

Is Online Market Robbing Kashmiri Handicraft Dealers Of Livelihood

Rhys Gonsalves

Mumbai: The bustling streets of Mumbai have long been a hub of trade for exquisite Kashmiri craftsmanship. Thousands of Kashmiri traders would flock to Mumbai annually to showcase their intricate designs and impeccable craftsmanship. However, the once highly sought after rich heritage of Kashmiri artistry is facing a challenging time in this bustling metropolis.

The declining demand is not only robbing the livelihood of thousands of traders and

craftsmen back home but poses a threat to the preservation of Kashmir's rich cultural heritage.

Paras Khan from Ali Kadal in downtown Srinagar, who owns a shop at Colaba called 'Kashmir Novelties', says compared to other places like Delhi, Agra and Jaipur, there are fewer tourists here, but Mumbai with its own charm and class has always been a paradise for high end shoppers. Traditionally Kashmiri crafts have had a niche clientele. Mumbai's elite class, corporate sector and tourists were main buyers. Shawls



were more like an investment here. There used to be

wealthy Indians, who would buy shawls and present them

as dowry. The finest of shawls – the Pashmina was widely available here. The luxury market was dominated by the handloom industry and this was long before. There was demand, but there wasn't enough supply because there weren't as many resources as there are now," Khan said.

Yasir Shah, another trader from the valley, has been in Mumbai for over 20 years.

"I started this business in 2002. I came to Mumbai from Srinagar in search of work. I had just finished my diploma. When I first arrived here, I

attended a few exhibitions that piqued my interest. So I started the shawl business. It was going well until Covid struck.

We had to start our business online during Covid. So we started with Amazon, Flipkart, and Snapdeal; there weren't many buyers there, but we somehow survived."

The phenomenal rise of online trade in the post Covid era has had both positive and negative impacts on the sale of Kashmiri handicrafts. While online platforms provide wider reach and **More on P10**

MHA Shifts Four IAS, IPS Officers From J&K

Agencies

Srinagar: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Thursday transferred four officers—two IAS & two IPS officers from Jammu and Kashmir with immediate effect and until further orders

Others include Manoj Kumar Lal (IPS) from DGP Puducherry to Delhi, Satish Golcha (IPS) from DGP Arunachal Pradesh to Delhi, Anand Mohan (IPS) Puducherry to DGP Arunachal Pradesh, Neeraj Thakur (IPS) DGP A&NI to Delhi, Devesh Chandra Srivastava (IPS) from DGP Mizoram to DGP A&NI and Anil Shukla (IPS) from A&NI to DGP Mizoram.

As per a separate order, the MHA has ordered transfer of 59 IAS and IPS officers, including five from J&K. Those transferred from J&K include Amit Sharma (IAS) to Ladakh, Sagar D Dattaray to DNH&DC, Ashish Kumar Mishra (IPS) to Delhi, **More on P10**

Spiritual Aspect of J&K Scaling New Heights: LG Inaugurates Tirupati Balaji Temple In Jammu



Observer News Service

Jammu: Asserting that Jammu and Kashmir is looking ahead to a bright future, the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Thursday that it is our collective responsibility to contribute to the task of socio-economic growth and to ensure participation and empowerment of the common man in the Union Territory.

"Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Jammu Kashmir is witnessing faster economic development and revival of culture in Amrit Kaal. The Union Territory is touching new heights of glory, divinity and development in its eternal

journey," Sinha said.

He made these remarks at the inauguration of the temple of Lord Sri Venkateswara Swamy at the Majean area here.

J&K LG, Union ministers Dr Jitendra Singh and G Kishan Reddy inaugurated the temple spread across over 62 acres of land, to the devotees.

"The Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir is looking ahead to a bright future. It is our collective responsibility to contribute to the task of socio-economic growth and to ensure participation and empowerment of the common man," Sinha said.

Along with the unprecedented development, the LG said, the spiritual aspect of **More on P10**



PEOPLE SPENDING QUALITY TIME with their families at the newly created Jhelum riverfront in Srinagar on Thursday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

DoB Recorded In Service Records Can't Be Altered: HC

Says Once Same Is Accepted By Employer, It Can't Be Altered Without Hearing Him, Or Holding Enquiry

M Ahmad

Srinagar: Observing that great sanctity is attached to the entry of date of birth recorded in the service records of a government servant, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh has said that the same cannot be altered by the employer without giving such employee an opportunity of hearing or else hold an enquiry in the matter.

A bench of Justice Javed Iqbal Wani made the observations while allowing a petition filed in 2017 by one Prithpal Singh but died on 26 February 2021 and later his legal heirs were brought on record.

In his plea, late Singh had challenged order by virtue of which the State retired him from the State Road Transport Corporation where he worked as driver on 31 August 2003. According to the petition, Singh came to be engaged as a driver on 19 February 1986 and upon his appointment, his age came



to be recorded in the service book as of 28 years on 10 July 1985 on the basis of age certificate issued by Chief Medical Officer, Baramulla as he was not possessed of any academic qualification.

It was contended that on the basis of the date of birth recorded in the service book by the corporation, Singh had to retire in 2017 upon attaining the age of 60 years and that the authorities issued the order suggesting the year of retirement of Singh as 2003.

"Under service jurisprudence, every newly appointed person to a service or post under the Government at the time of appointment has to declare his/her date of birth by Christian Era with conformity documentary evidence," the court said. The date of birth recorded in the service records consequently becomes the basis for superannuation and the date of birth so declared by such person at the time of appointment has to be accepted by the appointing authority on production of conformity documentary evidence, the court said.

"Thus, once a date of birth of a government servant is recorded in his service records having been declared by such government servant and accepted by the appropriate authority, same cannot be altered by the concerned authority except in the case of a clerical error and though, an appropriate authority reserves the right **More on P10**

BJP Bats For Assembly Polls In J&K



Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir unit of the BJP Thursday batted for holding Assembly elections in the Union Territory, saying the Assembly is the only forum to make laws which the local bodies or district development councils (DDCs) cannot.

"Assembly is a forum where laws are made. A DDC chairman will not make laws, panchs will not make laws," General Secretary (organisation), J&K BJP, Ashok Koul, told reporters here.

Koul said the party will contest the polls on a large scale and put up a good show.

"We will have a good show in

this election. The government will be formed after elections... Assembly platform will come here very soon," he said.

The unit organised an outreach programme here in which the party leaders threw light on development activities which have taken place in the last nine years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government.

Koul said Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed massive development activities and lags behind none across the country in terms of development.

"Whatever has happened in entire country has happened in Jammu and Kashmir. It is not as if Jammu and Kashmir **More on P10**

World Used Art- 370 To Keep India Off Balance: EAM

Agencies

New Delhi: Defending the abrogation of Article 370, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday said that India was being kept off balance internationally for a long time through the provision, which prompted the action and now, the world understands the logic behind it.

"The whole world used Article 370 against India to keep us off balance, so we remedied it at home. We spent a lot of time to make the world understand why we did it (abrogation of Article 370).

Now, people say it is not a

live issue anymore," he said in a press conference, while responding to a question on how the government handled the issue on the diplomatic front.

He further added that while doing so, the government- also fought lots of false narratives which emanated from within the country.

Soon after coming to power in 2019 for the second time, the NDA government abrogated Article 370 on August 5 that year and turned Jammu and Kashmir into a union territory.

Besides, Ladakh was also turned into a separate union territory. (IANS)

S H O R T T A K E S

Former Ministers, Mayor JMC Calls On LG

Three former Ministers and the Mayor, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Rajinder Sharma on Thursday called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan here. Sharma apprised the LG on various public welfare issues and important matters related to Municipal Corporation, an official spokesperson said. Besides, he said, former **More on P10**

Youth Held For Blackmailing Girl

Police on Thursday arrested a youth on charges of blackmailing and threatening a girl in North Kashmir's Baramulla district. The arrest was made after police post Delina received a written complaint from a man alleging that his daughter is being continuously blackmailed and threatened by an unknown caller for long, causing her severe distress, a police spokesperson said Thursday. **More on P10**

2 Brothers Held On Rape Charges

The crime branch of Jammu and Kashmir police on Thursday arrested two brothers involved in an alleged rape case in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, officials said. Those arrested have been identified as Bittu Singh and Keval Krishan. The duo had been absconding since 2017, they said. They have been arrested after well-coordinated **More on P10**

Policeman Found Dead In Uptown Hotel

A policeman was found dead in a hotel in the Mehjoor Nagar area of Srinagar uptown on Thursday. The cop has been identified as Shuja Ali, a resident of Lal Bazar area of Srinagar. Station House Officer, Police Station Sadar Mudasir Ahmed confirmed to alocal news agency KNT saying that the deceased cop was an armed policeman. **More on P10**

640 More J&K Pilgrims Leave For Hajj

The second batch of 640 Hajj pilgrims including 485 male and 155 female have left for Jeddah on Thursday. The first batch of 630 Hajj pilgrims was flagged off yesterday by Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha here. Official data reads that the second batch of the Hajj pilgrims left today in two flights. Both the flights were carrying 320 Hajj pilgrims today. The data reads that **More on P10**

Decomposed Body Found In Pulwama

A decomposed body of a person was found in a village in Awantipora area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district on Wednesday evening. Quoting an official, news agency KNO reported that some passersby spotted the body in Barsoo village and informed the police about it. He said that soon after a police team reached to the spot and shifted **More on P10**



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2

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Anantnag

Notice inviting e-TENDERS

E-NIT NO. 07 of 2023-24

For and on behalf of Hon'ble Lt. Governor of J&K U.T., e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on "Percentage basis" (Single Click) from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K U.T. Govt./ CPWD/Railways/Other Governments/ Union Territories for the following works:-

S. No	Name of work	Adv. Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Earnest Money Deposit (Amt in Rs)	Time for completion	Class of Contract	Cost of Tender Document (Rs)	Major Head of Account	Tender Opening Authority
1	Construction of Anti Erosion cum FP bund on L/s of Veshow Nallah at village Nursingpora near Orchard of Mohd Iqbal Padder & others spot 1st	4.82	14460/=	20 Days	DEE	300/=	M&R 2023-24 MH-2711 2323	Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Anantnag
2	Construction of FP bund on L/S of Veshow Nallah alongwith Spur at village Reshinagri Adda Spot 1st	4.95	14850/=	20 Days	DEE	300/=		
3	Construction of FP bund on R/S of Bonilung Nallah at Village Nursingpora	2.90	8700/=	12 Days	DEE	200/=		
4	Construction of FP bund on R/S of Sonman Nallah at Village Hum near land of Gh. Ahmad & others	4.42	13260/=	20 Days	DEE	300/=		
5	Construction of Anti Erosion cum FP bund on R/s of Sonman Nallah at Village Damidullah near land of Khurshid Ahmad Lone & others	4.23	12690/=	20 Days	DEE	300/=		
6	Construction of FP bund alongwith Channelization at Village Reshinagri near Govt Primary School Spot 1st	3.00	9000/=	12 Days	DEE	200/=		
7	Construction of Anti Erosion cum FP bund on R/S of Salskoon Nallah at Village Hum near Orchard of Abdul Gani Paray & Others	2.21	6630/=	10 Days	DEE	200/=		
8	Flood Protection work on Vethvethroo Nallah at Akran Poshwari D/S Eidgah	1.67	5010/=	08 Days	DEE	200/=		
9	Flood Protection work on Vethvethroo Nallah at village Akhran Ganipora U/S Akran Foot bridge Sec 2nd	3.13	9390/=	12 Days	DEE	200/=		
10	Flood Protection work on L/S of Sandran Nallah near Durbal Herpora Muniward D/S Footbridge	4.19	12570/=	20 Days	DEE	300/=		
11	Flood Protection work on Vethvethroo Nallah at Village Chowgam near Darul Uloom by way of laying of log crates	4.50	13500/=	20 Days	DEE	300/=		
12	Flood Protection work on R/S of Veshow Nallah at Village Gundbaba Khalil near H/o Nisar Ahmad Wani (RD 57600 mtrs)	3.48	10440/=	13 Days	DEE	200/=		
13	Removal of Shoal from Vethvethroo Nallah at village Bon Mangam Deysar D/S Foot bridge at spots	1.66	4980/=	08 Days	DEE	200/=		
14	Flood Protection work on Vethvethroo Nallah U/S Akhran Bridge near L/O Gh Hassan Dar and others	3.67	11010/=	13 Days	DEE	200/=		
15	Construction of Flood Protection work on left side of Sandran Nallah D/S Burmthan Bridge at spots near the land of Mohd Ramzan and others	2.84	8520/=	12 Days	DEE	200/=	M&R 2023-24 MH-2711	Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Anantnag
16	Construction of Flood Protection bund on L/S of Kandai nallah near RD 20200 mtrs at Village DH Pora at spots	4.50	13500/=	20 Days	DEE	300/=		
17	Construction of Flood Protection Bund on L/S of Kandai Nallah near RD 20275 mtrs at Village DH Pora at spots	1.31	3930/=	07 Days	DEE	200/=		
18	Construction of Flood Protection Bund on L/S of Kandai Nallah near RD 20295 mtrs at Village DH Pora at spots	4.95	14850/=	20 Days	DEE	300/=		
19	Construction of Flood Protection bund on R/S of HM Guri Nallah tail portion at Village DH Pora at spots	3.80	11400/=	15 Days	DEE	200/=		
20	Construction of Flood Protection bund on L/S of Kandai Nallah near RD 19500 mtrs at Village DH Pora at spots	3.67	11010/=	13 Days	DEE	200/=		
21	Construction of Flood Protection bund on R/S of Zumasthal Nallah tail portion at Village Kounsarbal at spots.	4.39	13170/=	20 Days	DEE	300/=		

Position of Funds: Budgetary Provision 2023-24.

Position of Administrative Approval: Accorded by Superintending Engineer Hyd. Circle Anantnag's order No. 13-DB of 2023 Dt 22-05-2023 endorsed vide No. SE/Hyd/DB/AA/1538-39 Dt 22-05-2023.

Position of Technical Sanction:- Accorded

The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, set of terms and conditions, and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the schedule of dates given below:

1	Date of issue of Tender Notice	07-06-2023 at 06:00 PM
2	Date of start of downloading	07-06-2023 at 06:00 PM
3	Bid submission start date Technical/ Financial	07-06-2023 at 06:00 PM
4	Bid submission end date	14-06-2023 at 02:00 PM
5	Date & Time of opening of Bids (online).	15-06-2023 at 10:00 AM

Terms and Conditions:

1. Bids must be accompanied with proof of the cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury receipt in favour of Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Anantnag (tender inviting authority). The name of the work shall be legible along with NIT number and item number must be neatly written on the TR the deficiency will lead to cancellation of the tender also the date of treasury challan should be in between the date of start of Bid and bid submission end date.

2. The successful bidder shall have to submit the hardcopy of EMD in the shape of CDR and duly uploaded, treasury challan and other allied documents as mentioned in para-4.

3. Additional Performance Security as prescribed in the below-mentioned tabulation form is to be deposited by the bidder as per the latest order by the finance department endorsed by Chief Engineer Kmr. I&FC Department Srinagar vide No. 13566-640 dated 18-03-2022. The bidder shall have to upload the Additional Performance Security CDR as well according to his percentage of below tendering. In case the Additional Performance Security CDR is not uploaded the tender shall be treated as rejected.

Tenders that are below of the advertised cost	Additional security of the advertised cost to be submitted in the form of CDR
0- 15% below Including 15%	Nil
15% -20% below Including 20%	05%
20% - 25% below Including 25%	10%
25% -30% below Including 30%	15%
More than 30% below	20%

4. Bidders are advised to use the pre qualification document area in their user on www.jktenders.gov.in portal to store, the required documents as given below

1. Latest GSTIN clearance Monthly / Quarterly (GSTR-1&GSTR3B) as opted along with PAN.
2. Latest Income Tax Return.
3. Registration card with the latest renewal.
4. Treasury challan (0702) must be uploaded in vivid format carrying no corrections or omissions so that they can be verified discretely by the Tender opening committee.
5. Scanned copy of EMD in shape of CDR only.
6. Card verification letter.
7. Registered mobile number and E-mail ID in the shape of Bidders address form.
8. BOQ.
9. The scanned documents must be uploaded in PDF format with 100 dpi. Any deficiency in the above mentioned conditions will lead to rejection of the bid which shall be noted.

5. The date and time of opening of Technical Bids shall be notified on the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message at their e-mail address. The Financial Bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on the same website in the office of the Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Anantnag (Tender Receiving Authority).

6. Contractor/ Bidder who fails to submit the CDR/Treasury Challan as required, there EMD will be forfeited besides they will be barred/prohibited from participating in the Tendering process for a period of One year (01 Year) or which the authorities may deem fit and proper in the first instance. Their online uploaded tenders will not be considered for the said period.

7. The bid for the work shall remain valid for 90 days from the date of the opening of the bid.

8. The earnest money shall be forfeited if: Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid.

9. Failure of the successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

10. In case of tie for the position of 1st lowest bidder the bids should be cut rightly rejected and the work shall be put to fresh tenders.

1. Extension of time shall be also admissible in the event of temporary suspension of work.

All other terms & conditions shall be the same as laid down in the PWD Form 25 (Double Agreement Form).

No.FCD/Ang/1154-76

DIPK-3059/23

Dated :- 08-06-2023

Sd/-

Executive Engineer,
Flood Control Division Anantnag

JAMMU AND KASHMIR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Solima Srinagar, Kashmir - 190001

website:http://jkpsc.nic.in

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Srinagar:0194-2312629(f) 2312631

Subject: Representation against the provisional Select List for the post of Lecturer, Periodontia, GDC Srinagar in H&ME Department- Disposal thereof.

NOTICE
Dated: 06.06.2023

Whereas, among others, 01 post, under Open category, of Lecturer, Periodontia GDC Srinagar, in H&ME Department was advertised vide Notification No. 16-PSC (DR-P) of 2022 dated 12.07.2022; **and,**

Whereas, the Commission received 10 application forms which were scrutinized and 07 candidates were called for interview which was conducted on 24.02.2023 with the assistance of experts; **and,**

Whereas, the Provisional Select List was issued vide Notification No. 10-PSC (DR-S) of 2023 dated 16.03.2023; **and,**

Whereas, on the basis of the performance in the Interview in pursuance of Rule 44 of the J&K Public Service Commission (Business & Procedure) Rules, 2021 and other related parameters, Dr. Muzafar Ahmd Bhat S/o Sh. Gh Rasool Bhat R/o 166 Kamad, Anantnag having secured 75.26 points, under Open Merit Category, was provisionally selected against the said posts; **and,**

Whereas, one representation was received against the Provisional Select List from Faiza Yaqoob Khan, raising following objections:

1. The selected candidate has been awarded 01 point for the books whereas my book has not been considered and I have been awarded 0 point for the books.
2. One of the books submitted by the selected candidate is from Akinik publications New Delhi which is a blacklisted predatory publishing house and hence can not be considered as a reference material for the post applied for.
3. The other book accepted for the candidate is published by Weser Publications Germany and the book I had submitted is also from Weser Books Germany. So on what ground my book has not been considered which is from the same publisher with ISBN No.

