

Melting J&K Glaciers Threaten Water Supply, Biodiversity, Expert Warns

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Melting of glaciers in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh is going to impact the water availability in the Himalayan region with consequent adverse effect on the dependent livelihoods, a leading scientist has warned.

Studies show that glaciers in the region have dwindled by 25 per cent in the last six decades, while 48 per cent of them could vanish by the century's end even with moderate

climate change.

Earth scientist and glaciology expert, Shakeel Ahmad Romshoo, voiced concerns, highlighting the significance of snow and glaciers for J&K and Ladakh.

"We have about 18,000 glaciers, some of these glaciers are big like the Siachen glacier which in one dimension has a length of about 65 kms. The huge glaciers we have, about 500 to 600 metres thick, are huge resources in J&K and Ladakh," Romshoo said.

The scientist noted that



under climate change and increasing temperatures, the glaciers in the region are melting.

"The other thing that is happening in this region under the climate change is that we get less snowfall and comparatively we get more rainfall," he said.

Romshoo said the loss of glacier mass is going to have a significant impact on the hydrology -- both surface hydrology, as well as groundwater.

"In winter, we used to get a lot of snow and that freezes and we start getting ice. Snow and glaciers melt in the months of May, June, and July. Because people start transplanting of paddy in

the month of June, that is when we need a lot of water.

"But under the changing climate, you will have lot of water in the months of March, April and May when we do not need it," he said.

Romshoo, currently the vice chancellor of the University of Kashmir, said studies conducted at the University of Kashmir in Srinagar show that in the last five to six decades, "we have lost about 25 per cent of our glacier mass".

"If we see our **More On P10**

9 UN Staffers Killed in Israeli Raids

At least nine staffers of a UN agency were killed in airstrikes in Gaza since Saturday. The United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees told the AP on Wednesday that nine of its staffers have been killed in airstrikes since the start of the Israeli bombardment on Gaza on Saturday, with several killed late Tuesday.

"The protection of civilians is paramount, including in times of conflict," said Juliette Touma, director of communications of the agency. **More On P10**

President Murmu Praises Kashmir At KU's 20th Convocation

Encourages Youth To Play Their Role In Lasting Peace, Development & Discipline



Majid Nabi

Srinagar: President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday praised Kashmir as a paradise on earth and encouraged Valley youth to

protect it and chip in bringing lasting peace, development and discipline to help the country reach new levels of development.

Addressing the 20th convocation of Kashmir University

here, the President emphasized that everyone, especially youth, should work together to protect Kashmir, which she called as a paradise on earth. Murmu claimed **More On P10**

'New Kashmir Has Taken A New Turn'

The president of India Droupadi Murmu Wednesday said that "new Kashmir has taken a new turn" and is heading towards peace, prosperity and development.

Addressing the Civic Reception hosted in her honour at Rajbhawan Srinagar, President Murmu said that she was touched by the warm welcome given to her in Kashmir. "This is my first visit to Kashmir as the president of India. The memories of warm welcome given to me will go with me and stay with me forever," she said.

She said on her arrival, she paid tributes to the fallen soldiers and reiterated

that the soldiers deserve all tributes and the "veer naris" a great round of applause.

"I can feel that the new Kashmir has got a new direction. The new Kashmir has taken a new turn and is heading towards peace, prosperity and development," President Murmu said.

She said that there has been great infrastructure development, e-governance, women empowerment and inclusive growth. "I congratulate LG Manoj Sinha for this achievement," president Murmu said.

"I was told that this year 1.70 lakh tourists visited J&K which is a record. This year, **More On P10**

...POWER WOES

Winter Curtailment Schedule To Be Out By Oct 14

THE DEPARTMENT IS PRESENTLY IN TALKS TO PROCURE ADDITIONAL ELECTRICITY to meet the increasing power demand. A positive response in this regard is expected by Saturday following which the curtailment schedule will be announced according to the power availability."



Agencies

Srinagar: Amid installation of smart meters coupled with the complaints of pesky power cuts across the Valley, the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDC) is likely to announce winter curtailment schedule by October 14.

The decision to come up with a power curtailment schedule comes at a time when the erratic power supply has taken a heavy toll on the consumers including the domestic as well as the commercial, which include the industrialists as well. The move also comes close on the heels of a massive smart meter installation drive across Srinagar and elsewhere.

Official sources said that the power curtailment schedule has not been announced yet, but will be there by Saturday.

"The department is presently in talks to procure additional electricity to meet the increasing power demand. A positive response in this regard is expected by Saturday following which the curtailment schedule will be announced according to the power availability," they said.

"The curtailment schedule will be at par with the previous year's plan. No extra curtailments are expected," an official from KPDC said.

However, the government had earlier stated that 400 Megawatts of electricity has been procured from Uttar Pradesh and Central governments, which would put an end to the pesky power cuts.

By October 09, the government had stated an extra 150 MWs of electricity will be procured; therefore a total of 550 MWs will be made available for the consumers.

Nonetheless, **More On P10**

Historic Occasion, Proud Moment: Students

The Kashmir University students who received awards from President Droupadi Murmu at their convocation ceremony on Wednesday said it was a historic occasion and inspired them to work harder.

"It is a proud moment for me, we are getting the fruits of our hard labour. The President of India came here to give us certificates and medals. I am very proud and it is a fantastic moment for us to receive gold and other medals from the President," Mudasir Mushtaq, a student, told PTI. He said such events and the atmosphere they create give confidence to other students to work hard. "The President coming here is a historic occasion," he added. Tariq Abdullah, a PhD scholar, said it was a proud moment for any student to receive a medal from the President.

"It is a great moment in a student's life when you are awarded for your academic excellence and achievements. So, this is a really **More On P10**

HC Seeks List Of Words Not Aligning With Dignity Of Specially-Abled

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has asked "all the parties involved" to submit a list of words that do not align with the dignity of individuals with disabilities.

Hearing a Public Interest Litigation, a Division Bench of Chief Justice N. Kotiswar Singh and Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi asked the Registry to prepare a copy of the paper book and provide the same to the Advocate General along with various orders passed by it.

"All the parties involved shall compile and submit a list of words that do not align with the dignity of individuals with disabilities. The Registry is directed to prepare a copy of

the paper book, including copies of the orders, and provide the same to learned Advocate General," the court said and ordered listing of the PIL, filed by a lawyer Badrul Duja, for further consideration on November 8.

In December last, the court had ordered that the specially-abled persons be treated properly by the language recognized internationally.

"...We also hope and trust that the society as a whole shall recognize their rights as guaranteed under the Constitution."

The specially able persons, the court had said, be treated properly by the language recognized internationally. "We also direct the respondents to ensure that the facilities ...are provided/developed. **More On P10**

Kashmir Biz Group Under Lens Over Undisclosed Income

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The income-tax department has detected undisclosed income worth crores of rupees after it conducted searches against a Jammu and Kashmir-based business group engaged in various sectors, such as cement, steel, glass, plywood, tourism and healthcare, among others.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) issued a statement on Wednesday, saying it covered 40 premises in the Srinagar, Sopore, Budgam, Sonmarg and Pulwama areas of the Kashmir valley, apart from Delhi, after the raids were launched on Monday.

Incriminating documents, hand-written diaries and digital devices were seized during the searches, it said.

"Variation in stock has also been noticed in the various



factories and retail outlets. Evidence of undisclosed investments in immovable properties located in Kashmir Valley of more than Rs 50 crore has also been found from various premises," the CBDT said, without identifying the business group. The CBDT is the administrative body for the I-T

department.

It further claimed that the group has been "suppressing" its taxable income by grossly under-reporting its sales in the cement sector by more than Rs 60 crore over the past several years.

"In this regard, evidence in the form of cash vouchers and sales invoices has been seized, which is found to have not been recorded in the books of account," it said.

Similarly, evidence of undisclosed sales in the books of account exceeding Rs 50 crore in the textile and plywood sectors has also been found, the CBDT said.

In the real estate business of the group, being carried out in Kashmir and Delhi, documents with regard to the receipt of on-money (cash) have been recovered.

A key person of the group has "admitted" **More On P10**

Govt Orders Inclusion Of Third Gender In Job Applications

Agencies

Srinagar: The Jammu & Kashmir government on Wednesday directed its departments to include "transgender" as a separate category of gender for recruitment in government jobs.

The government today directed all the administrative departments to modify the relevant examination/service rules for inclusion of a separate category of 'third gender/any other category' in the application forms in recruitment in the UT of J&K.

With this directive, the departments will now have to amend rules for keeping the option of 'transgender' in the application

forms for government jobs along with male and female.

The move is aimed to ensure that the relevant rules are in conformity with the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights), Act of 2019, the General Administration Department said, in an order. In 2020, the Department of Personnel & Training, Government of India, had issued a similar directive to the Central government departments.

On February 5, 2020, the DOPT also notified civil services examination rules-2020 for inclusion of transgender as a separate category of gender for the said exam.

The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act of 2019, **More On P10**

SHORT TAKES

Smuggler Succumbs To Bullet Wound

A narcotics smuggler shot at by Army personnel while trying to smuggle drugs from across the border along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district succumbed on Wednesday, officials said. Yasir Nazir (22), a resident of the Karmara village in Poonch, was admitted in Government Medical College, Jammu, on September 24 after he was arrested in an injured condition from the Gulpur Sector, the officials said. **More On P10**

Soldier Dies Of Bullet Injury Near LoC

An Army personnel died of a bullet injury from his own service rifle near the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, a police official said on Wednesday. Sepoy Amritpal Singh was deployed to a forward post in the Mankote Sector. His colleagues found him in a pool of blood after hearing a gunshot around 5 am, the official said. Preliminary investigations revealed that Singh died of a bullet from his own service rifle, he said. **More On P10**

Arms, Ammo Recovered In Doda

Security forces on Wednesday unearthed a hideout in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district and recovered arms and ammunition, officials said. A search operation was conducted by 44 Rashtriya Rifles in Seoj Dhar area during which the **More On P10**

Govt Employee Lands In ACB Net

The Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Wednesday arrested an employee of the food civil supplies and consumer affairs (FCSCA) department for demanding bribe from a man in Rajouri district for issuing below poverty line (BPL) ID to him. Mohammad Reyaz, the Tehsil Supply Officer of FCSCA department, Rajouri was arrested by the sleuths of the anti-graft body for demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 18,000 for issuance **More On P10**

Doctor Killed In Road Accident

An Ayurvedic doctor was killed and seven other persons were injured, two of them critically, in a road mishap in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, officials said. Quoting officials, news agency GNS reported that a Tata Sumo bearing registration number JK03B 1989, while on way from Deesu to Vailoo, skidded off the road and fell down a bridge. The accident left one person dead and seven others injured, they said. The officials **More On P10**

Terrorist Held In Baramulla: Police

Police on Wednesday claimed to have arrested a terrorist of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) from North Kashmir's Baramulla district. Mudasir Ahmad Bhat was 'apprehended tactfully' by a joint team of police, Army's 46RR, MI and the personnel of CRPF 53 Battalion when he tried to flee from a checkpoint that was established in Ushkara area of the district on Tuesday, a police spokesperson said Wednesday. The checkpoint, he said, was established in specific **More On P10**



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

NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sr.DEE/TRD/FZR acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the works as under. Bidders will be able to submit their original / revised bids upto closing date 03.11.2023 at 15.00 Hrs only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall not be considered.

Tender No.	Name of Work	App. Cost (Rs.)	Cost of Tender Form (Rs.)	Date & Time for Submission of tender	Earnest Money # (Rs.)	Completion Period	Opening of Tender	Website Particulars
510B-TRD-FZR-2023-24	Conversion of Tramway OHE into Conventional OHE in Amritsar-Bhagatnala section over Firozpur division	96,32,076.16p	NIL	Upto 03.11.2023 15:00 Hrs.	1,92,700/-	12 Months	03.11.2023 after 15:00 Hrs.	www.ireps.gov.in
508C-TRD-FZR-2023-24	Electrification of Washing Lines at Chheharta and Amritsar stations over Firozpur division	2,36,21,985.28p	NIL	Upto 03.11.2023 15:00 Hrs.	2,68,100/-	06 Months	03.11.2023 after 15:00 Hrs.	www.ireps.gov.in

Note: # Tenderer (s) may please note that offers received without Bid Security either in cash through e-payment gateway or as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents (as per Annexure-21) valid for a period of 90 days beyond the bid validity period, will be considered as incomplete & invalid offer and for which contractor shall have no claim on Railway. No.: 510B & 508C-TRD-FZR-2023-24 Dated: 11.10.2023 3153/23

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Government of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Executive Engineer
(R&B) Division Shopian

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS
 NIT No: 67/ 7428-37/ SPN/RnB/e-Tendering/2023-24 Dated:- 11-10-2023

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor Union Territory of J&K E-tenders (In single cover system) from qualified contractors registered with the J&K UT Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments are invited for Snow Clearance (Stage-wise) on a Percentage Rate basis for a contract period of one year that may be extended to three years depending on the performance of the successful bidder.

S. No	Stage Name	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1.	Snow Clearance for the year 2023-24 (Stage Tender) (Stage 10th Total Length 9.6 Kms)	500/-	5000/-	3054	All PWD registered Snow contractors
2.	Snow Clearance for the year 2023-24 (Stage Tender) (Stage 11th Total Length 14.85 Kms)	500/-	5000/-	3054	All PWD registered Snow contractors
3.	Snow Clearance for the year 2023-24 (Stage Tender) (Stage 12th Total Length 13.75 Kms)	500/-	5000/-	3054	All PWD registered Snow contractors
4.	Snow Clearance for the year 2023-24 (Stage Tender) (Stage 13th Total Length 16.75 Kms)	500/-	5000/-	3054	All PWD registered Snow contractors
5.	Snow Clearance for the year 2023-24 (Stage Tender) (Stage 14th Total Length 15.5 Kms)	500/-	5000/-	3054	All PWD registered Snow contractors
6.	Snow Clearance for the year 2023-24 (Stage Tender) (Stage 15th Total Length 15.5 Kms)	500/-	5000/-	3054	All PWD registered Snow contractors
7.	Snow Clearance for the year 2023-24 (Stage Tender) (Stage 16th Total Length 13.3 Kms)	500/-	5000/-	3054	All PWD registered Snow contractors
8.	Snow Clearance for the year 2023-24 (Stage Tender) (Stage 17th Total Length 15.74 Kms)	500/-	5000/-	3054	All PWD registered Snow contractors

For Stages refer to annexure "A" -
 1 The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, (if any), Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

Table 1:

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	11-10-2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	12-10-2023 to 17-10-2023
3	Bid submission Start Date	12-10-2023 at 10:00 AM
4	Bid Submission End Date	17-10-2023 up to 2:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	18-10-2023 at 11:00 AM Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian

2 Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.
 3 All bidders are required to submit bid security or earnest money for an amount of Rs. 5000/= at the time of tendering in the form of CDRs, FDRs, or BGs pledged to the authority responsible for receiving bids, in this case Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian. In strict accordance with the Government's circular and other instructions as required, the successful bidder will be required to provide performance security in the amount of Rs. 10,000/= at the time of contract award. Following the fixing of the contract in favour of the successful bidder, the unsuccessful bidders will receive the earnest money/bid security. The successful bidder's performance security will be released only after completed successfully performance of the Contract.
 3 The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian (tender receiving authority).
 4 The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 30 days from the date of opening of technical bids.
 5 The earnest money shall be forfeited, if -
 a. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 b. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within three days from the date of intimation.
 c. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 15 days.
 6 Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
 Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
 i. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate' (DSC) as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.
 ii. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature.
 iii. No bid will be accepted in physical form.
 iv. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Table 1.
 v. All bidders must UPLOAD the following information and documents with their bids, in addition to the qualification criteria / qualification information, (All documents pertaining to the bid must be in English):
 vi. All bidders must submit copies of original documents defining their constitution/legal status, place of registration, and principal place of business, as well as their cell phone number and e-mail address.
 vii. A valid Contractor/Firm Registration Certificate issued by a competent authority in accordance with the Contractor Registration Act.
 viii. Treasury Challan/Earnest money
 ix. Valid GSTIN Registration & PAN Card
 x. Valid Latest clearance certificate FORM GSTR-3B of last quarter or latest month, whichever is applicable. i.e. (April-June 2023 or August-2023).
 xi. Illustration: Latest quarter April-June 2023-24 for those who file GSTR-3B quarterly and proceeding month i.e., August 2023-24 for those who file GSTR-3B monthly.
 xii. The bidder must make sure to upload scanned copies of all required documents, including the tender documents fee, along with the technical bid. No document(s) that haven't been uploaded will be accepted in hard copy form. However, the bidders will be required to provide original documents in support of the soft copies upon request in the event of any clarification.
 Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option
 xiii. All documents relating to the bid shall be in the English Language.
 7 Bidders should be fully cognizant that, in the event that documents uploaded or submitted are discovered to be fraudulent or factually incorrect, the contract would be cancelled, and the Contractor/bidder would be barred from further participation in this Division or Department for a period of three years, in addition to the forfeiture of the performance security deposited for the relevant work.
 8 The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
 9 Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case, they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.
 10 The bidder should, at his own expense and risk, visit the worksite and its surroundings before submitting a bid in order to ascertain any limitations and thresholds. Any consequential claims on this count will not be considered.
 No.: NIT/ 7428-37
 DPK-10268/23 DATED: 11-10-2023
 sd/- sd/
 Camp Clark Technical officer Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian


PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to do the necessary changes in my passport as my name is recorded as Aamir Rasool instead of Aamir Rasool Sheikh. As I have to do the necessary correction in my Passport to insert my name as Aamir Rasool Sheikh, if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she should intimate the concerned authorities within the stipulated time of one week from the date of publication of this notice in this newspaper. After the expiry of the timeline no objection would be entertained by the concerned authorities.

With regards,
 Aamir Rasool Sheikh,
 S/O Ghulam Rasool Sheikh,
 R/O Shamas Abad, Bemina, Srinagar
 Mobile No: 7006288868
 ZMK

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

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost her qualification certificate/s issued under as per below mentioned details:-
 Roll No: 2412252
 Class 10th
 Year & Session: 2019
 Registration: N18441440004
 Name: Mehvish Hameed
 Father's Name: Abdul Hameed Khan
 Mother's Name: Haleema Begum
 Date of Birth: 13-10-2004
 Residence: Tarhama Tangmarg
 According to the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification / Marks Certificate/s, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice.
 (Besides the above referred "Qualification / Marks Certificate/s" bearing No: 19ARKAM- 5011326 be treated as "CANCELLED")
 No: F(Cer-is-IDQC)B/KD/23
 Dated
 BMG
 Assistant Secretary Certificates, KD.



Jammu & Kashmir Small Scale Industries Development Corporation Limited (SICOP)
 (A J&K Government Undertaking)
 2nd floor, Sanat Ghar building Bemina Srinagar
 Email: sicoproject@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
 E-TENDER NOTICE No:ENIT No: 31-PEK of 2023-24 dated:05-10-2023

For and on behalf of the Managing Director of Jammu & Kashmir Small Scale Industries Cooperation Limited, online tenders are invited from reputed contractors who are registered with CPWD/MES/PWD of appropriate class in India.

