data privacy violation as a result of the installation of smart cameras and Wi-Fi hotspots in Srinagar, Additional Director General, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Rajiv Jain Saturday assured that the data privacy of people will not be compromised at all.

Jain, who is also the spokesman of MoHUA said the public service is supreme and that no law enforcement or any other government agency will have access to the public data.

He said the smart cameras

installed on road junctions in Srinagar will act as a deterrent for the criminals, which he said will be the major outcome of the mission smart city.

"Law enforcement agencies will have no access to the public data and the data they may utilize, will be for the benefit of citizens. Data collected by the executing agencies will also be for the benefit of the public as public service is paramount and data privacy has been guaranteed here," Jain said during a Power-Point presentation on smart city initiatives at the Integrated Command and Control Center for SSCL here.

The Additional Director General said smart traffic, smart roads and integrated command and control centers are linked with public welfare in smart cities and the prevalence of smart cameras will help reduce crime rate in the city.

Congratulating SSCL for timely completion of majority of its projects, he said that notable projects like redevelopment works will be completed in next two to three months while rest of the projects will be completed by June next year.

"Notable projects including redevelopment of Polo-View market, Lal Chowk and pedestrian projects **More on P10**

Daily Traffic Jams On Sgr-Jammu Highway Challenge For Commuters

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The daily traffic congestion on the Ramban-Banihal sector of the 270-kilometre-long Jammu-Srinagar national highway has become a major concern for thousands of commuters.

This highway otherwise known as NH 44 is the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country.

According to commuters, while a majority of the construction work that started in 2016 on the highway has been completed, some tunnels, bypasses, and flyovers are yet to be finished.

"The main causes of the traffic congestion include landslides, mudslides, stone shooting, movement of nomads, and narrow roads at various locations

along the route", an entrepreneur named Arvind Koul said.

Koul, who often visits Kashmir, says that traffic jams and potholes on highways pose a danger to commuters' lives.

In comparison to 2021 and 2022, the highway in the Ramban section is in a bad state this year. It feels like torture to travel via it these days, he said.

Authorities have recognised the need for immediate measures to control the traffic congestion in the Ramban-Banihal sector, particularly with the annual Shri Amarnath Yatra pilgrimage, starting July 1.

"It is the right time for authorities to take measures to repair patches of highways immediately ahead of Amarnath yatra and **More on P10**

S H O R T T A K E S

Criminal Rearrested After Fleeing From Cops

A notorious criminal who escaped from police custody in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir was re-arrested on Saturday, officials said. Sikander Ahmed was arrested by the Punjab Police in a case of narcotics smuggling. He was in the custody of Jammu and Kashmir Police in Nowshera in connection with a probe into some other cases when he fled Friday morning. Following his escape, the officials added, a massive manhunt was launched. He was **More on P10**

Renowned Artist Gandhi Calls On LG

K K Gandhi, renowned Artist and Painter called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, at Raj Bhawan here on Saturday. Gandhi apprised the LG about his sojourn in Austria, where he received tremendous appreciation for his artwork and solo exhibitions. In recognition of his work, Gandhi received a sculpture of a Bronze Dove that represents peace from The Silent Night Museum in Austria. The LG lauded the commendable work done by Gandhi **More on P10**

LG Greets People On Kabir Jayanti

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday extended his heartfelt greetings to the people on the eve of Sant Kabir Das Ji's Jayanti. In a message, the Lt Governor said: "On the auspicious occasion of Sant Kabir Das Ji Jayanti, I extend my hearty greetings and good wishes to the people. Sant Kabir Das Ji's divine vision of equality, brotherhood and social reforms has been guiding humanity on the virtuous path. His life and teachings **More on P10**

6 Rohingyas Detained In Jammu

At least six Rohingyas, who were staying illegally in Jammu city have been detained by the Jammu and Kashmir Police, officials said on Saturday. They said that Jammu police learnt information through reliable sources that six persons, identified as Mohammad Junaid (17) Son of Shab Mia and Noor Begum, Jasmine Akhtar (15) daughter of Shab Mia and Noor begum, Azida daughter of Shab Mia and Noor Begum, Mohd Illiyas (21) son of **More on P10**

Quadcopter Crashes In Udhampur



An unidentified quadcopter crashed in a village in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district on Saturday, official sources said. The incident was reported from Neeli Nallaha village in the district around 7 pm, they said. Police and officials of security agencies have rushed to the spot to investigate the matter, the sources said.

Driver Found Dead Inside His Truck

A truck driver was found dead under mysterious circumstances in Dalwach area of Qazigund in south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Saturday. An official said that the man identified as Tarsem Lal son of Mashu Ram of Kathua was found hanging inside his truck. "His body has been shifted to emergency hospital Qazigund for medical and legal formalities," he said. He said that the death seems suspicious and inquest proceedings have been initiated **More on P10**



Srinagar To Develop 80-Km Walking Space Under Smart Cities Mission

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Srinagar will develop 80 kilometres of walking space in an "unprecedented" development for any Indian city, besides introducing water transport and electric buses under the Smart Cities Mission, a top official said.

Cycling tracks, a robust sewerage system and an underground electricity network across the city are also being set up, Srinagar Smart City CEO Athar Aamir Khan said.

According to the plan, electricity poles through which power is supplied to domestic consumers will be replaced with smart distribution plugs in Srinagar.

Of the 125 projects under the Smart Cities Mission – one of the Narendra Modi government's flagship programmes – 55, including redevelopment of the city's famous Polo View Market, have been completed and the rest are planned to

be executed by the year end.

Projects under the mission aim to transform Srinagar into a modern, sustainable and economically vibrant city with a dedicated focus on improving infrastructure and services and increasing mobility.

Khan said all the projects under the mission, being implemented by the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry, will strengthen urban infrastructure, improve city services, public aesthetics and ease of living and provide a clean and sustainable environment.

"We have plans to develop 80 kilometres of walking infrastructure in Srinagar, which is unprecedented for any city in the country. The city should be walkable and pedestrian-friendly and non-motorised infrastructure is of the highest priority," he said.

The Srinagar authorities are also installing 1,500 smart CCTV cameras for multiple purposes. Of

these, 500 cameras have already been installed, Khan said.

Talking about the redevelopment of the famous Polo View Market, executed at a cost of around Rs 10 crore, he said there was chaos as nothing was in order earlier.

"We recently completed the redevelopment project of the Polo View Market under which it has now become a non-motorised and pedestrian-friendly zone," the officer said.

Mohammad Yaseen, vice-president of the Polo View Market Association, said there has been a 20 per cent rise in footfall since the redevelopment.

"We are hoping that our business will also grow with the redevelopment of the market. The traders appreciate the Srinagar authorities' efforts to redevelop the market," Yaseen told PTI.

Khan said they are also procuring 100 electric buses and added it will be the first time that electric

buses will be part of the public transport system.

"We are looking at how to have better public transport for the city. To begin with, we are procuring 100 electric buses, 25 of which will start operating by the end of July," Khan added.

The Srinagar Smart City Limited aims for a comprehensive overhaul of the city's urban infrastructure, making it resilient, safe, sustainable and significantly improving the quality of life of citizens.

Khan said the Srinagar authorities are also working on an integrated public transport system, describing it as the most efficient and equitable solution for urban mobility and climate change.

Public transport saves money, facilitates movement and, hence, increases opportunities and increases land value, he added.


According to officials, 17 ghats are being improved for dedicated boarding and alighting for water

transport apart from redevelopment of 25 others as public spaces along the Jhelum river.

All these water transport ghats are designed on the principle of universal accessibility and have amenities such as public toilets and kiosks. The development of parks and community spaces along the ghats has been taken up as public spaces in the densely populated Shehr-e-Khas neighbourhood.


Last month, the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry extended the deadline for the Smart Cities Mission till June 2024 following requests from some cities that sought more time to complete their ongoing projects.

The earlier deadline was June 2023. The Modi government launched the Smart Cities Mission in June 2015 with 100 cities being selected for redevelopment through a two-stage competition from January 2016 to June 2018.




- 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
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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)



PRAYERS

FAJR	3:37
ZUHR	12:29
ASR	5:28
Magrib	7:41
ISHA	9:21

This Day In History

- 781 BC - Oldest Chinese recording of a solar eclipse
- 1039- Henry III becomes Holy Roman Emperor
- 1070- Roquefort cheese created in a cave near Roquefort, France
- 1647- English Parliamentary army under Cornet George Joyce takes King Charles I as a prisoner during Second Civil War
- 1666- Battle at Dunkirk: English vs Dutch fleet
- 1769 - A transit of Venus is followed five hours later by a total solar eclipse, the shortest such interval in history
- 1783- Joseph and Jacques Montgolfier make 1st public hot-air balloon flight (unmanned), covering 2km and lasting 10 minutes with an estimated altitude of 1,600-2,000m
- 1792- Captain George Vancouver claims Puget Sound for Britain
- 1805- Tripoli forced to conclude peace with US after war over tribute
- 1824- First free press (without government approval) founded in Australia - the Hobart Town Gazette by ex-convict Andrew Bent [1]
- 1850- Self-deodorizing fertilizer patented in England
- 1859- Second Italian War of Independence: Battle of Magenta, results in a French-Sardinian victory under Napoleon III over the Austrians under Marshal Ferencz Gyulai
- 1878- Cyprus ceded by Turkey to Britain for administrative purposes
- 11887 - Pasteur Institute founded by French biologist Louis Pasteur in Paris
- 1899- MLB Boston Beaneaters pitcher John Clarkson 1st to throw an "immaculate inning" (strikes out three batters on nine pitches) against Philadelphia Quakers
- 1912 - Cone of Mount Katmai (Alaska) collapses
- 1916- General Aleksei Brusilov begins a massive Russian offensive on the Eastern Front (WWI)
- 1918- French troops, with the aid of US troops, stop the Germans at Chateau-Thierry as they attempt to cross the Marne
- 1920- Peace of Trianon between Allies & Hungary
- 1928- President of the Republic of China Zhang Zuolin is assassinated by Japanese agents.
- 1940- British complete the "miracle of Dunkirk" by evacuating 300,000 allied troops from France

From KO Archives

Legislators Ward Off Heat, Head To Kashmir

Srinagar: As temperatures rise across the country, legislators from several states, including Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand, are making a beeline for the cool climate of the Kashmir.

An eight-member team from Jharkhand legislative Assembly is arriving in Srinagar on a Sunday for five-day study tour, official sources said.

The team includes chairman, members and officials of the question and call attention committee of the Jharkhand Legislative Assembly they said.

Another team of 30 members is arriving in Srinagar on Tuesday from Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly on a study tour for eight days, the sources said.

They said the team comprises members, their spouses and officials on the committee on welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes of MP Legislative Assembly.

The Question Reference Committee of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly will join the other team in Leh district of the State from June 6 for a seven-day visit, the sources said.

The 25-member team comprises of the chairman of the committee, members, spouses and officials, they said.

(Kashmir Observer, 04 June, 2007)

DC Finalizes Action Plan For Establishment Of Addiction Treatment Facility

Visits IMHANS, Interacts With Drug Substance Abuse Victims

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad here on Saturday undertook a visit to Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) Govt Psychiatric Diseases Hospital, Kathi Darwaza to finalize the Action plan for establishment of Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF).

The DC also inspected the Drug De-Addiction Centre at SMHS Hospital to oversee the facilities being provided to the victims of Drug Abuse.

At IMHANS, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the recently approved 10-bedded IPD, Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) Centre and finalized the Action plan for establishment of the ATF.

On the occasion, the DC asked the concerned to take up necessary works for facade improvement, renovation, landscaping and repairs of the proposed ATF centre in the Hospital in order to make it functional at the earliest.

The DC also took stock of the measures taken for additional infrastructure development and up gradation works for establishment of Skill Development & Rehabilitation Centre for Youth affected from Drug Abuse for their reintegration in society at the Hospital. He was informed that Skill Development & Rehabilitation Centre

for Youth affected from Drug Abuse is being established on the State of Art pattern and will be equipped with Library, Computer Lab, Interactive Touch Penal, Portable Mic System, other electronic gadgets etc.

The DC said the aim of the proposed "Skill Development & Rehabilitation Centre for Youth affected from Drug Abuse" is to impart requisite trainings relate to different market oriented trades to the affected youth to enable them to get maximum skilling opportunities and enhanced job opportunities/ placement so that they earn their livelihood with dignity and honor.

On the occasion, the DC was also given first hand appraisal about the routine functioning of Hospital and treatment facilities being extended to the patients.

Later, the DC also visited the Drug De-Addiction Centre at SMHS Hospital that acts as an integrated centre where affected youth are being treated, counseled and enabled to mainstream again in their lives.

On the occasion, the DC interacted with several inmates admitted in the Drug De-Addiction Centers and sought their views about the treatment facilities and counseling being given to them. The patients apprised the DC that they are being given satisfactory treatment at the centers.

Locals Offer Propitiation Prayers, Distributes ‘Tehar’ For Weather Improvement

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Amid prevailing inclement weather conditions in Kashmir, locals at many areas in Srinagar offered propitiation prayers and prepared "Tehr" – yellow turmeric rice – to seek divine intervention for improvement in the weather.

"We are going through a climatic disaster. As we are in the month of June, we are yet to witness summer. It is going to impact our agricultural crops

and fruits, and to get rid of this situation, we have arranged the Sasras," a local community head said.

He said the distribution is "for the sake of Allah" and to get relief from the ongoing wet weather conditions.

"We are local shopkeepers of the downtown and we made the contributions for arranging the Sasras and we are of the firm belief that Almighty Allah will ease our sufferings," he said.

The organizers said

the ongoing weather conditions have badly impacted agriculture, the fruit industry, craftsmen and businesses in the Kashmir Valley. They have expressed hope that with these charity acts, Almighty will mitigate their sufferings and they will witness good weather conditions.

The weather in the valley has been erratic over the past few months with regular intervals of rainfalls, gusty winds, and thunder with lightning.



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POSSESSION NOTICE

Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002

Whereas Mr. Parvez Rashid, as the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices dated 24.09.2021 thereby calling upon 1) Mr. Abdul Ahad Ganie S/O Mohammad Ramzan Ganie R/O Dangerpora, Shadimarg, Pulwama, sole proprietor of M/s Muzamil Trading (Borrower/Mortgagor), 2) Mr. Nazir Ahmad Shah S/O Abdul Samad Shah R/O Batmuran, Wanpora, Pulwama (Guarantor) and 3) Mr. Ghulam Qadir Wani S/O Ghulam Ahmad Wani R/O Qasbayer, (Guarantor) to repay an amount of Rs.2,18,13,535/- (Rupees Two Crore Eighteen Lac Thirteen Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Five only) being the balance outstanding as on 31.08.2021 in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrower/mortgagor having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower/mortgagor and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this the 1st day of June 2023.

