

PM Pitches For Uniform Civil Code

Asks How Can Country Function With Two Laws

Press Trust of India

Bhopal: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday made a strong pitch for the uniform civil code (UCC), saying the Constitution also mentions having equal rights for all citizens.

Addressing a gathering of party workers here, Modi also said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has decided it would not adopt the path of appeasement and vote bank politics.

Modi said the opposition is using the issue of UCC to mislead and provoke the Muslim community.

"You tell me, in a home, how can there be one law for one member and another law for another member?" Modi said.

"Will that home be able to function? Then how will the country be able to function with such a dual system? We have to remember that even in India's Constitution, there is a mention of equal rights for all," he said.

"These people (opposition) level allegations against us but the reality is that they chant Musalman, Musalman. Had they really been (working) in the interests of



WILL THAT HOME BE ABLE TO FUNCTION? Then how will the country be able to function with such a dual system? We have to remember that even in India's Constitution, there is a mention of equal rights for all."

Muslims, then Muslim families would not have been lagging in education and jobs," he said.

The policy of appeasement practised by some is "disastrous" for the country, Modi said during his visit to Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh, where the Assembly polls are due this year-end.

Modi said that Pasmamda Muslims, who are backward, are not even treated as equal because of the vote | [More on P10](#)

At Hazratbal, LG Sinha Calls for Revival of 'Shrine Tourism' in Kashmir

Says Valley Shrines Can Attract Large Number Of People From Outside

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday visited the revered shrine of Hazratbal in Srinagar and called for revival of 'shrine tourism in Kashmir.' He said that Eid-ul-Azha is a festival of peace and harmony.

Reviewing the preparations and facilities at the shrine that houses the holy relic of Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh), he said that today top officials from the administration are present and preparations are in place for the upcoming festival of



Eid-ul-Azha. Quoting saying (Hadith) of Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh),

the LG said that the Prophet (pbuh) has stated that unless the heart is purified, the body

remains impure. "If heart is clean, the entire body is clean," he said.

The LG said that the way people from across India are coming for the Amarnath Yatra, people can also come to visit revered shrines like Hazratbal, Charar-e-Sharief and dozens of other shrines in the Valley. "Shrine tourism can be revived to attract people from the rest of the country. I am open to get feedback from the people, Waqf Board and anyone else on this issue. You can come to me or I can visit you as well," he said.

He said | [More on P10](#)

Eid-ul-Azha Holidays on June 29-30

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Tuesday modified its previous order and said that the holiday of Eid-ul-Azha will now be observed on June 29-30 (Thursday and Friday).

According to an order the government modified its earlier order and said that the holidays of Eid-ul-Azha will be on June 29 and June 30 instead of June 28 & June 29.

"In partial modification of Government Order No. 1596-JK (GAD) | [More on P10](#)

This Eid, Business Down As Markets See Sales Slump

Trade leaders blame recession, inflation, online marketing

Agencies

Srinagar: Markets in Kashmir witnessed a thin footfall of shoppers ahead of Eid-ul-Azha, the festival of sacrifices, while the trade leaders term the recession, inflation and online marketing as the main reasons behind the sluggish market.

The shopkeepers told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that they were expecting a good sale but said the markets lacked enthusiasm. They said the flow is even low than Eid-ul-Fitr.

People were seen jostling



and swarming around mutton and bakeries shops; however, the overall market sentiment

was low, the shopkeepers said, adding that their business has shrunk and the | [More on P10](#)

Al-Badr Militant Killed in Kulgam Encounter

Cop Injured, Stable Say Officials; Pistol, Grenade Recovered From Slain, Case Registered: Police

Kulgam: A newly recruited militant of Al-Badr outfit was killed in an encounter at Hawoora area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Tuesday.

Reports quoting unnamed officials said that one local militant who was recruited by Al-Badr outfit was killed in the encounter.

They said that a police personnel was also injured in the initial exchange of firing. "The condition of the policeman was stable", officials said.

Earlier, officials said that police, army's 1st RR and the CRPF cordoned off the suspected spot in Hawoora village of Kulgam, where the hiding militant fired upon the forces triggering an encounter.

Meanwhile, a police spokesman said that | [More on P10](#)

9 Infiltrators Killed Along LoC this Month

Nine foreign militants have been killed along the Line of Control (LoC) in north Kashmir's Kupwara district alone in the ensuing month leading to the recovery of huge quantities of ammunition, war-like stores. Suspected 55 narcotics packets were also recovered from the killed infiltrators in two different operations of Police | [More on P10](#)

Ladakh Innovator Sonam Wangchuk Ends 9-Day 'Climatic Fast'



Press Trust of India

Engineer turned educational reformist Sonam Wangchuk, has ended in Leh his nine-day fast, that he had initiated to draw the attention of the authorities to the importance of safeguarding Ladakh's fragile mountain ecology and indigenous people.

Mr Wangchuk's fast, which he started on June 18 drew hundreds of people to NDS Stadium in Leh. Initially the fast was planned for seven days but he extended it to two more days and ended it on Monday.

Earlier this February he held a five-day hunger strike demanding the inclusion of the Union Territory (UT) in the | [More on P10](#)

Amarnath Yatra: Mahant Giri Announces Programme

Says This Year's Pilgrimage Significant, Two Shrawan Months

Agencies

Jammu: As the annual pilgrimage of Amarnath Yatra is set to commence from July 1, Mahant Deependra Giri, the custodian of the "Chhari Mubarak" or the holy Mace of Lord Shiva has announced the Amarnath Yatra 2023 programme for the pilgrims.

The administration has also issued the list of its five spot registration and 33 accommodation centres across the district.

In a statement to news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Mahant Giri said that this year's pilgrimage brings greater significance as "we have two 'Shrawan' months and this extraordinary astronomical event has taken place after 19 years."

The annual 62-day-long Amarnath Yatra will commence on July 1 from the twin routes of Pahalgam and Baltal in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district.

As per the age-old tradition, rituals of 'Bhoomi-Pujan', 'Navgrah Pujan' and 'Dhawajaroohan' connected with traditional commencement of annual pilgrimage of Chhari-Mubarak Swami Amarnath Ji shall be performed at



Pahalgam on auspicious occasion of "Ashad-Purnima" (Vyas-Purnima) on Monday July 3 this year.

He said the Chhari-Mubarak shall be taken to historic Shankracharya Temple on August 16 and Sharika Bhawani Temple on August 17 before rituals are performed for Chhari-Sthapana at Shri Amreshwar Temple Dashnami Akhara Srinagar on Saturday August 19, 2023 accordingly.

Mahant said that after performing Chhari-Pujan at Dashnami Akhara Srinagar on auspicious occasion of 'Nag-Panchami' on August 21, Mahant Deependra Giri ji shall carry the Holy Mace | [More on P10](#)

Situation From Kashmir To Kerala Makes It Must To Retain Sedition Law: Law Panel Chief

Press Trust of India

New Delhi, June 27: Amid a clamour for repeal of the law on sedition, Law Commission chairman Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi on Tuesday said the present situation from Kashmir to Kerala and Punjab to the North-East makes it must to retain the law to safeguard the "unity and integrity of India".

Defending the panel's recommendation to retain the law, which is at present under abeyance following directions of the Supreme Court issued in May last year, he said enough safeguards have been proposed to prevent its misuse.

In an exclusive interview, he told PTI that special laws such as the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the National Security Act operate in different fields and do not cover the offence of sedition and therefore, the specific law on sedition needed to be there too. Justice Awasthi asserted that while considering the usage of the law on sedition the panel found that "the present situation right from Kashmir to Kerala and Punjab to the



North-East is such that the law on sedition is necessary to safeguard the unity and integrity of India".

He also said that the sedition law being a colonial legacy was not a valid ground for its repeal and several countries, including the US, Canada, Australia and Germany, have their own such laws.

In its report submitted to the government last month, the 22nd Law Commission headed by Justice Awasthi supported retaining section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) with safeguards to prevent its misuse.

The recommendation triggered a political uproar with several opposition parties alleging that it was an attempt to stifle dissent and voices against the ruling party ahead of the Lok Sabha elections next year.

While the government said it will take an "informed and reasoned" decision on the Law Commission report after consulting all stakeholders and that the recommendations were "persuasive" but not binding, the Congress has alleged that the government wants to make the sedition law more "draconian".

Referring to the "procedural safeguards" recommended by the commission, Awasthi told PTI that the preliminary inquiry will be held by a police officer of the rank of inspector or above.

The inquiry will be done within seven days from the occurrence of the incident and the preliminary inquiry report will be submitted to the competent government authority for permission for lodging of FIR in this regard, he added.

"On the basis of the preliminary report, if the competent | [More on P10](#)

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From the Court of principal District Judge, Srinagar

Present : Mr. Jawad Ahmad

- Tariq Ahmad Qureshi (62 Yrs) S/o Late Bashir Ahmad Qureshi R/o Gratbal Nawakadal Sgr
 1. Shakeel Ahmad Qureshi S/O Late Bashir Ahmad Qureshi R/o Gratbal Nawakadal
 2. Mst Qaiser akHTER D/O Late Bashir Ahmad Qureshi W/o Haji Abdul Rashid Bandyar R/o Gulshan Nagar Nowgam
 3. Mst Rifat Bano D/o Late Bashir Ahmad Qureshi W/o Sallah Ul Din Gani R/o Gojwara Chowk Sgr
 4. Public at Large

In the matter of
 Application for appointment of Guardian for the person and property of Minor(s)

Notice to public at Large

Where the petitioner(s) FILED ABOVE TITLED PETITION BEFORE THIS COURT for appointment of guardian the person and property of minor(s) namely Riyaz Ul Haq Qureshi S/O Late Bashir Ahmad Qureshi R/o Gratbal Nawakadal Near J&K Bank . The petition is pending disposal before this court and the next date of hearing is fixed 19-07-2023
 Public Notice is hereby issued, informing all and sundry through the medium of this proclamation that at any anyone has any objection , he/she / they shall appear before this court either personally or through counsel or any authorized agent and file objections on or before 19-07-2023 failing which the petition will be taken up and appropriate orders will be passed in the same
 In case, the date fixed is declared as holiday the matter shall be taken on the next working day.
 Given under my hand and seal of this court on --

Jawad Ahmad
 Principal District Judge, Srinagar

nj

In The Court Judicial Magistrate 1st Class Pampore.

Case No.24 of 2023
 Date of Institution: 24/06/2023

Mohd Shaban Lone S/o Late Ab Majeed Lone R/o Ladhoo Pampore (Applicant)

VERSUS

Registrar Birth & Deaths Block Development Officer Pampore (Non-Applcant)

In the matter of:

Application for Registration of Date of Birth of applicant and issuing the certificate thereof under Section 13 of the Registration of Birth and Death Act, 1969.

CORAM: Mr. Touseef Ahmad Magray U.I.D No. JK00208

NOTICE TO GENERAL PUBLIC

Whereas, the above titled petition has been filed by the applicant in this court seeking direction to the non-applicant for Registration of Date of Death of his father namely **Late Ab Majeed Lone S/o Noor Mohd Lone R/o Ladhoo Pampore** . Whereas through the medium of this notice, the public at large is informed that in case, any one has any objection in issuance of direction with respect to the Registration of Date of Death of Applicants father (who has been died on **08-09-2009 at Ladhoo, Pampore**) to the non-applicant he/she/they shall file the same before this court in person or through counsel within 7 (Seven) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objections will be entertained and matter will be taken up for disposal in accordance with law.
 Given under my hand and Seal of the Court today 27-06-2023

No: 10.JMIC/Pampore dated: 27-06-2023 (Mr. Touseef Ahmad Magray) U.I.D No JK00208 FKO Munsiff/JMIC Pampore.

In The Court Judicial Magistrate 1st Class Pampore.

Case No.20 of 2023
 Date of Institution: 24/06/2023

Mohd Shaban Lone S/o Late Ab Majeed Lone R/o Ladhoo Pampore (Applicant)

VERSUS

Registrar Birth & Deaths Block Development Officer Pampore (Non-Applcant)

In the matter of:

Application for Registration of Date of Birth of applicant and issuing the certificate thereof under Section 13 of the Registration of Birth and Death Act, 1969.

CORAM: Mr. Touseef Ahmad Magray U.I.D No. JK00208

NOTICE TO GENERAL PUBLIC

Whereas, the above titled petition has been filed by the applicant in this court seeking direction to the non-applicant for Registration of Date of Death of his brother namely **Ghulam Nabi Lone S/o Ab Majeed Lone R/o Ladhoo Pampore** . Whereas through the medium of this notice, the public at large is informed that in case, any one has any objection in issuance of direction with respect to the Registration of Date of Death of Applicants father (who has been died on **17-01-1987 at Ladhoo, Pampore**) to the non-applicant he/she/they shall file the same before this court in person or through counsel within 7 (Seven) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objections will be entertained and matter will be taken up for disposal in accordance with law.
 Given under my hand and Seal of the Court today 27-06-2023

No: 12.JMIC/Pampore dated: 27-06-2023 (Mr. Touseef Ahmad Magray) U.I.D No JK00208 FKO Munsiff/JMIC Pampore.

In The Court Judicial Magistrate 1st Class Pampore.

Case No.18 of 2023
 Date of Institution: 24/06/2023

Shahista Mohi u din D/o: Late Gh. Mohi ud Dar R/o: Samboora, Pampore (Applicant)

VERSUS

Registrar Birth & Deaths Block Development Officer Pampore (Non-Applcant)

In the matter of:

Application for Registration of Date of Birth of applicant and issuing the certificate thereof under Section 13 of the Registration of Birth and Death Act, 1969.

CORAM: Mr. Touseef Ahmad Magray U.I.D No. JK00208

NOTICE TO GENERAL PUBLIC

Whereas, the above titled petition has been filed by the applicant in this court seeking direction to the non-applicant for Registration of Date of Death of his father namely Gh. Mohi ud Din Dar S/o: Ab. Gaffar Dar R/o: Samboora, Pampore. Whereas through the medium of this notice, the public at large is informed that in case, any one has any objection in issuance of direction with respect to the Registration of Date of Death of Applicants father (who has been died on 31/12/1995 at Samboora, Pampore) to the non-applicant he/she/they shall file the same before this court in person or through counsel within 7 (Seven) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objections will be entertained and matter will be taken up for disposal in accordance with law.
 Given under my hand and Seal of the Court today 27-06-2023

No: 11.JMIC/Pampore dated: 27-06-2023 (Mr. Touseef Ahmad Magray) U.I.D No JK00208 FKO Munsiff/JMIC Pampore.

Public Notice

This is to inform the general public that I intend to transfer the power electricity connection bearing consumer ID no.0202020015134 presently in the name of Late Tanveer Ahmad Mir S/o Late Ali Mohammad to Aisha Tanveer wife of Tanveer Ahmad Mir . If anybody has any objection he/she may contact concerned department within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

IN THE COURT OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1st CLASS AT SHOPIAN

Presented: Brij Raj Singh JO Code.JK00222

In the Case of: Mohd Mansoor Lone S/o Mohd Subhan Lone R/o Batapora Shopian (Applicant)

VERSUS

U.T Through Registrar of Births and Deaths Municipal Council Shopian (Non-applcant)

Notice To Public At Large

Whereas, the above titled petition has been filed by the applicant in this court for seeking directions to the non-applicants for registration of particulars of the applicant's mother namely Mst Azizi who died on 01.04.1979 at Home. Whereas, through the medium of this proclamation, the public at large is informed that in case, any one has any objection in issuance of direction with respect to the registration of the Death certificate of the applicant's mother they/she/he shall file the same before this court in person or through counsel within 15 days from the date of issuance of this publication. If the date fixed is declared holiday the matter will be taken upon the next working day.
 Given under my hand and seal if this office on 27/06/2023

fko

از عدالت سبج میونسپل مجسٹریٹ سرینگر

رجسٹرار برتھ اینڈ ڈیتھس ایس۔ اے۔ ایم۔ سی سرینگر (سیول)

با اجلاس مہرین مشتاق Noora Bano بیام

سائل اسائلہ درخواست بزرگ اندراج تاریخ پیدائش اوفاٹ نام: Faizan Nazir تاریخ پیدائش: 10-11-2005 معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدمہ میں سائلہ نے عدالت ہڈا میں ایک درخواست بشمول حلفی بغرض اندراج تاریخ پیدائش اوفاٹ R/o Gaw Marg Hazratbal مورثہ 22-06-2023 پیش کی ہے۔ لہذا احوام الناس کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ نسبت درخواست کوئی نذر یا اعتراض ہونے کی صورت میں اپنے عدالت اشاعت اشتہار کے اندر ہی ہم عدالت میں آ کر پیش کرے۔ بعد گزرنے میں میا کوئی نذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ تاریخ آئندہ عدالت ہڈا میں 03-07-2023 کو پورے ہے۔
 تحریر الصدمہ سبج میونسپل مجسٹریٹ سرینگر nj

از عدالت سبج میونسپل مجسٹریٹ سرینگر

رجسٹرار برتھ اینڈ ڈیتھس ایس۔ اے۔ ایم۔ سی سرینگر (سیول)

با اجلاس شہاب احمد شہاب Ah Dar بیام

سائل اسائلہ درخواست بزرگ اندراج تاریخ پیدائش اوفاٹ نام: Momin Shabir تاریخ پیدائش: 02-04-2007 معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدمہ میں سائلہ نے عدالت ہڈا میں ایک درخواست بشمول حلفی بغرض اندراج تاریخ پیدائش اوفاٹ R/o Narkara Bemina Srinagar مورثہ 13-03-2023 پیش کی ہے۔ لہذا احوام الناس کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ نسبت درخواست کوئی نذر یا اعتراض ہونے کی صورت میں اپنے عدالت اشاعت اشتہار کے اندر ہی ہم عدالت میں آ کر پیش کرے۔ بعد گزرنے میں میا کوئی نذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ تاریخ آئندہ عدالت ہڈا میں 03-07-2023 کو پورے ہے۔
 تحریر الصدمہ سبج میونسپل مجسٹریٹ سرینگر nj

از عدالت سبج میونسپل مجسٹریٹ سرینگر

رجسٹرار برتھ اینڈ ڈیتھس ایس۔ اے۔ ایم۔ سی سرینگر (سیول)

با اجلاس شہاب احمد شہاب Ah Dar بیام

سائل اسائلہ درخواست بزرگ اندراج تاریخ پیدائش اوفاٹ نام: Saima Shabir تاریخ پیدائش: 20-10-2009 معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدمہ میں سائلہ نے عدالت ہڈا میں ایک درخواست بشمول حلفی بغرض اندراج تاریخ پیدائش اوفاٹ R/o Narkara Bemina Srinagar مورثہ 13-03-2023 پیش کی ہے۔ لہذا احوام الناس کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ نسبت درخواست کوئی نذر یا اعتراض ہونے کی صورت میں اپنے عدالت اشاعت اشتہار کے اندر ہی ہم عدالت میں آ کر پیش کرے۔ بعد گزرنے میں میا کوئی نذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ تاریخ آئندہ عدالت ہڈا میں 03-07-2023 کو پورے ہے۔
 تحریر الصدمہ سبج میونسپل مجسٹریٹ سرینگر nj

از عدالت سبج میونسپل مجسٹریٹ سرینگر

رجسٹرار برتھ اینڈ ڈیتھس ایس۔ اے۔ ایم۔ سی سرینگر (سیول)

با اجلاس شہاب احمد شہاب Ah Dar بیام

سائل اسائلہ درخواست بزرگ اندراج تاریخ پیدائش اوفاٹ نام: Abida Shabir تاریخ پیدائش: 09-10-2005 معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدمہ میں سائلہ نے عدالت ہڈا میں ایک درخواست بشمول حلفی بغرض اندراج تاریخ پیدائش اوفاٹ R/o Narkara Bemina Srinagar مورثہ 13-03-2023 پیش کی ہے۔ لہذا احوام الناس کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ نسبت درخواست کوئی نذر یا اعتراض ہونے کی صورت میں اپنے عدالت اشاعت اشتہار کے اندر ہی ہم عدالت میں آ کر پیش کرے۔ بعد گزرنے میں میا کوئی نذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ تاریخ آئندہ عدالت ہڈا میں 03-07-2023 کو پورے ہے۔
 تحریر الصدمہ سبج میونسپل مجسٹریٹ سرینگر nj

Office Of The Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore.

Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NITNo- 47 of RnB-Sopore of 2023-2024 e-tendering DATED 27.06.2023
 For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K, e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on Percentage rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of /DOC E/Money (In Rupees)	Time for completion of work	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	M.H of Account
01	Upgradation of Upcoming colonies of Sopore Town.	7.00	300/-	14000/- 20 days	12.07.2023	DEE/CEE	4059 Distt.sector
02	Upgradation of Shalbagh Play field Road & Adjacent Links	3.00	200/-	6000/- 15 days	12.07.2023	DEE	4059 Distt.sector
03	Construction of link Road from Petrol Pump to House of Lateef Ahmad Peer at Warpora by way of Providing Nallah Muck and Grade-2nd	6.94	300/-	13880/- 20days	12.07.2023	DEE/CEE	4059 Distt.sector
4	Construction of (1x4) Mtr RCC Culvert on Eidgah road Botangoo	7.00	300/-	14000/- 35 days	12.07.2023	DEE/CEE	4059 Distt.sector

Project Authority: DDC Bla.
 Position of funds: Available
 Position of AAA/ TS /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 detail's can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

S.No.	Date of issue of tender Notice	27.06.2023
1	Date of issue of tender Notice	27.06.2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	27.06.2023 (upto 4.PM)
3	Bid Submission start date	27.06.2023
4	Bid submission End date	11.07.2023 (4.00 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bides (online)	12.07.2023 (12 PM) in the office of Ex. Engineer R&B Division, Sopore

2. Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan/ CDR (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.

3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period. 3(b) Geotech Photographs Minimum 03 sets (01 set Comprising of Photograph before, during and after execution of work) of size 26 cm x 21 cm to be provided.

4. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same website in the office of the Tender receiving authority.

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

6. Instructions to bidders regarding tendering process.

6.1. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" options well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in and upload bid submission process.

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

6.3. The bidders have to submit their bid in electronic format with digital signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

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

6.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid. Note: Scan all the documents in 100 dpi with black and white option.

7. The tenderer will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

8. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury challan pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore (the date of challan should be in between the date of start of bid and Bid submission end date) must be uploaded with the bid. The original Treasury challan (cost of tender document), and related documents set must be uploaded with the documents of the bid.

9. The original Treasury Challan (Cost of tender document) and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of contract.

10. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

11. In case of CRF and any other specified project, the relevant guidelines/standard bidding document shall be followed.

12. Instructions to Bidder (ITB)

a. All bidders shall upload the following information and documents with their bids.

b. All bidders shall upload copies of original documents defining constitution/legal status. Place of registration and principal place of business with cell No. and/or residence address.

c. All bidders shall upload treasury challan.

d. All bidders shall upload Bid security Declaration form.

e. All bidders shall upload GSTIN No. and PAN Card.

f. All bidders shall upload Valid GSTIN along with latest sales tax clearances certificate Form GST-3B for the Proceeding Month/proceeding January - March

14. If the contractor/HMP quotes a rate for any item of work in his tender as free of cost at the time of tendering process, his tender shall be rejected outrightly.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&KUT, No: 3594-3613 DIPP-4251/23 Dated: 27.06.2023 Executive Engineer, R&B Division Sopore

NORTHERN RAILWAY
 TENDER NOTICE
 The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur Division invites applications on the prescribed form for allotment of contract for following Halt stations:-

1	Name of Work	Allotment of Halt contract at Saldan Wala, Jamsher Khas, Sham Chaurasi, Khakhar Kalan Jhanda Ji, Jaljon Doaba, Garhshankar, Maluopota, Saita Khurd, Batata Sugar Mill, Dudwindi, Saidpur Jalalabad, Gama Sahib, Baba Bakala Rayya, Chakdayala & Qadian Halt Stations over Firozpur Division.
2	Tenure of contract	5 (Five) years.
3	Last Date & Time of Submission and Opening of applications	On 31.07.2023 Up to 15:00 hrs. (Applications will be opened on 31.07.2023 and in case the day on which the applications are to be opened is a holiday, the same will be opened at the same time on next working day).
4	Address of the office & date from which application forms will be available.	Office of Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur, Date 28.06.2023 to 31.07.2023
5	Northern Railway's web site.	Applications can also be downloaded from Northern Railway's official website www.n.r.indianrailways.gov.in

The notice for inviting application forms and other related information is also available on the official web site of Northern Railway www.n.r.indianrailways.gov.in 1978/23

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Public Notice

I have applied for renewal of my fertilizer retail license bearing registration no. 136/FR/GBL/2014 in the Department of Agricultural Office, Ganderbal. If anybody is having any object in this regard, may please contact Chief Agricultural Officer Mini-secretariat, Ganderbal within 7 days from the date of publication after that no objection shall be entertained.

Rehana Ramzan
 D/O Mohammad Ramzan Sheikh
 R/O Beehama Ganderbal inf

Public Notice

I have lost my Policy Bond bearing Policy No. 146625287 LIC of India SA 930000. Now I have applied for the issuance of duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection may file his/her objection in the LIC Office Unit 2nd Regal Chowk Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Muzaffar Yousaf Mir
 S/o M. Yousaf Mir
 R/o Yagi pora Magam bmg_r

از عدالت جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ درج اول پٹن

با اجلاس الطاف حسین خان

مسمات سہتی بیگم بیام BDO پٹن

Death & Birth Certificate

درخواست نجائب بشیر احمد لون ولد غلام محمولون ساکنہ تاترے پورہ پٹن لغرض اندراج Date of Death مسمات سہتی بیگم زید محمد عبدل خالق لون ساکنہ تاترے پورہ پٹن

اشہار برادر اگا گاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدمہ میں سائلہ نے ایک درخواست نسبت حصول تاریخ فوتگی پیش کی ہے جس نسبت برائے کاغذات بشمول درخواست قرار تاریخ نوٹیفکیشن 09-01-1996 روئے درخواست حذا ہے اور اس نسبت درخواست پیش کردہ ذریعہ اساعت عدالت حذا ہے۔ اگر کسی شخص کو اس نسبت کوئی نذر یا اعتراض ہوگا تو وہ اندر مات ہم عدالت حذا میں پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرنے میں میا کوئی بھی نذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ درج اول پٹن fko

On Eid Eve, J&K Bank Kick-starts Instant QR Code Drive In Kashmir

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Carrying forward its ease-of-banking mission through digital channels on the eve of Eid ul Azha, J&K Bank today initiated a 'Special Instant QR Code Drive' in Kashmir.

The Bank's General Manager & Divisional Head (Kashmir) Tabassum Nazir launched the drive at Zonal Office (Srinagar) in presence of valley's Zonal Heads Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat, Tariq Ali, Shabir Ahmad, Khursheed Muzaffar and Saadut Hussain

Quick Response Codes."

"The idea behind the special drive is to make QR Code transactions more popular and familiar across varied sections of society irrespective of their location and economic status. The major thrust of the drive remains on small shopkeepers, hawkers and tele-wallahs whose valuable effort and time can be saved through these easier and secure QR Code transactions", she added.

From the kick-start of the drive till 5 pm in the day, over 3000 Instant QR Codes had been installed across the valley un-



Pampori, Chief Digital Officer Naveed Zargar, Cluster Heads and other senior officers of the Bank. Zonal Head (Ladakh) Dorjey Angchuk and Cluster Head (Kargil) also joined the event through VC mode.

Speaking on the occasion, GM & Divisional Head Tabassum Nazir said, "Instant payment remains at the centre of convenient banking, which has further been eased by mobile telephones through these

der the ongoing campaign.

The shop-keepers and street vendors thanked the Bank officials for the outreach and installation besides guidance regarding the benefits of transacting through these QR Codes.

"J&K Bank needs to continue such drives which benefit hawkers like me also besides other shop-keepers and businessmen", said a vendor, Nazir Ahmad, after the installation of Instant QR Code.

Eid-Ul-Azha Prayers To Be Offered At Eidgah Srinagar At 9AM

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Anjuman Auqaf Jamia Masjid Srinagar has announced that as per the Islamic Shariah and teachings, Eid-ul-Azha prayers would be offered at the historic Eidgah in Srinagar at 9 am.

In a statement issued here, Anjuman said that in case of rain or bad weather, Eid prayers will be offered at the Historic Jama Masjid Sri-

nagar and the timing will remain the same.

The Anjuman has urged the people to participate in the congregation prayers to express unity among the Ummah and maintain discipline. The people have been urged to bring prayer mats along with them.

In view of Eid-ul-Adha and the holy days of Qurbani, Anjuman Auqaf once again urged the authorities to release Mirwaiz Dr Moulvi Muhammad Umar Farooq.



Srinagar city witnessed heavy traffic jams, two days ahead of Eid-ul-Azha on Tuesday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

SMC Deploys Vehicles To Collect Hides, Offal Of Sacrificial Animals In Srinagar: City Mayor

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Mayor Srinagar Junaid Azim Mattu Tuesday said proactive measures have been taken to promote cleanliness and address water scarcity in the city ahead of Eid-ul-Azha.

With the city witnessing a surge in population and increased challenges surrounding the disposal of sacrificial waste, Mayor Mattu, along with the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), said they have introduced a comprehensive plan to manage these issues effectively.

The Mayor, while addressing a press conference in the Mayor's Conference Hall at the SMC Central office in Karan Nagar, Srinagar, said that during Eid-ul-Azha, there are significant challenges concerning the sacrifice of animals in the city. The proper disposal of waste and maintenance of religious rituals are of utmost importance, he said.

To address this, 104 copper vehicles have been deployed in Srinagar to handle the hides and offal of sacrificial animals, Mattu said, adding that the list of schedules has already been published in newspapers and other media outlets.

I would like to request the people to utilize these ser-

104 copper vehicles have been deployed in Srinagar to handle the hides and offal of sacrificial animals. The list of schedules has already been published in newspapers and other media outlets.

vice to keep Srinagar clean, he said, adding that the service is available throughout the year, and the contact numbers have been provided for assistance. "It is a doorstep delivery service, and 104 vehicles have been allocated for this purpose. The service will be available on June 29, 30, and July 1 - the 3rd day of Eid - for the collection of hides and sacrificial waste," he informed.

Regarding water scarcity in the Srinagar district, the Mayor said the water supply from Gandarbal has been reduced due to agricultural activities, resulting in a 25 to 30 cusec water decrease. For its solution, I have requested the Lieutenant Governor to temporarily shut down the hydro-power project to increase the water flow into the Srinagar district by 15 to 20 cusecs, he said.

Junaid said that during the festival, efforts are being made to address water scarcity by urging the Public Health Department (PHD) to regulate water misuse. We are also coordinating with the Division of Public Health Engineering (PHE) and have deployed water tankers throughout the city for the past week, he said, adding, "We will continue these efforts during Eid and reach wherever possible. Additionally, we are working on fixing potholes as needed."

Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) Athar Amir, as per KNO, said people should not dispose of sacrificial remains on roads, rivers, or any other inappropriate locations. "Immediate action will be taken against those found violating this. Eid is a festival of happiness, and it is everyone's responsibility to celebrate it in a proper manner," he said.

SANJY-2023

Div Com Visits Pantha Chowk Transit Camp, Reviews Arrangements

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri Tuesday visited Yatra Transit Camp Pantha Chowk to review arrangements for the ensuing Shri Amarnathji Yatra, 2023.

Chairman, Shiv Shakti Seva Dal briefed the Div Com about the arrangements made so far including langar facilities, bedding facilities etc.

The Div Com also started Langar at the Yatra Transit Camp Pantha Chowk on the occasion.

Bidhuri also conducted a visit to Pantha Chowk Bus Stand (e-Bus Charging location) to take on spot progress of works under execution through Srinagar Smart City, here.

At the outset, the Chief Engineer Srinagar Smart City briefed the Div Com regarding the status of work conducted so far at the Bus depot being developed for state of art electric buses to be deployed to cater to local populace on intra-city routes to ease out traffic congestion. He informed the



chair that of 65 kanals land procured from Srinagar Development Authority, 55 kanals have been fenced, besides five Opportunity Charging stations have been installed out of 17 total.

Besides, he also informed that 100 e-buses of 9 and 12 meters length are arriving till December 2023, out of which 25 to 30 buses of 9 meter length will arrive by 31 July, and rest will arrive subsequently.

It is important to mention here that Administrative Block, Charging Station and Washing Bay are being constructed at this bus depot.

It was also informed that among civil works, foundation work, charg-

ing station and fencing work has been going on.

The Chief Engineer KPDCL informed the Div Com that the power supply to the depot shall be supplied up to 10th of July.

The Div Com directed the concerned to barricade the critical work area in depot and ensure removal of debris to ensure smooth and hassle-free movement of Yatries to the Transit camp.

He also directed the concerned to work out on creating a depot for e-buses at Batamalo bus stand to prevent dead mileage.

The Div Com also directed the security agencies to ensure proper security measures in the area.

Office Of The Zonal Education Officer Kulgam

PUBLIC NOTICE

HIRING OF HELPERS / AAYAS UNDER SUPPORT AY PRE-PRIMARY LEVEL (ECCE FOR THE YEAR 2023- 2024 IN THE APPROVED SCHOOLS OF ZONE (KULGAM) PURELY ON TERMINUS BASES / AND SHALL CONCLUDE WITH THE END OF THE ACADEMIC SESSION.

REF: EDU/SPD/SMS/ECCE/HEPPERS/1861-1905/2023-24 Dated: -06/06/2023

APPLICATIONS ON PLAIN PAPER ARE INVITED FROM THE ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES OF THIS ZONE FOR HIRING THEIR SERVICES AS HELPERS / AAYAS UNDER ECCE FOR THE YEAR -2023-24 AT BELOW APPROVED SCHOOLS:

S.NO	Name of approved school	Location of school	Ph No of HOI
01	MS ARRIGUTNOO	ARRIGATNOO	9622479435
02	MS AWAGAM	AWGAM	9596545647
03	MS LAROO	LAROO	8082493369
04	PS GANIE MOHALLA KANTCHWA	KANTCHWA	9858492609
05	PS HERPORA BANIMULLA	BANIMULLAH	7006784141
06	PS MUKDAM MOHALLA LAISOO	LAISOO	7006304767
07	MS ASHTHAL	ASHTHAL	9596218171
08	GMS BOGUND	BOGUND	9796482545
09	MS NANIBUGH	NANIBUGH	6005417311
10	MS KULPORA	KULPORA	9596184471
11	MS KHAROTE	KHAROTE	906779547
12	PS GANIE MOHALLA ZAZRIPORA	ZAZRIPORA	9596547123
13	MS GASSIRENA	GASIRAINA	9679091906
14	PS NEW COLONY TENGSENGAM	TENGSENGAM	7889694944
15	MS SHALIPORA	SHALIPORA	9797112241
16	PS GOJARBASTI ASHTHAL	TAKYA ASHTHAL	9797016503
17	PS SAIDPORA CHAMBGUND	CHAMBGUND	9797073623
18	PS BONPORA LAROO	LAROO	8082493369
19	MS ZAZRIPORA	ZAZRIPORA	7006772384
20	MS CHATRI PORA	CHITRIPORA	9906492819
21	MS TENGSENGAM	TENGSENGAM	9596216555
22	MS CHECKI ASHMUJI	ASHMUJI	9067552721
23	MS KANTCHWA	KANTCHWA	8825052711
24	PS SYEDBONI SHURAT	SHURAT	7006600355
25	MS DADIPORA	DADIPORA	9906768589
26	PS PATHRIBAL LAISOO	LAISOO	7006402439
27	MS NAIKIPORA KULGAM	WARD-2 MC KULGAM	9797146001
28	BMS BOGUND	BOGUND	9797798500
29	PS SADAK MOHALLA BOGUND	BOGUND	9797798500
30	MS SHURAT	SHURAT	9149624608

NATURE OF JOB - HELPER/AAYA.

ELIGIBILITY: ONLY (BPL) - FEMALE candidates can apply with minimum qualification - 8th PASS - Preference will be given to widow(1st), divorced(2nd), orphan(3rd) in said village/Ward age 18-45. Honorarium - Rs. 5000 p/m, duration-one academic year. The candidate be domicile of said village. The desiring candidates can contact the respective HOI's on their respective cell numbers mentioned above, besides our office helpline number - 9797714137. Applications be submitted by or before 08-07-2023 in this office. All the terms and conditions shall be same as issued by the Director of Smagra Shiksha, J&K vide above referred order.

NO: EDU/SPD/SMS/423-23
DIPK-4270/23
dated: 27-06-2023

ZONAL EDUCATION OFFICER KULGAM

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
- 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
09 Zil-Hajj
1444

PRAYERS	
FAJR	3:37
ZUHR	12:33
ASR	5:34
Magrib	7:50
ISHA	9:31

This Day In History

- 767 - St Paul I ends his reign as Catholic Pope
- 1098 - Fighters of the First Crusade defeat Kerbogha of Mosul.
- 1119 - Battle of Sarmada - Emir Ilghazi defeats French Crusaders
- 1389 - Ottomans defeat Serbian army in the bloody Battle of Kosovo, opening the way for the Ottoman conquest of Southeastern Europe (see Vidovdan).
- 1635 - French colony of Guadeloupe established in Caribbean
- 1651 - Battle of Beresteczko between Poles and Ukrainians starts.
- 1675 - Battle at Fehrbellin: Brandenburg army beats Sweden
- 1762-Russian tsarina Catherine II seizes power, declaring herself Catherine II, the sovereign ruler of Russia
- 1778 - Battle of Monmouth, New Jersey (General Washington beats Clinton)
- 1778 - Mary Ludwig Hayes "Molly Pitcher" aids American patriots
- 1807 - British troops land at Ensenada, Argentina
- 1820 - Tomato is proven to be non-poisonous by Colonel Robert Gibbon eating a tomato on steps of courthouse in Salem, New Jersey
- 1895 - French painter Paul Gauguin leaves France for Tahiti for the second time
- 1902 - US buys concession to build Panama canal from French for \$40 million
- 1902- Germany, Italy, and the Austro-Hungarian Empire renew their Triple Alliance for six more years
- 1904-International Anti-Military Cooperation (IAMV) forms in Amsterdam
- 1919- Treaty of Versailles, ending WWI and establishing the League of Nations, is signed in France
- 1936- The Japanese puppet state of Mengjiang is formed in northern China.
- 1941- German & Romanian soldiers kill 11,000 Jews in Kishinev

From KO Archives

Free Trade Area On Both Sides Of LoC Soon

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Prime Minister's working group for strengthening relations across the Line of Control (LoC) has suggested creation of a free trade area between Jammu and Kashmir & Pakistan controlled Kashmir.

The ultimate aim (of recommendations) would be to encourage, in stages, the creation of a free trade area comprising Jammu and Kashmir and PkC, modalities of the same being worked out between the two sides, said the group headed by M Rasgotra, which submitted its report to the third roundtable conference on Kashmir in April.

The report said representatives of trade and commerce including the chambers of commerce, have al-ready visited the LoC and reported that there was lot of enthusiasm for opening up of trade and commerce between the two sides.

