

Valley To Get Respite From Above-Average Day Temperatures Soon: IMD

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The Kashmir Valley has been witnessing erratic weather conditions this year as an extended period of cold is currently being followed by a sudden rise in temperature, causing discomfort to tourists and residents alike.

The weatherman has attributed the rising temperatures to a prolonged dry spell in the valley.

"We have witnessed dry spells which have resulted in rise in temperatures. In the month of July, temperature is likely to remain around 30 to 31



KO Photo / Abid Bhat

6 IN KASHMIR TEMPERATURE USUALLY REMAINS MODERATE AND PRECIPITATION HAPPENS IMMEDIATELY after 34 degree Celsius. Experts say that this is due to the effects of global warming, the melting of glaciers which leads to a rise in water levels in the water bodies as well."

degrees Celsius in the valley and 35 degrees Celsius in Jammu. It is summer here and the weather is not unusual," Director Meteorological Department Sonam Lotus told PTL.

He said while the temperature is very high, there are no heatwave conditions.

"There is a possibility of light showers on July 4 and 5. And morning showers are anticipated between July 6 to 8. But there is no forecast of heavy rainfall yet. In Ladakh, the temperature will mostly remain dry but light showers can be expected at some

places. Temperatures will fluctuate but the high temperature will not persist," Lotus said.

This year the highest temperature was recorded at 35 degrees Celsius in June, he added.

Lotus said as the temperature is quite high, there is a possibility of localised flash floods in some parts of Jammu and Kashmir in case of heavy rainfall.

He, however, ruled out the possibility of major floods in view of the raised groundwater table in the valley caused by unseasonal rains in the month of May.

"The temperature **More on P10**

LG Okays Priority Works For Year 2023-24

Recommendations Made In Chief Secretaries' Conference Part Of The Priorities

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In an important decision, the Administrative Council (AC) under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Tuesday approved a comprehensive list of priority works for all departments for the financial year 2023-24.

LG's Advisor Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Chief Secretary Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, besides LG's Principal Secretary Mandeep Kumar Bhandari attended the meeting.

According to an official spokesperson, these priority works are clearly delineated deliverables and area unique initiative introduced by the Government of Jammu & Kashmir during the last financial year whereby the priority works with respect to each department were identified and timelines were defined to achieve them.

He said that the exercise of framing the detailed departmental deliverables and fixing tangible and time-bound targets; was undertaken in consultation with concerned departments and timelines were laid down on monthly, quarterly, half-yearly and yearly basis.

"The deliverables primarily include various developmental projects, service delivery improvements, revenue generation, welfare initiatives and other core activities pertaining to each department," the spokesperson said.

During the last financial year, he said, a total of 1137 deliverables were assigned to the departments. Besides, he said, the divisional and district administrations prioritized implementation of these departmental deliverables by undertaking proper planning, assessment and gap analysis for timely action to achieve the targets set out.

"The implementation of these deliverables was monitored through a structured mechanism at the Secretariat level and achievements, both at the Secretariat and district levels and ranking was carried out on monthly basis, thereby generating a healthy competition amongst various wings of the Government," he added. **More on P10**

Article 370 Thing Of Past, No Going Back: Shah Faesal

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Days ahead of a scheduled hearing of a batch of pleas related to the abrogation of Article 370 before a five-judge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court, IAS officer Shah Faesal on Tuesday said the constitutional provision is a thing of the past and there is no going back.

"(Article) 370, for many Kashmiris like me, is a thing of the past. Jhelum and Ganga have merged in the great Indian Ocean for good. There is only marching forward," Faesal wrote on Twitter.

A 2010-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, Faesal was detained for more than a year after the provisions of Article 370 were abrogated and the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir was bifurcated into Union territories in August 2019. He resigned from service and launched the Jammu Kashmir People's Movement, a political entity, in January 2019.

The government, however, did not accept his



ARTICLE 370, FOR MANY KASHMIRIS LIKE ME, IS A THING OF THE PAST. Jhelum and Ganga have merged in the great Indian Ocean for good. There is no going back. There is only marching forward."

resignation and Faesal, who is also a doctor, was subsequently posted to the Union Ministry of Culture.

Faesal filed a petition in the Supreme Court in 2019, challenging the Centre's decision to scrap

Article 370. In April 2022, the government accepted Faesal's application for withdrawing his resignation from service and reinstated him. The same month, Faesal filed an application in the court seeking the deletion of his name from the list of seven petitioners who had challenged the scrapping of Article 370.

Nearly four years after the government abrogated Article 370 that bestowed a special status on the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud will take up a batch of pleas challenging the decision for hearing on July 11.

The apex court will take the batch of over 20 petitions which have challenged the constitutional validity of the Centre's decision, reports said. The petitions have claimed that constitutional provisions were violated while making the decision. According to a notice published on the apex court's website on Monday, the bench will take up the pleas for passing directions. **More on P10**



Hope SC Will Expedite Hearings: Omar

National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Tuesday hoped that the Supreme Court will expedite the hearings in the petitions challenging the Centre's decision to revoke Article 370 and reorganise the erstwhile state into two union territories. Nearly four years after the government abrogated the provisions of Article 370 that bestowed a special status on the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud will take up a batch of pleas **More on P10**

J&K Bank Shares Soar All Time High In 5 Years

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Bank achieved another milestone on Tuesday as the shares of the bank touched five-year high, bringing cheers to the investors.

In the last financial year, the bank earned the highest-ever net annual profit of nearly Rs 1200 crore, earning laurels within and outside J&K. The bank shares have been soaring since.

On Tuesday, JKB shares touched 5 year high at 66.30 and closed at 65.55 amid high trading and the volume of trading was 3.25 crore, officials said. The bank had 17% gains in the last 5 trading sessions.

"It is indeed a historical day given



the strong fundamentals and customer friendly policies of the bank," the officials said.

The bank, they said, has also decided to issue dividend to its shareholders after a gap of several years.

"Investors have gained confidence in the bank and Market is responding positively to the developments and policies of the bank," they added.

According to officials, J&K Bank, a household name in Jammu and Kashmir, has 998 branches and over 1400 ATMs operating across 18 states and 4 Union Territories.

Pertinently, in last financial year, Jammu and Kashmir Bank has recorded Rs 1,197 crore as net profit for FY 2022-23 which is the highest ever annual profit."

With a decade-high capital adequacy ratio of 15.39 per cent and NPAs at an eight-year low of 6.04 per cent, the bank also recorded its highest quarterly profit of **More on P10**



Azad Welcomes SC Decision

Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) chief Ghulam Nabi Azad on Tuesday welcomed the Supreme Court's recent announcement that it will hear a batch of petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution on July 11. Nearly four years after the government abrogated the provisions of Article 370 that bestowed a special status on the **More on P10**

AMARNATH YATRA

CRPF Chief Joins Pilgrims, Reviews Security

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: CRPF Director General Sujoy Lal Thaosan Tuesday accompanied a batch of pilgrims heading to the Baltal base camp for the Amarnath Yatra in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district after reviewing security arrangements at the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here.

The 62-day long annual pilgrimage to the 3,880-metre high holy cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir Himalayas commenced from the traditional 48-km Pahalgam track in Anantnag district and shorter 14-km Baltal route on July 1.

"During visit to J&K @sthaosen, DG @crpfndia, reviewed the security arrangements made for the ongoing Sh Amarnath ji yatra . He



visited Bhagwati Nagar yatriniwas (Jammu). He also interacted with the pilgrims and took their feedback," the CRPF wrote on its official Twitter handle.

In another tweet, it said, "Continuing with his review of SANJY **More on P10**

Govt Duty-Bound To Ensure Safety Of Marrying Couples: HC

M Ahmad

Srinagar, July 4: Police as well as officials of the concerned Civil Administration must ensure that the marrying individuals who are major and have chosen to become husband and wife out of their free will are protected, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh has said.

Disposing of a petition filed by the individuals, Anuradha and Ashwani Kumar, a bench of Justice Rahul Bharti ordered Senior Superintendent of Police Jammu to direct SHO Akhnoor to ensure that the couple was not subjected to any harassment, intimidation or threats at the hands of their families or any other person acting at their behest.



Referring to Supreme Court's judgment in case of Lata Singh vs. State of UP and another 2006, the court observed that a direction has been set into effect for the government administration and police authorities throughout the Country to see to it that if any boy or girl who is a major undergoes inter-caste or inter-religious

marriage with a girl or boy who is also major, then the marrying individuals are not to be harassed by any one nor to be subjected to threats or acts of violence.

In case any such threat or harassment is confronted to be inflicted on the individuals then the persons responsible for holding out such threats, harassments are to be taken to task by instituting criminal proceedings by the Police against such persons and further stern action to be taken as provided by law, the court said.

"Article 144 of the Constitution of India mandates all Authorities, Civil and Judicial, in the territory of India to act in aid of the Supreme Court," **More on P10**

Floriculture Officer Held Over Labourers Suicide Bid EJAC Seeks Thorough Probe, Demands Exemplary Punishment To Guilty

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Police have arrested an officer of Floriculture department in South Kashmir's Anantnag district for allegedly 'provoking' three daily wagers to take an extreme step of 'attempted' self immolation.

Reliable sources told Kashmir Observer that three daily wagers of the floriculture department tried self immolation on Monday, following their transfer to the tourist resort of Pahalgam in south Kashmir.

The incident, sources said, triggered massive protests in the area with protesters blocking the main road, and demanding

exemplary punishment to the accused officer. However a police team instantly reached the spot and assured protesters that action as per law will be taken against the guilty.

Confirming arrest of the officer, a police official said, three persons working as daily wagers at Botanical Garden Kokernag were shifted to the hospital after they attempted self immolation.

"The trio was shifted to nearby hospital for treatment and later referred to the Sub-District Hospital Kokernag, wherein condition of one of the three daily wagers is stated to be critical," he added.

He said, the **More on P10**

S H O R T T A K E S

Two Himachal Youth Feared Drowned

Two youths hailing from Himachal Pradesh were feared drowned in Ranjit Sagar dam in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, a police official said. Gagan (20) and Sahil (19), both residents of Sadar Bazar area of Dalhousie, were taking bath when they ventured into the deep waters and went missing around 4.15 pm, he said. The official said the police, along with the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), launched a rescue operation to trace out the youths

Two Extortionists Held In Baramulla

Police on Tuesday arrested two alleged extortionists from Baramulla district of North Kashmir. Mudasir Ahmad Wani of Sangri and Yasir Rashid Rafter of Malpora Sheeri were arrested by police on the basis of a written complaint filed by Faisal Bashir of Kanlibagh alleging that the duo, claiming to be affiliated with a political party, approached his family to get his father Bashir Ahmad Saleh released from the custody against a cash payment of Rs 1 lakh, a police **More on P10**

LG Greets People On Guru Hargobind's Prakash Parv

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha has greeted the people on the eve of Prakash Parv of Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji. In his message, the Lt Governor said, "On the auspicious occasion of Prakash Parv of Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji, I extend my hearty greetings and best wishes to the people." "Guru Hargobind Ji was embodiment of sacrifice and universal brotherhood, who taught the humanity importance **More on P10**

Lolab Youth Allegedly Ends Life

A young man from North Kashmir's Kupwara district allegedly ended his life by consuming some poisonous substance, a local news agency KNT reported Tuesday. The incident occurred in Kakadpati Devar hamlet of Lolab Valley. The report further said that the deceased youth, who passed away at the hospital, was in his twenties. Police have taken cognizance of the incident and registered a case under relevant sections of law. **More on P10**

Jio Telecom State Head Calls On LG

Shehzan Hameed, State Head, Jio Telecom called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan on Tuesday. Hameed apprised the Lt Governor on mobile connectivity for the devotees of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra on both Chandanwari and Baltal routes. The Lt Governor and Shehzan Hameed discussed availability of high quality infrastructure and strengthening of mobile connectivity for devotees. "It is the top priority of the administration to ensure the pilgrims have a **More on P10**

SIU Files Chargesheet Against OGW, Militant

The State Investigation Unit (SIU-II) Srinagar presented a chargesheet before the special designated NIA court Srinagar against a militant associate and an active militant. A police spokesman in a statement issued here said that the SIU-II Srinagar presented a chargesheet before the special designated NIA court Srinagar in a case under FIR number 02/2023 under section 8/21 NDPS Act, 302 IPC & 13, 18, 20, 38, 39, 40 UA (P) Act of Police Station Kothibagh against a militant associate **More on P10**

City Mayor Visits Pantha Chowk Yatra Camp, Reviews Arrangements

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Mayor of Srinagar, Junaid Azim Mattu along with Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Athar Aamir Khan Tuesday visited Pantha Chowk Yatra Camp to review the arrangements made by the authorities for the



smooth conduct of the yatra.