Whereas, the assessment of books, publications and research papers etc. is the domain of the experts, therefore, the matter was taken up with the two experts who were on the Board of Interview, for their comments; **and,**

Whereas, the two experts vide email dated 10.05.2023 have clarified that the selected candidate has written a book on LASERS in Periodontics, and the author (Dr. Muzafar Ahmad Bhatt-BDS, MDS Periodontia) has written the book by himself only and was awarded the point, whereas the book by Dr. Fayiza Yaqoob Khan (MDS Periodontics) was written in association with Dr. Mubashir Mushtaq (MDS Conservative Dentistry and Endodontics) on topic "Advanced Diagnostic Aids in Periodontics". So marks can not be given for this. Dr. Fayiza was not the only author in this book. The topic of "advanced Diagnostic Aids in Periodontics" was common and it is available in every book in periodontics whereas "LASERS in Periodontics" availability is limited In Advanced Diagnostic Aids in Periodontics book many of paragraph is taken from a textbook by Glickman's/Carranza's. If any paragraph is taken from any textbook/journal, the reference from where it is taken should be quoted. The two experts have further conveyed that they had a communication with Mr. Akhil Gupta Publisher, Akinik publication house, who stated that all these are false allegations; **and,**


Whereas, co-authorship (1st & 2nd) is permissible, however, on other ground given by the Experts, the book by Dr. Faiza Yaqoob Khan can not be considered and that of Dr. Muzaffar Ahmad Bhat can not be rejected.

Now, therefore, in view of the above, the representation being devoid of merit is considered and rejected.

sd/-
Bashir Ahmad Dar (JKAS)
Secretary,
J&K Public Service Commission.

No.PSC/DR/ Lect/ Periodontia/GDC/H&ME/22

DIPK-3073/23
dated: 08-06-2023



NEHRU MEMORIAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

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The Nehru Memorial Museum & Library (NMML), an Autonomous Body under the Ministry of Culture, seeks qualified candidates for appointment to the post of :-

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Pay Scale: Level-5 (29200-92300)
Eligibility: For details of eligibility, method of recruitment, general instructions etc. please visit www.nehrumemorial.nic.in.

Interested Candidates may send their applications along with self-attested copies of Educational Qualifications and Experience Certificates etc. to this office address, The Director, Nehru Memorial Museum & Library, Teen Murti House, New Delhi-110011 latest by 5:30 pm on 05.07.2023.

CBC- 09142/12/0015/2324

BEFORE THE HON'BLE Common High Court of J&K and Ladakh & Principal District Judge Srinagar.

In the case of:

1. Ghulam Qadir Dar S/o Late Abdul samad Dar
- R/o:- Vethpara Lasjan Srinagar
2. Atta Mohd Dar S/o:- Ghulam Qadir Dar
- R/o:- Vethpara Lasjan Srinagar
3. Ishtaq Bano W/o:- Mohammad Shafi bhat
- R/o:- HNo 13 Sabir lane Natipora Srinagar
4. Masarat Jan D/o:- Ghulam Qadir Dar
- R/o:- Vethpara Lasjan Srinagar
5. Aisha D/o:- Ghulam Qadir Dar
- R/o:- Vethpara Lasjan Srinagar

...Caveators

Versus
Public at large.

In The matter of: Caveat petition in terms of Section 148A CPC. The caveators has reason to believe/apprehension that non caveators may file an appeal/writ /revision or any other proceeding before this honble court on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked up story,therefore may succeed in obtaining some relief/order at their back/ex parte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators may suffer an irreparable loss and injury which can't be compensated by any means later on,therefore it would be proper to put caveators on notice so that an opportunity of being heard is given to the caveators counsel Advocate Mubashir Dilshad & Umar bhat Advocate mobile no :- 9682546477 before passing any such relief/order.hence this caveat application.

nj

BEFORE THE HON'BLE COURT OF HIGH COURT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR AND LADAKH AT SRINAGAR.

Caveat No...../2023

In the case of

1. Mst Parveena W/O Mohammad Rafiq Chopan R/o Wooder Kangan, J&K
2. Mst Phoola W/O Mohd Altaf jagal R/O Ganiwan Kangan J&K

Vs
Public At Large

The Caveator has reasons to believe/apprehension that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition ,Appeal, or any other type of proceedings before this Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may succeed in obtaining some relief / order at his back/ in exparte against the Caveator and in such eventuality the caveator will be put to an irreparable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that Caveator is given Opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble Court before passing any order .

Sd/-
Advocate

nj

Public Notice

I have lost my Passport bearing No: S7415944 while travelling from Beerwah to Srinagar three days ago. If anybody has found the same he is requested to contact on 6005825353. Otherwise I have to apply for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Regional Passport Office Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Salman Tasveer Masoodi

S/o Tasveer Ahmad Masoodi R/o Aripanthan Beerwah

bmj

Public Notice

My name and DOB has been wrongly written in my school records as Nighat Ara & DOB 07-03-1987 while my correct Name & DOB is Gowher Nigeen & DOB 07-03-1990 which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Govt High School Gatipora Shopian within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Gowher Nigeen
D/o Abdul Hamid Khanday
R/o Tharin Gatipora Shopian

fko

Public Notice

I have applied for the issuance of DOB Certificate for my daughter Zainab Adil (DOB 07-03-2020) from the office of the Block Development Officer Sherabad Khore . If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the above mentioned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Adil Bilal Khan F/o Zainab Adil
R/o Agri Kalan Tehsil Pattan
DOB : 07-03-2020

bmj

From the Office of the ADV. Arzoo Bhat

In the case of :- Ghulam Hassan Dobli S/o Mohammad Ismail Dobli R/o Bemina Sgr

Vs
Public At Large

The Caveator has reasons to believe/apprehension that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition ,Appeal, or any other type of proceedings before this Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may succeed in obtaining some relief / order at his back/ in exparte against the Caveator and in such eventuality the caveator will be put to an irreparable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that Caveator is given Opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble Court before passing any order .

Sd/-
Advocate

nj

از ریاست ہندوستان
مضمون درخواست: شہادت: عاشق فنی ولد عبدالغنی بغرض حصول سرٹیفکیٹ
تحت الیں آر آر 126

اشہدار: برادر آغا ہی برخاص وعام۔

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان: الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر میں پیش کیا ہے۔ اس بارے میں عمل فیلڈ سے رپورٹ طلب کیا گیا جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل تمام ذات سے تعلق رکھتا ہے۔ سائل کی سالانہ آمدنی 169200 ہے اور سائل کا کنڈیڈیل ہے۔

نمبر شمار	نام افراد کنڈیڈ	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
01	عبدالغنی قاسم ولد غلام نبی	60 سال	زمینداری	
02	آصفہ بیگم زوجہ عبدالغنی ی	50 سال	گھریلو کام	
	بابل احمد قاسم	30 سال	دکانداری	
04	انشہ بیگم زوجہ بابل احمد	26	گھریلو کام	
05	آصفہ جان دختر عبدالغنی قاسم	24	زیر تعلیم	
06	عاشق فنی ولد عبدالغنی قاسم	17	زیر تعلیم	

اس کے علاوہ کوئی افراد کنڈیڈ نہیں بتلایا گیا ہے۔ لہذا زیر بحث سرٹیفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سب سے قبل اس کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض معروض و جوابات پیش کرے۔ یہ عدا گزرتے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار fko



DPAP Stage Protest In Srinagar, Urges Govt To Continue Subsidized Ration

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) on Thursday held a peaceful protest in Srinagar and marched towards the Divisional Commissioner's office against the government's decision to stop subsidized ration to Above Poverty line category.

The party termed the decision anti people, saying such decisions would not be acceptable. "Those who have decided to not supply ration to APL category should learn from the history how the scheme was launched from the time of Maharaja's rule. They can't undo anything they want without bearing in mind its repercussions on ground," said Taj Mohiuddin, treasurer of DPAP.

He said during the rule of Maharaja, shali stores were set up everywhere in Jammu and Kashmir to ensure food security to all. He said the population of the UT has grown manifold since then and the food production on the other side has drastically come down.

"Under such circumstances, the government can't deprive people of food and it

is the responsibility of every welfare state to ensure no one sleeps hungry," he said.

Taj said the present regime is contradicting its own claims, on one hand it glorifies the era of Maharaja while on the other, every welfare scheme of those times is scrapped or modified to trouble common people. At the time of popular government, the BPL families used to get 7kgs per head to the limit of 35 kgs and the APL families were getting 13kgs per head at landed cost.

The protesters later marched towards the office of Divisional Commissioner and the Provincial President Kashmir Mohammad Amin Bhatt submitted a memorandum of certain demands in the larger interests of people.

Vice Chairman GM Sabori said Jammu and Kashmir was the only state which was providing subsidized or free ration to its people and covering around 70 per cent of its population. He said when the rates of essential commodities are skyrocketing, it is the duty of the government to take care of Poor section of people and ensure all are fed before they go to bed.



Colorful Abayas Or School Uniform? Students Protest Abaya 'Ban' In City Schools, Principal Refutes Allegations

No Formal Order Banning Hijab Issued By Govt: CEO Srinagar

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Several female students of Vishwa Bharti Higher Secondary School here staged a protest against its administration on Thursday, alleging that they were denied entry to the institute for wearing Abaya.

The protesting students alleged that the VB college administration categorically asked them to avoid wearing Hijab inside the college premises and adhere to the proper dress code if they want to continue their studies.

The students however refused to follow the directives, saying Hijab is their religious emblem and that doing so would violate fundamental tenets of Islam.

They asked the college management to refrain from intervening in religious affairs and reverse the arbitrary instruction immediately, which they said offended their religious sensibilities.

"We were denied entry to the college in Hijab as the college admin-

istration is forcing us to follow the western culture. We would prefer to die than to compromise with our religion," a protesting student said.

She said the college administration cannot compel students to avoid wearing Hijab as doing so is strictly prohibited in Islam.

"We were asked to avoid wearing Hijab inside college premises or else our admission will be cancelled forthwith. How fair is it to force students to follow what they outrightly oppose. We can't accept this diktat," she added.

Another student said the college administration cannot judge students with their clothes, while male students smoke openly in the college without any respect for teachers.

A loose-fitting, full-length robe, Abaya is worn by Muslim women.

"We are told we should go to a Madrasa if we want to wear an Abaya. We were not allowed inside the school," said one of the protesting students.

School principal Memroz Shafi

said the students have been told that they can wear abaya from home to school, but they should take it off inside the school premises.

"We told them to wear a long white-colored Hijab or a large dupatta as that is part of the school uniform. They come wearing colorful Abayas, with different designs which are not part of the uniform," he said.

The principal said the students should follow a proper dress code in order to maintain decorum in the school.

When contacted Chief Education Officer (CEO) Srinagar Mohammad Shabir Khatana told Kashmir Observer that private schools or colleges do not come under the purview of School Education Department and that he cannot comment on the matter.

He was however quick to add that no formal orders have been issued by the administration, directing students not to wear Hijab inside college premises.

Alok Kumar Addresses NAAC Assessors Orientation Program

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A two-day 'Assessors Orientation Program' organized by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) and co-hosted by Directorate of Colleges, Higher Education Department, commenced at Government College for Women, M A Road with Principal Secretary, Education, Alok Kumar, formally inaugurating the event.

Speaking on the occasion, the Principal Secretary expressed hope that the orientation program would prove beneficial for all the stakeholders and help in enhancing the qual-

ity of education. He said the assessment and accreditation exercise conducted by NAAC ensures that the higher educational institutions comply with the standards of quality in terms of teaching-learning processes, research, infrastructure, and student services among other parameters.

The orientation program is being attended by Principals of various colleges from Kashmir as well as Jammu division.

Members of the visiting NAAC expert team included Dr. G P Upadhaya, Dr. Neelesh Pandey, Dr. S Srikanth Swamy, Dr. P Siva Kumar and H V Chandrashekar.

CORRECTION OF NAME

It is to inform all that I want to correct the name of my Daughter Iman Bilal to Ayman Bilal who is reading in 8th class at CMP High School Daulatabad Miskeen Bagh, Srinagar which has been wrongly entered in school records and if any person has any objection he may file the same to Principal CMP High School Daulatabad Miskeen Bagh, Srinagar within seven days from the date of the publication of this notice.

Bilal Ahmad Bhat
F/O Ayman Bilal
R/O Riyazat Taing Khanyar Srinagar


arinf

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change my name on passport bearing no: U9401007 from Saleema to Saleema Masoodi. In future I will be known as Saleema Masoodi. If anybody having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office Srinagar within 7 days. After that no objection will be accepted.

Saleema Masoodi
W/o Basharat Hussain Qadri
R/O H.No. 42 Lane No. 3
Haider Colony, Upper Soura, Srinagar


mtzko



J&K Bank
Serving To Empower

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited
Impaired Assets Portfolio Management Department
Zonal Office Srinagar M A Road, Srinagar 190001 J&K
T +91 (0)194 248 2658 F +91 (0)194 245 2659
E iapmd.kmr@jkbmail.com


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. Aijaz Jeelani, 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 Notice dated 15.03.2023 thereby calling upon the Borrower namely Mr. Nazir Ahmad Shah S/o Late Bahar Shah R/o 49-Exchange Road Samandar Bagh, Srinagar, to repay an amount of Rs.95,04,445.03np (Rs. ninety-five lac four thousand four hundred forty-five and paise three only) being the balance outstanding as on 14.03.2023 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 having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower in particular 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 06th day of June of the year 2023.
The said borrower 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 in aggregating to Rs.97,64,764.03np (Rs. Ninety seven lac Sixty Four thousand seven hundred sixty four and paise three only) together with future interest thereon from 01.06.2023 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.
The borrowers attention 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
(As per the schedule provided in mortgage deed/latest particulars including any accreditations)
Registered Mortgage of two storied residential house along with land underneath & appurtenant thereto measuring 18 marlas 181 sft falling under Khasra No. 158/150/113 min and 168/151/113 min Khata No.20 and 28, Khewat No.12 and 20 situated in Mouza Maisuma tehsil and District Srinagar, standing in the name of Nazir Ahmad Shah S/o Late Bahar Shah R/o 49 Exchange Road, Samandar Bagh, Srinagar, valued Rs. 310.80 lac with realizable value of Rs. 264.18 lac as per valuation report of M/s C E Consultants, vide report No. 281/CEC/2020-21 dated 11.11.2020.
Dated: 06.06.2023
Place: Srinagar.
Authorized Officer
Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India
CIN: L65110JK1938SGC000048 ; **T :** +91 (0)194 2481 930-35 ; **F :** +91 (0)194 248 1928 ; **E :** info@jkbmail.com ; **W :** www.jkbank.com
DIPK-NB-1147/23 **dated: 08-06-2023**




J&K Bank
Serving To Empower

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.
Impaired Asset portfolio Management Department
Zonal Office Pulwama (J&K)-192301
E: iapmd.zks1@jkbmail.com
T +91 (0)1933 242 237 +91 (0)1933 240 341

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 29.03.2022 thereby calling upon 1) M/s Ayoub Fruit Co, (Borrower) and its partners 2) Mr. Mohammad Ayoub Dar S/O Ali Mohammad Dar R/O Chewa Kalan, Pulwama, (Partner/Partogagor), 3) Mst. Raja Bano W/O Mohammad Ayoub Dar R/O Chewa Kalan, Pulwama (Partner) and 3) Mr. Mohammad Ahsan Wani S/O Mohammad Jamal Wani R/O Chewa Kalan, Pulwama (Guarantor), 5) Mohammad Iqbal Rather S/O Abdul Aziz Rather R/O Chewa, Kalan, Pulwama (Guarantor), 6) Fayaz Ahmad Wani S/O Mohammad Abdullah Wani R/O Chewa, Kalan, Pulwama (Guarantor) and 7) Javed Ahmad Malik S/O Gulam Nabi Malik R/O Dalipora, Pulwama (Guarantor) to repay an amount of Rs.1,61,38,000/- lacs (Rupees One Crore Sixty One Lac Thirty Eight Thousand only) being the balance outstanding as on 28.02.2022 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 5th 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.1,84,65,531.71 (Rupees One Crore Eighty Four Lac Sixty Five Thousand Five Hundred Thirty One and Paise Seventy One only), being balance outstanding in the borrower's Cash Credit and 2 Housing Loan accounts as on 31.05.2023 together with future interest thereon from 01.06.2023 and other charges incurred or to be incurred. There is also an amount of Rs.3,75,164.02 outstanding against the said borrower in his KCC loan account.
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
Land measuring 11 Kanals situated at Mouza Chak Chewa Raz Ganie, Chewa Kalan, Pulwama standing in the name of Mohammad Ayoub Dar S/O Ali Mohammad Dar R/O Chewa Kalan, Pulwama as per following Khasra-wise description;
04 K under Khasra No. 372, Khata No. 509 and Khewat No. 224
02 K under Khasra No. 1289, Khata No. 391 and Khewat No. 156
02 K 19 M under Khasra No. 404, Khata No. 388 and Khewat No. 155
06 M under Khasra No. 357 Khata No. 507 and Khewat No. 222
06 ½ M under Khasra No. 409 Khata No. 507 and Khewat No. 222
05 ½ M under Khasra No. 1313 Khata No. 368 and Khewat No. 146
01 K 03 M under Khasra No. 1312 Khata No. 368 and Khewat No. 146.
Dated: 05.06.2023
Place: Pulwama
(Abdul Hamid Wani)
Authorized Officer
Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India
CIN: L65110JK1938SGC000048 ; **T :** +91 (0)194 2481 930-35 ; **F :** +91 (0)194 248 1928 ; **E :** info@jkbmail.com ; **W :** www.jkbank.com
DIPK-NB-1157/23 **dated: 08-06-2023**



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

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 

RAILWAYS




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

HIGHWAY STATUS



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



HIJRI
CALENDAR
19 Zil-Qadah
1444

PRAYERS

FAJR	3:34
ZUHR	12:30
ASR	5:30
Magrib	7:44
ISHA	9:25

This Day In History

- 641 - Arabic/Islamic army contrasts with the Hippo over Alexandria
- 1898 - China leases Hong Kong's new territories to the United Kingdom for 99 years
- 1915 - US President Woodrow Wilson sends 2nd Lusitania note to Germany protesting sinking of the Lusitania and refuting German claim British blockade illegal
- 1931 - First rocket-powered aircraft design patented by Robert Goddard
- 1940 - General Charles de Gaulle's 1st meeting with Winston Churchill
- 1946 - Bhumibol Adulyadej becomes King of Thailand after the death of his brother King Ananda Mahidol
- 1956 - Heavy earthquake strikes Afghanistan, 400 killed
- 1957 - First ascent of Broad Peak (the world's 12th highest mountain).
- 1964 - Lal Bahadur Shastri becomes Prime Minister of India after being selected by the ruling Congress Party after Jawaharlal Nehru passed away
- 1967 - Israeli troops reach Suez Canal
- 1972 - In a show of support for Iraq, OPEC moves to prevent companies whose interests were nationalized in Iraq from increasing production elsewhere
- 1980 - Soyuz T-2 returns to Earth
- 1983 - Margaret Thatcher's Conservative Party wins British parliamentary election
- 1983 - Zimbabwe win their 1st one-day cricket international, v Australia
- 1985 - USSR's Vega 1 deposits lander on surface of Venus

From KO Archives

Bandipur Boy Dies In Kabul Fighting US Troops

Observer News Service

Srinagar- An 18-year-old militant from Bandipur, who had gone across the LoC at the age of 11 has died in Afghanistan during a bloody battle with American troops.