The group recommended setting up of a joint consultative machinery of officials and representatives of I commerce from both the sides to resolve any difficulties in flow of trade. The list of items for export and import should include, handicrafts, fruits, cement, iron, medicines, sugar, basmati, rice, machinery and equipment, sports goods including raw material like willow, plastic pipes and other items that are manufactured or assembled by small scale industry in Jammu and Kashmir, the report said.

To facilitate the travel of traders across the LoC, the working group recommended that the traders should be given multiple entry and exit permits, which should be valid for a minimum period of one year. The issue of state taxes on the goods traded across the LoC may be determined by the state government after due consideration of all relevant aspects, it added.

(Kashmir Observer, 28 June, 2007)



Ayatollah Khamenei Highlights Role of Hajj in Countering Hostile Plots

Agencies

TEHRAN (TASNIM) – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei lauded the Hajj pilgrimage as an event that can annul and render ineffectual all the plans of the arrogant powers and Zionism for the moral downfall of humanity.

In a message released on the occasion of the 2023 Hajj Pilgrimage on Tuesday, Ayatollah Khamenei also referred to unity and spirituality as the two main foundations of the message of Hajj.

What follows is the full text of the Leader's message:

In the Name of God, the Beneficent, the Merciful
Praise be to God, Lord of the Worlds and peace and blessings be upon the Great Messenger of God, Muhammad al-Mustafa and upon his Pure Progeny and upon his chosen Companions.

The Abrahamical call to Hajj and his universal invitation have once again addressed the entire world from the heart of history, making eager and excited the hearts that are ready and which remember.

The invitation is addressed to all human beings: "And proclaim the Hajj to all the people" (Holy Quran 22:27). The Kaaba is the blessed host and a guide for all people: "Indeed, the first house to be set up for humankind is the one at Bakkah (Kaaba), blessed and a guidance for all nations" (Holy Quran 3:96).

The Kaaba, as the focal point and the main focus of attention of all Muslims, and also the Hajj ritual as a small example of the extensive diversity of the Islamic world, can serve to elevate human society and im-

prove the health and security of all people. Hajj can bless all humanity with spiritual and moral elevation, and this is the vital need of humankind today.

Hajj can annul and render ineffectual all the plans of the Arrogant Powers and Zionism for the moral downfall of humanity – today and in the future.

That which is a necessary condition for the occurrence of this universal impact is that as a first measure Muslims themselves should properly hear the life-giving message of Hajj and do their utmost to implement it.

The two main foundations of this message are "unity" and "spirituality." Unity and spirituality are what guarantee the material and spiritual advancement of the Islamic world and its enlightening the entire world. Unity means being connected both intellectually and in practice. It means that hearts, thoughts, and orientations come closer together. It means a synergy in science and experience. It means having an economic connection between Islamic countries. It means the existence of trust and co-operation between Muslim governments. It means working together against common, definite enemies. Unity means that the plots designed by the enemy cannot set Islamic denominations, nations, races, languages, and the diverse cultures of the Islamic world against each other.

Unity means that Muslim nations should know each other, not through the enemy's seditious descriptions, but through communication, dialogue, and interaction. They should be aware of each other's potential and capacities and make plans to benefit from them.

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How Fake Customs Officials Interrogate, Loot Man Of Lakhs At Delhi Airport



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: A 53-year-old man, who works as a labourer in Saudi Arabia, was allegedly cheated of more than ₹4 lakh in foreign currency outside the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi by two persons posing as Customs department officials, police said today.

According to the FIR, Mohammad Suleman, a native of Rajasthan's Ajmer, landed at the Delhi airport early on Sunday morning from Saudi Arabia.

Outside the airport, the two accused, posing as customs officials, led Suleman to the parking area. On the way, they took his passport and belongings. They then took the victim

to Mahipalpur in a car being driven by another person, the complaint stated.

The accused stopped the car in an isolated area, and snatched his mobile phone, Saudi Riyad 19,000 (valued at ₹4.15 lakh) and ₹2,000 in Indian currency. They interrogated him where he got the mobile phone and the foreign currency, a police official said.

The accused then forced the man to step out of the car and speed away while telling that they would return with their senior officer, the police official said.

A case under Indian Penal Code section 420 (cheating) has been registered and an investigation was underway, the police said.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: An Existential Risk To Humanity

Agencies

PARIS, FRANCE: The warnings are coming from all angles: artificial intelligence poses an existential risk to humanity and must be shackled before it is too late.

But what are these disaster scenarios and how are machines supposed to wipe out humanity?

PAPERCLIPS OF DOOM
Most disaster scenarios start in the same place: machines will outstrip human capacities, escape human control and refuse to be switched off.

"Once we have machines that have a self-preservation goal, we are in trouble," AI academic Yoshua Bengio told an event this month.

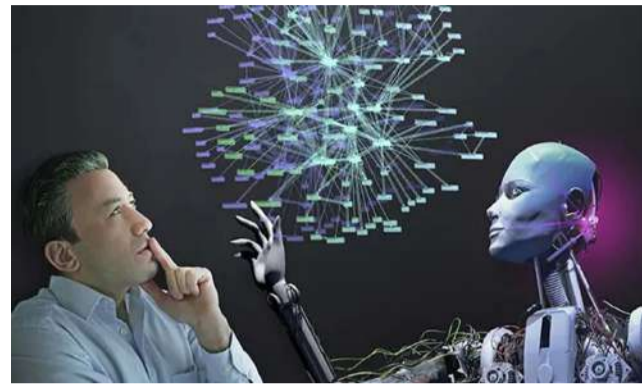
But because these machines do not yet exist, imagining how they could doom humanity is often left to philosophy and science fiction.

Philosopher Nick Bostrom has written about an "intelligence explosion" he says will happen when superintelligent machines begin designing machines of their own.

He illustrated the idea with the story of a superintelligent AI at a paperclip factory.

The AI is given the ultimate goal of maximising paperclip output and so "proceeds by converting first the Earth and then increasingly large chunks of the observable universe into paperclips".

Bostrom's ideas have been dismissed by many as science



fiction, not least because he has separately argued that humanity is a computer simulation and supported theories close to eugenics.

He also recently apologised after a racist message he sent in the 1990s was unearthed.

Yet his thoughts on AI have been hugely influential, inspiring both Elon Musk and Professor Stephen Hawking.

THE TERMINATOR

If superintelligent machines are to destroy humanity, they surely need a physical form.

Arnold Schwarzenegger's red-eyed cyborg, sent from the future to end human resistance by an AI in the movie "The Terminator", has proved a seductive image, particularly for the media.

But experts have rubbished the idea.

"This science fiction concept is unlikely to become a reality in the coming decades if ever at all," the Stop Killer Robots campaign group wrote

in a 2021 report.

However, the group has warned that giving machines the power to make decisions on life and death is an existential risk.

Robot expert Kerstin Dautenhahn, from Waterloo University in Canada, played down those fears.

She told AFP that AI was unlikely to give machines higher reasoning capabilities or imbue them with a desire to kill all humans.

"Robots are not evil," she said, although she conceded programmers could make them do evil things.

DEADLIER CHEMICALS

A less overtly sci-fi scenario sees "bad actors" using AI to create toxins or new viruses and unleashing them on the world.

Large language models like GPT-3, which was used to create ChatGPT, it turns out are extremely good at inventing horrific new chemical agents.

Russian Fighter Aircraft Hold Combat Drills Over Baltic Sea

Agencies

Russia has started tactical fighter jet exercises over the Baltic Sea with the goal of testing readiness to perform combat and other special operations, the country's defence ministry has said, a day after Moscow said its jets had scrambled to intercept United Kingdom military planes over the Black Sea.

"The main goal of the exercise is to test the readiness of the flight crew to perform combat and special tasks as intended," Russia's defence ministry said on Tuesday.

"The crews of the Su-27 [fighter jets] of the Baltic Fleet fired from airborne weapons at cruise missiles and mock enemy aircraft," the ministry announced on the Telegram messaging channel, adding that as well as improving skills, Russian fighter pilots are on "round-the-clock combat duty" guarding the air space of Russia's Kaliningrad enclave.

Wedged between Poland and Lithuania on the Baltic coast, Kaliningrad is Moscow's westernmost state and was part of Germany until the end of World War II. Given to the Soviet Union at the Potsdam Conference in 1945, the enclave has roughly 1 million residents – mainly Russians but also a small number of Ukrainians,



Poles and Lithuanians.

Russia said last year that it had deployed warplanes armed with state-of-the-art Kinzhal hypersonic missiles to the Chkalovsk airbase in Kaliningrad as part of its "strategic deterrence".

On Monday, the Russian defence ministry said that it had scrambled two fighter jets as UK Typhoon warplanes approached its border above the Black Sea and that the planes had "turned around and distanced themselves from the Russian border" following intervention from Russia's fighter planes. The Typhoon jets were accompanying an RC-135 reconnaissance aircraft, the defence ministry said.

"The Russian planes safely returned to their airfield. There was no violation of the Russian border," the ministry said.

Interceptions involving Russian and Western military aircraft have multiplied over the Black Sea and Baltic

Sea in recent months amid growing tensions over Moscow's war in Ukraine.

On Sunday, the UK's Ministry of Defence said that Royal Air Force (RAF) Typhoon fighter aircraft operating with the NATO Baltic Air Policing mission in Estonia have scrambled to respond to Russian aircraft 21 times in the last 21 days. The RAF fighters are currently operating out of Estonia as part of NATO's "quick reaction alert" to secure its eastern European flank.

"The RAF Typhoons launch to monitor the Russian aircraft when they do not talk to air traffic agencies, making them a flight safety hazard," the UK defence ministry said in a statement on Sunday.

"These intercepts are a stark reminder of the value of collective defence and deterrence provided by NATO," the UK's Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said.

Manipur To Invoke 'No Work No Pay' Rule For Employees Not Attending Office

Press Trust of India

IMPHAL: The Manipur government has decided to invoke "no work, no pay" rule for its employees who are not attending office.

The General Administration Department (GAD) has been asked to furnish details of employees who are not able to attend their official work due to the prevailing situation in the state.

A circular issued on Monday night by GAD Secretary Michael Achom said: "In pursuance of the meeting chaired by the Chief Minister on June 12 and decision taken at para 5-(12) of the proceedings, all employees drawing their salaries from General Administra-

tion Department, Manipur Secretariat are informed that no work, no pay may be invoked to all those employees who do not attend their official duty without authorised leave."

Manipur government has one lakh employees. The circular also asked for

all administrative secretaries to "furnish details of those employees who could not attend their official duty due to prevailing situation in the state indicating the details of employees such as designation, name, EIN, present address, to the General Administration Department and to the Personnel department, latest by June 28 so as to take appropriate necessary action."

More than 100 people have lost their lives in the ethnic violence between Meitei and Kuki communities in the northeastern state so far.

Clashes first broke out on May 3 after a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts to protest against the Meitei community's de-



mand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

Meiteis account for about 53 per cent of Manipur's population and live mostly in the Imphal Valley. Tribals - Nagas and Kukis - constitute another 40 per cent of the population and reside in the hill districts.

UP Hospital's License Cancelled After 'Circumcision' Of 3-Year-Old Boy

Agencies

BAREILLY: Taking cognizance of the case of the circumcision of a 3-year-old boy in a hospital in Bareilly, the license of M Khan Hospital was cancelled on the instructions of Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak.

In a tweet in Hindi on Saturday, Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak, who also holds the health portfolio, said he has sent a health department team to the hospital to investigate the matter.

"If the complaint is found correct, orders have been given to the CMO, Bareilly, to register an FIR against the guilty doctor and hospital management, to cancel the registration of the said hospital with immediate effect, and to make the complete report of the proceedings available within 24 hours," Mr Pathak had said.

On June 23, a two-and-a-half-year-old boy was circumcised at M Khan Hospital, Sta-

dium Road, instead of surgery of his tongue. After the incident, the relatives complained about the matter to the police.

As soon as the incident became public, several Hindu organisations reached the spot and protested against the circumcision.

Taking cognizance of the incident, Deputy CM Brajesh Pathak directed Bareilly Chief Medical Officer Dr Balbir Singh to investigate and take action into the matter.

According to the Chief Medical Officer Dr Balbir Singh, the panel of doctors went to the hospital and investigated the matter and the statements of the doctor and the entire staff were also taken.

Apart from this, statements of the family members of the child were also recorded. Dr Balbir Singh said that all the necessary documents of the hospital were taken into custody and the license of the same hospital was suspended.

IN THE COURT OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS AT SHOPIAN
Presented: Brij Raj Singh JO Code: JK00222

In the Case of:
Mohammad Younus Wani S/o, Ab Gaffar Wani R/o Landooria Shopian (Applicant)

Versus
U.T Through Registrar of Births and Deaths BDO Herman Shopian (Non-applicant)

NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE
Whereas, the above titled petition has been filed by the applicant in this court for seeking directions to the non-applicants for registration of particulars of the applicant namely Seerat Younus who was born on 16.10.2012 at Home Whereas, through the medium of this proclamation, the public at large is informed that in case, any one has any objection in issuance of direction with respect to the registration of the birth certificate of the applicants, they/she/he shall file the same before this court in person or through counsel within 15 days from the date of issuance of this publication. If the date fixed is declared holiday the matter will be taken upon the next working day. Given under my hand and seal if this office on 26/06/2023

Judicial Magistrate
First Class/Shopian

FROM THE OFFICE OF ADV SHUJA KHAN & ASSOCIATES DISTRICT COURT COMPLEX SGR.
In the case of:
Faisal Ali Joo
S/O Aijaz Hussain Joo
R/O Shallmar
Prop. Infinity Pizza At Bhag Ali Mardan Khan (Caveator)
V/S
Public at Large
In the matter of: Caveat petition in terms of Section 148A CPC. That the caveator has reason to believe/apprehension that the non-caveator(s) may file a suit or other type of proceedings before the Hon'ble High Court, District Court or Special Tribunal, Srinagar on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation or cooked up story and may succeed in obtaining some relief/order at their back/exparte against the caveator(s) and in such eventuality the caveator(s) will be put to an irreparable loss & inconvenience. It would be proper that the caveator(s) is given an opportunity of being heard by this Hon'ble Court/Tribunal before passing any order. FKO

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JS-PHE DEPTT. RURAL WATER SUPPLY DIVISION, GANDERBAL/SGR.
H.Q: Duderhama Ganderbal.
e-mail: ptherwsd@gmail.com, Phone/Fax: 0194 - 2416292,
Reference: This Office e-NIT No: 12/JS-PHE/RWSD/Civil of 2023-24, issued Under No: JS-PHE/RWSD/Corrs/2485 - 2509, Dated: 02.06.2023, Work figuring at S. No: 01 bearing Tender ID No. 2023_PHE_214762_1
EXTENSION NOTICE - III
Once again due to Nil response for the work advertised/ published vide this office above referred e-NIT No. & date bearing tender ID mentioned above, the bid submission end date and bid opening (online) dates are re-scheduled & re-fixed as under:-
1. Last date of submission of Bids online 03.07.2023 up to 02:00 p.m.
2. Date of opening of bids online 04.07.2023 at 11:30 a.m.
All other terms and conditions of the e-NIT shall remain unchanged
No. JS-PHE/RWSD/Corrs./3310 - 25
Dated: 21.06.2023.
DIPK-4269-23
DT: 27/06/2023
Sd/= (Er. Samiullah Beigh) Executive Engineer JS-PHE, RWS Division Ganderbal/SGr.

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (IRRIGATION & F C), DIVISION SDA BUILDING NEAR POLICE CONTROL ROOM BATAMALOO SRINAGAR KASHMIR-190009
Fax/Phone: 0194-2470119 email: xenifcdsrinagar@fckashmir.com
CORRIGENDUM
Refer this office e-NIT No. IFCD/09 OF 2023-24 dated:- 19.6.2023 issued under endstt: No: IFCD/Sgr/NIT-9/2023-24/2465-80 Dated:- 19/06/2023. Wherein item of work appearing at serial No: - 67 namely "Fixing of bollards as per standard specifications" has been erroneously recorded which may please be read as: - "Providing and fixing of factory made precast concrete solid cylindrical blocks (Bollards) of 150 mm dia of Grade M-30 concrete from approved manufacturer in foundation and plinth, length 900 mm".
INSTEAD OF
"Fixing of bollards as per standard specifications"
All Other terms and condition shall remain same as laid down in original ent.
No. IFCD/Sgr/NIT-9/2744-47 Dated:- 27.06.2023 DIPK-4268-23 DT: 27/06/2023
Sd/- (Er. Bashir Ahmad) Executive Engineer Irrigation and Flood Division Srinagar.



LG MANOJ SINHA VISITED DARGAH Hazratbal on Tuesday and took stock of the Eid arrangements.

KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT



AUDIENCE AT THE DARGAH HAZRATBAL for LG Manoj Sinha.

KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

LG Reviews Comprehensive Mobility Plan for Amarnath Yatra

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha chaired a high level meeting with the senior officials of Police and Civil Administrations to review traffic management and comprehensive mobility plan during Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

The Lt Governor directed for Zone-wise traffic planning on the National Highway-44 in close coordination with concerned departments, District Administrations, SSPs and Traffic Police to ensure smooth traffic, parking, and pedestrian operations.

Time slots for the movement of convoys, livestock, vehicles carrying essential items and horticulture produce should be notified. Strict enforcement of Traffic Advisories, Schedules and cutoff timings must be ensured, the Lt Governor directed the officials.

Traffic Police, NHA, BRO and other agencies should also deploy more men and machinery to respond to real-time event

and to mitigate the effects of a breakdown, he added.

The Lt Governor instructed the officials of the Traffic Police to utilize Integrated Command and Control Centres for effective traffic, transit and travel demand management.

He directed the Divisional Commissioners and ADGPs to overall supervise the traffic management in their respective divisions.

The meeting also discussed utilization of Mughal Road, alternate routes, public utilities along Mughal road and traffic management at Pahalgam and Sonamarg.

Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP gave a detailed briefing on the action plan for the Yatra.

RK Goyal, ACS Home; Dilbag Singh, DGP; Shailendra Kumar, Principal Secretary, Public Works (R&B); Dr Mandeeep Kumar Bhandari, CEO, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board; ADGPs; Divisional Commissioners; Deputy Commissioners; SSPs and senior officers attended the meeting.

Hold Assembly Polls, Release Religious Leaders: Bukhari



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Prominent Kashmiri political leader Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Tuesday urged Union Home Minister Amit Shah to announce assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir and release leading religious leaders in the Union territory from detention.

The Apni Party president placed his representations to the home minister when he called on the latter here, according to a release issued by the Jammu and Kashmir-based party.

Bukhari stressed on the need for the central government to take immediate "confidence-building measures" to further bolster the prevailing public sentiment.

He conveyed to the home minister to do the needful for the release of the prominent religious leaders ahead of the coming Eid and announce the assembly polls in the Union territory, the release said.

Bukhari said the release of prominent religious leaders, including Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, Moulana Abdul Rasheed Dawoodi and Moulana Mush-taq Ahmad Veeri, who are un-

der detention in their respective homes, will further fill the environment with a spirit of positivity.

"These influential figures possess the ability to play an important role in helping eradicate social evils, including the prevailing drug abuse in the Valley. Furthermore, the long-awaited announcement of assembly polls in the region would instill a sense of political empowerment among the people. These measures would not only foster a positive atmosphere but will also signify the government's commitment to empowering the people and upholding democratic processes in Jammu and Kashmir," the Apni Party president conveyed this to the home minister, according to the release.

Bukhari and Shah discussed on a wide range of issues, aiming to enhance prevailing peace, foster development, improve governance and address the political dynamics in the region, it said.

During the meeting, Bukhari apprised Shah about the "existing state of peace and harmony in Jammu and Kashmir".

