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As Kashmir's Wetlands Shrink Fast Experts Suggest People Oriented Conservation

Parvaiz Bhat

Early an umber of measures for wetlands across Jammu and Kashmir which include involvement of society, strict control on encroachment and poaching, capacity building of the staff, increased and timely funding, maintenance of water regimes and besides other measures.

In a special issue of Buceros -- a newsletter published by Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme (EIACP) which is a resource partner on Avian Ecology at Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and is sponsored by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change — issues facing the wetlands of Jammu and Kashmir have been broadly described by several subject experts who have given a number of recommendations for their effective management and conservation.

One of the key recommendations of the experts is about involving the society,



especially nature-loving young wetlands across Jammu & people, for conservation of Kashmir. "Over the past few

WHEN WE ANALYSED THEIR INFORMATION WITH THE HELP OF GOOGLE TOOLS, it made a lot of sense to us and we straightway acted upon what the knowledgeable elderly people told us."

years, several birding clubs have come up in J&K, with hundreds of birdwatchers who are actively involved in birding. Besides bird watching, their active involvement in wetland conservation should be explored," the experts have recommended.

Involving local community members in conservation exercises have already shown good results at one of Kashmir's prime wetlands, Hokersar. Sajjid Faruk, wetland ranger at Hokersar, said that he and his other colleagues found the community knowledge quite useful for maintaining the water level and enhancing the water spread in the wetland for making it easy >>> More On P10

KP Guards Killing SIA Raids Multiple Locations in South Kashmir

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The State Investigation Unit (SIA) on Wednesday carried out series of targeted raids at multiple locations in South Kashmir's Pulwama, Shopian and Anantnag districts in connection with the killing of Sanjay Sharma, a 40-year-old ATM guard in Pulwama district in February this year.

Official sources said that raids are being conducted in the Litter area of Pulwama, Shirmal area of Shopian district and Anantnag district as well. He said that raids are underway in connection with the investigation in the case of the killing of ATM guard Sanjay Sharma of Pulwama who was killed in February this year.

Earlier this year, >> More On P10

400 People Sitting Across LoC Identified: DGP

- Have Wiped Out Entire Militant Leadership
- · Situation Normal Despite Kokernag Gunfight



MULTI CRORE AYUSHMAN BHARAT SCAM

To File Status Report

Bureau

Court Gives ACB 3 Days

Agencies

Kathua: Jammu and Kashmir's Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbagh Singh Wednesday said that 400 locals have been identified who are presently in Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) working to fuel terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir through their supporters.

"We have identified some 400 locals from J&K who are present in Pakistan and PoK. These people are involved in running terrorism here through various means. These people work for various terrorist outfits. We have decided to zero in on their handlers and supporters here," the DGP told reporters during his visit to the Bhalesa area of Doda.

Agencies

Anti-Corruption

Iammu: A local court here

extended the time for the

(ACB), Jammu to submit

the latest status about the

alleged scam in the imple-

mentation of Ayushman

Bharat Jan Arogya Scheme in

A complaint had been sub-

mitted before the Director,

CBI seeking registration of

FIR into Rs.500-700 Crores

scam in the implementa-

tion of Ayushman Bharat Jan

Arogya Scheme by Advocate

Sheikh Shakeel Ahmed last

year. The case was later

transferred by the CBI to the

Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that very soon these people will feel isolated and won't be able to carry out their "nefarious designs."

Replying to a query, he said that terrorism was at its low in J&K as major terror outfits like Jaish-e-Muhammad, Lashkar-e-Taiba and Hizbul Mujahideen are facing leadership crisis after we 'wiped out' their all leaders. He said there was a huge difference between Doda of the 1990s and Doda of 2023. "Today, people are living a peaceful life," he said.

Earlier, during his visit to Kathua district of Jammu, DGP stated that after the administration handed over police recruitment to a separate agency, there are 4000 vacancies of constables in the department » More On P10

Director, Anti-Corruption

The court had directed the

ACB to submit the status re-

port by or before September

26 this month and on

Sessions Judge (Anti-Corruption) Jammu O.P. Bhagat extended the time

up to September 30, 2023.

Prosecutor appearing for

ACB submitted that he

has not received the sta-

tus report from the ACB

Headquarters and he be al-

lowed more time to comply

the orders of the Court. On

the other hand Advocate,

S.S. Ahmed >> More On P10

Additional

Bureau, J&K.

Wednesday

Additional

J&K Unemployment Rate Declines to 5.2 Percent

Auqib Javeed

Srinagar:-The unemployment rate in Jammu and Kashmir has declined from 6.7 percent in 2019-21 to 5.2 percent in 2021-2022, according to a report by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

The report, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer revealed that the unemployment rate in the UT was 5.1 in the year 2018-2019 and rose to 6.7 percent in 2019-2020. The percentage came down to 5.9 in the year 2020-21 and 5.2 percent in 2021-2022.

As per the report, the unemployment rate is the usual status for persons of age 15 years. The data on Employment

and Unemployment is collected through Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) since 2017-18. The survey period is July to June of the next year.



THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN J&K WAS 5.1 in the year 2018-2019 and rose to 6.7 percent in 2019-2020. The percentage came down to 5.9 in the year 2020-21 and went further down to 5.2 percent in 2021-2022.

As per the latest available Annual PLFS reports, the estimated Unemployment Rate (UR) on usual status for persons of age 15 years and above was 5.8%, 4.8%, 4.2% and 4.1% during 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 respectively, which shows that the unemployment rate in the

country has declining trend.
As per the reports, the estimated Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) on usual status for persons of age 15 years and above was 50.2%, 53.5%, 54.9% and 55.2% during 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22, respectively, which shows an increasing

trend in the labor force.

The Government said that they have taken various steps to improve the Labour Force Participation Rate in the country including women's participation in the labour force and quality of their employment.

While rejecting the monthly reports of private agencies involved in the surveys, Director Employment Jammu and Kashmir, Nisar Ahmad Wani told Kashmir Observer that this is the actual unemployment rate in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said various steps are being taken to bring it down further.

"The reports of the private agencies aren't based on facts and are faulty in their approach," Wani told Kashmir Observer.

Notably, the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) would monthly comeup with the unemployment percentage in the country and would show J&K in a "worrying situation".

ng situation". In March, the **» More On P10**

2 Cops Killed In Ramban Mishap

Ramban: Two police personnel were killed while two more, including a teacher, were injured after a vehicle they were travelling in skidded off the road and fell into a gorge near the dam site at Chanderkot in Ramban district on Wednesday, an official said.

Reports said that a police van, on way from Ramban to Rajgarh, veered off road and fell into a gorge near the dam site in Chandrrkot area.

He said in the incident, a Special Police Officer (SPO) died on the spot while another policeman died during treatment, adding that two others including a teacher were injured, who have been shifted to a nearby healthcare facility.

The official identified the deceased as SPO Swami Raj and senior grade constable Parvaiz Ahmed. More On P10

PM Modi Has Empowered Farmers Like Never Before: LG

Addresses seminar on social reformer Swami Sahajanand at Ghazipur

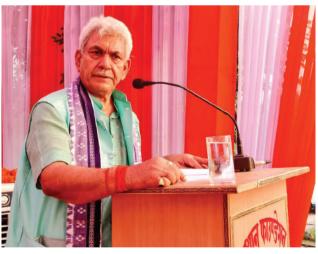
Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Wednesday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given the agriculture and allied activities new impetus and with it agriculture budget has gone up by 5.7 fold as compared to 2013-14. Addressing a seminar

on great social reformer Swami Sahajanand organized by Swami Sahajanand Postgraduate College in collaboration with ICSSR at Ghazipur, UP, Lt Governor highlighted the significant contribution of Swami Sahajanand to farmer's movement and his role in empowering small and marginal farming community, transformation and rejuvenation of agriculture sector to fulfill the development ambitions of a large section of society.

large section of society.

"Hon'ble Prime Minister
Shri Narendra Modi Ji is implementing the vision of Swami
Sahajanand and has given the
agriculture and allied activities new impetus. Agriculture
budget has gone up by 5.7 fold
as compared to 2013-14, credit flow to farmers stepped up



and Rs.1 Lakh Crore allocated to Agriculture Infrastructure Fund," the Lt Governor said, according to an official spokesman.

He said the progressive reforms under the guidance of Prime Minister have empowered the farmers and brought prosperity in their lives.

"The comprehensive approach from seed to market and the efforts to strengthen the rural economy have led to the empowerment of farmers at every step. Highest-ever

food grain production, significant rise in income and entrepreneurship is scripting a new chapter in history of agriculture sector," the Lt Governor said.

Rs.20 Lakh Cr has been allocated for agriculture credit to farmers and it shows that the government's top priority is to unlock the growth potential of the agriculture and allied sector, he added.

At the seminar, the Lt Governor also shared the agricultural reforms and farmercentric policies » More On P10

Dr Farooq Convenes Oppn Meeting in Jammu

Invitation sent to all opposition leaders to discuss prevailing situation in J&K: Tarigami

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Former chief minister and National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah has convened a meeting of all opposition leaders in Jammu on October 3 to discuss prevailing political situation in Jammu and

Kashmir.
Former legislator and CPI
(M) leader Muhammad Yousuf
Tarigami told Kashmir News
Observer that a meeting of



leaders of opposition parties in J&K has been convener on 3rd of October and it will be chaired by Dr Farooq Abdullah.

The meeting >> More On P10

8 Bihar Labourers Injured in Anantnag Blast

No Terrorist Angle Observed, Investigation Started: Police

Observer News Service

Anantnag: At least eight labourers were injured after an explosion in a vibration machine took place in Larkipora area of Anantnag district.

Reports said that the blast occurred Wednesday morning

near a local market, causing

panic among the residents.

All the injured persons, hailing from Bihar, were rushed to a nearby hospital for medical treatment. The injured have been identified as Chato Kumar, son of Soria Kumar (18), Param Jeet, son of Jitender (22), Bhawan Kumar, son of Mohan Kumar (21), Fiqan, son of Nanda Lal (17), Jiten, son of Nanda Reshi (21), More On P10

S H O R T T A K E S

LG Sends Greetings on Eid-e-Milad

ieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has extended his greetings and good wishes to the people on the eve of Milad-un-Nabi. In a message the Lt Governor said: "On the auspicious occasion of the birthday of Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh), I convey my

greetings to all.
The holy Prophet showed us the path of an egalitarian society based on >> More On P10

Soldier Injured In Rajouri Mine Blast

n army soldier was left severely injured in a landmine blast along Line of Control in Rajouri district, officials said on Wednesday. News agency GNS reported that one Naik Dheeraj Kumar Magrati, was injured after he accidentally stepped on a landmine, while on patrolling duty in the forward area of LoC in the Nowshera sector. The injured army man was airlifted to Northern & More On 110

Kashmir Youth Dies in Saudi

Srinagar resident has been killed in a road accident in Saudi Arabia and the family here has appealed to the Lieutenant Governor-led administration in Jammu and Kashmir to help them bring back the body for last rites. Youth identified as Adil Shaban from Rainawari Srinagar died in a road accident in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday. The deceased had arrived in Saudi Arabia only 15 days back on a work visa.

ARTO Suspends 21 Licenses

ssistant Regional Transport
Officer (ARTO) Bandipora
on Wednesday suspended
21 driving licenses for the period
of 3 months for various violations
under Motor Vehicle Act.
The ARTO made public the list,
mentioning Driving Licences,
through a notice. The notice reads
that the Driving Licences' holders
have been found involved in different offences/violations under
Motor Vehicle Act >> More On P10

Dawar Declared Best Tourist Village

n a major feat for the Jammu and Kashmir's Tourism department, Dawar village of Gurez in northern district of Bandipora Wednesday bagged the best tourism village award from the Union Ministry of Tourism. The award was received by the J&K's Tourism Secretary Syed Abid Rashid on behalf of J&K government. "Dawar village bagged the award in the golden category from » More On P10

Horse & Dog Show at APS Srinagar

rmy Public School (APS), BB Cantt, Srinagar under the aegis of the Chinar Corps organised horse and dog show for the students and parents today. Parents of the students of APS and citizens were invited to witness the mega show organised by the Indian Army. The event was attended by 600 APS students, their parents and equestrian enthusiasts. 25 APS children, 22 Army personnel, six Canines >> More On P10



To place an advertisement CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

KASHMIR OBSERVER 1 Srinagar | Thursday | 28-09-2023

BARAMULLA CENTRAL CO-OPRATIVE BANK LTD

Serving to Grow Head Office: Baramulla, Kashmir No: BCCB/HO/NOTES/208/BOK Dated: 27/September/2023

APPENDIX-IV POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule-8(1)] (For immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Nodal Officer of Baramulla Central Cooperative Bank Head office Baramulla under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFEASI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (2) read with rule 8 and 9 Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, had issued a Demand Notices dated: 15-03-2023 calling upon the Borrower Shri Manzoor Ahmad Lone S/o: Haji Mohd Muzafar Lone R/o: Songam, Lolab District Kuppwara to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice being Rs.69,69,585.00 (Rupee Sixty nine Lac's sixty nine thousand five hundred eighty five only) as on 15-03-2023, and interest thereon within sixty days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The said borrower and Guarantor having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower/guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken physical/symbolic possession of the mortgaged property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him/her under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the security interest enforcement) rule 2002 on dated 27-09-2023.

The said Borrower/Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Baramulla Central Cooperative Bank Branch Kupwara main, for an amount Rs.69,69,585.00 (Rupee Sixty nine Lac's sixty nine thousand five hundred eighty five only) as on 15-03-2023, and further interest thereon together with incidental expenses, costs, charges less repayment.

Description of the mortgaged Immovable property Registered mortgage of land measuring 12 marlas under khewat no.04 survey No. 2915 Khata No. 04 along with double story residential house built upon it Situated at Sogam, District Kupwara.

Dated: 27-09-2023

Nodal Officer Baramulla Central Cooperative Bank

Since 1920

BARAMULLA CENTRAL CO-OPRATIVE BANK LTD

Head Office: Baramulla, Kashmir

No: BCCB/HO/NOTES/209/BOK Dated: 27/September/2023 APPENDIX-IV

POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule-8(1)] (For immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Nodal Officer of Baramulla Central Cooperative Bank Head office Baramulla under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFEASI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (2) read with rule 8 and 9 Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, had issued a Demand Notices dated: 23-06-2023 calling upon the Borrower Shri Gh. Mohi-ud-din Dar S/o: Gh. Ahmad Dar R/o: Jagarpora, Handwara, District Kuppwara to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice being Rs.1,49,44,159.00 (Rupee One Crore forty Nine Lac's forty four thousand one hundred fifty nine only) as on 15-06-2023, and interest thereon within sixty days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The said borrower and Guarantor having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower/guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken physical/symbolic possession of the mortgaged property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him/her under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the security interest enforcement) rule 2002 on dated 27-09-2023.

The said Borrower/Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Baramulla Central Cooperative Bank Branch Kupwara, for an amount Rs.1,49,44,159.00 (Rupee One Crore forty Nine Lac's forty four thousand one hundred fifty nine only) as on 15-06-2023, and further interest thereon together with incidental expenses, costs, charges less repayment.

Description of the mortgaged Immovable property Registered mortgage of land measuring 11 kanal & 5 marlas under khewat no.58/57 survey No. 717/120/1385. Khata No. 290-88/1 Situated at Jagarpora, Handwara District Kupwara.

Nodal Officer Dated: 27-09-2023 Baramulla Central Cooperative Bank.

یہ خبرانتہائی دکھاورافسوس کے ساتھ دی 🛚 عالى بيك بسيرزاده داكثر محرميع ساه ساكنه جها نگير كالوني برزله باؤس نمبر **123 مو**رخه 21 رستمبر 2023 كواس جهال فاني سے رحلت كرنجئج بالذتعالي مرحوم كوجنت الفردوس ميس جگہءطا کرے(آمین) مرحوم کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی سنیچروار 0 8رستمبر 2023 سنج 10:00 بجان کے آبانی مقب رہ اولڈ برزلہ نزدیک Ä عیدگادانجام دی جائے تی۔ موگواران به به به به شاندان 9419600006

J&K Bank

Jammu and Kashmir Bank Limited Central Stationary Department Nowgam, Byepass

Srinagar 190015 J&K On-Line Request for Quotes (e-RFQ)

Printing & Supply of Trilingual Printed Stationery Items

RFQ Notice along with Complete RFQ document outlining the minimum requirements can be downloaded from and BIDs can be submitted on the Banks' e-Tendering Portal https://jkbank.abcprocure.com w.e.f. September 28, 2023, 16.00 Hrs. RFP Document can also be downloaded from Bank's Official Website www.jkbank.com. Last date for submission of Bids is October 19, 2023, 17.00 Hrs.

e-RFQ Ref. No.: JKB/CSD/PS-Trilingual format/2023-813

Registered office: Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India GC000048; T:+91 (0)194 2481 930-35; F:+91 (0)194 248 1928; E:info@jkbmail.com

DIPK-NB-3417/23 dated: 27-09-2023

Jammu And Kashmir Union Territory

GOVERNMENT OF UT JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Office Of The Executive Engineer PCD(PHQ) J&K Jammu/ Srinagar

INVITING SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTICE e-NIT No/EE-PCD/PHO/71/2023-24 Dated: - 27-09-2023

Executive Engineer PCD PHQJ&K JAMMU/SRINAGARon behalf of The President of India invites tenders by e-tendering on Percentage rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Govt. / CPWD / Railways and other State / Central Governments for the following works.

S.	Name of Work	Name of	Estimated	Cost of	Earnest	Time Al-	Time and	Class of
No		Division	Cost (Rs.	document	Money	lowed for	date of	Contrac-
			In lacs)	(In Rs)	(In Rs.)	comple-	opening of	tor
						tion	tender	
1	Face lifting pf Mar-	PCD	4.06lacs	500/-	8120/-	10 working	04-10-	"A", "B",
	tyrs Memorial on the	(PHQ)				days	2023	"C" & "D"
	Eve of Commemora-	J&K,						
	tion Day 2023 at APC	Jammu/						
	Zewan Srinagar.	Srinagar						

Date of Publishing 27-09-2023 at 1600 hours.

The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website http://jktenders.gov.infrom 1630 hours on 27-09-2023 i. The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website http://iktenders.gov.infrom

27-09-2023 to 03-10-2023 up to 1600 Hrs. The bids received will be opened at 1100 hours on 04-10-2023 on line.

The complete bidding process will be on line. Technical bids of bidders shall be opened on line in the office of ExecutiveEngineer PCD PHQ J&K Jam-

The lowest bidder i. e. L1 shall be intimated to deposit the original copy of required earnest money in

shape of CDR/ FDR and hard copies of all relevant documents as mentioned in clause 2 of general instructions to the bidders within five days from opening of financial bids. In light of Govt. Notification issued by Finance Department Civil Secretariat Vide No. A/24(2017)-651 dated:- 07-06-2018, the bidder must upload the copy of challan / receipt on account of cost of tender documents

remitted in the treasury concerned for that the bidders must write an application to be addressed to treasury officer concerned requesting therein for remittance of amount as cost of tender documents towards M. H. 0055/ Revenue (others). The cost of tender documents should be submitted by the bidder in shape of treasury challan / receipt and upload the same.

Earnest Money:- The earnest money deposit (EMD @ 2% of advertised cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar of the successful bidder (L1) shall be released, only after defect liability period, the DLP shall be calculated from the date of successful completion of the work to the satisfaction report of Engineer incharge.

Rid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website http://iktenders.gov.inRid.documents contain qualifying criteria for bidder, specifications, bill of quantities, conditions and other details. The site for the work is available. The intending bidders are strongly advised to inspect the site of work before bidding.

Financial Bids will be opened on line in the office of the Executive Engineer, PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar. 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.

The bid for the work shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder / tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the said earnest money shall stand forfeited.

No Engineer of Gazetted rank or other Gazetted Officer employed in Engineering or Administrative duties in an Engineering Department of the Government is allowed to work as a Contractor for a period of two years after his retirement from Government service, without permission of the Government. This contract is liable to be cancelled if either the contractor or any of his employees is found any time to be such a person who had not obtained the permission of the Government as aforesaid before submission of the tender or engagement in the

Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. 10.

Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process. The interested bidder can download the NIT/bidding document from the website http://jktenders.gov

To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get (DSC) "Digital Signature Certificate" as per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding. This certificate will be required for digitally signing the bid. Bidders can get above mentioned digital certificate from any approved vendors. The Bidders, who already possess valid (DSC) Digital Signature Certificates, need not to procure new Digital Signature Certificate The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with Digital Signature. The bids cannot be uploaded without Digital Signature. No Proposal will be accepted in physical form.

Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para 2(III). Before submission of online bids, bidders must ensure that scanned copies of all the necessary docu-

ments have been attached with bid. vi. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission of bids whatsoever reasons may be.

All the required information for bid must be filled and submitted online. Bidders can contact the undersigned for any guidance for getting DSC or any other relevant details in

respect of e-tendering process. Original Registration certificate of GST No. shall be uploaded on line. 11. The guidelines for submission of bid online can be downloaded from the website http://jktenders.gov.in No construction material shall be supplied by Police Construction Division, PHQ. However; the brands of the material will be approved by Engineer In-charge of the concerned site in consultation with Executive Engi

In case of any typographical error, if found in the rates or units etc. the same shall be corrected and paid $as \ per \ sanctioned \ schedule \ of \ rates \ 2020/LMR \ with \ contractor's \ Tender \ appreciation/depreciation.$

Any item of work not advertised in the rate list but found necessary during execution of work should be got approved by the competent authority before proceeding further beyond the allotment and payment for the same shall be made on sanctioned schedule of rates 2020 and LMR with contractor's overall appreciation/depre

In case of delay in completion of the work beyond schedule period of completion (as per allotment) a penalty at the rate of 1% per month (on pro-rata basis) on the amount of allotted work shall be imposed on the Contractors subject to a maximum of 10% of the contract value.

> (Er. Neeraj Gupta) Executive Engineer PCD (PHQ) J&K Jmu/Sgr.

No:-e-NIT/EE-PCD/PHQ/2023-24/6352-59 Dated: 27-09-2023.

Office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Shopian.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER E-NIT S.NO:-(24) OF 2023-24 (e-Tendering)

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor Union Territory of J&K, e-Tenders are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD/ Railways/ Other Governments/ Union Territory for the below-mentioned works.

	S.	Name of work	Adv. Cost	Cost of	EMD 2% of	Time of	Class of	Head of
	No		(In lacs)	Tender	the adver-	comple-	Contract	Account
				Doc.	tised cost	tion		
	01	Revamping of Natoo canal by way of	17.75	400	35500/-	20 days	C&B	4701-UT
		Construction of lining wall from RD						Capex
H		5032 M at spots Construction of cement concrete	11.44	300	22880/-	20 days	ח פאיר	4702-UT
		field channel for Saidpora LIS	11.44	500	22000/-	20 days	_,	Capex
١.								·

Position of Funds: Budgetary Provision.

Accord of Administrative Approval: Accorded vide Superintending Engineer Hydraulic Circle Pulwama HQ-Shopian's order No: Se/Hyd/Spn/DB/83 of 08/2023-24 dated: 24-08-2023 & No: Se/Hyd/Spn/DB/81 of 08/2023-24 dated: 24-08-2023.

1. The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, set of terms and conditions, and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.iktenders

80 v.111 u.5	ov. In as per the serieude of dates given below.							
01	Date of issue of Tender Notice	27-09-2023 (04:00 PM)						
02	Date of start of downloading.	27-09-2023 (05:00 PM)						
03	Bid submission start date Technical/ Financial.	28-09-2023(10:00 AM)						
04	Bid submission end date.	07-10-2023 (04:00 PM)						
05	Date & Time of opening of Bids (online).	07-10-2023 (05:00 PM)						

Bids must be accompanied with proof of the cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury receipt in favour of Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Shopian (tender inviting authority). The name of the work shall be legible along with NIT number and item number. The date of treasury challan should be in between the date of start of Bid and bid submission end date.

The successful bidder shall have to submitthe hardcopy of EMD in the shape of CDR duly uploaded,

treasury challan and other allied documents as mentioned in para-4 Additional security as prescribed in the below-mentioned tabulation form is to be deposited by the

successful bidder as per the latest order by the finance department endorsed by Chief Engineer Kmr. I&FC Department Srinagar vide No. 13566-640 dated.18-03-2022.

Tenders that are below of the advertised cost Additional security of the advertised cost to be submitted in the form of CDR Up-to and including 15% below 15% up to and including 20 % below 05% 20 % up to and including 25 % below 25 % up to and including 30 % below 30 % Below

Bidders are advised to use the (My Documents) area in their user on www.j&ktenders.gov.in portal to store, the

GSTIN clearance last quarter and PAN.

Registration card with the latest renewal. Treasury challan (0702)

Scanned copy of EMD.

Registered mobile number and E-mail ID in the shape of Bidders address form.

5) The date and time of opening of Technical Bids shall be notified on the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message at their e-mail address. The Financial Bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on the same website in the office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Shopian (Tender

The bid for the work shall remain valid for 90 days from the date of the opening of the bid. The earnest money shall be forfeited if:

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

9) Failure of the successful bidder to execute the agreement within 7 Days after fixation of contract.

10) Instruction to bidders regarding the e-Tendering process: a. Bidders are advised to download the bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from the "Bidders Manual Kit" on web site www.jktenders.gov.in acquaint with the bid submission process.

b. To participate in the bidding process, bidders have to get a "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per the infor-

mation Technology Act, 2000. Bidders can get Digital Certificate from an approved vendor The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with Digital Signature. No financial bid will be Bids will be opened online as per the schedule mentioned in Para- 01.

Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents with the bid. Note: - Scan all the documents on 100dpi with the black & white option.

The Department will not be responsible for delays in online submission due to any reasons

A scanned copy of Earnest Money/ Bid Security in the shape of CDR as applicable pledged to Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Shopian must be uploaded with the technical documents of the bid.

13) Price Escalation and Taxes: - The item-wise cost/ offer be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes till completion of work unless otherwise specified. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on the gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing

In their user on the e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required. Instructions to Bidder (ITB): -

All bidders shall include the following information and documents with their Bids GSTN/PAN/Treasury Challan, & The bidder at his responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before sub-

If the bidder does not quote the rate for any item of the rate List/Quantity Schedule, the cost of such item/ items shall be deemed to be part of the overall/ total contract value. No rate shall be allowed for such item/ items in the allotment of e. Extension of time shall be also admissible in the event of temporary suspension of work.

All other terms & conditions shall be the same as laid down in the PWD Form 25 (Double Agreement Form). **Executive Engineer,**

No: IDS/3620-38 DIPK-9531/23

Dated: 27-09-2023

Irrigation Division Shopian.

PJKSG02-003396-2022

No 1 Civil Court

In the court of Mr. Arvind Sharma Additional District Judge Bank Cases (Commercial court) Srinagar

Summons for Disposal of Suit

(0,R,1,5)

Original Suits (OS)/3163/2022 Ellaqai Dehati Bank V/S Feroz Ahmad Fafoo Prop. M/S Royal Fancy Gifts Next Date: 20-10-2023

1. Feroz Ahmad Fafoo Prop M/S Royal Fancy Gifts S/o Mohammad Sultan Fafoo R/o Mandir Bagh Gawkadal

2. Bashir Ahmad Soipori S/o Habibullah Sopori R/o Budshah Nagar Natipora Srinagar

3. Mohammad Yaseen Rather S/o Mohammad Sultan Rather R/o Natipora Srinagar

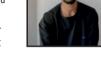
Whereas Ellaqai Dehati Bank has instituted a suit against you for you are hereby summoned to appear in this Court in person or by a pleader duly instructed (and able to answer .ill material questions relating to the suit or who shall be accompanied by some person, able to answer ail such questions, on the 20-10-2023at 10:30 o'clock in the forenoon, to answer the claim; and a* the day fixed for your appearance is appointed for the final disposal of the sun. you must bt prepared to produce on that day all the witnesses upon whose evidence and all the documents upon which you intend to rely In support of your defence. Take notice that, in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned, the suit will b. heard and determined in your

Given under my hand and die seal of the Court, this 26-06-2023 **Additional District Judge Bank Cases** (Commercial Court

THE JAMMU & KASHMIR **BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION NEW CAMPUS, BEMINA SRINAGAR**

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is published for the information of the general public that I have passed/appeared in SSE/HSE-I/HSE-II (Class 10th/11th/12th) under Roll No. 139062038 Session: Annual-Regular Year: 2023 Education. The against my instead of through The Jammu & Kashmir Board of School error NAME



committed by the School/Parent/Board as HUZIAB BASHIR HUZAIB BASHIR.Now I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education, New Campus Bemina, Srinagar. If any person has any objection in this regard may file the same in the office of the Deputy Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period, no objection will be entertained. The correct particulars be recorded as under:

Name: HUZAIB BASHIR | Father's Name:-BASHIR AHMAD SOFI

Mother's Name:-BILOees BANO Date of Birth:-07-06-2008 Residence:- RAKHI-HARRAN GANDERBAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DOB Certificate for my son Namly Rizwan Ali Yatoo S/o Showket Ali Yatoo who was born on 27-04-2023. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Block Development Officer Khore Shearabad within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no

Showket Ali Yatoo F/o Rizwan Ali Yatoo R/o Nowlari Pattan

bmg

ازعدالت سب جج میوسپل مجسٹریٹ سرینگر بااجلاس مهرين مشاق رجىٹرارېرھىس اينڈ ۋىتھىس

Naseer Ahmad پیام الیں۔ایم _سی سرینگر (سیول)

> رخواست بغرج اندراج تاريخ پيدائش Zain Mohamad / يبدائش: 27-07-2020

معامله مندجة عنوان الصدريين سائل سائله نے عدالت مذامين ايک درخواست بشمول حلفی بغرض Zain Mohamad S/o Naseer Ahmad مورخه R/o Batgoo Nishat Brein مورخه مورخه ۱۵-۵۹-۱۵ پیش کی ہے۔ لبذا عوام الناس کو

زر بعیداشتهار مطلع کیا جا تا ہے که نسبت درخواست کوئی عذریااعتراض ہونے کی صورت میں اینے مذرات اشعاعت اشتہار کے اندروس یوم عدالت میں آ کرپیش کرے۔ بعد گزرنے معیاد کوئی عذریا عتراض قابلِ قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ تاریخ آیندہ عدالت ہدامیں ۔ 04-10-2023 کو مقررہے۔

ازعدالت سب جج سيبثل موبائيل مجسٹريث سرينگر با جلاس احسان ملک صاحب رجشرار برهس ایند و بخس بنام ایس ایم بی سرینگر (سیول) عبدالرحميم ڈار

ريخُ وفات 2023-12-18 بعامله مندحه عنوان الصدر میں سائل سائلہ نے عدالت بذامیں ایک درخواست بشمول حلفی لبخرض ندارج تاریخ وفات: غلام قادر دارولدغلام څمر دارسا کڼه سکم عیدگاه سرینگر مورخه 22-9-2023 پیش کی ہے۔لہذاعوام الناس کوبذر بعداشتہار مطلع کیاجاتاہے کہ نسبت

رخواست کوئی عذریااعتراض ہونے کی صورت میں اپنے عذرات اشعاعت اشتہار کے اندرد تر یوم عدالت میں آ کر پیش کرے۔بعد گزرنے معیاد کوئی عذر یااعتراض قابلِ قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ تاریخ آیندہ عدالت بذامیں 2023-10-09 کو مقررہے۔

SRTC Retirees Seek Release Of 6th Pay Commission, COLA Arrears

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The retired employees of State Road Transport Corporation (SRTC) on Wednesday staged a protest at Press Enclave, demanding immediate release of 6th Pay Commission, Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) arrears and other retirement benefits.

The aggrieved retirees said besides COLA, their 6th Pay Commission arrears are yet to be released and COLA while they have been deprived of retirement benefits since their superannuation in 2020.

They also alleged that their issues have not been resolved by the current J&K Administration despite having visited the Civil Secretariat for the last 3.5 years.

"We are now fed up with this government. Over and over again, we have apprised them (government) about our issues, but we are not getting any conclusive answer... we are now descended in a state of begging," said Mohammad Amin Sheikh, a retired SRTC employee.

The protesting employees further said they have worked for decades in the department and seemed to have been left with empty hands.

While ruing the apathy of officials towards them, they hoped that the concerned authorities would listen and redress their matter this time.

SKICC Celebrates World Tourism Day

Srinagar: Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) today celebrated World Tourism Day in which all the officials of SKICC participated.

On the occasion, Director SKICC, Bakshi Humayun Javed recited the oath for making SKICC the sought after green clean Conference centre of the country, which reflects the theme of World Tourism Day 2023 'Tourism and Green Investments'.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, the Director said that while celebrating World Tourism Dav. we are reminded of the immense potential that tourism holds in fostering economic growth, cultural exchange, and social inclusivity.

With its state-of-theart facilities and commitment to excellence, SKICC has become a premier destination for conferences, conventions, and cultural events. He highlighted that SKICC continues to play a pivotal role in promoting tourism, economic development, and cultural exchange across Jammu and Kashmir.



120-Bed Block At B&J Hospital **Barzulla To Be Ready By Year-End**

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Construction of the Valley's major orthopedic tertiary care hospital in Srinagar, which was destroyed in a devastating blaze last year, is expected to be completed by the end of this year, alleviating the suffering the patients endured over the last one year.

According to a top health official, the construction of a brand-new, 120bed hospital block would provide the valley's main orthopedic hospital a

major infrastructure boost. The block, he said, is being built as part of the JTFRP, a project to strengthen critical infrastructure funded by the World Bank.

The work on the project began in 2019 and was approved in 2015. The hospital had suffered major damage in the 2014 floods, with one of its buildings declared unsafe. The infrastructure was damaged further due to a fire incident

The state-of-the-art building has a G+5 structure with modern earthquake-resilient technology. The hospital building has modular operation theatres, laminar flow system, TSSU (Theatre Sterile Supply Unit), ICU, Pre & Post Operation care wards, CSSD (Central Sterile

Supply Department), specialized laundry, pneumatic tube system and waste collection system,' the official said.

He further said that the main features of the hospital building include IGBC (India Green Building Council) rating and biomedical waste management.

"The bio-medical system designed will cater to the biomedical generation of 140 kg per day which will be disposed of on scientific lines since it also has the provision for the construction of STP/ ETP (Sewerage Treatment Plant & Effluent Treatment Plant) as part of the sub-project," he added.



TRAFFIC POLICE: 9419993745, 01998-266686 PCR: 0194-2452092.2455883 PDD: 0194-2450213 FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES:

Ambulance: Kashmer EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

2479488,2452222,2452155 CAPD: 18001807011 SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

PRAYERS

5:00

12:22

4:39

6:25

7: 45

FAJR

ZUHR

ASR

Magrib

ISHA

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)



This Day In History

- 1906 US troops reoccupy Cuba, stay until 1909 1914 - German forces move into Antwerp Belgium (WWI)
- 1915 Battle of Kut-el-Amara: British defeat Turks in Mesopotamia
- 1923 Abyssinia (Ethiopia) leaves League of Nations 1924 - French government names Gen Serrail governor-general of Syria
- 1926 Russia & Latvia treaty of neutrality signed
- 1928 Prussia forbids speech from Adolf Hitler
- 1928 US acknowledge Chinese government of Chiang Kai-shek
- 1939 Estonia accepts Soviet military bases 1939 - German-Soviet Frontier Treaty is signed by
- Joachim von Ribbentrop and Vyacheslav Molotov; redraws German and Soviet spheres of influence in central Europe and transfers most of Lithuania to the USSR
- 1944 Battle of Arnhem, Germans defeat British airborne in Netherlands
- 1950 Indonesia becomes 60th member of UN 1959 - Explorer VI reveals an intense radiation belt
- 1961 Syria withdraws from United Arab Republic 1972 - Japan & Communist China agree to re-
- establish diplomatic relations. 1982 1st reports appear of death from cyanide-laced
- Tylenol capsules
- 1982 NASA launches Intelsat V satellite, no. 505 1983 - STS-9 vehicle moves to launch pad
- 1985 NASA launches Intelsat VA F-12
 - 1991 UN weapons inspectors ends 5-day standoff with Iraq

From KO Archives

Political Strands in Jobs Racket Revealed

'NC Block President Has Earned Rs 40 Lakh Duping Jobless Youth'

Observer News Service

3001/23

RINAGAR-Several political strands appear to be attached to the recently unearthed fake jobs scandal in Shopyan, with a block president of a political party arrested along with a gazetted officer and four others so far. Scores of fake appointment orders for government jobs are reported to have been seized from the arrested persons.

Investigations have revealed that the arrested political functionary has extracted Rs 40 lakh from jobless youth so far by luring them with promises of government jobs, and the network was spread all over the valley. The sensational racket come to light when a Chatragam resident, Abdul Ghaffar Bhat, filed a complaint with the Zainapora police that one Ali Muhammd Ganai of his village had demanded a bribe of Rs 1 lakh from his son for securing him a job in the Social Forestry Department, and gobbled up Rs 70.000 as advance. The complaint said that to dupe people, Ganai used fake

appointment orders prepared by his son, Altaf Ahmad. The Zainapora-police station registered a case under sections 419, 420 and 467 of the RPC, and handed the case over to the superintendent of police for Shopyan, Joginder Singh. In the meantime, the police arrested Altaf Ahmad, and seized a Social Forestry uniform, an identity card and a fake

appointment order from his possession.

The superintendent of police said that a suspicious list of 200 employees under the name of the Social Forestry Department was published in a newspaper, and on investigations it was found to have been issued by a shopkeeper in Budshah Chowk, Srinagar, Manzoor Ahmad.

As the case was pursued, Manzoor told the police that the list had been given to him by an acquaintance who often came

to his shop and passed himself off as a DFO.

The superintendent of police laid a trap and arrested the phony DFO when he next visited the shop. He was later identified as Ghulam Nabi Bhat of Kawoosa, Budgam, who was an employee of the forest department.
"Twenty fake appointment orders and a number of identity cards were seized on the instance of Bhat, and during interrogation he had revealed the names of several of his

accomplices, following which a gazetted officer of the civil secretariat, Abdul Majeed Zargar of Neehama, Beeru, and Muhammad Yaqoob Sheikh of Makhdoom Sahib Srinagar and Ghulam Nabi Bhat of HMT were arrested. A further 40 fake appointment orders, state subject certificates and educational certificates were recovered after

their questioning. The SP said that Zargar used to work in the secretariat's General Administrative Department, and had been suspended in a case of fictitious appointments, but had later been reinstated.

