

NIA Court Rejects Bail Plea Of 10 Separatists

M Ahmad

Srinagar: A special NIA court here on Monday rejected bail application of ten second-rung separatist leaders and activists who were arrested earlier this year in connection with a case regarding reviving the banned outfit JKLF.

On 9 July this year, police had taken 43 persons to police station Kothibagh Srinagar from Habib Restaurant here. Police had later let off 33 persons and arrested 10 accused. As per the Investigation Officer, these 33 persons—32 adults and one juvenile were allowed to go after furnishing bonds, because nothing "incriminating" was found against them.

Additional Sessions Judge Srinagar, special judge designated under the NIA Act, Sandeep Gandotra, rejected the pleas of the ten accused, saying if they were enlarged on bail at this stage, it will put at risk the interests of the public and the state.

"The accused persons were booked under [More On P10](#)

Season's First Snowfall Dips Mercury In Kashmir

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar- Snowfall in higher reaches of Kashmir and rains in the plains ended a prolonged dry spell and brought down the mercury significantly in the Valley which experienced record high temperatures this month, officials said on Monday.

Moderate rains lashed most parts of the valley. Srinagar city recorded 18.3 mm of rainfall till 8.30 am on Monday. Snowfall was recorded in higher reaches of south Kashmir including around the holy cave shrine of Amarnath and Gulmarg in north Kashmir, they said.

The downpour has ended the heatwave which was witnessed in the second week of September. The Valley saw high temperatures which broke the record of 89 years.



A view of snow-capped peaks in the Matayen area of Drass after the season's first snowfall on Monday. KO Photo

The minimum temperature in Srinagar last night was 10.8 degrees Celsius, down from 13 degrees Celsius a night earlier. "People got relief from hot temperatures which were due to a prolonged dry spell in August and September. The valley witnessed less rain

which resulted in low water levels in water bodies due to which people faced a shortage of water," Director MET Department Sonam Lotus said.

He said the weather will remain cloudy across Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh while a few places in the valley will receive light rainfall on Monday.

"On the 26th the weather will remain cloudy but better than today, the 27th and 28th of September, the weather will remain dry. There will be wet weather on the 29th and 30th due to Western Disturbances," he added.

He said some places in Kashmir valley received good amounts of rainfall. "The harvesting season is on and the farmers may face some difficulties but there is no forecast of heavy rainfall," he said. Lotus said the [More On P10](#)

Kashmiri Students At DBU 'Defer' Strike By 15 Days

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: The Kashmiri students at Punjab's Desh Bhagat University (DBU), who had been illegally transferred to an unauthorized college, have deferred their indefinite strike by a fortnight following intervention of Chief Minister, Bhagwant Mann.

The decision to put off 15-day strike comes after Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Gurinder Singh Garry Birning met the protesting Kashmiri students on the orders of Punjab CM, assuring them all-out assistance from the state government.

The students, while appreciating the Punjab government's unwavering support to the issues they confronted since 2020, said they have decided to defer the indefinite by 15 days.

"We are thankful to the Punjab government and at the same time want to express our hearty gratitude to the Farmers and opposition leaders for saving our future as the DBU administration without seeking consent of the [More On P10](#)

Reasi Lithium Reserves To Be Auctioned In Few Weeks: Report



File Photo

Observer News Service

New Delhi: The government of India is all set to auction recently discovered lithium blocks in the Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir, over the next few weeks, reports said Monday.

The 5.9-million ton reserve of lithium, a crucial mineral for the manufacturing of electric vehicles and solar panels, was discovered

early this year in Salal-Haimna areas of Reasi by the Geological Survey of India (GSI).

Quoting a government source with close knowledge of the matter, international news agency Reuters said that overseas miners have shown interest in acquiring the 500 parts per million (PPM) graded mineral.

"The auction will happen soon and some overseas [More On P10](#)

Amit Shah Chairs J&K BJP Core Group Meet In Delhi

- Gets Fresh Feedback On Party's Strengthen In Kashmir, Jammu; Ladakh
- Seeks Assurances On Lotus Bloom In J&K During Lok Sabha, Assembly Polls

Agencies

Srinagar: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday chaired a core group meeting of Jammu and Kashmir's BJP unit at party headquarters in New Delhi and directed party men to further strengthen the party at the booth level.

He also asked party leaders to rope in prominent personalities into the party fold and to focus on "youth power."

Sources privy to the meeting told a local news agency KNO that top Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders including its National President J P Nadda and other leaders from J&K unit, which include its president Ravinder Raina, General Secretary (Organization)



Ashok Koul and others.

The meeting started at 3:00 PM at party headquarters in New Delhi where discussion was made on the upcoming elections. The meeting has its significance as the Urban Local Body (ULB), Panchayat and Lok

Sabha elections are on cards.

Sources said that the feedback was received from J&K leaders with regard to the ground situation.

However, Ashok Koul said that it was an organizational meeting [More On P10](#)

Political Biography Of Dr Farooq Released

Press Trust Of India

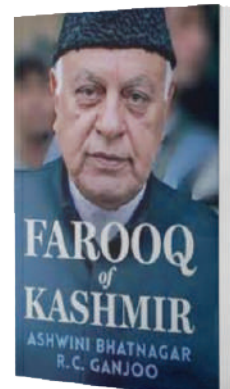
New Delhi: A new book on the life and times of former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister and National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah was released on Monday, announced Fingerprint! Publishing -- an imprint of Prakash Books Pvt. Ltd.

"Farooq of Kashmir", written by journalists Ashwini Bhatnagar and RC Ganjoo, traces the journey of Abdullah from his childhood to his rise as a popular leader of Kashmir, who inherited the legacy of his father, Sheikh Abdullah, the founder of NC and the first Prime Minister of J&K.

It also explores the challenges and dilemmas that Abdullah faced as a politician who had to balance his loyalty to his people, his party, and his country amid the turbulent and complex situation in Kashmir.

Based on extensive research and interviews -- including with Abdullah himself -- the book, according to the writers, is a "dispassionate, but engaging, chronicle of his person and his politics over the last 45 years or so".

"We have reported J&K politics since 1990, and were direct witnesses to scores of events that shaped the political history of Kashmir, including the rise of terrorism and its bloody aftermath. But whatever the turmoil, [More On P10](#)



'Anti-National Activities'

JKP Collaborates With Social Media Giants To Scan Users

Agencies

Srinagar: In a significant development, the Jammu and Kashmir Police have intensified its efforts to curb the misuse of social media platforms for carrying out anti-India and anti-national activities.

A local news agency KNS quoted sources as saying that police are actively tracking the IP addresses of individuals involved in such activities. What sets this initiative apart is the direct cooperation Police have secured from social media giants, including WhatsApp, X (formerly known as Twitter), Snapchat, Instagram, Telegram, and TikTok etc, the report said.



"This collaboration has granted the authorities access to information concerning those who exploit these platforms to spread anti-national sentiment," it added. The efficacy of this

partnership, according to the report, recently came to light when the Police's Cyber Investigation Kashmir wing apprehended an individual from Srinagar. The individual was found to be [More On P10](#)

Hangul Sighting In Gurez Ignites Conservation Hopes

'Species Facing Significant Threat Due To Its Vulnerable Population And Declining Numbers'

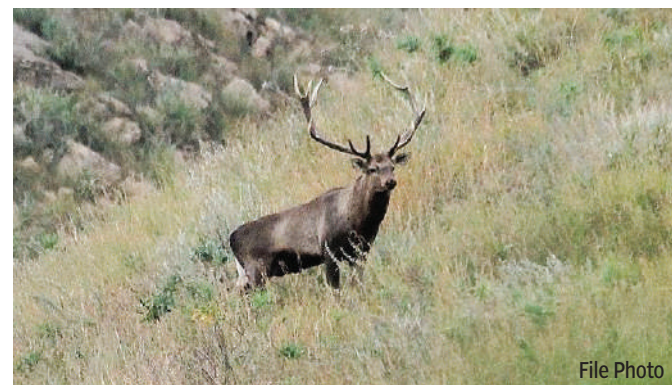
Agencies

Gurez: The elusive Kashmir stag, known locally as Hangul, has been making frequent appearances in the pristine Gurez Valley of north Kashmir's Bandipora district.

Renowned for its magnificent 11 to 16-point antlers, the Hangul, once considered a subspecies of the European red deer, is now recognised as an independent species by wildlife officials.

An official said that the resurgence of Hangul in the region has kindled hope for its conservation. While these sightings offer a glimmer of optimism, there is still ongoing debate and research surrounding its taxonomic classification, he said.

"Gurez was one of the few locations where the presence of the Kashmir stag had



File Photo

disappeared long ago, leading to its extinction several decades ago. However, the recent frequent sightings of the Hangul are a source of joy for everyone, as it appears that this magnificent animal has gradually returned to the valley," he added. The sustainability of a robust

Hangul population serves as an indicator of a thriving ecosystem and, in turn, contributes to the sustenance of other biodiversity, the official said.

He further said that the Kashmir stag inhabits the forests of Kishtwar and Baderwah, in addition to being found within

Dachigam National Park in Kashmir, where it thrives at an elevation of 3,035 metres.

The wildlife department records paint a concerning picture of its population. In 2015, the population stood at a mere 186, marking the lowest count in any decade. This sharp decline is a stark contrast to historical figures, where the Hangul once thrived with an estimated population ranging from 3,000 to 5,000 during the first half of the last century.

Till date, nine censuses have been carried out during 2004, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2015, 2017, 2019, and 2021, and the Hangul population estimates in the past were 197, 153, 127, 175, 218, 186, 214, 237, and 261.

Another official said the species is facing a significant threat due to its vulnerable population, declining numbers, [More On P10](#)

SHORT TAKES

LG Releases 'Curse Of The Pir'

The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday released a book titled "Curse of the Pir" authored by Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Jammu Mukesh Singh and Anupama Pandey. The LG congratulated the authors for their remarkable literary endeavor. "Inspired by true events, the book is a riveting tale of dedication of our Police officers and a tribute to their selfless service to the nation," he said. "Curse of the Pir" is also a testament to the [More On P10](#)

Stranded Family Rescued From Bangus

Eleven people, including five women and five children lost in the dense forest area of Bangus Valley were rescued by a joint team of police and army in North Kashmir's Kupwara district, police said Monday. The rescue operation was started by police and army after a distress call was made by the family on Dial 112. According to a police spokesperson, a distress call was made by Atiq-ul-Rahman, who along with his family members including 5 ladies and 5 children had gone to Bangus valley for [More On P10](#)

Romshoo Bags Gandhi Seva Puraskar

Gandhi Global Family today conferred Mahatma Gandhi Seva Puraskar Award, on Prof Shakil Ahmad Romshoo for his outstanding contribution towards nation in the sphere of academics. Padma Shri, Dr S P Varma, President, Gandhi Global Family said that IUST under the leadership of Prof Shakil Ahmad Romshoo has emerged conspicuous on the educational landscape of the Country. He commended the University's efforts and initiatives in the sphere of promotion of Innovation, [More On P10](#)

Driver Held In Hit And Run Case

Police on Monday claimed to have solved last week's hit and run case in South Kashmir's Kulgam district by arresting the accused person involved in the crime. Four members of a family, including a couple and their daughter were killed on Friday last in a horrific road accident along the Srinagar-Jammu highway in Qazigund area of Kulgam district. Following the accident, police filed a case FIR No. 206/2023 in Police Station Qazigund and started investigation. In a statement issued Monday, a police [More On P10](#)

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Corporate Headquarters
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Majority Of Indian Parents Say Their Kids Addicted To Social Media, OTT: Survey

Press Trust Of India

A majority of urban Indian parents surveyed have said their children are addicted to social media, OTT and online gaming platforms while one-third of respondents admitted that addiction is making kids aggressive, according to a survey by LocalCircles.

It further revealed that 73 per cent of urban Indian parents surveyed want the data protection law to ensure mandatory parental consent is sought for children under 18, when they join social media, OTT/video and online gaming platforms.

The survey received over 46,000 responses from urban Indian parents lo-

cated in 296 districts. About 62 per cent of respondents were men while 38 per cent of respondents were women. Nearly 47 per cent of respondents were from tier 1, 35 per cent from tier 2, and 18 per cent respondents were from tier 3 and 4 districts.

"Gadget addiction by children between ages

9-18 has become the new reality. The addition, in some children, is leading to impatience and aggression, lack of concentration, memory issues, headache, eye and back problems, stress, anxiety, communication issues, lethargy and even depression," according to the survey.

NOTICE

I have changed my name from ZARA JAVIED SHAH to ZARA JAVED. In future I will be known as ZARA JAVED. I am holding passport bearing number H6376860 were my name reflects as ZARA JAVIED SHAH while as my academic records and Aadhaar reflects my name as ZARA JAVED. I had applied for re-issue of passport to Passport Office, Srinagar. Now I want my passport particulars as per my academic records and Aadhaar. If anybody having any objection may file to RPO Srinagar within seven days. After stipulated period no objection shall be entertained.

From: Zara Javed W/o. Zeeshan Ali Ansari
No. NEW EXCHANGE (DOUSIA) COLONY, ISHBER, NISHAT, ZHEHEER, 191121 HOTEL, Srinagar (m.corp), Srinagar, Breen, J&K, 191121.
(M). +91 8398-017491

From the office of Advocate Tabasum Zafar Jalali

In the case of Ghulam Nabi Magray through its lead partner Shabir Ahmad Koul head office Karan nagar Srinagar and M/s Wani Construction co private limited through its proprietor Bilal Ahmad Wani head office Sangermal Srinagar Kashmir (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 Petition, suit, appeal against E NIT 17 of 2023-24 dated 18-08-2023 fresh NIT 05 of 2023-24 of district Srinagar fresh E-NIT 17 of 2023-24 dated 23-08-2023 of district Anantnag, by Issued by chief Engineer flood and Irrigation Department proceeding before the Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may succeed in obtaining some relief/order at their back/in exparte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put in irreparable 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

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Office of the Executive Engineer JS (PHE) Deptt. Rural Water Supply Division, Ganderbal/Sgr.

H.Q: Cheki-Duderhama Ganderbal.
e-mail: pherwds@gmail.com, Phone/Fax: 0194 - 2416292,
GIST OF E-QUOTATION No. 01/JS-PHE/RWSD/EOQ OF 2023-24

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-quotations (in Two-Cover) on item rate basis are invited for below mentioned job / work, from registered / eligible Filmmakers for making a documentary film on water supply scenario of Ganderbal Town and adjoining areas for a duration of 5 minutes only

S. No	Particulars / Name of work	Qty	Unit	Amount of CDR (in Rs)	e-quotations/ Tender fee
01	Engagement of registered / eligible film makers for making a documentary film on water supply scenario of Ganderbal Town and adjoining areas for duration of 5 minutes only in 4K Ultra HD format.	5	Mins.	1000.00	Rs. 200/=

The e-quotations consisting of Qualifying information, eligibility criteria specifications, set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website:- www.jktenders.gov.in

01	Date of publishing of e - quotation	25.09.2023
02	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 25.09.2023 (02.00 p.m.) To 30.09.2023 (02:00 p.m.)
03	Bid Submission Start Date	From 25.09.2023 (02:00 p.m.)
04	Bid submission End Date	To 30.09.2023 (up to 02:00 p.m.)
05	Date and time of opening of Bids (Online)	30.09.2023 at 03:30 pm in the Office of the Executive Engineer JS-PHE RWS Division Ganderbal / Sgr (H.Q. Cheki Duderhama Ganderbal)

IMPORTANT CONDITIONS:

01. The details and research material of the theme of the short film should be formatted into a proper film script and multiple formats of the final product must be provided by the successful bidder in at least two languages or as desired by the division.

02. The registered film company/firm should have experience in Ad, short; Feature and Documentary films with proper proof and the director of the film should have international acclamation.

Bids/e-quotations(s) must be accompanied/uploaded with Earnest Money in shape of CDR/FDR (mentioned above), Treasury Receipt (mentioning therein the e-Quotation No., S.No. of work etc as per the e-Quotation) as cost of Tender Document under M.H 0218 to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer JS-PHE RWS Division Ganderbal/Sgr (as specified in the table (1), besides below mentioned documents. Bids/e-quotations(s) will be opened in the Office of the Executive Engineer JS-PHE RWS Division Ganderbal /Sgr (H.Q. Cheki Duderhama Ganderbal) on 30.09.2023 at 03:30 pm. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

1. e- quotation must be accompanied/ uploaded with:

Sl. No	Particulars	Remarks
01	Earnest Money in shape of CDR / FDR for an amount of Rs.1000/- pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer JSD PHE RWS Division Ganderbal/Sgr.	Original
02	Treasury Receipt (T.R) deposited to MH: 0218 as cost of tender document for an amount of Rs.200/- pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer JSD PHE RWS Division Ganderbal/Sgr.	Original
03	Printed letter head of the Regd. Agency / e-quotationer etc. duly authenticated with seal and signature	Scanned Copy
04	Experience certificate as described above	Original
05	GST Clearance/Pan card along with Self Attested What's App Number and e-mail ID of the agency	Scanned Copy

All other terms and conditions are mentioned in the detailed/ uploaded e - quotation.

DIPK-9415/23 Dated:- 25.09.2023

No: -JSD/PHE/RWSD/Corrs./e-Q/ 8295 - 8319

Sd/-
Er. Samiullah Beigh
Executive Engineer JS-PHE,
RWS Division Ganderbal/Sgr

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Office of the Executive Engineer, (Jal Shakti) PHE, Mechanical Rural Division, Sgr.

GIST of Short term e-Tender.
Short Term E-N.I.T. No:- PHE/MRD/TS/ 86 of 09/2023

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Short term e-tenders are invited in two cover system from approved and eligible Contractors having GST registration/registered with J&K Govt., Railways and other State/Central Government Organizations for the following work:-

Sr.	Nature of Work	Location	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of Tender Doc.	Time of Completion days	Programme
A	Rectification of leakage in 100mm dia M.S. Rising main at WSS	Ishber Nishat	0.178	100/=	05 days	M&R

Critical Dates/Information.

1.	Publishing Date	25-09-2023 (5:00 PM)
2.	Period of Downloading of Bids	25-09-2023 (5:00 PM) to 03-10-2023 (11:00 AM)
3.	Period of Submission of bids	25-09-2023 (5:00 PM) to 03-10-2023 (11:00 AM)
4.	Date of opening of Tender/Timing	03-10-2023 at (12:00 P.M)
5.	Tender Receiving Authority: Executive Engineer, (Jal Shakti) PHE Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar	
6.	Document Cost : Non-Refundable in the shape of Treasury Challan/receipt shall be deposited to Account Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar. (The firm shall specify the e-NIT No. & name of work for which applied)	
7.	Bid Validity Period: 90 Days	
8.	The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on www.jktenders.gov.in	
9.	Instead of EMD the firm has to furnish "Bid Security Declaration", format of the declaration is enclosed in the Bid Document	

Note:- The tenderer who is declared as LI after opening of price bid will deposit 5% of the Estimated cost of the work in shape of CDR/ FDR before allotment is issued in his favour.

No:- PHE/MRD/TS/3000-04
DIPK-9419/23 DT:- 25/09/2023

Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Rural
Division Srinagar.

Before The Honble High Court Of Jammu And Kashmir & Ladakh At Srinagar.

In the Case of :

1. Director SKIMS & Ex Officio Secretary to Government
2. Additional Director, SKIMS & Ex- Officio Special Secretary to Government

(Caveator)

V/s

Public at Large

(Non-Caveators)

In the matter of : Caveat petition For and on behalf of Caveator.