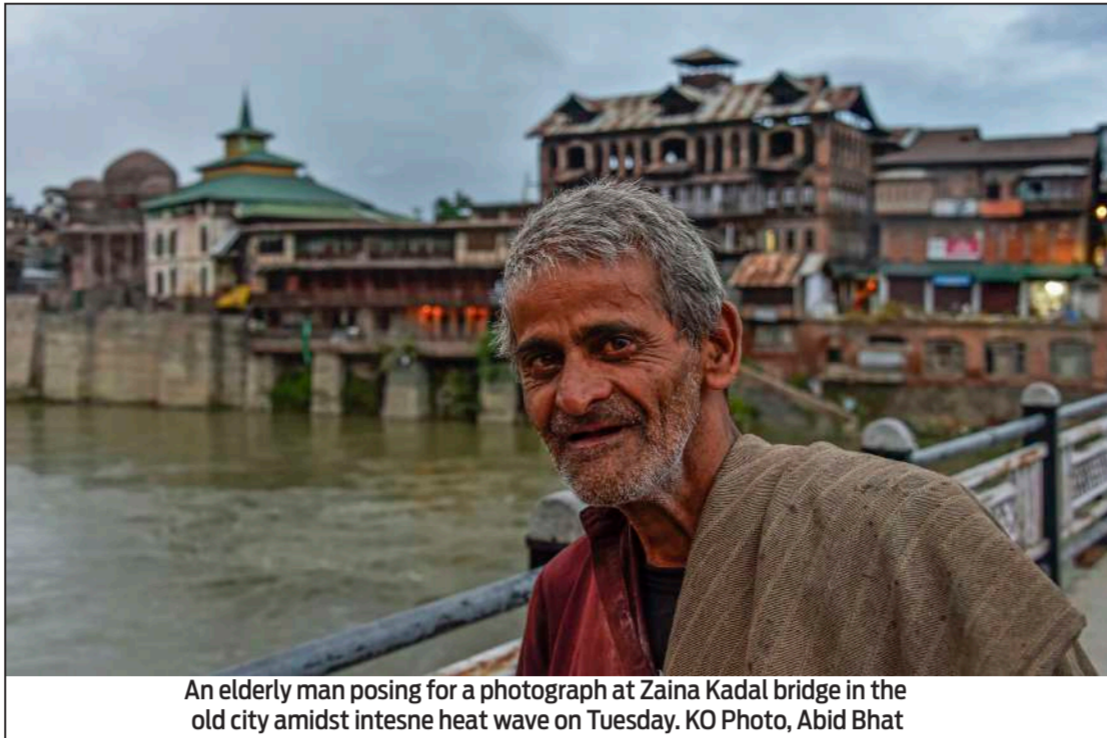
The Mayor inspected the camp to assess the facilities and infrastructure available. He took note of the cleanliness, sanitation, and overall maintenance of the camp, paying close attention to the arrangements made for the comfort and convenience of

the yatries.

During the visit, Mattu engaged in discussions with the officials present, gathering insights into the challenges faced and the measures taken to address them. He emphasized the importance of maintaining a high standard of hygiene and cleanliness to ensure the well-being of the yatries.

Mattu expressed his satisfaction with the efforts put forth by the authorities. He acknowledged the hard work and dedication of the SMC officials in making the necessary arrangements for the yatra. He also appreciated their commitment to ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience for the pilgrims.

Furthermore, the Mayor assured the officials of his continued support and urged them to remain vigilant in their duties. He stressed the significance of effective coordination between different departments to address any issues that may arise during the yatra.



An elderly man posing for a photograph at Zaina Kadal bridge in the old city amidst intense heat wave on Tuesday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Boulevard Stretch From Badyari Chowk To Nehru Park Declared "No Halt Zone"

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to ensure smooth traffic flow on the Boulevard Road axis, the District Administration Srinagar has declared Badyari Chowk to Nehru Park segment of Boulevard Road as "No Halt Zone" for vehicles to implement the Decongestion Framework.

Chairman Regional Transport Authority (District Magistrate, Srinagar) Mohammad Aijaz Asad in an order said that Boulevard road as a whole is

thronged by large number of locals and tourists, especially during the current season and frequent congestion is observed and traffic jam has become a norm around this road due to the unauthorized halt of vehicles which in turn create a blockage for the

smooth vehicular passage.

The order further reads that "a number of vendors also gather on the said road stretch of the Badyari Chowk to Nehru Park as it is interspersed with a high density of houseboats, business establishments, hotel and restaurants on both sides, besides autos, taxis and private car owners park their vehicles on the main road that often leads to traffic congestion and inconvenience to the commuters and tourists.

The order further stated that the traffic congestion around this area has been a constant maneuverability glitch for the inhabitants along the Boulevard road in Nishat, Shalimar, Harwan and surrounding wards/villages and numerous representations have been received

from the locals to mitigate this perpetual problem.

Accordingly, the issue has been broached at length in the Regional Transport Authority (RTA) meeting and it was unanimously agreed that necessary steps need to be taken to ensure smooth traffic flow on the boulevard road as a whole.

Now, therefore, in the interest of general public, Badyari Chowk to Nehru Park road segment on the Boulevard Road is, hereby, declared as "No Halt Zone" for vehicles of all types and with the directions that Traffic Police and Enforcement agencies including the District Police shall ensure that no vehicles are parked on roadside and no linear stops are allowed on mentioned segment of the Boulevard road.

Two Dead Bodies Spotted In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Police on Tuesday recovered two unidentified dead bodies in Srinagar.

One dead body was spotted in Doodh Ganga at Baghe-Mehrab locality in uptown Srinagar, while another

dead body was spotted floating in the river Jhelum near Athwajan area of the city.

The identity of both the dead bodies is being ascertained. Police have registered separate cases in this regard and set investigations into motion.

DC Srinagar Chairs Sanction Committee Meeting On Road Accident Victim Fund

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to discuss the cases proposed for providing ex-gratia relief under the Jammu and Kashmir Road Accident Victim Fund, a meeting of Sanction Committee was held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad here at Meeting Hall Of the DC Office.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Syed Shabir Ahmad, Regional Transport Officer, Syed Shahnawaz Bukhari, Chief Medical Officer, Dr Jameel Ahmad, Deputy SP Traffic, Khushwant Singh, Accounts Officer, DC Office, Tariq Ahmad and other concerned were present in the meeting.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner discussed threadbare each case put forth before the Committee and sanctioned the ex-gratia relief under the Jammu and Kashmir Road Accident Victim Fund in favor of the next of kin of the persons killed or injured in road accidents in Srinagar District.

Public Notice

I have applied for the issuance of Fertilizer Licence under name & style Danish Agro Chemicals Nowgam Shopian . If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Chief Agricultural Officer Shopian within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Danish Bashir
S/o Bashir Ahmad Check
R/o Nowgam Shopian

fko_r

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

Sr. DSTE/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender Notice No. 433-Sig-T-12-23-24 Closing Date/Time 14.07.2023 at 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available ON IREPS portal LIKE net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

Contract Type	Work
Work	1) Provision of CCTV Surveillance System at 16 RPF/Out posts having coverage over space provided for keeping accused and interrogation purpose in Kashmir Valley over Firzpur Division. 2) Provision of 6-Quad cable in c/w Replacement of Signalling gears at 8 stations over FZR Division.
Name of Work	
Tender Type	Open
Tender Closing Date Time	1)14/07/2023 15:00 2)17/07/2023 15:00
Pre-Bid Required	No
Advertised Value	1) Rs.39204933/13 2) Rs.23790663/66
Bidding Style	Single Rate for Tender
Earnest Money (Rs.)	1) Rs. 346000/- 2) Rs.269000/-
Tender Doc cost (Rs.)	Rs.0/-
Bidding Start Date as per IREPS	1) 30/06/2023 2) 03/07/2023

Tender Notice No: 433-Sig-T-12-23-24 Closing Date Time: 14-07-2023 /15.00 hrs.
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2041/23

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA
Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Executive Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA), Division Bandipora

M/S Abdul Kabir Sumji S/O Haji Abdul Wahab Sumji R/O Doabgah Sopore No.EE/PMGSY/Bpr/ 777-80 Dated:- 03-07-2023

Subject: - Failure to resume work by on project "Upgradation and maintenance of Road L047- Izmerg to Jalondora Stage-U (Package No. JK03- 236).

FINAL CALL

1 Whereas "Upgradation and maintenance of Road L047- Izmerg to Jalondora Stage-U (Package No. JK03- 236). was allotted to your agency vide Superintending Engineer PMGSY Kashmir's Allotment No. SE-PMGSY/Bl/3294-99 Dated:-17-10-2018 with a completion period of 360 days.

1. Whereas the work was started on the road in May 2019, but due to non-seriousness from your side, the project ran into delay.

2. Whereas the road surface was prepared upto WBM-III level for macadamization, but you abandoned the site and failed to macadamize and complete the scheme.

3. Whereas a number of notices were issued to you from Sub Division and Division level, directing you to resume and complete the work in all respects, but no positive response was received from your end.

4. Also various attempts were made through telephonic communications and in-person meetings to persuade you to resume and complete the work, but you have failed to resume the work on site.

5. Whereas issuing notices to you for resuming/gearing up the work at Sub Division level as well as Divisional level was continued till final notice was issued vide this office No.EE/PMGSY/Bpr/1654-57 Dated:-10-10-2022.

Therefore in the interest of the completion of the road project you are given a final call to resume the work within two days from the date of dispatch of this notice failing which no more correspondence shall be made on this account and straight away blacklisting of your agency shall be initiated, and balance work shall be put to tenders at your risk and cost.

DIPK-4475/23 dated: 04-07-2023

Executive Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Division Bandipore

Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir
Office of the District Sheep Husbandry Officer Pulwama

Ph. No. 01933-241215 Fax-phone: 01933242125 E-Mail ID: dshpulwama@gmail.com

TECHNICAL SECTION
Notification No: 06/2023 Dated: 03-07-2022

Subject: Establishment of sheep/ Goat units under ISDS and invitation of applications-extension of date for submitting applications.

In view of poor response against some subcomponents / CD Blocks regarding applications invited vide this office notification No: - 03/2023 Dated 05-06-2023 issued vide No. DSHOP/Tech/2023-24/683-700 Dated 05/06/2023 and to ensure healthy competition among applicants, the last date for submitting of applications for below mentioned activities shall be 13/07/2023 (4.00 Pm)

- ISDS- PP Mode (Fresh Units only)
- ISDS- Subsidy mode- 50% subsidy (20 Ewes units)
- ISDS -Subsidy mode (Machine shearing unit)

DIPK-4451/23 dated: 04-07-2023

Sd/= District Sheep Husbandry Officer Pulwama.

