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ARTICLE 370 HEARING

Ready For J&K Polls Anytime Now: Centre Tells SC

"The exact time frame for restoration of complete statehood in J&K cannot be given at the moment. It might take some time. Various steps are being taken to restore the status of the state in Jammu and Kashmir."

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Elections in Jammu and Kashmir can be held "anytime from now" as the work on updation of voters list is almost over, the Centre told the Supreme Court on Thursday but remained non-committal about setting a time-frame for restoration of statehood to the union territory.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, told a five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud that the UT status of Jammu and Kashmir is a "temporary thing" and it is for the Election Commission of India and the union territory's election commission to decide when the elections for panchayats, municipal bodies and the legislative assembly will be held.

"The central government is ready to hold elections anytime



from now... It is for the Election Commission of India and the Election Commission of the UT to take the call on which election will take place first and how. The updating process of the voters' list is almost complete and will be over in

a month," he told the bench,

also comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai and Surya Kant.

The solicitor general said as far as restoration of state-hood to the union territory of J-K is concerned, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has already made statements in Parliament

that it will be done in due course.

"The UT is a temporary thing in J&K. We are dealing with an extremely extraordinary situation. The exact time frame for restoration of complete statehood in J&K cannot be given at the moment. It might take some time. Various steps are being taken to restore the status of the state in Jammu and Kashmir," Mehta said at the outset.

The central government made the submissions in response to the apex court's August 29 observations on restoration of electoral democracy in Jammu and Kashmir.

Mehta, on the 13th day of hearing on a batch of petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370 which accorded special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, said, "Peace does not merely come by policing." >> More On P10

ally do during sessions.
Generally, three parliamentary sessions are held in a year-Budget, Monsoon and Winter sessions.

Sources said the "special session" could see parliamentary operations being shifted to the new Parliament building which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 28.

Spl Session of House from Sep 18 to 22

Govt Keeps Agenda Under Wraps

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The government on Thursday announced a "special session" of Parliament for five days between September 18 and 22 but kept the agenda for it under wraps, triggering speculation.

"Special Session of Parliament (13th Session of 17th Lok Sabha and 261st Session of Rajya Sabha) is being called from 18th to 22nd September having five sittings. Amid Amrit Kaal, looking forward to having fruitful discussions and debate in Parliament," Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said on X.

It will be the first such special session under the nine years of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government which had convened a special joint sitting of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha to mark the midnight GST roll-out on June 30, 2017. However, it will be a full-fledged session of five days this time with both Houses meeting separately as they usually do during sessions

With the >> More On P10

SIA Arrests 8 On Terror Charges After 2 Decades



Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Eight persons have been arrested here during a special drive by the State Investigation Agency and the Criminal Investigation Department that have started looking for killers and terrorist associates hiding by blending in the society, a police official said on Thursday.

Assisted by Criminal Investigation Department (CID) inputs, State Investigation Agency (SIA) detectives working quietly for months have apprehended the eight terrorists wanted in Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act cases after about three decades, the official said.

In pursuance of its larger objective and the mandate of achieving "zero terrorism" in Jammu and Kashmir, SIA has initiated a special drive to trace and produce before the court concerned all absconders in terrorism-related cases.

The official said of the total 734 absconders, including 417 in Kashmir and 317 in Jammu, wanted in 327 TADA and the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA) cases, SIA has so far verified and identified 369 absconders — 215 in Jammu and 154 in Kashmir, the official said.

"In pursuance of its larger objective and mandate of achieving zero terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, SIA has initiated a >> More On P10

Nothing New In Centre's Submissions: J&K Parties

he Centre's stand in the Supreme Court on restoration of statehood and holding Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir is nothing new but just a diversionary tactic, political parties in the valley said on Thursday. While the National Conference (NC) described the submissions made by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta in the top court as a tactic to divert attention from the main issue of the challenge to the legality of the Centre's August 5, 2019 decisions, other political parties said the remarks were fallacious, a joke and similar to the Centre's stand over the last few years. The Centre told the Supreme Court on Thursday that the Assembly polls can be held in Jammu and Kashmir "anytime from now", with most of the work on the voters' list over, and the decision on specific dates depends on the Election Commission (EC). A five-judge Constitution bench of >> More On P10

62-Day Annual Amarnath Yatra Concludes

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The 62-day annual Amarnath Yatra concluded on Thursday with more than 4.4 lakh pilgrims offering prayers at the cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas this year.

Officials said a total of 4,45,338 devotees paid obeisance to the naturally formed ice 'Shivling' during the pilgrimage which commenced on July 1 through Baltal and Pahalgam routes.

They said 48 people, including pilgrims and service providers, died during the

course of the yatra this year and 62 suffered injuries. The deaths were due to weatherrelated incidents or natural causes, they added.

The number of pilgrims who undertook the yatra this year was higher than last year's 3.65 lakh.

The yatra this year remained peaceful and incident-free, the officials said.

The holy mace of Lord Shiva, popularly known as 'Chhari Mubarak', carried by a group of sadhus and devotees led by its custodian Mahant Deepindra Giri, arrived at the >> More On P10



'Chota Amarnath' Yatra Flagged Off in Bandipora

istrict administration here revived pilgrimage to a cave shrine located in dense woods of Bandipora on Thursday, the day 60 day long Amarnath Yatra came to an end. Called Chota Amarnath Yatra, pilgrimage to a cave >> Full Story On Page 5

Omar Ordered To Pay Rs 1.5L Monthly Maintenance To Estranged Wife

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Thursday directed former Jammu Kashmir chief minister and National Conference leader Omar Abdullah to pay Rs 1.5 lakh to his estranged wife every month as interim maintenance.

It also directed him to pay Rs 60,000 each for the education of his two sons every month.

The court's order came on petitions by Payal Abdullah and the couple's sons against 2018 lower court orders granting them interim maintenance of Rs 75,000 and Rs 25,000, respectively, till the boys attained the age of majority.



Justice Subramonium Prasad observed that the former Jammu & Kashmir chief minister has the financial capacity to provide a "decent standard of

living to his wife and children" and that he ought not to abdicate his duties as a father.

"Respondent (Omar Abdullah) is a » More On P10

HC Seeks Report On JKSSB In 10 Days Asks JKSSB Not of Justice Moksha

Asks JKSSB Not To Proceed With Selection Process Till Decision By Govt

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Thursday directed a High-Level Committee, constituted to review the functioning of the Jammu and Kashmir Service Selection Board (JKSSB), to submit its report within a period of ten days.

riod of ten days. Hearing a petition, a bench of Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi also directed JKSSB not to proceed with the selection process of various posts advertised by it till the government takes decision in light of the committee's report.

The Review Committee, constituted on April 22, was directed to examine whether the process of tendering followed by JKSSB, in which the examination conducting company, namely, M/S Aptech Ltd. which was select-

ing company, namely, M/S Aptech Ltd. which was selected to conduct the examinations was consistent with the extant Financial » More On P10

HC Upholds Life Term To Step Father For Minor Girl's Murder

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Thursday upheld life sentence to a man by Principal Sessions Judge Kargil for murder of one small baby girl of 3 years of age in 2010.

The convicted person, Bhagwat Dass had filed Appeal against the judgment of conviction dated 21 November 2013 and sentence order dated 26 November 2013 for commission of offence punishable under section 302 RPC in 2010.

Dass had been held guilty, convicted and sentenced to

life imprisonment and fine of Rs 5000 for murder of one small baby girl of 3 years of age. The trial judge had made a reference to the High Court on 26 November 2013 for confirmation of the sentence.

"After churning the entire prosecution evidence by us being the first court of appeal, we are of the firm view that the prosecution has been able to prove the charges against appellant (Dass) punishable under section 302 RPC beyond reasonable doubt," a division bench of Justices Vinod Chatterji Koul and Mohan Lal said, adding, "therefore, the conviction » More On P10

Winds Of Change In Govt Offices Due To Digital Revolution

Implementation Of e-Office Has Brought Down File Disposal Rate To 97%: Official

Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Union territory (UT) is moving towards digital revolution from the past four years with the introduction of e-service for the public good.

The UT is witnessing less footfall of people in government offices and other institutions, the corruption is reducing and all the services are made available on the fingertips of the people ever since the government launched the "digital revolution" by making all the services online.



The remarkable transformation in the region's digital scenario is being applauded and appreciated by the public who maintained that by embracing technology, the government revolutionized governance and empowered

citizens with seamless access to services and resources.

"This is indeed a wind of change. I had to apply for a domicile certificate for my family and managed to do it within a week with just a click of a button," said Abdul Rashid, a resident of HMT Srinagar. Rashid further said he also availed the documents of land records online. "Otherwise, it wasn't possible earlier and you had to make a dozen rounds to the Tehsil office," he added.

From licensing of manufacturing establishments for drugs, cosmetics and >> More On P10

Man Injured In Bear Attack

man was attacked and injured on Thursday by a black bear in the Verinag area of South Kashmir Anantnag district. Ghulam Rasool Rather was walking in his native Zamalgam village of Verinag on Thursday afternoon when a bear appeared there and attacked him, reports said. The villagers rescued Rather and shifted him to Primary Health Centre (PHC) Verinag for treatment.

However, the doctors there referred him to Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag for advanced treatment.

1 Dead In Car Collision, 11 Injured

man was killed while 11 others, including some women were injured in a collision between two cars in Tral area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district on Thursday. According to reports, the collision between the two vehicles took place at Baja Kol on Tral Nodal road on Thursday afternoon leaving as many as 12 people injured. All the injured were removed to the sub-district hospital (SDH) Tral for treatment. However, nine among the injured were referred to Srinagar hospital for advanced treatment. One among them identified as Asadullah Bhat

IAF To Hold Mega Drill From Sept 4

0

he Indian Air Force will conduct an 11-day mega exercise beginning September 4 along the borders with China and Pakistan and it will involve all the key frontline combat jets, attack choppers, mid-air refuellers and other critical air assets, sources in the defence and military establishment said on Thursday. The exercise 'Trishul' is taking place amid the over three-year confrontation between Indian and Chinese troops as well as New Delhi's continuing frosty ties with Pakistan. The aim of the exercise,

being organised by >> More On P10

8 CRPF Men Injured As Vehicle Overturns

t least eight Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel on Thursday sustained injuries in a road accident in Central Kashmir's Budgam district, officials said.

They said a vehicle of CRPF 181
Battalion skidded off the road and overturned in Rakh-e- Arizal area of the district on Thursday evening leaving at least eight paramilitary personnel injured.

The injured CRPF men, officials said, were evacuated to nearby health facility for treatment. The condition of all the CRPF personnel is said to be stable.

Suicide Bomber Kills 9 Soldiers In Pak

suicide bomber riding on a motorcycle targeted a security convoy in northwest Pakistan on Thursday, killing at least nine soldiers and wounding 20 others, three security officials said, a sign of increasing militant violence. The attack happened in Bannu, a district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province bordering Afghanistan, the officials said. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak to the media on the record. There was no immediate claim from any group, but the suspicion is >> More On P10

ED Arrests 4 In Himachal Scholarship 'Scam'

our people, including a former official of the Himachal Pradesh higher education directorate, have been arrested in a case linked to an alleged Rs 200 crore scam in grant of scholarships to SC, ST and OBC students of the state, the ED said on Thursday. They were arrested under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Rajdeep Josan and Krishan Kumar, partners at ASAMS education group, Hitesh Gandhi, vice chairman of KC group of institutions (located in Pandoga) and Arvind Rajta, a former official of the Himachal Pradesh Directorate of Higher Education's scholarship >> More On P10

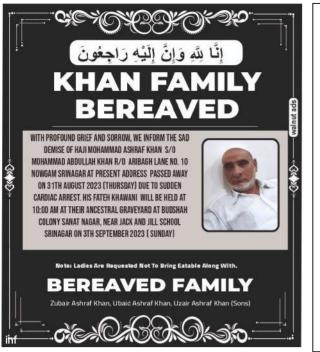


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From the office of **Advocate Mudasir Gulzar**

In the case of Zubaida Qaiser, W/o: Qaiser Nazir Khan R/o: Kuker Bagh Nowshera Soura Srinagar.

Qaiser Nazir Khan S/o: Nazir Ahmad Khan R/o: Kuker Bagh Nowshera Soura Srinagar Caveators)

PUBLIC AT LARGE

In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A

The caveators have reason to believe that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition, Ap-peal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may seed in obtaining some relief/order at their back/in exparte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put in irrepa-rable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.

Sd/advocate

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

Office Of The Executive Engineer Rural Engineering Wing Baramulla.

E-NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-NIT No: - 195/Xen/Rew/Bla/2023-2024 Dated.26/08/2023

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

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (in Lacs)	T/Doc.	EMD AMOUNT		Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account	Position of AAA/TS
1	Fencing arround New Masjid Shreef and Fencing arroundAhanger Mohalla Masjid- ShreefPyt. Halqa Bonichakal under ADP PRI Year 2023-24 Block Singhpora	4.93	(In Rs.) 200	9860	pletion 30 days	DEE	ADP	AAA Ac- corded
2	Treat 2023-24 Block Shighpula Construction of New Building Astan Alia Syed Dumshiki at ward 2 Hanjiwerapayeen B Pan- chayat Halqa Hanjiwerapayeen B Under ADP PRI year 2023-24 Block:-Singhoora	6.13	300	12260	30 days	CEE\DEE	ADP	AAA Accorde
3	Development of inner links at ward 4 and Development of inner Links with Rwall at Dif- ferent spots at ward 1 panchayat Hanjiwer- aPayeen B under ADP PRI Year 2023-24 Block Singhpora	4.95	200	9900	30days	DEE	ADP	AAA Accorde
4	Construction of 6 NO Culverts at Matipora VillagePyt Halqa Mati- pora under ADP PRI Year 2023-24 Block Singhpora	3.92	200	7840	30days	DEE	ADP	AAA Accorde
5		5.00	200	10000	30days	DEE	ADP	AAA Accorde
б	Construction of Community Sanitary Complex at SSA Pry School Ganiemohallaat Gundi Ibra- him A Panchayat Halqa Gundi IbrahimUnder APDP year 2023-24 Block- Singhpora	3.93	200	7860	30days	DEE	APDP	AAA Accorde
7	Construction of R wall With on Road Side at WArd NO 1 2 & 3 at Harinara panchayat Halqa Harinara under ADP PRI Year 2023-23 Block Singhpora	5.80	200	11600	30days	CEE\DEE	ADP	AAA Accorde
8	Providing of additional room for Health Sub centre at Lachipora-A PYT Lachipora A BLOCK BIJHAMA UNDER APDP	9.95	600	19900	30days	CEE/DEE	APDP	AAA Accorde
9	C/O Tile path/pcc path and Drains and renova- tion of old drains at ward no 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8 &9 at heewan B pyt halqa: Heewan B under ADP PRI for the year 2023-24 Block Narwav	13.8	600	27600		DEE DEE	ADP	AAA Accorde
10	c/o Fencing around Masjid Rahman at Hajam- mohalla and concrete path at Govt middle school at Duroo A Under ADP PRI for year 2023-24, Block:- Zaingeer	4.97	200	9940	30days	DEE	ADP	AAA Accorde
11	Fencing of Jamia Masjid at Mundji Under ADP PRI Year 2023-24 Block: Zaingeer	3.50	200	7000	30days	DEE	ADP	AAA Accorde
12	Beautification of Amritsarover at Babakhai- pora under Cd and pyt (amritsarover) for year 2023-24 , Block:- WAILOO	3.79	200	7580	30days	DEE	ADP	AAA Accorde
	Beautification of Amritsarover at Souchpal- pora under Cd and pyt (amritsarover) for year 2023-24 , Block:- WAILOO		200	7660	30days		CD & PYT (AMRITSAR- OVAR)	AAA Accorde
14	C/O bathroom near darvesh at wno9 and tile- path at various spots wno 4 and c/o road from main road to mughalmohalla and astanmohal- ladoudbughBlocKWagoora under Adp(Pri)	12.50	600	25000	30days	DEE DEE	ADP	AAA Accorde

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

	,	
-	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	26-08-2023
	Period of downloading of bidding	From 26-08-2023 to 04-09-2023 up to 6:00 PM
	documents	
	Bid submission Start date	26-08-2023
Į	Bid Submission End Date	04-09-2023 up to 6:00 PM
	Date and time of Opening of Bids	Technical Bids will be opened on 05-09-2023 at 11:00 AM in the office of
	(Online)	the Executive Engineer REW Baramulla and Financial Bid opening will be
	, ,	declared online

• The G.O No.238-F OF 2021 DATED:08.09.2021 issued by the Govt (Finance deptt) that the participation in the tendering process of works upto an amount of Rs 3.00 lacs is restricted to the resident of concerned panchayat. In the event of inadequate response to a tender ,participation from adjoining panchayat shall be permitted& participant to upload Panchayat certificate necessary.

If the Bidder quotes his Bid exceeding the tendering Cost, his bid will be automatically rejected. In case of dilemma/confusion, the rate and the unit against any item shown in Boq, the SOR rate along with its unit will be applicable.

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

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.iktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site at the office of the Executive Engineer, REW Division Baramulla. 4. 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.into acquaint bid submission process.

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

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

The earnest money in favour of un-successful/non-responsive bidders shall be released only after ensuring submission of tender document fee in original, irrespective of Hard copies, failure of submission of tender document fee by the bidder using site shall entail him for blacklisting. In case of CRF & any other specified project the relevant guidelines/ standard bidding documents shall be follo

Instructions to Bidder (ITB) All bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualification criteria/ qualification

information with their bids

a. Copies of original documents defining constitution/legal status, place of registration and principal place of business. Valid GST No. & Pan No. along with the latest GST Return form GST-3/GSTR-3B.

Copy of earnest money deposit & tender document fee indicating name of work therein All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).

No: 1511-1518

Executive Engineer. DIPK-8070/23 Dated: 31-08-2023 REWBaramulla

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the name on Elec-tricity Bill bearing Consumer ID No. 0204060002058 Mohd Ashraf Zargar S/O. Gh Qadir Zargar R/O. Konda Crossing Srinagar To Abdul Majeed Dar S/O Khazir Mohd Dar R/O Konda Crossing Srinagar. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in this regard he/she may file his/ her objection in the concerned PDD office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Mohd Ashraf Zargar S/0. Gh Qadir Zargar R/0. Konda

DEPARTMENT OF GEOINFORMATICS UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

Applications are invited from eligible candidates to fill up the vacant project positions under the two DST sponsored research projects as per the details given below. The positions are initially for a period of one year, extendable and co-terminus with the project.

Essential Qualification

Ph.D. (Geoinformatics/Geology/

Associate (1) (Rs 49000/- + HRA) under CoE for Glacier Studies in the Hima- laya	Meteorology/Climate change) Desirable: Research experience in Glaciology/Climate change modelling/Air pollution/ with 3 years' post-doctoral experience
Senior Project Associate (1) (Rs 42000/- + HRA) CoE for Glacier Studies in the Himalaya	Ph.D. (Geoinformatics/Geology/ Meteorology/Climate change) Desirable: Research experience in Glaciology/Climate change modelling/Air pollution/ with 2 years' post-doctoral experience
Project Associate-II	60% marks in M.Sc. Geoinformatics

Desirable: 1-Years research (Rs 35000/- + HRA) experience in glaciology/geospatial modelling with 2 years' CoE for Glacier Studies in the Himalaya research experience after MSc

Scientific Administrative Assistant (1) (Rs. 18000/- + HRA) under Summer School in Glaciology

Description of post

Principal Project

BE/B.Tech./ in any branch of engineering/ M. Sc. Geoinformatics/Geology/ BCA/BBA/ with at least 60% marks Desirable: Experience of spreadsheets/GeM/MSWord etc The interview of the eligible candidates is scheduled on 15

September, 2023 at 2:30 PM onwards in physical/online mode, in the National Ice-core Laboratory, University of Kashmir. The application submission process shall commence from 30 Aug, 2023 till 12 Sept., 2023. The candidates should bring their original documents regarding qualification/experience/ publications etc. at the time of interview. The details of the project can be obtained from the PI on any working day during the office hours. Sd/- Principal Investigator DIPK-NB-2948/23

dated: 31-08-2023 COE in Glacial Studies

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

Office Of The Executive Engineer Rural Engineering Wing Baramulla.