(Kashmir Observer, September 28,2000)

E-Tender Notice Sr. DEN-II/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders of a real shall be as yearst least least

origina manua docun debit	al/revised bids up al offer received nent cost and ear card, credit card	o to closing date and shall be ignored. C nest money only thro	d time only. Manual of Contractors are allowed ough only payment mo nts through Demand	ffers are not allowed to make paymodes available on v	ed agai ents aga vww.ire	ders will be able to submit their nst these tenders, and any such ainst this tender towards tender ps.gov.in portal like net banking, posit receipts, FDR etc. are not		
	Tender		Tendering	Section	Bidding System			
	Ope		Work			Single Bid System		
	Date of Upload	ding Tenders	Bid Startin	g Date		Bid Closing Date/Time		
	25.09.	2023	03.10.2	-		17.10.2023/15:00 Hrs		
S.No.	Tender No.		Det	ails of Tender				
1.	232-2023-24- PTK-DRM-FZR	Provision of 12.00 ADEN/PTK in C/W		m wide FOB at Gurdaspur Railway station on ASR-PTK section un				
	Advertise	ed Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Of	ffer	Period of Completion		
	2,66,	83,022.12/-	2,83,400.00/-	60 Days		10 Months		
			Work other than track					
2.	24-JAT- KM 3: DRM-FZR 64.79 22.00	2.112 to 33.879 UP, 9 UP and 3.217 Tkm UP underADEN/JAT	KM 35.755 UP, KM 4 nat Km 20.178 to 20.1 on BARL-JAT section	2.85 to 47.048 UF 78 to 21.133 DN, k in jurisdiction of Sr. I	P, KM 52 (M 37.52 DEN-II/F			
	Advertise	ed Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Of	fer	Period of Completion		
	4,46,7	7,887.84/-	3,73,400.00/-	60 Days		10 Months		
						g, distressing of track, pre & post ing machines and TTR by T-28".		
3.		barrack accommod	dations for RPF staff a	dification of existing RPF barrack complex for provision of 40 bedded for for RPF staff at PTK in the section of ADEN-1/PTK.				
		ed Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Of	fer	Period of Completion		
		35,150.17/-	1,43,700.00/-	60 Days		08 Months		
4.	Similar nature of work: "Any Civil Work other than track work". 235-2023-24- PTK-DRM-FZR Repair and Maintenance of Level Crossings in the section of ADEN/PTK.					/PTK.		
	Advertise	ed Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money Validity of Offer		Period of Completion			
	, -	9,880.35/-	80,000.00/-	60 Days		12 Months		
	Similar nature	of work :- "Not Appli	cable".					
5.	236-2023-24- PTK-DRM-FZR		nance of Bridges in the section of ADEN/PTK.					
		ed Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Of	ffer	Period of Completion		
		7,754.01/-	75,600.00/-	60 Days		12 Months		
		of work :- "Not Appli	cable".					
6.	238-2023-24- PTK-DRM-FZR		mbers Bridge on ASR					
		ed Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Of	fer	Period of Completion		
	,-	6,457.45/-	1,81,500.00/-	60 Days		06 Months		
			tion of any Bridge wor					
7.	 239-2023 Rehablitation work of breaches during monsoon (year-2023) by providing Retaining wall for s 24-PLMX- protection, Wire Net Trungers, side drains, removal of slipped earth on track and other Misc. allied work DRM-FZR Km 27/1-3, 60/2-8, 69/5-6, 73/7-8, 74/5-6, 74/8-9, 75/0-1, 77/3-6, 84/6-9, 85/6-7, & other related locat for restoration of track on PTK-JDNX section. 					ck and other Misc. allied works at 85/6-7, & other related locations		
		ed Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Of	fer	Period of Completion		
	2,61,7	78,636.85/-	2,80,900.00/-	60 Days		04 Months		
	Similar nature of work :- "Any Civil Work other than track work".							
8.	24-PLMX- protection of the pro	ction. Wire Net Trunc	gers, side drains, remo	oval of slipped eart	h on trac	viding Retaining wall for slope ck and other Misc. allied works at for restoration of track on PTK-		
	Advertise	ed Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Of	fer	Period of Completion		
	1,40,6	3,789.97/-	2,20,300.00/-	60 Days		04 Months		

4,14,99,361,95/-3.57.500.00/-60 Days Similar nature of work :- "Any Civil Work other than track work". Note 1:- Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender. Tender Notice No: 232,234,235,236,238-2023-24-PTK-DRM-FZR, 233-2023-24-JAT-DRM-FZR & 239,240,241&242-PLMX-DRM-FZR, Dt 26.09.2023

242-2023 Rehablitation work of breaches during monsoon (year-2023) by providing Retaining wall for slope 24-PLMX- protection, Wire Net Trungers, side drains, removal of slipped earth on track and other Misc. allied works at DRM-FZR Km 92/8-93/1, & other related locations for restoration of track on PTK-JDNX section.

241-2023- Rehablitation work of breaches during monsoon (year-2023) by providing Retaining wall for slope

24-PLMX- | protection, Wire Net Trungers, side drains, removal of slipped earth on track and other Misc. allied works at

DRM-FZR Km 85/9-10, 87/2-8, 92/8 to 93/1, 93/6-7, 95/5-6, 96/2-3 & other related locations for restoration of track or PTK-JDNX section.

Earnest Money

2,77,300.00/-

Earnest Money

Similar nature of work: - "Any Civil Work other than track work"

Similar nature of work: - "Any Civil Work other than track work".

Advertised Value (Rs.)

2 54 53 492 91/-

Advertised Value (Rs.)

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Validity of Offer

Validity of Offer

Period of Completion

04 Months

Period of Completion



NORTHERN RAILWAY **NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Dy.CEE/GSU/FZR acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the works as under. Bidders will be able to submit their original / revised bids upto closing date :20.10.2023 at 15.00 Hrs only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall not be con

Tender No.			App. Cost (Rs.)	Cost of Tender form(Rs.)	Date & time for submission of tender	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Completion period
27-TRD- GSU-T- 103- 2023-24	Signalling at Mukts	dification work in c/w Upgradation of g system from Standard-I to Standard-II ar, Khurdpur, Nasrala and Hoshiarpur gpur division	2,98,65,474.95p	NIL	Upto 20.10.2023 15:00 Hrs	2,99,300/-	06 Months
27-TRD- GSU-T- 104- 2023-24 OHE modification work in clw Upgradation of Signalling system from Standard-I to Standard-II at Guru Har Sahai, Patti and Bhagtanwala over Firozpur division		2,51,74,234.11p	NIL	Upto 20.10.2023 15:00 Hrs	2,75,900/-	05 Months	
Opening of tender 20.10.2023 after 15:00 Hrs		Website Particu	lars	www.ireps.go	ov.in		

Note: # Tenderer (s) may please note that offers received without Bid Security either in cash through e-payment gateway or as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents (as per Annexure-21) valid for a period of 90 days beyond the bid validity period, will be considered as incomplete & invalid offer and for which

No.: 27-TRD-GSU-T-103-2023-24 & 27-TRD-GSU-T-104-2023-24 Dated: 26.09.2023

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Executive Engineer PW (R&B) Division Zainpora e-mail:-xenrandbzainapora@gmail.com

> NOTICE INVITING TENDER CIVIL WORKS

SINGLE COVER SYSTEM (up to Rs. 2.50 Crores)

NIT No: 06/ZNP/RnB/e-Tendering/2023-24 Dated:- 26-09-2023 For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on

Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Major Head of Account	Est. Cost(Rs. in Lacs)	Earnest Money Deposit	Class of Contractor	Time of Completion	Cost of T/Doc(Rs.)	Project Authority	AAA No. Date	TS No. Date
1	Repair/Renovation of the ICD Centre Zainpora	Capex Budget 2023-24	7.489	14980	DEE/ CEE	20 Days	300/-	Directorate of Animal Husbandry Kashmir	677-DAHK OF 2023 Dated:11/0 9/2023	R&B/ZNP/TS/ AH-01-2023-24 Dated:26/09/20 23

1. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quant

(B.C	O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contra	act and other details can be seen/down	loaded from the departmental v
www	w.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates gi	ven below	
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	26-09-2023	
2	Document downloading Start Date.	26-09-2023	From 6.00 P.M
3	Document Downloading End Date.	02-10-2023	upto 6:00 P.M
4	Bid submission Start Date.	26-09-2023	From 06.00 P.M
5	Bid Submission End Date.	02-10-2023	Upto 6:00 P.M
6	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	03-10-2023	at 11:30 A.M

1. 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 Zainpora (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document. Note:- The Date of Treasury Challan must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall

render the bidder as Non-responsive,

2.1 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/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Zainpora. 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

cessful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the Bid cost, which will be released after

- 2. The date and time of opening of Financial Bids of a responsive bidder 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. 3. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
- 4. The earnest money shall be forfeited lf:-
- a) Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and

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

Dt: 27-09-2023 DIPK-9519/23

Sd/-**Executive Engineer** (R&B)Division Zainpora

Bank Employees To Strike Work For 13 Days From December To January



Agencies

The largest workers' union in the banking sector, the All India Bank Employees' Association, has called for a series of strikes across the nation between 4 December and 20 January 2024 demanding staff recruitment.

"There is a deliberate attempt on the part of the Government and banks to reduce the number of employees in clerical and subordinate cadres in the banks and to increase the number of supervisory staff. The idea is very clear that they want less workers who are governed by the Industrial Disputes Act," CH Venkatachalam, General Secretary, All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBEA) said.

"Similarly we also find that there is a naked attempt to outsource the regular and permanent jobs in the banks on contractual basis with a view to avoid the payment of wages as per our bipartite settlement.

"Because of this, the recruitment of clerical staff in the banks has come down drastically year after year and there is a virtual ban on appointment of subordinate staff and cleaning staff.

"This has resulted in a large number of people being employed on a temporary and casual basis without proper remuneration," he added.

The AIBEA has announced a strike in different nationalised and private banks from 4-11 December and from 2-6 January bankers in different states will strike work.

This will be followed by a two-day all-India bankers strike on 19-20 January , 2024.

Iran Successfully Launches Nour-3 Satellite Into Orbit



Agencie

Tran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Aerospace Force successfully launched the homegrown imaging satellite Nour-3 into orbit on Wednesday morning.

Nour-3 (Light-3) was launched by satellite carrier Qased (Messenger) and was placed into an orbit 450 kilometers (280 miles) above the

Earth's surface.

"With the efforts of IRGC Aerospace Force specialists, a few moments ago, the Nour-3 imaging satellite was successfully placed into a 450 km orbit of the earth with the Iranian Qased satellite carrier," Minister of Communications and Information Technology Issa Zarepour said via X, formerly

known as Twitter.

"I congratulate all [Iranian] people, those active in the country's space industry, and the IRGC's space experts for this success. God willing, this

year will be a fruitful year for the country's space industry," he added.

Last month, Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani announced that the country would launch at least two domestically-made satellites into orbit this year.

"We are involved in the development and launch of satellites. Under our plan, we will have 2 to 3 satellite launches this year, something we hope to be successful," Ashtiani said on August 22.

Despite sanctions imposed by Western countries in recent years, Iran has managed to take giant strides in the civilian space program.

It is among the world's top 10 countries capable of developing and launching satellites.

oping and launching satellites.
Back in March last year, the
IRGC Aerospace Force launched
Nour-2 into orbit using the Qased satellite carrier, two years
after it placed Nour-1 into orbit.

India-China Relations In 'Abnormal State' Since Galwan Valley Clash, Says EAM Jaishankar

Press Trust of India

NEW YORK: India-China relations have been in an "abnormal state" since the 2020 Galwan Valley clash and it is a "possibly longer than mediumterm issue", External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said, emphasising that none of the explanations given by Beijing for amassing its troops along the LAC are really tenable.

India has been consistently maintaining that the situation at the border in eastern Ladakh is not normal and that peace and tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) were key for the normalisation of overall bilateral ties.

If the two biggest countries of the world have that degree of tension between them, "it has consequences for everybody else", Jaishankar asserted during a conversation at the Council on Foreign Relations to a question about India-China relations.

"You know, one of the pleasures of dealing with China is that they never quite tell you why they do things. So you often end up trying to figure it out. And it's always, there's a certain ambiguity out there," Jaishankar, who was India's Ambassador to China from 2009 to 2013, said.

"At various points in time, the Chinese have given us different explanations, and none of them are really tenable," Jaishankar said.

Indian and Chinese troops are locked in an over three-year confrontation in certain friction points in eastern Ladakh even as the two sides completed disengagement from several areas following extensive diplomatic and military talks.

"It is very hard to try to be normal with a country which has broken agreements and which has done what it has done. So if you look at the last



three years, it's a very abnormal state," the minister said.

"Contacts have been disrupted, visits are not taking place. We have of course this high level of military tension. It has also impacted the perception of China in India," he said.

The perception was not positive in the 1960s and 70s because of the war in 1962.

"But we had started to put that behind us when this happened," he said.

"So I think there's both an immediate issue, as well as a medium-term issue, possibly longer than medium-term issue out there," Jaishankar said.

The external affairs minister outlined a historical perspective on the relations between Delhi and Beijing, adding that it has never been easy.

"It had a war in 1962. It had military incidents after that. But after 1975, there's never been a combat fatality on the border, 1975 was the last time," he said, adding that in 1988, India normalised the relationship more when then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi visited China.

Jaishankar further pointed out that in 1993 and 1996, India made two agreements with China to stabilise the boundary, which is disputed. "So there's a negotiation going on."

He said it was agreed that neither India nor China would actually amass troops at the Line of Actual Control and if either side brought more than a certain number of troops, it would inform the other side.

"So it was pretty explicit the

way it was laid out," the minister said about the two agreements.

Jaishankar added that there have been subsequent agreements after that and it was a "very unique situation" because, in the boundary areas, troops on either side would step out of their designated military bases, do their patrolling and return to their bases.

"If they happen to intersect somewhere, there were very clear rules about how they would conduct themselves and the use of firearms was prohibited. So this is how it was really till 2020," he said.

In 2020, when India was in the middle of its strict COV-ID-19 lockdown, "we saw that Chinese troops in very large numbers were moving towards the Line of Actual Control."

"So in the middle of all of that, we actually had to mobilise and counter-deploy, which we did. And then we had a situation where we were understandably worried that the troops were now much too close. And we cautioned the Chinese that such a situation could create problems and sure enough, in the middle of June 2020 it did," he said.

"So we had a clash in which 20 of our soldiers died. They claim that four of their soldiers died. So that's one again one of those things we will never know," he said.

Jaishankar said the Chinese side gave different explanations at various points of time but none of them are really tenable. "And since then, we have been trying to disengage."

"We have been trying to disengage because both of us have a forward deployment ahead of our regular military bases. We have been partially successful, out of whatever maybe, let's say 10 places, we would have resolved seven or eight of these over deployments." he said.

Don't Tell Women What To Wear, Says UN As France Bans Hijab At Olympics

Agencies

PARIS: The United Nations (UN) stressed on Tuesday it was opposed to most dress codes for women after France barred its Olympic athletes from wearing the Muslim hijab during the 2024 Paris Games.

"No one should impose on a woman what she needs to wear or not wear," United Nations rights office spokeswoman Marta Hurtado told reporters in Geneva.

Hurtado's comment came after the French sports minister said the country's athletes would be barred from wearing headscarves during the Games, in line with the country's strict rules on secularism.

try's strict rules on secularism.
French Sports Minister
Amelie Oudea-Castera repeated on Sunday that the government was opposed to any
display of religious symbols
during sporting events.

"What does that mean? That means a ban on any type of proselytising. That means absolute neutrality in public services," she told France 3



television.

"The France team will not wear the headscarf." Hurtado did not address

France's stance directly.

But she stressed that the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women ruled out discriminatory practices.

"Any state party to the convention -- in this case France -- has an obligation to ... modify social or cultural patterns which are based on the idea of the inferiority or superiority of either sex," Hurtado said.

"Discriminatory practices against a group can have

harmful consequences," she pointed out.

"That is why ... restrictions on expressions of religions or beliefs, such as attire choices, are only acceptable under really specific circumstances," she explained.

That, she said, meant circumstances "that address legitimate concerns of public safety, public order, or public health or morals in a necessary and proportionate fashion".

In France, the issue of religious dress goes to the heart of the country's strict rules on secularism.

These are intended to keep the state neutral in religious matters while guaranteeing citizens the right to freely

practice their religion.
France's laws prohibit the wearing of "ostentatious" religious symbols in some contexts, such as in state schools and by civil servants.

It outlawed full-face coverings in 2010.

In June, France's Council of State upheld a ban on women footballers wearing the hijab.

Estranged Couple Keeping Child Away From A Parent Is Cruelty: High Court

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The calculated act of a partner of denying the child's affection to the other parent amounts to mental cruelty, the Delhi High Court has said while upholding the divorce of an estranged couple.

The court dismissed an appeal by the wife against a 2018 family court order granting divorce and observed that in the instant case, the daughter was "totally alienated" and used as a weapon against the husband, an army officer.

"The learned Principal Judge, Family Courts has, therefore, rightly concluded that such child alienation is an extreme act of mental cruelty towards a father who has never shown any neglect for the child," said a bench of Justice Suresh Kumar Kait and Neena Bansal Krishna in a recent order.

The court said discord and the disputes were between the couple, who got married in 1996 as per Hindu customs and rites, and no matter how bitter the relationship was, it was not appropriate to involve the child or embitter her against the father or to use her as a tool against him.

"Any act of any parent calculated to deny such affection to the other parent, amounts to alienating the child which amounts to mental cruelty... Nothing more can be more painful than experiencing one's own flesh and blood i.e., the child, rejecting him or her. Such wilful alienation of the child amounts to mental cruelty," the court said.

The court also rejected the appellant wife's objections with respect to daily consumption of alcohol by the husband, saying "merely because a person consumes alcohol daily, it does not make him an alcoholic or add up to a bad character" when there was no untoward incident.

It also said making friends at workplace, when the parties were living separately due to work exigencies, also cannot be termed as cruelty.

The wife alleged that the husband used to be withdrawn whenever she visited him and would always re-

main busy on phone with his friends, both male and female.

"A person who is essentially living alone, may find solace by having friends and merely because he used to talk to his friends, it can neither be held to

be an act of ignoring the appel-

lant nor a cruel act.

"It has to be appreciated that both the parties having been essentially living separately because of their work exigencies, were bound to make friends at their place of work and otherwise; and such friendships without anything more, cannot be termed as cruelty," the court

A Fire At A Wedding Hall In Iraq Has Killed Over 100, Injured 150



Press Trust of India

Araging fire seemingly caused by fireworks set off to celebrate a Christian wedding consumed a hall packed with guests in northern Iraq, killing at least 100 people and injuring 150 others as authorities warned Wednesday the death toll could still rise.

Authorities said that flammable building materials also contributed to the latest disaster to hit Iraq's dwindling Christian minority. The fire happened in the Hamdaniya area of Iraq's Nineveh province, authorities said.

That's a predominantly Christian area just outside of the city of Mosul, some 335 kilometres (205 miles) northwest of Baghdad.

There was no official word on the cause of the blaze, but the Kurdish television news channel Rudaw aired footage showing fireworks shooting up from the floor of the event and setting a chandelier aflame.

In the blaze's aftermath, only charred metal and debris could be seen as people walked through the scene of the fire, the only light coming from television cameras and the lights of onlookers' mobile phones.

Survivors arrived at local hospitals in bandages, receiving oxygen, as their families milled through hallways and outside as workers organised more oxygen cylinders.

Some of those burned included children. Ambulance sirens wailed for hours after the fire as paramedics brought out the injured.

Other footage shown on other local television networks appeared to show the bride and groom on the dance floor when the fire began Tuesday night, stunned by the sight of the burning debris. It wasn't immediately clear if they were among those hurt.

There were about to do a slow dance and then they lit up this thing for the dance which caught fire," one injured woman told Rudaw from a hospital gurney.

Another man injured in the fire at the hospital similarly told Rudaw that the blaze started as the couple prepared for their slow dance.

They lit up fireworks," he said. "It hit the ceiling, which caught fire.

District

Sheep Husbandry Officer

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER DISTRICT INDUSTRIES CENTRE SRINAGAR

Email: srinagardic@gmail.com/ gmdic-srinagar@jk.gov.in Tel. No: 0194-2427478

PUBLIC NOTICE

M/ Dawat Foods, IE BAMK Srinagar stands formally registered with this office under No.01/03/09040/PMT/MSME dated. 19-12-2016 for the activity of Grinding of Spice as partnership concern of Mohammad Maqbool Sofi S/O Ghulam Mohammad Sofi R/O Noorbagh Baghwanpora, Srinagar and Bilal Ahmad Sofi S/O Mohammad Shafi Sofi R/O Noorbagh, Srinagar. In this connection, it is to inform that one of the partner namely Mohammad Maqbool Sofi S/O Ghulam Mohammad Sofi R/O Noorbagh Baghwanpora, Srinagar intends to take retirement from the partnership

Any person having any objection, Constitution by way of retirement of partner in favour of the unit shall report to General Manager DIC Srinagar within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice.

DIPK-9525-23 DT: 27/09/2023 Geeneral Manager District Industries Centre Srinagar

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT SHEEP HUSBANDRY OFFICER KULGAM

Subject: Invitation for short term quotations for provision of refreshment items.

SHORT TERM QUOTATIONS

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, short term quotations are invited from the registered interested suppliers/ dealers/ distributers for supply of below mentioned items at different locations for training and capacity building programmes to be organized by the department under Holistic Agriculture Development programme (HADP) at CD blocks of the district Kulgam as per the schedule of the department. Sealed quotations along with the revenue stamp of Rs 2 shall reach to this office through a registered post or in person by or before 06-10-2023. The quotations will be opened on the next day (07-10-2023), by the constituted committee.

S No.	Name of the Item	Quantity
1	Biryani (full)	01
2	Mineral water (500ml)	01
3	Tea with biscuit	01

. The unit rates should be written legible without any cutting, overwriting.

The distributer should be written registe without any cutting, overwriting.
 The department reserves the right to reject the quotations of any supplier/ dealer/ distributer without assigning the reason thereof.

Thereof.
No: DSHOK/Stores/2023-24/2016-22
Dated: 27/09/2023
DIPK-9542-23
DT: 27/09/2023

From Guns to Roses: Kupwara Border Villages Emerge as Favourite Tourist Destinations

KUPWARA: Two years ago, before the renewed ceasefire agreement, shells and gunfire would disrupt normal run in areas like Keran, Teethwal, Machil, and other border areas. Today, tourists are flocking to these areas to enjoy the unexplored virgin destinations in north Kashmir.