Name of work	Adv. Cost. In lacs	Earnest money	Class of contract	Cost of tender document	Time of completion	Position of AA
Construction of fencing near SICOP office at Silk teck park Zakura	2.68 lacs	0.0536 lacs	"D" Class civil	500.00	15 days	Accorded

Terms and Conditions:
 1. The tender documents for the above job can be seen on the website www.jktenders.gov.in from 05-10-2023 (1200Hrs)
 2. The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website from 05-10-2023 (1200Hrs) onwards.
 3. The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on website www.jktenders.gov.in from 05-10-2023 1200Hrs upto 25-10-2023 (1630Hrs) only.
 4. The uploaded Pre-Qualification bids in the first instance on the website will be opened on 27-10-2023 (1200Hrs). In case of holiday on the date of opening of bid, bids will be opened on the next working day. The financial bids of only those firms shall be opened who qualify in pre-qualification bid, intimation in respect of opening of financial bids shall be notified separately.
 5. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Bank Receipt with seal and signature of bank official in favor of Project Engineer (K) SICOP Srinagar Kashmir in Account No CC-0148020100001980 , JFSC Code JAKAOKARRAN , J&K Bank Branch Karan Nagar Srinagar (tender inviting authority) (The Date of bank receipt should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Project Engineer (K) SICOP Srinagar Kashmir. (tender receiving authority) and EMD 2% of advertised cost in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Project Engineer, SICOP Kashmir.
 6. The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Project Engineer, SICOP Kashmir within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period(DLP) of the work.
 7. The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape CDR/FDR of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance security @5% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released after successful completion of Defect liability period (DLP) of the work.
 8. The advertised cost shown above is inclusive of 10% SICOP service charges and other taxes as admissible.
 9. Complete bidding process will be online (price bid not to be submitted in physical form).
 Project Engineer SICOP Kashmir
 DPK-NB-3612/23 dated: 11-10-2023

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.
 Impaired Asset Portfolio Management Department
 Zonal Office Budgam Zainakote, Srinagar,
 Tel: 0194-2497735, Ext.:218
 Email: amid.zoktwo@jkbmail.com

POSSESSION NOTICE

Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 read with Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 06.02.2023 thereby calling upon the Borrower-cum-Mortgagor namely M/S Wani Construction (Prop. Muzaffar Ahmad Wani S/O Abdul Rehman Wani R/o Sector A Gousia Colony Near HDFC ATM, Bagat e Kanipora Budgam to repay an amount of Rs. 79,39,681.52 (Rupees Seventy Nine Lacs Thirty Nine Thousand Six Hundred and Eighty One and Paise Fifty Two only) being the balance outstanding as on 31.01.2023 in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.
 The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being Authorized Officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this 7th day of October of the year 2023.
 The said borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount aggregating to Rs. 71,71,408.11 (Rupees Seventy One lacs, Seventy One Thousand, Four Hundred Eight and Paise Eleven only) as on 30.09.2023 together with future interest thereon from 01.10.2023 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.
 The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available to redeem the secured assets.
Description of the Immovable Property
 Land underneath measuring 01 Kanal 03 Marlas in Khasra No. 1712/1579 Min, Khata No. 126 & Khawat No. 24 situated in Mouza B.K.Pora Tehsil B K Pora and District Budgam standing in the name of Muzaffar Ahmad Wani (Borrower cum Mortgagor).
 Dated: 07.10.2023
 Place : Bagat e Kanipora
 ZAHOOR AHMAD KHAN (Authorized Officer)
 Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India
 CIN: L65110JK1938SGC000048; T : +91 (0)194 2481 930-35; F : +91 (0)194 248 1928; E : info@jkbmail.com; W : www.jkbank.com
 DPK-NB-3614/23 dated: 11-10-2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the number plate of my motorcycle bearing regd. No: JK05E 5422. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/ her objection in the office of the ARTO Sopore within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Mohammad Afzal Mir
 S/O Ghulam Ahmad Mir bmg
 R/o Goom Ahmad Pora Pattan bmg

ازنیات پہلپان
 عنوان: اجرائی پیدائش سرٹیفیکٹ
 تین اقراء بنی خنز خنز نامی ہمارا گائی گوسہ گبگ تحصیل شین
 اشتہار ہمارا گائی ہر خاص و عام
 معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان صدر میں ایک چھٹی از طرف پاک ڈیو پینٹ آفٹرن پینٹ زینیری
 مورخہ 4-10-23 اپنا ڈوب سرٹیفیکٹ B/P RBD 2023-24 / 993
 پیش کی ہے اس ضمن میں سالانہ ڈوب سرٹیفیکٹ اجراء شدہ ہوں و تعمیر پورڈ آف سکول
 ایکویشن پیش کی جس کے مطابق سالانہ ڈوب مورخہ 04-11-2004 ہے اب سالانہ
 ڈوب سرٹیفیکٹ حاصل کرنے کے خواہاں ہے اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی عذریہ امتزاض ہو تو وہ
 ساتھ ہی کے اندر پیش کرے معیاگر کرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی عذریہ امتزاض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
 نائب تحصیلدار fko_r

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار کریری کلکتہ
 درخواست محتاج بشیر احمد خاں ولد عبدالرحمان خاں ساکنہ ریشی پورہ
 برآمد وصول SC سرٹیفیکٹ بنی خنز آزاد احمد خاں
 اشتہار ہمارا گائی ہر خاص و عام
 معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان صدر میں درخواست سالانہ دفتر میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پنداری
 حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ نفاذات ریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس سے عیاں ہوتا ہے کہ سالانہ
 سالانہ موقع ریشی پورہ میں رہائش پذیر ہے۔ سالانہ قبی جام زات سے تعلق رکھتا ہے
 کینیڈا سالانہ آمدنی 240,000 روپے تک ہے سالانہ کینیڈا میں رہائش پذیر افراد پر مشتمل ہے
 1 بشیر احمد خاں سربرہ عمر 40 سال مزدوری مہمانداری آمدنی 20,000 Rs
 2 حاجی بیگم زوجہ 38 سال گھریلو کام
 3 آزاد احمد خاں پسر 20 سال زیر تعلیم
 4 شایستہ دختر 18 سال
 5 نائلہ دختر 16 سال
 اسکا عطا کوئی بھی افراد کو نہیں بتلایا گیا ہے سرٹیفیکٹ زیر بحث اجراء
 کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی عذریہ امتزاض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذریہ امتزاض ساتھ ہی
 کے اندر پیش کریں۔ معیاگر کرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی عذریہ امتزاض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
 نائب تحصیلدار kre

از عدالت پرنسپل ڈسٹرکٹ جج سرینگر با جلاس جناب جو احمد

IN THE MATTER OF:
 1. Nasir Mansur Ahmad Bhat S/O Late Ghulam Nabi Firaq
 R/O Firaq Manzil, Lakhipora Nowshera Srinagar 190 011
 2. Mahmooda Firaq D/O Late Ghulam Nabi Firaq R/O Sherpora Wanbal, Rawalpura, Srinagar 190005
 3. Rashida Akhter D/O Late Ghulam Nabi Firaq, R/O Sherpora Wanbal, Rawalpura, Srinagar 190005
 4. Nargis Malik D/O Late Ghulam Nabi Firaq R/O Barbar Shah, S P College Bund Srinagar 190001
 5. Riaza D/O Late Ghulam Nabi Firaq R/O Tawheed Abad, Awanta Bhawan Nowshera Srinagar 190 011

Petitioners
VERSUS
 PUBLIC AT LARGE
 Defendant

Petition/Application Under Section 372 Of The Indian Succession Act For Grant Of Succession Certificate In Respect Of The Debts, Securities Etc. Of Deceased Late Ghulam Nabi Firaq, MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH;

اشتہار ہمارا گائی ہر خاص و عام
 مقدمہ مندرجہ عنوان صدر میں سالانہ ایک درخواست بحصول سیکشن سرٹیفیکٹ حاصل کی ہے۔ اگر اس
 درخواست کے منظور ہونے میں کسی بھی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی عذریہ امتزاض ہو تو وہ تاریخ لکھنے
 02-11-2023 اساتیا یا کتا یا مختار ادات آکر تحریری طور پر پیش کریں۔ بعد از کرنے معیا کوئی بھی
 عذریہ امتزاض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
 پرنسپل ڈسٹرکٹ جج سرینگر nj

از عدالت پرنسپل ڈسٹرکٹ جج سرینگر با جلاس جناب جو احمد

In the matter of
 1. Noreen Badar W/o Zubair Jalal D/o Badar Mohiuddin
 R/o Peer B. Bagh Bridge Hyderpora
 2. Ahmreen Badar W/o Badar Mohidin
 R/o Hyderpora Noorani Colony Peer Bagh Srinagar
 3. Osma Badar D/O Badar Mohiuddin W/o Shahid Aziz
 R/o Baghi Magarmal Srinagar
 4. Samreen Kureshi D/o Badar Mohiuddin
 R/o Hyderpora Srinagar

Petitioners
VERSUS
 General Public
 UT OF J&K
 Through SDM South Concerned Respondents
 Amended Petition Under Section 218 Of The Indian Succession Act For Grant Of Letter Of Administration In Favour Of Noreen Badar In Respect Of Locker Of Badar Mohi Ud Din Bearing No. 47. Key No. 0089 Bearing Account Number 088400010000526 In Punjab National Bank Batmaloo Branch MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:
 The Petitioners begs to submit as under

اشتہار ہمارا گائی ہر خاص و عام
 مقدمہ مندرجہ عنوان صدر میں سالانہ ایک درخواست بحصول سیکشن سرٹیفیکٹ حاصل کی ہے۔ اگر اس
 درخواست کے منظور ہونے میں کسی بھی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی عذریہ امتزاض ہو تو وہ تاریخ لکھنے
 20-10-2023 اساتیا یا کتا یا مختار ادات آکر تحریری طور پر پیش کریں۔ بعد از کرنے معیا کوئی بھی
 عذریہ امتزاض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
 پرنسپل ڈسٹرکٹ جج سرینگر nj

KP Actress Visits Her Abandoned Srinagar Home After 3 Decades

Observer News Service

Srinagar: With tears in her eyes, a famous Kashmiri Pandit actress, Sandeepa Dhar, broke down on Wednesday after returning to her home in Kashmir after 30 years. She says she had to leave her home overnight, taking with her only memories. Sandeepa Dhar is an Indian actress born in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, into a Kashmiri Pandit family. She has appeared in Hindi films and web series. She made her acting debut in 2010 with

In a video shared on her social media platform, the KP actress showed a glimpse of her home in Srinagar while displaying her emotions and shedding tears. In the video, she was also seen plucking a fresh apple from a tree and eating it. The actress showed the house, yard, and apple trees. "Thirty years ago, my family was forced to flee Srinagar overnight, so we packed whatever we had into just one suitcase and fled. Now, 30 years later, we have returned to what remains of our home," wrote the actress



'Isi Life Mein.' For her performance in the film, she was nominated for the Filmfare Award for Best Female Debut, the Star Screen Award for Most Promising Newcomer, and the Stardust Award for Superstar of Tomorrow.

on her social media. She further wrote, "The empty house stands, and all that remains are the memories we created almost three decades ago. This time, we don't have to run, hopefully never again!"

Tele-MANAS Mental Helpline In J&K Receives Average 80 Calls A Day

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The UT-level Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (Tele-MANAS) cell, at the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) Srinagar, is receiving an average of 80 calls daily, with approximately 12 percent of those calls coming from individuals with self-harming thoughts. Launched on November 4, 2022, this mental health helpline operates on a three-tier system, staffed with mental health counselors, clinical psychologists, and psychiatrists ready to assist callers.

Since its inception, the Tele-Manas has handled about 27,000 calls, addressing concerns related to stress, drug addiction, suicidal tendencies, and anxiety. Dr. Qazi Haroon, the State Program Manager for Mental Health in Jammu and Kashmir, informed that a total of 26,743 calls have been registered to date, with a slight predominance of female callers (53.97% female, 45.87% male, and 0.16% other). He said that approximately 87.36% of calls were routine inquiries, while 12.09% involved crisis interventions for individuals with self-harming ideas.



A meritorious girl student receiving gold medal from the President Droupadi Murmu during KU's 20th convocation on Wednesday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

SFFC Orders DPS Srinagar To Revise Fee Structure

Agencies

Srinagar: In a significant development, the School Fee Fixation Committee (SFFC) has issued a directive to the management of Delhi Public School (DPS) Srinagar, addressing several fee-related concerns raised by parents.

The order, issued by the Chairman of SFFC instructs the school management to make key adjustments to the fee structure, including tuition fees and security deposits. Tuition fee increase and instalment payment The SFFC has taken note of the abrupt 20 percent increase in tuition fees mid-session and recognized that it could pose a financial burden on parents. In response to this concern, the SFFC has directed the school management to charge the raised tuition fee in two instalments. Specifically, 10 percent of the increased tuition fee will be charged in the 2023-24 session, with the remaining 10 percent to be levied in the subsequent academic year, 2024-25.

Security deposit clarification One of the key issues addressed by the SFFC is the charging of a substantial security deposit, set at Rs 90,000,

which parents contend is being misrepresented as an admission fee. "This practice is not in compliance with the law and is expressly prohibited by statute. As a result, the parents who have paid this amount to seek a refund from the school management," the SFFC order reads.

Annual fee and payment structure The SFFC has noted an average increase in the annual fee, rising from Rs 8,700 to Rs 14,000. To alleviate the burden on students, the committee has directed the school management to provide an explanation within one week as to why transport fees exceeding Rs 2,000 are being charged from students availing transport services. The matter has also been reported to be under challenge in the High Court.

Late fee policy The SFFC has set clear guidelines for the imposition of late fees, specifying that late fees will only be charged if a parent fails to deposit fees consecutively for three months. "No late fee

will be applied to payments delayed by less than three months," it reads.

Transport fee inquiry The SFFC has stated that concerns were raised regarding the school's transport fee, which was allegedly exceeding the limit set by the SFFC. The committee has directed the school to provide an explanation within one week as to why transport fees exceeding Rs 2,000 are being charged from students availing transport services. The matter has also been reported to be under challenge in the High Court.

Grievance redressal committee In response to parents' complaints about the lack of a redressal forum, the SFFC has directed the school management to establish a grievance redressal committee, which will not include members of the school trust. The details of the committee's members are to be submitted within one week. The SFFC has advised parents to approach the committee whenever they are aggrieved by the actions or orders of the school management, reaffirming their commitment to ensuring fair and transparent fee structures for the benefit of students and parents—(KNO)

- 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: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

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

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

PRAYERS

FAJR 5:10
ZUHR 12:18
ASR 4:23
Magrib 6:06
ISHA 7:25

HIJRI CALENDAR
25 Rabi-ul-Awwal
1445

This Day In History

- 539 BC - The army of Cyrus the Great of Persia takes Babylon
- 1398 - The Treaty of Salynas is signed between Grand Duke of Lithuania Vytautas the Great and the Teutonic Knights, who received Samogitia.
- 1459 - Battle at Ludford Bridge: Richard of York defeated
- 1492 - Christopher Columbus's expedition makes landfall on Caribbean island he names San Salvador (likely Watling Island, Bahamas). The explorer believes he has reached East Asia (OS 21 Oct)
- 1576 - Rudolf II succeeds Maximilian II as Holy Roman Emperor
- 1654 - The Delft Explosion (gunpowder) devastates the city in the Netherlands, killing more than 100
- 1789 - French Revolution: King Louis XVI writes secretly to the King of Spain about complaining of harsh treatment; the Count of Artois writes to the Austrian king requesting military intervention in France.
- 1859 - Self-proclaimed Emperor of the USA, Emperor Norton issues edict abolishing the US Congress
- 1860 - British & French troops capture Beijing
- 1915 - Theodore Roosevelt criticizes US citizens who identify themselves with dual nationalities.
- 1931 - 1st International Conference on Calendar Reform
- 1933 - Alcatraz becomes a federal prison (unofficially).
- 1941 - Soviet government moves from Moscow to Volga as Nazis forces close in on Moscow
- 1943 - US bombs Rabaul, New Britain
- 1952 - Hanif Mohammad scores twin 100s v N Zone (Ind) his 1st fc cricket tons.
- 1957 - First commercial flight between California & Antarctica
- 1957 - Canadian Prime Minister Lester Bowles Pearson wins Nobel Peace Prize.
- 1960 - JFK & Richard Nixon's third presidential debate
- 1960 - Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev bangs his shoe on his desk at UN General Assembly session
- 1964 - Launch of Voskhod 1, first 3 man crew (Komarov, Feokistov, Yegorov).
- 1969 - 1st time 5 people in space
- 1969 - Soviet spacecraft Soyuz 7 is launched.
- 1972 - Mariner 9 takes pictures of Martian north pole
- 1973 - Israeli counter offensive in southern Syria
- 1973 - US President Richard Nixon nominates Gerald Ford to replace Spiro Agnew as Vice President
- 1975 - NASA launches space vehicle S-195
- 1976 - 4th Space Shuttle Enterprise, approach & land test (ALT) flight
- 1977 - 4th test of space shuttle Enterprise
- 1977 - US Supreme Court heard arguments in "reverse discrimination" case of Allan Bakke, white student denied admission to University of California Med School
- 1978 - Representatives of Israel & Egypt open talks in Washington
- 1979 - Pressure in nucleus of tropical cyclone at Guam hits record 870 hpa
- 1985 - Intl Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear War receives Nobel Prize
- 1988 - Israel & China sign trade deal, plan diplomatic relations
- 2005 - The second Chinese human spaceflight Shenzhou 6 launched carrying Fei Junlong and Nie Hisheng for five days in orbit.
- 2012 - The United Nations Security Council unanimously approves of an African-led force to oust Islamist militants in northern Mali
- 2012 - The European Union wins the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize, sparking a series of critical commentary
- 2013 - 50 people are killed after a truck veers off a cliff in La Convencion Province, Peru
- 2014 - Evo Morales is re-elected President of Bolivia
- 2019 - Centre-back Sergio Ramos becomes Europe's most capped male outfield soccer player (168 caps) as Spain draws 1-1 with Norway in Euro 2020 qualification in Oslo
- 2020 - China announces it will test entire city of Qingdao, 9 million people, for COVID-19 within five days after a dozen cases discovered

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr.DEN-IV/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date 02.11.2023 up to 15:00 hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information log on to www.ireps.gov.in.

Tender Type	Open	Tendering Section	Works	Bidding System	Single Bid System
	09.10.2023	Bid Starting Date	19.10.2023	Bid Closing Date/Time	02.11.2023 15:00 hrs.

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender	Advertised Value	Earnest Money	Validity of offer	Period of Completion
1.	258-2023-24-BDGM-DRM-FZR	TRR(S) 17.867 kms of 90R rails with 52 kg (90 UTS) rails in various loop lines at BDGM, ANT, QG, PTTN, HME, KAPE, PJGM, SDUA, ATPA, SINA, SXZM, MZMA stations in BAHL-BRML section under jurisdiction of ADEN/BDGM.	₹2,54,52,058.21	₹2,77,300/-	60 Days	12 Months
Similar Nature of work: "CTR/TRR/TRR/TRR including Raising of track, screening, distressing of track, pre & post works for track maintenance machine like tamping machine/ballast screening/regulating machines & TTR by T-28"						
2.	259-2023-24-BDGM-DRM-FZR	Through Fitting renewal (136.290 KM) of the existing 52kg/60kg PSC sleepers at KM 0.00 to 117.890 KM at Various location on QG-BRML Section & BAHL-QG Section 18.40 km (from KM 150.30 to 168.70) under ADEN-BDGM.	₹2,38,68,092.48	₹2,69,400/-	60 Days	12 Months
Similar Nature of work: "CTR/TRR/TRR/TRR including Raising of track, screening, distressing of track, pre & post works for track maintenance machine like tamping machine/ballast screening/regulating machines & TTR by T-28"						

Note: 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.
Tender Notice No.: 258 & 259-2023-24-BDGM-DRM-FZR
Date: 09.10.2023 3152/2023

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
Directorate Of Floriculture, Parks & Gardens, Jammu
Har-Ki- Poudi Bagh-e-Bahu Road Jammu e-mail:- floriculturejammu@gmail.com
Tele- 0191-2435121

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No. 04/2023-24/Floriculture Department Jammu Dated:- 11-10-2023

Director General, Department of Floriculture, Parks and Gardens, Har-Ki- Poudi, Bagh-e-Bahu Road, Jammu on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of J&K Invites Tenders By e-Tendering mode from the registered Nurserymen for the Supplies of Ornamental Plant Material for a period of one year from the date of issue of allotment order.

S.No	Name of the item	Earnest Money as CDR/ FDR	Cost of Tender Document	Period of Contract
1	Supplies of Ornamental Plant Material.	Rs. 20,000 (Rupees: Twenty Thousand Only)	Rs.500.00 (Rs. Five hundred (Non-refundable)	One year (from the date of issue of Rate contract)

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information eligibility criteria, specification, items and conditions and other details can be downloaded through the Departmental website www.dfg.jk.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1. Period of downloading of bidding documents	21 days (12-10-2023 to 02-11-2023)
2. Bid Submission Start Date	12-10-2023
3. Bid Submission End Date	02-11-2023 upto 1630 Hrs
4. Date and time of opening of Tenders online	03-11-2023 at 1400 Hrs

- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> Bid documents contain qualifying criteria for bidder, conditions and other detail.
- The intending bidders are advised to go through the details terms & conditions of e-NIT before bidding.
- Bids must be accompanied by CDR/FDR and cost of tender Document in columns 3&4 of the table payable at Jammu pledged in favour of Accounts Officer, Directorate of Floriculture, Parks and Gardens, Har-Ki- Poudi, Bagh-e-Bahu Road, Jammu. The cost of downloaded tender documents shall be in form of DD payable in favour of Accounts Officer, Directorate of Floriculture, Parks and Gardens, Har-Ki- Poudi, Bagh-e-Bahu Road, Jammu.
- The cost of tender should also be submitted through e-challan or simply uploading a copy of necessary treasury challan/receipt under Receipt Head 0406- Forestry & wildlife.
- Bids will be opened online in the office of the Director General, Department of Floriculture, Parks and Gardens, Har-Ki- Poudi, Bagh-e-Bahu Road, Jammu. In case of any eventuality, the date of opening will be considered on any other convenient working day.
- Bidders should get ready with the hard copies of cost of documents as specified in the tender documents. The hard copies of the bids shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of financial bids.
- The details of EMD and cost of documents specified in the tender documents should be the same as submitted online (scanned copies) otherwise bid will not be accepted.
- The detailed terms and conditions can be obtained from this Directorate on any working day during office hours and also through Departmental website www.dfg.jk.gov.in.