E-NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-NIT No: - 205/Xen/Rew/Bla/2023-2024 Dated. 30/08/2023

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

S. N		Est. Cost (in Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc.(In Rs.)	EMD AMOUNT	Time of comple-	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account	Position of AAA/TS
1	Establishment of Drainage system at Palhalan D (Pyt Palhalan D) Under ADP year 2023-24 Block Pattan	10.00	300	20000	30days	CEE\DEE	ADP	AAA Ac- corded
2	construction of irrigation major from H/o Gh Mohd Mir at Malikpora Under IWMP year 2023-24 Block Pattan	4.99	200	9980	30days	DEE	IWMP	AAA Ac- corded
3			200	17220	30days	CEE\DEE	ADP	AAA Ac- corded

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	30-08-2023				
2	Period of downloading of bid-	From 30-08-2023 to 08-09-2023 up to 6:00 PM				
	ding documents					
3	Bid submission Start date	30-08-2023				
4	Bid Submission End Date	08-09-2023 up to 6:00 PM				
5	Date and time of Opening of Bids	Technical Bids will be opened on 09-09-2023 at 11:00 AM in the				
	(Online)	office of the Executive Engineer REW Baramulla and Financial				
	<u> </u>	Bid opening will be declared online.				
• TI	The G.O No.238-F OF 2021 DATED:08.09.2021 issued by the Govt(Finance deptt) that the participation in the tendering pro-					

cess of works upto an amount of Rs 3.00 lacs is restricted to the resident of concerned panchayat. In the event of inadequate response to a tender participation from adjoining panchayat shall be permitted & participant to upload Panchayat certificate

· If the Bidder quotes his Bid exceeding the tendering Cost, his bid will be automatically rejected. In case of dilemma/confusion, the rate and the unit against any item shown in Boq, the SOR rate along with its

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

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site at the office of theExecutive Engineer, REW Division Baramulla. 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.into acquaint bid submission process.
3.2. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.

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

Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1. 3.4. 3.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid. Besides, original documents related to bid be submitted physically by the bidder who is declared as L1 immediately after opening of financial bid.

3.6. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of necessary documents in terms of soft copies with the technical

bid & no documents in terms of hard copies shall be entertained. However, in case of any clarification, the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copes if need arises. DOCLIMENTS TO BE LIPLOADED IN SOFT. Scanned copy of valid registration card along with Latest Renewal, EMD/TR as per NIT, GST, Latest clearance, PAN. The earnest money in favour of un-successful/ non-responsive bidders shall be released only after ensuring sub-

mission of tender document fee in original, irrespective of Hard copies, failure of submission of tender document fee by the hidder using site shall entail him for blacklisting

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.

5. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of treasury challan/receipt in favour of the Executive Engineer REW Division Baramulla and Earnest Money/Bid Security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG if applicable pledged to Executive Engineer, REW Division Baramulla (Tender receiving Authority) must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The original treasury challan/receipt (cost of tender document), CDR/FDR/BG (earnest money/bid security) and relevant bid documents etc be submitted to the tender opening authority by the bidder who is declared as L1 immediately after opening of financial bid. The tender receiving authority reserves the right of opening of the tenders on due date or any other convenient available date or rejecting any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof

Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOO manually. The BOO downloaded should be used for filling the item rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains. Price escalation & taxes: -The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the

rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes up to completion of the work unless otherwise, specified deductions on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevail-8. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

9. In case of CRF & any other specified project the relevant guidelines/ standard bidding documents shall be follo Instructions to Bidder (ITB) 10.1. All bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualification criteria/ qualification

information with their bids a. ness.

Copies of original documents defining constitution/legal status, place of registration and principal place of busi-Valid GST No. & Pan No. along with the latest GST Return form GST-3/GSTR-3B.

Copy of earnest money deposit & tender document fee indicating name of work therein c. 10.2.

The bidders at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before Nonattendance of pre-bid meeting will not be cause of disqualification of the bidder 10.3

All documents relating to the bid shall be in the English language
If the bidder does not quote rate for any item of the rate list / quantity schedule, cost of such item/ items shall 10.4

be deemed to be part of the overall/ total contract value. No rates shall be allowed for such item/ items in the allotment of contract.

The tender/bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill requirements as laid down in NIT. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).

No: 1591-1598 DIPK-8075/23 Dated: 31-08-2023

Executive Engineer. **REW Baramulla**

The Jammu and Kashmir

State Board Of School Education

New Campus Bemina Srinagar

Notice for General Public

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost her qualification certificate/s issued under as per below mentioned details:-Roll No: 12407267 Class 10th

Year & Session Annual Regular 2020 Registration: 1921010000140014 Name: Igra Rasool

Father's Name: Ghulam Rasool Malil Mother's Name : Fatima Bano Date of Birth:- 15-06-2005

Residence:- Sehpora Magam BudgamAccording the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification /Marks Certificate/s, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of

(Besides the above referred "Oualification / Marks Certificate/s" bearing No: 20ARKAM-1028134 be treated as "CANCELLED") No: F(Cer is-I-DQC)B/KD/23

Assistant Secretary Certificates, KD.

From The Office Of Advocate Khudisfandvar And Oazi Avaz.

In the case of: Ghulam Mohammad Tariq S/o. Hussam Ud Din Balkhi

R/o Dawood Colony, Anchar, Soura, Srinagar Applicant/Caveator

Public at Large

Non applicant/Caveator In the matter of. Caveat Petition in terms of Section 148-A of

The Caveat has reason to believe that Non-Caveator may file a suit ot any other type of proceedings or any other proceedings before the Hon'ble Court on the ground of distorted facts/ misrepresentation and concealing the material facts and may succeed in obtaining some relief or order in ex-parte at the back of Caveator and without providing reasonable opportunity to the caveator and in such eventuality the caveator will be put to irreparable loss and inconvenience. It will be proper that the caveator will be given Opportunity of being head by the Hon'ble Court before passing any order or direction.

From the office of Advocate Khalid Nazir

In the case of: Ashiq Hussain Mir S/o Ghulam Rasool Mir R/o Mughal Lane Zukara Srinagar **PUBLIC AT LARGE**

In the matter of: In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A The caveator has reason to believe that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition, Appeal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble High Court/District Court/Tribunal or any other forum on the ground of distorted facts/ misrepresentation and cooked story and may succeed in obtaining some relief/order at their back /in exparte against the caveator and in such eventuality the caveator will be put in irreparable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveator be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.

Sd/advocate

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the information of the general public that my name has been recorded wrongly as Mohd Hussain Shah, instead of Syed Mohd Hussain in the savings account bearing account no. 0133-40100002484 in the Ladhoo branch of JK Bank, Now, I want to correct the same from the concerned branch of the JK Bank Ladhoo, if anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may contact the concerned authorities within seven days from the date of publication of this notice, after that no objection shall

Syed Mohd Hussain S/o Syed Mubarak Shah R/o Dussu Pampore, Pulwama

inf

ازعدالت جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ درجہاول پیٹن بااجلاس الطاف حسين خان

غلام احمد گنائی بنام BDO Pattan BIRTH CERTIFICATE

درخواست منجانب غلام احمد گنائی بخرض اندراج: تارخ پیدائش اشتهار بماردا گاهی هرخاص و عام معامله مندجه عنوان الصد میں سائل نے ایک درخواست حصول تارخ پیدائش نسبت اولیں احمد گنائی ولد غلام احمد گنائی ساکنہ پلہالن عدالت ہذامیں پیش کی ہے جس نسبت برائے کاغذات بشمولہ درخواست مقررہ تاریخ پیدائش 2010-03-07 بروئے درخواست بذا ہےاوراس نسبت درخواست پیش کردہ زیر ہاعت عدالت ھذاہے ۔ اگر کسی مخض کو کوئی اعتراض ہے توسات دن کے اندراندر دفتر ہذا کومطلع ریں۔بعدازمعیادکوئیاعتراض قابل قبول نہ ہوگا۔

جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ درجہاول پیٹن

ازعدالت جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ درجہاول پیٹن بااجلاس الطاف حسين خان

بشيراحمد بنام BDO Pattan

BIRTH CERTIFICATE رخواست منجانب بشيراحمه ملهساكنه بإبهالن يخصيل بين

رخواست منجانب بسیرا ندمه . بخرض اندراج: تارخ بیدائش **اشتهار بماردا گانی برخاص وعام** حصرا _{ات}ارخ بیدا

معاملہ مندجہ عنوان الصد میں سائل نے ایک درخواست حصول تاریخ پیدائش نسبت شاہد بشیر ملہ ولد بشیر احمد مله ساکنه پاپهالن مخصیل پٹن عدالت مذامیں پیش کی ہے جس نسبت برائے کاغذات بشمولہ درخواست مقررہ عاعت عدالت ھذاہے ۔ اگر کشخص کوکوئی اعتراض ہے توسات دن کے اندراندر دفتر ہذا کو مطلع ىرىپ ـ بعدازمعيادكوئىاعتراض قابل قبول نه ہوگا ـ

جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ درجہاول پیٹن



KASHMIR OBSERVER® Srinagar | Friday | 01-09-2023

Sowing Operations Begins At Floriculture Section Lalmandi

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Igbal today kick-started sowing operations of winter annual flower seeds at floriculture section Lalmandi Srinagar.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Agriculture underlined the importance of the floriculture development scheme. He said that there is vast potential in this sector keeping in view the varied agro-climatic

conditions in the region. Director Agriculture said that under Holistic Agriculture Development Program Government has approved a mega project

to boost floriculture in the region. He asked the farmers to come forward and avail benefits from different initiatives by the department and contribute to the overall agriculture income of their families. He said educated youth

should adopt floriculture on commercial lines and avail benefits from the departmental schemes/projects.He directed the concerned officers to increase awareness among the farmers regarding the floriculture development scheme and organize regular training sessions for farmers in order to make them aware of modern trends in the floriculture sector.

SSP Srinagar Chairs Crime-Cum Security Review Meeting

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Senior Superintendent of Police Srinagar on Thursday chaired a crime-cum-security review meeting in his office.

In a tweet, Srinagar

police informed that a crime-cum-security meeting was chaired by SSP Srinagar Rakesh Balwal in his office today. Police said that the meeting was attended by all SPs, DySPs, CPO, SHOs & DOs.



Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited Zonal Office

Baramulla

The Jammu & Kashmir Bank invites offers from Owners of premises for outright purchase/on lease basis for housing its Branch/ATM at Bumhama, Kupwara, preferably on Ground Floor, as per the details given belo

PREMISES REQUIRED

<u></u>	ordina i looi, as per the details given below.							
S. No	Name of the Branch / ATM	Location	Carpet Area in sft (approx.)	Built up Area/Land Area (approx.), in case of outright purchase basis				
01	Bumhama, Kupwara	Locality: Bumhama, Tehsil: Dragmulla, District: Kupwara	1,200 -1,500	12 Marlas				

Further details, requirements, terms and conditions, Technical Bids and Financial Bids proforma relating to the same can be obtained in person from Zonal Office Baramu-Ila during working hours and also can be downloaded from Bank's website www.jkbank.com from 31/08/2023 under the link "EOI & Tender / Notification" in the Quick Access

The interested parties/persons owning the premises and having a clear title over the property should submit their offers in format prescribed by Bank by or before 28/09/2023 (05:00 PM IST) at Zonal Office Baramulla. Bank reserves the right to cancel/reject any/all offer(s) without assigning any reason thereof.

Dated: 28.08.2023	Zonal Head
Registered office : Corporate Headquarters M & Road Srinagar 190001 Kashmir India	

DIPK-NB-2955/23

dated: 31-08-2023



Three little school girls relishing ice-cream amidst scroaching heat on the way to thier home in Dal interiors on Thursday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Implementation Of Mission Poshan, **Vatsalya, Social Security Reviewed**

92267 Beneficiaries Benefited Under Various Social Welfare, ICDS Schemes

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to review the implementation of welfare schemes run by ICDS & Social Welfare Department and extension of benefits of different Government schemes in the District, a meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner took a Project wise appraisal of the implementation of beneficiary-oriented schemes including Supplementary Nutrition Program, Immunization, Referral Services, Pre School Education, Nutrition & Health Education and Health Checkup implemented by Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) Program in Srinagar District.

While reviewing the functioning of ICDS, the Chair was apprised about the functioning of the ICDS and targets achieved so far in improvement of Nutritional Status of Children from 0-6 years, Adolescent Girls, Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers under POSHAN Abhiyaan through a detailed PowerPoint presentation.

The DC also rev mentation of Poshan Abhiyaan, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) and Ladli Beti.

While reviewing the Status of Poshan Projects for 2023-24 in Srinagar, Batwara, Khanyar and Eidgah Projects, the DC was informed that as many as 33651 beneficiaries are being provided Nutrition in Srinagar District through 1183 Anganwari centers and expenditure of Rs 1.57 crore has been made during current financial year till date.

The DC was informed that under Ladli Beti Scheme, the finanand children in the District.

The DC also emphasized on improved Nutrition & Health status of children 0-6 years, Reduce incidence of mortality, morbidity, mal-nutrition and school drop-outs. He also laid stress on enhancing the capability of the Mother and Family to look after the Health, Nutrition and Development needs of the Child to promote child development.

The DC stressed upon the Of-

Under Ladli Beti Scheme, the financial assistance is being provided to beneficiaries through Jansugam portal and as on date as many as 5342 applications have been received of which 5022 applications stand forwarded to higher authorities for approval.

cial assistance is being provided to beneficiaries through Jansugam portal and as on date as many as 5342 applications have been received of which 5022 applications stand forwarded to higher authorities for approval.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner stressed on timely extension of benefits of different Government schemes to all genuine beneficiaries to ensure holistic development and adequate nutrition for pregnant women, mothers

J&K Bank

together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

ficers to take comprehensive measures to reach out to all eligible beneficiaries, besides making the Welfare schemes easily accessible to the people so that maximum beneficiaries of the district can acquire the benefits of all the Government launched welfare schemes. He also asked the officers to conduct capacity building programs for Anganwari Workers in order to make them behave with registered children in a compassionate manner.

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited

Impaired Assets Portfolio

Budgam

Management Department (IAPMD) Zonal office

Possession Notice Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with

4702-UT Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002 CEE Whereas, 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 5000/ PRI Grant 15 days Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 01.02.2023 thereby calling upon Showkat Ahmad Bhat S/O Ghulam Ahmad Bhat (Borrower), Amma Bhat S/O 05-days Mohammad Bhat (Mortgagor) and his guarantors namely Nazir Ahmad Bhat S/O Ali Mohammad Bhat, Abdul Khaliq Rather S/O Ali Mohammad Rather all residents of Hardu Dalwan Chararisharief to repay an amount of Rs. 60,47,023.43 (Rupees Sixty Lacs Forty Seven Thousand Twenty Three & Paisa Forty Three Only) being the balance outstanding as on 31.12.2022 in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice

> The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this the 29th day of August of the year 2023.

> The said borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating to Rs. 64,84,414.43 (Rupees Sixty Four Lac Eighty Four Thousand Four Hundred Fourteen And Paisa Forty Three Only) together with future interest thereon from 01.08.2023 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

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

Description of the Immovable Property

Land measuring 04 Kanals falling under Khasra no. 1342 min, Khata no. 627 & Khewat no. 135 situated at mouza Hardu Dalwan futlipora, Tehsil Chararisharief District Budgam standing in the name of Mr. Amma Bhat S/O Mohammad Bhat R/O Hardu Dalwan Chararisharief.

Dated: 29.08.2023

Registered office: Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India CIN: L65110JK1938SGC000048; T: +91 (0)194 2481 930-35; F: +91 (0)194 248 1928; E: info@ikbmail.com; W: www.ikbank.com DIPK-NB-2957/23



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: Kashmer EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259 ANANTNAG: 01932-228243

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

HIGHWAY STATUS



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



PRAYERS FAJR 4:37 12:32 **ZUHR**

5:08 **ASR** Magrib 7:02 **ISHA** 8:26

This Day In History

- 1547- Holy Roman Emperor Charles V demands creation of an Imperial League (German state)
- 1632 Battle at Castelnaudary: Henride Montmorency's rebel army loses to French royalist forces loyal to Louis
- 1752- Pennsylvania's new State House bell (known today as the Liberty Bell) arrives in Philadelphia from Whitechapel Foundry in London, England
- 1798 Britain signs treaty with Nizam of Hyderabad,
- 1804- Juno, one of the largest main belt asteroids discovered by German astronomer Karl Ludwig
- 1821- 1st colonies along Santa Fe Trail 1858- 1st transatlantic cable fails after less than 1
- 1859- 1st Pullman sleeping car in service
- 1862- Battle at Chantilly (Ox Hill) Virginia (2100
- casualties) 1864- 2nd day of battle at Jonesboro Georgia, about
- 3.000 casualties 1869- Construction begins on the Grand Central
- Depot for Cornelius Vanderbilt's New York and Harlem Railroad (later replaced by Grand Central Station) 1870- French Emperor Napoleon III is captured and
- taken prisoner in the Battle of Sedan
- 1886- The Netherlands New Code of Criminal Law is
- 1894 A wildfire destroys the town of Hinckley, Minnesota, killing 438 people
- 1897 The Boston subway opens, becoming the first underground rapid transit system in North America.
- -The International Federation of Property Attorneys (FICPI) is established.
- 1911- Anthony Fokker famously flies his aircraft "Spin" around the tower of the Grote Kerk in Haarlem
- 1916- Bulgaria declares war on Romania 1918- Battle of Megiddo starts, the final Allied offense
- during Sinai and Palestine campaign won by the Allies 1918- US troops land in Vladivostok, Siberia, stay until 1920
- 1923- A magnitude 7.9 earthquake strikes Tokyo and Yokohama in Japan, killing 142,000 people
 - 1926- Turkey allows civil marriage 1928- Albania becomes a kingdom, with Zogu I as king
 - 1937- Battle of Gijon in Spain begins
- 1939 Adolf Hitler orders extermination of mentally
- ill through the "T4 Euthanasia Program," arguing that wartime "was the best time for the elimination of the incurably ill" 1939 - Physical Review publishes 1st paper to deal with
- "black holes" 1939 - Switzerland proclaims neutrality at the
- outbreak of WWII 1939 - World War II starts when Germany invades
- Poland by attacking the Free City of Danzig 1939 - Last day of 1st-class cricket in England before
- the declaration of war against Germany; great slow left-armer Hedley Verity finishes with amazing figures of 7 for 9 v Sussex to give Yorkshire the County Championship 1942 - German troops land on Taman peninsula
- 1943 Chiang Kai-shek again becomes Chairman of
- the Nationalist Government of China 1947 - With a victory by Armed in the Washington Park
- Handicap, Calumet Farm becomes the first stable to surpass \$1 million in annual earnings; leads all owners with total earnings of \$1,402,436.
- 1950 13 North Korean divisions open assault on UN lines
- 1956 Indian state of Tripura becomes a territory
- 1961 1st conference of neutral countries held in Belgrade 1961 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/
- Semipalitinsk USSR 1961 - The Eritrean War of Independence officially
- begins with the shooting of the Ethiopian police by Hamid Idris Awate 1962 - 12,000 die in an earthquake in western Iran
- 1962 United Nations announces Earth's population
- has hit 3 billion 1962 - USSR performs nuclear test at Novaya Zemlya USSR 1965 - Indo-Pakistani conflict - Pakistani counter-
- attack (Operation Grand Slam,) 1968 - Earthquake destroys Ferdows Persia, 2,000
- killed

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR Office Of The Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Ompora Budgam. Fresh e-NIT.No. 340F 08/2023

For and on behalf of the LT. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders on item rate basis are invited from approved and eligible contractors Registered with Union Territory of J&K Govt. Class of Cost of S. No Name of work of work Money @ |complecontract tender account mount in 9.996 30days 4702-U1 Khanchicanal (Fresh of e-nit no 30 of 08-2023). CEE/ Improvements to Surasyar canal (RD 700m to 1900m), Shum-nag canal (RD 900m), Namken Dara minor of Ranger canal and Chattergam canal (RD 4190m) by way of construction of 36000/- 30 days 1800 BEE/ cement concrete covered channel, cement concrete channel lining wall and installation of control gates on Shumnag cana Advertised Cost of work Rs. 18.00 lacs. (Fresh of e-nit no.31 of 08-2023, Sl.No 02). Construction of Irrigation canal near Govt.Middle School and branch near house of Gh.Qadir Bhat, Gh.Nabi Mir and others at Footlipora. (Fresh of e-Nit No. 29 of 08/2023). Construction of lined channel on BahwatKhul Minor of Syed Ali Allaikhul at RD 211m in village Pakherpora, Fresh of e-NIT No.

