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AT&C Losses In J&K Rs 4500 Cr Per Annum: Principal Secy PDD Says Administration To Revamp Entire Power Infrastructure In UT

The Srinagar: Aggregate Technical & Commercial (AT&C) losses in Jammu and Kashmir have reached 4500 crore per year, even as administration is taking several measures to ensure adequate power supply throughout the year, particularly during the harsh winters, a senior officer said Friday.

Principal Secretary of Power Development Department (PDD) H Rajesh Prasad told Kashmir Observer Friday that over 11 lakh smart metres have been installed by the department in the Union Territory so far and the remaining will be covered in the coming two years.

"This move will lead to less load shedding, curb power theft and streamline electricity billing and poor collection." he said.

Stating that the AT&C losses was around Rs 4500 crore per



annum. Prasad said that over 50 % people in Jammu and Kashmir are paying power bills on a flat

"This is the highest in any state. And for this reason

installation of Smart Meters is necessary in the UT to contain losses," he said.

The second biggest reason for the AT&C losses, Principal Secretary PDD said, is the massive pilferage and wastage of the power including hooking and other means. The third, according to Prasad, is the "technical losses" in the UT.

"The entire distribution system is pretty old and there wasn't proper investment on the infrastructure for many years. The system is outdated but from the last five years a good amount of money has been spent on the infra," he added.

On the present power crisis, Prasad said around 250 MW of electricity has been purchased from the UP government on banking bases.

"We will return them water during the summer season," he said.

Project Report) submitted,

I hope work on the rail link

will be started and Kupwara

will be connected to the rail

network," he told reporters in

Friday Following Eid-e-Milad Observed With Religious Fervor

Thousands Of Devotees Throng Hazratbal Shrine To Have Glimpse Of Holy Relic

Agencies

Srinagar: Thousands of devotees thronged the shrines and Masjids to attend the congregational prayers on the occasion of Friday following Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (Pbuh).

Thousands of people from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir gathered at Dargah Hazratbal shrine to witness the glimpses of the holy relic.

While the Eid-e-Milad was observed on last Friday, the

devotees in the Valley today observed Friday following Eide-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) with religious fervor and zeal.

The massive rush of devotees was witnessed at various places in Jammu and Kashmir, including many religious shrines in Srinagar such as Asari Sharif Kalashpora, Jenab Sahab Soura, Lal Bazar, Khanyar shrine, Asari Sharif Dargah Hazratbal Srinagar, and Asari Sharif Makdoom Sahib Srinagar.

"In addition to Srinagar, the huge gathering of devotees was also witnessed in many districts of J&K, including Pinjoora Shopian, Khiram Sirhama in Anantnag, Seer Hamadan, Kaba Marg Qaimoh, Khanqahi Faiz Panah Trial, and Aham Sharief Bandipora in North Kashmir."

Devotees flocked to religious shrines and mosques in large numbers, seeking mercy and forgiveness from Almighty

Rogue Officer To Face Court Of Inquiry

Army Major Opens Fire, **Explodes Grenades Inside** Camp, 3 Army Officers **Among 5 Injured**

Press Trust Of India

Rajouri: A Court of Inquiry was ordered on Friday against an army major for allegedly opening fire on his colleagues and injuring five personnel, including three officers, inside a camp in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

Tension had gripped areas around the Neeli post in the Thanamandi area on Thursday and senior officials rushed to the camp for first-hand information about the incident, which the army had initially sought to downplay as an accidental grenade blast that left one officer injured.

gathered through various sources, the major, who has been identified as 'Prince', created a hue and cry about a possible terror attack prompting his commanding officer to rush his second-incommand from Thanamandi, located 18 km from the Neeli post.

Attempts were made to pacify the officer who >> More On P6

Vitiate Detention Order

Irrelevant

Kupwara To Be Connected To Rail Network: LG

Says 9,000 Beneficiaries In J&K Have Been Sanctioned Houses Under PMAY Scheme



Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj tier district of Kupwara will be brought on the country's rail map as the survey for the railway line has been sanc-

tioned by the ministry. Sinha said the Ministry of Railways has "sanctioned a technical survey of rail line for Kupwara district.

"Once the survey is completed and the DPR (Detailed Kupwara. more said 9,000 than beneficiaries have been sanctioned houses Jammu and Kashmir under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana

who do not have their >>

(PMAY)

scheme.

Inaugurates Rabi Campaign In Baramulla

quashing two detention orders under Public Safety Act

including against a prominent Islamic cleric popu-

larly known Madnee.

ground is sufficient to

vitiate the order as it is

not possible → More On P6

irrelevant

HC Quashes PSA Order Against Cleric, Youth Says Irrelevant Grounds Sufficient To

ieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday inaugurated the 'Rabi Campaign- sowing of Rabi Crops' during the Sankalp Saptaah at Aspirational Block Singhpora in Baramulla District. In his address, the LG extended his felicitations to the farmers and directed the officials to ensure timely >> More On P6

...Anantnag Killing

Slain Teen's Sister Recounts Desperate Last Moments

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: "I fell at their feet and pleaded with them to let my brother go, but they shot him. As I held my brother, I saw that the bullet had pierced through his neck," says 26-yearold Nadia Bashir, recalling the evening two masked men barged into her house and left her family shattered.

The next day, her 16-year-old brother Sahil Bashir Dar, a resident of Anantnag district's Watergam, died at a hospital.

Dar was shot dead by two unidentified terrorists on Wednesday evening, according to police. His father and elder brother had gone out to offer evening prayers at the time of the incident. After her mother finished >> More On P6



Together, let's create a brighter and prosperous future for J&K!

Mention your J&K address on every bill for goods you purchase outside J&K

Make a difference with every purchase you make! Help us contribute to the welfare of Jammu and Kashmir by simply mentioning your address when buying goods from outside the region.





Your contribution counts

Your small gesture helps in generating GST revenue for J&K, directly contributing to its growth and prosperity.

Issued by

State Taxes Department

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

High Court said while **SMC** Corporator A

Slapped

With PSA

grounds, being taken

into consideration for making the order

of detention, are suf-

ficient to vitiate it, the

M Ahmad

Srinagar:

Srinagar municipal corporator arrested here last month on various allegations, including sexual harassment, rioting and assault, has been booked under the stringent Public Safety Act, police said on Friday. >> More On P6

S 0 Ε

Bear Mauls Man To Death

man was killed on Friday in an attack by a black bear in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir. Mushtaq Ahmed of Kathawa Khanpura village was attacked and injured by a black bear near Bhendoga Nullah on Friday morning, reports said. Ahmed, who sustained serious injuries in the surprise beast attack, was removed to a nearby hospital for treatment. However, before the doctors could start his treatment, Ahmed succumbed to grave injuries. Meanwhile, the locals → More On P6

Chargesheet Filed Against Fraudster

he Economic Offences Wing of Jammu Crime Branch on Friday filed a preliminary chargesheet against a Bihar resident in a fraud case. Jammu Crime Branch spokesman said that chargesheet was filed against the fraudster Upendra Singh Rudradeo, resident of Gram Post Makair, Chapra Bihar, presently living at first floor, Rohini Sector-01. Avantika North West Delhi and NIT Faridabad, Haryana. He added that >> More On P6

Fire Breaks **Out In Tral Forest**

fire broke out in a forest in Tral area in south Kashmir's Tral area in South Russian Pulwama district, official sources said. They said that a fire broke out in Chan Kitaab Tral Friday afternoon. "Soon as the locals sighted billowing smoke from the forest, the Fire and **Emergency Services Department** and Forest Protection Force were called in", they said.

"Several teams from the departments reached the site", they said adding however >> More On P6



To place an advertisement CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm) No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

KASHMIR OBSERVER Srinagar | Saturday | 07-10-2023

Why Men Are More Likely To Experience Severe Covid Cases Decoded

Press Trust Of India

cientists have uncovered biological reasons behind why men are more likely to experience severe cases of COVID-19 than women, offering a promising new strategy to prevent the viral disease.

The pre-clinical research in mice, published in the journal iScience, has yet to be replicated in humans, but points to the ACE2 protein as a key contributor to differences in COVID-19 outcomes between males and females.

Located on the cell's outer of Toronto in Canada. surface, ACE2 plays an important role in controlling blood pressure and inflammation and protecting organs from damage caused by excess inflammation.

During a SARS-CoV-2 infection, the coronavirus spike protein locks on to ACE2 to enter and infect the cell.

"COVID-19 severity and mortality are much higher in males than in females, but the reasons for this remain poorly understood," said study senior author, Haibo Zhang, from the University

The researchers noted that the gene encoding the ACE2 protein is located on the X chromosome, which means that females have two copies of the gene and males only have one.

The extra copy of the gene for ACE2 does not appear to make a difference in healthy people as the researchers found similar levels of ACE2 protein in healthy males and females.

However, following a SARS-CoV-2 infection, they observed a dramatic decrease in ACE2 in males while levels remained consistent in females.

The finding suggests that the additional copy of the ACE2 gene on the X chromosome is helping to compensate and maintain high protein levels in females.

The changes in ACE2 levels were also correlated with a drop in estrogen hormone signaling in males, which could also contribute to the sex-specific differences in COVID-19 outcomes, according to the researchers.

To test whether low levels of ACE2 were responsible for the more severe outcomes seen in

males with COVID-19, the researchers devised a therapeutic approach using an inhaler to de-liver lab-made ACE2 proteins directly into the lungs.

Males who received a daily puff of ACE2 after SARS-CoV-2 infection had less virus in their lungs, less lung injury and higher levels of estrogen signaling, they said.

Together, these results paint a clearer picture of how the extra copy of the ACE2 gene and higher estrogen levels in females work together to protect them from experiencing more severe COVID-19.

From The Office Of Advocate **Bilal Bhat & Associates**

BEFORE THE HON'BLE PRINCIPAL DISTRICT AND SESSION JUDGE AT SRINAGAR.

In the case of: -Suriya W/O Abdul Satar Dar R/O Zaffran colony, Mehjoor Nagar Srinagar

> Versus Public at Large.

..Non-Caveators

... Caveators

In the matter of: - Caveat Petition under Section 148-A of Civil Procedure Code

May it please your Lordship, The applicant submits as under: 1. That the applicant/ Caveator is permanent residents of UT of J&K, thus have every right to invoke the jurisdiction of this Hon'ble Court for the protection of

their rights. 2. That the applicant/caveator has a reasonable apprehension that the non-appli cant/non caveator may file a suit, or any proceeding against the the Applicants/ Caveators by pleading false facts in order to get the ex-parte order.

3. That in event of any such suit or proceeding being filed by the non-caveator, the Caveators may be provided an opportunity of being heard before any order is issued against them

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR

Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt. Ground Water Division Srinagar

Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar.

E-mail: - phegwd@yahoo.com

Tel./ Fax No:- 0194-2411285

EXTENSION NOTICE 1st

Due to "Poor Response" against E.NIT No.21/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2023-24, issued under No: - JS-PHE/GWDS/Corrs./ 4321-31 dated: - 20-09-2023 for the work:-

Installation/Construction of tube well in Mohalla NHO Habibullah Dar for community at Kuchbagh Kondibal, Panchayat Halqa Yangoora B. Tender ID: 2023_PHE_230649_1

Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 05-10-2023 (02.00 PM) are extended as per the details given below: -

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date			
1.	Period of submission of bids	12-10-2023 up-to 02.00 PM			
2.	Date of opening of tenders	13-10-2023 11.00 AM			

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endstt: nos.