Kupwara, a border district sharing its boundary with neighboring Pakistan over the last three decades has been a victim of ceasefire violations causing damage to the civilian population, properties, and livestock.

With the renewed ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan armies in February 2021, the border areas of the district's earlier no-go zones have been opened up for tourism-related activities.

Places like Teethwal, Keran, Bungus, Machil, and Nowgam prone to ceasefire violations have been opened up and are being explored by off-beat destination lovers.

Last year Kupwara received a record number of over 1 lakh tourists which includes both domestic and those from Jammu and Kashmir.

Apart from border tourism, Kupwara has also seen a revival of religious tourism after almost 7 decades. After the reconstruction of Sharda Temple at Teethwal in Karnah sector pilgrims from across the country and J&K are visiting there to

offer prayers. The process to obtain permission to visit the border areas officials said has been eased up and both online and offline modes have been made available. "A dedicated domain has been de-

veloped for online permissions." Officials privy to tourism activities in the district told Kashmir News Observer that approximately 2.50 lakh tourists have already visited Kupwara this year till 31st August. "This has already exceeded the previous year's figure. It is expected to reach a record number this year. It includes both Jammu and Kashmir residents and those coming from different parts of the country.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Lolab Bungus Drangyari Development Authority (LBDDA)

BJP Delaying

Local Polls For Fear Of

Press Trust of India

SRINAGAR: The BJP is "delaying" the panchayat and

local bodies polls in Jammu and Kashmir as it has

"sensed defeat", PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti said on Wednesday, and charged that the ruling party at the Centre might end the election system in the entire

"The BJP has realised that they will be wiped out in Jammu and the parties and system which they tried to put up in Kashmir are not working as people are not ready to accept them, so they are deferring the elec-

The former J-K chief minister said the BJP used to "indulge in a drama" and show to the entire world that they conducted the panchayat and local bodies elec-

"Now, I think they have stopped that pretence. On one hand, these people say in the Supreme Court that the situation has improved in J-K after abrogation of Article 370, and that the people are happy. But, on the other hand, the same government now says that the security (situation) is not right in J-K and the elections

You can yourself see how much contradiction is

I think the real reason, Mehbooba said, is that all

"They tried to create a new crop, a hybrid politi-

"experiments" by BJP in J-K, especially in the valley,

cal system, it failed. The people in Jammu have gone

against them, they are out on roads, they have realised

that the BJP has befooled them by provoking them

against Kashmir, by making them suffer losses, by

making people in J-K fight with each other, creating

SRINAGAR: Three shops were completely damaged

and a firefighter injured in a nocturnal fire incident in

in the Qazipora area, an official said, as per news agency

GNS, adding, soon after the F&ES Department was called

mad Yusuf Jan, son of Mohammad Sarwar Jan, were

gutted, while timely action by F&ES department fire-

fighters saved the fire from spreading further," he said.

suffered minor injuries during the operation.

as reports last came in.

Moreover, a firefighter identified as Amin Rasool

in, which reached the site to put out the raging flames.

The fire broke out at around midnight in a shopping line

"In the incident, 3 shops belonging to one Moham-

Qazipora area of North Kashmir's Bandipora district.

Hindu-Muslim divide," the PDP president said.

3 Shops Gutted in

Bandipora Blaze

Losing: Mehbooba

country if it comes back to power.

tion," she told reporters here.

cannot be conducted," she said.

tions in J-K.

there, she added.

Ghulam Jeelani Kupwara is very diverse and has a lot of tourism potential. "We are generating awareness across the country to attract more tourists. We welcome all to enjoy the diversity, picturesque views, and other tourism potential areas. This year, the Tourism Day theme aims to ensure biodiversity is preserved and no harm is caused to natural resources. We aim to preserve natural texture without disturbing it," he said.

The CEO said that there is no parallel to Bungus Valley across the globe. "Border tourism has evolved to a greater extent. Border areas like Teethwal and Keran are receiving huge numbers of tourists. Lolab and Machil areas also have their significance. Ring Bala in Machil has no match across the globe. The LG-led administration is very serious about the tourism sector and its promotion." he said.

He also said that several initiatives have been taken for tourism promotion. "With peace and no conflict at borders also the improvement in the security situation has helped in the tourism industry. In this context, tourist's footfall has increased as they feel safe and secure here. All the efforts are being taken for the promotion of tourism activities."

About the revival of religious tourism, the CEO said that Sharda mandir is also receiving a huge number of devotees thus promoting religious tourism. "Devotees in numbers are coming from different parts of the country which is very encouraging. A lot of initiatives are being ensured, as it has come to the light of tourists as well."

He further said that there is a need for tourism infrastructure and a place like Bungus will be the focus of attraction across the world and the country in particular.

With tourism activities picking pace in the district, people associated with it are also thrilled as they are getting to make a livelihood out of it. People are getting associated with tourism activities and offering different facilities like, Homestay, Small hotels restaurants, tents, camping equipment, small business

Over 30k Foreigners Among 1.6 Crore Tourists Visited Kashmir Sofar

SRINAGAR: As Kashmir weather enters into Autumn mode, Tourism department continues to remain abuzz with the increasing tourist influx as over 30,000 foreign guests are among 1.6 Crore tourists who explored the Valley and its off-beat destinations this year so far.

Official details shared by the Tourism Department 1.6 crore tourists visited the valley in the last eight months including 31,000 foreign tourists.

From solo bag packers to groups, this figure includes the domestic tourists who have visited from different states after due promotion by the government and private tourism players.

Apart from this number, a total of 31,000 foreign guests have visited the Valley.

Last year a total of 26.73 lakh tourists visited Kashmir, which was the highest number ever seen in the last three decades. Out of 26.73 lakhs, 19954 foreigners had visited the valley last year.

Given the record breaking tourist flow and promotion of Kashmir as leading destinations of the world, the tourism department has bagged the best tourism award this year.



Currently, ahead of the festival season, the bookings for the valley have gone up 30 per cent, which indicates the October and November are going to be lucrative months of the year for Kashmir tourism.

While the administration is expecting to see an all-time high figure this year, tourism players claimed that the successful G20 followed by the robust campaigning by the tourism department has revived tourism in Kashmir.

Farooq Ahmad Kuthoo, a prominent travel agent said they are anticipating a big figure of tourist arrivals this year as well.

"After Covid-19 we saw a

successful year of tourism last year. This year, so many events have happened, which makes it clear that a record breaking figure will emerge by the end of the year," he said.

Kuthoo, who was the former president of Travel Agents Association of Kashmir said the tourism player and general public has equally contributed by giving best services to the tourists visiting the valley.

"We receive a lot of tourists who have come to Kashmir for the second or third time. It makes evident that the general public as well as the stakeholders have shown hospitality for which the valley is known across the world," he added. —(KNO)

Army Commander Reviews Development Projects in Ladakh

Press Trust of India

JAMMU: Northern Army commander Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi has reviewed infrastructure development projects, which will enhance the operational capabilities of forces in Ladakh.

The general officer commanding in chief (GoC-In-C) visited Shyok valley in Ladakh on Tuesday, the Northern Command said on X.

He reviewed the infrastructural development projects, which will enhance the opera-



tional and logistic capabilities of the Indian Army, it said.

The Army commander was briefed by officials of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) on the ongoing Himank and

Vijayak projects related to construction of critical road infrastructure in Ladakh.

The Army commander also lauded the troops for their relentless efforts.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER **JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DIVISION SHOPIAN**

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

Notice Inviting E-Tenders-NIT No. 26/JSDS of 2023-24

For and on behalf of Lt Governor of Jand K U.T, e-tenders on percentage basis are invited in Single cover system from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&KU.T Govt. for the following works: -

S. NO.	NAME OF WORK	Advertised amount (Rs)	Earnest Money (EMD) Rs	Time for completion	Class of Contract	Cost of Tender docu- ment (Rs)	Major Head of Account	Tender opening authority
1	Construction of balance work of WSS Mughalpora Turkawangam by way L/F of sub-mains and distribution. System , construction of D G shed, Chain link fencing around structures and Protection Works (WSS Mugalpora Turkuwagam)	4594000	138000	45days	AAY/BEE	500/-	Languishing Programme	Ex. Engineer
	Balance Work for laying, fitting of distribution system and RWM for WSS Wasovhallan	4042000	122000	45 days	AAY/BEE	500/-	Languishing Programme	Ex. Engineer

The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (BOQ) set to terms and conditions of contract

d	n be seen/	downloaded from the departmental w	repsite www.jktenders	.gov.iii iroiii :-
	1.	Publishing date	27.09.2023	05:00 PM
	2.	Download Date Starts	27.09.2023	05:00 PM
	3.	BID Submission Date Starts	27.09.2023	05:00 PM
	4.	BID Submission Date Ends	03.10.2023	01.00 PM
	-	Data of an animal of the dam.	00.40.0000	00-00 PM

Date of opening of tenders 03.10.2023 The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website www.jktenders.gov.in and The bids uploaded shall be opened online on above mentioned date by the Executive EngineerJAL SHAKTI (PHE) DIVISION SHOPIANin presence of the bidders who may wish to be present. In case of holiday or office happening to be closed on the basis of opening of the bid, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue

Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies (on 100dpi) of all necessary documents like Cost of Tender document in the form of Treasury Challan(MH-0215) in favour of Executive Engineer JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DIVISION SHOPIAN / latest GST clearance certificate / Registration card duly renewed along with Verification/BID Security in the form of EMD as per above. The date of CDR/FDR/BG should be between the date of start of bid and bid submission end date. After opening of tenders online, the 1st lowest bidder shall be asked to deposit the CDR/FDR pledged to tender receiving authority and other documents in original. The CDR/ FDR and other documents in original shall be deposited within two Days positively after opening of tenders. The EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR of the successful bidder will be retained as performance security deposit till expiry of defect liability period, whereas the EMD of unsuccessful bidders will be returned latest by 30 days after award of the contract. The check list of documents is attached with the NIT & bidders are advised to recheck the uploaded documents as per the Check list.

In case the bid of the bidder is unbalanced, the bidder has to upload additional performance security deposit in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG as per the breakup given below failing which the tender shall be rejected. The date of CDR/FDR/BG should be between the date of start of bid and

bı	id submission end date. The additional performance security deposit will be released after successful completion of the work.								
	S.No	Percentage of unbalanced bid viz. Quoted percentage on BOQ.	Additional Performance Security						
	01.	Upto and Including 15% Below	Nil						
	02.	> 15% upto and including 20% Below	5% of Advertised Cost						
	03.	> 20 % upto and including 25% Below	10 % of Advertised Cost						
	04.	> 25% upto and including 30% Below	15 % of Advertised Cost						
	05.	> 30 % Below	20 % of Advertised Cost						

Contractor / Bidder who fails to submit the CDR/FDR / Treasury Challansas required; there EMD will be forfeited besides they will be barred/ prohibited from participating in the Tendering process for a period of Six Months (06 Months) in the first instance. Their online uploaded tenders

will not be considered for the said period. Contractor who shall be allotted the work has to start the work within the stipulated time period after the date of allotment as the work is of very important nature.

The department shall not be responsible for delay in online submission of bids due to any reason what so ever. The tenders shall remain valid for 90 days.(Ninety Days)

As soon as the contract is fixed with the successful bidder, he has to enter into an agreement with the department. The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-Any bidder withdraws his bid during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in terms & condition of the bid.

The successful bidder fails to execute an agreement with the department within 10 days after fixation of contract. Position of AAA:-Accorded vide No's:-ce/phe/db/175 of 05/2020 Dt:-18.05.2020. & ce/phe/db/63 of 09/2019 Dt:-11.09.2019

 $Position \ of \ Technical Sanction: -Accorded \ vide \ No's: -SE/Hyd/Spn/Db/27 \ Dt: -16.09.2023 \ \& SE/Hyd/Spn/Db/31 \ Dt: -25.09.2023 \ A SE/Hyd/Spn/Db/31 \ A SE/Hyd/Spn/Db/31 \ A SE/Hyd/Spn/Db/31 \ A SE/Hyd/S$ No.JSDS/3318-30

Meanwhile, the cause of fire was being ascertained Dated:- 27.09.2023

DIPK-9572-23 DT: 27/09/2023

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DIVISION SHOPIAN

Div Com Takes Review of Employment, Social Welfare Departments

Directs for updation of database of registration portal, delist old registrations as per guidelines

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today took the departmental review of the Employment Department and Social Welfare Department regarding the implementation of schemes, activities performed, execution of projects, deliverables and overall functioning, here.

The meetings were attended by the Directors along with the

Besides, Div Com exhorted for authentication of the data on the portal and delist the old registrations as per the provisions of the related Act. He instructed the concerned to make Aadhar linked registrations on the portal.

In another meeting, Director Social Welfare also presented a PPT to inform the meeting about Pension Schemes, Integrated Social Security Scheme, PM Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme (PM -YAS-



concerned officers.

Director Employment while briefing about the responsibilities of his department presented a detailed PowerPoint Presentation wherein he gave an overview regarding conducting of Job fairs, establishing of interface between job seekers and job providers, SMS intimation to the registered unemployed youth.

The meeting discussed career counseling, introduction of skill imparting courses, collection of data of unemployment in the UT etc.

On the occasion, Div Com directed Director Employment to integrate departmental portal with the national portal and on the major portals offering job updates to the youth. He also directed for creation of an Employment Cell to upload daily updates of jobs on the portal.

ASVI), Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBC, EBC and DNT Students, Post-Matric Scholarship for OBC, EBC and DNT Student, Special Assistance Scheme for COVID Mortalities (SASCM/ SAKSHAM) and State Marriage Assistance Scheme.

It was informed that 18676 cases were sanctioned under the State Marriage Assistance Scheme and 230 Pension cases and 247 scholarship have been sanctioned under SASCM.

The meeting deliberated on various deliverables including Geo-tagging of all established CCIs, Creation of Advisory Board for PWDs, Constitution of UT level Senior Citizen Council, Operationalisation of Special School for Children with Disability in Kashmir, CCIs to be re-modeled with best living conditions for the Children.

PUBLC NOTICE

The name of my daughter in DOB Certificate issued Municipal Committee Magam has been wrongly written as Ifra Zainab while her correct name is Ifza Zainab which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file in the office of the Municipal Committee Magam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objecttion shall be entertained. Nasir Ahamd Najar F/o Ifza Zainab R/o Magam Budgam

G2@	NOR	THERN RAILWAY	75=				
JIDÍ POS IZUT		E-AUCTION NOTICE	Azadi _{Ka} ^{Amrit} Mahotsa				
behalf of Pi		mercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozp invites E-Auction from eligible and registere ozpur Division:					
1 Auction	catalogue No.	EAFZR-WR23-2					
Auction st	art Date & Time	12-10-23 at 11:30 Hrs					
Name of work		ract for renovation, maintenance & operation of A Station Phagwara.	AC waiting				
2 Auction	catalogue No.	EAFZR-WVM23-4 12-10-23 at 12:00 Hrs					
Auction st	art Date & Time						
Name of work		Contract for provision and operation of Water nes at Railway Station Faridkot, Phillaur, Kathua, Firozpur					
3 Auction	catalogue No.	EAFZR-PRKG23-26					
Auction st	art Date & Time	12-10-23 at 12:30 Hrs					
Name of work	Allotment of Pa Nagar (Combine	riking contract at Railway Station Palampur & Joginder ed).					
Complete de	tails of auction ca	n be seen by registered bidder on www.ireps.go	v.in				
	SERVING	SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3000/2					

SERVING CUSTOMERS WI	THASMILE 3000/23
NORTHERN RAIL	.WAY ७०००
TENDER NOTICE	Azadi _{Ka} ^{Amrit} Mahotsav
Tender No. 179-C-PCET-DDL-AGTL-23	Date: 26 09.2023
Golden opportunity for cargo operators and tran	
Northern Railway through leasing Parcel Cargo Exp	ress Train in Firozpur Division.
Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Rail	way, Firozpur invites E-tender
through IREPS for leasing of Parcel Cargo Express	Train having composition of 15
Parcel Vans having CC 24 tonnes each (LVPHs) and	one brake Van for a period of six
years. (PCET shall be 15 parcel vans + 1 Brakevan, fo	r first six months of contract, and
after six months, the composition shall be 20 parcel var	n + 1 brakevan).
Tender Opening Date:18.10.2023	at 15:00 hrs.

From	То	Total Tonnes				Tender Cost including GST @ 18 % (in Rs.)
Dhandari Kalan (DDL)	Agartala (AGTL)	363.9	One trip per week	Rs. 30,29,513/- Per round trip	50	Rs. 11,800/- (Rs. 10000 + Rs. 1800 GST)
A. Tentative Time Table: Parcel Cargo Express Train Ex. Dhandari Kalan to Agartala and back to Dhandari Kalan on round trip.						

Days	AGTL PCET		Station	00439 AGTL- DDL PCET		Days	Remarks	
	Arr.	Dep.		Arr.	Dep.	,-	- Nomarka	
	-	0310	Dhandari Kalan (DDL)	1300	_	MON	Originating	
FRI	0505	0510	Ambala Cantt (UMB)	1000	1005	MON	Operating Halt	
	1030	1630	Patel Nagar (PTNR)	2100	0400	SUN /MON	Loading/un-load ing halt (04 hrs.)	
FRI	1950	2000	Ghaziabad (GZB)	1750	1800	SUN		
FKI	2230	2235	Moradabad (MB)	1415	1425	SUN	Operating Halt	
SAT	Pass	0310	Alam Nagar (AMG)	Pass	0815	SUN		
SAI	0345	0415	Transport Nagar (TPNR)	0730	0740	SUN	Operating Halt	
			VIA RBL-	PBH				
Pass 1320		1320	Varanasi (BSB)	Pass	2330	SAT	Originating Halt	
SAT Pass 2320 Pradhan Khun SUN/ MON 1100 0010 Chitpur (Dd Upadhyaya Jn (DDU)	2215	2225	SAT	Operating Halt		
		Pradhan Khunta (PKA))	Pass	1340	SAT			
		0010	Chitpur (CP)	1900	0200	FRI/ SAT	Loading/un-load ing Halt (04 hrs.)	
		Malda Town (MLDT)	0715	0745	FRI	Operating Halt		

S	AT	1445	1455	Dd Upadhyaya Jn (DDU)	2215	2225	SAT	Operating Halt
S	АТ	Pass	2320	Pradhan Khunta (PKA))	Pass	1340	SAT	
	JN/ ON	1100	0010	Chitpur (CP)	1900	0200	FRI/ SAT	Loading/un-load ing Halt (04 hrs.)
М	ON	1130	1430	Malda Town (MLDT)	0715	0745	FRI	Operating Halt
Т	UE	0330	0930	Mirza (MZRA)	1145	1650	THU	Loading/un-load ing Halt (04 hrs.)
W	ΈD	0340	_	Agartala (AGTL)	-	1630	WED	Termination
	Interested bidders may please visit official website for E-tendering i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for further details and submitting tender.							

Important Note: 1. Bidders who wish to participate in the e-tendering will have to Important Note: 1. Bidders who wish to participate in the e-tendering will have to procure class-3 valid Digital Security Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act, 2000. Bidders can procure this certificate from any of the certifying authority of Controller of Certifying Authorities (CcA) Government of India. Details of certifying authorities can be obtained from www.cca.gov.in.

2. The bidder has to register, if not registered earlier with www.ireps.gov.in using DSC to participate in tender process. Detailed procedure for registration, system requirements and bidding are also available on www.ireps.gov.in

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Thursday | 28-09-2023

Jaishankar's UN address

xternal Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, delivered a strong message in his address to the United Nations General Assembly on Tuesday, stressing that political expediency should not define global responses to terrorism and extremism. Coming in the wake of the ongoing diplomatic dispute between India and Canada over the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, Jaishankar stressed the need for consistent respect for territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs of a country, emphasizing that these principles should not be selectively applied. Projecting the image of a confident India, Jaishankar asserted that India's vision of 'One Earth, One Family, One Future' centers on addressing the concerns of many, rather than catering to the interests of a select few.

Significantly, the foreign minister made it clear that the days of a handful of nations setting the global agenda were over, while noting that India's pursuit of great power status would not be driven by self-aggrandizement but by a desire to take on greater responsibility and make more contributions to global welfare. The speech at once challenged traditional power structures, called for principled diplomacy, and underlined India's commitment to global welfare. And this needed to be said at a time when Canada together with the US and the other major western powers are unfairly blaming India for killing a Khalistani extremist in Canada. While New Delhi has declined any role in the killing, the union government has rightly taken on the west for its double standards.