He is the first Kashmiri youth to die fighting US soldiers in Afghanistan. Earlier, several Kashmiri youth had lost their lives during the Afghan jihad against the Soviet occupation.

When the 15 RR learnt of the boy's death in Afghanistan, it raided his home, dug up the grounds and tore up walls and ceilings, but were able to find nothing.

The Bandipur boy from the Pattu Shahi village, Ayaz Ahmad Malla, had given up his carpet-weaving vocation at the age of 11, joined militant ranks in 2000, and crossed the LoC for arms training.

His father, Gulam Muhammad, said that he had talked to his son on phone many times during the past seven years, and had always pleaded with him to come back and live a normal life. "The phone was our only contact. He would ring up and talk to his mother," he said.

"One day he told me that he was going to Afghanistan, and asked me to pray for him. Ayaz's father said, adding that he had crossed over to Afghanistan three times during the past seven years, and each time he would take leave of his family on phone.

"Two months ago he called for the last time and said that he was going to Afghanistan. He asked me to tell his mother that they would meet again if he returned alive, or else they would meet on Judgment Day," he said.

"He did not contact us while in Afghanistan. But we did not worry, because we had got used to it. But on June 1, we were informed that Ayaz Ahmad, alias Arif, had been killed on May 29 during an operation by the US-led allied forces on the outskirts of Kabul," he said.

The family could not immediately ascertain where their son had been buried, but they surmise that locals must have interred him somewhere in Kabul.

Gulam Muhammad said that his son had been affiliated to the Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, but he had been with some other militant group when he first left home to cross the LoC.

"I still remember when I used to ask Ayaz to return and he would tell me to pray for him," he said. People are flocking to Ayaz' home to pay condolence to Gulam Muhammad who laments that he now won't even be able to see his son's grave.

(Kashmir Observer, 09 June, 2007)



Odisha Train Accident: 19 Bihar Passengers Missing, 50 Dead, Say Officials

Press Trust of India

PATNA: At least 19 people from Bihar, who were on board the Coromandel Express, are still missing after the train accident in Odisha's Balasore district on June 2 in which 288 people were killed, said the state Disaster Management Department (DMD).

The missing 19 Bihar passengers on board the Coromandel Express include four from Madhubani district, Darbhanga (2), Muzaffarpur (2), East Champaran (2), Samastipur (2), Sitamarhi (1), Patna (1), Gaya (1), Purnea (1), Sheikhpura (1), Siwan (1) and Begusarai (1), said a statement issued by the Disaster Management department.

"At least 50 people from different Bihar districts have reportedly died and 43 sustained injuries in the Odisha train accident," the statement issued on Wednesday night said.

Of the 50 people from Bihar who died in the train accident, nine are from Muzaffarpur district, Madhubani (6), Bhagalpur (7), East Champaran (5), Purnea (2), West Champaran (3), Nawada (2), Darbhanga (2), Jamui (2), Samastipur (3), Banka (1), Bewgusarai (1), Gaya

(1), Khagaria (3), Sharsha (1), Sitamarhi (1) and Munger (1), it said.

A team of DMD officials is providing all assistance to the officials concerned of the Odisha government in ascertaining the identity of the bodies of the unidentified passengers who died in the accident.

DNA samples of at least 12 people from Bihar were taken on Wednesday that will be matched with the samples of the unidentified bodies. At least 19 people from Bihar, who were on board the Coromandel Express, are still missing, the statement said.

The Bihar government has already sent a team of officials to Balasore to provide necessary assistance to train passengers hailing from the state.

Officials are coordinating with the Odisha government, railways and Balasore district administration and providing necessary help to the train passengers hailing from Bihar.

Steps are also being taken to bring back the affected passengers to Bihar from the train accident site in Balasore. "So far 88 passengers of Bihar have been brought back to the state by bus", said the DMD.

Cong Condemns 'Glorification' Of Indira Gandhi's Assassination At Canada Parade

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Congress on Thursday condemned the "glorification" of the assassination of former prime minister Indira Gandhi at a parade in Canada and asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi why he hasn't spoken to his Canadian counterpart on the issue.

The Congress also urged External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to take up strongly with Canadian authorities the inclusion of a float depicting the former prime minister's assassination in a parade in Brampton.

Asked about the incident at a press conference here, Jaishankar hit out at Canada, saying there was a larger underlying issue about the space which is given to separatists, extremists and people who advocate violence.

While Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete hit out at Jaishankar for making a "general com-

ment" on the issue, her party colleague Milind Deora welcomed the minister's "condemnation of the Canadian tableau that celebrated the assassination of Indira Gandhi".

Congress general secretary Randeep Surjewala said it is "reprehensible and condemnable" that Prime Minister Modi is silent on the issue and asked whether he is viewing everything with a political motive.

"The assassination of a former prime minister is celebrated and the prime minister of India does not say a single word... Why is the Government of India silent," he asked. Perhaps, this is the reason why secessionists are raising their head in Punjab once again, he said.

"Why does the prime minister not talk to his counterpart in Canada? ... why has the Canadian ambassador in India not been summoned and a strong protest lodged," the Congress general secretary asked.

11 Killed In Suicide Blast At Funeral For Assassinated Afghan Minister



Agencies

FAIZABAD: At least 11 people were killed and 30 wounded by a blast Thursday at a funeral service for an Afghan acting provincial governor assassinated by a suicide bomber earlier this week, the ministry of interior said.

"The Ministry of Interior of the IEA condemns this brutality of the disgraced enemies,"

a statement said of the blast, which happened at a service for Nisar Ahmad Ahmadi in Faizabad, capital of Badakhshan province.

Security has improved dramatically since the Taliban stormed back to power in August 2021, ousting a US-backed government and ending their two-decade insurgency, but the Islamic State group remains a threat.

IS claimed responsibility for Ahmadi's killing on Tuesday, when a suicide bomber drove a car filled with explosives into his vehicle. Ahmadi's driver was also killed and six others were wounded in that attack.

Thursday's blast happened at the Nabawi mosque in Faizabad as "a great number of compatriots" had gathered for Ahmadi's funeral, the interior ministry said.

'Uta Chor Kotwal Ko Daantey...': S Jaishankar's Swipe At Canada

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: India on Thursday hit out at Canada for giving space to separatists and extremists elements after visuals surfaced on social media of a float in the Canadian city of Brampton that reportedly celebrated the assassination of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

At a media briefing, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said Canada allowing anti-India elements to operate from its soil is not good for the bilateral relationship as well as for itself.

"I think there is a bigger issue involved. And the bigger issue involved really is the space that Canada has continuously and frankly we are at a loss to understand other than the requirements of vote bank politics, why anybody would do this," he said.

"Because if you look at their history, you would imagine that they learn from history and they would not like to repeat that history. It is not only one incident, however, egregious it may be," Jaishankar said.

"I think there is a larger underlying issue about the space which is given to separatists, to extremists, to people who advocate violence and I think it is not good for relationships and not good for Canada," he added.

A video has emerged on social media that showed a float depicting the assassination of Indira Gandhi. It was reportedly part of a parade that was organised by some Khalistani elements in Brampton.

Canadian High Commissioner in India Cameron MacKay tweeted that there is no place

in Canada for "hate or for the glorification of violence".

"I am appalled by reports of an event in Canada that celebrated the assassination of late Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. There is no place in Canada for hate or for the glorification of violence. I categorically condemn these activities," he said.

On some Indian students facing difficulties in Canada over charges that they did not study in the colleges they applied for, Jaishankar said India has taken up the issue with Canadian authorities.

"If there were people who misled them (the students), the culpable parties should be acted upon. It is unfair to punish a student who undertook education in good faith," he said.

The external affairs minister said the Canadian prime minister has also made a statement in the House of Commons on the issue. "We are in touch with Canada on the issue," he said.

4 Children Among Injured In Mass Stabbing In French Town

Agencies

PARIS: A man armed with a knife attacked a group of pre-school children playing by a lake in the French Alps on Thursday, injuring four along with an adult, and sending shockwaves through the country.

The suspect was arrested at the scene in the town of Annecy after the attack at around 9:45 am (0745 GMT).

He told police he was a Syrian asylum seeker, a police source told AFP on condition of anonymity.

Borne's office announced she was travelling to the scene and MPs in the national parliament held a minute's silence as news of the attack filtered through in the French media.

"There are very young children in a critical state and I ask you to observe a minute of silence for them, for their families," parliament speaker Yael Braun-Pivet told MPs as she interrupted a raucous debate about pension reform.

"We hope that the consequences of this extremely serious attack are not consequences that will send the country



Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin tweeted that he had been arrested "thanks to the rapid reaction of security forces".

Two of the children -- believed to be aged around three -- and the adult were in critical condition and fighting for their lives in hospital, a security source told AFP.

Local officials and a security source had previously said six children and another person were hurt.

French President Emmanuel Macron denounced the stabbing as an act "of absolute cowardice."

"The nation is shocked. Our thoughts are with them as well as their families and the emergency services," he wrote on Twitter.

Prime Minister Elisabeth

into mourning," she added.

The identity of the attacker was being checked by security forces and has not been confirmed.

France has been the target of a series of traumatic Islamist attacks over the last decade, including on the Charlie Hebdo magazine in 2015, the national stadium and Bataclan concert hall in Paris in the same year, and the city of Nice in 2016.

Most recently, the beheading of a teacher in broad daylight in 2020 near his school in a Paris suburb by a Chechen refugee led to an outpouring of grief and a national debate about the influence of radical Islam in deprived areas of the country.

Annecy is a quiet Alpine town of 135,000 people that lies 30 kilometres (20 miles) south of the Swiss city of Geneva.

46 Hours And Counting: Girl Stuck In Borewell, Robotic Experts Called In

Press Trust of India

SEHORE: Rescue agencies were still making hectic efforts for the third day to save a two-and-a-half year-old girl who fell into a borewell in Madhya Pradesh's Sehore district, an official said on Thursday.

A team of robotic experts also joined the operation on Thursday morning to rescue the girl, who fell into the 300-feet deep borewell in a field at Mungavali village on Tuesday afternoon, he said.

Oxygen was being supplied to the girl in the borewell through a pipe, district administration officials said.

With more than 46 hours passing away since the incident, the task to pull the girl out of the borewell has become more difficult as she has slipped further down and got stuck at a depth of nearly 100 feet, as per officials.

A three-member robotic rescue team from Gujarat reached the site on Thursday morning to join the operation, the official said.

"We have lowered a robot into the borewell to collect information and we are processing the data by scanning it to know the child's condition. After processing the data, we will decide the next course of action on how to rescue the girl from the borewell," the robotic team in-charge Mahesh Arya told reporters at the site.

The girl, named Srishti, fell into the borewell at around 1 pm on Tuesday and since then efforts have been on to rescue her.

She was initially stuck at the depth of about 40 feet in the borewell, but



due to vibrations caused by machines engaged in the rescue operation, she has slipped further down to about 100 feet, making the task more difficult, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said on Wednesday.

An Army team also joined the rescue operation, while teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the State Disaster Emergency Response Force (SDERF) have already been working to rescue the girl, officials said.

As many as 12 earth-moving and poclain machines are also currently engaged in the rescue operation, they said.

Chief Minister Chouhan and a team of officials are in touch with the district authorities to supervise the rescue operation, they said.

With the latest incident, the dangers posed by open and abandoned borewells have come to the fore again.

On Saturday, a two-year-old girl slipped into a narrow borewell in Gujarat's Jamnagar district and got stuck at a depth of 20-feet. She died despite hectic rescue efforts by multiple agencies for 19 hours, an official earlier said.

In 2009, the Supreme Court issued guidelines for preventing fatal accidents of children falling into abandoned borewells.

The revised guidelines issued by the court in 2010 included setting up barbed wire fencing around the well during construction, using steel plate covers fixed with bolts over the well assembly and filling up of borewells from the bottom to the ground level.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER PW(R&B) DEPARTMENT KMR.



Engineering Complex, Near Silk Factory, Rajbagh Srinagar-190008

e-mail: cepwdrnbkmr@yahoo.in / cernbestab@gmail.com /
cepwdrnbkashmir@gmail.com / FAX: 0194 - 2310499, 2312455



NO:- CE/RBK/ADM/6318-21

Dated:- 07/06/2023

Ms. Sakeena Khan,
Junior Engineer (Civil).
R/o: Munwara Abad, Khanyar
Sriangar-190001.
M. No: 7009605878
Email ID: khansakeena.39@gmail.com

Subject: Unauthorised absence from Duties—Notice thereof.

Whereas you had applied for Extra-ordinary Leave without pay for a period of one-year w.e.f. 01-04-2022 which was sanctioned by the Administrative Department vide Order No: 124 PWD(R&B) of 2022 dated 07-04-2022 with one of the condition that you will not extend the leave; and

Whereas you were supposed to join / resume your duties on 01.04.2023 but instead of joining you sent an email to Administrative Department for extension of extra ordinary leave for further one-year w.e.f. 01-04- 2023; and

Whereas sanction for extra ordinary leave was not granted by the Administrative Department vide No: PWD-NGAZOCIV/77/2022-05 Dated 11-04-2023 with the direction to serve a notice to you for resumption of duties immediately, failing which, disciplinary action under rules shall be initiated against you and;

Whereas the notice was accordingly served to you vide this office communication No: CE/ RBK/ADM/2426-28 Dated 08-05-2023 to resume the duties immediately; and

Whereas in response to the above served notice you resumed duties on 11-05-2023; and

Whereas after resumption of duties, you were found again absconding from your duties without prior intimation / permission w.e.f. 12-05-2023 which tantamount to misconduct and is unbecoming of government servant; and

In view of above, you are through the medium of this notice directed to explain your position within a period of (7) days positively from the issuance of this notice, failing which, it shall be presumed that you have nothing to say in your defense and action warranted under rules shall be initiated against you.

DIPK-3046-23
DT: 08/06/2023

(Er. Rafiq Ahmad Rafiq)
Chief Engineer
PW (R&B) Deptt. Kmr

Amitabh Ranjan Sinha Reviews Progress On Jal Shakti Abhiyaan In Bandipora

Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: Union Joint Secretary and Additional Financial Advisor, Ministry of Defense, Amitabh Ranjan Sinha, who is Central Nodal officer for Bandipora ON Thursday visited the district to review progress on Jal Shakti Abhiyaan besides conducted on spot inspection of various works being executed there.

He had an extensive field tour of the district to inspect various ongoing and completed works.

During the tour, Union Joint Secretary visited various sites including micro irrigation apple orchards at Shadipora and Amrit Sarovar site Chewa.

He also inspected Wullar conservation works, JJM works, Jal Shakti Kendra PHE Sub Division Bandipora and various protection works at Nallah Madhumati.

During his visit, Amitabh Ranjan Sinha also chaired a meeting of officers to review progress on Jal Shakti Abhiyaan.

The meeting was attended by Chairperson District Development Council, Abdul Gani Bhat, Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmed, Vice Chairperson DDC, ADDC, Nodal Officer Coordination and other concerned.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Joint Secretary said that today's visit was aimed to review progress on Jal shakti Abhiyaan which is launched to ensure water sustainability in effec-

tive and coordinated manner. He said lot of efforts are being utilized to implement Jal Shakti Abhiyaan successfully.

Amitabh Ranjan also appreciated the efforts of district administration for achieving 75 percent target for Amritsarovar works.

Chairperson District Development Council, VC District Development Council highlighted various activities being carried out under Jal Shakti Abhiyan.

Earlier during the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Bandipora apprised the Union Joint Secretary that out of total 47358 Rural Households in Bandipora, 32249 Households have been provided tap connections and the rest shall also be connected through JJM.

DC said that under JJM 195 works stand sanctioned, out of which, work has been started on 156 works. He informed that district administration has formulated and submitted convergence action plan of Rs. 18 crore to UT government.

He informed that under JJM a Jal Shakti Kendra (JSK) has also been established in the district and efforts are on to make more such centers in the district.

Dr. Owais said that Jal shakti Department has completed Geo tagging of all 159 piped water supply schemes in the district.

DC also highlighted the activities being carried out in the district by various departments under Jal Shakti Abhiyaan.

Five Villages In Budgam Declared Drug Free

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: The District and Police Administration Budgam has declared five villages viz. Dandoosa, Bonen, Hardwail, Naroo and Khag as drug free/ Nasha Mukht villages of Budgam under Nasha Mukht Abhiyan.

These villages have achieved 100% drug-free status with the concerted efforts of District Administration, Police Administration, teachers of School Education department, field functionaries of Social Welfare department, PRIs and convergent community participants.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo said a

multi-pronged strategy involving strict enforcement, registration of FIRs, mass awareness generation, community mobilisation and destruction of poppy cultivation etc. have been used for implementing Nasha Mukht Abhiyan in Budgam.

He said the District Administration is committed to work towards drug-free J&K mission of Honourable LG Manoj Sinha ji and shall implement the same in Budgam.

SSP Budgam, Tahir Gilani said that District police in close coordination with civil administration is keeping strict vigil over drug menace and strict penal action under law shall be taken against those involved in spreading this menace.

Over 1 Lakh Works To Be Completed During This Financial Year: Officers To CS

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Thursday held a meeting of all the Administrative Secretaries to review the performance of different Departments regarding pace of the Developmental works and overall expenditure of Departments during 2022-23.

The meeting was also attended by the officers from the Expenditure Division-I and II besides those of Budget section from the Finance Department.

On the occasion Dr Mehta emphasized that the Capex Budget is the actual portion of the budget the utilization of which creates durable public assets. He emphasised on efficient planning for so that the expenditure outcomes are maximized.

He observed that there is manifold increase in number of works completed in recent years and during the past few years the number has grown very substantially. He urged upon the officers to strategize spending for meeting the targets for completion of works during the current financial year.

The Chief Secretary advised the officers to set monthly targets for completion of works so that the March-rush at the fag end of the financial year is avoided here.

He called for setting a timeline for each project and allied activities to be carried under it. He told them to have periodical reviews at their levels to ensure that the timeframe set for each activity is complied with.

He asked them to complete the tendering process of every work against which the Administrative Approval and Technical Sanction has been secured. He also stressed on saturating all the beneficiary oriented schemes especially those regarding self employment as per new demands on ground.

Dr Mehta told them to ensure that the funds earmarked for each work under Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) are timely accessed from Gol Ministries and spent for maximum benefit of public. He emphasised on uploading data on the Gol designated portals simultaneously so that funds are released timely by them and spent by the Departments as per their requirements. He advised them to seek assistance from IT Department, in case any technical issues are faced by them.