No: - JS-PHE/GWDS/Corrs. /5001-11

DIPK-9928/23 Dated: - 06-10-2023

Sd/= **Executive Engineer,** PHE Ground Water Division,

Subject:

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASILMIR

AYUSHMAN BHARAT DIGITAL MISSION Rail Head Complex, Jammu - 180012 Phone : 0191-2470026 (Jammu) Old Assembly Complex, Sherghari

Jehangir Chowk, Srinagar - 190001 Phone: 0194-2477714(Srinagar)

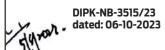


md.abdmjk@gmail.com / amd.abdmjk@gmail.com

Request for Proposal for Selection of Interfacing Agency for Conducting ABDM related Activities under the Microsite Program in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, online Request for Proposal (RFP) are invited for Selection of Interface Agencies for Conducting ABDM related Activities under the Microsite Program in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir as per detailed specifications and terms & conditions mentioned in the detailed document:

Date of Dublishing DED	
Date of Publishing RFP	09/10/2023 at 1000 Hrs
Start Date of Downloading RFP from Website	09/10/2023 from 1000 Hrs
Websites for Downloading RFP	https://jktenders.gov.in, https://abdmjk.in, https://hme.jk.gov.in
Last Date of Downloading RFP from Website	30/10/2023 upto 1400 Hrs
Seek Clarification Start Date	09/10/2023 from 1000 Hrs
Seek Clarification End Date	16/10/2023 from 1600 Hrs
Pre-Bid Meeting	18/10/2023 at 1500 Hrs
Venue of Pre-Bid Meeting	Online
Website for Submission of Bids (Technical as well as Financial)	https://jktenders.gov.in
Start Date for Submission of Online Bids	21/10/2023 from 1000 Hrs
Last Date for Submission of Online Bids	30/10/2023 upto 1600 Hrs
Date of Opening of Technical Bids	30/10/2023 at 1700 Hrs
Tender Processing Fee (Non-Refundable) (To be deposited through online/ RTGS transfer in Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, J&K's Bank A/c No.: 0022010570000018 "Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission" with the J&K Bank Ltd. Rail Heal Complex, Jammu (IFS Code: JAKA0ERAILH)	Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only)
	Websites for Downloading RFP Last Date of Downloading RFP from Website Seek Clarification Start Date Seek Clarification End Date Pre-Bid Meeting Venue of Pre-Bid Meeting Website for Submission of Bids (Technical as well as Financial) Start Date for Submission of Online Bids Last Date for Submission of Online Bids Date of Opening of Technical Bids Tender Processing Fee (Non-Refundable) (To be deposited through online/ RTGS transfer in Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, J&K's Bank A/c No.: 0022010570000018 "Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission" with the J&K Bank Ltd. Rail Heal Complex, Jammu (IFS)



Sd/-**State Mission Director** (Tender Inviting Authority) Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, J&K

No: JK/ABDM/2022-23/361-365

Dated: 05/10/2023

01/10/2023 - Shiekh UI Alam Charitable Trust, Barbarshah, unequivocally announces that it does not operate an active Child Care Institution (CCI) and does not engage in the collection of donations for Poor/Orphan Children. Furthermore, the Trust does not endorse or support any donation collection activities in the name of

We wish to make it explicitly clear that the Trust has revoked any affiliations previously granted to branches in various districts of Kashmir. Consequently, the Trust does not bear any responsibility for the actions or representations made by any such entities

If anyone encounters individuals or groups collecting donations for Poor/Orphan Children under the banner of Shiekh Ul Alam Charitable Trust anywhere in Kashmir o other parts of India, we urgently request you to contact us using the provided contact

Admin/In-Charge

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr.DEE/G/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders (www.ireps.gov.in) against below titled Tenders Bidders will be able to submit their original / revised bids up to closing date and 251-Elect-T-33/2023-24 Tender No.:

Name of Work: Electrical	lame of Work: Electrical work in c/w Creation of test set up for maintenance of							
electric locomotive at Diesel Loco Shed Ludhiana and Improvement cum								
Renovation of RCC Shed	Renovation of RCC Shed, floor, roof of supervisors and staff room in Electric							
Loco Shed Ludhiana & 0	Creation/improvement of infrastructure of LDH Loco							
Outpit to Cater the load of	Outpit to Cater the load of increased holding of NR due to homing of Electric							
Locos in Diesel Sheds & Upgradation of categorization of Freight train								
examination yard to A category at JUC and other associated work.								
Approx. Cost (in Rs.)	62 28 503 39							

251-Elect/T Notice No.25-Elect/2023-24 Dated :- 05.10.2023 3100/2				
Website Particulars	www.ireps.gov.in			
Opening of Tender	27.10.2023 after 15:00 Hrs.			
Completion Period	06 Months			
Earnest Money (in Rs.)	1,24,600.00			
Approx. Cost (in Rs.)	62,28,503.39			

In the Court of Additional Munsiff / Judicial Magistrate 1st Class Srinagar

Muzaffar Shaban V/S Asif Ah Ganaie

Notice Through Publication to 1. Asif Ali Ganaie S/o Ali Mohammad Ganaie R/o Khalid Bin Waleed Colony Natipora Sgr

2. Arif Ali Ganaie S/o Ali Mohammad Ganaie R/o Khalid Bin Waleed Colony Natipora Sgr 3. Mushtag Ahmad Dar S/o Abdul Salam Dar R/o Rambagh

Whereas, above titled suit has been filed against you in this court and you have been conveyed as defendant no: 1,2, & 3 The next date of hearing is fixed on 30-10-2023 Whereas., Summons were issued for your appearance in this court, but you avoided to acknowledge the summon, as a result the summon got returned as untraced. This way you did not appear before the Court to answer the suit and it appears that your attendance may not be procured through the issuance of ordinary summons. You are as such summoned through this Publication and directed to appear before this Court personally or through counsel on 30-10-2023 failing to which appropriate orders will be penned against you. In case the date fixed in declared as holiday the matter shall be taken

Given under my Hand and Seal of this court. Ist Additional Munsiff Srinagar

up on next following day.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Date Of Birth on Adhaar Card has been wrongly written as 09-03-2010 while my correct DOB is 30-10-2010 which needs to be corrected. 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. Tasaduk Mushtaq S/o Mushtaq Ahmad Dar

R/o Chichilora Dildarpora

bmg

ازدفترنا ئب تحصيلدار كربري ضمون: همچھٹی آمدہ از دفتر ایکزیکیٹو انجیز فلڈ کنژ ول ڈویژن بار ہمولہ نسبت اجرائی منسد وارث جائز عرفان احمد ولدمهمد اشرف برے ساکنہیل جا گیرفوت شدہ غلام محمد برے اشتهار بمرادآ گاہی ہرخاص وعام معامله مندرج عنوان الصدر مين هرخاص وعام كوبذيره اشتبهار هذام طلع كياجاتا ہے كه دفت ھذامیں درخواست چھٹی ھذانسبت اجرائی منسد وارث جائزز ریکاروئی ہے اس نسبت پٹواری حلقہ ہے رپورٹ کشمول مطلوبہ نقوالات ریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس ہے عمیاں ہوتا ہے کہ سائل موضع ہیں جا گیر میں رہائش پذیرہے۔ سائل کا کنبہ بذیل افراد پر شتمل ہے هنظه بيكم بيوه محمداشرف 57 سال گھريلو كام ولده متوفی 28 عارضي ملازم برادرمتوفي

اسکےعلاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کمبہ نہیں ہتلایا گیاہے سرٹفکیٹ زیر بحث اجرء نے میں اگر کسی شخص یا شخاص کوکوئی عذریااعتراض بُوتو وہ اپناعذریااعتراض ساتھ یوم کے اندر پیش کریں۔میعادگز رنے کے بعد کوئی عذریااعتراض قابلِ قبول نہیں ہوگاہ۔

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار کربری ا کلنتره درخواست منجانب عبیدفاروق ولدفاروق احدنجار (تر کھان)ساکنه فرستهارتلـگام بمراد حصول OBC سرتفییت بذمرتر کھان

اشتهار بمرادآ گاہی ہرخاص وعام

معامله مندرجه عنوان الصدر مين درخوست سائل دفتر بذامين زيركاروائي باس نسبت بيواري حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ نقوالات ریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس سےعیاں ہوتا ہے کہ سائل ْ سائله موضع فرستہار تلگام میں رہائش پذیرہے۔ سائل وقعی نجارزات ہے تعلق رکھتاہے کنیدی سالانہ آمدنی 108000 روپے تک ہے سائل کا کنبہ بذیل افراد پر مشمثل ہے

40سال ترکھان فاروق احمد نجار ولدمحمر سبحان نجار 2:رفيقة بيكم زوجه فاروق احمرنجار عبيد فاروق ولد فاروق احمر نجار 22 دفر فاروق دختر فاروق احمر نجار زبير فاروق ولبرفاروق احمرنجار

ر نے 🔻 میںا گرکسی شخص یاا شخاص کوکوئی عذریااعتراض ہوتو وہ اپناعذریااعتراض ساتھ یوم کے اندرپیش کریں _میعادگزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذریااعتراض قابل قبول نہں ہوگاہ_

Jammu & Kashmir UT

Office Of The Executive Engineer R&B Project **Division Ist Srinagar** Opposite Masjid Ibrahim, Hyderpora Srinagar PIN No.190014

E-mail:- pcd.bypass@gmail.com,

TENDER NOTICE

E-tendering NIT No PD1st-RnB-07 of 2023-24/949-53

Dated:-05/10/2023

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

2. NO	Name of work	Adv Cost.	COST OT 17	Earnest	l ime ot	Class of Con-	Major Head Of
			Doc.(Rs.)	Money (Rs.)	Completion	tractor	Accounts
ji .	Construction of resting place at Sozeith	Rs.37.69	Rs.1100/-	Rs.75380/-	40 Days	"AAY" "BEE"	UT Capex Budget
	Goripora and Rakhi-Arth Budgam						2023-24
2.	Construction of resting place at Rakhi	Rs.37.69	Rs.1100/-	Rs.75380/-	40 Days	"AAY" "BEE"	UT Capex Budget
	Shalina and Khandah B.K. Pora						2023
3.	Construction of resting place at San-	Rs.37.69	Rs.1100/-	Rs.75380/-	40 Days	"AAY" "BEE"	UT Capex Budget
	gam and Semthan Biibehara						2023
4.	Construction of resting place at Sethar	Rs.18.85 Lacs	Rs.800/-	Rs.37700/-	20 Days	"BEE" "CEE"	UT Capex Budget
	Bijbehara						2023
	•						

Position of Funds Available/Committed Chief Engineer PW(R&B) Department Kashmir Project Authority

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:-

	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	05-10-2023
<u> </u>	Period of downloading of bidding documents	06-10-2023
3.	Bid submission Start Date	06-10-2023
4.	Bid Submission End Date	13-10-2023 upto 4.00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids	14-10-2023 at 11.00A.M in the office of Executive Engineer Project Division 1st
		Srinagar
j.	Submission of Performance Security (PS)	Within 7days of receipt of LOI. The bidder as to provide 5% of allotted Cost as
		Performance Security in shape of CDR/FDR

No: PCD-1st/NIT/949-53 DIPK-9895/23 Dtd:-06-10-2023

Executive Engineer R&B Project Division 1st,



J&K Bank inks MoU with DPS Srinagar

KO NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Oct 06: As part of strengthening its relationship with important institutions across Jammu and Kashmir, J&K Bank today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Delhi Public School (DPS), Srinagar to on-board the onroll school staff for its Corporate Salary Package.

Chairman Vijay Kumar Dhar signed the MOU on behalf of DPS, while as representing J&K Bank, Zonal Head (Srinagar) Shabir Ahmad put in signatures in the presence of Bank's Cluster Heads Shabir Ahmad Bulla and Asmat Ara, Principal DPS Srinagar Shafaq Afshan, Coordinator International Affairs (DPS) Syed Sumaira besides other officials from both the institutions.

By virtue of the MoU, the faculty and other staff members of the school can avail various benefits under the Bank's Corporate Salary Package that primarily includes personal accidental insurance cover to all the on-boarded staff members along with locker facility and other freebies.

Expressing his pleasure over Bank's recent success on the occasion, Vijay Dhar. He said, "Both as an individual shareholder and as the Chairman of the school that has a strong and longlasting relationship with the J&K Bank, I am happy to see the bank making progress on all fronts manifested in the form of its record profits and increasing share-price trend."



Mental Health awareness programme held at Amar **Singh College**

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Under the leadership of Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Mission Youth, J&K among other initiatives is also at the forefront of addressing critical issues concerning mental health and drug abuse among the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

The unwavering support, dedication and personal involvement of Chief Executive Officer, Mission

Youth has played a pivotal role in implementing the psychosocial counselling programs at the grass roots level for combating the pervasive drug abuse issues and promoting mental health well being among the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

Continuing with its month-long awareness program, Mission Youth today conducted a one-day Mental Health and Drug De-addiction awareness program at Amar Singh College, Srinagar.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER **BUDGAM.**

PUBLIC NOTICE.

