

2 Fake Journalists Arrested For Extortion

Observer News Service
Srinagar: Two youths posing as journalists were arrested for allegedly demanding a bribe from a local in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, police said Saturday. Sohail Maqbool and Kaiser Farooq, both residents of Kangan were arrested by police on the basis of a written complaint filed by Gulzar Ahmed Kasana of Surfraw village of Gund, a police spokesperson said.

Giving more details, he said, police station Gund on Friday received a complaint from Kasana alleging that two unknown persons claiming to be journalists arrived at his residence at Surfraw and demanded a **► More On P10**

PHE Employee Dismissed For Swindling Rs 1.63 Cr

Press Trust Of India
Jammu: A senior assistant in the Public Health Engineering department of Jammu and Kashmir was dismissed from service on Saturday for being allegedly involved in the embezzlement of funds worth more than Rs 1.63 crore.

An order issued by Financial Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secretary of the Jal Shakti department Shaleen Kabra also directed that the embezzled amount be recovered from the employee, Nikhil Gandral, and remitted into the government treasury.

Gandral, a cashier in the Public Health Engineering department's city division I here, **► More On P10**

Will Return To U.P After Making J&K India's Integral Part: LG 'Proud Moment For India As PM Modi's Voice Being Heard Across World'



Press Trust Of India
Ghazipur (UP): Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Saturday said it was a matter of pride for the country that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's voice was being heard all over the world through the G20 Summit.

Speaking at a function here after unveiling the statue of Ramnath Yadav, leader of Ghazipur's Mohammadabad area, Sinha called upon people to reject those who make politics a business and instead support those who serve the country.

Speaking about the ongoing G20 Summit at the national capital, the LG said, "It is a matter of pride for our country that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's voice is being heard all over the world. Foreign heads of state are praising India and

the prime minister. The countrymen are also happy that their country is moving towards progress. The public is appreciating the government."

He said the prime minister "initiated the politics of serving the country" and would take the country to greater heights.

"Reject those who make politics a business and support those who serve the country and countrymen through politics, so that India can maintain its highest position in the world," Sinha said.

He added that those doing "politics of casteism and familism" and trying to defame the country will be taught a lesson.

"Both in India and outside, they are trying to disintegrate India. Exclude such elements from politics," Sinha exhorted the gathering. **► More On P10**

G20 DECLARATION

Leaders Emphasise Freedom Of Religion, Denounce Religious Hatred

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The G20 grouping on Saturday strongly deplored all acts of religious hatred against persons, religious symbols and holy books.

The leaders of the grouping who met under India's presidency here adopted the Delhi Declaration in which they emphasised the freedom of religion or belief, freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly.

"We note the UNGA Resolution A/RES/77/318, particularly its commitment to promote respect for religious and cultural diversity, dialogue and tolerance. We also emphasize that freedom of religion or belief, freedom of opinion or expression, the right to peaceful assembly, and the right to freedom of association are interdependent, inter-related and mutually reinforcing and stress the role that these rights can play in the fight against all forms



Europe-Mid-East-India Trade Corridor To Rival China's BRI

A broad alliance of states on Saturday unveiled ambitious plans to create a modern-day Spice Route linking Europe, the Middle East and India, boosting trade ties with potentially wide-ranging geopolitical implications. The United States, Saudi Arabia, the European Union, the United Arab Emirates and others launched the initiative to link railways, ports, electricity and data networks and hydrogen pipelines on the sidelines of the Group of 20 summit in New Delhi. Although heavily trade-focused, the scheme could have wide-ranging implications -- including developing contacts between long-time foes Israel and **► More On P10**

of intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief.

"In this regard, we strongly deplore all acts of religious hatred against persons, as well as those of a symbolic nature without prejudice to domestic legal frameworks, including against religious symbols and holy books," the G20 said in its joint declaration.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his introductory remarks at the start of the G20 meeting said, "India is a land of diversity of faith, spirituality and traditions. Many major religions of the world were born here, and every religion of the world has found respect here."

"As the 'mother of democracy,' our belief in dialogue and democratic principles has been unwavering since time immemorial. Our global conduct is rooted in the fundamental principle of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam,' which means 'world is one family', Modi said in his speech.

Really Big Deal: Biden | Will Give New Direction: Modi

Plans for an ambitious India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor were unveiled on Saturday with Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserting that India does not limit connectivity to regional borders and believes that it can play a key role in strengthening mutual trust. At the launch event of the 'Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment' and 'India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor' during the G20 Summit, Modi said today "we all have reached an important and historic partnership". He said in the times to come, it will become an effective medium for economic integration of India, the Middle East and Europe. "It will give a new direction to connectivity and sustainable development of the entire world," the prime minister said. "It will drive sustainable development for the entire world," Modi said. At the launch, he also said strong connectivity and infrastructure are fundamental basis for humanity and India has always laid strong emphasis on this. **► More On P10**

PM Identified As Leader Representing Bharat At G20

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi was identified as the leader representing 'Bharat' at the G20 Summit here on Saturday as he made his opening remarks at the beginning of the two-day meeting.

The government has used 'Bharat', a name used in the Constitution for the country along with India, in several official G20 documents. Official sources here said it is a conscious decision.

The name card in front of Modi as he addressed the gathering at the Bharat Mandapam, the venue of the Summit, said 'Bharat'.

A dinner invite has been sent to G20 delegates and other guests from 'President of Bharat', a move which ignited



a political row with opposition parties claiming the government is trying to drop 'India' from the country's name. They also linked the move to their decision to name their alliance INDIA.

The ruling BJP has cheered the use of Bharat, citing the ancient Hindi name's cultural roots. Some leaders claimed the English name 'India' is a colonial legacy. **► More On P10**

JKBOSE Can Prescribe Books For All Private Schools: HC

Says If Schools Choose Books On Their Own, It Would Not Only Create Chaos But There Would Not Be Uniformity In Education System

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has dismissed a petition, challenging directions by the authorities to all the private schools in last year to ensure that in the first phase, the text books published by the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education are implemented and prescribed by all of them across J&K.

"...it is clear that the policy decisions and guidelines

issued by the Board with regard to the matters relating to curriculum, syllabus and prescription of text books for the schools affiliated to the Board cannot be interfered with by the Courts," a bench of Justice Sanjay Dhar said while dismissing a petition filed J&K Private Schools United Front, a trust claiming to be working for the welfare of private educational schools and institutes.

Otherwise, the court said, the whole exercise made by various **► More On P10**

KARGIL HILL COUNCIL POLLS

Election Dept To Set Up 278 Polling Stations

Press Trust Of India

Kargil: A total 278 polling stations will be set up for the upcoming Ladakh hill council elections, the majority of which are either sensitive or hypersensitive, a senior government official here said on Saturday.

The election to the fifth Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC)-Kargil will be held on October 4. The votes will be counted on October 8, according to a fresh notification issued by the election department.

"A total 278 polling stations will be set up across all 26 constituencies for the October 4 election. Of these, 114 are hypersensitive, 99 sensitive and 65 normal," Deputy Commissioner (Kargil) Shrikant Suse, flanked by Senior Superintendent of Police Anayat Ali Chowdhary, told reporters.

He said the polling stations were categorised jointly by the civil and the police authorities and security and polling personnel will be deployed accordingly. After a rap from **► More On P10**

HIGHWAY HORROR IS OVER

No Halt To Civil Traffic During VVIP Movement: ADGP Kashmir

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a move aimed to bring relief to the commuters, the movement of public traffic will not be stopped along the strategic Srinagar-Jammu highway during the movement of VVIPs, a top police officer said Saturday.

These directions were passed by ADGP Kashmir, Vijay Kumar on Saturday while chairing a high-level meeting in Anantnag district to review the security of national highway



and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) being followed by security forces during convoy movement, a police

spokesperson said Saturday. Kumar, he said, advised all the participating officers to conduct a joint survey of national highway vis-à-vis' convoy movement in their area of responsibility (AOR) and recommend some changes where and if possible, to modify the SOPs in order to maintain a smooth flow of civilian traffic during convoy movements without unnecessary hindrance.

During the meeting, the spokesperson said, ADGP Kashmir advised **► More On P10**

S H O R T T A K E S

BSF Constable Missing From LoC

A BSF man was reported missing from his post near the Line of Control in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Saturday. The constable, hailing from Bihar, was on general duty at the Bharani forward post in Balakote sector when he went missing on Friday, they said. They said Border Security Force (BSF) troops carried out a search operation for the jawan who could not be traced following which a missing **► More On P10**

Mortar Shell Defused In Poonch

A rusted 81-mm mortar shell was detected and subsequently destroyed in a controlled explosion in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, officials said. The mortar shell was noticed by the troops of the Rashtriya Rifles during area domination at Dhundak in Surankote area, the officials said. They said the area was immediately cordoned off and a bomb disposal squad was summoned which later destroyed **► More On P10**

Tipper Crushes Biker To Death

A motorcyclist was crushed to death on Saturday by a speedy tipper in Kangan area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district. An official said that one motorcyclist has been run over by a speedy tipper bearing registration no JK13G 1817 at village Kangan Pulwama and he died on spot. He has been identified as Ajaz Ahmad Bhat son of khursheed Ahmad Bhat resident of Tilsara Pakherpora Budgam. He said that the tipper driver fled from the **► More On P10**

SRK's 'Jawan' Mints Rs 240 Cr In 2 Days

Superstar Shah Rukh Khan's action thriller "Jawan" has raised Rs 240.47 crore worldwide gross in two days, the makers said on Saturday. The pan-India film, directed by Tamil filmmaker Atlee, released worldwide on Thursday in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu. It also stars Nayanthara and Vijay Sethupathi as well as Deepika Padukone in a special appearance. "In just 2 days a 'handsome' Rs 240.47 crore worldwide **► More On P10**

Father, Son Killed As Car Rolls Into Gorge

Two members of a family died and two more were injured when their car rolled down a 400-foot-deep gorge in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, officials said. The accident took place near Dharma-Rajgarh when the family was on its way home in Kashtigarh of Doda district after attending a marriage function in Ramban, they said. The deceased were identified as Pritam Lal (35) and his 11-year-old

Proclamation Orders Issued Against 4 Terrorists

The Special Investigation Team (SIU) of Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday affixed proclamation orders on the residences of four active militants of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) that asked them to appear in court within 30 days or their properties will be attached. The militants - identified as Umair Ahmed Wani, resident of Chawalgam, Kulgam, Basit Ahmed Dar, resident of Redwani, Kulgam, Owais Ferooz, resident of Festbal, Pampore, and Momin Gulzar, resident of **► More On P10**



To place an advertisement
CALL +91-194 2502327
 Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)
 No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

Microsoft Reveals How China-Based Hackers Stole Its Consumer Email Key

IANS

China-backed hackers stole a digital consumer key from Microsoft to gain unfettered access to US government emails and the tech giant has detailed how the cyber criminals pulled off one of the biggest heists in the corporate and government circles.

China-based threat actor, Storm-0558, used an acquired Microsoft account (MSA) consumer key to forge tokens to access OWA (Outlook Web App) and Outlook.com.

"Our investigation found that a consumer signing system crash in April of 2021 resulted in a snapshot of the crashed process (crash dump). The crash dumps, which redact sensitive information, should not include the signing key," the company said after a technical investigation.

In this case, a race condition allowed the key to be present in the crash dump (this issue has been corrected). "The key material's presence in the crash dump was not detected by our systems (this issue has been corrected)," said Microsoft.

The hackers used that digital skeleton key to break into both the personal and enterprise email accounts of government officials hosted by Microsoft.

"We found that this crash dump, believed at the time not to contain key material, was subsequently moved from the isolated production network



"We found that this crash dump, believed at the time not to contain key material, was subsequently moved from the isolated production network into our debugging environment on the internet connected corporate network"

into our debugging environment on the internet connected corporate network," explained the company. "After April 2021, when the key was leaked to the corporate environment in the crash dump, the Storm-0558 actor was able to successfully compromise a Microsoft engineer's corporate account. This account had access

to the debugging environment containing the crash dump which incorrectly contained the key. "Due to log retention policies, we don't have logs with specific evidence of this exfiltration by this actor, but this was the most probable mechanism by which the actor acquired the key," Microsoft added.

THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR STATE BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION
SUB-OFFICE BANDIPORA
NOTICE

The candidate whose particulars is published in this notice claiming to have lost his original Marks Certificate of class 10th

Session: Annual Regular 2007 issued by the Board of School

Educator with the following particular:

Name: **Tabish Ayub Sofi**

Parentage: **Mohd Ayub Sofi**

Roll No: **338245**

Session: **2007 Annual Regular**

Now the candidates have applied for the duplicate marks card.

Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same undersigned within (07) days from the date of publication of this notice.

Besides the original marks card is treated as cancelled.

Sd/-
 Assistant Secretary Board of School
 Education Sub-Office Bandipora

THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR STATE BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION
SUB-OFFICE BANDIPORA
NOTICE

The candidate whose particulars is published in this notice claiming to have lost his original Marks Certificate of class 12th

Session: Bi-Annual 2021 issued by the Board of School

Educator with the following particular:

Name: **Shujaat Shafi Rather**

Parentage: **Mohammad Shafi Rather**

Roll No: **32602451**

Session: **2021-Bi-Annual**

Now the candidates have applied for the duplicate marks card.

Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same undersigned within (07) days from the date of publication of this notice.

Besides the original marks card is treated as cancelled.

Sd/-
 Assistant Secretary Board of School
 Education Sub-Office Bandipora

ازنیات واکوگرل پورہ
 با اجلاس نائب تحصیلدار اکیڈمی پورہ
 مشغول کاغذات درخواست منجانب اشتیاق اشرف و نائب اشرف پیران ہمارا شرف
 ساکنہ محمود پورہ تحصیل کنڑ برادری ربا RBA سرٹیفکیٹ تحت 294 SRO
 اشتہار ہمارا آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سامکان دفتر ہذا میں زیر کارروائی ہے اس سلسلے میں
 پٹواری حلقہ سے پورٹ ہولڈر یکارڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سامکان اور ان کے
 والد گزشتہ پندرہ سال سے وہ ہاٹس رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے
 سامکان کی مہوارہ آمدنی 15000 روپے بتائی گئی ہے کہ یہ بذیل فرد پر مشتمل ہے
 محمد اشرف ولد غلام محمد الدین راتر 45 سال مزدوری سربرہ کہہ
 عاقبت 42 سال گھریلو کام زوجہ
 عاقب اشرف 25 سال زینت
 اشتیاق اشرف 21 سال زینت
 غلام محمد الدین 65 سال عمر رسیدہ والد
 خوشی بیگم 61 سال عمر رسیدہ والدہ

اس کے علاوہ کوئی افراد کہہ نہیں سے سرٹیفکیٹ اجرا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کسی عذر یا
 اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہم اندر دفتر ہذا میں پیش کرے معیار کرنے بعد کوئی بھی
 عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

نائب تحصیلدار fko

From the office of Advocate Tabasum Jalali

In the case of
 Farooq Ahmad Mandil S/o Mohammad Sultan Mandil
 R/o Hamdania Kocha Kawdara Srinagar Shahzada
 W/o Farooq Ahmad Mandil
 R/o Hamdania Kocha Kawdara Srinagar

(Caveators)

VS
 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
 NJ

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Office Of The Child Development Project Officer Poshan Project Zaingeer

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

Applications on prescribed proforma (Annexure-I) are hereby invited from the eligible female candidates of the Panch wards/Municipal Wards shown against the below mentioned Panchayat Halqa/Municipal Wards, for the engagement of Sahayikas (AWHs) "Preferably married" for the Anganwadi Centres of POSHAN Project Zaingeer on "Honorarium basis". The applications along with required documents shall be deposited in the Office of the undersigned i.e Child Development Project Officer Zaingeer by or before 23rd of September, 2023, 4:30 PM against proper receipt.

S.NO	NAME OF THE DISTRICT	NAME OF THE PROJECT	NAME OF PANCHAYAT/ MUNICIPALITY WARD	VACANCY OF SAHAYIKAS (ANGANWADI HELPERS)	
				NO. OF PANCH WARD/ MC WARD	NAME OF AWC
1	BARAMULLA	Zaingeer	Sagipora	Ward No. 01	Dar Mohalla A.

Criteria for Selection of Sahayikas (Aanganwadi Helpers) shall remain as envisaged in the Govt. Order No: 103 JK (SWD) OF 2023 Dated 28.4.2023 i.e.

- Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 years shall be considered for the post.
- The candidate should be a domicile of the UT of J&K.
- The candidate should be a resident of the Electoral Ward where Anganwadi Centre is located.
- Minimum qualification for Anganwadi Helper shall be Matriculation.
- In case no matriculate candidate is available in the Panch Ward/MC Ward, candidates with qualification not less than 8th standard shall be considered.
- The committee shall select the most destitute/needly married women of the Panch ward/MC Ward as helper from amongst those who fulfill the qualification criteria. In case no married candidate is available, unmarried candidate can also be considered.
- Marital status certificate issued by the competent authority.
- In case of tie in merit of the eligible candidate, candidate with higher age will be preferred.

