

Kashmir Valley Loses 1 Lakh Kanals of Paddy Land in 7 Yrs

Parvaiz Bhat

While the rice yield per hectare of paddy land is increasing in Kashmir, the paddy land is continuously shrinking across the valley as per official figures.

From 1,35,000 hectares of land under paddy cultivation seven years earlier, the land currently under paddy cultivation has come down to 1,29,000 hectares, according to Director Agriculture Kashmir, Choudhary Mohammad Iqbal,

though he added that there has been a significant increase in rice yield per hectare.

"This year, there is going to be a record yield as our estimates suggest that the yield per hectare will be between 63 to 65 quintals this year as compared to last year's 60 quintals per hectare," he said. "This is because of the fact that the paddy plantation was done at the most opportune time this year (before June 15) and was later helped by timely rains and proper temperature



for the crop to flourish. It is also because of the Prime Minister's schemes being successfully implemented by our

staff on ground with good support from farmers," Iqbal told Kashmir Observer.

He, however, accepted that there is a continuous decline in paddy land "which should end as soon as possible." From 1,35,000 hectares of paddy land seven years back, he said, the land currently under paddy cultivation has come down to 1,29,000 hectares. One hectare is equivalent to nearly 20 kanals. "But, it is not only because people are building houses over paddy land. The paddy

land is also shrinking because of other factors such as shifting cropping patterns. For example, it makes more economic sense to some farmers to grow vegetables on paddy land or to some other farmers to convert paddy land into orchards," Iqbal said and added that this is why there is a continuous decline in paddy land.

When asked if his department is doing anything about stopping the trend of converting paddy land into other land uses, he said that **More On P10**

Kargil All Set For Hill Council Polls Today

Agencies

Srinagar: Authorities in the Ladakh region have put in all the arrangements for the smooth conduct of 5th general LAHDC Kargil polls on Wednesday.

Initially, the election was scheduled to be held on September 10 but was later changed to October 4 following the Supreme Court verdict.

As per details, a total of 85 candidates belonging to parties such as National Conference, Congress, BJP, AAP and Independent are in the fray.

Officials said that the polling will start at 8 am and end at 4 pm tomorrow (Wednesday). The counting will be held on October 8 and overall election process will end on 11.

Officials said that there are a total of 26 constituencies and 278 polling stations have been set up.

An official said that there are 114 hyper-sensitive polling stations, 99 are sensitive, and 65 are normal. "Security will be deployed as per the category. All the arrangements have **More On P10**

Power Crisis Deepens In J&K, Govt 'Finding Ways'

Agencies

Srinagar: The power crisis in Jammu and Kashmir is becoming worse as consumers are facing long power cuts during the day with authorities claiming that the talks to resolve the issue are on and in the coming days "things would improve."

However, the local consumers here told a local news agency KNO that the power scenario has worsened across the valley as just 4-5 hours of electricity is being supplied to them on a daily basis at a time when smart meters have been installed in almost half of Srinagar city with a promise of 24x7 power supply.

The irked consumers said that in both metered and non-metered areas, the erratic power supply from the past over two weeks have caused immense hardships to them.

"We were expecting an improvement in the power scenario after the installation of smart meters and also the augmentation of power infrastructure in the past four years, but all in vain as the situation has worsened ahead of the winters in Kashmir," the consumers said.

Meanwhile, Chief Engineer, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation limited (KPDCL), Javed Yousuf Dar said that the government is finding ways to resolve the issue of power paucity in J&K.

"The talks are going on with NTPC and others to get extra electricity for the people in J&K. We are expecting to get additional electricity in the coming days, which would help in resolving the present electricity situation," he said.

He, however, stated that he was not aware about the huge debt of electricity purchase from outside. **More On P10**



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No Terrorism In Srinagar; District Peaceful: IG CRPF

Agencies

Srinagar: Inspector General of CRPF (Srinagar Sector) Ajay Kumar Yadav Tuesday said that Srinagar is a peaceful district and there is no militancy here.

"Today, we saw LG Manoj Sinha flagging off women bikers to Gujarat from Lal Chowk. Our women cops are taking part with their counterparts in counter insurgency operations, airport security, road opening parties (RoPs), jail security and other sensitive operations,"

Yadav told reporters on the sidelines of the flagging off event of women CRPF bikers from Srinagar to Gujarat.

Asked whether there was any terrorism in Srinagar, the IG CRPF said that today a mega flagging off event was held in the heart of Srinagar. "Where is terrorism? District is peaceful. There can be no better peaceful atmosphere anywhere else," he said.

To a query whether Kashmiri women can also join CRPF, the IG CRPF said: "Yes, Kashmiri women can join **More On P10**

Time Has Come To Reclaim Position Of Vishwa Guru: LG



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Describing Ancient India a centre of learning, the Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said Tuesday that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the

time has come to reclaim the position of Vishwa Guru. "Strength of the nation is determined by knowledge, culture and values. Educational institutions should focus on building human values, knowledge, social consciousness to enable

the young minds to shape their future life and destiny of the nation," Sinha said. He was addressing Founder's Day celebration of Devki Arya Putri Pathshala Srinagar at Tagore Hall here on Tuesday. In his address, the **More On P10**

Flags Off All-Women CRPF Bike Expedition

"We are no less than boys," said a Central Reserve Police Force biker as she joined an all-women CRPF team on a more than 2000-km expedition to Gujarat's Kevadia to take part in the National Unity Day celebrations on October 31.

Having 50 bikers on 25 motorbikes, the expedition will pass through 15 states and two union territories to reach Kevadia in Gujarat. It was flagged off by Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha from Lal Chowk here. Similar expeditions were flagged off from Shillong and Kanyakumari also.

"Flagged off @crpfIndia Women Bike Expedition from iconic Lal Chowk, Srinagar. The expedition will traverse more than 2134 KMs, crossing 40 districts to reach Ekta Nagar, Gujarat on 31st Oct, on birth anniversary of former Deputy PM, unifier of modern India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel," the LG wrote on X. Sinha said the bike expedition is a symbol of **More On P10**

LEARNING IN SCHOOLS SHOULD FOSTER educational excellence, equal access to build knowledge in society and prepare students for global competitiveness."

Dal Lake Loses Sheen To Red Algae Bloom Environmentalists Links Issue With Rising Pollution, Abundant Nutrients; Officials Say Nothing To Worry

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Much to the disappointment of tourists and the inhabitants, a major portion of the famed Dal Lake has been badly affected by red algae bloom, changing the appearance of the splendid water body. The part of the lake from Nehru Park to Mughal garden Nishat, has been badly affected by "eutrophication," an ageing process of aquatic ecosystems.

In contrast to the assertions made by environmentalists, who linked the issue with rising pollution levels in Dal Lake, authorities defined the red algae as a natural phenomenon that will end on its own a few days after its occurrence.

Ajaz Rasool, a well-known environmentalist asserted that protecting Dal Lake from pollution is the best way to prevent red algae blooms in the future. He said the sewage-derived



nutrients have a key role in the algal bloom, which is green in the morning and turns brick red with the rise in day temperature.

"The primary cause of the issue is the growing pollution in Dal Lake; it is not a natural occurrence and the only way I think to prevent red

algal bloom is to keep Dal Lake clean," Ghulam Rasool told Kashmir Observer.

He claimed that diffused aeration enhances water quality from the ground up while the dewatering or dredging process severely affects the lake bed.

"Diffused aeration is a shore-mounted **More On P10**

Court Denies Bail To Man For Uploading Woman's 'Nude' Pics

M Ahmad

Srinagar: A court here on Tuesday rejected the bail application of a man accused of uploading "nude pictures and videos" of a woman in August this year.

According to a police report, Cyber Police Station Srinagar received a complaint from the woman, alleging "cyber harassment and sharing of explicit contents."

The woman stated that she was in a relationship with the accused named Junaid Majeed Khanday of HMT Umerabad Srinagar following a marriage proposal.

However she said that after some time, the accused made "unauthorized and forcible" access into her mobile device and misused it.

The woman said that accused uploaded "nude and explicit videos and photos on different platforms as snapchat,

Instagram and virtual number generated by him and he has exposed my person to virtual world and violated my privacy rights, as a result of resistance shown by me against his torture and harassment."

The woman said that the accused threatened her that he will get her brother trapped in militancy and drugs case and will drag her father to the road if she refuses to marry him.

Moreover, he threatened her that he will make photos and videos viral which were taken by his phone. Subsequently, the accused shared the "nude videos and photos" on various online platforms on August 10.

On perusal of contents of the application and evidences provided by her including the act of Instagram, Snapchat and WhatsApp, police filed an FIR under section 66, 43, 66, 67, 67-A IT act besides **More On P10**

SHORT TAKES

Army Commander Reviews LoC Situation

A senior army commander on Tuesday visited Line of Control (LoC) in Machhil sector of Kupwara district to review the counter infiltration grid and operational preparedness. "Chinar Corps Cdr visited frontline unit along the #LoC in Machhil, #Kupwara to review the Counter Infiltration Grid and Operational Preparedness," Chinar Corps Spokesperson said on X. The Army Commander, he said, also complimented **More On P10**

Driver Arrested In Hit And Run Case

Police on Tuesday arrested a driver, an hour after he crushed a minor girl to death with his dumper in Awantipora area of South Kashmir. 10-year-old Adeeba Arshid was killed on the spot after a dumper (JK01AE-3177) mowed her down in her native Reshipora village of Awantipora on Tuesday, a police spokesperson said. The accused driver had fled from the spot after crushing the minor girl to death. According to the **More On P10**

Bear Injures Woman In Bandipora

In a second incident of man-animal conflict in the last 24 hours in Valley, a woman on Tuesday was attacked and injured by a black bear in North Kashmir's Bandipora district. 32-year-old Dali Bano of Saderkote Payeen area of the district was attacked by a black bear near Sunset Wullar Point on Tuesday evening, reports said. The woman suffered serious injuries in the surprise beast attack. She was removed to the nearby hospital for treatment. **More On P10**

4 Rustlers Arrested In Ganderbal

Police on Tuesday arrested four rustlers and recovered stolen sheep from their possession in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. The police action came after a Mohammad Iqbal Thekri of Kathua, at present Yangoora village of Lar filed a written complaint with police alleging that a few days ago some unknown thieves barged into his cowshed during night hours and stole his 16 sheep, a police spokesperson said. **More On P10**

Basohli Pashmina Gets GI Tag

Basohli Pashmina, a more than 100-year-old traditional craft from Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, has got the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, an official spokesman said on Tuesday. The Department of Industries and Commerce achieved the milestone in coordination with NABARD Jammu and Human Welfare Association, Varanasi, the spokesman said. Earlier this year, the famed Basohli painting and Chikri wood from **More On P10**

Two Fake Police Officers Nabbed In Jammu

Police on Tuesday arrested two residents of Baramulla district from the winter capital for posing as a Police Inspector and an Indian Police Service (IPS) officer. Both the accused have been arrested from a hotel in Jewel area of Jammu, police said. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Jammu, Chandan Kohli said that a complaint was lodged at Police Station Nowabad by one person, stating that two persons who were impersonating as IPS officer and Inspector were threatening him. **More On P10**



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JAMMU AND KASHMIR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Solina Srinagar, Kashmir - 190001

Jammu: 0191-2566528 (f) 2566530
 Srinagar: 0194-2312629 (f) 2312631

website: <http://jkpsc.nic.in>
 email: jkpscsecretary@gmail.com

Subject: Interview Schedule for the post of Assistant Professor (Kashmiri) in Higher Education Department, notified vide Notification No.17-PSC(DR-P) of 2023 dated: 15.05.2023.

NOTICE DATED: 30.09.2023

The interview of the candidates for the post of **Assistant Professor (Kashmiri)** in Higher Education Department, notified vide Notification No. 17-PSC(DR-P) of 2023 dated: 15.05.2023 shall be held at the Office of Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission, Solina Srinagar on the date as shown against each here-in-below:-

| SNO | ROLLNO | NAME | DATE OF INTERVIEW | TIMING |
|-----|---------|------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| 1 | 1550002 | AB RAUOOF HAJAM | 06.10.2023 | 09.30 am |
| 2 | 1550003 | DR MOHD YOUNUS DAR | 06.10.2023 | 09.30 am |
| 3 | 1550004 | SHABIR AHMAD DAR | 06.10.2023 | 09.30 am |
| 4 | 1550005 | HALIMA AKHTAR | 06.10.2023 | 09.30 am |
| 5 | 1550010 | BISMA SHAFI | 06.10.2023 | 09.30 am |
| 6 | 1550012 | JAWED AHMAD NAJAR | 06.10.2023 | 09.30 am |
| 7 | 1550013 | ZAHID ASHRAF | 06.10.2023 | 09.30 am |
| 8 | 1550014 | SHEIKH ZUBAIRUL ISLAM | 06.10.2023 | 09.30 am |
| 9 | 1550015 | AAMIR HAMEED MAGRAY | 06.10.2023 | 09.30 am |
| 10 | 1550017 | MUZAFFAR YOUSUF | 06.10.2023 | 09.30 am |
| 11 | 1550018 | SHAZIA RASHID | 06.10.2023 | 09.30 am |
| 12 | 1550020 | MOHD SHAFI MIR | 06.10.2023 | 09.30 am |
| 13 | 1550023 | MUHAMMAD SHAHID GANAIE | 06.10.2023 | 09.30 am |
| 14 | 1550024 | GULZAR AHMAD DAR | 06.10.2023 | 09.30 am |
| 15 | 1550026 | OAEAS GULZAR | 06.10.2023 | 09.30 am |
| 16 | 1550027 | SAJAD AHMAD GANIE | 06.10.2023 | 09.30 am |
| 17 | 1550028 | TANVEER AHMAD RESHI | 06.10.2023 | 09.30 am |
| 18 | 1550030 | GH JEELANI LONE | 06.10.2023 | 09.30 am |
| 19 | 1550031 | SAJAD ZAHOR | 06.10.2023 | 09.30 am |
| 20 | 1550032 | ZAHOR AHMAD TELI | 06.10.2023 | 09.30 am |
| 21 | 1550034 | MUSHTAQ AHMAD GANAI | 06.10.2023 | 09.30 am |
| 22 | 1550040 | TASLEEMA JAN | 06.10.2023 | 09.30 am |
| 23 | 1550046 | MANSOOR BASHIR | 06.10.2023 | 09.30 am |
| 24 | 1550050 | MUBARAK AHMAD SHEIKH | 06.10.2023 | 09.30 am |
| 25 | 1550052 | NISSAR AHMAD CHACHI | 06.10.2023 | 09.30 am |
| 26 | 1550055 | SAKEENA JAN | 06.10.2023 | 09.30 am |
| 27 | 1550058 | IQRA RASHID | 06.10.2023 | 09.30 am |
| 28 | 1550059 | ISHTIQ AHMAD MALIK | 06.10.2023 | 02.00 pm |
| 29 | 1550060 | SHAKIR AHMAD NAIKOO | 06.10.2023 | 02.00 pm |
| 30 | 1550061 | ASIF QADRI | 06.10.2023 | 02.00 pm |

| | | | | |
|----|---------|-----------------------|------------|----------|
| 31 | 1550062 | GULSHANA AKHTER | 06.10.2023 | 02.00 pm |
| 32 | 1550064 | AFSHANA | 06.10.2023 | 02.00 pm |
| 33 | 1550065 | MEHNAZ KOUSER | 06.10.2023 | 02.00 pm |
| 34 | 1550066 | DAWOOD AHMAD DAR | 06.10.2023 | 02.00 pm |
| 35 | 1550068 | AABID YOUSUF SHEIKH | 06.10.2023 | 02.00 pm |
| 36 | 1550070 | MUSHTAQ AHMAD KHAN | 06.10.2023 | 02.00 pm |
| 37 | 1550073 | FIRDOUS AHMAD PARAY | 06.10.2023 | 02.00 pm |
| 38 | 1550074 | MUZAMIL MUSHTAQ | 06.10.2023 | 02.00 pm |
| 39 | 1550075 | ANIA TULLAH BHAT | 06.10.2023 | 02.00 pm |
| 40 | 1550078 | MOHD ASHRAF BHAT | 06.10.2023 | 02.00 pm |
| 41 | 1550079 | ASIF ALI BHAT | 06.10.2023 | 02.00 pm |
| 42 | 1550080 | FAROOQ AHMAD MIR | 06.10.2023 | 02.00 pm |
| 43 | 1550085 | SAJAD AMEEN | 06.10.2023 | 02.00 pm |
| 44 | 1550086 | TAHIR AHMAD LONE | 06.10.2023 | 02.00 pm |
| 45 | 1550089 | RUBIA GULSHAN | 06.10.2023 | 02.00 pm |
| 46 | 1550090 | MOHD AJAZ UL HAQ | 06.10.2023 | 02.00 pm |
| 47 | 1550091 | TANVEER AHMAD RATHER | 06.10.2023 | 02.00 pm |
| 48 | 1550092 | IMTIYAZ AHMAD RATHER | 06.10.2023 | 02.00 pm |
| 49 | 1550095 | ASHIQ HUSSAIN | 06.10.2023 | 02.00 pm |
| 50 | 1550096 | IRFAN BASHIR | 06.10.2023 | 02.00 pm |
| 51 | 1550097 | ASHIQ HUSSAIN MIR | 06.10.2023 | 02.00 pm |
| 52 | 1550098 | IMTIYAZ HUSSAIN HAJAM | 06.10.2023 | 02.00 pm |
| 53 | 1550102 | RIZWANA KOUSAR | 06.10.2023 | 02.00 pm |

Note

- The candidature of all the candidates is purely provisional. The documents of the candidates will be verified at the time of interview. In case any discrepancy with regard to age and other eligibility conditions is noticed at the time of interview or, thereafter, the candidate(s) shall not be allowed to appear in the interview or were the candidate has already appeared in the interview, the candidature shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio.
- The candidates shall produce their original certificates/testimonials and photocopy of their certificates/testimonials along with hard copy of application forms on the date of interview.