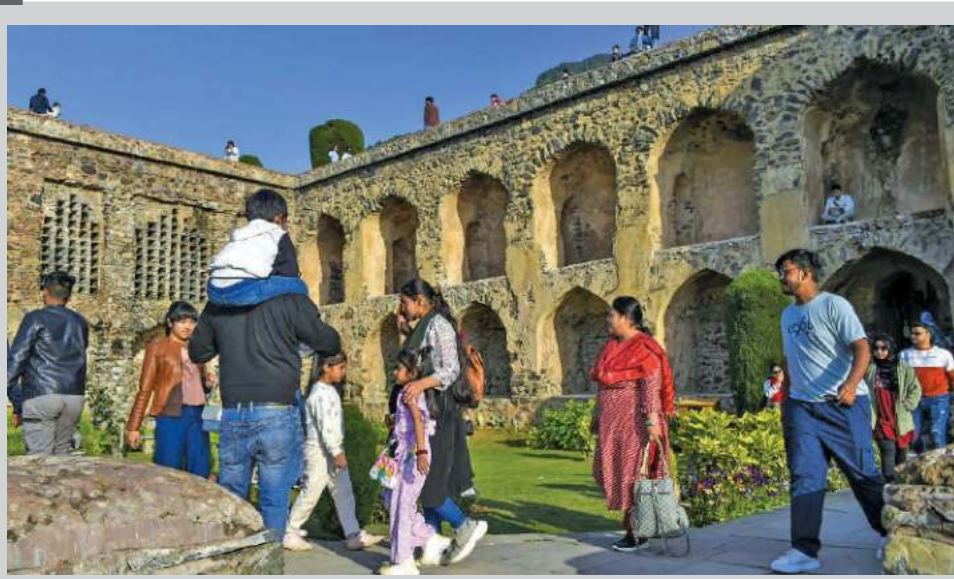
PUBLIC NOTICE

The mother's name of my daughter namely Aaminah Sami has to be changed in school records from HUZAIFA SAMI to HUZAIFA. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the principal Mallinson Girls School within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

NAME: SAMIULLAH RATHER
F/O : AAMINAH SAMI

R/O ; BOTAKADAL, LALBAZAR, SRINAGAR, JAMMU AND KASHMIR, 190023

tko



TOURIST FOOTFALL IN KASHMIR continues to witness a rise due to pleasant weather conditions.

KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

J&K Secures Top Rank In Food Safety Index For Consecutive 3rd Year

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a significant achievement, Jammu and Kashmir has maintained its first rank in the UT category in Food Safety Index 2022-23.

The Department of Food and Drugs Administration, J&K received the award third time in a row for 2021, 2022 and 2023.

The index is released annually by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to measure the performance of states and UTs on various parameters of food safety. The award was received by Food Safety Commissioner Shakeel-ul-Rehman from Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, in presence of Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar and Professor Satya Pal Singh Baghel, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Chairman FSSAI, Rajesh Bhushan and CEO FSSAI, G. Kamala Vardhana Rao.

The Jammu and Kashmir also won first prize for having maximum number of Eat Right Mela districts in the country. These districts have implemented various initiatives of FSSAI to promote healthy and safe food habits among the consumers. This reflects the commitment and dedication of UT administration and the

public towards ensuring food safety and hygiene in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Food Safety Index is a dynamic quantitative and qualitative benchmarking model that provides an objective framework for evaluating food safety across all States/UTs. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) began the State Food Safety Index evaluation process for 2022-2023 by undertaking correspondence with Food Safety Commissioners of all UTs/States to furnish the data for statistical evaluation. The critical indicator on the basis of which evaluation is done included Human Resource, Compliance Levels, Food Testing Infrastructure and Surveillance, Training and Capacity Building besides Consumer Empowerment.

The award has been conferred for exemplary performance in implementation of FSS Act, 2006 as well as Eat Right initiatives in the financial year 2022-23, under which the department has conducted 29342 inspections, tested 11848 legal samples, filed 1606 prosecutions, imposed penalty of Rs. 14805850/-, compounded 774 cases with a fine of Rs. 1104300/-, and conducting 11380 testes, 155 trainings, 414 awareness programmes through Mobile Food Testing Vans.

J&K has also got special recognition in implementing Eat Right initiatives including 162 License/Registration melas, 43 FoSTaC training programmes, 588 certifications under Hygiene Rating of Hotels, Restaurants, Dhabas, Meat Shops and Sweets Shops, 50 Certifications under Eat Right Campuses, 07 Certifications under Eat Right Places of Worship, 15 Certifications under Eat Right School and lifting of 16998 Kg of Used Cooking Oil from the Food Markets for its diversion for biodiesel manufacturing.

Commissioner FDA, J&K, has attributed the award to selfless and committed efforts put in by the functionaries of the department who are empowered to perform statutory duties under FSS Act, 2006 Rules and Regulations made there under, in the UT. He has acknowledge the overwhelming support provided by Government of UT of J&K and FSSAI in terms of capacity building by providing sufficient financial assistance to the department for supporting the cause to ensure food safety and healthy food practices.

He enjoined upon the stake holders including Food Business Operators, consumers, civil society and aligned departments to join hands towards achieving the objective of a healthy nation.

DPAP Protest Against Decision To Stop Free Ration Distribution To Poor

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) on Thursday held a protest here against the decision of the government to stop free ration distribution among the poor and reduction in its supply.

The party led by former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Gulam Nabi Azad also raised the issues of price rise and imposition of property tax during the protest.

Several party leaders and activists assembled at the DPAP headquarters at Sonawar area

of the city and tried to march towards the office of Divisional Commissioner Kashmir.

However, they were stopped by the police near Ram Munshi Bagh and were not allowed to move further.

Speaking to reporters, DPAP's provisional president for Kashmir, Muhammad Amin Bhat, said the party had sought permission to take the protest march to the office of divisional commissioner, Kashmir, but they were denied the permission.

"People do not get ration. We want additional ration be provided to the people. Other essen-

tials are not available. The prices of essentials have increased. Unemployment has risen. We are protesting against all this," Bhat told reporters.

He said the party was registering its protest against the property tax which the government would start collecting after a few days.

Bhat demanded assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir so that a popular government would address these issues.

"We appeal to the election commission to conduct assembly polls here. Let an elected government see to these issues," he said.

Mainly Dry Weather Forecast In J&K

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Mainly dry weather with lesser possibility of evening shower and thunderstorm has been forecast in Jammu and Kashmir till June 12.

"Mainly dry is expected but a brief spell of shower/thunderstorm mainly towards evening can't be ruled out, although chances are less (10-20%)," a meteorological department official here said. He said there would be gradual increase in temperature and warmer days expected ahead.

Regarding temperature, he said, Srinagar recorded a low of 11.2°C against 12.4°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 2.2°C for the summer capital.

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 10.2°C against 11.2°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 1.8°C for the gateway town of Kashmir.

Pahalgam, he said, recorded

a low of 5.0°C against 6.0°C on the previous night and it was 2.0°C below normal for the famous tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at 10.4°C against 11.2°C on the previous night and it was 1.3°C below normal for the north Kashmir area.

Kokernag recorded a low of 9.9°C against 8.4°C on the previous night and it was 3.0°C below normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 5.6°C against 6.0°C on previous night and it was below normal by 2.4°C for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

Jammu recorded a low of 21.7°C against 23.0°C on the previous night and it was 4.0°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal recorded a low of 11.5°C, Batote 13.0°C, Katra 19.6°C and Bhaderwah 8.8°C. (GNS)

Ganderbal's 'Wayil Bridge' Emerges As Vital Link Between Kashmir, Ladakh

Facility Symbolizes Brighter Future Of Seamless Travel, Economic Growth And Prosperity



Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: The first semi-arch 'Wayil Truss Bridge' on Srinagar-Leh National Highway in Ganderbal district of central Kashmir has emerged as vital link between Kashmir and Ladakh which has significantly helped the J&K administration in easing journey on the highway.

The people have expressed high appreciation to the UT government and all other stakeholders for establishing this unique engineering marvel in the region.

According to bridge experts and engineers at World Bank funded Technical Assistance and Quality Audit Control (TAQAC), the construction of this prestigious bridge was sanctioned under the World Bank funded Jhelum and Tawi Flood Recovery Project (JTFRP) with a cost of Rs 23.79 crore.

Assistant Executive Engineer JTFRP, Showkat Ali Shah, who was instrumental in conceptualizing the bridge, said that it was heartwarming to see the project proving to be a boon for the people who are reaping the benefits. Recollecting his ideation days on the project, Shah said that he along with TAQAC technical staff went to several places across the country to understand several other technical nuances about this kind of the project. He said that project has undergone three-tier quality checks including environ-

mental, civil and mechanical which make it safe project.

"This is a very strategic road. People of this area have been facing lot of issues due to lack of a vital link. This bridge will be instrumental in giving a big fillip to development profile of Kashmir," Shah maintained.

"This bridge (Wayil) spans over 110 meters and weighs over a 700 metric tons mild steel for super structure," he said, adding that "before this all attempts to construct the bridge at the spot on the same foundation pattern were left halfway.

The construction of the bridge was a long pending demand of the locals as well as the travelers as it is the only main link connecting Srinagar with Leh.

"This was our long pending demand from last many years. The pending works of the bridge used to create lot of traffic chaos in this part. Not only the locals were suffering, but the pilgrims, yatrins and tourists visiting various areas here have to bear the brunt," said, Mush-taq Ahmad, a local from Wayil, Ganderbal.

"We are highly thankful to the dedicated engineers and officials of JTFRP who have been part of this project. This has brought a new lease of life for a population of around 4 lakh. This marks the beginning of new dawn in Kashmir with development on top priority of the government," he added.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

DISTRICT EMPLOYMENT & COUNSELLING CENTRE, GANDERBAL.

Email: empexgbl@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Department of Employment, District Employment & Counselling Centre, Ganderbal is going to organize one day Job Fair at **Govt. Degree College, Ganderbal for unemployed youth on 10.06.2023 (Saturday) from 10:00 am onwards. The event will involve participation of Private Job Providers with more than 150+ vacancies spread over sectors like telecom, insurance, IT, edTech, healthcare, automobile etc.**

All the desirous unemployed youth are requested to participate in the Job Fair and register as a Job Seeker at the departmental **web portal: www.jakemp.nic.in/** Also, register on the given **Google Form Link: https://forms.gle/4T6jXcJknBgqggid8**

For any query:

Visit us: Office of the AD Employment, District Employment & Counseling Centre, Ganderbal (Khun-Harran, 191201)

Email : empexgbl@gmail.com Phone: 9906244511

NO: DECC/Gbl/2023-24/258-63

Dated: 07.06.2023.

DIPK-3058-23

DT: 08/06/2023

S/d

Dr. Sheeba Inayat (JKAS)

Assistant Director Employment

DE&CC, Ganderbal

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Friday | 09-06-2023

Power Crisis

The people of Jammu and Kashmir are bracing for a power crisis after a sudden 25 percent cut in the power supply from outside. In addition to this, there are unscheduled power cuts. The cut has been blamed on a number of factors, including rising demand, maintenance issues, and a shortage of coal. The government has said that it is working to address the power crisis.

However, it is not clear how long it will take to restore full supply. Thankfully, this year, temperature hasn't shot up even though we are now in summer. Recurrent rains over the last two months have washed away spring and brought down the temperature. In fact, people are still using woollens and heating gadgets in homes. So power is needed to keep homes warm. In coming days, the mercury is set to rise necessitating power to keep homes colder. The summer temperatures in J&K can be high, and the power cuts will make it intolerable. Another challenge will be the lack of access to electricity for businesses. Many businesses in J&K rely on electricity to operate, and the power cuts are disrupting their operations.

The reduction in power supply in summer is something that rarely happens in the Valley. Load shedding is problem that is generally identified with winters, especially with the period encompassing December, January and February. From March onwards, the supply generally improves and it is almost uninterrupted through summer and also autumn, before it abates again with the onset of winter. And when such reduction in the supply is understandable due to the drop in discharge in rivers and overall decline in the production of electricity.

True, the reasons for ongoing power cuts are also understandable. Government has cited rising demand, maintenance issues and coal shortage as the factors forcing extended cuts in the supply. That said, the administration needs to act to ameliorate the situation. More so, at a time when the Valley is experiencing boom in tourism.

OTHER OPINION

Keeping powder dry

The June meeting of the monetary policy committee was held against the backdrop of an improving macroeconomic environment — inflation has fallen below expectations, and growth has fared better than most optimistic projections. In this environment, as was expected, the MPC has voted unanimously to keep interest rates unchanged as it assesses the impact of past monetary policy action. The benchmark repo rate stands at 6.5 per cent. The tone of the policy was balanced. The committee emphasised the need to remain "vigilant" on the growth-inflation outlook considering the uncertainty stemming from the deceleration in global economic activity, tight financial conditions, elevated inflation, and continuing geopolitical tensions.

In recent months, inflation has surprised on the downside. Retail inflation, as measured by the consumer price index, fell to 4.7 per cent in April, down from 5.66 per cent March, in part, due to the base effect. Core inflation, which has tended to be sticky, has also softened. Factoring in these readings, the RBI has now lowered its inflation projections for the first quarter to 4.6 per cent, down from 5.1 per cent earlier. However, inflation is expected to edge upwards thereafter to 5.2 per cent in the second quarter, 5.4 per cent in the third quarter, and 5.2 per cent in the fourth quarter, as the base effect fades. For the full year, the central bank now expects inflation at 5.1 per cent, only marginally lower than its earlier forecast of 5.2 per cent. While these projections point towards a real interest rate of 1.3 per cent, they also imply that inflation is likely to remain above the 4 per cent target for the foreseeable future. There remains considerable uncertainty over how the monsoon will play out — its temporal and spatial distribution could have a bearing on output and prices. In the run-up to this meeting, there was some expectation of the MPC changing its stance. However, the committee has voted (5-1) to keep its stance unchanged, remaining focused on the "withdrawal of accommodation". It is possible that once there is greater clarity on the trajectory of inflation in the coming months and over the impact of El Niño, the policy stance will be suitably altered.

On growth, too, there is reason for optimism. In the last quarter (January-March) of 2022-23, the Indian economy grew at 6.1 per cent, surpassing most expectations. This has prompted many analysts to raise their forecasts for growth in 2023-24. However, despite that, most of these estimates remain below the central bank's assessment, which still pegs growth at 6.5 per cent. In fact, the RBI now expects the economy to grow at 7.25 per cent in the first half of the year, slowing down thereafter to 5.85 per cent over the second half. How this growth-inflation dynamic evolves with respect to the central bank's expectation will determine the course of monetary policy.

Indian Express

Mindful Fridays

Can Cartoons Corrupt?

How Cartoons Without Moral Lessons Impact Children's Development

Wasim Kakroo

In today's digital age, children have easy access to a wide variety of entertainment, including cartoons. Cartoons have long been a popular form of entertainment for children, offering colorful visuals, engaging characters, and entertaining storylines. However, not all cartoons are created equal, and many of the cartoons that are nowadays played on various T.V channels unfortunately lack the essential ingredient of moral lessons.

This trend is particularly concerning now as access to cartoons is via unmonitored mediums like Youtube. In Kashmir, as with the rest of the world, children as young as four-years had to be given smartphones when covid-19 made schools inaccessible. This need came at a huge cost. Often parents could not monitor or regulate the use of smartphones among their kids and now it is difficult to monitor what content one's children consume. It is possible but increasingly tedious. Many parents try to keep their kids from content that is obviously inappropriate. However, even cartoons can be detrimental.

Historically too, cartoons have been found to be with many adult allusions and in some cases, even innuendos. While the risk of indoctrination is a much talked of phenomenon as far as the content meant for kids is concerned, its psychological effects are often under discussed.

Cartoons serve as an incredibly influential medium through which children can learn and shape their moral compass. With their engaging storylines and relatable characters, cartoons often present children with ethical dilemmas, showcasing the potential consequences of their actions. This exposure to moral lessons is crucial for children to grasp the fundamental distinctions between right and wrong. However, when cartoons fail to incorporate these valuable teachings, children are deprived of essential opportunities for moral growth. As a result, their moral development may suffer, leaving them unequipped to effectively navigate the complexities of real-life situations. Therefore, it is imperative to recognize the significant role that cartoons play in fostering children's moral understanding and ensure that they continue to provide meaningful moral lessons.

Additionally, limited moral development in children can be exacerbated by cartoons that lack moral lessons. Such cartoons often depict characters engaging in unrealistic behaviors and actions without facing any consequences. As a result, children may internalize these portrayals and anticipate similar outcomes in their own lives. However, when their expectations collide with the realities of the world, it can give rise to feelings of frustration, disappointment, and even a sense of inadequacy. Moreover, the absence of moral lessons in cartoons perpetuates the dangerous notion that negative actions carry no repercussions, fostering a dearth of accountability and empathy among young viewers.

Moreover, many cartoons feature action-packed sequences and fictional violence. Although a certain degree of fantasy violence may not be inherently detrimental, the absence of moral lessons within these shows can potentially result in a distorted perception of violence among young viewers. Without proper guidance regarding the consequences and ethical implications of aggressive behavior, children might start perceiving violence as a normalized and acceptable way to resolve conflicts. Consequently, this could have far-reaching consequences on their interpersonal relationships and overall psychological and emotional well-being, as they may adopt violent tendencies and struggle with developing empathy and understanding for others.

On the other hand, Cartoons with moral

lessons often explore complex emotions, helping children understand and manage their own feelings effectively. By exposing children to narratives that emphasize empathy, compassion, and emotional resilience, these shows facilitate crucial emotional learning experiences. Conversely, the absence of moral lessons deprives children of these valuable opportunities, hindering their ability to identify and cope with their own emotions, as well as comprehend the emotional states of others.

serve as powerful tools to promote inclusivity, diversity, and acceptance. By imparting these values, they assist in nurturing an open-minded and tolerant worldview among children, shaping them into more compassionate and empathetic individuals.

Cartoons that incorporate moral lessons play a crucial role in shaping children's thinking patterns by encouraging them to engage in critical analysis and consider various perspectives. When characters in these cartoons are



Feature Image: Image for representational purposes only.

“ In Kashmir, as with the rest of the world, children as young as four-years had to be given smartphones when covid-19 made schools inaccessible. This need came at a huge cost. Many parents try to keep their kids from content that is obviously inappropriate. However, even cartoons can be detrimental

presented with dilemmas and ethical choices, children are prompted to evaluate the situations and make informed decisions based on their understanding of right and wrong.

However, in the absence of moral lessons, cartoons may prioritize entertainment value over fostering critical thinking skills. These cartoons tend to offer pure amusement without providing opportunities for children to ponder ethical dilemmas or develop problem-solving abilities. As a result, children may struggle to navigate real-life situations that require thoughtful decision-making or moral reasoning.

The consequences of limited moral development extend beyond the immediate realm of cartoons. Children who do not engage with moral lessons in their formative years may face challenges in comprehending complex ethical issues in society. They may lack the capacity to empathize with others, appreciate diverse viewpoints, and make morally responsible choices. Ultimately, this deficiency can hinder their ability to contribute positively to their communities and the world at large.

To foster holistic intellectual growth, it is essential to expose children to cartoons that encourage critical thinking, problem-solving, and ethical reasoning. By striking a balance between entertainment and moral lessons, these cartoons can provide children with the cognitive tools necessary for their personal development and equip them to navigate the complexities of life with integrity and compassion.