Self-attested copies of documents to be attached with the application form: -

- Panch Ward /MC Ward Certificate/Electoral Card/Present /continuous, Ward residence certificate issued by BDO/Executive Officer.
- Domicile Certificate issued by Tehsildar concerned.
- Date of Birth Certificate.
- Academic Qualification Certificates with Marks card of 10th.
- Non employment Certificate from a Gazetted Officer.
- Self-Addressed envelope with postage stamp of Rs 5/-.
- Affidavit from first class magistrate stating following facts.
- All Documents submitted are correct, without any mismatch, scanning, duplicate or fallacious in nature. If found incorrect or in any of the above stated situation the candidature of deponent may be cancelled and liable to action under law.
- Maximum qualification is Class X for Sahayikas (AWHs) and this is as per facts and onus of proving it to be true lies with the deponent.
- The deponent has read the HR policy no. 222-JK(SWD) of 2022 dated: 30.11.2022 and is well versed with all salient features of the policy and shall be applicable to the deponent in case of selection as Sahayika (AWH)
- In complete form submitted any respect shall be cancelled without any further correspondence/notice.

Note: Prescribed Application Proforma can also be had from the undersigned office "Free of Cost".

DIPK-8564/23 dated: 09-09-2023 Child Dev. Project Officer POSHAN ZAINGEER

(ANNEXURE-I)

APPLICATION FORM FOR ENGAGEMENT OF SAHAYIKA (ANGANWADI HELPER)

1. Name of the District: - Baramulla
 2. Name of the ICDS Project: -
 3. Name of the Anganwadi Centre for which engagement sought.....
 4. Panch Ward/MC Ward..... Panchayat Halqa.....
 5. Name of the Candidate (In Block Letters).....
 6. Fathers Name (In Block Letters).....
 7. Marital Status: - Married /Un Married
 8. Husbands Name (if married).....
 9. Place of Permanent Residence.....
 a. Mohalla.....Village.....
 b. Panch Ward Constituency.....
 c. Name of the Panchayat Halqa.....
 d. House No..... (As per latest Panchayat Ward Electoral)
 e. Block.....
 10. Address for Correspondence.....Mobile No.....
 11. Date of Birth.....

Photograph of the applicant duly attested by Gazetted Officer

D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y

12. Age as on 01-01-2023.....
 13. Academic Qualification

S.No	Examination passed	Board/School	Year of passing	Marks Obt.	Max. Marks	%age
1	Matric					
2	Middle					

14. Do candidate belong to family of retired AWH (Yes/No).
 Documents attached.
 15. Panch Ward Certificate/ Present /continuous, Ward residence certificate issued by BDO duly countersigned by ACR/SDM.
 Domicile Certificate issued by Tehsildar concerned.
 Date of Birth Certificate.
 Academic Qualification Certificates with Marks card of 10th.
 If candidate belong to family of retired AWH then copy of the e-ration card/any other proof.
 Non employment Certificate from a Gazetted Officer.
 Self-Addressed envelope with postage stamp of Rs 5/-.

Signature of Candidate

UNDERTAKING
 I.....D/o/W/o.....R/o.....
 do hereby certify that the contents of the application given above are correct and true to the best of my knowledge. In case any of the above contents is found incorrect, the selection committee shall have the right to reject my application and similarly revoke my engagement order.
 DIPK-8564/23 dated: 09-09-2023 Signature of Candidate

Union Territory Jammu&Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION SOPORE.
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
NIT No-96 of RnB-Sopore of 2023-2024 e-tendering DATED 08.09.2023

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

S. No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. InLacs)	Cost of T/DOC (In Rupees)	E/Money	Time for completion of work	Time &Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	M.H of Account
01	Construction of Tile Path from H/o Riyaz Ahmad Malla to H/O Mushtaq Ahmad Parrey and repairs of Drain near H/o Ab Khaliq Mir at Sheikh Sahib. MC Sopore	1.678	200/-	3360/-	15 days	20.09.2023	DEE	IDMT
02	Construction of surface Drain from House of Bilal Ahmad Teli to House of Zahoor Ahmad Teli at Teliya MC Sopore	2.00	200/-	4000/-	15 days	20.09.2023	DEE/CEE	IDMT
03	Construction of Tile Path from H/O GhMohdchanga to H/O Showket Ahmad changa at ChangaMohalla Lal Bab Sahaib MC Sopore	3.10	200/-	6200/-	15 days	20.09.2023	DEE	IDMT/ Own Resources
04	Construction of Lane by way of filling and cement Path from H/O MohdRafiqKhuroo to River Jehlum and Repairs of Drain near Masjid Syed at KraltangMCSopore	1.686	200/-	3380/-	15 days	20.09.2023	DEE	IDMT
5	Construction of link Road by way of filling of KhakBajri and WBM Grade 2nd from H/O MehrajUd Din Dar to H/O GhMohiUd Din Shah at Nasserabad and Construction of Lane by way of Nallah Muck filling/Khakbajri from H/O Gh Hassan Mohroo to H/O Mohd Ashraf Gilkar at Gousabad.	2.039	200/-	4080/-	15 days	20.09.2023	DEE	IDMT

Project Authority: M.C Sopore
 Position of funds: Available
 Position of AAA/ TS /Accorded

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

S.No	Date of issue of tender Notice	08.09.2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	08.09.2023
3	Bid Submission start date	08.09.2023
4	Bid submission End date	19.09.2023 (4.00 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bides (online)	20.09.2023 (12 PM) in the office of Ex. Engineer R&B Division, Sopore

2. Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan/ CDR (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.
 Note:-Scan all the documents on 100dpi with black and white option.
 7. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
 8. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury challan pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore (the date of challan should be in between the date of start of bid and Bid submission end date) must be uploaded with the bid. The original Treasury challan (cost of tender document), and related documents etc 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 contract.
 12. In case of CRF and any other specified project the relevant guidelines /standard bidding document Shall be followed.
 13. Instructions to Bidder (ITB)
 a. All bidders shall upload the following information and documents with their bids.
 b. All bidders shall upload copies of original documents defining constitution/legal status. Place of registration and principal place of business with cell No: and correspondence address.
 c. All bidders shall upload treasury challan.
 d. All bidders shall upload Bid security Declaration form.
 e. All bidders shall upload GSTIN No. and PAN card.
 f. All bidders shall upload Valid GSTIN along with latest sales tax clearance certificate Form GST-3B for the Proceeding Month/ proceeding
 14. All other terms, conditions shall remain same as per NIT No: 1 of 2023-24 issued under No:-350-70 dated: 20.04.2023 PWD form 25 (Double agreement form)
 20. If the contractor/HMPO quotes rate for any item of work in his tender as free of cost at the time of tendering process, his tender shall be rejected outright.
 For and on behalf of the
 Lt. Governor of J&K UT,
 No: 7191-7210
 DIPK-8519/23 Dated: 09.09.2023

Executive Engineer,
 R&B Division Sopore

3rd National Lok Adalat Held At MACT Court Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: 3rd National Lok Adalat headed by President Jeema Bashir was held on Saturday in Motor Accidents Claims Tribunal (MACT) Court Srinagar in which a large number of MACT cases were amicably settled by the parties besides more than four crore rupee was distributed among road accident victims.

In the 3rd National Lok Adalat 106 cases were taken for settlement among which sixty MACT claims were settled by the parties and rupees Four Crore Thirty Seven Lacs Eighty Thousand Seven

Hundred Fifty Seven (Rs 4,37,80,757) was awarded in favor of the victims of different road traffic accidents.

Besides that a cheque of Rs 1.5 Crore was also distributed on spot among claimants by Administrative Judge and judge of J&K High Court Justice Atul Sreedharan in presence of Chairman District Legal Service Authority Srinagar Jawad Ahmad, Presiding officer Jeema Bashir, Secretary DLSA Srinagar Jehangir Ahmad Bakshi and Lawyers of MACT Court Srinagar.

On the occasion, lawyers presenting different insurance companies were also present.



Wheelchair basketball tournament for physically challenged students was organized at Presentation Convent Higher Secondary School in Srinagar on Saturday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Commissioner SMC Pledges For 'Bhrashtachar Mukht' Campaign

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Commissioner SMC, Athar Amir Khan today took a momentous step towards eradicating corruption and promoting transparency by administering pledge to officers & officials at SMC central office, leading nationwide 'Bhrashtachar Mukht' campaign.

The pledge ceremony, held at the SMC Central Office, along with senior officers and employees, underscoring their commitment to upholding ethical standards within the organization.

Meanwhile, Commissioner SMC highlighted the online services offered by the SMC, showcasing the Corporation's efforts to initiate technology for improved service delivery and convenience for the citizens of Srinagar City.

During the ceremony, Commissioner SMC emphasized the crucial role of transparency and accountability in governance. The Commissioner reiterated the SMC's dedication to foster a work environment that is free from corruption, ensuring the highest level of integrity in its conduct.

The "BHRASHTACHAR MUKHT" campaign aims to engage all employees and stakeholders of the SMC in a collective effort to combat corruption. It seeks to raise awareness, build capacity, and implement robust anti-corruption measures within the organization, by promoting a culture of integrity and ethical practices.

Recognizing the transformative power of technology, the SMC has developed a range of digital platforms and services to streamline administrative processes and enhance citizen convenience.

The Services offered by SMC's online includes Birth certificates, Building Permissions, Community Hall Services, Compost Services, Sanitation Services, Revenue Services etc and transparent procurement processes.

J&K Police To Organize Run For Peace Event In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Police is organizing a "Run for Peace" Kashmir Marathon, under its Civic Action Program (CAP) in Srinagar on October 02.

The event shall be organized at Police Golf Course Lake View Environmental Training Park Boulevard Road Srinagar.

Registration counters for the event are being established at S.K. Indoor Stadium, Srinagar Lalit Ghat No:21, Gindun Sports Centre Rajbagh, Kashmir University, Nehru Park Ghat No:16, Police

Public School Bemina in Srinagar. In Jammu, the counters are being established at Gulshan Ground Jammu, M.A. Stadium Jammu, Jammu University.

All the interested athletes/persons are informed to get themselves registered for the event through these counters from September 10 to September 30-2023. Further details regarding the event shall be shared in coming days.

In case of any query related to the event please contact on 9419004952, 7006800628 or mail at kashmirmarathon2023@gmail.com

J&K PEWUF Protests Against Delay In Salaries

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Power Employees and Workers United Front (J&K PEWUF) Saturday staged a protest here, demanding release of their pending salaries and also their regularization and promotion as well.

Scores of members from J&K PEWUF assembled at Srinagar's Press Enclave here this afternoon and raised slogans in favor of their demands.

Speaking to the media here, the protesters said the government has made promises with them with regard to their regularization, but unfortunately nothing has been done in this regard as the services of not even a single person have been regularized so far.

FES Dep't Celebrates 'World First Aid Day' In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Fire & Emergency Services (FES) department celebrated 'World First Aid Day' at its Srinagar and Jammu headquarters today.

On the occasion, the department also organized a training program on First Aid in collaboration with the Health Department.

At Srinagar headquarters, the program was presided over by Director Fire & Emergency Services, J&K, Alok Kumar.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director appreciated the role of doctors for providing First Aid training to the service personnel on the 'World First Aid Day' celebrated on 9th September across the globe. He impressed upon the trainees to impart required training to service personnel so that precious lives can be saved by providing first aid to them during fire fighting and rescue operations.

Similarly, a function was also organized at FES headquarters Gandhinagar Jammu, which was presided over by Deputy Director, FES Command Jammu R.K. Raina.

The Medical teams deployed by Health Department both at Srinagar and Jammu imparted trainings to around 700 jawans and officers from all Fire and Emergency Stations of the UT and briefed them about precautions and necessary steps to be taken while providing first aid like specialized medical treatment, burn injuries, wounds, fracture, unconsciousness and electric shocks at the scene of fire.

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092, 2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488, 245222, 2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS
SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
BIBHERA: 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 4:47
ZUHR 12:31
ASR 4:58
Magrib 6:53
ISHA 8:15

HIJRI CALENDAR
23 Safar
1445

This Day In History

- 1547 - Battle of Pinkie, Midlothian: English beat the Scots
- 1785 - Prussia signs trade agreement with US
- 1910 - Great Idaho Fire destroys 3 million acres of timber
- 1919 - Treaty of St Germain: Austria ends incorporation with Germany
- 1919 - China becomes a member of the League of Nations
- 1926 - Allies-German treaty of Koblenz drawn
- 1926 - Germany joins League of Nations
- 1939 - Canada, under the leadership of Mackenzie King, declares war on Germany
- 1942 - British troops land on Madagascar
- 1942 - RAF drops 100,000 bombs on Dusseldorf
- 1943 - British 8th army occupies Tarente
- 1943 - German troops occupy Rome and take over the protection of Vatican City
- 1951 - British begin economic boycott of Iran
- 1965 - Great Britain performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site
- 1972 - West Germany beats Pakistan 1-0 to become first European nation since 1920 to win the field hockey Olympic title; marred by disgraceful behaviour of Pakistani players, fans & officials after losing the Munich final
- 1973 - Muhammad Ali defeats Ken Norton
- 1974 - Portugal recognizes independence of Republic of Guinea-Bissau
- 1990 - Iran agrees to resume diplomatic ties with Iraq
- 2007 - Former Prime Minister of Pakistan Nawaz Sharif returns to Pakistan after seven years in exile, following a military coup in October 1999.

From KO Archives

Cable Operators Threatened, Suspend Functioning Temporarily

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Most of the cable television operators in the Srinagar city have decided to block music and movie channels following threats by unidentified persons. "We have collectively decided to stop feeding of moral and unethical television channels like MTV, Star Movies, Star World etcetra to our customers," a press release of Cable Net-work Association said here on today.

There have been reports of threats to Cable operators in certain areas of Srinagar city by unidentified persons, asking them to close down their businesses. "We have been receiving let-ten from unidentified persons asking us to close down the cable networks," the press release said.

The association appealed the separatist political amalgam, Hurriet Conference to intervene in the matter. "It is our humble appeal to Freedom Conference and militant groups to direct us what we have to do," the statement said.

The association urged the separatist leaders to take a sympathetic view of their case as they have invested huge sums in establishing their businesses in Srinagar, after selling off their land and property.

"We are unemployed youth and will be turned jobless if we are forced to close our business," the release said.

Till the militants and the Hurriet Conference decide on the future of over two dozen cable operators in Srinagar, and many more in other towns, the Association has decided to close down their operations upto September 13.

The association has also decided to block the transmission of national and international music and movie channels. "We will not be providing obscene channels," the release said, "but only those channels which will provide moral and developmental programmes."

In early 1990 militants had banned the use of dish antennas and forced the closure of cinema halls and bars in Kashmir. Cable networks started their operations in Kashmir since early this year. This month most of the cable operators said they have received threatening letters. However, no militant group has openly asked for the closure of these networks.

At various places in Srinagar the cables running through lanes and by lanes of Srinagar were damaged by unknown persons and at least two grenade attacks were reported on structures housing cable television networks in Srinagar this month.

(Kashmir Observer, September 10, 1998)

THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR STATE BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION
SUB-OFFICE BANDIPORA

NOTICE

The candidate whose particulars is published in this notice claiming to have lost his original Marks Certificate of class 10th Session: Oct-Nov 2018 issued by the Board of School Education with the following particular:

Name: Shujaat Shafi Rather
Parentage: Mohammad Shafi Rather
Roll No.: 2612294
Session: 2018 Oct/Nov

Now the candidates have applied for the duplicate marks card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same undersigned within (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides the original marks card is treated as cancelled.

Sd/-
Assistant Secretary Board of School Education Sub-Office Bandipora

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited
Impaired Assets Portfolio Management Department
Zonal Office Pulwama

TENDER-CUM-SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF HYPOTHECATED VEHICLES

Notice is hereby given to the public in general that the below described Vehicle, hypothecated to J&K Bank Ltd. Branch Rohmo, Pulwama will be sold on "As is, Where is", "Whatever there is" and "No Recourse" basis for part recovery of outstanding amount due from Mr. Bilal Ahmad Shergujree.

Details of the Borrower	Model	Type/make of vehicles	Registration Nos:
Bilal Ahmad Shergoji S/O Abdul Samad Shergoji R/O Monghama, Pulwama	2022	Maruti Suzuki, Celerio VXi	JK13G-8398

The reserve price for the proposed sale has been fixed at **Rs.4.37 lacs (Rupees Four Lacs Thirty Seven Thousand only)**. The Vehicle is available for inspection on any working day between 11:00 a.m to 04:00 p.m at the premises of J & K Bank Zonal Office, Pulwama. Sealed quotations in the prescribed format are invited from the interested parties for the purchase of said Vehicle to be accompanied by EMD amount in the form of Demand Draft for Rs.50,000/-, drawn on any nationalized/scheduled Bank in favour of J&K Bank, Branch Rohmo, Pulwama, payable at Pulwama, which is to be deposited with the undersigned on or before 25.09.2023 during working hours at Zonal Office Pulwama. The sealed tenders will be opened on 26.09.2023 at 02.30 P.M. at the office of the undersigned in presence of the Bidders who choose to remain present on the given day and time. The Tender document containing the terms and conditions can be obtained, along with the prescribed Bid Form, from the office of the undersigned or from the J&K Bank, Branch Rohmo, Pulwama on any working day between 11:00 a.m. to 04:00 p.m.