The said borrower/mortgagor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount aggregating to Rs. 2,70,75,154/= (Rupees Two Crores Eighteen Lacs Thirteen Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Five and Zero Paisa only), being balance outstanding in the borrowers loan accounts as on 31.05.2023 together with future interest thereon from 01.06.2023 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

The attention of the said legal heirs of the borrower is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property

1. Land measuring 10 Kanals 09 Marlas under Khasra No. 366 min, Khata No. 11 (old 08) and Khewat No. 05 situated at Mouza Dangerpora, Shadimargh, Pulwama standing in the name of Abdul Ahad Ganie S/O Mohammad Ramzan Ganie R/O Dangerpora, Shadimarg, Pulwama;

2. Land measuring 02 Kanals 02 Marlas belonging to Mr. Abdul Ahad Ganie S/O Mohammad Ramzan Ganie R/O Dangerpora, Shadimarg, Pulwama situated at Mouza Dangerpora, Shadimargh, Pulwama with following Khasha-wise description;

04 Marlas under Khasra No. 390, Khata No. 04 and Khewat No. 03

15 Marlas under Khasra No. 406, Khata No. 04 and Khewat No. 03


01 Kanal 03 Marlas under Khasra No. 389, Khata No. 11 and Khewat No. 05

Place: Pulwama (Mohd Ashraf Mir) Authorized Officer

Dated: 01.06.2023

Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India
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DIPK-NB-1068/23 DATED: 03-06-2023



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E-AUCTION/SALE NOTICE

(For sale of mortgaged immovable property under sub rule 06 of Rule 08 read with sub rule 01 of Rule 09 of the security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 of SARFAESI Act 2002)

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and to the borrower, mortgagor and guarantors in particular that the below mentioned immovable property mortgaged to The Jammu the Kashmir Bank Ltd Branch Residency Road Srinagar. The possession whereof has been taken by the Authorized Officer of The Jammu the Kashmir Bank Ltd under section 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act 2002 will be sold through e-auction on 22.06.2023 "As is where is", "As is What Is", "Whatever there is", and "No complaint" basis for recovery of dues to The Jammu the Kashmir Bank Ltd Branch IARB-CHQ. The description of property, reserve price and earnest money deposit (EMD) is mentioned herein below:

Names of the Borrowers cum Mortgagor.	Dr. Abdul Majid Mir S/O Late Ghulam Nabi R/O 83-Astanpora Qayoom Colony Rawalpura Srinagar. 2. Mr. Adil Mir S/O Dr.Abdul Majid Mir R/O 83-Astanpora Qayoom Colony Rawalpura Srinagar 3.Mehbooba Jan W/O Dr Abdul Majid Mir R/O 83-Astanpora Qayoom Colony Rawalpura Srinagar. 4. Mrs Benish W/O Adil Majid Mir R/O 83-Astanpora Qayoom Colony Rawalpura	Reserve price
Description of the mortgaged property (put on sale)	1. Land measuring 2 Kanals falling under survey no 723/123 of Khata no 180 Min and Khewat no 34(Old 30) situated at Estate Pahalgam Tehsil Pahalgam and district Anantnag standing in the name of Dr. Abdul Majid Mir S/O Late Ghulam Nabi Mir R/o 83- Astanpora Qayoom Colony Rawalpura Srinagar priced at Rs 87.48lacs. 2. A piece of land measuring 4 Kanals at Khonmoh under Khasra No 1807/1808/1833 Khata No 132 Khewat No 34 situated at Khonmoh in Estate Khonmoh Tehsil Pantha Chowk and district Srinagar standing in the name of Mrs Bensih W/O Adil Majid Mir R/O 83-Astanpora Qayoom Colony Rawalpura priced at Rs 42.00 lacs. 3. Land measuring 4 Kanals falling under Khasra No 1807, 1808, 1833, 3251/1803, 3250/1803, 1804, 3249/1803, 1806 Khata no 132, 134, 135, 136, 137 and khewat no 34 situated at Khonmoh tehsil Pantha Chowk and district Srinagar standing in the name of Mrs Mehbooba Jan W/O Dr Abdul Majid Mir R/O 83-Astanpora Qayoom Colony Rawalpura Srinagar priced at Rs 42.00 lacs. 4. A plot of land measuring 2 kanals falling under khasra no 655/470/193 min,khewat no 148 and khata no 260 along with hut constructed thereupon situated at Raiyar Ach Dooqh pathri standing in the name of Adil Mir(Adil majid) s/o Dr Abdil Majid Mir R/O 83-Astanpora Qayuom colony Rawalpura Srinagar priced at Rs 76.48 lacs.	Rs 87.48 lacs Rs 42.00 lacs Rs 42.00 lacs Rs 76.48 lacs
EMD	10% of the reserve price by way of Demand Draft/Payment Order favoring The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd. IARB Kashmir drawn on any nationalized/scheduled Bank payable at Srinagar.	

The bid document/format containing full details of the mortgaged property and all the terms & conditions can be had from and submitted on the website "<https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net> (Contact Numbers: 9265562818/9265562821/6352634834). The bids complete in all respects can be only submitted online by or before 21.06.2023 upto 4.00 PM. The e-auction will be held on 22.06.2023 from 2.00 PM-4.00 PM. The contact details of the Bank officials are: Mr. Abdul Rashid Mobile No. +918826117693 or 0194-2481630-35 Extension (1070-1072)

This publication is also a 15 days' Notice in terms of sub rule 06 of Rule 08 read within sub rule 01 of Rule 09 of The security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 to the borrower, mortgagor and the guarantors to pay the total outstanding of loan along with interest and other expenses before the date of e-auction, failing which the property will be auctioned and balance if any, remaining outstanding along with interest and expense will be recovered from them.

Place: Srinagar
Date: 02.06.2023

-Sd/-
Authorized Officer

Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India
CIN: L65110JK19385GC000048 ; T : +91 (0)194 2481 930-35 ; F : +91 (0)194 248 1928 ; E: info@jkbmail.com ; W : www.jkbank.com

DIPK-NB-1076/23 DATED: 03-06-2023



BRICS Open To Expansion, Gives Call For a 'Multipolar' World

NEW DELHI: Foreign ministers from the five-country BRICS group called for a "rebalancing" of the world order in Thursday talks held in South Africa.

"Our gathering must send out a strong message that the world is multipolar, that it is rebalancing and that old ways cannot address new situations," said foreign minister S. Jaishankar in his opening remarks. "We are a symbol of change and must act accordingly," he added. The minister also said that the concentration of economic power "leaves too many nations at the mercy of too few."

What BRICS foreign ministers discussed

Talks among the BRICS group comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa centered on the potential use of alternative currencies to the US dollar for international trade and strengthening the group's New Development Bank.

Members of the bloc also discussed reforming global decision-making, with South African foreign minister Naledi Pandor criticising the lack of permanent African representation on the United Nations Security Council.

Could BRICS expand to include new members?

Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov said that "more than a dozen" countries had expressed their interest in joining the BRICS group. Possible expansion could include the oil producing nations of Saudi Arabia, Iran and the UAE.

Lavrov said that the issue of the enlargement was discussed with Saudi foreign minister Faisal bin Farhan, who was also in Cape Town. Chinese vice foreign minister Ma Zhouxu said that Beijing expects the group to take on new members. "We expect more countries to join our big family," Ma said.

Will Putin participate in the BRICS summit in August?

The talks come ahead of an August summit to be held in Johannesburg and to which Russian President Vladimir Putin is invited.

South Africa is a member of the International Criminal Court (ICC), which has issued an arrest warrant against Putin. South Africa would thus be required to arrest the Russian president under the terms of the treaty that established the ICC.

Odisha Tragedy Shifts Focus From ₹2.4 Trillion Rail Revamp To Safety



Agencies

NEW DELHI: India's vast rail network is undergoing a \$30 billion transformation with gleaming new trains and modern stations but Friday's deadly train accident shows more attention should be paid to safety, industry analysts said.

At least 261 people were killed in the country's worst rail accident in over two decades after a passenger train went off the tracks and hit another in Odisha.

Indian Railways runs the fourth largest train network in the world. It transports 13 million people every day and moved nearly 1.5 billion tonnes of freight in 2022.

Long-considered the lifeline of the world's most populous country, the 170-year-old system has seen rapid expansion and modernisation under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's push to boost infrastructure and connectivity in the fast-growing economy.

This year, the government made a record 2.4-trillion-rupee (\$30 billion) capital outlay for the railways, a 50 per

cent increase over the previous fiscal year, to upgrade tracks, ease congestion and add new trains.

A new, semi-high-speed train built in India and called the "Vande Bharat Express", or "Salute to India Express", is showcased as evidence of this modernisation, with PM Modi himself flagging off the first journeys of many of the trains around the country.

But Friday's crash has come as a jolt to this makeover, experts said.

"The safety record has been improving over the years but there is more work to do," said Prakash Kumar Sen, head of the department of mechanical engineering at Kirodimal Institute of Technology in central India and lead author of a 2020 study on "Causes of Rail Deraiment in India and Corrective Measures".

"Human error or poor track maintenance are generally to blame in such crashes," Sen said.

The railways have been introducing more and more trains to cope with soaring demand but the workforce to maintain them has not kept

pace, he said.

Workers are not trained adequately or their workload is too high, and they don't get enough rest, Sen said.

The east coast route on which Friday's crash occurred, is one of the country's oldest and busiest, as it also carries much of India's coal and oil freight, he said.

"These tracks are very old ... the load on them is very high, if maintenance is not good, failures will happen," Sen said.

'Good safety record'

Indian Railways maintains that safety has always been a key focus, and points to its low accident rate over the years.

"This question (on safety) is arising because there has been one incident now. But if you see the data, you will see that there have been no major accidents for years," a railways ministry spokesperson said.

The number of accidents per million train kilometres, a gauge of safety, had fallen to 0.03 in fiscal 2021-22 from 0.10 in 2013-14, the spokesperson said.

ODISHA TRAGEDY: Train Coaches Flew Up In Air, Smashed Off Tracks

Agencies

Carriages perched on top of each other and lines of bodies collected by rescue workers: as dawn broke on Saturday, it revealed the horror of one of India's deadliest railway crashes.

Involving two passenger trains and another carrying goods, the accident saw one train ram so hard into another that carriages were lifted high into the air, twisting and then smashing off the tracks.

Another carriage had been tossed entirely onto its roof, crushing the passenger section.

On the ground -- and squashed into the ripped metal wreckage and what were once benches in the carriage -- travellers' belongings lay scattered: a

suitcase, a child's shoe and piles of clothes.

At least 230 people were killed and more than 900 injured in the crash on Friday night near Balasore, in Odisha, officials said, with many fearing the death count could rise.

Overnight, images broadcast on local television stations showed long lines of bodies laid out with white sheets covering some, as rescue workers carried them away on stretchers.

Teams using metal cutting tools prised open gaps in the torn sides of carriages in a desperate search to reach those trapped inside, pulling out survivors and bodies.

Rescue teams dressed in orange overalls and wearing face masks, including officers from the National Disaster Response, carried

those they could extract to get aid.

Throughout the night, the death count jumped repeatedly, as emergency services added up the number of bodies collected: from 50, to over 100, to nearly 300.

Sudhanshu Sarangi, director general of Odisha Fire Services, speaking at the site to AFP, warned of "serious injuries".

The near-constant sound of ambulance sirens wailed in the background, rushing those pulled out of the wreckage alive to hospital.

With so many hurt, buses also carried the injured to medical centres.

From a distance, residents stood watching the efforts.

In nearby hospitals, volunteers lined up to give blood, with medics overwhelmed by the scale of the need.

"There Is Always A Counter": Air Force Chief On Emerging Chinese Threat

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Indian Air Force chief Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhary on Friday said the IAF is "fully aware" of the developments that are taking place across the northern borders and asserted that since the Galwan Valley crisis in 2020, the force is continuously upgrading its capabilities and changing tactics to be able to handle any threat.

At an event here, the IAF chief also said that three winters down the line, "we have created adequate infrastructure" and ensured "adequate deployment of all our assets" to have a "credible deterrence in that area".

The Indian and Chinese troops are locked in an over-three-year confrontation in certain friction points in eastern Ladakh even as the two sides completed disengagement from several areas following extensive diplomatic and military talks.

The ties between the two countries nosedived significantly following the fierce clash in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades.

"We are always on 24x7 readiness to take on any challenge. We are fully aware of the developments that are taking place across our northern borders. We keep a regular surveillance over what is happening there and our acquisition and deployment philosophy is always based to counter such kind of threats that are likely to emerge from there," Air Chief Marshal Chaudhary said in response to a question on threat from China since the Galwan clash.

He said that after the Galwan crisis, the primary aim was to "enhance our surveillance in that area, to actually see what is happening across the border".

"So, we had to deploy a large



number of radar of all sizes in that area. We had to bolster it by deploying surface-to-air guided weapons. We had to redeploy our fighter aircraft," he said.

The IAF chief was speaking during an interaction held at the Times Network's India Economic Conclave.

Air Chief Marshal Chaudhary added that "we had taken all measures to ensure that our presence was felt, and it was in deterrence to the adversary".

He shared that the primary issue that had hit the Indian side at that time was maintaining a steady logistics chain in such kind of a harsh environment.

"In 2020, we were sceptical how we will overcome the harsh winter. But three years down the line, I think, we have created adequate infrastructure, we have ensured logistics supplies are available and adequate deployment of all our assets are there to have a credible deterrence in that area," he said, when asked about India's response since the 2020 crisis.

On handling any emerging Chinese threat, he said, "We are continuously upgrading our capabilities, and changing our tactics, techniques and procedures, to be able to handle the threat." Asked if there are any gaps in countering such threats, he said, gaps cannot be quantified, but those are being overcome with better tactics and technologies.

Was Under Pressure To Delay Ram Janmbhoomi Verdict: Ex High Court Judge

Press Trust of India

MEERUT (UP): A former judge who was part of an Allahabad High Court bench which delivered a key judgment in the Ram Janmbhoomi-Babri Masjid title suit in 2010, has said he was under "pressure" not to give the ruling and added that had they not done so, there would not have been any verdict in the matter for the next 200 years.

Justice Sudhir Agarwal retired from the high court on April 23, 2020.

Talking to reporters after an event in Meerut in Uttar Pradesh, he said, "After delivering the judgment... I felt blessed.... There was pressure on me to postpone the judgment in the case. There was pressure from within home and also from outside." "Family members and relatives used to suggest to somehow pass time and not deliver the judgment,"

he added.

"Had the judgment not been delivered on September 30, 2010 in the Ram Janmbhoomi-Babri Masjid case, there would not have been any judgment in this matter for the next 200 years," he said.

On September 30, 2010, the Allahabad High Court delivered its judgment with a majority decision of 2:1 and held that the 2.77 acres of land located in Ayodhya would be divided equally among three parties -- Sunni Waqf Board, Nirmohi Akhara and Ram Lalla' or infant Ram represented by the Hindu Mahasabha.

The bench comprised Justices S U Khan, Sudhir Agarwal and D V Sharma.

In a landmark judgment in November 2019, the Supreme Court said a temple would be built on the disputed land in Ayodhya and ordered the government to give Muslim parties an alternative five-acre plot.

NEWS MAKERS

Turkey's Erdogan Takes Oath As President After Historic Win

Press Trust of India

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has been sworn in as head of state after winning an historic run-off election to extend his two-decade rule for another five years.

The 69-year-old leader will later on Saturday name his cabinet, which will be tasked with handling an economic crisis that has witnessed runaway inflation and the collapse of the lira.

"I, as president, swear upon my honour and integrity before the great Turkish nation and history to safeguard the existence and independence of the state," Erdogan said in a ceremony at the parliament in Ankara, broadcast live on television.

"We will embrace all 85 million people [in the country] regardless of their po-



litical views, origins, or sect."

Saturday's inauguration was followed by a lavish ceremony at the presidential palace in the capital attended by dozens of world leaders. Turkey's longest-serving leader faces considerable diplomatic challenges amid tensions with the West.

Turkey's transformative but divisive leader won the May 28 run-off against a powerful opposition coalition, and despite an economic crisis and criticism following a devastating February earthquake that killed

more than 50,000 people.

Erdogan won 52.2 percent of the vote while his rival Kemal Kilicdaroglu 47.8 percent, official results show.

Emre Erdogan from Bilgi University noted the president's speech "addressed unity and solidarity several times, and he underlined the importance of forgetting resentment and anger which voters felt during his election campaign".

"He talked about a liberal and inclusive constitution and that's important because he never talked in this way

[before]... He also talked about the role of Turkey in the region as a peacemaker. He tried to show the key role of Turkey in world politics."

ECONOMIC CRISIS

Al Jazeera's Osama Bin Javadi, reporting from Ankara, said the inauguration ceremony was attended by at least 78 members of the international community.

Some of the guests include Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, according to the state-run Anadolu news agency.

Addressing the country's economic troubles will be Erdogan's priority with inflation running at 43.7 percent, partly because of his unorthodox policy of cutting interest rates to stimulate growth.

Book On Sidhu Moosewala's Death, Its Investigation To Release On Monday

Press Trust of India

A new book gives a detailed account of the death and the subsequent investigation into the murder of Punjabi singer-rapper Shubhdeep Singh Sidhu -- popularly known as Sidhu Moosewala.

Who Killed Moosewala?, scheduled to release on Monday, is written by journalist-author Jupinderjit Singh. Published by Westland Books, it looks at the events of May 29, 2022, the day the Punjabi hip-hop star was shot by six armed assailants while driving to his aunt's house in a village in Punjab.

"While reporting on it (Moosewala's death) I felt that news stories were not going to be enough and I decided to write this book... The weight of responsibility to stick to the facts pressed upon my soul, especially because the investiga-

tion is still ongoing. The toll on me is immeasurable, yet through it all, I persisted, driven by a desire to shed light on the murder that reminds us

With his sudden and violent death, the questions about his life became louder -- as also those around his death. "Who had killed Moosewala?" was what everyone wanted to know.

In the gripping and fast-paced book, the author closely follows the investigation into Moosewala's death and also offers us glimpses into the man he was behind the mask of celebrity.

Besides the story of the slain singer and those behind his murder, this book is also a rumination on the growing unrest in Punjab.