May it please your honour, the caveator most humbly submits as under:-

1. That the caveator has issued Provisional Shortlist of candidates for document verification for the post of Nursing Aid (G-III) advertised vide Advertisement Notification No. 01 of 2023, dated 17.06.2023 on Academic Arrangement Basis. The caveators apprehend that the same may get challenged before the Honorable High Court of J&K and Ladakh.

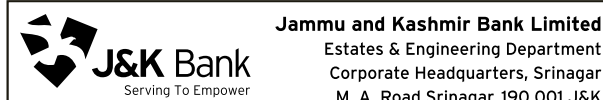
2. That though there is no ambiguity in the said Provisional Short List, still there is apprehension of the same being challenged before the Hon'ble High Court of J&K and Ladakh/ Lower Court/any other forum, by any person individually or jointly, whose particulars are not known, cannot as such be divulged at this time.

3. That in compliance with the requirements of valid caveat, application notice of this caveat has been published in a leading newspaper for information to the public at large.

In these premises, it is, therefore, prayed that should any writ or application or any other proceeding be filed before the Hon'ble High Court of J&K and Ladakh/ Lower Court/any other forum, a reasonable opportunity of being heard in the matter be afforded to the Caveator before any orders adverse to the interests of the Caveator is/are passed. This would meet the ends of justice.

Caveator through Counsel
(Mr. Sajad Ashraf)
Govt. Advocate
J&K High Court Srinagar

DIPK-NB-3355/23
dated: 25-09-2023



Jammu and Kashmir Bank Limited
Estates & Engineering Department
Corporate Headquarters, Srinagar
M. A. Road Srinagar, 190 001 J&K

Online Request For Tender (e-RFP)

for
Comprehensive AMC of 03 No's SOTR Centralized AC Plants
(Air Cooled semi hermetic reciprocating chiller) of Blue Star make
installed at Zonal Office Building, Rail Head Complex, Jammu

Tender Notice along with Complete Tender document outlining the minimum requirements can be downloaded from and Bids can be submitted on the Banks' e-Tendering Portal <https://jkbank.abcpurchase.com> w.e.f. September 25, 2023, 16.00 Hrs. Tender Document can also be downloaded from Bank's Official Website www.jkbank.com. Last date for submission of Bids is October 16, 2023, 17.00 Hrs.

e-NIT Ref.No. - JKB/ESED/Chiller-AMC-20/2023-806
Dated: 21-09-2023

Registered office: Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India
CIN: L6510JH1935000048; T: +91 (0)194 2481 930-35; F: +91 (0)194 2481 928; E: info@jkbank.com; W: www.jkbank.com

DIPK-NB-3353/23 dated: 25-09-2023

CONDOLENCE

The staff members of the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir are deeply saddened to announce the passing of Mr. Muzafar Ahmad Kuchay Resident of Ranipora Shangus Anantnag an employee of the Department who passed away this world on 23rd September, 2023 after a tragic road accident. In a condolence meet that was held at the head office, all the employees extended heartfelt condolences to the concerned family during this difficult time.



Muzafar was an integral part of the Department and his contributions were invaluable. He will be remembered not only for his professional accomplishments but also for his kindness, generosity, and dedication that made a positive impact on the lives of those around him.

In honor of Muzafar's memory, the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir held a condolence meeting at its premises and paid respect to the departed employee. While offering heartfelt sympathies and condolences, the employees prayed for the peace to the departed soul and patience for the kith and kin.

Staff Members
Department of Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir

FROM THE OFFICE OF ADVOCATE BASHIR AHMAD SOFI AND ASSOCIATES

IN THE CASE OF:

1. Haji Mohammad Ismail S/o: Ghulam Jaffer R/o: Shaheed Gunj, Srinagar
2. Mohammad Yousuf Hussain S/o: Mohammad Safder Dar R/o: Hamdania Colony, Bernina Srinagar
3. Mohammad Ashraf Khan S/o: Ali Mohammad Khan R/o: Murgund Budgam
4. Adil Hussain Khan S/o: Barkat Ali Khan R/o: Kralpora Zadibal, Srinagar
5. Mirza Nasir Ali S/o Haji Mohammad Abdullah R/o Qamarwari Srinagar
6. Haji Mohammad Ibrahim Mir S/o Mohammad Sufdar Mir R/o Magam Budgam

(Caveators)

Public At Large

V/s

(Non-Caveators)

In the matter of: Caveat Petition in terms of Section 148-A of CPC

The Caveators have reason to believe/apprehension that Non-Caveator may file any Petition, application, Suit or any other proceedings before this Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may succeed in obtaining some relief/order against the caveators at their back in ex-parte and in such eventuality the caveators will be put to an irreparable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that the caveators may be given opportunity of being heard by this Hon'ble court before passing any order or relief in case any case or any other proceedings are filed by the non-caveators.

nj

Sd/-
Advocate

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my J&K Bank Account details as Zareena Bano while my correct name is Jameela Akhter which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Branch Manager J&K Bank Magam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Jameela Akhter
D/o Ghulam Rasool Bhat
R/o Chayera Tehsil Magam bmg

From The Principal District Judge, Srinagar

Present : Mr. Jawad Ahmad

Ajjaz Hussain Lankar S/o Ghulam Qadir Lankar
Husband of Shahida R/o Usmanabad Umarhair Sgr

V/S

1. Mohammad Ahsan Lankar age 18 years at present
2. Nizam Ud Din Lankar Age 20 years at present
Sons of Aiaz Hussain Lankar & Shahida Both residents of Usmanabad Umarhair sgr

In the matter of
Application for issuance of Succession certificate in favour of the petitioner(s)

NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

Where the petitioner(s) FILED ABOVE TITLED PETITION BEFORE THIS COURT OF ISSUANCE OF SUCCESSION certificate in favour of Petitioner(s) in respect of Rs 67029660 as debits and securities in name of Deceased Namely: Shahida W/o Ajjaz Hussain Lankar R/o Usmanabad Umarhair Buchpora Sgr who died on 01-12-2022. The petition is pending disposal before this court and the next date of hearing is fixed on 12-10-2023

Public Notice is hereby issued, informing all and sundry through the drom of this proclamation that at any anyone has any objection for issuance of succession certificate, he/she / they shall appear before this court either personally or through counsel or any authorized agent and file objections on or before 12-10-2023. Failing which the petition will be taken up and appropriate orders will be passed in the same

In case, the date fixed is declared as holiday the matter shall be taken on the next working day.
Given under my hand and seal of this court on

Jawad Ahmad
Principal District Judge, Srinagar

From the principal District Judge, Srinagar

Present : Mr. Jawad Ahmad

Shaheena W/o Late Shakeel Ahmad Wani
Tanveera Shakeel (age:20)D/o Late Shakeel Ahmad
Tanzeela (age: 23) D/o Late Shakeel Ahmad Wani
Residents of syedpora Harwan Sgr

V/S

1. Mohammad Rafiq Wani S/O Mohammad Ismail Wani
2. Ishaq Ahmad Wani S/o Ishaq Ahmad Wani S/o Mohammad Ismail Wani
3. Nahida D/o Mohammad Ismail Wani W/o Javid Ahmad Mir
4. Shaema D/o Mohammad Ismail Wani W/o Mehraj Ud Din Sheikh R/o Sonwar Sgr
5. Haleema D/o Mohammad Ismail Wani W/o Mehraj Ud Dn Bhat
6. Naseema D/o Mohammad Ismail Wani W/o Manzoor Ahmad Sheikh Residents of Shalimar Sgr

In the matter of
Application for issuance of Succession certificate in favour of the petitioner(s)

NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

Where the petitioner(s) FILED ABOVE TITLED PETITION BEFORE THIS COURT OF ISSUANCE OF SUCCESSION certificate in favour of Petitioner(s) in respect of Rs 16,00,000 as debits and securities in name of Deceased Namely: Shakeel Ahmad S/o Mohammad Ismail Wani R/o Syedpora Harwan who died on 06-04-23. The petition is pending disposal before this court and the next date of hearing is fixed on 9-10-2023

Public Notice is hereby issued, informing all and sundry through the drom of this proclamation that at any anyone has any objection for issuance of succession certificate, he/she / they shall appear before this court either personally or through counsel or any authorized agent and file objections on or before 09-10-2023. Failing which the petition will be taken up and appropriate orders will be passed in the same

In case, the date fixed is declared as holiday the matter shall be taken on the next working day.
Given under my hand and seal of this court on

Jawad Ahmad
Principal District Judge, Srinagar

DC Srinagar Chairs District Level Bankers Review Committee Meet

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammed Aijaz Asad Monday chaired a meeting of District Level Bankers Review Committee/District Consultative Committee (DLRC/DCC) here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex to review the performance of the Banks and other Financial Institutions under various Government initiatives and sponsored schemes for quarter ending June, 2023.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner took a sector wise performance of the Banks in implemen-

youth of the District during financial year 2022-23.

Besides, the Banks operating in Srinagar have provided a total credit of Rs.1691.31 Crore in favor of 54488 beneficiaries under both Priority as well as Non-Priority Sector during for financial year 2023-24.

The DC was further apprised that under Prime Ministers Mudra Yojna (PMMY) Scheme Banks operating in Srinagar have disbursed Rs 277.83 Crore among 8189 beneficiaries of the District during Financial year 2023-24.

Similarly, under the Pradhan Mantri Employment Generation program (PMEGP), total 1201 cases



tation of different Government schemes and reviewed the achievements of Banks in lending to Priority/Non Priority sectors under Annual Credit Plan.

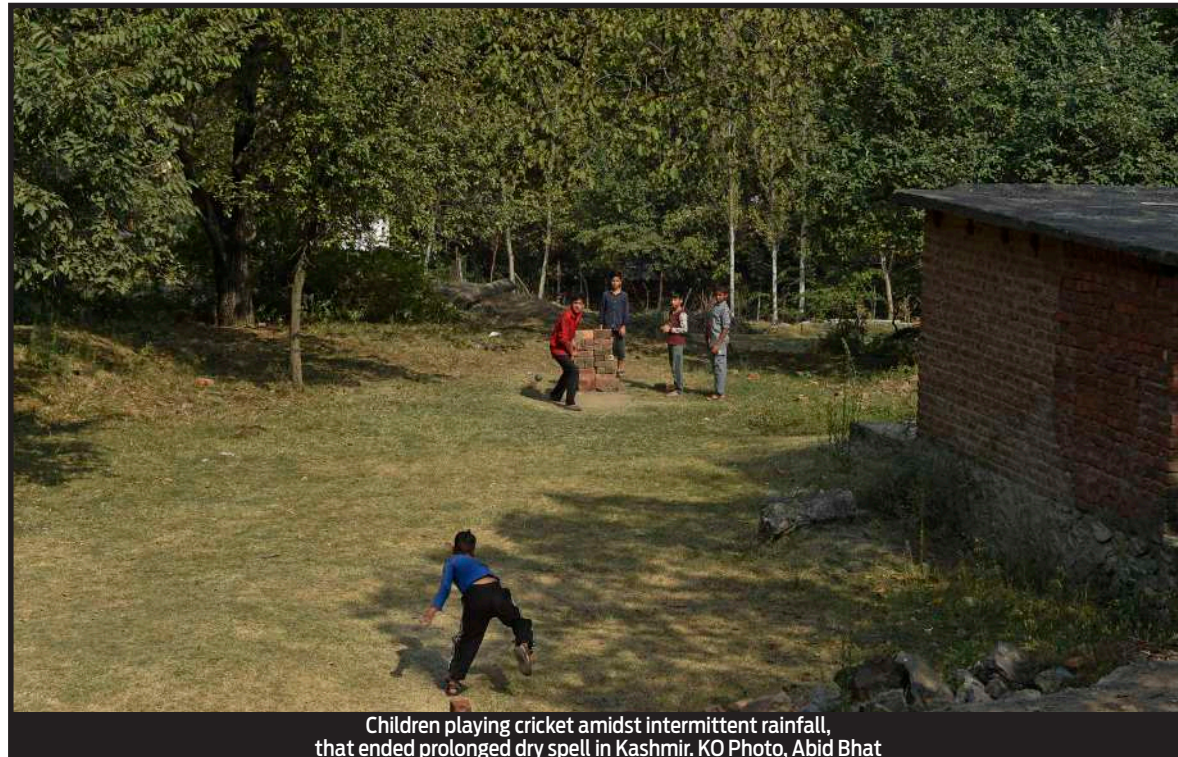
While reviewing the Bank-wise movement of CD Ratio in the District, the DC was informed that total deposits of the District Srinagar stood at Rs 34448.37 crore and Advance at Rs 24009.31 crore, constitute 70 percent CD Ratio in the 1st quarter of current financial year ended in June, 2023.

The DC was apprised that an amount of Rs 960.39 Crore has been disbursed among 25449 beneficiaries in Srinagar District under different schemes thereby generating self-employment opportunities for over 62000 unemployed

have been sanctioned and an amount of Rs 67.91 Crore has also been sanctioned.

With regard to implementation of Pradhan Mantri SVANIDHI schemes, the DC was informed that Rs 9.61 crore have been disbursed among 6993 Street Vendors of the District.

While reviewing the progress achieved in enrolment under social security schemes including Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana(PMJJB)/Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana(PMSBY) and Atal Pension Yojna(APY), the DC was informed that under as many as 171243 registrations have been made till August, 2023 including 125089 under PMSBY, 37876 under PMJJBY and 8278 under APY scheme.



Children playing cricket amidst intermittent rainfall, that ended prolonged dry spell in Kashmir. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Div Com Reviews Working Of Health, School Education & FCS&CA Departments

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri Monday reviewed the functioning of Health Department, Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs and School Education Department with respect to ongoing Major Projects, upcoming projects, deliverables, implementation of UT & Centrally Sponsored Schemes in a meeting, held, here.

The meetings were attended by Directors and other senior officers of the respective departments.

At the outset, Director Health through a detailed presentation gave an overview of the department vis-à-vis organization, hierarchy of Health institutions, staff strength, major projects and schemes.

On the occasion, Div Com directed Director Health to complete the hundred percent enrollments of families and individuals under Ayushman Bharat Golden Card.

He emphasized on the creation

of a centralized recruitment cell for recruitment of medical and paramedical staff to bridge the gap between staff required and total number of vacancies.

To ensure foolproof arrangement at Addiction Treatment Facility centers across the valley, Div Com exhorted concerned to ensure proper vigil in the vicinity of the centers.

He asked the Director to extend support to AMTRON for the "5G Health Use Application" medical program in Kupwara & Baramulla. He directed for making complete arrangements for winter to ensure treatment and availability of medicine in the valley particularly in far-off areas.

Director FCS&CA informed about the introduction of Smart Ration Card, OTP based ration distribution, distribution of ration to genuine beneficiaries, elimination of duplication of cards.

It was given out that there are 13.5 lakh ration card holders comprising 54 lakh souls.

He also briefed about construction of Weighing Bridges

and facelift of godowns besides chain of distribution link from FCI to FCS&CA godowns to distribution shops.

He also briefed about the National Food Security Act, PMFSS, One Nation One Card, Integrated Child Development Scheme, Scheme for Political Migrants.

Regarding winter preparedness, Div Com directed concerned FCS&CA officers to ensure deposit of abundant quantities of essential items in snow bound areas and the areas which remain cut off during winters.

Director School Education, briefed about the literacy rate in Kashmir besides pass percentage of students of 10th & 12th classes. He also briefed about the plan to increase literacy rate among females.

He informed that the department has chalked a plan to enroll all the out of school children in the schools to create a fully educated society.

Director informed about the major projects including Migratory Tribal Schools and deliverables including Beti Anmol, Model Schools, Annual online Transfer policy etc.

1st Sub-Committee Of Parliament OL Reviews 'Rajbhasha Implementation'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: First Sub-Committee of the Parliamentary Official Language (OL) Committee on Monday conducted a comprehensive examination of Rajbhasha implementation at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar.

The meeting was hosted by the Border Security Forces (BSF) Kashmir, took place at The Lalit Srinagar. It was attended by esteemed members of First Sub-Committee of the Parliamentary OL

Committee. Director of NIT Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Sudhakar Yedla, and the Institute's Registrar, Prof. Syed Kaiser Bukhari, were also present.

Hindi Officer Dr. R.P. Shukla who oversees the Rajbhasha Cell, AR (Admin) Mohammad Iqbal Dar, AR Legal, Mohammad Hazik and Hindi Translator Dr. Sabzar Ahmad Batoo participated in the meeting.

During the event, the First Sub-Committee of the Parliamentary OL members proposed various measures to enhance Rajbhasha's implementation on the campus. NIT

Srinagar was granted an additional one-year timeframe to achieve its assigned goals.

Director NIT, Prof. Yedla, who is the Chairman of the Official Language Implementation Committee (OLIC), expressed a commitment to consider all suggestions for the improvement of official language implementation.

It is worth noting that NIT Srinagar has successfully achieved a 43 percent implementation of Rajbhasha, and this year, 31 aspirants from the institute have excelled in the Prabodh Course.

Fire Damages 2 Shops, Building In Maisuma

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A fire broke out in Srinagar's Maisuma area near Palladium Lane on Monday in which two shops and a building were damaged.

An official said the fire broke out

near old Palladium Cinema in Srinagar's Maisuma locality here this evening.

He said the fire engulfed two shops in a three-story building, which was later brought under control as the Fire and Emergency Service personnel made all-out efforts to douse off the flames.

समेकित क्षेत्रीय कौशल विकास, पुनर्वास एवं दिव्यांगजन सशक्तिकरण केंद्र - (सी.आर.सी.) श्रीनगर

पंडित दीनदयाल उपाध्याय राष्ट्रीय आर्थिक दिव्यांगजन संस्थान दिव्यांगजन सशक्तिकरण विभाग सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार

बेमिना बाई-पास, श्रीनगर (जम्मू एवं कश्मीर) केंद्र (आग्नि प्रवेश)

दूरभाष: 0194-2495039

ईमेल: dir-crcjk-dcpwd@gov.in, directorcjk20@gmail.com

Ref. No. CRC-Sgr/Estt-Recr/23/303

Composite Regional Centre For Skill Development and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (CRC-Srinagar) (Diyanganj)

Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya National Institute for Persons with Physical Disabilities (Diyanganj)

Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Diyanganj)

Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India

Bemina Bye-pass, Srinagar (UT of J&K)-190018

Ph. 0194-2495039

E-mail: dir-crcjk-dcpwd@gov.in, directorcjk20@gmail.com

Dated: 20-09-2023

Sub: Advertisement Notification.

Composite Regional Centre (CRC) Bemina, Srinagar, under administrative control of PDUNIPPD (National Institute), Deptt. of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, MSJ&E, Govt. of India, New Delhi, hereby invites applications on the prescribed format for the following post / vacancy on direct recruitment mode as per the qualification / experience / age etc mentioned below.

S.N	Name of post	No of post	Age limit	Mode of recruitment	Requisite qualification / experience	Scale of pay/level
01	Vocational Instructor	01	35 years	Direct recruitment failing which transfer on deputation.	Essential qualification: i). Higher Secondary with Diploma in Vocational Training /D.Ed. /B.Ed / PG Diploma in special Education / Equivalent course recognized by RCI New Delhi. ii). Minimum 02 years of relevant experience iii). Registration with RCI New Delhi. Desirable qualification: Graduation with Diploma in Vocational Training.	Rs. 44,900-1,42,400/- (PML -6)

- The general terms & conditions related to the post and prescribed application format thereof may be downloaded from the institution website www.crcsrinagar.net.in.
- Application form must be accompanied with Demand Draft of Rs.450/- for Gen. Category / Rs.300/- for EWS & OBC category and Rs.100/- for candidates belonging to SC / ST and Physically Handicapped category drawn in favour of Office In-charge CRC, payable at Srinagar. No other mode of payment will be accepted by the institution.
- The necessary declaration certificate formats may be down loaded from CRC website as mentioned above.

