

Border Flares Up In Jammu

BSF Man, Civilian Injured In Pak Shelling



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The BSF on Friday said the unprovoked firing by Pakistan Rangers along the International Border in Jammu targeting Indian posts and civilian areas continued for close to seven hours.

In an official statement, the Border Security Force (BSF) said the Pakistan Rangers fired mortars and used heavy machine guns, leading to two non-fatal casualties.

BSF Constable Basva Raj suffered minor splinter injuries in both hands due to shelling. A local, Rajni Devi of Arnia, suffered minor injuries, it said.

The force said the Pakistani firing continued for close to seven hours, starting around 8 pm on Thursday and extending up to 2:45 am on Friday.

"BSF continues to monitor the developments closely while assessing the situation and remains alert to respond as necessary to ensure the safety and security of the border and its residents," the force said.

It said following the start of unprovoked firing, BSF troops retaliated and subsequently Pak Rangers extended their firing to target its border posts adjacent to Arnia prompting retaliation from its forward defence posts in these areas.

At approximately 9:15 pm on Thursday, Pakistan Rangers started mortar firing targeting border outposts and civilian areas, the BSF said, adding some of the shells landed in Arnia town, resulting in minor injuries to a civilian.

"Around 10:40 pm on Thursday, Pakistan Rangers used heavy machine [More on PIO](#)

Shutdowns, Stone-Pelting In Kashmir Thing Of Past: LG

Says Under PM's Guidance, UT Admin Succeeded In Bringing Peace To J&K

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Friday that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, his administration has been able to restore peace in Kashmir Valley, making shutdowns and stone pelting a thing of the past.

The LG said that shutdowns were enforced for 150 days a year in Kashmir in response to the calls from terrorists and the neighboring country.

But during the last three to four years, Sinha said, the Union Territory administration under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi had been successful in bringing peace back to the valley.

"Under PM Modi's guidance,



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

the UT administration was able to bring peace back to the valley, allowing people to live their lives according to their wishes. Shutdowns were

imposed in Kashmir 150 days a year in response to calls from militants and the neighboring country; which is no longer the case now," Sinha said,

after inaugurating the 4th annual conference of Indian Economics and Allied Sciences here.

J&K, according to the LG, has sufficient potential, and the administration is committed to work with sincerity to make the UT even more advanced.

"India's economy is developing at the quickest rate in the globe and it has become one of the most sought-after business locations worldwide. In addition to collaborative and long-lasting advancement, Sinha said, the administration is working tirelessly to bring the progress down to the grassroots level.

"With its abundance of resources and optimistic outlook, India is expected to have 15 percent share [More on PIO](#)

'India Most Favourite Destination For Trade, Investment'

Asserting that India is today the most favourite destination for trade and investment and continues to be fastest-growing economy in the world, the Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said Friday that with the vision of inclusive, progressive and sustainable growth, it is being ensured that fruits of our development percolate to the grassroots. "India is full of optimism, boundless energy and ambition and expected to contribute 15% of global growth in the current Financial Year. We are moving closer to our goal of making this truly India's century and our economic resurgence will be the key driver of global growth," Sinha said. He was addressing the inaugural ceremony of the 4th Annual Conference of Indian Economics & Allied Sciences Association (IEASA) at University of

CHEQUE BOUNCE

Sopore Man Gets 6 Months Jail, Fined Rs 652000

M Ahmad

Srinagar: A court here has awarded six month's jail and imposed fine to the tune of rupees double the cheque amount which amounts to Rs 6, 52000 to man from Sopore area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Judge Small Causes Srinagar Tabasum sentenced Mohammad Maqbool Lone of Tarzoa Sopore, observing essential ingredients of Section 138 of Negotiable Instruments Act stand established by the complainant—Ramesh Kumar Vasandani Through its Authorized Attorney Holder Aat present Chanapora Srinagar.