Truth is that India is now a major power in its own right and it can't be browbeaten to submit to the west's idea of right and wrong as articulated by the foreign minister in his speech. Today India is in a position to demand parity in the terms of its engagement with the major powers. After all, India's geopolitical relevance makes it as important to the west as the west is to it. So, there is a mutuality of interests and also values which make the relationship advantageous to both, perhaps more so to the west. As a result, the west's outreach towards India has a structural incentive to carry on despite occasional challenges. Thus beyond a point, the controversy over the killing of Nijjar won't be more than a passing irritant.

But while the west needs India, it has to also be mindful of India's geopolitical interests and address them. Ever since independence, India has maintained and protected its strategic autonomy. And the major powers which court India have to make room for this for the relationship to endure. And the foreign minister's UN speech makes the country's position amply clear.

OTHER OPINON

Identity pangs: On Aadhaar and concerns

s the world's largest digital ID programme with biometric and demographic details of over a billion residents, Aadhaar stands out for its scale. But at a broader level, the agency has red-flagged security and privacy risks from "centralised" digital ID systems such as Aadhaar, where a single entity controls identifying credentials. Moody's, which has mooted decentralised ID systems that give users more control over their data, has also lent weight to worries about the efficacy of Aadhaar's biometricbased authentication systems to verify identities. "The system often results in service denials, and the reliability of biometric technologies, especially for manual labourers in hot, humid climates, is questionable," it said. While this observation is of relevance amid the government's push to switch all payments under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) to an Aadhaar-based payment system, it echoes the concerns raised ever since its launch under the United Progressive Alliance regime.

The vigorous pursuit of Aadhaar, after some initial hesitation, under the present government has manifested in the 12-digit number becoming mandatory for almost all welfare benefits to weaker sections as well as activities such as opening bank or provident fund accounts, securing telephone connections and remitting taxes. Its use, backed by the expansion of access to no-frills bank accounts and mobile phone connections, has indeed enabled the direct transfer of benefits to millions in welfare schemes and weeding out ghosts and middlemen. Yet, there have also been instances of people being excluded from basic services for lack of an Aadhaar or labourers and senior citizens struggling to confirm their fingerprints and retina scans to prove they exist. An audit of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India released last year, had flagged lapses that jeopardise privacy and compromise data security, along with flaws in enrolment processes leading to duplication and faulty biometrics. India has pushed for digital public infrastructure like the one built around the edifice of Aadhaar, as a means for service delivery in G-20 nations and beyond. Having appointed a part-time chief to the UIDAI last month after four years, the government must seek an honest review of, and course correction in the Aadhaar programme, before expanding its linkages further, be it for electoral rolls, private entities or MGNREGA payments.

International Access to Information Day

Why Doesn't Right to Information Find a Place in J&K's e-Services?

What prevents J&K Govt from setting up a digital platform to access information under the RTI Act 2005?



Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

ery recently, the Departtive Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Government of India released a report on National e-services Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) wherein Jammu & Kashmir ranked One vis a vis e-services delivery. As per the report, J&K Government is said to have been providing 1028 e-services and has thus surpassed Madhya Pradesh which provides 1010 e-services and Kerala which has 911 online services for its citizens. This is indeed a great achievement for the people of Jammu & Kashmir but as a long time Right to Information (RTI) campaigner, I feel dejected and dispirited when I don't see RTI in the list of 1028 online/ e-services.

According to a press statement by the Government, issued in response to the aforementioned report, the Digital J&K programme was launched in mission mode last year. The number of online services has increased exponentially from 35 services in 2019 to 1028 services as on date.

"The remarkable digital journey of J&K and the resultant transformation from a laggard status in e-governance to a leading position in such a short span of time is unprecedented. This has brought about a paradigm shift resulting in increased transparency, accountability and efficiency at all levels. There has been a palpable reduction in corruption and increase in citizen satisfaction", reads the Govt statement

Union Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances -DARPG, Mr V Srinivas, congratulated the Govt of J&K for this great achievement. He stated that the NeSDA framework, developed by DARPG has played a pivotal role in catalyzing the improvement in the uptake, volume, and quality of e-services.

Offline to Online

Last year, in December, the J&K Chief Secretary Dr A K Mehta had impressed upon all the Govt offices to make all the offline services online. As per the Govt statement issued on December 16th 2022, the Chief Secretary while reviewing the performance of the Information Technology (IT) Department in a meeting, directed the officers to prepare a list of all the services provided by the Govt departments. The Chief Secretary directed the officers to separate the services still offered through offline mode and prepare a roadmap for offering the same through an online platform with end-to-end digitisation by January 15th 2023. The Chief Secretary during the meeting asked the officers of the IT department to issue advisories to different Govt departments for conducting security audits of their official websites as well without any delay.

By January 15th 2023, all the offline services had to be made online but even as September is coming to an end, the citizens in J&K continue to seek information under Right to Information Act 2005 (RTI Act) through an offline mode which is completely obsolete.

As on date, citizens intending to seek information under RTI



The importance of the online space for access to information

Today's day and the theme of this day should be a wakeup call for Jammu & Kashmir Govt. If the Govt of J&K is providing 1028 online services to its citizens what prevents them from not including online RTI service in this list and make it 1029?

in J&K write down an RTI application, take its printout, then purchase the Indian Postal Order (IPO) of Rs 10 which isn't available in all the local post offices. The application is then sent via speed post / registered post or dropped personally in a Govt office. On the contrary, this is not the case with central Govt offices. One can file an RTI application on a cell phone and pay application fees online. If J & K is directly ruled by the centre for the last 4 years, why are not the same facilities given to people of J&K?

Ladakh starts Online RTI portal

As J&K Govt fails to give its citizens the right to access information through an electronic mode, the Union Territory of Ladakh has taken a lead instead. The Ladakh UT administration last month (August 18th) launched and started a web portal namely RTI online to facilitate the citizens in filing RTI applications and first appeals through an online platform www.rtionline.ladakh.gov. in. As per the official order issued by UT of Ladakh, the web portal will be managed and supervised by General Administration Department (GAD)

"An RTI cell with officers Sonam Chhosdon, Deputy Secretary and Mohammad Shafi, Junior Assistant, GAD, has also been constituted accordingly," said the order. The order further says that RTI cell and the portal shall be serviced by the Accounts wing of the GAD. All the Public Information Officers (PIOs) and First Appellate Authorities (FAAs) have been directed by Ladakh GAD to ensure disposal of RTI applications filed through online mode on the designated portal in a time bound manner as per the timeline prescribed under Acts

The accounts wing of the Ladakh GAD has also been directed

through the same order to supervise and maintain the online fee receipts and ensure its timely transfer to relevant heads. The UT Govt of Ladakh has set up a technical support team controlled by GAD for maintenance, hosting, and other IT support for smooth operation and running of the new RTI portal by using the manpower that has already been hired through an outsourcing agency. The NIC Ladakh is providing all required support to GAD in technical matters vis a vis online RTI. Pertinently the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) on February 26 this year had instructed his Principal Secretary Sanjeev Khirwar to fix a timeline to launch the RTI Online Portal at the earliest. The LG during a few meetings at Raj Niwas Leh early this year had inquired about the reasons for the delay in launching the RTI online portal in Ladakh. It is heartening to know that finally online RTI is a reality in Ladakh and the Govt of J&K must also follow the footsteps of UT of Ladakh by launching an RTI portal soon.

Our Advocacy

This author along with other volunteers associated with Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement have been doing a lot of advocacy for online RTI facilities in J&K. For the last many years I have been writing about it and one of our committed activists namely Syed Adil from Ganderbal used the RTI application as a tool to ensure RTI goes digital in J&K. Adil sought information about all this from the Govt of India around January end this year. He filed an application before the Central Public Information Officer (CPIO) in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeITY). The Ministry forwarded the application under section 6 (3) to Department of Personnel and

Trainings (DoPT) Govt of India which works under the Prime Ministers Office (PMO). The DoPT further forwarded Adil's application to J&K Govt (General Administration Department-GAD) and the Govt had no option but to say in writing that online RTI will be a reality in J&K very soon. It is now around 4 months and we still struggle to seek information through an offline mode.

Conclusion

Today is September 28th and this day is celebrated as The International Day for Universal Access to Information or International Access to Information Day or RTI Day. This day was proclaimed on 15 October 2019 at the 74th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). This year's global celebrations are being held at Oxford, United Kingdom on September 28th 2023 and the entire programme will revolve around the theme titled as "The Importance of the online space for access to Information". The theme will also encompass discussions and deliberations on the challenges and opportunities posed by the internet and the significance of accessing information through an online mode and implications of internet shutdowns and online censorship. I think today's day and the theme of this day should be a wakeup call for Jammu & Kashmir Govt. If the Govt of J&K is providing 1028 online services to its citizens what prevents them from not including online RTI service in this list and make it 1029?

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

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is an Acumen Fellow. He is Founder and Chairman of Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement

21st Century Western Scholarship on the Prophetic Seerah—Some Positive Glimpses

Dr Tauseef Ahmad Parray

The Western scholarship on Islam in general, and on the primary sources of Islam in particularthe Qur'an and Prophet Muhammad (PBUH): the Last Divine Message and the Last Messenger-have continued from centuries, and, indeed, has seen an impressive growth from the last few decades, especially in the 21st century. A plethora of literature has been produced on the life of the Last Prophet (PBUH), which is generally denoted by the Arabic term Seerah/Sirah—one of the most prominent genres in the Islamic literary tradition. A large number of biographies of the Prophet (PBUH) exist in all Islamic languages as well as in the European languages (especially English) in prose, poetry, and more recently even through films/ documentaries. In the West, interest has increased about the popular as well as scholarly Seerah works; however, most of this scholarship, throughout history, has remained 'biased', 'bigoted', 'negative', and 'offensive'.

Nevertheless, in the recent Western scholarship on this theme, one observes a positive perception in these biographies. These "recent works on Sirah in English", as Professor Abdur Raheem Kidwai puts it in his Images of the Prophet Muhammad in English Literature (2018), "reflect a sea-change in the representation of Prophet Muhammad" (PBUH), indicating "the welcome trend of acknowledging the Prophet's greatness and glory." He labels this recent positive representation of the Prophet as "Towards Fairness and Truth" in contrast to the negative portrayal of medieval times, which he terms as "The Distorting Mirror". He has summarized the whole discourse in these words: "Notwithstanding the highly regrettable and detestable portrayal of the Prophet down the centuries, ... which makes a sad, depressing reading, it is gratifying that since early twentieth century there has been some fairness in the West's treatment of the Prophet...acknowledging the gross injustice and hostility in the West's representation. Equally welcome is the appearance of several bi ographies of the Prophet by Western scholars, which do justice, to a large extent, to the Prophet's genius and his life-ennobling message."

It is in this backdrop that views of some of the Western non-Muslims scholars/ writers are presented (on the eve of 12th Rabi-ul-Awal) in this write-up to show the developments as well as perception of the Prophet (PBUH) in the 'West' (from 2000 onwards).



Professor Carl W. Ernst (Professor at North Carolina Chappell Hill, USA), in his Following Muhammad: Rethinking Islam in the Contemporary World (2003) writes: "While the Qur'an as divine revelation may be the most important resource of the Islamic tradition, we would not have it in its present form without the Prophet Muhammad [PBUH]... . He [PBUH] has served as an ongoing model for ethics, law, family life, politics, and spirituality in ways that were not anticipated 1,400 years ago. There are few people in history who have had a greater impact on humanity, and it is through the historical elaboration of tradition that we must seek to understand that impact".

Professor Gerhard Bowering (Yale University, USA) in an article entitled "Muhammad (570-632)", in his Princeton Encyclopedia of Islamic Political Thought (2013) is of this opinion when he presents the Prophet (PBUH) as a 'political leader': "That one man could achieve so much in such a short time is astounding.... [He (PBUH)] made a global impact over more than a millennium and whose cause continues to exert a worldwide attraction today.

His message has stood the test of time for more than a thousand years, and his community has grown steadily over the centuries".

Professor Tamara Sonn (Professor in the History of Islam at Georgetown University, USA) in her 'Islam: A Brief History' (2010), admits that Prophet's [PBUH] role "extends beyond the task of delivering revelation", for his life is "a model for humanity of how to live every moment, and make every choice, in accordance with God's will. The way he lived his life is described by the Quran as the best example of Islam" (Q. 33: 21); and together with the Quran, his example (Sunnah) "comprise the guidance [and direction] Muslims need in their collective responsibility to establish justice".

Professor John L. Esposito (professor of Religion & International Affairs and of Islamic Studies at Georgetown University, USA) in his 'What Everyone Needs to Know About Islam' (2002 & 2011) writes: "In contrast to the often spiritualized Christian view of Jesus [Prophet 'Isa (AS)], Muslims look upon Muhammad [(PBUH)] as both a prophet and a very human figure,

one who had great political as well as spiritual insights. Thus Muslims look to Muhammad's [(PBUH)] example for guidance in all aspects of life: how to treat friends as well as enemies, what to eat and drink, how to mourn and celebrate. ... [Prophet] Muhammad's [(PBUH)] life translated the guidance revealed in the Quran into action; he lived the revelation, giving concrete form to the laws that God revealed for the various conditions of ordinary human life. For Islam, no aspect of life is outside the realm of religion". In his The Future of Islam (2010), Esposito writes as: "Muhammad [PBÚH] is one of the great figures of world history. Few have had more of a global religious and political impact; yet no prophet has been more vilified throughout history. ... In his lifetime, throughout Muslim history, and today, the Prophet Muhammad [PBUH] is seen as the 'living Quran', the embodiment of God's will in his behavior and words". Esposito repeats almost similar views in the 5th (updated) edition of his Islam-The Straight Path (2016), wherein he devotes a full chapter to the "Muhammad and the Quran-The Messenger and Message".

Highlighting his role as a reformer, Esposito writes: "Muhammad [PBUH] was not the founder of Islam; he did not start a new religion. Like his prophetic predecessors, he came as a religious reformer....The Prophet brought a revolution in Arabian life, a reformation that sought to purify and redefine its way of life.

William E. Shepard (Retired Associate Professor of Religious Studies, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand), in his Introducing Islam (2014) devotes a full chapter to the Prophet's biography, entitled "The Prophet Muhammad [PBUH]: 'the best of all creatures". He begins his chapter with these words: "If the Qur'an is the Book of God, Muhammad [PBUH] is the person through whom that book came to humanity and his words and deeds are the first and most important com-mentary on it. In his lifetime, he was prophet, arbitrator, political leader and moral exemplar". Furthermore, he presents the views (both positive and negative) of some modern Muslim and non-Muslim scholars, regarding the various facets of the Prophet's (PBUH) blessed life. As a reformer, Shepard sums up as: "Muhammad [PBUH] is also presented as a reformer who considerably raised the social and ethical level of the Arabs of his time... He called for equality and mutual responsibility among his followers, and for the abolition of class privilege and extremes of wealth. He is described as calling for social justice and sometimes even for socialism".

These few examples clearly reveal that the Western scholarship has seen a 'sea-change' in the representation of the Prophet's biography in recent years and is, thus, indicative of a 'welcome trend of acknowledging the Prophet's greatness and glory'. It is apt to conclude with this passage from the Preface of Professor Kidwai's Images of the Prophet in English Literature: "In today's globalized world with numerous opportunities for interaction and much faster and varied channels of communication we can and should ensure a better representation of the Prophet and of ourselves. Our real, meaningful tribute to the Prophet consists in facilitating a better understanding of Islam and the Prophet by dint of our character and conduct patterned after the Prophet's role model which is characterized by sympathy, sincerity and love for all fellow human beings.'

The author is Assistant Professor, Islamic Studies, GDC Sogam (Lolab), Kupwara. Feedback at tauseef.parray21@gmail.com

6 Books to Read on the Prophet Muhammad

SELINA BAKKAR

We've taken to social media to once again ask for recommendation on books and resources specifically about the Prophet Muhammad PBUH. For those of us who want to get to know the Prophets life and perhaps it's the first time you are making the intention to look at his footsteps we'd actually recommend children's books, they allow you to digest the chronological order of events and simple details so when you dive into heavier literature you are able to navigate it with a bit more ease.



The Simple Seerah

The Simple Seerah was authored by Ustadh Asim Khan and is produced by

Toyris Miah who shares on the site

"The idea for The Simple Seerah came about when Toyris discovered his 11-year-old nephew Zakaria had a passion for reading history books. He tried to find some Islamic history books for Zakaria but struggled to find anything which catered to his age group, this sparked a desire to produce a book on the Seerah that appealed to a younger demographic."

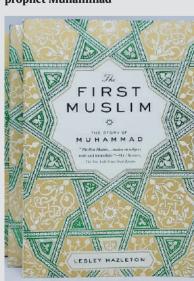
When The Moon Split: A biography of Prophet Muhammad



The book was published many years

ago but recently was revised and has a new front cover, it also has full color pictures and Lessons & Morals at end of each section. It's another good one for Children, families looking at the seerah together or for someone that wants to grasp the timeline and character of the Prophet Muhammad.

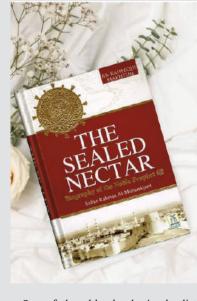
The First Muslim: The story of the prophet Muhammad



The book was researched and written by Lesley Hazleton who is a

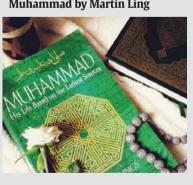
British-American author whose work focuses on the intersection and interactions between politics and religion.

The Sealed Nectar



One of the older books in the list, the book is still highly recommended. This book was awarded first prize by the Muslim World League in worldwide competition on the biography of the Prophet held at Makkah Al-Mukarramah in 1399H/1979.

Muhammad by Martin Ling



KAREN
ARMSTRONG
MUHAMMAD

Muhammad the Prophet by Maulana Muhammad Ali

A PROPHET

FOR OUR TIME

Covid Antiviral Drug Molnupiravir Linked To Virus Mutations: Study

Press Trust Of India

widely used COVID-19 antiviral drug, molnupiravir, has been linked with a pattern of mutations in the SARS-CoV-2 virus, according to a study published in the journal Nature.

A team, including researchers from the Francis Crick Institute and the University of Cambridge in the UK, noted that molnupiravir works by inducing mutations in the virus's genetic information, or genome, during replication.

Many of these mutations will damage or kill the virus, reducing viral load in the body. It was one of the first antivirals available on the market during the COVID-19 pandemic and was widely adopted by many countries.

The scientists used global sequencing databases to map mutations in the SARS-CoV-2 virus over time. They analysed a family tree of 15 million SARS-CoV-2 sequences so that at each point in each virus's evolutionary history they could see which mutations had occurred.

Although viruses mutate all the time, the researchers identified mutational events in the global sequencing database which looked very different to typical patterns of COVID-19 mutations. and that they were strongly asso-



ciated with individuals who had taken molnupiravir.

The resaerchers found that these mutations increased in 2022, coinciding with the introduction of molnupiravir. They were also more likely to be seen in older age groups, consistent with the use of the antivirals to treat people who are more at risk, and in countries

which are known to have high molnupiravir use.

The team analysed treatment data in England and found that at least 30 per cent of the events involved use of molnupiravir.

The causes of mutational events can be traced by looking at their mutational signature': a preference for mutations to occur at particular

sequences in the genome.

The researchers found a close match between the signature seen in these mutational events and the signature in clinical trials of mol-

They also saw small clusters of mutations which suggests onward transmission from one person to another, although no established

Many of these mutations will damage or kill the virus, reducing viral load in the body. It was one of the first antivirals available on the market during the COVID-19 pandemic and was widely adopted by many countries.

variants of concern are currently linked to this signature.

Understanding the impact of molnupiravir treatment on the risks of new variants, and any impact they might have on public health is difficult, the researchers said.

It is also important to consider that chronic COVID-19 infections, which molnupiravir is used for, can themselves result in new mutations, they said.

"COVID-19 is still having a ma-

jor effect on human health, and some people have difficulty clearing the virus, so it's important we develop drugs which aim to cut short the length of infection," said study lead author Theo Sanderson, a postdoctoral researcher at the Francis Crick Institute.

"But our evidence shows that a specific antiviral drug, molnupiravir, also results in new mutations, increasing the genetic diversity in the surviving viral population," Sanderson said.

The findings are useful for ongoing assessment of the risks and benefits of molnupiravir treatment, the researchers said.