Accordingly the eligible candidates having the requisite qualification / experience as mentioned above may submit his / her application form along with all attested requisite qualification certificates / testimonials within 21 days from the date of publication of this notification through offline or online mode in the name of Office in-charge, Composite Regional Centre, Bemina, Bye-pass, Srinagar J&K, Pin code: 190 018.

DIPK-NB-3362/23 dated: 25-09-2023

Sd/- Director PDUNIPPD, New Delhi

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation Construction Division Pampore.

DATE CORRIGENDUM

On the basis of the representations made by various firms, the critical dates of the e-NIT No. 16 of 2023-24 circulated vide No. PICD/1974-87 Dated: - 25-08-2023 are hereby extended as below: -

1	Bid submission date ends	03-10-2023 (06.00 PM)
2	Bid opening date (1st Cover)	04-10-2023 (11.00 AM)
3	Deadline for submission of hard copies	14-10-2023

All other terms and conditions shall be the same as laid down in the original e-NIT.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Irrigation Construction Division, Pampore

NO.PICD/2437-54
DIPK-9426/23
Dated:- 25-09-2023

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
09 Rabi-ul-Awwal 1445

PRAYERS	
FAJR	4:58
ZUHR	12:22
ASR	4:41
Magrib	6:27
ISHA	7:47

This Day In History

- 46 BC - Julius Caesar dedicates a temple to his mythical ancestor Venus Genetrix in accordance with a vow he made at the battle of Pharsalus.
- 1901 - Great Britain annexes the Ashanti Kingdom and places it under the governor of the Gold Coast (Ghana)
- 1938 - Hitler issues ultimatum to Czech government, demanding Sudeten Land
- 1940 - Airplane manufacturer in Woolston bombed, 30 killed
- 1940 - Japanese troops attack French Indo-China
- 1944 - British & Polish paratroopers evacuate Oosterbeek (Arnhem)
- 1944 - Soviet forces occupy Estonia
- 1950 - Because of forest fire in Br Columbia, blue moon appears in England
- 1953 - US & Spain sign defense treaty (4 US bases in Spain)
- 1954 - Japanese ferry boat Toya Maru sinks in Strait of Tsugaru, 1172 die
- 1957 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/Semipalinsk USSR
- 1962 - Yemen Arab Republic proclaimed (National Day)
- 1973 - Turkey's state of siege ends (after 2½ years)
- 1980 - Soyuz 38 returns to Earth
- 1983 - Cosmonauts Titov & Strelkov are saved from exploding Soyuz T-10
- 1983 - Lebanon premier Chafiq Wazzan offers to resigns
- 1983 - Soviet military officer Stanislav Petrov averts a worldwide nuclear war by judging supposed missile attack from the US an error
- 1984 - President Reagan vetoes sanctions against South Africa
- 1985 - Tunisia drops diplomatic relations with Libya
- 1988 - US space shuttle STS-26 launched
- 1989 - Last Vietnamese soldiers leave Cambodia
- 1989 - Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze calls for total destruction of Soviet & US chemical weapons

From KO Archives

Food Insecurity, Drying Rivers Stare Kashmir In The Face

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Kashmir is teetering dangerously on food insecurity as precious paddy land shrinks by conversion to rain-fed orchards and climate change wreaks havoc with rivers, reducing their level by two-thirds over the past forty years, a recently conducted study says.

Kashmir's current 40 per cent food grain deficit is likely to touch over 60 per cent in the next 10 years, a report on climate change released here Monday said. The ActionAid International, an NGO working in over 40 countries, in a 28-page report on climate change and its impact in Kashmir, 'On the brink' said that more and more paddy land is being changed into rain-fed orchards resulting in the food grain deficit.

The report also reveals that the deficit in food production in Kashmir valley region has reached 40 per cent putting food security to a greater risk. The food deficit was just 23 per cent in 1980-81.

Kashmir runs in deficit in food grain production while its horticulture sector earns a revenue of Rs 20 billion.

The report warns that the large scale transition from paddy cultivation to rain-fed crops poses risk to food security in Kashmir.

"In the post-World Trade Organisation scenario, as foreign fruits mainly apples have started flooding Indian markets, demand for Kashmir fruits is likely to reduce and the low demand could cripple the capacity of poor and small farmers to buy food grains from the market," says Arjmand Hussain Talib, the author of the report.

Action Aid International had carried a sample survey which revealed that 1489 acres of paddy land have been converted into rain-fed dry land in north Kashmir districts of Kupwara, Baramulla and Bandippra, south Kashmir districts of Pulwama, Kulgam and Shopian and central Kashmir district of Budgam.

Warming Shrinks Kashmir's Rivers, Streams: Water levels in Kashmir's rivers and streams have decreased by two-thirds as a result of global warming which is melting most of the Himalayan region's glaciers, a report said on Monday

(Kashmir Observer, September 26, 2000)

Iran Foils Major Bombing Plot In Tehran, Arrests 28 Daesh-Linked Terrorists

Press Trust of India

Iran has nipped in the bud a major plot to carry out 30 simultaneous bomb attacks at populous areas of the capital Tehran, arresting 28 operatives affiliated with the Daesh Takfiri terrorist group.

In a statement on Sunday, the Intelligence Ministry said its forces conducted operations in a time span of several days in the provinces of Tehran, Alborz and West Azarbaijan.

Bases used by the terrorists were detected and all the Daesh-linked agents involved in the plot were arrested.

"These elements are affili-

bombs, 17 US-made handguns and bullets, as well as diverse smart and satellite telecommunication devices, military outfits, and suicide vests.

The ministry affirmed that the plot of terror had been designed to coincide with the anniversary of last year's riots in Iran.

Daesh has claimed responsibility for a number of attacks in Iran, including one targeting the Parliament and another the mausoleum of the late founder of the Islamic Republic Imam Khomeini in 2017.

The terrorist group also claimed two terrorist attacks on the Shah Cheragh shrine in the southern city of Shiraz in



ated with Daesh and a number of them have a history of co-operating with Takfiri groups in Syria, Afghanistan, Pakistan and the Kurdistan region of Iraq," the ministry said.

The modus operandi employed by the terror teams, the ministry said, was by far more complex than that used by ordinary Takfiri groups and it remarkably conforms to the patterns practiced by the Israeli regime.

The ministry said the seized equipment includes a considerable amount of explosives and ready bombs, a package of 100 explosive primers and electronic devices used in time

August 2023 and October 2022. The riots in Iran erupted after the death of 22-year-old Iranian woman Mahsa Amini.

In mid-September 2022, Amini fainted at a police station in Tehran and was later died at the hospital. An official report by Iran's Legal Medicine Organization concluded that Amini's death was caused by illness rather than alleged blows to the head or other vital body organs.

Iran's intelligence community said several countries, including the United States and Britain, used their spy and propaganda apparatuses to provoke the violent riots.

US Govt Readies For Potential Shutdown As Funding Impasse Continues



Agencies

With the US government on the brink of a shutdown this week as Congress remains at an impasse on a funding deal, federal departments and agencies have begun the mandatory process of planning to bring non-essential functions to a halt, local media reported.

In October 2021, US President Joe Biden had signed a short-term funding bill after Congress passed the measure, averting a partial government shutdown.

Every department and agency has its own set of

plans and procedures in the event of a shutdown. That guidance includes information on how many employees will be furloughed, which employees are essential and will work without pay, how long it will take to wind down operations in the hours before a shutdown, and which activities will come to a halt.

Those plans can vary from shutdown to shutdown, CNN reported. On 22 September, the office of management and budget reminded senior agency officials to update and review shutdown plans.

Should Congress fail to pass a short-term spending bill to keep the proverbial lights on, a shutdown could have enormous impact on all Americans, in areas from air travel to clean drinking water.

The nearly 4 million Americans who are federal employees will feel the effect immediately. Essential workers will remain on the job, but others will be furloughed until the shutdown is over. None will be paid during the impasse, CNN reported.

For many of them, a shutdown would strain their finances, as it did during the record 35-day funding lapse in 2018-19, CNN reported.

US Has Failed To Compensate Tortured Victims Of Its Iraq Prisons: HRW

Agencies

Two decades on, the United States has failed to provide redress or compensation to Iraqi victims of its military's torture and abuse at Abu Ghraib and other prisons, according to Human Rights Watch (HRW).

An HRW report published on Monday said the New York-based group found no evidence that the US government has paid any compensation or other redress to victims, nor has it issued any individual apologies or other amends.

Between 2003, when the US invaded and occupied Iraq, and 2009, when it closed its largest detention centre in the country, about 100,000 Iraqis were believed to have been held by the US and its coalition allies.

Human rights organisations have documented torture and other forms of ill-treatment by US forces in Iraq in that period, something which forced then-President George W Bush to apologise, although he sought to minimise the systemic nature of the torture by calling it "disgraceful conduct by a few American troops".

Compensation that never happened

A February 2004 report to the US-led military coalition by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said military intelligence officers told the ICRC that up to 90 percent of people in coalition custody in Iraq in 2003 had been arrested by mistake.

Despite a promise of compensation by the US defence secre-



tary at the time, Donald Rumsfeld, that never materialised.

HRW said some victims tried to apply for compensation through the Foreign Claims Act, but a combat exclusion clause in the act hampers requests, alongside another clause that says claims must be filed within two years of the alleged harm.

The report added that Iraqi claims for justice in US courts have also been dismissed through a 1946 law that gives US forces immunity for "any claims arising out of the combatant activities of the military or naval forces, or the Coast Guard, during time of war".

The only lawsuits that have advanced through courts have targeted military contractors, according to HRW, but those have faced considerable obstacles as well, at times dragging through the justice system since the late 2000s.

"Twenty years on, Iraqis who were tortured by US personnel still have no clear path for filing a claim or receiving

any kind of redress or recognition from the US government," said Sarah Yager, Washington director at HRW.

"US officials have indicated that they prefer to leave torture in the past, but the long-term effects of torture are still a daily reality for many Iraqis and their families."

"They stole our future" HRW interviewed Taleb al-Majli, a former detainee at the infamous Abu Ghraib prison, who has yet to receive any compensation or recognition from the US government for the torture he suffered.

He was detained in the western Iraqi province of Anbar in November 2003 when visiting relatives and was released without charge in March 2005.

"They took away our clothes. They mocked us constantly while we were blindfolded with hoods over our heads. We were completely powerless," he said. "I was tortured by police dogs, sound bombs, live fire, and water hoses."



Armies Of India, US To Kick-Start 2-Week War Game In Alaska On Monday

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Indian and US armies will kick-start a two-week war game in Alaska on Monday that will feature a number of complex drills, officials said.

The mega exercise comes amid a renewed push by both New Delhi and Washington to expand the overall scope of the India-US global strategic partnership.

The Indian Army contingent comprising 350 personnel has already reached Fort Wainwright in Alaska to participate in the 19th edition of exercise Yudh Abhyas, the officials said on Sunday.

It is an annual exercise conducted jointly by the Indian Army and the US Army.

The previous edition of the exercise was conducted in Auli, Uttarakhand in November last year. The exercise will also involve an exchange of views and best practices in drills on a wide spectrum of military skills, including combat engineering, obstruction clearance, and improvised explosive device warfare.

"The exercise Yudh Abhyas-23 will facilitate both armies to mutually learn from each other and further strengthen the bonds between the two armies," the Indian Army said in a statement.

The lead battalion from the

Indian side in the exercise is affiliated with the Maratha Light Infantry regiment, it said, adding the 1-24 infantry battalion of the first brigade combat team will participate from the US side.

"Both sides will practice a series of tactical drills to enhance interoperability in conducting UN peacekeeping operations. Personnel from both sides will also hold detailed discussions to share their experiences and best practices," the Indian Army said.

It said the theme of the exercise is 'Employment of an Integrated Battle Group in Mountain/Extreme Climatic Conditions' under Chapter VII of the United Nations mandate.

A command post-exercise and expert academic discussions on selected topics will also form part of the schedule.

The Indian Army said the scope of the field training exercise includes "validation of integrated battle groups against hostile forces at the brigade level, integrated surveillance grid at the brigade/battalion level, employment of helicopter/airborne elements and force multipliers." It will also feature validation of logistics and casualty management during operations, evacuation, and combat medical aid, and other aspects as applicable to high altitude areas and extreme climatic conditions, it said.

Parliamentary Panel Flags This Key Problem In New Education Policy



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The multiple entry and exit system is being operated by Western educational institutions quite effectively but Indian institutions are likely to face several issues in its implementation, a parliamentary panel has noted.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports, headed by Rajya Sabha MP Vivek Thakur, said in its report tabled in the Upper House last week that the institutions have not thought very clearly about this problem and how they will resolve it when it is at their doorstep.

"New Education Policy (NEP) proposes multi-entry and multi-exit options for the students. While it looks like a flexible system, which is being operated by Western educational institutions quite effectively, Indian institutions are likely to face several issues in implementing this system. Due to the high population, the estimated intake of students in higher education every year is quite high.

"If institutions allow MEME (multiple entry and multiple exit), it would be very difficult for the institutions to predict how many students would exit and how many would join midway. Since institutions would not know the in- and out-traffic, it will certainly disturb the Pupil-Teacher Ratio," the report said.

The panel has noted that uneven geographical distribution of higher education institu-

tions would create hurdles in managing MEME in several areas, mostly countryside.

"The institutions have not thought very clearly about this problem and how they will resolve it when it is at their doorstep," it said.

According to the "Guidelines for Multiple Entry and Exit in Academic Programmes offered in Higher Education Institutions" issued by the University Grants Commission (UGC), flexible learning is important to choose one's academic pathway leading to the award of certificate, diploma, and degree.

"There are occasions when learners have to give up their education mid-way for various reasons. The records of the clearance of credits for such incomplete academic programmes remain unaccounted for. Some contingency approaches are followed in a few HEIs by allowing the learner to settle for a lower level of certification. Such rigid boundaries need to be removed to ensure zero-year-loss to students in the event of exiting in between," the guidelines stated.

"It will reduce the drop-out rate, thus improving Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER), which is one of the major objectives of the National Education Policy, (NEP), 2020. Flexible learning also facilitates lifelong learning. These objectives can be achieved on the principle of a multiple entry and exit system along with the opportunity of learning from anywhere, anytime," according to the guidelines.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER

POSHAN PROJECT PAMPORE.

CORRIGENDUM

This office has published an advertisement notification vide NO:- CDPO/POSHAN/PMPORE/ADV/2023/827-43

Dated:- 12/09/2023 and for the engagement of Anganwadi workers [Sanginis]. Applications are invited from the eligible candidates of Panchayat Halqa Samboora - B instead of Samboora - A.

Sr. No.	Advertisement Notification Number	Serial No. allocated to the vacancy on earlier notification	Exact Panch ward number of the vacancy.	Name of Anganwadi center/ Name of Panchayat Halqa
01	CDPO/POSHAN/PMPORE/ADV/2023/827-43	03	PC-V	SAMBOORA-A/SAMBOORA -B

CDPO/POSHAN/PAM/ADV/2023/2023/892-93
DATED :- 25/09/2023

DIPK-9408-23
DT: 25/09/2023

Sd/
Child development project officer
Poshan project pampore

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER KPDCL DIVISION GANDERBAL

Phone/Fax no: 0194-2416236
E-mail:-edgbl123@gmail.com

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

Ref:- e nit no 78 of 2023-24 dated 02-09-23.

Name of the work:-
Creation of 1x100KVA Sub Station alongwith HT/LT Network at Peer Mohalla Waheedpora Under Capex Budget UT Component for the Year 2023-24.

Due to poor response for the above referential e-NIT the same is hereby extended and the key dates are us under:-

a) Bid submission end date:- 27-09-23
b) Opening Date:- 27-09-23

NO: EDG/V/1970-76/TS
Dated: 25-09-23

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
ED-5th Ganderbal

CS Calls For Measures To Improve Footfall At Jambu Zoo

Says Lion, Tiger Arriving In Jambu Zoo In October



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on his visit to the Jambu Zoo at Nagrota reviewed the facilities being provided to the visitors there besides overall functioning of Zoological Park thrown open for public last year.

While making his observations, the Chief Secretary made out that the footfall to this facility needs to be improved in view of the attractions available here. He observed that the school children and other nature lovers could also be imparted with awareness about animals, their behavior and salient features related to them.

Dr Mehta also maintained that the footfall to the Zoo could also be increased by making visitors coming to the city aware about its features and location. He noted that there is no advertisement before the Zoo to attract the on-lookers.

He impressed upon the authorities that in order to make the tourists aware about this attraction, big permanent hoardings at Airport, Railway Station and enroute should be installed for attracting attention of visitors.

Dr Mehta also took note of the closed cafeteria and Nature Interpretation Centre in the campus. He called for making both these facilities functional forthwith so that people coming to the Zoo find it all inclusive and informative. He also

told them to make available the traditional foods of Jammu in the Cafeteria including those made from Millets as these are healthy and in demand all over the nation.

The Chief Secretary while visiting different animal enclosures complimented the staff for keeping all the animals in a good shape. He asked them to take care of all these animals to keep them healthy and lively. Regarding other interventions he suggested that the Tiger can be brought in easily by 15th and Lion by 25th of October vey easily. He remarked that such animals are liked by most of the people and would allure most of the visitors including children. He enjoined upon them to think about bringing in Hippopotamus as an added attraction to the Zoological Park.

The Chief Secretary also remarked that given the hot weather of Jammu in Summer season, the authorities should envisage keeping the Zoo open for public in morning and evening hours too. He enjoined upon them to think in terms of opening the Zoo from 7.00-10.00 am in the morning and 5.00-9.00 pm during hot weather days so that people have some cool place to visit to during this weather.

He also took note of some sinking portions of land there. He directed for roping in the concerned experts for its careful study and suggesting some low cost remedial measures to address this issue at an earliest.

Reviews Progress Of IT Initiatives

SRINAGAR: With an aim to further ease the life of common citizens through the medium of e-initiatives for greater transparency and door-step delivery of various government services, Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta chaired a detailed review of the IT Department today.

At the sidelines of the review, he also launched various IT initiatives including dedication of five (05) new online services to the public, unveiling the JK instance of Open Government Data(OGD) platform, the Cyber Crisis Management Plan (CCMP) and Digital Internship programme 2.0. The review meeting cum launch event was attended by Commissioner/Secretary, IT Department; CEO, JKeGA; State Informatics Officer, NIC besides other senior officers of IT Department.

At the outset of the review, Chief Secretary appreciated the efforts of Team J&K for achieving the milestone of securing the top spot amongst States/UTs with respect to the no. of e-services available to the citizens. At the same time, he impressed that the achievement should motivate everyone to further enhance the convenience of general public through identification of more area/services that need to be

provided on e-mode. He emphasized that e-services have brought about efficiency in the functioning of all the departments and are a very potent tool in realizing the J&K administration aim of "BhrashtacharMukt J&K". He urged the department to continue its efforts in expanding the e- services portfolio, suggesting the incorporation of new services and set a target of reaching 1500 e-services.

During the review of e-office, Dr Mehta directed compilation of comprehensive reports highlighting the backlog of e-files within various government departments for swift disposal of files. He stressed the importance of identifying users who exhibit suboptimal file disposal rates. Additionally, he underscored the adoption of cutting-edge technologies, such as voice-to-text converters in e-office operations, and assessed the progress of Digital DPR and Virtual Tour initiatives.