Get Permission Before Planning Outings, Govt to Schools

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Amid the drowning incidents at picnic spots, the School Education department (SED) on Tuesday directed all the school heads in north and central districts to get proper permission before organizing any outing and ensure that no student below 18 years of age is forced to go for picnic.

Directorate of School Education (Central and North) has issued an advisory in this regard to the Chief Education Officers of Srinagar, Budgam, Ganderbal (Central) and Baramulla, Kupwara and Bandipora (North) districts.

The Joint Director (Central & North) School Education, in the order said that the recent episodes of drowning and deaths of children in different rivers, nullahs and streams in picnic spots of Kashmir have given sleepless nights to parents, children and teachers who have approached the department for intervention in the matter.

"In order to handle this significant and sensitive issue pertaining to student community, parents, there is an immediate need of attention, consideration and disposal, redressal of these grievances on top priority as it involves the safety, security and well being of tender boys and girls studying in government as well as private schools of various dis-

tricts of Kashmir division, the order reads.

It further reads that a new trend has begun, which is Summer Camps. "There are many reports where students have drowned, or got hurt, or indulge in eve teasing, molestation, theft and other crimes during these camps. The matter needs to be looked upon seriously and a proper modus operandi should be adopted on these Summer Camps up to 8th or 10th class at least; besides, other matters of overcharging the parents should be looked in to."

"In this behalf, all the Chief Education Officers, Zonal Education Officers concerned are requested to be extra vigilant and walk an extra mile to check the violations and nab the guilty involved in such illegal practices and sensitise the Head of the Institutions, Headmasters of private as well as government schools to maintain high standards of professionalism in their respective schools and desist children without seeking proper permission from Chief Education Officer, Zonal Education Officer concerned and in no case children below 18 years of age be forced to go for picnic or get consent of the parents after putting undue influence on such innocent children," it further reads.

The Heads of the institutions, schools shall also des-

ignate 5 to 10 staff members as nodal officers, supervisors to safeguard the students and monitor their to and fro movement from school premises to picnic spots and back to their homes.

The school heads shall handle, monitor and regulate the entire program personally with higher standards of professionalism and responsibility, the order added.

"All Heads of the Institutions, school heads shall approach Chief Education Officers concerned who in turn will get it verified, examined and checked by Zonal Education Officers concerned in case the permission to conduct/organize an excursion, picnic, camps required and the clearance shall be granted only after proper permission is sought from the administration of the area and the names of places of picnic, excursion and out station camps to which any particular school/educational institutions proceeds shall be communicated in writing well in advance to Zonal Education Officers, Chief Education Officers and District Administration concerned, so that in case of any exigency, emergency the rescue teams can be sensitized/activated in that area well in advance as a precautionary manner, to ensure safety, security and well being of students of tender age," the order added.

THERE ARE MANY REPORTS WHERE STUDENTS HAVE DROWNED, or got hurt, or indulge in eve teasing, molestation, theft and other crimes during these camps. The matter needs to be looked upon seriously and a proper modus operandi should be adopted on these Summer Camps up to 8th or 10th class at least; besides, other matters of overcharging the parents should be looked in to"

MeT Predicts Intermittent Rains, Mostly During Evening, In J&K

SRINAGAR: Weather department here on Tuesday forecast intermittent light to moderate rain towards afternoon and evening in Jammu and Kashmir.

Quoting a meteorological department official, news agency GNS reported that from June 28- July 1, weather is expected to be partly cloudy. "Rain likely in the evening," he said.

He said that water level in rivers and streams and nullahs are also expected to rise. "All are requested to remain cautious/alert during the active phase of monsoon in J&K," he added.

In last 24 hours till 0830 hours today, he said, Srinagar recorded rainfall of 0.6mm, Qazigund 4.2 mm, Pahalgam 1.4 mm, Kupwara 0.0 mm, Koker-nag 12.4 mm, Gulmarg 0.0 mm, Jammu 7.9 mm, Banihal 5.4

mm, Batote 8.8 mm, Katra 4.8 mm, Baderwah 16.6 mm and Kathua 25.4 mm.

Regarding the temperature, he said, Srinagar recorded a low of 19.4°C against 17.6°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 2.1°C for the summer capital.

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 17.0°C against 16.6°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 1.3°C for the gateway town of Kashmir.

Pahalgam, he said, recorded a low of 13.0°C against 13.8°C on the previous night and it was 2.3°C above normal for the famous tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at 17.5°C against 15.4°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 2.1°C for the north Kashmir area.

Kokernag recorded a low of 16.0°C against 16.3°C on the previous night and it was 0.7°C above normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 11.5°C against 11.0°C on previous night and it was above normal by 0.1°C for the popular skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

Jammu recorded a low of 25.1°C against 23.2°C on the previous night and it was 1.3°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal recorded a low of 16.3°C (0.1°C below normal), Batote 17.1°C (0.9°C below normal), Katra 22.0°C (0.5°C below normal) and Baderwah 17.4°C (above normal by 1.0°C). Ladakh's Leh and Kargil recorded a low of 7.4°C and 17.9°C respectively, he said.

8 Killed, 16 Injured in 3 Road Accidents in J&K

Press Trust of India

BHADERWAH/JAMMU: Eight persons were killed and sixteen others injured after three vehicles skidded off the road and plunged into deep gorges in the hilly Doda and Ramban districts of Jammu and Kashmir in three separate incidents on Tuesday, police officials said.

In the first accident near Chattergalla top on Baderwah-Pathankot National Highway in Doda, five persons died after the vehicle they were travelling in skidded off the road and fell 250 metres into a gorge, said Vinod Sharma, Additional Superintendent of Police, Baderwah.

He said eleven other passengers travelling in the vehicle were rescued in an injured condition and are being shifted to a hospital.

The accident took place at Guldanda meadow area after

which police launched a rescue operation immediately, the officer said. The passenger vehicle was on its way to Baderwah from Bani area of Kathua district, he added.

In another incident, one Javid Ahmad died and four others sustained injuries when their vehicle plunged into a deep gorge in Bhalla area of Doda district, officials said. The injured have been sent to a hospital, they said.

In Ramban district, two persons Mohammad Afzal and Mohammad Azmat were killed when their car skidded off the road and fell over 200 metres into a gorge along Jammu-Srinagar National Highway near Rampari, officials said.

They said another person, Shabir Ahmad Malik, was critically injured in the accident and has been sent to a hospital by the rescue team.

Stakeholders Seek Revision Of 20% Duty Waiver On American Apple

Press Trust of India

SRINAGAR: The Centre's decision to remove 20 per cent retaliatory import duty on American apples will pile on difficulties for the already stressed Kashmiri horticulture industry, fruit dealers and growers in the valley said.

The farmers and dealers were suffering due to hail storms and unexpected weather conditions, including unseasonal rain, this year, Bashir Ahmad, president of the Fruit Growers and Dealers Association of Kashmir, told PTI.

The fruit industry of Kashmir is already struggling. Reducing 20 per cent import taxes on Washington Apple will add more difficulties and have an adverse impact on the horticulture industry, he said.

"Now, if we won't get adequate rates of the apples, it will be very unfortunate. Though the production of apples is quite high, a decrease in rates will raise our difficulties tremendously. We request the Government of India to immediately roll back the waiver," Ahmad added.

He said this will not only benefit the apple farmers of Kashmir but also those from Himachal and Uttarakhand.

Shahid Chowdhury, General Secretary of the New Kashmir Fruit Association, said the 20 per cent waiver will substan-

tially bring down the prices of Kashmir apples.

"Foreign countries are quite advanced than us. The farmers get subsidies, technologies and there are a number of schemes that make their products far superior in quality. If tax is lower, growers of Kashmir and apples of Kashmir would not be able to compete with them," Chowdhury said.

Farooq Ahmad Rather, an apple grower, said that in 2017, the government of India raised the duty of the apple from the United States from 50 per cent to 70 per cent.

"But now the unfortunate news came that Washington Apple's duty is reduced by 20 per cent. It will adversely affect the local produce of Kashmir."

"For three to four years, the US product was not affecting our market but now produce from other countries was coming up in the market that is having very bad consequences on growers of Kashmir. We are already at a great loss ... I believe this is a wrong decision and the government should look into this," he added.

Mehraj Ahmad, a fruit seller, said if the cost of American apples is reduced, the market of the local apple will get affected.

"As Kashmiri apples are famous all over India, we don't want our apple demand to be reduced. We want our apple industry to grow," he added.

Summer Break for Jammu Winter Zone Schools From July 3

ONS

SRINAGAR: School Education Department Tuesday announced summer vacation for the all government and private schools falling in the winter zone of Jammu division from July-03.

Director of School Education Jammu said, "All the government and recognized private schools falling in winter zone of Jammu division shall observe summer vacation from July-03 to July-12.

Woman Dies of Electrocution at Hyhama

KUPWARA: A lady died after she received an electric shock at Shartpora village of Hyhama in north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Tuesday.

An official said that a lady received an electric shock at her home in Shartpora village of Hyhama locality. She was immediately taken to the hospital where doctors declared her dead on arrival. Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of the incident.

2 Siblings Among 7 Killed in Chenab Valley Road Accidents

DODA: Two siblings among seven people were killed while 12 people were injured in twin road accidents in Doda and Ramban districts of Jammu on Tuesday, officials said.

Officials said that two vehicles skidded off the road and plunged into deep gorges at Guldanda in Doda and Rampara in Ramban. They said that seven people lost lives and 12 sustained injuries in

the accidents.

They said an Alto car (JK02N-1856) skidded off the road and fell into a 200-foot deep gorge along Jammu-Srinagar National Highway near Rampari Chamalvas in Ramban.

"One person died on the spot while two more persons were seriously injured and among them, one succumbed on the way to hospital," they said.

The deceased brothers have been identified as Mohammad Afzal Malik son of Gull Mohammad Malik and Mohd Azmat son of Gull Mohammad both from Sarbagni and injured identified as Shabir Ahmed Malik son of Gull Mohammad Malik from Sarbagni.

In another accident near Guldanda on Baderwah-Pathankot road in Doda district five people killed and eleven

were injured after a Trax vehicle (JK06-5071) they were travelling in skidded off the road and fell 250 metres deep gorge, officials said. They said injured people were shifted to a hospital for treatment.

The deceased has been identified as Ghulam Nabi from Ludna Doda, Vinod Kumar from Monda, Firdous Ahmed from Basoli Bani and Barkatullah

from Babrobal while another remains unidentified.

Injured were identified as Irshad Ahmad, Rafiq Ahmad, Mohd Shafiq all from Doda, Nazir Ahmead, Riaz Ahmad both from Gundna Doda, Naresh Kumar from Bani, Tariq Ahmead from Nalthi, Mohammad Abdullah, Bilal Ahmead, Sadiq Ali all from Kudola Doda, Nadeem Ahmad from Bikhryan Doda.

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Wednesday | 28-06-2023

Hope Fading Fast

The political landscape in Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed significant changes since the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019. But the delayed Assembly elections have become a topic of concern. While defence minister Rajnath Singh has reiterated the government's commitment to restoring the democratic process, the absence of a specific timeline has raised questions about the reasons behind the delay. Addressing a security conclave in Jammu on Monday, the defence minister emphasized that the government's primary objective is to restore normalcy swiftly and fulfill the long-standing aspirations of the people. Singh also assured that the process to hold elections in the union territory won't be lengthy. The assurance would go some way to make people in J&K happy.

Even as the country braces for 2024 general elections, there are no signs that the Assembly elections will be held in Jammu and Kashmir. And with every passing month, the hope that the polls will be held in the union territory before the national elections is fading fast. This, despite the fact, that the entire political class in the UT, except the BJP, want the elections to be held in the near future.

J&K has not had an elected government since June 2018 when Governor's rule was imposed after the PDP-led coalition government lost its majority following the withdrawal of support by the BJP. Subsequently, on August 5, 2019, New Delhi abrogated Article 370 that granted J&K special status under India's constitution. Since then the Lieutenant Governor has taken over from Governor.

Earlier in March, a delegation of political leaders led by National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah met the Election Commission of India, seeking early elections in the Union Territory. The delegation requested the ECI to hold elections as soon as possible now that the delimitation process had been completed. The political leaders also submitted a memorandum to the ECI, in which they called for the restoration of the democratic process in the UT. But there has been no election-related move from the Election Commission to hold the polls in the UT. And this is happening at a time when, for once, there is a palpable desire for elections in the region.

However, after the defence minister's assurance, people would expect some concrete action on the holding of Assembly elections by the central government. It is now less than one year before general elections are held. So people would expect J&K polls to be held later this year, or early next year. However, things are likely to become clearer in the weeks and months to come.



Paani ya Makaan Lack of Administrative Cooperation is Creating Civic Chaos



Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

With an aim of providing clean drinking water to every household in India, the Government of India launched Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) around 4 years back. This centrally sponsored scheme was formally launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 15th August 2019. The aim of JJM is to provide 'Functional Household Tap Connections' (FHTC) to every rural household in India by 2024. The Jal Jeevan Mission -JJM is aimed at creating a people's movement — Jan Andolan for water.

Pertinently, in Jammu & Kashmir a major chunk of this year's annual budget has gone to the water sector. More than Rs 5000 crores (Rs 50 Billion) have been allocated by Government of India to J&K under Jal Jeevan Mission and we can see a large number of projects being executed by PHE-Jal Shakti Department across J&K.

At a time when massive work is being executed under this national flagship programme, we see our roads being damaged in many areas to lay the drinking water pipelines. Infact the damage being caused to roads to lay water pipelines is not a new but this has been prevalent in the past as well due to a lack of coordination and proper governance.

It is quite evident that there is hardly any coordination between the Public Works Department (PWD -R&B), PM Gram Sadak Yojna-PMGSY & PHE Jal Shakti Departments. Roads which were metalled and blacktopped have been dug down by the contractors using JCB cranes within months and nobody knows when these roads will ever be repaired back.

No coordination between PHE & PMGSY

According to a news report published in some local dailies of Srinagar last year, a road which was blacktopped after a decade was damaged within months by the Public Health Engineering Department -PHE in Shopian. The blacktopped road from Kellar to Pehlipora villages in Shopian district was metalled and blacktopped under the national rural roads programme called Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna- PMGSY after 15 years. Within two months of construction of this beautiful road, the PHE Jal Shakti contractors came and started digging the road surface to lay water pipeline under Jal Jeevan Mission -JJM. This caused massive damage to the road.

Pertinently, the PMGSY roads are not wide enough and when they are dug it causes a lot of damage to them. Even the drains that are constructed also get damaged. This news was reported by several newspapers but authorities were

not moved. This is not a single case but there are dozens of such cases happening daily in J&K but such issues get unreported now as this has become a routine exercise.

It was reported by local newspapers that no official permission was sought from PMGSY by the PHE Jal Shakti department in the Kellar Pehlipora road digging case. The Assistant Executive Engineer -AEE PMGSY Shopian said this on record and he was even quoted by news agency KNO as well. The engineer said that PMGSY had constructed the road just two months back and the PHE Jal Shakti department damaged it without even obtaining a No Objection Certificate -NOC. The PMGSY had even threatened to lodge an FIR against the contractors. When the local PHE Jal Shakti Assistant Engineer was asked by reporters as to why they damaged the road surface constructed by PMGSY he had said that they had a valid permission as a joint permission has been sought at higher level to open up all those

not been repaired back. Infact information under RTI Act was also with regard to this issue but there was no positive response from the Government's end.

JJM in J&K

The substantial increase in Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) budget every year in J&K makes it evident that Govt of India is concerned about addressing drinking water issues in Jammu & Kashmir and towards materializing its commitment of providing tap water connections to every household plus capacity building of Water Quality Management through testing, monitoring and surveillance. J&K contemplates becoming 'HAR GHAR JAL' Union Territory by the financial year 2022-23 and to achieve this target, the Government officials aren't caring much for proper coordination with PMGSY, PWD-R&B during laying of water pipelines. As per a 2022 report, 18.35 lakh rural households in J&K, 10.39 lakh

PMGSY had constructed the road just two months back and the PHE Jal Shakti department damaged it without even obtaining a No Objection Certificate -NOC.

PMGSY roads where they intend to lay water pipelines under JJM. The officer has assured that roads would be repaired if they get damaged but on the ground this isn't happening as of now.

Nowhar Changund Road

After repeated requests, the work on Nowhar Chanagund road in Charari Sharief Budgam was taken up by PWD (R&B) last year in July and within a few months the road surface was opened up using JCB cranes to lay water-pipelines by PHE Jal Shakti contractors under JJM. I raised this issue from ground zero but to no avail.

As our legislative assembly is also in a state of suspended animation, these issues are not even raised on the floor of the house. The institution of District Development Council -DDC is yet to get evolved and most of these members are not taken seriously by our bureaucracy.

If PWD R&B had plans to repair this 2 kms link road, wasn't it the duty of the then local Executive Engineer PWD -R&B to have a meeting with his PHE Jal Shakti counterpart?

Had the R&B Executive Engineer waited for two more months, the road would not have been damaged and drinking water pipeline would have been laid and the road would also have been repaired and macadamised. Now this road surface is in shambles again and till date the road has

Conclusion

It is evident that Govt officers are forced to achieve targets under Jal Jeevan Mission -JJM by their seniors and that is the reason we lack coordination between various Govt organisations and engineering wings while executing JJM projects in J&K. This has resulted in complete chaos and confusion. At a time when people are being supplied with portable drinking water through taps, a huge population in many districts of J&K are deprived of good road connectivity. Blacktopping and metalling of roads is going on at great pace nowadays but we don't know when these roads will be damaged again. The Govt must address this issue as the digging of roads has become a routine exercise in J&K and taxpayers money is getting wasted.

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

At a time when people are being supplied with portable drinking water through taps, a huge population in many districts of J&K are deprived of good road connectivity. Blacktopping and metalling of roads is going on at great pace nowadays but we don't know when these roads will be damaged again

OTHER OPINION

Thin ice

According to a report by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, the Hindu Kush Himalayan region, which contains the largest volume of ice on earth outside the polar stretch, is undergoing "irreversible" changes triggered by climatic impacts and, consequently, can lose up to 80% of its glaciers by 2100 at current levels of global warming. This is alarming. These glaciers are the primary source of water for most north and east Indian rivers, not to mention the only source of water for regions like Ladakh. In the long run, this will aggravate droughts across the northern and eastern plains, which is where a majority of India's food is grown. In the short term, it will cause floods, landslides, and glacial lake bursts like the one in Chamoli, Uttarakhand, that claimed over 200 lives. If mitigatory measures are not taken at the earliest, 13% of the world's population in India, Bangladesh and Pakistan will be left without adequate food and water. A key step to alleviate the impacts of glacial melt is to restore forests and shrubs on mountain slopes. While this will not stop glaciers from melting immediately, over time, it can bring down surface temperatures and, in effect, the rate of melt. It can also reduce landslides and help replenish the underground water table. It is thus concerning that the State of Forest Report, 2021 shows that the Himalayan states lost 1,072 square kilometres of forest cover in two years.

This World Environment Day, the prime minister, Narendra Modi, had assured that India is moving along a "very clear roadmap" to tackle climate change. The contours of that roadmap seem ominous in light of the fact that the Union ministry of mines recently urged the ministry of environment, forest and climate change to do away with the requirement of forest clearance for exploration of mining activities. India claims that it is leading the charge for developing nations demanding greater accountability from the developed world when it comes to fighting climate change. Yet the ground underneath its own feet is shaky. It is time to walk the talk. India's global commitments to tackle climate change must be accompanied by a robust framework to protect its domestic ecologies.