The author is a licensed clinical psychologist (alumni of Govt. Medical College Srinagar) and works as a Child, Adolescent and Family therapist at Centre for Mental Health Services (CMHS) at Rambagh Srinagar. He can be reached at 8825067196



OBSERVER
MAIL

All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, space and accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

P.O. Box # 337, GPO, Srinagar-190 001
email: editpage.ko@gmail.com

Promoting Knowledge and Education Through More Public Libraries in Kashmir

I am writing to bring attention to the pressing need for an increased number of public libraries in the beautiful region of Kashmir. Public libraries serve as invaluable institutions that foster knowledge, literacy, and community development. However, the scarcity of such facilities in Kashmir hinders the region's progress and deprives its residents of the myriad benefits that public libraries offer.

Kashmir, known for its rich cultural heritage and intellectual traditions, deserves to have robust public

libraries that cater to the diverse educational needs of its populace. These libraries would serve as intellectual hubs, facilitating the exchange of ideas, promoting literacy, and nurturing a love for learning among individuals of all ages. They would provide a sanctuary for students, researchers, and the general public to access a wide range of books, periodicals, and digital resources.

A well-established network of public libraries in Kashmir would address several critical issues facing the region. Firstly, it would bridge

the educational divide by providing access to resources for students who may not have access to a personal collection or digital devices. This would help level the playing field and enhance educational opportunities for all, promoting a more inclusive society.

Secondly, public libraries would foster a culture of reading and lifelong learning. They would encourage intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, and imagination among the residents of Kashmir. Reading is not only a means of personal growth but also

an essential tool for societal progress. Libraries would enable individuals to explore diverse perspectives, promote cultural understanding, and contribute to the overall intellectual development of the region.

Furthermore, public libraries would become vibrant community spaces, hosting various educational and cultural events. They could serve as venues for author talks, book clubs, workshops, and exhibitions, bringing people together.

Basit Hussain

Exploring India's Dark Tourism: Unveiling the Past, Promoting Empathy

Amit Singh Kushwaha

Dark tourism, a rapidly growing form of travel that revolves around visiting sites associated with death, tragedy, and the macabre, has captured the attention of adventure-seeking travelers worldwide. In India, a nation steeped in rich history and diverse cultural heritage, dark tourism has gained immense importance. This article aims to delve into the significance, necessity, and positive impact of dark tourism on Indian society. By exploring these haunting sites, travelers not only gain a deeper understanding of India's past but also confront the realities of human suffering, promoting empathy and cultural exchange.

Known by various names like thanatourism or grief tourism, dark tourism involves venturing into destinations where death, disaster, and historical tragedy have left indelible marks. In India, it offers a unique opportunity to engage with the country's complex past, where tragic events have shaped its identity and cultural landscape. By confronting these dark chapters, visitors can appreciate the resilience of the Indian people and gain insights into the valuable lessons learned from such experiences.

India boasts several historical sites that bear witness to tragic events, each with its own poignant story to tell. The Partition Museum in Amritsar stands as a solemn tribute to the partition of India and Pakistan in 1947. It serves as a stark reminder of the immense human suffering and displacement that occurred during that period. By visiting this museum, tourists can pay homage to the victims and learn about the ongoing efforts made towards reconciliation and peace.

Another notable destination is the National Gandhi Museum in Delhi, dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation. While not traditionally categorized as dark tourism, this site offers an opportunity to reflect on the assassination of Gandhi and his non-violent philosophy. Visitors can grasp the profound impact of his life and legacy on Indian society.

India has also witnessed devastating natural disasters that have left lasting imprints on the lives of its people. The city of Bhuj in Gujarat serves as a symbol of resilience and reconstruction following the severe earthquake in 2001. Dark tourism allows visitors to witness the strength of the local community, observe the progress made in rebuilding the city, and understand the lessons learned from such disasters.

India's spirituality and cultural heritage are deeply intertwined with concepts



IN ADDITION TO PROMOTING EMPATHY AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE, DARK TOURISM PLAYS A SIGNIFICANT ROLE in preserving historical and cultural heritage. Many sites associated with death and tragedy hold immense historical value and serve as poignant reminders of important events in Indian history. By attracting visitors, these sites receive the attention and resources necessary for their maintenance and preservation.

of life, death, and the afterlife. Varanasi, renowned as one of the oldest inhabited cities globally, stands as a prominent dark tourism destination. Known as the "City of Death," it offers a unique insight into Hindu funeral rites, open-air cremations, and rituals along the ghats of the Ganges River. By engaging with these practices, visitors can gain a deeper understanding of the cycle of life and death in Indian culture.

The essence of dark tourism lies in fostering empathy and understanding by directly confronting the realities of human suffering. Through their visits to these sites, tourists develop a profound appreciation for the resilience and strength of the Indian people. Moreover, dark tourism provides an avenue

for cultural exchange as visitors interact with local communities, listen to their stories, and learn about their traditions and beliefs surrounding death and tragedy.

In addition to promoting empathy and cultural exchange, dark tourism plays a significant role in preserving historical and cultural heritage. Many sites associated with death and tragedy hold immense historical value and serve as poignant reminders of important events in Indian history. By attracting visitors, these sites receive the attention and resources necessary for their maintenance and preservation.

Consider the Victoria Memorial in Kolkata, erected in memory of Queen Victoria, which stands as a testament to India's colonial past. The memorial now serves as a dark tourism destination, enabling visitors to reflect on the complex history of British rule and the struggle for independence.

The preservation of such iconic landmarks through dark tourism ensures their survival while also promoting historical education for future generations.

Dark tourism also offers an opportunity for individuals to learn from past tragedies and their consequences. By visiting sites associated with major incidents like the Bhopal Gas Tragedy Memorial in Madhya Pradesh, visitors gain a deeper understanding of the human and environmental impact of industrial disasters. These experiences can serve as lessons to prevent

similar catastrophes in the future.

Furthermore, dark tourism sites can shed light on social and political issues. The 1984 anti-Sikh riots memorial in Delhi commemorates the tragic events that unfolded following the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. By visiting this site, tourists gain insights into the challenges faced by minority communities and recognize the importance of fostering unity and understanding in society. Dark tourism also provides an avenue for healing and closure for survivors and affected communities, acknowledging and honoring their pain.

The Jallianwala Bagh Memorial in Amritsar, which commemorates the massacre of peaceful protestors by British forces in 1919, serves as a place of remembrance and reflection. The memorial not only pays tribute to the lives lost but also provides a space for survivors and descendants to seek closure and healing. By embracing dark tourism, these sites become platforms for reconciliation and ensure that the past is not forgotten.

Dark tourism in India fosters a sense of cultural identity and pride. By acknowledging and understanding the darker chapters of history, individuals develop a more comprehensive perspective on their heritage. This deeper understanding leads to a stronger sense of pride and appreciation for the country's cultural diversity and resilience. Dark tourism destinations, such as the Cellular Jail in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, evoke a sense of patriotism and pride in the struggle for independence. Visitors can connect with the stories of freedom fighters who endured immense hardships during their imprisonment, inspiring a renewed sense of national identity.

In conclusion, dark tourism holds immense importance as it allows individuals to delve into India's past, confront tragedy, and promote empathy, education, and cultural exchange. By visiting sites associated with death and tragedy, tourists gain a deeper understanding of India's history, cultural heritage, and the resilience of its people. Furthermore, dark tourism contributes to the preservation of historical sites, provides opportunities for learning and healing, and fosters a sense of cultural identity and pride. It is through embracing and understanding the dark aspects of our history that we can move forward as a society, striving for empathy, unity, and a better future.

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FRENCH LESSONS

Nilanjan Dey

Pension has always been a touchy issue, especially so when the authorities have tried to weaponise the idea of social security. France, thus, is in the news, thanks to the government's reformist pension policy and the massive opposition that its stance has spawned. At the core of the matter is the French government's proposal to raise the retirement age to 64 years from the current 62. Emmanuel Macron's proposal has a pragmatic underpinning: demographic changes have rendered the extant pension laws inefficient.

France's experience has a lesson for pension administrators in India. To appreciate the issue in the local context, one needs to understand two significant aspects — life expectancy and retirement preparedness. A third aspect, the controversy surrounding the new pension system, must also be explored.

Indians are living longer. This translates to what is called 'longevity risk'. Ordinary citizens tend to outlive their resources. This adds to their retirement under-preparedness. Added to all this is the somewhat regressive move to adopt the old pension system. A number of states have already announced their intention to do so, regardless of the burden this will add to their coffers. Gone are the days when employees worked till at least 60. People who are barely in their 50s are being let go, a fall-out of corporate cleansing. The problem seems to have compounded after Covid-19. Worse, it is



a consequence of mergers and acquisitions, closure of verticals, or restructurings. The advent of AI and machine learning might just worsen it.

A huge number of Indians depend overwhelmingly on government welfare schemes. The enormous social security bills notwithstanding, they serve the unorganised sector well. We are referring to the small shop employees, informal labour, low-skilled people engaged in trades, transportation workers and

the like. Most of them, unfortunately, have little recourse to formal pensions. According to an estimate by the World Bank in 2016, the global population segment aged 65 and older will double to 20% by 2050. Nearly 1.3 billion people, roughly 80% of the elderly, will reside in low-income countries. Only a third of the population in these nations have any sort of organised retirement infrastructure.

Policy makers in India have clear tasks ahead of them. One, increase retirement

age to, say, 65 years and help it remain stable. Two, make retirement savings compulsory with the help of the New Pension System in the organised sector. Three, pension savings must be mandatorily invested as actively as possible in the equity and debt markets so that efficient returns are generated for the long term.

The last bit has already ignited a mild controversy because of elements opposing the idea of risky equity investments.

Debt or fixed-income, they argue, is a far better route for deployment of retirement money. The proponents of the conservative idea seem to have forgotten the limited scope for debt investments. It is difficult for the average debt instrument to meaningfully outdo inflation. Equity, on the other hand, is perfectly capable of delivering superlative performance. But equity is quirky; there can never be any guarantee of performance. The trick is to communicate the relevant points to the common Indian saver.

The bulk of the global pensions' burden is on governments and private corporations. This is true for India as well. A higher retirement age will help our nation — just as it will help France. Contributory pension must continue till the death of an individual. So when life expectancy increases, the total amount of pay-outs goes up. Additional working years will help augment contributions and bring down the overall pension spend.

India is set to become an ageing nation. A large section will have no pension cover. This will add to our dependency ratio — the metric that helps us determine how retired folks depend financially on family.

As demonstrations intensify in France, as proponents of the old system in India prime their arsenal, as administered-rate retirement benefits clamour for attention, pension reforms will steal the limelight for years to come.

Nilanjan Dey is a retirement planning educator

WhatsApp Introduces New Feature 'Channels', Know Everything About It

ANI

WhatsApp keeps its users engaged with new features and updates for the platform. Now it has introduced a new feature called 'WhatsApp Channels'. As per The Verge, an American technology news website, the latest WhatsApp feature introduces a new type of communication to the world's most popular chat app.

It's known as Channels, and it's intended for one-to-many broadcasting rather than discussion. The Meta-owned firm described it as "a private way to follow what matters," and mentions local and sports updates as examples of how you may use it. Channels in a new tab called Updates - where you'll find Status and channels you choose to follow - separate from your chats with family, friends, and communities. Channels are a one-way

broadcast tool for admins to send text, photos, videos, stickers, and polls. To help select channels to follow, the company is building a searchable directory where you can find your hobbies, sports teams, updates from local officials, and more. This feature comes with most private broadcast service available. This starts by protecting the personal information of both admins and followers. As a channel admin, your phone number and

profile photo won't be shown to followers. Likewise, following a channel won't reveal your phone number to the admin or other followers. Who you decide to follow is your choice and it's private. According to WhatsApp statement quoted by The Verge repory, privacy is an important component of the experience, which is why channel admins' information isn't shared and the app only saves 30 days of a channel's history.

AI Outperforms Standard Risk Model For Predicting Breast Cancer

Press Trust Of India

Artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms outperformed the standard clinical risk model for predicting the five-year risk for breast cancer, according to a large study of thousands of mammograms. A woman's risk of breast cancer is typically calculated using clinical models such as the Breast Cancer Surveillance Consortium (BCSC) risk model. This model uses self-reported and other information on the patient, including age, family history of the disease, and whether she has given birth, to calculate a risk score.

diagnosed from between one and five years, and all cancer risk, or incident cancers diagnosed between 0 and 5 years. Using the 2016 screening mammograms, risk scores for breast cancer over the five-year period were generated by five AI algorithms, including two academic algorithms used by researchers and three commercially available algorithms. The risk scores were then compared to each other and to the BCSC clinical risk score. "All five AI algorithms performed better than the BCSC risk model for predicting breast cancer risk at 0 to 5 years," Arasu said.




"Clinical risk models depend on gathering information from different sources, which isn't always available or collected," said lead researcher Vignesh A. Arasu, from Kaiser Permanente Northern California, US. "Recent advances in AI deep learning provide us with the ability to extract hundreds to thousands of additional mammographic features," Arasu said in a statement. The study, published in the journal Radiology, used data associated with negative - showing no visible evidence of cancer - screening 2D mammograms performed at Kaiser Permanente Northern California in 2016.

"This strong predictive performance over the five-year period suggests AI is identifying both missed cancers and breast tissue features that help predict future cancer development. Something in mammograms allows us to track breast cancer risk. This is the 'black box' of AI," the researcher added. Some of the AI algorithms excelled at predicting patients at high risk of interval cancer, which is often aggressive and may require a second reading of mammograms, supplementary screening or short-interval follow-up imaging.


When evaluating women with the highest 10 per cent risk as an example, AI predicted up to 28 per cent of cancers compared to 21 per cent predicted by BCSC. Even AI algorithms trained for short time horizons - as low as 3 months - were able to predict the future risk of cancer up to five years when no cancer was clinically detected by screening mammography.

When used in combination, the AI and BCSC risk models further improved cancer prediction. "We're looking for an accurate, efficient and scalable means of understanding a women's breast cancer risk," Arasu said. "Mammography-based AI risk models provide practical advantages over traditional clinical risk models because they use a single data source: the mammogram itself," he added.

The researchers divided the five-year study period into three time periods: interval cancer risk, or incident cancers diagnosed between 0 and 1 years, future cancer risk, or incident cancers



Office of the Principal
Government Degree College
Kangan-191202 (J&K)
گورنمنٹ ڈگری کالج کنگن
Website: www.gdcangan.edu.in
No: GDC/KGN/23/ 0530



Tender Notice

In view of non-response to our tenders regarding the running of canteen at GDC Kangan tendered vide No: GDC/KGN/23/0410, dated: 28-04-2023, and GDC/KGN/23/0442, dated:10-05-2023 .published in local daily Rising Kashmir on 29-04-2023 and 12-05-2023,the same tender is hereby again re-tendered, however, all the specifications and formalities shall remain unchanged. Sealed Tenders affixed with revenue stamp of Rs.2/- attached with Demand Draft of Rs.10000/-(Rupees Ten thousand only-refundable) pledged in favour of Principal, Government Degree College, Kangan are invited from the persons having specialization in running canteen registered with valid municipal or any other authorized competent body which shall reach to this office within ten days (10) from the publication of this tender notice .The tenders must clearly mention/ quote the rates/ quantity/quality and weightage of the food/ beverage and other items, demanded and approved by the College Canteen Committee.

The items to be supplied/ made available in the College canteen includes:

1. Lipton Tea 2. Samosas 3. Butter Toast 4. Softy (Ice-Cream) 5. Simple Bread (Baked) 6. Omelette 7. Fried Rice 8. Biryani 9. Chola Puri 10. Pakodas


The fixed monthly rent of the canteen is Rs.3000/- (Three thousand only) per month. However, the successful bidder has to deposit Rs. 18000/- (Eighteen thousand only) as advance for six months and the rest of the amount has to be paid on monthly basis by the successful bidder.

The other terms and conditions which the successful bidder has to fulfil at any cost include:

- The contract shall remain valid for one year only and could be extended if the performance of the bidder is found satisfactory and also in case of unavoidable circumstances.
- There will be no compromise in the quality of food items which will be frequently checked by the College Canteen Committee.
- Any food item/ other items banned/ prohibited by Food Safety Standard Authority of India (FSAAI) are strictly banned for sale and consumption in the College.
- The furniture and other accessories/ requirements for running the college canteen are to be arranged and managed by the bidder of his own.
- Maintenance of strict discipline in and around the college canteen shall be the sole responsibility of canteen runner/bidder.
- No outsider except the helpers/workers approved by the College Canteen Committee shall be allowed to work in and around College canteen.
- The college shall bear no responsibility for any debt/borrowings to any individual (Student or Employee) by the canteen owner.
- The canteen runner shall strictly adhere to the cleanliness standards set for running College canteen which will be regularly monitored/ checked by the College Canteen Committee.
- The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without citing any reason thereof.
- In the interest of administration, the College Canteen Committee reserves the right to cancel the contract at any time if necessary.

PRINCIPAL
Government Degree College
Kangan

DIPK-3036/23
DATED: 08-06-2023



J&K Bank
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Impaired Asset portfolio Management Department
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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 11.04.2022 thereby calling upon 1) **Mr. Mohammad Akram Dar, S/o: Ali Mohammad Dar R/o: Chwa Kalan Pulwama (Borrower)** 2) **Mr. Fayaz Ahmad Wani S/O Mohammad Abdullah Wani R/O Chewa Kalan Pulwama (Guarantor)**, 3) **Mr. Javid Ahmad Malik S/O Gh. Nabi Malik R/O Chewa Kalan , Pulwama (Guarantor)**, 4) **Mr. Mohammad Ahsan Wani S/O Mohammad Jamal Wani R/O Chewa Kalan Pulwama (Guarantor)**, 5) and **Mr. Mohammad Ayoub Dar S/O Ali Mohammad Dar R/O Chewa Kalan Pulwama (Guarantor)** to repay an amount of **Rs. 33,38,12,778/- (Rupees Thirty-Three lacs Thirty-Eight thousand one hundred Twenty Seven and paise Seventy eight only)** being the balance outstanding as on **28.02.2022** in the account 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/guarantors 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 Symbolic 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 **05th 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 of **Rs. 36,97,963.78/- (Rupees Thirty-Six lacs Ninety -Seven thousand Nine hundred sixty Three and paise Seventy eight only)**, being balance outstanding in the borrower's **Housing Loan** account 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 borrower/mortgagor 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
Residential House along with the land Measuring 12 ½ Marlas falling under **Khasra No. 1401 min, Khata No. 662 and Khewat No. 304** situated at Mouza Chewakalan Tehsil Rajpora and District Pulwama standing in the name of **Mohammad Akram Dar S/O Ali Mohammad Dar R/O Chewa Kalan Pulwama.**

Place: Pulwama (Ab. Hamid Wani) Authorized Officer
Dated: 05.06.2023

Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India
CIN: L65110JK19385GCG000048 ; **T :** +91 (0)194 2481 930-35 ; **F :** +91 (0)194 248 1928 ; **E :** info@jkbmail.com ; **W :** www.jkbank.com

DIPK-NB-1139/23 DATED: 08-06-20223

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

Office Of The Executive Engineer
Rural Engineering Wing Baramulla.