No of works Advertised:-04 (Four).

General terms and conditions:-

Position of Funds (Budgetary Provision).for Sl.No.1 of Rs.8.00 for the year 2023.-24. Position of Technical SanctionAccorded.

The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in

Position of Administrative Approval accorded

The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria specifications, Bill of quantities, set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen /downloaded from departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in

Publishing date Download date start 31-08-2023 (6 PM) 31-08-2023 (6 PM) Bid submission date starts 31-08-2023 (6PM) 06-09-2023 upto (4 PM) 08-09-2023at (11 AM) Bid Opening date

1 The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website jktenders.gov.in from 31-08-2023 to 06-09-2023 up to 16 hrs. The Bids will be opened on 08-09-2023 at 11:00 AM. Online documents can be seen and downloaded from the will be complete bidding process will be online. ii) Technical bids of bidder shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division OmporaBudgam

2. Bid document contains qualifying criteria for bidder, specification, conditions and other details.

3. Any item /items not included in the rate list but found necessary during the execution of work shall be paid as per the rates of J&K SSR 2022. 4. Any omission / Typographic error shall be read as per the J&K SSR 2022, and as per the corrigendum / errata issued to J&K SSR 2022 in The rates should be strictly quoted as per the unit advertised in the rate list.

6. The contractors shall inspect & examine the site, and shall satisfy himself about the location of the site, its approaches and nature of the ground and sub soil before uploading the bids/submission of tender.

7. If the contractor fails to complete the work within the stipulated time period, the penalty of RS.0.01% of the allotted cost of work shall be imposed upon the Contractor recurring on daily basis. In addition to penalty prescribed in agreement form 25/26 double.

8. During the execution of work, department reserves the right to vary the quantity provided in the contract.

9. Tender drawings furnished with the tender document shall not be deemed as working drawings. These may vary from the actual working

drawing.

10. The contractors shall carry out the various mandatory tests as per specification (e.g the crushing strength of concrete i.e. cube tests, gradation test for aggregate, slump test etc) as directed by Engineer In-charge. all testing charges/expenses etc shall be borne by the contractor. 11. The concrete mix shall be designed as per revised BIS (IS: 10262 of 2009) and concreting shall be strictly done as per the mix design by

28. No claim shall be entertained on account of disruption of internet services being used by bidders and are advised to upload their bids well in advance to avoid any technical snags in last hours. 36) All other terms and conditions will remain same as laid down in PWD Form 25-double.

Executive Engineer

dated: 31-08-2023

No:-DIPK-8093/23 Date:-31-08-2023

G20 Summit: 8 Delhi Hospitals On High Alert, 80 Teams Of **Medicos Deployed At Hotels**

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Five government hospitals and three private medical facilities have been put on "high alert" in view of the upcoming G20 Summit in the national capital, Delhi Health Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj has said.



The Delhi health department has formed 80 teams of doctors and nursing staff, who will serve guests staying at hotels. Out of these teams, 75 teams will work in shifts, officials said on Wednesday.

Mr Bharadwaj convened a meeting at the Delhi Secretariat to take stock of healthcare arrangements in view of the Summit scheduled to be held from September 9 to 10.

"In light of the G20 Summit, the Delhi government has placed five major government hospitals and three private hospitals on high alert to ensure the healthcare arrangements are in place. These include primarily Lok Nayak Hospital, GB Pant Hospital, GTB Hospital, Deen

Dayal Upadhyay Hospital, and Babasaheb Ambedkar Hospital, along with private facilities Primus Hospital Chanakyapuri, Max Hospital Saket, and Manipal Hospital Dwarka," he said.

Lok Nayak Hospital has reserved 20 rooms, GB Pant Hospital 10 rooms, GTB Hospital 20 beds, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital 65 beds, and Babasaheb Ambedkar Hospital has reserved 40 beds for addressing any situation that may arise during the G20 Summit, Bharadwaj was quoted as saying in a statement issued by the health department.

He said that while this preparation is based on priority, all hospitals are also on alert in case any need arises.

Mr Bharadwaj said as arrangements have been made for foreign guests coming for the G20 Summit to stay in various hotels across Delhi, the city health department has formed 80 teams of doctors and nursing staff.

Each hotel has been assigned three teams, each working in eight-hour shifts. These teams will remain dedicated to serving incoming guests roundthe-clock, according to their respective time schedules. Additionally, five backup teams have been kept in reserve. If any difficulty arises or if any doctor or nursing staff is unavailable for any reason in any team, the doctors and nursing staff from these five backup teams will be deployed, he said.

ISRO's Aditya-L1 Mission To Shed More Light On Present, Future Of Sun: Expert

Press Trust of India

KOLKATA: Scientists expect to get new information about the past, present and future of the Sun after analysing the data that will be collected by India's first solar mission Aditya-L1, scheduled to be launched by ISRO on September 2.

This data is believed to be important to understand possible climatic changes on Earth in the decades and centuries

Aditya-L1 will go up to the First Lagrangian point, about 1.5 million km from the Earth, and transmit the data much of which will come to the scientific community for the first time from a platform in space, said solar physicist Prof Dipankar Banerjee, who is part of a team which conceptualised the mission more than 10 years ago.

"Our existence or life on Earth is basically because of the presence of the Sun which is our nearest star. All energy comes from the Sun. It is important to understand whether it is going to emit the same radiation (that it does now) or it is going to un-

dergo changes. "If the Sun does not radiate the same amount of energy tomorrow, it will have a very big



impact on our climate," Baneriee told PTL

If the Sun can be monitored over a long period from the Lagrangian point, it is expected to model the history of the Sun that is hitherto unknown to mankind, said the scientist who is the Director of Aryabhatta Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) in Nainital, an autonomous body under the Union government.

It has been seen that every 11 years, there is a change in the magnetic activity in the Sun, which is known as the solar cycle. There are also occasional violent changes in the magnetic field in the solar atmosphere resulting in huge bursts of energy which are called solar storms, Banerjee said.

Climate change exacerbating conflict and poverty: IMF



Agencies

 $\mathbf{F}^{\mathrm{ragile}}$ countries, and those impacted most by conflict, are already being unevenly hit by the effects of climate change, and are less able than other countries to mitigate those impacts, according to a report published by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Wednesday.

Fragile and conflict-affected states, referred to by the report as FCS, are those countries whose location and dependence on agriculture make them most vulnerable to extreme weather.

They are also some of the most prone to conflict, which in turn hinders their ability to recover from disruptive weather events that, according to the IMF, have happened on average once every four years in these countries since 1980.

This situation is only expected to get worse and temperatures continue to rise. By 2040, the so-called FCS will

see around two months of temperatures over 35 degrees Celsius (95 degrees Fahrenheit) compared to just 15 days of high temperatures expected for other countries.

"While climate shocks may not trigger the onset of new conflict," the report said, pointing to the complex factors that underly it, they do "exacerbate conflict intensity where it already exists.'

The IMF predicts that if the world continues on its current trajectory, high-emissions then conflict deaths in the FCS could increase by between 8.5% and 14% by 2060.

As FCS also tend to be heavily reliant on rainfed agriculture — a sector that is massively vulnerable to changes in weather patterns - increasing drought is expected to lower food production, increase inflation and push an extra 50 million people into hunger by 2060.

Around one in five countries is

classified as fragile and conflictaffected, encompassing a population of almost 1 billion people.

The majority of these states are in Africa and are some of the countries least responsible for man-made climate change, with their carbon emissions paling in comparison to those of European and North American countries, as well as those of more recent large-scale emitters such as China.

The IMF calls for these vulnerable states to introduce policies for climate adaptation, including "climate-smart agriculture," "scaling up social spending and climate-resilient infrastructure" and "strengthening social safety nets."

But it also calls on the international community to step up its own efforts to provide support "or else spillover effects associated with fragility and conflict could become even

more disruptive, including more forced displacement and

Under New Law, Death Row Convict Can't Appeal Against President's Decision

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: A death-row convict whose mercy petition has been disposed of by the president will have no right to appeal in a court against the decision when the new Bharativa Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita Bill (BNSS), 2023 becomes law.

Article 72 of the Constitution empowers the president grant pardons. respites or remissions of punishment or to suspend, remit or commute the sentence of anyone convicted of any offence.

"No appeal shall lie in any court against the order of the President made under Article 72 of the Constitution and it shall be final, and any question as to the arriving of the decision by the President shall not be enquired into in any court," according to section 473, an addition to the BNSS Bill, which proposes to replace the Code of

Criminal Procedure (CrPC). The Supreme Court has ruled

in the past that the exercise of prerogative powers, such as clemency and pardons, by the president or the governor is justiciable and may be challenged on grounds like an "undue and unexplained" delay, solitary confinement etc.

Most death-row convicts were seen approaching courts against the rejection of their mercy pleas. In some cases, an "inordinate delay" by the president in deciding mercy pleas was held to be violative of Article 21 (right to life) of the Constitution and had even led to commutation of the death sentence.

There have been several instances in the past where death row convicts approached the court at the eleventh hour, seeking a review of the president's rejection of their mercy petitions.

These include 1991 Mumbai

blasts convict Yakub Memon in 2015 and the four Nirbhaya case convicts in 2020. In both cases, the Supreme Court refused to stay the executions.

Section 473 of the BNSS Bill also seeks to rule out delays on account of separate pleas filed by multiple death-row convicts in the same case.

In the Nirbhaya case, the four convicts had filed their mercy pleas at separate times, forcir a delay until the last plea was rejected.

The Bill proposes that a jail superintendent shall ensure that every convict, in case there are more than one in a case, submits the mercy plea within 60 days and where no such petition is received from the other convicts, he shall himself send the names, addresses, copies of the case records and all other details to the Centre or the state government, along with the original mercy petition.



"Seat Sharing Will Be As Per...": Congress Leader **Ahead Of INDIA Meet**

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: As the third meeting of the INDIA bloc is set to begin in Mumbai tomorrow, Maharashtra Congress president Nana Patole on Wednesday said that seat sharing in the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) will be done as per the merit of the parties in different states.

Nana Patole said that a discussion on this will be held in

upcoming meetings. Speaking to ANI, Nana Patole said, "Our main goal is to end this dictatorship. This decision (seat sharing) will be taken as per the merit of the parties in different states. This will be discussed in the upcoming meetings of IN-DIA." Earlier today West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee arrived in Mumbai and said that 'Khela Hoga" meaning the "game is on" as the opposition parties huddle up in Mumbai ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Speaking to reporters after tying 'rakhi' to former Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray at his residence on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan, Mamata Banerjee said, "Hoga hoga, khela hoga."

On the number of seats, the TMC seeks to win the Lok Sabha elections, the TMC chief said, 'Many"

Maharashtra BJP Chief Chandrashekhar Bawankule Wednesday said that the leaders of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) will have enjoyment for two days in the state and then go back.

Speaking to ANI, Bawankule said, "I feel they (INDIA alliance) are organising the meeting keeping in mind that they are preparing for a huge war against PM Modi. We are going to the homes of people and the INDIA bloc is organising their meeting in a hotel. They will do the meeting, have enjoyment for two days and go back.

Congress leader Sanjay Nirupam said that all the parties who are in alliance with the BJP will come under the umbrella of the INDIA bloc.

"When our first meeting was held in Patna, we were not aware of the details and what will be the name of the alliance. There were 16 parties there (in Patna), in the Bengaluru meeting. The number increased to 26 and now we have 28 parties. Slowly all the parties with BJP will come under this INDIA umbrella," he said.

Meanwhile West Bengal BJP leader Rahul Sinha on Wednesday called the leaders of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) bloc "lost souls" and said that this alliance does not have any vision for the country.

"All these are lost souls. Whenever the election approaches, all these lost souls gather together to hold discussions in order to escape the investigation related to their corruption. This is an alliance that does not have any vision or goal," he said.

Honour Killing: 25-Year-Old Woman **Doctor Shot Dead By Father In** Pakistan's Punjab Province

Press Trust of India

LAHORE: In yet another case of honour killing in Pakistan, a 25-year-old woman doctor was shot dead in Punjab province, police said on Thursday.

The incident took place in the Punjab province. the Mianwali district of Puniah some 300 km from Lahore, the provincial capital.

According to police, Sidra Khan wanted to marry a fellow doctor but her father disapproved of it.

"Over a week ago, Sidra's father came to her clinic in Mianwali city and argued with her over the matter. During the argument, he pulled out a gun and opened fire on her leaving her critically injured," the po-

lice said. She was rushed to hospital

but succumbed to her wounds on Wednesday. Her father is still at large. A murder case has been reg-

istered against the suspect. Earlier this month, a newlywed couple was shot dead in

A number of peor cially women, are killed in Pakistan every year in the name of honour.

According to human rights activists, around 1,000 women are killed in the name of hon-

our every year in the country. The victims of honour killings are widely perceived to have brought shame and dishonour to their families either by marrying against their will or having an affair. Often, the family members are behind

NEWS MAKERS

Afghans From CIA Ghost Unit Face Legal Limbo In US

Agencies

Thousands of Afghans who fought as part of a controversial CIA force known as the "Zero Units" are facing legal limbo as their permits to work in the US will soon expire.

About 10,000 to 12,000 members of the Afghan National Strike Unit, which has been accused of human rights abuses carried out during hundreds of night raids in the fight against the Taliban-led insurgency, were evacuated and brought to the US when the US military withdrew from Afghanistan in August 2021.

But their two-year work permits in the US are due to expire within days or weeks, and the veterans worry they will no longer be able to support their families.

Most of the veterans of the force have not received special immigrant US visas, which were created for Afghans and Iraqis who worked for the US government.

Veterans of the Zero Units are pleading for Congress and the White House to give them a clear legal path



toward obtaining permanent residency in the US and citizenship.

A spokesperson for US Citizen-

ship and Immigration Services said veterans can apply to renew their temporary legal status for two more vears and continue to work in the US while they apply for permanent legal residence.

However, the men's past work for the CIA is causing difficulties in renewing their temporary status.

The application includes questions such as: "Have you EVER received any type of military, paramilitary, or weapons training? NBC News reports that their appli-

cations often stall when Afghan Zero Unit veterans have answered yes to that and similar questions.

Zero Unit fighters have also been widely accused of committing human rights abuses against Afghan civilians. These abuses occurred while carrying out night raids under CIA direction in the fight against the Taliban-led insurgency against US occupation forces in Afghanistan.

Patricia Gossman of Human Rights Watch stated in 2019, "In ramping up operations against the Taliban, the CIA has enabled abusive Afghan forces to commit atrocities including extrajudicial executions and disappearances ... In case after case, these forces have simply shot people in their custody and consigned entire communities to the terror of abusive night raids and indiscriminate airstrikes."

such killings.

One diplomat speaking with Human Rights Watch described the Zero Unit as "death squads."

British journalist Lynzy Billing documented hundreds of night raids by one of the four Zero Unit squads, eventually identifying at least 452 civilians killed in its raids over four

"I found the Zero Unit soldiers acted on flawed intelligence and mowed down men, women, and children, some as young as 2, who had no discernible connection to terrorist groups," Billing stated.

One US Army ranger told her, "You go on night raids, make more enemies, then you gotta go on more night raids for the more enemies you now have to kill."

She compared Zero Unit operations to the CIA's Phoenix Program during the Vietnam War. The CIA famously used kill-capture raids against the Viet Cong insurgency in South Vietnam, killing many civilians.

Handing Phone To Your Babies Could Delay Their Speech, Problem-Solving Skills: DAK

SRINAGAR: Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Thursday said handing phone to your babies could lead to delay in their development.

'The more time babies spend on smartphones, the more likely they are to have developmental delay," said DAK President Dr Nisar ul Hassan.

Dr Hassan said parents hand over phones to children to calm them. Also, it allows parents to get other tasks done like cooking, cleaning and washing.

Letting your baby play with a phone may seem like a simple way to keep them occupied, but it could affect their development," he said.

"According to a new study published on August 21 in the Journal of the American Medical Association Paediatrics, babies who spent more time on phones at age one year were more likely to have delays in speech and problem-solving skills," said Dr Hassan.

"Researchers found that by age two years, babies who had spent up to 4 hours in front of the screen were 3 times more likely to have communication problem-solving delays, while those who had spent 4 or more hours on screens were 4.78 times more likely to have underdeveloped cation skills, 1.74 times more likely to have subpar fine motor skills and two times more likely to have underdeveloped personal and social skills," he said.

"By age four years, risk remained only in the communication and problem-solving areas."

The DAK President said kids develop their language skills by interacting with others including parents and if they are just watching a screen they are not having an opportunity to practice talking.

"Babies need face to face interaction for social development. Looking at people's faces is when our brain turns on to figure out how to interact with them," he said

"Screens disrupt interactions and limit opportunities for kids to practice interactive problem-solving skills," he added.

"Parents should spend time with their kids and delay introducing phones to infants and young children," said Dr Nisar.

"World Health Organisation and American Academy of Paediatrics recommend that children under age 2 should not be exposed to screens at all and limit screen time to one hour per day for children aged 2-5

3 Month Skill Development Course **Inaugurated At Baramulla**

25 Candidates To Undergo Three Months Free Of Cost Skill Training



Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: The District Employment and Counseling Centre (DE&CC) Baramulla in collaboration with CIIIT, Govt Polytechnic College Baramulla Thursday organized an inaugural session of 3-Months long Skill Development Training Course on 'Electric Vehicle Repair" to facilitate the aspirants to enhance their skills.

The training programme was ployment Jammu and Kashmir, Nisar Ahmad Wani in presence of Principal Government Polytechnic College and Assistant Director Employment, Career Counseling Officer, EO of DE&CC and faculty of CIIIT Baramulla.

Pertinently, this course initiates candidates into the emerging area of Electric Vehicles and helps learn the basics of Battery driven Electric Vehicle and

its dynamics. Under the programme, par-

ticipating candidates are being provided free of cost Skill Training along with monthly stipend of Rs 1000.

Moreover, a robust monitoring mechanism has been put in place by the department to ensure the skill training being imparted under the programme is up to mark.

On the occasion, Director Employment, J&K highlighted the importance of such initiatives to bridge the skill gap and talked about the role the Employment Department is playing in guiding and empowering the youth in securing sustainable employment.

The department is actively reaching out to the unemployed youth and is guiding and handholding them on their path towards securing a sustainable livelihood by organizing Job Fairs, Career Counseling Sessions, Awareness Camps, implementing Self-Employment Schemes and more recently Skill Training Programs.



A BOATMAN FERRIES school children to their homes in the interiors of Dal Lake on KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

Girl Gets Admission In Baramulla School After LG's Intervention

Father Refuses Offer, Asks School Authorities To Return Capitation Fee To Parents

Majid Nabi

SRINAGAR: Following J&K Lieutenant Governor's instructions, a prestigious school in Baramulla district of north Kashmir, which had previously denied admission to a girl student, has asked her parents to make sure their ward attends classes well on time.

3-years old Umaimah Siraj, daughter of Siraj-ud-Din Salam of Kanispora Baramulla, according to her parents, successfully qualified the interview in May this year and was asked to purchase books and uniform from a particular shop

However, the school administration denied admission to

the girl child after her parents refused to comply with the dictation, asserting that the practice of purchasing books and uniforms from a particular shop in question is illegal.

The school administration confirmed admission to the 3-year-old girl after I&K Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, according to her parents, asked Director School Education Kashmir to initiate strict action against Baramulla Public School for denying admission to those students, whose parents refuse to comply with their illegal demands.

Speaking to Kashmir Observer, Siraj-ud-Din Salam, father of Umaimah said the school authorities sent him an

admission confirmation letter of her daughter, which he out rightly refused to accept.

