

Education Awakens The Mind: LG Sinha

Says Innovation, Research Will Now Become Soul And Integral Pillar Of The Universities'



Observer News Service

Katra: The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Saturday that it is the responsibility of Universities and teaching communities to prepare enlightened citizens through research, inquiry, creativity,

innovation and contribute to realize the vision of 'Viksit Bharat'. "Education awakens the mind. It offers the ability to question the status quo and the questions sow the seeds of growth. It is the responsibility of our Universities and teaching community to prepare enlightened **More on P10**

Reviews Progress On Delineation Of Gair Mumkin Khads

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday chaired a meeting with the senior officials to review the progress on delineation of Gair Mumkin Khads in various districts of Jammu Division. The meeting was attended by Shaleen Kabra, Financial Commissioner, Revenue; Vikramjit Singh, **More on P6**

6 JOURNEY FROM RAW MATERIALS TO knowledge products has been phenomenal. Innovation and research will now become the soul and integral pillar of the Universities,"

Parents To Face Rs 25K Fine, 3-Yr Jail For Allowing Minors Drive

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Parents who allow their minor children to drive cars and motorbikes in Kashmir Valley will now face a penalty of Rs 25000 and 3 year imprisonment under the new Motor Vehicles Act, a senior officer said Saturday.

"Till now, we were counseling minors and their parents. However, now we take strict action against the parents in accordance with the law," Dy Sp, Traffic, Mehboob-ul-Haq told Kashmir Observer Saturday. He said if a minor is found



driving a car or bike, his or her parents will have to shell out Rs 25000 fine, and 3 year imprisonment under the amended MV Act. He argued that the underage

drivers not only put their lives at risk but also threaten the precious lives of others as well. He said that the crackdown against underage drivers was already in progress and in the

coming days, it will be further intensified.

"The quick reaction teams (QRTs) of traffic police will step up crackdown against underage drivers. At the same time, regulation of traffic on roads is equally important. We will deal with both these issues simultaneously," Mehboob said.

"This move will definitely serve as a deterrent. We expect unending support of parents in our endeavor to make roads and streets safe for people," he added.

The senior **More on P10**

9 Soldiers Killed In Ladakh Accident

Press Trust Of India

Leh: Nine soldiers were killed and another was critically injured when their vehicle skidded off the road and plunged into a deep gorge in Leh district of Ladakh on Saturday, officials said.

The accident took place near Kiari in southern Ladakh's Nyoma, the officials said.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) of Leh P D Nitya said the Army vehicle, with 10 personnel on board, was on its way to Nyoma from Leh when its driver lost control and it plunged into a gorge at 4.45 pm.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh condoled the death of the personnel.

"Saddened by **More on P10**

Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana

CAG Picks Holes In Implementation Of Scheme In J&K

Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: Ineligible beneficiaries, money disbursed for the treatment in the name of deceased person, out-of-pocket expenditure and no recovery of penalties: these are some of the irregularities found by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India in government's much hyped Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) health insurance scheme in Jammu and



Kashmir.

According to the CAG report, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer, the PMJAY scheme in the Union Territory is marred with irregularities

and measures have been suggested to the Union Territory administration to bring an end to financial discrepancies.

AB-PMJAY was launched on 23 September 2018.

The scheme aims to provide health cover of Rs 5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization to over 10.741 crore families from the poor and vulnerable section of the population, based on the deprivation and occupational **More on P10**

CAT Reinstates Dental Surgeon Sacked 18 Yrs Ago

M Ahmad

Srinagar: Central Administrative Tribunal has directed authorities to accommodate a dental surgeon whose appointment was cancelled as withdrawn by J&K Public Service Commission after 18 years.



The Tribunal also put in abeyance the sacking order of the dental surgeon, A A Mughal.

As per the pleading before the CAT, the Commission had issued an advertisement notice on 23 June 2003, inviting applications from eligible candidates

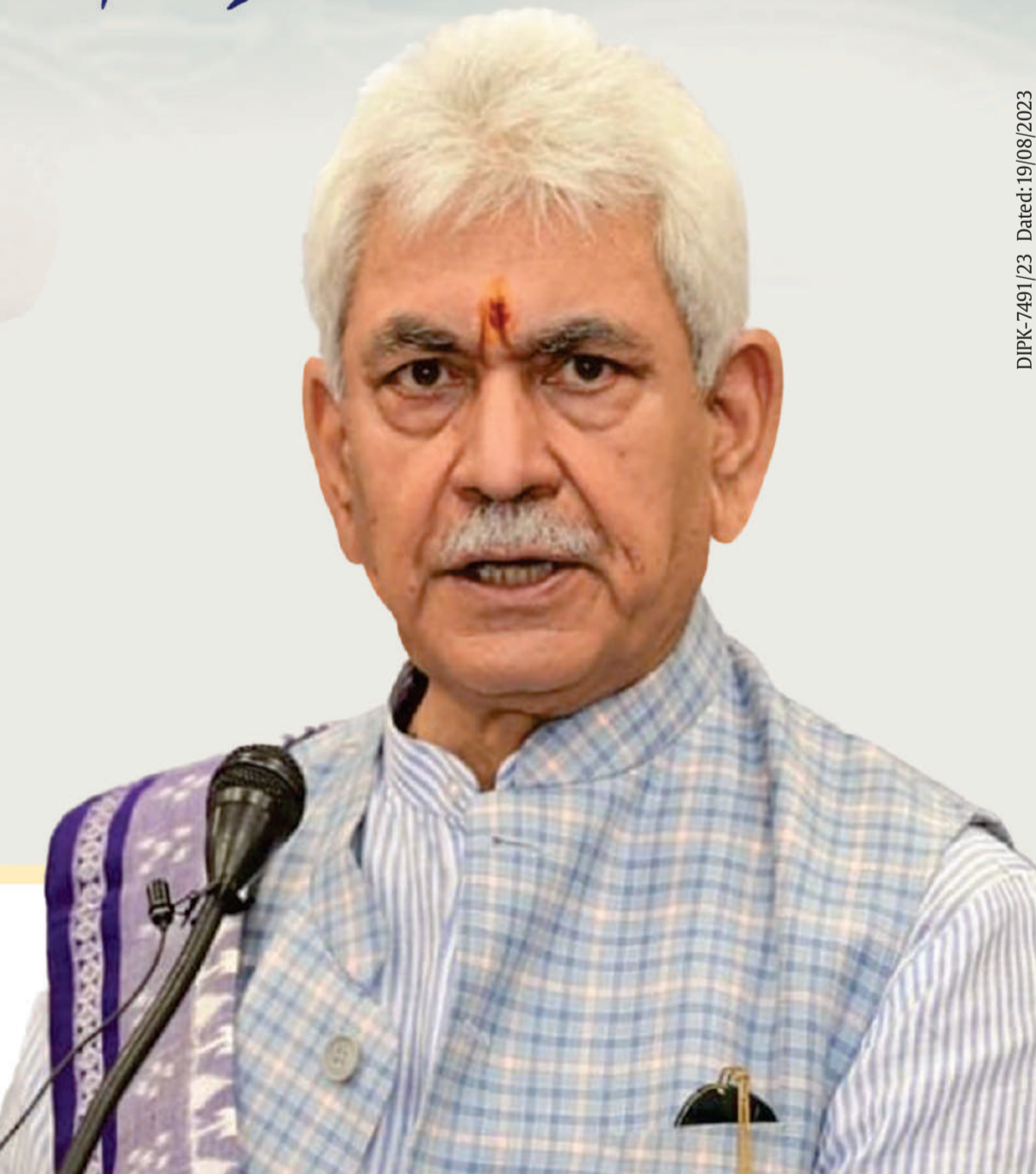
for the post of Dental Surgeon in the Health & Family Welfare Department.

A A Mughal being eligible applied for the post and after completing the selection process a select list was issued by the JKPSC on 29 September 2005 wherein she was also figured. Subsequently she joined the post in 2005 itself and the applicant is working as a Dental Surgeon with the department for the last 18 years.


In the meantime, one candidate questioned her non-selection since she **More on P10**








Awaam Ki Awaaz



► 20 August, 2023

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 8493085049 |  www.awaamkiawaaz.jk.gov.in

11:00 AM

DIPK-7491/23 Dated: 19/08/2023

Renovation Of Ghats Along Jhelum River In Srinagar Undertaken

Observer News Server

Srinagar: Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar have taken up an ambitious project to renovate about 40 ghats as part of the Jhelum riverfront development project to restore them to their old glory.

As part of the project, under the aegis of the Srinagar Smart City Project, 20 ghats on the Jhelum River here have been restored so far.

The initiative aims to preserve these heritage sites and revive these important public spaces, reconnect the city with the river and develop infrastructure to support water transport.

Apart from being places to socialize, the ghats were important for business as well, which was done through the water transport system.

"As per the riverfront development project beyond Amira Kadal to Chattabal we have around 40 ghats. Those used to be important public places and also for water transportation. Twenty of them have been restored and we will inaugurate them in a few days," chief executive officer (CEO), Srinagar Smart City Project, Athar Amir Khan told PTI here.

He said the ghats helped people to connect and socialize.

"They were also used for water transportation. We are working and many of these ghats are also getting converted into boarding and deboarding points for water transportation," Khan added.

Bilal Ahmad Dar, a washerman, who works at one of such ghats, said their renovation was essential.

"Ghats have significant importance as it generates employment for those who work at ghats. Renovation of ghats is essential as they are quite damaged. This step was much needed as it will help people like us to earn a livelihood. If the government will work more on ghats, it will bring in more benefits," he said.

Another washerman, Showkat Ahmad Dar, who washes shawls at one of the ghats over the river, said Kashmiri Pandits used to perform rituals at such places.

"Repairing ghats is very important and they should be cleaned properly," he said.

The ghats were once the backbone of the people of Kashmir as they used to live and do trade at ghats.

"In Srinagar, the artwork of Kashmir is dependent on these ghats. Significant mosques, shrines and temples are on the bank of the Jhelum River. A number of ghats have been renovated as it was an important step because it added up beauty," he said.



With Prof Parveen Pandit as its President, UK based Soroptimist International (SI), a global volunteer service for women, launched the Kashmir chapter amidst much fanfare on Saturday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Srinagar's Tulip Garden Makes It To World Book Of Records

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The exquisite Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden, nestled in the foothills of the Zabarwan mountain range, today earned a prestigious spot in the World Book of Records (London).

This coveted recognition hails the garden as Asia's largest tulip paradise, adorned with a breath-taking array of 1.5 million tulip bulbs, representing a stunning ensemble of 68 distinctive tulip varieties.

In a formal ceremony held today at the Tulip Garden, Commissioner Secretary Floriculture, Gardens & Parks, Sheikh Fayaz Ahmad was honored with the certification by President and CEO of

World Book of Records (London), Santosh Shukla.

Editor of World Book of Records (London), Dilip N Pandit, Director Floriculture Kashmir, other officers and gardening staff were also present on the occasion.

Speaking about this remarkable accolade, the Commissioner Secretary expressed his profound gratitude to the World Book of Records (London) team for acknowledging the magnificence of Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden.

He deemed this recognition as a monumental achievement, one that would not only elevate the stature of Srinagar's floral treasure but also contribute to the

growth of the local economy in the serene valleys of Kashmir.

He said the inclusion in the World Book of Records is not only a recognition of Srinagar's blossoming gem but also a celebration of the enchanting bond between humanity and nature.

President and CEO of World Book of Records, Santosh Shukla, extended his heartfelt congratulations to the Central Working Committee of the organization for the feat. He added that this recognition underscores the unparalleled beauty and magnificence of Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden, positioning it as a symbol of nature's splendor and human ingenuity.

• 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
- BUIBHARA: 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 4:24
 ZUHR 12:35
 ASR 5:20
 Magrib 7:18
 ISHA 8:44

HIJRI CALENDAR
 02 Safar
 1445

This Day In History

- 2- Venus and Jupiter in conjunction - possible astrological explanation for Star of Bethlehem
- 1391- Konrad von Wallenrode becomes the 24th Hochmeister of the Teutonic Order.
- 636 - Battle at Yarmuk: Muslims beat Byzantines
- 1641 - England & Scotland sign Treaty of Pacification
- 1828 - Hindi reform movement Brahma Samaj founded by Ram Mohan Roy and Dwarkanath Tagore in Calcutta
- 1864 - 8th/last day of battle at Deep Bottom Run Va (about 3,900 casualties)
- 1900 - Great Britain beats France by 158 runs in Paris; cricket's only appearance at an Olympic Games
- 1905- Sun Yat-sen, Chinese revolutionary, forms the first chapter of T'ung Meng Hui, a union of all secret societies determined to bringing down the Manchus
- 1914 - Battle at Gumbinnen, East-Prussia: Russians beat Germans
- 1914 - Battle at Morhange: German troops chase French, killing thousands
- 1914 - Bavarian troops kill 50 inhabitants of Nomeny, France
- Ed Klepfer & \$31,500; Jackson involved in 'Black Sox Scandal' 1919
- 1918 - WWI: Britain opens offensive on Western front invasion in Mongolia
- 1940 - 1st Polish squadrons fight along allies in the Battle of Britain
- 1944 - Soviet offensive at Jassy & Kisjinev
- 1944 - US & British forces destroy German 7th Army at Falaise-Argentan Gap
- 1953 - General Fazlollah Zahedi arrests Iranian Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddegh in a CIA supported coup d'état
- 1960 - USSR recovers 2 dogs, 1st living organisms to return from space
- 1961- East Germany begins erecting 5' high wall along the border with the west to replace the barbed wire put up Aug 13
- 1968 - During the night 250,000 Soviet and Warsaw Pact troops invade Czechoslovakia in response to the Prague Spring
- 1974 - Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed is elected fifth President of India
- 1975 - Il-62 crashes south of Damascus, Syria, killing 126
- 1975 - Viking 1 launched to orbit around Mars, soft landing
- USA
- 1977 - NASA launches Voyager 2 towards Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus & Neptune
- 1980 - UN Security Council condemns (14-0, US abstains) Israeli declaration that all of Jerusalem is its capital
- 1985 - Israel ships 96 TOWs to Iran on behalf of US
- 1985 - Libya throws out 1000s Tunisian/Egyptian gas workers
- 1988- 6.5 earthquake strikes India/Nepal, 1,000s killed
- 1988- Peru becomes a member of the Berne Convention copyright treaty
- 1990- Iraq moves Western hostages to military installations (human shields)
- 1991- Estonia formally declares its independence from the USSR
- 1992- England get 7-363 in 55 overs vs Pakistan, then world ODI record
- 1993- Oslo Peace Accords signed, after secret negotiations in Norway, followed by a public ceremony in Washington, D.C. the following month
- 1994- Archbishop Quarracino wants all homosexuals to leave Argentina
- 1994 Ferry boat sinks at Chandpur Bangladesh, 300-350 killed
- 1996- India defeat Pakistan in Under-15 World Challenge Final at Lord's
- 1997- Souhane massacre in Algeria; over 60 people are killed and 15 kidnapped.
- 1998- The Supreme Court of Canada rules that Quebec cannot legally secede from Canada without the federal government's approval.
- 1998- U.S. embassy bombings: US military launches cruise missile attacks against alleged al-Qaida camps in Afghanistan and a suspected chemical plant in Sudan in retaliation for August 7 bombings of American embassies in Kenya and Tanzania

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

POSSESSION NOTICE

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

Whereas Mr. Bashir Ahmad Bhat, as the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices dated 09.02.2023 thereby calling upon 1. Miss. Haleema Bano W/O Bashir Ahmad Wani R/O Tahab, Pulwama, sole proprietor of M/s Shining Star Cement Products (Borrower/Mortgagor 1), 2. Mr. Bashir Ahmad Wani S/O Abdul Gafar wani R/O Tahab Pulwama, (Mortgagor 2) 3. Mr. Abdul Rashid Reshi S/O Mohd Abdullah Reshi R/O Nownagri Pulwama (Guarantor) to repay an amount of Rs.39.11 lacs /- (Rupees Thirty Nine Lacs and Eleven Thousand only) being the balance outstanding as on 31.01.2023 in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrower/mortgagor having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower/mortgagor and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this the 17th day of August 2023.