It is to inform all the divyangans (Specially Abled Persons) of District Budgam that the department of social welfare, Budgam is going to organize Special assessment Camps in collaboration with ALIMCO Punjab for the persons in need of Prosthetic Aids in District Budgam as per the details mentioned below.

	Dated.	Venue.
01.	14-10-2023.	Govt. High School Raithan
		Khansahib.
02.	16-10-2023.	Govt. Degree College Chari
		Sharief.
03.	17-10-2023.	Govt. Boys Hr. Secondary
		School Chadoora.
04.	18-10-2023.	Govt. Boys Hr. Secondary
		School Budgam.
05.	19-10-2023.	Govt. Girls Hr. Secondary
		School Beerwah.
06.	20-10-2023.	Govt. Higher Secondary
		School Khag.
07.	21-10-2023.	Govt. Boys Hr. Secondary
		School Magam.

As such all the Divyangans (Specially Abled Persons) in possession of valid UDID Cards are requested to attend the said camps as per the dates shown against each, so that they could be assessed by the Team for the kind of prosthetic aid required by them. Furthermore they are advised to bring following documents

with themselves. 01.UDID Cards.

02.Disability Certificate.

03.Aadhar Card.

04.Two Passport size photographs.

DIPK-9899/23 dated: 06-10-2023

> District Social Welfare Officer, Budgam.



Water Zorbing: Adventure Activity At Dal Lake Becomes New Attraction For Tourists

KO NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, :- The iconic Dal Lake here has got a new attraction with the introduction of water zorbing - an adventure activity that allows enthusiasts to roll inside transparent, inflatable spheres on the water.

While the activity was available at the tourist resorts of Sonamarg and Pahalgam, its introduction in Dal Lake has been welcomed by the locals as well as tourists.

Water zorbing is a popular recreational sport that involves participants stepping inside large, transparent and inflatable spheres known as zorbs. These zorbs are sealed to keep participants dry as they roll, bounce and spin on the water surface.

The activity provides an adrenaline-pumping experience.

'We introduced water zorbing which has been appreciated by the

locals and tourists. The Department of Tourism has been helpful. This is a fun activity that will help wean off stress. People are enjoying it," entrepreneur Sheikh Yamin, who has introduced the activity, told PTI here.

Yamin said the activity has become a new attraction for tourists. "Tourism has to be all-weather.

Any tourism activity helps the tourism ecosystem, and if we undertake more such activities, it will improve further," he added.

He, however, said the prime emphasis should be laid on the conservation of Dal Lake. The lake will attract tourists only if it is clean. It has to be a priority, he said.

Palak, a tourist from Delhi, said the introduction of the water roller in Dal Lake has been a wonderful experience.

"My five-year-old daughter is enjoying herself without any fear. There is a person for her safety. We did not know about this earlier. It will be better if there are more such activities," she said.

"We knew about Shikara only. We experienced the zorbing ride. I myself enjoyed it, children are loving it. It is very good to have such activities here," Mohit, a tourist from Uttar Pradesh, said.

Muneer Ahmed, a local, called the activity a welcome step.

"We go to other places to see such activities, but it is good that it has started here. There should be several attraction points so that tourists from other states come here and enjoy," Ahmed said.

Safwan, a class 8 student who experienced the ride for the first time, said it would have a positive impact on children.

There was only a Shikara ride available earlier, but now there is jet skiing and this. It will have a positive impact on youngsters. The children will get attracted to such things and it will also boost tourism." he said.

Man Commits Suicide By Jumping Into River Jehlum

KO NEWS SERVICE

rinagar: A 35-year-old man on Friday committed suicide by jumping into the river Jehlum, near Abdullah Bridge, Rajbagh Srinagar Officials said.

An official told the news agency, that a 35-year- old man identified as Rameez Raja Ganie, a resident of Pampoore, presently living at Sari Bala Srinagar, ended his life by jumping into river Jehlum, near Rajbagh. He added that, soon after the incident a team of SDRF

along with River Police Srinagar, swung into action and retrieved the body.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of the incident and further investigation is on in this regard—(KNO)

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

Office Of The Executive Engineer Quality Control & Procurement Division, HMT, Srinagar

No.: PHE/OC&PD/ 43/ 2023-24/ e-Tender

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir (UT), e-tenders in two cover system are invited from registered and reputed sunnliers having similar experience or Manufactures / authorized dealers/ Authorized Service providers of weigh bridges

S. No	Name of the work	Tender document	Earnest	Estimated cost	Time of Comple-	Tender validity
		Fee (Rs)	Money		tion	
	including allied accessories installed at Sub Division 2nd Jal Shakti (PHE) QC&PD		Money 900/=	40500.00	05 days	90 days
	Srinagar.					

The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of Quantities (BOQ), set of www.jktenders.gov.in as per the schedule of dates given below:

Account Head: M&R Availability of funds: Budgeted

	chedule of Critical Dates/Information					
1	Date of Inviting Tender	05-10-2023				
2	Clarification Period	05-10-2023 to 12-10-2023 (2.30 AM)				
4	Documents Downloading Period	05-10-2023 to 12-10 -2023 (03.30AM)				
6	On Line Document Submission Period.	05-10-2023 to 13-10-2023 (01.00PM)				
8	Date of opening of Cover 1st.	05-10-2023 (03.30AM).				
9	Tender Document Receiving Authority	Executive Engineer PHE Jal Shakti QC&P Division Srinagar.				
10	Tender Inviting Office	Executive Engineer PHE Jal Shakti QC&P Division Srinagar.				
11	Document Fee	Rs.200/-In the shape of treasury Challan (Head 0215 – Revenue & Miscellaneous)/				
		e-transfer to J&K Bank A/c No:0005010100005110IFSC: JAKAOCHINAR.				
12	Earnest Money	Rs 3400//-in shape of CDR/FDR payable to Executive Engineer PHE QC&PD, Zaina-				
		kote Srinagar.				
13	Bid Opening Authority	Executive Engineer PHE Jal Shakti QC&P Division Srinagar.				
	·					

The Cover-1 shall contain: -

Scanned copy of Tender Document fee in the shape of Treasury receipt / e-Challan / e-Receipt Scanned copies of the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the shape of CDR/FDR.

Scanned copy of GSTIN Registration Certificate along with Clearance Certificate and GSTR-3B of the latest quarter/month as

applicable. Scanned copy of PAN card.

Scanned copies of the Annexure "A", "B" duly accepted/signed.

The tenderer/s shall have to submit self-undertaking for the following:

Has not been black listed by the Government or any other organization for failure to any dues. Has not been adjudged by any court of law of the land as insolvent or was/were not facing any/ under any arbitration pro-

ceedings in any court of law for any offence involving moral turpitude or any criminal activities etc. Was and is not detained under any provisions of preventive law of the land.

The documents submitted by me are correct in all respects. Cover Second (2nd)

The cover-II shall contain Price bid, as per BOQ uploaded by this department. Financial bid will not be accepted in physical form.

No: -PHE/QC&PD/2965-68 Dated: -06-10-2023 DIPK-9957/23

Executive Engineer OC&PD PHE Jal Shakti HMT Srinagar



TRAFFIC POLICE: 9419993745, 01998-266686 PCR: 0194-2452092.2455883 PDD: 0194-2450213

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES: 2479488,2452222,2452155 CAPD: 18001807011 SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

Ambulance: Kashmer EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

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

HIGHWAY STATUS



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



PRAYERS FAJR 5:06 **ZUHR** 12:19 ASR 4:29 6:12 Magrib ISHA 7: 31

This Day In History

- 1513 -Battle of La Motta: Spanish troops under Ramón de Cardona defeat the Venetians.
- 1520-1st public burning of books in Netherlands, in
- 1542- Explorer Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo, on a voyage for Spain, is the first European to discover Catalina Island off the coast of California
- 1571- Battle of Lepanto: Holy League of southern European nations formed by Pope Pius V destroy an Ottoman fleet in a significant loss off Western
 - 1637 Prince of Orange Frederick Henry occupies Breda during the Eighty Years' War
- 1702- British & Dutch troops under Marlborough occupy Roermond
- 1737- A cyclone causes 40 foot waves that are believed to have killed 300,000 in Calcutta, India
- 1763- George III of Great Britain issues Proclamation of 1763, closing lands in North America north and west of Alleghenies to white settlement
- 1777- Americans beat British in Second Battle of Saratoga & Battle of Bemis Heights
- 1780- British defeated by American militia near Kings Mountain, SC
- 1806- Carbon paper patented in London by inventor
- 1828- The Greek city of Patras is liberated by the French expeditionary force in Peloponnese under
- 1830- The Black Line begins; a leveé of colonists in Tasmania, Australia, attempts to round up
- 1840 Willem I resigns as king of Netherlands 1879- Germany & Austrian-Hungary sign Twofold
- Covenant 1886- Spain abolishes slavery in Cuba

Ralph Wedgwood

- 1908 Serbia & Montenegro sign anti-Austria-Hungarian pact 1916- The German submarine U-53 arrives off
- Newport, Rhode Island, and sinks 9 British merchant ships in international waters
- 1926 Italian Great Fascist Council forms 1929 - Ramsay MacDonald is first British Prime
- Minister to address US Congress 1940 - World War II: the McCollum memo proposes
- bringing the U.S. into the war in Europe by provoking the Japanese to attack the United States. 1941 - German army occupies Viarma, USSR
- 1942-US & UK government announce establishment
- of United Nations 1954 - Hassan el Hodeiby, leader of the Muslim
- Brothership, arrested in Egypt.

From KO Archives

70-Yr-Old Sets Himself Ablaze

Observer News Service

rinagar- Overcome by his daughter's defiance, a 70-yrold set himself and his house ablaze in Sopore village today, Muhammad Aabid Malla later succumbed to burn injuries

Reports said that Sabir's daughter had opposed the match he had arranged for her. Unable to bear this rebel-lion, Sabir drenched himself and his two story home with petrol, climbed atop the building and set himself alight. The village Sopar Naghama some 7 kilometres from Handwara watched aghast as flames engulfed the man and his dwell¬ing. Fire tenders rushed from Dangiwacha prevented the blaze from spreading to the ground floor. Sabir who had sustained extensive burns passed away soon after.

Meanwhile there were reports of two youth and women trying to put an end to their lives in different parts of the Valley. Tired of his life Shiraz Ahmad Lone of Sahpora Pattan attempted suicide but was rushed to the hospital, where he is reported to be in a serious condition.

Saleema w/o Muhammad Shaban Bhat of Baran Pattan was rushed to hospital after she consumed some poisonous substance in a bid to put an end to her life. Doctors saved her life.

(Kashmir Observer, October 06, 2000)

THE WEEK THAT WAS

KO Web Desk

Kashmir Valley Loses 6000 Hectares of Paddy Land in 7 Yrs , Yield Up

Parvaiz Bhat

hile 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.

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.

Dal Lake Loses Sheen To Red Algae Bloom

Majid Nabi

uch 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

J&K Buys Electricity From U.P To Tackle Crisis

prevent red algae blooms in the future.

Augib Javed

aced with acute power shortage resulting in frequent and long power cuts, the Jammu and Kashmir administration has started to purchase electricity from Uttar Pradesh to tide over the crisis.

Principal Secretary of Power Development Department (PDD) H Rajesh Prasad told Kashmir Observer on Wednesday that the power crisis in Kashmir is almost over as the department has purchased electricity from Uttar Pradesh government to meet the electricity demand.

"Around 250 MW electricity has been purchased from the UP government on banking bases. We have also taken-up the matter with the central government and the winter allocation quota has been granted," Prasad said.

The administration's move to buy electricity comes at a time when strong resentment is brewing over the frequent power cuts since last week.

President To Attend KU's 20th Convocation

KNO

resident of India, Droupadi Murmu, is set to visit the Kashmir University on October 11, where she will serve as the chief guest for the institution's 20th annual Convocation.

The event will witness President Murmu conferring degrees to over 53,000 candidates from various academic disciplines. As per the schedule, President Murmu will also deliver the Convocation address to the assembly of graduates and dignitaries at the Convocation Complex of the University of Kashmir, Hazratbal, Srinagar.

The grand event is scheduled to mark the culmination of the academic journey for students who have completed their courses from 2021 to mid-2023.