"Singh's understanding of the case is strong and comprehensive. In this riveting book, backed by meticulous research, Jupinderjit offers up a fascinating portrait of the singer and the Punjab he inhabited," said Sanghamitra Biswas, executive editor at Westland Books.



all of the fragility of life," said the author in a statement.

An icon for many, Moosewala had also been a controversial figure. There were allegations that he promoted gun culture and violence, and rumours that he had ties with certain gangs.

Odisha Train Crash

Investigate If Anti-Collision Device Was Installed On Route: Dr Farooq

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah on Saturday said a probe should be carried out to ascertain if the anti-collision device was installed on the route that witnessed a horrific train crash in Odisha's Balasore and fix the responsibility for the accident that has claimed at least 261 lives.

"Recently, the honourable railway minister announced that they have now got a major device whereby these accidents will not take place. I think this must be investigated whether that device was there and if it was, why was it not functioning? It is a major disaster that has not occurred for a long time in the country. I think we all want to know what happened," the former Union minister told PTI TV.

The Indian Railways, which has initiated a high-level probe into the train crash to be headed by the commissioner of

railway safety, South Eastern Circle, has clarified that anti-train collision system "Kavach" was not available on the route.

"The rescue operation has been completed. Now, we are starting the restoration work. Kavach was not available on this route," Indian Railways Spokesperson Amitabh Sharma said.

Abdullah, who is a Lok Sabha MP from Srinagar, said it is a very sad day for the country as there was a major accident involving three trains.

"What is shocking about it is that when one train derailed, there was no way they could inform the other trains that were approaching to stop on the way....," he said.

"All of us feel sad for the loss of lives. We pray for their souls. And there are many people injured, some of them seriously. We pray for their recovery. We wish this never happens again in this country," the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister added.



Mega Education Festival-2023 Held At Handwara

Observer News Service

KUPWARA: In order to provide counseling and guidance to the students and parents of Kupwara district regarding their careers and admissions, Indian Army in collaboration with District Administration Kupwara Saturday organized a mega education festival "Edu-Fest 2023" at Government Boys Higher Secondary School Handwara.

Edu-Fest 2023 was organized to provide a platform for the students of North Kashmir to learn about various careers and admissions in different courses offered by leading colleges and universities across the country.

Over 20 colleges from Punjab, Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Bangalore and Dehradun participated in the event and provided career counseling. The colleges also offered scholarships to deserving students. The scholarship will benefit the students who have cleared 12th class exams and are looking forward to higher education in different fields.

The event generated tremendous enthusiasm and was appreciated by the residents of North Kashmir especially Kupwara district.

Students from Handwara, Rajwar, Qaziabad, Rafiabab, Sore and other parts of North Kashmir participated in the event. Hundreds of students participated in the educational Festival and availed career

guidance. Students were excited to see a variety of career options.

The Chairman, District Development Council (DDC), Irfan Sultan Panditpori was the Chief Guest at the occasion while Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Dr. Doifode Sagar Dattatray was the Guest of Honor.

Brigadier, 7 Sector, Brigadier Vikrant Patil, DDC Member Mawar, Khurshid Ahmad Dar, Chairman Handwara Municipality, Masroor Bandy, Commanding officer (CO) 30 RR, Col. Ankur Panday, CEO Kupwara, A.H Fani, Principal Govt. Boys Higher Secondary School Handwara, Mohammad Rafiq Mir, Heads of various Consultancies, and concerned officers and a large number of students and parents participated in the festival.

Addressing the gathering, the Chairman DDC Council Kupwara, Irfan Sultan Panditpori expressed his gratitude to the Indian Army and district administration Kupwara for conducting such a Mega student counseling festival in the district. He stressed for holding more such festivals so that students of this border district get benefitted. Chairman urged upon the student community to take advantage of this programme.

The Deputy Commissioner Kupwara in his address advised students to focus on choice, interest and personality while selecting courses and careers as it is the deciding phase of life for students.

Mainly Clear Weather Forecast In J&K Till June 12

MeT Says Farmers Can Carry Out Farm Operations, People Can Plan Outdoor Activities

Agencies

SRINAGAR: After days of intermittent rain, the weather is finally going to be "mainly clear" even though the possibility of late afternoon and evening showers have not been ruled out completely, according to the latest forecast by the meteorological department here on Saturday.

The weather department said that farmers can carry out farm operations till June 12.

"Mainly clear is expected during the next 24 hours. A brief spell of rain/thunder/lightning 'may' occur at some places towards late afternoon/evening, although chances are less," a meteorological department official said, as per news agency GNS.

From June 4-12, he said, the weather is going to be mainly dry but a brief spell of showers and thunderstorm can't be ruled out. He said there will be "gradual" increase in temperature.

"Farmers are advised to carry out all farm operations from today till 12th and start early morning as rain may occur



anytime in the evening," he said, adding, "People can plan outdoor activities this weekend and next week as risk of rain is less."

Regarding temperature, he said, Srinagar recorded a low of 9.8°C, the same as on the previous night and it was below normal by 2.7°C for the summer capital.

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 8.2°C against 10.0°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 2.9°C for the gateway town of Kashmir.

Pahalgam, he said, recorded a low of 5.1°C against 3.2°C on the previous night and it was 1.5°C below normal for the famous tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at 9.5°C against 9.2°C on the previous night and it was 1.5°C below

normal for the north Kashmir area.

Kokernag recorded a low of 8.1°C against 9.9°C on the previous night and it was 3.0°C below normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 3.2°C against 3.0°C on previous night and it was below normal by 4.4°C for the famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

Jammu recorded a low of 18.6°C against 19.6°C on the previous night and it was 6.9°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal recorded a low of 8.4°C (below normal by 4.3°C), Batote 10.7°C (4.3°C below normal), Katra 17.2°C (4.6°C below normal) and Bhaderwah 8.9°C (below normal by 2.7°C). Ladakh's Leh recorded a low of 2.7°C, he said.

Kishtwar To Be North India's Major 'Power Hub': Singh

Observer News Service

KISHTWAR: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space Dr. Jitendra Singh on Saturday said that Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar will become North India's major "power hub" generating around 6,000 MW of power after the completion of the ongoing power projects.

Dr Jitendra Singh who was scheduled to address two public rallies at Nagseni and Dachhan respectively, cancelled both the rallies as a mark of respect to the victims of tragic train accident in Odisha and instead convened a detailed meeting to review the progress of various Hydroelectric power projects in the Kisthwar and Doda districts. NHPC Chairman Rajiv Vishnoi, Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Devansh Yadav and officials of Central and UT governments updated the Minister about the progress of the projects.

Later, Dr Jitendra Singh also visited remote, far flung, hilly region of Dachhan

Former J&K Minister Sunil Sharma, DDC Members, local PRI representatives and prominent political leaders, BJP Presi-

dent Chuni Lal, senior leaders Tariq Keen, Pradeep Parihar, Cap Hukum Chand as well as a number of political persons of the region accompanied the visit during the visit.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the surplus power from Kishtwar will not only be utilised for other parts of the UT, but could also be availed by other States. He lamented that the rich natural resources of Chenab were not exploited by the previous governments which ruled J&K for 60-65 years.

This, the Minister said, makes Kishtwar region as a major power hub of North India. He also assured 100 percent reservation for locals in unskilled jobs for these projects and promised to give preference to local talent in skilled manpower requirements.

Pertinent to mention that the largest capacity project is Pakal Dul with a capacity of 1000 MW. Its estimated cost, as of now, is Rs.8,112.12 crore and expected timeline of competition is 2025.

Another major project is Kiru Hydroelectric project with a capacity of 624 MW. The estimated cost of the project is Rs.

4,285.59 crore and the timeline in this case is also 2025.

Another Project located about 43 km from Kishtwar is Kwar Hydroelectric project with a capacity of 624 MW. The estimated cost of this project is Rs.4526.12 crore and the timeline of competition is 54 months. About 25 kilometres upstream of Kiru Hydroelectric project is another Hydroelectric project Kirthai II Hydroelectric project with a capacity of 930 MW.

At the same time, 850 MW Ratle project has been revived as a joint venture between the centre and UT of J&K. In addition, the existing Dulhasti power station has an installed capacity of 390 MW, while Dulhasti II Hydroelectric project will have a capacity of 260 MW.

65 years, due to myopic policies of the successive Central Governments, but soon after the Modi government took over in 2014, Prime Minister had stated that every effort would be made to bring the North Eastern region, J&K and other backward regions at par with the more developed regions of the country.

Joint Director Information Kashmir Reviews Department's Functioning

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Joint Director Information Kashmir, Mohammad Aslam today convened a meeting in his office chamber to review the functioning of

The meeting also discussed the annual Cultural Plan 2023-24 of Kashmir province.

The Joint Director instructed the concerned to organize theme based cultural programmes on beneficiary



the department.

At the outset, the meeting discussed arrangements to be put in place by the department for the ensuing Shri Amarnathji Yatra (SANJY) - 2023.

The Field Officers of the department apprised the Joint Director of the arrangements put in place by the department along the Pahalgam and Baltal axis to the holy cave.

The Joint Director Information directed the field officers to put all the arrangements in place especially deployment of requisite staff and other logistics including installation of Public Addressing System at designated locations in Anantnag and Ganderbal districts well within the stipulated time.

He asked the concerned to ensure glitch-free arrangements at all the identified places for smooth facilitation of the Yatries.

oriented schemes, flagship programmes and other self-employment schemes of the government and ensure that the message is disseminated to all especially target audiences.

He also directed the Public Relations section of the department to give wide publicity through various media platforms including social media to such programmes and success stories of various entrepreneur beneficiaries of government schemes so that cent percent saturation is achieved under such government programmes.

The Field Officers assured the chair that all the issues discussed will be implemented in a coordinated and effective manner.

The meeting also discussed other agenda points and departmental issues, and the Joint Director said that all the issues will be redressed subsequently.

Amarnath Yatra

DC Bandipora Reviews Arrangements At Shadipora Transit Camp

Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmed Saturday chaired a meeting of concerned officers to review the arrangements put in place by various departments at Transit Camp Sumbal for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2023.

The meeting was informed that the administration has put in place the majority of necessary facilities for SANJY-2023 at transit camp Sumbal for smooth conduct of the yatra. Other facilities required to be made available for smooth conduct are also being put in place within a week's time.

The DC reviewed department and work wise arrangements and directed the concerned to complete all pending works within a period of week's time, well before the commencement of yatra.

He also stressed for immediate installation of hoardings

and signages for the smooth movement of pilgrims. He also reviewed installations of stalls by various departments.

Dr. Owais stressed on maintaining cleanliness and directed the concerned to take up sanitation work properly.

He was briefed on the occasion that all CSCs, lighting, land leveling, water supply, accommodation and other works are being completed soon.

The DC laid stress on provisions of cleanliness, sanitation hygiene, and medical facilities at the transit camp.

The meeting was attended by SSP Bandipora, Lakshay Sharma; Nodal Officer Coordination Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, Joint Director Planning Imtiyaz Ahmad, SDM Sumbal Amir Chaudhary, ASP Bandipora, Tehsildar Sumbal, BDO Sumbal, Ex En. PDD, R&B and other concerned officers and officials.



DIRECTORATE OF FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY J&K JAMMU/ SRINAGAR

Tel./Fax No. 0191-2435249 (Jmu), 0194-2490528 (Sgr) E-mail:dirfsljk@jkpolice.gov.in

Subject: Inviting applications for the post of Forensic Consultants in Narcotics/ Chemical Division in J&K Forensic Science Laboratory.

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

Applications for eligible candidates are invited for engagement as Forensic Consultant in Narcotics/ Chemical & Toxicology Division in J&K Forensic Science Laboratory on contract basis:

S. No	Name of the post	No. of vacancies	Qualification required
1.	Forensic Consultant	01	Masters degree in Chemistry/ Biochemistry/ Pharmacology/ Forensic Science with minimum 50% marks from any university recognized by the UGC.

Eligibility:

- The applicant should be domicile of J&K;
- The applicant should have qualified the Forensic Aptitude Calibre Test (FACT/ FACT Plus), which should be clearly mentioned in the application;
- The age of the applicant should not be less than 18 years and more than 40 years as on 01.01.2023.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- The period of contract will be only for 04 months or till the vacancy is filled up by regular appointment, whichever is earlier;
- Remuneration will be paid @ Rs.35000/- (Rupees Thirty Five Thousand) only per month which will be inclusive of all allowances;
- The performance will be evaluated periodically and in case of unsatisfactory performance/ under performance, the contract shall be terminated without any prior notice;
- The engaged candidate shall have no right to claim extension or regular appointment on the basis of contractual services rendered by him/her;
- The engaged candidate shall have to give one month's advance notice in case he/she wants to leave the services before the completion of the contractual period;
- The engaged candidate shall be bound to perform such duties within the Union Territory of J&K as are assigned to him/her by the department. However, he/she shall be entitled to leave and travel allowances as applicable under rules;
- The engaged candidate shall have to execute a contract agreement with the department before joining.
- The applications on plain paper giving complete bio-data of the applicant alongwith self attested copies of Qualification/ Domicile/FACT/ FACT Plus Qualified Certificates should reach the Directorate of FSL, J&K, Jammu Srinagar within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice through official e-mail (dirfsljk@jkpolice.gov.in)

N:DFSL/Estt/Depu/2021/ 797801
Dated: 03-06-2023
DIPK-2746-23
DT: 03/06/2023

Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar
Director,
Forensic Science Laboratory,
J&K, Jammu.

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

GOVERNMENT DEGREE COLLEGE UTTERSOO

UTTERS00-SHANGUS - 192201 (DISTT- ANANTNAG) - KASHMIR

NAAC Accredited Grade "B"(CGPA 2.33)



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Dated:- 03-06-2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Government Degree College Utersoo Anantnag is here by issuing this notice for the information of the general masses, for the registration of "Govt. Degree College, Utersoo Alumni Association" with Firms and Societies (Directorate of Industries and Commerce, Kashmir), under society registration Act 1860 & J&K societies Act 1941, for the Purpose of Development of College, general well being of students through constant engagement, guidance and career counseling and assessment and accreditation by NAAC. The name/location of the Association/Society and details of the members of the Governing body are as under with their respective Positions. _

Name of the Society	Government Degree College, Utersoo Alumni Association
Official Address/Location	Government Degree College, Utersoo Anantnag.
Objective of the Society	Development of College and general well being of students through constant engagement, guidance and career counseling.

DETAILS OF MEMBERS

S.NO	NAME WITH PARENTAGE	RESIDENCE	Designation in the Society
1.	Zahid Ahmad Sheikh S/O Gh Mohd Sheikh	Checki Khunduroo Achabal Anantnag	President
2.	Irshad Ahmad Wani S/O Mohd Maqbool Wani	Khunduroo Achabal Anantnag	Vice President
3.	Ashiq Hussain Ganie S/O Abdul Gani Ganie	Kanganhall Anantnag	General Secretary
4.	Shagufta Maqbool D/O Mohd Maqbool Lone	Koitheir Shangas Anantnag	Treasurer
5.	Mehnaza Akhter D/O Akhter Hussain Wani	Muslimabad Ogjibalan Shangas Anantnag	Member
6.	Iqra Yousuf D/O Mohd Yousuf Wani	Kradi Shangas Anantnag	Member
7.	Ismat Shaheen D/O Gh Nabi Shah	Shangas Achabal Anantnag	Member

Objections if any regarding the members of the governing body or framing of "Govt. Degree College, Utersoo Alumni Association", should reach the office of undersigned within 21 days from the issuance of public notice

DIPK-2779-23
DT: 03/06/2023

Sd/- Principal

Social Media, At What Cost?

Faheem Gundroo

“
Our fragile social fabric can be shredded to pieces, because this new market place is unregulated. Every single click is monitored by these social media giants. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube can sell all this data to anywhere without any intervention of a regulatory body

THERE is no doubt to the fact that technology has changed our lives beyond any imagination. It created tools which made our life easy in multiple ways. It's funny to think how so many Bollywood movies back in 60s and 70s revolved around this story of separated brothers at a Kumbh mela, and who years later reunite. In present era its unthinkable. We have Google, social media et al. We'll just look them up.

A part of my maternal family is based in Egypt. My maternal great grandfather Khoje Mohammed Syed Khan had trade business in Alexandria Egypt, for which he would often travel there. In the early spring of 1935 he left for Cairo and never returned. For next few years he exchanged letters with his family in Kashmir. That stopped too later. I've looked them up many times on the internet- using keywords like Kashmiri family in Egypt. Haven't had much success till now, but I'm still trying.