E-NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No: - 08/Xen/Rew/Bla/2023-2024 Dated.07/06/2023

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders (In Single Cover System) are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors Regd. With J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following work:-

S.No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs.)	EMD AMOUNT	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account	Position of AAA/TS
1	C/O Solid Waste Collection Cum Segregation Shed near High School Khoshamarg under SBM, G II year 2023_24 Block Bijhama	5.15	300	10300	30days	DEE, CEE	SBM	AAA Accorded
2	C/O Solid Waste Collection Cum Segregation Shed near Wild Life Hut under SBM, G II year 2023_24 Block Bijhama	5.15	300	10300	30days	DEE, CEE	SBM	AAA Accorded
3	C/O Solid Waste Collection Cum Segregation Shed near Land of Shamsadin under SBM, G II year 2023_24 Block Bijhama	5.15	300	10300	30days	DEE, CEE	SBM	AAA Accorded
4	C/O Solid Waste Collection Cum Segregation Shed near Bela Lachipora under SBM, G II year 2023_24 Block Bijhama	5.15	300	10300	30days	DEE, CEE	SBM	AAA Accorded
5	C/O Solid Waste Collection Cum Segregation Shed at Reshawari under SBM, G II year 2023_24 Block Bijhama	5.15	300	10300	30days	DEE, CEE	SBM	AAA Accorded
6	C/O Solid Waste Collection Cum Segregation Shed near Gypsum Mine under SBM, G II year 2023_24 Block Bijhama	5.15	300	10300	30days	DEE, CEE	SBM	AAA Accorded
7	C/O Solid Waste Collection Cum Segregation Shed at Vearibagh Balhama under SBM, G II year 2023_24 Block Rohama	5.15	300	10300	30days	DEE, CEE	SBM	AAA Accorded
8	C/O Solid Waste Collection cum Segregation Shed near Eidgah Hadipora B under SBM, G II year 2023_24 Block Rohama	5.15	300	10300	30days	DEE, CEE	SBM	AAA Accorded
9	C/O Solid Waste Collection cum Segregation Shed at Chak Mohalla Khahmoo under SBM, G II year 2023_24 Block Rohama	5.15	300	10300	30days	DEE, CEE	SBM	AAA Accorded
10	C/O Solid Waste Collection cum Segregation Shed near Play Ground at Panzalla under SBM, G II year 2023_24 Block Rohama	5.15	300	10300	30days	DEE, CEE	SBM	AAA Accorded
11	C/O Solid Waste Collection cum Segregation Shed at Gorliwan at Parraypora under SBM, G II year 2023_24 Block Rohama	5.15	300	10300	30days	DEE, CEE	SBM	AAA Accorded
12	C/O Solid Waste Collection cum Segregation Shed near Platation Kawon at Reban A under SBM, G II year 2023_24 Block Rohama	5.15	300	10300	30days	DEE, CEE	SBM	AAA Accorded
13	C/O Solid Waste Collection cum Segregation Shed near Gatwari Sailkote under SBM, G II year 2023_24 Block Rohama	5.15	300	10300	30days	DEE, CEE	SBM	AAA Accorded
14	C/O Solid Waste Collection cum Segregation Shed at Main Road Ward-No 8 Shuttloo under SBM, G II year 2023_24 Block Rohama	5.15	300	10300	30days	DEE, CEE	SBM	AAA Accorded
15	C/O Solid Waste Collection cum Segregation Shed near Transformer Tang mohalla at Tragpora under SBM, G II year 2023_24 Block Rohama	5.15	300	10300	30days	DEE, CEE	SBM	AAA Accorded
16	C/O Solid Waste Collection cum Segregation Shed near Play Ground Batpora under SBM, G II year 2023_24 Block Rohama	5.15	300	10300	30days	DEE, CEE	SBM	AAA Accorded
17	C/O Solid Waste Collection Cum Segregation Shed near Plantation Beat under SBM, G II year 2023_24 Block Sopore	5.15	300	10300	30days	DEE, CEE	SBM	AAA Accorded
18	C/O Solid Waste Collection Cum Segregation Shed near Daruloom Nowpora A under SBM, G II year 2023_24 Block Sopore	5.15	300	10300	30days	DEE, CEE	SBM	AAA Accorded
19	C/O Solid Waste Collection Cum Segregation Shed near L/O Ali Mohd Shah & others at Tarzoo A under SBM, G II year 2023_24 Block Sopore	5.15	300	10300	30days	DEE, CEE	SBM	AAA Accorded
20	C/O Solid Waste Collection cum Segregation Shed at Logripora under SBM, G II year 2023_24 Block Tujar Sharief	5.15	300	10300	30days	DEE, CEE	SBM	AAA Accorded
21	C/O Solid Waste Collection cum Segregation Shed at Nathipora under SBM, G II year 2023_24 Block Tujar Sharief	5.15	300	10300	30days	DEE, CEE	SBM	AAA Accorded
22	C/O Solid Waste Collection cum Segregation Shed at Nowpora under SBM, G II year 2023_24 Block Tujar Sharief	5.15	300	10300	30days	DEE, CEE	SBM	AAA Accorded
23	C/O Solid Waste Collection cum Segregation Shed at Labbar Ground Tujar - A under SBM, G II year 2023_24 Block Tujar Sharief	5.15	300	10300	30days	DEE, CEE	SBM	AAA Accorded
24	C/O Solid Waste Collection cum Segregation Shed at Yemberzalwari Payeen under SBM, G II year 2023_24 Block Tujar Sharief	5.15	300	10300	30days	DEE, CEE	SBM	AAA Accorded
25	C/O Solid Waste Collection cum Segregation Shed at Zaloora bunpora under SBM, G II year 2023_24 Block Tujar Sharief	5.15	300	10300	30days	DEE, CEE	SBM	AAA Accorded

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	07-06-2023
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 07-06-2023 to 16-06-2023 up to 6:00 PM
3.	Bid submission Start date	07-06-2023
4.	Bid Submission End Date	16-06-2023 up to 6:00 PM
5.	Date and time of Opening of Bids (Online)	Technical Bids will be opened on 17-06-2023 at 11:00 AM in the office of the Executive Engineer REW Baramulla and Financial Bid opening will be declared online.

• The G.O No.238-F OF 2021 DATED:07.09.2021 issued by the Govt(Finance deptt)that the participation in the tendering process of works upto an amount of Rs 3.00 lacs is restricted to the resident of concerned panchayat.In the event of inadequate response to a tender ,participation from adjoining panchayat shall be permitted & participant to upload Panchayat certificate necessary.

• If the Bidder quotes his Bid exceeding the tendering Cost, his bid will be automatically rejected.

• In case of dilemma/confusion, the rate and the unit against any item shown in Boq , the SOR rate along with its unit will be applicable.

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of treasury challan/receipt under HEAD 0515 mentioning therein Name of work and NIT No. in favour of the Executive Engineer, REW Division Baramulla (Tender inviting Authority).

2. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site at the office of the Executive Engineer, REW Division Baramulla.

3. All The Bidders has to deposit Earnest Money (2% of Advertised cost) in shape of CDR/FDR at the time of tendering as per the Circular of Finance Department.

4. The 1ST Lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3 % of allotted cost of Contract as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG within 02 Days after opening of financial bid and shall be released after successful completion of DLP as per norms. The EMD of 2% of successful bidders shall be released after receipt of 3% performance security.

4.a Unbalanced Bid:
The successful bidder shall have to deposit an additional performance security in the shape of CDR/ FDR/ BG before award of contract in case the bid of the successful bidder is found to be unbalanced and the following scale shall apply thereto: -

S.No	Percentage of unbalanced bid viz -a- viz Adv. Cost	Additional performance security to be deposited on
1.	Upto and including 15% below	Nil
2.	>15% upto and including 20% below	5%
3.	>20% upto and including 25% below	10%
4.	>25% upto and including 30% below	15%
5.	>30% below	20%

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

6. The earnest money/performance security shall be forfeited, IF:-

a) Any bidder/ tenderer withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

c) Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

7. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

7.1. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.

7.2. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.

7.3. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

7.4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

7.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid. Besides, original documents related to bid be submitted physically by the bidder who is declared as LI immediately after opening of financial bid.

7.6. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of necessary documents in terms of soft copies with the technical bid & no documents in terms of hard copies shall be entertained. However, in case of any clarification, the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.

7.7. DOCUMENTS TO BE UPLOADED IN SOFT:
Scanned copy of valid registration card along with Latest Renewal , EMD/TR as per NIT, GST, Latest clearance, PAN.

7.8. The earnest money in favour of un-successful/ non-responsive bidders shall be released only after ensuring submission of tender document fee in original, irrespective of Hard copies, failure of submission of tender document fee by the bidder using site shall entail him for blacklisting.

No:- 57-64
DIPK-3089/23 Dated: 08-06-2023

Executive Engineer.
REW Baramulla

RBI Keeps Interest Rate Unchanged For Second Time In A Row

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- The Reserve Bank of India on Thursday left its key interest rate unchanged for a second straight policy meeting but signalled that it wants to see inflation moderate more while keeping an eye on the monsoon.

The monetary policy committee (MPC), which has three members from the RBI and an equal number of external experts, voted unanimously to keep the benchmark repurchase or repo rate unchanged at 6.50 per cent. It decided 5:1 to retain the policy stance focused on "withdrawal of accommodation", which was introduced in April last year.

While consumer price inflation eased during March-April 2023 and moved into the tolerance band, headline inflation is still above the target of 4 per cent and is expected to remain so during the rest of the current fiscal, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said announcing the monetary policy decision.

"Therefore, close and continued vigil on the evolving



inflation outlook is absolutely necessary, especially as the monsoon outlook and the impact of El Nino remain uncertain," he said. "Our goal is to achieve the inflation target of 4 per cent and keeping inflation within the comfort band of 2-6 per cent is not enough."

The central bank kept its GDP growth projections for the current fiscal (April 2023 to March 2024) unchanged at 6.5 per cent while marginally lowering the retail inflation expectation to 5.1 per cent from the previous 5.2 per cent.

India grew by 7.2 per cent in the previous fiscal, making it one of the fastest-growing nations in the world.

RBI Marginally Lowers FY24 Inflation Projection To 5.1%



Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank on Thursday pegged the retail inflation for fiscal 2023-24 at 5.1 per cent, a tad lower than its April projection, on expectations of higher rabi crop and the likelihood of normal monsoon.

In April, the RBI's projection of consumer price index (CPI) based retail inflation was 5.2 per cent.

"CPI inflation is projected at 5.1 per cent for 2023-24, with Q1 at 4.6 per cent, Q2 at 5.2 per cent, Q3 at 5.4 per cent and Q4 at 5.2 per cent. The risks are evenly balanced," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said.

He was unveiling the second bi-monthly monetary policy of the current fiscal.

The consumer price inflation eased during March-April 2023 and moved into the tolerance band, declining from 6.7 per cent in 2022-23.

Headline inflation, however, is still above the target as per the latest data and is expected to remain so, according to RBI's projections for 2023-24, he said.

Therefore, close and continued vigil on the evolving inflation outlook is absolutely necessary, especially as the

monsoon outlook and the impact of El Nino remain uncertain, he added.

The governor further said that with the recent rabi harvest remaining largely immune to adverse weather events, the near-term inflation outlook looks more favourable than at the time of the April MPC meeting. The forecast of a normal southwest monsoon by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) augurs well for the kharif crops.

According to an RBI survey, inflation expectations of households for three months to one year ahead horizon have moderated by 60 to 70 basis points since September 2022.

This would indicate that anchoring of expectations is underway and that our monetary policy actions are yielding the desired results, he said.

"At the same time, given the uncertainties, we need to maintain Arjuna's eye on the evolving inflation scenario. Let me re-emphasise that headline inflation still remains above the target and being within the tolerance band is not enough. Our goal is to achieve the target of 4.0 per cent going forward," Das said.

Kisan Sampark Abhiyan Reaches Out To Over 2 Lakh Farmers In J&K

Daksh Kisan, Kisan Sathi becomes major attraction for farmers

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: With just seven rounds completed, KISAN SAMPARK ABHIYAN has reached out to more than 2 lakh farmers of Jammu and Kashmir.

The programme, which still has 12 more rounds to go till 31st August 2023, has sprung surprising number of famers who are converging at the venues to listen and watch to what is going to be most pragmatic programme ever envisaged in agriculture and allied sectors not only the UT but in whole of the country.

A turning point in the history of agriculture sector is being witnessed in the UT of J&K through two major initiatives, DAKSH KISAN and KISAN SATHI. DAKSH KISAN is a first of its kind online hybrid skilling programme designed exclusively for farming community. Over 27000 farmers have been registered under DAKSH KISAN PORTAL till now and around 8000 farmers have been enrolled in skilling course of their choice. To add to this, around 2000 farmers have already progressed to advance level of completion of the online skilling course.

DAKSH KISAN is a Learning Management System (LMS) for skill development of the farmers. A first of its kind in the country, DAKSH KISAN, has been developed by Agriculture Production Department, where 121 skilling



courses as per the agro-climatic zones of the J&K UT are available for free to the farmers. A simple scan of the QR code at the back of pamphlet provided to farmers during Kisan Sampark abhiyan takes the farmer to DAKSH KISAN Portal where he can register for free and undertake any skilling course of his/her liking.

The video lectures under the LMS are available in Kashmiri, Urdu, Dogri and Hindi and textual material is available in Hindi Urdu and English. Besides, specialised modules on business development and financial management have also been included to ensure that the farmers are not merely trained but become a skilful entrepreneur. After completion of online courses, the farmers shall be sent for 5-7 days to Krishi Vigyan Kendras in their respective districts for practical hands-on training in

their chosen skilling course. On successful completion of the skilling course, the farmers shall be provided Certificates by SKUAST J/K.

Farmers have particularly shown great enthusiasm in KISAN SATHI- the IT Dashboard of the schemes under HADP, developed by APD. A simple scan of the QR codes on the pamphlets provided to farmers during the kisan Sampark abhiyan takes the farmer to the KISAN SATHI Portal where he can register easily and there is no need for visiting any office for applying under any of the schemes. A total of 5735 farmers have registered themselves under the KISAN SATHI PORTAL and more than 3000 online applications have been received till date from farmers under various schemes, of which, 11 applications already stand approved and rest are at various stages of processing.

DDC B'la Presides Over Bankers Seminar For Credit In Agriculture & Allied Sectors

Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: In a bid to bridge the gap between banking institutions and the development departments under Agricultural Diversification Project (ADP), the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar Thursday presided over Bankers Seminar for Credit in Agriculture and allied sectors at Dak Bungalow, here.

Large numbers of farmers, FPOs, heads of financial institutions besides functionaries of other concerned departments were present in the seminar.

During the programme, a detailed discussion was held on various issues including identification of beneficiaries, flow of credit for farmers under Holistic Development Agriculture Programme (HADP), assistance under Government sponsored schemes, performances of banks under District Credit Plan (DCP), monitoring initiatives and Credit Plus activities.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Syed Sehrish said that a total

of 47 schemes/ projects have been identified under holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors and implementation of these projects would not only energize the agriculture sector but will also change the economic fortune of the farming community of Baramulla district.

She reiterated that for achieving the desired targets under the said sector, the bankers have an important role to play by providing hassle free credit to the farmers.

To facilitate and uplift poor farmers with credit linking schemes, the DDC impressed upon the bankers to put in added efforts to make ease in credit facilities for the farmers by focusing on potential areas and stressed on better coordination between banks and government departments for bringing improvement in CD ratio.

She directed for ensuring balanced lending in all key sectors to promote equitable growth and also emphasized upon the heads of the financial institutions to spread aware-

ness with regard to the welfare schemes sponsored by them among masses so that people can avail benefit for their socio-economic development.

The DDC stressed for a self-reliant and sustainable Agriculture and Horticulture sector. She hailed the role of agriculture and horticulture sectors in creating self-reliant and sustainable employment in the district.

Moreover, the DDC exhorted the officers to focus on processing and cold storages besides directing the Lead Bank manager to provide the grounds of bottlenecks for disbursement of loans among farmers.

Later, the DDC also distributed booklets among the participants containing necessary information for all welfare credit schemes meant for holistic development of Agriculture and allied sectors.

Joint Director Planning, M.Yousuf Rather Chief Executive Officer Live Stock Kashmir, Dr Balbir Singh; DDM NABARD, Zubair Wasil and other concerned officers were present in the seminar.

One Day Bankers Credit Seminar Under HADP Held At Ganderbal

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: One day Bankers credit Seminar under the banner of 'Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav' and Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) was Thursday held in the Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat Ganderbal.

The seminar was presided over by the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Ganderbal, Shyambir and was attended by the district level functionaries of all the banks (public/ private sector banks), besides, representatives from various Farmers Producers Organizations (FPOs) and progressive farmers of the district.

The District Nodal Officer, Dr. Mohd Haider (DSHO Ganderbal) organized the event in collaboration with District Development Manager, NABARD, Junaid Ahmad Hakim who presented a powerpoint presentation to apprise the bankers about the need for enhanced credit flows to Agriculture and allied sectors.

The event started with a



welcome note from the District Nodal Officer wherein he welcomed the chair and participants and apprised the participants briefly about the programme.

The DDC welcomed the initiative and highlighted the importance of such an event which is aimed at bridging the gap between the banking institutions and the development departments under the Agriculture Production Department.

He stressed upon the importance of such discussions about the banking procedures and necessary requirements for a successful lending to help the development departments in understanding the set procedures so that they are further able to guide the farmers

accordingly.

An elaborate presentation was presented by DDM NABARD through which the credit needs under various schemes in operation in different departments was the focal point of deliberation.

Later, an interactive session was held in which various doubts of bankers, departments and farmers were cleared on spot.

Among others, the event was attended by Joint Director Agriculture, Tabasum Naaz, Lead Bank Manager, Farhat Manzoor, Chief Horticulture Officer, A.H Bhat, Chief Agriculture Officer, Randhir Sharma, Programme Coordinator KVK Ganderbal, Ishfaq Abidi and representatives from other departments.

Mudgal For Stringent Action Against Poor Performing J&KSCARD Branches

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Cautioning of stringent action against poor performing bank branches, Commissioner Secretary, Cooperatives, Yasha Mudgal, today exhorted upon all entities of J&K State Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Bank Limited (J&KSCARD) working in Kashmir division to step up efforts for achieving the set targets in time.

Commissioner Secretary, while chairing a meeting regarding review of functioning of J&KSCARD branches operational in Kashmir division, said that no laxity would be tolerated on part of any of the branches of this prestigious institution as far as the public interests are concerned. She asked all concerned to devise an effective mechanism to further streamline working of their respective units so that the set targets are achieved and the people are benefitted.

She also directed for constitution of a review committee comprising General Manager and others to monitor the status of poor performing branches on regular basis. This will help identify the existing issues affecting functioning of these branches besides improving their performance, she added. She said that the Committee will submit its report before end of the first quarter.

Commissioner Secretary had a detailed discussion on various vital issues which inter alia included Reserves, Deposits, Loan and Advances, CD ratio, Recovery against NPAs, Loan disbursed, Cash Liquidity and related matters.

Rs 2,000 Notes Worth Rs 1.80 Lakh Crore Have Come Back In Banks So Far: Das



Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Thursday said about 50 per cent of Rs 2,000 notes in circulation has come back in the banking system since the RBI announced withdrawal of the highest denomination currency last month.

As on March 31, 2023, he said, Rs 2,000 notes worth Rs 3.62 lakh crore were in circulation.

"So far, Rs 1.80 lakh crore have come back after the announcement," he said during an interaction with media after releasing the bi-monthly monetary policy here.