In order to sensitize the general public about their right of public service delivery in a timely manner and to enhance empowerment & transparency, he directed incorporation of PSGA timeline in the SMS sent to people on submitting e-service application before the end of this month.

Bringing Women's Reservation Bill Politically Motivated: Congress

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Claiming that bringing the women's reservation bill was a "politically motivated move", the Congress on Monday said it was the "biggest jumla" of the BJP government in the last nine years.

The party also alleged that the BJP has a habit of taking credit of works initiated by the Congress, whether it be on the bill or infrastructure projects.

"The women's reservation bill is the 'biggest jumla' in the last nine years. Multiple 'jumlas' have come but this is the biggest one," Congress national spokesperson Shama Mohammad told reporters in Srinagar.

If Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the government were serious about the issue, they would have implemented reservation for women from the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, she said and added that "as of now, it is indefinite" and "we do not know when (it will be implemented)".

The bill to reserve one-third of seats in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies for women received the parliamentary nod on Thursday as the Rajya Sabha voted unanimously in favour of it.

The 128th Constitution amendment bill, referred to as the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, will now require the approval of a majority of state assemblies. It will be implemented after a delimitation exercise to redraw parliamentary and assembly constituencies based on a census which the government has said will be commissioned next year.

While referring to the bill, Congress leader and AICC spokesperson Ritu Chaudhary

told reporters in Jammu that it is nothing but a "politically motivated move" to hoodwink people, particularly women.

The BJP has the "habit of taking credit for every work that was started by the Congress", she said and added that "it (the bill) was the dream of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, and former prime ministers PV Narasimha Rao and Manmohan Singh also worked for its implementation".

"All the works being done under (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi were basically started by the Congress. All the infrastructure which have come up (during the Modi government) were planned by the Congress. He is just cutting ribbons and naming these in his name," Chaudhary said.

On BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri's objectionable remarks in the Lok Sabha against BSP parliamentarian Danish Ali, Shama Mohammad said, "Normally, he should have been suspended immediately. But Speaker Om Birla has not taken any action."

The Congress leader said the prime minister has not said a word on this. "Remember, this is inside the temple of democracy on a Muslim. If the condition of a Muslim members of Parliament is this, what will be the condition of Muslims elsewhere?" she asked.

Shama Mohammad said, "He (Bidhuri) has not been suspended. They said a showcase notice. We remember Pragya Thakur (BJP MP) was also given a notice when she called (Nathuram) Godse 'desh bhakti tha, hai aur rahega'. The prime minister said 'mai maaf nhi karun ga' (I won't forgive). What action did he take? It's going to be the same. No action will be taken by

the BJP (against Bidhuri)."

Chaudhary also attacked the BJP on the issue asked if such a speech was acceptable to the prime minister in the "temple of democracy".

On the women's reservation bill, Shama Mohammad said it is like giving a lollipop to a child when they are crying. "But after sometime, the child realises that he got nothing because a lollipop melts away," Shama Mohammad said.

Congress leader Chaudhary said that "ask any BJP MP whether they had seen the draft of the bill and when it is going to be implemented. Nobody knows anything". She alleged that "as Modi is left with no issue to speak on in election rallies, they (BJP) have come out with this idea".

She said if reservation for women had to be implemented, it should have been done by now as former Congress president Sonia Gandhi had written to Prime Minister Modi in 2016 on the need for it.

Chaudhary said that women are clever enough to know the BJP's intention of bringing this bill at the end of its rule. "Nothing is expected from them (BJP) as they have not even given legitimate rights to women at their homes, party and the RSS (Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh)," she said.

Referring to the sexual harassment case lodged by women wrestlers against BJP MP and former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, she said he was also present during the passage of the women's reservation bill. "This is the double face of the BJP" on women empowerment, the Congress leader said.

'RESTORATION OF ELECTORAL DEMOCRACY'

Cong Youth Wing Starts Signature Campaign In J&K

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Congress' youth wing launched a signature campaign on Monday to ascertain the opinion of people on holding assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir.

The signature campaign started from the Bahu Fort area of Jammu and a large number of people took part in it, a party spokesperson said.

"The Lt Governor (Manoj Sinha) recently said that a survey revealed 80 per cent of the population of Jammu and Kashmir do not want elections as they are satisfied with his administration. Our signature campaign will reveal the true sentiment of the people," Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Youth Congress president Aakash Bharat told reporters here.

The activists took signatures of people on a banner which read: "Raise your voice for the restoration of electoral democracy in Jammu and Kashmir". Bharat said the campaign will reach all parts of Jammu and Kashmir.

Man Wanted For Attempt To Murder Arrested

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A man wanted in an attempt to murder case was arrested in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district on Monday, police said.

The accused, Sahil Choudhary alias Shalu, was arrested after raids by police in Rangoon camp in Ramgarh tehsil of Samba, they added.

According to police, on September 3, Sahil had allegedly called one Vipin Choudhary alias Mirchu outside his house near Rangoon Camp and stabbed him with a sharp weapon. Vipin sustained serious injuries on the chest and abdomen, following which he underwent surgery at GMC hospital in Jammu, they said.

Around 70 Posts Of Docs, Paramedics Vacant At District Hospital Pulwama

Have Written To Concerned Authorities To Fill The Posts: MS

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The District Hospital Pulwama catering to around 300 villages is grappling with a severe shortage of doctors and paramedical staff, giving a tough time to hospital administrators.

The officials said that the DH Pulwama not only caters to 300 villages of the district but the patients from Shopian and Budgam also visit here for treatment.

They said the hospital witnesses a huge rush of patients round the clock and it needs adequate staff



to provide better health-care services to them. In the last few years, many doctors from the hospital were transferred but were not replaced till date, they said.

While the people said there are better facilities available at the district hospital, they cited the short-

age of doctors and other staff as the concern.

If the government will post adequate staff at the hospital, then the rush and referral of patients to tertiary care hospitals will decrease as well, they said.

They have requested the Director Health Services and Deputy Commissioner

Pulwama to look into the matter.

Medical Superintendent District Hospital Pulwama Dr Ab Gani Dar said around 70 posts are vacant at the hospital.

We have already written to the concerned authorities in this regard and we hope the vacancies are filled soon, he said, adding that 69 posts including 15 doctors are currently lying vacant.

"In this 200-bedded District Hospital Pulwama, all facilities are available for patients, and efforts are being made to enhance them further," he said—(KNO)

NHM Releases Ranking Of Public Health Facilities For August

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: National Health Mission, Jammu and Kashmir on Monday released ranking of Public Health facilities on Hospital Management Information System (JK e Sahaj) for the month of August 2023.

In the category of Associated Hospitals of Government Medical Colleges, the first rank has been clinched by Jammu Psychiatric Disease Hospital, followed by GMC Anantnag, SMGS Hospital, Jammu, Chest Disease Hospital, Jammu and Government Lal Ded Hospital, Srinagar. The bottom five in this category included SMHS, Srinagar, Government Dental College, Srinagar, GMC Doda, Chest Disease Hospital, Srinagar, Bone and Joint Hospital, Srinagar.

In the category of District Hospitals, DH Ganderbal has secured first place followed by DH Shopian, DH Kishtwar, DH Samba and ASYM DH Budgam. The bottom five in this category included MCCCH Anantnag, DH Poonch, DH Pulwama, DH Ramban and DH Reasi.

In the category of Community Health Centres (CHCs), first rank has been banded by CHC

Rajpora, Pulwama followed by E.H Vijaypur Samba, CHC Sunderbani, CHC Kangan and CHC Kralpora. The bottom five in this category included CHC Taryath, CHC Rohama, CHC Kremshore, CHC Gandoh and CHC Thanamandi.

Pertinently, JK e-sahaj (Electronic System for Automation of Hospital Administration J&K) initiative was formally launched on 4th November 2022 as part of Jashn-e-Sehat, by the Lieutenant Governor, J&K, for different types of facilities i.e. Tertiary care, District Hospitals, Community Health Centres, Primary Health Centres and some New Type PHCs. JK E-Sahaj has been integrated with Rapid Assessment System (RAS), 104 Centralised Health Helpline for outbound calling and RCH portal of MoHFW, Govt. of India.

The ranking has been done on the basis of registration, conversion of EMR (Electronic Medical Record), registration of IPD patients and Patient feedback uploaded on the portal of JK e Sahaj for the month of August 2023, on real time basis. The detailed list of facilities has been shared on NHM website.

IUST Hosts Himalayan Meet Of Astronomers 2023

Observer News Service

AWANTIPORA: Prof Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Vice chancellor Islamic University of Science and Technology inaugurated Himalayan Meet of Astronomers, at IUST.

The two-day programme being jointly organized by IUST and Kashmir University in collaboration with Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, IUCAA, Pune and Central University of Himachal Pradesh aims to bring researchers from Northern India together to discuss the recent developments, opportunities and challenges in the field of Astronomy and Astrophysics.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Shakil Ahmad Romshoo complimented the organizers and said that collaboration among scientists paves the way

for cutting edge research. He said Chandriyan 2 and Aditya Programmes are a testament of India's accomplishments in Space sciences and engineering.

Dean Academic Affairs, Prof Manzoor Ahmad Malik, said that science is committed to unravelling the mysteries of space. He said exploring space is a daunting but exciting task. Prof Naseer Iqbal said that the workshop would provide an opportunity to the Scientists and Scholars to share their research outcomes and explore potential for collaborations.

Head Department of Physics IUST, Dr. Niyaz Ahmad Rather briefed the participants about the research being undertaken at Physics Department IUST. Prof Ranjeev Mishra, Coordinator HMA, IUCAA discussed IUCAA's role in promoting Astronomy and Astrophysics in India.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR,
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DIVISION BIJBEHARA
e-NITNo. 680F2023-24 No: PHEB:9074-85Dated:-22.09.2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer Ja IShakti (PHE) Division Bijbehara invites e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Bidders/Firms/Companies/ of all classes registered in JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other state Government for below mentioned works at various Water Supply schemes of PHE Division Bijbehara of Kashmir Province of UT of J&K, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). The bidding process shall be completed online on www.jktenders.gov.in in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2nd consisting of Financial Bid on overall percentage rate basis, in the prescribed BOQ.

Sr No	Particulars of the work Tender fee (in Rs)	Estimated cost	Earnest money Deposit	Bid Validity	Time of Completion of work (days)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Retrofitting of WSS Muniward by way of L/F of pipes, revamping of existing SSFP and construction of truss for operator quarter for WSS Muniward under JJM.	As per Annexure-I to this bid document-	03% of the estimated cost	180 days	As per ANNEXURE-I to this bid document.

Position of funds: Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)
The tender inviting authority is Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Bijbehara The awarding authority is District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM).

Critical Dates:

I	Publish Date	23.09.2023 09.00AM
ii	Document Download/sale start Date	23.09.2023 09.00 AM
III	Bid submission start date	23.09.2023 09.00 AM
IV	Bid submission end date	28.09.2023 04.00 PM
V	Date and time of Bid opening	29.09.2023 11.00 PM

SCHEME WISE LIST OF WORKS

S.No	Name of WSS	Description of work	Division	Estimated cost (in Lacs)	Class of contract	Time for completion days
1	WSS Muniward	Retrofitting of WSS Muniward by way of L/F of pipes, revamping of existing SSFP and construction of truss for operator quarter for WSS Muniward under JJM.	JSD Bijbehara	43.10	AAV BEE	30 days

- Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in
- 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 the month tender portal.
- The valid bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Special Sub Division Bijbehara. Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 4 & 5 of the table and shall be payable at Srinagar.
 - The cost of tender documents should be in form of DD/TR/e challan in favour of Executive Engineer Special Sub division Bijbehara
 - The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of 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 L1 after opening of financial cover.
- The bid shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the last date of submission of bids. If any bidder withdraws his bid before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the same shall be considered to be in violation of bid security declaration and shall be dealt with accordingly and the bid shall be declared non-responsive.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website www.jktenders.gov.in.
- Queries by email if any should be made at phbijbehara230@gmail.com

DIPK-9372-23
DT: 25/09/2023

Executive Engineer
JSD PHE Division Bijbehara

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Tuesday | 26-09-2023

Mirwaiz's Release

The release of Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, the chairman of the moderate Hurriyat faction, on September 22 has marked a significant shift in the political landscape of Kashmir. Addressing a congregation of worshippers at Srinagar's Grand Mosque, Mirwaiz reiterated the Hurriyat stance, stressing the need for a peaceful resolution to the longstanding issue of Kashmir. He expressed the desire for the unification of all three parts of Kashmir, currently divided between India, Pakistan, and China, under a peaceful resolution. Mirwaiz positioned himself as a "realist resolution-seeker," distancing from the label of "so-called separatists" and "peace disrupters."

Mirwaiz's release has been met with a sense of relief and surprise. It signifies a rare deviation from the central government's hardline policy in Kashmir. His earlier petition challenging his detention and seeking freedom under the Constitution had prompted the Jammu and Kashmir High Court to seek a response from the administration, ultimately leading to his release.

This is not the first time Mirwaiz has been released; a similar instance occurred on March 4, 2021, following the India-Pakistan ceasefire agreement. However, subsequent denial to him to address a Friday sermon at the Grand Mosque had led to protests. This time, his arrival at the Grand Mosque was greeted warmly, and the prayers passed off peacefully.

Over the past four years, the administration has taken a harsh stance against separatist groups and leaders, resulting in the imprisonment of major figures such as Yaseen Malik, Shabir Shah, Masarat Alam, Naeem Khan, and Shahidul Islam. The passing of Syed Ali Shah Geelani, the chairman of Hurriyat G faction, in September 2021, further dealt a blow to the separatist movement.

The situation has reached a point where the once-prominent separatist conglomerate, the Hurriyat Conference, has crippled its ability to engage in political activities. Even if the separatist leaders were free, the government has cracked down on any signs of separatist activity, raising the costs for any leader or activist championing the cause. Thus, Mirwaiz's conduct in this altered political environment will be closely watched. So, will be the fresh moves of the central government. It will be interesting to see how New Delhi would like to deal with the union territory in the run up to the parliamentary elections next year. Four years after the withdrawal of Article 370, there are no signs that the Assembly elections will be held in the region. Nor is there any hope that statehood will be restored. With the release of Mirwaiz, the centre, however, has initiated an important Confidence Building Measure. Here's hoping it leads to further improvement in the Valley's situation.

OTHER OPINION

Esports, from arcades to the Asian Games

Asian Games, esports, Asian Games in Hangzhou, League of Legends, lottery system, DOTA 2, Honor of Kings, Indian express news. The success at the Asiad will be a marker for the Olympics as it is keen on catering to a younger demographic.

Leaving behind dingy arcades in shopping streets and scoldings of parents for squinting into dimly lit screens, esports is scheduled to make a mammoth entry into public consciousness, by becoming a medal sport at the Asian Games in Hangzhou. A glitzy sci-fi spaceship-like arena over 80,000 sq metres was built specifically for this grand debut. Tickets were sold by lottery system and were priced as high as USD 137, higher than most other events. Seven game titles, including League of Legends, DOTA 2, and Honor of Kings, which belong to the multiplayer online battle arena game genre, and Street Fighter, which is MMA on screen, will test strategy, teamwork, and the individual skill of participants.

The success at the Asiad will be a marker for the Olympics as it is keen on catering to a younger demographic. The contours of violence in many battle arena games is a major roadblock to their inclusion at the Summer Games, but with the staggering popularity of several game titles, esports hopes to push past that apprehension. Hangzhou will witness the super fandom of League of Legends Korean player Lee "Faker" Sang-hyeok, whose popularity can be compared to mega K-Pop stars. Thailand will field Thum "MindRPG" Homchuen, winner of the Olympic Esports Series, and equally renowned in his country.

With a huge footprint across Asia, esports hopes to get the new generation hooked, as gaming gets mainstreamed into Games programmes. Chinese tech interests will get propped up, with tech and entertainment giant Tencent which boasts of many gaming subsidiaries, deeply involved in Hangzhou's emergence as a hub for esports. Elsewhere, esports LAN tournaments are increasingly being hosted at stadia and arenas, and gamers are earning in crores. Crossing over into the Olympics will remain the ultimate goal for esports, but China, which manufactures a fair few games, will look to advance its interests by putting up a grand spectacle at Hangzhou.

The Indian Express

India's South East Asia Policy

Earlier this month, the diplomatic bustle at the national level was focussed on the G20 Summit. However, in addition to that the Prime Minister also focussed on India's Look East policy and participated at ASEAN and East Asia Summit in Indonesia, focussing on ways to counter China's regional dominance

Asad Mirza

The G20 New Delhi Summit in early September was in fact a global brand and image making exercise for the Government of India. An exercise in which the Prime Minister Modi, G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant and Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar were equally involved and committed and achieved the task with a finesse. The cherry on top was the adoption of the New Delhi Declaration, which was adopted unanimously at the summit.

However, Prime Minister Modi as a leader of the Global South and keeping in mind India's strategic and regional priorities, in spite of his heavy commitment to the G20 Summit, undertook a whirlwind tour of the Indonesian capital Jakarta, in order to attend the ASEAN and East Asia Summit.

This shows the priorities of the GoI at both the regional and global level. On one hand India was hosting the prestigious G20 Summit but on the other hand it didn't overlook its regional priorities and strategy.

Let's take a look at the reasons for PM Modi to fly to Jakarta to participate at these two events. In fact, India is evolving into a strategic actor in Southeast Asia.

It has promoted ties - diplomatic, trade, defence and people to people, with almost all countries in the region from Vietnam, to Philippines to Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia, Laos, Brunei, Thailand, Singapore, Japan and S. Korea.

Over the years, India has signed an arms deal with Vietnam, stood with Philippines over China on sovereignty disputes in the South China Sea, and has increased defence cooperation with Indonesia.

The manner in which it has managed the balance-of-power politics in the region is a classic model of diplomacy. Basically, China's aggressive posture in and around the South China Sea is driving India and its partners in the region together. Though these bilateral and multilateral relationships have not transformed into any formal alliances, but the trend is clear. India's regional forays will increasingly complement the United States' Indo-Pacific strategy to counter China in the coming years.

India initiated its Look East policy in 1991, which was transformed into an Act East policy in 2014, when India initiated a proactive engagement policy in the region to prevent it from falling a prey to the Chinese domination. Under Prime Minister Modi, India in recent years has steadily strengthened key partnerships across Southeast Asia, particularly with countries along the maritime rim of the Indo-Pacific.

These moves are clearly designed to cooperate with Southeast Asian partners, who besides supporting the international rules-based international order insist on regional norms of behaviour in the face of rising Chinese assertiveness in the region.

Currently, India and Vietnam enjoy a "comprehensive strategic partnership" after Modi visited Vietnam in 2016. In contrast, the United States is only a "comprehensive partner" for Vietnam, two levels below India's status. Washington has struggled to raise the partnership and President Biden's recent visit to Vietnam was part of this endeavour.

The Philippines, an old and U.S.'s treaty ally, has also expanded security partnership with India. Late last month, Philippine For-

eign Secretary Enrique Manalo visited New Delhi and met with his Indian counterpart, S. Jaishankar. For the first time, India recognised the legitimacy of the 2016 arbitration ruling by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague in favour of Philippine sovereignty claims over China in the South China Sea.