The said borrower/mortgagor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount aggregating to Rs.41,39,840/- (Forty One Lacs Thirty Nine Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty only) being balance outstanding in the borrowers loan accounts as on 31.07.2023 together with future interest thereon from 01.08.2023 and other charges incurred or to be incurred. The attention of the borrower/mortgagor is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property
 Single Storied Residential House along with land underneath and appurtenant measuring 19 Marlas falling under Khasra No. 1039, Khata No. 232 and Khewat No. 41, Situated at Litter Pulwama, Standing in the name of Bashir Ahmad Wani S/O Abdul Gafar Wani R/O Tahab Pulwama.

Place: Pulwama (Mohammad Akram Khan) Authorized Officer
 Dated: 17.08.2023

Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India
 CIN: L65110JK1938SC000048 ; T : +91 (0)194 2481 930-35 ; F : +91 (0)194 248 1928 ; E : info@jkbmail.com ; W : www.jkbank.com

DIPK-NB-2701/23 DATED: 19-08-2023

G20 **NORTHERN RAILWAY** **75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DSTE/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India Invites E-Tenders against Tender Notice no. 433-Sig-T-18-23-24 Closing Date/Time 11/09/2023 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 online 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	Works
Name of Work	Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) of Amara Raja make Integrated Power Supply (IPS) systems installed over Firuzpur division for Three (03) years
Tender Type	Open (E-tendering)
Tender closing Date & Time	11/09/2023 15:00
Advertised Value (Rs.)	20876712.45
Tender Doc. Cost (Rs.)	NIL
Earnest Money (Rs.)	254400.00
Bidding Style	Single Rate for Tender
	Validity of Offer (Days)
	36 Months
	60 days

Tender Notice No: 433-Sig-T-18-23-24 Dated: 18.08.2023 Closing Date /Time: 11.09.2023 15:00

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2569/23

ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
 AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.
 Tel: 01933-247954/247955. Website: www.iust.ac.in

Extension Notice

It is hereby notified for information of all the concerned that the last date for submission of application forms for the post of Registrar advertised vide Advertisement Notice No. 06 of 2023 dated: 28-07-2023 is hereby extended as per the dates given below:

Last date of submission of Online Application Form	25-08-2023 (4:00 PM)
Last date of submission of hardcopies of the Application Form	31-08-2023 (5:00 PM)

No. IUST/Reg/Adv/E/23/245 Sd/-
 Dated: 18-08-2023 Registrar
 DIPK-NB-2706/23 DATED: 19-08-2023

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited
 Impaired Assets Portfolio Management Department
 Zonal Office Baramulla, Amargarh, Sopore
 Phone: 01954-221082/83
 E: amid.zobara@jkbmail.com

AUCTION CUM-SALE NOTICE

(For Sale of Secured asset under the SARFAESI Act, 2002)

Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s), Mortgagor (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd. (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 06.09.2023, for recovery of Rs. 3,24,243.91 being balance outstanding as on 31.07.2023 due to The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd. (Secured Creditor) from Mr. Mohammad Ramzan Mir S/o. Mr. Ghulam Hassan Mir R/o Mangam Waqoora, Sole proprietor of M/S Mohammad Ramzan Mir (Borrower cum Mortgagor) and i). Mr. Mohammad Maqbool Rather S/O. Mr. Ghulam Ahmad Rather R/O. Wattergam, Waqora Baramulla ii). Mr. Farooq Ahmad Dar S/O. Mr. Shamus ud din Dar R/O. Managam Waqora Baramulla (Guarantors). The reserve price will be Rs. 8.12 Lacs and the earnest money deposit will be Rs. 81,200.00.

Description of Property
 Land measuring 03 Kanals and 17 Marlas situated at Mouza Managam, Tehsil & District Baramulla standing in the name of borrower Mr. Mohammad Ramzan Mir with below mentioned schedule of property:

Khasra No.	Khata No.	Khewat No.	Kanals	Marlas
638 Min	109	30	01	09
825 Min	109	30	01	00
1287 Min	148	34	01	08
		Total	03	17

The tender document containing full details of the properties and all the terms and conditions can be had from JK Bank Branch Office Waqoora Baramulla during office hours on all working days against a payment of Rs.100/-. The completed tenders must be received in the said Branch latest by 05.09.2023. The tender should be accompanied by an Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of not less than 10% of the Price Offered (which in any case should not be below the Reserve Price for the property concerned) in the form of a Demand Draft/ Pay Order payable at Sopore, Kashmir, issued by a commercial bank in favour of the Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd. Branch Waqoora Baramulla.

This publication is also 15 days notice to the borrower/mortgagor/guarantors of the above said loan account about holding of sale on above mentioned date/ place if the outstanding dues are not paid in full.

Date: 18.08.2023
Place: Sopore
Mr. Iqbal Aziz Authorized Officer Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.

Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India
 CIN: L65110JK1938SC000048 ; T : +91 (0)194 2481 930-35 ; F : +91 (0)194 248 1928 ; E : info@jkbmail.com ; W : www.jkbank.com

DIPK-NB-2709/23 DATED: 19-08-2023

British Nurse Found Guilty Of Killing Seven Babies And Trying To Kill Another Six



Agencies

LONDON: A British nurse, who wrote a note stating "I am evil", was found guilty on Friday of murdering seven newborn babies and trying to kill another six in the neonatal unit of a hospital in northwest England where she worked.

Lucy Letby, 33, was convicted of killing five baby boys and two baby girls at the Countess of Chester hospital and attacking other newborns, often while she was working night shifts, in 2015 and 2016.

The verdict, following a 10-month trial at Manchester Crown Court, makes Letby one of Britain's most prolific serial child killers. She was found not guilty of two attempted murders while the jury was unable to agree on six other suspected attacks.

Prosecutors told the jury during the trial that Letby poisoned some of her infant victims by injecting them with insulin, while others were injected with air or force-fed milk, sometimes involving multiple attacks before they died.

"I killed them on purpose because I'm not good enough to care for them," said a handwritten note found by police officers who searched her

home after she was arrested. "I am a horrible evil person," she wrote.

Some of those she attacked were twins — in one case she murdered both siblings. She tried to kill one baby girl three times before finally succeeding on the fourth attempt.

Letby will be sentenced on Monday and faces a very long prison term, and possibly a rare full life sentence.

Her actions came to light when senior doctors became concerned at the number of unexplained deaths at the neonatal unit, where premature or sick babies are treated, over 18 months from January 2015.

With doctors unable to find a medical reason, police were called in. After a lengthy investigation, Letby, who had been involved in the care of the babies, was pinpointed as the "constant malevolent presence when things took a turn for the worse", said prosecutor Nick Johnson.

Letby wept when she gave evidence over 14 days, saying she had never tried to hurt the babies and had only ever wanted to care for them, saying there had been unsafe staffing levels on the ward and its dirty conditions might have been a factor in the deaths.

China Military Drills Send 'Stern Warning' To Taiwan After Us Visit

Agencies

CHINA has launched air and sea military exercises around Taiwan to send a "stern warning" to separatist forces on the island following a recent visit by Taiwan's Vice President William Lai to the United States.

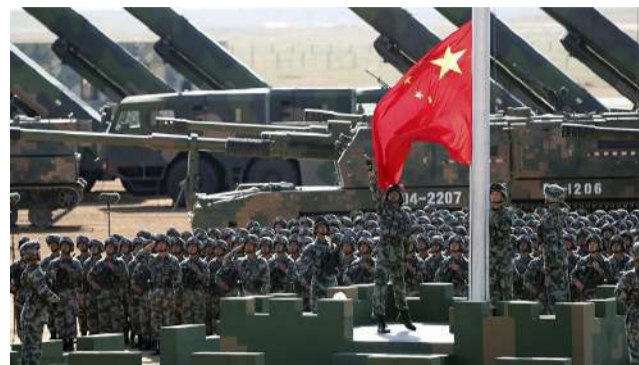
Taiwan responded on Saturday saying the drills highlighted Beijing's "militaristic mentality" and that combat aircraft, naval ships and land-based missile systems had been tasked with monitoring Chinese forces.

The People's Liberation Army's Eastern Theatre Command, which has responsibility for the area around Taiwan, said in a brief statement earlier on Saturday that it was carrying out joint naval and air combat readiness patrols around Taiwan.

The eastern command said the exercises focused on ship-aircraft coordination to test seizing control of air and sea space, and to test combat capabilities.

"The patrols and exercises serve as a stern warning to the collusion of 'Taiwan independence' separatists with foreign elements and their provocations," a spokesperson for the eastern command told China's state-run Xinhua news.

State broadcaster CCTV reported that missile-equipped vessels and fighter jets were involved in the operation and that units worked together to



simulate the surrounding of Taiwan.

Taiwan's defence ministry quickly condemned the drills, saying it had deployed appropriate forces to respond and had the ability, determination and confidence to ensure national security.

"The launch of the military exercise this time not only does not help peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait but also highlights [China's] militaristic mentality," the ministry said in a statement.

The ministry later reported that 42 Chinese aircraft and eight ships were involved in the drills, and 26 aircraft had crossed the median line which separates the two sides of the Taiwan Strait and previously stood as an unofficial border between the two sides.

Taiwan combat aircraft, land-based missile systems and naval vessels have been deployed to monitor the drills, the defence ministry said on social media.

'A troublemaker through and through'

Taiwan's Vice President Lai, the frontrunner to be Taiwan's next president at elections in January, returned from the US on Friday, where he had stopped over on his way to and from an official state visit to Paraguay.

Taiwanese officials and analysts had said China was likely to conduct military exercises this week near the island in response, using Lai's transit through the US as a pretext to intimidate Taiwanese voters ahead of next year's presidential election and make them "fear war".

China's foreign ministry issued a statement to coincide with Lai's arrival in the US, saying it was opposed to any form of a visit by "Taiwan independence separatists" to the US. "Lai stubbornly adheres to the separatist position of Taiwan independence and is a troublemaker through and through," the ministry said.

African Swine Flu Reported In Kerala Village, Pigs Ordered To Be Culled

Press Trust of India

KANNUR, KERALA: An outbreak of African swine flu has been reported in Kanichar village in this north Kerala district, following which the district Collector ordered culling of pigs in two farms there.

The district animal husbandry official confirmed the flu at a private farm located at Malayampadi on Friday.

Subsequently, the district authorities ordered culling of the pigs there and in another nearby farm located in a 10km radius, and bury the carcasses as per protocols.

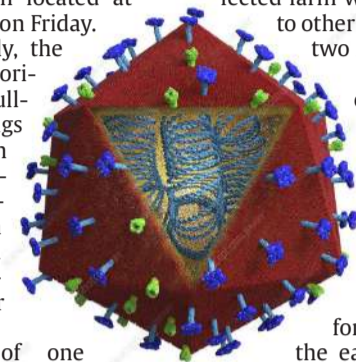
An area of one km around the pig farm, where the infection had been detected, was declared as an infected area and a radius of 10km as a disease surveillance zone, official sources said.

Distribution and sale of pork in the area and its transportation to other places have been banned for three months, they said.

The Collector, the chairman of the district disaster management authority, also asked the local authorities to submit an urgent report to confirm whether the pigs from the affected farm were transported to other farms in the last two months.

If any fresh case of the disease was reported anywhere in the village panchayat, the disaster management authority should be informed about it at the earliest, an order in this regard said.

The veterinary officer in the hamlet was directed to take urgent measures to check the further spread of the disease, it added.



Gujarat High Court Pulled Up Over Adjournment Of Abortion Request

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court today expressed displeasure over the Gujarat High Court adjourning a rape survivor's petition for medical termination of her 26-week pregnancy, and said "valuable time" has been lost during the pendency of the matter.

In a special sitting on a Saturday, a bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan observed that there should be a sense of urgency in such cases and not a "lackadaisical attitude" of treating the matter as any normal case and just adjourning it.

The Supreme Court was informed by the counsel for the petitioner that the 25-year-old woman had approached the high court on August 7 and the matter was taken up the next day.

He said the high court had on August 8 issued a direction for the constitution of a medical board to ascertain the status of pregnancy as well as the health status of petitioner. The report was submitted on August 10 by the medical college where she was examined.

The top court noted that the report was taken on record by high court on August 11 but "strangely", the matter was listed 12 days later i.e. on August 23 "losing sight of the fact that every day's delay was crucial and of great significance having regard to the facts and circumstances of the case".

The bench also noted that the petitioner's counsel has brought to its notice that

the case status of the matter showed that the petition was rejected on August 17 by the high court but no reasons were dictated in the court and the order is yet to be uploaded on the high court's website.

"In the circumstance, we direct the secretary general of this court to inquire from the registrar general of the High Court of Gujarat and ascertain as to whether the impugned order has been uploaded or not," the bench said.

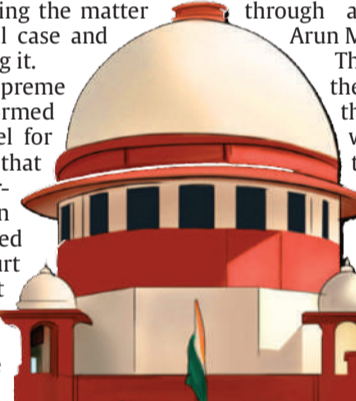
The petitioner has approached the Supreme Court through advocate Vishal Arun Mishra.

The counsel for the petitioner told the bench the woman petitioner was in her 26th week of pregnancy when the medical board was constituted. "On August 11, it was stand over to August 23. For what purpose?" the bench asked, adding, "By then how many days are lost?"

The petitioner's counsel said the matter was listed on August 17 instead of August 23.

Observing that valuable days have been lost in just postponing the case, the bench said when the petitioner had sought for the termination of pregnancy and had approached the high court, she was already 26 weeks pregnant.

"Therefore, we find that valuable time has been lost between August 11, when the report was placed before the high court, and the order stating that the matter would stand over to August 23," it said.



Uttar Pradesh: Muslim Couple Beaten To Death By Neighbours Over Dispute In Sitapur



Agencies

SITAPUR: A couple was killed after allegedly being attacked with iron rods and sticks by their neighbours in Uttar Pradesh's Sitapur district, police said on Saturday.

The deceased has been identified as Abbas and his wife as Kamrul Nisha, they said.

According to officials, the incident took place in Rajeypur village under the Hargaoan PS limits on Friday. Upon receiving the information, senior police officials reached the spot and started the investigation.

Officials said that the bodies have been sent for post-mortem examination, and a probe into the matter has been initiated.

"The couple died on the spot in the attack and all the accused fled," Sitapur Superintendent of Police (SP), Chakresh Mishra, said.

SP Mishra informed that a few years back Abbas's son had eloped with a girl from their neighbour's family and a dispute on the same triggered the incident on Friday.

"A case was registered in this and Abbas's son was sent to jail. When Abbas's son was released from jail a few days back, there was again a dispute between the families," he said.

"A case under relevant sections has been registered, and a hunt has been launched to identify and nab the accused persons," SP Mishra added.

Indian-Origin Lab Owner Sentenced To 27 Years In Prison For \$463 Million Genetic Testing Scam In Us

Press Trust of India

HOUSTON: An Indian-origin laboratory owner from the US state of Georgia was sentenced to 27 years in prison for his involvement in a USD 463 million genetic testing scam spanning over three years to defraud Medicare.

Minal Patel, who owned LabSolutions LLC, was sentenced on Friday to 27 years in prison for his role in the scheme to defraud Medicare by submitting over USD 463 million in genetic and other laboratory tests that patients did not need and were procured through the payment of kickbacks and bribes.

The 44-year-old conspired with patient brokers, telemedicine companies and call centres to target Medicare beneficiaries with telemarketing calls falsely stating that their package covered expensive cancer genetic tests, the Department of Justice said on Friday.

After the Medicare beneficiaries agreed to take tests, Patel paid kickbacks



and bribes to patient brokers to obtain signed doctors' orders authorising the tests from telemedicine companies, the department said in a press release.

To conceal the kickbacks, Patel required the patient brokers to sign contracts that falsely stated that they were performing legitimate advertising services for LabSolutions.

From July 2016 through August 2019, LabSolutions submitted more than USD 463 million in claims to Medicare, including for thousands of medically unnecessary genetic tests, of which the national health insurance programme paid over USD 187 million.