Shrinking Agricultural Land And The Myth Of Progress

Amir Suhail Wani

spectre is haunting Kashmir - the spectre of rapid conversion of agricultural fields into commercial and residential hubs. Concrete jungles are coming up at places which erstwhile used to be agricultural fields and represented an array of trees, crops, fruits and flowers. This is not just aesthetic damage, a mere loss of beauty or the conversion of the phenomenon of soothing beauty into scaring ugliness. But this issue concerns our economy, our food security, our survival & sustenance and the very future of our state. The statistical reports emerging are both shocking and alarming given the fact that the trend of regression suggested by this data raises severe issues on our food security, declining economy and vanishing self-sufficiency. "In 2012, Kashmir boasted approximately 1,62,309 hectares of land dedicated to paddy cultivation. Fast forward to 2023, and this area has shrunk dramatically by 33,309 hectares (6.5 lakh kanal), leaving a mere 1,29,000 hectares currently allocated for paddy cultivation" reads a report. In absence of any checks and regulatory authorities in place, the trend is expected to endanger the entire cultivation land in the UT and the short-term economic gains are sure to make people oblivious of the long term dangers accompanying the trend. The ration supplied by the government from its depots has witnessed a severe bottle-necking in the recent past and this has sharply spiked the demand for Kashmiri rice. But in the absence of sufficient output, in the wake of destruction of agricultural lands, is it any wonder that we may be standing at the cusp of food scarcity - a phenomenon which may make itself manifest sooner or later.

"If the conversion continues it would have serious repercussions in future. When there is no paddy land where will the future generation get food? It is a big question. The government needs to be more and more vigilant and put checks on the same," Says Ghulam Qadir, an agriculturist from Pattan. When it comes to government vigilance, there has been a lot of hole-

"

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plugging and thorough investigation in matters seeking conversion of agricultural land into the commercial or residential one. But as residents of the same state, we are also witness, in our respective areas of observation, of the lapses and laxities performed by the authorities in allowing wholesale conversion of agricultural lands into the commercial and residential. Not only that, one is shocked to see houses and buildings cropping up on the Saffron yielding Karewa fields and fruit laden orchards and one is lost in the irony that these activities are carried under the impression of progress and development.

Now this has explicit consequences not only in terms of poor agricultural produce, but has economic consequences too as Economic Survey Report makes clear that unabated conversion of agricultural land in Jammu and Kashmir for non-agriculture purposes was making 60% of the State population poorer by the day. The number of families and individuals connected directly or indirectly with the agricultural sector is a whopping 60% of the population and the contribution of agriculture to the GSDP is pegged around 18% of the total GSDP. But in recent times, in the wake of shrinking agricultural lands, both the figures have ebbed, only aggravating the poverty and unemployment in the state.

Now the problem can be approached from - Educational, Social and Legal perspectives. Unless people don't properly understand the gruesome consequences of this unchecked urbanisation and the maddening conversion of agricultural lands into commercial and/ or residential places, the process will go on unending, without any sense or fear of consequences. Media, in all its forms, can play a pivotal role in raising public awareness and press into the minds of people the consequences of their actions. On the social front, rapid proliferation of urbanisation and the growing menace of polluting green pastures needs to be plugged and people need to understand that behind the veneer of this so-called progress lie the roots of our decadence of economic depravity. The legal aspect which goes into the heart of the matter can't be ignored and there is a dire and urgent need not only to reinforce the existing laws but to create new ones with a holistic vision so as not only to save this menace of encroachment of agricultural lands by buildings of one sort or the other, but to also save our agricultural resources for the future generations. In absence of these measures and the measure to check the destruction of agri-spaces, we are headed for doom and the day is not far.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer The author is a Srinagar based columnist

The Bihar Caste Census Affirms Need For Increasing Caste-Based Reservations

By Team Swaddle

ihar's caste survey results, therefore, reflect the continued need for affirmative action, which has long formed the locus of vote bank politics and has been mired in merit-based arguments that often refuse to acknowledge the intersectional nature of social justice and welfare reforms. It also underscores why many caste-based communities, including OBC groups, and anti-caste activists have been demanding a nation-wide caste-based census. They believe that these numbers will help frame developmental policies and ensure the benefits are reaching those they are meant for.

OPINIONS

The Pick Of The Bunch

KO Web Desk

The Women of the Women's Reservation Bill

By Indu Agnihotri for The Wire

omen's organisations have, over the last three decades, sustained a debate on all aspects and maintained that the Bill needs to be brought to parliament to allow for a constructive debate on all aspects. There is hardly any constitutional authority that the

organisations did not approach in these decades to push for a debate, even as there was a raging debate within the movement with regard to quotas and clauses for sub-reservation.

Teesta III Dam's Failure is a 'Told You So' Moment in India's Hydropower History

By Anand Sankar for The Quint

stimation of water levels accurately is also critical for engineering a hydroelectric project. A dam must be engineered to withstand a one-in-100-year flood. How will you do that if you have no idea what is the level of that flood from historical data? Granted, there are methods to work this out if data is not available, a project cannot wait 100 years to collect data.

State of Play | The shift in BJP's Kashmir Approach

By Peerzada Ashiq for The Hindu

he BJP leader's acknowledgement of these religious scholars is a departure from the past when they were projected as the party's bete noire in Kashmir. It bears some resemblance to the approach adopted by the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in 2000

Obituary

MS Swaminathan A FARMER'S SCIENTIST



Shri Narendra Modi

few days ago we lost Professor M.S. Swaminathan. Our Ination lost a visionary who revolutionised agricultural science, a stalwart whose contribution to India will always be etched in golden letters. Prof. M.S. Swaminathan loved India and wanted our nation. and our farmers in particular, to lead a life of prosperity. Academically brilliant, he could have chosen any career but he was so impacted by the Bengal famine of 1943 that he was clear that if there is one thing he would do, it would be to study agriculture.

At a relatively young age, he came in contact with Dr. Norman Borlaug and followed his work in great detail. In the 1950's, he was offered a faculty position in the US but he rejected it because he wanted to work in India and for India.

I want you all to think about the challenging circumstances in which he stood as a colossus, guiding our nation towards the path of self-sufficiency and self-confidence. In the first two decades since Independence, we were dealing with immense challenges and one of them was food shortages. In the early 1960s, India was grappling with the ominous shadows of famine and it is then that Prof. Swaminathan's unyielding commitment and foresight ushered a new era of agricultural prosperity. His pioneering work in agriculture and specific sectors like wheat breeding led to a significant increase in wheat production, thus turning India from a food-deficient country into a selfsufficient nation. This tremendous achievement earned him the well deserved title of, "Father of the Indian Green Revolution.

The Green Revolution offered a glimpse of India's "Can Do Spirit" that if we have a billion challenges, we also have a billion minds with the flame of innovation to overcome those challenges. Five decades after the Green Revolution began, Indian agriculture has become far more modern and progressive. But, the very foundations laid by Prof. Swaminathan can never be forgotten.

Over the years, he undertook pioneering research in combatting parasites affecting potato crops. His research also enabled potato crops to withstand cold weather. Today, the world is talking about Millets or Shree Anna as super foods but Prof. Swaminathan had encouraged discourse around millets since the 1990's.

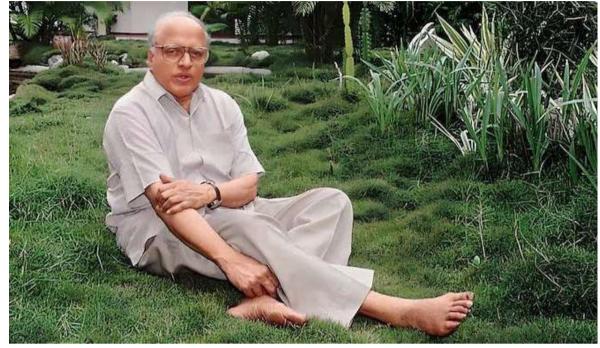
My personal interactions with Prof. Swaminathan were extensive. They began after I took over as Chief Minister of Gujarat in 2001. During those days, Gujarat was not known for its agricultural prowess. Successive droughts and a super cyclone and an Earthquake had impacted the growth trajectory of

JON

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the state. Among the many initiatives we launched, was the Soil Health Card, which enabled us to understand the soil better and address problems if they arose. It was in the context of this scheme that I met Prof. Swaminathan. He appreciated the scheme and also shared his valuable inputs for the same. His endorsement was enough to convince those who were sceptical about the scheme which would eventually set the stage for Gujarat's agricultural success.

Our interactions continued during my Chief Ministerial tenure and also when I took over as Prime Minister. I met him at the International Agro-Biodiversity Congress

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in 2016 and the next year in 2017, I launched a two-part book series written by him.

The Kural describes farmers as the pin that holds the world together because it is the farmers who sustain everyone. Prof. Swaminathan understood this principle very well. A lot of people call him a "Krishi Vaigyanik" - an Agricultural Scientist. But, I have always believed that he was even more. He was a true "Kisan Vaigyanik" - a Farmers' Scientist. In his heart there was a farmer. The success of his works is not restricted to their academic excellence; it lies in the impact they have had outside the laboratories, in the farms and the

Jon Fosse

fields. His work narrowed the gap between scientific knowledge and its practical application. He consistently advocated for sustainable agriculture, emphasising the delicate balance between human advancement and ecological sustainability. Here, I must also note Prof. Swaminathan's special emphasis on improving the lives of the small farmers and ensuring they also enjoy the fruits of innovation. He was particularly passionate about improving the lives of women farmers.

There is another aspect about Prof. M.S. Swaminathan which is remarkable - he stands tall as a paragon of innovation and mentor-

ship. When he won the World Food Prize in 1987, the first recipient of this prestigious honour, he used the prize money to establish a notfor-profit research foundation. Till date, it undertakes extensive work across various sectors. He has nurtured countless minds, instilling in them a passion for learning and innovation. In a rapidly changing world, his life reminds us of the enduring power of knowledge, mentorship, and innovation. He was an institution builder as well, having to his credit many centres where vibrant research takes place. One of his stints was as Director, International Rice Research Institute, Manila. The South Asia Regional Centre of International Rice Research Institute was opened in Varanasi in

I will again cite The Kural to pay tributes to Dr. Swaminathan. It is written there, "If those who have planned have firmness, they will attain what they have desired the way they have desired." Here was a stalwart who decided early on in his life that he wants to strengthen agriculture and serve farmers. And, he did it exceptionally innovatively and passionately. Dr. Swaminathan's contributions continue to inspire and guide us as we navigate the path of agricultural innovation and sustainability. We must also keep reaffirming our commitment to the principles he held dear, championing the cause of farmers and ensuring the fruits of scientific innovation reach the roots of our agricultural expanse, fostering growth, sustainability, and prosperity for generations to come.

The author is the Prime Minister of India

Jon Fosse: Giving Voice To The Unsayable

Alexander Howard

on Fosse has just been awarded the 2023 Nobel Prize in Literature for his "inwhich give voice to the unsay-

The worthy winner, aged 64, is a major figure in Norwegian literary and cultural circles and the fourth Norwegian to win the most prestigious award in world literature. He's also the second Nobel Prize for Literature winner in a row to be published (in English translation) by Fitzcarraldo Editions, following French writer Annie Ernaux's win last year.

Fosse, who the translator Damion Searles calls one of the "elder statesmen of Norwegian letters", works across multiple genres and mediums and writes using a language called "Nynorsk", or New Norwegian. (It's one of two current written forms of Norwegian – used by just 10% of the Norwegian population.) Some, though not the writer himself, have interpreted this as a quietly political gesture.

Anders Olsson, chairman of the Nobel Literature Committee, described Fosse as blending "a rootedness in the nature and language of his Norwegian background" with the artistic techniques of modernism.

Despite having been in the running for the award for a number of years, Fosse, as with several other 21st century European laureates like Elfriede Jelinek and the controversial Peter Handke, is still largely unknown in the

English-speaking world. "I have been among the favourites for ten years, and felt sure that I would never get the prize," Fosse said in a statement issued by his publisher. "I simply cannot believe it."

Septology – an experimental tour de force

With the receipt of the Nobel, however, his profile will inevitably rise. This is surely a good thing. What, though, should readers who might be new to Fosse's body of work expect?

JON

FOSSE

Fosse's massive literary oeuvre includes roughly 40 plays - the Nobel committee called him "one of the most recognised and widely performed playwrights of our time" - as well as novels, poetry collections, essays, children's books and translations.