"I will not accept the offer until and unless school authorities will not return an illegal capitation fee of Rs 35,000 to every parent or adjust the same in monthly tuition fee," he added.

He, however extended gratitude to the Lieutenant Governor of J&K and Chief Education Officer Baramulla for their timely intervention.

"I am grateful to LG and CEO Baramulla for intervening in the matter that helped me get the admission of my 3-years old daughter at Baramulla Public School that I haven't yet accepted," said Siraj.

DC Bandipora Flags-Off 'Chota Amarnath' Yatra

A Spiritual Journey Unveiled, First Of Its Kind Arrangements Made By The District Administration: Dr Owais

Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: District administration here revived pilgrimage to a cave shrine located in dense woods of Bandipora on Thursday, the day 60 day long Amarnath Yatra came to an end.

Called Chota Amarnath Yatra, pilgrimage to a cave sacred to Hindus resumed after a gap of almost a decade.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais which was joined by pilgrims from different places, an official spokesman said.

'The Chota Amarnath Yatra holds immense significance for the devout, as it provides an opportunity to pay homage at the holy cave, which is considered to be an abode of Lord Shiva in the woods of Arin Dardpora, Bandipora", he said.

This year, the yatra was planned meticulously by district administration Bandipora after a round of deliberations with



the local Kashmiri Pandit com- made by the administration for the munity. Many developmental works were done for the first time along the yatra route so as to help the pilgrims.

Recent initiatives include the development of track until Maha Daneshwar Temple, also known as Chota Amarnath Cave, setting up of washrooms, langer facilities, deployment of medical teams and provision of other basic amenities.

It is worth mentioning here that besides local residents, many people settled outside J&K also took part in the yatra. Efforts were safe journey of such vatris. Festiv atmosphere was witnessed across Bandipora town and especially at Dardpora village, which is the start point of the yatra.

The DC informed that the 15 kilometer long Yatra will take place through the Arin-Dardpora route via Shamthan and finally to Chota Amarnath Cave. He further informed that the district administration has collaborated with various departments to ensure smooth coordination and support for the pilgrims throughout their journey.

Make People Above 5-Yrs Aware About Digital Initiatives In J&K: CS

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today directed all the Deputy Commissioners to raise awareness amongst all the people above 5 years of age about the digital initiatives in J&K.

Dr Mehta was speaking in a function held to declare open the 'Digital Week' being organized by the IT Department and attended by thousands of individuals and school children throughout the length and breadth of the UT.

During his address, the Chief Secretary observed that the malaise of 'Corruption' can be largely addressed through 'Onministration and gave credit to Team J&K' comprising of all the Deputy Commissioners, HoDs, all Administrative Secretaries and Secretary IT Department.

Dr Mehta noted that J&K has come a long way in transforming itself from a laggard to leader when it comes to bringing governance at the doorsteps of people. He hoped that the UT should emerge as a role model to other States/UTs in the country. He underscored that J&K has the required capacity, capability, drive and desire to be the best. He said that digital Governance is the new ethos and is the way forward to future ready J&K.

He also gave credit to the peo-



line Services' and digital services are best antidote to evil of corruption. He maintained that the digital services are not only accessible and transparent but also non-discriminatory and more efficient, besides being less costly and cumbersome.

The Chief Secretary stated that the celebration of this week is only aimed at making people aware about their rights. He noted that only those favoring corruption are against such transformations. He advised people to seek their rights and avoid visiting offices physically by applying for services from the comforts of their homes. He also impressed upon the IT Department to devise the ways like that of establishing call center or sending messages to applicants about the status of their applications.

Dr Mehta reiterated that today J&K is at the top in adoption of IT-enabled solutions in governance. He called it a sheer commitment on part of the LG ad-

ple of J&K who very ably adapted themselves with the brisk changes happening around them. He made out that in the months to come I&K is aiming at upgrading from the current tally of 1016 to nearly 1500. He made out that our slogan should be that "Digital hai to Sahi hai".

On the occasion the Commissioner Secretary, IT, Prerna Puri, who hosted the events virtually from Kala Kendra Jammu showed her gratitude to the Divisional and District Administrations for their unequivocal support in making this programme a grand success. She said that this digital journey of the UT would not have been possible without their active support. She thanked people for participating in huge numbers and showing their level of enthusiasm.

It was further informed that IT Department is going to announce the 'Digital J&K Awards' to recognize digital initiatives

Kargil-Zanskar **Intermediate Lane Being Upgraded: Gadkari**

SRINAGAR: Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said in Ladakh, the Kargil-Zanskar Intermediate Lane on National Highway 301 is being upgraded.

In a tweet, Gadkari said the total length of the project is 31.14 kilometers and falls under Package-6. He said the main aim of this effort is to boost economic growth in the area by providing a reliable and accessible link for both

Observer News Service commuters and the movement of goods in the interior

> Union Minister said the upgraded highway will ensure year-round accessibility, which will greatly benefit the local economy and the inhabitants of the region.

> He said under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, this ambitious project is dedicated to achieving swift, hassle-free, and environmentally conscious mobility in the Ladakh region.

Health And Family Welfare Workers In J&K Without Salaries Since May

Employees Will Receive Dues Soon; We're Finding Permanent Solution: Director

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Thousands of employees of Health and Family Welfare in J&K are without salaries for the last four months due to which they have been going through a "very tough time".

The employees, including Deputy Chief Medical Officers, educators and FMPHWs, told a local news agency KNO that they have been without salaries since May this year and have been facing "hard times".

Official sources said that thousands of employees working in Health & Familv Welfare across I&K under a centrally sponsored scheme have never received their salaries on

They said the employees working under 2,210 head never face such issues and get salaries on time but those working under 2,211 head have to bear the issue of delay in salaries.

They said despite being

permanent employees of the Union Territory (UT), they have to come on the roads for salaries. The employees said the

education of their children is being affected since they are not able to pay their fees regularly. Despite putting in our best efforts during the COVID pandemic,

Vice President of Health and Family Welfare J&K Masarat Jabeen said that the employees had to wait for DPC and salaries years together. "The claims of women empowerment and Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao are proving to be a hoax on the ground as despite providing primary promotive



we have to literally beg for salaries, said one of the employees.

"Neither DPCs are being considered in stipulated time nor salaries are being released in time," they said, adding, "Some of our employees are suffering from chronic diseases but they too are facing problems and their treatment gets delayed in the absence of salaries.'

and curative healthcare for almost all the national health programs, we have to suffer," she said

We have never received salaries on time and despite working day and night like other employees, we are being given a stepmotherly treatment due to unknown reasons, Jabeen said, adding, "We are unable to submit the fee of our children, bring clothes and other necessary items in the absence of salaries since May 2023 and some even from April."

The other members of the association said that despite meeting the Chief Secretary, Secretary Health and other higher officials in this regard, nothing is being done on the ground.

employees have sought the intervention of LG Manoj Sinha to get their issue resolved once and for all.

Director Health and Family Welfare I&K Dr Tabassum Jabeen said the salary issues of health and family welfare employees are old but the department is looking for a permanent solution.

"This problem is old and their salaries are coming up but that is not the permanent solution as it is for the time being only," she said.

We are onto it to find a permanent solution to the issue, she said, adding that the employees will get pending salaries very soon-(KNO)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SUB TRANSMISSION DIVISION GANDERBAL



Email: -xen-stdgbl@nic.in, exengineer12@gmail.com **NOTICE INVITING BIDDER**

e-NIT No.: - STD/GBL/21 of 2023-24 Dated: 30-08-2023

"Construction of 33 kV Tapping Point on 4 pole Structure near Receiving Station Shadipora for Transit accommodation for Kashmiri Migrants at Odina Bandipora in respect of STD Ganderbal".

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, KPDCL 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 "Construction of 33 kV Tapping Point on 4 pole Structure near Receiving Station Shadipora for Transit accommodation for Kashmiri Migrants at Odina Bandipora in respect of STD Ganderbal".

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

	e-NIT No	STD/GBL/21 of 2023-24 Dated: 30-08-2023				
	The Standard Bidding Document can be download	led over http://jktenders.gov.in as per schedule given below:				
Α	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document	30-08-2023: 16:00 Hours				
В	Clarifications start date	31-08-2023: 14:00 Hours				
C		08/09/2023: 14:00 Hours				
D	e-Bid submission (start) date & time (Submission of e-bid- der fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS)	31-08-2023: 14:00 Hours				
E	e-Bid submission (end) date & Time	19/09/2023: 16:00 Hours				
F	Online Commercial and Technical e-Bid opening date & Time	20/09/2023: 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				
Н	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-Bids	Office of The Executive Engineer STD Ganderbal				
ı	Cost of e-Bid document	INR 500.00 (Five hundred only) Should be in Shape of Treasury Receipt in favor of Executive Engineer STD Ganderbal				
J	Earnest Money Deposit	2% of advertised amount (Rs. 10497/=)				
K	Advertised amount	Rs. 5.25 Lacs				
L	Validity offer	180 days from the date of opening of price tender.				
N	Completion period	30 days				

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/848-53 DIPK-NB-2952-23 Date: 30-08-2023

Executive Engineer, STD Ganderbal DT: 31/08/2023

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Friday | 01-09-2023

Escalating LAC Tensions

n yet another episode of simmering border tensions between India and China, New Delhi has formally expressed its strong protest against China's release of a revised map that claims Indian territory as its own. This diplomatic move adds to the existing strains between the two Asian giants, renewing concerns about the ongoing border dispute. Beijing's new map is certainly a fresh provocation which is unlikely to be helpful in resolving their issues.

The Chinese map prominently displayed the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh and the Aksai Chin plateau as part of Chinese territory. Arunachal Pradesh saw a bitter border war between the two countries in 1962, and Aksai Chin is a strategic corridor linking Tibet to western China. China's claim over Arunachal Pradesh is rooted in its assertion that the region is part of southern Tibet. Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar emphasized that making unfounded assertions on Indian territory does not change the facts on the ground. Foreign ministry spokesman, Arindam Bagchi, strongly rejected China's claims, stating that they are baseless and will only serve to complicate efforts to resolve the boundary question.

The map controversy - an instance of cartographic aggression - has put a question mark on the ongoing diplomatic and military to military dialogue between the two countries. Ever since the People's Liberation Army staged incursions at five places in April 2020, the two neighbours have been in a state of unmitigated conflict. The violent clash in the Himalayas in June of the same year, resulting in casualties on both sides, intensified hostilities. While the situation has calmed along most parts of the border since then, localized stand-offs persist in certain pockets.

The recent diplomatic flare-up follows Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's discussions with China's President Xi Jinping during the BRICS summit in Johannesburg. The PM Modi reportedly stressed the importance of respecting the LAC, underlining India's commitment to maintaining stability in the border region. To bolster its stance, India has also invested significant resources in connectivity projects along its side of the border, aimed at establishing paramilitary units.

But as the exchange of protests over the Chinese territorial claims on the map underscore, the underlying tensions between India and China linger. But the strong stand taken by India against China's attempts to redefine borders through maps sends a clear message that territorial integrity is non-negotiable. As the two nations navigate this delicate situation, here's hoping that the diplomatic channels prevail leading to a peaceful resolution to the long-standing border dispute.

OTHER OPINON

Cut That Counts

rime Minister Narendra Modi would appear to have sounded the poll bugle for 2024 by announcing a Rs 200 reduction in the price of LPG cylinders. A domestic 14.2-kg cylinder costing Rs 1,103 in Delhi will, henceforth, be available at Rs 903. Poor households covered under the Pradhan Mantri Ujiwala Yojana, that receive a Rs 200 subsidy on every cylinder and account for 9.6 crore out of the total 31.4 crore active domestic LPG consumers. will pay Rs 703. What is notable about the announcement — Modi called it a "gift to crores of my sisters on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan" — is the timing: Lok Sabha elections are scheduled only in April-May. While polls to five state assemblies are also slated later this year, the sense of urgency seems more discernible this time than in 2019. After all, the popular PM-Kisan scheme, providing Rs 6,000 as direct cash transfer to all farming families, was launched barely two months before the first phase of the national election then.

The difference probably has to do with inflation — "mehengai" was not much of an issue in 2019. Retail food inflation averaged just 0.4 per cent year-on-year in the 12 months leading to the elections of April-May 2019. That isn't the case now, with the latest consumer food price inflation number for July at 11.5 per cent. The monsoon turning out not so good — this August has been the driest in over a century has aggravated those worries. No party in power would want mehengai to be a talking point among voters. This is more so with the current government that has had an overall good record on inflation control. Anchoring inflation expectations is something that not only the Reserve Bank of India has accorded priority to, but this government too has acknowledged as good economics making for good politics. LPG cylinder price, rightly or wrongly, does influence consumer inflation sentiment, particularly among the poor and

lower middle class, for whom it is an aspirational product. But it isn't LPG alone. Retail prices of petrol and diesel haven't been raised since May 2022. Oil marketing companies being asked to also take price cuts on these could follow next. The cost of it will ultimately fall on the exchequer; so would a higher payout, say Rs 9,000, under PM-Kisan. Nor can one rule out more drought relief and higher crop losses of farmers that may again have to be covered by the government. All this will put further pressure on the finances of both the Centre and the states, forcing them, in turn, to slash budgeted capital expenditures. With the poll season starting so early and set to continue over the next nine months, the fiscal implications cannot be ignored.

Indian Express

India, The Reluctant BRICS Traveller

ndia became a beacon of hope for the Western media for a short while in the run-up to the BRICS Summit in Johannesburg — a potential dissenter who might derail the grouping's acceleration toward a "de-dollarisation" process.

Reuters floated a rumour that Prime Minister Narendra Modi might not attend the summit in person, which of course was an excessive case of wishful thinking but called attention to what a high stakes geopolitical game BRICS has become.

Such paranoia was unprecedented. If up until last year, the Western game was to mock at BRICS as an inconsequential club, the pendulum has swung to the other extreme. The reasons are not far to seek.

At the most obvious level, there is great sensitivity in the Western world that the massive effort through the past 18 months to weaponise sanctions against Russia not only flopped but boomeranged. And this is at a time when the United States' morbid fear of being overtaken by China peaked — burying the global hegemony of the West since the "geographical discoveries" of the 15th century.

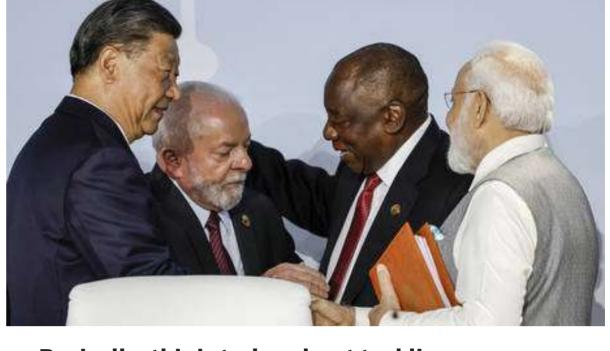
The recent years witnessed a steady strengthening of the Russia-China partnership, which has reached a "no limits" character, contrary to the Western calculus that the historical contradictions between the two neighbouring giants virtually ruled out such a possibility. In reality, Russia-China partnership is shaping up as something bigger than a formal alliance in its seamless tolerance of the optimal pursuit of each protagonists's national interests while concurrently supporting the core interests of both sides.

Thus, any format in which Russia and China play a lead role, such as BRICS, is bound to be in the US' crosshairs. It is as simple as that. The New York Times called the BRICS expansion "a significant victory for the two leading members of the group, increasing China's political influence and helping to reduce Russia's isolation."

It drew comfort that the group is heterogeneous and does not have a clear political course, "except for the desire to change the current global financial and management system, making it more open, more diverse and less restrictive."

This is the whole point. The Indian analysts are missing the wood for the trees. The Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov disclosed to the media that behind closed doors, the Johannesburg summit had "quite a lively discussion" [read divergent opinions] but reached a consensus on the "criteria and procedures" of BRICS expansion, which he outlined as follows:

"The weight, prominence and importance of the candidates and their international standing were the primary factors for us [BRICS members]. It is our shared view that we must recruit like-minded countries into our ranks that believe in a multipolar world order and the need for more democracy and justice in international relations. We need those who champion a bigger role for the Global South in global governance. The six countries whose accession was announced to-day fully meet these criteria."



Basically, this is today about tackling the phenomenon of the petrodollar, which is the pillar of the western banking system and at the very core of the "de-dollarisation" process that the BRICS is aiming at

Later, after returning to Moscow from Johannesburg, Lavrov told the Russian state television two important things:

"We [BRICS] don't want to encroach on anyone's interests. We simply don't want anyone to hamper the development of our mutually beneficial projects that are not aimed against anyone." Western politicians and reporters "tend to wag their tongues, while we use our heads and [engage in] concrete issues."

There is no need for BRICS to become an alternative to the G20 now. That said, "the formal division of the G20 Group into G7+ and BRICS+ is taking a practical shape."

Unless one is myopic, BRICS' sense of direction is there for all to see. The grumbling and hand-wringing about the logic of BRICS expansion is complete nonsense. For, the unspoken secret lies here, as a leading Russian strategic thinker Fyodor Lukyanov wrote in the government daily Rossiyskaya Gazeta:

"We can hardly talk about an anti-Western orientation — with the exception of Russia and now, perhaps, Iran, none of the current and likely future [BRICS] participants openly wants to oppose themselves to the West. However, this reflects the coming era, when the policy of most states is a constant choice of partners to solve their problems, and there may be different counterparts for different problems."

This is the reason why India, which carefully protects its line of "multi-alignment" — that is, cooperation with everyone — is also satisfied with a large and heterogeneous BRICS. Delhi is least interested in strengthening antagonistic sentiments within the BRICS community. The Indian commentators cannot grasp this paradox.

Indeed, the pragmatism in admitting three major oil producing countries from the Gulf region (Iran, Saudi Arabia and the UAE) only signals what Lavrov meant by the "projects" and "concrete is-

sues" that BRICS is grappling with — principally, creating a new international trading system to replace the 5-centuries old system that the West created, which was geared to transfer wealth to the metropolis and enabled the latter to get fatter and richer.

Basically, this is today about tackling the phenomenon of the petrodollar, which is the pillar of the western banking system and at the very core of the "de-dollarisation" process that the BRICS is aiming at. Suffice to say, the curtain is coming down on the Faustian deal of the early 1970s that replaced gold with American dollar and ensured that oil would be traded in dollars, which in turn required all countries to keep their reserves in dollars, and eventually turned into the principal mechanism for the US' global hegemony.

Put differently, how is it possible to roll back the petrodollar without Saudi Arabia being at the barricades? That said, it is also well understood by all member states. including Russia and Saudi Arabia, that while BRICS is "non-western. a transformation of the BRICS into an anti-Western alliance is impossible. Quintessentially, what we are seeing in the BRICS' expansion. therefore, is its transformation into the most representative community in the world, whose members interact with each other bypassing Western pressure.

This is enough for a start, as the reaction in the Western countries to the outcome of the Johannesburg summit testifies. The leading German daily Suddeutsche Zeitung noted that with this limited expansion itself, BRICS has gained "significant geopolitical and economic weight. The question now is how the West will react to this."

A top official at the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Caroline Kanter told the daily, "It is is obvious that we [Western countries] are no longer able to set our own conditions and stan-

dards. Proposals will be expected from us so that in the future we will be perceived as an attractive partner."

France's Le Figaro wrote that the "enthusiasm" of some 40 countries for BRICS membership "testifies to the growing influence of developing countries on the world stage." The Guardian highlighted expert opinion that BRICS expansion is rather "a symbol of broad support from the global South for the recalibration of the world order."

At the same time, the bottom line is that BRICS expansion is perceived in the West as a political victory for Russia and China. Nonetheless, despite its tensions with China, India did the right thing by trimming its sails accordingly while sensing the winds of change and anticipating a new dawn breaking for BRICS cooperation that could inject new vitality into the grouping's functioning and further strengthen the power of world peace and development.

It is about time the government rethinks the viability of its strategy to holding the relationship with China hostage to the border issue. The BRICS Summit highlighted that China enjoys big support from the Global South. It is quixotic, to say the least, to act as a proxy of the US to contain China.