DIPK-9753/23
 dated: 03-10-2023

No.PSC/DR/Asstt.Prof/Hr.Edu/2023

Bashir Ahmad Dar
(Bashir Ahmad Dar) JKAS
 Secretary
J&K Public Service Commission

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost registration certificate my bike bearing registration no JK01W 1659 while traveling from office to home around Bemina Srinagar on 01 OCT, 2023. Now I want to apply for its duplicate. If anybody has any objection he/she may contact Regional Transport Officer Srinagar within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter
 nj

NOTICE

I Feroza Akhter W/O Late Mehraj-ud-din Dar R/O Saderbal, Hazratbal Baba Daryia Din, Ganderbal Kashmir University J&K 190006 having CONSUMER ID- 020402000863 AND INSTALLATION NO- 14733-R1 wants to Transfer Electricity connection which was on my Husband's name (Late Mehraj-ud-din Dar S/O Mohammed Sidiq R/O Professor Colony Naseem bagh Srinagar) now I want to transfer it by my own name Feroza Akhter W/O Late Mehraj Ud Din Dar R/O Saderbal, Hazratbal Baba Daryia Din, Ganderbal Kashmir University J&K 190006. If anybody have any objection may file the same to the SUB DIVISION OFFICE Rainawari Srinagar within the period of 7 days after that no objection will be entertained. Masalim

The Jammu and Kashmir State Board Of School Education
 New Campus Bemina Srinagar
 Notice for General Public

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost her qualification certificate/s issued under as per below mentioned details:-

Roll No: 2412262
 Class 10th
 Year & Session 2019
 Registration: N18441440004
 Name : Mehvish Hameed
 Father's Name: Abdul Hameed Khan
 Mother's Name : Haleema Begum
 Date of Birth:- 13-10-2004
 Residenc:- Tarhama Tangmarg



According to the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification /Marks Certificate/s, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice. (Besides the above referred "Qualification / Marks Certificate/s" bearing No: 19ARKAM-5011326 be treated as "CANCELLED")
 No: F(Cer is-I-DQC)/B/KD/23
 Dated
 BMG

Assistant Secretary
 Certificates, KD.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the number plate of my vehicle bearing Regd no; JK01AK1260 from Badibug to Magam. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

(1st owner) Ghulam Mohammad Rather
 S/o Mohammad Ramzan Rather R/o Usmanabad Bemina Srgr
 (2nd owner) Ishfaq Rasool Wani s/o Gh Rasool Wani
 R/o Badibug Pattan
 bmg

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Chadoora

xennrbchd@gmail.com Phone No. 01951350011

NOTICE INVITING FRESH E-TENDER
 SINGLE COVER SYSTEM (4rd call)
 E-NIT No. 111 of 2023-24/ 7423-32 dated 30/09/2023/CHADOORA

Due to technical error, fresh tenders are invited, Executive Engineer PW (R&B) Division Chadoora on behalf of LT. Governor of J&K UT invites percentage rate bids in electronic tendering system for the following works from the eligible and approved contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State Governments.

| S.No | Name of Work | Adv. Cost (incl. cost of Bitumen and GST) (Rs. In Lacs) | Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees) | Earnest money CDR/ FDR/ BG (Rs) | Time of Completion (days) | Major Head | Class of Contractor |
|------|--|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| 1 | Satmani Ladden Balance Portion. | 14.00 | 600 | 28000 | 07 | 5054 C&T | B/C/D |
| 2 | Buchroo Shrine Baba Mohalla link road. | 4.99 | 200 | 9980 | 05 | Revex Budget | DEE |

Project Authority: Chief Engineer, PWD (R&B) Kashmir
 Position of AAA: Accorded
 Position of funds: Available

The bidding documents, which would include qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications/drawings, a bill of quantities (B.O.Q), a set of contract terms and conditions, and other details, can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in on the dates listed below:-

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | Date of Issue of Tender Notice | 30/09/2023 |
| 2 | Period of downloading of bidding documents | 30/09/2023 |
| 3 | Bid submission Start Date | 30/09/2023 |
| 4 | Bid Submission End Date | 06/10/2023 upto 4.00 PM. |
| 5 | Date & time of opening of Bids (Online) | 06/10/2023 4.10 PM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora |

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

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

4. Bidders who have participated in bidding process for this work during previous call may re-use the EMD/CDR uploaded earlier for this work.

Note: - The Bidders shall mention the name of the advertised work/ reference to NIT & S. No. on the EMD / Bid security (CDR/FDR/BG) while submitting the bidding documents, in order to avoid using the same multiple times for multiple works.

4. All Bidders shall to quote the rates in BOQ excluding GST. GST @ 18% or as admissible will be added separately at the time of issuance of Allotment by the allotting authority.

5. The date and time of bid opening shall be notified on the Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and automatically communicated to bidders via an e-mail message sent to their e-mail address. Responsive bidders' bids will be opened online on the same Web Site in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (tender receiving authority).

6. Bids for the work shall be valid for 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.

7. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

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

9. In order to participate in the bidding process, bidders must obtain a "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" under the Information Technology Act of 2000. Any approved Vendor can provide bidders with a digital certificate.

10. Bidders must submit their bids in electronic format with a digital signature online. No physical bids will be accepted.

11. Bids will be opened online in accordance with the time schedule specified in Para-1.

12. Bidders must upload online scanned copy of all required documents (within the document upload limits) with their technical bid.

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

13. The department will not be held responsible for any delays in online submission due to unanticipated circumstances.

14. The original Treasury Challan (Cost of tender document) and other Uploaded bid documents shall have to be produced on demand by the successful bidder at the time of contract signing, and in the case of unsuccessful bidders, 2 percent EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e., Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora, will be released only after production of Original Treasury Challan of uploaded Scanned copy (Cost of tender document).

15. Bidders are advised not to change the contents of the BOQ (Bill of Quantities). They should never attempt to create similar BOQ manually.

16. Bidders should be fully cognizant that if the documents uploaded/submitted on the basis of which the contract was awarded are later discovered to be fake/ not genuine, the contract will be cancelled and the Contractor/bidder will be blacklisted from participating in this Division/ Department for a period of three years, in addition to the performance security deposited for the said work being forfeited.

17. Price escalation and Taxes: - The bidder's percentage shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes excluding GST up to the completion of the work. Taxes shall be deducted from the contractor's bills on the gross amount of the bill at the time of recovery at the rates in force at the time of recovery.

18. Bidders are advised to use the "My Documents" area in their R&B-e Tendering portal user account to store any required documents.

No: 7423-32

Dated: 03/10/2023

Executive Engineer
 R&B Division Chadoora

DIPK-9689/23

From the office of the Advocate Mirza Saleem Beg
 Office Chamber at Law Buildings Building Srinagar District Court Moolminabad
 Batmaloo Srinagar. 9419574281

In the matter of:-
 1. Ghulam Mohi-ud-din Sheikh S/o; Mohammad Ramzan Sheikh
 2. Meema W/o; Ghulam Mohi-ud-din Sheikh both residents of; Drabray Habbakadal Srinagar.

(Caveators)

Versus
 Public at Large

(Non-caveators)

CAVEAT PETITION
 The caveator has developed reasonable apprehension that the non-caveators may file SUIT/WRIT or any other proceedings against the caveator before Hon'ble court and may obtain order in ex-parte by concealing of material facts. It would be fair and just if the caveator is given opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.

nj Mirza Saleem Beg Advocate

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to correct the mothers name of my ward namely Peer Aliza Omer from Sammeera to Qazi Sameera Shafi in the school records of Mallinson Girls School under admission number 4489-13M. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may contact Mallinson Girls School within a period of 7 days after that no objection shall be entertained
 Omer Azad
 F/o Peer Aliza Omer
 Mothers name: Qazi Sameera Shafi
 Class 9th Green

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to correct the fathers name of my ward namely Peer Aliza Omer from Peer Omer Azad to Omer Azad in the school records of Mallinson Girls School under admission number 4489-13M. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may contact Mallinson Girls School within a period of 7 days after that no objection shall be entertained
 Omer Azad
 F/o Peer Aliza Omer
 Mothers name: Qazi Sameera Shafi
 Class 9th Green

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the information of general Public that I have sold my vehicle bearing Regd no: JK01AC/1257 (ALTO 800) to one namely Rahil Ahmad Nilla S/o Mohd Yousuf Nilla R/o Mandir Bagh Sgr. I have handed over the possession of the said vehicle alongwith the documents on 03-10-2023 and till date I shall be personally responsible against any such claim or liability involvement of the vehicle in any unlawful activity and now onwards the above named purchaser shall be responsible against any claim or liability that may arise against the said vehicle.
 Umer Hanan Dar
 S/O Abdul Hanan Dar
 R/o Bunpora Batmaloo Sgr

از نیابت نائب تحصیلدار تلگام

مضمون کاغذات درخواست منجانب محمد اشرف تیلی وشاہد علی وریس احمد تیلی و سید علی واشرت علی پسران علی محمد تیلی ساکنہ چتر فیض برادر عطا یگی سوشل کاسٹ سرٹیفکیٹ

اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں درخواست سائل دفتر پڑا میں زیر کارڈی ہے اس سلسلے میں پڑا ہائی حلقہ سے پورٹیشنڈر کا کارڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکنان کا موش چتر فیض کے مستقل کنوٹ دار ہے ساکنان کا کہہ پڑیل فرد پر مشتمل ہے

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|--------|-----------|
| علی محمد تیلی ولد عبدالاحد تیلی | زیمینداری | 50 سال | سربرہ کہہ |
| حاجر بیگم زینب علی محمد تیلی | گھریلہ کام | 47 سال | |
| محمد اشرف تیلی ولد علی محمد تیلی | ملازم | 30 سال | |
| شاہد تیلی محمد اشرف تیلی | گھریلہ کام | 29 سال | |
| محمد اشرف تیلی ولد محمد اشرف تیلی | بچی | 1 سال | |
| ریحان علی محمد تیلی | زیر تعلیم | 25 سال | |
| سید علی محمد تیلی | زیر تعلیم | 22 سال | |
| اشرت علی محمد تیلی | زیر تعلیم | 20 سال | |

اس کے علاوہ کوئی فرد کہ نہیں ہے سائل کے کہہ کی سالانہ آمدنی 674304 ہے سرٹیفکیٹ اجرا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کوئی مدعا یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا مدعا یا اعتراض ساتھ ہی ہم اندر دفتر پڑا میں پیش کرے معیار کرنے بعد کوئی بھی مدعا یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

نائب تحصیلدار kree

از نیابت نائب تحصیلدار تلگام

مضمون کاغذات درخواست منجانب موش فیاض و صلحہ جان دختران فیاض احمد جان ساکنہ وانی گام بالا برادر عطا یگی بیک وارڈ ایریا سرٹیفکیٹ

اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں درخواست سائل دفتر پڑا میں زیر کارڈی ہے اس سلسلے میں پڑا ہائی حلقہ سے پورٹیشنڈر کا کارڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکنان کا موش وانی گام بالا کے مستقل کنوٹ دار ہے ساکنان کا کہہ پڑیل فرد پر مشتمل ہے

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|--------|-----------|
| فیاض احمد جان ولد محمد جان | سلا | 40 سال | سربرہ کہہ |
| ظفر بیگم زینب وچہ فیاض احمد | سلا | 55 سال | |
| صلحہ جان دختر فیاض | سلا | 25 سال | |
| محمد فیاض دختر فیاض | سلا | 22 سال | |
| عروین فیاض دختر فیاض | سلا | 20 سال | |

اس کے علاوہ کوئی فرد کہ نہیں ہے سائل کے کہہ کی سالانہ آمدنی 72000 ہے سرٹیفکیٹ اجرا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کوئی مدعا یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا مدعا یا اعتراض ساتھ ہی ہم اندر دفتر پڑا میں پیش کرے معیار کرنے بعد کوئی بھی مدعا یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

نائب تحصیلدار kree

Emotions Run High As Massive Blaze Renders 17 Families Homeless In Parimpora

KO NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar: Emotional scenes were witnessed in Srinagar's Parimpora after a massive blaze rendered 17 families homeless in Parimpora area of Central Kashmir's Srinagar district.

Pertinently, the residential sheds caught fire on Monday in Parimpora, rendering 17 families homeless.

Speaking to the news agency, the victims' families said that the fire has devastated their lives, and nothing has been left with them.

The fire broke out during the night, and they couldn't react as they were under stress and depression. "We have been living here in the sheds for a long time, and the fire incident has now completely changed our lives, rendering us homeless," said one of the victims.

"Nothing has remained with us now; all our belongings, clothes, and everything were gutted in the blaze. Now, we are requesting the authorities to provide some assistance to them so that they can start fresh," they added.

The victims have appealed people to help them at this juncture, asking them to contact on 9596378530 to get further

details for the assistance. Amidst the emotional scenes witnessed in Srinagar, the district administration of Srinagar provided immediate assistance to the fire victims of Parimpora Ghat.

According to details, on the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, a team of district administration, Srinagar, visited Parimpora locality in Shalteng Tehsil where 17 residential sheds were gutted in a fire incident on Sunday.

On the occasion, the team provided immediate assistance to the fire victims of 17 families, residing in the residential sheds which got damaged in a massive fire incident.

The team assessed the damages caused due to the fire incident and expressed sympathy on behalf of the district administration Srinagar with the affected families on the loss of property.

On the occasion, the immediate assistance in the form of 85 blankets, 51 mattresses, 51 bed sheets, 17 kitchen sets, four tents, and 17 tarpaulins, in addition to Rs 85,000, were also provided to all 17 affected families, each receiving Rs 5000 from the Red Cross of District Administration Srinagar—(KNO)

PHE daily Wagers Protest In Srinagar

KO NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar: The employees of Jal Shakti department under the banner of Joint Employees Association held a massive protest on Tuesday, demanding the regularization of their services and implementation of a minimum wage act.

The protesters gathered at Srinagar's Press Enclave and raised slogans in favour of their demands.

"We have come together to emphasize our de-

mands to the administration. We have not received our salaries for the past two months, which has led to great inconvenience to us," said an aggrieved protester while speaking to the news agency.

"It has been a very long time and the authorities have not taken any action in this regard. We continue to demand the implementation of minimum wage act and also the regularization of our services."—(KNO)

SMC Organizes Various Activities Under Second Phase Of "Meri Maati Mera Desh"

KO News service

Srinagar: As part of nation-wide second phase of 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign which is a tribute to the sacrifices of national heroes, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) on Tuesday organized various activities at SK Park in which Commissioner SMC, Athar Amir Khan was the Chief Guest.

The event started with the collection of "Maati" and Rice in "Kalashes" gathered from all the 35 Administrative wards of the SMC.

After welcoming Commissioner SMC, Athar Amir Khan by NYK volunteers, a small play from the artists of 'Tul Kul Arts & Media' highlighting the role and importance of 'Sa-faimitras' and SMC was played stressing on the responsibility of the common Citizens of the Srinagar City in keeping and maintaining optimum levels of Sanitation around their surroundings.

After the pledge under Commissioner SMC, all the ward officers from different wards brought forth their Kalashes carrying Maati before Commissioner SMC.



CRPF band on Tuesday played various musical tunes during the flag-off all-women CRPF motorcycle expedition from Srinagar's Ghanta Ghar (Clock tower) to Gujarat. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Green Revolution in City

39,000 Embrace Bicycle Service, Shedding Pounds and Saving Money

KO NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar: Ever since the government started bicycle service in the city, 25-year-old Adil Ahmad Khan has made it his routine to use the service for commuting.

Not was he only able to save his money, but his body also witnessed changes as he lost the extra fat.

"I have been fond of bicycles since my childhood. After the government introduced this service, I daily hired a bike and took the shortest route to my office," he told the news agency.

Like Khan, majority of the Srinagarites have embraced the green and fit transport by availing the

bicycle service introduced by the government earlier in May.

Since May, more than 39000 people have registered themselves for the service to commute within the city.

Mohammad Yasir Shah, a Srinagar-based official of Chartered Bikes, said that as many as 39980 customers registered themselves with the app.

"We are witnessing a great response for the service. So far 39980 Srinagarites have sought registration for the service via our app," he said.

He said more than 1000 people commute daily within the city using bicycles.

Shah said 20 more stations are

coming up within the city, which he said will further popularise the service.

"We have identified 20 spots wherein stations will be established so that more and more people use our bicycles. Right now we have established 80 stations across the city wherein a person can book a ride to another destination," he said.

On May 4, the Jammu and Kashmir administration as a part of the Smart City Mission introduced Chartered Bikes- bicycles, in Srinagar as a mode of transport to reduce pollution and overcome traffic snarls.

Since then the majority of the people have been taking support of these bicycle services to commute from one place to another.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

**SKIMS MEDICAL COLLEGE/HOSPITAL
BEMINA, SRINAGAR – 190017**
Department of Materials Management

eNITNO:SKIMS MCH MMD-07 Tender of 2 0 2 3
DATED: 03/10/2023

Sub:Abbreviatednoticeinviting e-tenders for supply & installation of Fire Extinguishers with CMC and other Fire Fighting Equipment/Items at SKIMS MCH BEMINA, Srinagar J&K.

On behalf of Lt. Governor UT of J&K through Principal MCH, Bemina Srinagar J&K, e-tenders are invited under two bid system from OriginalManufacturers/their authorized dealers/ distributors for supply & installation of Fire Extinguishers (Stored Pressure Clean Agent HFC227EA 6 Kg.), (CO2 Type 6.5Kg.) and other Fire Fighting Equipment/Items at SKIMS MCH BEMINA Srinagar, as per details given in Annexure-A of this NIT. The tenderers should have their own or authorized Service Centre established in Srinagar or adjoining area having at least three years' experience in handling the job of supply, installation, refilling and maintenance of Fire Extinguishers and other Fire Fighting appliances/ items, in order to ensure better after sale service/maintenance of the equipment/items. The detailed tender document containing specifications ,quantity and other terms & conditions is available on www.jktenders.gov.in and complete bidding process will be online on the said e-tender portal www.jktenders.gov.in.asperfollowingsschedule:

| S.No. | Nomenclature | Schedule |
|-------|---|---|
| 1 | Tender fee in the shape of Demand Draft favoring Accounts Officer SKIMS MCH BEMINA. | Rs.1000/- |
| 2 | Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) | Rs. 60000/- |
| 2 | Start date for downloading of tenders | 03-10-2023 |
| 3 | Date of submission of tenders/bids | From 05-10-2023 to 27-10-2023 Upto 2:00pm |
| 4 | Date of Opening of technical bids | 29-10-2023 at 2:30 p.m |

Any clarification / representation will be entertained till 15-10-2023 (upto 4pm) personally or through our official email mmo@skimsmc.edu.in. The NIT is also available on SKIMS MCH BEMINA website www.skimsmc.edu.in for reference. Principal SKIMS MCH BEMINA reserves the right to accept/reject or cancel any tender or all tenders in full or part thereof without assigning any reason. The tenders must be submitted strictly in accordance with the provisions of the detailed e-NIT.

Sd/
Materials Management Officer
(SKIMS MCH Bemina)

No: SKIMS/MCH/MMD/23/3843-50
DIPK-NB-3473/23 Dated:03/10/2023

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The District Magistrate, Ganderbal
(MINI SECRETARIAT, DUDERHAMA)
O R D E R NO :- 07/DMG OF 2023
D A T E D :- 27.09.2023
(U/S 133 Cr.PC.

Whereas, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) in collaboration with Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has prepared and released a Joint Action Plan on "Prevention of Drugs and Substance Abuse among Children and Illicit Trafficking". Whereas, it is imperative to issue necessary direction to the Medical stores of District Ganderbal selling schedule "H", "HI" and "X" Drugs for monitoring their sale.

Therefore, I, Shyambrir, IAS, District Magistrate, Ganderbal, Kashmir in exercise of powers conferred upon me under section 133 of Cr.P.C. do hereby direct the following for strict compliance.

- All the Medical / Pharmacy shops of District Ganderbal selling schedule "H", "HI" and "X" Drugs as per Rules 65 (3) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 are hereby directed to install CCTV cameras inside and outside their shops.
- Time period of 30 days is being given to all the Medical / Pharmacy shop owners for installation of CCTV cameras. Footage of such cameras can be randomly checked by the Assistant Drug Controller Authority / Child Welfare Police Officer (CWPO) at any time.
- In case any Medical shop owner fails to comply with these directions, appropriate action shall be taken against him/her. The Executive Magistrates / Assistant Drug Controller, Ganderbal / District Child Protection Officer, Ganderbal / Station House Officer of Police Stations (within their respective jurisdiction) shall execute this order within the jurisdiction of District Ganderbal and submit compliance reports accordingly.

Given under my hand & seal on this day of 27th September, 2023.