Sd/
DIRECTOR GENERAL
Department of Floriculture, Parks & Gardens, Jammu

No - DFJ/GS/4091-99
DIPK-10259/23 Dated: 11-10-2023

NORTHERN RAILWAY
e-Auction Notice

The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division:

Auction Catalogue No.	FZRPARCEL-53
Auction Date & Time	25.10.2023 at 10.30 Hrs
Name of work : Contract for Leasing of parcel space in Train No./ SLR compartment:	19514-F1, 19804-F1, 14806-F1, 12478-F1, 22552-F1, 12752-F1, 14504-R1, 14036-R1, 15212-R1, 22480-F1, 14036-F1, 14650-R1, 14036-F2, 22486-F1, 14616-F1, 14504-F1, 22706-F1, 12266-F1, 12492-F1, 12588-F1, 12414-VP & 12472-VP.
Auction Catalogue No.	FZRPARCEL-54
Auction Date & Time	26.10.2023 at 10.30 Hrs
Name of work : Contract for Leasing of parcel space in Train No./ SLR compartment:	19326-F1, 12030-F1, 19226-F1, 12426-F1, 19228-R1, 14505-R1, 12460-F1, 12242-F1, 12014-F1, 14508-R1, 14601-R1, 14601-F2, 14614-R1, 14505-F2, 22432-F1, 14674-R1, 22430-F1, 14508-F2, 14610-F1, 12412-F1, 14633-F1, 14633-F2, 14634-R1, 14624-F1, 14012-R1, 14674-F1, 14633-R1, 14634-F2, 14508-F1, 14624-F2, 14624-R1 & 12238-F1.
Auction Catalogue No.	FZRPARCEL-55
Auction Date & Time	27.10.2023 at 10.30 Hrs
Name of work : Contract for Leasing of parcel space in Train No./ SLR compartment:	19108-F1, 15098-F1, 15532-F1, 22942-F1, 11450-F1, 14012-F1, 22462-F1, 12238-F2, 14814-F1, 14835-F1, 14630-F1, 12476-F1, 14654-F1, 14654-F1, 19224-R1, 12236-R1, 14654-F2, 14634-F1, 14632-F1, 14632-R1, 14034-F1, 12446-F1, 19224-F1, 14682-F1, 12414-F1, 12498-F1, 14601-F1, 14630-R1 & 12032-F1.
Auction Catalogue No.	FZRPARCEL-56
Auction Date & Time	28.10.2023 at 11.00 Hrs
Name of work : Contract for Leasing of parcel space in Train No./ SLR compartment:	12470-F1, 20986-F1, 14612-F1, 12550-F1, 22402-F1, 12474-F1, 12920-F1, 12904-F1 & 15212-F1.

For other details and registration, please visit Railway website www.ireps.gov.in.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3149/23

Pathankot Attack Mastermind Shahid Latif Killed In Pakistan Mosque

Agencies

Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist Shahid Latif, believed to be the mastermind of the 2016 attack on an Indian Air Force base in Pathankot, was gunned down on October 11 by unidentified assailants in a mosque in Daska town of Pakistan's Sialkot district, officials said. Latif, alias Bilal, a designated terrorist under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, is learnt to have been shot dead along with two of his associates by three gunmen. He had infiltrated into the

Kashmir Valley in 1993 and was arrested a year later. He was in Jammu jail with Masood Azhar, founder of the JeM, till 2010, officials said.



He was deported to Pakistan in 2010 following his release and formally joined the terror group, they said. "This is the biggest blow to JeM on Pakistan soil," an official said. Latif was wanted by the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

Seven IAF personnel were killed when four JeM terrorists sneaked into the Pathankot Air Force Station on January 2, 2016. The siege went on for three days.

"Denial Of Maternity Benefits Inhumane, Violates Rights": Delhi High Court



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Denial of maternity benefits to a female employee is inhumane and against the principles of social justice as well as her fundamental rights as it stands in the way of her choice to bring life into the world, the Delhi High Court has said.

The court's observations came while holding an arbitrary a decision of the Delhi University (DU) to terminate the services of a contractual employee while she was on maternity leave.

Justice Chandra Dhari Singh said the institution's action of terminating the services of the woman, who challenged it before the high court, without even a notice cannot be sustained and maternity benefits cannot be denied to a female employee merely because her employment was contractual.

Since she was "illegally terminated", the judge directed the authorities to reinstate her and pay an amount of ₹50,000 to her as compensation.

"Maternity benefits cannot be denied to a female employee merely because the nature of such employment is contractual. Denial of the said benefits is inhumane and in violation of fundamental rights. Maternity rights are not something that is based on a statute but stands to be an integral part of the identity of a woman," the court said in a recent order.

"Denial of such rights is, in fact, standing in the way of a woman choosing to bring life into the world, thereby violating her fundamental right to life. Such denial is indeed against the principles of social justice," Justice Singh said.

The petitioner was posted as a female attendant at a DU hostel on an ad-hoc basis in 2018. She told the court that although her maternity leave was approved by the authorities, she did not receive her salary during that period and upon rejoining, she was informed that her services were terminated.

The court noted that according to a notification issued by the DU, paid maternity leave of 26 weeks should be granted to women who are employed with it on a contractual or ad-hoc basis and the record made it evident that the petitioner was in fact employed on a contractual basis and her term was further extended, making the policy applicable to her.

"It can be concluded that the respondent institution's action of terminating the petitioner without so much as a notice is arbitrary," the court said.

"The instant petition is allowed and the respondents are directed to reinstate the petitioner on her previous post or any other post as per her eligibility. It is also directed to pay the maternity benefits as per the Act, 1961 within four weeks," the court directed.

Israeli Strikes Demolish Entire Gaza Neighbourhoods As Only Power Plant In Territory Runs Out Of Fuel



Agencies

JERUSALEM: Palestinians in the sealed-off Gaza Strip struggled to find any safe area on Wednesday, as Israeli strikes demolished entire neighbourhoods, hospitals ran low on supplies and the territory's only power plant ran out of fuel, deepening the misery of a war sparked by a stunning and deadly assault by Hamas militants.

Air strikes smashed entire city blocks to rubble in the tiny coastal enclave and left unknown numbers of bodies beneath mounds of debris. The bombardment raged on even though militants are holding an estimated 150 people snatched from Israel — soldiers, men, women, children and older adults.

Israel has vowed unrepre-

cedented retaliation against the Hamas militant group ruling the Palestinian territory after its fighters stormed through the border fence on Saturday and gunned down hundreds of Israelis in their homes, on the streets and at an outdoor music festival.

Since then, militants have continued to fire rockets at Israel, including a heavy barrage at the southern town of Ashkelon on Wednesday.

The war, which has already claimed at least 2,200 lives on both sides, is expected to escalate — and compound the misery of people living in Gaza, where basic necessities and electricity were already in short supply.

After the attack, Israel stopped the entry of food, water, fuel and medicine into the territory — a 40-kilometer-long

(25-mile) strip of land wedged among Israel, Egypt and the Mediterranean Sea that is home to 2.3 million Palestinians. The sole remaining access from Egypt was shut down on Tuesday after airstrikes hit near the border crossing.

As Palestinians crowded into UN schools and a shrinking number of safe neighbourhoods, humanitarian groups pleaded for the creation of corridors to get aid in, warning that hospitals overwhelmed with wounded people were running out of supplies.

"There is no safe place in Gaza right now," journalist Hasan Jabar said after three Palestinian journalists were killed in the bombardment of a downtown neighbourhood home to government ministries, media offices and hotels. "I am genuinely afraid for my life."

How Are Palestinian Children Affected By Israel-Gaza War?

Agencies

With warplanes carrying out air strikes and Israel's announced total blockade of the Gaza Strip, residents have been stripped of access to many necessities, including food and water.

In response to the Hamas attack on Israel, Gazan neighbourhoods, including al-Karama and Rimal, have been bombarded and the civilian death toll, including hundreds of children, continues to rise.

Here is a look at how the war is affecting Palestinian children on the Gaza Strip:

On Wednesday, the death toll in Gaza reached at least 950 Palestinians, including 260 children, with the Palestinian Health Information Center reporting that 10 percent of the 3726 people injured were children.

According to the Defense for Children International (DCI), a Palestinian human rights organisation focused on child rights, since 2005, six major military offensives in Gaza have killed at least 1,000 Palestinian children.

"We know from previous experience that children will be terrified," said Jason Lee, Save the Children's country director for the occupied Palestinian territory, in a statement on Saturday.

Children and the blockade
Israeli Defence Minister



Yoav Gallant announced a complete blockade of Gaza on Monday, justifying the move by describing Palestinians as "beastly people".

This means that the supply of electricity, gas, food and water has been cut off in Gaza, which has already living under a land, sea and air blockade since 2007 with its borders controlled by Israel.

Since this blockade, Israel has launched five military attacks on Gaza, destroying homes.

Due to the blockade and lack of access to materials, reconstructing the homes has been slow and difficult, displacing the inhabitants.

Children are highly vulnerable to these conditions — lack of access to clean water, sanitation resources, and protection from weather extremes — causing a strain on their physical and mental health.

The lack of food in the complete blockade will also lead

to a higher rate of food insecurity. DCI reported that children in Gaza have previously resorted to dangerous methods of collecting food or money for food, entering zones where they can be attacked by the Israeli military.

The lack of water and sanitation facilities in Gaza has previously resulted in children suffering from diseases including the flu and typhoid fever, according to DCI.

Frequent electricity deficits have exacerbated the issue of children being vulnerable to extreme heat and cold, DCI said in the report.

Mental health

According to a 2022 report by Save the Children, four out of five children in Gaza are living with depression, grief and fear, while more than half struggle with suicidal thoughts. Children there also experience trauma from witnessing the deaths of other children.

Israeli Cabinet To Discuss Banning Al Jazeera, Say Reports

Agencies

The Israeli cabinet is set to discuss legislation that would ban Al Jazeera's coverage in Israel, several Israeli media outlets reported on Wednesday.

Israeli Communications Minister Shlomo Karhi has prepared emergency legislation to approve the closure of Al Jazeera, the Qatari-based international news channel, "until the end of the war", the reports said.

Al Jazeera is one of the few global media channels that has a physical presence in Gaza and Israel.

According to Israeli media, the proposed legislation is set to be discussed this evening.

On Saturday, hundreds of Palestinian fighters stormed into Israel by land, sea and air, killing around 1,200 Israelis and taking scores more captive. In response, Israel has been relentlessly bombing the Gaza Strip, killing at least 1,055 Pal-



estinians.

Israel has barred anyone from leaving or entering Gaza, which it has put under complete siege, cutting off water, electricity and food. International coverage of the Israeli bombardment, therefore, has fallen to media organisations already on the ground, such as Al Jazeera.

The Qatari TV channel has had a difficult relationship with Israel, most recently over the May 2022 killing of veteran Al Jazeera correspondent Shireen Abu Akleh.

Israel repeatedly denied that its soldiers had shot the reporter, with various investigations proving their claims incorrect.

Facing Fire Over Resolution On Hamas, Congress's "Vajpayee" Reminder To BJP

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: The Congress on Tuesday said there are no differences in the party on the CWC resolution on Hamas and reminded the BJP of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee favouring the cause of Palestinian people, after the ruling party slammed it for not referring to the terror attack on Israel in its resolution.

The Congress came under attack from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for allegedly supporting Hamas and the Palestine cause, without referring to the attack on Israel.

Congress's deputy leader in the Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi said there are no differences within the party over the CWC document, which has favoured a resolution of the Palestine issue through dialogue.

The BJP is trying to divert people's attention and distract them from the rift in the party over poll ticket distribution.

"It is unfortunate that the BJP is politicising the Congress Working Committee (CWC) resolution. All of us want Indians to be safe in Israel and Gaza and that they should return home safely," Mr Gogoi told reporters when asked about the issue.

"There is no resentment and these are all rumours. It is regrettable that people are doing politics over the Congress resolution... Whether in Israel or in Gaza, we want Indian citizens to be safe. They should come back, that should be the focus," he said.

Mr Gogoi said senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh explained the party's position on X just a day earlier and referred to both the Hamas attacks and the Palestine cause.

Mr Gogoi alleged that the BJP is facing an internal revolt after the declaration of poll candidates' names in Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, and is now trying to distract people from this internal rift and raising such issues.



"I would like to tell (BJP leader) Kailash Vijayvargiaji that he should remember Vajpayeeji's speech and analyse what he had said.

"After the success of the Bharat Jodo Yatra, the BJP is only talking about the Congress and has forgotten its own history as well as Vajpayeeji's speech," he said.

BJP general secretary Mr Vijayvargia had, in a post in Hindi on X, said: "Extremely condemnable. CWC has passed a resolution in support of Palestine regarding the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas."

"The Congress has once again passed a resolution taking a decision against national policy and national interest. How low will the Congress stoop to please the people of a particular religion? "Now, the Congress is ready to compromise with terrorism also. We and our party have also been in the opposition but never took any step against national interest. The Congress's hand is with terrorism," Vijayvargia said, referring to the opposition party's poll symbol.

In its resolution, the Congress has said: "Finally, the CWC expresses its dismay and anguish on the war that has broken out in the Middle East where over a thousand people have been killed in the last two days.

"The CWC reiterates its longstanding support for the rights of the Palestinian people to land, self-government and to live with dignity and respect. The CWC calls for an immediate cease-fire and for negotiations to begin on all outstanding issues, including the imperative issues that have given rise to the present conflict."

Delhi Court Summons BJP Leader Syed Shahnawaz Hussain In Rape Case

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Wednesday summoned BJP leader Syed Shahnawaz Hussain on a woman's complaint alleging rape and criminal intimidation. The court took cognisance of the alleged offence and directed the former Union minister to appear before it on October 20.

"This court, after going through the cancellation report, protest petition filed by the complainant, the reply to the protest petition filed by the IO and other material on record is of the view that the complainant has given consistent statements to the police, to the court in her application and before the Ld. Magistrate in her statement u/s 164 Cr.PC," the judge said.

The police had filed a report before the court seeking cancellation of the FIR.

The judge dismissed the police report, saying, "The issues raised by the IO (investigating officer) while filing the cancellation report...are matters which



can be decided during trial."

"Moreover this court is of the view that the version of the complainant and her trustworthiness can be tested only during trial when she is cross-examined by the accused and so this court on the basis of material placed on record along with the cancellation report especially the statement of the complainant... wherein she has supported her allegation of rape and threats by accused Syed Shahnawaz Hussain... this court takes cognisance of the offences," the judge said.

The judge took cognisance of the alleged offences, which are punishable under various provisions of the IPC including sections 376 (rape) and 506 (criminal intimidation).

Angry Over Girls Smoking, 70-Year- Old Man Sets Indore Cafe On Fire

Agencies

INDORE: A 70-year-old man set a cafe on fire in Indore, apparently furious after finding girls smoking there, an official said on Wednesday. The senior citizen targeted the cafe on Tuesday night when it was closed, the official said.

The accused was taken into custody after he was identified through CCTV footage, said Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police Rajesh Dandotia.

Without sharing his details, the official said that the accused had retired from the Department of Telecommunications.

"During initial interrogation, the accused said that he did not like girls smoking in this cafe, hence he got angry and set it on fire," he said.

Police officials, however, said that the accused is repeatedly changing his statement. The exact reason for the arson can be determined only after the completion of the investigation, they said.

Though the senior citizen set the cafe, located under the jurisdiction of Lasudia police station, on



fire when there was nobody inside, it was completely destroyed. The owner suffered a loss of nearly ₹4 lakh due to the arson, Rajesh Dandotia said.

Dandotia said that a case has been registered against the accused under Indian Penal Code (IPC) section 436 (mischievous fire or explosive substance with intent to destroy house, etc).

Another police official said that the cafe owner told the investigators that the accused had been roaming around his establishment for the last several days.

Man Allegedly Harasses Woman On Pune-Nagpur Flight, Arrested



Press Trust of India

NAGPUR: A 32-year-old man was arrested by police here on Tuesday for allegedly molesting a woman co-passenger on a Pune-Nagpur flight of a private airline, an official said.

The alleged incident took place on Monday, he said.

The accused was identified as Feroze Shaikh, resident of Kondhwa area of Pune and an engineer by

profession. The 40-year-old woman complainant, a resident of Chandrapur, was on her way to Nagpur to perform the last rites of her father, the official of Sonegaon police station said.

The accused allegedly made unwanted advances towards her after the plane landed at the Nagpur airport.

A Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) jawan who was on board intervened

and restrained Feroze Shaikh before reporting the incident to police, the official said.

Feroze Shaikh was subsequently booked under Indian Penal Code sections 354 (assaulting or using criminal force to any woman, intending to outrage her modesty), 354 (a) (sexual harassment) and 509 (word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman) and further probe was on, he said.

Sikh Delegation Meets President Murmu

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: A delegation of the Sikh community in Jammu and Kashmir met President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday and submitted a memorandum listing their various demands.

The All Parties Sikh Coordination Committee (APSCC) delegation led by Harmilan Kour and Manmeet Kour met the President at the Raj Bhavan here.

The delegation said the community has faced persistent challenges and firmly believes that it is time for the Government of India to take decisive actions to address its pressing issues, according to the APSCC.

The demands included the extension of the National Commission for Minorities Act to Jammu and Kashmir, reinstatement of Punjabi as a recognised language, equitable relief for internally displaced Sikhs, and political reservation for the Sikh minority to ensure adequate representation and participation in the democratic process.

The memorandum stated

that the Sikh community has been an integral part of the nation's fabric, contributing significantly to its cultural, economic, and social spheres.

These measures are not merely requests but fundamental rights that uphold the principles of equality, fraternity and justice enshrined in the Constitution, it added.

President Murmu arrived in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday on a two-day visit. She was received at the Srinagar airport by Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. She was also accorded a guard of honour on her first visit to the Union territory.

The President then travelled to the Badamibagh Cantonment, the headquarters of the Army's 15 Corps, where she paid tribute to the fallen soldiers at the martyrs' memorial.

Later in the day, the President addressed the 20th convocation of Kashmir University. She is scheduled to visit the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine on Thursday.



PRESIDENT DRAUPADI MURMU, J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday attended the 20th convocation of Kashmir University here, amidst heightened security arrangements around the venue.
KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

Tight Security At Vaishno Devi Shrine Ahead Of Prez Visit

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A top police officer of the Jammu division on Wednesday reviewed security arrangements at the Vaishno Devi shrine stop Trikuta hills in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir, an official said.

The review of the security arrangements by Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone, Anand Jain comes a day ahead of President Droupadi Murmu's scheduled visit to the revered shrine.

Murmu, who reached Srinagar on Wednesday morning, is visiting the shrine on the last leg of her two-day tour to inaugurate a remodelled Parvati Bhawan and skywalk on Thursday.

The work on the much-needed skywalk, which would help separate the incoming and outgoing pilgrims near the Bhawan area, started in August last year. The facility, 20 feet above the track level, will help overcome the problem of multidirectional flow of yatra and a chaotic condition between Manokamna Bhawan and Gate No-3, the scene of stampede on New Year's Day in 2022 in which 12 people lost their lives and 16 were injured.

A police spokesperson said the IGP Jammu conducted a



series of important meetings and visited the Police Stations at Bhawan and Katra to assess the preparedness for the VIP visit and forthcoming Navratra celebrations.

During these meetings, Jain emphasized the importance of remaining extra vigilant for the anticipated visit and urged all the officers and jawans to prioritize security measures accordingly, also keeping in view the upcoming Navratra festival, the spokesperson said.