India will find itself in a cul-desac by dissociating itself from the issue of local currencies, payment instruments and platforms simply because China could be a beneficiary of a new trading system that is part of a more just, equitable and participative global order. India risks alienating the Global South who are China's natural allies, by turning its back on the BRICS' core agenda of a multipolar world order.

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 India Punchline



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

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Ethical Politics

OBSERVER

thics in politics serves as a classic example of an oxymoron. When ethics and politics become contradictory or when politics is regarded as dirty, it simply means that a political system has completely lost its way. Politics without ethics is dangerous for any democracy, as it produces distrust at all levels. In the absence of ethics, politics becomes as terrible as cancer.

terrible as cancer.
We all know that politics in In-

dia is famous for criminalization and corruption, and a triad of nexus between criminals, corporates and politicians. It is said that the 17thLok Sabha, which is the latest, has close to 50% of its MPs faced with criminal charges.

On the one hand politicians frame laws which are supposed to be followed by citizens with full respect, but on the other framers of the law indulge in violation of law and lack ethical values. Several recent inci-

dents have proven that present day politicians in India, especially those attached with the ruling party at the Centre, utterly lack moral values and ethics, and their political attitude is grossly indifferent to the common man's woes. However, this country has seen great political leaders like Lal Bahadur Shastri, who set high standards of ethical values in politics even in adverse circumstances such as Tashkent agreement, food crisis, war with Pakistan, etc. Similarly,

leaders like Sardar Patel, Abdul Kalam Azad, and Atal Bihari Vajpayee were examples of political integrity and probity. It is much sad that ethics and moral values in current day Indian politics have plummeted and they can never be resuscitated as long as our ugly politicians continue to be greedy and insolent, and hardly care for the good of the common man.

 $Ranganathan\ Sivakumar$

The Healing Trifecta Compassion, Boredom, and Imperfection in Overcoming Addiction

Wasim Kakroo

In a world where numerous addictive behaviors like cigarette smoking, porn consumption, excessive shopping, and gaming have taken hold, the journey to breaking free from such habits is a challenging one. The path to recovery requires more than just sheer willpower; it demands a holistic approach that encompasses self-compassion, the embrace of boredom, and the practice of imperfection. These three pillars become essential tools for individuals striving to liberate themselves from the clutches of addiction.

1. Self-Compassion: Nurturing the Self:

At the heart of any transformative journey lies the cornerstone of selfcompassion, a profound concept that resonates deeply with those navigating the challenging path of change. This principle proves particularly pertinent for individuals contending with the formidable grip of addiction, a struggle often exacerbated by the weighty burden of guilt and shame.

Self-compassion, an art of treating oneself with the same gentle kindness and empathetic understanding that one would instinctively extend to a cherished friend, serves as a balm to the wounded psyche of those grappling with addiction. This practice pivots on acknowledging the universal truth that human beings are inherently fallible; imperfection is an essential facet of the human experience. Such an acknowledgment dismantles the destructive cycle of self-deprecation that all too often propels addictive behaviors.

Moreover, embracing self-compassion fosters the critical distinction between self-worth and momentary setbacks. This recognition becomes a shield against the paralyzing grip of guilt and shame, permitting one to view relapses as integral components of the broader process of progress rather than as insurmountable failures. This newfound perspective allows individuals to free themselves from the shackles of self-blame and self-punishment, paving the way for transformative growth.

The journey to recovery from addiction is rife with trials, and it is within this tumultuous terrain that selfcompassion shines as a guiding light. Nurturing a positive self-image, this practice supplies the necessary reservoir of inner strength required to confront cravings head-on and surmount the inevitable stumbling blocks that might otherwise derail progress. The



gentle embrace of self-compassion empowers individuals to forgive themselves, learn from their missteps, and embark on a journey of lasting transformation—one that is rooted in understanding, resilience, and unwavering self-kindness.

2. Embracing Boredom: Finding Meaning Beyond Addiction

Boredom, often perceived negatively, can paradoxically offer a breeding ground for addictive behaviors. The restlessness it brings can lead individuals to seek quick fixes, often in the form of addictive substances or behaviors that provide temporary relief. To combat this, a shift in perspective is crucial. Instead of regarding boredom as an enemy to be evaded at all costs, those in recovery can reframe it as a unique opportunity for personal development.

By embracing boredom, individuals can open doors to self-growth and selfdiscovery. Rather than succumbing to the allure of addictive habits, they can channel their energy into productive endeavors. Engaging in creative pursuits can serve as a powerful outlet, enabling the expression of emotions that might otherwise drive them toward addictive behaviors. Delving into art, music, writing, or any other creative activity not only occupies the mind but also nurtures a sense of accomplishment and fulfillment.

Moreover, exploring new hobbies can rejuvenate one's outlook on life. Learning a musical instrument, trying out gardening, or experimenting with cooking can provide a refreshing sense of novelty. The process of mastering a new skill can instill confidence and a renewed sense of purpose, making it easier to resist the pull of addictive behaviors.

Reconnecting with nature is another effective approach. Nature has a unique way of soothing the soul and helping individuals appreciate the simple yet profound aspects of life. Spending time outdoors, whether through hikes, walks, or other activities, offers a chance to unwind, reflect, and recenter. This reconnection can lessen the allure of addictive behaviors by fostering a deeper connection to oneself and the world.

3. Practicing Imperfection: Redefining

In the realm of addiction recovery, the aspiration for perfection can prove to be a significant stumbling block rather than a catalyst for progress. The very nature of addiction is often characterized by a series of setbacks, struggles, and relapses. When individuals battling addiction set unrealistic standards for themselves and aim for flawless recovery, they inadvertently set themselves up for disappointment and frustration.

Acknowledging the role of imperfections within the recovery process is essential. Addiction recovery is a complex journey that is fraught with challenges, triggers, and moments of vulnerability. The expectation of continuous success and complete avoidance of relapses can lead to overwhelming pressure, potentially triggering a vicious cycle of guilt, shame, and more intense addictive behaviors.

Practicing imperfection, on the other hand, involves recognizing that relapses and setbacks are an inherent part of the recovery process. It's about understanding that these moments don't negate the progress made so far; they are opportunities for learning and growth. By adopting a more forgiving perspective, individuals can reduce the emotional burden that perfectionism can bring, allowing them to approach their recovery journey with greater patience and self-compassion.

Embracing imperfection also cultivates resilience and perseverance. It encourages individuals to view each step forward as a triumph over their challenges, even if it's a small one. This shift in mindset fosters a healthier approach to progress, enabling them to bounce back more effectively from relapses. It encourages individuals to seek support, learn from their experiences, and continue moving forward with a renewed determination.

In the context of addiction recovery, imperfections play a crucial role in fostering humility and self-awareness. These qualities are pivotal in developing coping strategies, identifying triggers, and building a support network. By acknowledging and accepting their own imperfections, individuals can reduce shame, share their struggles with others, and ultimately create an environment conducive to sustainable recovery.

Incorporating these three principles into daily life requires dedication and commitment. One effective strategy is to create a daily routine that prioritizes these practices. Mindfulness meditation, journaling, and affirmations can be valuable tools in cultivating self-compassion and embracing imperfection. Engaging in physical activities, socializing, and pursuing creative interests can help handle boredom and provide healthier avenues for dopamine release.

Furthermore, seeking support is paramount. Connecting with others who share similar struggles or enlisting the help of professionals such as clinical psychologists and psychiatrists can provide valuable guidance and accountability. Support networks, whether in the form of therapy, or close friends and family, offer a safe space to share experiences, setbacks, and successes.

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

The Dangers of Overthinking Ever Heard Of Buridan's Ass? No, Not That Kind Of Ass!

Eva M. Krockow Ph.D.

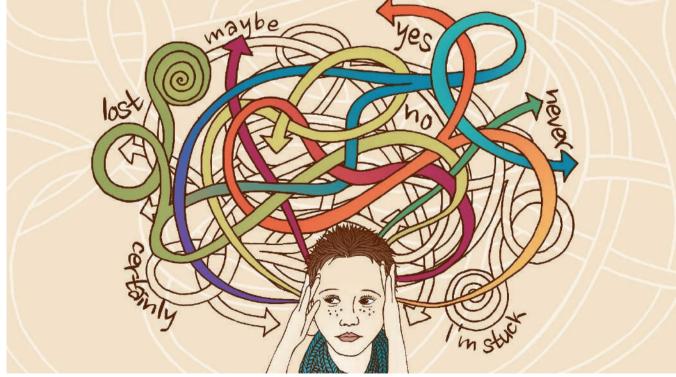
I'm talking about the horse-like animal otherwise known as the donkey. More specifically, the donkey is famously stuck in a choice dilemma described by French philosopher Jean Buridan. The donkey in question faces a tricky choice. She finds herself in the middle of two identical haystacks. With both stacks equal in distance, size, and hayey goodness, the donkey has absolutely no preference for either. Deeply troubled, she looks from one haystack to the other. Which one should she choose? She supposes she might be able to gobble up both, but again: Which one should be first? The despairing ass finds herself trapped in an impossible conundrum. Hours and days pass by, until she suffers the tragic consequences of her indecision, eventually succumbing to starvation.

What do you make of this little tale? Fair enough, it's hard to feel sorry for a donkey who starves to death with perfectly good food in plain sight. Indeed, the entire story seems somewhat far-fetched. After all, when do we ever find ourselves presented with completely identical options? And isn't it obvious that a random choice is always preferable to starvation? Also, if the dilemma is too tough to resolve, couldn't the ass just walk away and find herself a third haystack to munch on?

Analysis paralysis

It's easy to discount Buridan's ass as just another philosophical thought experiment with little real-life relevance. But hold your horses (or donkeys) and wait until you write it off completely! The starving ass offers an important lesson for human decision-making that's often overlooked: Overthinking your choices can have dan-

gerous consequences. By obsessively weighing up similar or



near-identical options, we stand very little to gain. After all, the outcomes are likely to be almost the same. However, the lengthy decision process may lead to unnecessary delays or even prevent us from making a choice altogether-often at a significant personal detriment. Umming and erring over which outfit to buy may mean you wear the same old clothes forever. Not being able to choose between two parties may leave you spending the evening at home alone. Struggling to commit to one of two lovers may mean you lose them both.

This phenomenon of indecision, often referred to as analysis paralysis, may be linked to perfectionist attitudes and the desire to identify the very best option, which I discussed in a recent post on satisficing. Additionally, it can be worsened by the availability of too many options, resulting in choice overload that leaves you feeling overwhelmed.

Overthinking in sports

Interestingly, the tendency to overthink choices and actions can even interfere with trained intuition and experience. A striking example of this comes from the context of competitive sports such as golf, tennis, or cricket, where skilled athletes sometimes report the sudden loss of skills acquired during years of practice. The phenomenon is commonly referred to as the "yips", "choking," or the "twisties" depending on the context, and research suggests it may be linked to heightened levels of anxiety, self-conscious overthinking, and perfectionism. By trying to consciously master certain movements or actions, athletes affected by the yips may end up bypassing

their muscle memory and fail to perform to

the standard they are used to. Researchers have tried to understand the bizarre phenomenon through qualitative studies. One project involved interviewing competitive cricket players who had suffered the yips, and identifying common themes associated with their symptoms. Extreme anxiety and panic were reported frequently, with one interviewee explaining: "I felt very nervous and out of control—I know it sounds stupid but it was like I'd been taken over, I just couldn't do it." Trying to compensate for their nerves, it appeared that the affected cricketers tried to overthink and control their subsequent movements. This strategy was rarely followed by success, as illustrated by the following comment: "I was telling myself when to let it go [the ball] because I realized I was not letting the ball go at the right time, so I was saying to myself "let it go" and, of course, you can't say that because by the time you've said that your arm is down on the ground."

Sudden, cruel, and often difficult to overcome, the yips have ruined entire careers, for example, forcing gymnast Simone Biles to withdraw from the Olympics and Stephen Hendry to abandon his previously skyrocketing career in snooker.

Researchers, sports psychologists, and athletes agree that it's hard to understand "the yips" if you haven't experienced them yourself. If you're struggling to understand the concept of overthinking, I leave you to ponder the following little poem:

The Centipede's Dilemma Katherine Craster A centipede was happy – quite! Until a toad in fun Said, "Pray, which leg moves after which?" This raised her doubts to such a pitch,

She fell exhausted in the ditch

Not knowing how to run.

Adding Zinc To Farmland Soil Can Help Prevent Childhood Stunting In India: Study

Press Trust Of India

dding zinc to farmland soil can help prevent childhood stunting -- a condition due to chronic undernutrition -- in India, according to a study

Chronic undernutrition is associated with poor brain development and long-lasting harmful consequences, such as reduced school performance and increased disease risks, the researchers said.

The study, published recently in the journal Scientific Reports, is the first largescale research to examine the association between children's nutritional status or health outcomes and soil mineral availability in India, where more than a third of children under five suffer from stunting.

"Our results add to a growing body of literature suggesting that interventions like micronutrient-enriched fertilisers may

have a positive effect on health," said study lead author Claire Morton, an undergraduate student in mathematics and computational science at Stanford University, US.

"This doesn't prove that those interventions would be cost-effective for India, but it's an exciting indication that they are worth testing," Morton said.

The researchers analysed health data from nearly 300,000 (3 lakh) children and one million women across India with over 27 million soil tests drawn from a nationwide soil health programme.

They found that that the presence of zinc in soil helps prevent stunted childhood growth, and iron in soil helps keep hemoglobin a protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen at healthy levels.

The results suggest that fortifying soil with minerals could be a beneficial health intervention, the researchers said.

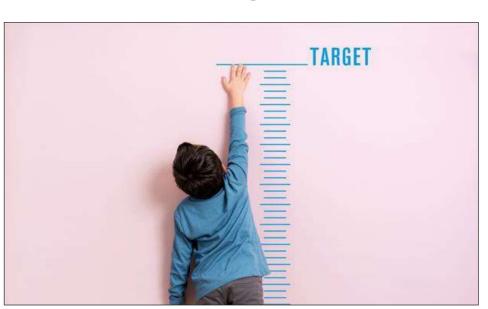
The link between soil zinc and child-

hood stunting is particularly robust a one standard deviation increase in satisfactory soil zinc tests is associated with approximately 11 fewer children stunted per 1,000, according to the study.

The researchers suggest that the potential benefits of using zinc-enriched fertilizers as health interventions deserves more consideration in India specifically and perhaps more generally.

'We're not saying that geography is destiny, but soils really do seem to play a role in shaping child health," said study senior author David Lobell, a professor of Earth system science in the Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability.

"Even if this is only a small role, understanding it could help to identify better approaches to solving child stunting in India, which is one of the single biggest and longstanding challenges in global food security," Lobell added.



Artificial Intelligence Could Aid Future Viral Outbreak Response: Study

Press Trust Of India

esearchers have developed an innovative patient triage platform powered by artificial intelligence (AI) that they say can predict patient disease sever-

ity and length of hospitalisation during a viral outbreak.

Triage is the prioritisation of patient care based on illness, severity, prognosis, and resource availability.

The platform, described recently in the journal Human Genomics, leverages machine learning, a form of AI, and data from metabolomics -- the study of small molecules related to cell metabolism

The innovation is intended to improve patient management and help health care providers allocate resources more efficiently during severe viral outbreaks that can quickly overwhelm local health care systems, the researchers said.

"Being able to predict which patients can be sent home and those possibly needing intensive care unit admission is critical for health officials seeking to optimise patient health outcomes and use hospital resources most efficiently



during an outbreak," said senior study author Vasilis Vasiliou, a professor at Yale University, US.

The researchers developed the platform using COVID-19 as a disease model. It integrates routine clinical data, patient comorbidity information, and untargeted plasma metabolomics data to drive its predictions.

"Our AI-powered patient triage platform is distinct from typical CO-VID-19 AI prediction models, said Georgia Charkoftaki, a lead author of the study and an associate research scientist at Yale.

It serves as the cornerstone for a proactive and methodical approach to addressing upcoming viral outbreaks," Charkoftaki said.

Using machine learning, the researchers built a model of COVID-19 severity and prediction of hospitalisation based on clinical data and metabolic profiles collected from patients hospitalized with the disease.

The model led us to identify a panel of unique clinical and metabolic biomarkers that were highly indicative of disease progression and allows the prediction of patient management needs very soon after hospitalization, the researchers wrote in the study.

Office Of The Executive Engineer, TLMD-VI (6), Bemina, Srinagar

Tele No: 0194-2492429 Fax: 0194-2492429. Email: tlcdistpdd@gmail.com

CANCELLATION OF e-NIT

The NIT issued by the undersigned vide e-NIT No TLMD-VI/01 of 2023-24 dated 03.04.2023 for the work "Laying of foundation, Supply, Erection of Superstructure, Laying & Stringing of Conductor of (A+3) type Tower Between Existing Tower No 36-37of 132kV DC Mirbazar-Mattan Transmission Line and circulated vide this office No: TLMD-VI/12-15 dated 03.04.2023 is hereby cancelled. As such fresh e-NIT will be issued very shortly.

Executive Engineer, Trans. Line Maint. Division-VI

No: TLMD-VI/1862-65 DIPK-NB-2947/23 Dated: 31/08/2023

S.No Description of Work

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office Of The Executive Engineer R&B Division Kulgam

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

FOR MACADAM WORKS NITNo.91/2023-24/RnB/Kul/e-tendering/6810-30 Dtd 28 -08-2023

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&Ke-tenders are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central

S.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost	Cost ofT/	Earnest	Time of	Head of	Class of
No		incld;	Doc. (In	Money	Completion	Account	Contractor
		GST (Rs.	Rupees)				
		InLacs)					
1	Construction/ Upgradation of Badroo Internal roads by way of Providing and laying of 75mm Thick Wet Mix. Tack	19.41	800	38820	10 days	C&T (Adl.)	Bee, Cee & MSME
	coat , 50mm thick Macadam and 25mm semnidense , 6mm seal coat						
2	Construction of Links of Hawooch Frisal (Hawoora Frisal)	9.71	600	19420	07 days	C&T (Adl.)	Cee, Dee &
	by way of Providing and laying of 75mm Thick Wet Mix, Tack coat. 50mm thick Macadam and 25mm semnidense						MSME
	, 6mm seal						
3	Construction /Upgradation of Internal Links of Frisal &	14.56	600	29120	10 days	C&T (Adl.)	Bee, Cee
	Shirpora by way of Providing and laying of 75mm Thick						, Dee &
	Wet Mix , Tack coat , 50mm thick Macadam and 25mm						MSME
	semidense , 6mm seal coat						
4	Construction of/Upgradation of Internal Links Kujjar	19.42	800	38840	10 days	C&T (Adl.)	Bee, Cee &
	along with Mishipora Kaladrang by way of Providing and						MSME
	laying of 75mm Thick Wet Mix , Tack coat , 50mm thick						
1	Macadam and 25mm semidense 6mm seal coat	1					

Position of AAA: SE (R&B)/Ang-Kul/AAA/50 of 2023-24 dated 21-08-2023

Technical Sanction: 50/DB/TS/2023-24 dated 24-08-2023	
Date of Issue of Tender Notice	08-2023
2 Period of downloading of bidding documents	30-08-2023 from10.00AM. to 07-09-2023 up to 04:00PM
3 Bid submission Start Date	30-08-2023 from 10.00 AM.
4 Bid Submission End Date	07-09-2023 up to 04:00 PM
5 Date & time of opening of Bids(Online)	08-09-2023 from 11.00 AM in the office of Executive
	Engineer(R&B)Division Kulgam

The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms- and conditions of contract and other details can be aded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below

2. 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/BG 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 /CDR/FDR must be in between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date). 3. arnest Monty (2% of the Advertised cost) from all the bidders in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG 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

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their ss. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Kulgam The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bid

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 acq

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

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

Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.

Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents including tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid.

Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons

Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Kulgam (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Kulgam must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The Original Treasury Challan (Cost of Tender Document) and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract.

9. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.
 10. Price escalation and taxes: The %age quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees, shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work.
 Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

11. 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 same as laid in PWD Form 25.