Telegraph India

The Profound Lessons of Islamic Festivals

Aubaid Ahmad Akhoun

With the embrace of Islamic festivals, profound lessons await those who seek them. From the stories of Prophet Ibrahim and Prophet Zakariya, we learn the power of unwavering faith and patient supplication. But let us remember, our worth transcends parenthood. Our true wealth lies in the goodness we sow and as we sacrifice, let us sacrifice not only our worldly attachments, but also our ego and desires. In the spirit of sacrifice, let compassion guide our actions, for kindness to Allah's creation brings forth kindness from the Divine. May our hearts be filled with steadfastness, our prayers answered, and our acts of sacrifice.

Islamic festivals, such as Eid, hold great significance for childless couples within the context of their religious and spiritual beliefs. The story of Prophet Ibrahim (AS) in the Holy Quran serves as a source of inspiration for those longing for children. Despite his old age, Ibrahim (AS) remained steadfast in his faith and continued to pray humbly to Allah for righteous offspring. His unwavering devotion and trust in Allah's plan ultimately led to the blessings of righteous and obedient children.

This narrative offers solace and hope to couples who are unable to conceive. It teaches them not to despair and to remain patient in the face of Allah's trials. The examples of Prophet Ibrahim (AS) and Prophet Zakariya (AS) demonstrate that Allah's power knows no bounds. Even in old age and apparent impossibility, Allah can bestow the gift of children upon those who seek His mercy.

"Indeed, my Lord is near and responsive."
- Prophet Zakariya (AS)

The desire for children can be a powerful motivation for individuals like Hazrat Zakariya (AS) to turn to Allah in prayer. When he witnessed the miraculous provision of high-quality fruits to Hazrat Maryam, he realized that if Allah can create such wonders without time constraints, then it is not beyond His capability to grant him righteous children. With this conviction, Hazrat Zakariya (AS) raised his hands in supplication, beseeching Allah to bless him with righteous offspring.

"Verily, Allah does not disregard the supplications of the supplicants."
(Prophet Muhammad Pbuah)

Childless couples are encouraged to follow the example of these revered prophets and persist in their prayers. They should seek solace in the fact that Allah is the Hearer and Acceptor of supplication. It is crucial for them to maintain faith and hope, never underestimating the power of sincere prayer and trust in Allah's plan.

However, it is important to note that the joy and blessings of having children should not overshadow the understanding that one's value and worth are not dependent on parenthood. The statement "With a baby or without you are still valuable, you are whole and you matter" reinforces the idea that an individual's intrinsic worth extends beyond their parental status. Each person has inherent value and significance, irrespective of whether they have children or not.

"A person's true wealth is the good deeds that he or she does in this world." - Prophet Muhammad (Pbuah)

Parents who have been granted the bless-



THE STORY OF HAZRAT IBRAHIM AND HAZRAT ISMAEEL SERVES AS A PROFOUND REMINDER OF THE VIRTUES OF SACRIFICE, obedience, and unwavering faith in Islam. Their exemplary conduct urges Muslims to prioritize devotion to Allah above all attachments and nurture obedience and piety in their lives and their children's lives. By emulating their examples, Muslims can deepen their connection with Allah, leading lives of selflessness, righteousness, and unwavering devotion."

ing of children should also recognize their responsibility in raising them with righteousness. The upbringing and guidance provided by parents during their children's formative years have a lasting impact. The importance of setting a righteous example and instilling virtuous values in their children cannot be overstated. It is through their own righteousness that parents pave the way for their children to become righteous individuals.

"The best of you are those who are best to their families." - Prophet Muhammad (Pbuah)

Furthermore, the principles of sacrifice in Islam, as mentioned in the Holy Quran, emphasize the willingness to sacrifice one's life and possessions for the sake of Allah. The act of sacrificing an animal during Eid-ul-Adha symbolizes this devotion and willingness to submit to Allah's commandments. It serves as a reminder to individuals to prioritize their love for Allah above all attachments and worldly desires.

In observing the sacrifice, it is crucial to adhere to the principles of humility and sincerity. Showcasing acts of worship on social media platforms should be avoided, as it goes against the spirit of genuine devotion. Instead, the focus should be on internal reflection and the deepening of one's connection with Allah.

Lastly, it is important to handle the remains of sacrificial animals responsibly. Animal skins should not be discarded on

roads or public places but rather utilized or disposed of appropriately to avoid inconvenience to others and to minimize the environmental impact.

In summary, Islamic festivals like Eid hold special significance for childless couples, as they find solace in the stories of Prophet Ibrahim (AS) and Prophet Zakariya (AS), who were blessed with children despite their age and apparent infertility. These stories serve as a reminder to never lose hope and to persist in prayer. It is also essential to recognize the intrinsic and remember that the purpose of sacrifice, as outlined in the Quran, is not merely the physical act of offering an animal, but rather a deeper spiritual sacrifice. It is about sacrificing one's ego, desires, and attachments that may compete with one's love for Allah. The act of sacrificing teaches individuals the importance of letting go of worldly attachments and submitting wholeheartedly to the will of Allah.

"Whoever sacrifices for the sake of Allah, even a single hair, will be rewarded with Paradise." - Prophet Muhammad (Pbuah)

During the days of sacrifice, it is an opportune time for introspection and self-reflection. Each individual should ask themselves which attachments they need to let go of in order to strengthen their relationship with Allah. It could be attachments to material possessions, worldly ambitions, or anything that hinders spiritual growth and devotion.

"The best sacrifice is the one that costs you something, but you still offer it with a sincere heart."

By relinquishing these attachments, individuals open themselves up to a purer, more profound love for Allah. It is through surrendering these attachments that individuals may find what they love given back to them in a better and more refined form. This act of sacrifice leads to spiritual growth and a closer connection with the Almighty.

"Whoever is kind to Allah's creation, Allah will be kind to them." - Prophet Muhammad (Pbuah)

In the spirit of sacrifice, it is also important to extend compassion and care towards fellow beings and the environment. Responsible handling and disposal of animal remains, such as skins and cadavers, are essential to avoid causing inconvenience to others and to preserve the cleanliness of public spaces. Respecting the environment is an integral part of the Islamic teachings on stewardship and responsibility.

The Virtue of Sacrifice and the Exemplary Obedience of Hazrat Ismael

Sacrifice holds immense significance in Islam, symbolizing the act of giving up something valuable for a higher purpose.

The story of Hazrat Ibrahim and his devoted son, Hazrat Ismael, embodies the essence of sacrifice and unwavering obedience to Allah. The Concept of Sacrifice in Islam: Sacrifice in Islam extends beyond mere rituals; it encompasses offering one's desires, wealth, time, and even life for the sake of Allah. It is a means of drawing closer to Allah and demonstrating sincere faith and devotion.

Hazrat Ibrahim received a divine command to sacrifice his beloved son, Hazrat Ismael, as a test of his devotion. Both father and son displayed remarkable obedience, as Hazrat Ismael willingly submitted to Allah's will. As Hazrat Ibrahim prepared to fulfill the command, Allah replaced Hazrat Ismael with a ram, rewarding their unwavering faith and obedience.

Hazrat Ismael's obedience teaches Muslims invaluable lessons. It underscores the importance of absolute trust in Allah's wisdom and the willingness to surrender to His will. The story emphasizes the need to prioritize spiritual obligations over personal desires and worldly attachments.

The Virtues of Sacrifice: Sacrifice extends beyond the story of Hazrat Ibrahim and Hazrat Ismael. Muslims are encouraged to practice sacrifice through acts of charity, helping others, and self-discipline. Sacrificing material possessions and personal desires fosters humility, empathy, and gratitude, deepening one's connection with Allah and fellow human beings.

Parental Role in Nurturing Obedience: Hazrat Ismael's obedience highlights the pivotal role parents play in shaping their children's characters and instilling values of obedience and devotion. Parents are the first and most influential teachers in a child's life. Lessons learned from parents' righteous conduct leave an enduring impact, shaping their children's moral compass throughout their lives.

Avoiding Showoff and Fostering Piety: Muslims must remember that acts of worship should be performed with sincerity and humility, devoid of any desire for public recognition or showoff. The essence of sacrifice lies in the purity of intentions and the sincerity of devotion to Allah. Upholding piety and righteousness surpass external displays of religiosity.

In conclusion, the story of Hazrat Ibrahim and Hazrat Ismael serves as a profound reminder of the virtues of sacrifice, obedience, and unwavering faith in Islam. Their exemplary conduct urges Muslims to prioritize devotion to Allah above all attachments and nurture obedience and piety in their lives and their children's lives. By emulating their examples, Muslims can deepen their connection with Allah, leading lives of selflessness, righteousness, and unwavering devotion.

The significance of Eid and the act of sacrifice extends beyond the mere observance of rituals. It serves as a reminder to childless couples to have hope and to continue praying to Allah for the blessing of children. It emphasizes the importance of prioritizing one's love for Allah above all attachments and desires. Additionally, it encourages introspection and self-reflection, prompting individuals to identify and sacrifice their worldly attachments in order to strengthen their relationship with Allah. Finally, it highlights the need for responsible behavior towards fellow beings and the environment during the celebration of Eid.

May Allah bless you with steadfastness in faith, grant you the desires of your heart, and reward our sincere acts of sacrifice.

The author is a Educational Columnist

Zil Hajj: What Does the Day of Arafah Represent?

Amaliah

Yawmul 'Arafah is considered the most important day of the entire Hajj pilgrimage. In fact, the Prophet (saw) said: "Hajj is 'Arafah" (Tirmidhi). It is so important that if one misses 'Arafah, their Hajj is not complete or valid. On this day all the pilgrims – woman, man, old, young, rich or poor, of every race, colour and nationality – journey to the desert plains of 'Arafah. They begin the journey from Mina after the dawn prayers, and they remain until sunset.

As they make their way, they will continuously recite the Talbiyah "lab-bayka Allahuma lab-bayk, lab-bayka laa sharika laka lab-bayk, in-na hamda wan-ni'mata laka wal Mulik, laa sharika lak".

The powerful meaning of those words are: "Here I am in Your service, O Allah, here I am. Here I am. You have no partner, here I am. Verily all praise and blessings are Yours, and all sovereignty, You have no partner." [Muslim].

The Talbiyah captures the purpose of the whole journey, to serve Allah and worship Him and Him alone. The day is spent praying and making du'a (supplication) to Allah

– all the hujjaj (pilgrims) are gathered in one place, with the same goal, the entire plain is filled with worshippers dressed in their simple white cloth. It is a day of deep reflection and connection with God.

Allah says in the Qur'an: "Then when you pour down from Arafat, celebrate the praises of Allah at the Sacred Monument, and celebrate His praises as He has directed you, even though, before this, you went astray." Surat al-Baqara 2:198

The verse shows that no one is exempt from God's Mercy on this day – Allah's forgiveness is for everyone who seeks it. It is a profound and humbling experience for all those who witness 'Arafah on Hajj.

Many connections with other events are made on this day. The word 'Arafah comes from the word 'to know', or to be introduced. It is the place where Adam (as) and Hawa' (as) were reunited after being sent down from Jannah, and after they had repented to Allah. It was thus the first ever meeting place on earth for any human. Every year, people are gathered on 'Arafah to repent to Allah, just as had been the case with our greatest grandparents. "Arafah" also symbolises the fact Muslims seek to renew their relationship with God on this

day.

Even more poignant is the fact that this is the place where all humanity will be gathered for the start of the Day of Judgment. When the pilgrims stand before Allah on yawmul Arafah, they inevitably remember that the next time they return may well be on Yawmul Qiyamah, when there will no longer be an opportunity for tawbah.

There is no shade on the plains of 'Arafah – these days there are some tents where people can shelter. But when you speak to elders who went on Hajj decades ago, they will tell you how difficult it was back then. They used to stand before Allah, seeking His Mercy, dishevelled in dust and in tears, under the burning heat of the desert sun. They report that it felt as if they were already experiencing Al-Qiyamah...the type of struggles pilgrims faced back then may have changed now. But the significance of 'Arafah, the reconnection with Allah, has remained the same. The day is not only for those who go on pilgrimage – it is a special day for every Muslim, even if they are in the furthest part of the globe.

The Prophet (saw) said the following:
1. "The best of du'a is du'a on the day of

'Arafah." (Hasan)

2. (For those not on Hajj): "Fasting on the day of 'Arafah absolves the sins for two years: the previous year and the coming year" (Muslim)

3. "There is no day in which Allah saves more people from the fire than the Day of 'Arafah." (Muslim, Nasa'i, Ibn Majah)

4. "Anyone who has an atom's weight of faith in their heart will be forgiven by Allah on this day, whether or not they actually stand at 'Arafah." (Abu Dawud)

We also remember that 'Arafah is the day when Allah revealed the following verse: "Today, I have perfected your religion for you, and have completed My blessing upon you, and chosen Islam as D n (religion and a way of life) for you". (Al Maidah: 3).

Just as Ramadan and its last 10 nights was honoured with the first revelation of Qur'an, so Dhul Hijjah and its first 10 days were honoured with the final ever revelation of Qur'an. The Day of 'Arafah was the last time Angel Jibril (as) came to earth as a messenger to the Prophets. 'Arafah was also the day and place where our beloved Prophet (saw) delivered his farewell sermon, on his last ever Hajj, to crowds of

hundreds and thousands of Muslims. It was a beautiful message, but also bitter-sweet, for it heralded the fact the Prophet (saw)'s remaining time on earth was short.

"O People, lend me an attentive ear, for I know not whether after this year, I shall ever be amongst you again. Therefore listen to what I am saying to you very carefully and take these words to those who could not be present here today" ...

The Prophet's farewell also acts as a reminder that none of us knows how long we still have on this earth. Just as all the hujjaj have to arrive at 'Arafah before it is too late, we too have to make the most of this day before the sun sets – and make the most of our lives before it too slips away.

The Prophet (saw) ended his sermon by saying: All those who listen to me shall pass on my words to others and those to others again; and may the last ones understand my words better than those who listen to me directly. Be my witness, O Allah, that I have conveyed your message to your people". May we live up to the hope and trust that the Prophet (saw) had in us. And may Allah accept everyone's deeds and prayers on this day, from the hujjaj and from us. Ameen.

AI Can Help Build Solutions To Advance Healthcare Systems: WEF Study

Press Trust Of India

Artificial Intelligence (AI) can help fight systemic challenges straining global healthcare systems with AI-driven diagnosis, infectious disease intelligence and clinical trial optimisation showing the highest potential, a new study said on Monday.

The report published by the World Economic Forum (WEF) cited several case studies, including one from India, to highlight the transformative potential of AI in healthcare and the importance of public-private collaboration in driving its global adoption.

The Indian case study found that Apollo Hospitals was using AI to assess cardiovascular risk more accurately than established benchmarks and at a massive scale.

Nearly 18 million people die each year from heart disease, accounting for an estimated 32 per cent of worldwide deaths

and this burden is especially high in India, where cardiovascular disease is characterized by early onset, rapid progression and high mortality rate.

"Apollo Hospitals operates more than 50 hospitals serving more than 300 million patients across India. Given its position on the front lines of the disease, Apollo aspired to create a risk stratification algorithm that would provide a heart disease 'score' for any patient in India to be more accurate than traditional risk stratification approaches," the WEF said.

The study, conducted in collaboration with global management consulting and technology firm ZS, aims to spur public-private collaboration to accelerate the responsible application of AI in healthcare, the WEF said.

It proposed a global taxonomy for healthcare AI uses and shows how global healthcare systems could unlock the full potential of these new technologies to transform patient care, reduce costs and enable



people to live healthier, longer lives.

"We are at a critical juncture in global health and healthcare, as mounting headwinds threaten collective wellness as well as employers, economies, budgets and societal resilience," said Shyam Bishen, Head of the Centre for Health and Healthcare and Member of the Executive Committee at WEF.

"Closely governed advancements in AI are critical to supporting a broader digital

and data-driven transition to intelligent healthcare systems, which can meet populations' needs and transform healthcare outcomes, access, and efficiency," he added.

ZS CEO Pratap Khedkar said, "The question is no longer whether the technology exists for AI to transform healthcare. It does.."

"The question is whether or not stakeholders can pull together to set the conditions for its widespread use and adoption. If adopted broadly and responsibly, AI holds the potential to radically transform healthcare systems and improve health outcomes for all," he added.

The WEF said its report is based on a comprehensive analysis of more than 400 existing AI use cases as well as in-depth interviews with 50 global leaders across technology, healthcare delivery, biopharma, government, academia and more.

It underlined AI's potential to diagnose a range of diseases at scale, leading to early interventions for individuals at greater risk, as well as counter infectious diseases

through AI-powered systems that can predict future outbreaks, map their spread and deliver customized mitigation strategies to reduce their impact.

Clinical trials can be enhanced by facilitating optimal site selection, participant recruitment and the creation of more representative synthetic data, it added.

Besides highlighting the potential of AI in healthcare, the report also identified common barriers to its adoption. These barriers include insufficient high-quality data, low trust in AI solutions and inadequate technological infrastructure, among others.

Public-private support for creating a strong data foundation and improved privacy laws, responsible and transparent design of AI algorithms, and significant investment to adopt these technologies at scale will be crucial to overcome these barriers and ensure equitable access to these innovations worldwide, the WEF said.

Blood Sugar Levels Better Controlled By Higher Dose Of Oral Semaglutide

Press Trust Of India

Higher doses of oral semaglutide, a widely taken blood sugar medication, have been associated with better control over blood sugar levels and more weight loss than lower doses, scientists have published in the journal The Lancet.

They found that once-daily oral semaglutide taken at 25 milligrams (mg) and 50 mg did a better job in lowering blood sugar levels and promoting weight loss than the lowest dose of 14 mg.

"Low doses of GLP-1 receptor agonists are really powerful for reducing A1C, or the average glucose in the blood whereas, the higher doses are really good for weight reduction.

"On average, patients lost eight kilograms at 50 milligrams, which is nearly twice as

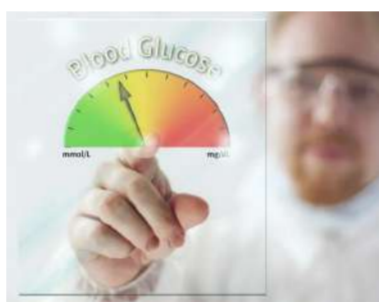
much weight loss that we saw with the lowest dose," said John Buse, study author and professor of Medicine, University of North Carolina Health Care, US.

Diabetes is characterised by abnormally high blood glucose levels, excessive urination and persistent thirst and becomes more severe over time, making it more difficult for the patient to manage blood sugar levels.

Semaglutide, a glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonist, has been known to grant patients more control in lowering of blood sugar.

Blood sugar levels are measured through a percentage, called A1C. According to the American Diabetes Association, diabetic adults with A1C less than 7 per cent are considered healthy.

In this study, 1,606 diabetic participants, on average male



and aged 58.2 years, were divided randomly into three groups and asked to take oral semaglutide once a day. For 52 weeks, each group took either a 14 mg dosage, a 25 mg dosage, or a 50 mg dosage. All the participants had an A1C between 8 and 10.5 per cent.

Those receiving the 25 mg and 50 mg doses of oral semaglutide were found to be more likely to reach the A1C target of

less than 7 per cent, compared with those who took 14 mg.

Semaglutide is known to also cause weight loss by suppressing appetite.

At the end of the 52 weeks, the participants who took 50 mg of oral semaglutide had lost, on average, 8 kilograms (kgs). Those who took 25 mg and 14 mg lost about 7 kgs and 4.5 kgs, respectively, the researchers found.

However, the researchers noted, the participants also experienced side effects, the most common of which was nausea, owing to the effect the drug has on the fullness of the stomach.