جان محمد گجری انتقال کر گئے

سینئر انتہائی دکھ اور افسوس کیساتھ دی جا رہی ہے کہ جان محمد گجری ولد مرحوم عبدالعزیز گجری ساکنہ داناواری حال اترہا کالونی متصل ٹائپین ہڈس اسکول بمنہ سرینگر مورخہ 4 جولائی 2023 منگلوار بمطابق 16/07/2023 انتقال کر گئے۔

اللہ تعالیٰ سے دعا ہے کہ مرحوم کو کم کروٹ کروٹ جنت الفردوس عطا کرے۔ اس سلسلے میں تعزیت پر صرف تین دن تک رہے گی اور کسی قسم کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی نہیں ہوگی۔

سوغواراں
عبدالرشید گجری (برادر) و دیگر اہل خانہ
9622618012, 7006878400

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

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

PRAYERS

FAJR 3:41
ZUHR 12:35
ASR 5:35
Magrib 7:50
ISHA 9:29

HIJRI CALENDAR
16 Zil-Hajj
1444

This Day In History

- 1813- War of 1812: Three weeks of British raids on Fort Schlosser, Black Rock and Plattsburgh, New York begin.
- 1814-Americans defeat British & Canadians at Chippewa, Ontario
- 1830-France invades Algeria, begins a 40 year conquest
- 1865- Great Britain delegate's world 1st maximum speed laws
- 1914- Germany offers Austria war aid to fight against Russia in Serbia
- 1940- Diplomatic relations broken between Britain & Vichy government in France
- 1941- German occupiers disband political parties
- 1943- Liberator bombers sink U-535 in Gulf of Biskaye
- 1945- World War II: Liberation of the Philippines declared.
- 1954- B-52A bomber made its maiden flight
- 1962- Algeria gains independence after 132 years of French rule
- 1966- Saturn I rocket launched at Cape Kennedy
- 1970- Air Canada DC-8 crashes 7 miles from Toronto's airport killing 109
- 1977- Pakistan's army, led by Gen Mohammad Zia ul-Haq, seizes power
- 1978-Soyuz 30 spacecraft touches down in Soviet Kazakhstan
- 1983- France invades Algeria
- 2003- SARS is declared "contained" by the WHO

From KO Archives

Towering Desperation Pushes Youth To New Heights

Jobless Electropaths Threaten to Jump Off Mobile Phone Tower

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- To draw the attention of the government towards their plight, jobless graduates in electropathy who are on a relay hunger strike for the past two-and-a-half months today threatened to commit suicide by jumping off a mobile tower, while several strikers were taken into custody when they tried to set themselves ablaze. The strikers spent the day atop the tower and were still there late at night, with a couple of policemen keeping watch at the base.

The strikers demand that electropathy be recognized as a part of Indian Systems of Medicine and employment avenues be made avail-able to them. The government, how-ever, has been persistently refusing to recognize their degrees. The strikers, who have been camping in the press enclave here for the past two-and-a-half months, tried a novel method this morning to grab the attention of the government and to shake it out of its apathy: three of them, Rasheed Ahmad, Sajjad Ahmad, and Mushtaq Ahmad, scaled the mobile phone tower near the Khidmat Press, and draped in white shrouds and waving the banner of their association, raised slogans against the Government.

As news spread that, the unemployed graduates intended to leap off the tower as a mark of protest, scores of policemen, paramilitary personnel and news crews gathered at the scene. The police established contact with the precariously perched strikers with a view to persuade them to come down, but they refused to do so unless the government gave some assurance about recognizing their qualifications and opening opportunities for their employment. One of the strikers atop the tower, Arshad Ahmad, told the CNS on mobile phone that they had been forced to take this extreme step because no one had paid heed to their peaceful protests.

Accepting that suicide was expressly forbidden by religion, the graduate said that it was the government that had forced them to take this desperate course.

Earlier, when the strikers were climbing the tower, four of their col-leagues on the ground, Abdul Qayum, Hilal Ahmad, Nisar Ahmad and Abdul Hamid, tried to set themselves on fire. The police, however, overpowered them just in time, and shifted them to the Kothi Bagh police station. When contacted about the electropathy graduates' strike and their subsequent suicide bid, the divisional commissioner for Kashmir, Mahboob Iqbal, said that the administration had been activated, and a magistrate had been assigned to keep an eye on the situation in the press enclave.

He said that the strikers have held a meeting with the secretary health, Kulbhushan Jandial, and minister for health, Mangat Ram Sharma, and that he was hopeful of an acceptable solution to the issue soon.

(Kashmir Observer, 05 July, 2007)

Canada Assures Safety Of Indian Diplomats Amid Row Over Khalistan Posters



Press Trust of India

TORONTO: Canada has assured India of the safety of its diplomats following the circulation of Khalistani posters online which named Indian officials and termed the "promotional material" circulating ahead of a Khalistan rally "unacceptable".

The statement by Canadian Foreign Minister Melanie Joly came a day after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said India has asked its partner countries such as Canada, the UK and the US not to give space to "extremist Khalistani ideology" as it is "not good" for relations.

Stressing Canada's commitment to the safety of diplomats, Minister Joly highlighted the country's adherence to the Vienna Conventions.

"Canada takes its obligations under the Vienna Conventions regarding the safety of diplomats very seriously," she said in the statement on her Twitter account on Tuesday.

"Canada remains in close contact with Indian officials in light of some of the promotional material circulating online regarding a protest planned for July 8, which are unacceptable," Joly said.

Joly also emphasised that the actions of a few individuals "do not speak for an entire community or Canada."

Mr Jaishankar, when asked about reports of Khalistani

posters in Canada naming Indian diplomats, said the issue will be raised with the government of that country.

The "radical, extremist Khalistani ideology" is not good for India or its partner countries such as the US, Canada, the UK and Australia, he told reporters on the sidelines of a BJP outreach campaign in New Delhi on Monday.

"We have already requested our partner countries like Canada, the US, the UK and Australia where sometimes Khalistani activities happen, not to give space to Khalistanis. Because their (Khalistanis) radical, extremist thinking is neither good for us nor for them nor our relations," the minister said.

"We will raise the issue of posters with those governments. I think it would have already been done by now as it happened two to three days earlier," Mr Jaishankar said.

Last month, India slammed Canada after visuals surfaced on social media of a tableau in Brampton that reportedly celebrated the assassination of former prime minister Indira Gandhi.

Canada's response to the Khalistani issue appeared to be constrained by its "vote bank compulsions" and India will have to respond if the activities impinge on its national security and integrity, Jaishankar had said on the issue.

India Leading In Spirituality, Technology And Economy, Says PM Modi

Press Trust of India

AMARAVATI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said India was marching ahead in various fields, including technology and economy even as spiritual centres are reviving in the country.

In his virtual address during the inauguration of Sai Hira Global Convention Centre at Prasanthi Nilayam in Puttaparthi in Andhra Pradesh, PM Modi pointed out that 40 per cent of the total real-time online transactions took place in India and urged the devotees to transform the entire district of Puttaparthi (Sri Satya Sai district) into a digital economy.

Noting that climate change posed a big challenge to the entire world in 21st century, PM Modi said India has taken up initiatives like Mission LIFE in the global platform.

Affirming that the world trusts India's leadership, he said India is holding the presidency of the prestigious G-20 this year, whose theme of "One Earth, One Family, One Future" is drawn from the country's fundamental thinking. He further said that India has the third largest startup ecosystem in the world and was competing with big countries in areas such as digital technology and 5G technology.

"On one hand spiritual centres are reviving in the country and simultaneously India is leading in economy and technology. Today, India is among the world's top five economies," he said in a video. PM Modi also lauded the



ongoing Leaders Conference of Sri Sathya Sai Global Council, terming it an effective medium to know more about India and connect with the world.

India's attractiveness is on the rise globally, he said while referring to the International Yoga Day celebrations on June 21 at the United Nations (UN) headquarters in New York, which witnessed participants from the highest number of countries.

For thousands of years Indian saints have nourished the spirit of 'Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat', PM Modi said.

Calling for support to tree plantation and make India plastic-free, the Prime Minister highlighted 'Prem Taru', an initiative to plant 1 crore trees in the next two years.

I have come to Puttaparthi many times, but this time I could not. I have been invited to come and give blessings, but I will come to take blessings but not give, he said.

Though he may not be with them physically, PM Modi said with the help of technology 'I am with all of you'.

On the new convention

centre, PM Modi expressed confidence that it will create an experience of spirituality and splendour of modernity and said that it comprises cultural diversity, conceptual grandeur and would become a focal point for discussions.

Heaping praises on Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the Prime Minister noted that the former has followers from all over the world and his devotees have connected with Prasanthi Nilayam irrespective of language and culture.

Quoting Sri Sathya Sai Baba in Telugu, the PM said: 'Seva ane rendu aksharallone ananta mina shakti imidi undi (There is limitless power in the word service).

PM Modi also recollected Sathya Sai Baba's other timeless teachings such as 'love all serve all', 'help ever, hurt never', 'less talk more work' and 'every experience is a lesson - every loss is a gain'.

"These teachings have sensitivity as well as a deep philosophy of life," he said.

PM Modi praised Sathya Sai Baba for building hospitals, schools and colleges to extend free services to people for years, especially the hi-tech heart hospital at Prasanthi Nilayam, including the Sathya Sai Central Trust partnering with the 'Jal Jeevan Mission' for providing free water to remote villages.

The PM also reminisced about a phone call he had received from the spiritual leader during the Gujarat earthquake in 2001, which offered him guidance and help.

Speaker Delaying Call On Disqualification: Team Uddhav To Supreme Court



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Shiv Sena (UBT) has once again knocked on the doors of the Supreme Court, seeking direction to the Maharashtra assembly speaker to expeditiously adjudicate the disqualification petitions filed against Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and other Sena MLAs, who had tied up with the BJP to form a new government in June 2022, in a time-bound manner.

The petition by Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) MLA Sunil Prabhu who, as chief whip of the undivided Shiv Sena, had in 2022 filed the disqualification petitions against Speaker Rahul Narwekar is deliberately delaying the adjudication despite the May 11 verdict of the Supreme Court.

"The petitioner is constrained to invoke the extraordinary jurisdiction of this court under Article 32 of the Constitution of India, in light of the respondent Speaker's conduct in choosing to deliberately delay the adjudication of the disqualification petitions filed by the Petitioner against the delinquent members of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly," the petition, filed through advocate Nishanth Patil and Amit Anand Tiwari said.

The petition said the speaker, despite the categorical direction of the top court in its May 11 judgment that the pending disqualification petitions must be decided within a reasonable period, has chosen to not conduct a single hearing.

"The petitioner has also sent more than three subsequent representations dated May 15, 2023, May 23, 2023, and June 2, 2023, to convene a hearing in the said disqualification matters, however, the respondent Speaker in brazen disregard to his constitutional duties as a neutral arbiter, has sought

to delay the adjudications of the disqualification petitions, thereby, permitting the illegal continuance of Eknath Shinde as Chief Minister, against whom the disqualification petitions are pending," it said.

Mr Prabhu, in his petition said, "Therefore, it is imperative for this court to direct the Speaker, Maharashtra legislative assembly, to decide the disqualification petitions filed by the petitioner against delinquent members of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly expeditiously, within a time-bound manner."

He sought direction to the speaker to decide the disqualification petitions dated June 23, 2022, June 25, 2022, June 27, 2022, July 3, 2022, and July 5, 2022, filed by him under provisions of the 10th schedule against the MLAs loyal to Shinde expeditiously and in a time-bound manner, preferably within a period of two weeks.

In his petition, Mr Prabhu said it is a settled law that the speaker, while performing his functions under the 10th schedule, which deals with the anti-defection law, acts as a judicial tribunal, and is required to act in a fair and unbiased manner.

"The constitutional requirement of fairness enjoins upon the Speaker the obligation to decide the question of disqualification in an expeditious manner. Any unreasonable delay on the part of the Speaker in deciding the petitions for disqualification contributes to and perpetuates the constitutional sin of defection committed by the delinquent members," the petition said.

Mr Prabhu said in the present case, the delinquent MLAs against whom disqualification petitions are pending, have committed brazenly unconstitutional acts which per se invite disqualification under Paras 2(1)(a), 2(1)(b), and 2(2) of the 10th Schedule.

Tired Of Exam Paper Leaks, Rajasthan To Raise Punishment To 'Life In Jail'

Press Trust of India

JAIPUR: The Rajasthan government plans to bring a Bill in the next assembly session to increase the punishment for those involved in recruitment exam paper leaks from the current 10 years to life imprisonment, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said today.

In March 2022, the assembly passed a Bill providing for imprisonment of up to 10 years and a fine of ₹10 crore for offences such as government exam paper leaks and cheating in such recruitment tests. This came a month after the REET level-two examination held in September 2021 was cancelled due to a paper leak.