We can book a air ticket for any part of the world, and in minutes be travelling there. From the comfort of my house I can book a Uber cab and within minutes I can reach to my destination. Few days back my mind wandered towards my College. Partly anxious about how students must be coping with social distance in hostels. I joined a facebook page and I literally had a virtual tour of my college. Someone had posted a live feed of semester exam, with proper physical distance and SOPs being followed. I heaved a sigh of relief, to look at the development of my college and its responsible attitude to current crisis. I could watch it all thousands of miles away.

But there is a flipside to all this. Social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat have become so big now that they have taken a life of their own, and not necessarily in a correct way. Studies have shown direct link between mental issues and excessive social media use. There has been an incredible increase of mental health cases since social media became what it is. Unfortunately the problem is even more grievous.

We are clearly living in a more polarized world. The decades after World War 2 were liberating at societal and cultural level. The world had suffered inordinately in the second world war. People wanted a change. Imperialism was on its way out from sub-continent and Africa. Newly independent nation states opted for democracy and liberalism. India's socialist Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru set India out on its path of progress and liberty, Pakistan ruled by army was focusing on its own path – a very liberal society where you had the freedom to choose. Immigrants from Asian countries were welcome in more developed west. There are multiple stories of immigrants bringing laurels to their adopted home. When France won the 1998 FIFA World Cup, 6 of its players were immigrants. Champs-Elysees celebrated the success together. This was probably the great immigrant dream coming true. A world that was shrinking into a Global Village.



So how did we land up here? A world where democracies are under threat, right-wing politics is on rise and what should have been an age of information, is clearly turning to a world of disinformation.

When we look around, you see that world is turning crazy. Is it acceptable? Is it normal? No. It cannot be. And that is exactly what I will try to explain.

Social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter are currently used by billions of people on earth. Never in the history of mankind have people come together across ethnicities on one platform. That is the power of social media. With all the good it can do, and it has, these systems are run by giant computers. I'm not questioning the intent of these platforms. When developers in facebook invented the 'like' button, it was meant to spread positivity. The developer had no inkling to the fact that it could lead a preteen into depression, when his/her post didn't get enough likes. The platforms on their own are not evil, but it's what technology does with it, that should be our cause of concern.

And cause of worry is the business model that these platforms use — which in broader terms means — we the users being the product, and we being sold to the advertisers, who in turn pay to facebook, twitter, YouTube and others. The idea of this business model is to get as much as possible our attention. The more time we spend on Facebook, YouTube, Google, more money we are generating for them.

Ok, but then what's so wrong about it? I use facebook to stay in touch with my friends, I use YouTube to watch videos and etc. Right? Naive. It's this naivety of us which has brought us to the point we are at.

So if I'm slightly bent towards right politics, or I'm anti-Muslim, I'll open a link or a video on

Facebooks or Twitter that endorses this idea, AI will run an algorithm in the background, notifying it that this person probably is interested in right politics and is anti-Muslim. Next time I login back, my feed will be filled with videos or links about right politics and anti-Muslim speeches. It is a viscous system . So even if I think I'm clicking a link or video with my own will, it is not entirely the truth. We are told, we are programmed to watch the stuff that the AI wants us to. That is how this system is meant to work and become monetized.

So someone who was probably 10% a radical the first time he logged onto social, by few months he would be at 100%. Because he is constantly fed this information. He thinks this is how the world operates. Hence we are seeing hate crimes, Islamophobia, crime against minorities, banning immigration gaining traction in the world.

And to envisage its whole repercussions is scary. Political movements are run using this data. Elections can be fought and won by using all this data. Despots could be ruling our institutions which we have created with great difficulties. Our fragile social fabric can be shredded to pieces, because this new market place is unregulated. Every single click is monitored by these social media giants. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube can sell all this data to anywhere without any intervention of a regulatory body. And then to imagine what possibly could be done with all this data. It's insane we have let this happen.

In the end we must be asking this question to ourselves. What sort of world are we leaving behind for our children. If that matters, we as a people must come together and force governments to intervene. We cannot ignore the elephant in the room.

How Much Work Is Enough?

AUTUMN MCDONALD

WASHINGTON, DC – The COVID-19 pandemic might be officially over, but much like a railway switchyard, it has already diverted countless lives onto wildly different paths. Millions of individuals will never revert to their pre-pandemic work routines, compelling both employers and employees to establish new models that cater to their evolving needs. But amid the ongoing experiments with hybrid models, we find ourselves confronting a deeper question: How much work is enough?

At least in developed countries, these post-pandemic shifts and experiments could trigger a labor-market revolution as profound as the changes in workplaces, schedules, and compensation that marked the transition from the agricultural age to the industrial era.

These changes can be viewed on two levels. At the macro level, the legally mandated eight-hour workday and 40-hour workweek are gradually giving way to a new equilibrium. This will likely be a long process, given that it took half a century of labor struggles, union action, and corporate experimentation to reduce daily working hours in the United States from 14 to eight and workweeks from seven days to five.

In 1914, the Ford Motor Company stunned its competitors by shortening the factory workday to eight hours while paying its workers a minimum wage of \$5 per day. Congress codified this innovative practice in 1938 through the Fair Labor Standards Act,

creating what cultural historian Fred Turner calls the “industrial-era social compact.” Similarly, recent experiments with a 32-hour workweek resulted in less fatigue, improved mental health, and enhanced life satisfaction. In fact, most participants say they will not revert to the old model.

At the micro level, millions of individuals have used the past three years to reevaluate the tradeoff between time and money. During the pandemic lockdowns, many workers adjusted to new working habits and relished the ability to pause, spend more time with their loved ones, or exercise and pursue leisure activities without the stress of commutes and office environments. These experiences later contributed to the so-called Great Resignation and the increase in “quiet quitting.”

So, when companies began to demand that workers return to the pre-pandemic status quo, the question, “How much work is enough?” prompted another: “Enough for what?” To earn a living? To meet our employers’ productivity expectations? To support our pursuit of happiness, or perhaps to retire? The answers vary, depending on who asks and who responds. For millions of low-income workers, the answer is simple: “Enough” means earning a living wage that enables them to support themselves and their families.

Among those privileged enough to be able to consider the tradeoffs between time and money, two groups of workers have, through their words and their actions, emerged as key players in the broader discussion about what constitutes an adequate

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At the micro level, millions of individuals have used the past three years to reevaluate the tradeoff between time and money. During the pandemic lockdowns, many workers adjusted to new working habits and relished the ability to pause, spend more time with their loved ones, or exercise and pursue leisure activities without the stress of commutes and office environments

amount of work.

The first group consists of caregivers, a sector still dominated by women but gradually attracting more men. In labor economics, “work” traditionally refers to paid labor involving the production of goods and services in return for monetary compensation. But following the integration of women into the workforce (including the workforce of labor economists), the field has expanded its focus to encompass unpaid work. This includes raising a family, making a home, and meeting the needs of those who cannot care for themselves. This care work, as activist Ai-jen Poo reminds us, is the “work that makes all other work possible.” For many, this form of labor holds as much

meaning as their formal employment, or even more.

Suppose we expand the question “How much work is enough?” to encompass both paid and unpaid work. In that case, it becomes apparent that millions of people with caregiving responsibilities and paid jobs often find themselves working well beyond the conventional eight-hour workday. It should come as little surprise, then, that given the opportunity, many would opt to reduce their paid working hours in order to care for others. Given the social importance of care work, economic statistics and government benefit programs must recognize and account for this critical but unpaid form of labor.

Another significant group of workers asking, “How much work is enough?” comprises young people, particularly younger Millennials and Gen Z workers, many of whom entered the workforce during the pandemic. Just as many young people in the 1960s “turned on, tuned in, and dropped out,” embraced the counterculture, and rejected what they saw as the conformist striving of their parents’ generation, many Gen Z’ers are now questioning and rejecting “hustle culture” as yet another toxic Silicon Valley export.

Gen Z’ers were raised during two tumultuous decades marked by the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the introduction of the smartphone and social media, the 2008 financial crisis, and the pandemic. Today, they face downward social mobility, democratic backsliding amid intensifying political polarization, and a looming climate catastrophe. Given this histori-

cal backdrop, it is natural for them to question their parents’ habits and focus on maintaining their own mental and physical health.

Gen Z icons like Simone Biles and Naomi Osaka, who withdrew from major sporting events to protect their mental health, embody the drive, grit, and grind necessary to excel at the highest levels of their fields. But by rejecting the notion that their self-worth – particularly as trailblazing women of color – hinges on meeting others’ expectations of them, they demonstrated a profound understanding that personal well-being should not be sacrificed for external validation. Their insistence that life must be about more than producing and winning is an act of defiance against capitalism itself.

Since the emergence of ChatGPT and its competitors, discussions about the future of work have revolved around the extent to which human labor will remain necessary. To be sure, the integration of generative artificial intelligence into the labor market will bring about significant disruption, rendering traditional industrial-era work and workplaces obsolete. But regardless of what lies ahead, we cannot address the questions of where and how long we work without first answering the fundamental question of why we work.

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

An American Journalist's Kashmir Dateline

Here's an excerpt from the book:
A Trip to the Country... or, Escape From Waterhal
David Lepeska

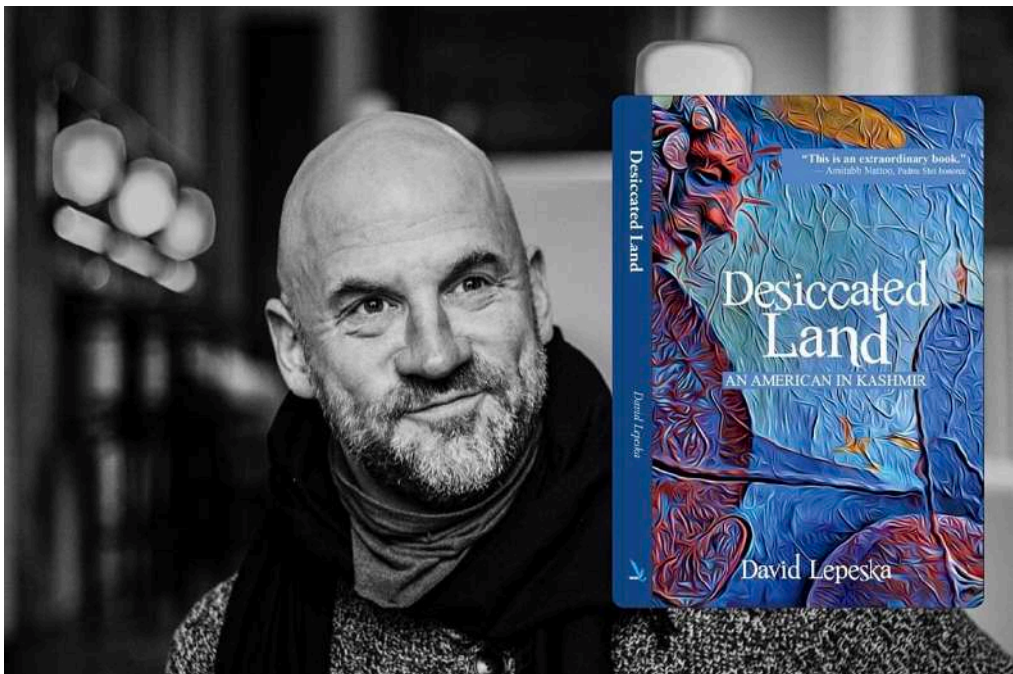
Kashmir Observer– November 19, 2006

ANY journey into rural Kashmir is bound to be fraught with danger, what with its hidden, unpredictable militants, secretive paramilitaries, anxious soldiers, and conflicted locals caught in the crossfire. Yet last Thursday morning my colleague Farooq Shah and I set off in search of that rare animal: an outdoor primary school, with mud seating for upwards of fifty children, little or no facilities, barely-trained teachers, and nothing but the Valley's bitter late autumn for a roof. A disconcerting image of just such a beast had appeared without warning in our paper the previous week and, being enterprising journalists' game for a good story and an adventure, we packed up our gumption, a Twix bar and some chewing gum, and sallied forth into the relatively uncharted southern reaches of Budgam district.

We hit the road at the crack of 11, my little motorbike as game as could be after 19 Valley winters. Thrumming joyously and adding to the warmth kindled by our huddled torsos and reportorial verve, the old blue lady zoomed around curves and bobbed up and down, in and out of vast water-filled potholes, we two riders twittering like morning sparrows. Neither the previous few days' downpours and bitter cold nor the threat of a run-in with armed men of indeterminate allegiance could dampen our spirits.

Shortly after noon, however, our rural jaunt began to feel more wild goose chase-y. The mud sucked greedily at our bald tires. The road, with its jeep-sized potholes, became a minefield, and our destination, the tiny village of Waterhal, increasingly mythical. Minimal signage, suspicious, tight-lipped villagers, and a bland brown landscape bereft of identifying markers added to the sense of foreboding. Yet we soldiered on, querying a few locals to regain our bearings, and soon enough crossed a little concrete bridge into our dust speck of a destination. Middle-aged men commiserated next to tea shacks. Women carried baskets of spinach-like greens and bulging plastic sacks of rice on their heads. The road grew yet muckier and still on we ventured, finally hearing the high-pitched voices of young children just off to our right as we neared the top of a small rise.

We parked and clambered up a short, slippery slope and found ourselves in the Middle Ages, which is to say the very school from the photo. Children as young as three and four were bundled in sweaters and scarves and pherans, faces unwashed, noses dripping and feet bare and purpling. Shivering yet smiling at their visitors, they sat one behind the other on ruddy jute mats. The two teachers taught while we



"Yeah, the accelerator cable broke and we're trying to figure out how to get back."

"OK," he said. "Let me talk to Farooq."

I handed the phone over and took in a changed scene. Perhaps a couple enterprising villagers had employed the mosque loudspeaker to announce our plight, because Waterhalis had gathered from far and wide. Young and old, big and small, pheran-wrapped and kangri-wielding, staring at my strange mug, fingering my gleaming, muddy machine and foisting up potential solutions. We've got to fix the bike, they told us; it can be very easily done. No, no, others disagreed, you'll never fix it; leave the bike here, hop a Sumo back to Srinagar and come get it later.110 That's no good, still others interrupted: walk the bike over to Budgam and they can fix it in a jiffy.

Manzoor, the school headmaster, recalled a fellow villager who owned a motorbike, and thought perhaps he could help. He scurried to retrieve him as Farooq and I endeavored to entertain the remaining audience. I made silly faces and pretended to attack the little boys. Learning that the teachers occasionally beat the youngsters, Farooq found a thin switch and made to whip a little boy, to great hilarity.

Manzoor soon returned and after ten minutes of tinkering the man, Ahmed, announced his diagnosis: our accelerator cable was broken and needed to be fixed. Duly noted.

A second plan formed: Farooq and I would walk the bike in a weaving northeasterly direction towards

tried to start the bike. Inexplicably, it roared to life. He grabbed the rubber-sheathed accelerator cable near his right thigh and employed it as a sort of jerry-rigged gas controller. He put the bike into gear and chugged wobbly up the hill. Seeing this, the man who had gone off to call his mechanic friend decided we were in no need of mechanical assistance. He stomped off to the fields to resume his work. I went up to Farooq and patted him on the back.

"Hey, nice job," I told him.

"Yeah, yeah, but let me work on it," he said, sputtering off and tinkering with his new system.

Reverting to plan three, I rejoined Yusuf and Manzoor and we continued to stroll towards the neighbouring village, Harden, and the man with the pick-up truck. Minutes later we found Farooq in what passed as the village square, chatting with a young local.

"I fixed it," Farooq said, with obvious pride. "I've figured it out. We don't need the truck at all! Let's just ride to Budgam, we'll be fine."

"Are you sure, Farooq?" I asked.

"Yes, this cable basically works just like the accelerator," he explained, reaching down near his knee and tweaking a black rubber cord. "You try it."

"Are you sure?" I asked again, not wanting to start something we couldn't finish.

"Yes, I told you," he said, getting impatient with my suspicion. "Try it for yourself."

"No, no, you figured out how to do it," I said. "You can drive."

Yes, loyal reader, plan five: employ Farooq's half-baked accelerator controller to matriculate over hill and vale to Budgam. We climbed on, shook hands with Manzoor and Yusuf and started off down a steep, serpentine decline. Progress was slow, but steady, and we began to feel our little ordeal had ended, that all would be fine. We came to the bottom and just over a muddy concrete bridge the road angled up and away into infinity.