No: 6831-33 DIPK-8054/23 Dtd: 31-08-2023

Sd/ **Executive Engineer**

Office Of The Executive Engineer Sub Transmission Division-Ist (KPDCL), Bemina, Srinagar

Notice Inviting Tender e-NIT No. STD I / 14 of 2023-24 dated 31.08.2023

Earnest Money (In Cost of document Position of Last date of

For and on behalf of the Managing Director KPDCL, e-Tenders, (In Two Cover System) is hereby invited from reputed A-class electrical contractors / registered firms/suppliers enlisted with CPWD/MES/Railways/DGS&D/JKPDD, for the work mentioned as:-

			Rs.)	(In Rs.)	Funds	submission of e-bid (online)
0		ITC of 10 MVA Power Transformer & SITC of 33 kV Electrical Equipment viz 11kV panels, 11kV outgoing pole structure, auxiliary transformer and other allied works at Receiving Station Zewan (Zawoora) for PROVIDING POWER SUPPLY TO THE TRANSIT	Lac and Seventy One Thousand only)	Rs.2000.00 (Two Thousand only) Non refundable	Available	25/09/2023; 03:00 PM
╽└		ACCOMMODATION FOR KASHMIRI MIGRANTS				
1		Document Download/Sale (start) Date.	03/09/2023; 09:00 AN	И		
2		Document Download /Sale (End) Date.	25/09/2023; 03:00 PM	1		
3			03/09/2023 to 04.09.2	2023.		
4		Bid Submission Start Date	05/09/2023; 10:00 AM			
5			<u>25/09/2023; 03:00 PN</u>			
6		Commercial/Technical Bid Opening Date & Time				
7		Financial Bid Opening	<u>Shall be declared later</u>	on for the technically (qualified bid	ders
8		Venue of Commercial / Technical Bid Opening	Electronically in the off	ice of Executive Engin	eer STD-Ist E	Bemina Srinagar,
ΙL			J&K.			
9		Cost of e-Bid document	Rs.2000.00 (Rupees Tv	wo Thousand only) No	on refundable	e
10	0.		Rs. 1,71,000 One Lac Se			
	l	Position of Funds	Available			

The bidders need to submit the proof/ cost of e-Bid document as stated in the above table through non-refundable Demand Draft pledged to Executive Engineer, STD-I, Bemina, Srinagar. The scanned copy of the Demand Draft must be uploaded on e-tendering portal in Commercial /Technical Bid Documents & hard copy of the same to be submitted in the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-I, Bemina, Srinagar before opening of techno-commercial bids.

All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR/FDR only, pledged to the Executive Engineer, STD-I, Bemina, Srinagar. No Interest would be payable on Earnest Money deposited with the Department.

Hard Copy of original instrument of EMD shall be submitted to the office of the Executive Engineer, STD- I, Bemina, Srinagar, before opening of techno-commercial bids. In case any bidder shall submit/upload the bid declaration instead of EMD, his bid shall be summarily rejected and shall not be considered for techno-commercial evaluation.

The date and time of opening of financial bids shall be notified on web site http://jktenders.gov.in. This is conveyed to the qualified bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The financial bids shall be opened accordingly online on the same web site at the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-I, Bemina, Srinagar.

The e-Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the identified venue on indicated date and time mentioned in the above table or any subsequent day to the convenience of the Tender Opening Committee. An authority letter of bidder' representative will be required to be produced.

The Department reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids/ the e-Bid process without assigning any reason thereof .The decision of department will be final and binding.

In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being a holiday/closed day for department's office then the due date for opening of e-Bids shall be the following working day at the same time and place.

All the required documents excluding Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded by the e-Bidder electronically in the PDF format, whereas Price Schedule/BOQ should be up loaded electronically in the same BOQ sheet provided with the SBD.

To participate in e-bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' As per InformationTechnologyAct-2000, to participate in online bidding.

Hard copy of technical bid, technical specification and commercial bid documents (complete) of L1 Bidder must be delivered to the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-I, Bemina, Srinagar.

The sealed cover shall be scribed as "Techno-Commercial Bid against e-NIT No. STD-I/14 of 2023-24 dated 31/08/2023.

The name of the L1 bidder and e-NIT no. shall be clearly written on the cover. It may be noted that the hard copy should be an exact replica of the uploaded offer documents. For evaluation purposes the uploaded documents will be treated as authentic and final. The hard copy shall be used only for reference purpose.

The name of the bidder and e-NIT no. shall be clearly written on the cover. It may be noted that the hard copy should be an exact replica of the uploaded offer documents. For evaluation purposes the uploaded documents will be treated as authentic and final. The hard copy shall be used only for reference purpose.

Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

Any other information regarding e-tendering process can be had from the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-I, Bemina, Srinagar

Executive Engineer, Sub Transmission Division-I, Bemina, Srinagar.

No.:- STD-I/3090-91 DIPK-NB-2961/23 dated:-31/08/2023

Services Sector Pushes India's Q1 GDP Growth To Four-Quarter High Of 7.8%

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India recorded GDP growth of 7.8 per cent during the April-June period of 2023-24, the highest in the past four quarters, on the back of double-digit expansion in the services sector, retaining its position as the world's fastestgrowing major economy.

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) recorded a growth of 13.1 per cent in the first quarter (Q1) of 2022-23, 6.2 per cent in the second, 4.5 per cent in the third and 6.1 per cent in the last

India's 7.8 per cent GDP growth in the April-June quarter is higher than the 6.3 per cent recorded by China during the same period.

According to the National Statistical Office (NSO) data released on Thursday, the agriculture sector gross value added (GVA) recorded a growth of 3.5 per cent up from 2.4 per cent in the April-June quarter of 2022-23.

The expansion in 'financial real estate and professional services' GVA was 12.2 per cent, up from 8.5 per cent in

the year-ago quarter. A growth of 9.2 per cent has been witnessed by 'trade, hotel, transport, communication and services related to broadcasting sector', though lower than 25.7 per cent expansion in the year-ago quarter..

The manufacturing sector GVA too decelerated to 4.7 per cent in the first quarter of the current fiscal compared to 6.1 per cent in the year-ago period.

"Real GDP or GDP at constant (2011-12) prices in Q1 2023-24 is estimated to attain a level of Rs 40.37 lakh crore, as against Rs 37.44 lakh crore in Q1 2022-23, showing a growth of 7.8 per cent as compared to 13.1 per

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Chief Economic

Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran

on Thursday said the economy

is expected to grow at 6.5 per cent in the current fiscal not-

withstanding deficient mon-

real cause for concern that in-

flation would spike out of con-

trol as both the government

and the Reserve Bank are tak-

ing adequate steps to maintain

supply and keep prices under

is likely to subside with the

arrival of fresh stock and gov-

ernment measures. However,

the impact of deficient rains in

nomic activity in general and it is

not driven by price-related dis-

tortions. Therefore our projec-

tions still are very comfortably

placed at 6.5 per cent for the

Risk is evenly distributed

current financial year," he said.

"There is momentum in eco-

August is to be watched.

The CEA said food inflation

soon rains.



cent in Q1 2022-23," NSO said in a statement.

It further said the nominal GDP or GDP at current prices in the first quarter of 2023-24 has been estimated at Rs 70.67 lakh crore, as against Rs 65.42 lakh crore in the year-ago period, showing a growth of 8 per cent as compared

to 27.7 per cent in Q1 2022-23. Commenting on the GDP data, Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, ICRA Ltd said 'private final consumption expenditure (PFCE)' growth witnessed an uptick to 6 per cent in Q1 FY2023 after a subdued performance in H2 FY2023..

Moreover, gross fixed capital formation (GFCF) grew at a robust pace of 8 per cent, notwithstanding the deceleration vis--vis the last quarter of FY2023, with the GFCF to GDP ratio (in nominal terms) rising to 29.3 per cent in Q1 FY2024 from 29.1 per cent in the yearago period.

Assocham Secretary General Deepak Sood said real GDP growth of 7.8 per cent in the first quarter of 2023-24 would certainly make major economies of the world envy of India which has become a major force in driving the global economy.

"At a time when major economies are grappling with high inflation, tight monetary conditions, supply disruptions amidst geo-political issues, India has navigated the global headwinds with courage, tenacity and a strong-willed po-

to around 6.5 per cent growth

projection for FY2023-24, he

said while briefing media fol-

lowing the release of first quar-

ter GDP numbers. Rising crude

prices may warrant attention

and prolonged geopolitical

uncertainty and likely tighter

financial conditions can pose

India recorded economic

growth of 7.8 per cent in the

April-June quarter of 2023-

24 against 13.1 per cent in the

With regard to fiscal deficit,

Nageswaran said there is no

threat to 5.9 per cent fiscal def-

icit announced in the Budget.

risk to growth, he added.

year-ago period.

Hindenburg 2.0: Adani Family Secretly Invested In **Own Shares, Alleges OCCRP; Company Denies Charge**

Press Trust Of India

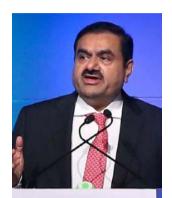
NEW DELHI: Billionaire Gautam Adani's group was on Thursday hit by fresh allegations that it used family associates to secretly invest hundreds of millions of dollars through "opaque" Mauritius-based investment funds to fuel the spectacular rise in group stocks from 2013 to 2018. The conglomerate vehemently denied the charge.

The Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) said documents obtained by it revealed details of a complex offshore operation in two Mauritius-based funds managed by the partners of the promoter family to support prices of shares of group companies from 2013 to 2018 - a period during which the ports-to-energy conglomerate saw meteoric rise to become India's largest and most powerful businesses.

OCCRP said two close associates of Vinod Adani -- the elder brother of group founder, and chairman Gautam Adani -- are sole beneficiaries of Mauritius-based companies through which the money appeared to flow.

Nasser Ali Shaban Ahli from the United Arab Emirates and Chang Chung-Ling from Taiwan spent years trading hundreds of millions of dollars worth of Adani group stock through two Mauritius-based funds that were overseen by a Dubaibased company run by a known employee of Vinod Adani.

Market regulator SEBI had been handed evidence in early 2014 of alleged suspicious stock market activity by the Adani Group, OCCRP said cit-



ing a letter.

U K Sinha, who headed the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in 2014, is now a director and chairperson of Adani-owned news broadcaster NDTV.

The fresh broadside, which comes months after US shortselling firm Hindenburg Research published an explosive report in January that accused Adani Group of running the "largest con in corporate history", sent all 10 listed Adani stocks down.

Shares of flagship Adani Enterprises Ltd closed 3.72 per cent lower after dipping as much as 5.2 per cent. Other group stocks closed 2-3.5 per cent lower.

Hindenburg had alleged corporate fraud and stock price manipulation at the conglomerate and raised questions on Vinod Adani's role. The Group had denied Hindenburg allegations, which wiped close to USD 150 billion in the market value of the group at its lowest point and cost Gautam Adani his prime spot on the world rich list, and had stated that Vinod Adani has "no role in the day to day affairs" of the company. On the OCCRP allega-

tions, the Group on Thursday termed them as "recycled allegations" and called them "yet another concerted bid by (George) Soros-funded interests supported by a section of the foreign media to revive the meritless Hindenburg report". On the allegation of about

USD 1 billion of over-invoicing scam money being routed to the two Mauritius funds, it said, "These claims are based on closed cases from a decade ago when the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) probed allegations of over-invoicing, transfer of funds abroad, related party transactions and investments through FPIs."

An independent adjudicating authority and an appellate tribunal had both confirmed that there was no over-valuation and that the transactions were in accordance with applicable law, it said, adding the matter attained finality in March 2023 when the Supreme Court of India ruled in the group's favour.

"Clearly, since there was no over-valuation, there is no relevance or foundation for these allegations on transfer of funds," it said.

Opposition parties, which stalled proceedings in Parliament for nearly one full session when the Hindenburg allegations first came out, were quick to latch on to the OCCRP to attack the government and Adani group.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh questioned the role of SEBI in investigating the role of shell companies linked to the Adani Group.

Families Of JK Bank Customers Relieved After Timely Settlement Of Insurance Claims By PNB MetLife



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Bank facilitated the swift settlement of around 14 insurance claims worth Rs 65 Lacs under Met-Loan & Life Suraksha (MLLS) thereby relieving the affected families of financial burden that would have otherwise been a huge liability for them.

The Bank's Zonal Head (Srinagar) – Shabir Ahmad handed over the symbolic cheques to the nominees/legal heirs of deceased customers in presence of Cluster Heads (Srinagar) Shabir Ahmad Bulla and Asmat Ara, Zonal Head (Credit-Life) PNB MetLife Irfan Ali Zargar, Zonal Insurance Coordinator Manzoor Ahmad, Branch Heads and other officials of the Bank and PNB MetLife.

Claimants thanked the Bank

and its Insurance partner MetLife for the timely settlement and described it as a big relief for their families. "We feel really grateful to have this insurance policy/cover, the timely settlement of which has saved us from the huge financial burden."

Highlighting the need and significance of getting loans insured, Zonal Head (Srinagar) Shabir Ahmad said, "With a Single premium alongside the bank funding option available for the customers, we can safeguard the families of borrowers in case of unforeseen eventualities.'

Zonal Head Credit Life Irfan Ali Zargar also stressed upon the borrowers to get their loans insured so that their families don't have to face financial uncertainty in case of demise.

India To Clock GDP Growth Of 6.5% In FY'24 Despite **Most Adani Group Stocks End Lower; Rainfall Deficit: CEA Adani Green Energy Tanks Over 4%**

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Shares of most of the Adani group company ended lower on Thursday after a report from investigative reporting platform OCCRP alleged hundreds of millions of dollars were invested in publicly traded group stocks through Mauritius-based 'opaque' investment funds managed by partners of promoter family of billionaire Gautam Adani.

However, the conglomerate denied the charges vehemently. Nine of the group firms settled in the negative territory while one ended in the green on Thursday.

The stock of Adani Green Energy nosedived 4.39 per cent to settle at Rs 928.05 apiece, while shares of flagship firm Adani Enterprises plunged 3.77 per cent to close at Rs 2,418.80 and Ambuja Cements tanked 3.53 per cent to end at Rs 428.50



Shares of Adani Energy Solutions dipped 3.52 per cent to close at Rs 812.15, Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) slipped 3.37 per cent to settle at Rs 791.40, Adani Total Gas declined 2.59 per cent to end at Rs 635.60 on the bourse.

In addition, scrip of Adani Wilmar fell 2.56 per cent to close at Rs 359.50, Adani Power at Rs 321.05 and NDTV at Rs 214.60.

Besides, stock of ACC gained 0.47 per cent to end at Rs 2,009.55 per piece on the BSE.

Meanwhile, the 30-share BSE Sensex settled 255.84 points or 0.39 per cent lower at 64,831.41 points on Thursday.

The fresh allegations by an organisation funded by likes of George Soros and Rockefeller Brothers Fund come months after a US short seller wiped away close to USD 150 billion in value of Adani group stocks with allegations of accounting fraud, stock price manipulation and improper use of tax havens by the ports-toenergy conglomerate run by billionaire Gautam Adani. Adani Group has denied all Hindenburg allegations.

Citing review of files from multiple tax havens and internal Adani Group emails, OCCRP (Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project) said its investigation found at least two cases where the "mysterious" investors bought and sold Adani stock through such offshore structures.

Isuzu Motors Launches Max S-Cab Z In CV Segment



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Isuzu Motors In-MAX S-CAR 7 variant in India with the combination of smart looks, rugged and durable workhorse capability, safety and passenger vehicle like comfort. The ISUZU D-Max S-CAB Z complements the aspirations of the evolving Indian businessmen and professionals for a stylish looking vehicle for their business needs, which is engineered for life. Powered by the proven 2.5 litre ISUZU 4JA1 Engine, the ISUZU D-Max S-CAB Z model projects an aggressive stance with its styling elements. It will be available in 5 colours; Cosmic Black, Galena Grey, Splash White, Nautilus Blue and Titanium Silver. The introductory launch pricing* will be INR 14,99, 910/- (ex-

Toru Kishimoto, Deputy Managing Director, Isuzu Modia launched the all-new D- tors India, said, "Our vehicles are designed to offer the perfect combination of style, reliability and performance while also providing excellent comfort and safety. To support the growing customer community, we are also increasing our dealership network to provide seamless sales and service touchpoints. Today, we are excited to launch the ISUZU D-MAX S-CAB Z, which embodies the essence of an aspirational vehicle that's truly 'Beyond the Ordinary'. The ISUZU D-Max range has been a success story for many customers in India and we are confident the ISUZU S-CAB Z will truly enhance the value proposition for our aspiring customers".

Production Of Key Infra Sectors Rises By 8% In July

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Growth of eight key infrastructure sectors rose to 8 per cent in July 2023 on expansion in production of coal, crude oil, and natural gas, according to official data released on

Production of steel, cement and electricity also grew in July, the data

However, the core sector growth was lower in July compared to the previous month when it was 8.3 per cent, the Commerce and Industry Ministry data

The production of these sectors expanded by 4.8 per cent in July 2022.

The output growth of the eight sectors was also lower at 6.4 per cent in April-July 2023-24 against 11.5 per cent in the year-ago period.

These industries account for 40.27 per cent of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

In July, steel output jumped by 13.5 per cent as against 7.5 per cent in the same month last year. Natural gas production increased by 8.9 per cent dur-



ing the month under review as compared to a contraction of 0.3 per cent in July 2022.

Coal output rose by 14.9 per cent in July 2023 as against 11.4 per cent in July

The growth rate in the production of refinery products, and fertiliser, slowed down to 3.6 per cent, and 3.3 per cent

as against 6.2 per cent each. Crude oil production rose to 2.1 per cent in the month under review.

Fiscal Deficit Touches 33.9% Of Full-Year Target At End-July: CGA Data

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Centre's fiscal deficit in the first four months of 2023-24 touched 33.9 per cent of the full-year target, government data showed on

In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit -- the gap between expenditure and revenue -- was Rs 6.06 lakh crore as of end-July, according to the data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA).

The deficit stood at 20.5 per cent of the Budget Estimates (BE) in the corresponding period of the financial year 2022-23.

In the Union Budget, the government projected to bring down the fiscal deficit to 5.9 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in the current 2023-24 financial year. The deficit was 6.4 per cent of the GDP in 2022-23 against the earlier estimate of 6.71 per cent.

Unveiling the revenue-expenditure data of the Union government for the April-July period of 2023-24, CGA said the net tax revenue was Rs 5.83 lakh crore or 25 per cent of the BE for the current fiscal. The net tax revenue collection was 34.4 per cent at end-July 2022.

The central government's total expenditure in the first four months stood at Rs 13.81 lakh crore or 30.7 per cent of BE. The expenditure touched 28.6 per cent of the BE in the year-ago period.

Sensex Falls 256 Points Due To Selling In Banking, FMCG Shares On F&O Expiry

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Benchmark Sensex closed lower by around 256 points in a volatile trade on Thursday, snapping its threeday gaining streak due to selling in banking, FMCG and oil and gas shares amid weak Asian cues.

The BSE barometer fell by 255.84 points or 0.39 per cent to close at 64,831.41 points with 22 of its constituents

ending in the red. The index opened higher and later touched a high of 65,178.33 in early trade. It, however, failed to hold onto the gains and plunged 553 points from the day's high to touch a low of 64,723.63 amid selling on the expiry of derivatives contracts for August month.

The broader Nifty of NSE also lost 93.65 points or 0.48 per cent to settle at 19,253.80 with 35 of its stocks ending in the red.

"Markets traded volatile on the monthly expiry day and lost nearly half a per cent," Ajit Mishra, SVP, Technical Research, Religare Broking Ltd, "A slew of weak economic

indicators from the US, including a softened GDP figure, have heightened the likelihood of a pause in the Fed's rate tightening, resulting in a downward trajectory of bond yields," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial

However, this development had a limited impact on domestic sentiment on the day of expiry, with the market experiencing declines ahead of the release of India's GDP data, scheduled later in the day, Nair said.

Asian Paints dropped the most by 1.33 per cent. IndusInd bank fell 1.2 per cent, Axis Bank by 1.19 per cent, SBI by 1.12 per cent, Bajaj Finance by 1.07 per cent, Nestle by 1.04 per cent, and TCS by 0.97 per cent. Hindustan Unilever, Reliance Industries, Power Grid and Kotak Bank also retreated.