In that timeframe, Patel personally received over USD 21 million from Medicare in

connection with the fraud.

"Deception, kickbacks, and bribes have no place in the provision of legitimate genetic testing and telemedicine services to patients who need them," said Special Agent in Charge Jeffrey B. Veltri of the FBI Miami Field Office.

"Patel bilked hundreds of millions of dollars from Medicare through a complex testing fraud scheme. He is now paying the price for this crime," he said.

The case was brought as part of Operation Double Helix, a federal law enforcement action led by the Health Care Fraud Strike Force under the supervision of the Criminal Division's Fraud Section.

It focused on fraudulent genetic cancer testing, resulting in charges against dozens of defendants associated with telemedicine companies and cancer genetic testing laboratories for their alleged participation in one of the largest healthcare fraud schemes ever charged.

NEWS MAKERS

Pak Opp Leader Shah Mehmood Qureshi Arrested

Agencies

KARACHI: Pakistani opposition leader Shah Mehmood Qureshi was detained on Saturday, his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party said, just hours after he said it would challenge any delay to the country's election in the courts.

Party spokesman Zulfi Bukhari told Reuters the specific reason for the detention of Qureshi, twice Pakistan's foreign minister, was not immediately clear. The caretaker information minister did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Bukhari condemned the arrest on the social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter, saying he was "arrested for doing a press con-



ference and re affirming PTI stance against all tyranny and pre poll rigging that is going on currently in Pakistan."

PTI party chairman Imran Khan is currently jailed for three years after being convicted on graft charges and is barred from contesting any election for five years. He denies any wrongdoing. Khan won the last election in 2018 and became prime minister

until he was ousted in a no-confidence vote in 2022.

The election is meant to be held within 90 days of parliament being dissolved last week, by November, but uncertainty looms over the date as the nation grapples with constitutional, political and economic crises.

The outgoing government approved a new census in its final days, meaning new electoral boundaries must be drawn up by the Election Commission.

The exercise of drawing fresh boundaries for hundreds of federal and provincial constituencies in a country of 241 million people may take six months or more, according to a former commission official.

Thieves Plan 2 AM Robbery, Break Open ATM Only To Find No Cash Inside

Press Trust of India

PALGHAR, MAHARASHTRA: Burglars broke open an automated teller machine (ATM) of a nationalised bank near Maharashtra's Palghar town in the early hours of the morning today, but had to return empty-handed as there was no cash inside, police said.

The incident occurred at Maswan village in Palghar taluka, they said. "Some robbers entered an ATM kiosk of a nationalised bank around 2 am. They not only broke open the ATM box, but also damaged the CCTV camera installed inside the room," an official of Manor police station said.

"However, they could not take anything from the ATM as there was no cash kept inside it as the machine was undergoing some repair work," he said.

A case has been registered against the accused, who are yet to be identified, he added.

Rahul Gandhi Rides His Bike From Leh To Pangong Lake, Remembers His Late Father's Words

Agencies

LEH: Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, who is currently on a trip to Ladakh, rode his KTM 390 Duke motorbike from Leh city to the picturesque Pangong Lake on Saturday.

In an Instagram post, the senior Congress leader said: "On our way to Pangong lake, which my father used to say, is one of the most beautiful places in the world."

He also used the hashtags of Leh, Ladakh and PangongTso.

Rahul arrived in Leh on Thursday afternoon to a rousing welcome. He will stay in Ladakh till August 25.

On Friday, he interacted



with youngsters in Leh and also attended a football match.

On Sunday, he will pay tribute to his later father and former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi on his birth anniversary at the Pangong Lake.

Later, he will also visit

Kargil and address a public meeting there.

During his visit to the Karol Bagh bike market in the national capital earlier this year, Rahul had mentioned that he owns a Duke 390 bike but he hardly rides it in the city due to security concerns.

J&K Bank Sacks Chief Manager Sajad Bazaz

SRINAGAR: Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd. Saturday dismissed its chief manager Sajad Bazaz from services with immediate effect.

In an official order managing director-cum-chief executive officer of J&K Bank said that the activities of Sajad Ahmad Bazaz, Chief Manager, warrant his dismissal from service under Rule/Provision 12.29 of Officers Service Manual (OSM).

"Whereas the undersigned is satisfied under Rule/Provision 12.29 in OSM that in the interest of the security of the State, it is not expedient to hold an enquiry in the case of Sajad Ahmad Bazaz, chief manager, Code no. 4484. Accordingly, I hereby dismiss Mr. Sajad Ahmad Bazaz, chief manager, Code no. 4484 from service, with immediate effect," reads the order. KNS

Broker Arrested For Fraudulently Selling Migrant Property

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A land broker allegedly involved in facilitating the transfer of migrant property worth crores of rupees by forging a power of attorney was arrested from Srinagar after eight years, Jammu and Kashmir Police Crime Branch said on Saturday.

A special team of the Economic Offences Wing of Crime Branch Jammu apprehended Ghulam Rasool Mir alias Rasool DC, a resident of the Gulab Bagh area of Srinagar, in connection with a case registered in 2007, the agency said in a

statement here.

Mir was booked in several sections of the Ranbir Penal Code, the agency said.

It said Mir was arrested for his alleged involvement in the transfer of migrant property in collusion with revenue authorities and two other parties.

The charge sheet in the case against 12 accused including Mir was filed in the court on March 23, 2015.

The court had issued an arrest warrant against Mir who was on the run and was evading his arrest, the statement said.

LAHDC KARGIL POLLS

Rahul, Omar Likely To Address Public Gathering In Kargil On Aug 25

Agencies

SRINAGAR: With preparations underway for the 5th General Autonomous Hill Development Council elections in Kargil, Rahul Gandhi, and Omar Abdullah are likely to address a mega gathering in the district on the August 25, party sources said.

places both NC and INC are contesting friendly. We have decided 50-50 on the post-poll alliance agenda," the party source said.

He said that Rahul Gandhi is arriving in Kargil in the evening on the 24th of August. "In the first instance on the same evening, he will hold a youth interaction program."

The party source further said that Rahul Gandhi is going to address a mega public rally in Kargil the next day. "He is scheduled to address a mega public rally on 25th August. Omar Abdullah is also likely to join the public rally on the invitation. They will both address the public of Kargil together," the party source said requesting anonymity.

Meanwhile, INC Spokesperson, Nasir Munshi said that the presence of Rahul Gandhi is going to boost the support for the alliance in the district.

He said that they have together worked with NC on seat to seat basis. "Everything once decided in the alliance together has been revealed. Only NC and INC have a strong political hold in the district. We aim to win with an absolute majority."

Election authorities in the region have already released the election schedule for Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Kargil which will witness a direct contest between the National Conference-Congress alliance and the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP).

Top party sources told a local news agency KNO that both Rahul Gandhi and Omar Abdullah are likely to address a mega election-related gathering in Kargil district on Friday next week (25th August).

Both National Conference and Indian National Congress (INC), have announced their pre and post-poll alliance.

A party source said that as of now candidates on 15 seats have been announced by both INC and NC together. "We have announced candidates as per constituencies, while at some

highlighted the public concern over the installation of smart electricity meters besides pension for widows.

The delegation put forth effectively the problems being faced by the public because of wrong metering complaints on smart meters as also forcible shifting from postpaid to prepaid system which has caused distress in public, the spokesperson said. He said the Lt Governor assured the delegation that there will be no forcible conversion from postpaid to prepaid electricity meters and that a grievance redressal system will also be put to place.

of society.

The J&K government has also proposed review of existing laws to bring them in line with present day requirements. "The Home department administers various central laws as well as the existing laws of the UT of Jammu & Kashmir. The review of the laws is an ongoing process guiding by requirement of the day. However, the Home Department is in the process of reviewing various laws administered by it, which includes the Police Act of 1927, J&K Home Guards Act-1949 and Fire Force Act," reads the documents.

As per the vision document, the expectations of the people would be taken into account while reviewing the laws. —(KNO)

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Record 36.85 Lakh Participated In I-Day Celebrations

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In what could be termed as a historic milestone in J&K, a record number of 36,85,106 persons participated in the celebrations held across the districts of the UT displaying patriotic fervor, an official spokesperson said Saturday.

He said that a total of 42,879 events were conducted right from the Panchayat level with large number of people participating in each such function. Similar events, he said, were carried out in the educational institutions, Patwar Khanas, Municipalities, Tehsils and Block offices with enthusiastic participation from large number of students, elected representatives and government employees.



File Photo/Abid Bhat

"Apart from the usual events which were conducted at the twin capitals and district headquarters of the UT where common people were given free entry, the celebrations were made in scores of villages and towns raising the participation to new levels," the spokesperson said.

Besides, he said, that flag hoisting ceremonies were also held at all the Directorates, Divisional and District offices of the UT where thousands of employees participated with national fervor.

According to the spokesperson, many of the private institutions like industrial units, educational institutions and hospitals also participated in the national celebrations by conducting events at their own level.

"People from all walks of life including PRI members, civil

society, SHGs, Ex-Servicemen, youth and other citizens also took part in great numbers," he added.

Giving a break-up, the spokesperson said that in Jammu Division 19,76,255 individuals participated in 23,163 celebrations and in Kashmir Division 17,08,851 persons took part in 19,716 functions held across the districts of the valley.

"Both the number of participants and the events are itself historic. People of J&K availed the opportunity to showcase their devotion and love towards the nation," he said.

In Kashmir, the spokesperson said, Baramulla reported highest level of participation of about 5,05,909 persons in 3353 events followed by Anantnag with 2,45,618 people in 2676 events.

Kupwara, he said, organized highest number of 4993 events providing opportunity to 2,34,146 persons and Pulwama organized 1140 events participated by 1,81,195 persons in the district.

"In Jammu Division the highest participation of people were seen in Rajouri district

where 3,95,916 persons took part in 7756 functions followed by Kathua having 3,06,801 people taking part in 1317 events. Similarly in Poonch 2,87,719 persons took part in 4060 celebrations and Udhampur had 2,58,830 persons celebrating the Independence Day at 889 places," he added.

Giving details of the twin capital cities of Srinagar and Jammu, the spokesperson said that 91,504 persons in 2052 functions and 1,45,663 in 2515 functions participated respectively.

He further said that at the marquee events held at Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar where Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha hoisted the tricolor around 10,000 people were present and at M.A Stadium, Jammu attendance of about 11,000 persons was recorded.

"In addition to these, as part of the 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign dozens of 'Triranga Rallies' were taken out by thousands of PRI members, government employees, students and civil society members presenting a spectacular views across the districts of the UT," the spokesperson said.

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J&K's Vision Document 2047

Govt TO Adopt Best Non-Lethal Strategies For Safety Of People

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In its vision document 2047, the Jammu & Kashmir government has proposed adoption of best non-lethal strategies from across the globe to ensure safety and security of common masses in the Union Territory.

The vision document, states that in the coming years, the best practices regarding non-lethal strategies is envisioned to be adopted from across the globe to create an environment in which the common citizens would feel more secure/reassured of the safety of lives and properties. "The UT of J&K for the past few decades has been facing terrorism/surgency in its various forms.

This, at times, creates internal law and order disturbances requiring adoption of the non-lethal strategies. These include non-lethal weapons, counter radicalization approaches and effective counselling measures. The strategies, so far, adopted, have resulted in almost negligible loss of civilian lives," reads the document.

The vision document 2047, which was released in May 2023, is the declaration of mid-term and long-term goals of Jammu & Kashmir. It contains a detailed roadmap of all departments to be followed till 2047 for development and all other aspects.

It also talks about strict enforcement of law to deal with elements inimical to the peace

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BJP Delegation Calls On LG; Submits Memorandum On Public Issues

Press Trust Of India




JAMMU: A eight-member delegation of senior BJP leaders on Saturday called on Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha at the Raj Bhawan here and highlighted various issues of public welfare, an official spokesman said.

The delegation, which included former ministers Sham Lal Sharma, Sat Sharma and Surjeet Singh Slathia, submitted a memorandum of demands to the Lt Governor, the spokesman said.

A BJP spokesperson said the delegation led by party General Secretary Vibodh Gupta

highlighted the public concern over the installation of smart electricity meters besides pension for widows.

The delegation put forth effectively the problems being faced by the public because of wrong metering complaints on smart meters as also forcible shifting from postpaid to prepaid system which has caused distress in public, the spokesperson said. He said the Lt Governor assured the delegation that there will be no forcible conversion from postpaid to prepaid electricity meters and that a grievance redressal system will also be put to place.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE ZONAL EDUCATION OFFICER KUPWARA

Mr Manzoor Ahmad Bhat
RReT UPS Bategam, Zone Kupwara.

Subject:- Show Cause Notice
Ref:- Headmaster UPS Bategam Kupwara's No:- UP-S/B/203/07/23 Dated:- 31/07/2023

Whereas, you were engaged as ReT during the year 29/05/2010 in UPS Bategam vide ZEO Kupwara's order No:- ZEOK/3321-24 Dated:- 29/05/2010.

Whereas you were regularized as RReT in the year 29/05/2015 vide DSEK order No:- 652 DSEK of 2019 dated:- 30/07/2019 and Chief Education Officer kupwara's No:- Estt/Gaz/2019/16294-307 Dated:- 31/07/2019 w.e.f 29/05/2015

Whereas, as reported by Headmaster UPS Bategam, you had been unauthorized absent from your legitimate duties since 27/02/2020 which attracts action as warranted under relevant rules.

Now, therefore through the medium of this notice, you are given an opportunity to resume your duties within 07 days from the date of issuance of this notice, failing which it shall be presumed that you have nothing to say in your defence and action as warranted under relevant rules shall be initiated against you without any further notice.

No:-Estt/ZEOK/023/4044
Dated:-16/08/2023

Sd/
Zonal Education Officer
Kupwara

DIPK-7428-23
DT: 20/08/2023

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE ZONAL EDUCATION OFFICER
HAWAL-SRINAGAR

SUBJECT: ENGAGEMENT/HIRING OF HELPERS / AAYAS UNDER ECCE FOR THE YEAR 2023-24.

EXTENSION OF DATE

IN VIEW OF POOR RESPONSE. / (SUBMISSION OF INCOMPLETE DOCUMENTS/OTHER DEFICIENCIES OBSERVED IN THE ALREADY RECEIVED APPLICATIONS) WITH REGARD TO APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR ENGAGEMENT / HIRING OF HELPERS / AAYAS UNDER EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE & EDUCATION (ECCE) IN VARIOUS SCHOOLS OF THIS ZONE VIDE THIS OFFICE NO: ZEO/H/2023-24/511 DATED: 13.07.2023 AND PUBLISHED IN RISING KASHMIR, GLOBAL KASHMIR & THE DAILY UQAB ON 14.07.2023 AND EXTENSION THEREOF VIDE THIS OFFICE NO: ZEO/11/2023-24/578 DATED: 02.08.2023, PUBLISHED IN THE DAILY SHAHANSAH, HEADLINES TODAY & TIMES OF GANDERBAL ON 03.08.2023. THE LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS IS FURTHER EXTENDED TILL 24.08.2023 UPTO 4.30 P.M IN RESPECT OF BELOW MENTIONED SCHOOLS ONLY. OTHER TERMS & CONDITIONS SHALL REMAIN THE SAME AS MENTIONED IN THE EARLIER NOTICE

S.NO.	NAME OF THE SCHOOL	S.NO.	NAME OF THE SCHOOL	S.NO.	NAME OF THE SCHOOL
01	MS SHEESH BAGH	02	GMS KAMANGARPORA	03	BMS RAJOURI KADAL
04	BMS GULSHANABAD	05	MS MEHBOOBABAD	06	GMS ALAMGIRIBAZAR
07	PS DAG KADAL	08	PS UMER COLONY		

NO: ZEO/H/2023-24/632
DATED: 19.08.2023

(TAHIRA HAFFIZE)
ZONAL EDUCATION OFFICER
HAWAL-SRINAGAR

DIPK-7435-23
DT: 20/08/2023

IN THE COURT OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE PULWAMA

Present: MAJID FAROOQ MIR

In the Case of:
Name: Nisar Ahmad Mir VS Registrar Births & Deaths
S/o Ghulam Mohd Mir (BDO) Newa
R/o: Sirgo Narbal Distt Pulwama
Applicant... Non Applicant...

NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

Whereas the above titled application has been filed by the applicant in this Court for seeking direction to the non applicant for registration of Date of Birth particulars of the applicant's son/daughter namely Haris Nisar Mir S/o Nisar Ahmad Mir R/o Sirgo Narbal Distt Pulwama who was born on 20-05-2020 at home.

Whereas, through the medium of this proclamation the public at large is informed that in case any one has objection in issuance of direction with respect to the date of birth certificate of the applicant's son/daughter, he shall file the same before this Court in person or through counsel within 10 days from the date of issuance of this publication.

Given under my hand and seal of this office on 11/08/2023
Announced Judicial Magistrate 1st Class
11/08/2023 INFO Pulwama

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ELECTRIC KPDCL DIVISION SHOPIAN

EXTENSION OF e-TENDER

Subject: Corrigendum to critical dates to Enit No.18 OF 2022-23 (e-tendering) Dated: 02-08-2023

Due to poor response in the above subjected ENIT, the last date of Bid Submission is hereby extended upto 25-08-2023 (11.00 Hrs.) to get more response.

ENIT No	Last date of Submission Of e-Bids (extended)	Date of opening of Technical bids (extended)
EDS/E-TENDER/18 OF 2023-24 DATED 02/8/2023	Upto 25-08-2023 (11.00 Hrs)	25-08-2023 (14.00 Hrs) or as convenient to tender Opening Committee

NO.EDS/AS/1778-81
DATED: 19-08-2023
DIPK-NB-2720-23
DT: 20/08/2023

-sd-
Executive Engineer,
KPDCL Division Shopian

The Healing Power of Kashmiri Mystical Poetry

Amir Suhail Wani

“
The therapeutic nature of poetry and literature has been known to people since times immemorial. Not only is the writer benefitted by the catharsis which the very act of writing brings with it, but the same aura of purgation and ecstasy dawns upon the reader who takes upon himself the task of reading – in other words participating in the poetic mystique of joy and wonder

When Sheikh-ul-Aalam, Sheikh Noor Ud Din spearheaded an era of religious consciousness and social revolution via his poetry, he spoke for the marginal, the left-out, the neglected and the voiceless. No different for Lal Ded, who, in her pithy poetic compositions called Vakhs disarmed the then prevalent religious tyranny and spoke of eclecticism and equity which has ever since been the hallmark of Kashmiri Mystical Poetry.

Soothing the commoners of the burnouts of life and reassuring the helpless and oppressed of the universal call to truth and Justice, Kashmiri sufi poetry has continued to inspire generations and has been true to its calling. But it is not the poetry of the less privileged, the poetry to taste whose fruits you need to be poor – it has a lot to offer to the apparently affluent but spiritually poor. Sufi poetry has not only vouchsafed for social change, it has, more importantly addressed man in his loneliness, his mental unrest and the undying spiritual quest. Reading Kashmiri Mystical poetry, one is reassured that he is not sailing alone in the tumultuous waves of life, there are others besides him and more importantly, there is the master sailor who shall help us sail through.

People have known well that these assurances, as they emerge in mystical poetry, are no hollow parts or placebo effects, but something emerging from the deepest experiences of life and its profoundest caress across the human soul. This understanding not only helped readers to repose their trust on what they were reading, but to pragmatise these teachings in their lives and create a bulwark against the vicissitudes of life. But in our times, our indifference to and alienation from our rich literary tradition which has therapeutic and spiritual value and offers deep insights into some of the pressing issues of our life has deprived us of the rich and diverse source of wisdom and consolation.

Mystical poets created spaces of inclusion not only by virtue of their poetic structures appealing to men and women alike, but in the enactment of these compositions, which collated the entire society together by the force of universal brotherhood, love, amity and mutual respect. The message enshrined in these verses still possesses the power to undo the difference of caste, creed, gender and ideology which have torn our world and our own selves like a piece of paper. In a situation like this, mystical poetry emerges as the necessary first aid and remedial measure which can be of immense importance to restore the broken unity and heal the cleavage created by superficial differences in the human realm. No wonder that the musical fests held across the shrines of sufi saints even today pull together thousands of devotees from across the geographic divide and each individual benefits ac-



A group of girls playing sufi music in the outskirts of Srinagar. AFP

ording to his receptivity and understanding – but the very phenomenon of people coming together is phenomenal and is testimony to the perennial healing and uniting power of mystical poetry.

We have evidence, both by way of folklore and living testimonies, that sufi spaces have peculiar healing powers particularly in context of mental health disorders (). When a devotee recites/reads the poetry of these great mystics, he/she feels in direct communion and communication with the spirit of the mystic who offers panacea to his/her ailments by way of his insights and inspirations couched in the verbiage of poetry.

The attendance to mystical poetry has a special reference to and importance in Kashmir – a place torn apart by violence, victimhood, poverty and issues of hundred thousand faces. The therapeutic nature of poetry and literature has been known to people since times immemorial. Not only is the writer benefitted by the catharsis which the very act of writing brings with it, but the same aura of purgation and ecstasy dawns upon the reader who takes upon himself the task of reading – in other words participating in the poetic mystique of joy and wonder. Poetry, mystical poetry in this case, shall not however be seen as an escape and fleeing away

from the harsh and hard realities of life. It rather strengthens individual will to accept and helps us to recognise the fact that life is larger than the individual and enables us to stand open to the unforeseeable, unpredictable and unexpected in life.

This expectation of the unexpected may not avert the unexpected but acts as a shocker mechanism and cushions our life in the face of unforeseeable and the un-programmable. This element of unexpectedness is of heightened importance at a place like Kashmir which always stands in the midst of uncertainties of one sort or the other. The reign of hatred, difference and animosity from social media posts to neighbourhood to international affairs is not lost on anyone. Is it not thus needed to place our ears close to the mystical call of unity against all agents of dissipating diversity, a call that has exercised healing power across ages and continues to exercise the same.

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

The author is a Srinagar based columnist

The Electoral Math Of INDIA vs NDA

Amitabh Tiwari

The contest for 2024 is heating up as the Congress and the BJP both finalising their alliances. A 26-party consortium named "INDIA" is set to compete with a 38-party NDA, offering voters an option they didn't have in 2019. The presence of the Congress in "INDIA" lends stability to the opposition alliance, and the reassures voters that, given a chance, they can complete a full five-year term.

What Does The Math Look Like?

The UPA, in its earlier avatar in 2019, bagged 91 seats with a 27% vote share. The re-branded INDIA has 144 MPs in the 545-member Lok Sabha with a 37.5% vote share. On the other hand, the NDA won 353 seats with a 45% vote share. Changes like the exit of the Janata Dal (United) and Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena, and the entry of Ajit Pawar's NCP faction, bring down that tally to 332 seats with a 42.9% vote share. The mammoth 18% lead enjoyed by the NDA shrinks.

Category of Contests in 2024

There are four categories of contests likely in 2024, based on the 2019 numbers. In 375 seats, the BJP is likely to be in contention, while the Congress will be in the game in 261 seats. Regional parties, whether in the INDIA alliance or the NDA, are likely to be in contention in 353 seats.

Category 1 (BJP vs Congress)

The BJP and Congress locked horns in 190 seats in 2019. The BJP won 175 while the Congress, 17. The BJP recorded a lead of more than 20% in terms of vote share in these seats. The party that ranked 3rd won, on average, just a 4% vote share, implying these were mainly BJP versus Congress contests with limited role of regional parties in states like Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Goa, Karnataka, Assam, Haryana, and parts of Maharashtra.

The Congress party's alliances are unlikely to bear fruits there and it is largely on its own. Its allies in INDIA, like the Samajwadi Party, Trinamool Congress, and the Left parties have limited presence there. However, the third ranked party secured more votes than the margin of victory in 19 seats, and 13 were won by the BJP.

Category 2 (BJP vs Regional Parties)

The BJP and regional parties contested on 185 seats in 2019, the BJP won 128 while regional parties 57. The BJP had a lead of 7% in vote share terms on these seats. The party that ranked 3rd won a similar vote share, indicating

There are four categories of contests likely in 2024, based on the 2019 numbers. In 375 seats, the BJP is likely to be in contention, while the Congress will be in the game in 261 seats. Regional parties, whether in the INDIA alliance or the NDA, are likely to be in contention in 353 seats.

that alliances could be a game changer there, mainly in Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Odisha, parts of Bihar and Maharashtra.

The Congress party was ranked 3rd on 88 seats here. The number three party secured more votes than the margin of victory in 55 seats, and 30 of them were won by the BJP.

Category 3 (Congress vs Regional Parties)

The Congress and regional parties contested 71 seats in 2019. The Congress won 37 while regional parties 34. In terms of vote share, it was neck-and-neck with both securing 41% each. The party ranked third recorded an almost 12% vote share, spoiling the chances of the runner-up.

In these states like Telangana, Punjab, parts of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Bihar etc. there is lim-

ited benefit of alliances, or they are already in place, or they are difficult to forge. The third ranked party secured more votes than the margin of victory in 32 seats, and 21 of them were won by the Congress.

Category 4 (Regional vs Regional)

Regional parties contested against each other in 97 seats in 2019. In 59 of them, it was UPA versus NDA contest. The difference in vote shares between the winner and runner-up was 15%, with the third party securing just 7% vote share. The Congress and the BJP were third on only nine and five seats respectively and had a meagre 0.3% vote share each.

Alliances are already set here like Bihar, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, but changes in dynamics play a role here as some allies have crisscrossed like JD(U), Sena and NCP. The third-ranked party secured more votes than the margin of victory in 24 seats.

Including the Category 1 and 2 seats where the BJP won 303, it is likely to be a close fight in 43 of these seats, where the BJP placed third and spoiled the chances of the Congress (13) and regional parties (30). These seats could swing in favour of the INDIA alliance. On the other hand, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set a target of 50% plus for the NDA in the 2024 elections.

While some could brush it off, the BJP's vote share is set to increase as the party will be contesting more seats in Bihar, Maharashtra and Punjab, where allies have walked out. The tar-

get shouldn't be taken lightly by the INDIA alliance parties as the BJP achieved a similar feat in Gujarat 2022, when political pundits thought it had peaked. In Bihar alone it can gain a 1-1.5% vote share. As the BJP knows its opponents 10 months in advance, it has a lot of time to prepare and strategise to neutralise impact of opposition parties coming together.

Scenario Analysis

The BJP starts with a base of 303 seats. If there is a 5 per cent swing against the BJP on the seats it won in 2019, (implying the BJP's vote share declines by 5% and runner-up's vote share increases by 5%), the BJP's tally could decline by 80 seats, to 223. The swing could be due to local level anti-incumbency, the increase in popularity of the INDIA alliance, an inactive BJP cadre over-dependent on Modi, the Congress party's five promises gaining traction etc. To note, as per polls conducted post Karnataka results, including by CSDS, Prime Minister Modi's popularity and NDA's vote share remains intact.

On the other hand, if there is a 5% swing in favour of the BJP on the seats where it finished as a runner up in 2019, (implying the BJP's vote share increases by 5% and the winner's vote share declines by 5%), the BJP's tally could improve by 39 seats to 342. The swing could be due to a range of factors including pro-incumbency, the increase in popularity of Prime Minister Modi and the NDA, new schemes to tackle issues like inflation, unemployment, corruption, and differences within the INDIA alliance.

In effect, the BJP's range seems to be 223 seats (lower end) to 342 seats (upper end) depending upon how things shape up in the next 10 months and who seizes the narrative.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by NDTV Opinions

MOVIE REVIEW

Zindagi Tamasha A Bold Statement on the Sensitive in Pakistan

A Cinematic Masterpiece Exposing Societal Hypocrisy In Pakistan Leaving Audience Think In Silence

Badrul Duja

Filmmaker Sarmad Sultan Khoosat's movie Zindagi Tamasha (premiered 2019, available on Youtube 2023) which was Pakistan's official entry for the International feature film at the academy awards, couldn't see the light of the day in theatres for years across Pakistan owing to outrage by religious organisations. After years of release hiccups, Sarmad Sultan Khoosat has finally released the movie on youtube.

Rahat Khaja, a devout Naat reciter (a minstrel singing hymns for the praise of Prophet PBUH) played by protagonist Arif Hassan as in the movie is respected and revered among his relations and in his neighbourhood due to his pious work. He is an adherent of Islamic values and customs and is a simple man who besides being a reciter is also fond of music and dance.

One night at a marriage ceremony, he dances to the tunes of a classical song 'Zindagi Tamasha Bani' and the blow of life hits him and his family forever. The society that would cherish and look up to him as a pious man, suddenly dismisses him for an act that they deem is prohibited especially for a religious person like him.

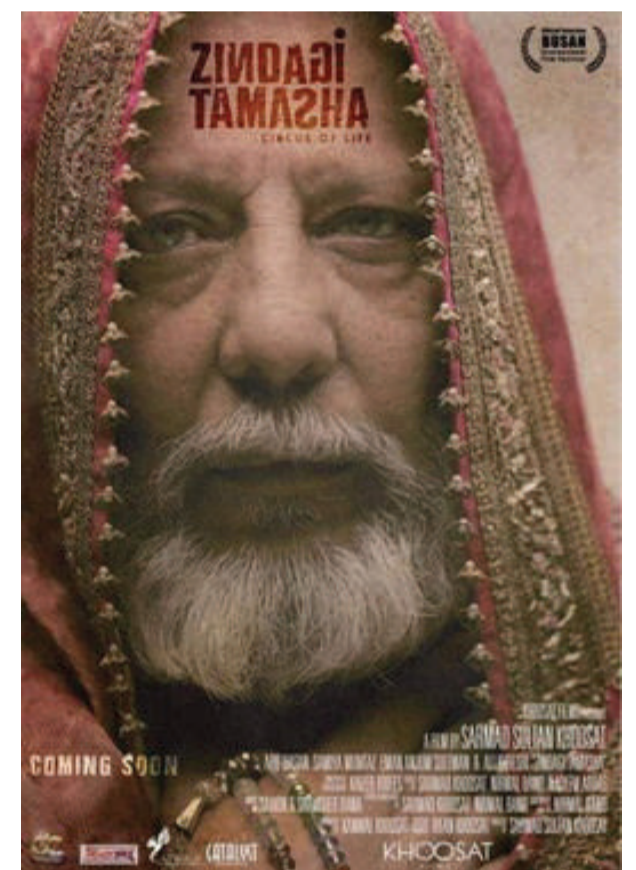
Before he can register it, Rahat Khaja becomes an outcast. He is reproved by one-and-all; the young, the middle-aged as well as the older generation. His food offerings are not accepted by the neighbourhood and his relatives also join-in on the ostracisation and stop inviting him to family events like weddings.

The story makes a subtle but poignant statement to illustrate the cultural orthodoxy and religious conservatism which is hand-in-glove in the alienation of a family from the society.

Zindagi Tamasha does not stop here and goes on to make statements about blasphemy laws and its misuse in Pakistan. For instance, for a respectable re-integration into the society, Rahat Khaja seeks validation from the clergy who hold a considerable authority across his locality. However, Khaja finds no luck with clergy either. This leads to his further estrangement with the mosque and its puritans.

The movie, by making an array into such sensitive areas attempts to make bold comments about the clergy's authoritative and unaccountable control over one's choices and personal freedoms, due to which an innocent man is left to suffer at the hands of their biases to the point of self-destruction.

In a spine-chilling scene, the protagonist is bullied into leaving a function hall and threatened with allegations of blasphemy lest he doesn't. Through such scenes, the film attempts to make bold and telling statements about the misuse of blasphemy laws across Paki-



stan. had been torn down completely and a certificate had been issued which had exiled him out of the favours of the society forever.

Through his movie, filmmaker Sarmad Khoosat has also highlighted the challenges faced by transgender communities and how persons sympathetic to them are besmirched.

The feeling of proximity that a viewer feels and its telling impact on the audience owes itself to the film's realism. The movie depicts real life challenges faced by a middle class family. The food, cooking, rooms, walking, buying and selling of groceries, long walks, despair sittings on roads make the entire movie watching experience authentic and makes it easy to be empathetic towards the family.