While interacting with men on ground, he also personally

We All Should Jointly Fight Militancy: Azad

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: DPAP chairperson Ghulam Nabi Azad on Wednesday expressed concern over terror incidents in Jammu and Kashmir during the last one and a half years and called for a united fight.

"The security situation has improved during the last five years. But for the past one and a half years, particularly in the Rajouri sector, incidents have taken place. The incident in Kokernag in Kashmir also took place. We are concerned about it," he told reporters on the sidelines of a meeting with several delegations here.

The Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) chairperson was replying to a question about the present security situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

It appears militancy is again attempting to raise its head, Azad said and added that "we all, people of J&K, the government and politicians should jointly fight it out". "It is not solely the responsibility of the government, but all of us," he said.



On the dharna by the main opposition parties in Jammu and Kashmir, including the National Conference, the Congress and the PDP, on Tuesday for restoration of democratic and constitutional rights in the Union Territory, Azad said, "The leaders who had given the call (for the demonstration) were themselves absconding."

"This shows their seriousness," he said in an apparent reference to NC chief Farooq Abdullah and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti, who could not make it to the dharna on Tuesday.

Azad, who met several delegations, particularly of the Gujjar-Bakarwal community, said the government should look into the issues of this community and address their grievances.

DC Baramulla Reviews RDD Works, Other Sponsored Schemes

Dr Sehrish Emphasizes To Achieve 100% Saturation In All The Designated Indicators

Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: In order to take a sector wise review about the physical and financial progress of works under different schemes and sponsored programmes including PMAY-G, MGNREGA, SBM-G and other sectors, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Aagar on Wednesday chaired a meeting with the functionaries of Rural Development Department Baramulla at DC Office Complex here.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Sopore, Shabir Ahmad Raina; Joint Director Planning, M.Yousuf Rather; Sub Divisional Magistrates, ACD, ACP, Revenue Officers, BDOs besides other functionaries of other concerned departments were present in the meeting.

On the occasion, Assistant Commissioner Development Baramulla briefed the chair about the current pace and progress of MGN-REGA, PMAY (G), SBM (G)

among others.

While reviewing the physical and financial progress under MGN-REGA 2023-24, the meeting was informed that a total of 25859 households of Baramulla district have been provided jobs with disbursement of more than Rs. 21.83 Crores under total allocation of Rs. 30.6781 Crores thereby making record release of the said wages to 99.5% within 15 days.

It was also given out that 84 households stand registered under 100 days of guaranteed wage employment category.

Presenting further breakup, the meeting was informed that a record of 8.52 lac households were provided jobs under MGN-REGA against the target of 4.85 lacs up to the current month making the achievement to 175%. Under this feat, 3315 works stand completed against the total target of 13000 and the rest of the works are to be completed up to March 2024, it added.

Similarly, the meeting also informed that 78000 job cards are registered with the Department in Baramulla under which 66000 Job cards are active as unskilled manual workers.

During the meeting, the chair was apprised that out of 339 cases sanctioned under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), 335 beneficiaries have been benefited till date while as the remaining cases are to be completed after proper verification and requisite formalities.

The meeting also discussed the progress made under Awas Plus Scheme during 2023-24 and informed that 3818 registered beneficiaries were benefited in the first instance with the first instalment.

Similarly, under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin), it was given out that 612 works were taken up against the target of 622 with budget allocation of

Rs. 5.1295 crores.

After taking a comprehensive review, Dr Sehrish directed the concerned functionaries to work with added zeal and synergy so that all the ongoing works are completed well within the fixed timeline. She further emphasized achieving saturation in all the designated indicators and exhorted to work in coordination and cohesion.

During the meeting, the DC directed the concerned authorities to complete the target of sanctioned cases up to November 2023 and December 2023 under PMAY (G) and SBM (G) respectively.

With regard to the other works, the DC also directed to conduct routine field inspection so that constant surveillance is maintained adding that quality of work shall never be compromised.

Meanwhile, the DC called for intensifying sanitation in rural areas by gearing up Swachhgrahis on a community approach to sanitation.

Call Centre At Mata Vaishnodevi Base Camp Gets Nearly 2 500 Calls From Pilgrims Daily

Press Trust Of India

KATRA: A state-of-the-art call centre at the Mata Vaishnodevi base camp in Katra in Jammu and Kashmir is operating round the clock, managing nearly 2,500 daily calls from pilgrims from across the world seeking information about the pilgrimage to the Himalayan cave shrine, an official said on Wednesday.

The senior official said the facility plays a crucial role in

aiding pilgrims to plan their visit to the revered shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas.

It provides updates on prevailing weather conditions, yatra status, availability of helicopter services, battery-operated vehicles, accommodation, and other amenities at any given time, enhancing the overall experience of pilgrims.

The call centre has been set up to assist pilgrims with accurate information. A toll-free number is acces-

sible through the board's website, resulting in an increase in call volume," Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Shri Mata Vaishnodevi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) Anshul Garg told PTI.

Garg appealed to people to utilise the call centre for comprehensive information about the pilgrimage and its associated facilities. The call centre, set up in September this year, provides real-time information to pilgrims.

"Initially, we received

around 500 calls a day at the start of operations. After the redevelopment of the Mata Vaishnodevi website, the call volume has surged to 2,000 to 2,500 calls daily," said Vivek Varshneya, General Manager of Aria Telecom Solution, which operates the facility.

"Calls are received on the toll-free number 18001807212 and the facility has the capacity to handle 30 incoming calls simultaneously, both domestic and global," he said.

Wildlife Conservation

MoEFCC Asks J&K To Come Up With Zonal Master Plans Within 2 Yrs

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), the UT government has asked the Jammu and Kashmir government to come up with a Zonal Master Plan for eco-sensitive zones within two years.

As per a fresh notification from the MoEFCC, the UT government has been directed to form a Zonal master Plan in consonance with the relevant Central and Union Territory laws for the conservation of wild habitat in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The Union Territory Government shall, for the purposes of the Eco-sensitive Zone prepare a Zonal Master Plan within a period of two years from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, in consultation with local people and adhering to the stipulations given in this notification for approval of the competent authority in the Union Territory," it said.

The MoEFCC has named 12 department for integrating ecological and environmental considerations into the Zonal Master Plan.

These departments as per the notification include environment, forests, agriculture, revenue, urban development, tourism, rural development, irrigation & flood control, pollution control board, municipality, panchayati Raj and public works department.

It said the Zonal Master Plan

shall not impose any restriction on the approved existing land use, infrastructure and activities.

"The Zonal Master Plan shall factor in improvement of all infrastructure and activities to be more efficient and eco-friendly," the notification said.

It said the Zonal Master Plan should focus on restoration of denuded areas, conservation of existing water bodies, management of catchment areas, watershed management, groundwater management, soil and moisture conservation, needs of local community and "such other aspects of the ecology and environment that need attention."

In the notification, the MoEFCC told the UT administration that The Zonal Master Plan shall demarcate all the existing worshipping places, villages and urban settlements.

"It shall also demarcate types and kinds of forests, agricultural areas, fertile lands, green areas, such as, parks and like places, horticultural areas, orchards, lakes and other water bodies with supporting maps giving details of existing and proposed land use features."

It said the Zonal Master Plan shall regulate development in Eco-sensitive Zone and "also ensure and promote eco-friendly development for security of local communities' livelihood."

"The Zonal Master Plan shall be co-terminus with the Regional Development Plan," it said.

Pulwama Student Shines at KU'S 20th Convocation

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a shining moment of academic excellence, a student from Pulwama etched his name in the annals of the Kashmir University's 20th Convocation.

Naseer Ahmad Mir, under the dedicated mentorship of Aadil Tibeetaqal, a Faculty in the Institute of Music and Fine Arts achieved an extraordinary feat by being awarded the coveted Gold Medal. This prestigious recognition was bestowed upon him for securing the First Position in BPA - Santoor Indian Classical (Batch 2018).

Naseer's remarkable accom-

plishment not only reflects his exceptional talent but also carries the promise of inspiring other young individuals through the pursuit of academic excellence.

The Department of Santoor Indian Classical at the University of Kashmir has consistently strived to provide a premier learning environment for this vibrant art form. It is worth noting that the University of Kashmir holds the distinction of introducing the Department of Santoor Indian Classical for the first time in the history of performing arts worldwide.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SUB TRANSMISSION DIVISION-Ist (KPDCL), BEMINA, SRINAGAR

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. STD I / 15 of 2023-24 dated 09.10.2023

For and on behalf of the Managing Director KPDCL, e-Tenders, (In Two Cover System) is hereby invited from reputed A-class electrical contractors / registered firms/suppliers enlisted with CPWD/MES/Railways/DGS&D/JKPD, for the work mentioned as:-

S.No	Description of Work	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Cost of document (In Rs.)	Position of Funds	Last date of submission of e-bid (online)
01	Rate Contract for Supply of Key material required for Operation/Maintenance of 33KV lines and 33/11 KVA Receiving stations valid till end of financial year 2023-24 or till finalization of next stage contract	Rs 78,000 Seventy Eight Thousand only	Rs.1000.00 (One Thousand only) Non refundable	Available	02/11/2023; 03:00 PM
1.	Document Download/Sale (start) Date.	13/10/2023 ; 09:00 AM			
2.	Document Download /Sale (End) Date.	02/11/2023; 03:00 PM			
3.	Bidding Queries/Clarifications	13.10.2023 to 14.10.2023.			
4.	Bid Submission Start Date	16/10/2023; 10:00 AM			
5.	Bid Submission End Date	02/11/2023; 03:00 PM			
6.	Commercial/ Technical Bid Opening Date & Time	04/11/2023; 03:00 PM			
7.	Financial Bid Opening	Shall be declared later on for the technically qualified bidders			
8.	Venue of Commercial/ Technical Bid Opening	Electronically in the office of Executive Engineer STD-Ist Bemina Srinagar, J&K.			
9.	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs.1000.00 (Rupees Two Thousand only) Non refundable			
10.	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 78,000.00Seventy Eight Thousand only			
11.	Position of Funds	Available			

The bidders need to submit the proof/ cost of e-Bid document as stated in the above table through non-refundable Demand Draft pledged to Executive Engineer, STD-I, Bemina, Srinagar. The scanned copy of the Demand Draft must be uploaded on e-tendering portal in Commercial/ Technical Bid Documents & hard copy of the same to be submitted in the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-I, Bemina, Srinagar before opening of techno-commercial bids.

- All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR/ FDR only, pledged to the Executive Engineer, STD-I, Bemina, Srinagar. No Interest would be payable on Earnest Money deposited with the Department.
- Hard Copy of original instrument of EMD shall be submitted to the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-I, Bemina, Srinagar, before opening of techno-commercial bids. In case any bidder shall submit/upload the bid declaration instead of EMD, his bid shall be summarily rejected and shall not be considered for techno-commercial evaluation.
- The date and time of opening of financial bids shall be notified on web site <http://jktenders.gov.in>. This is conveyed to the qualified bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The financial bids shall be opened accordingly online on the same web site at the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-I, Bemina, Srinagar.
- The e-Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the identified venue on indicated date and time mentioned in the above table or any subsequent day to the convenience of the Tender Opening Committee. An authority letter of bidder representative will be required to be produced.
- The Department reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids/ the e-Bid process without assigning any reason thereof. The decision of department will be final and binding.
- In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being a holiday/closed day for department's office then the due date for opening of e-Bids shall be the following working day at the same time and place.
- All the required documents excluding Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded by the e-Bidder electronically in the PDF format, whereas Price Schedule/BOQ should be up loaded electronically in the same BOQ sheet provided with the SBO.
- To participate in e-bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" As per InformationTechnologyAct-2000, to participate in online bidding.
- Hard copy of technical bid, technical specification and commercial bid documents (complete) of L1 Bidder must be delivered to the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-I, Bemina, Srinagar.
- The sealed cover shall be scribed as "Techno-Commercial Bid against e-NIT No. STD-I/15of 2023-24 dated 09/10/2023.
- The name of the L1 bidder and e-NIT no. shall be clearly written on the cover. It may be noted that the hard copy should be an exact replica of the uploaded offer documents. For evaluation purposes the uploaded documents will be treated as authentic and final. The hard copy shall be used only for reference purpose.
- The name of the bidder and e-NIT no. shall be clearly written on the cover. It may be noted that the hard copy should be an exact replica of the uploaded offer documents. For evaluation purposes the uploaded documents will be treated as authentic and final. The hard copy shall be used only for reference purpose.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

Any other information regarding e-tendering process can be had from the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-I, Bemina, Srinagar

No.-: STD-I/ 3768-69

Dated:-09/10/2023

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Executive Engineer,

Sub Transmission Division-I,

Bemina, Srinagar.

KASHMIR OBSERVER™
Thursday | 12-10-2023

Addressing Middle East

In the midst of escalating violence and tragedy in the Middle East, it is imperative to confront the stark realities and moral dilemmas that surround the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The recent unprecedented attack by Hamas, which claimed the lives of some 700 Israelis, serves as a grim reminder of the unsustainability of the situation in the occupied and blockaded Palestinian territories. Tensions had been simmering in the West Bank and Gaza Strip for months, with daily violence that went largely ignored by the Israeli government and by the world. This volatile situation erupted into the Hamas attack inside Israel. It has, in turn, further endangered Palestinian lives as Israel, in turn, responds with force, disregarding civilian casualties. The Palestinian territories have endured the longest occupation in modern history, a situation characterized by the expansion of Israeli settlements, security barriers, checkpoints, and the frequent use of force. This status quo has radicalized Palestinians and strengthened Hamas. Israel has declared war on Hamas before, but past military operations have done little to weaken the group.

In recent years, geopolitical realignments in the region have taken place, such as the Israel-Arab reconciliation and the Iran-Saudi détente. Yet, these developments have conspicuously skirted the core issue—the occupation of Palestine. This original sin of West Asia continues to fester, with no end in sight.

To achieve lasting peace and stability in the region, it is imperative that the international community addresses the Palestinian question. Military interventions alone are cosmetic solutions that do not address the root cause of the conflict. The United States, as a key player in the region, must take a bold and courageous step forward.

Some opinion in the western press has urged the US President Joe Biden to recognize an independent and democratic Palestinian state living alongside a secure Israel, soon after the violence subsides. It is argued that once a Palestinian state under occupation gains international recognition, the negotiations between Israeli and Palestinian representatives for a lasting resolution can commence.

This proposal may appear idealistic in the current climate of conflict and distrust, but it is the only viable path forward. The two-state solution, despite its challenges and setbacks, enjoys higher support among both Israelis and Palestinians than any other alternative. The status quo is unsustainable and detrimental to all parties involved. To avoid further bloodshed and suffering, it is imperative that we tackle the root of the problem—the unresolved Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It is time to shift our focus towards a future where two states, Israel and Palestine, coexist in peace, security, and prosperity.

OTHER OPINION

Work needed

The findings of State of Working India 2023, a report released by the Azim Premji University, are ominous. This is because it reveals how employment and, consequently, social mobility continue to be linked to caste and gender hierarchies in India. In 2021, only 22% of workers from the scheduled castes were regular wage earners compared to 32% from the general category who benefited from a steady income. As much as 40% of SC workers are still part of the unorganised sector, while the number of company owners belonging to the SCs and scheduled tribes remains anomalous compared to their percentage in the total workforce. This is true even of the smallest of firms. Data on the participation of women show a few more worrying trends. For instance, in rural areas, as the husband's income increases, the probability of the wife being employed reduces: this shows that stereotypes, such as the male being the breadwinner, endure stubbornly. Interestingly, the report also found a direct correlation between the employment status of the mother-in-law in a household and the probability of the daughter-in-law being employed. Worryingly, SC and ST women are doubly disadvantaged — they earn only 54% of upper caste women's pay who, in turn, earn only 76% of what men do. The most significant statistic perhaps is that a staggering 42% of graduates under 25 remain unemployed, showing that the prime minister's dangle of the Rozgar Mela carrot is not helping the educated youth.

The general rate of unemployment has fallen to pre-pandemic levels but the most troubling inference from this report is that inequality is still deeply embedded in the nation's economic structures in spite of policy attempts and affirmative action measures to uplift the disadvantaged classes. In the absence of robust employment generation, there is always the risk of the youth finding their energies being directed towards divisive endeavours, thereby turning themselves into foot soldiers of an authoritarian regime. If Narendra Modi's pre-poll promises of providing employment are to be turned into reality, surveys like this must be taken seriously and their data used to tailor regular employment-generation schemes appropriately. That way, the claims of employment generation by all political dispensations can be interrogated on the basis of objective criteria.

Telegraph India

Information Inequality: Revisiting NEP's Digital Proficiency

Showkat Ahmad Mir

The new National Education Policy 2020 envisions the future citizens of India to be digitally proficient, in addition to acquiring skills and attitudes like scientific temper, creativity, and evidence-based thinking. These recommendations seem to be imperative for the idea of making of 'Vishwaguru' Bharat. Both access to information and proficiency in terms of utilizing technology for educational processes are prerequisites for any nation to be a part of the future knowledge economy. However, the digital divide and lack of digital proficiency among the populace suggest otherwise. To be digitally proficient means to be able to find, evaluate, and communicate information by using digital platforms. It also anchors on the ability to create, evaluate, and share information via information and communication technologies. Lepofsky, sees digital proficiency to be composed of two vectors viz. "Skill level and Comfort level with technology".

This knowledge of digital proficiency is not only important for individuals to be aware of current and modern trends of the globalized world; it also becomes significant in the transaction of knowledge within classrooms. Technology can be a very good tool of assistance in the teaching-learning process. For technology-assisted learning, both teachers and learners need to have digital skills but data on digital skills in India speaks otherwise. NEP 2020 anticipates India with schools having smart classrooms, using digital pedagogy, and enriching the teaching-learning process with online collaborations and resources. It envisages "the thrust of technological interventions will be to improve teaching learning and evaluation processes, support teacher preparation and professional development, enhancing educational access, and streamlining educational planning, management, and administration including processes related to admissions, attendance, assessments, etc." However, with such a huge education system in India, the aforementioned recommendations seem to be a herculean task. Besides, having such a large educational system, it lacks strategies to promote education for the socio-economically disadvantaged groups. The amount of money India spends on education is far less than what was recommended by the Kothari Commission six decades ago. Furthermore, our education has not been successful in integrating modern technology in education due to various reasons. According to UDISE, 21-22, "more than nine lakh schools do not have functional computer facilities. It further shows that only 34 percent of schools in India have internet access. Among the schools that have internet access, only 24 percent are government schools. Forget about integrating technology only, 13.4 percent of schools still do not have functional electricity connections. India Inequality Report, 2022 highlights that "More than 80 percent



Feature image credits: Rupak De Chowdhuri / Reuters

of teachers reported facing challenges in teaching online". The importance of information and communication technologies in the educational processes has been long ago recognized by various thinkers who tried to see the benefits of integrating modern technology in education. They hypothesized that technology can eventually play a vital role in the educational processes and in achieving desired behavioral objectives of learning. This makes the relationship between technology and education what NEP calls 'bidirectional'. However, in the Indian context, the idea of integration of modern technology with multiple socio-economic and socio-political hindrances may get a back seat and may need

grim picture of the Indian education system and make recommendations that appear difficult to implement.

The introduction of information and communication technology in education in the 1990s and the cognizance of the digital divide in the world in 1995, gave rise to what Linuma Mizuho calls "information 'haves' and 'the have-nots'". This digital divide is further located in the socio-cultural context. The people who have more resources get more information digitally. There are only a few schools that get much attention from the government in the form of model schools or digital universities. Other schools have to struggle to get the basic facilities from the administration

of digital quagmire "Despite a significant growth rate of 13 percent in a year, only 31 percent of the rural population uses the internet whereas 67 percent of India's urban population uses the internet". Furthermore, "only about 9 percent of the students who (are) enrolled in any course had access to a computer with internet, and 25 percent of enrolled students had access to the internet through any other kind of devices. It further highlights that only 4 percent of the students from Schedule Tribes and Scheduled Castes have access to computers with internet facilities. And "the percentage of students from 'Others' who have internet access is 3 times more than the percentage from ST groups". The access to computers

It becomes obvious that students from low socio-economic backgrounds have less chance to get access to digital platforms; they have less chance to learn via technology. The immediate need is to have context-specific responses to technology in rural and tribal areas

an ample amount of time.