Some of the participants also reported experiencing vomiting, diarrhea, and/or constipation, particularly those who took the higher doses of 25 mg and 50 mg.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Executive Engineer PW (R&B) Division Shopian
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NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FRESH TO NIT 12 S.No:1,2,3,4,5&6 and NIT 14 S.No: 4,7&12
NIT No: 21/3181-90/SPN/RnB/e-Tendering/2023-24 Dated:- 27-06-2023

For and on behalf of the L.T. Governor Union Territory of J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage % basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S.No	Name of Work	Major Head of Account	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Earnest Money Deposit	Class of Contractor	Time of Completion (In days)	Cost of T/Doc (Rs.)	AAA No. Date	TS No. Date
1	Upgradation of Ramnagri Girls School road by way of construction of R/Wall, providing and laying of RBM and RCC Spun Pipes	District Capex Budget 2023-24	7.283	14566/-	DEE/CEE	20 Days	300/-	194-DDCS of 2022 Dated:-23-05-2022	06/05/Spn of 2023-24 Dated 05-06-2023
2	Construction of road from House of Farooq Ahmad Hajam to old fruit Mandi (Back side) at Arhamia Shopian by way of Providing and laying of RCC Pipes, RBM, WBM G II and Construction of Drain.	District Capex Budget 2023-24	9.026	18052/-	DEE/CEE	20 Days	600/-	194-DDCS of 2022 Dated:-23-05-2022	06/05/Spn of 2023-24 Dated 05-06-2023
3	Upgradation/Widening of Bongam to Hospital Road including Khakhanard road by way of construction of CC Drain/ R/Wall	District Capex Budget 2023-24	5.624	11248/-	DEE/CEE	20 Days	300/-	194-DDCS of 2022 Dated:-23-05-2022	06/05/Spn of 2023-24 Dated 05-06-2023
4	Construction of road from main road Ishaq Malik to Checki Chotipora including Kamran School, Saidpora to Shamsipora by way of Construction of R/Wall and Providing and laying of RBM	District Capex Budget 2023-24	6.165	12330/-	DEE/CEE	20 Days	300/-	194-DDCS of 2022 Dated:-23-05-2022	06/05/Spn of 2023-24 Dated 05-06-2023
5	Beautification of Shopian Town Road by way of Construction of Cement Concrete Drain, Providing and fixing of Solar Glow Studs, Cat eyes and road marking.	District Capex Budget 2023-24	6.309	12618/-	DEE/CEE	20 Days	300/-	194-DDCS of 2022 Dated:-23-05-2022	06/05/Spn of 2023-24 Dated 05-06-2023
6	Restoration of Trenz Kharpora Health Centre Road	District Capex Budget 2023-24	12.380	24760/-	DEE/CEE/BEE	20 Days	600/-	194-DDCS of 2022 Dated:-23-05-2022	06/05/Spn of 2023-24 Dated 05-06-2023
7	Construction of lane from H/O Niyaz Ahmad Zargar upto H/O Naseer Ahmad Mantoo at Sheikh Mohalla Shopian Ward No-09	Municipal Fund 2023-24	4.973	9946/-	DEE	20 Days	200/-	MC/SPN/ Works/18 of 2023 Dated:-27/05/2023	09/MC/Spn of 2023-24 Dated 05-06-2023
8	Construction of lane / Drain from Arm Masjid Sharief upto H/O Shakeel Ahmad Zargar at Arm Mohalla, Ward No-03	Municipal Fund 2023-24	7.235		DEE/CEE	20 Days	300/-	MC/SPN/ Works/18 of 2023 Dated:-27/05/2023	09/MC/Spn of 2023-24 Dated 05-06-2023
9	Construction of Tiled Lane from H/O Ab Hameed Dar Upto H/O Gh Mohammad Dar at Khairbagh B ward No-04	Municipal Fund 2023-24	6.615	13230/-	DEE/CEE	20 Days	300/-	MC/SPN/ Works/18 of 2023 Dated:-27/05/2023	09/MC/Spn of 2023-24 Dated 05-06-2023

Position of funds:- Approved Project Authority:- DDC Shopian for S.No:-1 to 6 and CEO MC Shopian for S.No:-7 to 9

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	27-06-2023
2	Document downloading Start Date	28-06-2023 From 10.00 A.M
3	Document downloading End Date	04-07-2023 upto 2:00 P.M
4	Bid submission Start Date	28-06-2023 From 10.00 A.M
5	Bid Submission End Date	04-07-2023 upto 2:00 P.M
6	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	06-07-2023 at 10:00 A.M

- Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.
- At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian. The successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the Bid cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.
- Additional Performance Security for Unbalanced Bids Will be applicable as per Clause-30 in Chapter-20 of PWD Engineering manual 2020.
- The date and time of bid opening shall be notified on the Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and automatically communicated to bidders via an e-mail message sent to their e-mail address. Responsive bidders' bids will be opened online on the same Web Site in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian (tender receiving authority).
- Bids for the work shall be valid for 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- Bidders are advised to download the bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as the "Bidders Manual Kit" option on the website www.jktenders.gov.in to familiarize themselves with the bid submission process.
- In order to participate in the bidding process, bidders must obtain a "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" under the Information Technology Act of 2000. Any approved vendor can provide bidders with a digital certificate.
- Bidders must submit their bids in electronic format with a digital signature online. No physical bids will be accepted.
- Bids will be opened online in accordance with the time schedule specified in Para-1.
- Bidders must upload online scanned copy of all required documents (within the document upload limits) with their technical bid.

No: NIT/3181-90
DIPK-4248/23 Dt: 27-06-2023

Sd/- Camp Clerk Sd/- Head Assistant Sd/- AAO Sd/- Technical Officer Sd/- Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Shopian

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Executive Engineer Rural Engineering Wing Srinagar

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
NIT No: 16 of 2023-24 DATED: - 26-06-2023
SINGLE COVER SYSTEM

For and on behalf of the L.T. Governor of UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on PERCENTAGE BASIS from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works under Capex Grants.

S no	Name of work	Adv Cost Rs in Lacs	Cost of tender Documents	Earnes t Money	Time of completion	Class of contractor	Head of challan	Treasury account head
1	Construction of Spun Pipes drain with road from M.Akbar Bhat to H/O Mohd Shafi and Others	2.565	200	5130	30 Days	DEE	DDC	0515
2	Construction of Spun Pipes drains with Road from H/O Majeed Mir to H/O Mohd. Ayoub Mir at Panzinaara	2.765	200	5530	30 Days	DEE	DDC	0515
3	Construction of Drain from L/O Lal Mohd Ganie to H/O Gh. Nabi Mir Phase 2nd at Panzinaara	2.89	200	5780	30 ays	DEE	DDC	0515
4	Construction of Road from Duit Khut Road to L/O Ab. Rashid Mir and others at Panzinaara	2.463	200	4926	30 ays	DEE	DDC	0515
5	Improvement of Road Earthcutting/Metalling/ Spunpipes from Habibullah Phamda to Datherathri at Faqir Gulree A	6.86	200	13720	30 Days	DEE	DDC	0515
6	Construction of Path/Tiles from H/O Nazir Phamda to Khalil Phamda via Yasin Khatana Ph II at Mongkhan Mohalla at Faqir Gulree A	2.94	200	5880	30 Days	DEE	DDC	0515
7	Construction of Path/R-Wall from Link Road to Sharfudin Khatana at Naginar Faqir Gulree A	2.44	200	4880	30 ays	DEE	DDC	0515
8	Earth filling of Ziyarat Sharief Spot(B) Panzinaara-B	2.45	200	4900	30 Days	DEE	DDC	0515

- (I) Position of AAA: -Accorded (ii) Position of funds: Demanded
- The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:
- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| A | Date of Issue of Tender Notice | 26.06.2023 |
| B | Period of downloading of bidding documents | 26.06.2023 |
| C | Bid submission Start Date | 26.06.2023 |
| D | Bid Submission End Date | 04.07.2023 4.00PM |
| E | Date & time of opening of Bids (Online) | 05.07.2023 at 11 AM in the Office of Executive Engineer Rural Engineering Wing Srinagar |
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan/Receipt (Debited to M.H.0515 REW) and Earnest Money in the shape of CDR @ 2% OF THE ADVERTISED COST in favour of Executive Engineer REW Srinagar falling which the tender will be rejected out rightly. The issuing date of Treasury Challan and CDR uploaded must be between issuing date to Bid Submission end date of NIT. CDR (earnest money/bid security) and relevant bid documents in Original shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of contract
- Bidders quoted rates below more than 15% needs to upload Additional Security Deposit.
- The date and time of opening of Bids Will 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 for the work will remain valid for a period of 100 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
- The work will be put to fresh tenders in case of:
 - Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 07 days after fixation of contract.
 - Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- 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. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid. Besides, original / photocopies of documents related to the bid be submitted physically / by registered post / through courier before the date.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid. Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
- Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer Rural Engineering wing Srinagar must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The original Treasury Challan (cost of tender document) and relevant bid documents will be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of contract.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the item rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
- Price escalation and Taxes:- The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes up to completion of the work, unless otherwise specified. Deduction on account of taxes will be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
 - Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on REW e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required
 - In case of CRF and any other specified project. The relevant guidelines / standard bidding document shall be followed.
 - Instructions to Bidder (ITB)
- All bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualification criteria/qualification information with their bids:-
 - Copies of original documents defining constitution/Legal status, place or registration and principal place of Business with Cell and Correspondence address.
 - Treasury Challan.
 - Valid GST No. with latest return, and PAN Card.
 - Card verification issued by the card issuing Authority
- The bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submission of bid.
- Nonattendance of pre-bid meeting will not be cause of disqualification of the bidder.
- The works are approved under District Capex Budget -2022-23
- All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form)
- The participation in the tendering process of works up to an amount of Rs. 3 lacs may be restricted to the residents of concerned Panchayat.

No. Xen/REW/SGR/463-80
DIPK-4232/23 Dated:- 27-06-2023

Sd/ Executive Engineer (REW) SRINAGAR

J&K Bank Wins 'Gold' At Infosys Finacle Innovation Awards 2023



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Continuing with its outstanding performance, J&K Bank has won accolades at Infosys Finacle Innovation Awards - 2023 by winning 'Gold Award' under the category of Process innovation in Small Bank segment. Notably, it was the 8th edition of the Awards that recognized outstanding innovation initiatives from across the world in ten distinct categories.

General Manager & Divisional Head (ROI) Rakesh Koul received the trophy on behalf of the Bank for 'fully automated bulk parallel processing of pension transactions with significantly reduced execution-time' during the award ceremony held in Bengaluru.

While congratulating the entire staff for the international achievement, Bank's MD & CEO Baldev Prakash said, "With Eid jubiliations already in the air, the golden recognition of the Bank's process innovation at such an internationally prestigious platform has added further radiance to our col-

lective delight. Besides, I feel very happy to see our IT-led initiatives leading the bank's transformational journey and receiving such impressive acknowledgment."

"As a forward-looking financial institution, I believe that such honours will boost our commitment further to provide efficient, secure and convenient banking services to our valued clients across the country in digital as well as traditional domains for enhanced banking experience", he added.

Meanwhile, in his comments on the innovations nominated for the awards program, CEO Infosys Finacle Sanat Rao said "The Infosys Finacle Innovation Awards 2023 celebrates banks that prioritize innovation-led digital transformation. The nominees and winners in the awards program exemplify the relentless pursuit of the participating banks in delivering enhanced value to their customers and stakeholders. I extend my warmest congratulations to all the recognized banks and wish them continued success in 2023 and beyond."

10 Day Long Intensive Training Programme For Tourist Guides Concludes At TRC

Secy. Tourism underscores the role of young entrepreneurs in shaping future of tourism sector

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A 10 day long capacity building programme for the Tourist Guides concluded here at the Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir. The programme was organised by the Department of Tourism in collaboration with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).

The programme is part of the initiative of the Department of Tourism to improve the technical skills and further enhance the professionalism among the frontline staff of the Tourism industry for which the SIDBI has lent all support.

Secretary, Tourism & Culture, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah was the chief guest at the concluding function.

The program was designed to teach participants about the local culture and uncover the lively old and culturally rich areas. The training program comprised five days of classroom sessions followed by four days of immersive experiences visiting significant cultural destinations and engaging with local artisans to understand the rich traditions of the place.

Addressing the participants at the felicitation ceremony, the Tourism Secretary congratulated the tourist guides for

their commitment and dedication to the training program. He highlighted the role of the tourist guides as ambassadors of Jammu & Kashmir, emphasizing their responsibility in showcasing the region's unique culture and fostering sustainable tourism practices.

Dr. Abid said Tourism Department shall provide platform to young minds to hone their skills and become success stories of coming days. He underscored the role of these young professionals in shaping the future of tourism sector.

The Tourism Secretary appreciated the role and concern of the SIDBI who came forward and lent all support to make the programme series a success.

Addressing the participants, the Director Tourism Kashmir, Raja Yaqoob underscored the need for skilful and professional guides in the tourism industry. He said post Covid-19 and with an increased tourist footfall to the Valley the need for professional and technically trained staff is being felt very much and the Department being conscious of this fact has rolled out this series of training programmes.

Senior officers of Tourism Department, SIDBI and representatives of programme conducting agency were present on the occasion.

Sacrificial Animals Sold At Arbitrary Prices, Allege People

No rate fixed by Govt; mutton dealers say rates are 'between the buyer and seller'

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Ahead of Eid-ul-Azha, people complain that the sacrificial animals are being sold at arbitrary prices in the absence of the rate regulatory body for livestock in Jammu and Kashmir.

The consumers told Kashmir News Observer that there are no fixed rates for sacrificial animals and that the sellers are pitching the rates of their choice.

"From Eidgah to Soura, not a single seller told me a fixed rate; some were selling sheep at Rs 350/kg while some at Rs 430/kg. There is no enforcement or checking of rates," Tariq Ahmad, a Srinagar resident, said.

Tariq, who was present at the Eidgah, where the sacrificial animals are sold, said he is not able to select the 'Qurbani' due to high rates. He said he along with his family has been visiting the market for the last two days.

"The rates should be reasonable. I selected a sheep that was of a good size, but its owner asked for a huge price. I even offered him a rate beyond the ongoing market rate, but he insisted on his price tag," Ahmad said.

Many visitors said the market is comparatively down in the last few years. "The people's purchasing power is low this time. The livestock at Eidgah used to be less, but you can see how much still stands unsold," said another person



to buy the animal.

A non-local seller from Rajasthan said that he has so far sold around 30 percent of his livestock. "I have paid the freight of more than Rs 1 lakh for transportation. I brought 160 sheep here, of which I have sold around 40 only. There are no fixed rates, I have sold some at Rs 350/kg and some at Rs 360/kg even though there should be a rate of Rs 400/kg," he said.

Similar reports were received from other districts of the valley where people complained of unregulated rates of sacrificial animals for Eid-ul-Azha.

According to the Mutton Dealers Association general secretary Me'raj-u-din they have no say in regulating the rates of sacrificial animals. The rates are purely in an agreement between the buyer and seller, he said.

"There is nothing much our

association can do about it. It is purely between a buyer and a seller when both are satisfied at a specific rate. And more importantly, the rates depend upon the quality one purchases," he said. "Even those who are not of our trade sell sacrificial animals on these days. We cannot make any pre-announcement on the rates."

Last year, ahead of Eid-ul-Azha, the J&K government fixed the rates for sacrificial animals. For Delhi Walla and Merino Cross varieties, it was Rs 310 per kg, for Bakerwal and local Kashmiri sheep, it was Rs 295/kg and the rate for goats was fixed at Rs 285 per kg.

Earlier this month, the administration instructed the officials to refrain from regulating the prices of mutton and other livestock products.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir did not respond to the call for his comment on the issue. (KNO)

To ensure uniform utilization of CAPEX budget

J&K Govt Tells Admin Secretaries to Hold Monthly Reviews

SRINAGAR: In a significant move, the Jammu & Kashmir Government has directed administrative secretaries to hold monthly review meetings in their departments to ensure the uniform utilization of capital expenditure budget and to avoid rush of expenditure in the last quarter of a financial year.

According to the Kashmir News Observer these directions were passed during the meeting held on June 08 under the chairmanship of Arun Kumar, chief secretary, to review physical/financial progress achieved under J&K's

capital expenditure budget for 2022-23 and 2023-24.

"In order to ensure the uniform utilization of capital expenditure budget over the entire financial year and to avoid the rush of expenditure in the last quarter particularly the month of March, all administrative departments shall hold monthly review meetings in their respective departments," reads the record note of the meeting.

The government also directed the Development Expenditure Division (DED)-II shall also put an arrangement in place for monthly review

of capital expenditure budget vis-a-vis financial and physical targets.

In the meeting director general, Development Expenditure Division-II informed that the annual expenditure under the capital expenditure budget is showing an increasing trend since 2019-20.

"The number of projects completed under the UT sector has risen from 6933 in the year 2019-20 to 22766 in the year 2022-23. The current year's target has been pegged at 32615 which is a substantial increase over last year's achievements," the minutes of the meeting state.

Tomato Prices Will Cool Down Soon: Govt Official

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The spurt in prices of tomato is a temporary seasonal phenomenon and rates will cool down soon, a top government official said as retail prices of the kitchen staple shot up to Rs 100 per kg in major cities.

"It is a highly perishable commodity. Transportation gets affected in areas that received sudden rains. It is a temporary issue. Prices will cool down soon. It happens every year during this time," Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh told PTI.

Very Optimistic About FTA With India: UK Investment Minister

Press Trust Of India

LONDON: An India-UK free trade agreement (FTA) is really important for both nations and it is for businesses on both sides to help drive that agenda, UK Minister for Investment Lord Dominic Johnson said in London on Tuesday.

Addressing a UK-India Infrastructure Summit hosted by the City of London Corporation as part of the India Global Forum UK-India Week, Johnson said he is "very optimistic" about an FTA even as he declined to put a timeframe to it.

India and the UK recently concluded their tenth round of FTA negotiations and an 11th round is set to begin in the next few weeks towards a comprehensive agreement expected to significantly enhance the bilateral trading relationship worth an estimated 34 billion pounds in 2022.

"I'm very optimistic about a free trade deal with India," said Johnson. "It is hugely important for India if it wants to get the capital flows it needs

to take itself to the next step, which is to become a global hyperpower economically. And it's very good for the UK if we're going to ensure that we've got the investment coming from India," he said.

The minister went on to make a clarion call for representatives of business and industry gathered at the summit to be more vocal about voicing their support for such an FTA. "It's really important for businesses to express their support for such a deal because it's about allowing businesses to function more effectively with greater profits, wealth and security for the world," he said.

Describing the India-UK relationship as the "most symbiotic partnership", the minister also backed a City of London suggestion for a new UK-India Green Finance Partnership to promote greater two-way green investment flows.

"I truly believe India has reached escape velocity as an economy. And, I truly believe that the UK is literally India's best friend, and the best placed

country to take advantage of what is such a mutually beneficial long-term financial partnership," he added.

Under the theme of "Financing a Sustainable Future", the summit highlighted the immense scope and potential for investment in sustainable infrastructure development in India, and London's expertise in meeting India's growing demand for green finance.

"The UK, particularly the City of London, has excellent capabilities in structuring and funneling finance where it is needed. The UK has demonstrated technological capabilities while India is at the frontiers of innovation. Combining technology with financing would enhance the cooperation," said BVR Subrahmanyam, CEO of NITI Aayog.

"I would argue that your interests are best served in aligning with us in making sure that the transformation of India happens in a way that does not replicate any of the faults of the past," noted Vikram Doraiswami, the Indian High Commissioner to the UK.

CAD Narrows To 0.2% Of GDP In Q4 FY23 On Lower Trade Deficit, Higher Services Exports

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: India's current account deficit narrowed to USD 1.3 billion or 0.2 per cent of GDP in the January-March quarter of FY23, mainly due to moderation in the trade deficit and a robust increase in services exports, RBI data showed on Tuesday.

However, for the 2022-23 fiscal, the current account balance recorded a deficit of 2 per cent of GDP compared to 1.2 per cent in 2021-22.