Maruti Suzuki was the lead gainer, rising by 2.22 per cent. Titan advanced 1.09 per cent, UltraTech Cement by 1.02 per cent, and Tata Steel by 0.78 per cent. Jio Financial Services, Tech Mahindra, Wipro ICICI Bank and Jio Financia Services also closed higher.

In the broader market, the BSE Midcap index edged lower 0.02 per cent while the Smallcap index bucked the weak trend to close 0.79 per cent higher.

BSE Oil & Gas dropped by 1.34 per cent, BSE Utilities by 1.28 per cent, Services by 1 per cent, FMCG by 0.71 per cent, and Energy by 0.84 per cent.

On the other hand, Consumer Durables (0.89 per cent), Industrials (0.63 per cent) and Realty (0.68 per cent) advanced.

Ready For J&K

He told the court about the various steps the Union government has taken for restoration of normalcy in the region.

"Large-scale investment proposals post abrogation of Article 370 have been received, which include Rs 28,400 crore of central sector schemes for industrial development, Rs 78,000 crore of private sector and the actual investment done in 2022-23 is Rs 2,153 crore," he said.

Mehta said out of the 53 projects worth Rs 58,477 crore sanctioned under the Prime Minister's Development Package, 32 have been completed.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Jammu and Kashmir National Conference leader Mohd Akbar Lone, objected to the bench recording the figures put forth by the central government, saying it should not be taken on record as it will "affect the mind" of the court adjudicating the constitutional validity of abrogation of Article 370.

CJI Chandrachud assured Sibal that the data given by the solicitor general will not have any bearing on the adjudication of the constitutional issue.

Mehta added that as far as elections in Ladakh are concerned, there are two areas of Leh and Kargil. The elections for the Hill Development Council of Leh are already over and the exercise will be held in Kargil next month.

He said terror-related incidents have gone down by 45.20 per cent compared to 2018.

Infiltration, which was one of the biggest concerns, was down by 90.20 per cent, Mehta added. Citing more data, he said, "Law and order events reduced 97.20 per cent. Incidents of stone-

events reduced 97.20 per cent. Incidents of stonepelting and 'hartals', which were 1,767 in 2018, are now nil. Casualty of security personnel has gone down by 65.90 per cent, organised 'bandhs', which were coordinated by secessionist groups, have gone down from 52 in 2018 to nil in 2023."

Mehta said tourism, a major source of revenue for J-K, has seen improvement, with footfall of 1.88 crore in 2022, and in 2023, till date, over one crore people have visited the UT.

Sibal told the bench the petitioners will have to counter facts and figures put forward by the Centre.

"They are saying there were zero 'hartals'. Five thousand people were put under house arrest. How will there be any 'hartal', when you don't allow them to even go to hospital. The proceedings of this court are televised and these figures may aid in creating an opinion," he said.

The bench told Sibal what the solicitor general has said was pursuant to the court's query as to what steps were taken by the Union of India to restore electoral democracy.

"We should be fair to the solicitor general as he has only given the roadmap," the bench said, adding, "The nature of the development which the government says took place post August 2019 may not be of relevance to your constitutional challenge and, therefore, what they respond to constitutional challenge has to be dealt with independently."

The CJI told Sibal, "These are matters where there can be and should be policy differences but that can't affect the constitutional arguments. We place these facts in the perspective of the roadmap to statehood of J-K. This isn't a justification and cannot be to a constitutional challenge."

Attorney General R Venkataramani, also appearing for the Centre, and senior advocates Harish Salve and Rakesh Dwivedi, representing the intervenors, defended the August 5, 2019 decision to abrogate Article 370.

The hearing before the constitution bench remained inconclusive and will continue on Friday, which otherwise is a miscellaneous day usually reserved for hearing fresh cases. Making a departure, the top court had this Monday continued with the constitution bench hearing on Article 370.

On August 29, the Centre had told the top that it will make an elaborate statement on the vexatious political issue in the court on August 31.

The five-judge constitution bench, hearing the pleas challenging the abrogation of Article 370, had asked the Centre to set a specific time frame for restoration of electoral democracy in the erstwhile state.

While hearing Mehta's submissions on Tuesday, the court had told him, "Democracy is important, although we agree that in view of the national security scenario, reorganisation of the state can be done."

The court, however, said lack of electoral democracy cannot be allowed to go on indefinitely.

"This has to come an end... give us the specific time frame as to when will you restore actual democracy. We want to record this," the bench said, and asked Mehta and the attorney general to seek instructions from the political executive and get

back to the court. Nothing New

the apex court is currently reviewing petitions that have challenged the abrogation of Article 370.

National Conference (NC) spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar said while his party will keep advocating for the restoration of democratic rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, which include the holding of Assembly polls, "we would continue to fight for our constitutional and legal rights as

"We did not go to the Supreme Court asking for elections. Our basic petition is against the unilateral and unconstitutional decisions taken on August 5, 2019. What the SG has told the Supreme Court bench is a tactic to divert the attention from the main issue, which is the August 5 decisions, and we will confine ourselves to that" Dar said

He, however, said the NC has always advocated for strengthening democratic institutions and that includes holding the Assembly polls.

Dar alleged that Mehta's submissions in the top court about updating the voters' list in Jammu and Kashmir were also aimed at creating more "confusion".

"The voters' list is primarily being updated for the municipal elections, it has got nothing to do with the Assembly polls," he said, adding that the Assembly election has been due in the Union Territory for more than four-and-a-half years, so they have to be held.

they have to be held.

NC's provincial Secretary Sheikh Bashir Ahmed pointed out that the Centre's stance remains unchanged and said there is nothing novel in its statement made before the apex court.

"The Supreme Court judges asked the Centre when the Assembly polls will be held. The Centre said it is ready to hold the polls, but did not give any date. There is nothing new that the government has said," he said.

Suhail Bukhari, the chief spokesperson of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), said neither the restoration of statehood nor the conduct of the Assembly polls is an essential priority for the party.

"We want to witness how the Supreme Court decides on the constitutional validity of the abrogation of Article 370, which we believe was unconstitutional and illegal. We are very satisfied with the cogent manner in which the case of the people of Jammu and Kashmir has been pleaded by the legal luminaries of the country.

"We hope that justice will prevail for the people of Jammu and Kashmir as well as for the democratic ethos of the country," he said.

Bukhari said the EC has already stated that all the preparations have been made for holding the Assembly polls.

"It even went to the extent of saying that there is a vacuum that must be filled and it would only wait for the security clearance. The BJP, on the other hand, says it is the prerogative of the EC.

"Now that the government has told the Supreme Court that it is ready for elections anytime, I think it has put the EC on a very tight spot," he said.

Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief spokesperson Ravinder Sharma expressed gratitude to the Supreme Court for seeking a reply from the Centre on holding Assembly polls and restoration of statehood in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The government has said it is ready to hold the election and the EC has to take a decision. It has been saying this for years. The people of Jammu and Kashmir have no faith in the BJP-led Centre, which does not give an appropriate and clear-cut answer to them," Sharma said..

Senior Congress leader G N Monga said the solicitor general's statement cannot be trusted.

"He has not said anything definite. Our party's stand is that statehood should be restored immediately as they (Centre) have promised it and that should be followed by the election," he said.

Monga said the party never had much hope, "but now, we have lost all hope".

Senior Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader M Y Tarigami said the Centre has said on numerous occasions that statehood will be restored to Jammu and Kashmir at an appropriate time.

"When will that appropriate time come, perhaps we will get to know in 2024. If there is some change (after the Lok Sabha polls), they will then perhaps consider it," he said.

"Why should we trust them? They have not said when the Assembly polls will take place or when statehood will be restored. This is a joke. Mehta has said there are thousands of panchayat members. That is the case in Gujarat or Uttar Pradesh or Himachal Pradesh too. So why are Assembly polls conducted there? Why are you joking with us?" the Left leader told reporters in Kulgam.

Jammu and Kashmir People's Conference (JKPC) chairman Sajad Lone said the submissions made by Mehta in the apex court were not very different from the statements that came from the Centre on the issue over the last four years.

"I am disappointed, not because of Jammu and Kashmir, but partly because of the judiciary. This is the highest pedestal of the judiciary and if it asks a question and the answer is the same and as ambiguous and evasive as it was four years ago, then I think it is a matter of concern," Lone told reporters.

He said no timeline was given by the BJP-led Centre regarding restoration of statehood or holding the Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir and even the arguments presented were political and not legal.

"These are very specious, fallacious arguments and I hope and pray that legality prevails, justice prevails and as has been apparently observed in the highest court, constitutional challenges are decided on the basis of what is written in the Constitution and not on the basis of these other arguments that are political in nature," Lone said.

Apni Party chief Altaf Bukhari said there was nothing new in the submissions made by Mehta in the top court.

"This is like the same vague statements given by the Centre after August 2019. I think either the Supreme Court is not being taken seriously or the government is not serious in doing anything here," he said.

He said the Centre has been saying since 2019 that elections will take place in Jammu and Kashmir.

"They are saying it every day and we too are continuing with our political activities, but this is not something new. We had expected a firm date from the Supreme Court for restoration of statehood, but there is no firmness in their (Centre's)

"Whether they are telling the truth or lying, the court will decide, but there is no seriousness in the statement," he said.

The Apni Party president said from the Centre's submissions, "we see that elections will not take place even as the situation is normal".

The Jammu and Kashmir unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), however, voiced support to the Centre's statement in the top court.

"We have full faith in the top court.

"We have full faith in the Supreme Court. As far as the issue raised by the court about the Assembly polls is concerned, the Centre, the prime minister and the home minister have said several times in the past that the government and the BJP are ready for the election whenever the EC takes a decision on it," Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Ravinder Raina said.

He lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's development efforts in the region and expressed confidence that the BJP will secure a majority in the election.

The Centre abrogated the provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution on August 5, 2019 and bifurcated the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into Union territories.

Spl Session

government not spelling out its agenda, speculation swirled that the government may push some showpiece bills in the run-up to some key state assembly polls followed by the all-important Lok Sabha election.

tant Lok Sabha election.

Sources, including in the ruling BJP, spoke of the possibility of bills on simultaneous general, state and local polls, something Modi has

assiduously pushed, and reservation for women in directly elected legislatures like Lok Sabha and assemblies. Both are constitutional amendment bills and will require passage with the support of two-third members in both Houses.

The recent historic success of the Chandrayaan-3 mission and India's goals for 'Amrit Kaal' may be part of the wider discussions during the special session, which will come a week after the G20 summit meeting scheduled for September 9-10.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh alleged that the announcement of the special session just three weeks after the end of the Monsoon session was aimed at managing "the news cycle" and countering the news about the ongoing meeting of INDIA parties in Mumbai and the latest revelations on Adani. The Monsoon session of Parliament ended on August 11.

"Regardless, the JPC demand (on the Adani issue) will continue to resonate inside and outside Parliament," the Congress MP added. Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Priyanka Chaturvedi said on X that the special session called during "India's most important festival of Ganesh Chaturthi is unfortunate and goes against the Hindu sentiments. Surprised at their choice of dates."

Incidentally, the special session is being convened a day after Modi's 73rd birthday. The BJP observes the 16-day period from Modi's birthday to Gandhi Jayanti on October 2 as 'sewa pakhwara' during which various programmes are held across the country.

The last time Parliament met outside its three usual sessions was --at midnight on June 30, 2017, to mark the rollout of GST. However, it was a joint sitting of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and was not a proper session. A six-day special sitting was held in August 1997 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of India's independence.

Midnight sessions were also held on August 9, 1992, for the 50th anniversary of the 'Quit India Movement', August 14-15, 1972 to celebrate the silver jubilee of India's independence, while the first such session was on August 14-15, 1947 on the eve of India's independence.

SIA Arrests

special drive to trace and produce before the concerned Hon'ble Court all absconders of terrorism related cases for facing the trial under law. SIA has so far verified and identified 369 (215-Jammu and 154-Kashmir) absconders out of 734 absconders (317 in Jammu and 417 in Kashmir) in 327 TADA/POTA cases," officials said.

He further said SIA was looking into how they managed to escape from the law and live normal life at their native place without being traced for so long adding and other aspects of "larger criminal conspiracy and nexus thereof and role of insiders if any will also be investigated by the SIA".

He said of the 369 verified absconders, 80 have died, 45 are residing in Pakistan or Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and other countries, 127 remain untraced and four are in jails.

The eight arrested absconders were involved in terrorism and disruptive activities and were booked in TADA cases registered three decades ago in different police stations of Doda district and charge-sheeted in the TADA Court Jammu, the official said.

They managed to escape the clutches of the law for decades by going underground before resurfacing to enjoy normal family life at their native or some distant places, he said.

Some of these absconders had managed to get into government services and bagged contracts, while others got engaged in private businesses and even in courts, the official said.

Those apprehended have been identified as Adil Farooq Faridi of Jammu, a government employee presently posted in Jammu and Kashmir Board Of School Education), Ishfaq Ahmed who was working as a writer in Doda court complex, Mohd Iqbal, Mujahid Hussain, Tariq Hussain, Ishtiaq Ahmed Dev, Ajaz Ahmed and Jameel Ahmed.

They will be produced before the TADA/POTA court in Jammu in pursuance of warrants issued against them, the official said.

He said the apprehended terrorists were involved in various terrorist activities including killings, kidnapping for ransom, instigating people for violence by setting false narratives during prayer meetings and atrocities at gunpoint between 1991 and 1993.

They were also named in an FIR following the recovery of a huge cache of arms and ammunition in the Shambaz area of Doda on June 22, 1994.

The official said how these absconder terrorists managed to escape the law and live a normal life without being traced for so long will also be investigated by the SIA.

62-Day Annual

holy cave in the early hours of Thursday for day-long prayers, they said.

The group of sadhus and devotees trekked 42 kilometres from Pahalgam to reach the cave shrine with night halts at Chandanwari, Sheshnag and Panchtarani.

Omar Ordered

man of means, and has access to financial privilege that evades the common man. While it is understandable that being a politician, revealing all information pertaining to financial assets might be dangerous, however, there is no iota of doubt that the Respondent does have the resources to provide for his wife and children," said the court.

"(This court directs) the interim maintenance amount to be increased from Rs. 75,000/- per month to Rs. 1,50,000/- per month for the Petitioner (Payal Abdullah) from the date of the application... Resultantly, this Court directs the Respondent to pay a sum of Rs. 60,000/- per month per son for the purpose of their education," it ordered.

Omar Abdullah submitted before the high court he was discharging his duty of maintaining the children and his wife was consistently misrepresenting her actual financial position.

The court, in its order, observed that attainment of majority by a son should not absolve a father of his responsibilities of maintaining his children and ensuring their proper education, and that the mother cannot be the only one bearing the burden of expenses for raising and educating them.

"Even if the wife has sufficient financial means to sustain herself, the husband cannot wash his hands off the responsibilities that are bestowed upon him when it comes to the upbringing of his children," the court said. "The Petitioner has been saddled with the responsibility of paying the entire fee for the education of both the children, however, it was the duty of the father to also contribute towards their education. Therefore, even though the sons are not entitled to any maintenance as per the law, this Court is of the opinion that the Respondent should compensate the Petitioner by sharing the burden of the amount spent by her towards the expenses and upkeep of the children," the court

The court clarified the period of compensation shall commence from the date when the children were enrolled in their law college, and shall subsist till their graduation from there.

"This court is pained to note that in such acrimonious proceedings, the parents tend to make their children their pawns, sidelining their happiness in order to vindicate themselves," remarked Justice Prasad.

The court, however, rejected Payal Abdullah's request to increase, at this stage, the maintenance amount for the purpose of payment of rent of her present dwelling.

"The learned Family Court has rightly observed in the impugned order that the property owned by the wife, which is located at Westend, New Delhi, is lying vacant. It is not only at the disposal of Payal Abdullah for her to take up residence there, but is also available to her for fetching rent out of it," the court said.

Noting that the maintenance plea by the petitioners was filed in the year 2016, the court asked the family court to dispose it off as expeditiously as possible, preferably within 12 months.

In a separate case, a trial court in 2016 had dismissed Omar Abdullah's request for a divorce, concluding that he had not substantiated the irretrievable breakdown of the marriage and his allegations of cruelty or desertion.

HC Seeks Report

Rules/Acts, and, if all the relevant norms were fully complied with. The Review Committee had been directed to submit its report within fifteen days.

days.
"The Review Committee constituted in terms of Government Order No. 487-JK (GAD) of 2023 dated 22.04.2023, shall submit its report within a period of ten days from the date of passing of this judgment," the court said.

The Chief Secretary, the court said, shall take a decision on the basis of the report and recommendations made by the Review Committee within a period of ten days thereafter.

"The decision of the Chief Secretary shall be communicated to the Secretary, JKSSB, who is directed to proceed strictly in accordance with the decision taken by the Government," the court said, adding, "However, till the final decision is taken by the Government, the JKSSB shall not proceed with the selection process."

In their petition, the petitioners being aspirants and 40 in number, had sought the court's intervention for a fair process of recruitment. They not only sought fairness by the recruiting agency but also by the agency conducting the examination.

The court observed that petitioners raised the Orwellian concern about the alleged possibility of modern technology being misused and abused by M/s Aptech Limited and others. Regarding Aptech Limited, the petitioners had contended that it has "tainted past record and has also been blacklisted once."

The petitioners had responded to the advertisement for various examinations to be conducted by the JKSSB.

HC Upholds Life

of appellant for the charge deserves to be

Resultantly, the court said that the appeal stands dismissed, while the conviction and sentence rendered by the trial court against the appellant for commission of offence under section 302 RPC stands confirmed and unheld

302 RPC stands confirmed and upheld.
According to prosecution, on 22 September 2010 at 12 pm a complaint was received in police station Kargil by a woman levelling allegations against Dass of beating her children as he being her 2nd husband and that girl's body was found

in septic tank. Winds Of Change

blood centres, perform basic banking transactions viz cash withdrawal, Intrabank/ interbank money transfer, balance enquiry, post matric scholarship to Pahari speaking students, the citi-

zens can available all the services online
The users can register using this service to apply for various e-Services applications such as Domicile Certificate, MUMKIN Scheme Commercial water connection etc. The citizen can apply for the various services provided by the

Making the services face-less and paperless, the government of J&K launched Mobile Dost App bringing a new era in mobile governance.

With J&K moving towards digital revolution and in order to make digital transactions available to citizens, the government introduced DigiPay AePs (Aadhaar enabled payment system) which empowers a common citizen to use Aadhaar as his/her identity to access his/her respective bank account.

An official from Divisional administration told

Kashmir Observer that with the implementation of e-Office in Jammu & Kashmir, file disposal rate has been brought down to 97 percent. "It's a step towards easy digital governance," he said.

Under the eUNNAT application the citizens of UT can access various services provided by the Government. It provides end-to-end integrated solutions to various services which can be availed through eUNNAT Application. Online verification of various certificates issued by various Departments is also available through e-Services.

Under e-UNNAT, 445 services of various de-

partments have been integrated with this portal.

The official said more than 480 government offices are now connected with e-Office to have governance via paperless office management.

Notably, the UT has overtaken Madhya Pradesh to clinch top spot in the country by reaching 1016 citizen-centric services being provided in online mode to the people of the Union Territory. Under the Digital J&K programme launched

in mission mode last year, the number of online services has increased exponentially from 174 services in July, 2022 to 1016 services as on date with nearly 500 percent increase in just one year. Pertinent to mention the UT is celebrating

August 31st to September 6th, 2023.

Digital Week that is scheduled to take place from

This event, being observed across Jammu and Kashmir, aims to raise awareness about the various services available online to the public. The government is gearing up to organize a digital mela in every district of the valley for which preparations are going on. The Digital Week celebration, according to the government, will offer an opportunity to educate citizens about the various online services available, such as "Aap Ki Zameen Aap Ki Nigrani," "e-UNNAT," and "DigiLocker."

1 Dead In Car

of Sharifabad succumbed to his injuries at the hospital.

The injured have been identified as Tanveer Ahmad Butt, Raja Noor Al Hada, Rutba Zahra, Fayaz Ahmed, Shaukat Ahmad Butt, Iqra Jan, Bazila Jan, Javed Ahmad Rishi, Tariq Ahmed, Bilal Ahmed Butt and Farooq Ahmed Butt.