Signed by
(Shyambrir) IAS
District Magistrate,
Ganderbal

No:-DCG/ARA/F-337(CC-7300959)969-82
DIPK-9700/23
Dated:- 03-10-2023

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

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr.DEN-III/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites Open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date-19.10.2023 up to 15:00 Hrs Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc are not allowed. For more information log on to www.ireps.gov.in

| Tender Type | Tendering Section | Bidding System |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Open | Works | Single Bid System |
| Date of Uploading Tenders | Bid Starting Date | Bid Closing Date/Time |
| 26.09.2023 | 05.10.2023 | 19.10.2023 / 15:00 Hrs. |

| S.No. | Tender No. | Details of Tender | | | |
|--|-------------------------|---|----------------------|--|--|
| 1. | 245-2023-24-ADEN-II-ASR | AT welding of 60 kg/60 EI - R260 grade Rail / 52 kg -90/72 UTS Rail rails in situ with single shot crucible fitted as per RDSO specifications in the section under Sr. DEN-III/FZR. | | | |
| Advertised Value (Rs.) | Earnest Money | Validity of offer | Period of completion | | |
| 80,54,166.82/- | 1,61,100.00/- | 60 Days | 06 Months | | |
| Similar Nature of work: "Not applicable" | | | | | |

Note : 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender. Tender Notice No:-245-2023-24-ADEN-II/ASR Date: 26.09.2023

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3053/23

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

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

🌙 **HIJRI CALENDAR** 🌙

17 Rabi-ul-Awwal
1445

| PRAYERS | |
|---------|-------|
| FAJR | 5:07 |
| ZUHR | 12:21 |
| ASR | 4:32 |
| Magrib | 6:19 |
| ISHA | 7:39 |

This Day In History

- 1363 - End of the Battle of Lake Poyang; the Chinese rebel forces of Zhu Yuanzhang defeat that of his rival, Chen Youliang, one of the largest naval battles in history with 850,000 taking part (approx.)
- 1537 - The first complete English-language Bible (the Matthew Bible) is printed, with translations by William Tyndale and Miles Coverdale.
- 1914 - Dardanelles: French & British fleet bombards Turkish forts
- 1921 - League of Nations refuses to assist starving Russians
- 1922 - Protocol of Geneva signed: Austria gains independence
- 1933 - Esquire magazine is 1st published
- 1940 - 12 German aircrafts shot down above England
- 1940 - Adolf Hitler & Benito Mussolini confer at Brenner Pass in Alps
- 1949 - United Nations' permanent NYC headquarters is dedicated
- 1956 - Great Britain performs nuclear test at Maralinga Australia
- 1957 - USSR launches Sputnik I, 1st artificial Earth satellite
- 1958 - Transatlantic commercial jet passenger service began (BOAC)
- 1958 - Fifth Republic of France is established.
- 1959 - USSR Luna 3 sent back 1st photos of Moon's far side
- 1960 - Courier 1B Launched; 1st active repeater satellite in orbit
- 1961 - USSR performs nuclear test at Novaya Zemlya USSR
- 1963 - Hurricane Flora, kills 6,000 in Cuba & Haiti
- 1965 - USSR launches Luna 7; crash lands on Moon
- 1966 - France performs nuclear test at Mururoa atoll
- 1967 - 1st World Series since 1948 not to feature NY Yankees, Giants or the Dodgers
- 1967 - Omar Ali Saifuddin III of Brunei abdicates in favour of his son, His Majesty Sultan Hassanah Bolkiah.

From KO Archives

J&K Team For Tibet To Find Truth Of 'Shahtoosh Threat'

Observer News Service

Srinagar- Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah today said the Centre would be approached to seek China's permission for facilitating the visit of a team to Tibet to find if continuing Shahtoosh trade threatens antelope.

Speaking at a function held in observance of the mil-lennium's first wildlife week here this afternoon, the chief minister said the team will comprise wildlife officials and representatives of Shahtoosh traders whose trip would be sponsored by the government. "If the team feels threat to antelope as genuine, the Shahtoosh traders will have nothing to do with it", he said, adding that with this the controversy over the issue would end once for all.

The chief minister said that as a result of measures taken to preserve wildlife, their population is on increase in the state. He stressed for creating awareness among the people especially students about the need for protecting wildlife and said that two zoos would be set up at Manda in Jammu and Dachigam in Srinagar for people to see nature's fauna. He asked for preparing comprehensive plans for conservation of various sanctuaries like Hokersar, Hygam and Mirgund.

Abdullah called for evolving a mechanism and adopting an integrated programme for making use of dead wood as fuel by those living near forest while stringent measures would be taken for preserving the green trees. Steps have to be taken for bridging the gap between energy-need and energy source. This has become imperative in view of growing pressure of forest resource since other sources of energy like electricity and LPG have become costlier and scarce. He made a fervent appeal to the people for making judicious use of electricity, generation of which is affected during winter due to lesser water flow.

(Kashmir Observer, October 04, 2000)



Khamenei: 'Israel', KSA Normalizing is 'Betting On A Losing Horse'

Agencies

Iranian leader Seyyed Ali Khamenei stated on Tuesday that nations seeking to normalize relations with "Israel" "are betting on a losing horse," according to Iranian state media.

"The definite position of the Islamic Republic is that countries that make the gamble of normalization with 'Israel' will lose. They are betting on a losing horse," the leader said.

The Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen claimed last month that a US-brokered deal to normalize ties between "Israel" and Saudi Arabia could happen by early next year after all three nations demonstrated progress in the negotiations.

"Existing differences can be overcome. It will take time, but there is progress. I think there is certainly a possibility that in the first quarter of 2024, four or five months from now, that is, there will be a moment when we can finally negotiate all the details," Cohen said in an interview for the Israeli occupation army radio.

This comes after Moraya Fulberg, the political affairs com-

mentator on the Israeli Channel 13, stated on Sunday: "While we are on the right path, there are still many obstacles in the way, and this poses a significant challenge."

"There are discussions within the security and military establishment, and it is expected that prominent Israeli figures will soon arrive in Washington. Furthermore, the Prime Minister is also expected to visit in November," she added.

Just 10 days earlier, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman admitted that Saudi Arabia was getting closer to normalizing ties with the Israeli occupation in an interview with Fox News, adding that if Iran acquires a nuclear weapon, "we have to get one."

"Every day we get closer," Bin Salman said when asked to describe the discussions focused on normalizing diplomatic ties between Saudi Arabia and "Israel."

Responding to a question on the requirements of a normalization deal, the de facto Saudi leader claimed that "the Palestinian issue is very important. We need to solve that part," adding that there had been "good negotiations" so far.

'Does Congress Want To Clip Muslims' Rights?' PM's Big Caste Census Charge



Press Trust of India

JAGDALPUR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday slammed Congress over its nationwide caste census pitch and accused the party of trying to divide Hindus, and sought to know if it wants to curtail the rights of Muslims by advocating a population-based distribution of resources.

PM Modi said that for him, the poor form the biggest chunk of the country's population and they should have the first right over resources, irrespective of their caste or community. He also accused the Congress of dividing the society on caste lines for votes.

The PM's statements came a day after the Nitish Kumar government released a caste survey that revealed Other Backward Classes and Economically Backward Classes constitute a whopping 63% of Bihar's population.

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, whose party is a constituent of the ruling bloc in the state, welcomed the caste survey and said the country needs a caste census to give people rights as per their proportion in population.

Addressing the BJP's "Parivartan Mahasankalp" rally in Jagdalpur, the headquarters of Bastar district in Chhattisgarh, PM Modi claimed that the Congress has entered into a "secret pact" with a foreign country and takes pleasure in speaking against India, and urged people to be alert.

The country's oldest party is being run not by its leaders but by some "behind the curtain" elements who are in nexus with anti-national forces, he claimed.

"Since yesterday (Monday), the Congress has started speaking a different tune. Congress leaders say the 'abadi' (population) of people will decide the rights (on resources), but for Modi, poor people are the biggest 'abadi' of the country and they have the first right over resources. Welfare of the poor is my aim," he said.

The BJP's star campaigner referred to a 2006 statement of then-Prime Minister Manmohan Singh advocating that minorities, particularly Muslims, must have the "first claim" on resources.

"I was wondering what would former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh ji be think-

ing? Manmohan Singh ji used to say minorities have the first right over resources of the country and that too the Muslims. But now the Congress is saying proportion in population will decide who will get how much share of rights. Does that mean they want to curtail the rights of Muslims?" he asked.

"Whose population is more?" the PM asked and wondered if it will be possible to ensure distribution of the rights according to social groups' share in the demographic mix.

"If they want to divide the rights on the basis of population, then who will have the first right (over resources)? Whose population is more? Congress leaders should clarify whether the rights will be given according to share in population, whether the Congress wants to take away the rights of minorities. Should Hindus, who have the biggest population in the country, come forward and claim all the rights?" he asked.

Attacking the Mallikarjun Kharge-led party, the PM said the national outfit wants to destroy India by dividing the Hindus.

As Opening Of Ram Temple In Ayodhya Nears, Construction Of Dhannipur Mosque Yet To Begin

Press Trust of India

LUCKNOW: As the opening of Ayodhya's Ram temple nears, the construction of a proposed mosque some kilometres away is yet to begin with the Indo Islamic Cultural Foundation saying it does not have the money even to pay the project's "development charges".

The IICF is a trust formed to build a mosque and other community facilities including a hospital on the 5-acre plot at Dhannipur in Ayodhya as mandated by the Supreme Court in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid verdict.

The land for the mosque complex was given to Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board by the state government.

"In February this year, the board of Ayodhya Development Authority gave its approval for the mosque project after some procedural delay. Thereafter, we came to know that the amount of development charges to be submitted to the authority for the entire project would run into a few crores of rupees," Athar Hussain, spokesperson of IICF trust, told PTI on Tuesday.

"As we don't have enough



money to pay the development charges, we decided to defer the construction of a hospital at the site as it consists of around 90 per cent of the entire project. We will first build the mosque as the development charges for it will be less," Hussain said.

He hoped that in the next two months, the IICF trust will be able to mobilise funds for the construction of the mosque.

"We are in the process of mobilising funds for the mosque's construction... Since the trust was brought into the public domain, different accounts were opened for the mosque, hospital and community kitchen. At the moment, the funds in the account of the trust are around Rs 40 lakh," the IICF spokesperson added.

When asked about any fund

raising drive for the project, he said, "Fortunately or unfortunately, this project was compared with the Ram Mandir project... The response that we expected from people for the mosque project could not be materialised.

"Now, we plan to approach some rich people of the community in metro cities so that fund mobilisation for the project can become easier." Dhannipur village is around 22 km from the spot of the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

In Ayodhya, preparations are in full swing for the grand opening of Ram temple in January next year.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to participate in the 'pran pratishtha' (consecration) ceremony at the newly constructed temple.

107 MPs And MLAs Have Hate Speech Cases Against Them: Report

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: A total of 107 MPs and MLAs have hate speech cases against them and 480 candidates with such cases have contested elections in the last five years, according to poll rights body Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

The ADR and National Election Watch (NEW) have analysed the self-sworn affidavits of all the incumbent MPs and MLAs, besides the unsuccessful candidates in the Assembly and Lok Sabha polls held in the country in the said period.

The analysis reveals that many of the MPs and MLAs, who are designated lawmakers, have actually declared cases related to "hate speech" against themselves. The analysis is based on the affidavits submitted by the MPs and MLAs prior to the last election they contested.

According to the analysis, 33 MPs have declared cases related to hate speech against themselves -- seven from Uttar Pradesh, four from Tamil Nadu, three each from Bihar, Karnataka and Telangana, two each from Assam, Gujarat, Maharashtra and West Bengal and one each from Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Odisha and Punjab.

In the last five years, 480 candidates with declared cases related to hate speech have

contested elections to state assemblies, the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, the ADR said.

It said 22 MPs with cases related to hate speech are from the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), two from the Congress and one each from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), AIMIM, AIUDF, DMK, MDMK, PMK, Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) and the VCK, besides one Independent MP.

Seventy-four MLAs have declared cases related to hate speech against themselves. Nine each are from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, six each from Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Telangana, five each from Assam and Tamil Nadu, four each from Delhi, Gujarat and West Bengal, three each from Jharkhand and Uttarakhand, two each from Karnataka, Punjab, Rajasthan and Tripura and one each from Madhya Pradesh and Odisha.

Twenty MLAs with cases related to hate speech against them are from the BJP, 13 from the Congress, six from the AAP, five each from the SP and YSR-CP, four each from the DMK and RJD, three each from the AIUDF and SHS, two from the AIUDF and one each from the AIMIM, CPI(M), NCP, Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party, TDP, Tipra Motha Party and TRS, besides two Independent MLAs.

India Climbs 72 Places In Global Mobile Speed Rankings, Thanks To 5G Push

Press Trust of India

The launch of 5G services in India turbocharged mobile download speeds here, pushing the country's ranking 72 notches higher to 47th spot in Speedtest Global Index, ahead of nations like Japan, the UK and Brazil, according to Ookla.

India's speed performance has zoomed up 3.59 times since the introduction of 5G, it said dubbing the country's 5G advancement as "remarkable".

In this global pecking order, India ranked not only ahead of its neighbours like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan, but also some G20 countries, such as Mexico (90th), Turkey (68th), the UK (62nd), Japan (58th), Brazil (50th place), and South Africa (48th place).

India's speed performance has seen a 3.59 times increase since the introduction of 5G, with median download speeds improving to 50.21 Mbps in August 2023, from 13.87 Mbps in September 2022.

"This improvement has led to India's rise in the Speedtest Global Index, moving up 72 places, from 119th place to the 47th position," it said.

The 5G deployments have led to an improved overall user experience across all telecom circles with operators investing in backhaul infrastructure.

The launch of 5G technology by operators like Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel has led to a substantial increase in 5G subscribers, and operators still have ambitious roll-out plans, with the deployment of a significant number of 5G base stations across the country.



In fact, 5G has not only brought faster speeds but also higher customer satisfaction, as indicated by the Net Promoter Score (NPS), which shows that 5G users in India consistently rate their network operators more positively compared to 4G users.

"Additionally, 5G Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) services have been introduced to provide broadband connectivity in areas where laying fiber is costly or impractical," it said.

Mobile users in India are among the most data-intensive consumers in the world. Yet, India's 4G networks have been unable to keep pace with consumer expectations, primarily due to network congestion caused by population density, lack of cellular infrastructure, backhaul, as well as spectrum constraints.

"Following the 5G spectrum auction, operators have been able to address some of those issues and help to offload 4G traffic onto 5G networks, thus reducing 4G network congestion," it said.

The strategy has proven successful already, as 25-35 per cent of traffic is already getting offloaded on 5G from 4G.

Clash At AMU Hostel Turns Ugly, Leads To Gunfight, 3 Injured



Press Trust of India

ALIGARH, UTTAR PRADESH: Three youths were wounded by gunshots in a fight between two rival groups allegedly belonging to two separate hostels of the Aligarh Muslim University in UP, officials said today.

The incident took place Monday night and the injured, Sadiq, Firoz Alam, and Abdullah, are undergoing treatment at the Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, they said.

Police claimed the three were AMU students. Varsity publicity in-charge Prof Asim Siddiqui, however, said they were outsiders.

Mr Siddiqui said a clash had taken place Monday night between two student groups at VM Hall.

A short while later, a group

of armed youths barged into Sir Syed Hall (North) where a gunfight ensued and three young men were shot and wounded.

The university has not issued any explanation yet on how these "outsiders" entered the hostels so late at night.

Acting Circle Officer, Civil Lines, Sanjay Jaiswal said police are in the process of filing an FIR in the gunfight, which was connected to an old rivalry between two student groups.

An uneasy calm prevailed on the AMU campus this morning when the university opened.

Student protesters blocked the campus' two main entry gates - Baab-e-Syed and Centenary Gate, forcing the varsity authorities to divert traffic to Faiz Gate and Sir Syed House Gate, which normally remain closed.

Breath Analyser Tests: DGCA May Ask Pilots Not To Use Perfume, Mouthwash, Tooth Gel

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Pilots might soon be asked not to use perfume, mouthwash and tooth gel as that may result in positive breath analyser test.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has sought comments on a draft Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) wherein it has also proposed barring crew from using any "drug/formulation or use any substance such as mouthwash/tooth gel/perfume or any such product which has alcoholic content".

Comments have been sought on the CAR, which pertains to procedure for medical examination of aircraft personnel for alcohol consumption, till October 5.

Under the DGCA norms, for all scheduled operators, each flight crew member and cabin crew



member shall be subjected to pre-flight breath analyser examination at first departure airport during a flight duty period.

For all scheduled flights originating from destinations outside India, post-flight breath analyser

examination of each flight crew and cabin crew shall be carried out at first port of landing in India, as per the norms.

As per the draft CAR, no crew member shall consume any drug/formulation or use any substance such as mouthwash/tooth gel/perfume or any such product which has alcoholic content.

"This may result into positive breath analyser test. Any crew member who is undergoing such medication shall consult the company doctor before undertaking flying assignment," it noted.

About the draft CAR, a former Air India pilot said a direction with respect to the use of perfume, mouthwash and tooth gel will be for the good of pilots but it should be in the form of an advisory rather than being part of the regulations.

Reviews of regulations are done from time to time but there should not be too many restrictions on pilots, he added.

Among others, all maintenance personnel/flight crew shall be subjected to breath analyser examination before undertaking any taxi operation of the aircraft.

According to the draft CAR, operators shall make available at least two serviceable breath analyser equipment fuel cell technology based, capable of giving accurate digital value up to three decimal places with a memory to store and recall at least last 1,000 records.

Stringent punishments are in place when a crew tests positive in a breath analyser test, depending on whether it is repetitive. It is applicable for both pre and post flights.

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

GOVT. MODEL HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL NANIL

EMAIL: gmhssnanilanantnag@gmail.com UDISE: 01061102508
No:- HSS/N/Estt/2/7/23 Dated:- 03/10/23

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders affixed with Rs. 2/= revenue stamp are invited from the Registered/Authorized offset printers for printing of school Magazine "CHAMAN". The details about the specifications and quantity etc, can be had from the office of the Principal Govt. Model Higher Secondary School Nanil during the office hours upto 10th of October, 2023.

The tenders, alongwith earnest money of Rs. 1000/= in the form of FDR/CDR pledged to principal Govt. Higher Secondary School Nanil, should reach the office of the undersigned by or before 14th of October, 2023 upto 02:00 pm. The tenders shall be opened on 16th of October, 2023 at 02:00pm in presence of the approved tenderers.

The principal reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason.

Assadullah Mir
Principal
Govt. Model HSS Nanil

DIPK-9723-23
DT: 03/10/2023

Former Punjab Minister, RD EEPCC; Others Meet LG



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Rakesh Suraj, Regional Director, Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) India and S. Parminder Singh Dhindsa, former Finance and Public Works Minister of Punjab were among the people who called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday, an official spokesperson said.

Besides, he said, H.H Sri Sri Yadugiri Yathiraja Narayana Ramanuja Jeeyar Swami Ji of Sri Yadugiri Yathiraja Mutt met also met LG Sinha.

Later, the spokesperson said, a delegation of Mata Kheer Bhawani Asthan Committee from Tikkar, Kupwara called on LG Sinha.