About 85 per cent of Rs 2,000 notes are coming as deposits in bank accounts and this is in line with expectation, he said.

On May 19, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced the

withdrawal of Rs 2,000 denomination banknotes as part of its currency management and permitted the exchange of such notes (up to Rs 20,000 in one go) from May 23 onwards. The exchange or deposit window is available till September 30, 2023.

The governor also urged the public not to panic for exchange or deposit of Rs 2,000 notes but should avoid last minute rush.

He also made it clear that RBI is not thinking of withdrawing Rs 500 notes, or even re-introducing notes in the Rs 1,000 denomination, and requested the public not to speculate on this.

Last month, the RBI governor had said the majority of the withdrawn Rs 2,000 currency notes are expected to be returned to the banking system by the September 30 deadline.

Housing Prices Rise In 43 Cities In Q4 Of FY23: NHB

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: As many as 43 cities out of 50 registered an increase in property prices during fourth quarter of 2022-23, according to the National Housing Bank (NHB) data released on Thursday.

However, 7 cities registered a decline in the property prices. The home loan rates are still lower than that of pre-COVID period leading to a healthy affordability overall, it said.

India's eight key primary residential markets witnessed appreciating property prices during the Jan-

ing the fourth quarter of FY23 as compared with 5.3% a year ago, it said.

The annual change in HPI @ Assessment Price varied widely across the cities - ranging from an increase of 19.6% (Gandhinagar) to a decline of 12.9% (Ludhiana).

On a sequential (Q-o-Q) basis, it said, the 50-city index registered an expansion of 1.3% in January-March 2023 as against 1.5% in the previous quarter.

The index is showing an increasing trend on Q-o-Q basis since June 2021.



uary - March 2023 period.

Ahmedabad with a rise of 10.8%, Bengaluru (9.4%), Chennai (6.8%), Delhi (1.7%), Hyderabad (7.9%), Kolkata (11%), Mumbai (3.1%) and Pune (8.2%) recorded an increase in the index on an annual basis as per the Housing Price Index (HPI) published by NHB.

The 50 city HPI based on valuation of properties collected from banks and housing finance companies (HPI @ Assessment Prices) recorded an annual increase of 5.8% dur-

ing the fourth quarter of FY23 as compared with 5.3% a year ago, it said.

On the supply side, it said, the 50 city HPI based on the quoted prices for under construction and ready to move unsold properties (HPI@ Market Price for Under Construction Properties), also recorded an annual increase of 11.7% in March quarter as against 4.8% a year ago.

The quoted prices witnessed an increase driven by the partial pass-on of the increased input cost coupled with increased demand in ready-to-move-in properties, more so in the affordable segment, it said.

Markets Snap 4-Day Rally Amid Profit-Taking

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty surrendered early gains to close with losses on Thursday, snapping their four-day winning streak as investors pared exposure to auto, bank and IT stocks after the RBI left its key interest rate unchanged.

After remaining in the positive territory for most of the session, the 30-share BSE Sensex fell 294.32 points or 0.47 per cent to settle at 62,848.64. During the day, it tumbled 353.23 points or 0.55 per cent to 62,789.73. The NSE Nifty declined 91.85 points or 0.49 per cent to end at 18,634.55.

"Investor sentiment took a downturn following the in-line monetary policy announcement by the RBI, as the market had higher expectations for a more optimistic revision in the inflation outlook, taking into account the recent easing of inflation data."

"The RBI's decision to lower the inflation rate by only 10 bps suggests a cautious stance due to geopolitical uncertainties, the potential impact of El Nino and the increase in Minimum Support Price, Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

Kotak Mahindra Bank was the biggest loser in the Sensex pack, sliding 2.68 per cent, followed by Tech Mahindra, Mahindra & Mahindra, Axis Bank, Hindustan Unilever, Tata Motors, Tata Consultancy Services, Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Finance, Nestle and Titan.

In contrast, NTPC, Power Grid, Larsen & Toubro, HDFC, Reliance and HDFC Bank were the gainers.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge fell by 0.87 per cent and smallcap index declined by 0.47 per cent.

"Indian equities witnessed profit booking on the day of the RBI policy meeting outcome, which was on expected lines...post the RBI policy outcome; markets saw some profit booking in the interest rate-sensitive sectors, which dragged the indices down...Except for Metals, all sectors ended in red," Siddhartha Khemka, Head - of Retail Research, at Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said.

Among the indices, realty tumbled by 1.51 per cent, telecommunication (1.06 per cent), auto (0.97 per cent), IT (0.88 per cent), FMCG (0.81 per cent), bankex (0.80 per cent), consumer discretionary (0.76 per cent) and commodities (0.66 per cent).

ODISHA TRAIN ACCIDENT

KIIT to Provide Job & Education to Victims' Families of Odisha

Observer News Service

Bhubaneswar: The KIIT Deemed-to-be-University will provide employment to one of the family members of the deceased of Odisha in the Balasore rail tragedy and free education to the children.

Announcing this to the media in Bhubaneswar on Wednesday, the Founder of KIIT & KISS Dr Achyuta Samanta said, "We can't reduce the sorrow of the family members of those who died in the train accident, but we will try our level best to support them. We will try to support the victims' families by offering a job to one member from each family at KIIT and KISS as per their eligibility, and provide free education to their kids at KIIT and KISS as per their eligibility from standard one up to higher level. We will inform them how to apply for the job as well as free education".

KIIT has always come forward and extended humanitarian services during any stressful events. During COVID-19 well, KIIT came forward to support hundreds of students who had lost their parents in the pandemic, giving free education, jobs to the family members of the Covid diseased, and helped common people through various means. Continuing with this humanitarian gesture, KIIT has come forward to help and support the victims of the train accident.

The Odisha train accident in Bahanaga, Balasore District on June 2 was the deadliest train crash in India in decades, claiming 288 lives, 39 of whom are from Odisha.

"We thank and praise the effort of the local people for their immediate response in saving the lives of the people. The effort of the Govt. of Odisha under the leadership of Shri Naveen Patnaik, Hon'ble Chief Minister, saved the lives of thousands of people in the accident. KIIT & KISS pray for the departed souls who died in the accident and convey sympathies to the family members. This support will provide assistance to the families of the victims and ensure a brighter future for their children", Dr. Samanta said.

Expedite Research On Medicinal Usage Of Cannabis: Jitendra Singh

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh on Thursday urged scientists to expedite research on cannabis and explore its medicinal capabilities in curing neuropathies, cancer and epilepsy.

Singh was chairing a meeting to review the 'Cannabis Research Project' undertaken by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM) in Jammu.

The minister said the project is "first of its kind in India" and has the potential to "produce export quality medicine for neuropathies, cancer and epilepsy".

This project will give an impetus for huge investment



opportunities in Jammu and Kashmir, he added.

Singh stressed that a synergy between the country's premier institutions such as CSIR-IIIM, the Indian Institutes of Management (IIM), Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) and All India Institutes of

Medical Sciences was important to realise the full potential of the cannabis research work.

The proximity of these institutions in Jammu could be used to establish a collaboration that would help in developing marketing strategies, clinical trials and technical support for

CSIR-IIIM's project, he said.

During the review meeting, Singh also asked all stakeholders of the project to hold a workshop to address the hurdles in the project and ensure smooth progress.

In 2019, the Union Finance Ministry had sanctioned a research and development project on compounds such as cannabidiol (CBD) and tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) found in cannabis, commonly known as ganja.

While CBD is used in gels and oils and has medicinal properties, THC is responsible for the psychoactive effect.

The nod for the research came after the World Health Organisation proposed re-categorising cannabis in international law due to growing evidence supporting its medical use.

Urs of Baba Nizam-ud-Din observed at Baba Nagri Kangan

Agencies

Ganderbal: The Urs of Hazrat Baba Nizam-ud-Din Kiyani (RA) was observed with fervour and gaiety here at Baba Nagri in Kangan area of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district.

According to reports, it was a confluence of devotees from across the Union Territory on the 126th annual Urs who paid obeisance at the Dargah of Hazrat Baba Kiyani (RA).

On the concluding day on Thursday, a joint prayer was held in which devotees prayed for peace, prosperity, unity, brotherhood and communal harmony.

Besides other religious personalities, Sajadah Nasheen Mian Altaf Ahmad while addressing the congregation highlighted the life and contribution of Hazrat Baba Nizam-ud-Din (RA) and his successor Mian Bashir Ahmed. He stressed upon the people to work for the welfare of humanity and follow the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

The devotees expressed their satisfaction and were overwhelmed after attending the special prayers. They vowed to follow the teachings of Hazrat Baba Nizam-ud-Din (RA) and to work for the welfare of humanity.

The annual Urs started on June 6 and concluded on June 8 with night-long prayers and special prayers. An estimated sixty to eight thousand people from Poonch, Rajouri, Kathua, Doda, Shopian, Bandipora, Baramulla and other districts, as well as from other parts of the country participated.

Sajadah Nasheen Mian Altaf Ahmad while talking to a local news agency KNO said the people in large numbers attended the Urs.

"On the eve of today's Urs Mubarak, people from all over Jammu and Kashmir came here. I tried to encourage them to visit their homes first before going outside. It is important for individuals to prioritise their children, as they are the future," Mian Altaf said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Is Online Market

accessibility to customers, they have also presented many challenges for the traditional handicraft industry.

Many individual artisans and small-scale producers lack the necessary infrastructure, resources and digital skills to effectively engage in online sales. Many struggle to navigate e-commerce platforms, handle logistics, or market their products online, putting them at a disadvantage in the digital marketplace.

Endorsing this notion, Shah says changing buying preferences of consumers following Covid-19 is adversely affecting trade of Kashmiri businessmen based in Mumbai.

"This increased competition can make it harder for Kashmiri handicrafts to stand out, as buyers now have a plethora of options to choose from", says S A Rizvi, who till recently headed Kashmir Govt Arts Emporium at Fort area.

"Online shoppers often look for competitive pricing and discounts. Individual Kashmiri artisans and sellers can not afford to lower their prices which will impact their profitability. Even if they do it this will be at the cost of the uniqueness and craftsmanship of handicrafts", Rizvi elaborated.

When asked why he discounts the value of online trade of Kashmiri handicrafts, Rizvi says Kashmiri handicrafts which are known for their intricate designs and traditional techniques, and cultural significance need an elaborate explanation in front of a buyer which according to him online platforms may not always effectively convey. "The tactile and visual experience of seeing and feeling the craftsmanship may be lost in online transactions, making it harder to communicate the true value of these crafts."

Moreover the online marketplace, he says, is not immune to the sale of counterfeit or mass-produced imitations of Kashmiri handicrafts. This, according to Rizvi, not only undermines the market for authentic products but can also deceive buyers who may unknowingly purchase inferior-quality items at a cheaper price.

The fast pace of life and changing preferences and evolving tastes of consumers remains a serious challenge to the handicraft industry, Kashmiri traders here believe.

Furthermore, the increased availability of mass-produced and cheaper alternatives has also impacted the demand for Kashmiri handicrafts. Machine-made replicas flood the market, often resembling the intricate designs of authentic Kashmiri products.

"Only a few would feel the lack of essence and soul that handmade crafts possess", says Rizvi.

These replicas are often more affordable, making them an attractive choice for budget-conscious buyers.

Economic factors have also played a role in the declining demand. The fluctuating economy, rising inflation, and changing consumer spending patterns have resulted in reduced purchasing power among Mumbai's population. Handicrafts, often considered luxury items, have taken a backseat as consumers prioritize more essential

needs.

"Everything is now easily accessible, but people must understand the essence of handloom, what handloom means, and that handloom takes time. So, if the market has been declining for 10-15 years, the main reason is machine-made products. There is also stiff competition from places like Jaipur, Agra, or Bhadohi in terms of carpets, and Punjab in terms of shawls and stoles," added Shah.

Paras Khan says he is not too optimistic either.

"I don't see much room for improvement because this was a family-run business passed down from generation to generation. As a third-generation owner of my small business, I'm not sure if my children will carry on the family tradition. I believe they might not. Because the younger generation isn't interested. They prefer working in the private sector. I'm not certain about the government's claims because bureaucrats don't have that mindset. They say "Make in India," "Skill India," but the talk is different and the work is different. If the government truly wants to improve this, it must collaborate with promising entrepreneurs who want to see change in this sector. Many enterprising young people are attempting to revive this fading art. The government must encourage the younger generation to get involved and show them that this is not a hopeless cause", Khan said.

Despite sounding pessimistic Khan has some praise for the government initiatives taken in recent past. "One positive step taken by the government is that there was a lot of deception by traders who were simply selling machine-made, phoney products in the name of Kashmir. It was seriously affecting the business. So the government is doing a good job of putting a stop to this and seizing such places where such malpractices occur. QR code based labels are now being placed on authentic crafts like Pashmina shawls and hand knotted carpets so that customers can learn where the product was made and who the weaver is. Such actions are admirable and greatly appreciated. Because we need to establish a baseline for this industry. When such fundamental standards are met, small-scale traders are encouraged to do more work. Entrepreneurship and governance should go hand in hand to improve this."

The Government of Jammu and Kashmir, through its Handicraft and Handloom Department, has off late initiated the process of bringing various crafts under the Geographical Indications Act. This is being done to prevent low-quality and machine-made products from damaging the genuine Kashmir handicraft brand. The Act has already been granted for authentic Kashmiri crafts like Pashmina, Kani and Sozni shawls, hand-knotted Carpets, papier-mâché and woodwork like Khatamband, Walnut Wood Carving. Seven more crafts have been enlisted for the registration, as per reports.

And at the same time, says Yasir, "Government needs to do more. This

trade is dwindling by the day. Not only that, but all of the art in the country is on decline. GST is another factor. When GST was introduced, how were people who did not even have an Aadhar card supposed to complete these formalities? And without GST, this work is rendered ineffective. As a result, people are in pain. Initially, there were no taxes on art and craft products. There was no tax on hand-made items. Everything is taxed now. The government should waive off taxes for people working in the arts and crafts and traders who are below the poverty line."

Hussain suggests that "if the government is serious enough to run its showrooms, the biggest bottleneck that we face today is a lack of staff, and efforts should be made to employ more people." That can solve 70% of our problems.

Abid Hussain, the new manager at the Kashmir Government Arts Emporium however sounds upbeat. "Market for our products is bouncing back. We are performing well except for off season times when footfall dwindles. Our sales performance during the previous fiscal year was outstanding. All our crafts are in demand except for crewel and Numbdas which are getting fewer customers. There is an excellent future for our products provided we bring in innovation and keep the designs in tune with the market requirements," he told Kashmir Observer.

He also added "Covid had a significant impact on our business, and we were badly hit. Sales fell to their lowest point, resulting in the accumulation of recurring liabilities. We have been unable to clear those liabilities till now."

MHA Shifts Four

Sudhanshu Verma (IPS) to Delhi, Mohita Sharma (IPS) to Delhi. Also, Saurabh Mani Tripathi (IAS) has been transferred from DNH&DD to J&K

Govt Names

"The officers shall closely monitor and liaison with all concerned agencies involved in the conduct of Shri Amarnath ji Yatra- 2023, and shall report to Chief Executive Officer, Shri Amarnath ji Shrine Board," the order reads.

Spiritual Aspect

Jammu Kashmir is also scaling new heights.

"The holy shrines of Sri Venkateswara, Baba Amarnath, Mata Vaishno Devi, Mata Sharda, Shiv Khori, Adi Shankaracharya Temple, Hazratbal and other prominent religious places and Sufi shrines in the UT will not only boost tourism but also develop Jammu Kashmir as the cultural-spiritual capital of the country," he said.

Sinha lauded Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Shri Kailash Jyotish & Vedic Sansthan and other organizations for their immense contribution in promoting Vedic culture and traditions. He said he was confident that Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams will develop a Ved Pathshala and Health Centre on priority.

"Lord Venkateswara maintains this world and he is the very basis of

existence. His divine blessings continue to guide the journey of Atam-Nirbhar Bharat and ensuring peace and prosperity in the lives of people," the LG added.

He termed the inauguration of Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple as a historic moment in the Sanatan Journey of J&K and the country.

"The dedication of Lord Venkateswara temple will strengthen the religious tourism circuit in J&K. It will give a boost to spiritual tourism and a major fillip to the economic development and employment opportunities in the Union Territory," he said.

The LG expressed gratitude to Prime Minister, and Union Minister of Culture and Tourism G. Kishan Reddy, for accelerating development and tourism promotion in J&K.

"Union Home Minister, Amit Shah was expected to grace today's occasion with his presence but due to some indispensable work, he couldn't join us. He has conveyed his best wishes and told me his future event in Jammu will start only after paying obeisance to Sri Venkateswara Swamy," Sinha said.

"We are also grateful to the Y.V. Subba Reddy, Chairman, TTD and other Board members for the establishment of Sri Venkateswara's temple on the land of spirituality and wisdom and to the people of J&K for their cooperation, he said. He also acknowledged the hard work of the workforce engaged in the construction of the temple," he added.

Earlier, the Union Minister of Culture and Tourism congratulated the people, J&K Government and all the devotees of Sri Venkateswara.

"The temple at Jammu will carry the message in the world that Kashmir to Kanyakumari, India is one. This will be a centre of spirituality and Sanatan traditions," he said.

"It is the result of the devotion and commitment of the Lt Governor of J&K and Chairman and Board members of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams that Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple is completed in a short span. Now, the devotees of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi and other prominent religious places can also seek the blessings of Sri Venkateswara Swamy at Jammu," he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State, while speaking on the occasion, said the historic day will script a new milestone in the development journey of J&K UT.

"This Vikas Tirth is a celebration of India's unity in diversity and also signifies Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat," he added.

DoB Recorded

to make the correction in the record of the government servant at any time against the interests of the government servant when it is satisfied with the age recorded in the service record of such government servant is incorrect and has been so incorrectly recorded with the object that the said government servant may derive some unfair advantage therefrom".

Therefore, the court said, a great sanctity is attached to the entry of date

against the school authorities, the NHRC said.

"Apparently, there was a supervisory lapse on the part of the school authorities due to which food was prepared unhygienically and served to the students. Accordingly... a notice...

(has been issued) to the chief secretary, Government of Bihar calling for a detailed report in the matter within four weeks," it said.

has been registered in Police Station Baramulla and investigation was initiated.

"During the course of investigation, a police party led by IC PP Delina under the supervision of DySP Hqrs Baramulla, arrested the extortionist identified as Owais Rashid Bhat @ Zaidaan @Sahabaa son of Ab Rashid Bhat resident of Chitloora Rafiabad Sopore. He has been shifted to police station where he remains in custody. Further investigation of the case is going on," he said.

Police urges women to come forward with any kind of grievances and we assure them that their safety and security will be ensured.

2 Brothers Held

and integrated efforts put in by a vigilant team of the crime branch of Jammu constituted for this purpose, officials said.

The case owes its origin to the complaint lodged by one Bali Ram with police station Basohli on the allegation of rape. The case was then transferred to the crime branch in Jammu for an in-depth investigation, they said.

After conducting the investigation substantial evidence was collected, including foreign science laboratory (FSL) report, following which opinion and allegations levelled against the brothers were proved, they said, adding that a charge sheet of the case was produced against the accused persons in the court of law.