(Aitaf Ahmad Ringshawli)
In-charge, IAPM Department,
J&K Bank Ltd.,
Zonal Office Pulwama

Dated: 11.09.2023

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@jkbank.com ; W : www.jkbank.com

DIPK-NB-3091/23 DATED: 09-09-2023

J&K Bank
Serving To Empower

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited
Branch D K Marg
Kulgam

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

Whereas Mr. Shariq Mehraj, as the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 24/05/2023 thereby calling upon the Borrower namely Mr. Bashir Ahmad Dar S/O Sonaulah Dar R/O D K Marg Kulgam to repay an amount of Rs. 28,29,818.72 (Rupees Twenty Eight Lac Twenty Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Eighteen & Seventy Two Paise Only) being the balance outstanding as on 30/04/2023 in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this the 5th day of September 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.28,29,818.72 (Rupees Twenty Eight Lac Twenty Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Eighteen & Seventy Two Paise Only) together with future interest thereon from 01/05/2023 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

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

Description of the Immovable Property
(As per the schedule provided in mortgage deed/latest particulars including any accreditations)

a. Mortgage of land:- measuring (02 kanal 14 marla) under khasra No.132, Khata No 673, Khewat No. 142 and (11marla) under khasra no.29 min khata No.950, khewat No.216 situated at D K Marag Kulgam valued Rs. 15.79 lac.

b. Mortgage of land measuring 01kanal 13 marla under khasra No.130 min, khata No.744, Khewat No.156 situated at D K Marag, Noorabad Kulgam valued Rs. 8.01 lac only.

Dated: 05.09.2023
Place: Danew Kandimarg
Authorized Officer

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

DIPK-NB-3089/23 DATED: 09-09-2023

G20 Leaders Adopt Declaration On First Day Of Summit



Agencies

NEW DELHI: The Group of 20 nations adopted a consensus declaration on the opening day of a summit on Saturday that avoided condemnation of Russia for the war in Ukraine but called on all states to refrain from the use of force to seize territory.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi of host India announced that the declaration had been adopted on the first day of the weekend summit.

The consensus came as a surprise as the group is deeply divided over the war in Ukraine, with Western nations earlier pushing for strong condemnation of Russia in the Leaders' Declaration, while other countries demanded a focus on broader economic issues.

"We call on all states to uphold the principles of international law including territorial integrity and sovereignty, international humanitarian law, and the multilateral system that safeguards peace and stability," the declaration said.

"We ... welcome all relevant and constructive initiatives that support a comprehensive, just, and durable peace in Ukraine.

"The use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is inadmissible," the statement added.

The declaration also called for the implementation of the Black Sea initiative for the safe flow of grain, food and fertilizer from Ukraine and Russia. Moscow pulled out of the agreement in July over what it

called a failure to meet its demands to implement a parallel agreement easing rules for its own food and fertilizer exports.

"On the back of the hard work of all the teams, we have received consensus on the G20 Leaders Summit Declaration. I announce the adoption of this declaration," Modi told the leaders in New Delhi, including US President Joe Biden and heads of government and state from across the world.

The differing views on the war had prevented agreement on even a single communique at ministerial meetings during India's G20 presidency so far this year.

The declaration said the group agreed to address debt vulnerabilities in low and middle-income countries "in an effective, comprehensive and systematic manner," but did not make any fresh action plan.

It said countries pledged to strengthen and reform multilateral development banks, while it accepted the proposal for tighter regulations of cryptocurrencies.

It also agreed that the world needs a total of \$4 trillion of low-cost financing annually for the energy transition, with a high share of renewable energy in the primary energy mix.

The statement called for accelerating efforts toward a phasedown of unabated coal power, but said this had to be done "in line with national circumstances and recognizing the need for support toward just transitions."

G20 Presidency Made India 'World-Ready' And The World 'India-Ready,' Says S Jaishankar

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The G20 has contributed to making "India world-ready and the world India-ready", External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Saturday as he underlined that India's presidency of the grouping prioritised addressing urgent concerns of the Global South.

Addressing a press briefing on the G20 Summit outcomes, Jaishankar said the African Union became a member of the grouping under India's presidency which was in keeping with the priority that the country attaches to addressing urgent concerns of the Global South.

"You would recall that at the beginning of our presidency, at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiative, 125 nations were consulted to express voice of the Global South," he said.

"In terms of organisation and programme, the Indian



presidency, if I may say so, has been exceptional. Events have been spread across 60 cities which are truly across the length and breadth of India. There has been a popular participation and a societal involvement of an extraordinary degree," Jaishankar said.

The interest in G20 proceedings have been particularly strong among the youth and it has been an opportunity to showcase India's culture, traditions and heritage, the

external affairs minister said. "The G20 has contributed to making India world-ready and the world India-ready," he said.

The declaration that the leaders have agreed on focuses on promoting strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth, seeks to accelerate progress on SDGs, envisages a green development pact for a sustainable future and endorses high-level principles on lifestyle for sustainable development, Jaishankar said.

Over 1,000 Dead As Powerful Earthquake Hits Morocco Near Marrakesh



Agencies

A magnitude 6.8 earthquake has hit Morocco killing at least 1,037 people, injuring more than 1,200, damaging ancient buildings, and sending terrified residents fleeing their homes into the streets for safety.

Morocco's state television reported the death toll on Saturday, citing the Ministry of Interior. Of those injured, 205 were in a critical condition.

Montasir Itri, a resident of the mountain village of Asni near the epicentre, said most houses there were damaged. "Our neighbours are under the rubble and people are working hard to rescue them using available means in the village," he said.

Residents of Marrakesh, the nearest big city to the epicentre, said some buildings collapsed in the old city, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Local television showed images of a fallen mosque minaret with rubble lying on smashed cars.

The Interior Ministry urged

calm saying in a televised statement the quake hit the provinces of Al Haouz, Ouarzazate, Marrakesh, Azilal, Chichaoua and Taroudant.

The tremor hit shortly after 11pm local time (22:00 GMT) on Friday evening, according to the United States Geological Survey (USGS).

The USGS estimated the epicentre occurred in the Atlas Mountains, some 75km (44 miles) from Marrakesh, the fourth largest city in the country.

Search teams frantically scoured collapsed buildings for those trapped. "The Royal Armed Forces, local authorities, security services and civil protection ... continue to mobilise and harness all means and capabilities in order to intervene, provide the necessary assistance, and assess the damage," the interior ministry said.

Journalist Nouredine Bazine from Marrakesh described the situation as an "horrific night".

"It was chaos the moment

the earthquake happened, we're still try to process what happened because it was so sudden," he told Al Jazeera. "In Marrakesh, the most damage was in the old city because the buildings are prone to collapse because of their fragile state."

Eid al-Tarazi, a professor of seismology in Jordan, told Al Jazeera "hundreds of aftershocks could happen".

"People will need to stay away from the buildings that are not strong because they are prone to collapse. We expect the aftershocks could continue for three to four weeks," he said.

Local media reported roads leading to the mountain region around the epicentre were jammed with vehicles and blocked with collapsed rocks, slowing rescue efforts.

Abderrahim Ait Daoud, the head of a town in the area, told the Moroccan news site 2M that several homes nearby had partly or totally collapsed, and electricity and roads were cut off in some places.



African Union Joins G20 After PM Modi Hugs Chief, Offers Him Seat At Table

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The African Union (AU) on Saturday became a permanent member of the Group of 20 largest economies (G20) of the world with Prime Minister Narendra Modi announcing its entry into the top global body.

In his opening remarks at the inaugural session of the two-day G20 Summit, PM Modi made the announcement welcoming the 55-nation AU as the new member of the grouping.

Shortly after the announcement, Union of Comoros President and AU chairperson Azali Assoumani took the seat as a full member of the G20.

"In keeping with the sentiment of sabka saath (with everyone), India had proposed that the African Union should be given permanent membership of the G20. I believe we all are in agreement on this proposal. With your agreement (he banged the gavel thrice)..." PM Modi said.

"Before we start our work, I invite the AU president as a permanent member to take his position," he said.

In the last few years, India has been positioning itself as a leading voice flagging concerns, challenges and aspira-

tions of the Global South or the developing nations, especially the African continent.

Prime Minister Modi has been leading from the front on the issue of the AU's membership of the G20. In June, PM Modi wrote to the G20 leaders pitching for according the AU the full membership of the grouping at its New Delhi summit.

Weeks later, the proposal was formally included in the draft communique for the summit during the third G20 Sherpas meeting that took place in Karnataka's Hampi in July.

The AU is an influential organisation comprising 55 member states that make up the countries of the African continent.

In an exclusive interview to PTI earlier this month, PM Modi said Africa is a "top priority" for India and that it works for the inclusion of those in global affairs who feel their voices are not being heard.

The G20 was founded in 1999 in response to several world economic crises.

The G20 member countries represent around 85 per cent of the global GDP, over 75 per cent of the global trade and about two-thirds of the world population.

Government Hiding Poor People And Animals From G20 Dignitaries: Rahul Gandhi

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Congress on Saturday accused the government of covering up or demolishing slums and rounding up stray animals in view of the G20 Summit, with its leader Rahul Gandhi saying "there is no need to hide India's reality from our guests."

The Congress shared a video on X, formerly Twitter, showing some slum areas being covered with green sheets ahead of the two-day summit, which began here on Saturday and was attended by leaders of the largest economies of the world.

"The Government of India is hiding our poor people and animals. There is no need to hide India's reality from our guests," Gandhi, who is currently abroad, said in a post on X.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh also attacked the prime minister over the matter.

"G20 is intended to be a productive gathering of the major world economies, aimed at

dealing with global problems in a cooperative manner. President Putin may have stayed away, but Prince Potemkin has been in full display with slums being either covered up or demolished, rendering thousands homeless. Stray animals have been cruelly rounded up and mistreated, only to burnish the PM's image," Ramesh said in a statement.

In addition to the video of slums being covered up, the opposition party shared videos of cruelty towards stray dogs and animals ahead of the G20 Summit.

"The government considers us insects. Are we not humans," said a slum resident, whose video the Congress shared.

"Before G20, Modi government has covered their houses with curtains to hide its failure. Because the king hates the poor," the opposition party said on its X handle.

"Watch this video to witness the shocking cruelty inflicted upon innocent stray dogs by the Modi government in preparation for the G20 summit.

It's For China To Explain Why Xi Skipped G20 Summit: US Official

Agencies

NEW DELHI: Only China can explain the reason for the absence of President Xi Jinping from the annual G20 summit in New Delhi this weekend, a US official said on Saturday.

The summit had been seen as affording a venue for a possible meeting between Xi and US President Joe Biden following months of efforts by the two world powers to mend ties frayed by trade and geopolitical tensions.

"It's incumbent upon the Chinese government to explain" why its leader "would or would not participate", Jon Finer, the U.S. deputy national security adviser, told reporters in the Indian capital.

Although the United States was often called upon to explain the actions of the Chinese government, that was not its role, he said, adding that it was "unfortunate" if China was not com-



mitted to the success of the bloc.

"Some have speculated China's absence indicates that it is giving up on the G20, building an alternative world order, that it will privilege groupings like the BRICS," Finer said.

Premier Li Qiang is leading China's delegation in the national capital. Also absent from the summit is President Vladimir Putin of Russia, which is being represented instead by Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

Last Sunday, reacting to news that Xi would not attend the G20 summit, Biden said he was "disappointed" but would "get to see him".

NEWS MAKERS

Saudi Arabian Crown Prince To Hold Talks With PM Modi On September 11, Co-Chair Strategic Partnership Council Meeting

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman arrived here on a three-day state visit during which he will hold a bilateral meeting and co-chair the first leaders' meeting of the Strategic Partnership Council with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

During this visit, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia will also attend the G20 Summit being hosted in Delhi on Saturday and Sunday. He will continue his stay in India on Monday for the state visit, a statement issued by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement.

On his arrival, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman was received by Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw at the airport.



The Saudi Crown Prince had earlier come to India on a state visit in February 2019 and this will be his second state visit. He is accompanied by a high-level delegation, including ministers and senior officials.

This visit follows the visit of Prime Minister Modi to Saudi Arabia in October 2019 during which the two countries established the Strategic Partnership Council, a bilateral mechanism.

On September 11, the

Crown Prince will call on President Droupadi Murmu. He will also hold a bilateral meeting with Modi and the two leaders will co-chair the First Leaders' Meeting of the Strategic Partnership Council, the MEA said.

They will review the progress made under the two Ministerial Committees of the Strategic Partnership Council i.e. the Committee on Political, Security, Social and Cultural Cooperation and the Com-

mittee on Economy and Investments Cooperation.

They will discuss all aspects of bilateral relations, including political, security, defence, trade and economic, cultural and people-to-people ties. Both the leaders will also discuss the regional and international issues of mutual interest, the statement said.

India and Saudi Arabia have historically close and friendly relations with extensive people-to-people contacts. The trade between both countries reached an all-time high of USD 52.75 billion in 2022-23.

India is Saudi Arabia's second largest trading partner whereas Saudi Arabia is India's fourth largest trading partner.

Both countries also have a strong partnership in the area of energy.

As World Leaders Arrived, Drone Flying Over Central Delhi Sent Cops Into Tizzy

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: A drone over central Delhi while world leaders arrived for the G20 Summit!

Police personnel scrambled and reached the spot - only to find that a photographer was using one to capture to best effect a birthday party.

The drama unfolded on Friday evening, when the city went into virtual lockdown ahead of the summit.

A control room detected that a drone was being flown in central Delhi's West Patel Nagar area. It alerted the police and a team was rushed to the spot, a senior police officer said on Saturday.

After reaching the spot, one Vineet had organised a party for the first birthday of his nephew on the terrace of his house. He had arranged a drone to cover the celebration, the



officer said.

An inquiry found that the drone belonged to one Harmanjeet Singh (29), a resident of Shadi Khampur, and was being flown by him during the party, the police said.

Police checked the video clips recorded by the drone camera and seized the device, they added.

A case has been registered against Harmanjeet Singh at Patel Nagar police station for violation of the

prohibition on the use of drones and other flying objects.

He has been booked under section 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant) of the Indian Penal Code, the officer said.

The Delhi Police had prohibited the flying of sub-conventional aerial platforms like paragliders, hang-gliders and hot air balloons in Delhi from August 29 to Sep-

tember 12 for security reasons.

The national capital, especially the New Delhi district, has been put under a security blanket as heads of state from across the world have arrived in the city to attend the two-day G20 Summit.

The Delhi Police is being assisted by over 50,000 security personnel, K9 dog squads, mounted police and the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF).

"Bhrashtachar Mukht J&K" Week Concludes

46000 Events Held, 35000 Grievance And Complaints Addressed

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: "Bhrashtachar Mukht J&K" week which began on 4th of September came to a conclusion on a high note Saturday.

The week long campaign against corruption reiterates the commitment of the Government towards a clean, transparent, corruption free, and responsive governance.

The Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, while presiding over the concluding programme interacted with all the Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police.

The Chief Secretary was apprised that during the week long campaign, around 46000 events, including camps, seminars, workshops at Panchayat, Block and District level were held. The events mainly focused on the awareness regarding various initiatives of the government viz. e-tendering, online services etc which have hugely contribute towards a transparent and a corruption free system.

"Bhrashtachar Mukht J&K" week has given an opportunity and a platform to the common people to have their grievances or specific complaints with regard to corruption registered with the appropriate authorities for a suitable and prompt redress. During the week around 39000 grievances/issues were brought to notice across all districts, out of which around 35000 were of the nature which found immediate resolution.

A major take away from the week long campaign has been the appreciation by the people, and the positive impact of the online services initiated by the government, not only in bringing such services to the public, at the click of a button, but also

in curbing corrupt practices.

The Chief Secretary, in his remarks complimented the district administrations for their efforts, senior Officers for their mentoring and Prabhari Officers for their involvement in observing the week long programme in their respective Panchayats.

The Chief Secretary emphasized that such efforts to curb corruption and to address all genuine complaints should be continued till the beginning of the vigilance week from 31st October. He added that the endeavor to make the people aware about the online services, activities to help the common man learn and adapt to using these services should be continued in a sustained manner.

Dr Mehta, impressed upon the concerned that all complaints registered on IGRAMS need to be addressed suitably and on priority. He underscored that such discussions on corruption need to continue on the first Monday of each month in every panchayat.

Besides, Seminars and programmes in schools and colleges should be held since the youth is the agent of change.

Acknowledging various suggestions given during the campaign, the Chief Secretary said that the cognizance of the issues raised such as lack of awareness regarding PSQA timeline shall be resolved suitably.

The Chief Secretary impressed upon the Officers to abide by the rules and legally correct procedures to avoid complaints and to keep corruption at bay. He underlined that a corrupt free society is the way forward, as a clean Bhrashtachar Mukht society will lead to a Nasha Mukht and a terror free society.



AGHA SYED HADI, PRESIDENT ANJUMAN-E- SHARIE SHIAN on Saturday visited Mahatta Art Gallery in Srinagar, where Mashq e Arba'een, a week long art, photography, calligraphy and poetry exhibition is currently going on

KO PHOTO

Transformative Changes In J&K Tourism Post G20: Secy Tourism

Majid Nabi

SRINAGAR: Asserting that Jammu and Kashmir experiences transformative changes following the successful G20 meeting held in May this year, Secretary Tourism, Syed Abid Rashid Shah said on Saturday that the government has started promoting 75 offbeat destinations to ensure infrastructural development in the Union Territory.

Speaking to the media after inaugurating a two-day art exhibition here, Secretary Tourism said the people of J&K enthusiastically participate in the events of national and international importance and wish such events to be held regularly in the UT.

Shah said Jammu and Kashmir will experience tremendous changes in time to come as the government is keen for the infrastructural development of the Union Territory.

He said the government as part of promoting J&K on a global scale will be organizing many events including that of the Bangus Festival in the near future.

"After G20 meeting held earlier this year, J&K has witnessed transformative changes



in the tourism sector while people enthusiastically participate in the events of national and international importance and wish such events to be held regularly," Secretary Tourism added.

However, he asserted that infrastructure development cannot be accomplished within months but rather requires intense work from all stakeholders including the government and the local populace.

Shah said the events being organized in J&K will help promote infrastructural activities and that the people have a primary role in projecting and promoting J&K tourism brand and the charismatic beauty of both the regions on the international front.