The new NEP acknowledges the local context for the use and integration of technology in the educational process. It does use the word 'remote' areas where technology and software are to be made available for the teachers and students. To take up this task, NEP-2020 recommends setting up a platform called Educational Technology Forum, this platform shall felicitate, govern and create the e-content and make every possible way to reach every nook and corner in the country for delivery of e-content. It will also take up problems to be faced by the communities or disruptive technologies in the schools. The NEP 2020 also highlights that "A rich variety of educational software, for all the above purposes, will be developed and made available for students and teachers at all levels. All such software will be available in all major Indian languages and will be accessible to a wide range of users including students in remote areas..." Here again, policymakers, deny the

and if the institutions are located in remote regions; the challenges become even worse.

The NEP 2020 uses the terms 'remote' and 'local contexts' which can be extrapolated to the tribal and rural areas, where life is difficult and challenges in integrating technology into education are very high. Introducing technology or the internet to these areas is one of the major challenges for policymakers and the government. There have been very less studies that could discuss the problems of using and integrating technology in the rural and tribal areas. Looking at the remoteness, geographical location, and hardships faced in these regions, one could think about information 'haves' and 'have nots'. The rural and tribal population has disadvantages on various fronts, these regions get marginalized, dispossessed, and underrepresented in terms of accessing technology. The grim picture of inequality in technology can be understood by the following data, India Inequality Report, gives this description

with internet was highest among students of top income decile. It becomes obvious that students from low socio-economic backgrounds have less chance to get access to digital platforms; they have less chance to learn via technology. Not only do these socio-economic dimensions strengthen the digital divide but teachers are also not proficient in using technology in Indian classrooms.

Making teachers technologically proficient in India seems paradoxical given the context of the huge digital divide that exists. The immediate need is to have context-specific responses to technology in rural and tribal areas and to build a basic infrastructure of education instead of roving in the ideal digital space.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer
Showkat Ahmad Mir is a Research Associate in the ICSSR project at the Central University of Himachal Pradesh



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

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Encouraging Literary Festivals

It is a lot encouraging to see that literary festivals are increasingly held elsewhere in the world, which help build communities of readers. These festivals also provide a platform to new authors by drawing instinctive attention from readers and the media, besides enabling popular authors to market their titles. Turned into a major industry,

these festivals create new readership, boost book sales, and upgrade publishers' brands. Perhaps, another major attraction of literary festivals is that it mirrors the nation's inherent culture and its mores.

As for India, the country celebrates book lovers, authors and writers every year through literary festivals organized across the country's

length and breadth. It is a matter of pride for Indians to attend and be a part of these lit-fests, which indicates the growing tribe of intellectuals in the country. The Jaipur Literary Festival, which is described as the 'cultural catalyst' and the 'greatest literary show on earth', draws people around the globe, augmenting Rajasthan's tourism economy. Literary fes-

tivals enable us to unite the past with our contemporary lives, the real with the imagined and the spoken with the written. These festivals have become a great centre for all literature aficionados and aspiring writers with a growing passion for books and expanding love of writing.

Ranganathan Sivakumar

An Allegory for the Importance Of Unity In Diversity

Aubaid Akhoun

In a mystical land, nestled between towering mountains and shimmering lakes, there existed a kingdom unlike any other—the Kingdom of the Talking Trees. In this realm, wisdom flowed as freely as the crystal-clear streams that wound through the enchanted forests and life thrived in perfect harmony.

Within this kingdom, there resided three distinct species of sentient trees: the Elder Oaks, the Wise Willows and the Noblie Pines. Each species had unique qualities and wisdom to offer, and they coexisted peacefully for generations, sharing knowledge, stories, and laughter.

One fateful day, a new tree arrived at the outskirts of the kingdom—a towering Redwood from a distant land. Its arrival was met with great curiosity and excitement, for no one in the kingdom had ever encountered such a magnificent tree. The Redwood, however, was not like the others. It had a towering ego and believed itself to be superior to the native trees.

The Redwood began to boast about its enormous height and the grandeur of its homeland. It belittled the Elder Oaks, mocked the Wise Willows, and dismissed the Noble Pines as insignificant. The harmony that had graced the Kingdom of the Talking Trees for centuries was now threatened by arrogance and discord.

The native trees, recognizing the growing divide, sought counsel from the ancient Tree of Wisdom, a giant Sequoia known for its unparalleled insight. The Tree of Wisdom listened carefully and then shared a profound lesson: In our diversity lies our strength, and in our unity lies our harmony. Each tree has its unique qualities, and when we embrace our differences, we become stronger together.



Inspired by this wisdom, the native trees decided to confront the Redwood with kindness and understanding. They organized a grand festival to celebrate the Redwood's unique qualities, acknowledging its impressive height and strength. The Redwood, humbled by this gesture of unity, realized the error of its ways and apologized for its arrogance.

As time passed, the Redwood grew to appreciate the wisdom of the Elder Oaks, the grace of the Wise Willows, and the resilience of the Noble Pines. It learned that true greatness lay not in towering over others but in standing tall with them.

The Kingdom of the Talking Trees was once again filled with harmony,

as the trees learned to value and respect one another's strengths and differences. They flourished together, sharing their wisdom and stories, knowing that unity and diversity were the keys to their enduring happiness.

And so, the Kingdom of the Talking Trees became a beacon of wisdom for all lands, teaching a valuable lesson to society: Embrace diversity, respect one another's unique qualities and find strength in unity. For in the tapestry of life, it is the harmony we create together that makes us truly magnificent.

Allama Iqbal, the great poet and philosopher has said:

"Fard qaaim rabt millat se hai tanha kuch nahi, Mauj hai dariya mein aur beroon dariya kuch nahi."

Translation: 'An individual is nothing without a connection to the community; they are like a wave in the sea, with nothing beyond the sea.'

These profound words resonate with the essence of our story in the Kingdom of the Talking Trees. Just as the native trees found their strength in unity and diversity, so too does this verse remind us that our individual significance is deeply intertwined with our bonds to the community.

Like the waves in the vast sea, our actions and impact are part of a larger whole and it is in our collective

efforts that we find true meaning and significance.

Applications of the Story

Unity in Diversity: The Kingdom of the Talking Trees serves as an allegory for the importance of unity in diversity. This concept is not only applicable to forests but also to human society. Emphasize the significance of embracing cultural, ethnic, and ideological diversity to foster a more harmonious and prosperous world.

Educational Initiatives: Consider developing educational programs or workshops inspired by the story to teach children and adults alike about the value of unity and respect for differences.

Environmental Conservation: The story highlights the interconnectedness of nature and the importance of preserving diverse ecosystems. Connect this message to real-world environmental efforts and initiatives, encouraging readers to take action in protecting our planet.

Social Harmony: Use the story as a conversation starter on promoting harmony and understanding in society. Discuss the impact of prejudice, discrimination, and ego on human relationships and how lessons from the Kingdom of the Talking Trees can be applied in our communities.

Enchanted Unity: Talking Trees' Tale" is a tale that resonates deeply with its readers and offers timeless wisdom. It not only entertains but also educates, making it a valuable contribution to literature with a lasting impact.

Aubaid Ahmad Akhoun is a Columnist and an Associate Editor of the Weekly Publication Education Quill

Warming World

Jo Adetunji

In August 2023, residents of Juneau, Alaska, watched as the Mendenhall River swelled to historic levels in a matter of hours. The rushing water undercut the riverbank and swallowed whole stands of trees and multiple buildings.

The source for the flood was not heavy rainfall – it was a small glacial lake located in a side valley next to the Mendenhall Glacier.

Glacier-dammed lakes like this are abundant in Alaska. They form when a side valley loses its ice faster than the main valley, leaving an ice-free basin that can fill with water. These lakes may remain stable for years, but often they reach a tipping point, when high water pressure opens a channel underneath the glacier.

The rapid and catastrophic drainage of lake water that follows is called a glacial lake outburst flood, or GLOF for short. The flood waters race downstream over hours or days and often hit unexpectedly.

Glacial lake outburst floods have destroyed homes, infrastructure and human life around the world. They have killed hundreds of people in Europe and thousands of people in both South America and central Asia. Globally, an estimated 15 million people live downstream from these lakes, with those in Asia's high mountains at greatest risk.

Flooding from a glacial lake in the Himalayas on Oct. 5, 2023, left dozens of people dead in India as water swept away bridges, damaged a hydro-power station and flooded small towns. Satellite images showed that the lake level dropped markedly within hours.

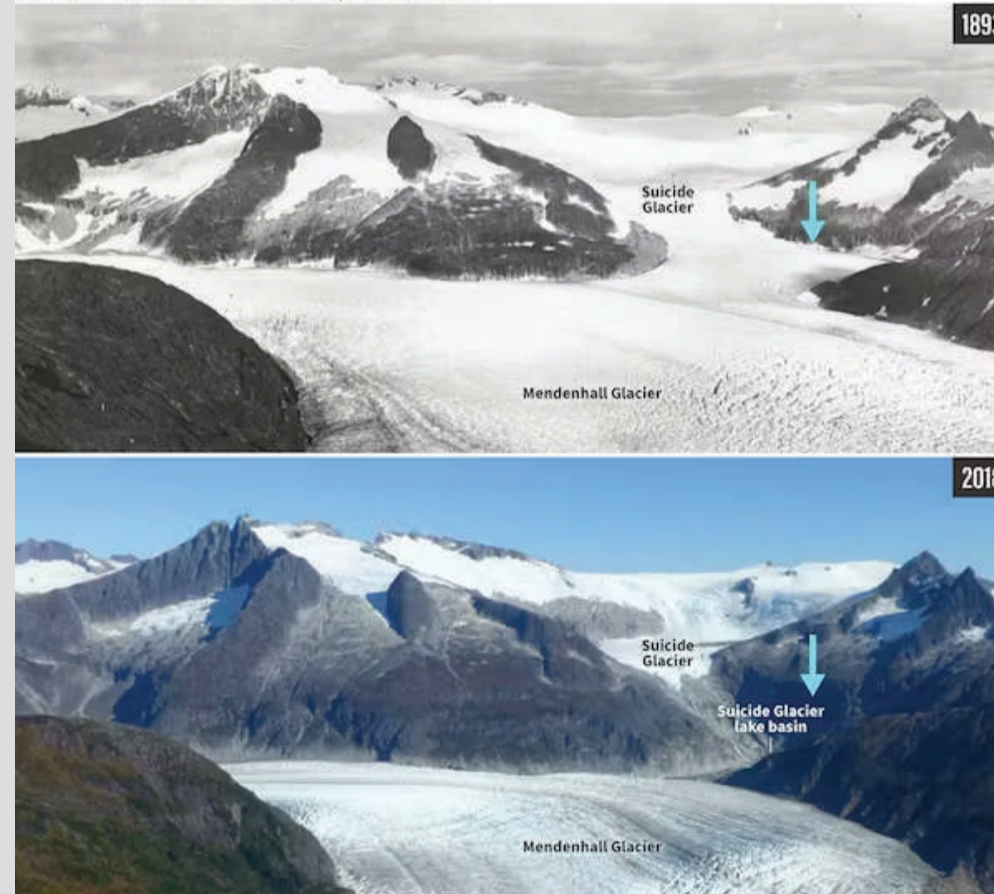
I study Alaska's glacial lakes and the hazards that glacier-dammed lakes in particular can create. Our latest research shows how these lakes are changing as global temperatures rise.

When glaciers hold back lakes

Some glacial lakes are dammed by moraines – mounds of rock and debris that are left behind as a glacier retreats. Too much pressure from extreme rainfall or an avalanche or landslide into the lake can burst these dams, triggering a devastating flood. Officials say that's likely what happened when the Himalayas' Lhonak Lake flooded towns in India in October 2023.

Glacier-dammed lakes, like Suicide Basin off of Mendenhall Glacier, are instead dammed by the

Mendenhall Glacier and Suicide Glacier retreat comparison: 1893 and 2018



glacier itself.

These glacial lakes tend to repeatedly fill and drain due to a cyclic opening and closing of a drainage path under the ice. The fill-and-drain cycles can create hazards every couple of years or multiple times a year.

How glacier lake hazards are changing in Alaska

In a new study, we identified 120 glacier-dammed lakes in Alaska, 106 of which have drained at least once since 1985.

These lakes have collectively drained 1,150 times over 35 years. That is an average of 33 events every year where a lake drains its contents, sending a pulse of water downstream and

creating potentially hazardous conditions.

Many of these lakes are in remote locations and often go undetected, while others are much closer to communities, such as Suicide Basin, which is within 5 miles of the state capital and has frequently drained over the past decade.

Our study found that, as a whole, glacier-dammed lakes in Alaska have decreased in volume since 1985, while the frequency of outbursts remains unchanged. This suggests a regional decline in the potential hazards from glacier-dammed lakes because less stored water is available, a trend that has been documented for glacier-dammed lakes worldwide.

To better understand this trend, imagine a bathtub. The higher the sides of the tub, the more

water it can hold. For a glacier-dammed lake, the glacier acts as a side of the bathtub. Warming air temperatures are causing glaciers to melt and thin, lowering the tub walls and therefore accommodating less water. That reduces the total volume of water available for a potential glacial lake outburst flood.

Smaller lakes, however, have had less significant change in area over time. As the August 2023 event clearly illustrated, even small lakes can have significant effects downstream.

Alaskans witnessed a new record of destruction in Juneau from the flood. The water reached nearly 15 feet at the Mendenhall River gauge – 3 feet above its previous record.

In summer 2023 alone, Alaskans saw record or near-record flooding from multiple glacier-dammed lakes near populated areas or infrastructure, such as Suicide Basin, near Juneau; Skilak Glacier-Dammed Lake, which affects the Kenai River; and Snow Lake, which impacts the Snow River. These lakes have remained about the same volume but have produced some larger floods in recent years.

One possible explanation is that with a thinner and weaker ice dam, the water can drain much more quickly, though further research is needed to understand the mechanics. Regardless, it's a reminder that these lakes and events are unpredictable.

How will rising temperatures affect these lakes?

Glacier loss in Alaska is accelerating as temperatures rise. Due to the large volume of glaciers and the many intersecting valleys filled with ice in Alaska, there is a high probability that new lakes will develop as side valleys deglaciate, introducing new potential hazards.

Many of these lakes are likely to develop in remote locations, and their presence may only be noticed in satellite images that reveal changes over time.

Given the abundance of glacial lakes and their potential threat to human lives, early warning and monitoring systems are worryingly sparse. Efforts are underway, such as those in the Himalayas and Chile, but further research is needed to develop reliable, low-cost monitoring systems and to improve our understanding of these evolving hazards.

By arrangements with The Conversation

Joint Injections, Creams Ineffective For Treating Hand Arthritis: Study

IAN S

Joint injections may be “ineffective” and may not improve symptoms of people suffering from arthritis in the hands, according to a study.

The study, published in RMD Open, also found the effectiveness of some topical creams to be “uncertain”.

However, painkillers and steroid pills are effective.

The hands are the most common area to be affected by arthritis. Treatments to ease the symptoms can include anti-inflammatory drugs, steroids, ointments or injections straight into the joint.

“Many pharmacological treatments for hand osteoarthritis pain are available, of which most have no proven efficacy,” said Anna Dossing from the University of Copenhagen in Denmark.

Hand osteoarthritis is a common disease affecting 15.9 per cent of women and 8.2 per cent of men aged between 40-84 years.

The incidence increases with age, and thus the burden will grow with the ageing population. The condition causes pain and impairs grip and motor function, affecting people’s abilities with activities of daily living and work.

People also experience dull



or burning joint pain, morning stiffness, and swollen joints.

The study explored research databases, finding 72 trials involving a total of 7,609 patients with 29 treatments provided over an average period of three months.

Of the total, 60 trials, comprising 5,246 patients, looked specifically at pain and were included by researchers in a pooled data analysis. The results showed that non-steroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAIDs) and

steroid tablets performed better than placebos.

However, the effectiveness of topical creams and gels was not clear. Joint injections such as hyaluronate or steroids, as well as hydroxychloroquine tablets, were “no better than placebo,” researchers said.

“For hand osteoarthritis, oral NSAIDs and oral glucocorticoids appear effective, whereas the efficacy of topical NSAIDs remains questionable,” Dossing said.

Researchers said their

findings “echo those of previous pooled data analyses” but “contradict the recommendations of existing clinical guidelines”, the report said.

“These findings raise questions about the evidence supporting the current treatment recommendation for intra-articular therapies and emphasise the need for future large-scale trials with a rigorous methodology to establish the efficacy of promising interventions such as topical NSAIDs,” the team said in the paper.

By 2027, Yearly Power Demands Of AI Could Surpass Those Of Small Countries, Research Finds

Press Trust Of India

By 2027, the electricity powering artificial intelligence (AI)-related activities could exceed the yearly power demands of countries such as the Netherlands, Argentina and Sweden, new research finds.

Wide adoption of AI could have a large energy footprint as generative AI technologies such as ChatGPT that create content based on the data they were trained on are undergoing rapid growth since 2022, noted the research published as a commentary in the journal Joule.

Training these tools is an energy intensive process as it requires feeding the models a large amount of data, said author Alex de Vries, a researcher at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

For training its textual content-generating AI tool, Hugging Face, a New York-based AI company, reported that it consumed 433 megawatt-hours (MWh), sufficient to power 40 average American homes for a year, said de Vries, who also founded Digiconomist, a research company dedicated to exposing the unintended consequences of digital trends.

Further, these AI tools again take up a significant amount of computing power, and thus energy, every time they generate a text or image based on prompts.

For example, ChatGPT could cost 564 MWh of electricity a day to run, de Vries’s analysis showed.

De Vries also estimated that if Google, which processes up to 9 bil-

lion searches a day currently, were to power its search engines with AI, then it would need roughly 30 TWh of power a year, which is almost the yearly electricity consumption of Ireland.

Google has been incorporating generative AI in the company’s email service and is testing out powering its searches with AI.



Thus, by 2027, worldwide AI-related electricity consumption could increase by 85 to 134 TWh annually, said de Vries, based on the projection of the rate of AI-server production, which is expected to grow rapidly in the near future.

Also, even as companies globally are working on making AI hardware and software more efficient and less energy intensive, de Vries said that this only increases their demand.

“The result of making these tools more efficient and accessible can be that we just allow more applications of it and more people to use it,” said de Vries in the commentary.

Thus, “looking at the growing demand for AI service, it’s very likely that energy consumption related to AI will significantly increase in the coming years.”

“The potential growth highlights that we need to be very mindful about what we use AI for.”

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
Office Of The Zonal Education Officer
Quilmuqam Bandipora

zeoquilmuqam@gmail.com

Sub: Engagement/hiring of Helpers/AAYA's under ECCE for the year 2023-24.
Ref: Directorate of Samagra Shiksha, J&K order No: 07 of Chirag, 2023 dated: 09-1-2023 and Chief Education Officer, Bandipora No: CEO/Bpr/sms/2023/2323 dated: 24-6-2023

NOTICE

Application on devised format (appended) are invited from eligible candidates for engagement /Hiring of Helpers/AAYA's under ECCE in the identified schools shown below, which should reach to Heads of institutions of concerned schools by 20th of October, 2023 supported by authenticated requisite documents incomplete applications or applications dropped after prescribed date shall not be entertained and shall be rejected without issuing any notice, however the undersigned reserves the right of cancellation of the notice if needed.

Nature of development-The development of helper/AAYA's shall be purely terminus and shall start from the date they are engaged/hired and shall conclude with the end of academic session. It may be extendable subject to the performance and approval of funds from the Ministry of Education Government of India, in the particular component.

Eligibility criteria:
The helper deployed must be a domicile of the village in case of rural area and wards in case of urban area where approved school is located.
Only female candidates may be deployed.
Candidates must be belonging to below poverty line category. The certificate of BPL category should be authenticated by TSO concerned.

The candidate must be physically fit to carry out her job. The applicant should possess minimum qualification of 8th pass, no weightage for higher qualification will be considered, if any however candidate with lesser qualification shall be considered when no eligible candidate is available in the village/ward, for which a separate notice shall be issued as soon as identified so.
Preference shall be given to candidates from BPL category in order of priority.

- . Widow
- . Divorced
- . Candidates from BPL older in age.

Age: 18 to 45 years as on 01-01-2023.
Honorary: Rupees: 5000/= Rupees: five thousand per month which may vary as per the approval in the subsequent year in PAB of samagra shiksha.
Premature termination:
In case of any misconduct, misbehave and poor performance while discharging duty by a helper /AAYA's as noticed/reported, the concerned head of the institution shall have the right to terminate the services of the helper/AAYA's in consultation with the panchayat e halqa/Municipal ward with due adherence to the prescribed procedure, as the case may be. The replacement shall be made within 07 seven days.
Job chart of Helper/AAYA's
The helpers/AAYA's for the preprimary sections of Government school shall have to perform below mentioned suggestive tasks
a/ Escorting the children at their arrival/departure between activities (for example while moving to outdoor area's playground and toilet etc.
b/ maintaining the hygiene of the children toileting, hand washing, cleanness of children etc.
c/ Helping the teacher in preparing class for activities like setting of the material, making arrangement for day to day activities.
d/ Assisting the children in taking food under the supervision of teacher, under PM Poshan/MDM.
e/ Any other assignment given by HOI for the proper care of children.