His debut novel, Red, Black (originally published as Raudt, svart), was published in 1983. The first play he wrote that was performed, And Never Shall We Part (Og aldri skal vi skiljast) was staged in 1994.

"It was the first time I had ever tried my hand at this kind of work, and it was the biggest surprise of my life as a writer," he once said of writing his first play. "I knew, I felt, that this kind

of writing was made for me." One work in particu-

lar stands out, though: his monumental novel sequence, the near 800-page, one-sentence long Septology - written after Fosse converted to Catholicism in 2013. (Formerly an atheist, he had grown up in a strict Lutheran family.)

This experimental tour de force, which was nominated for the International Booker Prize in 2022 for its third volume, focuses on an ageing painter and widower, Asle, living on the southwest coast of Norway. He lives near another painter who shares his name, but is lonely and consumed by alcohol. (Incidentally, Fosse himself famously gave up drinking many years ago, after being treated in hospital for

alcohol poisoning.) The doppelgängers grapple with existential questions about death, love, light and shadow, faith and hopelessness.

In the New York Times, Randy Boyagoda rapturously

Having read the Norwegian writer Jon Fosse's "Septology", an extraordinary seven-novel sequence about an old man's recursive reckoning with the braided realities of God, art, identity, family life and human life itself, I've come into awe and reverence myself for idiosyncratic forms of immense metaphysical fortitude.

'The Beckett of the 21st

century' While a touch gnomic, the Nobel committee's emphasis on the "unsayable" side of

things offers a useful initial means for approaching certain of the more experimental aspects of Fosse's work, and Septology in particular.

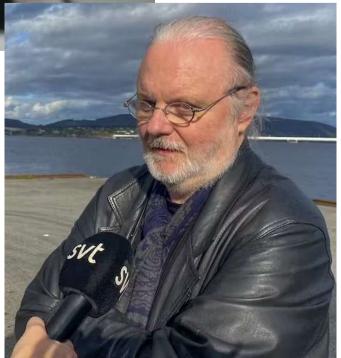
thetic sensibility with that of a much earlier Nobel laureate, the Irish dramatist and novelist Samuel Beckett - who the Nobel committee also compared him to (along with other modernists like Georg Trakl).

Indeed, the the French press has described him as the "Beckett of the 21st century".

In his 1983 late masterwork, Worstword Ho, Beckett wrote: Ooze on back not to unsay but say again the vasts apart. Say seen again. No worse again. The vasts of void apart. Of all so far the missaid the

worse missaid. In it, Beckett looks to test the very possibilities of linguistic expression, in keeping with his broader existential project. (Suffice to say: the conclusion he comes to is characteristically downbeat.)

A dauntingly experimental



work, in the reckoning of the critical theorist Pascale Cassanova, it "denounces the taken-for-granted realist assumptions on which the whole literary edifice is based". This is worth keeping in mind when it comes to Fosse.

As the journalist Dani Garavelli notes, in what appears to be a clear nod in the direction of Beckett (who he admires), Fosse "reflects on the inadequacy of language in the struggle for intimacy" in his work. Fosse has called Beckett "a

painter for the theatre rather than an actual author". In I is Another, published in English in 2020 (the sec-

ond instalment of Septology),

it's not something to put into words, because you can't put what a good picture says into words, and as for my pictures the closest he can get to is to say that there's an approaching distance, something far away that gets closer, in my pictures, it's as if something imperceptible becomes perceptible and yet still stays imperceptible, it's still hidden, it is something staying hidden, if you can say it that way [...]

Here, as in the pessimistic modernist monologues of Thomas Bernhard (another writer Fosse has been compared to), he touches on questions of artistic and written expression. And, too, on what appear to be the irreducible shortcomings of human communication.

Fosse, who began writing in Nynorsk - which he terms a "minority language" - at the age of 12, seems to have spent much of his life grappling with those questions and limits. Nearly ten years ago, he re-flected: "Writing has been a way of surviving." It remains to be said whether the Nobel will change Fosse's feelings. Only time will tell.

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Newsclick row: Order remanding Purkayastha, Chakravarty in police custody under HC scanner

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: A trial court's order remanding NewsClick founder Prabir Purkayastha and human resources department head Amit Chakravarty in police custody in a case lodged under anti-terror law Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) Friday came under scanner in the Delhi High Court which said there appeared to be something missing as the order was apparently passed without hearing their counsel.

Purkayastha and Chakravarty, who were arrested by the Special Cell of the Delhi Police on October 3 and are in police custody, rushed to the high court challenging their arrest and sought immediate release as an interim relief.

However, Justice Tushar Rao Gedela said such a relief cannot be granted at this stage as the court has to also hear the counsel for police, and listed the matter for further hearing on October 9 as the first case.

"The only difficulty is that the allegations don't seem to be of such nature that you can be released immediately," the high court said.

Besides their arrest, the duo has also challenged the trial court's order remanding them in seven-day police custody and sought quashing of the FIR in the case.

The high court issued notice and sought Delhi Police's response on the two petitions challenging their arrest, remand order and seeking quashing of the FIR. It also asked the police to file a reply with regard to the interim applications seeking release till the pendency of the petitions.

The high court asked the investigating officer to produce the case diary before it on Monday and ensure the medical condition of Chakravarty, who is differently-abled, is not



Sibal contended.

accused)."

unsustainable.

Justice Gedela orally re-

marked, "Mr Mehta, just tell us

one thing. So far as the order

that has been passed on remand,

there appears to be something

which is missing there because

it says it was passed at 6 AM and

apparently he (trial court judge)

has not heard the counsel (for

own terms, the remand order is

Sibal submitted that on its

To this, the judge said, "That's

precisely why I am saying we'll

have to give them a hearing. But

if I hold it unsustainable, it goes.

Sibal responded: "Then why should I be inside (in custody)

over the weekend? Give me in-

terim protection. Prima facie if

I have a case, grant me interim

release and hear it on Monday, I

were arrested by the Special Cell

of the Delhi Police on October 3

and were ordered to be in their

custody till October 11. Police

have sealed the NewsClick's of-

of receiving money to spread

pro-China propaganda.

The portal has been accused

Purkayastha and Chakravarty

The whole thing goes."

will go back again.'

fice in Delhi

compromised.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Delhi Police, said replies to the interim prayers will be filed within a day. He urged the court to grant him some time to get instructions and list the matter for Monday.

"I don't have the copy, I will put in my reply to this (petitions and applications). Several facts are stated and are pleaded (that) I do not know. Factually also, I will have to take instructions. I don't even have the papers, kindly keep the matter on Monday."

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, representing Purkayastha, said he has shown the documents to the court and his client was entitled to release as the arrest was illegal and no grounds for it was conveyed to him.

He claimed violation of the Delhi High Court Rules which say that an accused is entitled to counsel and asserted the remand order was passed without hearing Purkayastha's lawyer or considering his response to the remand application.

"This is completely illegal. His custody can't be continued. He must be released forthwith,"

and cause disaffection against the country.

It also alleged Purkayastha conspired with a group --

conspired with a group --People's Alliance for Democracy and Secularism (PADS) -- to sabotage the electoral process during the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

According to the FIR, a large

amount of funds to the news

portal came from China to "dis-

rupt the sovereignty of India"

These foreign funds were fraudulently infused by an active member of the propaganda department of the Communist Party of China, Neville Roy Singham, it claimed.

During the arguments, Sibal said a raid was conducted at the residence of his client on the morning of October 3 and he was taken to the office of the Special Cell at Lodhi Road. He was arrested the same evening at around 7 PM.

The next day, he was taken to the residence of the trial court judge at around 6-6:30 AM for production where the prosecutor and legal aid counsel were present but the family members or counsel of Purkayastha were not informed, Sibal claimed.

Sibal said the family members and counsel were later informed about the remand proceedings. They objected when told that the remand application will be sent through WhatsApp and he can file his objections using the same mode.

The remand application was sent through WhatsApp message to Purkayastha's counsel at around 7:07 PM after which he sent a document containing detailed objections to the grant of remand on the same number, the senior lawyer said.

However, they came to know that Purkayastha had already been sent to police custody for seven days and the trial court's order records that it was signed at 6 AM, which could not have been the case as no remand order was passed at

least till 7 AM when the petitioner's family member was called to join the proceedings, Sibal contended.

He said shockingly, the order also records the presence of the petitioner's counsel through telephone though he was contacted only at 7 AM and could not have been present at 6 AM.

"What is happening to our courts? That's all I can say. Grounds of arrest are not given to me. Now there is an order of the Supreme Court that grounds of arrest are not only to be communicated but they have to be handed over to the person in writing," he argued.

As the court pointed out that apparently in the remand application the police have not disclosed that grounds of arrest were communicated to the two individuals, the solicitor general said there's more to it than meets the eye.

"We understand that but if there is a judgment of the SC staring in the eyes," the high court said, referring to a recent order of the apex court directing the ED to henceforth furnish the ground of arrest to an accused.

In the morning, the matter was mentioned for urgent hearing by Sibal before a bench headed by the chief justice which allowed it for listing during the day.

On Thursday, a trial court had directed the city police to provide the duo with a copy of the FIR, citing a 2016 order of the Supreme Court and a 2010 order of the Delhi High Court.

A raid was conducted on October 3 at 88 locations in Delhi and seven in other states on the suspects named in the FIR and those that surfaced in the analysis of data, the police said.

A total of 46 journalists and contributors to NewsClick were questioned on Tuesday and their mobile phones and other electronic gadgets seized.

Palestinians March At Youth's Funeral Procession After Settler Rampage In Flashpoint West Bank Town

Ramallah (West Bank): Palestinians on Friday marched in anger to bury a 19-year-old killed by Israeli fire after Jewish settlers rampaged through a flashpoint town in the occupied West Bank the night before.

The youth's death, coming as tensions escalate during the Jewish holiday season, marked the latest in a surge in Israeli-Palestinian fighting that has so far killed nearly 200 Palestinians this year the highest yearly death toll in about two decades. Some 30 people have been killed in Palestinian attacks on Israelis during that time.

It remained unclear on Friday who fired the bullet that killed Labeeb Dumaidi, a 19-year-old Palestinian from the town of Hawara. The Israeli military said soldiers shot a Palestinian who threw a cinderblock at an Israeli car.

Palestinians in Hawara claimed that an Israeli settler shot and killed Dumaidi, a freshman majoring in graphic design at the nearby Palestine Technical University, while he was standing on his rooftop watching clashes unfold on the street between settlers and Palestinians. The conflicting accounts could not immediately be reconciled.

Following a brazen Palestinian shooting attack on an Israeli motorist along the volatile route through Hawara on Thursday, mobs from nearby Israeli settlements stormed into the town.

Scores of settlers wreaked havoc, said Hawara mayor Moeen Dmeidi, torching at least three cars, shattering the windows of six homes and spraying bullets.

Although on a smaller scale, Thursday night's intrusion recalled the ferocious settler rampage through the same town in February that left a trail of destruction and one Palestinian dead.

That rampage, and other sporadic acts of revenge on Hawara residents following Palestinian shootings in the restive northern West Bank, have drawn attention to a sharp surge in settler violence under Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's farright government.

Palestinians say that there is even more impunity for settler violence than ever with the Israeli army doing little to stop the spiral and powerful far-right ministers at times appearing to endorse the assaults with anti-Arab rhetoric.

When the Israeli military arrived late Thursday to disperse the angry crowds of settlers and Palestinians, residents said that the violence only escalated. Palestinians threw stones at soldiers, the army said, damaging Israeli cars. Soldiers responded with tear gas, rubber bullets and live fire.

When the soldiers and settlers retreated, Hawara residents said they were left to face shattered supermarkets, charred vehicles and traumatised children. Even the windows of the local Kentucky Fried Chicken were smashed.

"At this point I'm used to it, but my children still get terrified," said 39-year-old Sultan Abu Saress, a father of three children who owns a car dealership in the town. At least 20 of his cars were damaged by settlers throwing stones Thursday night.

He said that starting a successful business in Hawara was his biggest accomplishment in life and that he'd never leave, even if settlers try to force him.

"This is becoming a truly impossible place to live," Abu Saress said. "But my parents were Palestinian refugees. I am not going to become one."

CONTD. FROM **FRONT** PAGE

AT&C Losses

taken-up the matter with the central government and the winter allocation quota has been granted," Prasad told Kashmir Observer.