As if in fear or awe, the bike halted at the base of the incline and the engine – eehrerhr!!!! – roared loudly, stuck on peak acceleration as the bike stood stock-still. I jumped off in fright and nearly fell down a small cliff. Time froze. The ear-splitting whine echoed across the ravine. Blue smoke shot out the exhaust. Vaguely visible through the haze as he tamed that neighing stallion with steely nerve, Farooq fingered gears and twitched his heels. I thought momentarily that this would be the last I'd see of my charming friend, bravely riding out the death throes of an overheating 1987 blue Yamaha. But it wasn't to be.

The engine fell silent. The smoke and dust settled. Farooq clambered off like a hero, exasperated yet relieved.

"Hey down there!" a disembodied voice called out from overhead. "Yeah!" the two of us shouted nearly in unison.

"Do you need the pick-up truck?" the voice asked.

"Yes, we do," Farooq shot back.

We looked meaningfully at each other then caught our breath and took in our surroundings. A tiny trash strewn creek dribbled under the nearby bridge and on three and a half sides steep, aspen-pocked hills loomed. We were about half a kilometer from the surface world: no place to be broken down. Thankfully, a revised plan three was back in effect.

"Some friend you are," Farooq said. "You just left me to handle that thing all on my own!"

"You were driving!" I responded. "What could I do?"

"I don't know, but don't leave me to die," he said, making a decent point.

There was a long pause. The creek gurgled. An over-flying kite peered down hungrily.

"I totally thought the bike was gonna blow up," I said, starting to smile. "And you were a goner."

He giggled. "I thought I was going to fly!"

Fly from that ravine we did when the pick-up pulled up some ten minutes later. A pleasant, mostly silent ride to Budgam followed. Farooq and I warming ourselves and thinking of butter chicken and a hot bath. The Budgam pit stop was beyond easy: drop bike at mechanic's, get tea and a snack, retrieve bike ten minutes later and we're on our way to Srinagar. There was just one problem: I left my helmet in the back of the pick-up.

"Look at it this way," said Farooq, wind whipping through his hair, "we owed them."

We arrived in Srinagar in 15 minutes. So our brush with oblivion in a relic of a previous century – a village without electricity, without any sewage system or running water, with roads of foot-deep mud and near-starving children dressed in tattered clothing endeavoring to learn their multiplication tables in the bitter cold – took place only about 25 kilometers from Srinagar, a city of a million inhabitants, a place of Internet cafes and lush golf courses, cozy restaurants and swish hotels.

Walk to Budgam? We could've walked home.

PRAISES FOR THE BOOK

This is an extraordinary book.
– Amitabh Mattoo, Padma
Shri honoree, JNU professor

Desiccated Land is a reminder of a time when courageous journalism defied militants and the state to bring readers information that helped make sense of the enormous forces shaping their lives. This book is a vital document of the bravery of our colleagues in Kashmir. – Nareesh Fernandes, Editor-in-Chief Scroll.in

Through a gripping personal account, David Lepeska offers a rare and poignant look at life in Kashmir, seamlessly knitting together the complexities of politics, religion, and identity. Written with raw honesty and emotional depth, Desiccated Land is mandatory reading for anyone seeking to understand this tumultuous region and the human experiences within it. – Adeel Hussain, Professor of Law at New York University Abu Dhabi

Desiccated Land is a thoughtful and thought-provoking book. Its engaging and insightful content – an American journalist's observations, adventures, interviews and reporting – conveys a deep understanding of ethnic Kashmiris and their struggle to endure an arduous and "seemingly endless" insurgency. – Christopher Snedden, Australian scholar

A fine collection of vivid vignettes on the Kashmir conundrum by a keen and informed observer. – Sumit Ganguly, Rabindranath Tagore Chair at Indiana University, author of The Crisis in Kashmir and Conflict Unending: India-Pakistan Tensions since 1947

Desiccated Land is an important and timely book. A unique blend of memoir and reportage. The insightful introduction critiques US' policies in South Asia and argues that they nurtured insurgency in Kashmir. – Shahla Hussain, St. John's University professor, author of Kashmir in the Aftermath of Partition

Desiccated Land is old-school foreign correspondence in its purest form. The love for Kashmir and its people shines through. – Mike Giglio, journalist, author of Shatter the Nations: ISIS and the War for the Caliphate

David Lepeska is a gifted writer with a knack for deftly handling emotive issues and a deep understanding of Kashmir and the Muslim world. In Desiccated Land, these traits come together wonderfully to contextualise the Kashmir conflict within world dynamics and craft a compelling read for Indian and global audiences. – Mohamed Zeeshan, foreign affairs columnist, author of Flying Blind: India's Quest for Global Leadership

Desiccated Land is one of the most objective and insightful accounts I've read of the lives of Kashmiri people suffering for years under various political narratives. – Rahman Abbas, novelist & recipient of India's Sahitya Akademi Award

Lepeska's intimate and visceral portrayal of daily life in Kashmir powerfully surfaces the essential yet oft-ignored human dimensions of the troubled region. I highly recommend this book to all those looking to know and feel the real Kashmir, beyond the headlines. – Saqib Qureshi, bestselling author of The Broken Contract

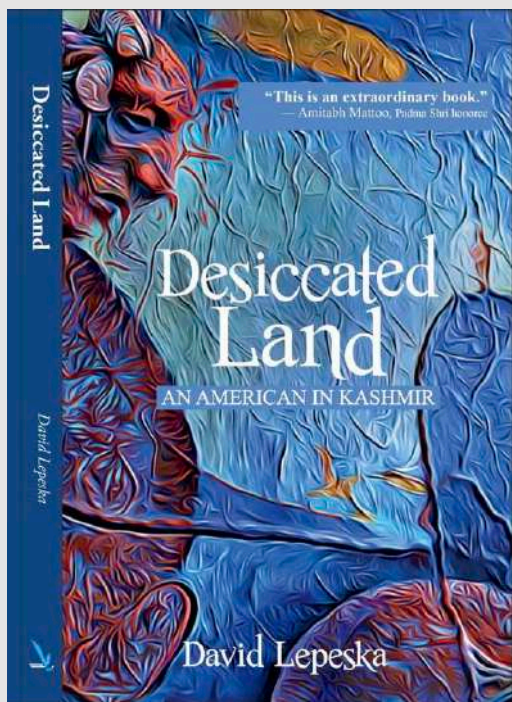
Lepeska's journalistic style makes this an enjoyable and insightful work I highly recommend. – Syed Mohammad Ali, lecturer at Johns Hopkins University, author of Development, Poverty and Power in Pakistan

Desiccated Land offers not only well-informed historical insights and compelling eyewitness accounts, but empathy as well. – Yo'av Karny, Israeli journalist, author of Highlanders: A Journey to the Caucasus

David Lepeska's Desiccated Land presents a deeply subjective account of his year reporting for the Kashmir Observer. Yet far from detracting, this approach adds enormous value to a book that features his trenchant views on a range of subjects, including the policies of his homeland, the US. In the end, Lepeska's vast empathy for the Kashmiri people shines through, highlighting what life is really like in the troubled Valley. – Manoj Joshi, ORF Distinguished Fellow, author of Lost Rebellion: Kashmir in the Nineties

David Lepeska is not just an insightful journalist, but also a sharp and witty writer. I loved this brilliant book and recommend it wholeheartedly. – Mustafa Akyol, New York Times opinion contributor, bestselling author Reopening Muslim Minds and other books

Desiccated Land offers a rare portrait of the stunning but troubled region of Kashmir. As one of very few Western reporters for Kashmir Observer, Lepeska is uniquely placed to provide the necessary nuance to understand the often volatile reality. He also details how the US has contributed to Kashmir's destabilisation and delivers an accessible and highly enjoyable read. – Jessica Mudditt, veteran journalist, author Our Home in Myanmar



This disconcerting image of outdoor primary school at village Watrah in KO prompted us to go for a good story and an adventure

snapped photos and asked questions. After an hour or so our work was done and we headed towards my bike, and home. But I couldn't get the old girl started. And when Farooq tried he found that the accelerator cable, which should be attached to the right handlebar grip, had been severed. Oops.

"You've got to be more gentle, Dave," Farooq admonished. "You can't just – rgegh, gerhehr, rgheal! – attack everything like a wild animal."

"Yeah, I know, you're right," I admitted.

Then I grabbed my colleague by his puffy coat and shook him.

The sky filled with clouds as the clock ticked past two. My bike had become little more than a use-less mass of heavy, rusting metal and worn rubber. I stared at her proud blue gas tank. I considered the wonderful times we had together. I considered pitching her into the stream.

This disconcerting image of outdoor primary school at village Watrah in KO prompted us to go for a good story and an adventure'

Finally, I considered what Kashmir's most revered foreign observer, Sir Walter Lawrence, would do with such an excellent opportunity. Investigate the local flora and fauna? Query the villagers about their religious practices? Decipher the make-up of their pre-industrial economy? I decided I didn't care; I was cold and wanted to go home. Luckily, my phone had just enough juice to call our editor and apprise him of the situation.

"Hey, Sajjad, we found the school and got a really nice story," I told him.

"Oh, really," he responded, just slightly pleased.

"Yes, but my bike broke down and now we're stuck."

"Oh," he said, not surprised.

the main road, which would lead us to salvation.

"It's only four, five kilometers," said Yusuf, a 17-year-old who was studying in Budgam to become a doctor and was one of the few villagers who spoke English. "You can definitely make it, and then in Budgam they will fix bike."

The prospect of pushing a motorcycle five kilometers up and down winding valley roads in near-freezing and possibly drizzly conditions did not titillate. I wracked my brain for an alternative.

"Isn't there someone who has a truck around here?" I asked no one in particular. "There's got to be one truck, right? If not in this village, then somewhere near here..."

Excited murmuring in Kashmiri rose. Index fingers pointed northwest among a general nodding of heads and just like that, praise Allah, plan number three solidified: push the bike the kilometer or so to the next village and find the man with the truck.

"Yes, I think it's best idea," said Manzoor, dropping the clincher.

Farooq and I began making our way, pushing the old lady through the muck and up the hill with much of our Waterhal entourage in tow. Thirty meters on we were stopped by an interested passer-by, an eagle-eyed villager with a great red beard. Apprised of our plight he offered up strategy four in the Escape from Waterhal sweepstakes: he would call a nearby mechanic to come and fix the bike straight away! Off he went to retrieve his mobile phone.

Again we sat waiting, the sky darkening as the clock ticked three, children getting restless and finally wearying of staring at the shiny-headed, pale-faced alien. Farooq had a sudden brainstorm and

Of Love & Longing

Ayatollah Khomeini's mystical poetry

Ayatollah Sayed Ruhollah Musawi Khomeini (1902-1989), the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, is commonly known in the West for his political reading of Islam and as a religious fundamentalist. Khomeini as a hermit and mystic poet who composed poetry about selfless love, wine and mystic union is, for most people outside Iran, contradictio in terminis. Yet mysticism and poetry are two essential aspects of his personality, usually overshadowed by his outspoken political views.

Imam Khomeini has penned many poems with titles like, The Wine of Love, Life's Caravan, Son of the Tavern, The Flight of the Soul, The Wine of Awakening, The Miracle of Love, The Path of Nothingness, Divulge Your Secret, The Agony of Love, Monastery of the Heart, The Assembly of the Rogues and The Jug of Love etc.

On the 34th anniversary of his passing today, we reproduce three of his Ghazals for the interest of our readers. It's being said that Imam Khomeini's poetry is a kind of play with the images and themes of Hafiz, the undisputed master of the ghazal.

I Life's Caravan

My life has reached its end, but yet, my Friend has not come.

My story now concludes; but conclusion to this pain has not come

The goblet of death is at hand, yet I never had my turn at the goblet of wine.

The years have come and gone, but a sweetheart's tenderness has not come.

The bird of my spirit's been trapped, and, fallen without wings to fly, is confined to this cage,

Yet she who should set me free, who should break apart this cage, has not come.

The lovers of a darling face are all nameless and without vestige While for those of fame, even a whiff of the air of her affection has not come.

In rank and file of the caravan of the lovers of her face, they wait expectantly.

To whom then should I complain that at last the soul quickening beloved has come?

She bestows the spirit of the dead, and seizes the souls of the lovers. To the ignorant alone, belief in such a ravishing love has not come.

II

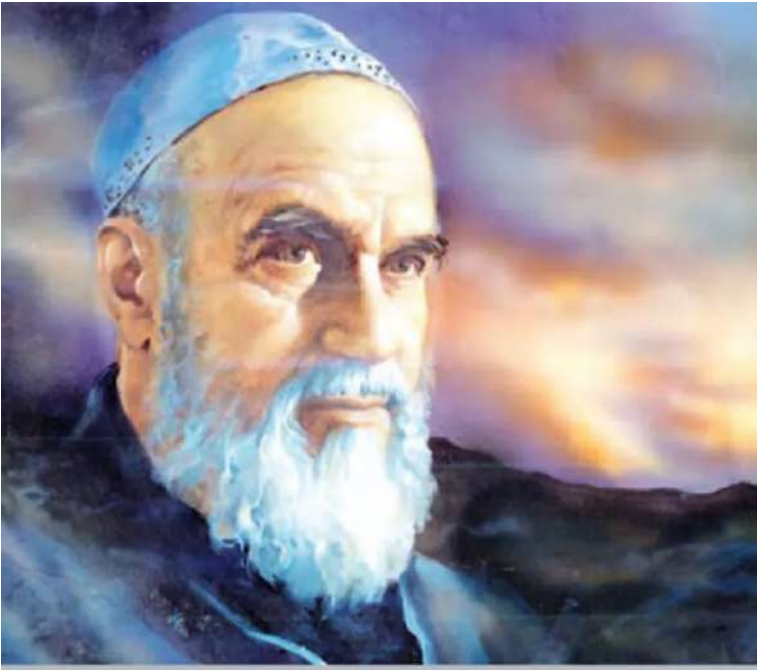
The Account of Perplexity

I want the pain, not the drug. I want the anguish that sticks in the throat, not a pleasant melody.

I am a lover, I am a lover, I am your patient; I don't want to be healed from this.

I would even pay for your cruelty for my soul; I don't want to abandon this cruelty.

From you, my beloved, cruelty is fidelity, So, I don't want any other fidelity, You are both my Safa and my Marwa;



I don't want Marwa with Safa. The Sufi has no news about the union with the Friend. I don't want a Sufi without Safa.

You are my supplication and my remembrance; I want neither remembrance nor contemplation nor supplication. In whatever direction I turn, you are my qiblah.

I want no qiblah nor that which shows its direction. Whoever you gaze upon becomes your sacrifice. I am the sacrifice, I don't want any sacrifice. Every horizon is enlightened by your visage, You are manifest, I don't want a mere trace of you.

Explanation

This poem reminds one of the lines of Baba Tahir: Some want the drug, some want the pain,

Some want the drug, some want the pain, Some want union, some want separation, I am not of those who want the drug, the pain, union or separation. I want what the beloved wants.

The idea expressed in this poem is that even in the hiddenness of God, He is manifest to the true lover. The very hiddenness itself becomes a mode of manifestation. The pain which is described in the first eight lines is the pain of the lover, the longing for union with the divine. The cruelty is the experience of this longing caused by the

need for union. The word translated as 'cruelty' here, jafa', indicates the kind of torment a mistress may inflict upon her lover, as by withholding her favors. The lover wants this cruelty, because he wants to feel the union with the divine. He wants no other fulfillment of any promise by God except that he should be so favored as to feel the need for union with Him. Safa and Marwa are the two hills between which pilgrims must run back and forth during the Hajj ceremony, to commemorate the searching of Hajar, the wife of Abraham, for water herself and for the son Isma'il. Lines (15) and (16) recall the ayah of the Qur'an: "Withersoever you turn, there is the face of Allah" (2:115).

III

The Consolation of the Pir

Kiss the hand of the shaykh who has pronounced me a disbeliever. Congratulate the guard who has led me away in chains.

I'm going into a solitary retreat from noon by the door of the Magus,

So that in one gulp I may be filled with the wine of both worlds. I will not drink the water of Kawthar; I will not take this heavenly favor.

The beam which shines on your face, oh Friend, has made me a conqueror of the world.

Console the heart of the dervish from whom the eternal secret Has been disclosed; who has made me aware of my destiny.

I congratulate the Pir of the tavern who has himself grasped My annihilation, my nothingness, and who has captivated me,

A servant of my Pir, who comforts the

heart himself, Of one who has forgotten himself and whom he has turned upside down.