The possibility of persistent antiviral-induced mutations needs to be taken into account for the development of new drugs which work in a similar way, they said.

"Molnupiravir is one of a number of drugs being used to fight CO-VID-19. It belongs to a class of drugs that can cause the virus to mutate so much that it is fatally weakened," said Christopher Ruis from the University of Cambridge.

"But what we've found is that in some patients, this process doesn't kill all the viruses, and some mutated viruses can spread. This is important to take into account when assessing the overall benefits and risks of molnupiravir and similar drugs," Ruis added.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Office Of The Senior Superintendent Of Police-District Pulwama

Pulwama 192301 Telephone: 01933-24123(7 Fax;0l933-241932/ Email ID: dpopulwama@jkpolice.gov.in

No. CRB/82-P/2023/8831-32 Date: 09/2023

IN THE SPECIAL DESIGNATED COURT **UNDER NIA ACT, PULWAMA**

In the case of

UT of J&K through P/S Kakapora.

Revaz Ahmad Dar S/o Abdul Aziz Dar

R/o Sathergund Tehsil Kakapora District Pulwama. (Case FIR No. 29/2022 U/S 302, 307 IPC, 16, 18, 20, 38, 39 UAP Act and 7/25, 7/27 I. A. Act. of P/S Kakapora

JKPCO/00/6082023 DOI: 21-09-2023 DOD: 21-09-2023

Coram: O.P.Thankur J.O. Code: JK-00097

ORDER

The instant application has been moved by LD. Additional Public Prosecutor of this court in terms of section 82 of Cr.Pc. aimed at publication of proclamation requiring* the accused namely Revaz Ahmad Dar S/o Ab Aziz Dar R/o Sathergund Tehsil Kakapora District Pulwama accused in said criminal case to appear before this court for facing trial. It is averred in the application that owing to involvement of said accused in the criminal case covered by Case FIR No. 29/2022 U/S 302, 307 IPC, 16, 18, 20, 38, 39 UAP Act and 7/25, 7/27 I. A; J Act, of P/S Kakapora and in various other terrorist activities, he has been declared as terrorist and upgraded to A++ category vide PHO order No.OPS/ CAT/2022/139-42 dated 26-02-2022, belonging to the banned terror outfit of LeT. It is also submitted in the application that said accused is avoiding his arrest and owing to the absconding of said accused general warrant of arrest issued by this court on 18.09.2023 also could not be executed.

Perused the application and the documents connected thereof I have also perused the Charge Sheet of aforesaid criminal case and also heard the Ld. Additional Public Prosecutor at length in the matter. Having regard to gravity of offences in which above named accused is involved and peculiar facts and circumstances attending the matter, the prayer of Ld. Additional Public Prosecutor for publication of proclamation under rules with regard to above named accused appears to be genuine, accordingly, the application at hand is allowed . . Let proclamation be issued against the accused namely Reyaz Ahmad Dar S/o Abdul Aziz Dar R/o Sathergund Tehsil Kakapora District Pulwama involved in FIR No. 29/2022 U/S 302, 307 IPC, 16, 18, 20, 38, 39 UAP Act and 7/25. 7/27 1. A, Act, of P/S Kakapora in terms of section 82 Cr. P.C to appear before this court, by or before 24-11-2023

The investigating agency is directed to adhere to the following while publishing the proclamation in question.

e) The proclamation shall be publicly read in some conspicuous place which is ordinarily place of residence of the said accused.

f) The proclamation be affixed/pasted at some conspicuous part of the house of accused and at some conspicuous place of the village Sathergund Tehsil Kakapora Dis-

g) Copy of the proclamation shall also be affixed/pasted at some conspicuous part in District court complex Pulwama.

h) Copy of the proclamation shall also be got published at least in two leading newspapers of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir in which at least one shall be valley

The application is accordingly disposed of and shall form part of Charge Sheet (Challan).

Announced 21.09.2023

Special designated court Under NIA/Act, Pulwama

IN THE SPECIAL DESIGNATED **COURT UNDER NIA ACT, PULWAMA**

In the case of

UT of J&K through P/S Kakapora.

Reyaz Ahmad Dar js/o Abdul Aziz Dar R/o Sathergund Tehsil Kakapora District Pulwama. (Case FIR No. 60/2022 U/S 18, 20, 23, 38, 39, UAP Act and 7/25 I. Arm Act, of

P/S Kakapora

JKPL0100/607 DOI 22-09-2023 DOD 22-09-2023

Coram: O.P.Thankur JO. Code: JK-00097

> **ORDER** 22.09.2023

The instant application has been moved by LD. Additional Public Prosecutor of this court in terms of section 82 of Cr.Pc. aimed at publication of proclamation requiring the accused namely Reyaz Ahmad Dar S/o Ab Aziz Dar R/o Sathergund Tehsil Kakapora District Pulwama accused in said criminal case to appear before this court for facing trial. It is averred in the application that owing to involvement of said accused in the criminal case covered by Case FIR No. 60/2022 U/S 18, 20, 23, 38, 39, UAP Act and 7/25 I. Arm Act, of P/S Kakapora and in various other terrorist activities, he has been declared as terrorist and upgraded to A++ category vide PHQ order No.OPS/ CAT/2022/139-42 dated 26-02-2022, belonging to the banned terror outfit of LeT. It is also submitted in the application that said accused is avoiding his arrest and owing to the absconding of said accused genera] warrant of arrest issued by this court on 18.09.2023 also could not be executed.

Perused the application and the documents connected thereof. I have also perused the Charge Sheet of aforesaid criminal case and also heard the Ld. Additional Public Prosecutor at length in the matter.

Having regard to gravity of offences in which above named accused is involved and peculiar facts and circumstances attending the matter, the prayer of Ld. Additional and, Publihi Prosecutor for publication of proclamation under rules with regard to above named accused appears to be genuine, accordingly, the application at hand is allowed. Let' proclamation be issued against the accused namely Reyaz Ahmad Dar S/o Abdul Aziz Dar R/o Sathergund Tehsil Kakapora District Pulwama mvolved in Case FIR No:60/2022 U/S 18, 20, 23, 38, 39, UAP Act and 7/25 I. Arm Act, of P/S Kakapora in terms of section 82 Cr. P.C to appear before this court, by or before -24/11/20233

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ily place of residence of the said accused. b) The proclamation be affixed/pasted at some conspicuous part of the house of ac-

cused and at some conspicuous place of the village Sathergund Tehsil Kakapora District Pulwama

c) Copy of the proclamation shall also be affixed/pasted at some conspicuous part in District court complex Pulwama

d) Copy of the proclamation shall also be got published at least in two leading newspapers of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir in which at least one shall be valley based The application is accordingly disposed of and shall form part of Charge Sheet (Chal-

Announced 22.09.2023 Special Designated Court, Under NIA Act, Pulwama

In the Court of Special Judge (Designated Court Under NIA Act) Pulwama.

In the case of:-

UT of J&K through P/S Kakapora.

Reyaz Ahmad Dar S/oAbAziz Dar R/o Sathergund Tehsil Kakapora District Pulwama. (Case FIR No, 29/2022 U/S 302, 307 IPC, 16, IB, 20, 38, 39 UAP Act and 7/25, 7/27 I. A. Act of P/S Kakapora.

In the matter of: - Proclamation in terms of section 82 of Cr. PC Svt 1989.

WHEREAS: It appears to the satisfaction of the court that one Revaz Ahmad Dar S/o Ab Aziz Dar R/o Sathergund Tehsil Kakapora District Pulwama is an accused in a Criminal case which is covered by Case FIR No. 29/2022 U/S 302, 307 IPC, 16, 18, 20, 38, 39 UAP Act and 7/25, 7/27 I. A. Act of P/S Kakapora

WHEREAS: The said accused namely Reyaz Ahmad Dar S/o Ab Aziz Dar R/o Sathergund Tehsil Kakapora District Pulwama has neither appeared before the investigating officer of the said case during the course of investigation nor before this court post submission of Charge Sheet in the above referred case till date even despite issuance

of coercive process

WHEREAS, this court has all the reasons to believe that Reyaz Ahmad Dar S/o Ab Aziz Dar. R/o Sathergund Tehsil Kakapora District Pulwama, accused in the above captioned case against whom non-bailable warrant has earlier been issued by this court vide dated 14.09 2023 Is absconded and is concealing himself so that such warrant can not be executed

WHEREAS; in the analysis of this court it would be proper for taking trial of the afore-

case to its logical conclusion to publish a written proclamation requiring said Reyaz Ahmad Dar S/o Ab Aziz Dar R/o Sathergund Tehsil Kakapora District Pulwama accused in above captioned case to appear before this court.

Now through the medium of this proclamation accused namely Reyaz Ahmad Dar S/o Ab Aziz Dar R/o Sathergund Tehsil Kakapora District Pulwama is hereby directed to appear before this court situated in New District Court Complex Degree College Road Pulwama in connection with criminal Case which is covered by Case FIR No. 29/2022 U/S 302, 307 IPC, 16, 18, 20, 38, 39 UAP Act and 7/25, 7/27 I. A. Act of P/S Kakapora of P/S Kakapora by or before 24.11.2023. Herein fail not. '

Issued this12thday of September 2023 under my hand and seal of the court.

Special Designated Court, Under NIA Act, Pulwama

In the Court of Special Judge (Designated Court Under NIA Act) Pulwama.

In the case of:-

UT of J&K through P/S Kakapora.

Reyaz Ahmad Dar S/o Ab Aziz Dar

R/o Sathergund Tehsil Kakapora District Pulwama.

(Case FIR No. 60/2022 U/S 18, 20, 23, 38, 39 UAP Act and 7/25 I. A. Act of P/S Kaka-

DOI 22-09-2023 DOD 22-09-2023

In the matter of: - Proclamation in terms of section 82 of Cr. PC. Svt 1989.

WHEREAS: It appears to the satisfaction of the court that one Reyaz Ahmad Dar S/o Ab Aziz Dar R/o Sathergund Tehsil Kakapora District Pulwama is an accused in a Criminal case which is covered by Case FIR No. 60/2022 U/S 18, 20, 23, 38, 39 UAP Act and 7/25 I. A. Act of P/S Kakapora.

WHEREAS: The said accused namely Reyaz Ahmad Dar S/o Ab Aziz Dar R/o Sathergund Tehsil Kakapora District Pulwama has neither appeared before the investigating officer of the said case during the course of investigation nor before this court post submission of Charge Sheet in the aboy referred case till date even despite issuance of coercive process

.WHEREAS, this court has all the reasons to believe that Reyaz Ahmad Dar S/o Ab Aziz Dar R/o Sathergund Tehsil Kakapora District Pulwama, accused in the above captioned case against (whom non-bailable,/warrant has earlier been issued by this court vide order dated |14.09 2023 is absconded and is concealing himself so that such warrant can not be executed

Whereas in the analysis of this court it would be proper for taking trial of the aforesaid case to its logical conclusion to publish a written proclamation requiring said Reyaz Ahmad Dar S/o Ab Aziz Dar R/o Sathergund Tehsil Kakapora District Pulwama accused in above captioned case to appear before this court.

Now through the medium of this proclamation accused namely Reyaz Ahmad Dar S/o Ab Aziz Dar R/o Sathergund Tehsil Kakapora District Pulwama is hereby directed to appear before this court situated in New District Court Complex Degree College Road Pulwama in connection with criminal Case which is covered by Case FIR No. 60/2022 U/S 18, 20, 23, 38, 39 UAP Act and 7/25 I. A. Act of P/S Kakapora of P/S Kakapora by or before 24 11.2023. Herein fail not.

Issued this day of September 2023 under my hand and seal of the court.

Special Designated Court, Under NIA Act, Pulwama

DIPK-9570/23 dated: 27-09-2023

India Will Soon Emerge As Global Economic Powerhouse: PM Modi

Press Trust Of India

AHMEDABAD: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said his aim is to make India a global growth engine and expressed confidence that the country will soon emerge as an economic powerhouse of the world.

Speaking at an event to mark 20 years of success of the Vibrant Gujarat Summit, Modi said they sowed small seeds of a "Vibrant Gujarat" 20 years ago, and today it has developed into a big tree.

Modi also said that Vibrant Gujarat became a success at such a time when the previous central government (UPA dispensation) was "indifferent" to the industrial progress of the

"We organised Vibrant Gujarat to make the state a growth engine of India. The country has seen this imagination becoming a reality. In 2014, when I was given the opportunity to serve the country, my aim was to make India a global growth engine," Modi said addressing a gathering of industrialists and businessmen.

Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat, Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and state BJP president C R Paatil were also present on the occasion.

"We are standing at such a phase that India will soon emerge as a global economic powerhouse," Modi said, add-



ing that global agencies and experts are today talking on similar lines.

"In a few years, India will be among the world's top three economies. This is Modi's guarantee," the PM said.

He appealed to the country's industry to think of sectors where India can explore new possibilities or strengthen itself, and how Vibrant Gujartat can give momentum to this

Modi highlighted how from a humble beginning, the Vibrant Gujarat events have turned into an institution and many states later followed it by organising their own investment summits.

Swami Vivekananda said that every work passes through three stages- first it is mocked, later it faces opposition and finally it is accepted, especially when the idea is ahead of time, Modi noted, comparing the success of Vibrant Gujarat and how it passed through different stages. Today the world can see the success of Vibrant Gu-

'Chilling Effect': India-Canada **Row Threatens Trade, Investment**

Bloomberg

NEW DELHI: Canada-India ties have deteriorated since Prime Minister Justin Trudeau accused New Delhi of orchestrating the assassination of a Sikh separatist leader in British Columbia. Now, the diplomatic standoff threatens to spill over into their economies.

A proposed early-stage trade deal is in jeopardy, potentially hurting India's efforts to woo the West and serve as a supplychain alternative to China. India's access to Canadian potash, a key nutrient for crops, may get affected.

Indian students may start avoiding Canada for higher education after New Delhi issued a safety advisory on the country for "anti-India" activities. This could affect a sector that brings in about C\$22 billion (\$16.3 billion) annually in revenues for Canada.

Both nations have already expelled senior diplomats from the other side in a tit-for-tat escalation. Canada plans to reduce embassy staff as security threats rise in the South Asian country while New Delhi stopped issuing visas to Canadian citizens.

Here are some of the charts looking at what's at stake: **IMMIGRATION**

Indians make up nearly a fifth of immigrants to Canada, the highest share from a single place of birth since 1971, ac-

cording to government data. However, remittances from Canada were less than 1% of the total flowing into India and this is in part due to immigrants permanently settling down in Canada and bringing over their

Immigration accounts for 90% of Canada's labor force growth as there is fast-aging working population.

A sizable number of Indian immigrants to Canada are Sikhs from Punjab state in India. Sikhs account for 1.7% of India's population and Canada has the highest numbers of Sikhs outside of the South Asian country. **HIGHER EDUCATION**

Indians account for the most number of international students doing their higher education in Canada. In 2022, they made up over 28% of the total foreign students, according to local media in Canada.

Higher education is a significant sector contributing to more than 15% of Canada's services exports annually. The latest available data by Global

Affairs Canada shows that international students alone contributed 1.3% to Canada's gross domestic product in 2019. **TRADE**

Trade between the two nations stood at \$8.16 billion in 2022-23, dwarfing in comparison to \$128.7 billion in India's bilateral trade with the US. However, India depends almost entirely on imports for its potash needs, and buys a large amount of the crop nutrient from Canada, the world's biggest exporter.

Supplies from Canada have become increasingly important as sanctions have disrupted trade and expansion plans for Russia and Belarus. The current frostiness may impact that.

India's major exports to Canada include pharmaceuticals, iron and steel products. The nations were negotiating an earlystage trade deal before the talks were put on pause by Canada ahead of the Group of 20 leaders summit in New Delhi. Indian officials said it was due to "political developments."

India Must Pursue Policies To Boost Domestic Production Of Laptops: GTRI

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India should pursue policies for promoting domestic production of laptops and other electronics products as over-dependence on one country poses future supply risk, think tank GTRI said on Wednesday.

As the government has de-

It is worth noting that the US and the EU have taken more stringent actions to pursue their own self-interests, he said.

"The case for local laptop manufacturing in India is compelling. China dominates the PC (personal computers) and laptop market with an impressive 81 per cent share, amounting to a staggering USD 130



cided to impose import curbs on these electronic devices, importers would have to seek a licence from the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) from November 1.

The Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) also said that global firms may feel uncomfortable about import restrictions, as it will compel them to invest in India to maintain their current level of business.

"Few have got their home countries to voice opposition. But, India, as one of the world's leading economies, must navigate its policies independently," GTRI Co-Founder Ajay Srivastava said.

billion (as of 2022 data). Such over-dependence on one country poses future supply risk as Covid has demonstrated," he added.

In this context, India's efforts to bolster local production of mobile phones, laptops are in the right direction, the GTRI said adding, however, India must avoid incentivizing superficial shell assembly companies.

"This wavering stance on import regulations may make India a subject of mockery on the global stage. The government must provide a clear and consistent policy to instil confidence in domestic and international stakeholders," Srivastava said.

Centre Asks Banks To Depute Doorstep Executives To Help Bedridden Pensioners Submit Life Certificates

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Centre has asked all pension disbursing banks to depute doorstep executives to help bedridden and hospitalised pensioners submit their life certificates.

An order issued by the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoP-PW) also asked all banks to create awareness about the convenience of obtaining the life certificate digitally by using the face authentication technology by super senior pensioners (those aged 80 and above).

All pensioners have to give a life certificate (proof that they are alive) annually to continue receiving pension. There are about 69.76

lakh central government pensioners. In view of the digital life certificate through face au-

thentication technology, it

is now possible for every banking executives, said citizen to submit a digital life certificate (DLC) either They can widely publifrom home using an Ancise the methodology for

dated September 25. "It is suggested that all banks may utilise the various platforms for creating awareness of the conv nience of obtaining a life certificate by using the face authentication ogy," it said.

droid smartphone or at the

bank branch, said the order

Banks can facilitate the submission of life certificates by deputing doorstep

using their Android phone. the order said. The DoPPW has also

asked the banks to circulate the SOP on DLC through face authentication via email among their concerned officials to enable them to get familiar with the usage of this technology.

"Necessary instructions may be issued to all the bank branches to make suitable arrangements for submission of life certificates by the super senior pensioners/family sioners aged 80 and above from 1st October of every year," the order said.

The Centre had in 2019 asked banks to allow senior pensioners aged 80 and above to give their life certificates with effect from October 1 every year instead of November.

The remaining pensioners below the age of 80 years have to give their life certificate in November.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER GENERATION

Email: xeneganderbal@gmail. com

e-NIT No. GDG/02 of 2023-24 Dated: 26/09/2023

Tel /fax - 01942-416234

E-NOTICE INVITING TENDER

On behalf of Managing Director JKPDC, online e-bids in double cover system are invited (Cover-I-Techno-Commercial Bid and Cover-II-Price Bid) from authorised firms/ contractors/Self Help Groups registered with J&K government or any organization owned by PSUs/ State Government/ Central Government having sufficient related experience for undertaking the following titled work at Generation Division Ganderbal.

S. No	Scope Of Work	Quantity	Cost Of Tender Document	Estimated cost (Rs)	EMD @ 2% (Rs)	Time Completion
1.	Repair of Trash Rack Gate at RD 40000 of power house Ganderbal	As per scope	Rs 300/-	1.00 lacs	2000/-	Within 30 days from date of LOA

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 iktenders.gov.in or www.ikspdc.nic.in as per schedule of dates given below.

-	bepartmental website jitteriaers.gov.in or www.jitspae.ine.in as per senedate or dates given below.							
	1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	26-09-2023					
2	2.	Period of downloading of bidding document	29-09-2023 to 14-10-2023					
;	3.	Bid submission Start Date	29-03-2023 1400 hrs					
4	4.	Bid submission End Date	14-10-2023 up to 1600 hrs					
į	5.	Deadline for receiving Hard Copies (Proof of Cost of tender document and EMD)	14-10-2023 up to 1600 hrs					
(ô.	Date and time of opening of Bid (online)	16-10-2023 or any other convenient date.					
	7.	Venue for submitting the hard cop of EMD & Cost of tender (proof)	Office of the Executive Engineer, Generation Division, Ganderbal, Kashmir.					

Position of AAA Accorded **Technical Sanction** - Sanctioned **Position of Funds**

The entire process of bidding shall be online. The bidding document consisting of BOQ (Bill of Quantities), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the government website jktenders.gov.in or www.jkspdc.nic.in. The bidder has to submit the bids (complete in all respects) online on the said website. The subsequent opening as well as comparison of bids (on the opening date/time) shall be online on the said website.