"It has been decided to bring a Bill in the upcoming assembly session to make life imprisonment the maximum punishment under the law against paper leaks," Mr Gehlot said in a tweet in Hindi today.

"In order to bring more transparency in competitive examinations in the state, the chief secretary has been directed to prepare a better process after discussing with the Rajasthan Public Service Commission (RPSC), Department of Personnel (DOP), Rajasthan Staff Selection Board (RSSB) and other stakeholders," he added.

Opposition parties in Rajasthan have been targeting the Congress government over the issue of paper leaks. Assembly elections in the state are due later this year.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot also announced that a Bill to curb cheating in recruitment examinations would be brought as well.

The opposition BJP has demanded a CBI probe into the REET paper leak case, which at present is being investigated by the Special Operation Group of the Rajasthan Police.

India Donates 10,000 Tonnes Of Wheat To Afghanistan Amidst Food Crisis



Agencies

KABUL: As Afghanistan continues to grapple with the extreme food crises, India has donated 10,000 metric tonnes of wheat to the landlocked country.

The 10,000 metric tonnes of wheat reached the Herat city of Afghanistan on Tuesday, United Nations World Food Programme (UNWFP) said in a tweet.

"Wheat donated by the Government of #India @MEAIndia @dpa_meato @WFP arrived in Herat where it was milled for distribution to hungry families across #Afghanistan. This wheat is part of an in-kind contribution of 10,000 metric tons from India on top of 40,000 tons in 2022," UN WFP stated in the tweet.

Last month, the Indian government sent another 20,000 metric tons of wheat to Afghanistan amid a humanitarian crisis in the country using Iran's Chabahar port, Afghanistan-based Khaama Press reported.

Earlier, another wheat assis-

tance delivery of 40,000 tons was carried out through Pakistan's land border.

India shows its dedication to promoting the stability and prosperity of Afghanistan by widening the channels for aid distribution, as per Khaama Press.

Afghanistan, under the Taliban, is facing its worst humanitarian crisis and the women of the country are denied fundamental rights. According to a World Food Programme assessment, Afghanistan is one of the nations with extreme food insecurity, with nine million people affected by severe economic difficulties and hunger.

Since the Taliban seized power in August 2021, the law and order situation in the country has only deteriorated, with the rise in cases of terrorism and blasts.

The group banned women from going to schools, and later in December last year, they banned women from going to universities and working with aid agencies.

Raeisi At SCO: Ditching Dollar Key To Shaping Fair International System

Agencies

IRANIAN President Ebrahim Raeisi has warned against the dominance of the dollar in global exchanges, saying de-dollarization is a pivotal necessity to form a just international system.

Raeisi made the remarks in an address to the 23rd virtual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) after Iran gained full-fledged membership in the bloc.

He said cooperation among the SCO member states in the economic fields can "open a clear vision of a just regional order" to the eyes of world nations.

Based on the past decades' experience, he said, militarism and the dominance of the dollar form the bases of the Western domination system.

"Therefore any attempt to shape a fair international system requires the removal of this instrument of dominance in intra-regional relations," the Iranian president pointed out.

He noted that civilization is the greatest capacity of the SCO member countries to build unity and peace.

He stressed the importance of promoting a civilization in this "ancient" continent based on ethics, spirituality, justice, rationality, and respect for hu-



man dignity.

"The Shanghai Cooperation Organization, which is a symbol of this 'great family of civilizations', is now standing in a position that can establish new horizons of regional convergence and security-building cooperation," Raeisi stated.

Pointing to the desecration of the Holy Qur'an in some European countries, he emphasized the need to respect the "values and sanctities of the nations" as a "unifying principle".

The Iranian president said the desecration of the Holy Qur'an caused hatred and spread insecurity, which should be dealt with by displaying unity among civilized nations.

In a repeated and state-authorized instance of desecration of the Muslim holy book, two men stood outside the central mosque in Stockholm on Wednesday and

burned a copy of the holy book following a go-ahead given by a Swedish court.

The move was made to coincide with the Muslim festivity of Eid al-Adha, which marks the conclusion of the annual Hajj pilgrimage that is partaken by millions of Muslims from across the world.

Many Arab and Muslim countries have condemned the move.

"No double standards to terrorism"

Addressing the summit, the Indian prime minister said the Shanghai Cooperation Organization should join hands to fight terrorism and not hesitate to condemn countries that support terror.

Modi also called on leaders of the Eurasian political and security grouping to work for the welfare of Afghanistan and provide humanitarian aid to Kabul.

NEWS MAKERS

Pakistani Mountaineer Asif Bhatti Stranded At Nanga Parbat Due To Snow Blindness

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani mountaineer Asif Bhatti has been stranded at the 8,126-metre-high, the ninth-highest mountain in the world, due to snow blindness, the Alpine Club of Pakistan (ACP) said on Monday, Dawn reported.

ACP secretary general Karar Haidri said: "He is stuck at camp 4, at an altitude of 7,500-8,000 m, with snow blindness and needs help."

Bhatti, who is a university

professor from Islamabad, was proceeding to the final summit of the peak when he got stranded.

According to Haidri, several outfits were attempting the peak and some of their members had conveyed the message that Bhatti was suffering from snow blindness. He added: "A helicopter will be needed to pick him up but for that, he will have to come down to the altitude of around 6,000-6,500 m."

Bhatti, along with other

mountaineers Lt Col Dr Jabbar (r), Dr Naveed, Saad Muhammad and Faheem Pasha had departed for the expedition a few days back. "His other team members have not yet begun their final summit push," Haidri added, as per Dawn.

Separately, Karakoram Club, an organisation working for adventure tourism in Pakistan, said a group of climbers from the Karakoram Expedition in Shimshal were preparing for a rescue operation to retrieve Bhatti.

"They are currently waiting for

a helicopter to transport them to the higher camps," it added.

As per Dawn, climber Shehroze Kashif has also volunteered to become a part of the rescue mission. "I kindly request the relevant department to consider transporting me to either the base camp or even to higher camps for increased involvement," he said.

Many climbers have been attempting to summit the peak this year. On Sunday, at least 52 mountaineers, including 11 Pakistanis, scaled Nanga Parbat.

Focus On Studies Instead Of Filing Petitions: Supreme Court To Law Student

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court, today dismissed a PIL seeking directions to quash all provisions in the Constitution that don't use gender-neutral terms.

A bench comprising Chief justice DY Chandrachud and Justice P S Narasimha advised the petitioner, who is a law student, to focus on his studies instead of filing PILs.

"Why don't you study in law schools instead of filing such petitions? We have to start imposing costs. You want us to strike down provisions in the Constitution? So now we should strike down constitutional provisions since it does not say chairperson. Even a woman can be appointed to the post...Dismissed," the



bench said. The top court was hearing a plea filed by law student Harsh Gupta.

SC To Hear Petition Seeking Early Assembly Polls In J&K On Thursday: NPP Leader

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Supreme Court will hear on Thursday a writ petition seeking early assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, National Panthers Party (NPP) leader Harsh Dev Singh said here.

Singh, a former minister and an advocate by profession, had moved the apex court for its indulgence in restoration of democratic process in the Union territory.

"The writ petition pertaining to the conduct of early assembly elections in J&K has been listed for hearing by the Supreme Court on July 6 (Thursday)," Singh said in a statement here.

Quoting the "cause list" issued by the Supreme Court registry, he said the matter

would be heard by a Supreme Court bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud.

On June 19, Jammu and Kashmir completed five years without an elected government. It came under governor's rule on June 19, 2018 after the BJP withdrew its support to its coalition partner PDP.

On August 5, 2019, the Centre revoked Article 370, which granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir, and bifurcated the state into two Union territories Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

The NPP leader said he was compelled to move the top court in view of the "uneasy silence" maintained by the Centre and the Election Commission of India over the issue of holding assembly polls in the Union territory.

ECI Lacks Impartiality, Neutrality: Mehbooba

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti alleged the Election Commission of India (ECI) lacks impartiality and neutrality, and accused the ruling BJP of harming institutions of democracy including the media.

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister alleged central agencies like the Enforcement Directorate and CBI are being used to target Opposition leaders.

"The election commission of India (ECI), which is supposed to be impartial and neutral, is actually not impartial or neutral. The ED is not neutral," she told PTI in a video interview.

She also lambasted the BJP for its "surgical strike and illegal strike" in Maharashtra where the NCP's Ajit Pawar and eight MLAs revolted against the party and joined the Shiv Sena-BJP government.

The Opposition faced challenges not only from the BJP but also from various government agencies such as the ED, CBI, and the Election Commission.

"They have become an agency and alliance partners of the government, so that the Opposition

is browbeaten, threatened and parties are broken and aligned with them (the BJP) and new governments formed," she alleged.

"They (the BJP) are destroying all the institutions and systems (of democracy). Media has been totally decimated," she said. "This is not good for the country."



She alleged the BJP uses money power to break parties and "purchase" legislators, all the while making tall claims about fighting corruption.

"This hypocrisy shows the BJP's corruption. This party has the most money related to corruption. They illegally benefit from this money and buy elected people and governments. They overthrow them and establish their own corrupt government. The impact of this is felt throughout the country," she said.

"People electing someone through votes does not have any meaning as they (the BJP) will be buying them through money. They are hitting at the very concept of democracy," she said.

On the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, Mehbooba claimed it has become a laboratory where the throttling of democracy began.

Over 50,000 Devotees Visit Amarnath Cave Shrine In 4 Days



File Photo/Abid Bhat

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: More than 50,000 people have visited the Amarnath cave shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas since the start of the annual pilgrimage four days ago, officials said on Tuesday.

M Anapurna, a 67-year-old woman pilgrim from Andhra Pradesh's Tirupati, died at a hospital in Sonamarg on Monday, they said, adding the cause of her death was not known yet.

An Indo-Tibetan Border Po-

lice (ITBP) officer posted on Amarnath Yatra duty died at Sonamarg in Ganderbal district of Jammu and Kashmir since the start of the annual pilgrimage four days ago, officials said on Tuesday.

Cardiac arrest -- triggered by lower oxygen concentration at high altitudes -- is one of the most common causes of fatalities among Amarnath pilgrims and security forces posted there.

On Tuesday, 13,597 people paid obeisance at the holy cave shrine, the officials said, adding in the first four days of the yatra, 54,714 devotees

have had 'darshan' of the naturally-formed ice-lingam in the cave shrine.

CRPF Director General S.L. Thaosen on Tuesday assessed the security arrangements for the yatra convoy along the pilgrimage route.

"CRPF DG S L Thaosen undertook a comprehensive assessment of Yatra Convoy security arrangements. He inspected Yatri camps in @KOSCRPF and deployment on the national highway to ensure maintenance of top safety standards and preparedness," the CRPF said on Twitter.

Over 6,500 Pilgrims Leave For Kashmir

JAMMU: The fifth batch of more than 6,500 Amarnath pilgrims left the Jammu city in the early hours of Tuesday for the twin base camps in Kashmir, officials said.

The 62-day annual pilgrimage to the 3,888-metre-high cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas commenced from the twin tracks of Pahalgam in Anantnag district and Baltal in Ganderbal district on July 1.

The officials said the pilgrim footfall at the shrine is likely to cross the 50,000

mark later in the day as the yatra is progressing smoothly, with devotees from across the country thronging the base camps to have a glimpse of the naturally formed ice-shivlingam and offer their prayers.

A total of 6,597 pilgrims, including 1,429 women, 160 seers and 33 children, left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here for the valley in a convoy of 253 vehicles amid tight security arrangements in the early hours of Tuesday, they said.

The officials said 4,475 pilgrims, headed for Pahalgam, left in a convoy of 160 vehicles for the valley at around 4.10 am, while another convoy of 93 vehicles carrying 2,122 pilgrims was the first to leave for the Baltal base camp at 3.40 am.

With this, a total of 24,162 pilgrims have left the Jammu base camp for the valley since June 30, the day the first batch of pilgrims was flagged off by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

The yatra is scheduled to conclude on August 31.