However, a charge sheet against absconding Bittu and Kewel was produced under Section 512 Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPc) as both of them were at large, evading their arrest by constantly changing locations within the union territory, officials said.

The accused have been handed over to police station Basohli for further proceedings as warranted under law, they added.

Policeman Found

He said an investigation has been started under relevant sections of law.

640 More J&K

in the first flight, 252 male and 68 female left for Jeddah to perform Hajj while in the second flight 233 male and 87 female left for the pilgrimage today.

Pertinently, around 12,079 pilgrims from Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir and 452 from Ladakh UT, will perform Hajj pilgrimage this year.

The Hajj house continued to witness emotional scenes like yesterday where the Hajj pilgrims expressed their joy and happiness amid tears.

Notably, the Hajj pilgrims this year have been asked not to carry their Ahrām in luggage, but to carry it in hand bags for which special arrangements have been made by the authorities.

Decomposed Body

the body to a nearby health facility for medico-legal formalities.

He added that the body has been kept in a mortuary till its identification is done while further investigation has been taken up.



Director YSS Flags Off J&K Contingent For 66th NSG

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Director Youth Services and Sports, Subash Chander Chibber on Thursday flagged off a 108-member contingent to Bhopal for National School Games in an impressive function at Youth Hostel Nagrota.

The contingent comprising of the athletes from four sports disciplines is proceeding for Bhopal to participate in 66th National School Games, being held under the aegis of School Games Federation of India (SGFI).

The Director Sports who was the Chief Guest on the occasion, was accompanied by Deputy Director Central, Jitender Mishra and a galaxy of dignitaries.

A total of 90 athletes (Under-19 boys and girls) and 18

officials across Jammu and Kashmir are taking part in this mega sporting event to be held at Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh from June 10, 2023 to June 13, 2023.

The sporting disciplines include Football, Volleyball, Judo and Table Tennis.

Two football teams comprising of 36 players, two Volleyball teams of 24 players and two Judo teams of 20 players, and 10 players in Table Tennis were a part of the contingent.

Speaking on the occasion, Director YSS said that it was great to see athletes participating in the sporting events at the national level after a gap of three years. He hoped that J&K contingent will do well in all the sports disciplines.

YSS Anantnag Holds Sports Events In Various Zones



Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The Department of Youth Services & Sports Anantnag organised various tournaments from Zonal to District Level at various venues on Thursday.

In these series of events, Zone Bijbehra continued its tournament for Girls under the Age Group of 17 in Kabaddi, Kho-Kho & Volleyball with 156 students participating in the competitions.

In Zone Bidder, a Tennyquoit

zonal level tournament for Boys under Age Group of 14 & 17 was held at HS Sagam with 35 participation.

Zone Srigufwara organised Inter School Zonal Level competition in Volleyball, Kabaddi & Kho-Kho under the Age Group of 14 & 17 at Sports Stadium Badroo, which saw a total of 600 students participate.

Zone Verinag witnessed zonal level Kabaddi & Volleyball competitions for Girls under the Age Group of 14 & 17 at GDC Verinag, where 154 students participated.

Govt Has Cleared Pakistan's Participation In SAFF Cup: AIFF

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Indian government has cleared the Pakistan football team's participation in the SAFF Cup in Bengaluru from June 21 to July 4, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) said on Thursday.

AIFF secretary general Shaji Prabhakaran said India has "done its part" by clearing Pakistan's participation in the eight-nation regional tournament and it's now up to the neighbouring country to complete the formalities.

"Yes, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs and Sports Ministry all have cleared (Pakistan's participation)," Prabhakaran told PTI.

"We have done our part. We welcome them (Pakistan). All the participating countries have got visa clearance. They have to do their part of the visa formalities." India and Pakistan are in the same group and they face each other on June 21 in their campaign opener.

This is the first time in five years that the two neighbouring countries would be playing against each other.

The last time India took on Pakistan on the football field was in the semi-finals of the 2018 SAFF Championship, which India won 3-1.

Lebanon, Kuwait, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Maldives are the other participating countries.



India Lose Openers After Australia Amass 469



Press Trust of India

LONDON: India found themselves in a difficult situation with the early loss of their openers after Australia posted a commendable 469 in their first innings of the World Test Championship final, here on Thursday.

Australia added 142 runs to their overnight total with the loss of seven wickets before being bowled out one hour into the afternoon session. Mohammed Siraj cleaned up the tail and was the pick of India's bowlers with four wickets.

India batted for 10 overs before the tea break and were dealt a twin blow as skipper Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill fell to Pat Cummins and Scott Boland respectively. They were at 37 for two at tea with Virat Kohli (4 batting) and Cheteshwar Pujara (3 batting) in the middle, trailing Australia by 432 runs. Both Rohit (15 off 26) and Gill (13 off 15) looked in good touch before flatter- ing to deceive. Rohit missed a

ball from Cummins that was angled in before Gill inexplicably decided to leave a delivery from Boland on length only to see his stumps being uprooted in the following over.

The conditions are good for batting but India have a massive challenge at hand.

After the lunch break, Alex Carey pushed Australia past 450 with a 48 off 69 balls. His innings included a six off Ravindra Jadeja but an attempted reverse sweep the following ball led to his downfall, trapping him in front of the stumps. India got themselves back in the game with four wickets in the morning session on day two but Australia maintained their upper hand by reaching 422 for seven at lunch, following Steve Smith's 31st hundred.

Resuming the day at 327 for three, Travis Head (163 off 174) and Steve Smith (121 off 268) walked into the middle under bright sunshine at The Oval. Smith, who was on 95 over-

night, got two freebies on the pads from Mohammed Siraj in the first over of the day and he happily put them away for consecutive boundaries to complete his seventh hundred in England and third at the venue.

India were guilty of not using the short ball tactic early enough on the opening day but Siraj went for that from the get on Thursday. Mohammed Shami too tried to mix it up with an odd bouncer but was not able to get the same zip from the surface as much as Siraj did.

While Smith was not bothered by India's tactic, Head looked in a bit of discomfort. Siraj banged one short into his body in the sixth over of the day and Head walked across the stumps to pull it but ended up edging it to wicketkeeper K S Bharat. Cameron Green was the next to go as he went for an expansive drive off a full ball from Shami but ended up being caught at second slip by an alert Shubman Gill.

Barcelona Again Fails To Do Enough As Messi Chooses Miami

Agencies

MADRID: Once again, Barcelona couldn't do enough to entice Lionel Messi.

Nearly two years after the club was forced to let Messi go against his will because of its financial struggles, Barcelona again missed out on a chance to bring the World Cup winner back.

The 35-year-old Messi announced Wednesday he would not return to Spain and instead said he was going to join Inter Miami in Major League Soccer.

There had been hopes of a reunion between the Argentine great and the Spanish club where he thrived for nearly two decades before leaving to join Paris Saint-Germain, but in the end, there was only more disappointment for both sides.

Again, Barcelona's finances kept the club from luring Messi back.

The Argentine apparently wanted to return but didn't want to go through the ordeal of not knowing whether the Catalan club would be able to sign him. He said he was told

the club would have to either sell other players or lower salaries, and he didn't want that to happen.

"I really wanted to come back. I was very excited to be able to return," Messi told Spanish media. "But after hav-



ing experienced what I experienced and the exit I had, I did not want to be in the same situation again, waiting to see what was going to happen."

Barcelona was mired in debt when Messi left in 2021. The club couldn't make the numbers work back then as Messi was forced to wait in hopes of having his contract renewed. This time, Messi said he wasn't going to wait on others.

"I wanted to make my own decision, thinking about me

and my family," Messi said.

It wasn't all about the money for Messi, who chose Inter Miami despite reportedly having a much more lucrative offer from Saudi Arabia.

He said he wanted to "get out of the spotlight a bit" and

focus more on his family after a "difficult time" with PSG, but made it clear that he would have returned to Barcelona if the numbers had worked.

The club deflected blame, saying that Messi decided to go to the United States because he preferred a less-demanding league so he could prioritize time with his family.

"President (Joan) Laporta understood and respected Messi's decision to want to compete in a league with fewer demands, further away from the spotlight and the pressure he has been subject to in recent years," the club said in a statement after Messi's announcement.

But Laporta again couldn't offer much to Messi even after restructuring the team's finances.



West Ham Secure Conference League With 2-1 Win

Agencies

PRAGUE: Jarrod Bowen slid home a 90th-minute winner as West Ham United secured a last-gasp 2-1 victory over Fiorentina in the Europa Conference League final on Wednesday to clinch a first major European trophy in over half a century.

The match at Prague's Eden Arena looked like it was heading to extra time when Lucas Paqueta slipped a ball through to Bowen who outpaced the defenders on a quick counter attack and fired past Fiorentina keeper Pietro Terracciano.

The goal made Bowen the first English player to score the winner in a major European final since Arsenal's Alan Smith in 1994 and capped a campaign in which West Ham were unbeaten in 15 UEFA Europa Conference League matches.

"You make that run 10 times and you might get it once," Bowen told BT Sport. "I had a lot of time but I was confident and when I saw it going in, I didn't know what to do. This was the biggest game of my career."

"I obviously dreamed of scoring but to score the winner in

the last minute. It's what you always say you want to do. To do it in front of these fans. I thought I was going to cry. I'm just happy."

West Ham took the lead in the 62nd minute when Said Benrahma converted a penalty after a VAR review confirmed a handball by the Italian side's captain Cristiano Biraghi, who had been a thorn in West Ham's side with his runs down the flank.

Fiorentina immediately stepped up the pace after going behind and were rewarded five minutes later when Giacomo Bonaventura controlled the ball with two defenders on him and sent an angled shot past West Ham keeper Alphonse Areola.

Both sides struggled to create much in a nervy opening half with Fiorentina controlling possession but lacking a cutting edge in the final third, while West Ham had long spells without the ball. When the referee blew the final whistle, the West Ham players raced to the corner to celebrate in front of their fans who revelled in the team's first win in a European final since they lifted the Cup Winners' Cup in 1965.

Liverpool Sign Midfielder Mac Allister From Brighton



Agencies

LIVERPOOL: Argentina midfielder Alexis Mac Allister signed for Liverpool for a reported initial fee of 35 million pounds (USD 43.6 million) on Thursday to mark the start of an expected rebuild by the club.

Mac Allister, part of Argentina's World Cup-winning team last year, completed a move from Brighton on what Liverpool described as a "long-term deal." "Since I won the World Cup, I said that I want to win more trophies and I think that this club will help me to do that," the 24-year-old Mac Allister said.

"That's the aim and when you are in a big club like this one you have to win trophies. So, that's what I want."

Mac Allister helped Brighton secure its highest-ever Premier League finish of sixth place,

which was one spot below Liverpool Brighton also qualified for the Europa League. Mac Allister's reputation has soared over the past year after playing a key role in Argentina's World Cup triumph alongside Lionel Messi.

"It's a dream come true — it's amazing to be here and I can't wait to get started," Mac Allister said.

"I wanted to be in (from) the first day of preseason, so it's good that everything is done. I'm looking forward to meeting my teammates."

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp needs to strengthen in midfield after the club confirmed James Milner, Naby Keita and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain are departing this offseason. Klopp's team had a disappointing season, failing to qualify for the Champions League for the first time in seven years and not winning a trophy. (AP)

Wrestlers Want To Take Part In Asian Games Trials, Say Need A Month And Half To Prepare

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Aday after calling off their protest against outgoing WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh having received assurance from the government, the wrestlers on Thursday expressed intent to take part in the Asian Games selection trials scheduled to be held later this month.

Sports Minister Anurag Thakur on Thursday said that all national federations are aiming to finalise the squads for the Asian Games, well before the July 15 deadline set by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA).

The Games are set to take place in Hangzhou, China from September 23 to October 8. The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) had on April 27 announced that a three-member ad-hoc committee A two-member ad hoc committee of Bhupender Singh Bajwa and Suma Shirur, which is running the day-to-day affairs of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) since May 4 will be conducting the selection trials most likely in

the last week of June.

However, the wrestlers want some more time to get ready for the trials.

"We want to take part in the selection trial but to prepare for it, we need at least a month and a half of training," international wrestler Satyawart Kadian, who is also Sakshi Malik's husband, told PTI on Thursday.

Getting back into competition mode will be a tough task for the wrestlers as some haven't competed since the World Championships in September last year while some of others last hit the mat even earlier, during the Commonwealth Games in August, 2022.

The grapplers had pulled out of a slew of international events recently while Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia also opted out of their international training camps in April due to the protest. While the two central figure of the protest -- Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Bajrang and world championship medallist Vinesh -- figure in the long list, the same cannot be said about Rio Olym-

pics bronze medallist Malik.

The wrestlers have been demanding the arrest of outgoing WFI chief Singh, who they have accused of sexually exploiting women wrestlers, including a minor.

However after a marathon meeting with Thakur on Wednesday where they were assured that a chargesheet will be filed by against Singh, the wrestlers suspended the protest till June 15 as a resolution seems to be round the corner.

On Thursday, Thakur reiterated that the wrestlers' demands, including the formation of a WFI Internal Complaints Committee headed by a female, will be met.

"I said yesterday as well, we had a very positive meeting with the protesting wrestlers. All the issues that they raise we discussed and we have said that the chargesheet will be filed till June 15 and the WFI elections will take place by June 30. "We want the wrestlers to return to the mat and take part in competitions," Thakur said.

Father Of Minor Wrestler Admits Filing False Allegations Against WFI Chief

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The father of the minor wrestler told PTI on Thursday that they deliberately filed a false police complaint of sexual harassment against WFI chief because they wanted to get back at him for the perceived injustice against the girl.

The startling admission by the father substantially weakens the case against Brij Bhusha Sharan Singh who has relentlessly faced protest for the past six months by wrestlers, who have accused him of sexual harassment. The complaint by the minor wrestler has also led to investigation under POCSO Act.

"It's better that truth comes out now instead of court," he told PTI when asked why he is changing his story now. "Now that interactions have started, the government has promised



fair enquiry into my daughter's defeat (in Asian U17 championship trials) last year, so it is also my duty that I rectify my mistake," he said.

He also provided elaborated explanation for the origin of his and his daughter's animosity against Singh, who has vehemently denied the sexual harassment allegations, including against the minor.

The origin of the animosity goes

back to the 2022 Under 17 Asian Championship trials in Lucknow when the minor lost the final and missed out on selection to the Indian team.

They blamed Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh for the referee's decision.

"I was filled with rage my child's one-year hard work had gone down the drain because of that referee's decision in final and I decided to take revenge," he said.

Holy Sites Ready To Receive Hajj Pilgrims



Agenceis

JEDDAH: Authorities in Makkah and Madinah have erected new, high-quality tents as part of their preparations to welcome pilgrims to the holy sites for the upcoming Hajj season.

Fitted with a special cooling system, the facilities will provide visitors with a pleasant and safe environment in which to perform their rituals, as well as offering all the support services they need.

Makkah Municipality said it had created 28 service centers, which will be fully staffed and equipped, while the Municipality of Madinah said it too had completed its preparations and was

ready to implement its operational plan for the Hajj season.

Authorities in Madinah said they had recruited more than 9,900 people and would use over 800 pieces of equipment to help deliver their plan, which is focused mainly on the central area, residential neighborhoods, mosques, historical sites, markets and event zones.

They said they had also inspected fuel and service stations, barbershops and women's hair salons, markets and street vendors to ensure high levels of hygiene.

Plans had also been put in place to tackle any emergencies that might arise during the pilgrimage

Leave Bats Alone In Their Habitats For A Pandemic-Free Future, Says Study

Agenceis

Scientists make the case that pandemic prevention requires a global taboo or ban whereby mankind agreed to leave bats alone, to let them have the habitats they need, undisturbed, in a study published in the journal The Lancet Planetary Health.

The researchers from Cornell University, US, along with those from Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), US, say that while we may never know the exact means by which a bat virus, to which the COVID-19 pandemic and SARS coronavirus outbreak of 2003 can be traced, we do not need to know all of the details in order to act.

Bats are known to be a source of rabies, Marburg filoviruses, Hendra and Nipah paramyxoviruses, coronaviruses such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) Coronavirus, and fruit bats are strongly believed to be a source of Ebolaviruses.

This analysis, the researchers said, points to the value of humanity globally not fearing them or trying to chase them or culling them, all of them being activities only serving to disperse them and increase the odds of a zoonotic spillover.

They emphasised that humanity simply must take the most basic, common-sense upstream steps to lower our risk of incurring another pandemic - at



the interface where dangerous viruses can actually move from animals into people.

"In a globalised world with 8 billion people, we can no longer ignore our interconnectedness with the wildlife and ecosystems around us. We must change humanity's relationship with nature if we want to prevent the next pandemic of zoonotic origin - and that can start with bats," said Susan Lieberman, WCS's Vice President for International Policy.

Calling for humanity to change its broken relationship with nature, specifically wildlife and bats in particular, the study said that the costs of implementing human behavioural changes were insignificant compared to those of another global pandemic.

"If we can actually stop hunting, eating, and trading bats, stay out of their caves, keep livestock away from areas where bats are concentrated, and if we can stop

deforesting, degrading, or even start restoring, their natural habitats, we can indisputably lower the chances of another pandemic," said Steven A. Osofsky, professor at Cornell and lead author of the study.

Allowing bats to survive and thrive will also pay billions of dollars in dividends in the form of the ecosystem services that bats provide, such as control of mosquitoes and other harmful insects, as well as pollination of a wide array of important crops, the authors said in their paper.

They further said that while humanity's relationships with other kinds of animals merited close scrutiny, respecting bats and the habitats they needed was truly the lowest hanging fruit of genuine upstream pandemic prevention - an important better-late-than-never message now that we've passed the third anniversary of the COVID-19 pandemic.

WhatsApp Launches New Feature 'Channels' For Broadcast Messages

Agenceis

Meta-owned WhatsApp on Thursday launched a new feature called - "Channels" within the app for broadcast messaging, i.e., a simple, reliable and private way to receive important updates from people and organisations.

The company said that it is building Channels in a new tab called Updates, where users will find Status and channels they choose to follow - separate from their chats with family, friends and communities.

"Channels are a one-way broadcast tool for admins to send text, photos, videos, stickers, and polls. To help you select channels to follow, we're building a searchable directory where you can find your hobbies, sports teams, updates from local officials, and more," WhatsApp said in a blogpost.

Users can also get to a channel from invite links sent in chats, e-mails or posted online.

To protect the personal information of both admins and followers, the company said that as a channel admin, their phone number and profile photo won't be shown to followers, likewise, following a channel won't reveal their phone number to the admin or other followers.

Moreover, WhatsApp mentioned that the company will store channel history on their servers for up to 30 days and will add ways to make updates disappear even faster from followers' devices. Admins will



also have the option to block screenshots and forwards from their channels.

Channels will not be end-to-end encrypted by default as the aim of Channels is to reach a wide audience. "We do think there are some cases where end-to-end encrypted channels to a limited audience might make sense, such as a non-profit or health organisation, and we are exploring this as a future option as well," WhatsApp said.

With this feature, the company believes there is an opportunity to support admins with a way for them to build a business around their channel using their expanding payment services as well as the ability to promote certain channels in the directory to help increase awareness.

The company is launching Channels in select markets - Colombia and Singapore and said it will bring Channels to more countries and the ability for anyone to create a channel over the coming months.

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