The following documents are to be uploaded along with the bid; otherwise the bid shall be liable for rejection: i) Details of Contractor along with working phone no. and e-mail id on the letter head of contractor.

ii) Cost of Tender Document in the shape of Bank slip/demand draft in favour of the Chief Pay & Accounts Officer Kangan with the detail as:

Account No. 0071010200005002 IFSC code: JAKAOKANGAN

Bank: J&K bank Ltd Kangan

Earnest Money Deposit in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Chief Pay & Accounts Officer Kangan. Copy of Valid Registration Certificate.

v)

Copy of valid GST Registration Certificate. vi) Copy of PAN Card.

vii)

Experience/Relevant Work Orders' and Completion Certificates copies. viii)

Income tax Certificate for last three years. Information regarding the current litigation (if any) in which the bidder is involved; parties concerned and

disputed amount on registerd affidavit/stamp paper of Rs 10/-. The bidders need to submit the proof/cost of e-bid document as stated above table through Bank slip/

Demand Draft pledged to the Chief Pay Accounts Officer Kangan payable at Kangan with the detail as: Account No. 0071010200005002

IFSC code: JAKAOKANGAN Bank: J&K bank Ltd Kangan

The Bank slip/Demand Draft must be uploaded along with the e-Bids but the original Bank slip/demand draft should reach the office of Executive Engineer, Generation Division, Ganderbal up to the cutoff date.

All the e-bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD @ Rs. 2000/- in the form of CDR/FDR/BG only, pledged to the Chief Pay Accounts Officer Kangan payable at Kangan. Hard Copies of original instrument of EMD and cost of tender document shall be submitted to the office of the Executive Engineer, Generation Division, Ganderbal up to the cutoff date.

The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-

Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in

the terms and conditions of the bid. Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract. c. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids.

6. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened on same website in the Office of Superintending Engineer

Generation Circle-II Bemina Srinagar Kashmir.

No price bid will be accepted in physical form.

The bidders are advised to visit the site for assessment and go through the contents of the SBD before quoting Modification in scope of work and extension of period of download of tender specification, closing opening 10.

date if required will be notified through corrigendum. Sd/-**Executive Engineer**

Generation Division Ganderbal

not forecasting a large amount of sales and has yet to make a final decision. No:-GDG/T/89-97 If Toyota does decide to press ahead Dated:- 26-09-2023 DIPK-NB-3420-23 with the model, parts would be im-DT: 27/09/2023

I-T Dept **Searches** Lenovo As Part **Of Tax Evasion Probe**



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The income-tax department conducted searches at the premises of IT hardware maker Lenovo on Wednesday as part of a tax evasion probe against the company and some of its affiliates, official sources

The raids covered the company's premises in Gurugram in Haryana and Karnataka's capital city Bengaluru, they said.

Lenovo leads the global personal computer (PC) market with a 24 per cent share.

The company clocked USD 1.9 billion in revenue in India in the 2022-2023 financial year, with a 17 per cent market share in the country.

The sources said the taxman suspects tax evasion and hence, has launched the searches to gather evidence and corroborate actionable intelligence obtained by it in this regard.

Toyota To Set Up Third Car Plant In India As Vehicle Sales Soar: Report

submitting DLC by past-

ing information posters at branches and ATMs, it

Banks may send SMS/

emails/WhatsApp mes-

a link to the Standard Op-

erating Procedure (SOP)

for face authentication to

empower the super senior

pensioner to submit their

life certificate through face

authentication technology

Reuters

NEW DELHI: Toyota Motor plans to build a third car plant in India, expanding production capacity in the country for the first time in over a decade as its partnership with Suzuki Motor boosts domestic volumes, two sources said.

The world's biggest car maker wants the plant to start with capacity of 80,000-120,000 vehicles a year, which could grow to around 200,000 over time, said one of the people who has direct knowledge of the plans. The plant's proposed initial capac-

ity would expand Toyota's existing manufacturing capacity in India by as much as 30% from 400,000 units currently. Toyota has also begun development of a new sport utility vehicle (SUV)

for the Indian market that would be launched in early 2026 and be an anchor product for the new factory, said the person and a third source briefed on the company's plans. The sources declined to be identi-

fied as the automaker has not disclosed the expansion plans. A representative for Toyota's India

unit declined to comment. Toyota's India sales have soared due to a global partnership with Suzuki under which the two Japanese car makers take some vehicles originally developed by their partner, then tweak and sell under their own brands

to fill out their product line-up. Cars originally from Maruti Suzuki's stable such as the Glanza hatchback and Urban Cruiser Hyryder SUV now

account for 40% of Toyota's India sales. About two-thirds of Toyota's current production capacity is used by

Maruti Suzuki to build vehicles for both car makers as part of their partnership.

Toyota, known for its Fortuner SUV and Camry hybrid in India, told Reuters earlier in September it expects record domestic sales in 2023.

The Japanese car maker is now aiming to have production capacity of 500,000 vehicles per year before the end of the decade, including the car models it will supply to Suzuki, said two of the sources. Toyota's expansion in India, the

world's third-largest car market, comes at a time when it is seeing slowing growth in markets like Europe and North America and competition in Southeast Asia from Chinese players. It currently has two car plants in

Bidadi, a town in the southern Indian state of Karnataka, and the third one is being planned at the same premises. It added a third shift at the two plants in May, raising their combined annual capacity by 30% to over 400,000 vehicles. The new C-segment SUV, code-

sized Urban Cruiser Hyryder and bigger multi-purpose vehicle Innova Hycross, two of the sources said. It is working with suppliers to produce 60,000 units a year when it

launches in early 2026, they added.

named 340D, that Toyota is working

on will fill a gap between its mid-

Toyota is also looking at introducing a "mini" Land Cruiser in India, they said, though added the car maker is ported for assembly in India.

Government Polytechnic College Bandipora Marks World Tourism Day 2023 with "Tourism and Green Investments" Theme

Polytechnic College Bandipora celebrated World Tourism Day 2023 today with great enthusiasm and a commitment to sustainable tourism under the theme "Tourism and Green Investments." This event was organized to raise awareness about the importance of ecofriendly practices and responsible tourism in preserving the natural beauty of the region.

World Tourism Day is celebrated globally on September 27th to foster awareness about the social, cultural, and economic significance of tourism. This year, Government Polytechnic College Bandipora hosted a series of events to highlight the importance of sustainable tourism as a catalyst for green investments.

The event commenced with an inaugural address by the college principal, Mr. Javid Iqbal Bhat, who emphasized the need for sustainable tourism practices to protect the pristine environment of Bandipora District and promote eco-friendly tourism.

The event showcased the rich cultural heritage of the region through traditional music and dance performances by the students of Travel Tourism & Hospitality Management branch as well as by students of Mechanical & Civil Engineering



branches, highlighting the importance of cultural preservation in tourism.

Mr. Javid Iqbal Bhat, Principal Government Polytechnic College Bandipora, expressed

Investments' reminds us of the need to protect our natural resources for future generations." While speaking on the occahis gratitude to all participants

and attendees, stating, "Tourism

plays a crucial role in the devel-

opment of our region, and it is

our responsibility to ensure that

this development is sustainable

sion, Mrs. Rukhsana Bashir, HoD, Travel Tourism & Hospitality Management Branch, expressed that the celebration of World Tourism Day at Government Polytechnic College Bandipora served as a platform for

and environmentally friendly.

The theme of 'Tourism and Green

dialogue and collaboration among various stakeholders, including government agencies, local communities, and tourists, to promote responsible tourism practices and investments in green infrastructure.

The event concluded with a pledge taking ceremony for responsible and sustainable tourism and a vote of thanks from Principal Government Polytechnic College Bandipora

Toyota Kirloskar Motor Showcases Special-purpose Hilux at the Indo-Pacific Armies Chief's Conference



Srinagar: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) showcased a Toyota Hilux which has been uniquely modified through its authorised external vendor, during the Indo-Pacific Armies Chief's Conference (IPACC) in New Delhi.

Hosted by the Army Design Bureau, Indian Army, in collaboration with the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers, the Defence Equipment and Technology Display coincides with the Indo-Pacific Armies Chief's Conference, Indo-Pacific Armies Management Seminar, and Senior Enlisted Leadership Forum.

Toyota's participation in this high-profiled forum, reflects its commitment to providing innovative solutions, with its technological strengths, in the critical areas of defence and capable of serving other special customer requirements.

Recently Toyota displayed two modified (with the support of an authorised external vendor) Hilux vehicles - Field Diagnosis Vehicle (FDV) and Rapid Intervention Vehicle (RIV) at the North Tech Symposium organised by Northern Command of

Indian Army.
With Toyota's legendary QDR (Quality, Durability and Reliability), this 4x4 all-terrain mountain off-road vehicle is engineered to excel in the harshest of environments, making it an ideal choice for varied customers with specific necessity as well as Indian army purposes.

V. Wiseline Sigamani, General Manager – Strategic Business Unit (North) of Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said, "Marking yet another remarkable demonstration, Toyota is proud to display a uniquely designed Hilux, modified through an authorised ex-ternal vendor, during the Indo-Pacific Armies Chief's Conference (IPACC). This platform allows us to showcase our technological prowess in offering cutting-edge solutions to meet varied customers' special vehicle needs. We are immensely honoured with this great opportunity to present our customised Hilux especially that can serve the Indian army purposes, which is a testament to our resolute commitment in providing unique solutions with

CONTD. FROM **FRONT** PAGE

As Kashmir's Wetlands

for the birds to land and forage in the wetland.

"The inputs of the local people were very useful. They shared their experiences about the network of canals in the wetland and told us how each of those canals differently influences the water-level in the wetland," Faruk said. "When we analysed their information with the help of Google tools, it made a lot of sense to us and we straightway acted upon what the knowledgeable elderly people told us," he added.

Hokersar is a famous waterfowl reserve and a wetland of international importance. According to Ramsar Sites Information Service, it is the pathway of 68 waterfowl species like large egret, great crested grebe, little cormorant, common shelduck, tufted duck and the endangered whiteeyed pochard, visiting it from Siberia, China, Central Asia, and Northern Europe.

encroachments, the experts have observed in the Buceros report that the wetlands are threatened by continuous encroachment.

"Most wetlands are threatened with encroachment, which is largely at the behest of politically influential elements and land mafia. For example, Hokersar, which is surrounded by 10 villages, and located on an important (Srinagar-Baramulla) road and close to the Srinagar City, has over the years been subjected to slow encroachment. Fortunately, the Wildlife Department has taken concrete steps to demarcate the wetland boundaries and made several evictions. To control further encroachment, all wetlands should be demarcated properly," the report says.

A NASA report has also revealed recently that Wular Lake, an ecologically crucial lake for Kashmir, has witnessed large reduction in size due to land conversions and deforestation in recent decades. This not only poses a threat of repeated flooding in Kashmir, but will negatively influence livelihood generation and availability of water for the communities, the NASA report said.

"Some of the bright green area on the eastern side of Wular Lake used to be open water. Nutrientrich sediment and aquatic vegetation have filled in parts of the lake and contributed to its shrinking in recent decades," the NASA report further said and added: "In a 2022 study, researchers in India-using data from the Indian Space Research Organization's (ISRO) LISS-IV instrument-found that Wular Lake's open water area had shrunk in size by about one-quarter between 2008

In a detailed study of the lake, Wetlands International, a Netherlands-based not-for-profit that works to sustain and restore wetlands globally, had also revealed earlier that there was a 45 percent reduction in the lake area mainly because parts of the lake were converted for agriculture and willow tree plantations.

Wular Lake is crucial for saving Kashmir from floods. In recent years, Kashmir valley has witnessed

repeated flood like situations following the devastating 2014 flooding. The lake is also important for livelihoods of people. "When I was young, this lake looked like a sea," said Abdul Subhan Dar, an elderly villager living near Wular Lake.

"But, today, many of its areas have become very shallow while some have become playing-fields for children and grazing grounds for cattle," Dar said and added that there is also considerable reduction in quantity of fish and fodder in the lake as compared to a few decades back. As per an estimate of Wular Conservation Management Authority (WUCMA), Wular Lake has lost onefifth of its water-holding capacity in three decades which is equivalent to an annual lake sedimentation rate of 2,470 acre feet.

The experts have also expressed concern about rampant poaching in the Buceros report and have recommended: "Poaching may be under control inside the protected wetlands, but continues to be rampant outside the protected wetland boundaries in adjacent paddy fields, and unprotected marshes and wetlands, which are foraging sites of waterfowl. Poaching can be controlled by a) ensuring conviction of and exemplary punishment to the poachers, b) banning the issuance of licenses for large fire-arms (rifles, and 'sport' and punt guns) in the name of 'self-defence' (instead, licences should be given for pistols in such cases), c) controlling the sale of certain cartridges used for poaching, d) training and capacity building of the wildlife staff to lodge complaints that can stand the scrutiny of the court, e) sensitizing the local communities and judiciary about the ecological values of wetlands and water-birds, f) recognising services rendered by the frontline staff by the institution and rewards for the staff members who show exemplary performance in controlling poaching, g) involving local youths in tourism and related activities, and h) involving religious leaders and organizations to raise awareness on conservation."

According to the experts' report in Buceros, while present management of J&K's water bodies "is in good, technically sound hands, quite often the lack of resources and occasionally administrative apathy lead to several loopholes."

The report further says: "Financial support required by these agencies, particularly, the Forest and Wildlife Departments, to meet the increasing demands of conservation and development of the water bodies under their administrative control, has not been up to the mark." The experts have made several other recommendations for efficient protection of the I&K's wetlands which include, as follows:

About the capacity building of the staff, the experts have advised: "Wildlife guards and watchmen play a vital role in implementing conservation measures in the field. Unfortunately, their role is often overlooked and thus, attention should be given to their capacity building and training. While most personnel are dedicated to their

work, providing regular motivation is crucial. Further, a system should be developed to expose the field staff to conservation efforts being implemented in other states, by arranging visits to wetlands, such as Keoladeo and Sultanpur national parks. Such visits can demonstrate the positive impacts of effective poaching control, and make the staff appreciate the benefits of conservation efforts. Capacity building of wildlife guards and watchmen will eventually enhance their contribution to wildlife conservation in their respective

According to the experts, the funding should be increased for conservation work and should be released in a timely manner: "Wetland management and development is not possible without liberal financial support. The amounts allocated in J&K for wetland conservation are too meagre to cater to the actual conservation requirements. Therefore, there is an urgent need to enhance the fundings from multiple resources. Management interventions required in a wetland are often season-specific and time-barred. For example, desilting and de-weeding operations cannot be launched in peak summers when the water level in the wetlands is extremely high, or in winters, when migratory birds are visiting. This leaves a small window for conducting such operations, and if sufficient funds are not provided on-time, implementation of suitable conservation efforts are delayed."

Natural water regimes should be studied scientifically, the experts have recommended: "The natural water regime of all the wetlands should be scientifically studied and then proper measures should be undertaken for its restoration/maintenance. As was observed in the case of Hokersar, a mistake by the Flood and Irrigation Department (in what was otherwise a well-planned intervention to prevent floods) partially dried up wetlands, which had to be subsequently restored by timely efforts of the Wildlife Department. Thus, experts from all fields, including hydrology, landscape ecology, wetland ecology, and development planning, should be involved, along with ornithologists and biologists to develop shortterm and long-term conservation plans. Particularly, a strict monitoring protocol should be developed for every wetland. Further, external agencies, such as Wetlands International South Asia (WISA) or BNHS, should be roped in to independently assess the health of

the wetlands in I&K." The experts have further recommended: "Effective environmental awareness campaigns should be initiated in schools, colleges, and villages around each wetland. Notably. several villagers living adjoining the wetlands have never visited the wetlands as all they know is that the wetlands are protected areas with entry restricted for villagers. Consequently. they are completely disconnected with the wetland, birds, or ground staff. Nonetheless, the association can be strengthened by environmental awareness programmes implemented by local NGOs. However,

local and national NGOs need governmental support. Although a slow process, changing the attitude of people is required."

According to the experts, the wetlands need to be studied and monitored on long-term to find out the scientific solutions for their degradation: "J&K boasts several reputed universities and institutions. To study each wetland more comprehensively, both short-term and long-term research studies should be initiated in collaboration with the universities, local organizations, and national NGOs. The following are some of the potential research topics that can be considered: a) Long-term monitoring of waterfowl populations, b) migratory movements through ringing, banding, and telemetry, c) local movement of migratory duck/ geese during winter, d) habitat selection by resident and migratory waterfowl, e) breeding ecology of Mallard Anas platyrhynchos and other waand f) behavioural changes at different protection levels/ regime. SKUAST-Kashmir has already conducted extensive research on most of these topics, thus, laying a strong foundation that can be further reinforced.

SIA Raids Multiple

Sharma, a Kashmiri Pandit, was shot at point-blank range by militants while on his way to a local market.

Raids are underway and further details will be shared after the culmination of the raids, he added.

Notably, the case of Sharma's killing was first investigated by Pulwama Police, however, it was later transferred to the SIA.

According to a previous PTI report, the key focus earlier was on the residences of three active persons, namely Danish Hamid Thoker, also known by the alias Khalid, Ubaid Padder from Chakoora Shopian, and Abrar Farooq Wani of Heff Shirmal. These individuals, as the report states, have been identified by SIA for their connections to the ongoing investigation.

2 Cops Killed

The injured have been identified as Joginder Singh, a teacher and Constable Sewa Singh.

A case has been registered and further investigation started, official

J&K Unemployment

CMIE put the unemployment rate of Jammu and Kashmir at 23.1 per cent. In January, the unemployment rate in J&K was put at 21.8 percent, which is the highest in states and UTs across.

Wani said that the government took serious notes of the "factually incorrect" percentage and informed the central government. "The agency didn't have any work force in the valley and would take only six districts for the survey, which was wrong," Wani added.

Notably, the CMIE is not coming up with the unemployment percentage

for the J&K from the last four months. Wani said that efforts are on to bring the unemployment rate to zero in the next two to three years.

"Currently there are 14 government departments that are working on self-help employment schemes in the J&K," said Wani adding that "Government gives subsidy and encourage the youngsters to take benefit of government schemes,"

Wani further said that the department conducted 84 job fairs, which attracted hundreds of companies from the private sector offering thousands of jobs for the youth.

"The efforts are on but the youth need to come forward and stand on their own feet," Wani added. He informed that there are around

2.5 lakh unemployed youth registered with the government in the UT of different age groups.

Earlier, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said that over 30,000 government posts have been filled in the last three years while recruitment for another 20,000 posts in the administration will be advertised in 3-4 months. He said all the vacant posts in various Government departments will be filled in the next six months through a "major recruit-

400 People

while deficiency is being felt everywhere.

"Earlier, police would conduct its recruitment drives itself. Since the recruitment process was handed over to some separate agency, there are 4000 vacancies of police constables in the department. The deficiency in ranks is being felt everywhere in J&K," DGP Singh said.

He said that Kathua and its remote villages are maintaining communal harmony. "There are hardworking people who spend days in fields and shops to earn their livelihood. Peaceful atmosphere is prevailing in this district," the DGP said, adding that "there is a great demand for the police recruitment drives as youth here are facing unemployment."

He said that police had been always giving priority to border areas whenever recruitment drives were held in the past.

Asked about situation post the Kokernag encounter where two army officers and a police officer were killed, the DGP said "situation continues to remain peaceful as it was earlier.'

He said that neighbouring country always hatches conspiracies to destabilise the peace but police and forces are alert to foil all such bids. -With Inputs from KNO

Court Gives

resisted the prayer and submitted that ACB is taking the matter casually and an attempt is being made to hush up Rs.500-700 Crores Scam, news agency KNT reported on Wednesday.

He further submitted that a timebound direction be issued to the ACB so that the status of the scam is known to everyone.

The court agreed and asked ACB to present the status report on Saturday.

PM Modi Has

introduced in the UT of J&K over

the past few years.

versatility."(KNT)

He also called for adopting sustainable development measures to effectively tackle the threat of Climate change.

Prof. (Dr.) V K Rai, Principal wami Sahajanand PG College; Swami Dr Neerja Madhav, renowned author; Prof Udayon Misra, Principal LBS PG College Mughalsarai; Prof Chandrakanta Rai and prominent personalities from all walks of life were present.