He further said that currently the UT has over 1900 MW of electricity and that is almost close to what it was last year.

Notably, the Valley is witnessing unscheduled power cuts from the last few weeks forcing people to hit the streets.

Prasad further said that the gov-

ernment is implementing a scheme called Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) in the UT for which GOI has already sanctioned Rs 12000 crore out of which Rs 5000 crore have been sanctioned.

"It is going to be utilized for the upgradation of the infrastructure, especially in distribution and installation of smart meters and the replacement of old conductors in new ones," he added.

Friday Following

"We seek mercy and forgiveness from Almighty Allah, transcending boundaries and divisions, and we have gathered here to unite as one on this blessed Friday after Eid-E-Milad Un Nabi," said Mukhtar Ahmad, a local from Khwaja Bazar.

Rogue Officer

seemed to be in some panic attack. The erring officer had ensured that all weapons in the post were depos-

ited in the armoury.

As soon as attempts were made to pacify him, he is alleged to have started indiscriminate firing and lobbing grenades leading to injuries of two middle-rung personnel and the unit's second-in-command.

This prompted the commanding officer of the unit, along with the Regimental Medical Officer (RMO), to rush to the scene. They too were injured and are believed to have received splinter injuries.

The injured were taken to Thanamandi, from where three were airlifted to the Command Hospital in Udhampur.

The erring officer has been detained and is being questioned, the officials said, adding a Court of Inquiry has been ordered into the incident.

The tense situation at the camp lasted nearly eight hours before the officer was overpowered inside the armoury late in the evening on Thursday.

The army posted on X late Thursday night that an officer was injured in a likely grenade accident at a post in Rajouri.

"On 05 Oct 23 one officer was

injured in a likely grenade accident at a post in Rajouri sector. Officer evacuated and stable post initial treatment. Further investigation of the incident in progress," the White Knight Corps of the army posted on X.

Official sources said there was a firing practice session at the camp for the past several days and the accused officer started firing on his colleagues and subordinates without any provocation on Thursday afternoon.

Later, he took shelter inside the armoury of the camp and hurled grenades when the commanding officer, along with his deputy and the medical officer, moved near the building in an effort to persuade him to surrender, the sources said.

On the incident, Jammu-based defence PRO Lt Col Suneel Bartwal said in a message on Thursday night, "I have received calls about some firing/terrorist attack on army camp in General Area Rajouri. I would like to inform you that no terrorist attack has occurred, it is an unfortunate internal incident of the camp."

Kupwara To Be

own land and are eligible have been given five marlas of land by the government. If there is any person who is eligible for the PMAY but has no land, the J-K administration will provide five marlas of land to him," he added.

The lieutenant governor, who spent Thursday night at Kupwara and interacted with many public delegation and officers to assess the development needs of people of the north Kashmir district, said the people-centric policies have given fresh impetus to all-round development in the district and the common man is living in a peaceful environment.

Sinha added that well-planned efforts have resulted in a significant increase in tourist influx in the district.

"Electricity has reached the farflung areas and works under the Jal Jeevan Mission has been expedited. We are hopeful to achieve the target of covering all villages, panchayats and households under 'Nal Se Jal' by December 31 this year in the district. Seventy per cent work has already been completed," he said.

On the second day of his visit to Kupwara, the LG interacted with various public delegation.

The delegation comprising PRI members, residents of border villages, traders federation, members of Pahadi, Gujjar Bakerwal and minority communities, farmers, transporters, media fraternity and the Bar Association apprised Sinha on various development-related issues and other matters of public importance.

The lieutenant governor assured

the delegation of time-bound redressal of their issues.

Earlier, Sinha paid obeisance at Mata Kheer Bhawani Asthapan Tikkar Kupwara and prayed for peace, prosperity, happiness and well-being of one and all, according to an official statement.

Inaugurates Rabi

supply of critical inputs, fertilizers, facilitation of innovative technologies to enhance production for self

sufficiency in oilseeds and pulses
He shared the efforts of the UT
Administration to bring a paradigm
shift in cultivation of Rabi crops.

During the previous Rabi season, the LG said, Kashmir Division for the first time had witnessed yellow revolution and an area of 1.4 Lakh hectare was brought under mustard cultivation. Upto Rabi 2020-21, about 70% of cultivable land used to remain fallow in Rabi season.

"The Rabi cropping intensity in Kashmir Division has increased rapidly. In 2022-23, farmers harvested 2027 MT of Rabi Crops which realised the estimated revenue of Rs.5000 Crore," he said.

"It is a golden era for the Agriculture and allied sector. I am confident the exponential growth in the Agriculture sector will contribute to the vision of Viksit Bharat," he added.

Highlighting the significant impact of the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) on the agriculture sector, Sinha said that under the revolutionary intervention, the farmers of J&K are being encouraged to join Agri Stack and use innovative and sustainable solutions available across the country as per their needs.

"A sustainable mechanism is also being developed through technological interventions to provide doorstep delivery of services and necessary information to farmers," he added.

At the inaugural ceremony, the LG directed the officials to make dedicated efforts to establish Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS) in every panchayat.

"Cooperative sector holds immense capacity for agricultural growth and prosperity. The penetration of PACS and Farmer Producer Organizations at grassroot level will bring stability and sustainability to production, value addition in Agriculture & Allied Sector," he said.

He further said that training and capacity building programmes are also playing an important role in increasing farm productivity.

"Leave no farmer behind. Officials

should ensure all the farmers are

registered on Daksh portal and all

possible assistance, benefits provided to them," Sinha said.

"I am sure with the hardwork of farmers, extension of scientific knowledge & technologies, by tapping the potential of diversification & intercropping and robust linkages for end-to-end operations, from sowing to selling, the J&K UT will become the number one region in terms of farmer's income in the next 4 years," he added.

The LG inaugurated a Custom Hiring Centre and handed over sanction letters to the beneficiaries under various schemes.

He also visited the stalls put up by farmers, agri-entrepreneurs and government departments.

HC Quashes PSA

to assess, in what manner and to what extent, that irrelevant ground operated on the mind of the appropriate authority, and contributed to his satisfaction that it was necessary to detain the detenu in order to prevent him from acting in any manner prejudicial to the maintenance of the public order or security of the State," a bench of Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul said while quashing detention order under PSA dated 29 June 2022, issued by Deputy Commissioner Anantnag against a youth Zubair Ahmad Khan of Rampora Mattan Anantnag. "As a corollary, respondents are directed to set the detenu (Khan) at liberty forthwith provided he is not required in any other case."

Meanwhile a bench of Justice Javed Iqbal Wani quashed PSA order passed by Deputy Commissioner Budgam dated 16 September 2022 against Abdul Majeed Dar alias Madnee.

...as regards grounds of detention being the ditto copy of the dossier prepared by the Senior Superintendent of Police, Budgam, has necessitated the perusal of the record which reveals that the grounds of detention are admittedly the ditto copy of the dossier," the court said, adding, "In law, it is the detaining authority, which has to go through the reports and other inputs received from concerned police and other agencies and on such perusal draw subjective satisfaction that a person is to be placed under the preventive detention."

It is, thus, for the detaining authority to formulate the grounds of detention and satisfy itself that the grounds of detention so formulated warrant passing of the order of preventive detention, the court said.

"Viewed thus, in the context of what has been observed, analyzed and considered in the preceding paragraphs, instant petition is allowed and consequent to which the impugned order of detention bearing No. DMB/PSA/42 of 2022 dated 16.09.2022 is quashed, with the direction to the respondents including the Jail authorities concerned to release the detenu (Madnee) forthwith from preventive custody unless required in any other case," the court

SMC Corporator

Aqib Ahmed Renzu was arrested on September 23 after the victim produced "strong technical evidence" against him, officials said.

The corporator of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) is a resident of the city's Nishat area.

"SMC corporator Aqib Ahmed Renzu S/o Bilal Ahmed Renzu booked under PSA & has been lodged in Kot Balwal jail, Jammu," Srinagar Police said in a post on X.

Renzu has seven FIRs registered against him in different police stations of Srinagar, police said.

"The offences range from rioting, assault, blackmail, sexual harassment and outraging modesty etc," an official said.

The Public Safety Act (PSA) was enacted by then chief minister Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah in 1978 initially to check timber smuggling. However, the law was later used to book militants, separatists and others.

It is a preventive detention law under which a person is taken into custody to prevent them from acting harmfully against "the security of the state or the maintenance of the public order" in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir (now a Union Territory).

PSA, which applies only to Jammu and Kashmir, is similar to the National Security Act.

Slain Teen's Sister

praying, Bashir said, she heard the main gate of their house open and looked out of the window to see who it was.

"My mother saw two masked men at the gate and repeatedly asked them who they were and what the matter was but they did not respond," Bashir said.

When the duo tried to open the door of their house, Bashir's mother started shouting that thieves were at their house.

Hearing the commotion, Dar, who was in the kitchen, came out.

When Bashir came down, she said, she saw Dar had caught hold of one

she saw Dar had caught hold of one of the men.
"I kept telling my brother to let the

man go but he said they were thieves

and wanted to rob our house," she

Soon after, the man whom Dar was holding onto started hitting Bashir with his elbow while she tried to pull her brother in.

Then one of the men pulled out a

pistol and shot at Dar, recalled Bashir, choked with emotion.
"I cried for help but no one came.

"I cried for help but no one came. While the two attackers were fleeing, they fired two shots in air," she said.

After some time, some youths from the neighbourhood came and took Dar to the hospital, while the distraught sister rushed to inform her father.

Dar succumbed to his injuries at a hospital here on Thursday.

Bear Mauls

have appealed to the authorities to capture the wild bear so that no more human lives are lost due to such attacks by beasts.

Chargesheet Filed

fraudster duped the complainant Puran Chand, resident of village Gazipur Kulian, R S Pura, District Jammu of Rs 28 lakh after the accused enticed him by pretending to be the Head of the Indian Cooperative Mission (ICOM) and to work with him in different projects of the mission.

He said that the case owes its origin to a written complaint lodged by Puran Chand, who alleged therein that one Upendra Singh Rudradeo cheated him by taking an amount of Rs 28 lakh in the month of January 2017, through one of his close friend namely Rakesh Ranjan who introduced the complainant with the accused person by branding the accused as National Head organization committee of Indian Cooperative Mission.

The accused thereafter said that he showed the complainant a fake project file of Indian Cooperative Mission (ICOM) and took the complainant into confidence to work with the accused in different projects with Indian Cooperative Mission and finally duped him.

"On receipt of the complaint a preliminary verification was initiated by Crime Branch Jammu in accordance with the procedure in vogue and during the course of enquiry the allegations levelled were prima-facie substantiated against the accused leading to the registration of a formal case against the accused under the relevant sections of law," he

added. **Fire Breaks**

due to difficult terrain, nothing much could be done.

The flares were continuing – when this report was being filed. (GNS)

J&K Cong Protests Against BJP Over Rahul Gandhi Poster

this country.

"The people of this country like him. The BJP is afraid of the

growing love of the people to-

wards Rahul ji, that is why it is

adopting such tactics," he said.

Congress' Srinagar district

committee took out a protest

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Congress on Friday held a protest against the BJP for portraying Rahul Gandhi as a 'new age Ravan' in a social media

The BJP poster on X had trig-



the Congress which on Thursday called it totally unacceptable and "downright dangerous".

Led by former minister Yogesh Sawhney, scores of Congress workers took out a protest rally in Jammu city. They shouted slogans against the BJP and burnt its effigies.

"We condemn such acts of the BJP. The protest is to show our anger over the cheap act of BJP. We wanted to take a rally to the Raj Bhawan to hold protests there, but were prevented from doing so," Sawhney told reporters here.

'Rahul ji is our leader and we cannot tolerate such language against him," Sawhney said adding that he is the leader of

towards the Lal Chowk city centre but were stopped by the police.

"We are protesting because the BJP government and the party made a poster about Rahul Gandhi. We feel that the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi are totally afraid of Rahul ji," Shamim Raina, a Congress leader told PTI in Srinagar.

She said people were moved by Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra, after which they started opposing the BJP.

"Election surveys are showing Congress is ahead in many states. So they are now afraid of Rahul ji and that is why they made this poster. But Rahul ji is people's leader," Raina added.