PSC Holds Maiden Meeting To Review Mitigation Plan Of Pakal Dul Project

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Six months after its constitution, the Project Screening Committee (PSC) met here on Tuesday to take stock of the implementation of the mitigation and environment plan of the Pakal Dul Hydroelectric Project in the Kishtwar district, an official said.

The PSC was constituted in December last year to contribute and oversee the implementation of environment plans aimed at mitigating the impacts of such mega projects on local people and the environment and forest health of the area to ensure sustainable development.

The plan envisages various environment and wildlife habitat improvement works worth Rs 236 crore, including Rs 100 crore corpus fund for high altitude national park in the district, the official said.

He said the prime objective of the implementation of the project is to improve the catchment areas of

Marusudra, a tributary of Chenab, on which a series of hydroelectric projects are being constructed, including Pakal Dul, to harness the huge potential of hydroelectric power of the river.

Afforestation, soil and water conservation activities, along with developmental works, are being executed with the funding provided by the Chenab Valley Power Project (CVPP) against forest and wildlife areas affected by the construction of hydroelectric projects in these landscapes.

The mitigation plan, biodiversity conservation plan and catchment area treatment plan are the different components of the comprehensive programme approved under the overall supervision and oversight of the Supreme Court, the official said.

The maiden meeting of the PSC, chaired by Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and Head of Forest Force Roshan Jaggi, discussed in detail the cumulative financial allocation under different components, which will be spent in the next couple of years in accordance with the approved project activities.

RTI Movement Delegation Meets CIC YK Sinha

Assured To Take Up Online RTI Filing With Govt

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A delegation of Jammu and Kashmir RTI Movement on Tuesday called on Chief Information Commissioner Mr YK Sinha in Srinagar and apprised him about the implementation of RTI Act 2005 in J&K.

The delegation led by Chairman RTI Movement Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat impressed upon CIC to ensure better implementation of RTI as there is sharp decline in filing of RTI applications from last few years.

The members of RTI Movement submitted a memorandum urging upon the Chief Information Commissioner for his intervention on issues related to RTI implementation in J&K. The delegation urged upon the CIC for taking various measures for better implementation of RTI Act in J&K.

"We urged upon the CIC Mr Y K Sinha for conducting massive RTI Awareness in J&K by involving local NGOs and Theatre Groups so that they reach out to the people in remotest areas of J&K. More than 800 Central laws have been extended to J&K post abrogation of Article 370, but there is very meagre awareness about these

central laws. RTI Act 2005 is in operation in J&K for almost four years now but, the designated PIO's and appellate authorities are not properly trained to implement and enforce this law with the result there has been a sharp decline in filing of RTI applications. We requested the CIC to address these lacunas and the CIC gave full assurance to take up this issue with Government" said Dr. Raja Muzaffar.

The CIC while interacting with the delegation said that he would take up issues related to filing of online RTI applications, pro active disclosure of information under Section 4 of RTI Act 2005 with authorities. Senior members of J&K RTI Movement Farooq Kuthoo, Dr Mushtaq Khan, Shafiq Mir, Rayees Wathori and others also were part of the delegation.

The Chief Information Commissioner Y K Sinha appreciated the role of J&K RTI Movement in spreading RTI awareness in J&K for last seven years.

"He assured the delegation that their suggestions would be considered on priority and a written communication will be made with the Government of India and Government of J&K as well" Dr Raja Muzaffar added.

Cong Demands Desilting Of Jhelum River, Dal, Wular Lakes

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The Congress on Tuesday asked the Jammu and Kashmir administration to immediately start work on desilting of the Jhelum River as well as the Dal and Wular lakes to prevent flooding in Srinagar.

Senior Congress leader and former minister Ghulam Ahmed Mir warned the administration that if the de-silting project of these water bodies is not undertaken immediately, the people of Srinagar "will have to bear huge losses like 2014" when floods wreaked havoc in the city.

As many as 300 people died and 25 sustained injuries in floods that battered

Jammu and Kashmir in September 2014.

Mir, the former Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPC) president, said the Jhelum River and Dal and Wular lakes have enormous siltation, "but, the local administration, busy in show-offs, does not have any concern about it".

It was only in the last Congress regime that the work of desilting was undertaken. However, since then, no practical work has been done to save the people of Kashmir from the devastations of floods, Mir said.

"It takes only a few hours of rain to trigger a flood-like situation in Kashmir, particularly in Srinagar," he said.

Govt Orders Probe Against President MC Langate For Abusing His Official Powers

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Government has ordered an inquiry against the president of municipal committee Langate for "abusing" his official powers.

The Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UD) has appointed Kafeel Ahmed Ferozi, officiating chief architect, J&K architect organisation, as the inquiry officer to probe into the conduct of Municipal Committee Langate president Shanawaz Abdullah for abusing official powers.

According to an order issued by the H&UD, the inquiry officer shall afford an opportunity of being heard to the president concerned as a principle of natural justice.

The order states that Muhammad Rafeeq Bhat, Deputy

Director, Urban Local Bodies, Kashmir shall be the presenting officer in the inquiry.

The inquiry officer shall submit his report within 15 days, the order further states.

The probe has been ordered under Section 26 of Jammu & Kashmir Municipal Council Act-2000, which empowers the Government to remove a president or vice-president of Municipality from his office on the ground of abuse of his powers or of habitual failure to perform his duties.

In the past two years, the Housing & Urban Development Department had ordered probes against heads of several urban local bodies in Kashmir.

In September last year, it had removed Bilal Ahmad Bhat, President, Municipal Committee, Awantipora from his office on the grounds of abuse of his official powers--(KNO

Free e-Rickshaw Service Set Up At Baltal Base Camp To Ease Amarnath Yatris' Arduous Journey

Press Trust Of India

BALTAL: A Kanpur-based NGO has introduced free e-rickshaw services to make the final leg of the arduous journey of Amarnath Yatra comfortable for the pilgrims.

The e-rickshaws have been deployed to ferry pilgrims from Domail to the base camp at Baltal and vice-versa.

Having walked 24 km on mountainous terrain to and fro to visit the Holy Cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas, pilgrims are usually exhausted by the end of their journey.

After reaching the access-control gates at Domail, they have to walk

another five km to reach the parking area of the Baltal base camp.

The battery-operated, environment-friendly e-rickshaws, deployed by NGO, come as a relief for the pilgrims in that regard.

While ponies are available for the purpose, the rides are chargeable. The e-rickshaw service, meanwhile, is free of cost.

Kanpur-based Shiv Sewak Samiti is one of the service providers of the e-rickshaw rides.

With the e-rickshaws, the distance, which otherwise takes about an hour, is covered in less than ten minutes.

Ajit Khokar, a yatri from Sonipat, availed the service and spoke positively about the service.

"It is my first time at Amarnath. It gets very tiring coming back from the cave, but getting the e-rickshaws is very helpful," Khokar told PTI here.

He said since the vehicle is battery-operated, it helps the environment as well. "Whoever has started this service, I thank them from the bottom of my heart," the yatri added.

Five pilgrims are ferried in each ride and an e-rickshaw makes about 16-18 rides a day. "This e-rickshaw service is provided from Baltal to Domail. Five people are accommodated in a vehicle in a ride. The vehicle can take around 16-18 rides in a day. It is completely free services given to pilgrims

from both sides," Hritik Kushwaha, an e-rickshaw driver who hails from Kanpur, said.

"I am very thankful for this service as this is very good for pilgrims. As when we come back after the holy pilgrimage at the cave shrine, we get very much tired. So, it is good that there is a free rickshaw service for this five km stretch," Anil, another yatri from Sonipat, said.

"The environment is also taken care of very well as any other vehicle would have created a lot of pollution," he said.

In a similar vein, another yatri Pradeep from Haryana, said the pilgrims get blisters on their feet by walking such a long distance on foot.

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CORRIGENDUM

It is notified for the information of all concerned that the Dates for the works advertised Vide this Office NIT No:- 20/3149-58/SPN/RnB/e-Tendering/2023-24 Dated:- 26-06-2023 figuring at S. No: 1 & 2 and NIT No:- 21/3181-90/SPN/RnB/e-Tendering/2023-24 Dated:- 27-06-2023 figuring at S. No: 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8 & 9 are hereby extended due to the reasons of observing holidays on eve of Eid-UL-Adha during this week as follows

S.No.	NIT No.	Previous Dates	New Dates
1	20/3149-58/SPN/RnB/e-Tendering/2023-24 Dated:- 26-06-2023	Bid Submission End Date: 03-07-2023	Bid Submission End Date: 07-07-2023
		Date & time of opening of Bids (Online): 04-07-2023	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online): 08-07-2023
2	21/3181-90/SPN/RnB/e-Tendering/2023-24 Dated:- 27-06-2023	Bid Submission End Date: 04-07-2023	Bid Submission End Date: 08-07-2023
		Date & time of opening of Bids (Online): 06-07-2023	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online): 10-07-2023

No: NIT/3307-12
Dt: 03-07-2023

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Executive Engineer
R&B Division Shopian

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DT: 04/07/2023

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
ENGINEERING SRINAGAR KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
JAL SHAKTI PHE DIVISION SOPORE
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CORRIGENDUM

Sub: Enlistment in the limited tender.
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Please consider online login Id nessojwandk@gmail.com and krie stsociety@gmail.com instead of nessoanantnag@gmail.com and krie.stsociety@yahoo.com previously added for the organizations National Educational Society and Social Welfare Organization and Kashmir Research Institute of Education and Solar Technology respectively.

No: 3472-81
Date: 03-07-2023
DIPK-4478-23
DT: 04/07/2023

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti PHE Division
Sopore

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Wednesday | 05-07-2023

Tourism On Upswing

The G-20 Tourism Working Group meeting held in Srinagar has proven to be a game-changer for the tourism sector in the region, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said at a press conference on Monday. He said that the foreign tourist arrivals have shown a notable increase since the G20 meeting, with the numbers expected to rise even further in the coming months.

The successful G-20 meeting, conducted between May 22 and May 25 this year, was attended by participants from various countries and they returned home with a favorable view of the region, the LG said. He also revealed that over the first six months of this year, J&K has witnessed 15,000 foreign visitors, marking a significant increase after a prolonged period of limited growth. A large number of these tourists, according to him, are coming from South East Asian countries, signifying the increasing global appeal of the region.

Srinagar city itself has emerged as a hub for high-profile events in the country, as pointed out by the LG Sinha. The city has hosted several important events such as the one by Indian System of Medicines, Engineer's Association, Chartered Accountant Association, and even 18 Supreme Court judges participated in a meeting. This increased participation in conferences and gatherings highlights the growing recognition of Srinagar as an ideal venue for national and international events, further boosting the region's reputation, the LG said.

Last year, J&K witnessed a record over one crore tourists, contributing 7 percent to its GDP. To sustain this growth, the government has identified 300 new destinations for promotion, emphasizing green tourism, micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and the active participation of local communities. Such initiatives will not only enhance tourism but also contribute to the region's overall development. The rise in the number of movies filmed in J&K further signifies the region's increasing popularity and the positive impact it has on the local economy and people's lives.

Recently, the LG Sinha also set an ambitious goal of hosting two crore tourists in the UT in 2023. But the administration needs to focus on building and upgrading the infrastructure before bringing more tourists to the region. This includes improving transportation infrastructure, providing quality accommodation, ensuring basic amenities, and addressing security concerns. Only then can the UT truly capitalize on its potential as a tourism destination. Over the last three years, Kashmir Valley has been largely peaceful, paving the way for the spurt in tourism. But tourism shouldn't be the only indicator of peace and the government knows it very well. So, we need more steps to ensure the gains of the past three years are consolidated and enjoyed by all people. For example, it is about time that the central government takes steps to hold Assembly polls in the union territory.

OTHER OPINION

Game of thrones

On Sunday, mere months after it split the Shiv Sena to pull down the Maha Vikas Aghadi ministry in Mumbai, the BJP shored up its own government by weaning away a significant section of the NCP. It may not be incidental that four of the nine NCP MLAs who were sworn in as cabinet ministers on Sunday face a probe either by the Enforcement Directorate or the Anti Corruption Bureau.