The movie lends itself to no sensationalism. The silence, the gaps-and-silences, as well as the pauses in the conversations, especially between daughters and fathers make the audience think.

Some may be averse to the pace of the movie which should be excused as the film deals with a serious issue.

Zindagi Tamasha pushes the audience to unlearn and introspect over established cultural and religious norms. Perhaps, this is the story of modern day South Asia where puritans decide what's right and what's wrong. After the movie Bol, this is Pakistan's fresh attempt to open the envelope in the form of cinema against religious fundamentalism and extremism. Sadly, they did obstruct its theatre release. However, the film is on YouTube worldwide for billions to watch and celebrate.

You can find the movie on the link below:

<https://youtu.be/xUkJEnHCAos>

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

The author is an advocate and RTI activist

cent gullible person's life is destroyed within seconds by virtual verdicts issued over social media. Khaja had

danced his heart out not knowing that a camera is capturing or recording him, only to find out his life and reputation

had been torn down completely and a certificate had been issued which had exiled him out of the favours of the society forever.



Weight Loss: Drinking A Gallon Of Water A Day Probably Won't Help You Lose Weight

It's often claimed that if you're trying to lose weight, one of the things you should do each day is drink plenty of water – with some internet advice even suggesting this should be as much as a gallon (about 4.5 litres).

The claim is that water helps burn calories and reduce appetite, which in turn leads to weight loss.

But while we all might wish it was this easy to lose weight, unfortunately there's little evidence to back up these claims.

Myth 1: water helps burn calories One small study, of 14 young adults, found drinking 500ml of water increased resting energy expenditure (the amount of calories our body burns before exercise) by about 24 per cent.

While this may sound great, this effect only lasted an hour. And this wouldn't translate to a big difference at all. For an

average 70 kg adult, they would only use an additional 20 calories – a quarter of a biscuit – for every 500ml of water they drank.

Get facts about the coronavirus pandemic and the latest research. Another study of eight young adults only saw an increase in energy expenditure when the water was fridge cold – reporting a very modest 4 per cent increase in calories burned.

This may be because the body needs to use more energy in order to bring the water up to body temperature, or because it requires more energy for the body to filter the increased volume of fluid through the kidneys. And again, this effect was only seen for about an hour.

So although scientifically it might be possible, the actual net increase in calories burned is tiny. For example, even if you drank an extra 1.5l of water per day, it would save fewer calories than you'd get in

a slice of bread.

It's also worth noting that all this research was in young healthy adults. More research is needed to see whether this effect is also seen in other groups (such as middle-aged and older adults).

Myth 2: water with meals reduces appetite This claim again seems sensible, in that if your stomach is at least partly full of water there's less room for food – so you end up eating less.

A number of studies actually support this, particularly those conducted in middle-aged and older adults. It's also a reason people who are unwell or have a poor appetite are advised not to drink before eating as it may lead to under-eating.

But for people looking to lose weight, the science is a little less straightforward.

One study showed middle-aged and older adults lost 2 kg over a 12-week period

when they drank water before meals compared with people who didn't drink any water with their meal.

Younger participants (aged 21-35) on the other hand did not lose any weight, regardless of whether they drank water before their meal or not.

But since the study didn't use blinding (where information which may influence participants is withheld until after the experiment is finished), it means that participants may have become aware of why they were drinking water before their meal.

This may have led some participants to purposefully change how much they ate in the hopes it might increase their changes of losing weight.

However, this doesn't explain why the effect wasn't seen in young adults, so it will be important for future studies to investigate why this is.

The other challenge with a lot of this kind of research is that it only focuses on whether participants eat less during just one of their day's meals after drinking water.

Although this might suggest the potential to lose weight, there's very little good-quality evidence showing that reducing appetite in general leads to weight loss over time.

Perhaps this is due to our body's biological drive to maintain its size. It's for this reason that no claims can be legally made in Europe about foods which help make you feel fuller for longer with reference to weight loss.

So, although there might be some appetite-dulling effects of water, it seems that it might not result in long-term weight change – and may possibly be due to making conscious changes to your diet.

The Conversation

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office Of The Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Kulgam

Fresh NIT No 84/2023-24/RnB/Kul/e-tendering/6324-44 Dtd 18-08-2023 (2nd Call)

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

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost Incl: 18% GST (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account	Project Authority	Amount of AA (Rs. in Lacs)
1	Construction of 02 room Grafting Hut at FPN Gandhwani	14.84	600	29680	20 days	Bee, Cee & Dee MSME	UT Capex Budget 2023-24 Horticulture sector.	Horticulture Department	16.84 Lacs

Position of AAA: Accorded vide Director of Horticulture Deptt. Sgr's order No: 233/Plan of 2023 Dated:- 31-5-2023
Technical Sanction: Accorded vide No: 31/DB/TS/2023-24 dated:- 02-8-2023

S.No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice.	18-08-2023
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 19-08-2023 (10:00 AM) To 25-08-2023 (04:00 PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 19-08-2023 (10:00 AM) To 25-08-2023 (04:00 PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 25-08-2023 (04:00 PM)
6	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	26-08-2023 (11:00 AM)

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

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Demand Draft/ Treasury Challan / Receipt credited to MH 0059-Rev-Misc: and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR / FDR pledged to Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Kulgam (tender receiving authority). -Refer Govt. order No: O.M. No. A/24(2017)-651 Dated:- 07-06-2018. However the Date of uploaded e-Challan/ treasury Receipt must be in between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date, and CDR/FDR/BG (Earnest Money) must be in between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date or six months validity from the date of issuance CDR/FDR/BG.
- Earnest Money (2% of the Advertised cost) from all the bidders in the shape of CDR/FDR at the time of tendering and 5% performance security of the allotted cost in shape of CDR/FDR/BG by the Successful Bidder). The same shall be released after successful completion of the Defect Liability Period of the work. The EMD 2% of successful bidders shall be released after receipt of 5% Performance Security. vide Chief Engineer (R&B) Kashmir, Srinagar's Circular No: CE/RBK/HD/32857-72 dated 01-01-2022
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-2 & 3.1.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents like CDR/PAN/TIN/Demand Draft with the bid and all documents be submitted physically to Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Kulgam before date of opening of bid.
- Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
- Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan/ Receipt credited to MH 0059-Rev-Misc: must be uploaded with the bid.
- Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
- All other terms and conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double Agreement Form)

No 6345-47
DIPK-7473/23 Dtd 19-08-2023

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
(R&B) Division Kulgam

Office Of The Executive Engineer Sub Transmission Division Ganderbal

Tel No. :- 0194-2416178 Email: -xen-stdgbl@nic.in, exengineer12@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, KPDCJ Jammu and Kashmir UT, e-Tenders (In Two Cover System) are hereby invited from OEM's, Authorized Dealers & Service providers, Registered (A- Class) Electric Contractors registered with J&K Government, Central Public Works Department, Railways and other state/central governments for "e-NIT No.: - STD/GBL/16 of 2023-24 Dated: 18-08-2023 for "Shifting of 33kV old Habbak Ganderbal Line at Ahmad Nagar from the land of Mr. Showket ahmad wani and Mohamad Munawar sheikh in respect of STD Ganderbal".

Important Dates and Events

e-NIT No/STD/GBL/16 of 2023-24 Dated: 18-08-2023	The Standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in as per schedule given below:
A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document 18-08-2023: 15:00 Hours
B	Clarifications start date 18-08-2023: 15:00 Hours
C	Clarifications end date 08/09/2023: 14:00 Hours
D	e-Bid submission (start) date & time (Submission of e-bidder fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS) 22-08-2023: 16:00 Hours
E	e-Bid submission (end) date & time 08/09/2023: 14:00 Hours
F	Online Commercial and Technical e-Bid opening date & time 09/09/2023: 14:00 Hours
G	Online financial e-Bid opening date & time (Only of the technically qualified bidders) Will be communicated to the Technically Qualified Bidders
H	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-Bids Office of The Executive Engineer STD Ganderbal
I	Cost of e-Bid document INR 200.00 (Two hundred only) Should be in Shape of Treasury Receipt in favor of Executive Engineer STD Ganderbal.
J	Earnest Money Deposit 2% of estimated amount (Rs. 6138.16/=)
K	Advertised amount Rs. 3.071 Lacs
L	Validity offer 180 days from the date of opening of price tender.

The tender document can be downloaded from website jktenders.gov.in "Corrigendum, if any, would appear only on the jktenders.gov.in website. Sale of physical tender document is not applicable. No price shall be submitted offline in any form. Bidder can modify his bid before last date of submission of online bid. After the last date of submission of online bid, no claim of bidder shall be entertained.

No: STD/GBL/TS/763-68
DIPK-NB-2703/23
Date: 19-08-2023

Executive Engineer,
STD Ganderbal

Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department Public Health Engineering Division, Awantipora

e-mail :phedivisionawantipora@gmail.com/ Ph:01933-247152

e-NIT No.:-30/PHA of 2023-24 [e-Tendering]

TENDER DOCUMENT TOP SHEET

E-NIT NO: 30/PHA of 2023-24
E-TENDER FOR

"Annual Maintenance, Repairs and other emergent works of PHE Division Awantipora for the following sub divisions:-

- PHE Sub Division Tral
- PHE Sub Division Pampore
- PHE Sub Division Awantipora

S.No	Name of work	Adv cost (in lacs)
01	Annual maintenance, Repairs, and other emergent works of PHE Sub Division Tral.	2.00
02	Annual maintenance, Repairs, and other emergent works of PHE Sub Division Pampore.	1.20
03	Annual maintenance, Repairs, and other emergent works of PHE Sub Division Awantipora.	3.25

For & on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir (UT) e-tenders in single cover system are invited on Percentage Basis from Registered PWD Contractors whose registration cards are valid in terms of standing rules & are active for the following works:-

S.No	Name of work	Adv cost (in lacs)	Cost of Tender document	Period of Completion	Class of Contract
01	Annual maintenance, Repairs, and other emergent works of PHE Sub Division Tral.	2.00	200	Up to ending 31/03/2024	D
02	Annual maintenance, Repairs, and other emergent works of PHE Sub Division Pampore.	1.20	200	Up to ending 31/03/2024	D
03	Annual maintenance, Repairs, and other emergent works of PHE Sub Division Awantipora.	3.25	200	Up to ending 31/03/2024	D

Position of Funds:- Available
Major Head of Account: Maintenance and Repairs
The contractor will have to quote rates as per unit rate as advertised for each item in (BOQ), considering quantity as one for every item and comparative shall generated for sum total of all items to arrive First Lowest, Second Lowest and Third Lowest in the overall and shall be accordingly negotiated with successful bidder to arrive at a reasonable / negotiated rate.
The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (BOQ), terms and conditions of contract can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website (jktenders.gov.in) as per the dates shown below:-

S.No.	Description	Date	Time
		DD	MM
1	Publishing date of NIT	18	08
2	Download start date	18	08
3	Bid submission start date	18	08
4	Bid submission end date	23	08
5	Bid opening date	23	08

security deposit & cost of tender document as specified in column (4) of the above table and the cost of tender document shall be deposited in the Treasury under MH 0215 PHE in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Division Awantipora (Name of work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan/Receipt)
Bid performance security will be in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, PHE Division Awantipora.
To participate in bidding process bidders, must get digital signature certificate (DSC) as per information technology-2000 bidders can get digital certificate from approved option as well as from "Bidders Manual kit" on website (jktenders.gov.in) to acquaint vendors.
The bidders must submit their bids online in electronic format with digital signature.
Bidders must ensure to upload their bids in SINGLE COVER containing documents as under:-
i) PHE Division Awantipora (Tender Inviting Authority)
ii) Performance guarantee 5% of allotted cost in form of CDR/FDR shall be submitted before the allotment is issued which will be released after the Defect Liability period of the work. The EMD 2% of successful bidder shall be released after receipt of 5% performance security
iii) Scanned copy of Valid Registration Card.
iv) Scanned copy of Valid GST Registration.
v) Rates submitted by the bidders in the BOQ.
Note:-
(* Name of the work should be written mandatory in the treasury challan with necessary TR /Date
Well Scanned copies of Original documents will be eligible for bid.
Any other information can be obtained from the office of the undersigned on any working day during office hours.
All other terms and conditions will remain same as laid down in PWD Form No.25-double.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti Department
PHE Division Awantipora

No. AWP/PHE/2260-73
DIPK-7406/23 Dated:-19-08-2023

Office Of The Executive Engineer Police Construction Division PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar

Government of UT Jammu & Kashmir

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS TWO COVER SYSTEM

e- NIT No.EE-PCD/PHQ/52/2023-24 Dated:- 19-08-2023

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

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of Tender Document. (In Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time of completion	Time & Date of Opening of tender (Technical Bid)	Class of Contractor
1.	Construction of works (by way of Construction of five storey hostel block including mess cum dining hall in the ground floor and separate toilet / bathroom block 20+20 and septic/ soakage (for 01 coy of the Bn) Block-A, and (for 06 coy of the Bn) block B,C & D, Dy. Comdt including residential sets for G.O's, Office accommodation for Commandant (Admin block), 08 No. G.O's office including main office, Quarter guard / Kote, 04 storey store/ tradesmen block/MT garage, LSQ (24 units) 03 blocks, USQ (12 units) 03 block and Internal road/ parking, Sentry posts, Elevated Sentry posts etc) for IRP Bn. Hqr's at Ritti Udhampur.	4722.63	20000.00	9445260/-	730 working days	08-09-2023	"A"

Position of AAA = Accorded
Position of TS = Sanctioned
Position of funds = Available

S.No.	Date of Publishing of Tender Notice	21-08-2023
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 21-08-2023:16.30 P.M to 07-09-2023: 4.00 P.M
3.	Bid submission Start Date	25-08-2023 From 09.00 A.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	07-09-2023 up to 4.00 P.M
5.	The Earnest Money in the shape of CDR/FDR/ in favour of Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K Jmu/ Sgr.	As per time specified in SBD.
6.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	08-09-2023 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar.
7.	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per above schedule:
Note:- The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the NIT carefully before uploaded softcopy and short fall if any found in the soft copy the tender shall be rejected.
1.1 Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date and also indicating the name of work duly crediting to 0055 MHA (Revenue) uploading a same copy of treasury challan/receipt & in case of firms / agencies outside the UT of J&K the cost of tender shall be submitted in the shape of demand draft (DD) of any nationalized / scheduled Bank pledged to Ex. Engineer Police Construction Division PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD pledged to Ex. Engineer Police Construction Division Jammu/Srinagar and relevant documents of L1 must be submitted to the Ex. Engineer Police Construction Division PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar within 5 days after opening of price bid.
(The Date of Treasury Challan/Demand Draft must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date).
1.2 All bidders have to submit Earnest money, as part of the Bid, earnest Money mentioned in column no. 05 of NIT.
2. All the bidders have to submit Earnest money in the shape of CDR/FDR in favour of Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar shall be valid for minimum 24 months or more, after the last date of receipt of bids.
2.01 Earnest Money:- The earnest money deposit (EMD @ 2% of advertised cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR of the successful bidder (L1) shall be released, only after defect liability period (i.e 12 months), the DLP shall be calculated from the date of successful completion of the work on the satisfaction report of Engineer in charge.
3. Unbalanced Bid: In case bid of the lowest bidder is found unbalanced, the successful bidder shall have to produce additional performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR of Recognize scheduled / Commercial Bank within 5 days after opening of price bid, pledged in favour of Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/Srinagar. The CDR/ FDR shall be valid for minimum twenty four months or more after the last date of receipt of bids along with the bid document as per following breakup:
S. No Percentage of unbalance bid viz., advertised cost on account of low rates Additional Performance Security to be deposited on quoted bid by L1.
01 Upto and including 15% below Nil
02 >15% & upto and including 20% below 5%
03 >20% & upto and including 25% below 10%
04 >25% & upto and including 30% below 15%
05 > 30% below 20%
The additional CDR/FDR shall be released only after successful completion of the work
4. Bidders can resubmit/withdraw the bids as specified.
5.The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message to their e-mail address. The Financial-bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online by opening committee in the Office of Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar. The date for same shall be intimated separately.
6. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
7. The CDR/ FDR (Earnest Money) and performance security shall be forfeited if:
i. Any bidder/ Tenderers withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and condition of the bid.
ii. Failure of successful bidder to execute the work as per agreement within 7 days after fixation of contract.
iii. The contractor shall be solely responsible for carrying out mandatory tests required for ensuring quality control as per specifications and codes prescribed for execution of work. No claim shall be entitled for payment without quality tests conducted for the works including RCC works and maintained by the Contractor for transparency & accountability.
iv. A class contractor must have to engage qualified engineer/ staff at work site, at his own cost for better execution/ monitoring of works.
v. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required EMD/ performance security within specified time period mentioned in NIT.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PCD PHQ J&K Jmu/Sgr.