BANDIPORA AUTUMN FESTIVAL

Season-1 Of 'Kashur Fankar' Held At Wular Vantage Park



Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: With the aim of promoting Bandipora as prominent tourist destination, a vibrant 'Koshur Funkar' event was held on Friday as part of Bandipora Autumn Festival at the Wular Vantage Park in Bandipora

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad presided over the vibrant music festival, 'Kashur Fankar'.

The event organised by District Administration in collaboration with Ali Sports Academy. Bandipora, was attended by aspiring musicians, prominent singers, and artists from the valley to showcase their extraordinary talents. Besides the young music aspirants, the top singers and artists from the valley, including Gulzar Ahmad Ganaie, Noor Mohammad, Nazir Ganaie were also present on the occasion.

Kashur Fankar proved to be a remarkable platform for budding artists to display their musical prowess and artistic flair. The festival was organised to nurture and promote the rich cultural heritage and artistic diversity of the Kashmir Valley.

During the event, a captivating lineup of musical performances, ranging from traditional Kashmiri folk music to contemporary genres, showcasing the versatility of the local artist, were performed. The rich cultural traditions of Kashmir mesmerized the audience in the occasion.

Apart from the musical performances, Kashur Fankar also hosted masterclasses conducted by

renowned musicians and artists. Attendees were treated to a feast for their ears in addition to the scenic beauty of natural

wonders of the region. Dr Owais, on the occasion, said that the gathering here serves as an inspiration for the whole valley of Kashmir to preserve the cultural heritage of Kashmiri tradition. He said that youth is full of potential, which needs to be nurtured given proper platform. Talent should not be hidden, it must be expressed through such

platforms, the DC added. The DC extended his gratitude to all involved and expressed optimism for the continued growth of the local artistic community.

basis from Registered / reputed and experienced firms and having experience for execution of below mentioned work.



THOUSANDS OF DEVOTEES THRONGED the revered Hazratbal shrine in Srinagar and offered congregational prayers on the occasion of Friday following Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH).

Ready To Deal With Any Challenge: IAF

All measures in place to counter drone threats; Helicopter units very helpful for difficulty terrain of J&K: AoC Rawat

JAMMU: Ahead of the Air Force Day on October 8, the Air-Officer-Commanding (AOC) of Air Force Station, Jammu, Air Commodore Sagar Singh Rawat, Vayu Sena Medal, Friday said that Indian Air Force (IAF) is ready to respond to any eventuality and has put all measures in place to counter the threat of drones from across the Indo-Pak border in Jammu.

Addressing a press conference at Jammu, the AoC AFS, said that the air force is ready and prepared for all eventualities and challenges.

"See we are prepared for any eventuality and all mea-sures are in place," Air Officer Commanding (AoC) Jammu, Air Commodore S S Rawat told reporters here to a question on drone threat, adding that all measures are in place to counter drone threats.

Asked about the success rate of IAF's surveillance operations, Rawat said most of the operations are successful.

"Our platform is capable of carrying out surveillance and reconnaissance with efficiency," said the AOC.

operations in coordination ing evacuated feel hesitant and with the Army, Rawat added.



onstrated Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) recently conducted by Jammu based 130 Helicopter Unit (Condors) in recent Himachal Pradesh floods and commanding officer of the unit which, equipped with Mil Mi-17, Irfan Juriyal, stressed on the importance of helicopters for terrain like Jammu and Kashmir.

"All I can say through your (media) medium is that people can trust us and we are available to save them from any natural calamity or disaster like situation," said Juriyal, who is also CO of Helicopter Unit.

Earlier, AOC Rawat welcomed the participants and greeted the 91st anniversary of the Indian Air Force.

Wing Commander Juriyal further added, "Yes we do face challenges during such situations The IAF is deployed for such when many people who are beare not confident in extending a The Air Force also dem- hand for help on seeing a huge cessfully."—(KNO)

machine (MI-17 Helicopter)."

"But, our Garud Commandos play an important role in restoring the confidence of the trapped people to save their precious lives. People can trust us as we are always available to save them from any calamity during Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations," said the IAF officer.

"The operation was challenging in view of the topography of the area but our teams including the Garud Commandos and trained crew were always on toes and evacuated them in a very professional manner," he added.

Wing Commander Juriyal said, "the operational team also had amazing coordination with the command system team while the technical and mechanical team like everyone else played a key role thoroughly and professionally

DC Bandipora Reviews Progress On Ring Road Project

Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmed Friday convened a meeting of officers to review the progress of work on the ambitious ring road project.

The meeting discussed in detail progress achieved and other issues of the ring road project. Speaking on the occasion,

the DC asked the concerned authorities to conduct demarcation of the land involved, keeping in consideration less damage to property. He directed the concerned officials to clear all the bottlenecks so that the project is completed in a timely manner.

He assured all possible support from the District Administration in construction of the concerned to remove bottle-

necks without delay. The meeting was attended by Nodal Officer Coordination/ ACD Bandipora Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, ADC Bandipora Umar Shafi, Project Director NHAI, ACR Bandipora, Tehsildar Sumbal and other concerned officers from line departments and NHAI.

Five District Hospitals In Kashmir Lack CT-Scan Facilities

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Five district hospitals in Kashmir are lagging behind in medical technology as they do not have CT-Scan facilities available, causing significant challenges for the local

According to reports, the districts lacking CT-Scan facilities include Srinagar, Budgam, Bandipora, Ganderbal and Shopian.

Health officials revealed that JLNM Hospital in Srinagar currently does not have CT-Scan facilities. However, residents of Srinagar have alternative hospitals available, mitigating their difficulties.

An official mentioned District Hospital Bandipora where a CT-Scan machine was approved three years ago, but it has not been installed yet, leaving patients in the district to suffer immensely. The absence of this crucial equipment forces medical professionals to refer emergency and trauma patients to city hospitals, sometimes leading to tragic outcomes, he said.

District Hospital Ganderbal faces a similar situation, compelling patients to seek services from private diagnostic centres or city hospitals.

A health official in the district said the approval for a CT-Scan machine at the DH Ganderbal has been granted and is expected to be installed this month.

The scenario is no different in Budgam, where patients have no choice but to travel to Srinagar or private diagnostic centres due to the unavailability of CT-Scan facilities in the district hospital.

Similarly, District Hospital Shopian operates without a CT-Scan machine, forcing patients to be referred to other hospitals, primarily in Srinagar.

The official expressed concern over the financial burden on patients, saying they usually have to rush to private labs in Srinagar to get the procedure done. The cost, ranging from Rs 2500 to Rs 3000, is unaffordable for many underprivileged patients, he said

Kashmir Hospitals Witness Surge In RSV Cases: DAK

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Friday said hospitals in Kashmir are witnessing surge in severe Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

"Over the last few weeks, hospitals are seeing increase in number of seriously-ill RSV patients," said DAK President and influenza expert Dr Nisar ul Hassan.

Dr Hassan said young children and elderly are coming to hospitals with severe pneumonia requiring oxygen, some needing intensive care and support of ventilators to help them survive the respiratory distress.

RSV is not new. We see it every year during winter months. RSV particularly affects young children. It can be life-threatening in infants and older adults.

"Most years, infections typi-

cally occur in the late fall and winter, often overlapping with flu season. But since last year we are seeing early surges," he

The DAK President said RSV kind of took a backseat during Covid pandemic. People were hardly exposed to the virus because of Covid precautions like masking and social distancing. Now with reopening it seems to be coming back again.

'Very young children born iust before or during the pandemic had no exposure to RSV and didn't build immunity against the virus. And now they are getting exposed to the virus and it is hitting them really hard." he said.

Dr Nisar said the symptoms of RSV include runny nose, cough, fever and difficulty in breathing. Infants can manifest with irritability, trouble breathing and refusal to feeds.

CONGRATULATION

DR. SHAHID WALI" HAS BEEN APPOINTED MEN'S SENIOR FOOTBALL TEAM FOR THE **CHAMPIONSHIP SANTOSH TROPHY 2023 AT** GOA. DR. SHAHID HAILS FROM IQBAL COLONY, CHANAPORA, SRINAGAR, AND **CURRENTLY SERVES AS A CONSULTANT** PHYSIOTHERAPIST AT MOTHERCARE BHAGAT AND RAJBAGH. ADDITIONALLY, HE HOLDS THE POSITION OF HEAD PHYSIOTHERAPIST AT PREMIER DIVISION FOOTBALL CLUB SYED TAJUDDIN FC NATIPORA.

WE ARE THRILLED TO ANNOUCE THAT





EXECUTIVE ENINGEER MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL DIVISION SKIMS/JVC, SOURA SRINAGAR

Short term notice inviting E-tenders

Gist of e-NIT NO. MHD, SKIMS/JVC 72 OF 2023-24 dated.04.10.2023 For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders are invited in two cover system (Technical and financial) on item rate

	<u> </u>						
S No.	Name of Work	Estimated cost EMD		Cost of tender		Budget	
		(Rs. In lakhs)		document	time.	Head	
	Restructuring/alteration of existing MRD near casualty						
01	entrance at SKIMS, MCH, Bemina (Mechanical compo-	2.50	Rs.5000/-	Rs.500/-	15days	CAPEX	
	nent for STIC of central heating facility)					1	

The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of Quantities (BOQ), set of terms and conditions of contract

and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below: 01. Period of downloading of bidding documents / sale of tender documents. 02. Bid submission start date 05-10-2023 from 4.00 P.M 03. Bid submission end date 11-10-2023 upto 3.00 P.M 04. Date & time of opening of technical bids on line.							
	01.		05-10-2023 from 4.00 P.M				
١	02.	Period of downloading of bidding documents / sale of tender documents. Bid submission start date					
١	03.	Bid submission end date	11-10-2023 upto 3.00 P.M				
	04.	Date & time of opening of technical bids on line.	12-10-2023 at 02.00 P.M in the office of the Executive Engineer Mech. SKIMS, Soura OR any other subsequent date convenient to the opening authority.				
١	01. Period of downloading of bidding documents / sale of tender documents. 05-10-2023 from 4.00 P.M 02. Bid submission start date 05-10-2023 from 4.00 P.M 03. Bid submission end date 11-10-2023 upto 3.00 P.M 04. Date & time of opening of technical bids on line. 12-10-2023 at 02.00 P.M in the office of the Executive Engineer Mech. SKIMS, Soura OR any other subsequent date convenient to the opening authority.						
1	06	Position of funds	Available				

- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in upto said bidding schedule with 1. Digital Signature and no bid will be accepted in physical form.
- 2. The Executive Engineer Mech. SKIMS Soura reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders or any tender in part or whole without assigning any reasons thereof.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 240 days from the date of opening of financial bids. The successful bidder will have to submit original copy of EMD before issuance of LOI or LOA.

No: MCH/SKIMS/JVC-785/23-24-2374-77

Dated. 05/10/2021

DIPK-NB-3523-23 DT: 06/10/2023

Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division SKIMS/ JVC, Soura Srinagar

Government OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

FRESH SHORT TERM E NIT No. 127 / 2023-24 Dated: 04/10/2023 For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Of Union Territory Of J&K , e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with UT of J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (In Lacs)	Tender Fee (In Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	EMD (In Rs.)	Major Head	BLOCK/HALQA	TYPE OF TENDER
1	2	3	4	6	8	9	10	11	12
1	C/O Tile path and Improvement of Link Road BWO khakhbajiri / Nalla Muck at Nawab Chaman Nai Basti Asham-B		200	30 Days	DEE OTHERS	3% of Adv Cost	DDC	Block:- Sumbal Halqa:- Asham B	BLOCK LEVEL
2	Tile paths at Ganie Mohalla Asham-B	2.00	200	30 Days	DEE OTHERS	3% of Adv Cost	DDC	Block:- Sumbal Halga:- Asham B	BLOCK LEVEL
3	C/O R-WALLL for Canal from L/O Ab Hameed dar to Onwards at Asham-A	2.00	200	30 Days	DEE OTHERS	3% of Adv Cost	DDC	Block:- Sumbal Halga:- Asham B	BLOCK LEVEL
4	Development of Land BWO Earth Filling near Ziyarat Baba Nasir Sahib Asham-B		200	30 Days	DEE OTHERS	3% of Adv Cost	DDC	Block:- Sumbal Halqa:- Asham B	BLOCK LEVEL
5	C/O R-WALLL on Both sides of Z-Kul frm Baba Naseeb Sb to Onwards at Asham-B		300	30 Days	DEE OTHERS	3% of Adv Cost	DDC	Block:- Sumbal Halqa:- Asham B	BLOCK LEVEL
6	Constt of PCC path at different spots at wno 1	2.80	200	30 DAYS	DEE/ OTHERS	3% OF ADV	PRI	BLOCK : ALOOSA HALQA: KEHNUSA A	BLOCK LEVEL
7	C/O 1 no of foot culvert near HO Ab Rehman khuroo w no 7	0.50	200	30 DAYS	DEE/ OTHERS	3% OF ADV	PRI	BLOCK: ALOOSA HALQA: KEHNUSA-A	BLOCK LEVEL

Position of T/S: Accorded Position of A/A: Accorded The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of

contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.inas per schedule of dates. Date of Issue of Tender Notice 05-10-2023 05 -10-2023 from 09:00 AM Online Bid submission Start Date Online Bid Submission End Date 10-10-2023 up to 04:00 PM 11-10-2023 at 11:00 AM or any convenient day In theoffice of the Executive Engineer

Date & time of opening of Online Bids REW Bandipora ote: Hard copy of original Tender Document, Fee Receipt and EMD shall be deposited after the financial bid is opened. In case the orignal Tender Document Fee Receipt and EMD is not Deposited within 5 days after the Financial Bid is Opened for all responsiv dders Who have participated online, the Departm

NO:-XEN/REW/BPR/17246-52 DIPK-9947-23 **Executive Engineer REW Bandipora**

Shubman Gill Down With Suspected Dengue

Press Trust of India

CHENNAI: The Indian team's worries ahead of its opening World Cup game against Australia have been compounded with in-form Shubman Gill suspected to be suffering from dengue and the batter is a doubtful starter for Sunday's match against Australia here.