In the all too recent past, the BJP alleged that some of these MLAs, prominent among them Ajit Pawar, who has now been sworn in as deputy chief minister, are symbols of corrupt and dynastic politics. The next act in this cynical drama is foretold: Now that they are in the BJP, these leaders will be magically cleansed of the corruption taint. This, after all, is what has happened with several politicians from non-BJP parties in West Bengal and Assam and other states whose cases were pushed to the backburner after they joined the BJP.

The unseemly goings-on in Mumbai underline a dismal pattern — of the BJP using not so fair means to improve its numbers in states where it does not have a clear mandate, including by selectively deploying central agencies to target its political opponents. In the past few years, the BJP has deservedly invited accusations of engineering defections and splits to form governments in states including Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Goa, after it failed to win the election.

In Maharashtra, the BJP has been looking for ways to tighten its grip ever since the 2019 election, in which it did not win the mandate on its own. Initially, the party seemed outsmarted by NCP supremo Sharad Pawar, who stitched together an unlikely alliance — the Maha Vikas Aghadi — with long-term BJP ally, Shiv Sena, and the Congress, by offering Shiv Sena leader Uddhav Thackeray the CM's office. The BJP's attempt to force a split in the NCP by roping in Ajit Pawar ended in embarrassment. However, the party succeeded in splitting the Sena and forming a government with rebel Sena leader, Eknath Shinde, as chief minister.

The defections from the NCP now may further strengthen the hold of the Shinde-BJP government, if the Ajit Pawar-led faction passes the anti-defection law test. Pawar has said that the NCP will not challenge the defections legally, but will seek endorsement in the people's court. The Maharashtra churning is likely to continue at least until the general election. The coming days will test the mettle of a host of political actors including CM Shinde and his two deputies, Ajit Pawar and Fadnavis, and Uddhav Thackeray. On test, too, will be the tactical nous and mobilisational skills of Sharad Pawar, a past master at splitting and merging parties and forging coalitions.

Indian Express

The New Education Revolution

Synergy between edtech startups and offline classes is the way forward

Mushtaq Ahmed Rather

Recently, social media saw numerous posts by concerned professors from various colleges with their classes empty. This is a global phenomenon. Barely anyone turns up. The classrooms look desolate, even after covid-19 is over.

The sudden outbreak of COVID-19 had initially thrown the education sector out of gear due to prolonged closure of schools. No one expected such a mass scale shut down of schools. The pre-covid era usually saw minimal incorporation of technological tools in teaching-learning transactions. The concept of online classes via varied platforms during the pre-COVID era seemed to be unrealistic and unproductive partly due to least digital penetration in the rural contours of the country and the lack of technical know-how in organizing and moderating online classes by the primary stake-holders: the teachers. With every daunting challenge, unfolds a new opportunity and the same was true for the emergence of COVID-19. The epidemic of COVID-19 stimulated all the essential stakeholders, be it government or key private players to build digital infrastructure even in the remotest and non-penetrative network areas of the country.

Now, long after covid-19 lockdowns are over, are offline classes gone for good? No.

While online classes show promise, they cannot replace offline classes entirely. However, offline classes cannot ignore the digital revolution as well. The collaborative approach of online and offline classes is actually the way forward and one approach cannot have an edge over the other provided the moderator and the facilitator strikes a balancing act between the two. T

his is actually where the concept of blended mode of learning or hybrid mode of learning has actually conceptualized or materialized and offers great degree of flexibility to mitigate the learning needs of the 21st century learner.

The government's digital interventions to upscale digital infrastructure such as National broadband mission, Digital India, Bharat net along with telecommunication driven digital revolution have made it possible to reach out to the sections of the student community which were previously inaccessible to online teaching platforms either due to non-availability of smart electronic gadgets or weak network penetration. UT level administration in general and department of Education in particular have undertaken certain desired digital interventions like establishment of sophisticated ICT labs in high and higher secondary schools with round the clock high speed internet facility. In some schools, even digital tablets have been pro-



Empty Classroom. Photo for representational purposes only

vided to individual students and teachers to keep pace and momentum with the rest of the world in the field of information and technology. The incumbent Director school education Kashmir, Tasaduq Hussain Mir has himself on pilot basis distributed mini-laptops to the students and faculty of HSS Nanil of district Anantnag and the same needs to be replicated with other educational institutions of the division in a phased manner.

Edtech is the collaborative ap-

It may seem scary on the part of the teacher at first, however the reality is that the teacher's role is indispensable in the process of education — with or without technology. However in the 21st century, teachers need to emoliate the role of a facilitator in helping and guiding students develop skills beyond acquisition of knowledge

proach of technology-software and/or hardware to facilitate teaching learning. Smartphones loaded with Edtech apps have now become synonymous with education. Classrooms have now moved beyond bricks and mortar to clicks and portals

The emergence and rapid adoption of Edtech is largely attributed to the fast-paced digitalization of India. Between 2010 and 2022, the number of internet users in India has increased manifold, from 92.5 million to 932.2 million. There has been a 27 times increase in the number of smartphone users in India, from 34 million in 2010 to 947 million in 2022.

Role of Edtech in facilitating teachers and students

Edtech facilitates both teachers and students by ensuring engaging pedagogical practices for teachers to complement their teaching. This includes a wide array of interactive smart boards, educational videos, virtual and augmented reality simulations. Edtech can also facilitate the process of academic administration through automated grading, classroom management tools. Automated grading through artificial intelligence tools can ensure efficient management of time and resources. Classroom management tools help create a less chaotic, more collaborative environment.

Edtech can assess student skills and needs in real time, leading to provocative plans to help struggling students.

The Edtech sector witnessed unprecedented growth and funding during the COVID-induced lockdown, when online education became a necessity rather than privilege. Before COVID, technology was used to supplement education. Post COVID, Edtech has become central to the education process. India's Edtech sector is one of the

largest in the world with about 400 startups operating across its various sub-sectors.

The government of India has launched various programmes and initiatives to promote digital education, such as SWAYAM, DIKSHA and e-patshala. The recent announcement by the Finance Minister is the National Digital University (NDU), a virtual university that will offer a wide range of courses across disciplines using digital technology.

Striking a Balance

During the pandemic, the importance of using digital tools such as networks, platforms and educational apps was accentuated. Students are gradually acclimatizing to face-to-face learning. These elements of Edtech will find their use in education as complementary approaches. However, to ensure the holistic impact of Edtech, it is important to strike a balance between technology and traditional education methods. The integration of technology should not compromise the quality of education, but rather enhance it.

As per the latest statistical data, merely 10% of the Indian population speaks and comprehends English and 45% speak Hindi. This highlights that 45% of the Indian population is not conversant with Hindi or/and English. Therefore

Edtech platforms need to focus on content creation in vernacular languages to ensure wide reach, utility and relevance.

One of the key objectives of NEP 2020 is holistic education. Edtech outreach initiatives must ensure that the core elements of holistic education that include environmental responsibility and sustainable development at the planet level, self-reliance and patriotism at the national level, community well being at the societal level and cultivation of human values along with righteousness and empathy at the individual level are incorporated into overall instructional design of the programmes.

Incorporation of practical work in Edtech led programmes

Edtech programmes must integrate internships/ apprenticeships as part of curriculum and program design. This will help students imbibe group dynamics, team building and interpersonal skills that are vital at the workplace. This will help them in a long way to test the knowledge and technical skills gained online on the field and thereby enhance their confidence and self-esteem when they enter the workforce.

It wouldn't be unrealistic to imagine the future where (AI) Artificial Intelligence will create individualized learning experiences for students. The AI would also be able to curate and recommend learning activities based on the student's progress, preferences and learning goals. It may seem scary on the part of the teacher at first, however the reality is that the teacher's role is indispensable in the process of education — with or without technology. However in the 21st century, teachers need to emoliate the role of a facilitator in helping and guiding students develop skills beyond acquisition of knowledge. Essentially, teachers will be responsible for nurturing students to become well-rounded individuals with a high emotional quotient (EQ), Social quotient (SQ) and intelligence quotient (IQ). The role of educational institutions will be to provide an environment that promotes peer-to-peer learning, facilitates hands-on experience, social interactions and on demand practical opportunities. Edtech will play a complementary role through techniques, products, platforms and services that will support, enrich and enhance the teaching-learning experience for students and equip them with knowledge and future skills that are vital for success in the 21st century.

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

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Reading a Book a Day

I am writing to express my deep appreciation for the power and significance of reading and to advocate for the habit of reading at least one book per month. In an era dominated by digital distractions and fleeting content, immersing oneself in a good book can be a transformative and enriching experience. Allow me to elaborate on the numerous benefits this practice holds for individuals and society as a whole.

First and foremost, reading a book a month nurtures our intellectual growth. Books are a treasure trove of knowledge, offering us an opportunity to delve into various subjects, explore different perspectives, and expand our understanding of the world. With each book we read, we gain new insights, acquire fresh

ideas, and cultivate critical thinking skills. It is through reading that we can become more informed, well-rounded individuals capable of engaging in meaningful conversations and making informed decisions.

Furthermore, reading stimulates our imagination and creativity. Books transport us to different times, places, and worlds, allowing our minds to wander and soar beyond the confines of our daily lives. The pages of a book can ignite our imagination, encouraging us to think beyond the status quo, fostering innovation and inspiration in our personal and professional endeavors. It is within the pages of a book that we can discover new possibilities and unlock our own creative potential.

Reading also has profound emo-

tional and psychological benefits. Books serve as a medium to explore complex human emotions, delve into the depths of our own inner lives, and empathize with characters from diverse backgrounds. They can offer solace during challenging times, provide a sense of connection when we feel isolated, and evoke a range of emotions that enrich our own emotional intelligence. In a world where mental health is a growing concern, reading offers a therapeutic escape and an opportunity for personal growth and introspection.

In addition, reading a book a month fosters better communication skills. By exposing ourselves to a wide range of writing styles, we become more adept at expressing ourselves coherently and articulately.

We learn to appreciate the nuances of language, enhance our vocabulary, and develop a more refined sense of grammar and syntax. These skills extend beyond the realm of reading; they are invaluable in our daily interactions, whether it's composing an email, engaging in a conversation, or crafting a well-structured argument.

Lastly, reading a book a month helps us disconnect from the constant barrage of digital noise and find respite in a slower, more contemplative pace. In a world where social media and instant gratification are prevalent, reading provides an antidote. It allows us to savor the written word, engage in deep concentration, and find a sense of peace and tranquility.

Juweria Khan

Colorectal Cancer in Men Understanding the Risks, Screening, and Prevention

Dr. Bharat Prajapati

Colorectal cancer poses a serious health threat to both men and women, but men face a higher risk of developing this disease and are more likely to experience mortality from it. Here are some factors that increase the risk of colorectal cancer in men, highlighting the importance of early screening and effective prevention strategies.

Understanding the Risk Factors:

Several factors contribute to the heightened risk of colorectal cancer in men. While some of these risk factors are beyond our control, awareness can empower us to make informed decisions and decrease the likelihood of developing this condition.

1. **Age:** Advancing age is a significant risk factor for colorectal cancer. This disease primarily affects individuals over the age of 50, and the risk increases steadily as we grow older.
2. **Family History:** Men with a family history of colorectal cancer or certain genetic conditions, such as Lynch syndrome, face a higher risk. If you have a close relative who has been diagnosed with colorectal cancer, it is essential to inform your healthcare provider to receive appropriate screening recommendations.
3. **Lifestyle Factors:** Unhealthy lifestyle choices can significantly contribute to the risk of developing colorectal cancer. Factors such as a diet high in fat and low in fibre, a sedentary lifestyle, obesity, excessive alcohol consumption, and smoking can all increase the chances of developing this disease.
4. **Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD):** Men diagnosed with chronic inflammatory bowel diseases, like ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease, face an increased risk of developing colorectal cancer. Regular monitoring and close follow-up with a gastroenterologist are crucial for early detection and prevention.