India has also remained committed to evolve a security partnership with Indonesia. Indo-Indonesian defence relations got a boost in 2018, when Modi visited Jakarta and elevated relations to a comprehensive strategic partnership. The two nations also initiated a new naval exercise, Samudra Shakti, which incor-

engagements further, to include cybersecurity. Perhaps of greater importance is the economic side of their relationship. In a nod to New Delhi's original Look East policy, Bangkok implemented its own Look West policy in 1997, in part to tap into the enormous Indian market. Moreover, Thailand and India are partnering with Myanmar to construct the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway that will significantly upgrade transport links between Southeast Asia and South Asia. Once the highway is completed, Modi and his government also want to add connections to Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam - another clear rival



“India's proactive Act East policy is also a net positive for the U.S.'s Indo-Pacific strategy aimed at countering China. To provide a further impetus to New Delhi to do even more, the U.S. should also help India in its infrastructure and developmental projects, as well as trade deals, which could help lessen Beijing's economic dominance of Southeast Asia

porated a warfighting component. In addition the two countries are exploring potential air force cooperation as well. Indonesia may also follow in the footsteps of the Philippines by purchasing BrahMos missiles.

India is also cooperating with Malaysia, on the basis of an enhanced strategic partnership signed in 2015. Although Kuala Lumpur's decision earlier this year to cancel a deal to purchase Indian-made Tejas fighter aircraft may have dampened the partnership somewhat, the intent clearly remains to strengthen ties in line with upholding the mutual goal of maintaining the rules-based international order in the region - especially internationally recognised maritime borders and freedom of navigation, neither of which Beijing accepts.

Brunei is another emerging partner for India along the South China Sea. In 2021, the two nations renewed their defence agreement for five years, and they regularly engage in joint exercises, port visits by navy and coast guard ships, and official defence exchanges.

India's strategic partnerships with Singapore and Thailand are also close and longstanding. Singapore regularly engages in bilateral exercises, high-level dialogues, visits, and professional training with India. Modi visited Singapore twice in 2018, and on the first trip, he signed 35 memoranda of understanding agreements on a range of security and economic issues.

In 2022, India and Thailand renewed their partnership and pledged to elevate defence

to China's BRI.

India further has good relations with both Cambodia and Laos. In May, Cambodian King Norodom Sihamoni visited India, and the two sides reaffirmed "the strong civilisational bond" between the two nations. Phnom Penh and New Delhi cooperate on a range of socioeconomic projects, de-mining, water conservation, and heritage protection. India's engagement with Laos is less robust, but nevertheless, New Delhi and Vientiane are likely discussing ways to boost economic ties. This is all the more remarkable as both Phnom Penh and Vientiane are widely considered to be firmly in China's camp.

Overall, India's proactive Act East policy is also a net positive for the U.S.'s Indo-Pacific strategy aimed at countering China. To provide a further impetus to New Delhi to do even more, the U.S. should also help India in its infrastructure and developmental projects, as well as trade deals, which could help lessen Beijing's economic dominance of Southeast Asia. However, New Delhi's policy of practical outreach to Southeast Asia - even if it were sustained only at current levels - would help further undermine Beijing.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer
Asad Mirza is a Delhi-based senior political and international affairs commentator



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Response to Op-ed on Housework

The write-up, "Should housewives be compensated for housework?" (September 21, 2023) was an eye-opener and emphasizes the fact that housewives are no less equal when compared with the male working members in families.

From household chores to planning family events, homemakers have multifarious skills that many earning male members cannot match. In fact, years ago the Supreme Court objected to the census, listing homemakers as 'non-workers', and called for laws to quantify their con-

tribution to the economy. A woman's role as a mother, a wife and a homemaker should in itself be considered a productive work, which is something beyond any monetary value, as she brings emotional attachment to the family through her concrete and selfless service. The society's view excessively focuses on housewives as sole nurturers of the family, and hence, by default, it does not respect her as an individual, independent of her role in the family.

It took some intelligent minds and many women, who understood the value of the so-called 'house-

wives' to provide it with a better nomenclature - 'homemaker.' It may be recalled that in September 2020, the Madras High Court enhanced a monetary compensation from Rs. 8.46 lakhs to Rs. 14.07 lakhs to a homemaker, awarded by the Motor Accidents Claims Tribunal in Salem in Tamil Nadu. The judgment held that the homemaker stood on a higher pedestal than other earning family members. The MHC also noted that the value of the homemaker's contribution to the family was irreplaceable and cannot be compared to that of an "or-

inary employee." No wonder, the judgment was widely reported and rightly applauded. Women's unpaid household work must be valued as productive work and not simply as work done for the welfare of the family. The reality is that in most cases women have little choice when it comes to housework. It is time the contribution of homemakers to the household is duly recognised in terms of monetary compensation.

Ranganathan Sivakumar

BEYOND THE BLUEPRINT

The Critical Role Of Collaboration In Building Design

Mohammad Taha Fayaz

As the sun rises over the breathtaking valleys and majestic mountains of Jammu and Kashmir, it casts a golden hue on buildings that stand as testament to dreams and aspirations. These buildings hold stories within their walls—stories of resilience, aspiration, and more specifically the value of hard earned money. Each nail driven and every brick placed has been fuelled by years of dedicated effort and careful financial planning. This dwelling is not just a structure; it's a realization of dreams and aspirations that have been nurtured and cherished over time. The house is a living embodiment of the determination to transform financial struggles into a place of comfort and security, brick by brick, paying homage to the unwavering spirit that made it all possible. Now, standing at this juncture, a new chapter awaits. Did investing your hard-earned money to construct your dream building prove worthwhile, considering the effort you're now putting into reshaping it and addressing any flaws through renovations by the Unplanned and self designated blueprints?

As the pages of time turn, you find yourself embarking on a venture to reshape your structure, because of lack of efficiency in terms of thermal insulation, ventilation system, poor energy efficiency, improper space utilisation, electrical and plumbing complications, mismatched aesthetics, budget overruns and future modifications. I've frequently heard individuals inquire about altering their homes to include a (hamam) for the cold winters. However, that alone isn't the sole solution to address the thermal adaptation needs in a building. The inadequate thermal performance of residences in Kashmir has a wide-spread impact, potentially escalating into a communal challenge. Numerous additional challenges have arisen due to inadequate planning and insufficient consideration of sustainability factors. Achieving a sustainable structure requires more than just isolated efforts. It demands effective collaboration between you and an engineer. Together, you can devise a blueprint that incorporates numerous clash detections, anticipating and addressing potential conflicts in advance. This proactive approach not only ensures a smoother construction process but also contributes to the creation of a resilient and environmentally conscious final product.

The power of Collaboration:
Foundation of Success



Think of collaboration as creating a recipe. Each ingredient contributes to the final dish, and when mixed together with care, it creates a flavor and satisfying outcome. The power of collaboration isn't merely in the shared workload; it's in the synergy of minds merging their talents and perspectives. It's the realization that a project becomes infinitely more than the sum of its individual parts. In the context of Jammu and Kashmir, where architectural aspirations reflect a complex blend of heritage and modernity, collaboration is a bridge connecting the authenticity of local craftsmanship with the innovation of contemporary design. Moreover, envision the scenario where architects and engineers unite their expertise well in advance. This collaboration isn't just a merging of ideas; it's a proactive step that fosters prior detections and problem-solving. In the present day, a multitude of collaboration platforms exist to bring together ideas from diverse individuals, transforming them into reality through effective planning and proactive conflict resolution.

The BIM Platform: A Paradigm Shift

Building Information Modelling (BIM), a transformative technology that transcends traditional silos and bridges the gap between collaboration and innovation. BIM isn't just software; it's a collaborative process that enables

multidisciplinary teams to share and work on a single digital model. This model encapsulates the building's design, construction, and operational data, fostering transparency and efficient communication. Imagine a virtual blueprint where architects, engineers, contractors, and owners collaborate seamlessly. This virtual model isn't limited to lines on paper; it's a dynamic representation of the building's entire lifecycle. From initial designs to material specifications, BIM captures it all. In our Valley, where tradition holds hands with modernity, BIM can act as a bridge between the two. Imagine local craftsmen, architects, and engineers collaborating with a synergy that respects tradition while embracing innovation. With BIM, simulations can reveal how materials, insulation, and orientations affect a structure's energy consumption.

BIM's symphony of collaboration extends beyond aesthetics and performance. It's also a platform that harmonizes design with the region's unique regulatory landscape. Codal provisions seasoned to the specific parameters of Jammu and Kashmir can be seamlessly integrated into the BIM model. Imagine architects and engineers collaborating to ensure that every beam, column, and foundation adheres to local building codes that account for seismic activity, environmental concerns, and cultural sensitivities. This collaboration isn't just about meeting regulatory requirements; it's about crafting structures

that honor the region's heritage while embracing modernity.

Empowering Progress: Jammu and Kashmir's Comprehensive New Codal Manual for Building Construction

The revised codal manual for building construction in Jammu and Kashmir introduces noteworthy additions that prioritize safety, sustainability, and streamlined processes. The manual underscores seismic resilience, necessitating stricter adherence to earthquake-resistant designs and materials. Furthermore, emphasis on eco-friendly practices is evident through guidelines promoting energy-efficient construction techniques, waste reduction, and the integration of rainwater harvesting & so on. The updated manual also places renewed focus on accessibility, advocating for structures that cater to diverse needs and abilities. By embracing these novel provisions, the manual aims to elevate construction standards, fortify disaster preparedness, and foster a more inclusive and environmentally conscious urban landscape in the region. The manual is based on the most recent building codes and IS criteria, and it aims to assure the construction of high-quality structures that are safe, durable, cost-effective, visually pleasing, and ecologically friendly. The Manual provides a solid viewpoint on many areas of building construction and would be extremely useful in all

such projects now being carried out in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Some of key points highlighted in the manual are:

- Natural light is important to the health and psychological well-being of households and for office uses. The Design of structure environments must place emphasis on providing each occupant with access to natural light and views to the outside. A minimum of 100-150 LUX of diffused indirect natural light is desirable.
- Window area should be optimised to avoid net excessive heat loss through the windows. On the south elevation, a maximum of 30-35% of the total facade area should be given. This would provide good passive solar gain during the heating period.
- Insulation of walls is important for reducing conduction losses especially where there is a significant Difference between inside and outside temperature. Many types of insulation are available, some that Prevent air movement and moisture movement into and out of the conditioned space.
- Provisions for using Shear Walls in RC Structures with different possible geometries.
- Provisions for Reinforcing the Beam column joint using closely spaced closed loop steel ties around column bars to hold together concrete in a joint region.
- Emphases on conservation of heritage buildings through a process chart of conservation.
- The contractor or the equipment manufacturer must execute a series of inspections and testing during the installation and completion of electro-mechanical operations, it adds.

Uniting Vision, Innovation and Tradition through Collaborative Design

The future lies not only in the blueprint but in the collective effort that brings that blueprint to life. Through collaboration, transformative power of BIM and sticking to the guidelines and codal provisions, Jammu and Kashmir's architectural narrative can be a harmonious blend of tradition and innovation, a true reflection of a united vision. As the sun sets over the Himalayan peaks, let's envision a new dawn—a dawn where collaboration, BIM, and the wisdom of codal provisions converge to craft a skyline that honors the past, embraces the present, and builds a future that stands the test of time.

The author is working as a CAD Designer at WSP Consultants India Pvt Ltd & is an Affiliate member of ASCE

How to decarbonise India's coal power

Jyoti Parikh

The recent G20 declaration gives much guidance on agreed positions on clean energy transition. For example, the nations could have "net zero pathways of their own choice" depending on their "national circumstances" while "ensuring uninterrupted power supply" are some of the guarded positions negotiated. For India, the coal sector is the largest one to undergo a massive transition over the next two decades. India is in its growth phase, with per capita electricity consumption of 1,200 units, when the world average is 4,000. Considering the expected economic growth over the coming decades, more than three times additional electricity may be needed around 2050; of course, with the maximum growth of non-fossil sources and efforts for energy efficiency. Therefore, some growth of new coal plants is unavoidable.

India has nearly 600 coal power generation units of varying vintage, size and location that are operating currently. India is also building new units for reliable delivery of power supply. They use more than 800 million tonnes of coal and generate nearly 212 GW, providing 70% of the power generated in the country. While China increased coal capacity from 580 GW in 2009 to 1,100 GW in 2019, India might barely go from 212 GW to 280 GW in the next 10 years, due to timely decarbonisation efforts and commitment to a net zero pathway. Given the magnitude of the problem and the concern of ensuring reliable power supply that is critical for a growing economy, how do we navigate the gradual closing down the plants while ensuring reliability and also growth? How do we gradually transit to the renewable energy (RE) future, given RE cannot deliver continuously and uniformly, even as we move to shut down coal-based



generating units? We examine some criteria here.

Age of plants
Closing down old plants, say, above 25 years or 30 years, has become an oft-repeated suggestion. But this is a simplistic solution, often suggested by activists. At present, 52% of the plants in operation have been built in the last 15 years. They usually have a lifetime of 40 years at least. But they often recover capital deployed only in 20-25 years. Thereafter, they give power at competitive prices, challenging even renewables. Moreover, some coal plants would be needed to provide flexible power,

when RE is not available—at least for some time. Therefore, they are valuable and may provide an alternative to expensive storage solutions, if flexibility is assured.

Technical efficiency
The quantum of kWh/kw delivered by a plant can decide its productivity and also its economic competitiveness. However, this often depends on other factors such as proximity to high demand centres and not necessarily technical efficiency alone.

CO2 coefficients of the power plants
Typically, they range from 0.7-1.2 kg/

kwh. However, the high values are for older plants, which are fewer and may be used for flexible power on a temporary basis.

Location-related factors
During 2016- 2019 period, the Central Electricity Authority issued closure instructions for plants totalling a production capacity of nearly 9,000 MW, mostly coal-based, on the basis of the lack/concern over availability of land, water and coal. The land-use issues for highly urbanised locations are important, mainly due to the resulting air pollution and forgone value of expensive land. Water near some areas also

is increasingly getting scarce.

Distance from coal mines
Retiring those plants that are quite far from the mines earlier may avoid transport costs as well as CO2 emissions.

Thus, the conventional thinking of closing because of age, technical efficiency and CO2 coefficients has limited validity.

As mentioned, the coal sector also has to grow, though guardedly. The new coal plants can be located near the coal mines (or the coast, if the coal is imported), to reduce additional costs and CO2 emissions from its transport. The new plants can mainly come up near coal mines (except a few), as not all locations can satisfy their demand with RE in the immediate future.

In conclusion, India would need a roadmap for growth and decarbonisation that considers granularity at the plant level. Although micromanagement using any single criterion should be avoided, a broad set of criteria could be made clear. Location-wise exercises may be needed, but these should, again, be at the regional level without rigid rules, not at the state level. The criteria for closure should focus on requiring less new plants and maintaining reliable supply rather than aiming for minor CO2 gains. Adding more transmission links would be a very effective way to manage the demand due to scattered RE sources. Even connecting with hydro power from Nepal, Bhutan, and Arunachal Pradesh may be perhaps the first level of defence to avoid new coal-based capacity. A new trade study shows that it could save several hundred million tonnes of CO2, depending on various scenarios.

The article was originally published by Financial Express

Sleep Preparation Behavior Hard-Wired In Brains For Survival, Says Study

Press Trust Of India

Scientists tired out mice only to find that it triggered them to "build a nest", or in other words, to "get ready for bed".

The team of researchers, led by Imperial College London, made the mice sleepy by presenting them with Lego bricks and other toys every half an hour for five hours and preventing them from napping.

The researchers then observed their behaviour and brain activity when they were eventually allowed to fall asleep using optogenetics, whereby particular brain cells can be artificially activated by a flash of light.

As the mice became progressively more tired, the prefrontal cortex at the top of the brain sent signals to the hypothalamus at the base of the brain, the researchers observed.

The hypothalamus



houses instincts related to 'nest building' and wiring that triggers sleep, thereby setting off the "nest building" or "getting ready for bed" behaviour in mice.

"In other words, when tiredness starts to wash over the mouse, the top part of the brain (the prefrontal cortex) decides to implement behaviour to make sure the mouse is in a safe place before going to sleep," said Kyoko Tossell, from the Department of Life Sciences at Imperial and an author on the study published in the journal

Nature Neuroscience. For some animals this "safe place" is especially important, as a burrow or nest provides a haven from predators.

While the prefrontal cortex is known to help in rational planning, the hypothalamus is the brain's control centre which regulates many basic survival processes integral to the body's functioning, including eating, drinking and sleeping.

Thus, sleep preparatory behaviour is wired up in the top of the brain, the researchers concluded.

Nature Neuroscience.

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Thus, sleep preparatory behaviour is wired up in the top of the brain, the researchers concluded.

"The fact that this process is hard-wired in mice shows that preparing properly for sleep is a survival feature used in nature, and so humans should take this aspect of their sleep seriously," said Bill Wisden, Chair in Molecular Neuroscience at Imperial and the study's co-corresponding author.

"Although it seems to us humans that we have a conscious control of the process of going to bed, it is very likely that the same wiring exists in the human brain as the mouse brain.

"So, even if we think we are making a choice, we are probably governed by unconscious urges to prepare for bed as mice are," said Tossell.

The team now wants to understand further what makes the prefrontal cortex cells active during tiredness and how the brain actually senses tiredness.

Love Forms And Intensity Mapped On Human Body In A New Study

Press Trust Of India

Researchers have created a map of the human body showing where different forms of love are felt and the intensity with which they are felt.

For building the map, the researchers from Aalto University, Finland, used data collected by surveying hundreds of participants about how they experienced 27 different types of love, such as romantic love, sexual love, parental love, and love for friends, strangers, nature, God, or themselves.

They also asked them where they felt the different types of love in their body and how intensely they felt it physically and mentally.

The findings suggested that the different types of love form a continuum from weaker to stronger, the researchers said in their study published in the journal Philosophical Psychology.

The strongest forms of love were felt most widely throughout the body, they found from the responses, most of which came from young women in higher education.

"It was noteworthy, though not very surprising, that the types of love associated with close relationships are similar and are the most strongly experienced," said philosopher Parttyli Rinne, who coordinated the study.

The participants were asked to colour in a body silhouette to show where they felt each type of love, how they felt the different types physically and mentally, how pleasant the feeling was and how it was associated with touch. Finally, they were asked to rate the closeness of the types of love.

"Love between persons is divided into sexual and non-sexual. The types of love that are particularly close to each other are those that have a sexual or romantic dimension," said Rinne.

While all the types were felt strongly in the head, their intensity differed throughout the rest of the body - some spread only to the chest, while others were felt all over, the researchers found.

"It was also interesting to find a strong correlation between the physical and mental intensity of the emotion and its pleasantness. The more strongly a type of love is felt in the body, the more strongly it's felt in the mind and the more pleasant it is," said Rinne.

"When we move from more strongly experienced types of love to less strongly experienced types, the sensations in the chest area become weaker.

"It may be that, for example, love for strangers or wisdom is associated with a cognitive process. It may also be that there are pleasant sensations in the head area. This is something that should be investigated further," said Rinne.

Office Of The Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal

Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT
Address: Mini Secretariat Duderhama Ganderbal
E-mail:- rnb-ganderbal@yahoo.com, Phone:- 0194-2416058

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Two Covers
EE/R&B/Divn/Gbl-e-Tendering NIT No.108 of 2023-24 under endorsement No. 9805-09
Dated: 23-09-2023

Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Ganderbal on behalf of the Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, invites percentage rate bids in electronic tendering system for the following works including their maintenance for five years from the eligible and approved contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State Governments.

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	AA Status
1	Development of Dignibal Police Colony Road under UT Sector.	271.50	5500/-	Rs. 5,43,000/-	3 years	AAY with HMPH/AAY Class Civil having MOU with any HMPH	SE/Gbl/Bandi/139 of 2023-24 Dated:- 28-08-2023

Project Authority: R&B Department

M.H Account :UT Road Sector

Position of AAA: Accorded

Position of funds : Available as per allocation.