Explanation

This kind of poem, like the next thirty1 which follow, is a ghazal. Persian is a poetic language. Ordinary rhymes are easy to come by, so most poetry uses feminine rhymes which would be awkward and silly and impossibly difficult to manage in English. In Farsi, the poem has a rhyme scheme like this:

IV

Spring at Old Age

Spring has come. I shall begin youth after old age. I will sit beside the Friend, and have the fruit of my life. I shall return to the rose garden. I shall mingle with the flowers and the buds. At the side of the garden I shall caress the moon-faced sweetheart.

I shall cast behind me autumn and its yellowness one day, For in the garden I shall get news of the rosy-cheeked dear. My feathers and wings molt in January with agony over the sweetheart. In April with memory of union with the darling,

I'll get wings and feathers once again. In the time of autumn I would perch in this ruined land, If Spring has come, it is because I am ready to take off for the sake of union with her.

If the wine-bearer spills some wine of the goblet onto the lovers, If she spills it out of drunkenness, I shall pull the veil from her face.

Scholarships This Week

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

Scholarship Name I: Coal India Limited EWS Scholarship 2023

Description: Coal India Limited EWS Scholarship 2023 is an opportunity offered by Coal India Limited to students who are pursuing UG degree in Engineering and Medical course. The main objective of this scholarship is to spread quality professional education among meritorious (BPL) students with merit to nurture successful careers.

Eligibility: Open for applicants who are 25 years of age as of the first of November of the current academic session. The candidates must be pursuing a full-time degree course in Engineering in Mining, Electrical, Mechanical, Civil, Computer IT, Environment, Electronics and Tele Communications, Medical disciplines in IITs, NITs and such Engineering and Medical colleges recognized by the Central or State Government. They must belong to Below Poverty Line (BPL).

Prizes & Rewards: Total course fee for the entire period of the course

Last Date to Apply: 15-04-2024
Application mode: Via post only at - Chief General Manager (Welfare), Coal India Limited, Coal Bhawan, 10, Netaji Subhash Road, Kolkata - 700001
Phone Number - (033)-22488099
Fax Number - (033)-22313875/22135778

Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/EWST6

Scholarship Name 2: UK-India TOEFL Scholarship 2023

Description: UK-India TOEFL Scholarship 2023 is offered by the National Indian

Students and Alumni Union (NISAU) in partnership with ETS TOEFL. It is offered to a total of 25 Indian students who wish to pursue undergraduate or postgraduate studies at a UK university.

Eligibility: Open for Indian passport holders who have received an offer letter from a



university in the UK. The applicants must have scored a minimum of 75 out of 120 in the TOEFL test in the last 2 years and be enrolling for the first time at a UK university.

Prizes & Rewards: A scholarship grant of USD 3,000 (one-time)

Last Date to Apply: 31-07-2023
Application mode: Online applications only

Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/UKIT1

Scholarship Name 3: Keep India Smiling Foundational Scholarship and Mentorship Programme for Sportsperson and Individuals

Description: Colgate-Palmolive (India) Ltd. is giving young students an opportunity to pursue their academic/career aspi-

rations by providing them with scholarships for education. This scholarship program aims to provide foundational support to individuals, who are deserving & meritorious but may lack the resources to pursue their dreams.

Eligibility: For individuals helping others, the appli-



cants must be graduates and involved in activities like teaching a group of underprivileged children or providing sports training to them.

For sportspersons, applicants must have represented the state/country at the state/national/international level in the last 2/3 years. They must be ranked within 500 in the national ranking/ within 100 in the state ranking. They must be aged between 9 and 20 years. The annual family income of all applicants must be less than INR 5 Lakhs per annum.

Prizes & Rewards: Selected scholars can avail scholarship award of INR 75,000 per year for up to 3 years

Last Date to Apply: 30-06-2023
Application mode: Online applications only

Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/KSSI2

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)
Office Of The Executive Engineer Phe Division Bijbehara
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
E-NITNo. 27 of2023-24
ISSUED UNDER NO;PHE/BIJ:3126-39 Dated:02.06.2023

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of UT of J&K e-tenders (Two cover System)are invited on item rate basis with maintenance period of from reputed and resourceful contractors/Firms/companies/joint venture of repute in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/Railways and other state Governments for the following works, which should be uploaded on the Procurement webportal <http://jktenders.gov.in> for the subjected work(s)referred below o bereceivedby the Superintending Engineer,Hydl. Circle, Anantnag and as per the details mentioned in this e-tender notification and to whom all the terms and conditions of detailed e-NIT /Tender Documents/ PWD Form No:- 25 double are accepted. The detailed tender document and Specifications etc. can be downloaded onthe e-procurement portal <http://jktenders.gov.in>. The cost of tender documents (Non-refundable/Non-Transferable) should be the shape of e-Challan or TreasuryChallan/Receipt in favourExecutive Engineer PHE Division Bijbehara. However the earnest money in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged in favour of SuperintendingEngineer,Hydl.Circle,Anantnag.

S.No	Name of work	Amount	Earnest money	Cost of TD	Class of contract	Tender receiving authority
1	Construction, Designing and successful testing of 0.90 lac gallons OHT, construction of two number pump house cum operators quarter, providing fixing/laying/ fitting of pipes , construction of chain link fencing and sluice chamber for providing water supply at Main campus Govt. Medical College Anantnag (Dedicated supply)	253.59	507180	5500	AAV	Superintending Engineer Hyd. Circle Anantnag

Position of Accord:-Accorded Order No. 116/GMCA of 2022 Dated:- 30.06.2022
MH-4210- Capital Outlay on medical and Public Health.
The Bidding documents consisting of eligibility criteria,specification, drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q) set of terms & conditions of contract and otherdetails can be seen / downloadedfromthee-procurementPortal"<http://jktenders.gov.in>"as per schedule of dates given below:-

S.No.	Description	Date			Time
		DD	MM	YYYY	
1	Publishing date of NIT	03	06	2023	9.00 AM
2	Download start date	03	06	2023	9.00 AM
3	Bid submission start date	03	06	2023	09.00 AM
4	Bid submission end date	21	06	2023	4.00 PM
5	Bid opening date (Technical-Cover)	23	06	2023	11.00AM

For and on behalf of the Lt.Governor UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

Executive Engineer,
JSD(PHE)Div, Bijbehara

2.1 Cover 1st Technical
2.All the bidders (Singly /JV) shall include the following information and documents with their technical bids:
a. Price bid Bill of quantity (BOQ)
BOQ
iv) ISSUE OF TENDER DOCUMENT:-
The tender documents can be downloaded on e-procurement Portal <http://jktenders.gov.in>
The tender documents can be downloaded as per schedules howinthee-nit.Thee-tendersuploadedshallbeaccompaniedwithae-ChallanorTreasuryChallan/Govt. Receipt drawn infavour of Executive Engineer PHE Division Bijbehara towards the cost of the tender documents (nontransferable/ Nonrefundable)asshownagainsteachwork above in the e-NIT ,which shall not be refunded and shall be submitted upto the date mentioned above.
4.0 PerformsSecurity
a) The Earnest money in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Superintending Engineer Hydraulic Circle Anantnag for an amount Earnest Money @ 2% of advertised cost.
5.0 You are requested to visit the site of workto familiarize yourself with theSiteconditions:
Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of e-Challan or TreasuryChallan/ Government Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer, PHE Division Bijbehara(Tenderinvitingauthority)
To participate in bidding process,bidders have to get"DigitalSignatureCertificate(DSC)"asperinformationTechnology Act2000.
6.0 Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendor.The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format withdigital signature. No. financial bidwillbeaccepted in physical form.
Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the"Downloads"option as well as from"Bidders ManualKit"on Websitehtp://jktenders.gov.in acquaint bid submissionprocess. Bids must ensure to uploadscanned copy of all necessary documents withbid.TheSUCCESSfulbidderwillhave to submit the original/attested photocopies of documents related to the bid physically within five days of openingoftenders.
Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of e-Challan or Treasury Challan/ Receiptinfavour of the Executive Engineer PHE Division Bijbehara, must be uploadedwiththe bid.
7.0 Tenderswill be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in the office of Superintending Engineer, Hydraulic Circle, Anantnagon the day as mentioned in the schedule referred on Top Sheet above or on any subsequent working day,(which shall be informed through e-mail, Whatsup,mobile) in presence of such tenderers or the authorized representatives who wish to remain presentat the time of opening of tenders Initially only the technical bids shall be opened and will be evaluated.
8.0 The Price Bids shall be opened online only after assessing suitability of offers as pertechnicalbids by Superintending Engineer, Hydraulic Circle, Anantnag. The opening of Pricebids shall beintimatedto the qualified tenderers by email/ WhatsApp/mobile.

SD/-
Executive Engineer,JSD (PHE) Div, Bijbehara

No:-PHE/BIJ/3126-39
DIPK-2795/23 Dated:-03.06.2023

Kupwara Produces 15.39 Crore Liters Of Milk A Year; Becomes Milk Surplus

267 Dairy units, Milk ATM established



Observer News Service

KUPWARA: With the substantial increase in cattle population and employing modern interventions, the milk production in Kupwara district has reached all time high of 1539,50,000 liters per year generating an income of Rs. 537 crore annually from milk alone making the district Kupwara milk Surplus, besides playing a crucial role in growth of rural agri-economy.

Milk productivity in Financial year 2021-22 in Kupwara district was 1323, 20,000 liters which reached to 1539,50,000 liters during the financial year 2022-23.

Total tagged cattle population of Kupwara district is 1.58 lakh, while the number of poultry birds has touched 5.06 lakh with the total egg production of 1.45 crore per year.

Dairy farming is a major source of livelihood for many families in Kupwara district and this sector is constantly growing with a focus on increasing milk production and improving quality of milk, besides upgrading milk collection, processing and marketing infrastructure with the intervention of centrally sponsored schemes.

Dairy sector in Kupwara district is holding immense potential for the economy and provid-

ing employment opportunities, besides contributing to the local population's well being.

With the increased demand for dairy products and interventions of government a significant growth is being recorded in this sector.

The use of artificial insemination (AI) in the dairy sector has been proven to be a highly effective tool to increase animal productivity. By using AI, dairy farmers are benefitting from efficient use of high quality bulls.

Dr. Mohammad Ashraf, Chief Animal Husbandry officer (CAHO) Kupwara said that during 2022-23, 34731 artificial insemination procedures were done in the district while in 2021-22, 33866, AI procedures were done.

IDDS (Integrated Dairy Development Scheme) is a major scheme which not only focuses on providing financial assistance, but also supports the dairy producer by providing milking machines, bulk milk cooling unit at 50% subsidy as well as other benefits. The scheme also provides Paneer Making Machine, Khoya Making Machine, Dahi Making Machine, Cream Separator Machine, Ice Cream Making Machine, Butter and Ghee Making Machine, Milk Van, Milk ATM and DG Set, to aspiring entrepreneurs who try to create their start-ups in the dairy sector.

Go First Extends Flight Cancellations Till June 7, Tickets To Be Refunded



ANI

NEW DELHI: Crisis-hit Go First Airlines on Friday informed that its scheduled flight operations will remain cancelled till June 7, adding that a full refund will be issued to the passengers.

"We regret to inform you that due to operational reasons, Go First flights scheduled till June 7, 2023, have been cancelled. We apologise for the inconvenience caused by the flight cancellations. A full refund will be issued to the original mode of payment shortly. We acknowledge the flight cancellations might have disrupted your travel plans and we are committed to providing all the assistance we can," the official statement said.

The airline operator had recently filed for voluntary insolvency.

Earlier Directorate General of

Civil Aviation (DGCA) advised Go First Airlines to submit a comprehensive restructuring plan for a sustainable revival of operations.

A senior DGCA official earlier said that Go First has submitted their response to a show cause notice, issued on May 8, wherein they have requested that they may be allowed to use the moratorium period to prepare a comprehensive restructuring plan for restarting operations and present the same to DGCA for the requisite regulatory approvals before restarting operations.

Accordingly, DGCA had advised the airline to submit a comprehensive restructuring/revival plan for a sustainable revival of operations, within a period of 30 days. The revival plan once submitted by Go First shall be reviewed by DGCA for further appropriate action in the matter.

Govt Committed To Double Farmer's Income: Dr. Jitendra Singh

'Doda is lavender destination of the world as the area has emerged as a potential destination for Agri-tech start-ups'

Observer News Service

DODA: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space Dr. Jitendra Singh Saturday said, Doda is lavender destination of the world as the area has emerged as a potential destination for Agri-tech start-ups in Jammu and Kashmir. Dr. Jitendra Singh said this while chairing a review meeting to assess the developmental scenario of district Doda.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said, Government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi is committed to double the farmer's income and lavender cultivation giving rise to Agri-tech start-ups in Jammu and Kashmir is a testimony of it. Dr. Singh complimented the district administration and farmer's community for bringing up the area as the birth place of Lavender in India.

DC Doda Vishesh Mahajan while briefing about the developmental activities informed that the work on much needed Multi Storey Car Parking at New Bus Stand Doda has been started and is expected to complete by the end of 2024. The execution of alternate National Highway 244 is going on day and



night, and more than 80% of work has been completed by NHIDCL.

About the unique initiative ADHBUT Doda, DC informed that the district administration has put all the government services, schemes, and attendance of government employees on the ADHBUT Doda portal. On-line Classes, Study material for all classes, monitoring of developmental works, grievances redressal programmes, and interaction with officials, all is taken care of through ADHBUT Doda platform.

Dr. Jitendra Singh maintained that the District Administration and District Development Council must showcase these positive stories so that the people can come forward, feel confident, and be the part of progress in new India with the potential

to lead the world.

The meeting also reviewed the progress made in the district on mega development projects being executed under NHIDCL, PWD, JJM, District Capex and other schemes.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, it is the endeavour of present government led by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, to trickle down the benefits of all the centrally sponsored schemes to the deserved lot and to the last person in the queue.

The meeting was attended by DDC Chairman, Doda, Dhananther Singh Kotwal, DDC Vice Chairperson, Sangeeta Rani Bhagat, DC Doda, Vishesh Mahajan, SSP Doda Abdul Qayoom, ADDC Doda Pran Singh, ADC Doda Dr R K Bharti, SE PWD, SE PMGSY, SE Jal Shakti Department, GM NHIDCL and other concerned officers.

'Women SHGs Can Play Crucial Role In Creating Employment Opportunities'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal Saturday visited different areas including (Khanpeth, Hanjivera, Singhpora) of Pattan sub-division, district Baramulla to take stock of the agriculture scenario in the Sub-division.

During the visit, the Director inspected the Sprinkler irrigation system successfully introduced by the department in some areas of the Pattan sub-division.

He held interaction with the women self help groups (SHGs) at Singhpora zone Khanpeth and took feedback from the women farmers regarding the implementation of woman farmer-centric initiatives by the department and reviewed the performances of these women self-help groups.

Addressing the progressive women farmers, the Director Agriculture said that under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme, development of self help groups has been given due consideration. He reiterated the department's commitment to promote and strengthen women self help groups in agriculture and allied sectors.

He said that the department has already initiated many women farmer centric programmes so that more and more educated women could be attracted towards the agriculture and allied sectors. He said that women self-help groups can play a crucial role in enhancing farmers income and creating employment opportunities.

Director Agriculture asked the concerned officers to take the self help groups on board during the implementation of different programs on ground. He asked them to organize awareness programmes for farmers about the importance of self help groups.

Kashmir Jewellers Dismiss Rumours About Inferior Gold Coins

SRINAGAR: The jewellers in Kashmir on Saturday dismissed the claims of inferior quality of gold coins in the Valley and asked people not to pay heed over the rumours.

Addressing a news conference here, All Kashmir gold dealers and workers association said that some of the people with vested interests from different states of the country are selling the gold coins here at exorbitant rates and terming the Valley based gold coins approved by central government as inferior.

However, the association president, Bashir Ahmad Rather, said that the gold coins available with the jewellers here have been approved by the central government and there was no difference between the gold coins of Kashmir the other being brought to Kashmir that are being sold at the cost of over Rs 70,000.

"We are not able to understand that despite having the same quality, weight and other things, the gold coins of Kashmir are being identified as inferior," Rather said, adding that there is a need to act against such grave issues and the people should not pay heed over it. "We are selling the valid gold coins and the government should act in this regard. If the government finds any difference between the two coins, we are ready to take the responsibility and face the law," Rather said. (KNO)



Monitor Rise In Airfares, Ministry To Airlines After Odisha Train Crash

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) on Saturday asked airlines to monitor and take necessary action in case of any abnormal surge in airfares to and from Bhubaneswar, in view of the train accident in the state.