"We are organizing the Bangus Festival and all of you are

cordially invited. Although Bangus is a far off place, it is a very beautiful destination of our Union territory and such events will certainly boost economic and infrastructure development of J&K," he said.

Replying to a query that there is lack of mobile connectivity in Yusmarg tourist destination, Secretary Tourism said there are several places in the UT where mobile connectivity is required and that the government has been working in this direction.

"A private telecom operator recently installed a mobile tower in Doodhpathri while there are several other places in J&K including that of Yusmarg in Kashmir and Basohli and Sansar in Jammu where mobile connectivity is required and we are working on it," he added.

SIA Jammu Arrests Key Accused In Narco-Terror Case

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Special Investigation Agency (SIA) of Jammu and Kashmir Police has arrested a key accused in a terror-funding case involving a former minister, an official said on Saturday.

The chargesheet against former minister Jatinder Singh alias "Babu Singh" and two others were already filed in the case here in September last year.

Singh, chairman of Nature-Mankind Friendly Global Party, was arrested on April 9, last year, within days after he went underground following the arrest of his worker Mohammad Shareef Shah, a resident of south Kashmir's Kokernag, along with Rs 6.90 lakh hawala money in Jammu.

Shah had revealed that he was tasked by Singh, a resident of Kathua district, to collect the money, intended to be used for the anti-national activities, from Srinagar.

In another major success in the case, the official said Mohd Sharief Chechi, one of the wanted accused, was arrested by SIA Jammu from border township of Uri in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

After taking over the investigation of the case, the official said SIA busted the modus operandi adopted by the accused including Chechi who used to collect narcotics from across the Line of Control to generate proceeds for terror funding.

"There is a well organized drug syndicate including Mohd Rafiq Najar and Farooq

Ahmad Naikoo operating from Dubai who were infusing narcotics into the Indian territory for generating terror funds, to fuel subversive activities challenging the sovereignty, integrity and security of India," the official said.

Further investigation into aspects of cross LoC operation of this narco smuggling and terror funding syndicate is ongoing at SIA Jammu, the official said.

The case was initially registered at Gandhi Nagar police station in Jammu following arrest of Shah on specific information that he along with the former minister were working under the directions of Pakistan's ISI and their agents to fund Jammu-based separatists to carry out subversive activities.

Over 50 J&K NCC Cadets Recruited To Police Force In 6 Months: ADG NCC

Press Trust Of India

GANDERBAL: Around 350-400 NCC cadets from Jammu and Kashmir aspiring to become Agniveers are undergoing training at regimental centres, while 54 have been recruited into J-K police in the past six months, Maj Gen R K Sachdeva, Additional Director General of NCC Directorate J-K and Ladakh said on Saturday.

Visiting a training camp on the banks of the Manasbal Lake here, Maj Gen Sachdeva said there were about 13,500 cadets of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) in around 200 institutions across Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

He assessed the preparations of the cadets participating in the pre-Nau Sainik camp of the NCC.

These cadets are gearing up for the All India Nau Sainik camp scheduled to take place from October 14 to 24 at INS Shivaji, Lonavala.

"Our aim is to give training in such a way that they do not only think about themselves, but about the society as well. In this 12-day camp, the cadets went through camp drill, firing, ship directions using signs, boating, and team building activities," Maj Gen Sachdeva told

reporters. This training camp near the Manasbal Lake offers a unique platform for young cadets to receive specialised training in various naval disciplines, and fosters an environment of unity, harmony, and camaraderie among them, officials said.

The naval pre-Nau Sainik camp is hosting a total of 100 cadets -- 60 boys and 40 girls -- from both Jammu and Kashmir divisions. The cadets are undergoing training in various activities crucial for the camp, including whaler boat pulling, enterprise-class sailing, semaphore communication, and rigging, the officials added.

"This camp used to be held in Jammu, but it is being held here since the last year. We got an opportunity to interact with Kashmiri NCC cadets as well during our stay," Cadet Neha Sharma told PTI here.

"At this camp, we undergo training which gives us an idea about the Navy. We underwent training for boat pulling, sailing, and flag communication, among other activities. We got to experience new things which we otherwise do not get to learn as part of our normal studies. This camp was a great experience," another Cadet, Sonia, said.

District Magistrate Jammu Calls Strict Action Against Illegal Mining

Observer News Service

JAMMU: District Magistrate, Sachin Kumar Vaishya on Saturday convened a meeting with mining lessees, contractors and stone crusher owners of the district and announced the district administration's uncompromising stance against illegal mining, processing and transportation of minor minerals.

The District Magistrate asserted that the district administration would not tolerate any form of illicit mining activities. He underscored the significance of Jammu district, which boasts the highest number of mining blocks, carrying a correspondingly greater responsibility in safeguarding the region's natural

resources. The DM enlightened the gathering on the dire consequences of excessive mining on bankment areas and the surrounding habitations. He emphasised the paramount importance of adhering to scientific and environmental guidelines while conducting mining activities within the district.

Reassuring the attendees, the District Magistrate affirmed the district's commitment to facilitating mining operations carried out in accordance with the prescribed regulations. He reassured full support to ensure the responsible extraction of minerals while safeguarding the environment.

In a stern warning to those

directly or indirectly involved in unlawful mining activities, including the operation of unlicensed stone crushers, the District Magistrate made it clear that stringent actions would be taken against any violation of mining laws and regulations.

The attendees were also encouraged to share their feedback and voice grievances, who later expressed their willingness to cooperate with the district administration in ensuring that mining activities are conducted in a lawful and responsible manner.

Additional District Magistrate, Harvinder Singh; District Mining Officer, Gulshan Kumar besides others were also present in the meeting.

DC Kulgam Reviews Physical, Financial Progress Recorded Under Capex 2023-24

Observer News Service

KULGAM: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat on Saturday chaired a meeting of officers to take the stock of physical and financial achievements made under District Capex 2023-24.

During the meeting it was informed that there are 2421 approved works with an estimated budget of 65 crore and out of these 2421 works near about 700 works stands completed physically.

The DC directed the concerned executing agencies to ensure that implementation of all the works on ground is expedited so that all the works are completed at the earliest.

While reviewing progress of ongoing works, the DC instruct-

ed concerned officers to ensure quality work under each category is ensured so that the desired outcome is realized.

He stressed to utilize the working season properly to complete projects well in time.

Officers were stressed to put in best efforts for maximum and optimum utilization of funds under different schemes.

He also urged the concerned to work vigorously and put extra efforts to achieve the desired results.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Showkat Ahmad Rather, ADC Viqar Ahmed Girri, JDP Zahid Sajjad, ACD Mohammad Imran, GM DIC, Bashir Ahmad, Executing Engineers from R&B, REW, CEO and other officers.

BJP's Policies Have Forced People To Beg Before SC: J&K Cong

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The president of the Jammu and Kashmir unit of Congress party, Vikar Rasool Wani, on Saturday slammed the BJP, accusing the party of forcing people "to beg before the Supreme Court" for the restoration of their rights.

Wani was speaking at a function to welcome Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Jagdeep Singh who along with scores of other activists joined Congress at party headquarters here. At a separate function in Akhnoor, several BJP leaders and other social activists also joined the

including farmers and industrialists, are severely affected and have become economically weak. They (BJP) are sucking the blood of the people by introducing bulldozers, smart electricity metres and property tax," he said.

Referring to J&K BJP president Ravinder Raina's claim that the saffron party will secure 50 plus seats in the next assembly elections, Wani said the people have made up their mind to get rid of the BJP and support a Congress-led secular government.

"They have not done a single developmental work. They can-



Congress. The J&K Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) chief said the people have decided to replace the BJP with a Congress-led secular government.

"Over the past decade, BJP has destroyed everything. We have seen demonetisation and growing unemployment. Besides, special status (under Article 370) and statehood of Jammu and Kashmir was finished. Today, we are forced to beg before the Supreme Court," Wani told a gathering at party headquarters here.

He said the residents of Jammu are unhappy due to the "anti-people" policies of the BJP which has been in power since 2014, first in alliance with the PDP, followed by central rule from 2018 onwards.

"Jammu and Kashmir is number one in unemployment and all sections of the society,

not fool the people of Jammu anymore as all sections of the society have seen the real face of the party," he said, claiming that there is a wave in favour of Congress in both the Jammu region and the Kashmir Valley.

Wani described the BJP dispensation as "anti-poor and anti-development" and said administrative inertia and lack of political will has increased the people's sufferings.

"BJP has been instrumental in adding to the misery of people. In an atmosphere of uncertainty and political instability, the people of the J&K in general and Jammu region in particular are passing through the most difficult times," he said.

A party spokesperson said that several BJP leaders and some social activists joined the Congress at a separate function in Akhnoor in the outskirts of Jammu.

4 Arrested For Raping Two Teens In Samba

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Four persons have been arrested for allegedly raping two minor girls in separate incidents in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Saturday.

Balbir Singh, a resident of Mohar Garh village, was arrested on Saturday for the alleged abduction and rape of a teenage girl in Samba, a police officer said.

In another incident, three persons were arrested on Friday for their alleged involvement in a case of gang rape

involving a teenager in Samba, the officer said.

The trio -- Suresh Kumar alias Babu, Karandeep Singh alias Bunty and Pankaj Targotra -- were arrested within 24 hours after they allegedly committed the crime, he added.

Balbir Singh and the trio arrested on Friday have been booked in two separate cases under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, including abduction and rape, besides relevant sections of the Protection Of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, the police said.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER
Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir
NIRVACHAN BHAWAN, RAIL HEAD COMPLEX JAMMU
Phone No: 0191-2477519 Fax No - 0191-2477389
Email ID: ceo-jk@nic.in

"GREATER PARTICIPATION FOR A STRONGER DEMOCRACY"

NOTICE
Dated: 08th September, 2023

Whereas, vide Notice dated 04-09-2023 issued under endorsement No. CEO-MEOGF/3/2023-1/725-31 dated 04-09-2023 proposed wards to be reserved under different categories in each of the Municipal body of the UT of J&K were notified;

Whereas, last date for receiving objections/suggestions with regard to the proposed wards under different categories was kept as 09-09-2023;

Whereas, several requests have been received by this office from Deputy Commissioners as well as political parties and other stake holders to extend the last date for filing objections/suggestions on account of holidays and requirement of more time to look into the details of proposals;

Now therefore, keeping in view the demand of various stakeholders and in order to give fair opportunity to all stakeholders to make their claims/objections, the last date for receiving objections/suggestions w.r.t the draft reservation notification is hereby extended upto 14th September, 2023;

No: - CEO-MEOGF/3/2023-1/780-86 Sd/-
Dated: - 08-09-2023 (Pandurang K. Pole) IAS
DIPK-8526-23 Chief Electoral Officer,
DT 09/09/2023 J&K, Jammu.

Bogus Claims, Bogus Caste: Marriage Infested by Caste in Kashmir

What right does this shallow system have to deny people their will to choose their partners for their personal life, and their happiness?

Why are marriages on an unhealthy pause and delay in Kashmir? Are there reasons that cannot be helped or is our ignorance the elephant in the room? Why can't people marry within other castes if they really want to? Why does marrying into 'lower' castes feel worse than death itself for the 'higher' castes? Why is Kashmir enveloped by buzzing utterings like "Aes roazov ne kaensi buth haavnas layakh" "Lukh kya vanan" "Aes chhu panun azzat". Why are we enslaved by a hollow system running on bolstered arrogance and ego, both of which are the mites that eat away at the moral fabric of society through manifestations of superiority as prejudice and discrimination? Allah says in the Quran: "It will be said to them, "Enter the gates of Hell, to stay there forever." What an evil home for the arrogant!"

Aamina Hamid

Socio-cultural factors such as caste, socio-economic status, and communal homogeneity are so deeply ingrained that some individuals in Kashmiri culture opt for remaining single instead of pursuing inter-caste marriages. In this particular context, Kashmiri culture diverges from religious and ethical guidelines regarding marriage and marital customs

In Kashmir, like in many other societies, there is a complex system of social hierarchy among Muslims. In theory, Islam opposes caste barriers, emphasizing equality among all people. An individual's status should be determined by piety and virtuous qualities, not descent or heredity. However, in practice, the Muslim community in Kashmir, like in other parts of India, remains divided and influenced by caste distinctions. Certain castes are considered superior, while others are viewed as inferior. Many Kashmiri youth are unmarried when their biologically, socially and preferentially sound age has passed, and all this due to a construct which is basically just a rotten carcass. People cannot marry exercising their free will but have to go down the predetermined (by ignorance and arrogance, of course) path of separation. This almost-blasphemous sense of superiority stems from pride which is strongly denounced in Islam. The Hadith narrated on the authority of 'Abdullah b. Mas'ud that the Messenger of Allah () observed: "...none shall enter Paradise who has in his heart the weight of a mustard seed of pride." (Sahih Muslim) is enough for us to introspect and retrospect. When Islam doesn't condone pride, how can we even claim to be God-fearing and abiding Muslims when we have so much pride and prejudice in our hearts?

In the past, groups like Syeds, Peers, and Ulemas held significant influence due to their lineage tracing back to Prophet Muhammad and their religious knowledge, while others like the Wattals, Wagays, and Dums are at the lower rungs because of their occupation and perceived ignorance. However, modernisation, education, secularisation, and economic progress have challenged their monopoly. People now follow them partially, as others have gained better religious knowledge. Additionally, interaction and economic prosperity have reduced the distance between upper and lower castes, although some caste-based distinctions persist, particularly in marriage customs. The sole instance where lineage distinctions remain relevant is during the arrangement of marriages for their children. Specifically, Syeds prefer not to form marital connections with individuals from lower castes. There were no reported marriages between high-caste boys and girls with counterparts from lower castes according to a study.

In fact, research suggests that one of the potential causes behind marriage delay in the context of Kashmir is the caste and family background the families resort to extremes that are they either do not compromise a bit over caste and family match or they do a huge compromise by joining the poles apart in terms of the caste and family atmosphere (Ifraat o Tafreet).

Socio-cultural factors such as caste, socio-economic status, and communal homogeneity are so deep-



The truth of the caste system is that it is a bogus socio-economic construct

ly ingrained that some individuals in Kashmiri culture opt for remaining single instead of pursuing inter-caste marriages. In this particular context, Kashmiri culture diverges from religious and ethical guidelines regarding marriage and marital customs. Caste inherently represents a hierarchical system of graded inequality, wherein individuals within the hierarchy are both subject to oppression from those above them and may perpetrate oppression upon those below them.

The practice of caste as a determinant in marriage alliances in India dates back 1900 years, coinciding with the cessation of intermarriage between individuals from North and South India. In light of these findings, a study conducted by the Department of Sociology at the University of Kashmir reveals that 55% of the valley's population remains unmarried, with caste-based discrimination emerging as a primary factor contributing to this phenomenon.

So many Kashmiris remain unmarried beyond the appropriate age due to their inability to find a 'suitable match' within their caste. The prevalence of endogamy, the practice of marrying within specific social, religious, caste, or ethnic groups, is widespread among Muslim societies. This practice not only results in delayed marriages but also fosters sentiments of animosity, disdain, oppression, psychological distress, remorse, substance abuse, post-marital discord, and strained relationships. Allah says, in the Quran, "O humanity! Indeed, We created you from a male and a female, and made you into peoples and tribes so that you may get to know one another. Surely the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous among you...". This verse emphasizes that Allah has directed His message to all of humanity to discourage biases stemming from factors such as race, skin colour, language, place of origin, or nationality. Hence, in Islam, discrimination based on caste is strictly prohibited. A person's worthiness is determined by their moral character, regardless of their race, nationality, or caste. Those who lack such moral character are invariably considered inferior, irrespective of whether they are black or white, Syed or Andrab, Rather or Ganie. All individuals are equal in the eyes of Allah. In general matters and especially in the matters of marriage, we need to be humble and think of everyone as well as ourselves as servants of God with no ranks or entitlements. The Quran says, "The true servants of the Most Compassionate are those who walk on the earth humbly..."

The truth of the caste system is that it is a bogus socio-economic construct whether we are talking about caste in the generic Indian or in the specific, local context of Kashmir. It is an organised system, perpetuated skilfully by the influential groups to define their identity through the way of power.

Narendra Jadhav's article rings a bell here in which he says, "I sincerely believe that the caste system in India is the most brilliantly administered scam in the history of human society. It is so intricate and well-designed that it has continued for ages."

The various castes of Kashmir are mere scams and social constructs because the caste system in Kashmir is not mentioned in any ancient Kashmiri texts. The earliest mention of the caste system in Kashmir is found in the writings of Persian and European travellers from the 16th and 17th centuries. This suggests that the system was not indigenous to Kashmir, but was introduced by outsiders. Furthermore, the caste system in Kashmir is not based on any religious doctrine. The Hindu concept of varna, which is the basis of the caste system in other parts of India, is not relevant to Kashmir.

Attempting to integrate caste into existing institutional frameworks could be misleading because caste is a complex and ambiguous institution. This ambiguity is reinforced by its deep connection to sacred beliefs and experiences, resulting in strong emotional reactions when it is violated. Consequently, it diminishes agency for some individuals while empowering others.