The members of the delegation led by Sh Mohan Lal Padroo discussed the development of Mata Kheer Bhawani Asthan at Tikkar, Kupwara. The delegation also apprised the Lt Governor about restoration of historical structures within the premises of the Temple.

Later, Gulzar Ahmad Bhat, Chairman All J&K Folk Artists Association also called on the Lt Governor.

ODF+ Status Of The District

LG Awards Certificate Of Achievement To DC Kulgam



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Government awarded Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam with Certificate of Achievement for his Exemplary Dedication, Unwavering Commitment & Outstanding Leadership in the pursuit of Swachhata and playing an instrumental role in achieving ODF+ Modal Status under an initiative of Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM-2.0).

The Certificate of Achievement was awarded to Deputy Commissioner Kulgam Dr. Bilal-Mohi-Ud-Din-Bhat by the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan during a Felicitation Ceremony organized by Rural Development Department on

Monday to honour the contribution of the Officers and recognise their outstanding capabilities in the pursuit of Cleanliness.

The Deputy Commissioner was honoured and given recognition by the J&K Government for encouraging and fostering the environment of cleanliness at different forums under his official capacity.

Meanwhile the Deputy Commissioner has thanked his entire Team members especially RDD Officers & Officials and PRIs for their brilliant work and support which has led to attainment of important milestone under SBM-2.0 and has also impressed upon all the officers/officials to work with utmost zeal & zest to sustain the same.

Mehbooba Calls Raids At Newsclick Premises 'Fishing Expedition'

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Peoples Democratic Party President Mehbooba Mufti Tuesday described the raids by the Delhi Police's Special Cell at the residences of Newsclick journalists as a "fishing" expedition.

Mufti, a former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, said the raids were extremely perturbing as she accused the central government of championing press abroad and attacking it at home. "GOI claims India is the mother of democracy & about press freedom abroad yet in the same breath uses state agencies to the crackdown on the remaining handful of independent media outlets.

"Even telephone devices have

been forcibly snatched only for a fishing expedition. The repeated illegal pattern of arrest first & creating fake charges later is extremely perturbing (sic)," Mufti wrote in a post on X.

Delhi Police's Special Cell Tuesday morning conducted raids at the premises of online portal NewsClick and its journalists, triggering outrage against the action among scribes.

The Special Cell has registered a new case and started an investigation, officials said. Abhisar Sharma, a senior journalist, wrote on X, "Delhi police landed at my home. Taking away my laptop and phone."

Another journalist, Bhasha Singh, wrote on X, "Finally last tweet from this phone. Delhi police seizure (sic) my phone."

Oppn Parties To Hold Peaceful Protest In Jammu On Oct 10: Dr Farooq

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Leaders of various opposition parties met under the chairmanship of National Conference president Farooq Abdullah here on Tuesday and unanimously decided to hold a peaceful protest against the BJP in Jammu next week.

The BJP, however, termed it a "conspiracy" and claimed that it would not be successful because the people were aware of the "misdeeds" of these leaders.



Interacting with reporters after the two-hour-long meeting at a hotel here, Abdullah claimed that the Constitution has been suspended and the democratic rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir were under attack.

"We all have decided to stage a peaceful protest on October 10 and are seeking necessary permission from the divisional commissioner," he said.

When asked whether the Democratic Progressive Azad Party led by Ghulam Nabi Azad and the Apni Party headed by Altaf Bukhari were invited to the meeting, the National Conference president replied, "They are government parties."

He said it was imperative to hold the "much-delayed" assembly elections to fill up the political vacuum in Jammu and Kashmir.

"We do not understand this." PDP president Mehbooba Mufti said the meeting condemned the raids by the Delhi Police's special cell at the residences of NewsClick journalists.

"In this Amrit Kaal, speaking the truth has become the biggest sin. The one who tells the truth and questions this government over unemployment, inflation and rapes are slapped with the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

"This was initially done against journalists in Jammu and Kashmir, but now it has become a norm across the country," she said and asked the Editors Guild of India to take notice of such developments.

CPI(M) leader M Y Tarigami, who attended the opposition parties' meeting, said they held a detailed discussion on the emerging situation in Jammu and Kashmir and the problems being faced by all sections of the society in the Union Territory.

He said that depriving the people of electing a government of their choice was tantamount to suspension of their constitutional and democratic rights.

"This government has deprived the people of their constitutional rights which are akin to anti-nationalism. It is a loss to the nation and our future," Tarigami said, adding that former chief ministers, ex-MLAs and MPs will come together in Jammu on October 10 to defend the constitution and the rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Through the agitation, the protesters will send a message to the people of the country that they have lost hope of getting justice. But "we still have hope from crores of the people of India who will understand

our pain and stand with us for our rights at this crucial juncture", he said.

"The constitution is suspended in Jammu and Kashmir which is not an ordinary thing... we want to appeal to the countrymen that they (BJP) are talking about integrating Jammu and Kashmir but the reality is that this government has separated us from the constitutional order," the Left leader alleged.

Meanwhile, the BJP's Jammu and Kashmir unit president Ravinder Raina said the people of the Union Territory have rejected these leaders and they are now resorting to conspiracies by forming the Gupkar alliance and sometimes by forming the INDIA bloc to mislead the people.

"Today, there is peace, progress, prosperity and brotherhood in Jammu and Kashmir... Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji has started a new era of development... and some people are troubled by it," Raina said.

He said the BJP is ready for every election. "We have full confidence that with the way the Modi government has worked in Jammu and Kashmir, I believe the BJP will form government in the Union Territory (whenever the elections are held)," he added.

Those who attended the opposition parties' meeting included PDP president Mehbooba Mufti, her party's general secretary Amreek Singh Reen, Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief Vikar Rasool Wani, its working president Raman Bhalla, CPI(M) leader Tarigami, Dogra Sadar Sabha president Gulchain Singh Charak and Jammu and Kashmir Shiv Sena (UBT) president Manish Sahni.

KOKERNAG ENCOUNTER

Police Rejects News Report Claiming 'Betrayal' By DSP Adil Mushtaq

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police on Tuesday rubbished a media report that claimed arrested Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Adil Mushtaq was involved in last month's Kokernag encounter as an "insider betrayal" that claimed lives of three officers.

In a post on X, Kashmir police while quoting ADGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar said termed the video as baseless and said that Adil Mushtaq is being investigated for entirely different case.

Police said that this type of irresponsible journalism is also an act of criminal misconduct

and is liable for legal action.

"It has come to notice that a video news item has been uploaded purportedly issued by a news agency by the name of Bharat TAK suggesting that DSP Adil Mushtaq is involved in the Kokernag terror incident as an insider betrayal. There is no truth to this video news," police said.

It said, "DSP Adil Mushtaq is being investigated for an entirely different case in Srinagar district and not in Anantnag. This type of #irresponsible #journalism is also an act of criminal misconduct and is liable for legal action."

IASOWA Celebrates Gandhi Jayanti At Middle School Astanpora



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: IAS Officers Wives Association (IASOWA) under the presidentship of Dr Amita Mehta on Tuesday held a programme to celebrate Gandhi Jayanti at a Government Middle School here in the peripheries of Srinagar.

During the function the speakers highlighted the different life aspects of Gandhi ji. They explained to students the virtues of truth and honesty with the help of real life events of the father of the nation. They beckoned the students to emulate the teachings of Gandhi Ji regarding the truth and Non-Violence in order to live a successful life.

On the occasion Dr Mehta, President IASOWA along with Administrative Secretary, Mining, Rashmi Singh; Director,

Family Welfare, Tabasum Ja-been; members of association namely Rajini Sinha; Savita Alok, Ruchi Gupta; Dr Manisha; Mehak Shahid were also present.

They distributed the stationary and sports gear among the students. Created awareness about the life and teachings of Gandhi Ji among the students. Advised them to live by these teachings to adopt better lifestyle and choices in life. They also urged them to popularize these among their friends and acquaintances. They also planted saplings in the school premises for its beautification and environmental protection.

The officers who coordinated this event includes Chief Education Officer (CEO), Srinagar, Dy CEO, Srinagar, ZEO, Nishat besides other teachers, students and staff of the school.

Scouting For Places In Kashmir For Next Movie: Actor Rahul Bhat

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Bollywood Actor Rahul Bhat on Tuesday said he is scouting for locations in Kashmir for his next feature project, which will explore themes of love and peace.

The "Kennedy" actor said while most of the movies made on Kashmir revolve around terrorism and violence, his new movie would not touch upon these issues.

"We want to make a film, made in Kashmir, like Iranian films which are human stories. We want to make a Kashmiri film, in which there is a human story that talks about love and peace," the actor told PTI in Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

"We are totally not touching terrorism. Every film on Kashmir is about terrorism, military, army and violence. We want to make a film about love which would be a story about a village here. This is a real story," the actor said.

Bhat, who hails from Kashmir, said most of the film's cast and crew comes from the union territory.

"If Marathi, Bengali, Tamil, and Telugu films can be made, why not a Kashmiri? So, we have tried to engage Kashmiri talent in it most of the actors are Kashmiri the director is a Kashmiri, the whole team is Kashmiri. The cinematographer and the technical team is from Mumbai," he said.

In Gurez People Keep Age-Old Marriage Traditions Alive; Ferry Brides On Doli's, Zapans

Agencies

GUREZ: While urban areas of Kashmir embracing technology and abandoning old traditions, the people of Tulail valley along the line of control (LoC) in north Kashmir's Bandipora district continue to uphold the centuries-old tradition of "Doli," where a bride is carried to her matrimonial home in a "Zapan," a carriage or cot, by close family members during marriage ceremonies.

"Yes, while such marriages are infrequent, they are still witnessed. Tulail is one such remote area where the centuries-old tradition of Guer Mahraaz and Dol-e-Khandar is occasionally observed," stated

Shahnawaz Ahmad, a senior citizen from the Gurez valley said.

"Despite having well-constructed blacktopped road connectivity in Tulail, the local villagers continue to uphold the tradition of using horses and Doli during marriages. As modern means of communication developed and the socio-economic conditions of the people improved significantly over time, the age-old customs of Dol-e-Khandar (marriage with the bride carried on a palanquin) and Guer Mahraaz (marriage with the groom carried on a horse) began to wane," he explained.

"Kashmiris have cherished the timeless traditions of wedding cer-

emonies for generations. The act of giving away the bride is a unique custom that not only symbolizes bidding farewell to the bride but also encourages her to embark on a new journey in life," he noted.

"In the days of yore, even Kashmiri families in cities would arrange a 'Dol' or 'Zapan' (a carriage or cot) to transport the bride to her marital home. This task was typically carried out by close family members or hired helpers known as 'Qahars' in Kashmir. They would ceremoniously convey the bride to her new family's residence," Ahmad added.

"Even in Gurez town, villagers continue to opt for Doli and horses to celebrate the weddings of

their loved ones, thus ensuring the preservation of this time-honored tradition," he added.

"Recently, a marriage ceremony in Dawar town followed the same tradition, attracting several tourists who eagerly participated and enjoyed this cultural spectacle," he added.

"For the past few years, marriage ceremonies in Gurez and Tulail have been celebrated with grandeur, resembling traditional weddings, as the fear of cross-border shelling has diminished. People are now wholeheartedly participating in these marriages, especially during this season, which was previously marred by the threat of shelling," Ahmad added—(KNO)

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION AWANTIPORA

TENDER NOTICE

Fresh to NIT "Fresh (22) \899-909EEA/RNB/ of 2023-24 Dated. 22 -09-2023"
E-NIT No: Fresh-27/EEA/RNB/ of 2023-24 /1101-1111 Dated. 03-10-2023

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

| S. No | Name of Work | Adv. Cost (Rs.) | Cost of T/D (Rs.) | Earnest Money (In %age) | Time of Completion in working days | Class of Contract | Major Head of Accounts | Administrative Accord Approval No. | Call No. |
|-------|--|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|--|--|----------------------------------|
| 1 | Development/ Beautification of Bon Nag near Nag-bat Khrew Ward No. 03 Danak Mohalla Khrew | 1.514 | 200 | 2% of Adv. Cost | 20 working days | DEE | IDMT Khrew 2023-24 | DULB/PLG/399 of 2023 Dt:19-07-2023 and Auth.No.MC/KH/2023-24/708-11 Dt:20-07-2023 | 4th Call |
| 2 | Development/Beautification of Naribal Nag at Mir Mohalla Khrew Ward No. 06 Mir Mohalla Khrew. | 0.107 | 200 | 2% of Adv. Cost | 20 working days | DEE | IDMT Khrew 2023-24 | DULB/PLG/399 of 2023 Dt:19-07-2023 and Auth.No.MC/KH/2023-24/708-11 Dt:20-07-2023 | 4th Call |
| 3 | Development/Beautification of Garchin Nag near Fire service station Ward No. 06 Mir Mohalla Khrew. | 2.943 | 200 | 2% of Adv. Cost | 20 working days | DEE | IDMT Khrew 2023-24 | DULB/PLG/399 of 2023 Dt:19-07-2023 and Auth.No.MC/KH/2023-24/708-11 Dt:20-07-2023 | 4th Call |
| 4 | Development / Beautification of Tengwani Nag near shop of Gulam Ali Wani Ward No. 11 Tengwani Mohalla Khrew. | 1.406 | 200 | 2% of Adv. Cost | 20 working days | DEE | IDMT Khrew 2023-24 | DULB/PLG/399 of 2023 Dt:19-07-2023 and Auth.No.MC/KH/2023-24/708-11 Dt:20-07-2023 | 4th Call |
| 5 | Development/Beautification of Dhoob Nag near near Dhoobi Mohalla Khrew ward No. 07 Dhoobi Mohalla Khrew. | 1.826 | 200 | 2% of Adv. Cost | 20 working days | DEE | IDMT Khrew 2023-24 | DULB/PLG/399 of 2023 Dt:19-07-2023 and Auth.No.MC/KH/2023-24/708-11 Dt:20-07-2023 | 4th Call |
| 6 | Development/Beautification of Guptuk Nag behind Eidgah Khrew Ward No. 07 Dhoobi Mohalla Khrew. | 0.21 | 200 | 2% of Adv. Cost | 20 working days | DEE | IDMT Khrew 2023-24 | DULB/PLG/399 of 2023 Dt:19-07-2023 and Auth.No.MC/KH/2023-24/708-11 Dt:20-07-2023 | 4th Call |
| 7 | Development/Beautification of Nagard Spring at Bhat Mohalla Khrew Ward No. 05 Bhat Mohalla Khrew. | 0.17 | 200 | 2% of Adv. Cost | 20 working days | DEE | IDMT Khrew 2023-24 | DULB/PLG/399 of 2023 Dt:19-07-2023 and Auth.No.MC/KH/2023-24/708-11 Dt:20-07-2023 | 4th Call |
| 8 | Development/Beautification of Pathan Sar Nag near Jamia Masjid Khrew Ward No. 04 Bhat Mohalla Khrew. | 0.519 | 200 | 2% of Adv. Cost | 20 working days | DEE | IDMT Khrew 2023-24 | DULB/PLG/399 of 2023 Dt:19-07-2023 and Auth.No.MC/KH/2023-24/708-11 Dt:20-07-2023 | 4th Call |
| 9 | Laying of PVC Pipes at Masjid Gani at Nambialab Pampore | 1.218 | 200/- | 2% of Adv. Cost | 15 Working Days | DEE | UDS Pampore | 18-DCCP of 2023 Dated: 27-05-2023 | 6 th Call |
| 10 | Construction of Lane from Link road to Tasveer Mahal and others at Kadialab Pampore | 3.706 | 200 | 2% of Adv. Cost | 20 working days | DEE | IDMT Pampore (2023-2024) | MCP/23-24/022 Dated: 14-06-2023 | 4th Call |
| 11 | Upgradation of lane and drain at Bagandran chongi at MC Pampore | 3.296 | 200 | 2% of Adv. Cost | 20 working days | DEE | IDMT Pampore (2023-2024) | MCP/23-24/022 Dated: 14-06-2023 | 4th Call |
| 12 | Repairing of lane from H/O Parveena Akhter D/O Late Gh. Rasool Sofi R/O Nambialab Malbagh near Mr. English Academy. | 1.48 | 200/- | 2% of Adv. Cost | 20 working days | DEE | 14 th FC Pampore | MCP/23-24 /018 Dated: 15 /05/2023 | 5 th call (I/C Extns) |
| 13 | Desilting of drain from Lalrag park upto dewatering station Drangabal Pampore and from Kadialab Chowk upto Stadium under Drainage (M.R)Desilting at MC Pampore | 5.00 | 300/- | 2% of Adv. Cost | 10 Working Days | DEE | Grant In Aid - Drainage Sector Pampore | MCP/2022-23/015 of 2023 Dt: 15-03-2023 and Authority No:MCP/2023-24 /178-79 Dt: 24-04-2023 | 8th call (I/C Extns) |
| 14 | Balance work of lane up to H/O Habib Ullah Tral Gon Kocha Tral | 1.413 | 200/- | 2% of Adv. Cost | 15-Working Days | DEE | UDS-Tral | 18-DCCP of 2023 Dated: 27-05-2023 | 8th call (I/C Extns) |
| 15 | Balance work of lane from shop of Gh Hassan Trag to H/O Gh Rasool Trag at Trag Mohalla Tral. | 1.481 | 200/- | 2% of Adv. Cost | 15-Working Days | DEE | UDS-Tral | 18-DCCP of 2023 Dated: 27-05-2023 | 8th call (I/C Extns) |
| 16 | Repairment of shop 38 of shopping plaza/complex of MC Pampore | 1.814 | 200/- | 2% of Adv. Cost | 15-Working Days | DEE | Normal Resources Pampore | MCP/ 2322-023/021. Dated: 20-05-2023. | 5 th Call |

Status of Technical Sanction: Approved. Project Authority: Sr.1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and -Director ULB-Kashmir and Ex. Officer MC Khrew and Sr. 9, 14, 15 -Distt. Dev. Comm Pulwama and Sr.No. 11,12,13,16. Ex. Officer MC Pampore.

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

| | |
|--|--|
| 1. Date of Issue of Tender Notice | 03-10-2023 |
| 2. Bid downloading Start Date | 03-10-2023 from 10:00 A.M |
| 3. Bid submission Start Date | 03-10-2023 from 10:00 A.M |
| 4. Bid Submission End Date | 09-10-2023 up to 04:00 P.M |
| 5. Date & time of opening of Bids (Online) | 10-10-2023 at 10:30 A.M |
| 6. Submission of Performance Security (PS) | Within three (03) days of receipt of LOA. (The First lowest successful bidder has to provide 5% of allotted cost as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and EMD of 2% shall be released after receipt of 5% Performance security.) |

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt as per Annexure - C (Debitted to M.H.0059 PWD) and EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the Executive Engineer R&B Div. Awantipora (The Date of Treasury Challan and EMD should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Div. Awantipora
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.
- EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of the Executive Engineer R&B Div. Awantipora
- The normal deposits (deducted @ 10% from running bills) shall be released after the DLP of the work is over.
- The Contractors are advised to visit the site and to be aware of the conditions for launching at site of work before quoting the rates.
- The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora within three (03) days after the date of receipt of letter of acceptance and shall be released after successful completion of DLP. The Bank Guarantee should be valid for 45 days beyond DLP
- Bid Performance Security shall be released after successful completion of Defective liability period and DLP period shall be Twelve (12) months after completion of work except buildings and Bridges.

| | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Head Draftsman | DIPK-9712-23 DT: 03/10/2023 | Technical Officer | Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora |
|----------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|---|

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Wednesday | 04-10-2023

Unscheduled Power Cuts

The people in many parts of the Valley including in Srinagar are growing increasingly frustrated with unscheduled power cuts that have persisted for several days. Complaints have poured in from various Uptown and Downtown areas, especially in regions where smart meters have been installed. Residents who had been promised uninterrupted power supply are now grappling with multiple power cuts, causing inconveniences in their daily lives.