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:-

1. Date of Issue of Tender Notice	23-09-2023
2. Period of downloading of bidding documents	23-09-2023 from 6.00 PM.
3. Date & time of Pre-bid meeting	04-10-2023 at 2.00 PM in the office of Superintending Engineer R&B Circle Ganderbal.
4. Bid submission Start Date	23-09-2023 from 6.00 PM.
5. Bid Submission End Date	12-10-2023 upto 4.00 PM.
6. Date & time of opening of Bids (Online) (Tech. Bids)	13-10-2023 10:05 AM in the office of Superintending Engineer PW(R&B) Circle Ganderbal-Bandipora

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

3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Superintending Engineer PW(R&B) Circle Ganderbal-Bandipora. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

4. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Superintending Engineer PW(R&B) Circle Ganderbal (tender receiving authority).

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

6. The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-

a. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

c. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

7. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

7.1. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.

7.2. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2008. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.

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

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

7.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid.

7.6. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.

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

8. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

9. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal and Bid Security Declaration must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The original Treasury Challan (cost of tender document), CDR/FDR/ (earnest money/bid security) and relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of contract.

10. Bidders should quote in percentage below/percentage above or at par at the bottom of the BOQ Percentage Template for the Work.

11. Bidders are advised to quote Rate without GST. GST @ 18% shall be added at the time of allotment by allotting authority.

12. The rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes excluding GST. GST @ 18% shall be added at the time of allotment by allotting authority upto completion of the work unless otherwise specified.

13. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.

14. Price escalation and Taxes:- Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

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

16. For the NABARD project, the NABARD guidelines shall be strictly followed.

17. Instructions to Bidder (ITB)

The Bidder must have to upload (soft copies) of the following documents (Photostat/Original should be clearly seen in all respect):-

Valid original Treasury Challan/Receipt (MH.0059).

Earnest Money in the shape of CDR/FDR in favour of Superintending Engineer R&B Circle Ganderbal-Bandipora.

Registration Card valid for the year 2023-24 with card verification, latest renewal on JKPDOMS portal. Valid GSTIN/ PAN Card No.

"The Latest return GST-3/GSTR-3B and Certificate by the bidder to the effect that he has no sales tax /cost liability/arrears"

Bidder must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including Earnest Money and tender documents fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid. No document (s) which has/have not been uploaded shall not be entertained in the form of hard copy. However, in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises

Bidder shall furnish proof of latest returns in GST-3/GSTR-3B, i.e. latest clearance certificate FORM GST-3B of the qualifying month i.e. August-2023 Month/Quarter (April-June 2023) to the issue of NIT/Bidder has to upload the latest clearance certificate FORM GST-3/GSTR-3B of the latest month i.e. of August -2023/latest Quarter (April-June -2023)

All other documents as per SBD

The lowest Tender will have to submit hard copies of all documents uploaded on e-tendering portal before issuance of LOI or Allotment.

Within 7 days of receipt of LOA. (The bidder has to provide 5% of allotted Cost as Performance Security within 7 days after opening of Financial Bid) in shape of CDR/FDR Both EMD and Performance Security has been released after successful completion of the work

In case the contractor/agency doesn't own/possesses Hot mix plant, it shall submit a MOU on notarized affidavit with any registered HPMP on conditions of providing of machine mixed material as mentioned in the NIT/SBD/ BOQ and in compliance to all the desired tests and checks required as per the guidelines or on the directions of engineer in charge.

The HPMP with whom there is an MOU shall not be participant in the same tender and under the circumstances both participants shall be disqualified.

In case work isn't started on the scheduled date as communicated by engineer in charge, the department shall put the work for fresh tenders without any notice keeping in view the limited season for macadamisation.

18. All other terms and conditions shall be strictly as per SBD circulated by this office letter No. CE/RB/K/HD/29158-88 dated 10-02-2018

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

No: 9805-09

DIPK-9406/23

Dated:-25.09.2023

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

The J&K Board Of Professional Entrance Examinations (BOPEE)

Tele/Fax: 0194-2433590, 2437647 (Srinagar); 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jammu)

Website: www.jkbopee.gov.in E-mail: coejakbopee@gmail.com/helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com

Subject: **Provisional Selection List of the candidates for admission to the B.Sc. Nursing/B.Sc Para-Medical / B.Sc. Technology Courses-2023 in the Government/Private Colleges /Institutions of the UT of J&K after conduct of the First Round of online Counseling.**

Reference: Notification No. 063-BOPEE of 2023 dated 20.08.2023

Notification No: 086-BOPEE of 2023

Dated: 24.09.2023

In pursuance of the Notification No.063-BOPEE of 2023 dated 20.08.2023, the Board has conducted the Online Counseling for admission to the B.Sc. Nursing / B.Sc Para-Medical and B.Sc. Technology Courses-2023 in the Government / Private Colleges / Institutions of the UT of J&K w.e.f. 25-08-2023 to 30-08-2023.

The candidates who have been allotted seats provisionally on the basis of Merit-cum-Preferences filled by them during the online process of counseling is hereby notified as per **Annexure-A** to this Notification, which shall remain available on the official website of the Board: www.jkbopee.gov.in only.

The candidates shall have to report to the respective Colleges allotted to them for completion of admission process w.e.f. 25.09.2023 to 02.10.2023 alongwith following documents in original:-

- 12th Class Marks Card.
- Domicile Certificate.
- Category Certificate, wherever applicable.
- Paramedical (12th Based) Diploma, (For Lateral Entry candidates only).
- Any other document as may be required by the College Authorities.

The provisionally selected candidates shall have to mandatorily report for admission to the allotted Colleges/Institutions by or before 02.10.2023 upto 04:00 p.m alongwith their relevant certificates in original, failing which they shall not be eligible for further rounds of counseling, if any, conducted by the Board.

The Colleges shall submit the shortfall, if any, on 02.10.2023 upto 05:00 p.m positively to enable the Board to take further appropriate action in the matter.

Note:-

1. The admission of the candidates is purely provisional and shall be liable to be cancelled in case any information furnished by any candidate(s) proves to be false / fabricated and action as warranted under law shall be initiated against those candidates.
2. If any candidate(s) is found to have concealed any information, his/her selection/admission shall be cancelled ab-initio and fine/penalty shall also be imposed upon him as may be deemed proper by the Board in accordance with the laid down rules.
3. It is hereby implored upon the management of all Colleges/ Institutions to ensure the veracity of documents, particularly the Category Certificates wherever the admission is to be granted in lieu of a Reserved Category. So far as the Persons with Disability are concerned, if selected under Open Merit or against a Reserved Category, it shall be ensured that his/her PwD Certificate/eligibility is in conformity with Indian Nursing Council (INC) Guidelines / Regulations framed by the concerned Regulatory Body and wherever required shall refer the matter to the concerned Medical Board to assess such candidate(s) and make recommendations based on which Institution(s) shall take further necessary action. In case any candidate does not fulfill the benchmarks of eligibility as per INC Guidelines, his/her admission shall be cancelled on his/her own risk and responsibility under intimation to the Board.
4. All the Heads of the Institutions shall check & verify the Diploma of candidates who have been provisionally selected for B.Sc. Paramedical Courses under Lateral Entry category as per his/her eligibility under that category, if not so, then they shall be considered under normal course.
5. All the Heads of the Institutions/Colleges are requested to keep their admission counters open on Holidays/Off days to facilitate the candidates to complete their admission well in time and the candidates should in their own interest, avoid waiting for the last day for completing the admission formalities as the delay in such matters has the potential of causing hardships to the candidates only.

6. The Heads of the Institutions shall keep record of the admissions and send the shortfall of the candidates, if any, who have not completed their admission within the prescribed time mentioned above through E-mail viz. coejakbopee@gmail.com & helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com on 02.10.2023 upto 05:00 p.m positively along with hard copy duly signed by the Head of the Institution.

7. As mentioned in the Notification No. 063-BOPEE of 2023 dated 20-08-2023 that the seats under CDP Category shall be allotted to the concerned eligible category candidates separately or physically during the Second round of the counseling on the basis of valid Priority Certificates uploaded by the said candidates during submission of the Online Application Form. However, any CDP Category candidate falling under Open Merit shall be allotted a seat as per the Merit/Preferences filled up by the candidate during the process of online counseling. Moreover all the eligible candidates are advised to report alongwith their CDP Priority Certificate issued by Zila Sainik Welfare Board on the day of counseling as and when notified by the Board.

8. As communicated by the Director College Development Council, University of Jammu vide letter No. CDC/2023/3009-10 dated 19.09.2023 to fill up only eighty (80) seats in the Government B.Sc Nursing College Jammu, Govt. Nursing College, Gangyal and forty (40) seats in the the Government, B.Sc. Nursing College Akhnoor instead of 100 and 60 seats respectively in these Colleges as reflected in the seat matrix uploaded on website of the Board, therefore, in the larger interest of the students, the Board has taken into consideration the actual approved intake communicated by the College Development Council, University of Jammu in respect of these Nursing Colleges and accordingly allotted seats to the candidates in these Institutions on the basis of their merit cum preferences.

The other Terms and Conditions shall, however, remain the same as notified by the Board in the e-Information Brochure and Notifications/Notices issued from time to time in this regard.

E & O E

DIPK-NB-3352/23
dated: 25-09-2023

Sd/-
Controller of Examinations
J&K BOPEE

No. BOPEE/Exam-17/2023

Protecting Depositor Money Sacred Duty For A Banker: RBI Governor

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Protecting depositors' hard-earned money is a sacred duty for a banker, and more important than visiting a religious place, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Monday.

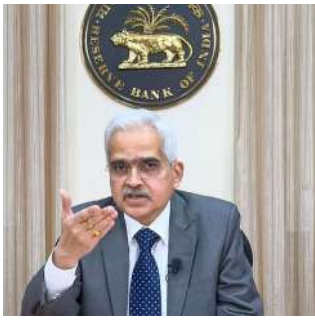
He said the task is more important because the entire banking system runs on deposits, which are accumulated from small savers, middle class and retirees.

"Protection of depositors' money is the most important responsibility of a bank. It is a sacred duty. It is a sacred duty like going to a temple or masjid or gurdwara to bow down, it's a sacred task. In fact, I would say this is much more," Das said.

In the comments, made during a speech to directors of urban cooperative banks (UCBs), Das reminded the audience that this is the "biggest responsibility" cast on each one of them.

It is also the responsibility of the Reserve Bank to work with all the banks to ensure that depositors' money is safe, and hence the Central bank keeps coming out with regulations and supervision efforts.

It can be noted that there have been multiple instances, especially in the cooperative banking space, where deposi-



tor monies are stuck because of challenges faced by the entities.

In many of these cases, irregularities by the management were the root cause of the problem, like the Punjab and Maharashtra Bank, a city-based UCB, which suffered challenges a few years ago.

Das said the RBI has created a four-tiered structure for UCBs with the perspective of better regulation and supervision of the over 1,500 entities that dot the landscape.

He also reminded that the entire banking system needs to be stable for smooth functioning of the economy, and the UCBs are an important part of the sector.

The Governor also told the audience that RBI's strengthening of supervision for UCBs should not be seen as an attempt to pose impediments for their growth.

India Eases Planned Restrictions On Laptop, Tablet Imports: Report

Bloomberg

NEW DELHI: India is loosening its planned restrictions on imports of laptops, tablets and other IT hardware, giving manufacturers such as Apple Inc., HP Inc. and Dell Technologies Inc. more time to prepare for potential curbs.

The country is doing away with a compulsory licensing requirement for tech importers, and will instead only ask such companies to register under its so-called import management system, people familiar with the policy said. The system will start operating on November 1, they said, asking not to be named as the matter isn't public.

India is seeking to boost local production while trying to ensure sufficient availability of consumer electronics. The government last month shocked companies such as Apple and Samsung Electronics, as it announced a plan to curb laptop and tablet imports without a suddenly required license.

As part of the latest plan, all companies bringing everything from tablets and laptops to desktop computers and servers into India will have to register. But unlike



under the previously considered licensing regime, where companies were expected to cut back imports immediately, the new rules won't limit inbound shipments for about six to nine months, the people said.

A quota on imports could gradually kick in as companies begin to manufacture laptops, tablets and other hardware locally. The size of each company's quota will depend on its local production, import of IT hardware as well as export of such products from India, the people said.

The planned new rules don't apply to smartphones.

The maneuvers are part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's drive to increase local production and create a world-class tech manufacturing industry in India as companies look to diversify supply chains beyond China. India this year introduced a \$2.1 billion financial incentive plan to draw computer makers to the world's most populous nation.

Companies including Dell, HP, Lenovo Group Ltd., Foxconn Technology Group and Asustek Computer Inc. have sought the subsidies to make laptops, tablets and other products in India.

RBI 'Not Comfortable' With NPAs In Urban Co-Op Banks, Asks Lenders To Focus On Governance

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday said the central bank is "not comfortable" with the gross non-performing assets ratio of 8.7 per cent in urban cooperative banks (UCBs) and asked them to work towards improving the same.

Addressing directors of UCBs in the financial capital at an RBI-organised conference, Das urged that such lenders should improve the governance standards, avoid related-party transactions and focus on credit risks, among others.

It can be noted that the UCB sector has been fraught with multiple challenges and also witnessed difficult times in the recent past, like the implosion of the city-headquartered Punjab and Maharashtra Bank.

Das reminded the directors of the UCBs that banks run on depositors and added that protection of the hard-earned money pooled in from the middle class, poor and retirees is far more sacred than going to a temple or a gurdwara.

While the overall picture at an aggregate level looks nice, the situation on GNPA and capital adequacy is "not at all

satisfactory", Das said.

He said the overall GNPA have improved to 8.7 per cent, which is "not a good number. It is not a comfortable number even at an aggregate level".

Scheduled commercial banks' GNPA stood at a decadal best level of 3.9 per cent in March 2023 and are widely estimated to improve further.

To manage the scourge of NPAs better, Das suggested that there should be a focus on credit risk management with better underwriting.

He said the RBI has come across instances of conflicts of interest or related party transactions, which need to be avoided.

Similarly, there have been instances of many of the top defaulters being individuals or businesses having the ability to pay, Das said.

The top 20 defaulters account for over 60 per cent of the loan overdue, and focusing on this segment can help improve the overall NPAs, he added.

On the capital adequacy front, he noted that there has been an improvement in the ratios to 16.6 per cent at the end of FY23 from 15.5 per cent a year ago.



Consumers Intent To Shop Online, Spend More This Festive Season: Survey

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: A significant percentage of consumers have expressed an intent to shop online during the upcoming festive season and are also willing to increase their spending this year, says a survey.

According to the Amazon India commissioned survey by Nielsen Media, based on a sample size of 8,159 consumers across metro and smaller cities, found that 87 per cent of consumers in metros and 86 per cent across tier-2 cities (population 10-40 Lakh) prefer to shop online this festive period.

As per the survey, "81 per cent of consumers intend to shop online during this festive season. 1 in 2 consumers are willing to increase their spending this festive period compared to last year." According to a Redseer Consulting report, consumer spending in festive sales of 2022, had increased marginally by 3 per cent on a year-on-year basis.

The Nielsen Media survey found that 3 in 4 consumers wait for online festive shopping events to purchase large appliances, as these events give them access to new brands and product launches across products such as refrigerators, washing machines,



geysers, and air conditioners.

"An intriguing insight into consumer behaviour reveals that 76 per cent of consumers wait for online festive shopping events to purchase smartphones. Around 60 per cent are interested in the Rs 10,000-20,000 price range, while 2 in 3 consumers seek 5G features," the survey said on Monday.

The survey found that over 77 per cent of consumers affirmed that online festive shopping events enhance the convenience of their online shopping experience with options like faster delivery.

According to the survey, 76 per cent of Indian consumers

purchase luxury and authentic beauty brands during online festive shopping events.

Around 74 per cent affirmed their confidence in online festive-led shopping events to deliver genuine and original beauty products, the survey report said.

"We are inspired to learn that consumers this year are excited and willing to spend and shop more online. We are humbled to know that consumers across India find Amazon.in to be the most trusted, preferred and loved online shopping destination," Amazon India, Country Manager for India Consumer Business, Manish Tiwary said.

Sensex, Nifty Edge Up On Gains In Financials Shares Amid Weak Global Trends

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty closed marginally up in highly volatile trade on Monday, snapping their four-day losing streak even as weak global trends and foreign fund outflows dented the investor sentiment.

After gyrating 461.6 points during the day, the 30-share BSE Sensex eked out a marginal gain of 14.54 points or 0.02 per cent to settle at 66,023.69. During the day, it hit a high of 66,225.63 and a low of 65,764.03.

Snapping its four-day losing streak, the broader Nifty settled marginally up 0.30 points at 19,674.55 as 24 of its components advanced while 26 declined. Gains in financials, consumer durables, realty and banking shares were offset by losses in IT, oil & gas and pharma shares.

In the four sessions to Friday, the 50-issue barometer declined 3.37 per cent or 518 points while Sensex plunged 1,829 points or 3 per cent following a record

11-day rally.

Analysts said a fresh uptick in US treasury yields is making investors jittery amid rising concerns over inflation and high interest rates while FIs continue to offload shares in local equities.

Among the Sensex firms, Bajaj Finance jumped the most by 4.64 per cent. Bajaj Finserv, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Asian Paints, UltraTech Cement, ICICI Bank, NTPC, JSW Steel and Tata Steel were among the major gainers.

Infosys, Mahindra & Mahindra, Wipro, Tata Consultancy Services, IndusInd Bank and HCL Technologies were the major laggards. Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said, "The day presented a mixed picture in the market, with sectors such as realty, banking, and consumer durables performing well while IT and pharma struggling. Investors were actively repositioning, shifting away from stocks tied to the global economy and focusing on the domestic

economy."

Concerns loomed over a potential global economic slowdown due to the prolonged period of high interest rates, Nair added.

Analysts also said that India's entry into JP Morgan's Emerging Markets Government Bond Index is benefiting the financial sector in anticipation of a reduction in funding cost.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.46 per cent and smallcap index advanced 0.12 per cent.

Among the indices, realty jumped 1.56 per cent, financial services climbed 0.46 per cent, consumer durables (0.43 per cent), bankex (0.29 per cent) and commodities (0.23 per cent).

Industrials, IT, telecommunication, auto, capital goods and tech were among the laggards.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended in the negative territory while Tokyo settled in the green. European markets were trading lower. The US markets ended in negative territory on Friday.



CTI Urges Centre To Ban Lentil Import From Canada Amid Heightened Tensions

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Delhi traders' body CTI on Monday urged the Central government to ban import of lentil (masur) from Canada, over Ottawa's allegations relating to the killing of a Khalistani separatist on Canadian soil.

In a letter to Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, the Chamber of Trade and Industry (CTI) said that there was a need to exert economic pressure on Canada.

A growing dispute between India and Canada has erupted following allegations made by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau over the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

Chairman of CTI, Brijesh Goyal, said that the development has sent ripples through the business world. Indian traders have demanded that India should ban import of lentils from Canada, which is a major supplier.

"Canada is becoming a stronghold of Khalistanis and their anti-India sentiment was displayed by protests at the Indian embassy. However, Trudeau is making politically motivated statements in view of upcoming elections in Canada," he said.

Apple Plans To Increase Production Over 5 Times In India To \$40 Bn In 5 yrs

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: iPhone maker Apple has plans to scale up production in India by over five-fold to around \$40 billion (about 3.32 lakh crore) in the next 4-5 years, according to government sources.

According to a government official, who did not wish to be named, the company has crossed the \$7 billion production mark in the last financial year.