The explicit rejection of the

In this day and age, with all the resources of knowledge on religion, justice, equality and ethics—deen and dunya at our fingertips, we cannot afford to be as ignorant and regressive as our ancestors who lived in the darkness of oblivion

popular notion of "essentialism," which ascribes unchangeable identities to social groups like race, gender, or caste, and perpetuates enduring power imbalances among these groups has been reiterated by many scholars. For example, essentialism portrays 'lower' castes as 'inferior' and 'uncivilised' due to their 'inherent inferiority' or 'impurity', reinforcing the idea that the 'higher' castes are inherently 'pure and scholarly.' While categorising caste as an institution, they consider it a "guarded institution," one that is morally accepted and inviolable, with its practices vigorously defended by influential elites. These practices include perpetuating caste through discreet means, such as arranged endogamous marriages, using caste-specific last names, and

embedding caste distinctions in everyday interactions like touch, gaze, voice, and silence. This is exactly how the 'higher' castes like how the Syeds and Peers in Kashmir have been propagating their ideology as a sanctified, inviolable, rather 'untouchable' caste system.

Caste's influence extends beyond individual perspectives, sometimes arising from market relationships or becoming embedded in other systems of interaction. It's the adaptability of caste, rather than the perpetuation of a specific cultural or social institution, that explains its lasting presence. What distinguishes individuals from privileged castes from those in lower castes is the opportunity for the former group to experience the relative insignificance of caste in their lives. They can leverage their accumulated caste privilege to access resources without their caste being a defining factor. In contrast, the lower castes carry an inescapable caste identity that overshadows all other aspects of their identity, making them highly visible in their claims for justice.

Rightfully, we only have one criterion for choosing a spouse, and that is the attribute of religiousness in a person. It was narrated from Abu Hurairah that: The Prophet said: "A woman may be married for four things: Her wealth, her lineage, her beauty or for her religion. Choose the religious, may your hands be rubbed with dust (i.e., may you prosper)." (Sunan Ibn Majah). We should not condemn intercaste marriages as there are no Islamic rulings to condemn them. Shaykh 'Abd al-'Azeez ibn Baaz said, "What every Muslim must do is not accept customs blindly, rather he should measure them against shari'ah...Whatever Allah and His Messenger have permitted is permissible, and whatever Allaah has forbidden must be abandoned, even if it is the people's custom."

If two people consensually want to marry and are religiously upright, there can be no valid reason, whether personal or societal, for their guardians to disallow the marriage. The best step for such folks would be to marry straightaway! This claim can be substantiated by a narration from Ibn Abbas that: the Messenger of Allah said: "There is nothing like marriage, for two who love one another." (Sunan Ibn Majah).

Now that caste has been deconstructed into just the ruins of an exploitative skit, we come back to ask the question with even more anger and bitterness—What right does this shallow system have to deny people their will to choose their partners for their personal life, and their happiness? In this day and age, with all the resources of knowledge on religion, justice, equality and ethics—deen and dunya at our fingertips, we cannot afford to be as ignorant and regressive as our ancestors who lived in the darkness of oblivion. We need to see the truth behind the constructed and brilliantly orchestrated caste system, deemed falsely as a cultural asset, which it most definitely is not. In fact, in following and propagating it, we are going against the basic principles of humaneness and even our respected religion. It's high time we let go of the suspension of disbelief, tear the fourth wall down, see things for what they are and refuse to be strangled by hollow shackles. We need to become responsible for all the knowledge we have been using recklessly as power till now. It is impertinent that we preach the right things first and foremost, then practice what we preach to its core, with honour and perseverance.

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

The author is a published writer, student of literature and is currently an intern with Kashmir Observer

The Korean Wave Has Reached Kashmir

Faria Bhat and Aalima Qayoom

In May 2021, Momina Amin, a college student, started to watch a Korean show, "So I Married an Anti-fan" after coming across an Instagram reel related to it.

"I thought the Instagram clip was quite interesting, so I decided to watch the entire show. Earlier, I was a fan of Pakistani dramas, but watching Korean shows made me a huge admirer of their content. The shows are much better than the ones I used to watch earlier as they consist of gripping storyline, diverse genres and interesting development of characters," she said.

Momina's fondness for Korean dramas is a result of Hallyu, or what is sometimes referred to as the Korean wave. The term "Korean wave" describes the increasing popularity of Korean culture around the globe which encompasses Korean pop music, dramas, movies, food and skincare etc.

Korean Wave, which first spread to China and Japan, later to Southeast Asia and other countries worldwide has now managed to dig its claws in the Kashmir Valley.

K-pop, a stress-buster for youngsters

Kashmir's K-pop obsession is very evident. Whether it is youngsters sporting K-pop t-shirts or emulating Korean pop stars' styles or the popularity of BTS, Black Pink and Stray Kids in Kashmir; the wave is unmissable here. In Srinagar, many stores are flooded with K-pop stationery items like pens, notebooks, bags as well hinting towards a growing fan base that is going gung-ho over Korean merchandise.

Aniqah Shaheen, a student at Cluster University, Srinagar, a BTS fan, believes that Korean Pop culture is giving youngsters in Kashmir a fresh hope and connection, having lost it in the past few years due to Kashmir's political situation as well as the distress that Covid brought along with it.

BTS has songs which talk about anxiety and depression which afford consolation to youngsters in Kashmir who want relief and want to relate with youngsters all over the world.

"BTS is a famous South-Korean music band consisting of seven members. Their songs are filled with persuasive and uplifting messages. Their songs not only motivate us to practise self-love but also inspire us to acknowledge our negative feelings



YOUNG BOYS AND GIRLS ARE SEEN WEARING KOREAN-STYLE BAGGY T-SHIRTS AND JEANS. It might be a serious concern because the younger generation, who is not perfectly knowledgeable about the Kashmiri culture, is inclined to follow a culture that is not even their

as well," Aniqah said.

K-Dramas, fresh plot lines for entertainment savvy youngsters

Toyyibah, a college student, is a fan of Korean shows.

"I enjoy watching Korean shows because they are unique and have amazing storylines. You might have never heard about a love story between a 940-year-old immortal Goblin and her young bride which is the plot of the famous Korean show Goblin: The Lonely and Great God. Isn't it interesting that ghosts run a hotel to cater to ghosts exclusively?" she said.

Korean shows have persuaded

Momina and Toyyibah to learn the Korean language. Momina is learning Korean from the Duolingo application although she believes that Korean shows are more helpful for learning the language than the app.

Korean food fancy in Kashmir

Young people in Kashmir are also becoming increasingly fond of Korean cuisine. Korean food has its own sections in some supermarkets in Srinagar like Pick N Choose, located in Lal Chowk and The Basket, located in Nishat. Their shelves are filled with Korean noodles popularly known as Ramyun, Korean cup noodles, and other Korean snacks.

"Korean noodles are in great demand. The top sold items are Buldak, Carabonara, Green Carabonara, and 2x 3x spicy noodles. The majority of people who buy these noodles are youngsters, especially above the age-group of 14," said a salesperson of The Basket, Nishat.

Korean fashion taking over streets and campuses

In Kashmir, the trend of wearing baggy clothes is escalating among the younger generation. Aniqah said, "I really like Korean fashion since it seems so casual yet stylish. Additionally, it is youthful and trendy". Momina is not a big fan of the latest Korean fashion, but she loves traditional Korean attire, "Hanbok," and it's her dream to wear this dress once in her life.

Many youngsters here desire to dress up like their Korean idols. Consequently, young boys and girls are seen wearing Korean-style baggy T-shirts and jeans. It might be a serious concern because the younger generation, who is not perfectly knowledgeable about the Kashmiri culture, is inclined to follow a culture that is not even their own.

Western Digital Holds Special Screening of Jawan in Srinagar

KO Web Desk

Khalid P Wani, Senior Direct Western Digital along with Western Digital held a special screening of Shahrukh Khan starrer and blockbuster movie Jawaan at Inox Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir.

Western Digital is the official Digital Storage Partner in collaboration with Red Chillies for the production of Jawaan. As per Mr Khalid, over 1300 TB of storage was used for the movie Jawaan which was made possible by storage solutions offered by Western Digital.

The event was otherwise envisaged for metro cities only but team Western Digital pitched for it to be held in Srinagar as well.

The special screening was attended by many prominent Kashmiris from across industries, especially people from the media fraternity.

RJ Nasir, a radio jockey from Kashmir, while hosting the inaugural of the event congratulated Khalid



P Wani for his exemplary support to youngsters in the valley.

Khalid Wani has been mentoring young entrepreneurs, engineers, sportspersons and students across Kashmir.

The special screening held in Kashmir was yet another event meant to bring the world to Kashmir. Later, the Western Digital team gave away goodies to some attendees. The attendees praised the event for being entertainment and camaraderie packed.



Monolithic Madness: How Comfortable Are You With Difference?

Anna Birawi

From time immemorial, both macro and micro power structures have utilised the idea of a homogeneous society to maintain control, gain wealth and demote anything that threatens such endeavours. Whether it be through fashion trends and other commodities, state-dictated school curriculums or moral values, we've been conditioned to subconsciously fall in line, with our 2.4 children in tow. Anyone that goes against the grain is rebellious, uncivilised, dangerous or just plain weird.

We needn't look much further than social media's heavily filtered faces or the weather-independent rainbows that bombard our senses through every social media platform to see that this obsession with a societal monolith is evident in every corner of our present day affairs. Often masked as the epitome of individual autonomy, our socially accepted uniform is consistently being refashioned at the whim of those who make the decisions, with criminalisation or ostracization the fate of those who don't agree. Whites are superior, women are property and moustaches are cool. Until suddenly, they're not.

Where do Muslims stand?

As Muslims, our stance against homogeneity is two-fold. By default, our religion makes us at variance from the global-secular status quo that has rapidly gained favour post European enlightenment. However, we are also one body that comes in varying shades, cultures, opinions, socio-economic and political situations. We dress in the traditionally bright Kente weaves of Ghana, the Baju Kurungs of Malaysia and the Zara culottes of London. We navigate life as Muslim-minorities, Muslim-majorities,

under democracies and dictatorships, with varying degrees of religious opinion and manifestation.

Externally, we don't fit into the global societal monolith. Internally, a Muslim monolithic ideal simply can't exist. Our very essence has been created with diversity at its core, and living in a multicultural and pluralistic global society, we're certainly no stranger to Allah's Divine words:

"O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you. Indeed, Allah is Knowing and Aware." (Surah Al Hujurat 49:13)

"...To each of you We prescribed a law and a method. Had Allah willed, He would have made you one nation, but [He intended] to test you in what He has given you." (Surah Al Ma'idah 5:48)

Given the innateness of diversity in Allah's creation, surely Muslims aren't naive enough to have internalised the world's monolithic obsessions, or have we? We certainly pay lip service to Allah's oft-quoted verses promoting diversity, tolerance and harmony, but whether or not we've actually internalised these values in our everyday lives is a different kettle of fish. Unfortunately, the biggest cracks often appear when we consider our day to day lives and circles of interaction within our own Muslim communities. For many of us (especially those of us growing up in a multicultural society or those possessing a brand new zeal for religiosity), our barriers often transcend externally identifiable differences and instead pertain to ideas, choices and strategies of approach.

From the way converts are bundled together in isolation - overseeing the magnitude of their differences and the beautiful



practices of our beloved Prophet who paired the ansar and muhajireen together in order to build brotherhood - to the 'are you Sufi/Salafi/ Tablighi/Ikhawani?' questions that precondition our communication, collaboration and support. We are deep within a cancel culture (1), and this isn't just limited to the hands of the takfir yielding men of speakers corner, but more subtly by the exclusivity of our gatherings and the singular narrative of those we spend time with.

Breaking our echo-chambers

Research suggests as humans we commonly seek information that supports our own views, thereby being more likely to ignore information that doesn't confirm our existing opinions. This confirmation bias (2) acts as a barrier, making it harder for us to

beneficially interact with alternative modes of thought. Whilst human nature dictates that we are most comfortable surrounding ourselves with those who validate our choices and share similar sentiments, there are ample benefits to be had from breaking our algorithmic echo-chambers (3). This effort certainly isn't easy, but it's an effort very much worth making.

By isolating ourselves amongst agreeable minds, we run the risk of becoming insular, ill-informed and unable to digest alternative perspectives (irrespective of their truth). This manifests itself in individuals and groups that are diametrically cut off from an avenue of potential growth and development. Exposing and familiarising ourselves with divergent views and opinions helps us grow by affording us ample opportunity to practise a vastness in love, tolerance, mercy and compassion. It's easy to be good with those just like us, but the real test is in exhibiting the beautiful characteristics of the Prophet with brothers and sisters whose opinions differ from our own. This is also aside from the fact that we might actually gain a novel insight that brings benefit to our lives; we might expand our worldview, or we might strengthen our pre-existing ideas.

Moreover, exposure to divergent thinking (4) forces us to come up with breakthrough ideas that allows us to unite as an ummah in those issues that really matter. Being familiar with difference means it's no longer viewed as a threat, and this makes room for the innovative, harmonious collaboration that is needed for a unified Muslim community working for a collective wellbeing. You and I might never end up in exactly the same head space, but we need to find ground-breaking ways to work together in sisterhood, cooperation and unity for the sake of Allah.

As Carl Jung once remarked, 'where your fear is, there is your task'.

A Prophetic example

We know that understanding other people's perspectives is a key leadership skill (5) and one that our beloved Prophet Muhammad exemplified time and time again. In this spirit, it's worth ending on a prophetic anecdote that beautifully encapsulates our Beloved's approach to navigating difference through co-operation. Commonly cited as a paradigm of conflict resolution, before prophethood, the Prophet was tasked with mediating a dispute that arose amongst the clans of Mecca. It had been decided that the Kaaba would be rebuilt after being destroyed by floods, but each clan believed they had the right to put the black stone back in its rightful place. This dispute became so serious that the threat of bloodshed became imminent. The Prophet innovatively suggested that the black stone be placed in a large cloak and collectively carried into place. Each clan representative took hold of a portion of the cloth, in unison they lifted the stone in place and each fulfilled a right they believed to be theirs.

As Muslims, our unity does not entail uniformity. Working with and embracing our differences can have beautiful results both for us as individuals and as one ummah. So, next time you interact with your friends, attend a gathering, or choose where to spend your time, look around and genuinely ask yourself: am I exposing myself to diverse perspectives and the growth that it affords or am I fearfully trapped in a monolithic echo chamber?

The article was originally published by Amaliah

Study Puts Forth New Bajra Cultivation Map, Triggered By Changing Climate, Crop Yield

Press Trust Of India

Researchers are urging for a re-appraisal of the pearl millet, or 'bajra', cultivation map of India, triggered by climate change. Amidst shifting weather patterns and evolving agricultural priorities, they are calling for a timely revision of the classification criteria governing pearl millet cultivation zones, originally established in 1979.

They have put forth their proposed changes in the study by the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Hyderabad, and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research - All India Coordinated Research Project on Pearl Millet (ICAR-AICRP), using data from ICRISAT's District Level Database (DLD). It is published in the journal Agronomy. The changes suggest re-evaluating

the A zone, shown in the map as covering semi-arid regions in North and Central India. While A1 covers arid regions in Rajasthan, B denotes semi-arid regions with heavy soils in South India. These zones are currently based on rainfall and soil type, the study said.

"The existing A zone can be broken down into three distinct subzones: G, AE1, and AE2, covering the states in North and Central India. The G zone encompasses Gujarat, AE1 covers East Rajasthan and Haryana, and AE2 covers Uttar Pradesh," said Vincent Garin, Post-Doctoral Fellow at ICRISAT and one of the study authors.

"The proposed new zones take into account the complexity of the system in response to changing climate conditions. While the existing zoning for the A1 and B zones is generally still applicable, the suggestion is to modify the A zone," said Garin.



According to the new zoning framework, it identifies 'AE1' as the core of

India's pearl millet production, where favourable climate and soil conditions,

along with improved pearl millet varieties, have led to significant yield increases, the study said.

Further, 'AE2' shows promising yield progress and better farming practices, offering potential for export-oriented gains, it added.

The G zone is experiencing more rainfall due to climate changes, which may lead farmers to shift towards cash crops and limit pearl millet cultivation to the summer season, it added.

"This new classification system aims to optimize pearl millet production, to effectively assist policymakers, researchers, and farmers make better evidence-based decisions," said Jacqueline Hughes, Director General of ICRISAT.

The study used digital technology and crop models to re-evaluate the zones, helping design crops and strategies tailored to the current and future climate conditions of each region.

Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir.

Scholarship Name
GSK Scholars Programme 2023-24

Description: GSK Scholars programme 2023-24 aims to support meritorious and financially constrained students who are pursuing first-year MBBS studies from government colleges in India.

Eligibility: First-year MBBS students with at least 65% marks in Class 12 can apply. The annual family income of the applicants must be below INR 6,00,000 from all sources.

Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 1,00,000 per year

Last Date to Apply: 10-10-2023
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/GSKP3

Scholarship Name
Aditya Birla Capital Scholarship 2023-24

Description: Aditya Birla Capital Scholarship 2023-24 aims to provide financial assistance & education support services to school and college students to ensure continuity of their education.

Eligibility: Open for students who are studying in Classes 1 to undergraduate courses (general and professional).

Applicants must have scored at least 60% marks in their previous class. Annual family income of appli-



cants should not exceed INR 6 lakh from all sources.

Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 60,000
Last Date to Apply: 30-09-2023
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/ABCC5

Scholarship Name 3: HDFC Bank Parivartan's ECSS Programme 2023-24

Description: HDFC Bank invites applications from students studying in Class 1 to postgraduation level. The scholarship supports meritorious and needy students belonging to underprivileged sections of society.

Eligibility: The scholarship is open for Indian nationals only. The students must be studying in Class

1 to 12, diploma, ITI, polytechnic, undergraduate or postgraduate (including general and professional) courses. The applicants must have passed their previous qualifying examination with at least 55% marks and their annual family income must be less than or equal to INR 2.5 Lakh. Preference will be given to those applicants who are facing personal or family crises that have occurred during the past three years due to which they are unable to continue bearing the cost of education and are at risk of dropping out.

Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 75,000
Last Date to Apply: 30-09-2023
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/HDFC44

(Government of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir)

Office Of The Executive Engineer (R&B) Dalgate Division Srinagar

Sub:- Invitation of tenders for the "Construction of proposed Prefabricated Hut at Sub Alpine and motorable pasture for sheep Department at Dara Srinagar"

Ref:- e-NIT No.: 01/e-tendering/DAL/2023-24/482-98, Dated: 08-09-2023.

CORRIGENDUM

The "Time of Completion" for the work quoted under reference be read as 45 Days instead of 30 Days. However, the other terms & Conditions will remain unchanged.

No.: 503-19
DIPK-8563/23 Dated: 09-09-2023

Sd/
Executive Engineer (R&B) Dalgate
Division Srinagar.

Jammu And Kashmir Sports Council

PUBLIC NOTICE

J&K Sports Council is conducting Open Selection trials in Junior Girls in Football discipline as per the below detail prior to their participation in National Football Championship to be held at Jaipur Rajasthan from 2nd to 15th of October 2023:-

Junior Girls:

born between 01-01-2010 to 31-12-2011

Trail date: 12th and 13th of September 2023 at 3.30 PM At Synthetic Turf Football Stadium Sgr and Mini Stadium Parade Jammu

Final selection trials at Synthetic Turf Football Stadium sgr on 16th and 17th of September 2023 at 3.00 PM

All the interested players (Girls) are advised to attend the trails at the said venue on the scheduled date. The players should also bring their original D.O.B certificates issued by the respective Municipalities or Board of School education. Other terms and condition shall remain same as are in vogue in J&K Sports Council.

No:- SC/SOK/50-Q/1943-49
DIPK-NB-3084/23 Dated:- 09-09-2023

Sd/-
Muzaffer Hussain (JKAS)
Div.Sports Officer (K)

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office Of The Executive Engineer R&B Div. Tangdar

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

(REW) TenderNotice No.131 SSD Tangdar of 2023-24 Endttd No.3990-4000
E-tendering DATED:08.09.2023

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

S. No	Name of Work	Panchayat	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	E/Money (in Rs)	Time of Completion In days	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account
1	Constt. Of Z khul with path near HO Mohd Sayeed Manan Chamkote a	Chamkote A	0.98	200/	1960	15 days	DEE/DDC	BDC
2	Fencing of graveyard Ustadd mohallah Chiterkote W panchayat A	Chamkote B	1.42	200/	2840	15 days	DEE/DDC	BDC
3	Constt of wall N/O Parvaiz Ah Shamsu Rehman at Chenipora B	Chenipora B	1.00	200/	2000	15 days	DEE/DDC	BDC
4	Constt of footpath form G road to Ab lattee M RAfeeq others Dhani	Saldpora	1.37	200/	2740	15 days	DEE/DDC	BDC
5	Const tof footpath with P wall near HO Ab Rouf Shakoor Shafeeq at Amrohyee W3	Amrohyee	1.41	200/	2820	15 days	DEE/DDC	BDC
6	Fencing of graveyard at Chandi Mohallah Amrohyee W5	Amrohyee	1.38	200/	2760	15 days	DEE/DDC	BDC
7	Const tof P wall with path NHO Mohd Saleem Qameer others panchayat Halqa Chanipora B	Chanipora B	0.99	200/	1980	15 days	DEE/DDC	BDC
8	Constt of P wall near house of Zahoor Ahmad RAfqat Ahmad others at Chatkadi W7	Prada	0.98	200/	1960	15 days	DEE/DDC	BDC
9	Constt of footpath with drain from HO Iqbal Reyaz others W3 lbkote	lbkote	1.39	200/	2780	15 days	DEE/DDC	BDC
10	Footpath from Zakir Hussain Shah to Masjid Shareef TAKia Bhaderkote W1st Bhaderkote	Bhaderkote	1.81	200/	3620	15 days	DEE/DDC	BDC
11	Const tof footpath with wall near HO Ashiq Hussain ADIL Hussain others at Tadd Tadd	Tadd	1.36	200/	2720	15 days	DEE/DDC	BDC
12	Repairment of sub health center panchayat Halqa Tadd	Tadd	0.98	200/	1960	15 days	DEE/DDC	BDC

Position of AA: TS; Accorded

1. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded 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 E Challan / Treasury receipt in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Div Tangdar (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Div Tangdar (Tender receiving authority). The Successful Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% additional performance security deposit of the allotted cost. The same shall be released after the successful completion of the defect liability period of the work. The EMD of 2% successful bidders shall be released after receipt of 5% Performance Security.

01.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	08.09.2023
02.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	09.09.2023
03.	Bid submission start date	09.09.2023
04.	Bid submission end date	18.09.2023 upto (04.00P.M)
05.	Date & time of opening Bids (on line)	19.09.2023 at (10.00A.M) in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Div Tangdar

Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

3. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
4. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of E Challan / Treasury receipt in favour of Executive Engineer Spt Sub Div Tangdar and Earnest Money / Bid Security in shape of CDR/FDR if applicable pledged to Executive Engineer Spt Sub Div Tangdar must be uploaded with the bid.
5. The original E Challan / Treasury receipt (cost of tender document), CDR/FDR (earnest money/bid security) and relevant documents to be submitted to the tendering authority by registered post/Courier / by hand before due date of submission of tender/as per time schedule specified contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the item rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.

12. Instructions to Bidder (ITB)

12-1. All bidders shall include the following information and documents with their bids:
a. Copies of original documents defining constitution/legal status, place of registration and Principal place of Business.
b. Valid TIN No. & PAN No. along with latest sales Tax, GST clearance certificate/acknowledgment receipt of sales Tax return file.
12-2. The bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submission of bid.
12-3. Non attendance of pre-bid meeting will not be cause of disqualification of the bidder.
12-4. All documents relating to the bid shall be in the English Language.
12-5. The material shall be supplied to the contractor of his own.

18. The key construction material shall have to be arranged by the contractor of his own as per the quality/specifications.
19. Cement /steel of approved quality. No extension in quantities/Cost is allowed in any case

DIPK-8578/23
dated: 09-09-2023

Executive Engineer
R&B Div Tangdar

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR,

Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

GIST of e-NIT No. 20 of 2023-24 Dated: 09-09-2023

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South (Awantipora), invites e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Bidders/Firms/Companies/Consortiums between bidder/firm and Financier of all classes registered in JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other state Government for "Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of electro-mechanical equipments at various water supply schemes of Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora". The bidding process shall be completed online on www.jktenders.gov.in in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of Pre-Qualification Criteria, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2nd shall consist of Financial Bid on percentage basis, in the prescribed BOQ.

Sr No	Particulars of the work	Esttd. Cost (Lacs)	Tender fee (in Rs)	Earnest money Deposit	Bid Validity	Time of Completion of work
1.	Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of electro-mechanical equipments at various water supply schemes of Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora.	Work/Scheme wise details given in Form-I of Tender Document	Rs. 500/- for each work	02% of the estimated cost of each work	120 days	As indicate against each item in Form-I of Tender Document

Programme/Position of funds: Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

The tender inviting authority is Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora.

The awarding authority is District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM).

Critical Dates:

I.	Publish Date on Tender Portal	09-09-2023 (02:00 pm)
II.	Document Download/sale start Date	09-09-2023 (02:00 pm)
III.	Date of Pre-bid meeting	16-09-2023 (11:00 am)
IV.	Bid submission start date	09-09-2023 (02:00 pm)
V.	Document Download/sale end Date	21-09-2023 (04:00 pm)
VI.	Bid submission end date	21-09-2023 (04:00 pm)
VII.	Date and time of Bid opening	22-09-2023 (01:00 pm)

1. Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in
2. The pre-bid meeting will be held in the office chamber of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora.
3. The whole bidding process shall be completed online on tender portal www.jktenders.gov.in. The intending bidders can download the bid document from the tender portal and can submit their bids by uploading them on the tender portal.

4. The bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora.

a. Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified against each item of work.

b. Bid Security to be pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora. Bid Security will have to be in form of CDR/FDR/BG of any scheduled Bank and shall be valid for a period of 120 days from the last date of submission of bid.

c. The cost of tender documents should be in form of TR/e Challan in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora.

5. The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of DD/TR/e-Challan, Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as LI after opening of financial cover.

6. The bid shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the last date of submission of bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the said earnest money shall stand forfeited and the bid shall be declared non-responsive.

7. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website www.jktenders.gov.in.

8. Queries by email if any should be made at xenphemechsouthawp@gmail.com.

No: JSD/MDSA/3177-79
DIPK-8552/23 Dated: 09/09/2023

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
PHE Mechanical Division,
South Awantipora.

India's \$3.8 Trillion Market Moment As G-20 Leaders Meet At Delhi

Bloomberg

NEW DELHI: A record stock-market valuation and surging foreign inflows make for a great backdrop as Prime Minister Narendra Modi looks to tout India's growing prominence to world leaders at this weekend's Group of 20 summit in New Delhi.

Boosted by one of the world's fastest growing economies, solid corporate earnings and an unprecedented retail investing boom, India's equity benchmark is also approaching an all-time high.

The milestones are a stark contrast to many emerging-market peers, not least to neighbouring China, whose economic woes and struggling financial markets have become a source of frustration for global investors. In fact, troubles at its biggest EM rival have only burnished India's appeal. Developing-market money managers are now most overweight on India in their Asia portfolios as a "safe place to hide," while China ranks among their largest underweights, Goldman Sachs Group Inc. analysts wrote in a

report earlier this month.

"Strong domestic growth prospects, ongoing policy reforms as well as robust credit growth are tailwinds contributing to the outperformance of Indian equities," said Audrey Goh, investment strategist at Standard Chartered Bank SG Ltd. "The shift to a multi-polar world would also likely benefit India," with the government moving to make doing business in India more attractive.

India's stock market hit an all-time high valuation of \$3.8 trillion this week, a perfectly timed billboard for PM Modi as the G-20 summit gives him another opportunity to showcase the nation's potential as a geopolitical juggernaut. With the West looking to curb China's influence, PM Modi has rolled out a mix of tariffs and incentives to lure companies to make in India and firms including Apple Inc. and Samsung Electronics Co. are among those expanding production in the nation.

Foreign investors have bought more than \$16 billion worth of Indian stocks on a net basis so far in 2023, set to be the biggest inflow in three years. The na-



tion stood out in August, when overseas funds sold shares in almost every other Asian emerging market amid a global selloff. Onshore Chinese stocks saw a record outflow last month as Beijing's attempts to restore market confidence fell flat with investors amid persistent worries over a property crisis.

"My favorite market in Asia remains India," Chris Wood, the global head of equity strategy at

Jefferies LLC, said in a Bloomberg Television interview this week. Wood described India as the "market I want to be in Asia for the next 10 years," foreseeing strong growth in corporate earnings led by a rejuvenating private investment and real estate cycle.

Having nearly tripled its value since the pandemic low for global equities in March 2020, India is now the world's fifth-

largest stock market, data compiled by Bloomberg show. The US has seen its market capitalization about double in the period.

Milan-based Generali Investments is bullish on India for its economic growth and earnings outlook, according to Michele Morganti, the firm's senior equity strategist. Generali reduced its overweight on China last month as policymakers opt

for limited measures to help companies and boost sentiment over an all-out stimulus plan, he said.

To be sure, there are several risks on the horizon for India.

Resurgent crude oil prices threaten to worsen inflation dynamics for the central bank, which is already troubled by a surge in prices of everyday items from tomatoes to onions. Rupee meanwhile is hovering near a record low.

Investors have to navigate a general election in April-May that some strategists say has the potential to swing markets. In the longer term, market watchers will also closely scrutinize India's ability to build fast and adequate infrastructure, lift education standards and create enough jobs for a burgeoning young population amid a rising threat from the increased use of artificial intelligence.

Aperture Investors ranks among the holdouts that aren't boosting exposure. India needs years of improvements in its infrastructure and private-sector buildout before it can replace China in portfolios, said Peter Marber, the New York-based

head of emerging markets at the firm.

"Just because financial investors are retreating from Chinese stocks and bonds doesn't lead to a complete shift to India," Marber said. "There aren't nearly the number of investable companies and assets in India versus in China."

For now though, markets are looking at the positives. The NSE Nifty 50 Index has jumped almost 6% in dollar terms over the past three months, beating the broader MSCI Emerging Markets Index by more than 7 percentage points.

India is one of the biggest equity overweights at Columbia Threadneedle Investments, which also expects countries including Indonesia, Mexico and Poland to benefit from the near-shoring boom as the US relocates supply chains away from China. The money manager is also bullish on Indian local-currency government bonds and dollar corporate debt as well as the rupee.

"On a relative basis, India could be the biggest winner," said Gordon Bowers, a London-based analyst at the firm.

Taxmen Can Seek Details Of ITRs Filed By Investors In Startups



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Income tax officials can seek details about ITRs filed by startup investors to ascertain if the amount invested is commensurate with the income shown in their personal ITRs, the I-T department has said.

Replying to a post of former BharatPe co-founder Ashneer Grover on X on Friday, where he flagged that a number of startups have received tax notices in the last one month asking to furnish information about their shareholders, the I-T department said the Finance Act 2012 mandates that the source of funds from a resident shareholder in startup has to be also explained by an investor.

"In the present case, it appears that the AO has sought to examine the genuineness of the transaction and source of investment by the shareholder-investor, to verify if the amount invested is commensurate with the income shown in the ITRs of the investors."

"Alternatively, if the PANs of the investors are shared with the AO by the company, he can verify the ITRs of the investors," the I-T department said. Section 68 of the I-T Act under

which the Assessing Officer (AO) has made the enquiry about creditworthiness of the shareholder/investor, places initial onus on the assessee-company (startup in this case) to prove -- identity of the investor, creditworthiness of the investor and genuineness of the transaction.

"Finance Act, 2012 mandated that the nature and source of any sum credited as share capital, share premium etc., in the books of a closely held company (excluding venture capital fund or a venture capital company registered with Sebi) shall be treated as explained u/s 68 only if the source of funds from a resident shareholder is also explained by investor," the I-T department said.

Grover in his post had said that the I-T department is asking startup companies to furnish three-year ITR of all shareholders.

"1) How and why will companies having ITR of shareholders ! 2) Why would a shareholder/individual share their ITR with a private company ?," Grover had posted, adding it's a case of an investor buying equity in a startup and not a case of a startup giving loan to its shareholders

G20 Summit: PM Modi Announces Launch Of Global Biofuel Alliance

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India on Saturday announced the launch of the Global Biofuel Alliance and urged G20 nations to join the initiative with a plea to take ethanol blending with petrol globally to 20 per cent.

Speaking at the G20 Summit session on 'One Earth', Prime Minister Narendra Modi also proposed to launch the 'G20 Satellite Mission for Environment and Climate Observation' and urged leaders to start working on 'Green Credit Initiative'.

"Today, the need of the hour



is that all countries should work together in the field of fuel blending. Our proposal is to take an initiative at a global-level to take ethanol blending in petrol up to 20 per cent," he said.

"Or alternatively, we could work on developing another blending mix for the greater global good, one that ensures a stable energy supply while also contributing to climate security," PM Modi said at the session attended by US President Joe Biden, Saudi Arabia Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak among others.

Income Tax Dept Slaps Notices On Startups Seeking Creditworthiness Of Investors

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Income Tax Department has slapped notices on some startups seeking information on creditworthiness of their investors as it looked to verify if the amount invested was commensurate with the income declared by the investors.

The tax department replying to a social media post of BharatPe co-founder and former MD Ashneer Grover, said under the law, the onus was on the assessee-company to provide the identity and creditworthiness of the investors as well as the genuineness of the transaction.

"In the last one month, a number of startups (a few in my portfolio as well) have received Income Tax notices asking to furnish information about shareholders," Grover had said on a post on X, formerly Twitter, on September 8.

"Bahut interesting hai (it is very interesting) - they are asking start-up companies to furnish a 3 year ITR [income tax return] of all shareholders."

He went on to ask how and why the startup would have ITR of shareholders. "Why would a shareholder/individual share their ITR with a private company?"

He went on to state that the reason given is to establish creditworthiness of shareholders. "Why," he asked. Company shareholders aren't given loans and instead are putting equity in the firm, he added, asking the Union Ministry of Finance to look into this.

Replying to him, the Income Tax Department in a post on X said, "Section 68 of Income-tax Act, 1961 (the Act) under which the Assessing Officer (AO) has made the enquiry about creditworthiness of the shareholder/investor, places initial onus on

the assessee-company to prove the following: a) Identity of the investor, b) Creditworthiness of the investor and c) Genuineness of the transaction."

It went on to state that the Finance Act, 2012 mandated that the nature and source of any sum credited as share capital, share premium etc., in the books of a closely-held company (excluding Venture Capital Fund or a Venture Capital Company registered with SEBI) shall be treated as explained u/s 68 only if the source of funds from a resident shareholder is also explained by investor."

On the cases raised by Grover, it said: "In the present case, it appears that the AO has sought to examine the genuineness of the transaction and source of investment by the shareholder-investor, to verify if the amount invested is commensurate with the income shown in the ITRs of the inves-

G20 Leaders Decide On Swift Implementation Of Crypto Reporting Framework

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The G-20 leaders on Saturday decided on swift implementation of the reporting framework for crypto assets, saying a significant number of member nations want information exchange on such non-financial assets to start by 2027.

The Crypto Asset Reporting Framework (CARF) or template is being developed to make sure that such non-financial assets are not used by tax evaders to conceal their unaccounted wealth.