No. - PCD/PHQ/2023-24/4891-99
DIPK-7475/23 Dated:-19-08-2023

J&K Bank Signs MoU With LiuGong India Pvt Ltd



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: With a view to facilitate its clients, J&K Bank Saturday entered into an agreement with LiuGong India Pvt. Ltd to be one of its preferred financiers for the customers purchasing equipment from the company across India. The company is one of the country's leading manufacturers of construction and mining equipment like excavators, bulldozers, wheel loaders etc. Deputy General Manager (Corporate Banking) Nishi Kant Sharma signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Bank's behalf while the Vice-President (Sales & Marketing) Nischal Mehrotra put in his signatures representing LiuGong India Pvt. Ltd. during a signing ceremony held at Bank's Corporate Headquarters in presence of company's AGM (Customer Finance Support) Nitin Chandna and other officers of the Bank.

Welcoming LiuGong India on board as partners DGM Nishi Kant Sharma said, "We continue to tie-up with leading companies across the country to provide easy, affordable and at-

tractive financing solutions that are tailored to meet the varied needs of customers in J&K, Ladakh and in rest of the country."

"The agreement will be a win-win for all as it will add to the Bank's credit portfolio because of the large ticket-size of the loan besides facilitating the customers with suitable financial solutions for purchase of heavy duty equipment used in construction and mining industry from LiuGong India", he added.

Expressing satisfaction over his company's association with the Bank, VP LiuGong India stated, "We at LiuGong India are pleased to partner with the premiere financial institution of the region with its great legacy of serving the people for last 85 years besides being a trusted brand in the country's Banking landscape."

"This agreement makes sound business sense for both the organisations as J&K Bank - now our preferred financier - already extends around 85% of total construction-equipment finance in Jammu & Kashmir. As per the tie-up, the customers will also receive a token concession on purchase from LiuGong India," Nischal Mehrotra said."

Revised I-T Rules Offer Tax Relief To Employees With Rent-Free Accommodation

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Employees drawing substantial salaries and having rent-free accommodation provided by their employers will now be able to save more and get a higher take-home salary as the income tax department has revised norms for valuing such houses.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has notified amendments to the Income Tax Rules which will come into effect from September 1.

As per the notification, where unfurnished accommodation is provided to employees other than the central or state government employees and such accommodation is owned by the employer then the valuation shall be:

(i) 10 per cent of salary (reduced from 15 per cent) in cities having population exceeding 40 lakh as per 2011 census (earlier, 25 lakh as per 2001 census), (ii) 7.5 per cent of salary (reduced from 10 per cent) in cities having population exceeding 15 lakh but not exceeding 40 lakh as per 2011 census (earlier, 10 lakhs but not exceeding 25 lakhs as per 2001 census).

AKM Global Tax Partner Amit Maheshwari said employees who are drawing substantial salaries and re-



ceiving accommodation from the employer will be able to save more since their taxable base is going to be reduced now with the revised rates. "The perquisite value shall be lower resulting in relief to them in the form of take-home pay."

AMRG & Associates CEO Gaurav Mohan said these provisions incorporate the insights 2011 census data and aim to rationalise the perquisite value calculation.

"Employees enjoying rent-free accommodation would see rationalisation of perquisite value leading to a reduction in taxable salary, increasing the net take-home pay. It is worth noting that the reduction in the perquisite value of rent-free accommodations will yield dual impli-

cations: on the one hand, it will generate tangible savings for employees, while on the other hand, it will result in a corresponding decrease in government revenue," Mohan said.

He further said this change will lead to disproportionate benefits for higher-income employees who receive expensive accommodations. Lower-income employees with more modest accommodations might not experience significant tax relief.

Moreover, this shift might prompt corporate employers to strategically revisit and potentially reshape their existing compensation frameworks, particularly if they can capitalize on tax advantages for their workforce, Mohan added.

Indian Economy Shining As Beacon Of Hope In Challenging Times: PM Modi

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Saturday that India's economy is shining as a beacon of hope in these challenging times.

"With robust growth and resilient spirit, the future looks promising. Let us keep this momentum and ensure prosperity for 140 crore Indians," he said on X, reacting to news portal Moneycontrol's 'Bullish on India' campaign.

The portal, which specialises in reporting on markets and financial sector, had posted on X that the country's economy has not just withstood challenges, but thrived setting the stage for optimism.

The 'Bullish on India' campaign showcases India's economic resilience and growth potential in various critical sectors, it said.

It aims to analyse the key drivers of India's economic growth while fostering awareness about the unparalleled potential the nation of-



fers at a time of a global economic slowdown, the portal said in a separate statement.

"With detailed analysis of macroeconomic factors such as manufacturing, demography, economy, markets and India's rising stand in the global leadership, 'Bullish on India' has been presented as a data backed campaign that underlines India's resilient economic growth," it said.

The campaign seeks to analyse key drivers of India's economic growth while fos-

tering awareness about the "unparalleled potential" the nation offers at a time of a global economic slowdown, it added.

"There are various adversities that have shaken economies worldwide in the past few years. However, India is standing tall, retaining its stature as the 'world's fastest-growing major economy,'" it said, noting that the country is set to become the third largest economy in the coming years.

Jan Dhan Accounts Cross 50 Crore-Mark In Less Than 9 Years: Govt

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The total number of Jan Dhan accounts in the country has crossed 50 crore-mark, with 56 per cent of the accounts belonging to women, the finance ministry said on Friday.

About 67 per cent of these accounts have been opened in rural and semi-urban areas, it said in a statement.

The total deposits in these accounts are above Rs 2.03 lakh crore while around 34 crore RuPay cards have been issued with these accounts free of cost.

The average balance in Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) accounts is Rs 4,076 and more than 5.5 crore of these are receiving Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), it said.

The National Mission on Fi-

nanacial Inclusion -- popularly known as PMJDY -- which was launched on August 28, 2014, has been successful in changing the financial landscape of the country, it added.

PMJDY offers multiple advantages to account holders such as a bank account without the requirement of a minimum balance, free of cost RuPay debit cards with in-built accident insurance of Rs 2 lakh, and an overdraft facility of up to Rs 10,000.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded the feat of the number of Jan Dhan accounts crossing the 50-crore mark as a significant milestone.

It is heartening to see that more than half of these accounts belong to women, Modi posted on X.



JKEDI Organizes Awareness Program On IPR

Observer News Service

PULWAMA: To nurture understanding and awareness about Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), in collaboration with 'InnoVetellers', Saturday organized a comprehensive online awareness program.

The event was conducted under the aegis of the National IP Awareness Mission (NIPAM), aiming to foster knowledge and expertise in this crucial domain.

Director JKEDI, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat in his address, underscored the significance of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in enabling individuals to make well-informed choices regarding the protection of their intellectual creations.

He highlighted the importance of hosting such informative initiatives, as they can serve as a transformative measure in cultivating an environment of innovation and a culture where intellectual property assumes a foundational role within the entrepreneurial landscape of J&K.

The awareness program saw enthusiastic participation from a large number of innovators, aspiring entrepreneurs and startups of J&K eager to delve into the intricate world of Intellectual Property Rights.

The keynote speaker for the event was Pooja Kumar, Founder and Director of InnoVetellers LLP. Kumar's illustrious career in this field spans over 15 years, during which she has acquired invaluable expertise as a Registered Patent Consultant and a Start-up facilitator under the aegis of the Government of India.

She remarked that Intellectual Property Rights are not just legal constructs; they are the bedrock of innovation and creativity. Addressing the participants, she discussed in detail the different facets of IPR, Design, GI registration, patents, trademarks, trade secrets, the process of filing for IPR, the need to file IPR as well as the measures to report for IPR violation.

Mahindra Recalls Over 1 Lakh Units Of XUV700 For Wiring Issue



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Mahindra & Mahindra is recalling over 1 lakh units of its sports utility vehicle XUV700 to inspect wiring routing in engine bay, as per a regulatory filing.

The company said it will inspect wiring loom routing in the engine bay of 1,08,306 units of XUV700 manufactured between June 8, 2021 and June 28, 2023 for a potential risk of abrasion cut of wiring loom.

Also, 3,560 units of XUV400 vehicles manufactured between February 16, 2023 and June 5, 2023, will be inspected for ineffective spring return action of the brake potentiometer, M&M said.

The inspection and subsequent rectification will be carried out free of cost for all customers, who will be individually contacted by the company, the automaker said.

The action is in compliance with voluntary code on vehicle recall, it added.

India's Foreign Exchange Reserves Rise USD 708 Mln To USD 602.16 Bln

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: India's foreign exchange reserves jumped USD 708 million to USD 602.161 billion for the week ended August 11, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said on Friday.

This is the first increase in the kitty after declining for three consecutive weeks. In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had declined USD 2.417 billion to USD 601.453 billion.

In October 2021, the country's foreign exchange reserves touched an all-time high of USD 645 billion.

The reserves took a hit as the central bank deployed the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused majorly by global developments since last year.

For the week ended August 11, the foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased USD 999 million to USD 534.399 billion, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the RBI.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

Gold reserves were down USD 340 million to USD 44.34 billion, the RBI said.

The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were up USD 51 million to USD 18.324 billion.

The country's reserve position with the IMF was down USD 2 million to USD 5.098 billion in the reporting week, as per the apex bank data.



Govt Imposes 40% Export Duty On Onion To Increase Local Supply, Check Price Rise

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The government on Saturday imposed a 40 per cent duty on the export of onions to increase domestic availability amid signs of increasing prices.

The export duty, which is the first time ever on onion, has been imposed as the retail sale price of the kitchen staple, according to government data, touched Rs 37/kg on Saturday in Delhi.

The Finance Ministry through a Customs notification imposed a 40 per cent export duty on onions till December 31, 2023.

Between April 1 and August 4 this fiscal, 9.75 lakh tonne of onions have been exported from the country. The top three importing countries in value terms are Bangladesh, Malaysia and the UAE.

Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh said in order to increase the availability of onions in the domestic market especially in view of the upcoming festival season, the government has decided to impose a 40 per cent duty on the export of onions.

"It was also being noticed that there was a sharp rise in exports in the recent past," Singh said.

The government had always used a minimum export price tool to curb onion exports. However, for the first time this year, export duty has been slapped for effective control of the outward shipment.

As per the data maintained by the consumer affairs ministry, the all-India average retail

price of onion was ruling at Rs 30.72 per kg on Saturday, with a maximum price at Rs 63 per kg and a minimum at Rs 10 per kg.

In Delhi, onion was ruling at Rs 37 per kg on Saturday, amid signs of increasing prices. The trade data showed onion prices ruling at Rs 50 per kg in the national capital.

Onion prices have started inching up amid reports of lag in onion coverage in the ongoing kharif season.

According to the wholesale price index (WPI) data for July, onion inflation spiralled to 7.13 per cent, against (-)4.31 per cent in June.

The annual retail or consumer price inflation has touched a 15-month high of 7.44 per cent in July, against 4.87 per cent in June, amid a sharp spike in food prices.

The government has maintained 3 lakh tonnes of buffer onion this year. It has started disposing of it in the wholesale market since last week in key locations.

So far, 2,000 tonnes of buffer onion has been sold in wholesale mandis of Delhi, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, the Secretary said.

The buffer onion is usually used for market intervention during the lean period between August and September till the arrival of the fresh crop from October onwards.

Onion is a politically-sensitive commodity. The restriction comes ahead of assembly elections in key states like Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Telangana due at year-end.

(انتقال پر ملال)



یہ خبر نہایت ہی دکھ کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ مرحوم عبدالحمید بٹ (زیلدار) کی بیوہ مرحومہ ستارہ بانو ساکنہ عیشیہ مقام مورخہ 2 صفر 1445ھ بمطابق 18 اگست 2023ء بروز جمعہ المبارک اس دنیا فانی سے رخصت کر گئے۔ تعزیت پر پی گلزار احمد بٹ (زیلدار) فرزند CPO Kulgam کے گھر واقع عیشیہ مقام اسلام آباد میں تین روز کیلئے جاری رہے گی۔ چہارم وفاختہ خوانی بروز سوموار مقامی قبرستان منٹھل مرکزی جامع مسجد عیشیہ مقام اور ہاشمی مکان میر محلہ واقع عیشیہ مقام میں منعقد ہوگی۔ متواتر کوہ بھی اسٹم دیوہا سے رسم ساتھ لانے کی رحمت نہ کرے۔ اس دکھ میں ڈاکٹر محمد کبیر شفیق صدیقی مع خاندان بھی شامل ہیں۔ وارثین ہر ایک سے مرحومین کے حق میں دعا مغفرت کی درخواست کرتے ہیں۔

بزیر بھگوار احمد (فرزند) ملک غلامن و غلام نبی تانترے (فرزندائیں) معواہل و عیال و قریبائداراں۔

Regd. No. 499B-II-SGR Call: 9906464315
PRESIDENT (KHURSHED AHMAD)

SRINAGAR VAN ASSOCIATION

SHEIKH BAGH, SRINAGAR

Ref. No. 100 Dated. 18/8/2023

TO THE PARENTS & CONCERNED INDIVIDUALS

Wo, the van owners of Tyndale Biscoe and Mallinson school, would like to you that our "Srinagar van association" has recently undergone a transformation. Previously, we operated as a single union, but we have split into two distinct sections. THE DETAIL OF OUR UNION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

PRESIDENT:

MR KHURSHED AHMAD
(PHONE NO: 9906464315)

VICE-PRESIDENT:

MR ABDUL RASHID

TREASURER:

MR FEROOZ AHMAD MIR
(PHONE NO... 9906122337)



We would like to assure you that our primary focus remains the safety well-being of the children we transport. We will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that they are dropped off and pickup from school on time, and that their journey with us is comfortable and enjoyable. Thank you for your continue support and trust in our service.

Sincerely,
The van owners of
Tyndale Biscoe Srinagar & Mallinson School
Sheikh Bagh Srinagar

IASOWA JK Participates In Independence Day Celebrations



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Indian Administrative Service Officers' Wives Association (IASOWA) JK led by its President Dr. Amita Mehta along with the IASOWA members took out 'Independence Day Rally' adding to the enthusiastic celebrations in Kashmir this year.

The function was graced by Guest of Honour, Mrs. Vijayalakshmi, Dr. Manu Bhatnagar besides members of the Association Mrs. Sapna Agarwal, Mrs. Ruchi Gupta, Mrs. Rajni Kumar along with the other dignitaries.

The IASOWA JK has been organising significant events in

recent years. It is noteworthy that people from all walks of life participated with great enthusiasm this year and members of IASOWA were equally enthusiastic.

The theme of the event was 'Tricolour' to inspire the younger generations about our traditions, culture and the national struggle that fructified into the freedom of India.

In order to infuse patriotism and to add national fervor to the assembly, a quiz was organized related to the freedom movement in India.

The members also hoisted the flag and sang National Anthem with those who participated in the celebrations.

Distressed Family Waits For PMAY To Rebuild Earthquake-Damaged Mud House In Doda

Press Trust of India

Bhaderwah/Jammu: With winter just round the corner, the family of Vijay Kumar in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district is eyeing the centrally-sponsored Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) scheme to rebuild their earthquake-damaged mud house.

The house in remote Lamote village under Kursari Panchayat collapsed on August 8 due to the earthquake in Bhaderwah valley, virtually leaving Kumar's seven-month pregnant wife Nishu Devi (29) and her physically handicapped brother-in-law and sister-in-law under the open sky.