The Importance of Screening:

Colorectal cancer often develops without presenting symptoms in its early stages, underscor-



MEN WITH A FAMILY HISTORY OF COLORECTAL CANCER OR CERTAIN genetic conditions, such as Lynch syndrome, face a higher risk. If you have a close relative who has been diagnosed with colorectal cancer, it is essential to inform your healthcare provider to receive appropriate screening recommendations."

ing the importance of routine screening. Several screening options are available, including colonoscopy, sigmoidoscopy, and stool-based tests like the Fecal occult blood test (FOBT) and Fecal immunochemical test (FIT).

1. **Colonoscopy:** Regarded as the gold standard for detecting colorectal cancer, a colonoscopy enables direct visualization of the entire colon and rectum. It can iden-

tify and remove precancerous polyps, thus preventing the development of cancer.

2. **Sigmoidoscopy:** Similar to a colonoscopy, sigmoidoscopy examines the lower part of the colon. Although it does not provide a complete view of the entire colon, it helps detect rectum and sigmoid colon abnormalities.
3. **Stool-Based Tests:** FOBT and FIT are non-invasive tests that detect hidden blood

in the stool, indicating the possible presence of colorectal cancer or precancerous polyps. A colonoscopy is typically recommended for further investigation if these tests yield positive results.

Prevention Strategies:

Men can take measures to reduce their chances of developing colorectal cancer.

1. **Healthy Lifestyle:** Adopting a healthy lifestyle is crucial. A diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, and regular exercise can significantly lower the risk of colorectal cancer. Limiting alcohol intake and quitting smoking are also essential steps.
2. **Regular Screenings:** Routine screenings should commence at 50 for individuals at average risk. However, screenings may start earlier and be more frequent for men with higher risk factors, such as a family history or genetic predisposition. Adhering to the recommended screening guidelines can aid in early detection and treatment.
3. **Know the Symptoms:** Being aware of the signs and symptoms of colorectal cancer is essential. Symptoms such as persistent changes in bowel habits, rectal bleeding, abdominal pain, unexplained weight loss, and fatigue should prompt a visit to a healthcare professional for further evaluation.

Colorectal cancer poses a significant threat to men, but one can make a substantial difference by understanding the risk factors, emphasizing early screening, and adopting preventive measures. By prioritizing a healthy lifestyle and adhering to recommended screening guidelines, one can reduce the burden of this disease and improve outcomes for men at risk.

The author is Consultant Laparoscopic and Robotic Onco Surgeon, PIPEC Surgeon, HIPEC Surgeon, HCG Cancer Center, Ahmedabad

What Can We Do With Moon Dust?

PAUL M. SUTTER

This August, a Russian rocket is scheduled to leave Earth bound for the south polar region of the moon. It will be carrying Luna 25, a lunar lander charged with the mission of better understanding our rocky satellite's surface. NASA has a similar planned mission, scheduled to launch in November. And India's latest lunar lander, scheduled for launch in July will likely do some digging around in the dust, too.

Why the sudden surge in global interest in the surface of the moon—which might seem rather, well, uninteresting, save for a few footprints and a couple of golf balls?

Billions of years of impacts have ground it into a fine, sharp-edged powder.

It turns out that the surface of the moon is full of mysteries, particularly its fine dust covering. In the lunar soil, scientists hope to find clues about the formation of our solar system and glean answers about what other worlds might be like. It is also the destination for a new generation of crewed missions and the most likely site for the first permanent off-world human outpost. So not only will we want to learn how to live with this vexing substrate, we're also going to need to learn how to build with it. In other words, we're going to have to get our hands dirty.

Or maybe, we're going to have to get our hands regolithy.

"Regolith"—coined in 1897 by geologist George P. Merrill—comes from the Greek words for "blanket" and "rock," and refers to a loose, unconsolidated covering of jumbled rocks and fine particles. We have it here on Earth in spades, though we tend to call it by different names: soil, alluvium, volcanic ash, and so on.

But on the moon, we just have ... regolith. And the moon's regolith is entirely—physically and chemically—unlike anything we know here on Earth.

Over the years, we've learned a little about this strange material. We've learned from astronauts that it smells like gunpowder and that it is very sharp. We've even been able to bring some back to Earth to study. In 2020 the Chang'e 5 mission, launched by the Chinese space agency, successfully returned roughly 2 kilograms of lunar samples to



Earth. More than 50 years ago, three robotic Soviet Luna probes brought back 326 grams, and the six successful NASA Apollo missions returned 382 kilograms (which were sadly contaminated—the gritty lunar dirt cutting through the original containers, exposing them to Earth's air and moisture, permanently altering them).

Lunar regolith has its origins back when the moon's surface was full of active volcanoes a few billion years ago. Unlike on Earth, though, this rock was never subject to wind or rain, which ground down bits and pieces of rock through mechanical weathering. Instead, it has been subject to its own sort of weather: space weather, which is far harsher than anything our fertile loams are accosted with.

The majority of lunar regolith was once composed of much larger, more solid blocks. But billions of years of impacts have ground it into a fine, sharp-edged powder. Gigantic asteroids and comets have struck the moon for ages, blasting away entire craters and sending material scattering across the surface (and in some rare cases, all the way to Earth). In addition to breaking down rock, those impacts also generate enough heat to create molten pebbles that cool before they reach the surface again, embedding themselves in the regolith as microscopic glass-like beads, which were visible to the Apollo astronauts as red dust just under the surface. And besides the oc-

casional massive impact, the moon constantly suffers bombardment from micrometeoroids, where the same process plays out at a much smaller scale, pulverizing any impacted material into fine dust.

The sun, too, plays a role. Without an atmosphere, the moon experiences temperature swings of hundreds of degrees, starting chemical reactions and shutting them off in turn. And then there are the cosmic rays, tiny charged particles barreling into the solar system at nearly the speed of light. When they strike, they leave microscopic havoc in their wake, burrowing deep into the regolith and leaving a trail of altered chemicals behind.

The end result is that lunar regolith is much more rich in metals like titanium, magnesium, calcium, and iron than typical Earth crust, but relatively lacking in silicon and oxygen, which makes lunar-based industry and farming a complex, uncertain business.

When it comes to the moon's rocky, dusty surface, we still have many more questions than answers. All of our understanding is based on the paltry samples we've been able to acquire so far (which, to be fair, represent the only samples from another world that we have returned to Earth for study) and remote observations from orbiting satellites and Earth-based telescopes.

We still don't know how cosmic rays and solar radiation interact with familiar molecules to transmute them into strange new

combinations. We still don't know what the preserved record of lunar bombardments—in the form of hundreds of craters—tell us about the early days of the solar system. For that matter, we still don't know how the moon formed in the first place. Finding answers to these questions can help scientists piece together more details about how our solar system formed. It could also help us understand more about the universe beyond our orbit. The moon is a cosmic laboratory, the most easily accessible place in the solar system where we can directly study the properties of another world different from ours.

If we're going to live on the moon we're going to have to put its regolith to work for us.

And we have a lot of ground to cover. The moon has a surface area of more than 14 million square miles—about equivalent to the land area of Russia, Canada, and the United States combined. Given the gargantuan task of surveying, digging, and studying so much more of the moon's surface material, engineers and scientists have devised some clever solutions. For example, the EmberCore Flashlight, which recently won a grant from NASA's Innovative Advanced Concepts program, uses the x-rays and gamma rays naturally produced by a future rover's radioactive power source to illuminate the lunar surface, revealing valuable information about surface properties far outside the normal reach of a rover.

Ultimately, there is no replacement for human exploration though. The next generation of lunar scientists will be orders of magnitude more capable, swift, and adaptable than our landers and rovers. But they are going to have a tough time navigating the harsh realities of lunar dust.

For one, lunar regolith lacks the oxygen that's churned into Earth's soil—but has an overabundance of heavy metals, making it a poor substrate for plant growth. Plants can technically grow in lunar regolith, but they don't exactly come out healthy. Future lunar settlers will have to make do with either large-scale hydroponics or engineer massive processing to make the regolith more oxidized and suitable for farming.

Besides that, lunar dust has been ground to an extremely fine powder, akin to tal-

cum, after billions of years of constant solar and cosmic assault. It sticks to everything, manages to work its way through the tiniest of crevices, is surprisingly abrasive, and is generally very bad for lungs, skin, seals, and machinery.

But if we're going to live on the moon, we're going to have to not only make peace with its regolith but also put it to work for us. The moon's surface is a harsh environment, and any future human settlement will require extensive habitats. We simply won't be able to loft every floor, wall, roof, support beam, and rafter from Earth. The expenses of orbital launches will prevent that kind of large-scale deployment for generations. If we're going to build habitats, warehouses, roads, and all the various structures associated with human civilization, we're going to have to source a lot of the material much more locally.

In 1985 a geophysicist at the University of Pittsburgh, Larry A. Beyer, conceived of "Lunarcrete," a way to turn the moon's regolith into concrete. Like any concrete made on Earth, it's composed of an aggregate, water, and cement. Regolith would provide the aggregate, and there's plenty of it literally lying around the moon. Water is rather hard to come by, but it might be sitting in icy deposits in polar craters. The cement would come from calcium-rich deposits in lunar rocks. Experiments performed with Apollo samples have demonstrated the basic feasibility of the idea, but because of the lack of samples, further experimentation has stalled.

Other researchers have already sent simulated regolith to the International Space Station to study its ability to serve as a source material for 3-D printing. They hope that this work can lay the foundation for ... well, foundations of lunar colonies using the moon's rock itself, printed into a variety of useful shapes.

Although it seems far afield, we will need to take the first halting steps in understanding how to avoid the dangerous properties of extraterrestrial regolith and use it to our advantage, gaining the skills we need to venture farther into the solar system. And we are lucky to have the moon as our sandbox.

The article was originally published by Nautilus

Hormone Therapy May Cause Heartburn And Chest Pain, Reveals Study

ANI

For years, scientists have debated whether hormone therapy (HT) is linked to an increased risk of gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD). A recent comprehensive study and meta-analysis attempt to settle the controversy, revealing a strong correlation between HT use in the past and GERD.

The results of the analysis were published online in Menopause, the journal of The North American Menopause Society (NAMS).

GERD is one of the most frequent gastrointestinal disorders. Its worldwide frequency is estimated to be around 14 per cent. Heartburn, dysphagia (difficulty swallowing), and chest discomfort are common symptoms. Risk factors have been identified as anatomical anomalies such as hiatal hernia and obesity. Several medicines, including antidepressants, anti-inflammatory drugs, and HT, have also been related to GERD in several studies, with mixed results, particularly with regard to HT.

Estrogen increases stomach acid production and is associated with higher levels of plasma nitric oxide, which is a key neurotransmitter for the relaxation of the lower esophageal sphincter (LES). Progesterone relaxes the esophageal muscles and the LES, allowing stomach acid to flow back into the esophagus, causing GERD symptoms.



Previous research linked female sex hormones with GERD symptoms during pregnancy and with oral contraceptive use. However, the association between HT and GERD in postmenopausal women had remained unclear. A new systematic review

and meta-analysis, however, provides clarity by confirming a significant association between ever or current HT use and GERD.

Researchers conducted an online search of published randomized, controlled trials and observational studies investigat-

ing the association between HT and GERD. Although a total of 84 studies were originally identified, most were eliminated because of irrelevancy or because they were duplicates or associated with conference abstracts. What remained for analysis were

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five full-length studies that covered more than one million participants. No participants with a prior GERD diagnosis were included. All five studies reported a significant association between estrogen use and GERD, as well as between GERD and HT containing a combination of estrogen plus a progestogen. Women who received combined estrogen-progestogen therapies had a lower risk of GERD symptoms compared with HT containing estrogen alone or progestogen alone.

Additional research is suggested because of the small number of included studies. Hormone therapy has proven effective in treating many menopause symptoms. GERD risk factors should be considered when evaluating women with menopause symptoms.

Review results are published in the article "The association between menopausal hormone therapy and gastroesophageal reflux disease: a systematic review and meta-analysis." "Although additional research is needed, this study highlights the potential for the development of GERD symptoms with HT use. A review of risk factors for GERD and implementation of lifestyle strategies for prevention, such as smoking cessation, maintaining a healthy weight, and not lying down after a heavy meal, may be helpful to avoid GERD symptoms in menopausal women considering HT use," said Dr. Stephanie Faubion, NAMS medical director.