Besides, the ministry said that any cancellation and re-scheduling on flights due to the incident may be done without penal charges. The ministry has sent out an advisory to the airlines in this regard.

"In view of the unfortunate accident in Odisha, the Ministry of Civil Aviation has advised

all airlines to monitor any abnormal surge in airfares to and from Bhubaneswar and other airports of the State and take necessary action regarding the same," it said in a statement.

At least 288 people have died in one of the worst accidents involving three trains that happened at Balasore, in Odisha on Friday night.

The ministry has also asked all airlines flying in and out of Odisha to extend full support to facilitate in bringing back the remains of those deceased in the train accident to other states, of which the victims were resident, as per their extant policy.

Auto Sales On Growth Track Riding On Demand For SUVs

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Automakers, led by Maruti Suzuki India, Hyundai, Mahindra & Mahindra, Toyota Kirloskar Motor, on Thursday, reported robust wholesales of passenger vehicles in the domestic market in May riding on strong demand for SUVs.

Other manufacturers such as Tata Motors, Kia and MG Motor India also reported increase in their dispatches to dealers during the month.

Market leader Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) reported a 15 per cent rise in total domestic passenger vehicle sales at 1,43,708 units as compared with 1,24,474 units in the same month last year.

The company's sales of mini cars, comprising Alto and S-Presso, fell 30 per cent to 12,236 units as compared with 17,408 units in the year-ago period, while compact cars sales, including models such as Swift, Celerio, Ignis, Baleno and Dzire, increased 5 per cent to 71,419 units as against 67,947 units in May 2022.

On the other hand, utility vehicle sales, including those of Brezza, Grand Vitara and Eriga, rose 65 per cent to 46,243 units as against 28,051 vehicles in the year-ago month, MSI said.

Sales of mid-sized sedan Ciaz last month increased to 992 units from 586 units in the year-ago period, it added.

Rival Hyundai Motor India Ltd said its domestic sales grew 14.91 per cent at 48,601 units as compared to 42,293 units in the year-ago month.

HMIL COO Tarun Garg said the company's double-digit sales

growth in May was fuelled by its SUVs Creta and Venue. The recently launched all-new Verna sedan also received good response, he added.

Tata Motors, however, had a moderate domestic passenger vehicle sales growth at 6 per cent posting 45,878 units last month as compared to 43,341 units in May last year.

Sales of passenger electric vehicles, including international business, were at 5,805 units as against 3,505 units in the same month a year ago, a growth of 66 per cent, the company said in a statement.

Another homegrown automaker Mahindra & Mahindra posted a total passenger vehicle sales of 26,904 units in May 2022. The company's utility vehicles sales last month were at 32,883 units, as against 26,632 units in the year-ago period, a growth of 23 per cent. Sales of cars and vans were at 3 units as compared to 272 units in May last year.

"We continue our growth trend, backed by strong demand in SUVs," M&M president, automotive division, Veejay Nakra said.

He, however, said, "The sales volume for both SUVs and 'Pick-Ups' were restricted by a short-term disruption in engine-related parts at the supplier-end. The semiconductor supply constraints on specific parts like Air Bag ECU, continued during the month too."

Automaker Kia India said its total wholesales increased 3 per cent to 24,770 units in May. The company undertook a plant maintenance shutdown from May 15-20. It had dispatched 24,079 units to dealers in May 2022.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR (UNION TERRITORY).

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER SHOPIAN.

3rd Floor Mini Secretariat Arhama Shopian 192303

Email, (dycmospn@gmail.com) Tele/Fax no 01933-260129

" TENDER NOTICE FOR HIRING VEHICLE "

Tenders are invited from reputed parties/ agency / Companies supplying vehicles with drivers on daily / monthly hire basis for official use Dy. CMO Office Shopian. Interested parties who are willing to comply with the terms and conditions (Annexed to this notice may submit their bids with a period of Seven days from the date of publication in the daily newspaper. The tender will be opened on the 10th day in the office of undersigned at 11:30 am from the date of publication.

General Terms and Conditions:-

- The service provider should be a proprietorship / Partnership registered firm and vehicle should be registered with J & K RTO.
- The vehicle should be in excellent good running conditions and should have valid registration, fitness and Insurance + D/L of driver / Pollution certificate under taking in this regard will be needed during submitting the tender.
- The contract for providing the vehicle will be given to the lowest bidder (L1) who full fill's all the terms and conditions given in the tender document
- The office reserves the right to reverse the agreement and surrender the vehicle at any time in case quality service is not provided.
- The calculation of mileage shall from the reporting point to the reporting point and will not be calculated on garage to garage basis.
- The driver deputed on duty shall observe all the etiquette and protocol while performing duties.
- The office shall not be responsible for any chalan , or whatsoever loss / damage or any accident of any vehicle or his vehicle or injury to driver. The loss or damage are third party insurance will borne by the servicer provider and will submit the under taking in this regard.
- A logbook indicates time and mileage should be maintained and submitted to the office for scrutiny of bills and payment purpose.
- All the expenses and salary of the driver will be born by the company service provider.
- In case of any dispute of any kind and in any respect what so ever the decision of this office shall be final and binding.
- Contract can be terminated by either party prematurely by giving advance notice of one month.

No :- Dycmo/spn/Est/ 128-29
Dated:- 02/06/2023.

DIPK-2724-23
DT: 03/06/2023

Deputy, Chief Medical Officer
Shopian

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, TRANSMISSION LINE MAINTT. DIVISION-VIII, SRINAGAR



Jammu and Kashmir
Power Development Corporation J & K Srinagar.

Tele Fax 0194-2491342
E- mail: tlm8jktcl@gmail.com

CORRIGENDUM TO TENDER

No-TLMD-VIII /TS/ 805-10

Dated: 03 : 06: 2023

The corrigendum/ partial modification in respect of Para-I of e-NIT No. TLMD-VIII/TS/ 06 of 2023 Dated: 26-05-2023 issued by this Division under endorsement No.TLMD-VIII/TS/699-703 Dated: 26 : 05 : 2023 for "Construction of Protection Walling for Tower Location No. LP-13B/C & LP-18 of 220kV D/C Mir Bazar Lassipora-Transmission Line at Ramiaara Nallah" is hereby issued as under.

S.#	As Per e-NIT	To Be Read As
1.	For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of UT of Jammu & Kashmir State, e-tenders (in Two Covers) valid for 60 days from reputed, experienced and financially sound Contractors/ Firms are invited for the works detailed below.	For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of UT of Jammu & Kashmir State, e-tenders (in Two Covers) valid for 60 days from reputed, experienced and financially sound Class-A Civil Contractors/ Firms are invited for the works detailed below.

All other Terms & Conditions as detailed in the e-NIT/SBD shall remain unchanged.

DIPK-NB-1053-23
DT: 03/06/2023

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
TLMD-VIII Srinagar.

Studies suggest that climate change is expected to worsen the frequency, intensity, and impacts of some types of extreme weather events. "The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate also speculated that the indicators of erratic weather patterns will accentuate and amplify by the end of

Despite one's best efforts, "it is nearly impossible to adequately prepare for the unpredictable and frequently devastating effects of anomalous climate behavior," Bashir Ahmad Basheer,


Weather based strategy
When the climate is changing, the strategies too should. Relying solely on the traditional approaches to crop management may no longer be sufficient. 'Weather based decision support system for crop risk management' is what the experts suggest as another measure to reduce the input loss. It is a technology that aids farmers in making weather-based agricultural decisions through SMS, mobile apps, and information kiosks. "We at SKUAST are keen at developing Artificial Intelligence (AI) driven system which would provide location specific and custom advisory for farmers. We are


Addressing the gathering, the LG also lauded the PRI members and District Administration for their commitment and dedication towards the welfare of the people.


“Budgam is rapidly achieving all-round development and it has been possible because of the hard work, competence, integrity and excellent coordination between PRIs and district

The Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast Express which was coming at high speed crashed into the coaches of Coromandel Express that had scattered

Driver Found
under 174 CrPC—(KNO)







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 Fax No. 0194-3452234 Tel- 0191-2471219

Government of Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Financial Commissioner (Revenue)

Subject: Appointment to the post of Junior Assistant (Revenue Department) District Cadre Pulwama in pursuance to Advertisement Notification No. 02 of 2021 under item No 457 issued by the J&K SSB.

Ref: 1. Letter No. Rev-NG/13/2023(7152177) dated 20.03.2023 from Administrative Department, J&K.
 2. Letter No. JKSSB/PLAN/25/2022-03 dated 16.03.2023 from J&K Service Selection Board.

Order No; 254 FC (REV) Of 2023
Dated: 02/06/2023

On the recommendations of the J&K Service Selection Board, and endorsed by the Administrative Department vide their letters referred above, sanction is hereby accorded to the temporary appointment of the below mentioned candidate(s) as Junior Assistant in the Revenue Department, District Cadre Pulwama, in the pay level-4 (Rs 25500-81100).

S. District No. Cadre	Name of the candidate (Mr./Ms.)	Parentage (Mr.)	Address	Category	CID Character verification form no.
1. Pulwama	Imran Rahim	Abdul Rahim Dar	Monghama, Pulwama	OM	61129 dated 04.05.2023
2. Pulwama	Yawar Ahmad Shah	Ab Rashid Shah	H.No.944, Shaladraman, Chattrugam, Pulwama	OM/RBA	61122 dated 04.05.2023
3. Pulwama	Fazil Mehraj	Mehraj- U- Din	H.No.01, Rajpora, Pulwama	OM	61134 dated 08.05.2023
4. Pulwama	Sameer Gulzar	Gulzar Ahmad Dar	H.No.91, Monghama, Pulwama	OM	61171 dated 04.05.2023
5. Pulwama	Muzafar Ahma Dar	Gh Mohd Dar	Dangerpora, Bellow Durgund, Rajpora, Pulwama	OM/ESM	61146 dated 08.05.2023
6. Pulwama	Waheed Ahmad Sheergorji	Abdul Gani Sheergorji	Gori Mohalla, Gang, Tal, Pulwama	RBA	61141 dated 03.05.2023

The appointee(s) shall report to the Deputy Commissioner, Pulwama, within a period of twenty one (21) days from the date of issuance of this order and shall be allowed to join after the production of following documents/certificates (in original) to be verified subsequently:-

- (i) Academic/ qualification Certificates.
- (ii) Matriculation/Date of Birth Certificates.
- (iii) Health Certificate from the concerned Chief Medical Officer of the District.
- (iv) Domicile Certificate issued by the competent authority.
- (v) If the candidate(s) has taken loan for self employment from DIC/Employment Department, to be ascertained from the District Industries Centre (DIC) and District Employment & Counseling Centre of the domicile District, they shall relinquish the proprietorship of unit/enterprise and also stakes, if any, in such self employment unit/enterprise before joining the Government service. They shall be required to repay the entire loan liability in suitable EMIs to be worked out by the DDO concerned from their salary. DDO concerned shall obtain an affidavit from the concerned appointee(s) regarding both relinquishment of proprietorship and stakes if any, in such a self-employment unit/enterprise and recovery to be made and also personally monitor its recovery.
- (vi) Valid relevant Category Certificate, if any, applicable.

The above appointments shall further be subject to the following conditions:-

- (a) The clearance received from the Criminal Investigation Department, J&K is provisional and it shall be mandatory for the appointee to fill in the Verification Rolls (V-Rolls), as available through the online mode under the Electronic Employment Verification System (EVS). Any false information provided by the appointee(s), or an adverse finding subsequent to the V-Roll submitted electronically shall result in cancellation of appointment ab-initio, without any further notice.
- (b) The appointee(s) shall give an undertaking in the shape of an affidavit to the effect that if, on verification, genuineness of the qualification /category certificate from the concerned issuing authority are found fake/forged, the appointment shall be treated to have been cancelled ab-initio.
- (c) The salary of the appointees shall not be drawn and disbursed to them unless a satisfactory report in respect of (a) above is received in their favour.
- (d) The appointees shall be initially on probation for a period of two years.
- (e) The appointment of the candidate(s) shall be governed by the "New Pension Scheme" as per SRO 400 of 2009 dated 24.12.2009.
- (f) The inter-se-seniority of the appointee(s) shall be strictly as per their merit in the select list.
- (g) The cadre allocated by appointing authority/SSB shall not be changed under any circumstances.
- (h) This appointment order is issued subject to outcome of any petition(s) pending in any competent Court/Tribunal, etc.
- (i) If the appointee(s) fail to join within a period of 21 days (twenty one) days from the date of issuance of this order they shall forego their right to appointment which shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio without any further notice.

DIPK-2738/23

Dated: 03/06/2023

By order of the Financial Commissioner (Revenue) J&K.

Sd/-
(Shaleen Kabra) IAS
Financial Commissioner,(Revenue)
(J&K)



J&K Contingent Leaves For National School Games

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The first J&K contingent of 239 athletes including escorting officials was flagged off by Director Department of Youth Services & Sports J&K Subash C Chibber along with District Development Commissioner Jammu Avny Lavasa on Saturday from MA Stadium here.

The School Games Federation of India (SGFI) is conducting the 66th National School Games (NSG) (2022-23) in various sports disciplines in the age group of U-19 years (Boys & Girls) after a gap of three years.

The J&K contingents comprising 383 (Boys & Girls) and 85 officials are taking part in the 66th National School Games in 20 sports disciplines to be held at different venues across the country.

Congratulating the selected participants, Director YSS hoped that the young athletes would do their best to perform to the highest possible level. He added

that since the crucial National level games are resuming after three years, expectations are high with the performances of these young players. "After going through the competitions at various levels, you have reached a position where you will be representing your UT in a very important Sports extravaganza. You should put in all your efforts in achieving the best from this opportunity. I on behalf of the YSS family wish you all the best and pray for your grand success," Chibber added.

Pertinently Second contingent of 65 (Boys & Girls) including escorting staff is leaving on 4th of the current month from Jammu to Bhopal at 2 PM. The third contingent of 55 (Boys & Girls) including staff shall be leaving on the 6th of June from Jammu to Gwalior at 6 PM. The fourth and last contingent of 106 (Boys & Girls) including staff is leaving on the 8th from Jammu to Gwalior at 6 PM for the participation in 66th National School Games.

World Bicycle Day Celebrated By DYSS Anantnag



Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: To celebrate World Bicycle Day, the Department of Youth Services & Sports Anantnag hosted a bicycle rally of around 10kms in collaboration with the Department of Health from Khanabal to Sports Stadium Matan.

The rally was flagged off by Chief Medical Officer Anantnag and District Youth Services & Sports Officer Anantnag with a participation of around 45 cyclists from different schools.

Speaking on this occasion, Chief Medical Officer thanked the Department of Youth Services & Sports for the collaboration in organising the event and congratulated the participating students for taking part in this initiative.

District Youth Services & Sports Officer Anantnag congratulated the students and the Department of Health for this event and displays a commitment towards such events in future also.

Sports Activities For Tribal Youth Held At Mattan

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The Department of Youth Services and Sports organised various sporting activities for tribal youth at Zone Mattan on Saturday at High School Wantrang.

The event was attended by District Development Council Misra Jee, Block Development Chairman Abdul Majeed, along with District Youth Services & Sports Officer Anantnag, Tehsil-

dar Mattan, Zonal Physical Education Officer Mattan, Headmistress High School Wantrang.

The sports events which were played at the venue included Volleyball, Kabaddi, Tug of War and a cultural program was part of this tribal sports event displaying their local tradition. Around 85 youth took part and at the closing ceremony, where medals and trophies were distributed among the toppers.

Athletes Left Shocked By Deadly Train Mishap



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Former India captain Virat Kohli and Olympic gold medallist Abhinav Bindra, among several other sportspersons, expressed their anguish over the devastating train accident in Odisha's Balasore district, that has killed at least 238 people and injured more than 900.

The train crash on Friday, involving the Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast Express, the Shalimar-Chennai Central Coromandel Express and a goods train, is one of the deadliest such accidents since independence.

Officials in Bhubaneswar said 200 ambulances, 50 buses and 45 mobile health units were working at the accident site, besides 1,200 personnel. The bodies were being taken to the hospitals in all kinds of vehicles, including tractors.

Kohli, who is in England with the India team for the World Test Championship final against Australia at The Oval from June 7, wished for the speedy recovery of the injured. "Saddened to hear about the

tragic train accident in Odisha. My thoughts and prayers go out to the families who lost their loved ones and wishing a speedy recovery to the injured," tweeted Kohli.