Residents in Downtown areas have reported major power cuts for weeks. Prolonged outages have disrupted their routines, impacting not only daily work. Hazratbal's outskirt areas have also raised concerns about unscheduled power cuts. One big impact has been on the ongoing wedding season. Frequent power outages are playing spoilsport during the ceremonies, making people rely entirely on the power generators.

Traders in Srinagar have not been immune to this issue either, as many depend on uninterrupted power supply for their businesses. The power cuts are negatively affecting productivity for local businesses.

The Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited has attributed the surge in power cuts to reduced power generation in the region, linking it to lower water levels in the rivers due to decreased precipitation. The Corporation is prioritizing power supply to essential facilities like hospitals, critical installations, metered areas, and industrial estates. Unfortunately, this has led to scheduled load shedding to bridge the demand-supply gap. Metered areas are facing unscheduled power cuts of 5 to 6 hours per day, while non-metered areas endure even longer cuts, up to 9 hours.

Besides, as the temperature drops, there has been an increased demand for electricity, placing further strain on the already limited supply. Power generation within the region has dwindled to a mere 500 MW, far below the increasing demand. As is usual during this season and the winter ahead, the KPDC is working on arranging power supply from outside Kashmir. So, it is expected that the situation will improve in the next couple of days.

Jammu and Kashmir, despite its significant hydro-power potential and its realization in the form of some power projects over the last two decades has always faced a severe power crisis, more so in the cold season. The power deficit in Kashmir alone ranges from 300 to 400 MW, with demand surging to 1500 MW during peak times. However, the available supply falls significantly short, creating a substantial gap between supply and demand. But it is hoped that going forward the administration will take concrete steps to address the growing shortfall. We have now a situation where people are ready to pay for the power consumption even at prevailing higher rates but the administration is failing to meet the demand.

OTHER OPINION

Capturing the monsoon

Beginning April, there were enough indications that the monsoon would be subdued with an El Niño on the horizon. This cyclical warming of the central and eastern Pacific Ocean usually corresponds to a decline in rainfall over India, particularly the north-west. Between 2019 and 2022, the Indian monsoon was significantly impacted by the converse phenomenon – a cooling La Niña – that sometimes is associated with above normal rainfall. By those metrics, the expectations of a normal monsoon in 2023 were muted. However, the experience of the monsoon this year was far from the ordinary. About 9% of the country received 'excess' rainfall with 18% getting 'deficient' and the rest of the country, 'normal' rainfall. While on one hand, August – the second-most important monsoon month – posted a third less than its normal, several States in north India, which were expecting minimal rainfall, were deluged following multiple episodes of record rainfall. July, for instance, saw exceptionally heavy rainfall in Chandigarh, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, resulting in floods and landslides. Several cities were left grappling with serious flooding over several days. Cloudbursts were reported in Himachal Pradesh in August. It is worthwhile to note here that these episodes of intense rain were due to so-called western disturbances that are extra tropical storms from the Mediterranean region and normally not expected to play a major part in the monsoon. Thus, these are fingerprints of the wide-ranging impacts of anthropogenic warming.

At the other end of the spectrum were drought-like conditions in Maharashtra. Extreme water stress was also reported out of Chhattisgarh, Bihar and Karnataka, where in the case of Karnataka, matters came to a head with neighbouring Tamil Nadu over the sharing of water from the Cauvery river. The India Meteorological Department has also forecast a 'normal' north-east monsoon from October to December and 'normal to above-normal rainfall' over large parts of north-west India and south peninsular India. The signs are there of increased rains in several parts of south India. The spatial and temporal variance of the monsoon reiterates the need to invest in more resilient infrastructure that can be an all-weather insurance against the increasingly unpredictable vagaries of the global climate. The pattern in recent years is to improve forecast models that are better able to warn of significant changes in weather a week or two ahead than having approaches that fail to capture the dynamics of the Indian monsoon. More money and expertise should be directed towards this

The Hindu

10th year of Swachh Bharat Mission Open Defecation is History but Unscientific Waste Management Persists

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat



Infact, sanitation campaigns like Total Sanitation Campaign (TSP) was taken up in the past as well, during the Congress led UPA Govt, but this scheme had low budget and didn't address open defecation in India but SBM addressed this issue to a great extent. The waste management which is part of SBM Phase 2 still remains a challenging task for all the local bodies and PRI institutions

PM Modi during his address to the nation from New Delhi's Rajpath on October 2nd 2014 said that clean India would be the best tribute India people could pay to the father of nation Mahatma Gandhi. October 2nd 2014 was the day when Swachh Bharat Mission (Clean India Campaign) was formally launched across India. The campaign was aimed to achieve the vision of a 'Clean India' by 2nd October 2019 which was marked as Gandhi Ji's 150th birth anniversary. A lot has been achieved indeed vis a vis countering open defecation problem but when it comes to scientific waste management, that still remains a big challenge across India. This is a burning issue in Jammu & Kashmir as well and in Kashmir valley the situation remains more demanding as Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) enters 10th year of its launch.

The Swachh Bharat Mission-SBM also called Swachh Bharat Abhiyan-SBA is the most remarkable sanitation campaign initiated by the Government of India under leadership of PM Narendra Modi. Infact, sanitation campaigns like Total Sanitation Campaign -TSP was taken up in the past also during Congress led UPA Govt, but this scheme had low budget and didn't address open defecation in India, but SBM addressed this issue to a great extent. The waste management which is part of SBM Phase 2 still remains a challenging task for all the local bodies and PRI institutions.

Youtubers and SMB

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on completion of 9 years of Swachh Bharat Mission-SBM said that SBM became a big campaign in the last nine years and everyone contributed to it including children who brought an emotional power to it. In his video address at YouTube Fan-fest India PM Modi said, celebrities gave the campaign heights and people in all corners of the country turned it into a mission and YouTubers made cleanliness more cool. He said, but we do not have to stop here. The Prime Minister said, till the time cleanliness does not become India's

identity, the nation will not stop. He said, therefore, cleanliness must be a priority for each citizen of India.

40 Million Toilets in 4 years

In 2019-2020, the Govt of India announced that all the SBM targets had been met. The figures were impressive as than 40 million toilets were built in four years, meaning access to sanitation rose from under 40% in 2014 to nearly 100% in 2020. This success was "formalised" the following year when the annual report from the Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) run by the United Nations (UN) noted a reduction of nearly 50% in the number of people in the world practising open defecation. The better sanitation services in India has brought a great revolution and previously struggling indicators has considerably improved at global level because India being a huge country had a large population that was defecating in the open and that has come down dramatically in the last 7 to 8 years.

Non functional toilets

The UN's Joint Monitoring Programme -JMP had noted that the figures provided by the Govt were a bit less optimistic as Government agencies only measure the presence or absence of toilets while the UN establishes a "ladder of services". Thus a poorly contained or shared latrine or one with an outlet into a waterbody like stream, irrigation canal or a wetland will be categorised as "unimproved" or "limited" sanitation by the JMP. The Governments in states and UTs on the other hand counts it as a toilet even if it is not properly functioning like having being blocked or not having water connectivity or having an outlet in a waterbody. In a Govt High School at village Sani Darwan - Charar e Sharief in district Budgam this summer I noticed that 4 to 5 washrooms had been constructed more than 3 years back but they were non operational due to not being connected to a water pipeline. During the visit of Chairman District Development Council Budgam Nazir Ahmad Khan in June this

year, the female students of this school raised this issue. I was also present on the occasion and seeing this pathetic condition I quickly made a video on it. I uploaded it on social media. The Mission Director Jal Jeevan Mission J&K Dr G N Itoo was kind enough to take cognizance of the matter and within 24 hours the washrooms were functional. On papers these washrooms were shown to be operational and functional for 3 years but the situation on ground was quite different. We have many such cases wherein community toilets are non operational but they are shown to be functional.

Conclusion

The Govt of India has successfully countered open defecation across the country but managing waste is still a big challenge. This is more challenging in Jammu & Kashmir especially. Infact huge funds have been pumped to J&K by Govt of India under SBM Gramin phase 2 and SBM Urban phase 2. At an average Rs 4.50 lakhs are provided to each Gram Panchayat for constructing segregation sheds, compost pits and soakage pits. For 5000 village panchayats across J&K more than Rs 225 Crores has been allocated. In addition, crores of rupees have been spent on purchase of steel trash bins as well. Rs 23.40 lakhs are given to each panchayat halqa every year plus share from 14th FC, DDC and BDC grants. This indicates the deficiency of funds is not at all an issue especially from the last 2 to 3 years. We lack better coordination and work culture in the Rural Development Department. The SWM Consultants at district level were not hired by Govt which is mandatory as per SBM Gramin phase 2 guidelines. The civil engineers in RDD have done the work themselves which isn't showing any results on the ground. Our forests, wetlands, lakes and streams in villages are choked with trash. These things need to be addressed once for all.

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



OBSERVER MAIL

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

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

P.O. Box # 337, GPO, Srinagar-190 001
email: editpage.ko@gmail.com

India's Elderly

According to the United Nations report, "India Ageing Report 2023", the share of the elderly population – people above 60 years – will reach 20.8% of the total population at the national level by 2050, compared with 10.1% in 2021. Increasing longevity and falling fertility have resulted in a dramatic increase in the population of adults aged 60 and above in India, resulting in complex health, social, and economic challenges, to which this diverse and heterogeneous coun-

try must rapidly adapt. Ageing issues being multi-disciplinary in nature, no single-disciplinary focus can give a holistic understanding of the same. Therefore, approaches to understand these issues from a multi and interdisciplinary perspective need to be initiated. Studies on nutritional aspects, impact of migration on the elderly, strengthening community-based institutions, and family support systems should receive greater attention so as to enhance the quality of life of the elderly people. To suc-

cessfully address these challenges, it requires complex and ambitious changes and innovations in health, fiscal and social policies.

Across the world, elderly persons are largely dependent on their family members, but sadly find themselves at the receiving end in the sunset years of their life. In the good olden days elders in families were respected a lot due to their wisdom and wealth of life experience. With changing times, sadly they are seen as millstones and neglected by their own family mem-

bers. We need to reform our approach towards elderly persons by bringing care closer to where they live, and where it costs less to deliver and does more good. Acknowledging seniors' contributions will help to make ours a more age-inclusive society that does not pit one generation against the other. Also, the central government must bring needful policies and programmes to socially protect the elders of our country.

Ranganathan Sivakumar

Many Attributes Of The Prophet

Dua Zahra

NEVER has so much been written by so many on the life of one human being, of any time, than on Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Eminent people from other faiths, too, have showered him with praise.

Thomas Carlyle was not the only one to pay him tribute in his lecture on 'Hero as a Prophet', choosing him over all those mentioned in the Old Testament, from Adam through Abraham, to Moses and Jesus.

Napoleon Bonaparte in Bonaparte et Islam is quoted as saying: "Moses revealed the existence of God to his nation. Jesus to the Roman world, Muhammad [PBUH] to the old continent.... Arabia was idolatrous when, six centuries after Jesus, Muhammad [PBUH] introduced the worship of the God of Abraham, Ishmael, Moses and Jesus.

"The Aryans ... had disturbed the tranquillity of the East by agitating the question of the nature of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. Muhammad [PBUH] declared that there was none but one God who had no father, no son.... I hope the time is not far when I shall be able to unite all the wise and educated men of all the countries and establish a uniform regime based on the principles of the Quran which alone are true and which alone can lead men to happiness."

And this from George Bernard Shaw: "If any religion had the chance of ruling over England, nay Europe, within the next hundred years, it could be Islam. I have always held the religion of Muhammad [PBUH] in high estimation because of its wonderful vitality.



It is the only religion which appears to me to possess that assimilating capacity to the changing phase of existence which can make itself appeal to every age. I have studied him, the wonderful man, and in my opinion far from being an anti-Christ, he must be called the Saviour of Humanity.

"I believe that if a man like him were to assume the [leadership] of the modern world he would succeed in solving

its problems in a way that would bring it the much-needed peace and happiness: I have prophesied about the faith of Muhammad [PBUH] that it would be acceptable to the Europe of tomorrow as it is beginning to be acceptable to the Europe of today."

Muslims everywhere, too, shall pay the Prophet special tribute in this month of Rabi-ul-Awwal to celebrate his birthday. Many will rejoice, as

there will be illuminations, particularly in the mosques. Religious scholars will recount anecdotes from his life, highlighting his character and achievements, and recalling his sayings on different aspects of human life before gatherings of devotees. Naat recitations and milads (sessions singing praise to the Prophet) will be held everywhere.

Scholars will dwell upon his attribute of Rahmatilil Aalemeen ('Mercy for all the worlds' —including those of the birds and beasts, of insects and worms, etc.), because a Muslim is adjoined to not hurt any living being except in the way of God. Scholars will explain what the Prophet said to his followers about how to treat women, how to interact with people of other faiths and how to carry oneself in one's everyday life.

Yet, unfortunately, many will forget the profound and inspired discourses as they leave their respective congregations. A few of those who may be swaying in ecstasy at the mention of the Holy Prophet's name would go back to indulge in sectarian hate and killing.

As Rahmatilil Aalemeen, the Prophet gave protection to Christians through a covenant signed in 628 CE, when a delegation from St Catherine's Monastery visited him seeking his protection. (The monastery, located at the foot of Mount Sinai, is the world's oldest, and a treasure house of rare manuscripts, icons and Christian history.) The covenant's words are as follows:

"This is a message from Muhammad ibn Abdullah, as a covenant to those who adopt Christianity, near and far, we are with them.

"Verily I, the servants, the helpers, and my followers defend them, because Christians are my citizens; and by Allah! I hold out against anything that displeases them.

"No compulsion is to be on them ... Neither are their judges to be removed from their jobs nor their monks from their monasteries.

"No one is to destroy a house of their religion, to damage it, or to carry anything from it to Muslims' houses.

"Should anyone take any of these [belongings], he would spoil God's covenant and disobey His Prophet. Verily, they are my allies and have my secure charter....

"No one is to force them to travel or to oblige them to fight. Muslims are to fight for them.

"If a female Christian is married to a Muslim, it is not to take place without her approval. She is not to be prevented from visiting her church to pray.

"Their churches are to be respected. They are neither to be prevented from repairing them nor [barred] the sacredness of their covenants." "No one of the nation is to disobey the covenant till the Last Day (of Judgment)."

It is important to remember that this covenant was made binding on all Muslims for all times, past, present and future, till the Day of Judgment. How this covenant has come to be violated in some Muslim countries should shame anyone who claims to love or follow the Prophet of Islam.

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

Mawlid: An Opportunity to Learn About Prophet (pbuh)

KO Web Desk

HISTORIANS have studied great personalities such as Moses, Jesus Christ, Buddha, Gandhi, Mother Teresa, Martin Luther King Jr. and many more, but there is one leader still largely unknown to the West who literally changed the course of history: The Prophet Muhammad, a role model and most remarkable man.

Starting Monday, Muslims all around the world began celebrating his birthday for one week. The celebration is known as Milad-un-Nabi in Arabic.

Muslims invite readers to explore the life of a personality who is loved by 2.5 billion people. Muhammad's remarkable life has been carefully preserved and has been subjected to the scrutiny by many historians.

But why does the average American know so little about a man who was so influential and successful? The reasons are prejudice and irrational fears — dating back to the Crusades — plus Islam phobia and propaganda, which has created a mental block against Islam.

Prophet Muhammad is regarded as a great and noble man, a successor to Adam, Abraham, Moses, Noah and Christ. He was the last of the prophets. If one wants to know how Muslims see him, one ought to take a good look at his life and teachings. It would be wrong to judge him by the doings of al Qaida, Taliban or the rulers of the Arab Nations.

Who was Muhammad?

Born in Mecca in the year 570, he was a descendant of Abraham. Orphaned at 6, he was brought up by his grandfather and uncle. He received his first revelation at 40 through the angel Gabriel and continued to receive revelations for 23 years on topics ranging from the



HUMAN HISTORY HAS NEVER SEEN SUCH A TRANSFORMATION OF THE FAITH AND THE CULTURAL OF THE PEOPLE OF ARABIA. And within 100 years and with no high-tech communication technology, Prophet Muhammad had touched the hearts and minds of millions in Africa, Asia and parts of Europe all the way to Russia

oneness of God, life after death, stories of earlier prophets, morality and social justice. All these revelations became collectively known as the Quran.

Prophet Muhammad created a

model government based on justice and human rights. He devised a constitution in which the rights of religious minorities and the rights of women were protected. He established laws protecting trees, animals

and the environment. He encouraged free trade but protected the rights of individuals to forbid usury.

He condemned racism, saying "there is no superiority of an Arab over non-Arab, or a white man over a

black man, except in righteousness." He condemned domestic violence and granted women many rights not dreamed of in Europe until centuries later, including the right to an education, to own property, to reject arranged marriages and to seek divorce.

In the short time of less than one generation, the Prophet Muhammad successfully transformed the vast majority of people from idolatry to strict monotheism, from tribalism to brotherhood, from drunkenness to soberness, from wickedness to piety, from lawlessness to discipline.

Human history has never seen such a transformation of the faith and the cultural of the people of Arabia. And within 100 years and with no high-tech communication technology, Prophet Muhammad had touched the hearts and minds of millions in Africa, Asia and parts of Europe all the way to Russia.

Prophet Muhammad was a religious teacher, a moral guide, a social reformer, a loving father and a devoted husband.

Nineteenth century British historian Thomas Carlyle wrote, "How one man single-handedly could weld tribes and wandering Bedouins into a most powerful and civilized nation in less than two decades." And Michael Hart wrote in his 1978 book, "The 100: A Ranking of the Most Influential Persons in History" —

"My choice of Muhammad to lead the list of the world's most influential persons may surprise so many readers and be questioned by others, but he was the only man in history who was supremely successful on both the religious and secular levels."

On this auspicious occasion of the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad, one should read the biography of a remarkable person who has influenced the life of billions of people over the last 1,400 years.

'New 'Inverse Vaccine' Shows Potential To Treat Multiple Sclerosis, Diabetes'

Press Trust Of India

A new type of "inverse vaccine" has been shown in the lab setting to completely reverse autoimmune diseases like multiple sclerosis and type 1 diabetes, all without shutting down the rest of the immune system, according to a study.

A typical vaccine teaches the human immune system to recognise a virus or bacteria as an enemy that should be attacked.

However, the new vaccine developed by researchers at the University of Chicago's Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering (PME) in the US does just the opposite: it removes the immune system's memo-

ry of one molecule.

While such immune memory erasure would be unwanted for infectious diseases, it can stop autoimmune reactions like those seen in multiple sclerosis, type 1 diabetes, or rheumatoid arthritis, in which the immune system attacks a person's healthy tissues, the researchers said.

The vaccine, described in the journal Nature Biomedical Engineering, takes advantage of how the liver naturally marks molecules from broken-down cells with "do not attack" flags to prevent autoimmune reactions to cells that die by natural processes.