"We call for the swift implementation of the CryptoAsset Reporting Framework ("CARF") and amendments to the CRS. We ask the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes to identify an appropriate and coordinated timeline to commence exchanges by relevant jurisdictions," said the G20 Leaders' declaration, which was adopted by consensus.

The leaders of 20 developing and developed nations have reaffirmed the commitment to continue cooperation towards a globally fair, sustainable and modern international tax system appropriate to the needs of the 21st century.

"We remain committed to the swift implementation of the two-pillar international tax package. Significant progress has been made on Pillar One including the delivery of a text of a Multilateral Convention (MLC), and work on Amount B (framework for simplified and streamlined application of the arm's length principle to in-country

baseline marketing and distribution activities) as well as



the completion of the work on the development of the Subject to Tax Rule (STTR) under Pillar Two," the declaration said.

Briefing reporters after the summit, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the G20 countries have made substantial progress on the two-pillar solution.

"Work has happened on exchange of information on immovable property transactions between countries. There is a launch of the pilot programme of the South Asia academy for tax and financial crime investigation in collaboration with the OECD," Sitharaman said.

Under the global tax deal, about 140 countries, including India, have agreed to an overhaul of global tax norms to ensure that multinational pay taxes wherever they operate and at a minimum of 15 per cent rate. However, some vexed issues still need to be ironed out before its implementation.

The G20 countries called on the OECD to develop an inclusive framework to swiftly resolve the few pending issues relating to the MLC (multilateral convention) with a view to preparing the MLC for signature in the second half of 2023 and completing the work on Amount B by the end of 2023.

Mahindra Opens New Dealership 'Encash Automotive' at Hyderpora

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Encash Automotive Pvt. Ltd., on Saturday inaugurated its new Mahindra Dealership at Hyderpora Bypass, Srinagar.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by Ms. Tabasum Nazir, Divisional Head - J&K Bank Ltd., & Ms. Maham Rouf, CEO - Encash Automotive Pvt. Ltd.

Others who were present on the occasion included Mr. Shabir Ahmad, Zonal Head-J&K Bank Ltd., Mr. Riaz Ahmad Wani, Marketing Head, J&K Bank Ltd and Mr. Umar Shamas, SME Head State Bank of India.

Various officials from financial institutions like HDFC Bank, Cholamandalam Finance, Mahindra & Mahindra Finance, and members of media fraternity, business houses and a large gathering of auto enthusiasts joined the inaugural event.

Dealer Principal, Encash Automotive, Mr. Sajad Rouf attended the inaugural ceremony virtually and thanked participants.

Speaking on the occasion, Group GM Encash Automotive Pvt. Ltd., Mr. Muzamil M Hafiz,



said "This is a moment of great pride for us, considering the large number of people associated with brand Mahindra. I am pleased that Encash Automotive will provide 3S facility to Mahindra customers. We have on boarded very highly trained staff, well-equipped

workshops, prompt spare parts availability and mobile service vans have all been readied to ensure that our customers get a trouble free and delightful experience. Being committed to the vehicle space in the region, the idea is to walk the talk and truly make our cus-

tomers prosper in their respective lives. From Urban to rural geographies, we are committed to deliver vehicles with our readily available stock. It is a great feeling that Encash Automotive will now be delivering Mahindra vehicles across locations with timely servicing

considering all the customer requirements. We will provide customers with instant Finance assistance, Insurance and benefits of X-Mart (Smart Buy- Smart Exchange) where customers can exchange their pre used vehicles. Bookings are already open for all variants/

models of Mahindra vehicles at our dealership" Hafiz said.

During the launch, Mr. Aijaz Ahmad Matoo, General Manager (Service) said "Our primary motive is to save time consumption during services, so we have enabled Encash Automotive with all new up-

graded equipment (with latest technology) which will benefit customers with quick services. Encash Automotive will keep its operations open 24x7 to avail services of Mahindra With You Hamesha like road side assistance & mobile service vehicles."

Double murder case: SC awards life term to former MP Prabhunath Singh, says state assisted accused

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has awarded life imprisonment to former Lok Sabha MP from Bihar Prabhunath Singh for the killing of two persons on polling day during assembly elections in Saran district in 1995, observing that the state had not prosecuted the case fairly and rather assisted the accused throughout.

On August 18, the apex court convicted Singh in the case, overturning the orders of the trial court and the Patna High Court that had acquitted him.

While sentencing Singh, an apex bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul also imposed a total fine of Rs 25 lakh on the RJD leader.

Referring to Section 357 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), which deals with the order to pay compensation, the apex court noted that Clause (a) provides for defraying the expenses incurred in the prosecution.

"We are not inclined to grant any such expenses to the state considering the fact that the state in fact did not prosecute the case fairly, rather throughout assisted the accused," the bench, also comprising justices Abhay S Oka and Vikram Nath, said in its judgement delivered on September 1.

It said considering the conduct



of the state and also the amount of trauma and harassment faced by the victim's family, it is of the view that in addition to the damages awarded under section 357 of CrPC, further compensation be awarded under section 357-A of CrPC.

"The state of Bihar will compensate the legal heirs of the two deceased and the injured if alive otherwise her legal heirs in the like amount of the fine awarded above i.e. Rs 10 lakh each to the legal heirs of the deceased Rajendra Rai and Daroga Rai and Rs five lakhs to the injured Devi or her legal heirs, as the case may be," it said.

"Considering the facts and circumstances of the case and the findings recorded by us and also taking into consideration the fact that the incident is of the year 1995, almost 28 years old, awarding death sentence would not be appropriate and as such we award imprisonment for life to respondent no.2 (Singh) under section 302 (murder) IPC along with fine of Rs 20 lakh," the bench said in its September 1 verdict.

The bench, which also sentenced Singh to seven years imprisonment for the offence of attempt to murder along with a fine of Rs five lakh, said

both the sentences would run concurrently.

It said a fine of this magnitude has been awarded considering the "shocking facts and circumstances" of the case which were considered in detail and findings were recorded in the August 18 judgment.

The apex court directed the fine awarded to be paid as damages and Rs 10 lakh each be given to the legal heirs of the deceased.

It said the trial court will get a preliminary enquiry conducted with regard to the legal heirs of the two deceased and the amount will be disbursed to them as per law of succession.

The bench said a fine amount of Rs five lakh would be disbursed in the same manner by the trial court to the injured victim, if she is alive, and if not, to her legal heirs.

It said the amount of fine and compensation be deposited with the trial court within two months, failing which the same shall be recovered as arrears of land revenue by the trial court.

While convicting Singh, the apex court had observed that it was dealing with a case which was an "exceptionally painful episode of our criminal justice system".

The top court had observed

there was not even a iota of doubt that Singh was instrumental in making all possible efforts to "wipe out" the evidence against him.

It had observed the three main stakeholders in a criminal trial -- the investigating officer, the public prosecutor and the judiciary -- have "utterly failed" to discharge the duties and responsibilities cast upon them.

It had noted that an FIR was registered on March 25, 1995 at Chapra on the statement of Rajendra Rai, who said that he along with eight-nine other villagers was returning after casting their votes when a car pulled over.

It was alleged that Singh, who was then contesting the assembly elections as a candidate of the Bihar People's Party, was sitting in the car and enquired as to who they had voted for.

The FIR alleged when Rai answered that they had cast their votes in favour of another political party, Singh opened fire from his rifle and injured three people.

The offence of murder under section 302 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) was added later as two out of the three injured, including Rajendra Rai, died during treatment.

The top court had delivered its August 18 verdict on an appeal challenging the December 2021 judgement of the Patna High Court which had dismissed a revision petition and confirmed the trial court order acquitting the accused in the case.

The apex court had not disturbed the acquittal of other accused in the case, saying their names were not reflected either in the dying declaration of Rajendra Rai or in the statement of his mother, who was a court witness.

Singh is currently lodged in Hazariabagh jail after his conviction in the murder of Janata Dal MLA Ashok Singh at the latter's residence in the high-security zone of the Bihar capital in 1995.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Europe-Mid-East-India

Saudi Arabia. Signatories hope it can help integrate India's vast market of 1.4 billion people with countries to the west, offer a counterbalance to lavish Chinese infrastructure spending, boost Middle Eastern economies and help normalise relations between Israel and Gulf Arab states.

"This is a real big deal," said US President Joe Biden at the launch event, calling the plan "historic".

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the so-called India-Middle East-Europe economic corridor was "much more than 'just' a railway or a cable".

"It is a green and digital bridge across continents and civilisations," she said.

One proposed project would link railway and port facilities across the Middle East -- including the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Israel -- potentially speeding trade between India and Europe by up to 40 percent.

Pramit Pal Chaudhuri, South Asia practice head at the Eurasia Group, said a shipping container that today travels from Mumbai, through the Suez Canal to Europe could in the future go by rail from Dubai to Haifa in Israel and on to Europe, saving both money and time.

At present, the Suez Canal is a major bottleneck to world trade, handling roughly 10 percent of global maritime trade but often beset by disruptions.

In March 2021, the giant container ship Ever Given caused a nearly week-long stoppage in Suez traffic after it became lodged diagonally in the waterway.

'Game changer'

At the same time, the plan neatly aligns with several of Washington's goals in the Middle East, and officials say the United States is keen to see the projects take flight.

Biden's administration is actively prodding Riyadh, a major oil producer and security partner, to normalise ties with Israel after decades of conflict and closed borders.

Saudi Arabia has never officially recognised Israel.

US involvement could also help mend deeply damaged ties between Riyadh and Washington, which frayed after the US-Iran nuclear deal and the 2018 murder of dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

According to details seen by AFP, the economic corridor would develop infrastructure to enable the production and transport of "green hydrogen".

It would also strengthen telecommunications and data transfers through a new undersea cable connecting the region.

French President Emmanuel Macron said work was now needed to make the plan "real".

All the projects could also help oil-soaked Middle Eastern states wean their economies off dependence on fossil fuels.

Michael Kugelmann, South Asia Institute director at The Wilson Center, said the plan could be a significant response to China's much-vaunted Belt and Road Initiative.

The so-called BRI has spread Chinese influence, investments and commerce across Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America.

"If finalised, it would be a game changer that strengthens connectivity between India and the Middle East and would aim to counter BRI," Kugelmann posted on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Really Big

"We are laying a strong foundation for a developed India. Through PGII (Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment), we can play a key role in filling infrastructure gap in Global South countries. India does not limit connectivity into regional borders. We believe connectivity can also play a key role in strengthening mutual trust," he said.

Modi stressed on respecting sovereignty

and integrity of all nations. He also stressed on promoting financial viability rather than debt burden as well as on following all environmental guidelines.

"With such a major step on connectivity, we are sowing the seeds for future growth," he said.

US President Joe Biden said he was proud to announce that they have finalised a "historic agreement" for the new India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor. "This is a big deal," said Biden. "This is a really big deal."

"As key part of this corridor, we are investing in ships and rails, that extends from India to Europe connected by the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Israel. It will make it far easier to trade. I want to thank sponsors and particularly Prime Minister Modi and (Saudi Crown Prince) Mohammed bin Salman," he said.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen hailed the agreement on the corridor, saying this is nothing but historic. "It will be the most direct connection to date between India, the Arabian Gulf and Europe with a rail link that will make trade between India and Europe 40 per cent faster," she said.

French President Emmanuel Macron said it is about having a first global green trade route as hydrogen is also part of this project.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said, "We have to ensure that we implement it successfully and Germany is committed to contribute in that regard."

The launch of the new corridor is a milestone in strengthening global integration, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said. She thanked Modi, Biden and all others who made it possible.

"This will scale up our economic growth. Italy is ready to play a decisive role in this initiative and we want to contribute in building bridges between the Mediterranean and Indo Pacific," Meloni said.

SIA Announces

issued by Chief Investigation officer SIT, SIA Kashmir.

2 Fake Journalists

bribe of Rs 5000. The complainant, he said, is constructing a residential house at Surfraw.

"They took Rs 500 cash from him and asked him to pay the remaining amount of Rs 4500 after two days. Further, the duo asked the victim if he failed to pay the said amount, then they would dismantle his house," the police spokesperson said.

Acting swiftly, he said, a team led by PSI Jameel Ahmad of Police Station Gund arrested both the self-styled journalists.

Notably, the spokesperson said, there were complaints that some persons on scooter with mobile and camera in hands are blackmailing and extorting public in Gund.

"Many complainants have approached the Police Station and have identified the duo for blackmailing them also," he said.

Accordingly, he said, a case vide FIR No. 53/2023 under relevant sections of law stands registered at PS Gund and further investigation has been initiated.

PHE Employee

was placed under suspension on December 12, 2019, pending an inquiry. A four-member committee was formed to verify and compile the revenue details for the period of April 1, 2019, to October 31, 2019, pertaining to financial irregularities.

The action against Gandral coincided with a week-long 'Bhrashtachar-Mukt J&K' campaign which started across the Union territory on September 4 with the aim of eradicating corruption and promoting transparent and accountable governance.

Wrapping up a series of investigations and proceedings against Gandral since 2019, the order said, Gandral is also disqualified from any future employment with the government.

An FIR was registered against the official in the Crime Branch, Jammu, and later, the general administration department sanctioned the prosecution against him, it stated

Will Return

Asserting that he needed people's cooperation to fulfil his responsibility as the LG of Jammu and Kashmir, bestowed upon him by the prime minister, Sinha said he would come back to Uttar Pradesh only after uniting the Union Territory's people through love and harmony and after "making Jammu and Kashmir an integral part of India".

"Indianness is being inculcated in the minds of the people there through love. Not only the country, the entire world is noticing that there is happiness and peace there," he added.

PM Identified

The party has, however, largely avoided getting into the 'Bharat vs India' debate with its leaders noting that the Constitution uses both names for the country.

JKBOSE Can Prescribe

stakeholders including educationists etc. would become futile.

Elaborating, the court said, if the schools are at liberty to choose books, it would not only create chaos and confusion but there would not be uniformity in the education system throughout the Union Territory.

"The Board while issuing the notification (directions) all schools to implement books by it) is right in observing that the practice of prescribing textbooks from different private publishers by different private schools results in non-uniformity in curriculum being taught and even instances of controversial content finding way in some textbooks cannot be ruled out," the court said, adding "Therefore, the decision of the Board in prescribing the textbooks published by it for use by the schools and students cannot be interfered with by this Court."

The court held that the Board has the power to prescribe the courses of instructions, prepare curricula and detailed syllabi and also prescribe text books for the Pre-primary, elementary, secondary school and High Secondary (School graduation) and school examinations and Elementary Teachers Training Course.

"It is true that power of the Board to prescribe courses of instructions, prepare curricula, syllabi and to prescribe text books has to be subject to broad educational policies and directions on the subject by the Government but the power of the Board to prescribe books which would include publication of text books, cannot be diluted or taken away."

The only requirement is that these prescribed text books have to be in consonance with the Education Policy in operation as also in conformity with the National Curriculum Framework, the court said.

"The broad educational policies and the instructions of the Government from time to time on the subject guide the Board in prescription of the textbooks."

Election Dept

the Supreme Court, the Ladakh election department rescheduled the local body elections in Kargil from September 10 to October 4. It also reserved the 'plough' symbol for the National Conference.

Holding that the National Conference is entitled to the 'plough' symbol, a Supreme Court bench of Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah on Wednesday dismissed the Ladakh administration's plea opposing its allotment.

The apex court also imposed a cost of Rs 1 lakh on the administration.

Earlier, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh dismissed the Ladakh administration's plea against a single-bench order

allowing National Conference candidates to contest the polls on the party symbol.

According to the fresh notification, the process for filing nomination papers for 26 of the total 30-member Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC)-Kargil will start on September 9. The last date to file nominations is September 16.

Four councillors with voting rights are nominated by the administration.

The nomination papers will be scrutinised on September 18 while the last date to withdraw candidates is September 20, according to the notification read.

The polling will be held from 8 am to 4 pm.

The existing council headed by the National Conference's Feroz Ahmad Khan will complete its full five-year term on October 1.

The National Conference and the Congress have already announced an alliance for the elections -- the first such exercise in the district after Ladakh was declared a Union Territory in August 2019.

Assuring free, fair and transparent elections, the deputy commissioner said electronic voting machines (EVMs) will be used in the district for the first time.

He said the entire election process will be completed before October 11.

Chowdhary, the senior superintendent of police, said additional Central Armed Police Force companies have already been deployed in the district and are performing their duties to ensure peaceful polling.

"They are keeping a close watch to ensure a peaceful atmosphere during campaigning and polling," he said and added that the authorities are keeping a tight vigil to ensure the model code of conduct is not violated in the district.

Deployment of adequate women personnel will be ensured during the polling, the officer said.

No Halt To Civil

the SSSP and central armed police forces (CAPFs) and army officers to identify the spots along the highway where engineering intervention is required in raising heights of dividers, direct lateral entries and U-turns.

The officers, he said, were also advised to identify the spots where service lane is required and also send joint recommendation where underpass or overpass are required to maintain the smooth flow of traffic on national highway.

ADGP Kashmir, the spokesperson said, further directed the district heads to identify the spots where additional CCTVs can be installed besides posting SHOs/SDPOs at vulnerable spots on highway during convoy movement at

The officers, he said, were also stressed by ADGP Kashmir to discourage the illegal construction and also to assist civil administration and national highways authority to remove such illegal structures on the highway.

"During the meeting, it was decided that no civil traffic will be stopped on National Highway during VVIPs /Senior Officers movement on National Highway as an immediate measure and also to suggest additional measures for smooth flow of civilian traffic in phased manners," he said.