"Accused has [More on PIO](#)



Thousands of people offered congregational Friday prayers and paid obeisance at the shrine of Hazrat Sheikh Syed Abdur Qadir Jeelani popularly known as Dastgeer Sahab (RA), on the occasion of Sufi saint's annual Urs. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Cross-Border Shelling Disrupts Weddings

Unprovoked firing by Pakistan Rangers has marred dozens of weddings in villages along the International Border in Jammu with many forced to make last-minute changes to some rituals as well. In the case of Ishant Saini and Sangeeta's wedding, a majority of the guests left the feast amid heavy shelling by Pakistan in the R S Pura sector. The cross-border shelling and firing by Pakistan Rangers, the first major ceasefire violation since 2021, started around 8 pm Thursday [More on PIO](#)

Students Take Class In Bunker

In the aftermath of a major ceasefire violation by Pakistan, a group of students from a government middle school near the border town of Arnia on Friday attended classes in an underground bunker built in its complex. According to the school management, the decision to hold temporary classes inside the bunker in Suhagpura, one of the last villages two kms from Arnia town, was taken this morning to address the concern of the parents following heavy shelling by [More on PIO](#)

Doctors Alarmed As 5 More Drug Addicts Test HIV Positive This Year

SMHS Receives Increased Number Of Drug Abusers With 'Hepatitis B, C'

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: As many as five drug addicts have tested positive for the deadly human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in Kashmir Valley this year, with healthcare professionals raising an alarm that the drug abuse can accelerate the spread of HIV and aggravate its symptoms, particularly in the brain of the addicts.

6,158 cases of HIV have been registered with antiretroviral therapy (ART) centers in Jammu and Kashmir, according to the Health and Medical Education Department. Of the 6,158 cases, total People Living with HIV (PLHIV) registered in HIV care at SKIMS, Soura are 703.

As many as 5 patients who were into drug addiction had had their HIV status confirmed



at the SMHS drug de-addiction centre. Despite having the lowest HIV prevalence in the country, Kashmir, experts believe, has a considerable percentage of drug users having HIV.

Of the total 6, 158 cases, 3,478 HIV-positive patients are receiving ART at the moment, while 1,400 HIV-positive patients have died of the deadly

disease so far in the UT, official statistics revealed.

"The SMHS drug de-addiction centre has confirmed the HIV status of five patients, who were into drug addiction; the actual number may be higher." Dr Fazal-e-Rob, senior resident, Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) told Kashmir Observer.

Dr. Fazal said the drug addicts 'peculiar lifestyles make them more vulnerable to HIV/AIDS, and they may contract HIV even if they don't have sexual contact with an infected individual.

He said those using drugs or engaging in high-risk behaviors related to drug abuse increase their risk of acquiring or spreading viral diseases, including hepatitis, HIV, and Acquired Immune [More on PIO](#)

ECI Orders SSR Of Photo Electoral Rolls In J&K

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Election Commission of India (ECI) has ordered Special Summary Revision (SSR) of photo electoral rolls in all the parliamentary and assembly constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir with January 1, next year as qualifying date.

In this regard a notice has been issued by the Chief Electoral Officer, J&K.

As per the notice, the timeline for publication of integrated draft electoral roll is 27-10-2023 (Friday) while as the timeline period for filing claims and objections is 27-10-2023 (Friday) to 09-12-2023 (Saturday).

Similarly, the notice reads that Special campaign dates are 04-11-2023 (Saturday), 05-11-2023 (Sunday), 18-11-2023 (Saturday) and 19-11-2023



(Sunday). The notice further reads that the timeline for disposal of claims and objections is 26-12-2023 (Tuesday) while the timeline for final publication of electoral roll is 05-01-2024 (Friday). "The Draft Photo Electoral Rolls-2024 will be available at District Headquarters/Tehsil Offices/Offices of Srinagar and Jammu Municipal Corporations/ Booth Level Officers at Polling Station level and on [More on PIO](#)

Pesky Power Cuts Hit Kashmir's Industrial Production

KCC&I Says Erratic Power Supply Inflicts Huge Losses; Pr Secy PDD Says Electricity Being Supplied As Per Demand

Agencies

Srinagar: As the pesky power cuts continued across the Valley, the industrialists here have stated that the production has reduced in the past over one month while the government said the electricity is being supplied as per the demand and additional power will be procured when the demand increases.

Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industries (KCC&I) president, Javid Ahmad Tenga said that the industries completely rely on electricity, but the pesky power cuts are giving huge losses to the industrialists across the Valley.

Tenga further said that the production at all the industry

units has reduced due to the pesky power cuts, adding that everybody is facing losses, be it industries or tourism sector.

"The tourists visiting from different parts of the country too have been facing hardships due to frequent power cuts," he said.

With the mounting losses, the KCC&I has also met the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha here yesterday, seeking his intervention in resolving the burning problem facing a large number of JK Bank borrowers whose accounts have become NPAs due to circumstances beyond their control.