The team coupled an antigen a molecule being attacked by the im-



mune system with a molecule resembling a fragment of an aged cell that the liver would recognise as friend, rather than an enemy.

The team showed how the vac-

cine could successfully stop the autoimmune reaction associated with a multiple-sclerosis-like disease.

"In the past, we showed that we

could use this approach to prevent autoimmunity," said Jeffrey Hubbell, the Eugene Bell Professor in Tissue Engineering and lead author of the new paper.

"But what is so exciting about this work is that we have shown that we can treat diseases like multiple sclerosis after there is already ongoing inflammation, which is more useful in a real-world context," Hubbell said.

Today, autoimmune diseases are generally treated with drugs that broadly shut down the immune system.

"These treatments can be very effective, but you're also blocking the immune responses necessary to fight off infections and so there are a lot of

side effects," said Hubbell.

"If we could treat patients with an inverse vaccine instead, it could be much more specific and lead to fewer side effects," he added.

Initial phase I safety trials of an antigen therapy based on this pre-clinical work have already been carried out in people with celiac disease, an autoimmune disease that is associated with eating wheat, barley and rye, and phase I safety trials are under way in multiple sclerosis, the researchers said.

Those trials are conducted by Swiss pharmaceutical company Anokion SA, which helped fund the new work and which Hubbell co-founded and is a consultant, board member, and equity holder.

Short Bouts Of Activity Like Chores Can Reduce Heart Attack, Premature Death Risks: Lancet

Press Trust of India

Short bouts of incidental activity, the kind done as part of daily living and including household chores, has shown to reduce risk of heart attack, stroke and even premature death, new The Lancet Public Health research shows.

However, duration and intensity of the activity matters, the research team from the UK and Australia, led by the University of Sydney, said, having tracked more than 25,000 UK adults over roughly eight years.

"From walking up the stairs to speedily mopping the floors; in recent years we've come to understand that it is not just structured exercise that is good for our health, but we know very little about how these short bouts of incidental activity translate to health benefits," said the study's senior author Emmanuel Stamatakis, University of Sydney.

The adults studied were aged 42-78, all of whom self-reported no

more accessible to people who are unwilling or unable to take part in structured exercise," said Matthew Ahmadi, Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Sydney, adding that data showed that the length and intensity of these activities mattered.

Further, 'moderately' or 'vigorously' intense activity in these slots were associated with a steep decrease in major cardiac events, like heart attack or stroke, and death by any cause, they found.

Also, those who huffed and puffed for at least 10 seconds per minute, or 15 per cent of one physical activity bout or slot, saw the greatest benefit, they found.

"If you are huffing and puffing and unable to hold a conversation for some of that time (in one bout) you have hit the sweet spot," said Stamatakis.

"The take-home message here is any type of activity is good for your health, but the more effort you put into those daily tasks and the longer you



participation in exercise or sport.

The researchers used wrist-worn wearables data from the UK Biobank and machine learning and analysed their seven-day incidental physical activity patterns down to a 10-second time window.

They then compared these physical activity micropatterns with the participants' health records, by following them for close to eight years to understand the health impacts of the duration and intensity of the physical activity bouts.

The researchers found that nearly all of the entire day's physical activity, 97 per cent, was accumulated in multiple slots, each lasting less than 10 minutes, with longer slots being better.

"The idea of accruing short bouts of moderate to vigorous activity through daily living activities makes physical activity much

"The take-home message here is any type of activity is good for your health, but the more effort you put into those daily tasks and the longer you keep up that energy, the more benefits you are likely to reap"

keep up that energy, the more benefits you are likely to reap," said Stamatakis.

In their study, the authors write, "If verified in future research, our findings could inform future public health messaging targeting the general population raising awareness of potential health benefits from short physical activity bouts in everyday life, especially for adults who do not or cannot exercise."

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER, RAFIABAD.

Advertisement Notice: No.12 of 2023

Dated:- 30.09.2023

Subject: Advertisement for Recruitment of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) and Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) in Anganwadi Centres of POSHAN Project Rafiabad.

Reference: 1. Government Order No 222-JK (SWD) of 2022 Dated: 30.11.2023.
2. Government Order No.103-JK (SWD) of 2023 dated: 28.04.2023.
3. Government Directions vide No. SWD-ICDS/43/2022, Dated 14.08.2023.

Approval has been accorded, vide letter No:-MD/Poshan/Estt/2023/30680-30821, Dated:-27.09.2023 for filling up of vacancies of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) and Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) in Anganwadi Centres of POSHAN Project Rafiabad as per the details given below:

| Sr. No. | Name of Project | Name of Post | No. of Post |
|---------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1 | Rafiabad | AWW | 01 |
| | | AWH | 07 |
| Total | | | 08 |

Applications are invited in the Prescribed Performa in Annexure "A" from the eligible candidates for engagement as Anganwadi Worker and Anganwadi Helper on Honorarium basis for aforementioned posts of Anganwadi Centres. The important dates/details with regard to the posts are as under:

- Date of commencement for submission of application 30.09.2023.
- Last date for submission of applications is 13.10.2023 up to 04.00 PM.
- Annexure B- Name of the Post, Location/Ward, Qualification and Criteria for selection

d) Annexure C- Affidavit

Format of Application

- Name of POSHAN Project _____
- Name of Anganwadi Centre _____
- Post applied for _____
- Name of the Candidate _____
- Father's Name _____
- Husband's Name (If married) _____
- Residence _____
- Ward No. _____ Panchayat Halqa/MC _____
- Address for correspondence _____
- Contact No. _____
- Date of Birth _____
- Age as on 01.01.2023 _____
- Economic Status: NPHH/PHH/AA/AY _____
- Widow/Destitute (If any): _____
- Academic Qualification: _____

Passport Size Photograph signed by Gazetted Officer

| S.No. | Examination passed | Board/University | Year of Passing | Marks Obtained | Total Marks | Percentage |
|-------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------|------------|
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

- Do the applicant belong within the family of retiring AWW/AWH (YES/NO)
 - Document Attached: 1. _____ 2. _____
 - _____ 4. _____ 5. _____
- Signature of the candidate _____
Date: _____

ANNEXURE 'B'

Detail of Vacant Posts (AWW/AWH) along with name and location of AWC.

| Sr.No. | NAME OF ANGANWADI CENTRE | WARD NO. | Panchayat Halqa/ MC-Ward | NAME OF POST | NO. OF POSTS |
|--------|--------------------------|----------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. | Bunpora-A | 08 | Behrampora-B | Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) | 01 |
| 2. | Datrie-A | 4 | Zethan | Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) | 01 |
| 3. | Ganie Mohalla | 7 | Drusoo | Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) | 01 |
| 4. | Shiekh Mohalla | 2 | Yarbugh | Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) | 01 |
| 5. | Mukdam Mohalla | 1 | Yarbugh | Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) | 01 |
| 6. | Sangrampora | 9 | Chanam | Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) | 01 |
| 7. | Naik Mohalla | 1 | Hib-Dangerpora | Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) | 01 |
| S.No. | NAME OF ANGANWADI CENTRE | WARD NO. | Panchayat Halqa/ MC-Ward | NAME OF POST | NO. OF POSTS |
| 1. | Nar Mohalla Saripora | 5 | Saripora | Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) | 01 |

Eligibility:

For Anganwadi Workers

- The candidate must be domicile of the UT of J&K.
- Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 years shall be eligible.
- The candidate should be a resident of the electoral Ward where Anganwadi Centre is situated. Name in the voter list for the ward shall be considered as the proof of residence of the candidate. In case the name of the candidate appears in the voter list along with her parents, then she must provide certificate of being un-married issued by the concerned Tehsildar. Wherever, there is any dispute as to residence for any reason, then a residence proof certifying the ward of residence from the concerned SDM/ACR shall be considered.
- Minimum qualification for Anganwadi Worker shall be 10+ 2 and maximum graduation. In case no 10+2 pass candidate is available in the ward, 10+2 pass candidate from the adjoining ward shall be considered which would require prior approval of Mission Director, Mission POSHAN.
- In case suitable candidate is not available for adjoining ward, candidate from the nearest ward within the Panchayat/MC can be considered subject to the approval of the MD, Mission POSHAN.
- Weightage shall be given on the basis of marks obtained in 10+2 and selection shall be done purely on merit basis and no other criteria to be considered.
- In case of tie in merit of the eligible candidate, candidate with higher age will be preferred.
- Candidate with qualification higher than graduation shall not be considered.

A. Anganwadi Helpers

- The selection of Helper shall be restricted to the electoral ward where Anganwadi Centre is located.
 - Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 years shall be eligible.
 - The candidate must be domicile of the UT of J&K.
 - Minimum qualification for Anganwadi Helper shall be matriculation.
 - In case no matriculate candidate available in the ward, candidates with qualification not less than 8th standard shall be considered.
 - The committee shall select the (Anganwadi Helper) amongst eligible applicants, a married women on the basis of marks obtained in the class 10th. However, in rarest of rare cases where selection committee finds a widow headed household with no income source or a completely destitute lady with zero source of income, in such cases preference may be given, if other things are equal. In case no married candidate is available, unmarried candidate may be considered.
- B. In case eligible candidate is available within the family of retiring AWW/AWH, the said candidate shall qualify for additional two percent points.

Document Verification

- The candidate who is shortlisted for document verification will be required to appear for Document Verification along-with the original documents as well as self-attested Photostat copy of each document as per the Advertisement Notification. The candidate must be in possession of the prescribed academic qualification and other document like Domicile Certificate, on or before the last date of submission of application form.
 - Marks sheet(s)/Diploma/Degree of the qualification prescribed for the post as per Advertisement Notification.
 - Date of Birth/Matriculate Certificate.
 - Domicile Certificate.
 - Un-married Certificate (where required)
- Candidates have to bring two passport size recent colour photographs and one original Photo ID proof. Photo ID Proof can be:
 - Aadhar Card
 - Voter ID card.
- The candidate who is supposed to furnish various certificates issued by or before the prescribed cut-off date, shall be required to produce them at the time of Document Verification or as may be sought by the Committee; in case of failure, the committee shall take necessary decision which shall be final.

ANNEXURE C

All applicants to submit affidavit stating following facts:

- All Documents submitted are correct, without any mismatch, scanning, duplicate or fallacious in nature. If found incorrect or in any of the above stated situation the candidature of deponent may be cancelled and liable to action under law.
- Maximum qualification is Graduation for vacancy of Anganwadi worker and Class X for and this is as per facts and onus of proving it to be true lies with the deponent.
- The deponent has read the HR policy no. 222-JK(SWD) of 2022 dated: 30.11.2022 and is well versed with all salient features of the policy and shall be applicable to the deponent in case of selection as Anganwadi worker/ Anganwadi Helper.

SD/=
DIPK-9739/23
dated: 03-10-2023
No.:-CDPO/POSHAN/HR/2023/ 1006-1018

Child Development Project Officer
POSHAN Project Rafiabad

Indian Economy To Grow At 6.3% In FY24: World Bank

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI/ WASHINGTON: The World Bank on Tuesday retained India's growth forecast at 6.3 per cent for current financial year on the back of robust services activities despite global headwinds.

According to a World Bank report released on Tuesday, India continues to show resilience against the backdrop of a challenging global environment.

In India, which accounts for the bulk of South Asia region, growth is expected to remain robust at 6.3 per cent in 2023-24, India Development Update of the World Bank said.

The World Bank had projected 6.3 per cent GDP growth in its April report as well. India recorded 7.2 per cent growth in 2022-23.

Last month, Asian Development Bank (ADB) marginally lowered India's growth forecast to 6.3 per cent for current financial year.

As per RBI's latest forecast, the Indian economy would grow at 6.5 per cent in 2023-24.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in its latest report upped the GDP growth projection for India to 6.3 per cent from the previous estimate of 6 per cent.

While global rating agency Fitch retained India's growth forecast at 6.3 per cent, S&P



Global Market Intelligence raised it to 6.6 per cent from the earlier projection of 5.9 per cent.

Sharing sectoral growth projections, the World Bank report said, the agriculture sector is expected to clock a growth of 3.5 per cent, industry 5.7 per cent and services 7.4 per cent during 2023-24. At the same time, investment growth is projected to remain robust at 8.9 per cent.

"An adverse global environment will continue to pose challenges in the short term. Tapping public spending that crowds in more private investments will create more favourable conditions for India to seize global opportunities in the future and thus achieve higher growth," said Augustine Tano Kouame, World Bank's Country Director in India.

On inflation, the report said, it is expected to decrease gradually as food prices normalise and government measures help increase the supply of key commodities.

Retail inflation is expected to remain elevated at 5.9 per cent during the year, it said.

Chief Secretary Chairs 11th UT-Level Bankers' Committee Meeting

- ▶ Says J&K needs to be at par with National Average in banking sector performance parameters.
- ▶ Directed banks to work in tandem with line departments of the Government to saturate self-employment in J&K.



Observer New Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta Tuesday said that all the banks in association with line departments need to work in tandem to ensure J&K UT is at par with National Average in the parameters that define performance in the banking sector.

"We should strive hard for J&K to be ranked number one in the country," Mehta said while chairing 11th meeting of Union Territory Level Bankers' Committee (UTLBC) held at SKICC, Srinagar.

MD & CEO J&K Bank- Conventor J&K UTLBC- Baldev Prakash, Principal Secretary Housing & Urban Development Prashant Goyal, Principal Secretary, Finance Santosh D. Vaidya, Commissioner Secretaries to Government, General Manager RBI, Sandeep Mittal, General Manager NABARD Sandeep Sharma and other senior functionaries of the Government, RBI, NABARD, Banks, departmental Heads, insurance companies and Lead District Managers

were present on the occasion.

While taking review of employment generation program Swarozgar Utsav- which Chief Secretary launched during the 10th meeting of J&K UTLBC- Dr. Mehta urged upon the banks to put in place a well drilled mechanism for saturating self-employment in J&K.

"By generating employment through Swarozgar Utsav and other like campaigns we are doing a great service to our young generation, UT and nation in general. Seeing the potential and requirement in J&K, there should be no reason not to achieve 100% targets set under this program," he said.

J&K at the moment is doing exceptionally well in major sectors like Health, Rural Development but needs to do more to saturate self-employment, he said.

"Bringing unemployment down is our main motive. Banks need to come forward and provide financial assistance to the unemployed youth who genuinely need it for achieving the gainful employment. We need to show

empathy towards the unemployed youth in guiding them towards the path of prosperity and self-sufficiency through various credit facilities tailored in accordance to their entrepreneurial aspirations, he stated

This is where Banks in coordination with line departments have a huge role to play by creating employment generation opportunities for our youth. I hope biggest takeaway from this meeting is that all of us pledge to contribute our bit to bring down unemployment," he said.

Exhorting upon Banks and Revenue Department to put up a mechanism for greater lending under the SVAMITVA scheme Dr. Mehta said, "SVAMITVA scheme was launched by Government of India with aim to enable rural people to avail loans and other financial benefits against their property cards issued by Revenue Department. It is imperative for Banks to devise schemes and strategies in association with Revenue Department to make SVAMITVA scheme a success."



CAIT Files Complaint Against Flipkart, Amitabh Bachchan For 'Misleading' Ad

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Traders' body CAIT has filed a complaint with the Ministry of Consumer Affairs against a Flipkart advertisement featuring Bollywood star Amitabh Bachchan on the upcoming Big Billion Days sale, terming the advertisement as "misleading".

The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) in its complaint to the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) termed the advertisement "misleading" and against the country's small retailers. It has also sought withdrawal of the advertisement, according to a statement.

CAIT demanded that a penalty be imposed on Flipkart as per relevant provisions of the Consumer Protection Act for "false or misleading advertisement" and imposition of a Rs 10 lakh fine on Bachchan.

An email sent to Flipkart did

not elicit a response. Bachchan could not be contacted for comments.

"As per the definition under Section 2(47), Flipkart, acting through Amitabh Bachchan (endorser), has misled the public regarding the price at which mobile phones are being made available by sellers/suppliers in the smartphone market of India.

"This has the effect of disparaging the goods, services or trade of another person," CAIT Secretary General Praveen Khandelwal said in the complaint.

Further, he said as per rule 4 of the Guidelines for Prevention of Misleading Advertisements and Endorsements for Misleading Advertisements, 2022, the advertisement by Flipkart "is misleading because it doesn't contain truthful and honest representation and is wholly incorrect, malicious, misleading and manipulative".

Hyundai Motor India Says All Its Vehicles To Come With 6 Airbags

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Hyundai Motor India on Tuesday said all its models in the country would now come with six airbags as standard.

The automaker also announced that it has decided for voluntary participation in the recently introduced Bharat NCAP with 3 models to begin with, and more models to follow.

Under the Bharat NCAP programme, car manufacturers can voluntarily offer their vehicles tested as per the Automotive Industry Standard (AIS) 197.

Based on the performance of the car in the tests, the vehicle will be awarded star ratings on a scale of 0-5, for adult occupants (AOP) and child occupants (COP).

Potential car customers can refer to these star ratings to compare the safety standards of different vehicles and accordingly make their purchase decision.



The carmaker also announced that its mid sized sedan Verna has received a five-star rating in adult and child occupant protection by Global NCAP. Hyundai Motor India MD & CEO Unsoo Kim said safety for all is the company's utmost priority.

"We have been benchmark creators in standardisation of vehicle safety features. Now, we are elated to announce the standardisation of six airbags across all models and all variants," he added.

Hyundai Motor India COO Tarun Garg said with rising road network and increase in speed limits it is natural to upgrade the cars.

Sebi To Introduce Centralised Mechanism For Verification In Case Of Demise Of Investors

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Capital markets regulator Sebi on Tuesday announced a centralised mechanism for reporting and verification through the KYC Registration Agency in case of the demise of an investor.

Also, the regulator has put in place operational norms, including the obligations of regulated entities and registered intermediaries that have interfaces with investors or account holders who are natural persons.

The new framework will come into effect from January 1, 2024, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in a circular.

Sebi said that listed companies wishing to provide beneficial access to such a centralized mechanism to their investors holding securities in physical form can establish connectivity with KRA through their RTAs.

After receiving intimation about the demise of an investor, the concerned intermediary will have to obtain the death certificate along with

the PAN from the notifier or nominee and verify the death certificate through online or offline mode.

If the concerned intermediary, after receiving information about the demise of the investor from the notifier or nominee, is not in a position to obtain the death certificate, then it will have to inform the nominee that the KYC status of the deceased investor has been flagged off as "On Hold" and require them to furnish the death certificate of the concerned investor.

India's Manufacturing Sector Activity Falls To 5-Month Low In Sep: PMI

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Manufacturing activities in India fell to a five-month low in September as new orders rose at a softer pace, which tempered production growth, a monthly survey said on Tuesday.

The seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) fell to 57.5 in September, down from 58.6 in August -- the lowest in five months.

The September PMI data pointed to an improvement in overall operating conditions for the 27th straight month. In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion while a score below 50 indicates contraction.

"India's manufacturing industry showed mild signs of a slowdown in September, primarily due to a softer increase in new orders which tempered production growth.



"Nevertheless, both demand and output saw significant upticks, and firms also noted gains in new business from clients across Asia, Europe, North America and the Middle East," said Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at S&P Global Market Intelligence.

On the inflation front, supply-chain conditions were broadly stable, which helped drag down the rate of input price inflation to its weakest in over three years, the survey said. However, greater labour costs, upbeat business confidence and buoyant demand facilitated a sharp increase in output charges.