India's first individual Olympic gold medallist, rifle shooter Abhinav Bindra, he had been left heartbroken by the news of the accident.

"Heartbreaking news from Odisha about the devastating train accident. My heart goes out to all those affected and their loved ones during this incredibly difficult time. Please, let's all extend our support and prayers to them. May the injured recover swiftly," tweeted Bindra, the 2008 Beijing Olympics gold medallist in 10m air rifle.

The train crash, the fourth deadliest in India according to available records, happened near the Bahanaga Bazaar station in Balasore district, about 250km south of Kolkata and 170km north of Bhubaneswar, around 7 pm on Friday, prompting the Railway Ministry to order a probe.

India cricketer Shreyas Iyer called the visuals coming from

Balasore "shocking".

"Shocking visuals from Odisha. Praying for those affected by the tragic train accident."

Former India cricketer Virat Kohli paid his condolences to the families who lost their near-and-dear ones.

"Extremely sad hearing about this tragic train accident involving Coromandel Express in Odisha. Condolences to all families who have lost their loved ones and prayers for quick recovery of those injured," wrote Sehwaag.

Former India all-rounder Irfan Pathan termed it a "heart-wrenching news".

"Heart wrenching news coming from Odisha. My thoughts and prayers for the families who lost their lives in this horrific train accident," wrote Pathan.

Former pace bowler Venkatesh Prasad wrote, "Very pained and anguished by the tragic train accident in Odisha. Passenger safety must be prioritised. My heart goes out to the families who have lost their loved ones and prayers for smooth recovery of the injured."

PCB 'Refuses' To Play ODI Series In Sri Lanka: Report

Press Trust of India

KARACHI: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is upset at Sri Lanka board expressing its desire to host the entire Asia Cup and has declined the latter's offer to play an ODI bilateral series in the island nation.

According to sources in the PCB, relations between the PCB and Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) have turned sour after its offer of hosting the entire Asia Cup instead of four games being held in Pakistan as per the 'Hybrid Model' proposed by Najam Sethi.

"An example of the increasingly strained relations between the two boards emerged after the PCB turned down a proposal by the Lankans to play a few One-Day International matches next month in Sri Lanka," PCB source stated.

Pakistan is scheduled to visit Sri Lanka in July to play two Tests of the next ICC World Test Championship cycle and apparently the SLC had suggested that Pakistan also play a few ODIs as they are optimistic their team will book a spot from the World Cup qualifiers



in Zimbabwe and would need more exposure before the main event in October.

But a reliable source confirmed that the PCB after initially saying they would consider the proposal had turned it down now.

"It is a clear indication that the PCB is not happy with the Sri Lanka board stepping in to offer to host the Asia Cup in September when it is Pakistan's turn to host the regional event at home," the source said.

He said in fact PCB chairman Sethi is also not happy with the response of the Bangladesh and Afghanistan boards

over the Asia Cup issue.

"Sethi expected Sri Lanka with whom Pakistan has long had friendly relations, Bangladesh and Afghanistan to convince the Indian Cricket Board and other Asian Cricket Council board members to go with the proposal put by Sethi and at least play three to four games in Pakistan of the Asia Cup before moving the tournament elsewhere."

"He is disappointed at the way things have panned out in recent days specially when some of these board heads went to India for the IPL final and met with the BCCI secretary Jay Shah," the source added.



England Name Unchanged Squad For First 2 Ashes Tests

Agencies

LONDON: England have named an unchanged squad for the first two tests of the five-match Ashes series against Australia, with seamer Josh Tongue retaining his place after an impressive debut against Ireland this week. Tongue was initially drafted into the squad after injury concerns over James Anderson and Ollie Robinson, who were rested for the Ireland test but are expected to be fit to face Australia when the first test begins at Edgbaston on June 16.

Worcestershire seamer Tongue took three wickets on

day two as England closed on a comprehensive victory over Ireland at Lord's in their only warm-up test before the Ashes. England do have concerns about the fitness of their captain Ben Stokes who has a longstanding knee problem and was in obvious pain after taking a catch to dismiss Ireland's Curtis Campher on Saturday.

England squad: Ben Stokes (captain), James Anderson, Jonny Bairstow, Stuart Broad, Harry Brook, Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Dan Lawrence, Jack Leach, Ollie Pope, Matthew Potts, Ollie Robinson, Joe Root, Josh Tongue, Chris Woakes, Mark Wood.

Gundogan Double Hands City FA Cup Final Win



Agencies

LONDON: Manchester City moved to within one victory of completing a momentous treble as they beat Manchester United 2-1 in the FA Cup final on Saturday thanks to Ilkay Gundogan's double.

City captain Gundogan entered the record books as he scored the fastest goal in FA Cup final history, crashing home an exquisite volley after 12 seconds. United, seeking to win both domestic cups in the same season for the first time and wreck City's hopes

of emulating their own historic 1999 treble, levelled against the run of play when skipper Bruno Fernandes tucked in a 33rd-minute penalty.

But Gundogan restored City's lead with another volley seven minutes after the interval and Pep Guardiola's side resisted late pressure to win the trophy for a seventh time. The Premier League champions face Inter Milan in next Saturday's Champions League final when victory would see them match United's triple triumph in the 1998-1999 season.

Barcelona Clinch Women's CL In Comeback Victory

Agencies

EINDHOVEN: Barcelona won their second Women's Champions League in three years on Saturday when they came back from two goals down to beat VfL Wolfsburg 3-2 in a thrilling final before a

tional comeback for Barcelona who had been 2-0 down at halftime.

The Spanish league champions quickly set the record straight in the second half as Patricia Guijarro headed in two goals in the first five minutes after the break. Polish striker Ewa



sold-out crowd in Eindhoven. Swedish defender Fridolina Rolfo struck the winning goal from close range in the 70th minute, rounding off a sensa-

Pajor had put Wolfsburg ahead in the third minute and then provided the cross for Alexandra Popp to score their second goal in the 37th.

Tendulkar Reveals Playing With Painful Toe Injury In 2011-12

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar has revealed he had to manage the recurrence of a painful, decade-old toe injury during India's tour of Australia in 2011-12 which caused him a lot of trouble.

Tendulkar had suffered a toe injury in the year 2000 and the same had resurfaced in the next year, which had kept him out of action for a tri-series in Sri Lanka with New Zealand being the third side. The batting legend recalled how the same affected him badly in the second half of India's tour of Australia in 2011-12, a series which the visiting side lost 0-4 to cede the Border-Gavaskar Trophy to the home side.

Having won the 50-over World Cup in April, it was the same period in which the Indian Test side had gone through one of its worst phases, having lost 0-4 in England earlier the same year.

"In the year 2000, I had a toe injury in South Africa following which I took injections as well. The same injury resurfaced after the 2011 World Cup. I don't even know; I did not do anything which would have put strain on it.

"In fact, I was in London for leave and I was going to join the (Indian) team there," Tendulkar told a large gathering of audience here on Friday evening during an event to launch a book titled 'Scintillating Sachin', and titled 'Shatkant Ekach' in Marathi.

Tendulkar, speaking in Marathi, informed that he was in so much pain and frustration that he found it very difficult to manage, and the local doctors suggested that he undergoes surgery.

"(In Australia) it was very painful and unbearable. I had used bandages, changed my in-soles twice, and was just managing to play somehow. Most of the tour was over but my



frustration was only increasing. "The Australian grounds are hard, which was making it even more difficult. The doctor suggested getting a surgery done," he said.

Tendulkar said his wife Anjali flew down from India to Australia in a matter of 48 hours and helped take the right call.

"I had to run, so my pain increased too much and I consulted a doctor in Australia. He suggested that I need to do a surgery, and even my other leg was hurting. So I shared this with Anjali, I told her that I can't take this pain anymore and that 'I have had enough' and I will do surgery," he said.

"I said 'I am informing the team that I cannot play, I am in pain and it is difficult', after hearing this, Anjali came to Brisbane literally in 48 hours only to stop me, to not have this surgery," said Tendulkar, adding that doctors said if the surgery was unsuccessful, it would have impacted his career, leaving him on wheelchair for at least six weeks.

Even Tendulkar's doctor, Dr Anant Joshi, who was also present on Friday evening, said such an injury affected ballet dancers. Former India cricketers Kiran More, Zaheer Khan, Pravin Amre and former coach Aunshuman Gaekwad also spoke at length about their memories with Tendulkar at the launch.

Tendulkar also recalled one of his most memorable centuries — an epic 613-minute 241 from 436 balls against Australia at Sydney during the 2003-04 tour — in which he did not play a single cover drive, which

is considered one of his trademark shots.

He said that a conversation with his brother Ajit Tendulkar, who helped shape Tendulkar's career at the beginning and remained a pillar throughout, helped him overcome a string of ordinary scores and pile up a massive total at Sydney. Tendulkar said, "I was batting well in Australia, but was not scoring big runs. So, I had a conversation with Ajit before the Sydney Test. He had observed my batting and said: 'There was not any technical fault in your batting. But the flaw is in your shot selection'. He said I need to be more disciplined while playing shots."

"One more thing he said: 'I don't think a bowler is getting you out. You played the wrong shot and that's why you got out. So take the challenge that no one would get you out in this Test'. I accepted that challenge. "Fortunately, I scored in both innings and remained

unbeaten throughout the Test. So he was instrumental in finding solutions and I am sitting in front of you just because of him."

The batting legend said some of the methods that Ajit asked him to follow were ingrained in his subconscious forever.

"I actually learnt how to do pre-match preparation when I was in school, because since then only Ajit made sure that I prepared better for the next day's match. He used to tell me that 'match would not start at 9.30 am next day; you started thinking about it on the eve of the game'. Since then I got into the habit of ironing my own clothes," he said.

"I still remember when I was playing my 200th Test and I was ironing my whites on the eve of that Test. The reason for doing that is when I was seeing my whites while ironing, my subconscious mind started preparing for the game," Tendulkar added.

Centre Bans 14 Fixed Dose Combination Drugs, Cites They May Involve Risk To People



New Delhi: The government has banned 14 fixed dose combination drugs including Nimesulide and Paracetamol dispersible tablets and Chlorpheniramine Maleate and Codeine syrup citing there is "no therapeutic justification" for these medicines and that they may involve "risk" to people.

The Union Health Ministry issued a notification on Friday in this regard.

The banned drugs included those used for treating common infections, cough and fever -- combinations such as Nimesulide + Paracetamol dispersible tablets, Chlorpheniramine Maleate + Codeine Syrup, Pholcodine + Promethazine, Amoxicillin + Bromhexine and Bromhexine + Dextromethorphan + Ammonium Chloride + Menthol, Paracetamol + Bromhexine + Phenylephrine + Chlorpheniramine + Guaiphenesin and Salbutamol + Bromhexine.

The move comes following recommendations by an expert committee. The expert committee said that there is "no therapeutic justification for this FDC (fixed dose combination) and the FDC may involve risk to human beings. Hence, in the larger public interest, it is necessary to

prohibit the manufacture, sale or distribution of this FDC under section 26 A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. In view of the above, any kind of regulation or restriction to allow for any use in patients is not justifiable." "And whereas, on the basis of the recommendations of the Expert Committee and the Drugs Technical Advisory Board, the Central Government is satisfied that it is necessary and expedient in public interest to regulate by way of prohibition the manufacture for sale, sale and distribution for human use of the said drug in the country," the notification stated.

FDC drugs are those which contain a combination of two or more active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) in a fixed ratio.

In 2016, the government had announced the ban on the manufacture, sale and distribution of 344 drug combinations after an expert panel, set up at the behest of the Supreme Court had stated they were being sold to patients without scientific data and the order was challenged by the manufacturers in court. The currently banned 14 FDCs are part of those 344 drug combinations.

Blood Test To Detect 50 Types Of Cancer Hailed As 'Revolutionary'

Agenceis

A blood test that can detect more than 50 different types of cancer could speed up diagnosis, a study suggests.

The Galleri test was able to detect signs of cancer in 323 out of the 6,238 people who had visited their GP with suspected symptoms, in England or Wales, the study showed.

Of those 323 patients, 244 were subsequently diagnosed with cancer, giving a positive predictive accuracy of 75 per cent, the researchers said.

The findings could mean the blood test has the potential to spot and rule out cancer in people with symptoms, speeding up diagnosis.

In 85 per cent of those positive cases, the test was able to pinpoint the original site of the cancer.

The test, which is being trialled by researchers at the University of Oxford, detects fragments of tumour DNA in the bloodstream.

Some cancer tumours are known to shed DNA into the blood a long time before a person would start experiencing symptoms.

The test predicted 37 per cent of bowel cancer cases, 22 per cent of lung cancer cases, and eight per cent of uterine cancer cases, as well as six per cent of oesophago-gastric cases, and four per cent



of ovarian cancer cases.

However, the accuracy of the test varied depending on the stage of the cancer. The Galleri test was able to accurately predict 95 per cent of advanced-stage tumours, while it was only able to predict 24 per cent of very early-stage cancers.

The test does not detect all cancers and does not replace NHS screening programmes, such as those for breast, cervical and bowel cancer.

Researchers said the test is a "work in progress", but the NHS trial is showing "real promise".

Developed by Californian company Grail, the test is also being trialled in the NHS to see if it can detect hidden cancers in people without symptoms, with results expected later this year.

NHS national director for cancer Prof Peter Johnson said: "This study is the first step in testing a new way to identify cancer as quickly as possible, being pioneered by the NHS - earlier de-

tection of cancer is vital and this test could help us to catch more cancers at an earlier stage and help save thousands of lives."

Brian Nicholson, associate professor at the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences, University of Oxford, said the findings suggest that multi-cancer early detection tests (MCEDs) can play a role "to confirm that symptomatic patients should be evaluated for cancer before pursuing other diagnoses".

He said: "Most patients diagnosed with cancer first see a primary care physician for the investigation of symptoms suggestive of cancer, like weight loss, anaemia, or abdominal pain, which can be complex as there are multiple potential causes."

"New tools that can both expedite cancer diagnosis and potentially avoid invasive and costly investigations are needed to more accurately triage patients who present with non-specific cancer symptoms."

Professor Helen McShane, director of the NIHR Oxford Biomedical Research Centre, said: "We are committed to diagnosing cancers earlier, when they can be cured, and this study is an important step on that journey."

The findings from the trial were presented at the American Society of Clinical Oncology conference, in Chicago, and published in The Lancet Oncology journal.

Stop Giving Coverage To Ex-PM Imran Khan, Pakistan Govt Tells Media Houses

Agenceis

LAHORE: The Pakistan government on Friday urged the country's media houses to refrain from publishing or broadcasting speeches, statements, tweets or pictures of former prime minister Imran Khan.

The government said it was making sure that the 70-year-old Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief's social media activities are also blocked.

According to a government official, both print and electronic media have been directed not to publish or broadcast Khan's speeches, statements, tweets or display his pictures.

"We will make sure that media blackout of Imran Khan is completely enforced," the official said.

An informed source told PTI that the Pakistani media houses have been categorically told by the 'powerful circles' to give no coverage to Khan.

He said Khan's media blackout was enforced from Friday.

The government order comes a day after the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) directed all satellite TV channels not to promote the perpetrators of the May 9 violence.

It also directed them to ensure that coherence and national harmony are promoted and "hate mongers, rioters, their facilitators and perpetrators" are completely blacked out from the media.

Without naming Khan, PEMRA said: "Refrain from providing

airtime to those who propagate hate speech and provoke public sentiments against the federation and state institutions".

It said the hate mongers, representing political outfits, are abusing their power against Pakistan and state institutions by instigating the public.

"All such anti-state activities were orchestrated by the politically charged-up zealots of a political party behaving largely as hate mongers to instigate political activists," it said.

There has been a crackdown on the PTI leaders and workers after their alleged involvement in attacking army installations in the country following the arrest of Khan.

Violence erupted across Pakistan on May 9 when cricketer-turned-politician Khan was arrested from the premises of the Islamabad High Court in a corruption case.

Khan was released on bail two days later.

Over 200 military installations and government buildings including military headquarters in Rawalpindi were damaged in the unrest that ensued.

Over 100 vehicles of police and other security agencies were also set on fire in the violence that left more than 10 persons dead.

Khan has said over 25 PTI workers were killed in the violence and that law enforcement agencies arrested over 10,000 PTI workers across Pakistan.

As many as 4,000 of them are from Punjab.

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Maska**



& Chai

Who Says Healthy
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BRING YOUR
KIDS ALONG

📍 JK BANK LAWNS, NEAR GHAT 6, BOULEVARD-SRINAGAR