Kumar is working as a driver and mostly stays outside the hometown searching for avenues to earn a living for the family.

"We had applied for the PMAY scheme to build a concrete house two years back. Despite submitting all the required formalities to get financial assistance, our pleas went unanswered till date," Devi, who is putting up in a damaged portion of the house, told PTI.

Holding the district administration responsible for their plight by not sanctioning a



house under PMAY in time, she said they are highly concerned about their safety in view of the approaching winter.

"How am I going to manage the situation with two handicapped members and my first child in the coming months, especially during harsh winter conditions is troubling me a lot. I want to appeal to the government to help me overcome this situation," she said.

She said all her efforts to provide a pucca roof for the family went in vain as despite knocking all the doors from Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members to political representatives and government officers fell to deaf ears.

"If something untoward happens to any of my family members, the concerned authorities are to be blamed," Devi said.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Bhaderwah Dilmir Chowdhary said against a target of 1,523 beneficiaries spread over 30 panchayats of Bhaderwah block for the financial year 2022-23, as many as 1,118 cases were taken up under the PMAY but 209 among these were found bogus and were subsequently the cases were rejected.

Many beneficiaries also claimed that while they have received the first instalment of the money under PMAY, the second instalment is pending.

Located some 11 km from Bhaderwah town, one has to walk three kilometres uphill to reach Lamote village from the motorable road.

Sushma Devi (43) and her younger brother Naresh Kumar (35), both physically handicapped, had a narrow escape when their house collapsed.

"When the earth started shaking, I was sleeping and suddenly mud from the wall and roof fell on me. I could not run and thought that we would get buried under the debris but Nishu Devi dragged me out of the house. We had a narrow escape as within a few minutes, our house came down crumbling," Kumar said, expressing hope that the authorities will have some pity on the family and sanction the scheme in their favour.

Devi's neighbours also vouched for the poor family and questioned the delay in providing financial help under the PMAY scheme to them.

"The family with two handicapped members is living in complete distress. Didi (Nishu), despite being pregnant, is managing the family in trying circumstances. But it is scary to imagine what will happen to them when harsh winter sets

in," Ranu Devi, who resides nearby in the village, said.

Devi maintained that after completing all the required formalities, she handed over the file to the local sarpanch but failed to find her name in the list of beneficiaries.

However, Sarpanch Kursari Panchayat, Sajid Mir said there is no denying that Devi's family is most deserving in the entire Panchayat but "unfortunately, none of the family members were present in the home during the survey of PMAY scheme.

"This was the main reason for the poor family remaining left out. We have prepared her file again and requested the concerned authorities to treat the case on priority for urgent assistance on humanitarian grounds," Mir said.

ADC Chowdhary admitted that the family is living in a miserable condition and their case is genuine.

"To rectify the mistake, we are trying to provide financial assistance to the family under PMAY from the savings of the centrally sponsored scheme as some sanctioned houses have been cancelled because the beneficiaries do not fall in the required category of the scheme," he said.

HP rain fury: Death toll over past week climbs to 78; more rains forecast

Press Trust of India

Shimla: The death toll in rain-related incidents in Himachal Pradesh over the past week rose to 78 on Saturday with the recovery of another body from the debris of a collapsed temple here, officials said as the local MeT sounded an orange alert for the next two days.

The deceased has been identified as Eish Sharma (28). The body of his father P L Sharma, who was the chairman of the mathematics department at Himachal Pradesh University, was recovered on Thursday, the officials added.

Of the 78 deaths since Sunday night, 24 were in the three major landslides in Shimla alone -- 17 at the Shiv temple in Summer Hill, 5 in Fagli, and 2 in Krishnanagar, Superintendent, Shimla, Sanjeev

Kumar Gandhi told PTI on Saturday. Joint operations of the Army, National and State Disaster Response Force, Police and Home Guards are underway to retrieve the bodies from the landslide rubble and at least three persons are still feared buried under the temple debris, the SP said.

Drones are being used for identification of high-risk zones and monitoring of sliding sites in the state capital, he added.

Since the onset of the monsoon in Himachal Pradesh on June 24, 338 people have died in rain-related incidents and road accidents in the state while 38 people are missing, according to the state emergency operation centre.

Of the 338 deaths, 221 people have died in rain-related incidents in Himachal Pradesh, it said.

The emergency centre said that about 11,900 houses got partially or completely damaged, around 560 roads are still closed in the state and 253 transformers and 107 water supply schemes have been disrupted.

While assessing the damage in flood-affected areas of Indora and Fatehpur assembly constituencies in Kangra district, Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri, however, said Himachal Pradesh has suffered a loss of over Rs 10,000 crore, with 350 lives lost and 50 people still missing.

The local MeT office Saturday sounded an orange warning of heavy to very heavy rains on August 20 and 21 and a yellow alert of heavy rains on August 22 and 23. It also cautioned of moderate to high risk of flash floods in Shimla, Sirmour and Chamba districts.

Heavy rains can result in landslides, flash floods and an increase in water level in rivers and drains besides causing damage to the standing crops, fruit plants and young seedlings, the MeT warned.

A red alert is a warning for extremely bad weather conditions that are certainly going to disrupt travel and power and pose a significant risk to life. An orange warning indicates extremely bad weather with the potential of disruption in commute with road and drain closures and interruption of power supply.

On Friday, the Himachal Pradesh government declared the state a "Natural Calamity Affected Area" in view of the damage caused by heavy rains leading to the loss of human life and extensive damage to property.

The state government has urged

the Centre to declare the tragedy a national disaster, Agnihotri said and added that the recent natural calamity in the state is the most devastating in the past 50 years.

The deputy chief minister said that according to initial estimates, the Jal Shakti Department has incurred a loss of more than Rs 2,000 crore.

Agnihotri said that the people of Indora and Fatehpur, particularly in the Mand area, of Kangra district have been severely affected by rising water levels of the Beas river.

He said that 27 panchayats in the Indora and Fatehpur have been impacted, with 22 panchayats suffering the most damage, due to flooding in the downstream area of the Pong reservoir.

The deputy chief minister said that according to initial estimates,

the Public Works Department has incurred a loss of Rs 54 crore, the Jal Shakti Department Rs 31 crore, and the Electricity Department Rs 4 crore in these areas.

He also pointed out that illegal mining has emerged as a major cause behind the devastating floods in Indora and Fatehpur.

This unlawful activity has led to the deterioration of river banks, diverting water flow towards villages and fields in the region, he added.

In order to prevent such incidents in the future, the issue of phased channelisation of the Beas River has been raised with the Centre, and will be pursued further, Agnihotri said.

He said departments such as the public works, electricity and Jal Shakti have been directed to expedite works in the affected areas.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Education Awakens

citizens through research, inquiry, creativity, innovation and contribute to realize the vision of 'Viksit Bharat', Sinha said.

He was addressing a gathering on the 20th Foundation Day celebration of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), here at Matrika Auditorium. The LG also laid foundation stones for the infrastructural projects worth Rs 70 crore.

In his address, the LG congratulated the students, faculty and the staff members of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University and commended the significant contribution of the university in the education sector.

"In the last two decades, SMVDU has nurtured students, served the knowledge economy of the country with great distinction and aspires to empower young generation," he said.

Talking about the emergence of new technologies and its impact on the society, Sinha said that the cutting-edge tools of Artificial Intelligence and the explosion of new technologies have brought social equality.

"It is changing the way we collect, process and utilize knowledge for a better world. This change also presents vast opportunities to every individual to grow and prosper," he said.

He advised the Universities to recalibrate, reform and readjust themselves to adapt to the changes. He said it was high time to realize that the traditional learning process and education that we have known for many decades will no longer exist in the future.

"In the technology driven world, the recalibration in education will liberate students from conventional academic content, disciplines and train them with skills and ability to succeed in the uncharted future," the LG said.

"Today, scientists, academicians and thinkers both from Global North and Global South are redefining education and its objectives," he added.

The LG asked the higher educational institutions and universities to aim for global excellence and competitive advantage.

"We are living in the world of surprises where the only constant in life is change. But, the biggest challenge is to prepare students for the jobs that don't yet exist. We need to provide them with skills that will remain relevant and complement the growing pace of change," he said.

Sinha also said that there has been a tectonic shift from what we were producing as an agriculture society to now as a knowledge society.

"Journey from raw materials to knowledge products has been phenomenal. Innovation and research will now become the soul and integral pillar of the Universities," he added.

Highlighting the significant features of the National Education Policy 2020, the LG said

, under the guidance of Prime Minister, the progressive education policy offers the key to unlock the vast potential of basic knowledge, applied skills, critical thinking, collaboration, leadership, creativity, innovation, lifelong learning and career skills like flexibility, adaptability as well as social and cross cultural skill.

He also emphasized on the stronger industry-academic relationship. He said in the next 5 years the manufacturing will shift towards automation which means innovation and digital transformation will play a significant role.

"India has already formulated action plan for 12 identified champion sectors that include IT, ITeS, Tourism, Legal Services, Communication Services, Environment and the Education Sector. I am confident by 2030 India will become unique emerging Services market and a global manufacturing hub," he added.

The LG also shared the unique endeavour of the Jammu University to prepare students for future jobs through the Design your Degree program.

"Such reforms will empower the students to take ownership of their own career paths and make the changes they want in their careers rather than waiting to react to changes imposed on them," he said.

On the occasion, the LG felicitated the students who excelled in various competitions.

Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU presented the achievements of the University and gave an overview of the key initiatives taken by the university for the holistic development of the students.

Reviews Progress On

Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Commerce department; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Dr. Piyush Singla, Secretary to Government, Revenue; Deputy Commissioners of various districts including Udhampur, Samba, Kathua and senior officers, an official spokesperson said.

Sinha, he said, took appraisal of the progress achieved in the delineation/demarcation of Gair Mumkin Khads in Jammu, Samba, Kathua and Udhampur.

He said that the LG directed the officers to expedite the work and complete the same at the earliest.

"He also directed the Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Commerce department to explore possibilities for establishment of industries in districts like Doda and Kishtwar," the spokesperson added.

Parents To Face

traffic police officer further said that QRTs will also focus on areas which have a number of educational institutes and coaching centres.

Pertinently, this latest move by traffic police

comes in wake of viral videos showing underage boys and girls performing dangerous stunts along the roads and streets in the Valley. In the past, such audacious acts have also evoked strong criticism from netizens on various social media platforms.

Last year, a local Court here directed the Inspector General of Police (Traffic) to hold a special drive to curb the menace of driving by minors.

The Special Mobile Magistrate (Traffic) passed these directions while awarding three years sentence of imprisonment to a man for allowing his minor son to drive his vehicle.

9 Soldiers

the loss of Indian Army personnel due to an accident near Leh in Ladakh. We will never forget their exemplary service to our nation," the defence minister said on X, formerly Twitter.

"My thoughts are with the bereaved families. The injured personnel have been rushed to the Field Hospital. Praying for their speedy recovery," Singh said, without mentioning the number of soldiers killed and injured in the accident.

SSP Nitya said a police team rushed to the accident site and all the injured soldiers were shifted to an Army medical facility where eight personnel were declared dead. Another jawan died subsequently, she said.

The officer said one more jawan was undergoing treatment and his condition was stated to be "critical".

Condoling the death of the soldiers, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said, "Deeply saddened by the tragic road accident in Ladakh in which we lost our valiant soldiers, as their vehicle fell into a gorge."

"The entire nation stands shoulder to shoulder with the bereaved families in this hour of grief. My sincerest condolences to them. May the injured recover at the earliest," he posted on X.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and former party chief Rahul Gandhi also condoled the death of soldiers.

"The news of the martyrdom of 9 soldiers due to an accident of an army truck in Leh is very saddening," Kharge said on X, formerly known as Twitter.

"We will always be indebted to our brave soldiers. Our deepest condolences to the bereaved families and relatives of the brave soldiers. We wish the injured a speedy recovery," he said.

In a post in Hindi on X, Gandhi said the news of the martyrdom of soldiers in the accident of the army vehicle in Ladakh is very saddening.

"I pay my humble tribute to all the martyrs. My deepest condolences to the bereaved families of the jawans. I hope for the speedy recovery of the injured," he said.

CAG Picks Holes

criteria of the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC), 2011.

The aim is to improve affordability, accessibility, and quality of care for the poor and vulnerable section of the population.

The scheme has been launched for achieving a significant reduction in out-of-pocket expenditure due to health care costs and achieving reduction in proportion of households experiencing catastrophic health expenditures and consequent impoverishment. The eligible beneficiaries are entitled under AB-PMJAY for cashless and paperless access to services at the empanelled hospitals.

The report of the CAG contains results of the Performance Audit on AB-PMJAY covering the period September 2018 to March 2021.

Audit noted that the PMJAY Scheme, an ambitious and well-intentioned programme to provide healthcare access to most vulnerable sections in the country, has had a strong positive impact on the economically weaker sections of the society who need healthcare facilities. However, the implementation of the scheme needs improvement in the light of the findings made in the report.

"It is expected that the compliance to the observations and recommendations made in this report will help in improving the implementation of the scheme," it noted.

According to the report, in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, during the period 2018 to 2021, 16865 and 335 numbers of ineligible beneficiaries respectively were identified by SHA (state health authority) after clearing the SECC data, thus indicating the existence of ineligible beneficiaries in the SECC database.

The report revealed that 15 hospitals were empanelled with delay. The CAG report further stated that in Jammu and Kashmir, 4, 97,358 cases were rejected and the maximum delay in days was 404.

The report further reveals that Rs 10.96 lakh were disbursed for the treatment of 48 patients who had previously been declared deceased in the scheme's database in Jammu and Kashmir.

Under the CAG's performance audit, it was found that in Jammu and Kashmir, (459) beneficiaries were charged for their treatment in empanelled Health Care Providers (EHCs) resulting in an increase in out-of-pocket expenditure of beneficiaries.

Data analysis revealed that SHAs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh failed to levy penalties amounting to Rs 20.93 crore and Rs 39.66 lakh respectively on Insurer for non-performance of various activities.

Penalty amounting to Rs 12.32 crore from 100 hospitals was pending in nine States/UTs. SHAs Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh failed to levy penalties amounting to Rs 20.93 crore and

Rs 39.66 lakh respectively on Insurer for non-performance of various activities.

"Since no penalties were levied by the SHAs, no such recoveries were made from the defaulting hospitals, thereby not deterring the hospitals from deviating from the performance indicators specified under the scheme," the report said.

Further, due to delay in payment of premium to the Insurance Company up to 161 days under Contract Agreement (PS-4), SHA, Jammu & Kashmir failed to recover a penalty of Rs 2.91 crore on account of delayed claim payments from the Insurance Company.

CAT Reinstates

was entitled for six more points, three each for experience and sports. Finally an order was passed by the authorities on 25 November 2020 whereby the claim of the non-selected candidate was rejected. The order was challenged by non-selected candidate before CAT, Jammu Bench and her plea was allowed by directing authorities to appoint her to the post of Dental Surgeon. The order was challenged by the authorities before the High Court. However, the appeal was dismissed by the Division Bench of High Court on 15 December 2021. Subsequent to the dismissal of the Appeal, the candidate was appointed to the post of Dental Surgeon and the appointment of A A Mughal was cancelled as withdrawn by the JKPCS on 20 July this year.

Aggrieved by the order, A A Mughal filed a petition before the CAT with her counsel advocate Mir Suhail contending that she had been working without any break for 18 years. He said that it will be contrary to the rules and principles of natural justice that after serving for such a long time i.e. for 18 years, the authorities have passed the cancellation order of her appointment, that too without giving any opportunity to defend herself. He further submitted that JKPCS has clarified their position in the meeting held on 25.2.2020 that the selection for 36 referred posts was completed in the year 2005; as such the exclusion of the last selected candidate from the select list is neither feasible nor justified, as the same could lead the Commission into further litigation. He said that due to the mistake committed by the JKPCS, A A Mughal should not be punished that too after 18 years of service.

"In view of the above, the respondents (authorities) are directed to accommodate the applicant (AA Mughal) as observed by the High Court in its order dated 15.12.2021 as well as in view of the clarification issued by the PSC in its meeting on 25.2.2020," the CAT said, adding, "The impugned order dated 20.7.2023 shall remain in abeyance until further orders."