"Apple has plans to increase production in India to over \$40 billion in the next four-five years. It has crossed \$7 billion in the last fiscal," the official said. An email query sent to Apple did not elicit any reply.

Apple manufacturers iPhones in India and has plans to start manufacturing AirPods from next year. The officer said that Apple has no immediate plans to make iPads or its laptops in India.

"They don't have any plans to participate in IT hardware PLI. They may come at a later stage but as of now their focus is to scale up existing production lev-



els," the officer said. The company globally sold iPhones worth \$191 billion and products worth \$38.36 billion in the wearable, home and accessories segment in the financial year ended on September 25, 2022.

In the first nine months of the current fiscal, the company recorded about a 4 per cent dip in iPhone sales at \$156.77 billion and a slight decline in the wearable, home and accessories segment at \$30.52 billion.

The company has become the largest exporter of mobile phones from India.

According to industry sources, sales of Apple's iPhone 15 series registered a 100 per cent growth com-

pared to that of the iPhone 14 series on the launch day on Friday.

Apple has launched four models in the iPhone 15 series. Two variants—iPhone 15 and iPhone 15 Plus—are also being made in India.

The company has for the first time made available the 'made-in-India' iPhones on the same day it started selling the devices in other parts of the globe.

According to market research firm Counterpoint Research, Apple led the ultra-premium segment, with phones priced above Rs 45,000 apiece, with 59 per cent market share in the first quarter of 2023 and India is among the top-five markets for the company now.



SKUAST Launches Agri-Entrepreneurship Startup Training Programme

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) on Monday launched a skill training programme for creating the next generation of agri-entrepreneurs in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) has granted 550 skill training programmes to SKUAST for implementation in the current year, officials said.

"We have to take our farming community from subsistence agriculture to sustainable commercial agriculture. We have to strive to achieve the goal set by the JK government to double the agricultural GDP in the next five years," Vice chancellor of the SKUAST Nazir Ahmad Ganai told reporters.

Last year the university implemented 66 skilling programmes.

He said it is important that the country shifts toward startup culture as India is emerging as a big startup ecosystem in the world.

"The universities have a very important role to play in bringing Jammu and Kashmir on the startup ecosystem map of the country," he added.

Sajad ul Akbar Wani, a beneficiary of last year's training

programme, said skill development is a good programme.

"The educated youth are sitting home, some are suffering from migraine and some have gone into depression. My wife also is educated and wanted to contribute to family income. She has done MSc and MEd but a teacher's job in the private sector would just fetch her a few thousand rupees salary," he said.

Wani said he brought his wife to the training programme last year to attend this skill training programme.

"We decided to start an entrepreneurial unit. We decided to promote saffron as a cash crop and we did some innovation. We launched a new perfume... We made a small beginning and... got a good return. We want the educated youth of Kashmir to benefit from this training," he said.

Wani said there is talent in Kashmir but the youth do not have exposure. "By attending these training programmes, they will get direction and guidance on how to become entrepreneurs," he added.

Sahel Afaqaband, nodal officer of the programme, said 20 startups were registered after last year's programme which indicated the success of the training.

S&P Retains India's FY24 Growth Forecast At 6% On Slowing World Economy, Rising Risk Of Subnormal Monsoons

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: S&P Global Ratings on Monday retained India's growth forecast for current fiscal at 6 per cent citing slowing world economy, rising risk of subnormal monsoons and delayed effect of rate hike.

The US-based agency sees the recent spike in vegetable price inflation as being temporary, but revised up the full fiscal retail inflation forecast to 5.5 per cent, from 5 per cent earlier, on higher global oil prices.

"Growth this year will be weaker than in 2022, but our outlook remains broadly favourable. Notwithstanding the strong expansion in India in the June quarter, we maintain our forecast for fiscal 2024 (ending March 2024), given the slowing world economy, the delayed effect of rate hikes, and the rising risk of subnormal monsoons," S&P said in its Economic Outlook for Asia Pacific Q4 2023 report.

Indian economy grew 7.2 per cent in 2022-23 fiscal year which ended March 2023.

While retaining its growth



forecast for the current fiscal at 6 per cent, S&P also maintained that India's economy will grow 6.9 per cent in both 2024-25 and 2025-26 fiscal years.

S&P said India's consumption growth as well as capital expenditure remained "strong" in the June quarter.

With regard to growth in the Asia Pacific region, S&P said it remains a "multi-speed region" and slightly raised its forecast for 2023 to 3.9 per cent amid domestic resilience.

"In all, growth in the region has generally remained resilient. Year-on-year GDP growth picked up in the second quarter in both developed and emerging Asian economies. India led again, with GDP growing 4.2 per cent quarter on quarter to a level 7.8 per cent up on a year ago," S&P said.

NYK Celebrates Birth Anniversary Of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya

Mushtaq ul Islam

Pulwama: Nehru Yuva Kendra Pulwama celebrated Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Programme in District Pulwama. On this day in 2014, the Ministry of Rural Development re-introduced Aajeevika Skills, a skill development programme under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM). It was later renamed Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- NRLM in November 2015.

In keeping with the Antyodaya Mission's mission

to reach out to all, the motto of the day is to help all underprivileged and rural youth in India find local, national and global employment opportunities.

To create awareness about the need to protect and care for the underprivileged and vulnerable members of society, the government organised symposiums, blood donation camps, programmes and orientation sessions. On this special day, the government organises many activities across the country to help people who lack basic necessities.

SC sets up seven-judge bench to reconsider 1998 verdict granting immunity from prosecution to MPs/MLAs

New Delhi: A seven-judge bench of the Supreme Court, headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, will reconsider the apex court's 1998 verdict granting MPs and MLAs immunity from prosecution for taking bribe to make a speech or vote in Parliament and state legislatures.

A notice, uploaded on the apex court website, said the bench will hear the matter on October 4.

"Constitution Bench comprising the Chief Justice of India, Justice A S Bopanna, Justice M M Sundresh, Justice Pamidighantam Sri Narasimha, Justice J B Pardiwala, Justice Sanjay Kumar and Justice Manoj Misra is constituted to hear criminal appeal no. 451/2019 titled Sita Soren vs Union of India on October 4 (Wednesday)," the notice said.

Nearly 25 years after the JMM bribery scandal rocked the country, the apex court had on September 20 agreed to reconsider its 1998 judgment, saying it was an important issue having a significant bearing on "morality of polity".

A five-judge bench of the apex court had decided to refer the issue to a larger seven-judge bench.

The top court had in its 1998 five-judge constitution bench verdict delivered in the PV Narasimha Rao versus CBI case held that parliamentarians have immunity under the Constitution against criminal prosecution for any speech made and vote cast inside the House as per Article 105(2) and Article 194(2) of the Constitution.

Article 105(2) of the Constitution stipulates that no member of Parliament shall be liable to any proceedings in court in respect of anything said or any vote cast in Parliament or any committee thereof. A similar provision exists for MLAs under Article 194(2).

In 2019, a bench headed by then chief justice Ranjan Gogoi, which was hearing an appeal filed by Sita Soren, JMM MLA from Jama and daughter-in-law of party chief Shibu Soren, who was an accused in the JMM bribery scandal, had referred to a five-judge bench the crucial question, noting it had "wide ramifications" and was of "substantial public importance".

Sita Soren was accused of taking bribe to vote for a particular candidate in the Rajya Sabha election in 2012.

TTJ Travmart Concludes At Sun City Resort In Mandarmani, West Bengal

Partha Chatterjee

Srinagar: The Travel Trade Journal's (TTJ) Travmart -EITM 2023 started on September 15 at Vedic Village Spa Resort in Kolkata concluded on September 18th at Sun City Resort in Mandarmani, West Bengal.

This year TTJ -EITM 2023 Fam-Trip with 40 leading tour operators, Chocolate Group organized at their Mandarmani Sun City Resort. All delegates were given a colorful warm welcome with the famous Durga Puja musical instrument of West Bengal - Dhaki, on arrival at the resort.

Sri Ravi Sharma, Editor Sampan Media & Convener EITM 2023, Gurjit Singh, Partha Chatterjee, Co-convener - TTJ EITM 2023, Nirmalya Chaudhuri (Director), Tuhiin Dey(Director) Chocolate Hotels Pvt Ltd, Dipak Giri(Operations Manager) Sun City Resort, Mandarmani lit the lamp with Ganesha Vandana at Sun City Resort.

It was a heartwarming fam-trip. Entire EITM delegates enjoyed a delicious variety of Veg and Non-Veg snacks, warm music along with cuisine; delegates also enjoyed sea fish items like fried pomfret, Tiger Prawn preparation along with charming musical night. Various Bengali, Anglo sweet dishes were served along with many specialty drinks.

Next morning after breakfast, all the delegates tour operators visited the entire SunCity Resort to understand the potential of this resort for their guests in India and abroad.

They appreciated the natural beauty of sea and land, virgin beaches, green trees and natural beauty. Swimming pool, Ship deck, small water body within Mandarmani Resort, sunrise, sunset, conference hall, luxurious rooms with



all modern amenities, grand restaurant.

They found that Sun City Mandarmani Resort is a perfect destination for individual tourists, destination marriage, and MICE tourism is the ideal destination mainly for company conferences, meetings and peace-loving tourists.

The two-day FamTrip concluded with a press appearance by two women representatives of the Kolkata Press Club.

A tourism quiz through lottery and special prizes. Two

special prizes were announced and distributed by Chocolate Group Director Nirmalya Chaudhuri.

He awarded two tour operator companies among TTJ - EITM 40 tour operator representatives. The prizes were free travel with food for 3 nights and 4 days family trip in their hotels and resorts in the state of India like Rajasthan- Jaipur, Jharkhan-Ranchi, Goa , West Bengal-Kolkata, Chocolate Hotel Pvt Ltd Prime Park/ Suncity Mandarmani Resort.

No space for intolerance and extremism in Islam and society: Pak Army chief Gen Munir

Press Trust of India

Rawalpindi.

Islamabad: Pakistan's powerful Army chief General Asim Munir said on Monday that there is no space for intolerance and extremism in Islam and society as he met members of the minority Christian community and lauded their services for the welfare and defence of the country.

His comments assume significance in the backdrop of the "Jaranwala incident" where a mob vandalised 22 churches and set scores of Christian houses on fire over allegations of blasphemy. There were no casualties but it was one of the most destructive attacks on Christians in the Muslim-majority country.

"Islam is a religion of peace and there is no space for intolerance and extremism in Islam and society. No one can be allowed to take law in his own hands in a civilised society," Gen Munir said during an interaction with a 14-member Christian community delegation led by Dr Azad Marshall Moderator and President Bishops (Church of Pakistan and Bishop of Raiwind) at General Headquarters,

The army said in a statement that during the meeting matters of mutual interest, religious and inter-faith harmony were discussed.

Gen Munir "lauded the contributions of the Pakistani Christian Community in national development, including promotion of quality education, healthcare and philanthropic services and the outstanding role played by them for the defence of the motherland."

He also expressed deep respect for Christian community and stressed upon the need for promoting greater interfaith harmony in society in order to follow Pakistan's founder M A Jinnah's true vision of a united and progressive Pakistan.

The delegation acknowledged Pakistan Army's efforts in combating terrorism and providing a secure environment to the minorities in the country, and appreciated the Army chief's gesture as an inspiration for Pakistani minorities to take greater and more active part in nation building and in restoring their faith in a cohesive and tolerant society, according to the statement.

Kerala Police Issues Lookout Notice Against Vlogger For Allegedly Misbehaving With Saudi Arabia Woman

Agenceis

The Kerala police has issued a lookout notice against a vlogger for allegedly attempting to misbehave with a woman from Saudi Arabia, under the pretext of an interview.

The "lookout circular" was issued as the accused was in Canada.

A case was registered against Shakeer Suban alias 'Mallu Traveler' last week for the alleged incident that took

place on September 13 at a hotel in the city. However, the vlogger denied the allegations in a YouTube video.

A case under section 354 (Outraging the modesty of a woman) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) was registered against the vlogger, who has over 2.71 M followers on YouTube. According to the complaint, the accused allegedly attempted to outrage the modesty of the foreign national.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Season's First

Upper reaches of Kashmir valley received light snowfall. "On average, weather is good, intermittent rainfall is predicted but there are no signs of heavy rains," he added.

Minakshi Muhiya, a tourist from Assam who has been in the Valley for four days, said was relieved that the weather has turned pleasant now.

"(When I arrived) I thought the weather would be cold but it was hot. Now it is cool and we feel like it is getting colder. The weather is very pleasant now," she said.

Bisma Yousuf, a local resident, said the rains had brought relief to the people.

"People were suffering from the scorching heat. We were wearing summer clothes but since yesterday, the change in weather has made people wear sweaters and jackets. Rain has given relief to native people as well as tourists," she added.

Kashmiri Students

students had shifted them to an unauthorized college," Danish Ahmad, a student representative told Kashmir Observer.

He said the decision to postpone the strike was taken after the AAP leader, who also represents Amlah Assembly constituency, met them and assured all-out assistance from the state government.

"With the Punjab government's envoy assuring us that our demands will be met, we have no reason to prolong our strike. To watch how things go, we will hold off for another fifteen days," he added.

At least 70 students, majority of them from Kashmir, were transferred to Sardar Lal Singh College (SLSC) without their consent.

The paramedical courses at SLSC, students said, are not recognized by Indian Nursing Council (INC) or Punjab Nurses Registration Council (PNRC) as the college lacks approval of both the regulating bodies.

At least 25 students, including 22 girls and 3 boys suffered injuries after the DBU staff together with police used force during their protest against the "unilateral move", last week.

Punjab police has also charged DBU administrators, including its Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, President and Vice-President for defrauding naive students.

A formal case FIR No. 135 of 2013 under IPC sections 420, 406, 354 B, 323, 341, 427, 506, 148 and section 149 has been registered against 16

higher-ups of DBU at Amlah police station on September 16.

Taking cognizance of the illegal transfer of Kashmiri students to an unauthorized college located within the varsity campus, the Department of Medical Education and Research, Government of Punjab in an order had directed the varsity administration to pay Rupees 10 lakh compensation to each student.

"The DBU will not admit any new student for any nursing course from now onwards, and that a complete list of the 3rd year students of the session 2020-21 who have been affected by the illegal admissions, and need to be shifted to protect their future be provided to the Medical Education Department," reads the order.

"It is also made clear that DBU will have to deposit the fees for the current year, i.e., 3rd year, to the institutions where the students will have to be shifted, as would inevitably be demanded by the respective colleges," the order adds.

NIA Court Rejects

section 10, 13, 18 UAP Act....in the humble opinion of this court the stage has not risen for this court to record its satisfaction with regard to the 'prima facie' truthfulness of the accusation or otherwise against the accused/applicant," the court said, adding, "Serious allegations have been made against all the accused persons /applicants Objectionable and incriminating materials have been seized from some accused persons which include the letters written by Yaseen Malik seeking freedom of J&K and some photographs depicting "Kashmir Banega Pakistan"."

Some accused persons, the court was told, have talked to terrorists across the border in Pakistan on the evening prior to the meeting and on the morning of the meeting on 9 July.

"The report of CCTV and DVR footage of Habib Restaurant is yet to be obtained from the FSL; the report of some electronic gadgets and laptops are yet to be obtained from FSL; the reports of mobile phones of some accused persons/applicants have been obtained from FSL and they run into thousands of pages which are being analyzed," the court observed, adding, "The report pertaining to (one of the) accused Mohd Yaseen Bhat is of 55,000 pages."

Subsequently, the court rejected bail pleas of Firdous Ahmad Shah of Abiguzar Srinagar, Jahangir Ahmad

Bhat of Botengo Sopore, Saheel alias Suhail Ahmad Mir of Umer Abad Peerbagh, Khurshheed Ahmad Bhat of Iqbal Colony Rawalpora, Syed Rehman Shams alias Shams-u-din Rehmani of Goti Uttar Dalnagar West Bengal at present Lalbazar, Sajad Hussain Gul of Panthachowk, Mohammad Rafiq Phaloo alias Salim Nanaji of Natipora, Ghulam Hassan Parray alias Firdousi of Lawaypora Srinagar, Mohammed Yaseen Bhat of Naseembagh Hazratbal Srinagar and Shabir Ahmad Dar of Badambagh Sopore.

"The accused persons/applicants are not entitled to bail at this stage. The embargo contained under section 43(D) proviso 5 is attracted in the present case and the accused persons/applicants herein does not deserve the latitude of bail at this stage," the court said, adding, "Further, if the accused persons / applicants are enlarged on bail at this stage, public interests/ interests of state/UT shall be put to stake."

Reasi Lithium Reserves

miners have shown interest," the source said, declining to be identified because of the sensitive nature of discussions.

The report also said that the Ministry of mines did not immediately reply to a Reuters email seeking comments.

Over a month after the lithium reserves were discovered, Mines Minister Pralhad Joshi informed Rajya Sabha on March 13 that the mineral block will be auctioned as Composite License (CL) by the Government of Union Territory of J&K.

"The financial viability will be determined after auctioning by the successful bidder," Joshi had said

"In part of Jammu & Kashmir, as a follow up of lithium exploration in Salal-Haimma areas of Reasi district, GSI has taken up another reconnaissance G4 stage exploration programme on lithium and associated mineral in Panasa Dugga Baladhanun Chakar - Sangarmarg (Saro-da-Bas) area of Reasi district during current field season 2022-23 and the work is in progress," he had said in a separate reply.

Amit Shah Chairs

wherein the upcoming Lok Sabha polls were discussed.

"The leadership directed the J&K unit to gear up and strengthen the party at grassroots level," Koul said, adding that no other discussion took place during the meeting.

Sources said that the party's J&K unit was directed to start a door to door campaign and ensure the lotus blooms across J&K in the upcoming parliamentary elections.

However, Koul said that the ULB and Panchayat polls were not discussed in the meeting.

A senior party leader, who was present in the meeting, told KNO that Shah stressed on making the party more vibrant in J&K and asked the party men to rope in prominent personalities in every zone into the party fold.

"The Home Minister also told us to make more youth join the BJP in Jammu and Kashmir. He said the BJP believes in youth power and that more and more youth should be brought into the party fold," the BJP leader said, adding that Shah also directed the party men to reach out to the people and ensure that Lotus blooms in Lok Sabha and Assembly polls in J&K.

Political Biography

political or otherwise, the one indispensable constant was Dr Farooq Abdullah.

"We were intrigued by his quicksilver politics; and decided to put our field notes together to construct a full narrative of Farooq Abdullah's public life that wasn't hagiographical in style and substance," said the authors in a statement.

The book claims to reveal many unknown aspects of Abdullah's personality, such as his love for sports as well as his shrewd and dramatic posturing in the political arena. It also highlights his relations with various national and international leaders, such as Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and Benazir Bhutto.

According to the publisher, "Farooq of Kashmir" is a must-read for anyone who wants to understand the history and politics of Kashmir, as well as the role and relevance of Abdullah in the current scenario.

"In Farooq of Kashmir, we delve deep into the enigmatic tapestry of a political maestro who balanced high-stakes politics while illustrating that the corridors of power can resonate with both ambition and allure," said Shantanu Duttgupta, executive publisher at Fingerprint Publishing.

The book, priced at Rs 699, is currently available for sale across online and offline stores.

JKP Collaborates

operating a fake Instagram account

and posting anti-national content in the comment section.

"Police along with other relevant agencies, have successfully infiltrated various Telegram and WhatsApp groups, where they closely monitor activities," the report said.

Sources said that a wealth of valuable intelligence has been gathered through these operations.

They said that even teenagers, who are members of various Telegram groups, are under surveillance.