Ishan Kishan could open the innings in case Gill is ruled out.

The BCCI is yet to confirm the nature of the illness but head coach Rahul Dravid did not want to throw in the towel yet with 36 hours still to go for the match.

"He is feeling better today. The medical team is monitoring him, and he is doing better," Dravid said during a press conference here on

Further Dravid, who is known for being non-committal, played it safe.

"He is not technically out



for the first game. The medical team is monitoring him and (we) will take the decision after tomorrow," Dravid

Earlier, the BCCI said they were waiting for updates on

"He's under the weather, the medical team is closely monitoring him. We are hoping he gets better soon. We will have to wait on more updates from the medical team," the medical update from BCCI stated.

Gill, India's most prolific batter in ODIs in recent times, is reportedly down with high fever and will be tested for dengue before a final call is

taken on the matter. If dengue is confirmed in tests, Gill could miss a couple

of games in the World Cup.

The recovery from dengue normally takes 7-10 days for a player to be match-fit

While Gill could be a nonstarter against Australia, there is a high chance that he won't play against Afghanistan (Oct 11) and Pakistan (Oct 14) in case the recovery takes more time.

15-Year-Old Babar Azam Fan From **Bhopal Cheers For Pakistan At WC**

be a big fan of Javed Miandad."

Alisha was apprehensive of how

the fellow Indians in the stands

would react to her holding the

Pakistan flag. However, the game

was played in front of a sport-

ing crowd with many among the

Press Trust of India

HYDERABAD: Alisha, a 15-yearold fan of Babar Azam, carries a photo of the Pakistan skipper in the back cover of her phone.

The schoolgirl from Bhopal was among the scattered group of Pakistan supporters at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium as Babar and Co took the field for their World Cup opener against Netherlands. Pakistan beat the Dutch by 81 runs.

One of the world's leading batter, Babar has a wide following in cricket loving India and that was pretty evident when he landed on Indian soil for the first time last week.

Sitting alongside her mother, Alisha was seen waving the Pakistan flag cheering every run scored by them. Mohammad Bashir, the Chicago-based "Chacha", finally had some competition in the stands.

Pakistan fans have not made the journey across the border yet due to visa issues, therefore, local support is more than welcome.

Much to her disappointment, Babar's stay in the middle lasted only 18 balls as he was caught at mid-wicket. She likes all things Babar, including his trademark 9000-odd spectators also cheering for the Netherlands squad.

cover drive. "I have been a fan of Babar for "It is good to see that people the past four years. I started a are supporting both the teams. fanpage as well on social media I am an Indian first and love the but deactivated as I had to focus likes of Shubman Gill and Virat on my studies," Alisha told PTI.
"The love for the game is in the Kohli but I also have the same love for Babar.

family as my parents are also fol-"I hope the relations between lowers of Pakistan cricket. My mum the countries get better one day," loves Shahidi Afridi and Dad used to added the class 8 student, who aspires to become an entrepreneur.

Alisha doesn't have the ticket for the Indo-Pak blockbuster in Ahmedabad. She plans to stay back for Pakistan's final game here on October 10 before heading back home to chase her dreams.

Srinagar To Host I-League Opener, Real Kashmir Play RUFC

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The 2023-24 season of the I-League will kick off on October 28 at Synthetic Turf TRC here. The All India Football Federation announced the fixtures list on Friday, with Real Kashmir FC taking on Rajasthan United FC in the opening matchup, which kicks off at 2 p.m.

The I-League, which is the second-tier of Indian football, below ISL, will have 13 teams competing to make it to the final stages. This season, Real Kashmir will face off against Sreenidi Deccan FC, Gokulam Kerala FC, Tiddim Road Athletic Union, Churchill Brothers, FC Goa, Aizawl FC, Mohammedan Sporting Club, Rajasthan United FC, Neroca FC, Shillong Lajong FC, Delhi FC, Inter Kashi and Punjab Namdhari Sports.

The Snow Leopards will



by former English player and manager, Gifton Noel-Williams. The team finished fifth

in I-League last season. play all their home games in RKFC played 22 matches in Real Kashmir will be led

the 2022-23 season, winning 9, drawing 7 and losing 6. The team scored 27 goals and

Novelty, J&K United Draw 0-0 In Srinagar **Premier League**

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In the 2023 Srinagar Premier League, Novelty FC took on I&K United FC on Friday at Synthetic Turf here. The match ended in a disappointing 0-0 draw for both

teams. Both clubs failed to convert goal-scoring opportunities, as their defences held firm to thwart any threats. Novelty's Inayat was awarded man of the match for his performance against J&K United.

J&K Team For Mushtaq Ali **T20 Trophy Announced**



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association have announced the 15-member J&K team for the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy.

The T20 tournament will begin on October 16 with J&K playing Baroda at Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur. J&K take on Hyderabad on October 17 at KL Saini Stadium in Jaipur.

Jammu speedster Umran Malik has been included in the J&K team led by Shubam

Shubham Khajuria (C), Qamran Iqbal, Vivrant Sharma, Shubham Pundir, Abdul Samad, Henan Malik, Abid Mushtag, Augib Nabi, Fazil Rashid, Sahil Lotra, Umar Nazir, Lone Nasir, Rasikh Salam, Yudhvir

Singh and Umran Malik. Standbys: Sunil Kumar, Arya Thakur (Subject to Medical fitness), Musaif Aijaz, Vanshaj Sharma and Archit Mahajan.

Yogasana Sports C'ship Held In Srinagar



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The 4th District Srinagar Yogasana Sports Championship, organised by the District Srinagar Yogasana Sports Association under the banner of J&K Yogasana Sports Association and sponsored by J&K Sports Council, concluded at Sher-i-Kashmir Indoor Sports Complex here

The championship was played in Sub-Junior Junior and Senior in both boys/girls and men/women categories.

A large number of spectators witnessed the championship with great enthusiasm.

Dr. Zaffar Iqbal, Chief Accounts Officer J&K Sports Council, was the chief guest at the concluding ceremony. He gave away prizes to the best-performing players and also encouraged others to take up Yogasana sports for

physical and mental well-

The Secretary of District Srinagar Yogasana Sports Association Altaf Ahmad Bhat, along with other office bearers of the district association played a very important role in the smooth conduct of the championship.

Among others present on the occasion included, Advocate Shahnaz Durani, Dr. Imran Nazir Member JKYSA, Hilal Ahmad Manager Aijaz Ahmad Khan, and Atif Khan from the Chamber and Commerce Industry.

The athletes, Bilal Ahmad Dar, Sagib Rafig and Toiba were declared the best players of the championship.

Dr Basit Nabi Wani, competition director of JKYSA presented a formal vote of thanks to the dignitaries and the participants at the closing

ODI WC: Airtel Announces Special Plans

SRINAGAR: With the ongoing 2023 ICC ODI World Cup, Airtel has announced special cricket plans for its customers.

For all prepaid customers, Airtel has launched a special data pack for customers to stay connected and not run out of data while streaming the matches. Rs 99 will now get unlimited data for 2 days. Rs 49 offers 6GB data for 1

Airtel DTH is collaborating with Star for special recharge

On the Airtel Xstream box. Airtel is running a quick-ac-

cess promo-rail, for customers to quickly navigate to the cricket match broadcast in their preferred language.

To celebrate the cricket frenzy, Airtel is also launching a social media campaign and activating different platforms targeting all the cricket

2023 ODI World Cup

Injury-Hit Sri Lanka & South Africa Seek Winning Start

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Battling injuries, both South Africa and Sri Lanka will hope their experienced players rise to the occasion and give them a winning start when they square up against each other at the ODI World Cup here on Saturday.

South Africa are without pacers Anrich Nortje and Sisanda Magala, while Sri Lanka have been robbed off the services of key players including leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga-their best white ball bowler by some distanceand frontline pacers Dushmantha Chameera and Lahiru Madushanka.

In the absence of Nortje's express pace, South Africa will rely on the experience of Kagiso Rabada and the exuberance of 23-year-old Gerald Coetzee.

Spinners Keshav Maharaj and Tabraiz Shamsi were among the wickets in the recent series against Australia but don't have an enviable



record in India. They will be keen to change that in favourable conditions.

The big-hitting David Miller and skipper Temba Bavuma are enjoying a good run of form. Bavuma's partnership with wicketkeeper batter Quinton de Kock at the top could prove to be dangerous for Sri Lanka.

Armed with a potent batting line-up, South Africa would fancy their chances against Sri Lanka if their batters get going.

With key bowlers missing,

the onus will be on the spin

duo of Maheesh Theekshana and the promising let-arm spinner Dunith Wellalage to pick wickets. While Lahiru Kumara, Dilshan Madushanka, Matheesha Pathirana and Kasun Rajith will share the pace duties.

Sri Lanka have a decent batting unit with the likes of Dimuth Karunaratne, Kusal Perera, Pathum Nissanka and Sadeera Samarawickrama. Experienced wicketkeeper batter Kusal Mendis with his big-hitting prowess will also add value. Match starts 2pm IST.





Bangladesh, Afghanistan Need That **One Breakout Performance**

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Their build-up marred by infighting, Bangladesh will have their task cut out when they cross swords with Afghanistan in their World Cup opener here on Saturday, both teams seeking to enjoy that one breakout campaign after years of top-flight experience.

Injuries to some of their players are also not helping the team that has had an inconsistent year so far in ODIs, losing nine matches while winning eight with three no results.

Bangladesh, however, have no dearth of experience and talent in their squad with the likes of Shakib, pacer Mustafizur Rahman, wicketkeeper batters Mushfiqur Rahim and Litton Das and all-rounder Mahmudullah.

Then there are also younger players like Najmul Shanto, their highest scorer this year with 698 runs, Taskin Ahmed, Shoriful Islam and Towhid Hridoy.

Their real strength, however, is their spin bowling unit made up of Shakib, Mehidy Mi-



raz, Mahedi Hasan and Nasum Ahmed.

Their fast-bowling unit led by veteran Mustafizur has some dangerous customers in Taskin, Shoriful and Hasan Mahmud, who can work up some good pace.

As far as Afghanistan are concerned, they have progressed as a cricketing nation since getting ICC full membership in 2017.

Afghanistan, led by Hashmatullah Shahidi, boast of a formidable spin department in the form of veteran Mohammad Nabi, Rashid Khan, Mujeeb Ur Rahman and Noor Ahmad.

The Afghans will also rely on former captain Nabi, a veteran of 147 ODIs, to display his all-round skills while the 22-year-old Mujeeb is expected to take the responsibility with the new ball.

Afghanistan have a good batting line-up but they will need to be consistent, something they have not been in the past. Match starts at 10:30 am.