Apple Makes It Super Easy To Switch From Android To iPhone

Agencies

As more and more smartphone users continue to switch from Android to the iPhone ecosystem globally, including in India, it has now become super easy to get all your contacts, photos, videos and even WhatsApp content transferred to the iOS app.

One can start the Android to iOS switching process by downloading the 'Move to iOS' app on your Android phone.

It securely transfers your contacts, messages, WhatsApp con-

tent, photos, videos, email accounts and calendars from your Android phone to your iPhone.

Before you begin, on your Android device, make sure that Wi-Fi is turned on.

Plug your new iOS device and your Android device into power. Make sure that the content you're moving, including what's on your external Micro SD card, will fit on your new iOS device.

If you want to transfer your Chrome bookmarks, update to the latest version of Chrome on your Android device.

"Using the Move to iOS app, I

transferred all my data to iPhone," says Iska K.

For Chirag B, He used to play game with glitches on Android. "Now my experience is seamless," he said after switching to an iPhone. You can also trade in your current device for credit towards a new iPhone.

"You can even cover your interest on eligible products with No Cost EMI over 3 or 6 months from most leading banks. As a special offer, get up to Rs 6,000 instant savings on selected iPhone models with eligible HDFC Bank cards," according to Apple.

Office Of The Deputy Commissioner Anantnag

Preliminary Notification under Section 11 (1)

No: 23-3/ACR/Acq/Ang

dated: 01-07-2023

Whereas, requisition (indent) for land acquisition was placed by the JKPTCL Kashmir vide no TLMD-IVI/769-71 Dated 01-10-2022 for acquisition of land for construction of 01 No of C type Tower between Location no 135 E & 136 of 220 KV Transmission Line at Village Ganie pora Nirpora Mirbazar and same was forwarded to this collectorate for acquisition under Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013.

Whereas, it appears to the Government that a total of land measuring 07 Marlas 07 Sirsie under Survey Nos 382 min & 343 min is required in the Village Nipora Tehsil Anantnag District Anantnag for public purpose, namely construction of 01 No of C type Tower between Location no 135 E & 136 of 220 KV Transmission Line.

Whereas a committee under rule 4 of "The Jammu and Kashmir Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act (Social Impact Assessment and consent) rules 2022" was constituted vide no 323-36/LA/ACR/AMS Dated 22-11-2022.

Whereas committee submitted the report which reveals as under:

- That the indenting department was offered State /Government /Common land at various locations, however the indenting department statement stated that the tower is to be inserted at this particular location as such the State/Government/Common Land offered to indenting department was not found feasible.
- That the particulars of requisition submitted by the indenting department was verified and found correct.
- That the extent of land for acquisition is absolute bare minimum required for the project.
- That the requisition is consistent with the provision contained in section 10/other provisions of act.
- That there is no acquired land which has remained unutilized which may be used for said public purpose.
- That there is no displacement or rehabilitation involved in the said project.

Whereas, the committee recommended the case for acquisition under provisions of

The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013 & The Jammu and Kashmir Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act (Social Impact Assessment and consent) rules 2022.

Whereas, consent has been received from interested person under rule 21 of The amru and Kashmir Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act (Social Impact Assessment and consent) rules 2022 who has agreed to the acquisition of said project

Therefore it is notified that for the above said project in the Village Nipora tehsil Anantnag District Anantnag, a piece of land measuring 07 Marlas 07 Sirsie under Survey Numbers 382 min & 343 mln, whose detailed description is tabulated as following,

S.no	Survey no	Type of title	Type of land	Area under acquisition	Trees	Structures
1	382 min	Proprietary	Rural	6	8	Nil
2	343 min	Shamilat Sect-4	Rural	0	8	Nil
Total				7	7	

Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (30 of 2013), to all whom it may concern.

A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the Collector (Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Anantnag) on any working day during the working hours. The Government authorises Tehsildar Anantnag and his staff to enter upon and survey land, take levels of any land, dig or bore into the sub-soil and do all other acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in section 12 of the said Act.

Under sub section (4) of Section 11 of the Act, no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land i.e. sale/ purchase, etc. or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of such notification without prior approval of the Collector.

Objections to the acquisition, if any, may be filed by the person interested within 60 (sixty days) from the date of publication of this notification as provided under section 15 of the Act before Collector.

Place: Anantnag

DIPK-NB-1640/23 dated: 04-07-2023

Collector Land Acquisition
Assistant Commissioner (Rev) Anantnag, Shangus, Mattan

Office Of The Executive Engineer Special Sub Division Gurez

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Fresh E-NIT No. 13/REW/2023-24/EE/SSDG/2187-96/E-tendering/Dated:-01-07-2023

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S.No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs)	Time of Completion	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Major Head of Account	Class of Contractor
1	Construction of Soak pit liquid waste manegment comminuty based at new Colony Badwan Block Gurez.	2.00	200	15 days	4000	LMW	DEE/Other
2	Construction of Soak pit liquid waste manegment comminuty based at Tatran (Buglinder B) Block Tulail.	2.00	200	15 days	4000	LMW	DEE/Other
3	Construction of Soak pit liquid waste manegment comminuty based at Khoori Dwarar B Block Gurez.	2.00	200	15 days	4000	LMW	DEE/Other
4	Construction of Soak pit liquid waste manegment comminuty based at Checkwall (Gujanr) Block Tulail	2.00	200	15 days	4000	LMW	DEE/Other

Position of AAA: Accorded

Position of funds: Partially Available

Project Authority:-District Administration

The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, 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:

S.No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	01-07-2023
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 03-07-2023 To 11-07-2023 (10:00 AM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 03-07-2023 To 11-07-2023 (10:00 AM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 11-07-2023 (04:00 PM)
6	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	12-07-2023 (05:00 PM)

Bids must be accompany ed with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer Special Sub Division Gurez Major Head 0515-Rev/Misc [Tender Inviting Authority] (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dtd 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan/CDR/FDR should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) pledged to Executive Engineer Special Sub Division Gurez (Tender receiving Authority)..

All bidders have to pay 2% of advertised cost of the work as earnest money deposit (EMD) in shape of CDR pledged to Executive Engineer Special Sub Division Gurez at the time of uploading of tender.

The Istlowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract value as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/pledged to Executive Engineer Special Sub Division Gurez within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of work with DLP.

Special Condition: As per Govt. Order No: 238 -FD OF 2021 Dated : 07-09-2021

Participation/Allotments of works can be limited to members of Gram Sabha of each panchayat upto amount of 3.00 lacs only and participants should be registered with District Development Commissioner BANDIPIORA No Objection Certificate/ Bio Data for e- Tender Note: The below details are required for e-tendering participation in Panchayat (Annexure A)

All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.

DIPK-4483/23

dated: 04-07-2023

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Special Sub Division Gurez

Office Of The Executive Engineer Special Sub Division Gurez

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Fresh E-NIT No. 14/REW/2023-24/EE/SSDG/2197-2206/E-tendering/Dated:-01-07-2023

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S.No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs)	Time of Completion	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Major Head of Account	Class of Contractor
1	Construction of . Community Sanitary Complex (CSC) under SBMG 2022-23 at Middle School Abdul- lin Gujran Block Tulail.	3.00	200	15 days	6000	SBMG	DEE/Other
2	Construction of Community Sanitary Complex (CSC) under SBMG 2022-23 at Dawar Markrt Dawar A Block Gurez	3.00	200	15 days	6000	SBMG	DEE/Other

Position of AAA: Accorded

Position of funds: Partially Available

Project Authority:-District Administration

The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, 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:

S.No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	01-07-2023
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Special Condition: As per Govt. Order No: 238 -FD OF 2021 Dated : 07-09-2021

Participation/Allotments of works can be limited to members of Gram Sabha of each panchayat upto amount of 3.00 lacs only and participants should be registered with District Development Commissioner BANDIPIORA No Objection Certificate/ Bio Data for e- Tender Note: The below details are required for e-tendering participation in Panchayat (Annexure A)

All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.

DIPK-4489/23

dated: 04-07-2023

Executive Engineer
Special Sub Division Gurez

Neymar Fined \$3.33 Million For Constructing Artificial Lake At His Mansion In Brazil



Agenceis

Brazilian authorities said on Monday that soccer star Neymar was fined 16 million reais (\$3.33 million) for breaching environmental rules during the construction of his coastal mansion in southeastern Brazil. The luxury project violated rules regarding the use and movement of freshwater sources, rock and sand, local authorities first alleged late last month and confirmed on Monday. A spokesperson for Neymar de-

clined to comment on the matter. His residence is located in the town of Mangaratiba on the southern coast of Brazil's Rio de Janeiro state. Mangaratiba's environmental body said in a statement on Monday that environmental infractions were made "in the construction of an artificial lake at the mansion". Besides the fine, the case will be probed by the local attorney general's office, the state civil police and environmental protection office, among other environmental control bodies.

Aid Groups Alarmed At Jenin Access Curbs, Scale Of Israeli Attack

Agenceis

Aid agencies have expressed serious concern at the scale of the continuing Israeli attack in the occupied West Bank town of Jenin and the restrictions placed on medical access for seriously wounded people.

"We are alarmed at the scale of air and ground operations that are taking place in Jenin in the occupied West Bank, and air strikes hitting a densely populated refugee camp," Vanessa Huguenin, a spokesperson for the UN humanitarian office, told a briefing on Tuesday. She said three minors were among the victims. At least 10 Palestinians have been killed and dozens more wounded since early on Monday, when hundreds of soldiers, backed by air raids, stormed the camp in Israel's largest offensive on Jenin in more than 20 years.

World Health Organization spokesperson Christian Lindmeier said "first responders have been prevented from entering the [Jenin] refugee camp, including to reach persons who have been critically injured" due to restrictions put in place by Israeli forces. The camp is home to more than 20,000 Palestinians who are descendants of people dispossessed of their land and homes when the state of Israel was created in 1948. Jovana Arsenijevic, operations coordinator for Doctors Without Borders (Medecins Sans Frontieres, or MSF) in Jenin, told Al Jazeera her team's access on Monday had been limited due to bulldozers destroying roads leading to the camp, making it nearly impossible for ambulances to reach patients. Patients reached on foot by MSF staff had been seriously wounded by live ammunition and shrapnel, Arsenijevic said. "Today, most of the injuries were minor, mainly due to tear



gas intoxication, however, the situation seems to be escalating again," she said on Tuesday. Israel has claimed to be conducting targeted attacks against fighters in Jenin, which has become a symbol of Palestinian resistance, however, MSF said it was treating patients of all ages. Mai al-Kaila, the Palestinian health minister, told Al Jazeera the humanitarian situation in Jenin was dire. "Israel's aggression against Palestinians in Jenin is made through the destruction of many infrastructures - the water and electricity network is damaged, especially inside the refugee camp," al-Kaila said.

New 'Welcome' Initiative Introduces Pilgrims To Islamic Heritage, Culture



MAKKAH: The General Presidency for the Affairs of the Two Holy Mosques has launched the "Hayyakom" - meaning "Welcome" - initiative at the library of the Grand Mosque in Makkah. The initiative aims to welcome visitors and pilgrims while also promoting cultural and educational enrichment. It serves as a platform to acquaint visitors with Islamic heritage and the cultural history of the Kingdom. It also aims to foster a sense of spirituality and cultural consciousness among pilgrims and visitors. The initiative is part of the directives of Sheikh Abdulrahman Al-Sudais, the president of the

General Presidency for the Affairs of the Two Holy Mosques. Meanwhile, a group of pilgrims from China visited the Two Holy Mosques Exhibition and were briefed about features in the Grand Mosque. Assistant Undersecretary for Field Advisory Affairs Dr. Ibrahim bin Abdul Majeed Al-Barakati said that the visit formed part of the program carried out under the slogan "From Arrival to Departure" that the presidency had prepared for this year's Hajj season. Al-Barakati also highlighted the great efforts and pioneering role of the leadership in serving the mosques and their visitors.

Quick eats for busy people

Bun Maska
& Chai

Chicken Crispy

Burger

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