Sno	Name of the school	Village/Ward	No of Helper/AAYA to be engaged
1.	MS Mangniporabala	Mangnipora/Turkpora	01
2.	BPS Sheikhpura	Mantrigam	01

Zonal Education Officer,
Quilmuqam

No: ZEOQ/sms/023/
DIPK-10244/23 Dated: 11/10 /2023

Application format for engagement/hiring of helper/AAYA's for academic session 2023-24 in Education Zone Quilmuqam

1. Name of school where engagement of Helper/AAYA's is to be proposed: _____
2. Village/Ward: _____
3. Panchayat Halqa : _____
4. Name of applicant: _____
5. Fathers name: _____
6. Mothers name: _____
7. Name of Husband (if applicable): _____
8. Residence: _____

Village/Ward	Panchayat/Halqa	Tehsil	District

(Attach Domicile certificate)

9. Education qualification: _____
10. Date of birth: _____
11. Do you belong to any of the below category:
i. Widow : Yes/No _____ Yes/No (Attach copy of proof)
ii. Divorced: _____ Yes/No (Attach copy of proof)

I certify that above given information is correct and nothing is concealed in case of any miss information, if found/provided at any time I shall be responsible for consequences what so ever under law/rules. Date of submission: _____
Signature of applicant

DIPK-10244/23 dated: 11-10-2023

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir,
Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Kupwara

NIT No. 52-Kupwara/7078-86 of 2023-24 e-tendering DATED: -10-10-2023

For & on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of J&K Union Territory, e-tenders (in single cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other state/Central Governments for the followings works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In rupees)	Earnest Money (In rupees)	Time of Completion In days	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contr actor	Major Head of Account
1.	Construction of 12Mtr Bridge at Shahabad Muskijal Warnow Kupwara	33.50	1100/-	67000/-	45 days	19-10-2023	"A&B"	SEEMA SAMRIDHI YOJNA 2023-24
2.	Improvement of road from main road to Chopan Mohalla Zunreshi and Dev Mohalla Zunreshi	24.34	800/-	48700/-	30 days	19-10-2023	"B&C"	SEEMA SAMRIDHI YOJNA 2023-24
3.	Upgradation of Augmentation of Rest House at Tourist Spot Doursa Lolab	20.88	800/-	42000/-	30 days	19-10-2023	"B&C"	SEEMA SAMRIDHI YOJNA 2023-24
4.	Construction of CRC under Silk Samagra 2021-22 at Lolab Kupwara	9.90	600/-	19800/-	30 days	19-10-2023	"C&D"	CSS/TSP

Position of funds : Approved
Position of AAA : 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.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

01.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	10-10-2023
02.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 10-10-2023 to 19-10-2023 (4.00PM)
03.	Bid submission start date	10-10-2023 from (10.00AM)
04.	Bid submission end date	19-10-2023 upto (04.00PM)
05.	Date & time of opening Bids (on line)	19-10-2023 at (6:00PM) in the Office of the Executive Engineer RnB Division Kupwara

Terms and Conditions :-
The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the NIT carefully before uploading softcopy any short fall found in the soft copy the tender shall be rejected.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape Treasury Challan (Under Account Head 0059) (Treasury Challan) must be written boldly the Name of Work, Name of Contractor alongwith Cell No, NIT No. & Sr. No of NIT) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Kupwara (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money /Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Kupwara.
- The Successful Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% additional performance security deposit of the allotted cost. The same shall be released after successful completion of the defect liability Period of the work. The EMD of 2% successful bidders shall be released after receipt of 5% Performance Security
- Additional performance security for unbalanced bids is to be submitted by the lowest bidder before issuance of Allotment as per procedure in vogue.

S.No	%age of unbalanced Bid viz a viz advertised cost on account of Law Rate	Additional performance security to be deposited
1	Up to and including 15% below	Nil
2	Greater than 15% upto and including 20% below	5% of advertised cost
3	Greater than 20% upto and including 25% below	10% of advertised cost
4	Greater than 25% upto and including 30% below	15% of advertised cost
5	Greater than 30% below	20% of advertised cost

Chief Engineer PW(R&B) Department Kashmir's Circular No. CE/RBK/HD/3271-73

- The bidders shall ensure that their bids shall be accepted only if their registrations cards are uploaded on https://jkkpdoms.jk.gov.in portal in active Tab. as per circular instructions issued by Development Commissioner works vide No.PW/DCW/DB/668-72 DT-10-06-2022.
- The GST-3B for last Quarter (Quarterly return) and Previous month for (Monthly return) Should be uploaded, irrespective of date of Tender
- 1st lowest bidder will submit the CDR/FDR within two days after opening of Tender falling which 2nd lowest will be approached. Besides 1st lowest will be debarred from participating in tendering process for one year in this division.
- Manual offers delivered by post/fax or in person, or offers sent by e-mail or telex shall not be accepted against electronic tenders, even if such offers are received in time. All such offers shall be considered as invalid offers and shall be rejected summarily, without any consideration.
- In case the L-1 fails deposit the requisite document, the action against the L-1 as per PWD rules leading to blacklisting of contractor
- On Opening of financial bid the L1 has to produce the original CDR/FDR pledge to the opening Authority before allotting the work along with Cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan
- Upload Valid Registration CARD /Renewal, PAN Card, GST Certificate and latest GST clearance ending previous Month.
- It is mandatory for all bidders participating to submit all documents in terms of soft copies in e tendering website and no documents in terms of Hard Copies shall be entertained. However, lowest bidder will be called for submission of CDR/FDR as well as Treasury Challan and CDR/FDR of the other participating tenderers/bidders will be released only after surrender of Treasury Challan.
- Furnishing of Hard Copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the Bidder who's declared 1st Lowest (L-1) after opening of financial bids.
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
- The bidders are advised to get the genuineness of their enlistment cards from the issuing authorities. This is mandatory and bids are liable to be rejected in absence of the genuineness of enlistment card
- The contractor may purchase required material of quality and specifications prescribed, to be certified by Engineer in-charge
- The steel/Key construction material shall be allowed only of approved brand by the government.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical Bids.
- The tenderers are directed to submit their tender online; in case the last date of opening of tenders happens to be a holiday/hartal the same shall be opened on the next working day.

Qualification of the Bidder
In order to qualify all bidders shall upload following documents as defined below:-

- Registration Card duly renewed for the current financial year 2022-23. PAN Card, GST Certificate and latest GST clearance ending previous Month.
- In light of Govt. Notification issued by Finance Department Civil Secretariat Vide No. A/24(2017)-651Dt. 07-06-2018, the bidder must upload the copy of Challan / receipt in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Kupwara on account of cost of tender documents remitted in the treasury concerned for that the bidders must write an application to be addressed to treasury officer concerned requesting therein for remittance of amount as cost of tender documents towards M. H. 0059.
- The tenderers shall quote their rates legibly both in words, and figures. In case of any confusion resulting on account of rates not being written neatly and legibly decision of department shall be final and binding upon the tenderers.
- The tenders shall remain valid for a minimum period of three month from the date of opening of the tenders.
- The work shall have to be executed strictly in accordance with the specification laid down by the Deptt./Executive Engineer in charge of the work with in the time limit specified falling which penalty up to Rs.1500/day for first 10 days & Rs.3000/day for next 15days & 15% on the total value of the work will be imposed upon the contractor which shall be at the discretion Of the Engineer in charge Chief Engineer /Superintending Engineer /Executive Engineer. On contractors representation based on the valid grounds, the Executive Engineer/Superintending engineer /Chief Engineer however reserves the right for granting an Extension in the time limit for any definite period of time and in case the work is not still completed within the period so extended the contractors security deposit shall be confiscated in addition to imposition of other penalties as laid down in the rules regulation for the registration of the contractors besides recovery of extra cost if any involved after getting the work done through any other agency.
- In respect of bridge work, the span of the bridge may vary depending upon the condition at site. The rates to be quoted shall therefore hold good for variation up to 25% in the span.

No. 7078-86
DIPK-10239/23 DT: 11-10-2023

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Kupwara

JKTPO Exhibits Exquisite Heritage, Craftsmanship Of J&K At Eastern Himalayan Trade Fair 2023



Observer News Service

GUWAHATI: The Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) participated in the prestigious Eastern Himalayan Trade Fair 2023 organized by India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO) in association with Ministry of MSME and Department of Industry & Commerce, Assam showcasing the exquisite and diverse Handicraft, Handloom, Agriculture, Horticulture, and other products from Jammu and Kashmir.

The event took place in Assam Engineering Institute Playground, Chandmari, Guwahati which attracted buyers, visitors, traders and enthusiasts from across North-East Region and India.

The Eastern Himalayan Trade Fair is a flagship event aimed at celebrating and promoting the unique cultural heritage, craftsmanship, and traditional expertise that different regions in India have to offer. With Jammu and Kashmir being a treasure trove of ancient traditions and indigenous practices, the participation of exhibitors, artisans, farmers from J&K in this event played a crucial role in highlighting the UT's exceptional products.

The event witnessed an impressive display of a wide range of products like hand knotted silk carpets, kani shawls, pashmina shawls, sozni, saffron, readymade garment, saffron tea, saffron, dry fruits, lavender oil, rosewater, and paper mache.

With national buyers in attendance, the fair facilitated fruitful business interactions and paved the way for expanding market opportunities. The platform resulted in generation of more than 200 business leads and on spot retail sales of INR 5.00 lakh to J&K exhibitors.

Minister for Industry & Commerce, Assam, Bimal Borha, interacted with the exhibitors from Jammu & Kashmir and appreciated the unique products from the region.

The Department of Industry & Commerce, Assam further facilitated interaction of exhibitors from Jammu & Kashmir with Farmer Producer Corporation (FPC), Small Tea Growers (STG) and Handicraft & Handloom retailers in Assam. The Access Development Services in association with Assam Government Marketing Corporation Ltd showcased interest in organizing an artist exchange program with JKTPO and Department of Handicraft & Handloom, J&K.

TCS Ends Remote Working Practice, Asks Its 6.14 Lakh-Plus Employees To Work From Offices



Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Largest IT services company TCS on Wednesday announced that it has asked its 6.14 lakh-plus employees to work from offices, ending the practice of remote working that started due to the pandemic.

The company -- the first major IT services firms to announce such a move -- has asked its workforce to return to offices because of the need to deepen the value systems and a belief in productivity gains coming from co-working, TCS Chief Human Resources Officer Milind Lakkad told reporters.

"We strongly believe that they need to come to work so that the new workforce gets integrated with the larger workforce of TCS. And that is the only way they will learn and understand and internalise the TCS values and the TCS way. So yes, we are asking people to come all days in a week," Lakkad said.

He added that in the last three years, it has hired a large number of people and hence, it is essential to instill the same

values in all employees.

When asked if the company has scrapped its '25 by 25' agenda, wherein it was aiming to reduce the number of people present in offices to 25 per cent by 2025, Lakkad said, "We can't say that."

However, the company's Chief Operating Officer N Ganapathy Subramaniam said one can deduce that the '25 by 25' agenda will be defocused now.

The COO added that the high level of hiring and also the attrition over the last three years makes it necessary for getting all staffers in offices, and added that 70 per cent of the employees have started to come to office.

Within 7-10 days after the lockdowns were announced after the outbreak of Covid-19, the company shifted to a work from home (WFH) model to ensure that client needs continue to be supported remotely.

With the waning of the pandemic, it started encouraging people to come back to offices, but there were reports of some IT sector employees being reluctant to do so given the comforts of working from home.

Sitharaman Stresses On Need For IMF To Remain Well Capitalised

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday participated in a roundtable discussion on 'IMF policy priorities and how the institution should support its membership' and underlined the need for the institution to remain well-capitalised to meet future challenges.

The roundtable was hosted by US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen on the sidelines of the World Bank-IMF Annual Meetings in Marrakech, Morocco.

Sitharaman spoke about IMF's mandate and lending policies, a strong, quota-based, and adequately resourced IMF Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT) Financing and IMF governance reforms, the finance ministry said in a statement.

Sitharaman drew attention to India's G20 Presidency's focus on the importance of multilateralism to move towards coordinated and consensus-based solutions to global challenges.

She highlighted that in line with the evolving needs of the



membership, the IMF's primary focus needs to be macroeconomic surveillance and policy guidance, it said.

She emphasised the role of IMF in addressing debt restructuring process bottlenecks and fostering cooperation on debt issues, including through co-chairing the Global Sovereign Debt Roundtable with India and the World Bank.

Sitharaman underlined the importance of the IMF to remain well capitalised through quota-based resources to remain central to global financial safety net.

Expressing India's support for the gender and governance

reforms in the IMF Executive Board, she said under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's directions, India has recently enacted the Nari Shakti Vandan (Women's Reservation Law), which reserves 33 per cent seats in the Parliament and state legislatures for women.

On the sidelines of the discussions, Sitharaman met Ilan Goldfajn, president, Inter-American Development Bank, as per the statement.

Both exchanged views on current development challenges and opportunities.

The meeting was attended by officials of Government of India and the bank.

India Has High Debt Like China, But Risks Are Moderated: IMF

Press Trust Of India

WASHINGTON: India has a high debt like that of China but the risks associated with it are not as great as that of its northern neighbour, a senior official from the International Monetary Fund has said, advising India in the medium term to have an ambitious fiscal consolidation plan that brings down deficits.

"The current debt in India is also high. It stands at 81.9 per cent of GDP. Compared to China, which is 83 per cent, it is very similar. Also, when we compare India's debt to the pre-pandemic level in 2019, it was 75 per cent. So it is still quite a bit higher," Ruud de Mooij, Deputy Director, Fiscal Affairs Department at International Monetary Fund, told PTI in an interview.

"What we also see in India is a deficit that is 8.8 per cent projected for 2023. In India, a large portion of this is because of expenditures on interest. They pay a lot of interest on



their debt: 5.4 per cent of GDP is spent on that, and the primary deficit is 3.4 per cent. So together they add up to 8.8 per cent," he said.

Responding to a question, Mooij said that India's debt is not projected to rise like in China. It, in fact, is projected to fall slightly by 1.5 per cent to 80.4 per cent in 2028.

One of the reasons is that growth in India is much higher. India is one of the countries with really high growth. This matters of course for the debt to GDP ratio. Also, just to note that the risks are moderated by some factors, he said.

"One factor is, for instance, the long maturities of the debt. They don't need to be renewed

very frequently. This matters for the gross financing needs. And also, in India we see a large domestic domestically held debts and also denoted in domestic currency. So these mute the risks associated with the debts," he said.

The risk factor in India is the state level risks, he observed. "Some states really have high debts, have high financing needs and face a high interest burden. This is a factor that does mean that there are significant risks also for India," he said.

"What should India do? Well, the policy advice is for the medium term to have an ambitious fiscal consolidation plan that brings down the deficits, especially the primary deficits through a range of measures. It could be on the revenue side, could be on the spending side, and it could also be on fiscal management, sort of using good fiscal rules, fiscal frameworks to manage the fiscal equation going forward. That is the overall advice that we would recommend," Mooij said.

High Oil Prices To Impact Global Economic Recovery, Says Oil Minister Puri

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India, the world's third-biggest oil consumer, on Wednesday warned that high oil prices will impact global economic recovery but expressed confidence of being able to navigate through the current geopolitical crisis.

Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said India is closely watching the Israel-Hamas military conflict, which has so far not impacted supply lines.

"It stands to reason that if the crude oil prices go up then that has a very strong impact and adverse impact on the attempts for a global economic recovery," he said.

Oil prices had risen by over USD 3 per barrel on Monday following military clashes between Israel and the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas but settled lower as concerns over potential supply disruptions eased.

"I think global markets will

factor in all things into account," he said on the ongoing conflict. "If the supply lines are not disrupted, hopefully, we will be able to navigate through everything." Brent crude was trading at USD 87.18 per barrel.

"What we are doing is watching (the situation in the Middle East) on a real-time basis, and I am confident that we as India will navigate on availability and other factors," he added.

Speaking at ENRich 2023, the 14th edition of KPMG's flagship Innovation and Energy Conclave, Puri said the world of energy is riddled with challenges on multiple fronts -- increasing population, dwindling resources, environmental degradation, rising food and energy prices.

The global energy trilemma challenge -- security, affordability and sustainability, needs a nuanced approach, especially taking the needs of the global south into consideration, he said.



Cabinet Approves Royalty Rates For Lithium, Two Other Strategic Minerals

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Wednesday said it has approved royalty rates of 3 per cent each for lithium and niobium and 1 per cent for Rare Earth Elements (REEs).

The decision on the royalty rates for the three critical and strategic minerals was taken by the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, according to an official statement.

The approval by the Cabinet will enable the Centre to auction lithium, niobium and REE blocks for the first time in the country, it said.

The royalty rate on minerals is an important financial consideration for bidders during auction of mines.

Further, the method for calculating Average Sale Price (ASP) of these minerals has also been prepared by the Centre which will allow determining of bid parameters.

"The Union Cabinet... approved amendment of Second Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act) for specifying rate of royalty in respect of 3 critical and strategic minerals, namely, lithium, niobium and Rare Earth Elements," the mines ministry said in a statement.

Critical minerals have become important for the nation's economic development and national security. Lithium and REEs have gained significance

keeping in mind the country's commitment towards energy transition and achieving net-zero emission by 2070.

"The Second Schedule of the MMDR Act provides royalty rates for various minerals...if the royalty rate for lithium, niobium and REE is not specifically provided, then their default royalty rate would be 12 per cent of ASP, which is considerably high as compared to other critical and strategic minerals.



Non-Residents, Foreign Cos Without PAN Can Open Bank A/Cs In IFSC-Gift City

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Non-residents and foreign companies opening bank accounts in IFSC Gift City will not have to furnish PAN and instead file a declaration.

The non-resident or the foreign company opening a bank account at the International Financial Services Centres (IFSC) will have to file a declaration in Form 60 and should not have any tax liabilities in India.

The Finance Ministry has amended Income Tax Rules exempting non-residents opening a bank account from the requirement of submitting PAN.

OFFICE OF THE SHEEP & WOOL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER BANDIPORA (Goat Farm Arindardpora) | Email:sdobandipora@gmail.com

PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of general public that an open auction of Eleven (11) Govt animals of Goat Farm Arindardpora shall be held on 14.10.2023 at 11:30 AM in the premises of Sheep & Wool Development Office Kunan Bandipora under the chairmanship of Joint Director Farms, Sheep Husbandry Kashmir in presence of constituted auction committee.

The auction through open bid will be conducted in accordance with the following terms and conditions:

- The interested bidders/person can inspect the livestock to be auctioned prior to their participation on the day of auction up to 11:00 am at Sheep & Wool development office kunan Bandipora.
- The successful bidder shall have to necessarily pay 100% of the final bid amount on spot to the auction committee.
- Any terms & conditions, if found necessary, the same shall be communicated to the bidders on spot at the time of auction.

No:- SDO/Bpr/GFA/Tech/2023-24/906-09
Dated:- 10 / 10 / 2023

Sheep and Wool Development Officer
Bandipora
DIPK-10250-23
DT: 11/10/2023

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, JAL-SHAKTI (I & F.C.) DIVISION, HANDWARA

e-Auction Notice No. 03/HND/IFCD/2023-24 Dated:- 10-10-2023(FRESH)

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, e-Auction on item rate basis is invited from interested persons/parties/dealers for Four No. Walnut Fruit Bags (Standing Crop) Lal Khul Head to Tail.

S. No.	Name of work	Minimum Reserve bid In Rs. Incl. 5% GST	Amount of C.D.R @2% (In Rs)	Cost of Bid Document	Bid ID
1	Open Auction of standing Walnut fruit 04 No. Bags at Lal Khul Head to Tail.	₹8400/-	₹168/-	₹200/-	2023_IFC_232984_1

	Publishing Date	10/10/2023	16:00 Hours
2	Download Date Start	10/10/2023	16:00 Hours
3	Tender Submission date Start	10/10/2023	16:00 Hours
4	Tender Submission date Ends	16/10/2023	18:00 Hours
5	Date of Opening	17/10/2023	12:00 Hours

The estimated No. of Bags of Walnut Fruits is 04 No. Bags as per the calculation report of Zildar Canals Handwara vide his letter No. ZCH/447 Dated:- 05-10-2023. The details are given as below.