Blue Dart Express Announces 9.6% Hike In Shipment Prices From 2024

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Blue Dart Express Limited on Tuesday announced an increase in shipment prices effective from January 1, saying the average hike will be 9.6 per cent as compared to the current prices, depending on the shipping profile.

The company in a statement said customers signing up from October 1 to December 31, 2023 will not be impacted by the price increase. It said Blue Dart reviews and adjusts its



pricing annually. This adjustment considers a multitude of factors including the current mac-

roeconomic factors, geopolitical tensions, tighter monetary and fiscal policies, inflationary pres-

ures, and exchange rate fluctuations, all of which impact the cost structure, the company added.

Elaborating on the announcement, Blue Dart Managing Director Balfour Manuel said: "Our annual rate adjustment primarily aligns with inflation and empowers us to maintain service excellence while addressing rising costs." Blue Dart Express Limited, air and integrated transportation and distribution express logistics company, is a part of the DHL Group.

Paytm Foundation Donates 300 LPM Oxygen Plant To GMC Kathua

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: One97 Communications Limited that owns the brand Paytm, India's leading payments and financial services company and the pioneer of QR and mobile payments, along with Paytm Foundation, has donated an oxygen plant, which has a capacity of producing 300 liters of oxygen per minute (LPM), to Government Medical College of Kathua in Jammu & Kashmir.

The oxygen plant was formally inaugurated by Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Science & Technology, MOS, PMD, Personnel Public Grievances, Atomic Energy & Space. This will be used for the treatment of patients who require intensive care in Associated Hospital, Government Medical College of Kathua. The event was also graced by Bhupinder Kumar, Sec-



retary to the Government Health & Medical Education Department, and Rakesh Minhas, D.C., Kathua, Jammu & Kashmir.

Paytm Foundation Spokesperson said, "We aim to provide pressure swing adsorption (PSA) plant to Government Medical College in Kathua, J&K, enabling it to become self-sufficient at all levels of the healthcare system, including surgery, trauma, heart failure, asthma, pneumonia, and maternity and child care, where oxygen is an important medication

for treatment. This can significantly help in ensuring access to critical medical resources to people."

About Paytm Foundation
Paytm Foundation is a public charitable trust established for philanthropic purposes. The Foundation aims to promote social and economic empowerment of people and communities, and contribute towards environmental sustainability, and inclusion by intervening in the areas of education, environmental sustainability, skills development, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), and disaster response.

Paytm Foundation has won several accolades, particularly, for its Covid-19 response work, such as the Prestigious Mahatma Award for COVID-19 Humanitarian Effort and ASSOCHAM CSR & Sustainability Award 2021 for Excellence in Community Support for COVID Relief.

SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER LEFT RIVER WORKS DIVISION

Ph. No. 0194-2458118 Email: lrwsmc@gmail.com

FR SHORT TERM TWO BID COVER TENDER NOTICE

INVITING E-TENDERS

Dated: 27-Sep-2023

NIET NO: 22 e-Tendering/2023-24

For and on behalf of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation, e-tenders are invited on Percentage Basis from approved and eligible Contractors for the following work:-

| S.No. | Name of work | Est. Cost (In Lacs) | Cost of Tender Document (Non-refundable) | Earnest Money (CDR) | Time of Completion in days/ Weeks | Class of Contractor (Civil) | Technical Sanction/ Dated | Head of Account |
|-------|--|---------------------|--|---------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. | Construction of Slow Motion Sequencing Architectural Fountain at Center Island, Batamaloo Chowk, Srinagar | Rs. 15.50 | Rs. 800/- | Rs. 31000/- | 25days strictly | BEE/ CEE | 44 of 2023 dated 27-09-2023 | NCAP 2023-24 |
| 2. | Construction for Water Feature (Fountain) at Public Park, Pantha Chowk, Srinagar | Rs. 14.09 | Rs. 600/- | Rs. 28180/- | 25days strictly | BEE/ CEE/ DEE | 47 of 2023 dated 27-09-2023 | NCAP 2023-24 |
| 3. | Construction for Architectural Fountain at Public Park, Karan Nagar, Srinagar | Rs. 15.47 | Rs. 800/- | Rs. 30940/- | 25days strictly | BEE/ CEE | 45 of 2023 dated 27-09-2023 | NCAP 2023-24 |
| 4. | Architectural Foam Bubbler & Cascading Fountain, Landscaping & Beautification of Splitter Islands at Hyderpora Chowk, Srinagar | Rs. 18.30 | Rs. 800/- | Rs. 36660/- | 25days strictly | BEE/ CEE | 43 of 2023 dated 27-09-2023 | NCAP 2023-24 |

Accord of Administrative Approval:

Order No. 1109 of 2023 dated 06.09.2023.

Other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

CRITICAL DATE SHEET

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Publish date | 27-09-2023 |
| 2 | Document download date | 28-09-2023 06:00 PM To 04-10-2023 04:00 PM |
| 3 | Bid submission/uploading date | 28-09-2023 06:00 PM To 04-10-2023 04:00 PM |
| 4 | Technical Bid Opening date | 05-10-2023 11:00 AM |
| 5 | Financial Bid Opening date | To be intimated. |

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- The Earnest Money (EMD) in respect of the advertised Cost of the work should be 2% in shape CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer LRWD SMC. EMD 2% of the successful bidder will be discharged when the bidder has signed the Agreement & furnished the required Performance Security.
- The contractor shall have to furnish the performance security @ 3% in shape CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer LRWD SMC of the value of Advertised Cost valid till DLP before issuance of LOA / LOI. In case of L-1 failing to provide performance security @ 3% for the work within 7 days after being notified, his bid shall be cancelled and work shall be executed through other sources U/R at the risk, cost and responsibility of L1.
- In case of Holidays/office happens to be closed on the date of opening of bids, Bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- The intending tenderer/bidder should attach sales tax clearance certificate with updated validation without which no tenders/bids will be entertained.
- The Technical bid shall be opened online in the Office of Executive Engineer LRWD, SMC at Old Funds office Building Karan Nagar near National School Municipal Park on 05-10-2023 11:00 AM.
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Bank Receipt/ e- Challan pledged in favour of Chief Accounts Officer SMC in the Municipal Account No: 0216010200000007 payable at J&K Bank Branch. Scanned copy of the same with mention of NIET No. & Serial no. to be uploaded along with all other documents. The bidder shall be barred / black list as per law for tender fee in form of Bank Receipt, tender fee receipt and other relevant documents including Bid Security (CDR/FDR) duly filled up, if found with any ambiguity or untested, correction / overwriting for any work, such tender / bid shall be considered as invalid bid and shall be out rightly rejected and action U/R shall be initiated. The Bid shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the Bid due date.

No.SMC/EELRW/1168-1177

Dated: 27/Sep/2023.

DIPK-NB-3471-23

DT: 03/10/2023

Sd/-
Er. Ishfaq Ahmad Shah,
Executive Engineer,
Left River Works Division,
Srinagar Municipal Corporation.

Scientists Agostini, Krausz And L'Huillier Win 2023 Nobel Prize In Physics

Reuters

Stockholm: Scientists Pierre Agostini, Ferenc Krausz and Anne L'Huillier won the 2023 Nobel Prize in Physics for "experimental methods that generate attosecond pulses of light for the study of electron dynamics in matter", the award-giving body said on Tuesday.

The prize, which was raised this year to 11 million Swedish crowns (about \$1 million), is awarded by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

"The laureates' experiments have produced pulses of light so short that they are measured in attoseconds, thus demonstrating that these pulses can be used to

provide images of processes inside atoms and molecules," the award-giving body said in a statement.

Physics is the second Nobel to be awarded this week after Hungarian scientist Katalin Kariko and U.S. colleague Drew Weissman won the medicine prize for making mRNA molecule discoveries that paved the way for COVID-19 vaccines.

Created in the will of dynamite inventor and businessman Alfred Nobel, the prizes for achievements in science, literature and peace have been awarded since 1901 with a few interruptions, becoming the arguably highest honour for scientists everywhere.

While the award for peace can hog the limelight, the physics

prize has likewise often taken centre stage with winners such as Albert Einstein and awards for science that has fundamentally changed how we see the world.

Last year, Alain Aspect, John Clauser and Anton Zeilinger won the prize for work on quantum entanglement, where two particles are linked regardless of the space between them, something that unsettled Einstein himself who once referred to it as "spooky action at a distance".

Announced on consecutive weekdays in early October, the physics prize announcement will be followed by ones for chemistry, literature, peace and economics, the latter a later addition to the original line-up.

Delhi Police Seals NewsClick Office, Arrests Founder

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Delhi Police on Tuesday arrested NewsClick founder Prabir Purkayastha and HR head Amit Chakravarty after searching more than 30 locations and questioning several journalists in a case filed under the anti-terror law UAPA following allegations the portal received money for pro-China propaganda.

Police sealed NewsClick's office in Delhi, officials said, adding 46 suspects were questioned and digital devices, including laptops and mobile phones, and documents were taken away for examination.

They said 37 male suspects were questioned at the office of

Delhi Police Special Cell, while nine female suspects were quizzed at their respective places of stay.

Two accused — portal founder and editor-in-chief Prabir Purkayastha and Human Resources head Amit Chakravarty — have been arrested, Delhi Police spokesperson Suman Nalwa said.

The searches began early in the morning and were concentrated in Delhi-NCR. Earlier in the day, portal founder and editor-in-chief Purkayastha was taken to the Special Cell's office for questioning.

Among those questioned were journalists Urmilsh, Aunindyo Chakravarty, Abhisar Sharma, Paranjy Guha

Thakurta as well as historian Sohail Hashmi, satirist Sanjay Rajoura and D Raghunandan of the Centre for Technology & Development.

After being questioned for over six hours, they were allowed to go.

"After a day long interrogation by Delhi special cell, I am back home. Each and every question posed will be answered. Nothing to fear. And I will keep questioning people in power and particularly those who are afraid of simple questions. Not backing down at any cost," Abhisar Sharma posted on X.

Addressing a gathering in Bhubaneswar, Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said

probe agencies in the country are independent and work in accordance with law.

"... If someone has done something wrong, probe agencies work on it... Nowhere it is written that if you have got money in an illegal manner or done something objectionable, then probe agencies cannot investigate that," Thakur said.

Police sources said investigators posed a list of 25 questions on various issues, including their foreign travels, protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act in Shaheen Bagh as well as the farmers' agitation.

Those being questioned have been divided into three categories, A, B and C, sources said, but did not divulge details on this.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Kashmir Valley

it is not his department's job or mandate to stop people doing so. "Our job is to ensure that farmers get help improving the quality of crops and the yield. We are doing that job diligently," he said and added that there are other departments which are authorised to allow or disallow paddy land conversion into other land uses.

The shrinkage of paddy land has been a continuous worry for the stakeholders in Kashmir. In a letter to the government in March 2016, the then director of agriculture, Kashmir, had reported that "due to the haphazard land conversion, the agricultural land has considerably shrunk as per door to door surveys conducted by the field workers of this [agriculture] Department."

Researchers at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agriculture and Technology (SKUAST) also corroborate that paddy land is shrinking in Kashmir and opine that it is because of the technological advances in recent years that the drastic decline in land availability appears not that threatening.

"Paddy land is indeed shrinking across Kashmir, mostly because of conversion of paddy land into orchards. But, the technology has made it possible to get far greater produce from agricultural land than we used to get earlier. Essentially, we now get a good rice production using least resources," said Farhat Shaheen, an agricultural economist at SKUAST.

For example, he said that earlier it would take 10 hectares to get 10 metric tonnes of rice, but now technology and the extension programmes have made it possible to get as much rice over just one hectare of land. "Our breeders at SKUAST have developed SR4, a very high yielding variety of rice which has brought a revolution in rice production in the Kashmir valley thanks to popularization of this variety by our university and the agriculture department," Shaheen told Kashmir Observer.

He said that these days, Kashmir is witnessing vertical growth in rice cultivation because of utilization of resource-efficient technology and our research and development institutions. "Having said that, it is a sad reality that we are losing agricultural land to built-up areas. I hope this trend stops very soon so that we are able to make good use of our land," he said and added that it is not only about rice cultivation, "we can even grow vegetables on a far greater scale than we do currently if land resources are utilized properly."

Because of the ongoing rice harvesting season, farmers can also be found discussing issues including declining paddy land. Abdul Rashid, a farmer in north Kashmir's Nutanusa village has heard on radio that the central government has imposed a ban on rice exports from India. This, he says, was done because the government thought there had to be enough supplies of rice available to the people across the country before exporting it to other countries.

Rashid is not off the mark. The ban was exactly imposed by the central government to ensure enough stocks of rice are available within the country for keeping prices under control. Also, in December last year, the central government announced that it will provide free food grains to about 81.35 crore (813 million) beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) for one year starting from January 1, 2023 for which more than two lakh crore rupees will be spent as food subsidy.

On July 20, the union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution said that it had imposed a ban on export of non-basmati white rice "in order to ensure adequate availability of Non-Basmati White Rice in the Indian market and to allay the rise in prices in the domestic market, Government of India has amended the Export Policy of [non-basmati white rice] from 'Free with export duty of 20%' to 'Prohibited' with immediate effect."

An intelligent and knowledgeable farmer, 56-year-old Rashid says that the rice export ban has an important message for farmers. "Farmers

do not only hold the key for food security, but can also determine, with their hard work in farms, how markets behave," Rashid told Kashmir Observer as he and other farmers sat for the tea-break while harvesting rice. Rice harvesting is currently going on across Kashmir with entrancing scenes of farmers reaping the rewards of their months-long hard work.

"But, it is so tragic that we are wasting our land by going for a construction spree rather than seeking to improve upon our agricultural production," Rashid said. "We have to understand that agriculture is our backbone both in terms of food and livelihoods as it provides some sort of livelihood to the majority of households in our valley," Rashid went on to say. Ghulam Hassan, another farmer in the group who was curious to chip in while Rashid was making his point, said rather sarcastically: "For us Kashmiris, it hardly matters whether our local rice production survives or not, we should have large houses and large roads even at the cost of agricultural land."

Hassan said that he has witnessed people selling off their small parcels of agricultural land and using that money for setting up grocery shops and Tata sumos (passenger cars are mostly referred to as Tata sumos in local parlance). "I also witness many of those people now staying idle as we can't have too many passenger cars and grocery shops in small villages with all of them making money," he said.

According to another farmer, Ghulam Rasool, it is not only the fault of common people, successive governments are also responsible for not doing enough for protecting the agricultural land. "If you go to any village or town, you can see people constructing houses or other structures wherever they wish. On paper, there has been a ban on constructing agricultural land, but the fact remains that the ban has not helped protecting the land," Rasool said.

Rashid interrupted him and observed that whatever has happened so far has done a lot of damage, but now it needs to be stopped. According to him, the government should seriously think of making a housing policy for each and every village in Kashmir. "As long as a proper policy is not in place, people are not going to stop constructing agricultural land. Most of them do it with the plausible argument that their families are expanding which compels them to use their precious farmland for housing. But, my question is how long?"

Farmers in other parts of Kashmir narrate similar tales of built-up areas steadily stretching while more and more agricultural land is rapidly coming under housing. "Twenty years back, there were large swathes of agricultural land separating our town from Srinagar, but now, the two towns have joined with buildings and houses built on the agricultural land in these years," said a farmer who lives near Ganderbal town.

Kashmir Observer spoke with farmers in villages near Srinagar city and most of them talked about how farmlands are shrinking giving way to built-up areas. They said that they often hear lorries carrying land-filling material buzzing around their villages. "It has been happening for years and has entirely changed our surroundings, which are now in total contrast to when we were young," said Abdul Samad, an elderly villager.

In global agricultural development discourse, "small is good" is a common refrain and small farmers anywhere in the world are considered very crucial for the global food supply chain. According to the World Economic Forum, the 600 million smallholder farmers around the world working on less than two hectares of land, are estimated to produce 28-31% of total crop production and 30-34% of food supply on 24% of gross agricultural area.

"Our over-reliance on smallholder farmers to feed our growing population cannot be overstated... the truth is that no-one has food security until everyone has food security, and the secret to achieving the levels of

supply and storage required to feed the planet lies in policymaking and interventions on the ground that empower, rather than entangle, smallholder farmers worldwide," says a policy paper of World Economic Forum. Small and smart farmers like Rashid understand it, but need the institutional support for helping all the regions of the world to attain food security.

Kargil All Set

been put in place," he added. The Model Code of Conduct (MCC) was enforced on the 7th of September. Flying squads were deployed in all constituencies to keep a check on everything, he said.

For the first time, the official said EVMs will be used in LAHDC elections. "It is an M2-type machine and there is a separate rule for conducting Hill Council elections. We have sought permission from ECI for everything to be used here. The machine is completely safe and no external device can be connected to it. There shall be no doubt about it and no modification can be done to the machine," the official said.

The official further said that Micro observers have also been deployed in different constituencies for the first time.

"Strong room shall remain under CCTV surveillance. We are committed to ensuring transparent elections. Sufficient security arrangements have been made," the official said.

The official further said that Polling employees along with EVMs and other statutory materials assisted by security personnel were dispatched towards their polling Stations.

Notably, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) is politically significant for all parties given elections are happening in Kargil for the first time since Article 370 was abrogated in August 2019. Earlier, the council was headed by a National Conference associate Feroz Khan.

NC and Congress have entered into a pre-and post-poll alliance aimed at keeping BJP away from power. AAP is also contesting for the first time in Kargil—(KNO)

2 Soldiers Injured

Two were injured, a senior police officer told PTI. He said the injured have been hospitalised and their condition is stable.

Two terrorists are believed to be inside the cordoned area, the officials said, adding that reinforcements have been rushed to plug all possible escape routes.

A defence spokesperson said the joint operation was launched in the general area in Kalakote and technology is being used to monitor the terrorists' movements.

An intense operation is underway, he added.

The ADGP has rushed to the spot, the officials said, adding that he himself is monitoring the operation, along with top Army and range officers.

Power Crisis

Asked about the present electricity situation, the Chief Engineer, KPDC, said that the low precipitation in the previous months has led to the reduction in discharge of water level in the water bodies, which simultaneously hit the power generation at major power houses as well.

"We are on it and we expect the issue to be resolved within a few days," he said.

Time Has Come

LG lauded the school for its immense contribution in providing quality education to girls from poor sections of the society since its establishment in 1910.

"Ancient India was the centre of learning. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the time has come to reclaim the position of Vishwa Guru," he said.

"Learning in schools should foster educational excellence, equal access to build knowledge in society and prepare students for global competitiveness," he added.

The LG commended the role of the Veena Chandhok, Chairperson of

Devki Arya Putri Pathshala, Principal and teachers in guiding the growth of the century-old educational institution.

"Society should also come forward and contribute to such virtuous endeavours and create a suitable environment for students to develop their full potential, talents, and achieve their life goals," he said.

Veena Chandhok, Chairperson, Devki Arya Putri Pathshala shared the journey and achievements of the school over the past 112 years.

Performance by Santoor Maestro Abhay Sopori was one of the key highlights of the event besides the soulful prayers and display of martial arts by the school students.

Flags Off All-

resilience and strength of Nari Shakti.