"India's current account deficit (CAD) decreased to USD 1.3 billion (0.2 per cent of GDP) in Q4:2022-23 from USD 16.8 billion (2.0 per cent of GDP) in Q3:2022-23, and USD 13.4 billion (1.6 per cent of GDP) a year ago [Q4:2021-22]," as per the RBI's 'Developments in India's Balance of Payments during the Fourth Quarter (January-March) of 2022-23'.

The sequential decline in CAD in the fourth quarter of 2022-23 was mainly on account of a moderation in the trade deficit to USD 52.6 billion from USD 71.3 billion in the preceding quarter, coupled with robust services exports, it said.

Net services receipts increased, on a sequentially and



year-on-year (y-o-y) basis, on the back of a rise in net earnings from computer services.

The central bank had been maintaining that the CAD, a key indicator of the country's balance of payments, would remain manageable.

Private transfer receipts in the January-March period, mainly representing remittances by Indians employed overseas, increased to USD 28.6 billion, up by 20.8 per cent year-on-year.

In the financial account, the RBI said net foreign direct investment (FDI) at USD 6.4 billion was higher than USD 2.0 billion in Q3 2022-23, although lower than a year ago (USD 13.8 billion).

Net foreign portfolio investment (FPI) recorded an outflow of USD 1.7 billion driven by the equity segment compared to an outflow of USD 15.2 billion during the corresponding period a year ago.

'India's Online Retail Sector Market Size Likely To Touch USD 325 Bn By 2030'

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The country's online retail market size may touch USD 325 billion by 2030 against USD 70 billion in 2022, mainly due to rapid growth of e-commerce in tier-2 and tier-3 cities, according to a Deloitte India report released on Tuesday.

It also said that online retail penetration is projected to grow at an extraordinary rate, and it would outpace offline retail by 2.5 times in the next decade.

As India ascends to become the world's third-largest consumer market, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP's (Deloitte India's) 'Future of Retail' report "foresees the online retail sector, which stood at USD 70 billion in 2022, to surge to USD 325 billion by 2030".

The report attributes these projections to the rapid growth of e-commerce in tier-2 and tier-3 cities, which have surpassed tier-1 markets in terms of total orders.

In 2022, these cities accounted for over 60 per cent of all orders,

with tier-3 cities experiencing a remarkable 65 per cent growth in order volume and tier-2 cities witnessing a substantial 50 per cent growth, it said.

"The surge in online retail can be attributed to various factors. The convenience of ordering and returns, bolstered by a robust logistics infrastructure spanning over 19,000 pin codes, has played a pivotal role," it added.

Additionally, the report said that India boasts a digitally savvy consumer base of 220 million online shoppers, further driving the growth of e-commerce.

Furthermore, the sector has witnessed significant investments from private equity and venture capital firms, totalling USD 23 billion over the past five years, the report said.

Online sales are poised to surpass organised retail, with a growing emphasis on omnichannel retail strategies where retailers seamlessly integrate their offline and online channels to provide consumers with the best of both worlds, it added.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
TENDER NOTICE

NIT No.E-06/2023-24/LSD/Srinagar Dated:-27-06-2023

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt, CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S.No	Name of Work	Est Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost off/ Doc. (Amt in Rs.)	Earnest Money (2%) (Amt in Rs.)	Time of completion	Time & Date of Opening of tender	Class of Contractor	Head of Account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Removal and refixing of tree guard at Western Foreshore road K2P road Northern fore-shore road and other sites of Landscape Sub Division 1st.	6.00 lacs	Rs.300/=	Rs.12000/=	Full Season	07-07-2023 at 11:00 AM	CEE & DEE	3054 (M&R)

Position of Funds:- Available.
Administrative approval:- Accorded.
Note:- The above mentioned work shall be mandatorily completed during the current financial year 2023-24.
The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other detail scan be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of date given below:-

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	27-06-2023
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	27-06-2023
3.	Bid submission Start Date	27-06-2023
4.	Bid Submission End Date	06-07-2023
5.	Deadline for receiving the Hardcopy (Original e-challan or Treasury challan/receipt and EMD)	Hard copy to be submitted by the successful bidder(LI) only within seven days after Financial evaluation.
6.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	07-07-2023 at 11:00AM in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Landscaping Division, Rajbagh, Srinagar

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan or Treasury challan/ receipt(Non-refundable) along with Earnest Money Deposit(2%). Failure to do so shall render the bidder as Non-Responsive.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS:-

- It is compulsory for the 1st lowest bidder to get registered on JKPWDOMS for online payment of his work done claims and the department shall not be responsible for non-payment of work done claims until the registration on JKPWDOMS is not completed by the 1st lowest bidder.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Landscaping Division, Rajbagh, Srinagar (Tender receiving authority)
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-
a) Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit
c) Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 07 days after fixation of contract.
- 50% of the normal deposits (deducted at 10% from running bills) to be released after virtual completion of the work and balance 50% after completion of DLP.
- Additional performance security required as per NIT conditions shall be released after virtual completion of the work.
- It is mandatory for the contractor to submit the photographs of items of work executed him attached to his claim.
- Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR shall be released after DLP is over successfully.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- 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.
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendor.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid. Besides, Original/Photocopies of documents related to bid be submitted physically /by registered post/through courier before date specified in Para-1.

No:-907-15
Dated:-27-06-2023
DIPK-4253-23
DT: 27/06/2023

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Landscaping Division,
Rajbagh, Srinagar

NIT Srinagar's Rajbhasha Cell organizes workshop for Ministerial, teaching staff

Hopeful to achieve 55 percent target by the end of this year: Prof. Yedla

Srinagar, June 27: The Rajbhasha Cell of the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Tuesday organized a day-long workshop on 'Measures to increase the use of official language Hindi in administrative works' for Ministerial, teaching staff of the institution.

Mr. Jagdish Ram Pauri, Joint Director, Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs was the main resource person for the workshop.

The event was presided over by Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. (Dr) Sudhakar Yedla, who was Chief Guest in the event and Institute's Registrar Prof. Syed Kaiser Bukhari was Guest of Honor on the occasion.

Asstt. Registrar (Audit), Mr. Mubashir Ahmad Wani, Assistant Registrar (Adm) Mohammad Iqbal Dar (Supervisor of Hindi Teaching; Rajbhasha Cell), Hindi Officer Dr. R P Shukla (Asst. Prof. CED), Coordinator of the event, Dr. Sabzar Gani Batoo and faculty coordinators of Rajbhasha cell and ministerial staff of NIT Srinagar attended the workshop.

In his key address, Mr. Jagdish Ram Pauri, Joint Director, Department of Official Language, MHA highlighted the brief history of Rajbhasha and its importance. He said the central government has taken steps to encourage the use and propagation of Hindi as Rajbhasha while also recognizing and supporting the diversity of languages in the country.

Mr. Pauri said on 14th September 1949, the Constituent Assembly adopted Hindi in Devanagari script as the official language of the Indian Union.

"Hindi is connecting language of the country and is being spoken by millions of people and is the dominant

language of the Indian subcontinent," he said.

While sharing his long association with the Hindi language, Mr. Pauri highlighted the rules and regulations of the Official language act.

"We need more efforts for its implementation and the main aim of organizing such events is to raise awareness regarding the official language," he added.

Addressing the workshop, Prof. Yedla appreciated the efforts of Rajbhasha Cell and Coordinators in implementing official language in the administrative work.

He also expressed his gratitude to resource person Mr. Jagdish Ram from MHA for extending their full support in achieving the target set up by the Parliamentary Committee to ensure Hindi is used increasingly in the administration.

"NIT Srinagar is putting its best efforts to make sure that all official orders come in bilingual form. So far we have achieved over 30 percent and we are very hopeful by this year target of 55 percent will be achieved," Director NIT said.

Prof. Yedla said during the recent elaborated meeting of Rajbhasha Cell,

all Deans, Heads of departments were instructed to involve the Hindi language in their official work.

"For the promotion of Hindi on the campus, we are planning to set up display boards in all departments to highlight word of the day in bilingual form," he said.

Institute's Registrar, Prof. Syed Kaiser Bukhari said various efforts are being taken to implement the Rajbhasha, and all important circulars and orders from the Institute are issued in the bilingual mode so that the Rajbhasha implementation target is achieved," he said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

PM Pitches

bank politics.

'Pasmanda', a term for backward classes among Muslims, often finds a mention in Prime Minister Modi's speeches, at party forum as well as government events, and how the government has worked for the deprived without any discrimination.

Modi said that in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, South India, especially in Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Tamil Nadu, and a number of other states, many castes were left behind from development because of the policy of appeasement.

He also said those supporting triple talaq were doing grave injustice to Muslim daughters.

Triple talaq was abolished in Egypt 80-90 years ago. If it is necessary, then why has it been abolished in Pakistan, Qatar and other Muslim-dominated nations, the prime minister said.

"Triple talaq doesn't just do injustice to daughters...entire families get ruined. If triple talaq is an essential part of Islam, then why was it banned in countries like Qatar, Jordan, Indonesia?" Modi asked. PTI

At Hazratbal, LG Sinha

Eid-ul-Azha is a festival of peace and harmony. The LG prayed for the peace and prosperity in J&K at the shrine.

Al-Badr Militant

acting on a specific input regarding the presence of a terrorist in village Hawoora, a joint cordon and search operation was launched by Police, Army (1st RR) and CRPF (18 Bn) in the area.

The statement reads that during the search operation, as the joint search party approached towards the suspected spot, the hiding terrorist fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party, in which one police personnel got injured who was subsequently shifted to hospital for treatment.

"The hiding terrorist was also given an opportunity to surrender, however he kept on firing on the joint forces. The fire was effectively retaliated, leading to an encounter. In the ensuing encounter, a local terrorist linked with proscribed terrorist outfit Al-Badr was killed and his body was retrieved from the site of encounter."

It added that he has been identified as Adil Majeed Lone son of Abdul Majeed Lone, a resident of Akbarabad, Hawoora, Kulgam.

"Incriminating materials, arms & ammunition including 01 Pistol with live ammunition and a grenade were recovered from the site of encounter. All the recovered material has been taken into case records for further investigation," the police statement said.

It reads that a case under relevant sections of law has been registered and further investigation is in progress.

9 Infiltrators Killed

and Army, security officials said Tuesday.

Both the joint operations are this year's major infiltration bids which were foiled in joint operations.

Kupwara district shares its border with neighbouring Pakistan. Over the last 2 to 3 years the hasn't seen any encounters. Peace has prevailed in the district with youth engaging in mainstream activities and taking up different opportunities for their own good.

Infiltration has always been a challenge in this district even during the 1990s. In recent years this district has seen narcotics as a major challenge given that it has been made as a gateway. A number of individuals were also detained for illegally acting as courier to transport drugs and narcotics. Desperate and hard attempts have been reported from time to time to push illicit things into the valley.

As per the details a total of 9 infiltrators were killed in two different joint operations of the Jammu and Kashmir police and Indian Army at the Line of Control (LoC) in Kupwara district in the ensuing month leading to the recovery of arms, ammunition, warlike stores and narcotics.

On June 16 this month five foreign militants were killed in a joint operation of Army and Police at Jumagand close to LoC. "The specific inputs were generated by Kupwara police about the likely infiltration and movement of the infiltrators," reveal the details.

From the killed infiltrators, the figures reveal that a huge quantity of arms, ammunition and other warlike stores was recovered. "Recoveries include 5AK-47 Rifles, 14 Hand Grenades, 500 AK rounds, Night Vision Goggles and other huge quantities of warlike stores," reveal the figures available.

The details available also reveal that on 23 June four foreign militants were killed in a joint operation close to the LoC in forward Machil sector.

"Four infiltrators were killed in a joint operation at Kala Jungle. They were killed while trying to infiltrate into this side. Huge quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered from them including the suspected narcotics as well," reveal the details.

The recoveries as per the figures include, 9-AK Rifles, 3 Pistol, 4, grenades, 288 AK & Pistol rounds. "Apart from these 55 suspected narcotics packets were also recovered from killed infiltrators."

On June 17 Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbagh Singh said that the continuous infiltration bids are being made along the LoC in the region to keep "terrorism alive." He also had said that this year major infiltration bids have been foiled but yes some terrorists have managed to enter into this side from Rajouri-ponch and Kupwara sectors.

Notably earlier on 03 May, two infiltrators were killed in a joint operation at Pichnad in Machil sector. As per the figures available a total of 2 AK 47 Rifles, 8 AK 47 Magazines with 159 rounds, 2 hand grenades, eatables and cigarettes with Pakistan markings were recovered from them. "Pakistan currency of rupees 660 was also recovered from the killed infiltrators in Machil sector."

Security forces in all the aforementioned operations stated that these infiltration attempts were aimed to disrupt peace in the valley. Also they appreciated the close synergy between the Indian Army and Jammu

and Kashmir police. Besides the role of troops deployed close to the LoC received appreciation for braving the extremely difficult conditions including bad weather conditions—(KNO)

This Eid, Business

middle-class people are facing the music when they have to get the necessary items on Eid despite facing a huge financial crunch.

Sameer Ahmad, a trader from Anantnag, said that despite Covid restrictions in the last two years, sales were good and whosoever was visiting his shop was at purchasing at least a couple of items.

This time, the sales remained at an "all-time low" because the customers are not in a position to afford items.

Another trader from Srinagar said, "Sales on Eid-ul-Fitr were low but today, it is very low". We are very much worried, he said, adding, "Inflation and poverty due to Covid-19 lockdowns have badly hit J&K and the poor are hardly able to make ends meet."

Irfan Ahmad, a shopkeeper dealing with readymade garments, said he used to make lakhs of rupees in sales on festive occasions but this year, very few customers are visiting his shop. "One out of ten customers is able to afford an item," he said.

President of Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), Javid Ahmad Bhat says that business is slumping in Kashmir as well as in other parts of the country, including Delhi, due to the recession. He said that online shopping is also playing a part as the young generation prefers online shopping.

"Market is not good, and as per the ground situation, business is down by around 50 percent as compared to Eid-ul-Azha last year," he said.

He said the horticulture sector was hit last year and its impact is coming to the fore. The handicrafts and industries are also suffering badly.

According to the President Kashmir Traders and Manufacturers Federation (KTMF) Mohammad Yaseen Khan business is down mainly because of inflation and markets are witnessing a very low rush.

He said that people owe money to financial institutions as in the last few years, business was almost on halt and people have to first clear the debt amount.

"There is no business on the ground that too on the festival. We won't say how much percent down is business but the fact is that there is no business on the ground," Khan said, adding, "Even the main markets that used to remain jam-packed on such occasions are deserted today."

The KTMF president said the government has been spending money for development purposes like Smart City Project and they can't do anything about inflation—(KNO)

Eid-ul-Azha Holidays

of 2022 dated 30.12.2022 and Government Order No. 1597-JK(GAD) of 2022 dated 30.12.2022, it is hereby ordered that the holiday on account of "Eid-ul-Azha" shall now be observed on 29th & 30th June, 2023 (Thursday

& Friday) instead of 28th & 29th June, 2023 (Wednesday & Thursday) in the Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir," the order reads.

Ladakh Innovator

Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. Then thousands of people from all over Ladakh joined him as he completed his five-day hunger strike in sub-zero temperatures.

Sonam Wangchuk, whose remarkable life story inspired the blockbuster '3 Idiots', sat on a hunger strike to draw the attention of the central government and the world to the environmental hazards the Union Territory faced, and seek safeguards for an eco-fragile Ladakh.

Born in 1966, Mr Wangchuk, a mechanical engineer and director of the Himalayan Institute of Alternatives, Ladakh (HIAL), is a recipient of the Magsaysay Award in 2018.

Mr Wangchuk inspired the fictional character of Phunsukh Wangdu essayed by Aamir Khan in '3 Idiots', which was released in 2009.

The Ladakh-based engineer is known for setting up his innovative school, the Students' Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh (SECMOL), whose campus runs on solar energy and uses no fossil fuels for cooking, lighting, or heating.

He set up the SECMOL in 1988 with the aim of supporting Ladakhi children and youth and training the students whom the system termed as failures.

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In 1994, Mr Wangchuk launched Operation New Hope to bring reforms to the government school system.

Amarnath Yatra:

to Holy Shrine of Swami Amarnath Ji to perform puja and have "Darshan" on early morning of "Shravan Purnima", the 7 August 31 after having night halts at Pahalgam on August 26 and 27, Chandanwari on August 28, Sheshnag on August 29 and Pancharani on August 30, respectively.

Mahant Deependra Giri ji has also advised sadhus and members of civil society to get themselves registered who intend to join Chhari-Mubarak and stated that only registered sadhus and pilgrims with valid Yatra Permit shall be allowed to accompany Chhari-Mubarak during the pilgrimage.

Meanwhile, Jammu administration has set up five spot registration centers of which two has been kept exclusively for the Sadhus.

"All arrangements are in place and the district administration is on its toes to welcome the pilgrims of Shri Amarnath Yatra," said Avny Lavasa, Deputy Commissioner Jammu.

She said that across the Jammu district, 33 accommodation centres have been established that included Sabhas, Sarais and Lodges," adding, "at Bhagwati Nagar based Yatri Niwas, only registered pilgrims will be allowed to enter."

On 'Tatkal registration' the Deputy Commissioner said that pilgrims will get their token number from Saraswati Dham, near Jammu Railway Station and the place and date for registration will be mentioned in the token

for which Aadhar card of the pilgrims is mandatory. The administration has established five 'Tatkal' (urgent) registration counters at prominent locations of Jammu city.

"In all five counters have been established for Tatkal registration of the pilgrims at Vaishnavi Dham, Mahajan Sabha, Panchayat Ghar and two at Geeta Bhawan and Ram Mandir for the registration of Sadhus," she added.

"Medical examination will be done at the registration centre itself. Apart from this, pilgrims can get their medical examination done before registration at the Government Hospital, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, Government Hospital, Sarwal, Jammu, Rajiv Gandhi Hospital, Gangyal, Jammu," the district administration chief stated.

Lavasa further added that the pilgrims after collecting the token, can register themselves by paying the charge of Rs. 220 at the Vaishnavi Dham (Railway Station, Jammu), Panchayat Bhawan, (Railway Station, Jammu), Mahajan Sabha (Shalamar Road, Jammu), Ram Mandir, Purani Mandi (Only) for Sadhus/Saints and Geeta Bhawan, Parade (Only for Sadhus/Saints).

"Pilgrims shall be provided RFID Tag at the registration centre itself which is mandatory with the pilgrims permit," she said.

"The pilgrims are allowed to move in and out from Yatri Niwas from 10 am to 6 pm and those going by private vehicles, shall report at Yatri Bhawan Bhagwati Nagar after getting fuel filled before 10 pm to join the convoy of registered pilgrims," she said.

The Deputy Commissioner also said that pre-registration (online) pilgrims can get their RFID tags at Yatri Niwas and Railway Station, Jammu.

The district administration has also fixed fare based upon the distance for commercial vehicles to facilitate the pilgrims and also to prevent the overcharging by the operators.

Administration however, has also planned 'Jammu Darshan' for the pilgrims to boost tourism and attract more tourists to Jammu and Kashmir. So far, around 3 lakh pilgrims have reportedly registered themselves online for the yatra.

Situation From Kashmir

government authority finds any cogent evidence with regard to commissioning of the offence of sedition, it may grant permission. It is only after the grant of permission that the FIR under Section 124 A of the IPC shall be lodged," he said.

"We have also recommended that the central government may issue guidelines which are to be followed in case of commission of any such offence and the said guidelines may clarify as to under what circumstances the said offence was committed," the former chief justice of the Karnataka High Court said.

He also said that the law panel has not made any recommendation for enhancement of punishment "as such".