Meanwhile, police have registered a case and started further investigation in this regard.

IAF To Hold Mega

the IAF's Western Command from September 4-14, is to test the combat capabilities of the force and assess various operational dimensions, they

It will one of the largest air exercises to be carried out by the Indian Air Force (IAF) in recent times, said one of the sources, adding that all key platforms of the Western Air Command as well as assets from other commands will be deployed for the drills.

The fighter jets to be part of the drills include Rafales, Su-30 MKIs, Jaguars, Mirage-2000s, MiG-29s and MiG-21 Bisons, the sources said about the annual wargame.

They said attack helicopters, mid-air refuellers, AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control System) aircraft and the transport fleet will also be deployed for the drills.

The exercise will largely cover frontline bases in Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, the sources said.

The result of the exercise will be thoroughly examined in the Air Headquarters at the end of the drills, they added.

Following the eastern Ladakh border row, the IAF has significantly enhanced its combat capabilities as part of a series of measures, including through procurement of new equipment and weapon systems. (PTI)

Suicido Pombor

Suicide Bomberlikely to fall on the Pakistani Taliban, who have stepped up attacks on security forces since 2022. Authorities say the insurgents have found sanctuaries and have even been living openly in Afghanistan since the Taliban takeover, which also emphalded them.

also emboldened them,
There was no immediate comment from the army.
Bannu is located near the former militant stronghold of North Waziristan, which served as a base for insurgents until the army years ago announced that it had cleared the region of local and foreign militants. Occasional attacks have continued, however, raising concerns that the local Taliban, known as Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan,

are regrouping in the area.

The Pakistani Taliban are a separate group but allies of the Afghan Taliban, who seized power in Afghanistan in 2021 as the US and NATO troops

were in the final stages of their pullout. **ED Arrests 4**

branch, were taken into custody on Wednesday. In a statement, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) said a special PMLA court in Shimla sent

them to its custody for five days.

Josan and Kumar through ASAMS education group and skill development society claimed scholarship under the post-matric scheme for Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST) and Other Backward Classes (OBC) students by presenting "fabricated" documents, the agency alleged.

ing "fabricated" documents, the agency alleged.
Similarly, it said, the KC group of institutions headed by Gandhi made "bogus" claims for scholarship which were verified by Rajta.

Gandhi transferred the scholarship disbursed in the bank account of students to the bank accounts of KC group of institutions, the ED probe found.

The money laundering case stems from an FIR of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in which it was alleged that officials of Himachal Pradesh education department, private institutions and banks were involved in large-scale misappropriation of disbursement of scholarship funds of more than Rs 200 crore.

The agency had carried out raids in the case on August 29 at 24 locations in Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and Delhi. It had seized unaccounted cash of Rs 75 lakh and froze Rs 2.55 crore lying in bank accounts during these raids.

The alleged scam surfaced in 2012-13 following reports that students of government schools in Spiti Valley in Himachal Pradesh's Lahaul and Spiti district had not been given their scholarship for the past five years.

It relates to scholarships for SC, ST and OBC

pre-matric and post-matric students under 36 schemes.

It was later found in investigations that scholarships of about 32,000 students of the state were allegedly not credited to their accounts and

80 per cent of the scholarship money was paid to private institutions.

The FIR in the case was registered by the CBI On May 8, 2019, under Indian Penal Code sections 409 (misappropriation), 419 (cheating by personation), 465 (forgery), 466 (forgery in electronic documents and 471 (using forged document as

genuine).
On April 1 last year, the ED had attached assets worth Rs 4.42 crore of KC Educational and Social Welfare Society, Una, under the PMLA in the alleged scam. Twenty-two educational institutions were under the CBI's scanner for allegedly committing irregularities as well as asking students to pay money for release of their scholarships.

The CBI probe had revealed that fake letterheads to show false affiliations were used by several educational institutions to mislead the education department which failed to ensure physical verification of infrastructure and strength of students.

The other discrepancies included non-submission of Aadhaar numbers of students by institutions, using same Aadhaar accounts to withdraw scholarships of multiple students who did not exist, and opening of fake accounts in three nationalised banks.

Rajta's wife was mentioned as director in nine fake institutions which were given over Rs 28 crore of scholarship money, the probe found.

Have To Be At Absolute Best To Face Them: Kohli On Pakistan Bowlers

Press Trust of India

PALLEKELE: The great Virat Kohli feels one has to be at his absolute best to face a high quality bowling attack like Pakistan's. The Indians have won their last three ODIs against Pakistan but the last one was played during the 2019 World Cup. "I feel bowling is their strength. And they've got some really impactful bowlers that can change the course of the game anytime based on their skill set. So, you have to be at your absolute best to face them," he told Star

Kohli has been in decent form in ODIs lately, having scripted 554 runs in 13 matches in the format since last December at a commendable average of 50.36. Talking about his approach lately, Kohli said, "I only try to understand how I can better my game. Every day, every practice session, every year, every season, this is what has helped me play this well for so long and to perform for my team.

"I don't think you can perform consistently without that mindset because if your performance is your only goal, then you can be satisfied and stop working hard. There is no limit to it.

"There is no set achievement that if you reach a certain stage, you've reached excellence. I think I strive for betterment every day, so that is a better word to use, and yes, performance obviously becomes a by-product because your mindset is 'How do I make my team win from this position?"



BCCI, Viacom 18 Agree Broadcast Rights For Nearly Rs 6000 Cr



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Viacom 18 on Thursday created a near monopoly in Indian cricket broadcasting sphere by bagging both TV and digital rights of the national team's home series for the next five years with a cumulative bid of approximately Rs 6000 crore, beating Star India and Sony in a three-way battle.

The BCCI had invited separate e-bids for both linear (TV) and digital for best price discovery.

"Viacom 18 paid Rs 3101 crore (approximately) for digital and Rs 2862 crore for linear (TV). As has been the trend, digital has fetched

more in Rs 5963 crore (approx) deal.

"With IPL digital rights being bought by Viacom for Rs 26,000 crore plus, they now have almost all the high profile cricket properties save IPL linear (TV) and ICC events," a broadcasting industry source, tracking developments closely, told PTI on conditions of anonymity. The rights will come into effect with India's three-match home series against Australia beginning September 22 and end

on March 31, 2028.
"Congratulations @viacom18 for winning the @BCCI Media Rights for both linear and digital for the

next 5 years. India Cricket will continue to grow in both spaces as after @IPL and @wplt20, we extend the partnership @BCCI Media Rights as well," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said on

'X', formerly Twitter.
India will be playing 88 international games across three formats including 25 Tests, 27 ODIs and 36 T20Is with per match value of the deal standing around Rs 67.76 crore. This is nearly Rs 7.76 crore more than last cycle's Rs 60 crore per match value. However, the BCCI is getting Rs 175 crore less than Rs 6138 crore it received during last cycle which had more games, specifically 102.

Srinagar Premier League: Bank Academy Beats LKFC



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The DFA Srinagarorganised Srinagar Premier League 2023 continued on Thursday with two matches played at Synthetic Turf TRC.

In the first game, J&K Bank Academy defeated Lonestar Kashmir FC 4-1.

Lonestar Kashmir took the lead in 24th minute through Tabish, but the Bank Academy responded via Yawar in the dying moments of the first half. J&K Bank Academy went ahead in the game after Asif found the back of the net. Huzafah made it 3-1 to J&K Bank Academy in the 81st

minute, before man of the match Talib slotted the ball home to give the Academy boys a 4-1 win.

In the second game, Galaxy FC played Kashmir Avengers FC. The match ended 0-0 as both teams failed to capitalise on goal-scoring opportunities.

The league will be taking a break on Friday, before returning on Saturday with one fixture on schedule. ARCO FC will play Kashmir Maharaja FC, with kick off at 7:00.

The Srinagar Premier League is currently a two-horse race, with Downtown Heroes FC and FC1 going neck-to-neck in the standings.

AJKMF Complete Katsal Peak Expedition

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The All Jammu Kashmir Mountaineering Foundation, in collaboration with Jawahar Institute Of Mountaineering And Winter Sports, scaled Katsal Peak on 30-08-2023 at 10:00 am IST

A team consisting of 10 members from AJKMF and four instructors of JIM & WS, including principal Col Hem Chandra Singh, started the trek from Ganshibal village of Pahalgam on 29th Aug 2022. As per the plan, the group set up their base camp in the Tu-



liyan Valley (3300m).

The team left the base camp at 2:00 am and managed to reach the glacier in three hours.

After negotiating steep glaciers

of around 200-300 mtrs, the

team got a clear glimpse of the Katsal summit. Members braved themselves through hanging rocks, narrow ridges, as well as the scree path. The team reached the final point at 10:00 am IST and recorded an altitude of 4870m.

The team halted for an hour at the summit, which offered some beautiful views of Mount Haramukh and Mt. Kolahoi. Alpine lakes, including Tulian, Sorus, and Sorasar, were also seen. Distant views of Mt. Nun & Kun were also visible.

The group further descended back towards the base camp and, after packing up, returned all the way to Pahalgam

all the way to Pahalgam.
This was All Jammu Kashmir Mountaineering Foundation's first-ever joint ex-

pedition with a national

institution.

"The club is indebted to Principal JIM & WS Col. Hem Chandra for his unconditional support. The club is thankful to Showkat Ahmad Mir for always Inspiring and motivating us to reach great heights. The club is also grateful to Everester Mohd Iqbal Khan for always guiding us to the heights of J&K, the club is also thankful to Ajay Chauhan for their unwavering support. Lastly, we are thankful to all team members it was a great team effort to reach the Top of the Giant Mountain!" the AJKMF said in a statement.

Director YSS Inaugurates District Level Volleyball Tourney

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Director Youth Services & Sports (YSS) J&K, Subash C Chhibber, on Thursday inaugurated Inter School District Level Volleyball competitions at Sports Complex, Wazir Bagh here.

Student players of different government and private schools of Srinagar are participating in the tournament.

Director YSS expressed his good wishes with the participants and hoped that they would put-in their best efforts in displaying a professional game.

"For students, sports are a proven powerful tool for character building and overall development. Sports play an essential role in the development and character-building of students. Beyond just physical fitness, sports offer numer-



ous mental and emotional benefits that can shape a student's personality and life skills" he further said.

Joint Director Kashmir Waseem Raja and District Youth Services and Sports Officer Srinagar, Gh Hassan Lone were present at the event.

Some dedicated employees of the Department were also felicitated in the inaugural function.

DYSS Holds Multiple Sports Events In Anantnag

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The Department of Youth Services & Sports District Anantnag organized various tournaments on Thursday, including District and Zonal Levels.

A NetBall tournament was organised U-14 girls at the District Level and was inaugurated by Principal Hr. Sec. School Wanpoh.

At Zonal Level, Zone Shangus hosted a Tennis Ball Cricket Tournament U-14 boys, Zone Verinag also kick-started a Cricket Tournament for U-14 and 17 boys. Zone Dooru witnessed the Football Tournament for U-14 & 17 boys, While as Mentors Modern Institute Arwani lifted the Zonal level cricket tournament



of Bhijbehra for the Age Group of 17. In the grand finale, MMI Arwani defeated HSS Marhama by 58 runs at Sports Ground, Jablipora Bijbehara.

Earlier, while batting first, MMI Arwani scored a total of 120 runs. In reply, HSS Marhama failed to chase the target and lost the match by 59 runs.



How Many Headers Does It Take To Damage A Footballer's Brain?

Deutsche Welle

The more often a footballer plays, the higher the risk of cognitive disorders. That is the conclusion of a study that has been published in Great Britain. Cognitive disorders include increasing forgetfulness, reduced attention, concentration problems, speech disorders, orientation problems or memory loss.

For the study which was

For the study, which was commissioned by the English Football Association (FA), the researchers analyzed the questionnaires of 468 former British professional footballers over the age of 45. On average, the footballers were around 63 years old. They had to estimate whether they had headed the ball, on a per game or training session basis, between zero and five time, six to 15 time or more than 15 times. Their cognitive abilities were then tested in telephone interviews.

The result was that players with the highest frequency of headers had more than three times the risk of cognitive impairment compared to those in the lowest category.

"Similar results were observed with other cognitive tests noted with dementia and Alzheimer's disease," the study states. However, the researchers qualify this statement, saying that "due to only 13 self-reported cases of physician-diagnosed dementia, the results and conclusion pertaining to these cases should be interpreted with caution.."

In 2019, a study from the University of Glasgow had made headlines. The researchers had evaluated the causes of death of more than 7,500 Scottish professional soccer players. According to this study, the players' risk of dying from Alzheimer's, Parkinson's or other dementias was three and a half times higher than normal.

A study in Sweden — which examined around 6,000 soccer players who had played at least one game in the top Swedish league between 1924 and 2019 — concluded in the spring of 2023 that professional players had about one-and-a-half times the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia compared with the

general population.
Outfield players, especially

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defenders, were more at risk than goalkeepers, both the Swedish and Scottish studies said as they are more likely to sustain head injuries in duels and head the ball more often.

This is also the conclusion reached by the researchers in the new British study. They advise reducing the number of blows to the head to prevent

developing cognitive disorders later in life, including dementia. Further studies are needed, they say, for example to determine an upper limit for a responsible number of head concussions.

In the U.S., a ban on headers has already been in place since 2015 for young footballers up to the age of ten. In England and Scotland, header training is prohibited be-

fore the age of twelve. In Scotland, there are also restrictions for professionals: they are not allowed to play headers in training the day before and after a match.

The English Premier League have recommended 'that a maximum of 10 higher force headers are carried out in any training week.' This refers to headers after long passes, crosses, corner kicks or free kicks.

The German Football Association (DFB) wants to take a different approach: From the 2024/2025 season, children's and youth football will be reformed up to the age of eleven. Then, for example, the youngest players will only play two against two or three against three on very small pitches with small goals. A two-year pilot phase is still underway. According to the DFB, "the new forms of competition ensure that headers are virtually eliminated."

However, they say it is also important to practice good heading technique. "Among other things, training headers at a young age should include low practice volumes, the use of lighter balls, sufficient recovery time for the head and initial throwing on with the hand to head the ball."

The research phase of a study on the health of former German professional footballers, in which more than 300 former players have participated so far, will continue until the end of September. Results of the "SoccHealth" study are to be published in 2024.

Outpost Anti-Cancer Jab Taking 7 Minutes To Administer Rolled Out In England

Agenceis

An anti-cancer jab that can cut down treatment time for some by three quarters has been rolled out by National Health Service (NHS) England, the UK's publicly funded healthcare system.

The jab takes as little as 7 minutes to administer, NHS England said in a statement, adding that it will be the first health system in the world to roll out the seven-minute injection to hundreds of NHS cancer patients each year.

The vaccine has been approved by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), the statement said.

MHRA is a UK state agency responsible for ensuring that medicines and medical devices work and are acceptably

Currently, the patients receive the life-extending immunotherapy atezolizumab in hospital directly into their veins via a drug transfusion (intravenously), which can take from 30 minutes to up to an hour to administer, the statement said.

This anti-cancer jab, a subcutaneous or under-the-skin injection, is swifter and is expected to enhance the patients' experience, it said.

The quicker administration

could also free up valuable time for NHS cancer teams, it

The healthcare system of England anticipates the majority of the approximately 3,600 patients starting their annual atezolizumab treatment in England to switch onto the time-saving injection.

Atezolizumab is an immunotherapy drug, currently offered by transfusion, that empowers a patient's own immune system to seek and destroy cancerous cells. The drug is adminstered to NHS patients with a range of cancers, including lung, breast, liver and bladder.

However, patients receiving intravenous chemotherapy in combination with atezolizumab may remain on the transfusion, the statement said.

"Maintaining the best possible quality of life for cancer patients is vital, so the introduction of faster under-theskin injections will make an important difference," said NHS National Director for Cancer, Peter Johnson.

"This is great news for both patients and clinicians. We welcome any new initiative that brings speedier treatment to patients and gives them more comfortable care," said Alexander Martin, a consultant oncologist at West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust

'Monkey-Men' to Scare Away Primates from G20 Summit in Delhi

NEW DELHI: Indian officials preparing for the G20 summit next week have hired teams of "monkey-men" and erected primate cutouts to deter marauding monkeys from munching on the floral displays laid out for global leaders.

New Delhi's city council has hired more than 30 "monkey wallahs", or "monkeymen", who mimic the hoots and screams of the aggressive langur monkey — the natural enemy of the smaller rhesus macaque primates who wreak havoc in the capital's leafy government areas.

"We can't remove the monkeys from their natural habitat, so we have deployed a team of 30-40 men who are trained to scare away monkeys," Satish Upadhyay, the vice-chairman of the New Delhi Municipal Council, said on Wednesday.
"We will deploy one man

each at the hotels where the delegates would be staying, as well as in places where monkey sightings have been reported." Though revered in the majority



Hindu nation, monkeys are a major menace, often trashing gardens, office and residential rooftops and even viciously at-

tacking people for food. The Delhi metropolitan area, home to around 30 million people, has been on an intense beautification drive since India assumed the G20 presidency last vear.

Police have readied a

near-shutdown of the centre of the capital for the September 9-10 summit, with roads blocked and a holiday declared with businesses shut.But worries that troops of monkeys may charge in front of the conveys of cars ferrying presidents and prime ministers from the Group of 20 nations meant the council turned to the forest department for a plan.

Anti-Cancer Jab Taking 7 Minutes To Administer **Rolled Out In England**

Agenceis

An anti-cancer jab that can cut down treatment time for some by three quarters has been rolled out by National Health Service (NHS) England, the UK's publicly funded healthcare system.

The jab takes as little as 7 minutes to administer, NHS England said in a statement, adding that it will be the first health system in the world to roll out the seven-minute injection to hundreds of NHS cancer patients each year.
The vaccine has been ap-

proved by the Medicines Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), the statement said.

MHRA is a UK state agency responsible for ensuring that medicines and medical devices work and are acceptably

Currently, the patients receive the life-extending immunotherapy atezolizumab in hospital directly into their veins via a drug transfusion (intravenously), which can take from 30 minutes to up to an hour to administer, the statement said.

This anti-cancer jab, a subcutaneous or under-the-skin injection, is swifter and is expected to enhance the patients' experience, it said.

The quicker administration

could also free up valuable time for NHS cancer teams, it said.

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Indonesia Arrests 88 Chinese Nationals Over Love Scams

BATAM: Dozens of Chinese nationals were arrested in Indonesia on suspicion of running an online love scam syndicate that ensnared hundreds of victims in China, police said on Wednesday.

Acting on a tip-off from neir Chinese counterparts, Indonesian police arrested 83 men and five women at an industrial park in Batam city in Riau Islands province on Tuesday.

Police said the syndicate blackmailed hundreds of victims in China, many of whom were public officials.

"We are investigating if there are any Indonesians among the victims. If there are none, the scammers will be deported immediately," Riau Islands police spokesman Zahwani Pandra Arsyad said on Wednesday.

The alleged scammers pretended to have romantic feelings for their victims during video

The women scammers are



accused of seducing the victims before asking them to engage in sexual acts during the calls while other suspects recorded the videos.

The suspects then allegedly blackmailed their threatening to release the videos on social media if they refused to send them money.

Republican Senator Freezes Up In Public Appearance

WASHINGTON: Top US Senate Republican Mitch McConnell froze up for more than 30 seconds on Wednesday during a public appearance before he was escorted away, the second

such incident in a month. McConnell, 81, was replying to questions from reporters after an event with the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce in Covington when he froze up, staring into space and not responding to reporters and others nearby.

After being approached by a second person, McConnell resumed speaking but needed reporters' questions repeated to him and only answered two more questions. The longestserving Senate party leader in history, McConnell's voice was shaky and quiet.

he would support former president Donald Trump as the Republican nominee for



president before walking away with a staffer. A McConnell aide said the senator would be connext public event. The Senate is due to reconvene next week after a more-than-month-long summer recess. "Leader McConnell felt momentarily light-headed and ring his press conference today," McConnell's

spokesperson said. The incident was similar

to one that took place in the US Capitol on July 26, when McConnell froze in the middle to be led away, returning several minutes later to finish taking questions.