Hangul Sighting

and habitat vulnerability. "We are actively engaged in researching and monitoring the Hangul population within Dachigam National Park and its surrounding landscapes. As an endemic species and a vital part of our Union Territory's wildlife, the Department of Wildlife Protection is unwavering in its commitment to safeguard the Hangul," the official said—(KNO)

LG Releases

multifaceted talents of Mukesh Singh beyond the realm of law enforcement into the world of literature. I am sure this excellent new book will take readers on an adventurous journey to understand the challenges faced by our Police and Security forces. Wishing author and book all success," he added

Stranded Family

a picnic in a Scorpio vehicle. "While returning back to their destination, they chose the Upper Rajwar Wader Bala route towards Handwara. Unfortunately, they lost their way in deep forests; their vehicle got stuck and was unable to move any further. Finding themselves in distress, they contacted Dial-112 for urgent help," he said.

Accordingly, he said, Dial-112 instantly informed the concerned police units operating in the area for urgent help.

On receipt of this information, the spokesperson said, the In-charge Police Post Zachaldara along with a police party and Army (21RR) acted promptly and began the rescue operation.

"After strenuous efforts, the joint team reached the spot and successfully tracked the stranded family, thereby saving the precious lives of 11 persons. Subsequently, the stranded family was shifted to Police Post Zachaldara for night stay by the joint team where they were also served with refreshment. Moreover, their stuck vehicle was towed from the

spot by a JCB which was arranged by the Police and later escorted them up to the main road from where they resumed their journey to their home," he said.

The stranded family, he said, praised the police for their timely help and appreciated the prompt action of Dial 112.

Romshoo Bags

entrepreneurship, skilling, peace and culture studies, and outreach activities. He said that the idea of empowering the youth through skilling and capacity building is aligned with the Gandhian Philosophy and said that a system of education rooted in our culture as is manifest in the NEP 2020 has answers for many of our problems. He congratulated Prof Romshoo in taking the lead in NEP implementation.

Prof Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, expressed gratitude to the Gandhi Global Family for the award and said that IUST is conscious of its responsibility towards the Community at large.

He said that under the outreach initiatives, IUST engages with the local community especially the disadvantaged sections of the society so as to contribute to their upliftment. He said that for the progress and transformation of the Country during the Amritkal, educational Institutions have an important role to play in the manner of focused research on providing actionable solutions to the problems facing society. The function was attended among others by Dr Mohammad Matoo, Representative of Gandhi King Foundation, Mr Noor Mohammad Wani, Advisor Gandhi Global Family, Hamid Ullah Hamid Founder Chairman, Kashmir Welfare Centre, Registrar IUST, Dean Students IUST, Finance Officer, Director CIED, Head Centre for International Relations and other faculty members.

Driver Held In

spokesperson said that during the course of investigation, a team led by SHO Police Station Qazigund relentlessly made all efforts and collected evidence from CCTV, Toll Plazas, Telecom and other useful applications/services to identify the accused.

After strenuous efforts, he said, the accused driver Aarif Ahmad Ellahi of Nowgam Verinag was arrested. "The police team also recovered the involved vehicle (Truck) bearing registration number JK22-7103. Further investigation in the case is going on," the spokesperson said.

Bumrah Back For Third ODI Against Australia

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah will be available for the third ODI against Australia after being given a one-match break but all-rounder Axar Patel will be given a few more days to recover from his quadriceps tear ahead of the World Cup, BCCI sources said on Monday.

While Ravichandran Ashwin has done decently in his two outings, the team management is still bullish about the fitness of Axar, the left-arm spin bowling all-rounder.

"The team management wants to give Axar full chance of recovery. His forearm and finger bruises have healed but may be in another few days, he would get fit for World Cup. India's first match is on September 8 and hence there is time. "As far as Ashwin is concerned, we now know that he is match fit

and in rhythm. If Axar can't make it, Ashwin walks in," a BCCI source privy to the development told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

The final squad announcement is on September 27 and it is understood that Axar still remains the team management's top choice for the reserve spinner's slot ahead of the Tamil Nadu veteran. It is understood that young batting star Shubman Gill and bowling all-rounder Shardul Thakur have been given a few days rest ahead of the third ODI in Rajkot on Wednesday.

"As per rotation policy of the team, Bumrah, who was given a couple of days off to freshen up is back along with skipper Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Hardik Pandya and Kuldeep Yadav. Gill, who has been playing continuously gets to cool his heels for 3-4 days along with Shardul Thakur," the source added.



India Women Clinch Asian Games Cricket Gold, Beat Sri Lanka In Final

Press Trust of India

HANGZHOU: Rookie pacer Titas Sadhu singlehandedly earned a gold medal for the Indian women's cricket team in its maiden appearance as it defeated Sri Lanka by 19 runs in a low-scoring final of the Asian Games here on Monday.

On a pitch difficult for batting, the Indian women's team struggled to 116 for seven but it was just about par score.

However sensational Titas, who is just four days shy of her 19th birthday, bowled a devastating first spell and finished with superb figures of 4-1-6-3 to

play a big role in restricting Sri Lanka to 97 for eight in 20 overs.

She had an able ally in leg-spinner Devika Vaidya (4-0-15-1), who kept a tight leash on the islanders.

Left-arm spinner Rajeshwari Gayakwad (3-0-20-2) and off-spinner Deepti Sharma (4-0-25-1) started off badly but were on target during the back-end as Indian women always looked in complete control.

This was one gold medal that India were expected to win, but the standard of cricket was pretty poor, and the nature of wicket didn't help matters.

The Indian women's team is

missing a genuine quick bowler in its ranks since the retirement of Jhulan Goswami and Titas looks to be a worthy successor.

Earlier, Harmanpreet's decision to bat first was a correct one as the pitch, which wasn't conducive for stroke-play, only got slower as the match progressed.

Smriti Mandhana (46 off 45 balls), who hit four boundaries and a six, along with Jemimah Rodrigues (42 off 40 balls), added 73 runs for the second wicket.

Brief scores: India 116/7 in 20 overs (Harmanpreet Kaur 46, Jemimah Rodrigues 42), Sri Lanka 97/8 in 20 overs (Hasini Perera 25, Titas Sadhu 3/6).

SRINAGAR PREMIER LEAGUE

Asrar Scores 3 As FC1 Beat Kashmir Avengers 4-0

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: FC1 defeated Kashmir Avengers FC 4-0 in the lone game of the Srinagar Premier League 2023 on Monday at Synthetic Turf TRC here.

Former Bengaluru FC player and FC1 captain Asrar Rehbar scored a hat trick as the newly promoted side dominated the proceedings. Rehbar, who debuted for India national team earlier this year, opened the score through a penalty in the 26th minute. He then doubled the lead in the 40th, as FC1 entered the second half 2-0 up. Asrar scored his third goal in the 49th minute, before Hayat made it 4-0 in the 58th.

The victory means FC1 remain undefeated in the Pre-



mier Division after Round 15 fixtures.

Per the schedule released by DFA Srinagar, one match of the Srinagar Premier League will be played today, Tuesday, Sept. 26. In the 6:30

pm kick off, Ali Jana FC will take on Jhelum FC.

In the other set of matches, Kashmir Maharaja FC play JK United FC on Wednesday, while Novelty FC take on J&K Police FC on Thursday.

Provincial Cricket Tournery: Pulwama Play Bandipora In Final

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: Pulwama will take on Bandipora in the final of the Department Of Youth Services & Sports-organized UT-level Provincial Cricket Tournament for Under-14 boys, being held in Anantnag. The tournament is sponsored by Joint Director YSS.

In the first semi-final, Pulwama won the toss and elected to field first. Batting first Baramulla were bundled at 63 runs, with Sahil the top scorer (18) and Haris making 10 runs. For Pulwama, Sahib took 5 wickets.

Chasing down the partly target, Pulwama limped to a 2 wicket victory, with the highest score of Afnan (13). Sahib was declared player of the match for his incredible bowling.



In the second semi-final match, hosts Anantnag played Bandipora. Anantnag won the toss and elected to bat first and set a target of 134 runs in allotted overs. Suhaib Nazir was the top scorer with 50 of 48 balls, while Abrar was the main bowler from Bandipora, picking 4 wickets.

In reply, Bandipora chased the target in the last over in a thrilling contest, winning the match by 2 wickets. Sahil Bilal's extraordinary batting skill helped him score 77 runs in just 51 balls. For Anantnag, Kifayat took 4 wickets. Sahil Bilal was declared player of the match.

Maiden Sports University To Come Up In J&K Soon: Report

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration is likely to set-up the first sports university in the region, alongside six physical education institutions in Jammu & Kashmir.

Besides, the colleges of Jammu and Kashmir are also likely to get state of art sports infrastructure.

A top official privy to the decision, told news agency KNO: "A Sports University will be set up in the UT to promote sports as a profession among the youth of Jammu and Kashmir."

"Also, state of art sports infrastructure will be created in colleges of Jammu and Kashmir along with development of six physical education Institutions one each at Peer Panjal area, Chenab Valley area, Jammu area, north Kashmir, south Kashmir and central Kashmir," the report quoting an official added.

Pakistani Players Issued Indian Visa For World Cup Travel: ICC

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Members of the Pakistan cricket team were on Monday issued Indian visas for the ODI World Cup, the International Cricket Council (ICC) confirmed, hours after the PCB raised serious concerns with the global body over the delay in the national team's travel to Hyderabad.

The visa clearance came less than 48 hours before Pakistan's scheduled travel to India in the wee hours of September 27. They play their first warm-up game against New Zealand in Hyderabad on September 29.

"Visas have been issued to Pakistan," an ICC spokesperson told PTI. However, confusion remained in the Pakistan camp over the grant of visa.

"We have not got the call from Indian High Commission yet over visa clearance. Member of our team is stationed there," PCB spokesperson Umar Farooq told PTI. The confirmation from the ICC came after the PCB wrote to ICC CEO Geoff Allardice on Monday over the visa delay besides claiming the anxious wait has adversely impacted the team's preparation for the 50-over showpiece.

Pakistan were supposed to have a two-day team bonding session in Dubai before their scheduled arrival in Hyderabad on September 27 but



was cancelled due to the uncertainty over Indian visa.

The Babar Azam-led side plays two warm-up games and as many World Cup matches in Hyderabad starting with the practice fixture against New Zealand.

In the letter addressed to Allardice, the PCB also claimed that its concerns over visa being granted to players, team officials, fans and journalists for the World Cup in India have not been addressed

for more than three years. It also added that such inequitable treatment to Pakistan will not be acceptable.

Reiterating those concerns, Farooq added: "There has been an extraordinary delays in getting clearance and securing Indian visas for the Pakistan team for ICC World Cup. "We have written to ICC raising our concerns about inequitable treatment towards Pakistan and

reminding them of these obligations towards the World Cup. It's a matter of disappointment that the Pakistan team has to go through the uncertainty ahead of the major tournament.

"We have been reminding about their obligations from last three years and it has all come down to last two days with our first warm game scheduled on September 29. We were forced to cancel our original plan to organise team-building exercise in Dubai on the way to India. We have had to rework our plan and book new flights, but these plans are subject issuance of visas," he said.

Pakistan last visited India for the T20 World Cup in 2016. The arch-rivals only play each other in the Asia Cup and ICC tournaments due to the tense relations between the two countries.

PCB sources informed that flight tickets of around 35 members have been re-booked now that the Dubai trip is off. The team will now leave for Hyderabad from Lahore in the wee hours of September 27 and reach Hyderabad via Dubai in the night.

"The warm-up game is less than four days away and players are in a state of uncertainty. If the players are having to experience delays, one can only wonder what will happen to visa applications of fans and journalists," a source said.

Visa applications from Pakistan require clearances from three ministries -- home, external affairs and sports.

Pakistan's second warm-up game will be against Australia on October 3, also in Hyderabad. They will remain in the city for their opening two World Cup games against Netherlands and Sri Lanka on October 6 and 10 respectively before flying to Ahmedabad for the big game against hosts India on October 14. Only two members from the current Pakistan squad have toured India for cricket -- Mohammad Nawaz and Salman Agha.

BCCI AGM: Dalmiya, Dhupal Re-Elected In IPL GC



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Former CAB president Avishek Dalmiya and current IPL chairman Arun Singh Dhupal have been re-elected in the IPL governing council as per decisions taken at the Annual General Meeting of the BCCI held in Goa on Monday.

The general body was appraised about BCCI earning more than 38 per cent from annual revenue generated by the ICC and also Rs 67 crore (approx) per match earning from media rights during the next cycle of bilateral series.

"All routine decisions happened. The list of names for the cricket committees and the sub-committees will be prepared by the office bearers as entrusted by the House. As far as IPL GC is concerned, IPL chairman Arun Dhupal and Avishek Dalmiya were supposed to be elected and it happened on expected lines," a state unit representative told PTI. It has also been learnt that Ombudsman-cum-Ethics Officer

will continue as per his contract which is due to expire next year.

"The Ombudsman-cum-Ethics Officer will continue till June, 2024. He will serve his full contract," the state unit source said.

The board members were also apprised about the new budget and the profit that BCCI made in the last financial year.

Former India left-arm spinner Pragyan Ojha will no longer be Indian Cricketers' Association's representative in the Apex Council.

There were talks about removal of Salil Ankola from the national selection panel as chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar, who is also from Mumbai, is already a part of the panel. The BCCI has a convention that five selectors represent five zones and this time, there are two from West Zone.

"There has been no such discussion about this during the AGM. If there is anything, it can only happen after the World Cup. As of now, no selector is being changed," the source said.

US Provided Canada With Intelligence On Killing Of Sikh Separatist Leader

Agenceis

American spy agencies provided information to Ottawa after the killing of a Sikh separatist leader in the Vancouver area, but Canada developed the most definitive intelligence that led it to accuse India of orchestrating the plot, according to Western-allied officials.

In the aftermath of the killing, US intelligence agencies offered their Canadian counterparts context that helped Canada conclude that India had been involved. Yet what appears to be the "smoking gun" — intercepted communications of Indian diplomats in Canada indicating involvement in the plot — was gathered by Canadian officials, the allied officials said.

(On Saturday, the US ambassador to Canada revealed that intelligence shared among the Five Eyes partners helped Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau arrive at the decision to publicly allege an Indian government hand in the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep



Singh Nijjar in Canada.

(Cohen did tell the Canadian network, CTV News, "there was a lot of communication between Canada and the United States about this". But it was not clear from his comments that intelligence from the US offered the Canadians the context that helped them make up their mind.)

The two allied officials spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss what has become a diplomatic firestorm.

While secretary of state Antony J. Blinken has called on India to cooperate with the Canadian investigation,

and New Zealand.

But the contextual information about the killing was shared deliberately as part of a package of various intelligence streams.

While democratic countries conduct targeted killings in unstable countries or regions, and the spy services of more authoritarian governments — namely Russia — orchestrate assassinations anywhere they choose, it is unusual for a democratic country to conduct a lethal covert action in another democracy.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Canadian officials have declined to release the specifics of the intelligence Canada has gathered about India. Canadian officials say it is important not to compromise the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's investigation of the murder.

Allied officials would not describe in detail the intelligence shared by the US.

A Canadian government official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive information, said the government

NASA Capsule Carrying Asteroid Samples Lands In US

Agenceis

Ending its seven-year long expedition, a NASA space capsule carrying samples from the surface of an asteroid made its return to Earth on Sunday.

It marks the third and largest asteroid sample to have ever been brought to Earth in history.

The OSIRIS-REx capsule, launched by NASA in collaboration with the University of Arizona, made a parachute landing in the Utah desert.

Why is the OSIRIS-REx



mission important?

The mission was launched in September 2016 to collect samples

from Bennu, an asteroid

rich in carbon and classified as a "near-Earth object." The capsule landed on

Bennu's surface in 2020 and collected about nine ounces (250 grams) of dust from its stony surface.

"This sample return is really historic," NASA scientist Amy Simon told the AFP news agency. "This is going to be the biggest sample we've brought back since the Apollo moon rocks" were returned to Earth.

Scientists believe that by examining the samples, we can gain a better understanding of how our solar system was formed and how Earth became habitable.

Delhi High Court Issues Fresh Notice To BBC Over Defamatory Documentary On Modi

Agenceis

The Delhi High Court on Monday issued fresh notice to the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) on a plea by an NGO seeking damages, claiming its documentary "India: The Modi Question" casts a slur on the country's reputation and makes false and defamatory imputations against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Indian judiciary.

Besides BBC (UK), Justice Sachin Datta also issued fresh notice to BBC (India) on the plea filed by Gujarat-based NGO Justice On Trial.

The counsel for the petitioner NGO informed the high court that notices were issued to BBC (UK) and BBC (India) earlier but they could not be served. Advocate Siddharth Sharma, representing the NGO, sought more time to serve the notices to the defendants.



"Issue fresh notice to the defendants through all permissible modes," the high court ordered, and listed the matter for further hearing on December 15.

It had on May 22 issued notice to the defendants on the plea which has said BBC (UK) is the national broadcaster of the United Kingdom and has released the news documentary — "India: The Modi Question" — which has two episodes

and BBC (India) is its local operations office. It said the two episodes were published in January 2023.

The petitioner has sought damages of Rs 10,000 crore in favour of the NGO and against the defendants on account of the "loss of reputation and goodwill caused to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, the Government of India, the Government of the State of Gujarat as it was during

the period of the Gujarat Riots, and also the people of India".

The documentary relates to the 2002 Gujarat riots when Modi was the state's chief minister.

The government had banned the documentary soon after it was released.

The plaintiff organisation, which says it is a society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 and also registered as a Public trust under the provisions of the Bombay Public Trust, 1950, has filed the suit for damages and also sought permission to file as an indigent person.

It has contended that the documentary contains content which casts a slur on the reputation of the country and also makes false and defamatory imputations and insinuations against the Prime Minister of India, the Indian judiciary and the Indian criminal justice system.

Pitched battle: PhonePe announces Indus Appstore for Android developers to take on Google

Agenceis

PhonePe on Saturday announced the launch of Indus Appstore developer platform, wooing Android app developers with the promise of zero platform fee or commission for in-app payments, as the digital payments firm made a bold and decisive move to confront the might of Google in the app marketplace with the Made-in-India app store.

Akash Dongre, Co-Founder of Indus Appstore said that app developers are forced to work with only one app store - Google Play Store - for distributing their apps, and vowed that the new offering will be a credible alternative, more



localised, with better app discovery and consumer engagement.

The Indus Appstore Developer platform comes with sweeteners - app listings on it will be free for the first year, after which a nominal annual fee will apply. Moreover, the Indus Appstore will not charge developers any platform fee or commission for In-App

Payments.

Developers will be free to integrate any payment gateway of their choice inside their own apps. These apps will be listed on the soon-to-be launched "Made-in-India" Indus Appstore, offering a localised experience in 12 languages, tailored for Indian audiences. This means users will be able to explore the appstore

in their preferred language.

"PhonePe, today announced the launch of the Indus Appstore Developer Platform... Indus Appstore is inviting all Android app developers to register and upload their apps using the self-serve developer platform www.indusappstore.com," according to a release.

The Appstore will also have a 'Launch Pad' for new developers to onboard their apps and provide them with better visibility and search optimisation.

Dongre observed that India is poised to have over 1 billion smartphone users by 2026, offering a massive opportunity to build a new-age, localised Android app store.

WE'RE HIRING

The methods used to consume news have changed over time from newspapers, to television, to the Internet on our computers to carrying the news around with us 24/7 on smartphones in our pockets.

Kashmir Observer, with nearly three decades of experience in news gathering, has utilised the best available talent to launch Kashmir Observer Live.

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