Asia Cup: Indian Squad Could Have More Members



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Indian selection panel, led by Ajit Agarkar, is likely to go for a 17-member squad for the upcoming Asia Cup in order to check out all possible options ahead of the ODI World Cup, starting October 5.

It is also learnt that BCCI is bucking the convention for the first time and head coach Rahul Dravid will also be present in his official capacity during the meeting scheduled in the national cap-

ital on Monday morning.

It can be confirmed that neither Ravi Shastri nor Anil Kumble were part of selection meetings during their tenure as national coach.

But it must be mentioned that unlike Cricket Australia, where chief coach is a part of NSP (National Selection Panel), in India, neither coach nor captain has a right to vote.

It is still not confirmed whether both skipper Rohit Sharma and Dravid will attend the meeting

physically or join through video conference.

With key players -- KL Rahul (thigh) and Shreyas Iyer (lower back) yet to prove their fitness, the BCCI brass and selectors could opt for a safer options that gives them an opportunity to check all available players in the five (six if they reach final) Asia Cup games in Sri Lanka.

The Asian Cricket Council has kept provision for 17-member squads for Asia Cup. Accordingly Pakistan, Bangladesh have all

picked 17-member squads.

India's likely 17-member squad (including provisional 15 for Sept 5 deadline): Rohit Sharma (captain), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, KL Rahul (wk, subject to fitness), Shreyas Iyer (subject to fitness), Hardik Pandya (VC), Ravindra Jadeja, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav, Ishan Kishan (2nd wk), Axar Patel, Shardul Thakur, Suryakumar Yadav, Tilak Varma, Yuzvendra Chahal/R Ashwin.

Bumrah Might Give Tough Competition To Pandya For ODI Vice-Captaincy



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah appears to be a strong contender to become vice-captain of the Indian team, alongside all-rounder Hardik Pandya, for the upcoming Asia Cup as well as ODI World Cup, starting October 5.

While Pandya has been made the regular T20I captain, Bumrah, who has made an international comeback against Ireland in the ongoing T20I series that started on Friday, is set to give tough competi-

tion to the colourful Baroda all-rounder.

"If you look in terms of leadership seniority, Bumrah is ahead of Pandya as he captained the Test team in 2022. He has also been ODI vice-captain before Pandya during the ODI tour of South Africa. "Don't be surprised if you see Bumrah being made ODI deputy to Rohit for both Asia Cup and World Cup. There is a reason why he was handed captaincy in Ireland instead of Ruturaj," a BCCI source in know of things told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

Pandya has had a successful stint as IPL skipper for Gujarat Titans, leading the team to the title in its maiden appearance in 2022 and to runners-up finish in 2023.

However, a lot of people feel that a shrewd tactician like Ashish Nehra has also played a lot of role in Gujarat Titans' success.

As far as the Indian team is concerned, Pandya lost his first bilateral series (T20I) in the West Indies where some of his decisions like not bowling Axar Patel or bringing Mukesh Kumar at the death were criticised.

Srinagar Premier League: 2 Matches Played



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The 2023 Srinagar Premier League action continued on Saturday with two Round 10 matches played at Synthetic Turf TRC.

The first match of the day was played between STFC Natipora and Iqbal Sports FC. The game was evenly contested as the first half ended 0-0. The second half seemed to be going the same way until STFC youngsters unleashed on Iqbal Sports. Musharraf gave STFC the lead in 85th minute, before Talib made it 2-0 in 87th minute. Talib added his second in 93rd minute, before Tabish made it 4-0 a minute later.

The late onslaught meant Iqbal Sports FC had lost 4-0.

Talib of STFC Natipora was awarded man of the match for his two goals and two assists.

The second game of the day saw footballing powerhouse J&K Bank FC take on Novelty FC.

Although Novelty were the underdogs in this fixture, they managed to stand tall against J&K Bank, ending the first half 0-0. However, the second half opened the flood gates, as J&K Bank took the lead through Mohammed Uneeab in 46th minute. Waris made it 2-0 ten minutes later. And that's how the match ended. Uneeab was awarded man of the match.

2-Day Srinagar Thang-Ta Championship Concludes

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The two-day district Srinagar Thang-Ta championship, organised by District Srinagar Thang-Ta Association in collaboration with J&K Sports Council, who also sponsored the event, concluded on Saturday at Multipurpose Indoor Hall, Polo Ground, here.

More than 200 boys and girls participated in the championship along with 40 officials. The best performers of the event will



be fielded in the J&K UT Thang-Ta Championship 2023, scheduled to be held at Srinagar in the month of October later this year.

Meanwhile, My Youth My Pride events were held in Dooru where the Dooru Premier League commenced with a huge fanfare.

DYSS Anantnag Holds Inter-School Sports Events

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The Department of Youth Services & Sports Zone Anantnag successfully concluded its Zonal Level Inter-School Football, Tug of War and Throw Ball competitions in the age groups of Under-14 and Under-17 Boys at Sports Stadium Anantnag.

District Youth Services and Sports Officer Anantnag Raja Yaqoob Ali, I/C Activities DYSSO Anantnag Mohd Abbas Dar and I/C Activities Zonal Physical Education Officer Anantnag Sajad Ahmad Mir distributed the prizes among winners and



runner-up teams in presence of senior most physical education masters and teachers.

In his message DYSSO Anantnag further encouraged the youth to participate more and more in the upcoming sports events at various levels in order to remain fit and healthy.

Almost all the institutions both private and government falling in Zone Anantnag participated in the event. More than 35 teams are part of the tournament, while 645 boys from different institutions participated with full enthusiasm to show case their talent.

PM Modi Hails U-20 Women Wrestlers' World Title Win



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday hailed as a "monumental triumph" the Indian women wrestlers winning the team title for the first time at the U-20 world championship.

"A monumental triumph for Indian Women Wrestlers! Our team has won the Women Wrestling team title at the 2023 U-20 World Championships, delivering an unparalleled performance with 7 medals, of which 3 are Golds," he said on X, formerly Twitter. He added that among the

memorable performances was by Antim Panghal as she retained her title to become the first ever to win it twice.

He said, "This glorious win stands as an embodiment of the unwavering commitment, sheer determination and exceptional talent of our emerging wrestlers."

Antim Panghal on Friday created history by becoming the first Indian woman wrestler to win back-to-back U20 world titles as she defended her 53kg crown, combining her tremendous agility and strength for a stupendous feat.

FOOTBALL

Liverpool Overcomes To Beat Bournemouth 3-1 In EPL



Agencies

LIVERPOOL: Liverpool overcame an early deficit and a disputed red card to beat Bournemouth 3-1 at Anfield in the English Premier League on Saturday for its first win of the season. Bournemouth stunned the host by taking the lead through Antoine Semenyo in just the third minute after Liverpool turned the ball over cheaply deep inside its own half. But Luis Diaz equalized with an acrobatic volley in the 28th and

Liverpool was awarded a penalty when Joe Rothwell made light contact with Dominik Szoboszlai just inside the area, and the midfielder fell theatrically to the ground.

Mohamed Salah's spot kick was saved by Bournemouth goalkeeper Neto, but the Egypt striker slotted in the rebound to put Liverpool ahead.

Alexis Mac Allister was then shown a straight red card in the 58th for kicking Ryan Christie's leg after a mistimed challenge for the ball, giving Bour-

nemouth hopes of a comeback. But going a man down seemed to only galvanize Liverpool, and Diogo Jota was on hand to turn in the rebound after Szoboszlai's deflected shot was palmed away by Neto in the 62nd.

After opening the season with a 1-1 draw at Chelsea last weekend, Liverpool has four points from its opening two games, while Bournemouth has one point. Salah's goal put him past Steven Gerrard into fifth place among Liverpool's all-time leading scorers, with 187.

Clash Of Styles As England, Spain Eye Women's World Cup

Agencies

SYDNEY: Women's football will crown a first-time champion on Sunday when the ninth Women's World Cup concludes with England and Spain, both proud footballing nations, facing off in an intriguing final in Sydney.

The highly-successful tournament in Australia and New Zealand was destined to have a fresh winner from the quarter-finals when Japan joined the United States, Germany and Norway in making a premature exit. For all the excitement that accompanied Australia's run to the semi-finals and Japan's brilliance in the early rounds, the consensus is that England and Spain are worthy first-time finalists.

"I think it's going to be a brilliant game," England captain Millie Bright enthused on Saturday. "Two top teams coming head-to-head. And ultimately the game is about getting the ball in the back of the net and executing the game plan. So find a way to win."

The tournament has showcased the development of the

women's game but the finalists do present a contrast in styles -- England pragmatic, ruthless, resilient and Spain displaying all the technical skill the country's football is famed for.

both have grown into the tournament and were convincing semi-final winners.

Expectations of a tight final in front of another sellout crowd of 75,000 at Stadium Australia



The finalists have had their blips -- Spain thrashed 4-0 by Japan in their last group game and England taken to penalties by Nigeria in the last 16 -- but

might not be too wide of the mark if England's 2-1 win in the European Championship quarter-final between the sides last year is any guide.

Centre's Reply Sought On Decriminalising Consensual Sex Between 16-18 Age



Agenceis

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday sought a response from the Centre on a PIL seeking a direction to decriminalise the law on statutory rape often invoked against 16- to 18-year-old adolescents for indulging in consensual sex.

A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra took note of the PIL filed by lawyer Harsh Vibhore Singhal in his personal capacity.

The bench has issued notices to Union ministries of law and justice and the home affairs and some other statutory bodies including the National Commission for Women.

The PIL challenges the legality of statutory rape laws that criminalise consensual sex between adolescents who are above 16 years and below 18 years of age on the

ground that their consent to such acts are statutorily invalid.

"Pass a writ of mandamus under Article 32 or any other direction in the nature of writ and exercise its powers under 142 to decriminalise the law of statutory rape as applied to all cases of voluntary consensual sexual contact between any 16+ to <18 adolescent with another similar age adolescent and with >18 adult..." the plea said.

It said such adolescents possess "physiological, biological, psychological and social capacities, competence to assimilate and evaluate information to understand and comprehend risks, freedom to make informed choices to convey affirmative decisions or otherwise, and have the agency and decisional/bodily autonomy to fearlessly, freely and voluntarily do what they wish to do with their bodies."

India Closes In On Moon Landing As Russia Also Races To Lunar South Pole

Agenceis

India's space agency on Friday released images of the moon taken from its Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft as it approaches the lunar south pole, a previously unexplored region thought to contain water ice where Russia is trying to land first.

The video, taken on Thursday just after the separation of the rocket's lander from the propulsion module, showed a close-up of craters as Earth's only natural satellite spun around.

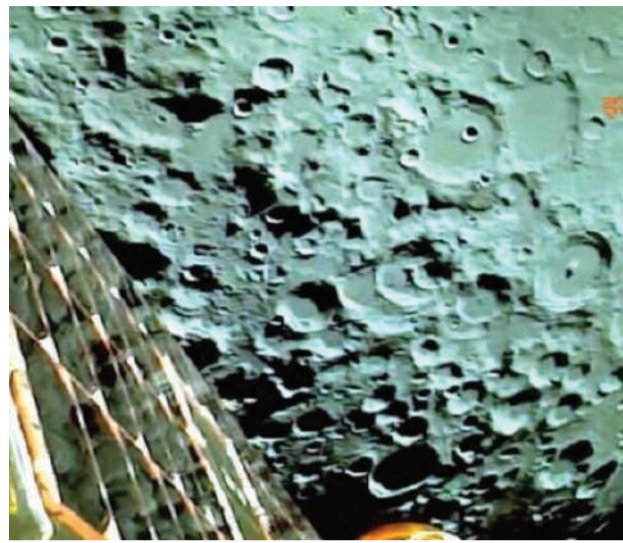
"The Lander Module (LM) health is normal. LM successfully underwent a deboosting operation that reduced its orbit to 113 km x 157 km," the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) tweeted later.

The Indian space agency launched the rocket carrying the spacecraft on July 14, blasting off from the country's main spaceport in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh. The lander is scheduled to attempt a touchdown on Aug 23.

Russia launched its first moon-landing spacecraft in 47 years on Aug 11, taking a more direct course to reach the moon's south pole where scientists have detected water ice that could be used for fuel, oxygen and drinking water for future moon missions or a lunar colony.

Russia's moon mission is on track to land the Luna-25 on Aug 21, two days before India's spacecraft.

Rough terrain is expected to complicate a landing on



the lunar south pole. A previous mission by India's space agency, the Chandrayaan-2, crashed in 2019 near where the Chandrayaan-3 will attempt a touchdown.

Chandrayaan, which means "moon vehicle" in Sanskrit, includes a 2-metre-(6.6-foot)-tall lander designed to deploy a rover expected to remain functional for two weeks running a series of experiments.

Both India and Russia have national interests in successful landings and in claiming the historic first at stake.

For Russia, the moonshot, which has been planned for decades, will test the nation's growing independence in space after its 2022 invasion of Ukraine severed nearly all of its space ties with the West.

Russia's space agency Roscosmos has said the Luna-25

mission would spend 5-7 days in lunar orbit before descending to one of three possible landing sites near the pole.

For India, a successful moon landing would mark its emergence as a space power at a time when Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government is looking to spur investment in private space launches and related satellite-based businesses.

Since 2020, when India opened to private launches, the number of space startups has more than doubled. Late last year, Skyroot Aerospace, whose investors include Singapore's sovereign wealth fund GIC, launched India's first privately built rocket.

Indian officials have privately played down the race with Russia to land first, saying there was no competition.

Japanese Turn To Wearable Tech To Beat The Heat

Agenceis

TOKYO: Selling jackets with built-in fans, neck coolers and T-shirts that feel cold, Japanese firms are tapping into a growing market for products to help people handle the summer heat.

Japan — like other countries — is seeing ever-hotter summers. This July was the warmest in 100 years, with at least 53 people dying of heatstroke and almost 50,000 needing emergency medical attention.

Workman, which makes clothes for construction workers, launched a version of their fan-fitted jackets adapted for the high street in 2020 as demand grew.

The mechanism is simple — two electric, palm-sized fans powered by a rechargeable battery are fitted into the back of the jacket.

They draw in air to then deliver a breeze — at variable speeds — onto the wearer's body.

The jackets retail for 12,000 to 24,000 yen (\$82-164).

"As the weather gets hotter, people who have never worn fan-equipped clothing before want to find ways to cool down... so more people are interested in buying it," Workman spokesman Yuya Suzuki said.

"Just like you feel cool when you are at home with a fan, you feel cool just by wearing (the jacket) because the wind is blowing through your body all the time," he said.

Japanese summers are known to be hot and humid, but this July Tokyo really sweated.

The average temperature was 28.7 Celsius, the highest on record since 1875.

Heatstroke is particularly deadly in Japan, which has the second-oldest population in the world after Monaco. More

than 80 per cent of heat-related deaths in the past five years have been among senior citizens.

"Some people die from heatstroke," said Nozomi Takai of MI Creations, a company selling neck-cooling tubes mainly to factory and warehouse workers. "Individuals as well as companies are putting more and more effort into measures against it every year," Takai said.

The gel inside his firm's brightly coloured tubes — priced at 2,500 yen — is cool enough to use after 20 minutes in the fridge.

Wearing it on the neck will "considerably cool the whole body" for about an hour, she said.

Takai's company joined an expo this year on "measures against extreme heat" in Tokyo to showcase new products that help users stay cool in the scorching heat.

At another booth, Tokyo-based company Libertra had a series of clothing including T-shirts and arm sleeves using prints that make users feel cool — especially when they sweat.

The prints use materials such as xylitol that feel cool when reacting with water and sweat, they said.

Chikuma, an Osaka-based company, has even created office jackets and dresses equipped with electric fans.

"We developed them with the idea that it could be proposed in places where casual wear is not allowed," Yosuke Yamanaka of Chikuma said.

Regular fan-fitted clothes can make the wearer look puffy, as they need to be zipped up, and cuffs are tight. But jackets developed jointly by Chikuma, power tool maker Makita and textile giant Teijin do not need to be buttoned up, thanks to a special structure that sandwiches the fans in two layers and keeps the cool air in, Yamanaka said.

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