S. No.	Name of Fruit	Estimated Quantity	Estimated Rate including 5% GST	Total amount
1	Walnut	04 Bags	₹2100/-	₹8400/-

Terms & Conditions

- The BID consisting of terms and condition of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website www.jk-tenders.gov.in.
- The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in.
- The Bids uploaded on the website up to due date will be opened on date mentioned above, in the office of the Bid Receiving Authority, i.e. Executive Engineer I&FC Division Handwara.
- The complete bidding process will be online.
- The bidder should quote total amount for the entire quantity.
- Bids must be accompanied with Aadhar Card, PAN Card, Bidder Details, cost of Tender Document in the shape of treasury challan/receipt (mentioning therein E-Auction), in favour of Executive Engineer, Irrigation & F.C. Division, Handwara. The Bid will remain valid for a period of 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of opening of bid.
- The Successful bidder shall start Harvest the fruit as per his own convenience after the issuance of allotment, & only after depositing whole bid amount in one Installment in the office of Executive Engineer Irrigation & Flood Control Division Handwara against proper G.R. (via two cheques, one cheque for GST amount & second for remaining amount)..
- The bidder shall make his own arrangements what-so-ever for harvesting of said crop/fruit
- In case of any dispute between bidder & Department, the decision of the Chief Engineer, Kashmir Irrigation & Flood Control Department Srinagar in this regard shall be firm/final and binding upon both.
- The bids should be accompanied by the requisite Earnest money in shape of C.D.R. Pledged to the Executive Engineer, Irrigation & F.C. Division, Handwara from any scheduled Bank, without which bids shall not be accepted. The earnest money of the successful bidder shall be released only after successful and satisfactory completion of the contract as per rules.
- In case the successful bidder fails to fulfill the commitment, the Department shall forfeit the CDR of the successful bidder without any notice.
- The bidder shall have to give full address at which correspondence is to be exchanged. Letters sent through registered post on the address given shall be considered to have been delivered. No excuse on this account shall be entertained.
- Bidder shall acquaint themselves with site conditions, quality and composition of material.
- The successful bidder shall be personally responsible for watch & ward of material till its disposal.
- The harvesting is done under close monitoring of Departmental staff as per the guidelines given.
- The amount of GST to be incld. In the bid amount by the bidder shall be @ 5% of same.
- The detailed inf. Regarding said E-Auction can be had from in the office of Zildar Canals Handwara whose Phone No. is 9797070280.

No:- I&FC/DH/2866-77

Dated:- 10/10/2023

DIPK-10217-23

DT: 11/10/2023

Sd/
Executive Engineer
Irrigation & FC Division
Handwara

India, China Hold 20th Round Of Military Talks On Eastern Ladakh Row; No Indication Of Breakthrough

New Delhi: India and China held two days of military talks in an "open and constructive manner" for an early and mutually acceptable resolution of the remaining issues along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh and agreed to maintain peace on the ground.

A statement issued on Wednesday by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on the 20th round of military talks on October 9 and 10 provided no indication of a breakthrough to end the lingering standoff in the remaining friction points.

It is learnt that in the talks, the Indian side strongly pressed

for resolution of the lingering issues at Depsang and Demchok.

The MEA said the two sides agreed to maintain the momentum of dialogue and negotiations through the relevant military and diplomatic mechanisms.

The latest round of the Corps Commander level talks was held at Chushul-Moldo border meeting point on the Indian side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

"The two sides exchanged views in a frank, open and constructive manner for an early and mutually acceptable resolution of the remaining issues along the LAC in the Western

Sector, in accordance with the guidance provided by the national leadership of the two countries, and building on the progress made in the last round of Corps Commanders' meeting held on August 13-14," the MEA said.

"They agreed to maintain the momentum of dialogue and negotiations through the relevant military and diplomatic mechanisms," it said in a statement.

"They also committed to maintain peace and tranquillity on the ground in the border areas in the interim," it added.

The government refers to eastern Ladakh as the Western

Sector. It was the second such occasion when the talks panned two days.

In the 19th round of talks too, both sides agreed to resolve the remaining issues along the LAC in eastern Ladakh in an expeditious manner.

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

The Indian delegation at the talks was headed by Lt Gen Rashmi Bali, the Commander of

the Leh-headquartered 14 Corps while the Chinese team was led by the commander of the South Xinjiang military district.

India has been maintaining that its ties with China cannot be normal unless there is peace in the border areas.

The eastern Ladakh border standoff erupted on May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong lake area.

The ties between the two countries nosedived significantly following the fierce clash in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor Showcases Hiluxat the East Tech

Srinagar: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) today showcased two special-purpose iconic Hilux, modified with the support of an authorized external vendor, at the East Tech 2023 (ET2023), a technology-showcase annual event conducted by the Eastern Command of the Indian Army in association with Government of Assam.

Commenting on the occasion, Varinder Kumar Wadhwa, General Manager - Strategic Business Unit (East) of Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said, "We, at TKM, take great pride and are deeply honoured to have the opportunity to present the customized variants of the iconic Hilux, at the East

Tech 2023. TKM through its authorized external vendor has made certain modifications on the versatile Hilux.

TKM has applied two distinct modifications through an authorized external vendor, to the Toyota Hiluxnamely the Field Diagnosis Vehicle (FDV) and the Forest Patrolling Vehicle (FPV), to serve specific needs and other special consumer requirements.

In addition to these modified versions, the general-purpose Hilux (catering to the general customers' personal and business uses) was also on display at the Expo being held during Oct 10-11th at the Mani Ram Dewan Trade Centre, Guwahati.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Melting J&K Glaciers

projections by the end of this century, under the worst climate change scenario, we will lose another 68 per cent and under the moderate climate change scenario ... still we are going to lose another 48 per cent by the end of this century," he warned.

A first-of-its-kind study in the region by Romshoo and his research team in 2020 found that over 1,200 glaciers in the Himalayan region saw an annual reduction in mass of 35 centimetres (cm) on average between 2000 and 2012.

The study, published in the journal Scientific Reports, was carried over the Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh region, including areas across the Line of Control (LoC) and Line of Actual Control (LAC), and in all 12,243 glaciers were studied for thickness and mass changes.

"In general, it was observed that the glaciers in the Pir Panjal range are melting at a higher rate -- more than one metre per year -- while as the glaciers in the Karakoram range are melting relatively at a slower rate, around 10 cm per year," Romshoo, corresponding author of the study, wrote in his study.

Nomads along the Srinagar-Leh highway have been witnessing this distressing phenomenon.

Mohammad Shabir, a resident of Rajouri in Jammu region, lamented the rapid glacier ice melt, recalling a time when the area was blanketed in snow.

"Glaciers are melting at a rapid speed. My ancestors have been coming here for the last 70 years. They used to say that this place was covered by a deep layer of snow. But now, due to adverse weather conditions, glaciers are melting," Shabir told PTL.

Another nomad, Muzamil Khan, echoed the sentiment, expressing dismay at the vanishing snow-covered grazing areas.

"Now, we take our cattle for grazing in the area which was once covered with glacial snow. Even people used to come here to shoot and take pictures. But snow is on the high mountains only," Khan said.

Sana Ullah Khan, 70, reminisced about the glacier-covered landscape of his childhood, now replaced by a visible stream due to continuous snowmelt.

"Since my childhood, I have been coming to this place. Glaciers used to be till the road. The stream that is now visible was hidden with the snow of the glacier," he said.

Apart from water scarcity, Romshoo highlighted the adverse impacts on agriculture and biodiversity.

The melting glaciers, he said, disrupt the traditional water supply cycle, impacting agricultural activities crucial for the region.

Romshoo emphasised the urgent need for storage projects to secure water during critical periods.

"The government has to think about it, we should be able to put in some storage projects, we should be able to store water so that we can use it in the period of June, July and August," Romshoo said.

Furthermore, he said, the rising temperatures in the Himalayas lead to shifting tree lines, enabling vegetation growth in previously inhospitable areas.

"At certain altitudes, tree lines will not normally go up because of extreme temperatures. So, vegetation cannot grow, but with the melting of glaciers under increasing temperatures, they provide the space and then temperatures become congenial and conducive for the vegetation to move up," he added.

Romshoo said glaciers, besides being water reservoirs, also host diverse microbial communities that are now under threat.

9 UN Staffers

known as UNRWA. "They should be protected in accordance with the laws of war."

Touma said the strikes killed the UN staffers at their homes across the territory. She also said that 18 UNRWA schools-turned-shelters were damaged in the bombing, and that its headquarters in Gaza City was also damaged, without causing casualties.

President Murmu

that nature has endowed Kashmir with incredible beauty, quoting the famous Persian poet Amir Khusro's couplet, "Agar firouds baroye zameen ast, hami asto, hami asto hami ast," which reads, "If there is paradise situated anywhere on the earth, it's here, it's here, it's here."

"Yi che mouj Kasheer", this is mother Kashmir, she said in her opening address while praising and congratulating the deserving students from diverse academic disciplines for receiving prestigious honors during the varsity's 20 convocation.

In reference to the University of Kashmir's emblem, which reads "let us move from darkness to light," the President asserted that "the more our youth move towards the light of education and peace, the more our country will

advance. Young people who pursue the path of discipline and growth advance society and their nation on the way to prosperity"

"Being here with you makes me feel happy. Even though I have attended several commencements at many institutions around the nation, pursuing and imparting education at a university with such a stunning campus as KU is a matter of good fortune," the president added.

She said that Kashmir University has always been blessed with the divine mercy of the adjacent Hazratbal shrine and that the varsity would continue to be bestowed with these natural blessings in the future as well.

"KU students have always brought glory to this institution by serving the country. We have a long list of such students but naming everyone individually is not possible. Recently Ghulam Nabi Azad received Padma Bhushan award while Professors Chaman Lal Sapru and AN Pandita received Padmashree award," she said, adding I am glad that three of the NSS voluntary students of KU participated in 2023 Republic Day celebrations and one of them Kifaytuallah Malik was awarded with NSS award at Rashtrapati Bhawan on Sep 29.

The president also wished that the students of KU besides pursuing education take part in social activities so that they are able to set an example by bringing societal changes in the country.

She said the Y-20 consultation organized at KU as part of India's G20 leadership was exceptional and that the country's leadership of G20 nations had received appreciation from all corners of the world.

"It's an honor for all of us that 55 per cent of students in Kashmir University are girls-65 per cent of whom have won gold medals. I congratulate all these daughters. These promising daughters represent the picture and destiny of our country and I believe these daughters of this northern region will take women-led development in India to new heights," she added.

She expressed optimism that the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Act' 2023 will prove to be a groundbreaking move towards women-led development in the country.

In order to protect the Himalayan ecology, she advised Kashmir University to stay vigilant. She was pleased to learn that several phases of study are being done in relation to glaciology, biodiversity preservation, and the Himalayan Ice-Core Laboratory. She expressed confidence in the university's ability to move quickly in all these areas.

The President said the Indian Knowledge Systems had received special attention in the National Education Policy, saying youth would find many motivating examples if they are provided accurate education about Indian Knowledge Systems.

"Hydraulic engineering may be used for the work Suya, an expert, did approximately 1200 years ago to protect Srinagar from the Jhelum River flood. She said that every branch of knowledge and science is home to valuable gems. The academic community has a duty to figure out how to apply such naturally developed knowledge systems in the current environment," the president added.

'New Kashmir

a successful G-20 meeting was held in Kashmir in which international dignitaries participated. They went back to their respective countries with a good message and I believe the successful G-20 meeting will help to further improve tourism here," President Murmu said.

She said that earlier in the day, she addressed the Kashmir University's 20th convocation where she saw great enthusiasm among the young women and girls. "These women are the nation builders of tomorrow," she said.

The president Murmu said that she also met Tribal groups and women from Self Help Groups. "I was glad to see the success stories of women," she said.

She said J&K has a great history of art, culture and education. "I am hopeful that the people of J&K will continue to live with peace and take along the beautiful fragrance of Kesar (saffron) and be the part of self-reliant Bharat of 2047," the president Murmu said.

Earlier, she paid tribute to the fallen soldiers at the Army headquarters after arriving on a two-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

The president landed at the airport in Srinagar where she was received by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha. She was also accorded a guard of honour on her first visit to the Union Territory, the officials said.

The president then travelled to Badamibagh Cantonment, the headquarters of the Army's 15 Corps -- also known as the Chinar Corps -- where she paid tribute to the fallen soldiers at the martyrs' memorial.

The president attended the convocation

ceremony of Kashmir University.

Following Murmu's arrival, Sinha said in a post on X, "Extended a warm welcome to Hon'ble President Smt Droupadi Murmu ji on her arrival at Srinagar airport."

Security has been beefed up in Srinagar and adjoining areas for the visit.

Security forces, including police and Central Reserve Police Force, have been deployed in and around Kashmir University.

Latest gadgetry such as drones and CCTV cameras are being used to maintain vigil in the city.

Historic Occasion,

proud moment. This is a day to remember for the students and I have the same feeling as this degree I am getting is an achievement of lifetime for me," he said.

Abdullah said when the head of the state comes to a university, it gives a boost to the students and it gives them the confidence that if they work hard and achieve the degrees, they will be awarded as well.

"It is really a great honour, it is a great privilege that the students are witnessing today," he added. Girl toppers in various departments said it was a proud moment to receive the honours from the woman head of the state.

"It is a big moment for us because the President herself is coming here and as a girl student, it is very encouraging for us that we will be awarded by her," Atira Adfar, a student, said.

Such events inspire students, especially the girl students, because the President herself is a woman and that too from the tribal community, Adfar said.

Barha Mushtaq, another girl student, said getting an award from the President was inspiring.

"We all are gathered here in order to get gold medals from the President of India. This is a very very great moment for all of us. We feel honoured," she said.

Winter Curtailment

the consumers continued to witness frequent power cuts, resulting in hardships to them.

The industrialists and traders have also complained of erratic power supply, stating that inadequate electricity supply has been giving them huge losses and demanded immediate measures in this regard--(KNO)

HC Seeks List

if not, already existing," the court had said.

The court said that it expects that the officials shall ensure full respect and honour to all citizens in terms of their personality without letting them suffer any impression that the society and State sees and address the "physically and mentally challenged persons as liabilities carrying personalities and, as such, sensitivity has to be in full operation."

"The concern of the petitioner is that the respondents (Centre and J&K government) who use the language guidelines already introduced universally and the list of words and their alternate words enumerated, mentioned, illustrated so that internal and external communications must be respectful physically as well as mentally," the court had said. Across the world, respectful language, disability communication, disability etiquette have been prescribed, mentioned and used during communications, pleadings, judicial orders, academic writings, official work, educational textbooks, pamphlets, across public and private offices, the court had observed.

Kashmir Biz Group

the above modus-operandi being followed for the generation of undisclosed income, the statement claimed.

The action has resulted in unaccounted cash of more than Rs 1.7 crore being seized, in addition to unaccounted bullion worth Rs 16 lakh, it said.

Govt Orders

prohibits the discrimination, denial or unfair treatment of members of Transgender community in educational establishments, employment, health institutions and public services etc--(KNO)

Smuggler Succumbs

Nazir was shot at by Army troops when he attempted to escape after being signalled to stop while trying to smuggle narcotic substances from across the border. A packet containing drugs was seized from him at the time of his arrest, they added.

He succumbed to his injuries around 1.25 am and his body was shifted to the

mortuary for post-mortem, they said.

His body will be handed over to his family after legal formalities are completed, the officials said.

Soldier Dies Of Bullet

The official added it is a matter of investigation if the soldier died due to an accidental discharge from his weapon or committed suicide.

The police have started inquest proceedings to ascertain the facts, he said.

Arms, Ammo

recoveries were made, they said. The recoveries included three pistols, nine magazines, and 69 rounds, they said.

Govt Employee

of BPD ID, an ACB spokesperson said. Giving sequence of the case, he said, the anti-graft body received a complaint that the TSO demanded a bribe of Rs 20,000 from the complainant, who approached him for issuance of BPL ID of his brother to get separate ration card from his father. The complainant, he said, was accompanied by Dil Mohd, ration dealer, and had submitted the relevant documents.

He said a case FIR No. 05/2023 was registered at Police Station Anti Corruption Bureau Rajouri U/s 7 of the PC Act 1988, as the contents of complaint prima facie disclose the commission of offence.

"During the course of investigation a trap team was constituted. The team laid a successful trap and caught the accused Tehsil Supply Officer red-handed while demanding and accepting the bribe amount of Rs 18,000 from the complainant," the Bureau spokesperson said.

Reyaz, he said, was arrested on the spot after completing all legal formalities.

"Subsequently, search in the residential house of accused was also conducted. Further investigation into the case is going on," he added.

Doctor Killed

identified the deceased as one Mushtaq Ahmad Shapoo a resident of Zalangam Kokernag, an Ayurvedic doctor.

The injured persons, they said were soon after evacuated to a nearby hospital, where condition of two is said to be critical.

Confirming it, a police official said that they are on site to collect the necessary details.

Terrorist Held In

input regarding movement of terrorists in Ushkara.

During search, the spokesperson said, two hand grenades, Rs 40,000 cash and other incriminating materials were recovered from Bhat's possession.

"Accordingly, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Baramulla and further investigation has been initiated," he added.



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Australia Aim For Better Batting Against South Africa

Press Trust of India

LUCKNOW: Smarting from their opening game defeat against India, a determined Australian team will be aiming to put up a much better batting performance with a rejigged playing eleven against an upbeat South Africa in a World Cup encounter here on Thursday.

The five-time champions' World Cup campaign was off to a worst possible start as they were handed a six-wicket drubbing by hosts India. The Proteas will head into the contest, high on confidence, having thrashed Sri Lanka by 102 runs in their opener. With the win, the South Africans announced themselves as contenders.

It is not so much the defeat, but the manner in which Australia conceded the game that will certainly be a headache for the team management.

The batting lacked aggression. Apart from David Warner and Steve Smith, no one breached the 30-run mark as they once again lost wickets in clutches.

The Australians struggled against India's quality spin attack on a slow Chepauk turner and lack of second frontline spinner save Adam Zampa also compounded their problems.

To add to their woes, Mitchell



Marsh, who generally has a safe pair of hands, dropped a simple catch that could have potentially changed the complexion of the game.

Marcus Stoinis has recovered from his hamstring injury and looks to set to replace Cameron Green. The all-rounder is a proven match-winner and is also familiar with the ground,



having played for Lucknow Super Giants in the IPL.

South African team, on the other hand, boasts of a trio of centurions, who decimated Sri Lanka during its first game.

The destructive Quinton de Kock, who like Stoinis, plays for LSG in the IPL and understand the surface as well as the Australian does. Rassie van der

Dussen and Aiden Markram, who scored the fastest-ever ton in the World Cup are two gun batters, who can change the course of any game.

After facing much criticism during the IPL, the wicket at the Ekana Cricket Stadium has been re-laid. No one knows how it will pan out.

Match starts: 2:00 pm.

Rohit Flattens Afghanistan As India Romp To Second Win

Agencies

NEW DELHI: World Cup hosts India cantered to their second successive win of the tournament after captain Rohit Sharma's incendiary century set up their eight-wicket thrashing of Afghanistan on Wednesday. Rohit belted 131 off 84 balls, clobbering five sixes and 16 fours, as twice champions India chased down a 273-run victory target with 15 overs to spare at the Arun Jaitley Stadium.

Virat Kohli made 55 not out, sealing the easy win with a boundary as the tournament hosts maintained their red-hot form ahead of Saturday's much-anticipated clash against arch-rivals Pakistan in Ahmedabad. Electing to bat, Afghanistan were 63-3 in the 14th over before skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi (80) and Azmatullah Omarzai (62) combined in a 121-run stand to frustrate India.

A total in the vicinity of 300 looked within their reach but Afghanistan lost a clutch of wickets towards the end to settle for a total which proved inadequate against India's formidable batting lineup.

India had to wait until the seventh over for a breakthrough after Hashmatullah elected to bat at a venue, which produced a 754-run slugfest on Saturday. Jasprit Bumrah

(4-39) drew first blood when he had Ibrahim Zadran caught behind for 22.