"Yashasvini, women bike expedition by Veeranganas of CRPF, is symbol of resilience and strength of Nari Shakti. The CRPF's Veeranganas have shown unparalleled bravery, determination & courage in many difficult situations while protecting the integrity & sovereignty of the nation," he said.

The J-K LG said the bike expedition symbolises the sacrifices of women and their self-confidence. Today, they are achieving milestones in different fields with their grit, determination and dedication, he said.

The LG said empowering women and giving them their full rights is a commitment and the topmost priority of the J&K Administration. "Our daughters are scripting success in academics, research, innovation and business sector to fulfil the dream of an aspirational society."

"Nari Shakti is playing a crucial role in the developmental journey of J&K UT and they are also making immense contribution for Viksit Bharat. It is Nari Shakti that will ensure human dignity and social equality in the future," Sinha said.

The CRPF officials said the rally presented a perfect example of women power.

"Today from Srinagar, we will go to Kevedia, Ekta Nagar. Usually, we see girls are not allowed by parents to ride bike. But we got an opportunity and we will take full benefit of this. We enjoy the ride not thinking this as a duty. We enjoy it. Some girls in this rally are fresh riders," CRPF Deputy Commandant Tara Yadav, who is also participating in the event, told PTI.

She said the situation has now changed and the CRPF we trained those women who rode bicycles and scooters.

"We are thankful to higher authorities for providing this opportunity. We will cover 2,216 km through 15 states in this expedition," Deputy Commandant Yadav said.

Sunita Rani, who is participating in a bike rally first time ever, said she was very happy and excited. "Earlier, girls were not allowed to venture out, but after we joined the CRPF, we do every task what we didn't do before as civilians. We got a chance to prove ourselves."

Another participant, Ritu, said such events motivate other women as well.

"I am very much excited about this rally. Earlier, we saw only boys riding the bikes and we craved that. But now we got a chance to ride the Enfields. We are no less than boys," she said.

Ruheena Sultana said she was happy as she never imagined she would be doing such adventure. "We are feeling proud."

Srinagar Sector Inspector General (CRPF) Ajay Kumar Yadav said the bike rally is an important part of the all-women bike expedition and a perfect example of women power. "Through this we pass the message to the common people that this is the time of women and women empowerment."

He said the CRPF women personnel were taking part in every task and walk shoulder to shoulder with men. "Whether we talk about operations, patrolling, road opening parties, etc, they take part in everything. They take part in anti-militancy operations, security for jails, they are part of us in every field," Yadav said.

The aim of holding these events is to boost the morale of the women, he added.

He said the environment in the city was peaceful.

"Today, you are standing at Lal Chowk with a large gathering of people in a peaceful environment," he said.

No Terrorism

the force in any category."

About the bike rally, he said that the event is a sign of women empowerment and it sends a message that women can achieve anything they wish. "This is a sign of women empowerment," he said—(KNO)

Dal Lake Loses

compressor, weighted air lines, and submerged diffuser assembly that makes up the conventional system. On the lake's bottom, these diffusers are resting in one or more sites. This will certainly enhance water quality and prevent red algal from reoccurring," he added.

Manzoor Ahmad, a Dal dweller, blamed the Lakes Conservation Management Authority (LCMA) for the mess, alleging that the agency never took the problems with delicate nature seriously, thus endangering the beautiful water body.

"First of all, we need to figure out who is poisoning Dal Lake—Dal residents or hotel owners along Boulevard Road. The same is seen from coasts where red algal has surfaced, and those who reside in Dal Lake cannot be its killers, he added.

Ajaz Rasool, however, said that red algal blooms occur in the summer and slow down in the winter when the daytime temperature falls below normal.

"Red algal resurfaced first in 1990 and then in the year 2018 again after the diffused aeration system was removed. See the more you go with dweeding, the more it affects the lake bed. Apart from maintaining cleanliness, I think aeration is the only weapon to combat algae bloom in Dal Lake," he added.

Chairman of the Nigeen Lake Conservation Organization (NICO), Manzoor Ahmad Wangnoo said that Pollution in Dal Lake is the outcome of human activity. He also claimed that problems like red algal blooms will persist as long as Dal Lake is contaminated.

"Dal Lake must be cleaned from one end to another for the water to flow smoothly and to significantly lessen the risks of red algae in the future," Wangnoo said.

"I believe that only people are to be blamed for the problem being instrumental in continuously poisoning the water body. You can see that human interference has caused springs and rivulets to dry up," he added.

Vice-Chairman Lakes Conservation Management Authority (LCMA), Bashir Ahmad Bhat said the Red algal bloom is a natural process that would cease on its own in the next four to five days.

"Red algal bloom occurs in dead pockets, so it's not a serious issue and won't have any impact on Dal Lake at all," Bhat said, adding, the department has taken a slew of measures to deal with the issue of less concern.

He said the department has installed aerators at several locations in the lake and that the same will help contain reoccurrences of red algal in Dal Lake.

"Red algal is quite a natural process, it surfaces mainly in the summer season when day temperatures go high and lessen with the onset of winter. It's not an issue of major concern," he added.

Court Denies Bail

506, 509 of IPC.

Later the accused was arrested as during question police recovered the phone in which the videos and pictures of the woman were found. Subsequent to the arrest, a court had rejected his bail application. Later he filed fresh bail application which was rejected by the Chief Judicial Magistrate Srinagar Raja Mohammad Tasleem today.

"The most important thing to be noted is that the concerned Court while deciding the successive bail

application can not presume the substantial and circumstantial change in the case unless pleaded specifically and expressly by Counsel for the applicant," the court said, adding, "Further in case the successive bail applications are decided by the trial courts without taking into account substantial and circumstantial change in the facts and circumstances of the case, it shall definitely be encroachment of powers of the superior courts and shall definitely amount to casualty of propriety and judicial discipline."

Consequently, the court rejected the bail application of the accused.

Army Commander

the soldiers for successful conduct of operation Guichinar at Machhal on September 29-30 in which two infiltrating terrorists were killed & large quantity of war-like stores were recovered.

Driver Arrested In

spokesperson, acting swiftly, a police team apprehended the accused driver within an hour of the incident. He has been identified as Mohd Haneef Khanday of Meej village in Pampore.

Accordingly, the spokesperson said, Police have taken a cognisance under relevant section of law besides; a dumper has also been seized.

Bear Injures

However, the doctors there referred her to a Srinagar hospital for specialised treatment, reports said.

Pertinently, this is the second such incident in the last 24 hours.

On Monday evening, Mahmood Kalas was attacked and injured by a black bear outside his home in Lisser Shalnard village of Kokernag in Anantnag district.

Basohli Pashmina

Rajouri district of Jammu division received the GI tag.

Basohli Pashmina, a hand-spun product known for extreme softness, fineness and light-weight, has insulating properties and extended life, the spokesman said, adding all these qualities make the Basohli Pashmina unique.

Pashmina products include shawls for both men and women, mufflers, blankets and baskets.

Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom Jammu initiated steps to revive the centuries old craft of Basohli Pashmina by setting up common facility centres for weavers, increasing the periphery of registered weavers as well as cooperative societies, developing clusters and providing benefits of various departmental schemes to them, the spokesman said.

GI tag is a name or a sign given to certain products related to specific geographical locations.

Two Fake Police

In his complaint, the victim had stated that he met a person named Kaiser Jeelani on a social networking site, who portrayed himself as an IPS officer and he became friends with that person and finally he met him in a Hotel Green Mint Gumat near Fish Market.

"On entering the room, he saw Kaiser Jeelani and one more person in a Police uniform with stars who portrayed himself as Inspector. The duo threatened him to give them his laptop and faced harassment from them. The complainant was further threatened to be killed by the duo."

In this regard, a case under FIR number 166/2023 under section 419/420/384/170/171 IPC got registered at PS Nowabad and investigation was started.

Special police teams of PS Nowabad led by SP Kulbir Handa, DySP HQrs Dr. Sunniya Wani assisted by SHO PS Nowabad Surinder Raina did strenuous efforts and finally arrested the accused from the said place.

The accused arrested were identified as Kaiser Shah Nawaz Mir resident of Danger Pora Baramulla and Mohd Tanveer alias Arif Wani resident of Sopore Baramulla.

Further investigation of the case is going on, police said. (KNO)

World Cup Preview: England Look To Deny India Home WC Win

Reuters

NEW DELHI: England hope to ride their formidable batting firepower to a second successive World Cup title but if India's crafty spinners and sprightly pace attack can fully exploit home conditions the country's cricket-mad fans could have something to celebrate.

Since failing to make it out of the pool phase at the 2015 Cricket World Cup, England have been transformed into limited-overs juggernauts, winning the 2019 title and last year's Twenty20 World Cup.

They have been blessed with a steady supply of exciting match-winners, which has encouraged them to try to re-define test cricket with their relentless, aggressive approach to the game.

Illustrating the embarrassment of riches at their disposal, England axed world-class opener Jason Roy from their World Cup squad to accommodate Harry Brook, who at 24 has already been marked out as a superstar in the making.

Eight members of their triumphant 2019 squad are back to help England try to become only the third team to defend the ODI World Cup title after West Indies and Australia.

The group includes Jos But-

IND v NED Warm Up Game Washed Out

Agencies

India's second ICC World Cup warm-up match against Netherlands was washed out due to incessant rain in Thiruvananthapuram on Tuesday.

The game was abandoned without a ball being bowled.

The hosts' first warm up game against England also met with a similar fate in Guwahati last week.

India is thus the only team that heads into the World Cup without match practice. India will open their World Cup campaign against Australia in Chennai on Sunday. (PTI)

bler, who seems immune to the pressure of a captaincy which has weighed heavily on others.

Star all-rounder Ben Stokes has come out of ODI 'retirement' and is back in the squad, albeit purely as a batter, and has picked up where he left off by belting 182 against New Zealand last month — the highest ODI score by an English batter.

But while England's only



batting headache is who to leave out, their bowling stocks look much thinner, with Jofra Archer missing through injury and lingering concerns about fellow speedster Mark Wood's fitness.

Hosts India have no such concerns and skipper Rohit Sharma has all his frontline players back and raring to go as the hosts look to repeat their 2011 success on home soil.

Rohit and Shubman Gill have formed a profitable opening partnership, with the inimitable Virat Kohli waiting in the wings at number three, and India also have players like Ishan Kishan and Suryakumar Yadav who can come up with a match-winning innings.

Their star-studded batting lineup is backed by a speedy pace attack led by Jasprit Bumrah, with left-arm wristspinner

Kuldeep Yadav likely to provide the X-factor.

In terms of buildup India could not have asked for better, winning the Asia Cup last month and beating Australia 2-1 in a subsequent ODI home series.

CORNERED TIGERS

The Australians no longer carry the same swagger that saw them win four of the last

Sachin Named ODI WC 'Global Ambassador'

Agencies

The ICC on Tuesday named legendary Sachin Tendulkar as the 'Global Ambassador' for the men's Cricket World Cup 2023 beginning Thursday in Ahmedabad.

Tendulkar, who has an enviable record of featuring in six 50 over World Cups in his decorated career, will walk out with the World Cup trophy before the opening match between England and New Zealand, declaring the tournament open.

He is joined by nine fellow legends of the game who will bring the fans closer to the action. (PTI)

six World Cups, but it would be a mistake to write off the five-time champions despite their injury woes.

Skipper Pat Cummins and batting mainstay Steve Smith are among those returning from injury layoffs, while opener Travis Head is set to miss the early matches having fractured his hand in South Africa last month.

However, Australia will take heart from Mitchell Marsh's

red-hot form at the top of the order, as well as Marnus Labuschagne's revival just ahead of the showpiece event.

They also possess an enviable collection of all-rounders in Marsh, Cameron Green, Marcus Stoinis, Sean Abbott and Glenn Maxwell, which could come in handy in India.

Outside the top three, Pakistan's 'cornered tigers' have been jolted by the injury to pace spearhead Naseem Shah but Babar Azam's side are capable of causing upsets.

Also in the reckoning are New Zealand, who fell agonisingly short of the title four years ago after the tied final at Lord's saw England crowned champions via a now-scrapped boundary countback rule.

Kane Williamson returns to aid New Zealand's quest for that elusive trophy but injuries to several key players, including the skipper himself, will temper their expectations in India.

With West Indies cricket in a state of decline, the twice champions will miss the World Cup for the first time after failing to come through the qualifiers.

The 10-team tournament will be played across 10 venues culminating in the Nov. 19 final at the 132,000-capacity Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

Baramulla Wins U-19 Provincial Cricket Tournery



Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: Baramulla defeated Kupwara in the finals of Under-19 Inter District Provincial Level Cricket Tournament, organised by Department of Youth Services & Sports across different venues in Anantnag.

Batting first, Kupwara put up a paltry total of 69 runs, with Baramulla's Musaab Mehraj taking 3 wickets and Tanveer Lateef picking 2. Chasing the target, Baramulla won by 5 wickets, as Sahil Youusf scored 39 (20). Musaab Mehraj won the man of the match award.

With this, the Provincial Level Cricket Tournament came to a close. The tournament lasted 13 days with 69 matches played across Under-14, Under-17 and Under-19 age groups. All matches were played on turf wickets at four venues in district Anantnag.

The tournament was hosted by

DYSS Anantnag, providing residential facilities for all officials and student-athletes, along with a mess for which appropriate arrangements were put in place in advance.

In the Under-14 tourney, Bandipora and Pulwama played in the final. Pulwama elected to field first and restricted Bandipora to 127. Abrar Ahmad scored 41 runs for Bandipora, while Shabir Irshad and Burhan Ashraf claimed 3 wickets each for Pulwama. Chasing this target, Pulwama's Burhan 30 (30) and Younus 32 (21) steadied the ship as Bandipora's Abrar took 4 wickets. Pulwama won the match by 2 wickets. Burhan won the man of the match award. Sahil Bilal was declared man of the series.

In the final match of the Under-17 competition, Kulgam locked horns with Baramulla and in a thrilling last-over encounter, Baramulla beat Kulgam. Faizan Ibrahim from Baramulla was declared man of the series.

DPS Srinagar Student Sara Masoodi In J&K Team For Junior Girls Nationals

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Sara Masoodi, a talented class 9th student from Delhi Public School Srinagar, is set to represent Jammu & Kashmir at the Junior Girls National Football Championship. This championship, dedicated to Under-19 players, serves as a prominent platform for showcasing young football talent across India.

The 22-member J&K team reached Jaipur, Rajasthan on Sunday and will play Uttar Pradesh today at the Royal FC Stadium.

The Junior Girls National Football Championship, organized by the All India Football Federation (AIFF), brings together teams from various

state associations.

Jammu & Kashmir has been placed in Group B, alongside the states of Meghalaya, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Telangana.

As the competition unfolds, young talents like Sara Masoodi, who plays as a right-back, are gearing up to make their mark on the field.

Chairman Vijay Dhar expressed his pride in Sara's achievement, saying, "Sara's representation at the Junior Girls National Football Championship is a testament to our commitment to holistic development."

Principal Shafaq Afshan commended Sara's dedication, stating, "Sara is not only an outstanding student but also a remarkable athlete."



2nd State UT Hogam Tournament Concludes In Pahalgam



Observer News Service

ARU VALLEY: The picturesque Aru Valley in Pahalgam witnessed an exhilarating spectacle of athleticism and spirit during the 2nd State UT Hogam Tournament, held from September 28th to 30th. This prestigious event was affiliated with the Indian Hogam Federation and the International Hogam Council, showcasing the incredible sport of Hogam.

Hosted by the International Tiger's Martial Arts organization, the tournament brought together 50 participants from various districts, showcasing their strength, agility, and teamwork in a series of challenging activities that thrilled both participants and spectators alike.

Instead of the traditional dance, the event featured a series of

adrenaline-pumping activities, including obstacle avoidance, tug of war, ziplining, tyre pulling, river crossing, and crossing nets. These activities not only tested the physical prowess of the participants but also emphasized the importance of cooperation and strategy.

The tournament also served as a platform for fostering camaraderie and cultural exchange among the participants, promoting the rich heritage of Hogam and its significance in the region.

Parvaiz Khan, President of the Indian Hogam Federation, expressed his delight at the success of the event.

The International Tiger's Martial Arts organization and all participants extend their gratitude to the sponsors, volunteers, and the local community.

Saudi Team Refuses To Play In Iran Over Statue Dispute

The Associated Press

Cristiano Ronaldo scored his first goal in the Asian Champions League in Al-Nassr's 3-1 win over Istiklol on Monday to shift attention back to soccer after an earlier match between Sepahan of Iran and Saudi Arabia's Al-Ittihad was controversially canceled.

The Saudi club did not take to the field at Naghsh-e-Jahan Stadium in Isfahan because of busts of Gen. Qassem Soleimani — who commanded Iran's elite Quds Force before he was killed in a U.S. drone strike in neighboring Iraq in January 2020 — and other political banners, Saudi Arabia's Al Ekhbariya TV reported.

Soleimani was seen as playing a key role in arming, training and leading armed groups across the region, including fighters from the Houthi rebel group in Yemen. Saudi Arabia has been at war with the Iran-aligned rebels in Yemen since 2015.

Three busts of Soleimani were placed on the sideline at the Ira-



nian stadium. After around a 30-minute delay, the Saudi league champions, whose stars include N'Golo Kante and Fabinho, left the stadium where an estimated 60,000 fans were waiting.

The Asian Football Confederation said in a statement that the Group C match was canceled "due to unanticipated and unforeseen circumstances," without elaborating. The match has been initially classified as postponed.

Another Saudi club, Al-Hilal, which is a four-time winner of

the Asian continental title, was scheduled to play Nassaji Mazandaran in Tehran on Tuesday.

Al-Nassr took control against Tajikistan's Istiklol in the second half at Riyadh. Ronaldo, who joined the club in December, equalized with a delicate chip midway through the second half. Senin Sebai had put Istiklol ahead just before the break.

Ronaldo scored for the seventh successive game, and then two goals in quick succession from Brazilian forward Anderson Talisca gave Al-Nassr the win.

João Félix & Barcelona Face FC Porto In Champions League

The Associated Press

BARCELONA: It has taken João Félix several years and a couple of false starts, but the creative forward who left Portugal to aim for greater heights in Spain has finally found a team where he can flourish.

Or so it seems after a handful of games with Barcelona, the team he joined in August just hours before the transfer window closed after a frustrating stint at Atletico Madrid.

Félix is now heading back to Portugal when Barcelona faces FC Porto in its second game of the Champions League group stage on Wednesday. Félix played for Porto as a youngster before eventually joining fierce rival Benfica at age 15, where he broke out as a teenager and was signed by Atletico in 2019.

But after he repeatedly chafed under Diego Simeone's defend-first, attack-second playing style, Félix eventually fell out with Atletico's coach and spent the sec-



ond half of last season on a disappointing loan stint at Chelsea.

On returning to Atletico in the offseason, Félix did what he could to force a move to Barcelona by publicly stating that he wanted to play for Xavi Hernández's side. He then accepted a pay cut to help fit within Barcelona's wage limits, which were already strained.

The move has so far paid off for both player and team.

The 23-year-old Félix has scored three goals and meshed

well with his teammates since he joined Barcelona. Two of those goals came against Antwerp in Barcelona's 5-0 rout in their Champions League opener last month.

The game at Estádio do Dragão is billed to be the toughest game of the group phase for Barcelona. Both clubs have three points atop Group H. Antwerp and Shakhtar Donetsk have zero before they meet in Belgium also on Wednesday.

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