The spokesperson said that the officers in the meeting were also advised to conduct joint surveys and prepare SOPs to facilitate the free flow of traffic without compromising the security of convoys in phased manner.

"This new SOPs would be submitted to higher up for further approval. Besides, special focus be given to lateral entries on National Highway and additional Nafri may be deployed on laterals. In order to maintain smooth flow of vehicles, ADGP Kashmir urged Traffic police to deploy additional manpower on important/busy laterals," he said.

He further said that all districts SsP were also instructed to generate specific inputs and launch anti-terrorist operations along the sides of NHW and take legal actions against OGWs operating in these areas.

Among those who attended the meeting included GOC Victor Force, IG Traffic J&K, Army's Sector Commander 1st, DIG Police SKR, DIG BSF, DIG SSB, DIG CRPF Awantipora, DIG CRPF Anantnag, DIG BSF, DDIB, Additional Commander SB, SSSP of Anantnag, Kulgam districts, SP Awantipora, SP Cargo and other officers.

BSF Constable

report was lodged with the concerned police station.

Mortar Shell

the mortar shell in a controlled mechanism without causing any damage.

Tipper Crushes

spot after the incident. He said that police has rushed to the spot and further investigation has been taken up--(KNO).

SRK's 'Jawan'

gross box office collection," the production house Red Chillies Entertainment posted on its official social media pages.

"Jawan" is a father-son story that addresses social and political issues through its hero, essayed by the Bollywood star.

The movie collected Rs 129.6 crore worldwide gross on day one, making it the biggest opening day in the history of Hindi cinema globally. On Friday, it raised Rs 110.87 worldwide.

A Red Chillies Entertainment presentation, "Jawan" is produced by Gauri Khan and co-produced by Gaurav Verma.

Father, Son Killed

son Nitin Kumar. Lal's wife Gurdai (30) and daughter Sandya Devi (9) were rescued and their condition was stated to be critical, the officials added. (PTI)

Proclamation Orders

Firdose Colony, Eidgah, Srinagar - are wanted in many terror cases and have been absconding, a police spokesman said here.

The designated and special court under NIA Act, Srinagar, issued general non-bailable warrants against the four after their involvement was established in various cases, he said.

The SIU team of District Srinagar, with the assistance of police teams of districts Kulgam and Awantipora, affixed proclamations orders under Section 83 of CrPC on the residences of four active terrorists who are absconders in many terror cases, the spokesman said.

By issuing these orders, the court has directed the accused persons to appear before it within 30 days from the date of publication of the proclamation, failing which proceedings under Section 83 of CrPC shall be initiated against them, he said.

Under Section 83 of CrPC, a court issuing a proclamation under Section 82 against a person, who is facing a warrant but is absconding, can order the attachment of any property, movable or immovable, or both, belonging to the person.

The spokesman said the proclamation orders have been published in local newspapers and also affixed on the conspicuous part of their residences.

The contents of proclamation orders were read to the family members of the accused in a language that they could comprehend.

Moreover, the orders were also affixed at conspicuous places in the towns where they resided.

The accused are presently active terrorists and are affiliated with the banned terrorist outfit LeT. (PTI)

India Seek Answer To Middle Order Ahead Of High-Voltage Pakistan Clash

Press Trust of India

COLOMBO: The Indian team management's predicament to choose between KL Rahul and Ishan Kishan will be the dominating theme amid the usual edgy emotional quotient, when they face arch-rivals Pakistan in the most-awaited Super 4 match of the Asia Cup here on Sunday.

Alongside focusing on the team goals, the Indian management will want to assemble the best possible 11 in the park against Pakistan, whom the Rohit Sharma-led outfit is facing for the second time in the event.

But for that, they need to find answers for the aforementioned puzzle, and hope that rains will stay away despite adding a controversial reserve day to the match on Monday.

The return of Rahul to the squad has widened the pool of players to select from, but that has also given them a happy headache.

Kishan has impressed ev-

eryone in the last month or so, smashing four fifties in as many matches – three against the West Indies and one against Pakistan in the Asia Cup Group A match at Pallekele last week.

So, it seems that Kishan has everything going for him. But Rahul's claim for the No. 5 position is hard to ignore despite the fact that the Bengaluru cricketer has not played an ODI since March this year, courtesy a thigh injury and the ensuing phase of post-surgery convalescence.

The 31-year-old remains one of India's steadiest ODI batters since 2019. In that year, he made 572 runs from 13 matches at 47.67.

While that decision is important for the team to achieve the desired balance, they will also be eager to start the Super 4 with a win notwithstanding the combination they field.

Pakistan have already bagged two points after beating Bangladesh by 7 wickets at Lahore, and another win will



place them comfortably on the way to the final.

So, India will also want to enter the log sheet but they will have to counter a potent Pakistan bowling attack that can make an impact irrespective of the nature of the pitch.

Of course, Rohit and other Indian batters will be wary of the high-paced incoming deliveries of Shaheen Shah Afridi, but the Pakistan bowling unit has other equally explosive performers.

Haris Rauf, with his express pace, is currently topping the Asia Cup bowling chart with 9 wickets from three matches, and seemed to have emerged from the shadows of Afridi (7 wickets).

While Naseem Shah also has taken 7 wickets, ensuring no let off point for opposition batters.

Pakistan has an edge on paper in this department, but India will believe that they have the ammunition to strike back in kind.

The return of Jasprit Bumrah, who skipped the league match

against Nepal, will bolster India's bowling, while Mohammed Siraj and Shardul Thakur can play the efficient support cast role.

But once these two teams enter the arena, factors like playing 11, form, past records etc go irrelevant. It will be a storm force collision on the field.

Teams

India: Rohit Sharma (captain), Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, Shubman Gill, Suryakumar Yadav, Tilak Varma, Ishan Kishan, Hardik Pandya (vice-captain), Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav, Prasidh Krishna.

Pakistan playing XI vs India: Babar Azam (Captain), Shadab Khan (vice-captain), Imam-ul-Haq, Fakhar Zaman, Salman Agha, Iftikhar Ahmed, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Faheem Ashraf, Naseem Shah, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Haris Rauf.



Valley Stags Banpora Wins T10 Intra-Dialgam Cricket League

Observer News Service

DIALGAM: The Valley Stags Banpora lifted the first edition of T10 Intra-Dialgam Cricket League on Saturday by defeating Gousia Colony Super Kings in a close fight that ended up to the last over of the match.

Chasing a target of 51, Valley Stags Banpora lost three early wickets to pace and spin of Gousia Colony Super Kings, with Aqib Khursheed going for zero in the very first over. After losing Aqib, skipper Waseem Hassan kept cool, took ones and twos to stabilise the innings. However, he couldn't keep it up for long, as he lost his wicket

to Shahid.

Rakib Farooq, who has been declared Man of the Tournament, played his natural innings up to the last ball and sealed the finals for his team.

Aqib Khursheed was declared Man of the Match for taking four crucial wickets. Muneeb Afroz was declared the best bowler of the tournament.

IDL 2023 was organised by Zubair Basheer, physical education trainer and enthusiast for a drug free society. It is because of his contribution that many young footballers and cricketers of the area have been able to find a place in the national squads of the country.

Junior Girls Football Trials From September 12

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The J&K Sports Council will hold Open Selection football trials for Junior Girls on September 12 and 13 at 3:30 PM at Synthetic Turf Football Stadium here. The selected players will compete in the National Football Championship to be held at Jaipur Rajasthan from October 2 to 15.

Players born on or after January 1, 2007 and not later than December 31, 2009 are eligible for the trials.

The final selection trials will be held at Synthetic Turf TRC on September 16 and 17 at 3:00 PM.

Interested players are advised to bring their original D.O.B certificates issued by the respective Municipalities or Board of School Education.



Female Wheelchair Basketball players compete in an exhibition match played on Saturday at Presentation Convent School in Srinagar. KO Photo by Abid Bhat

Srinagar Shooting Ball C'ship Concludes At GHSS Khanyar



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The 3rd District Srinagar Shooting Ball Championship 2023, organised by District Srinagar Shooting Ball Association under the aegis of J&K Shooting Ball Association in collaboration with J&K Sports Council, concluded on Saturday at Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School Khanyar.

More than 100 participants of different institutions, colleges and clubs under the age category of Sub-Junior, Junior and Senior Men/Women took part in the event. Mrs. Sheikh Waheeda (Prin-

icipal, GHSS Khanyar) was the chief guest, while Riyaz Ahmad (Sr. Lecturer) was among Guest of Honours on the occasion.

Kashmir Harvard Educational Institute lifted the title in the Junior Boys group, while as G. D. Goenka School won the Junior Girls category. Oak Hill School and G. D. Goenka School remained runner-up in the boys and girls Junior age-groups categories.

Hussaini Sports Club lifted both the title in senior categories. Principal GHSS Khanyar congratulated all the participants in general and winners in particular.

Bangladesh Board Contradicts Its Own Coach, Terms Indo-Pak 'Reserve Day' Decision As 'Unanimous'

Press Trust of India

COLOMBO: The Bangladesh Cricket Board has termed Asian Cricket Council's decision to have an exclusive reserve day for India versus Pakistan 'Super Four' game as "unanimous" and taken only after getting consent from all four cricket boards.

Expressing his displeasure, Sri Lanka head coach Chandika Hathurusingha on Friday had termed "not ideal" as Sri Lanka coach Chris Silverwood also had expressed his surprise on the eve of their Super 4 clash.

But hours after their coach's comments, BCB made a surprising announcement saying that the precautionary measure had, in fact, received unanimous approval from all four participating teams in the Super 4 stage.

"A reserve day for India Pakistan contest in Super 11 Asia Cup Super 4 stage has

been added that effectively revised the Asia Cup playing condition," BCB posted on their social media account 'X', formerly twitter.

"To clarify on the position, the decision was taken with the consent of all four participating teams and ACC," it added.

The Asian Cricket Council on Friday announced that the much-anticipated Indo-Pak clash could resume on Monday if the rain plays spoilsport on Sunday.

However, the other matches will not have a reserve day though rain is predicted in the Sri Lankan capital through the Super 4s.

But Hathurusingha was clearly miffed at the late decision to add a reserve day.

"It is not ideal, and we also would have liked to have an extra day. But I don't have any more comment on this because they have already made a decision and had they



consulted us earlier we would have given our opinion," he said on Friday at pre-match presser.

"Little surprised when I first heard," Sri Lanka coach Silverwood had said about ACC's decision to have different playing conditions.

The 'Rain God' had its say when the two teams initially clashed in the Asia Cup, re-

sulting in a washout in their opening fixture at Pallekele on September 2.

Rain once again made an appearance during India's first international match against Nepal at the same venue. However, this time, the rain was less persistent, permitting a 23-over chase, which India successfully navigated to secure Super Four berth.

Making mockery of the tournament: Prasad

Former India seamer Venkatesh Prasad, a very vocal social media critic of this current Indian team and the cricket board, also came out hard at the decision and termed it absolute "shamelessness" from the organisers.

"If true this is absolute shamelessness this. The organ-

isers have made a mockery and it is unethical to have a tournament with rules being different for the other two teams.

"In the name of justice, will only be fair if it is abandoned the first day, may it rain harder on the second day and these malicious plans not succeed," Prasad posted on X.

In an advisory the ACC had on Friday stated that a reserve day was incorporated for the Asia Cup 2023 Super 4's match between Pakistan and India.

"If adverse weather suspends play during the Pakistan vs India game, the match will continue on 11th September 2023 from the point it was suspended".

"In such an eventuality, ticket-holders are advised to hold on to their match tickets which will remain valid and will be utilised for the reserve day," the advisory stated.



UN, Iran Urge Cooperation To Battle Sandstorm Threat



Agenceis

TEHRAN: Countries in the Middle East, Africa and Asia must work together to combat sand and dust storms made increasingly severe by climate change, the United Nations and Iran said Saturday.

"Cooperation is key. I urge you to use your time in Tehran to build partnerships, increase cooperation and commit to practical action," UN chief Antonio Guterres said in a video broadcast to representatives of around 50 states and 15 organizations.

Opening the International Conference on Combating Sand and Dust Storms, Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi called on countries in the region to create "a fund" to pursue common solutions.

According to meteorologists, sand and dust storms are expected to increase in the countries most vulnerable to climate change.

"About two billion tons of dust enters the atmosphere each year, affecting more than 350 million people," Food and Agriculture Organization Assistant Director-General AbdulHakim Elwaer told the meeting.

The people most affected

are "farmers and those whose income depends directly on natural resources," he said.

Iran, co-organizer of the two-day gathering, is one country where such storms are increasingly numerous, particularly in the southeast desert region of Sistan-Baluchistan where rare wetlands are drying up at an alarming rate.

This has caused diplomatic tensions with neighboring Afghanistan, which Tehran accuses of considerably reducing the volume of water in the Helmand River which flows through both countries.

To its west, Iran is also cooperating with neighboring Iraq to combat the effects of sand and dust storms.

"Fortunately, we have reached some very good operational stages with Iraq," Ali Salajegheh, head of Iran's department of the environment, said at the conference.

He added that "ground and field operations" were due to start in six provinces in both countries. In his opening address, President Raisi blamed industrialized countries "for many problems, for not taking environmental issues into account and favoring their own economic interests and military development."

New Flaw In Apple Devices Led To Spyware Infection, Researchers Say

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Researchers at digital watchdog group Citizen Lab said on Thursday they found spyware they linked to Israeli firm NSO that exploited a newly discovered flaw in Apple devices.

While inspecting the Apple device of an employee of a Washington-based civil society group last week, Citizen Lab said it found the flaw had been used to infect the device with NSO's Pegasus spyware, it said in a statement.

"This shows that civil society is once again serving as the early warning system about really sophisticated attacks," said John Scott-Railton, senior researcher at Citizen Lab, which is based at the University of Toronto's Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy.

Citizen Lab did not provide further details on the affected individual or the organization.



The flaw allowed compromise of iPhones running the latest version of iOS (16.6) without any interaction from the victim, the digital watchdog said.

Apple issued new updates on its devices after investigating the flaws reported by Citizen Lab. An Apple spokesperson said it had no further comment, while Citizen Lab urged

consumers to update their devices.

A NSO spokesperson said it did not have any immediate comment on the Citizen Lab research. The Israeli firm has been blacklisted by the US government since 2021 for alleged abuses, including surveillance of government officials and journalists.

Cost of building an artificial intelligence product like ChatGPT can be hard to measure

DES MOINES, Iowa: The cost of building an artificial intelligence product like ChatGPT can be hard to measure.

But one thing Microsoft-backed OpenAI needed for its technology was plenty of water, pulled from the watershed of the Raccoon and Des Moines rivers in central Iowa to cool a powerful supercomputer as it helped teach its AI systems how to mimic human writing.

As they race to capitalize on a craze for generative AI, leading tech developers including Microsoft, OpenAI and Google have acknowledged that growing demand for their AI tools carries hefty costs, from expensive semiconductors to an increase in water consumption.

But they're often secretive about the specifics. Few people in Iowa knew about its status as a birthplace of OpenAI's most advanced large language model, GPT-4, before a top Microsoft executive said in a speech it "was literally made next to cornfields west of Des Moines."

Building a large language model requires analyzing patterns across a huge trove of human-written text. All of that computing takes a lot of electricity and generates a lot of heat. To keep it cool on hot days, data centers need to pump in water — often to a cooling tower outside its warehouse-sized buildings.

In its latest environmental report, Microsoft disclosed that its global water consumption spiked 34% from 2021 to 2022 (to nearly 1.7 billion gallons, or more than 2,500 Olympic-sized swimming pools), a sharp increase compared to previous years that outside researchers tie to its AI research.

"It's fair to say the majority of the growth is due to AI," including "its heavy investment in generative AI and partnership with OpenAI," said Shaolei Ren, a researcher at the University of California, Riverside who has been trying to calculate the environmental impact of generative AI products such as ChatGPT.

Rescuers May Try To Remove Sick American Researcher From 3,000 Feet Down In A Turkish Cave

TASELI PLATEAU (Turkey): An American researcher who fell ill almost 1,000 meters (more than 3,000 feet) below the entrance of a cave in Turkey has recovered sufficiently for rescue teams to start the process of moving him out, an operation that could last three or four days, a Turkish official was quoted as saying on Friday.

Mark Dickey, a 40-year-old experienced caver, suddenly became ill with stomach bleeding during an expedition with a handful of others in the Morca cave in southern Turkey's Taurus Mountains. Rescuers from across Europe have rushed there to help treat Dickey and to



extract him from the cave.

"The doctors we sent down were very successful in treating him," Cenk Yildiz, a regional

official from Turkey's disaster relief agency, AFAD, told the IHA news agency. "We are now in a position to evacuate him."

"This is a difficult operation. It would take a (healthy) person 16 hours to come out. This operation will last at least three or four days," Yildiz said. "Our priority is health. Our aim is to conclude this operation without anyone coming under any danger."

Another Turkish official said rescuers were waiting for doctors to give the go-ahead for the difficult operation to begin.

Recep Salci, the head of AFAD's search and rescue department, told HaberTurk TV that the plan was to lift Dickey on a stretcher but to use a "security belt" system to lift him through the cave's narrow openings.

"We are trying to expand the narrow areas by making small explosions, by breaking some areas," Salci said.

Doctors gave Dickey IV fluids and 4 liters of blood inside the cave, he said. More than 30 rescuers were inside the cave on Friday afternoon, and teams comprised of a doctor and three or four others take turns staying with the American at all times, Salci said.

"Our aim is to bring him out and to have him hospitalized as soon as possible," he said.

More than 170 people, including doctors, paramedics and experienced cavers, are involved in the rescue operation.



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