While Mohammed Siraj served the occasional freebies, Bumrah stifled the Afghan batters in his impeccable first spell which read 4-0-9-

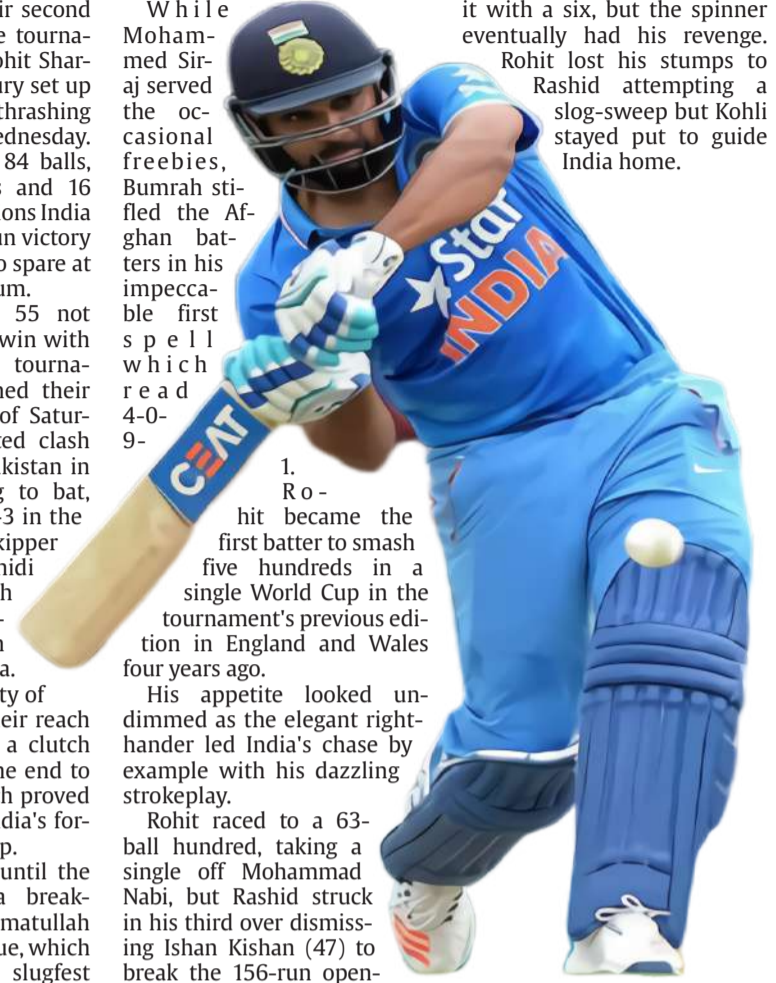
1. Rohit hit became the first batter to smash five hundreds in a single World Cup in the tournament's previous edition in England and Wales four years ago.

His appetite looked undimmed as the elegant right-hander led India's chase by example with his dazzling strokeplay.

Rohit raced to a 63-ball hundred, taking a single off Mohammad Nabi, but Rashid struck in his third over dismissing Ishan Kishan (47) to break the 156-run opening stand.

Rohit treated Rashid with disdain, hitting him for back-to-back fours and following it with a six, but the spinner eventually had his revenge.

Rohit lost his stumps to Rashid attempting a slog-sweep but Kohli stayed put to guide India home.



STFC, J&K Police Win In Srinagar Premier League



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two Round 17 matches of the 2023 Srinagar Premier League were played on Wednesday at Synthetic Turf TRC here.

In Game 1 of the day, J&K Police XI locked horns with Real Kashmir FC (Reserves). The match was played on equal footing, with the scores remaining 0-0 till the 76th minute, when J&K Police's Rishabh scored the winning goal. Rishabh was awarded man of the match for his goal in the 1-0 win.

The second matchup of the day saw Sport Council Football Acad-

emy take on Syed Tajjudin FC Nati-pora. The game proved too much for the academy boys as STFC ran through the them to record a convincing 4-1 win. Owais (22', 73'), Owais Bashir (23') and Haris (50') were all on the scoresheet for STFC. For SCFA, Salim scored the lone goal in the 51st minute. Owais was awarded man of the match for his two goals.

Two games are on schedule for today, Thursday, October 12. FC1 play Kashmir Panthers FC at 2:00 PM, while Novelty FC take on Jhelum FC at 5:00 PM. Both games will be played at Synthetic Turf TRC.

J&K Beats Chhattisgarh 1-0 In Santosh Trophy



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K senior men's football team defeated Chhattisgarh 1-0 in the 77th Santosh Trophy on Wednesday at SAG Benaulim Football Ground in Benaulim, Goa.

Winger Raja Musharaf gave J&K the lead in 45th minute of the Senior National Championship match. J&K held on to their slender lead to win their first game of the championship. J&K had earlier lost 2-1 to Gujarat in Game 1.

Coached by Pampore-born Zahid Shafi Mir, the J&K team will now turn their sights at the upcoming fixtures, which pose a tough challenge. J&K next play Kerala on Friday, October 13. They then take on hosts Goa on Sunday, October 15.

J&K will need to win both games to make it to the next round of the competition.

In another Santosh Trophy matchup, Ladakh defeated Haryana 1-0. Abid Ali scored the winning goal for Ladakh in the 79th minute.



Srinagar Wins Provincial Level Girls Football Tourney

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The district football team of Srinagar emerged victorious while defeating Budgam in the Inter District Provincial Level Football Tournament.

Hosted by District Youth Services and Sports Office Srinagar, the tournament was organised for Under 17 and 19 girls. Team Srinagar beat Budgam 6-0 in the Under-17 finals. Budgam made their best efforts but couldn't score a single goal.

The Under-19 girls tournament is scheduled from October 13 at Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar.

In another event on Wednesday, all age groups participated in the Inter-School District Level Annual Athletic Meet for boys and girls at SP College Ground, Srinagar. Meanwhile, Inter District Provincial Level softball tournament is underway at Gindun Ground in Rajbagh, Srinagar, in which six districts of Kashmir province are participating.

Shopian Residents Demand Land Transfer For 'Sports Village'

Agencies

SHOPIAN: Residents from Sindhu Shirmal and adjacent areas in south Kashmir's Shopian district have urged the authorities to transfer 25 kanals of land at Shirmal to the Youth Services and Sports Department for the estab-

lishment of a 'sports village'.

District Development Council (DDC) member Raja Waheed informed news agency KNO that the former Deputy Commissioner of Shopian had already transferred 10 kanals of land near Army Goodwill School to the Youth Services and Sports De-

partment, with an assurance that the remaining 15 kanals would be transferred soon.

Waheed said although there is ample land available in the area, part of it has been "grabbed" by a private transport association, which has even constructed a shed there.

"While there is land for accommodating trucks and other vehicles, assigning this particular patch to transporters will not suffice for their needs, nor will it meet the demands of local youth," he said, adding that allocating the land to transporters would undermine the concept

of the 'sports village', depriving local youth of essential sports facilities.

The DDC member said he has officially written to the Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir UT, urging the transfer of the entire 25-kanal plot to the Youth Services and Sports Department.

Travelling To India Tomorrow: PCB Chief

Agencies

LAHORE: PCB chief Zaka Ashraf will reach Ahmedabad on Thursday to watch his nation's marquee World Cup clash against India on Saturday after it was confirmed that Pakistani media personnel were given the go ahead to submit their passports for procurement of visa to cover the global event.

Around 60 Pakistani journalists have applied for visa and further delay could well mean that they will miss the coverage of marquee match.

"I have delayed my travel to India, and I am travelling tomorrow after receiving confirmation that Pakistan's journalists have been asked to submit their passports to obtain visas to cover the mega-event," Ashraf said in a press release issued by the Pakistan Cricket Board.

"I am happy that my conversation with the foreign office helped in achieving a positive development regarding the visa delay," he added.

Ashraf expressed happiness in the manner Pakistan team has performed so far, winning both their games against the Netherlands and Sri Lanka comfortably.

"I am extremely pleased with the way the players have performed so far in the World Cup, winning both matches. The PCB management committee and the entire nation stand firmly behind the players for a successful campaign in the ongoing World Cup." (PTI)

ODI CRICKET WORLD CUP

Pakistan Team Arrives In Ahmedabad Ahead Of Blockbuster Clash Against India

Agencies

AHMEDABAD: The Pakistan cricket team on Wednesday arrived in Ahmedabad ahead of the highly anticipated World Cup clash against India. After arriving at the airport the upbeat Pakistan cricket team boarded the bus and reached the team hotel. One of the biggest supporters of the Pakistan cricket team Bashir Chacha backed Indian batters Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli to do well in their Saturday clash at the Narendra Modi Stadium.

"Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma will score runs against Pakistan," Bashir Chaha told ANI. The Men in Green kept their winning streak in the World Cup intact, after hundreds from Abdullah Shafique and Mohammed Rizwan helped



Pakistan pull off the highest run chase in World Cup history after they defeated Sri Lanka by 6 wickets at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad on Tuesday.

Rizwan played an outstanding unbeaten knock of 131 runs off 121 while Abdullah Shafique slammed 113 and a fiery cameo from Iftikhar Ahmed helped Paki-

stan chase 344 with 10 balls to spare. For the first time in men's World Cup history, four centuries were hit in the same match, with Pakistan coming out on top in a run-fest thriller.

After suffering a 228-run defeat in the Asia Cup Super Four Stage against India, 'The Men in Green' will be out for revenge. On the other hand, the Indian team earned a

hard-fought victory against Australia and will be looking to keep the momentum in their favour against Afghanistan on Wednesday at the Arun Jaitley Stadium.

Pakistan squad: Babar Azam (c), Shadab Khan, Fakhar Zaman, Imam-ul-Haq, Abdullah Shafique, Mohammad Rizwan, Saud Shaqueel, Iftikhar Ahmed, Salman Ali Agha, Mohammad Nawaz, Usama Mir, Haris Rauf, Hasan Ali, Shaheen Afridi, Mohammad Wasim. India squad: Rohit Sharma (c), Hardik Pandya (vc), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, Ravindra Jadeja, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Shami, Ravichandran Ashwin, Ishan Kishan, Suryakumar Yadav. (ANI)

This Was For Gaza: Rizwan After Win

Agencies

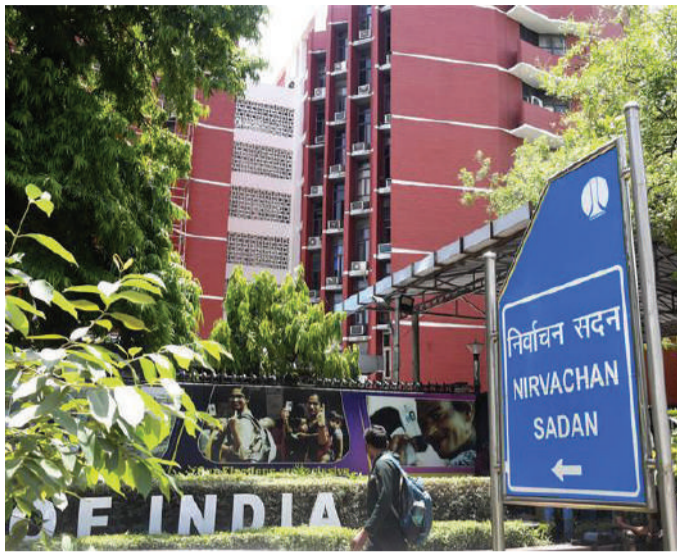
HYDERABAD: Pakistan's wicket-keeper batter Mohammed Rizwan, on Wednesday, dedicated his team's record-breaking performance against Sri Lanka in World Cup to "brothers and sisters in Gaza".

Rizwan (131) had conjured an unbeaten century while young Abdullah Shafique (113) smashed his maiden ODI century to lead Pakistan to a world-record chase 345 against Sri Lanka on Tuesday in Hyderabad.

Rizwan shared a match-winning 176-run stand for the third wicket with Shafique as Pakistan romped home in 48.2 overs. This was the highest successful run-chase in the history of the World Cup. Ireland had previously held the record for the highest run chase in ODI World Cups when they successfully chased down 329 versus England during the 2011 World Cup in India. "This was for our brothers and sisters in Gaza. Happy to contribute in the win. Credits to the whole team and especially Abdullah Shafique and Hassan Ali for making it easier. Extremely grateful to the people of Hyderabad for the amazing hospitality and support throughout." Rizwan posted on X.

Hamas militants launched a surprise weekend attack on Israel that killed more than 900 people, triggering strong offensive from Jerusalem, which has declared war against the attackers. (PTI)

Wedding Rush On Nov 23: EC Changes Rajasthan Polling Date To November 25



Agenceis

New Delhi: The Election Commission on Wednesday changed the date of polling for the Rajasthan assembly elections from November 23 to November 25 citing "large-scale" weddings and social engagements.

In a statement, the EC said the decision was taken following representations made by various parties and social organisations for a change of the date of poll "considering large-scale wedding/social engagements on that day (November 23) which may cause inconvenience to large number of people, various

logistic issues and may lead to reduced voters' participation during poll".

"The Commission, having considered these factors and representations, has decided to change the date of poll from 23rd November, 2023 (Thursday) to 25th November, 2023 (Saturday)," it added.

The counting of votes will take place as scheduled on December 3, along with the same for four other state assembly polls.

The poll panel announced the assembly poll schedule for Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Mizoram on Monday.

“THE COMMISSION, HAVING CONSIDERED THESE FACTORS AND REPRESENTATIONS, has decided to change the date of poll from 23rd November, 2023 (Thursday) to 25th November, 2023 (Saturday),”

Severe Space Weather Events Found To Lower Migratory Birds' Numbers

Agenceis

Severe space weather events have been linked to a 9-17 per cent lowering in the numbers of migrating birds, in both spring and fall, according to new research.

Space weather events such as solar flares and other energetic outbursts cause periodic disruptions to Earth's magnetic field, which migratory birds rely on for long-distance navigation.

The remaining birds that chose to migrate during such events seemed to experience more difficulty navigating, especially under overcast conditions in autumn, the researchers from the University of Michigan (U-M), US, said in their study that used a 23-year dataset of bird migration across the Great Plains, a major migratory corridor, for analysis.

"Our findings highlight how animal decisions are dependent on environmental conditions - including those that we as humans cannot perceive, such as geomagnetic disturbances - and that these behaviours influence population-level patterns of animal movement," said Eric Gulson-Castillo, lead author of the study published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

For their analysis, the researchers used images collected at 37 radar stations in the Great Plains' central flyway, spanning more than 1,600 kilometres from the US states of Texas to North Dakota. The flat terrain was selected for study to minimise



influences from mountainous topography or oceanic coastlines.

The radar images or scans detect groups of hundreds to thousands of migrating birds, using which the migration intensity can be estimated and direction of flight can be measured, the researchers said in their study. The community of nocturnally migrating birds in this region is primarily composed of a diverse set of perching birds such as thrushes and warblers; shorebirds such as sandpipers and plovers; and waterfowl such as ducks, geese and swans.

In all, the datasets for analysis included 1.7 million radar scans from the fall and 1.4 million from the spring.

The researchers then matched the radar data with a geomagnetic disturbance index, that represented the maximum hourly change from background magnetic conditions. The index was built from data collected from a worldwide network of geomagnetic ground stations.

Using statistical models, the team then measured the

effects of magnetic disturbances on bird migration.

Along with lowering in numbers, the researchers also found that during geomagnetic disturbances in the fall, migrating birds appeared to drift with the wind more frequently, instead of expending great effort to battle crosswinds.

That is, "effort flying" against the wind was reduced by 25 per cent under cloudy skies during strong solar storms in the fall, suggesting that a combination of obscured celestial cues and magnetic disruption may hinder navigation, they said.

"Our results suggest that fewer birds migrate during strong geomagnetic disturbances and that migrating birds may experience more difficulty navigating, especially under overcast conditions in autumn," said Gulson-Castillo, also a doctoral student in the U-M Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.

"As a result, they may spend less effort actively navigating in flight and consequently fly in greater alignment with the wind," said Gulson-Castillo.

Anti-Terror Agency Attempts Raid, Mumbai Man Doesn't Open Door For 6 Hours

Agenceis

Mumbai: An NIA team conducting a raid in a PFI-related case had to wait outside the residence of a man, who was earlier accused in the 7/11 Mumbai train blasts case, in suburban Vikhroli on Wednesday as he did not open the door for more than six hours, an official said.

The National Investigation Agency's action was part of its raids conducted at several locations in six states against the banned Popular Front of India (PFI) in connection with a case related to creating a disruption during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bihar last year, officials said.

"An NIA team along with that of the Mumbai police reached the residence of Abdul Wahid Shaikh, who was earlier accused in the 7/11 train blasts case, located inside a chawl at Parkside in Vikhroli around 5 am. But Abdul Wahid Shaikh did not open the door for more than six hours and kept the officials waiting outside," the official said.

From inside the house, Abdul Wahid Shaikh demanded a search warrant from the NIA, he said, adding that he opened the door around 11.15 am after his lawyer and some local social

activists reached the spot, he said.

"The NIA team then entered his residence and started their inquiry in connection with the PFI-related case," the official said.

A large number of police personnel were deployed outside Abdul Wahid Shaikh's residence, he said.

Abdul Wahid Shaikh earlier posted a video message on WhatsApp, saying the police and some people had gathered outside his residence since 5 am.

"They want to enter my house, also broke one door and damaged the CCTV camera of my house. They are not showing any documents to me pertaining to the case or any FIR," he claimed.

"I have locked myself and my family members inside the residence for the last three hours, my wife and daughter are unwell. I have made a complaint with the police and the Mumbai Police Commissioner in this regard," he added.

Abdul Wahid Shaikh was named as an accused in the 7/11 train blasts case, but was later acquitted by a court.

On July 11, 2006, seven blasts were reported from different locations on the Western line of the city's local trains within a span of 15 minutes, killing more than 180 people and injuring several others.

Genetically Edited Chickens Used To Limit Bird Flu Spread

Agenceis

Scientists in the UK have successfully used gene editing techniques to limit the spread of bird flu in chickens.

The researchers were able to restrict, but not completely block, the avian influenza virus from infecting the birds by precisely altering a small section of their DNA.

According to the study published in the journal Nature Communications, the modified birds showed no signs of any impact on the animals' health or well-being.

While the findings are encouraging, further gene edits would be needed to produce chickens which cannot be infected by bird flu, the researchers said.

"Although we haven't yet got the perfect combination of gene edits to take this approach into the field, the results have told us a lot about how influenza virus functions inside the infected cell and how to slow its replication," said Professor Wendy Barclay, from Imperial College London.

Bird flu is a major global threat with a devastating impact in both farmed and wild bird populations.

The team bred chickens with small edits to a gene called ANP32A. During an infection, influenza viruses hijack the ANP32A protein to help replicate themselves.

However, when the gene-edited birds were exposed to a normal dose of virus -- the H9N2 strain of avian influenza -- 9 out of 10 birds remained uninfected and there was no spread to other chickens.

When the birds were exposed to an artificially high dose of virus, only half of them became infected.

The single gene edit also provided some protection against transmission, with a much lower amount of virus in infected gene-edited birds compared to non-edited birds, the researchers said.

The technique also helped to limit onward spread of the virus to just one of four non-edited chickens placed in the same incubator.

Germany's Anti-Discrimination Agency Quits X Over Anti-Minority Posts

BERLIN (Reuters) - Germany's Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency said it would close its account on social media platform X, formerly Twitter, because of increasing intolerance of minorities expressed by users on the site, and urged other bodies to follow suit.

The rapid spread of misleading claims and doctored images in the aftermath of a deadly rampage by Hamas gunmen in Israel over the weekend has put renewed focus on Elon Musk's platform, which most recently drew the ire of the European Union.

Due to a surge in racism,



misogyny, anti-Semitism, trans and queer hostility and other misanthropic content, "X is no longer a sustainable

environment for a public agency", the agency's commissioner, Ferda Ataman, said in a statement.

German government officials have so far resisted calls to quit X, saying there was no substitute channel at present through which leaders like Chancellor Olaf Scholz are able to reach a broad swathe of the public online.

X officials couldn't be immediately reached for comment on the Germany agency's decision.

X said on Tuesday it had taken steps to curb the spread of inappropriate posts over the past few days, and removed newly created Hamas-affiliated accounts as part of efforts to "prevent terrorist content from being distributed online."

The German

anti-discrimination agency could only deal with the massive rise in hate comments by throwing more staff at the problem, which was a questionable use of tax money, Ataman said.

Other state agencies and government ministries should ask themselves whether it made sense to remain on a platform that has "become a disinformation network," she said.

Germany's foreign, economy and finance ministries, as well as the government still maintain profiles on X, though Economy Minister Robert Habeck has not had a presence there since 2019.