According to existing provision of section 124A, punishment can be up to three years imprisonment, with or

without fine, which may go up to imprisonment for life, with or without fine.

"We have found that there is a big gap in the punishment provision as the punishment of up to three years imprisonment or a punishment of life imprisonment with or without fine may be given.

"We found this gap to be very odd and, therefore, we have said that this punishment of up to three years with or without fine maybe increased to seven years with or without fine," he explained.

It will give discretion to the courts while imposing the punishment, he said, adding that if the courts find that the offence of sedition is proved and feel that the punishment of three years would be less, but the punishment of life in jail would be very severe, "it will have the discretion to give the punishment up to seven years with or without fine".

"In fact, if you see the punishments provided for various offences under IPC, you will not find any such big gap. The Law Commission had earlier too considered this issue and made its recommendations on the same terms in its previous two reports," he pointed out.

He said the panel considered that the special Acts such as the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the National Security Act operate in different fields and do not cover the offence of sedition, and the provisions of the law on sedition are necessary to be retained in the IPC.

"We have held that the law on sedition is a reasonable restriction under Article 19 (2) of the Constitution of India," he pointed out.

Justice Awasthi felt that sedition being a colonial legacy is "not a valid ground for its repeal".

"The realities differ in every jurisdiction. Even countries such as the United States, Canada, Australia, Germany, the Netherlands, Ireland, Spain, Norway and Malaysia have the law on sedition in their country in one form or the other," he said.

So far as the United Kingdom is concerned, the Law Commission of the UK had recommended the repeal of law on sedition in 1977.

"But the law on sedition was repealed only in 2009 only when the sufficient range of other provisions to deal with sedition-like offences were enacted and the threat of secessionist subversive activities from the Irish Republican Army (IRA) ceased to exist following the signing of the Good Friday Agreement in 1998.

"So, even the UK has sufficient safeguard to deal with the offences affecting the security and integrity of their State," he explained.

In order to provide clarity to section 124A, the panel has suggested to add words "with a tendency to incite violence or cause public disorder". It has been borrowed from the judgment of the Constitution bench of the Supreme Court in the case of Kedarnath Singh.

The Kedarnath Singh judgment still holds the field and is the settled proposition of law, he said.

Awasthi said the panel has also suggested to add one explanation defining the expression 'tendency'.

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

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2023 ODI WC: India To Play Across 9 Cities, Face Pakistan On October 15

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Indian team led by Rohit Sharma will be the most travelled team among top contenders in the upcoming ODI World Cup, covering a distance of approximately 8400 km while crisscrossing nine cities for nine league games in 34 days.

In case India reaches semi-final and then the final, the distance covered would be close to 9700 km for 11 games in 42 days.

While 8400 kms in 34 days might not seem a lot, considering that Indian players will finish their games around 11 pm and will have a flight to catch every third day, it indeed becomes very tiresome after gruelling 100 over games.

When Indian team plays at home, it usually travels by char-

ter flights and not by commercial flights which reduces the duration and distance travelled considerably but business class is not available always. Little leg space will make it tough for fast bowlers. India is the only team that will play league games in each of the nine cities.

All other prominent teams play at least two games in one city. Hence once team lands in Chennai for the Australia game, the aerial distance traversed will be in this order: Chennai to Delhi (1761 km), Delhi to Ahmedabad (775 km), Ahmedabad to Pune (516 km), Pune to Dharamsala (1936 km), Dharamsala to Lucknow (748 km), Lucknow to Mumbai (1190 km), Mumbai to Kolkata (1652 km) and Kolkata to Bengaluru (1544 km). The cumulative distance travelled is 8361 km.



"In case of Indian team, you can't deny any of the nine associations a chance to watch

their stars in action. You had to accommodate each and every member association and hence it's a bit choc-a-bloc," a BCCI official told PTI on Tuesday.

Also the schedule is such that first team players won't get any time for net sessions between the games as there is hardly three-day gap.

Most sessions will be physical ones keeping the physical condition of players in mind.

SECURITY MAKES IT EASY FOR PAKISTAN

Pakistan are scheduled to play two games each in Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata and Bengaluru. The only single-city game for Pakistan is in Ahmedabad where they take on India in a high-stakes match on October 15.

While Rohit and his players

will travel extensively, Babar Azam's side will travel around 6849 km. More importantly it will get a week each in two cities --Hyderabad at the start of the tournament and Chennai during the final week of October.

Pakistan will play their first two matches (October 6,12) against two Qualifiers in Hyderabad. They will travel from Hyderabad to Ahmedabad (876 km), Ahmedabad to Bengaluru (1235), Bengaluru to Chennai (284 km), Chennai to Kolkata (1366 km), Kolkata to Bengaluru (1544 km) and Bengaluru to Kolkata (1544 km).

While security is one of the reasons that Pakistan gets to play in three South Indian and one Eastern India city, it helps to acclimatize better with conditions by spending more time in a city.

JKFA General Body Elections: Election Committee Formed



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Football Association (JKFA) on Tuesday announced the formation of an Election Committee to oversee the upcoming JKFA General Body Elections.

The decision came after the JKFA interim body met with All India Football Federation's Head of Legal Affairs, Nilanjan Bhattacharjee, on June 25.

"In order to ensure a transparent and fair election, an Election Assistance Committee/Working Committee/Day-to-day Affairs Committee was formed," the association said.

The committee will work closely with the Returning Officer that will be appointed by the J&K Sports Council and AIFF to oversee the election process. Nazir Ahmad Andrabi has been nominated to be the Chairman of this committee.

Other members of the com-

mittee include: Professor Bashir Ahmad Shah as the General Secretary, Nazir Ahmad Bhat (HOR JKFA), Naseemul Gani Lone, Mohammad Latif Bhat, Iftikhar Lone, Kuldeep Singh, Ramesh Chander, Surinder Sharma, Arun Pal Singh Jasrotia, and Moon Madan Stephen.

"One of the key responsibilities of the Returning Officer will be to align the Constitution of the JKFA in accordance with the guidelines set by the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and National Sports Code," the FA wrote.

"We are pleased to share that during the recent District Football Association (DFA) elections, the outdated 5:1 voting rule and the concept of direct members were abolished," it added.

The Election Assistance/Working Committee will assume charge of all association affairs till the conclusion of the elections.

Secretary Tourism Discusses Promotion Of Adventure, Motor Sports



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Secretary Tourism and Culture, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, on Tuesday interacted with VM Sports Foundation regarding promotion of adventure and motor sports in Jammu and Kashmir.

The foundation representatives headed by Vamcy Merla desired to join hands with Tourism Department in its initiatives towards promotion of Adventure Sports and Motor Sports in J&K supporting the local young talent in this regard.

The Secretary asked the VM Sports Foundation to train the local youth of J&K in motor sports activities and organise off-road events for channelising the untapped sport's potential.

Secretary, while mentioning the role of VM Foundation, appreciated their efforts in promoting motorsports in India and abroad. He asked the foundation to come up with a complete action plan for honing the skills of the youth of J&K in such spheres.

Dr Shah, while expressing his keenness to see the adventure activities happening at grass-

roots level, visualised the revival of sport's culture in all parts of the UT. He shared his belief with the delegation about the power of sports being capable to invigorate the youth and also help sports Tourism which in turn creates a strong economic chain to benefit the stakeholders and local population.

Secretary also assured concerted efforts for revival of popular Mughal road rally in J&K, a national off-road activity that has considerable following of motorsports fans from all over the country.

Ashwin Naik, Lokesh Gowda and Amrit Pal Singh Bali, national names in rally sports and sports writers, were also present in the meeting and briefed the Secretary about the working of motorsports and VM Foundation.

Secretary assured all support from the Tourism department to the foundation, the gesture was well reciprocated by the representatives by assuring the Secretary to collaborate and associate at all levels for making the sports canvas of UT a vibrant hub of adventure and rally sports.

ICC 'Confident' Pakistan Will Play WC In India

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is still apprehensive about sending its team to India for the ODI World Cup but International Cricket Council (ICC) is "confident" that the Babar Azam-led team will compete in the 50-over showpiece.

The ICC on Tuesday announced the fixtures for the October 5-November 19 tournament and rejected PCB's request to

"Our participation in the World Cup and us playing in Ahmedabad on October 15 or in Mumbai if we qualify for semi-finals will all be dependent on government clearance," said a PCB official.

The PCB official said the government has not yet issued any NOC to the PCB to travel to India and since it was a sensitive issue, the Board can only move forward after getting clear directives from its government.

"We have already informed

in 2016 in the T20 World Cup. The two teams play each other in the ICC events and Asia Cup due to the tense relations between the two countries. The ICC not entertaining Pakistan's request to relocate two matches was on expected lines as it usually addresses concerns over venues on potential security threat and not on cricketing grounds.

With the elections for the post of PCB chairman now postponed at least until July 17, it remains to be seen how the



not schedule their matches in Chennai and Bengaluru against specific teams.

PCB did not want to play Afghanistan on a spin-friendly track in Chennai and also wanted to avoid facing Australia in Bengaluru. As part of the announcement in Mumbai, it was confirmed that Pakistan will lock horns with India in Ahmedabad on October 15 and take on Australia (October 20) and Afghanistan (October 23) at pre-decided venues.

Soon after the announcement, the PCB made it clear that its participation in the ODI World Cup will be subject to government clearance.

the ICC that our participation in the tournament or any issues over venues is linked to firstly the PCB getting clearance from the government to travel to India," the official said.

Pakistan have a signed participation agreement to compete and the world governing body "100% expects them to be there and has had no indications to the contrary".

"All members have to abide by the rules and the laws of their country and we respect that. But we're confident Pakistan will be in India for the men's cricket World Cup," an ICC spokesperson told PTI.

Pakistan last played in India

Board reacts to the World Cup schedule announcement.

With the Balochistan High Court issuing a stay order against the holding of elections for the Chairman's post on Monday on petitions filed by two former members of the PCB's cricket management committee, confusion reigns in Pakistan cricket at the moment.

After Najam Sethi's resignation, the Board is being run by interim chairman Ahmed Shehzad Farooq Rana.

Zaka Ashraf, nominated for the chairman's post, has to win votes of the Board of Governors to officially take charge of the key post.

Oppn Questions Ahmedabad Getting 'Prominence' In WC Schedule

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: As the ICC announced the ODI World Cup fixtures, some Opposition leaders on Tuesday hinted at political interference in scheduling, raising questions over Ahmedabad getting big-ticket matches while their home states miss out.

There will be a total of 10 venues for the marquee tournament -- Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Dharamsala, Delhi, Chennai, Lucknow, Pune, Bengaluru, Mumbai and Kolkata.

Taking to Twitter, senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor said, "Disappointed to see that Thiruvananthapuram's #SportsHub, hailed by many as the best cricket stadium in India, is missing from the #WorldCup2023 fixture list."

"Ahmedabad is becoming the new cricket capital of the country, but could a match or two not have been allotted to Kerala?" he said.

Punjab Sports Minister Gurmeet Singh Meht Hayer condemned the exclusion of Mohali from the list of host cities in the schedule released for the ODI Cricket World Cup 2023.



He described the decision as being motivated by political reasons and said the state government led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann will raise the issue of this "discrimination".

He said several high-profile matches were held in the Mohali stadium, including the world cup semi-finals in 1996 and 2011, but still it was not included to host any match this time.

He alleged that there was "political interference" in the functioning of the BCCI. "Everyone knows who is heading BCCI".

Pointing out that Dharamshala will host five matches, Hayer said Mohali is a much

bigger stadium in terms of capacity and Punjab has better facilities for hosting such games but it has been ignored.

The Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad -- the world's largest with a seating capacity of 1,32,000 spectators, 32,000 more than the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) -- will play host to the big-ticket ODI World Cup group match between India and Pakistan on October 15, besides staging the grand finale on November 19, the ICC announced on Tuesday.

The tournament will begin on October 5 with a clash between defending champions England and runners-up New Zealand at the Ahmedabad stadium. The two semifinals of the mega event will be played at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium and the Eden Gardens in Kolkata, as per the schedule announced on Tuesday.

There will be 10 teams at this year's World Cup. As hosts, India have qualified directly, as have Afghanistan, Australia, England, Bangladesh, New Zealand, Pakistan, and South Africa through the 2020-2023 ICC Cricket World Cup Super League.

2nd Ashes Test: Pacer Tongue Replaces Moeen Ali



Press Trust of India

LONDON: Worcestershire fast bowler Josh Tongue was surprisingly recalled by England for the second Ashes test against Australia at Lord's after Moeen Ali injured his spinning finger.

The only change by England after losing the first test at Edgbaston by two wickets has set up an all-seam attack in the second match starting on Wednesday.

Tongue made his test debut this month against Ireland on a slow pitch at Lord's and took 5-66 in the second innings of a 10-wicket win.

He's been chosen ahead of Mark Wood, England's fastest bowler who hasn't played a test since December, Chris Foakes and Matthew Potts.

Ali badly blistered his right index finger at Edgbaston because of a heavy workload after coming out of test retirement. Coach Brendon McCullum said he would play if fully fit and Ali appeared to prove it on Monday at training.

But England will use Joe Root's part-time off-breaks beside a seam attack of James Anderson, Stuart Broad, Ollie Robinson and Tongue.

England: Ben Duckett, Zak Crawley, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Ben Stokes (captain), Jonathan Bairstow, Stu-

art Broad, Ollie Robinson, Josh Tongue, James Anderson.

AUSTRALIA'S CUMMINS CONSIDERING STARC RECALL

Australia's left-arm quick Mitchell Starc could be in contention to return to the bowling attack for the second Ashes test at Lord's but captain Pat Cummins said he may delay a decision on the final lineup closer to Wednesday's toss.

The Lord's pitch appeared reasonably green two days before the test and, should it remain that way, is expected to provide more pace and bounce than the flat track for the opener at Birmingham, where Australia won by two wickets.

Cummins said the weather may also come into play, with heavy clouds forecast for Wednesday potentially altering the surface, as he faces a selection headache with Starc, Scott Boland and Josh Hazlewood vying for two slots in the pace attack.

"I think it's a factor, well see," Cummins told reporters on Tuesday. "We'll work it out tomorrow, give the wicket another day, see what they do with it, see what the weather's like."

"I thought everyone who played last week did a great job. We've got Starc there obviously who didn't play last week who comes into the conversation as well."

Institutional Racism & Sexism Infects English Cricket: Report

Press Trust of India

LONDON: Institutional racism, sexism and class-based discrimination continue to infect English cricket, an independent commission has found.

A long-awaited report into the state of the sport was published on Tuesday by the Independent Commission for Equity in Cricket, known as the ICEC. Among its findings, racism was "entrenched" in the English game, women were treated as "second-class citizens," and cricket was a rare option in state schools.

Then, if anybody wanted to complain about the problems, the ICEC says the system was confusing and not fit for purpose.

England and Wales Cricket Board chair Richard Thompson issued a public apology and described the report as a "wake up call."

"I apologize unreservedly to anyone who has ever been excluded from cricket or made to feel like they don't belong," Thompson said.

"Powerful conclusions within the report also highlight that for too long women and Black people were neglected. We are truly sorry for this."

English cricket was rocked in

2020 when former Yorkshire player Azeem Rafiq said he was a victim of racial harassment and bullying through two spells at the nation's most successful club from 2008-18.

During a tearful testimony at a parliamentary hearing in 2021, he spoke of the Islamophobia and bullying he was subjected to. "Do I believe I lost my career to racism? Yes, I do," Rafiq said at the hearing.

The ICEC was commissioned in November 2020 as part of the ECB's wide-ranging effort to address allegations of discrimination and improve equality, diversity and inclusion in cricket. The findings were initially scheduled to be reported last year.

The report calls for "decisive action," makes 44 recommendations and a number of sub-recommendations. The ECB said some reforms could be "implemented swiftly" but others would require "fundamental, longer-term changes to

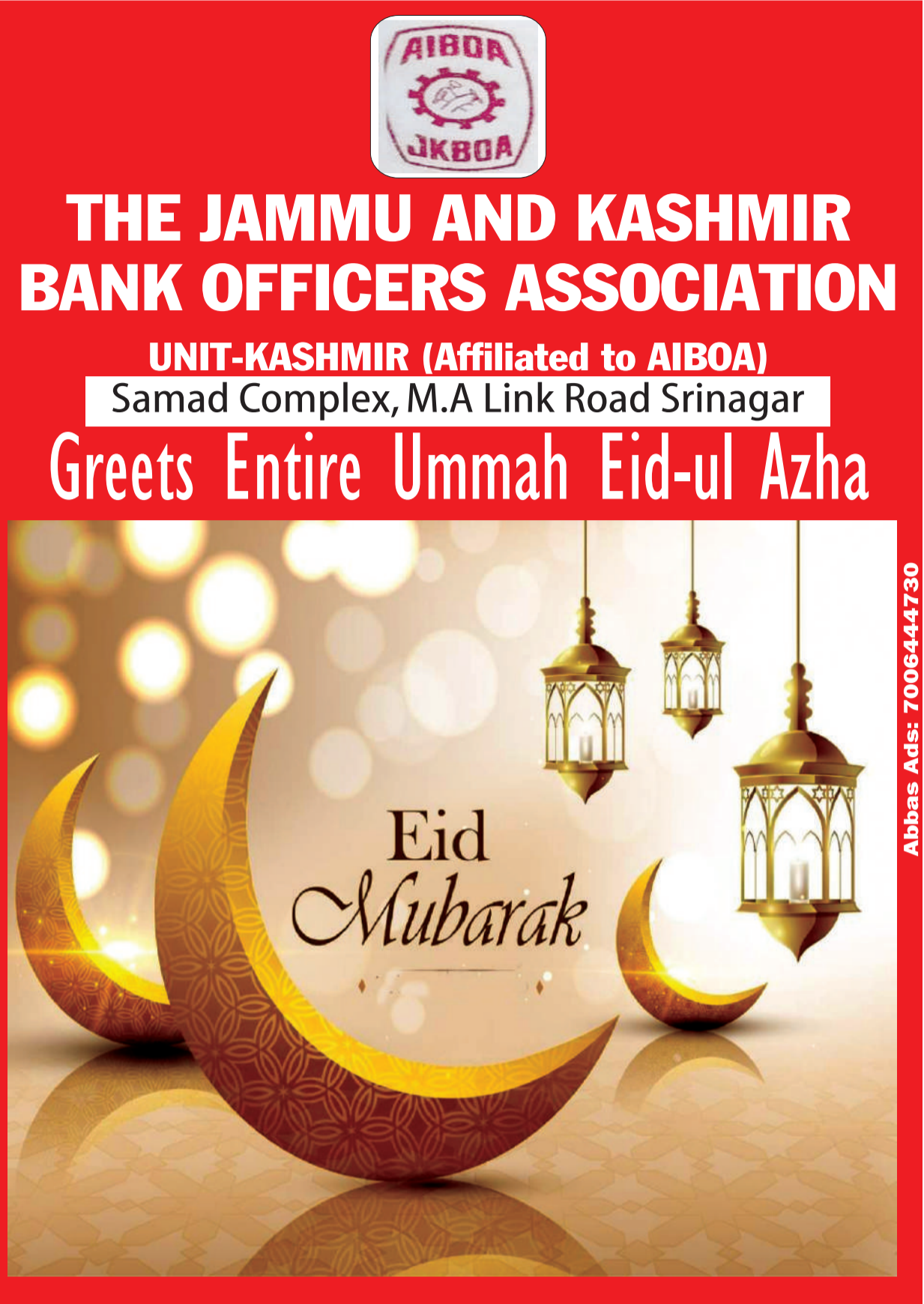
cricket in England and Wales, and its funding model." Thompson said the ruling body would take three months to consult with affected communities and form a plan of action, on timelines set out by the ICEC.





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