Dr Farooq Convenes

will discuss the present situation in J&K, he said, adding that he has sent invitation to all leaders of opposition parties after discussing the about the meeting with Dr Farooq Abdullah. He said that the meeting will be held at 2:30 pm at Dr Farooq Abdullah's Jammu residence.

8 Bihar Labourers

Titu Kumar, son of Mahir Reshi (23) Matlesh Kumar son of Ganesh Kumar (19) and Shan Kumar, son of Nanda Reshi (17)—all residents of

Meanwhile, police in a post on X, said that there is no terrorist angle observed in the incident while investigation has been started. "An explosion occurred in the cement mix settling vibration machine, adjacent portable generator and tin can of oil being carried with labourers in a load carrier at Larkipora Anantnag. 8 labourers injured with burn injuries being treated at hospital. All stable. No terrorist angle observed. Investigation started," Kashmir Zone Police wrote on X.

LG Sends Greetings

compassion, peace, love, harmony and brotherhood. The timeless teachings of holy Prophet continue to guide humanity on the path of kindness, equality and universal brotherhood. May the joyous occasion of Milad-un-Nabi bring peace, prosperity and happiness to all and inspire us to follow the path of righteous living and work for the welfare of all".

Soldier Injured

Command hospital Udhampur for immediate treatment, they further

ARTO Suspends

and the Rules made there under. Dawar Declared

across all villages in the country," officials said.

Sources in the tourism department said that the move will help the border tourism further as the government has already explored 75 off beat destinations to increase the number of foreign and domestic tourists to J&K.

Pertinently, this year so far. 1.6 Cr tourists including over 30000 foreign guests have visited the UT while the government is eying 2.25 Crore tour-

ists this year. **Horse & Dog**

and four Horses presented a number of breathtaking stunts in the incredible display of skills and horsemanship along with unconditional human-canine bonhomie.

Pakistan Cricket Team Arrives In India After Seven Years

HYDERABAD: The Pakistan cricket team arrived here on Wednesday, its first visit to India in seven years, to compete in the ODI World Cup beginning on October 5.

The Babar Azam-led side will spend a lot of time in Hyderabad, having arrived here Dubai where it had a long nine hour layover. The squad had left Lahore in the wee hours of Wednesday and reached Hyderabad in the night.
Pakistan play their open-

ing warm-up game against New Zealand on September 29 before taking on Australia on October 3. They open their tournament campaign against Netherlands here before battling with Sri Lanka on Octo-

The Pakistan players had got their Indian visas less than 48 hours before their scheduled travel. Both India and Pakistan only face each other Asia Cup and ICC events due to the tense relations between the two countries.

Only Mohammad Nawaz and Šalman Ali Agha have visited India for cricket. Babar



could not played the T20 World Cup in India in 2016 due to an injury.

"The BCCI has assured the ICC that all teams will be provided the best security and will be well looked after so I don't expect anything different for our team. I don't think our team will face any issues in India," head of PCB management committee Zaka Ashraf told reporters before team's

departure.

Ahead of the team's departure, Babar had spoken about his excitement over playing in India especially Ahmedabad where the arch-rivals lock horns in front of a one lakh plus crowd.

"Although we have not played in India before, we are not taking too much pressure. We have done our research and we have heard the condi-

tions are similar to how they play out in other Asian countries," said Babar in the predeparture media conference.

"I am excited to play in Ahmedabad as it will be jampacked. I will try my best to perform up to my potential. I am not worried about my individual accolades, I want to make sure whatever I do helps the result for the team." he

Australia Beat India By 66 Runs In Consolation Win In Third ODI



RAJKOT: Australia avoided an unprecedented series whitewash after registering a 66-run victory over India in the third ODI here on Wednesday.

Chasing a massive 353 to win, India were restricted by Australia to 286 in 49.4 overs. India however won the three-match series 2-1.

for 7 after Mitchell Marsh (96), Steve Smith (74), Marnus Labus-

(56) made impact knocks. Jasprit Bumrah took three for 81 and emerged the most successful among Indian bowlers.

chagne (72) and David Warner

India made a fist of chase through captain Rohit Sharma (81) and Virat Kohli (56), but soon fizzled against the off-spin

Brief scores:

Australia: 352 for 7 (Mitchell Marsh 96, Steve Smith 74, Marnus Labuschagne 72, David Warner 56; Jasprit Bumrah 3-81) beat

India: 286 all out in 49.4 overs (Rohit Sharma 81, Virat Kohli 56, Shreyas Iyer 48; Glenn Maxwell

5 Matches Played In U-17 **Provincial Tourney In Anantnag**



Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: Five matches were played in the Department of Youth Services & Sports-organised Under-17 Provincial Level Cricket Tournament across several turf wicket venues in Anantnag.

Hosts Anantnag played Srinagar in the first game. The toss was won by Anantnag and after electing to field first, Sehran bowled a brilliant spell of 4 overs with 4 wickets and by conceding 13 runs only. He was declared as man of the match. Muzain Farooq was top scorer from Srinagar with 27 runs in 26 balls. Anantnag won by 6

wickets. In the second game, Kupwara took on Pulwama. Kupwara won the toss and after

electing to bat first, set a target of 87 runs, with Himayat scoring 20 runs in 12 balls. From Pulwama, Mehran Hilal bowled a great spell of 3 overs for 4 wickets, while Faizan Mukhtar claimed 3 wickets in 3 overs. Chasing the target, Faizan Mukhtar scored 48 runs for Pulwama and was declared man of the match. Pulwama won this

It was Ganderbal vs. Anantnag in the third game of the day. The toss was won by Ganderbal, who scored 135 runs in allotted overs, with Sheikh Areeb scoring 46 runs in 28 balls. Huzaif clinched 5 wickets in 3 overs. Anantnag won the match by 8 wickets with exceptional batting of 58 runs in 43 deliveries.

Pulwama played Budgam match by 9 wickets.

in the fourth game. Budgam won the toss and chose to field first. Pulwama scored 158 runs in allotted overs with Fazian Mukhtar scoring 58 runs in 22 deliveries. Chasing the target, Budgam were bundled at 138 runs, with Azhar Farooq scoring 37 runs in 24 balls. For Pulwama, Zaid Farooq took 3 wickets, as they won the match by 20 runs

Anantnag took on Shopian in Game 5. Shopian batted first after winning the toss and was bundled at 62 runs, with Muneeb Hilal top scoring with 32 runs. Sahib and Huzaif from Anantnag claimed 3 wickets each. Chasing the target, Tanzeel and Tawfeeq scored 25 and 27 runs as Anantnag won the

World Dragon Boat C'ship Winners Meet Secy YSS

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Zahoor Ahmad and Zain Ul Aabidin, gold medallists of the 16th International Dragon Boat Federation's World Dragon Secretariat here.

Boat Racing Championship, and their coach, Farooq Ahmad Bhat, on Wednesday called on Secretary, Youth Services and Sports. Sarmad Hafeez, at Civil

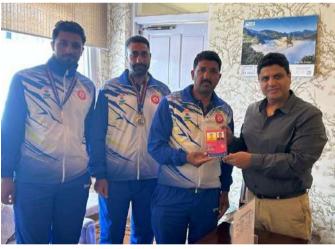
Farooq Ahmad Bhat will also represent India at the 19th Asian Games 2023 at Hangzhou, China in Dragon Boat event as International Technical Official alongside Tom Joseph.

medals, comprising one gold, one silver and two bronze med-

als, in the championship held at

Rayong Pattaya, Thailand.

Secretary YSS complimented Farooq Ahmad Bhat and wished



They had detailed discussion with the Secretary regarding various issues need to be taken care of to further boost this potential sports in Jammu and Kashmir. They also shared their experiences of the championship.

The Indian team won four

him good luck for the Asian Games

The Indian team had also won two bronze medals at the 14th ADBF Asian Dragon Boat Championship 2022 under the coaching of Farooq Ahmad Bhat and Regi KS of Kerala.

Inter Zonal Football & Cricket Tourneys End In Srinagar



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Inter Zonal District Level tournaments in football and cricket organised by DYSSO Srinagar concluded on Wednesday at Gindun Ground Rajbagh and Bemina Degree College Ground, respectively.

In football, Zone Amirakadal beat Zone Batamaloo 1-0 in the last moments of the match at Gindun Ground. Meanwhile in cricket, Zone Hawal beat Zone Gulab Bagh by 3 runs in the final played at Bemina College Ground. Both tournaments were

conducted for Under-19 boys. In other YSS news, Zone Eidgah organised a Yoga Display programme for girls of all age groups at BHSS Nawakadal. A total of 60 girls of the zone participated.

Zone Batamaloo organised competition in 100 mtrs sprint at GHS Clubbed Hyderpora, in which 30 students of the zone participated.

Junior Soft Tennis Open Trials On October 3

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The J&K Amateur Soft Tennis Association announced on Wednesday that it will be conducting open selection trials for J&K teams (Boys and Girls) for their participation in the upcoming 18th Junior National Soft Tennis Championship. The trials will be held at Gindun Stadium, Rajbagh, on October 3.

The national tournament is scheduled to be held at Tennis Complex, IGMC Stadium, Vijayawada, Andra Pradesh from October 15 to 19.

As per revised date for open trials, JKASTA has urged upon all its affiliated district units to ensure their participation in the selection trials. The players must be born in or after 2005. Earlier, these trials had been scheduled for 22-09-2023.

Contract Issue: PCB Convinces Top Players To Sign Three-Year Deal

Agencies

LAHORE: The central contracts standoff between Pakistan Cricket Board and top national players ended on Wednesday after the parent body announced a significant enhancement in match as well as retainer fees apart from a committed percentage earned from ICC media rights revenue. This is the first time that the PCB has agreed to give a portion of the ICC revenues to players and according to a reliable source in the board under the three-year deal the players will get from 3 to 5 percent of the ICC revenues.

The PCB is expected to get an annual sum of around USD 33-34 million from its share of revenues earned from media rights of ICC events

The three-year deal will run from July 1 2023 to June 30, 2026 with as many as 25 cricketers able to get a pie from the ICC revenue share. The board said the players' match fees will also see a major hike: 50% increment in Test, 25% in ODI and 12.5% in T20I.

The PCB has also given a significant increase in monthly retainers to contracted players across all its four categories with the top A category players including captain, Babar Azam, Muhammad Rizwan and Shaheen Shah Afridi earning a 202% increase their



monthly salary. This would be roughly around 4.5 million rupees with just a 10% tax deduction.

Players in the remaining three categories have also got substantial increases in their retainers with a 144% increase for B category, 135% for C and 127% enhance-

ment for D category players. Centrally contracted players who are playing domestic cricket will be paid half of international players' match fee. In addition, players will be allowed to play two foreign leagues in each season. The PCB, unlike last season, also merged the red-ball and white-ball national contracts on the recommendations of the central contract committee as a way to evaluate players in terms of winning matches and aimed at promoting fairness, transparent selection process.

PCB chairman Zaka Ashraf said that the PCB had agreed to new contracts with players after lengthy negotiations.

"We believe that our players are the true assets of Pakistan cricket, and it is our utmost priority to ensure their well-being and provide them with the best possible services.'

Pakistan captain, Babar Azam termed it a historic deal. "I am extremely happy and satisfied that we have reached an agreement with the PCB. It has been a lengthy and, at times, challenging negotiation process, but I believe we have reached a fair and beneficial agreement for both parties."

Tamim Iqbal Hits Out At BCB After Saying He Opted Out Of World Cup

Press Trust of India

MIRPUR: Tamim Iqbal opted out of next month's ICC Cricket World Cup after a dispute with a member of the Bangladesh Cricket Board, the opening batsman said on Wednesday while describing the situation as "a dirty game."

'Someone called me from the top level of the board who is very involved with our cricket. He said that if you go to the World Cup you have to play the matches by managing your (back) injury. So, you better do one thing, don't play the first match against Afghanistan (on October 7)," Tamim said on a video posted on his official Facebook account.

"I replied that the Afghanistan match is still 12/13 days away. In 12/13 days, I will be in better condition. Why shouldn't I play? Then, he said that if you play you have to bat down the order.'

'After hearing this, I am shocked, as I have never in my 17-year career batted down the order. I feel like I'm being forced to do many things. I said, 'Look, if you have such thoughts then don't send me. I don't want to be in this mess. I don't want to be part of this dirty game. You make me face something new every



day. I don't want to stay here'."

Tamim hit 44 in the second ODI against New Zealand on September 23, his first innings back in international cricket since reversing his decision to retire in July. It was also followed by an injury layoff which forced him to miss this month's

Asia Cup. The 34-year-old batsman said he felt ready to take the plane to India for his fifth World Cup.

Tamim said: "I was very happy after that game, 44 is not a big score, but I was very happy at the way I batted. I felt confident.

Local media reported that Tamim told the selectors that he would

play just five matches in the World Cup considering his long-term back injury, and the team management responded by saying they did not want to include a player in the squad who was only half fit.

Tamim, however, denied the reports. He said: "The medical department believed that if I was rested and played the second warm-up match (against England) on October 2, I would get enough time (to prepare) ahead of the first World Cup

"I am sure chief selector Minhajul Abedin also denied the report that I told him that I would play five matches in the World Cup."

Outpost Young India Will Turn Into Rapidly Ageing Society In Coming Decades: UN

"By the end of the century, the elderly will constitute over 36 per cent of the total population of the country. Sharp growth in the elderly population is observed from 2010 onwards along with a decline in the age group of below 15 years, indicating rapidity of ageing in India," the report said. The report noted that the elderly population in India is expanding at an unprecedented rate and may be expected to surpass the children's popula-

tion by mid-century.
"Four years before 2050, the population size of the elderly in India will be higher than the population size of children aged 0-14 years. By that time, the population share of 15-59 years will also see a dip. Undoubtedly, the relatively young India today will turn into a rapidly ageing society in the coming decades," it said.

A distinguishing feature of ageing in India is the significant interstate variation in absolute levels and growth (and hence, share) of the elderly population, given the varying stages and pace of demographic transition across states.

Consequently, there are considerable variations in the age structure of the population, including the ageing experience.



declined slightly from 32 per

cent between 1961 and 1971

to 31 per cent in 1981-1991.

Growth picked up pace dur-

ing 1991-2001 (35 per cent)

and is projected to shoot to

41 per cent between 2021

are 39 older persons per 100 children in India, ac-cording to 2021 population

estimates. The states with a

higher share of the elderly

population (such as those in

southern India) also show a

higher score for an ageing

index, indicative of a decline

in fertility leading to a rising

number of older persons as

and north-eastern regions

have the younger group of

states as indicated by the

sures the number of elderly

(60+ years) per 100 children

population (below 15 years)

manuscript, which marked

the Classic Art category's

debut in mainland China.

was met with great en-

thusiasm, proving that the

collecting appetite here is

"We look forward to

strong and ever evolving.

The ageing index mea-

"Compared to southern and western India, central

compared to children.

ageing index," it said.

The report said that there

and 2031," the report said.

Most of the states in the southern region and select northern states such as Himachal Pradesh and Punjab reported a higher share of the elderly population than the national average in 2021, a gap that is expected to widen by 2036,

the report said. While states reporting higher fertility rates and lagging in demographic transition, such as Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, expect to see an increase in the share of the elderly population between 2021 and 2036, the level will remain lower than the Indian average, the report said.

The report pointed out that India has witnessed moderate to high pace of decadal growth in elderly population since 1961 and evidently, the pace was slower before 2001 but is expected to increase sharply in coming decades.

"The decadal growth of the elderly population in India and the index score increases as the population ages.

The UNFPA said the population projections indicate that in 2021, there were 16 older persons per 100 working-age persons in India, with significant variations across regions.

"In line with the findings regarding the ageing index, in the southern region, the oldage dependency ratio was higher than the national average at around 20 as is true of western India at 17. Overall, Union Territories (13) and the north-eastern region (13) reflected lower old age dependency ratios," it said.

The old-age dependency ratio of a population represents the number of persons aged 60+ years per 100 persons in the 15-59 years (or working-age) group. The higher the ratio, the greater the old age-related dependency, reflecting higher levels of demand for care from

immediate family. Andrea. M. Wojnar, UNFPA India Representative and Country Director Bhutan, said the report is a valuable resource for scholars, policymakers, programme managers, and all stakeholders

involved in elder care. "Older persons have contributed significantly to society, and they deserve nothing less than our best efforts to ensure their wellbeing," Wojnar said.

Google To Roll Out Earthquake Alert Service On Smartphones In India

Agenceis

New Delhi: Internet major Google will roll out an earthquake alert service in India that works using sensors in Android smartphones to detect and estimate the intensity of earthquakes, the company said on Wednesday.

Google has introduced "Android Earthquake Alerts System" in India in consultation with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the National Seismology Centre (NSC).

"Today, in consultation with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the National Seismology Center (NSC), we're introducing the Android Earthquake Alerts System in India. Through this launch, we strive to provide Android users automatic early warning alerts when there is an earthquake in their area," Google said in a blog.

The alert service will be available in Android 5 and later versions of the operating system.

"The Android Earthquake Alerts System is rolling out to all Android 5+ users in India during the coming week," the blog said.

The system takes the help of tiny accelerometers present in Android smartphones that can act as mini seismometers.

"When a phone is plugged in and charging, it can detect the very beginnings of earthquake shaking. If many phones detect earthquake-like shaking around the same time, our server can use this information to estimate that an earthquake may be happening, as well as characteristics of the event - like its epicenter and magnitude. Then, our server can send alerts to nearby phones," the bog said.

Google said that internet signals travel at the speed of light, much faster than the propagation of earthquake shaking through the ground, so the alerts often reach phones several seconds before severe shaking does.

"In India, we have been working closely with the NDMA to provide users with helpful safety information about natural disasters such as floods and cyclones on Google Search and Maps. We're proud to further our association with the NDMA, along with the NSC, to bring the Android Earthquake Alerts system to India," the blog said.

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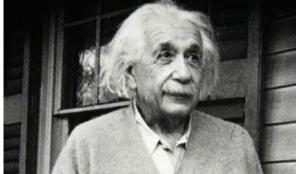
Albert Einstein's Signed Manuscript Fetches ₹10.7 Crore At Shanghai Auction

Agenceis

New Delhi: A rare autographed manuscript by renowned physicist Albert Einstein explaining the development of his famous contributions to science -- theories of special relativity (1905) and general relativity (1915) -- fetched 10.7 crore at the recently

held Christie's '20th/21st Century Art Evening Sale'. The auction was held at the Waldorf Astoria

Shanghai on September 23. The manuscript, first published in a special SHDplement to the New York Times on February 3, 1929, is written in German. Albert



Einstein had been commissioned to explain the development of his two most famous contributions to science: the theories of special relativity (1905) and general relativity (1915).

Einstein

reconnecting with collectors at our upcoming previews for the Autumn Auctions in Hong Kong, and at the China International Import Expo this November," said Rebecca Yang, chairman of Christie's China, in a statement.

The 14-page manuscript holds tremendous significance as it recounts the history behind the discovery of relativity, explains its working, and looks to the possibility of completing the cycle of relativity in a 'unified field theory'.

It includes two equations and a diagram illustrating the structure of the space-time continuum, along with two pages of scientific formulae.

After Alert From Interpol About 'Suicide' Search Online, Mumbai Police Save Man From Ending Life

Agenceis

The Mumbai police traced a 28-year-old man here and saved him from ending his life following an alert from the Interpol that he was searching about the 'best way to commit suicide' on Google, an official said on Wednesday.

The man, who hails from Rajasthan, was rescued on Tuesday from suburban Malvani after the police traced his location on the basis of his mobile number shared by the Interpol, he said.

International The Criminal Police Organization, commonly known as Interpol, is an international organisation



that facilitates worldwide police cooperation and crime control.

"The rescue operation was conducted by the Unit-11 of the Mumbai police's crime branch based on the information given by the Interpol on Tuesday afternoon," the police official said.

"The victim, a resident of Malvani in Malad west is a native of Rajasthan. During

the probe, the police found that he was under pressure as he was not able to secure

the release of his mother from jail in Mumbai since her arrest in a criminal case two years ago," he said.

The man earlier stayed in Mira Road locality (in neighbouring Thane district) with his relatives before shifting to Malvani, a western sub-

"He has been jobless since the last six months. Since he was not able to secure the release of his mother from a jail, he was under depression. As the thoughts of ending life came to his mind, he started an online search to find ways to commit suicide," the official said.

He searched 'Suicide best way' on Google several times, which caught the attention of Interpol officials, who sent an email about it to the Mumbai police along with his mobile phone number, he said.

On the basis of that information, the crime branch found that the user of the mobile phone was in Malvani, he added.



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