"Although there are no details of exact loss, [More on PIO](#)



Dry Weather Forecast In J&K

The meteorological department on Friday predicted dry weather conditions to continue in Jammu and Kashmir till November 2. A meteorological official said that on October 29, the weather is expected to be generally cloudy. There is a possibility of light snowfall in a few places of higher reaches, he said. From November 2-3, the weather is expected to be partly cloudy. There is a possibility of light rain and snowfall on higher reaches, he said. [More on PIO](#)

Wanted Criminal Held In Kishtwar

A wanted criminal involved in several cases in Jammu and Kashmir was arrested from Kishtwar district on Friday, police Parvaiz Ahmed, of Kishtwar's Dewaro area, was evading arrest since 2021, they said. The police teams conducted raids at various locations in the district and arrested the absconder, they said. Ahmed was involved in several criminal cases registered at several police stations, including Reasi, Udhampur, R S Pura, [More on PIO](#)

Bengali Tourist Dies In Pahalgam

An elderly female tourist from West Bengal died on Friday in the famous tourist resort of Pahalgam in South Kashmir's Anantnag district. 60-year-old Bandana Auddy, wife of Anjan Auddy of West Bengal was found unconscious at her hotel in the hill station of Pahalgam on Friday morning, reports said. The female tourist was removed to the nearest healthcare facility for treatment. However, the doctors there declared her dead. Meanwhile, police [More on PIO](#)

Jammu Bans Bovine Transportation

The district administration here on Friday imposed a ban on transportation of bovine animals to other districts of the Union Territory. District Magistrate (DM) Jammu Sachin Kumar Vaishya, in exercise of the powers vested under Section 144 of the CrPC, has imposed a ban on transportation of bovine animals from the district, an official spokesperson said. According to an order issued today, bovine animals such as cow, buffalo, oxen, [More on PIO](#)

PM Modi Wishes Army On Infantry Day

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday extended his best wishes to all the Indian Army personnel on the Infantry day. "Best wishes to all personnel of the Indian Army on Infantry Day. This is a day to honour the relentless courage and tenacity of our infantry," PM said in a post on X, previously known as Twitter. The PM said that every effort of theirs echoes their commitment to our nation's safety and sovereignty. "Their tireless vigil and unmatched valour have stood [More on PIO](#)

Tiger Kills Caretaker In Rajasthan Park

A caretaker of a tiger's enclosure at Abhedha Biological Park here died after he was attacked by the big cat on Friday evening, officials said. The tiger was undergoing treatment for an injury. The incident took place when the caretaker, Ramdayal Nagar, was leaving after spraying medicine on its injury, they said. Deputy Conservator of Forest, Kota, Bijo Joy said the caretaker was critically injured in the tiger attack and was rushed to a hospital, where he died. He said he was on his [More on PIO](#)

S H O R T T A K E S



از عدالت ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج (بنک مقدمات) سرینگر
 با اجلاس: اروند شرمہ
JK BANK LTD B/U: KHANYAR SRINAGAR
بنام
FAROOQA
دعویٰ وصولیائی رقم من: Rs:1,17,251/=
اشتہار بمراد آگاہی بنام
 Farooqa W/o: Late Bashir Ahmad Baba
 R/o: Sheshgari Mohalla Khanyar Sgr
 مقدمہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ کی تعمیل کرنے کی بسیار کوشش کی گئی
 - الا تو پتہ جدید پر مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ دستیاب ہوئے اور مذہبی بڈ ریس میں تعمیل لائی
 گئی۔ بدین وجہ حسب استدائی مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ جو بڈ ریس اشتہار بڈ ریس مطلع کیا جاتا
 ہے کہ آپ کے خلاف مقدمہ بعنوان بالا اجراء بغرض وصولی رقم مبلغ
Rs:1,17,251/= زیر سماعت عدالت ہذا ہے۔
 لہذا آپ کو بڈ ریس اشتہار بڈ ریس مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ آپ بغرض بیروی ابراہ ہذا بعنوان
 بالا مورخہ 28.10.2023 یا وکالت بروقت پھیری حاضر کر مقدمہ ہذا کی
 بیروی کریں۔ بصورت عدم حاضری حسب ضابطہ کاروائی عمل لائی جائے گی۔ تحریر
 ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج (بنک مقدمات) سرینگر

از عدالت ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج (بنک مقدمات) سرینگر
 با اجلاس: اروند شرمہ
JK BANK LTD B/U: ZALDAGAR SRINAGAR
بنام
Gousia Ishtiaq
دعویٰ وصولیائی رقم من: Rs:1,29,668/=
اشتہار بمراد آگاہی بنام
 Gousia Ishtiaq D/o: Ghulam Nabi Wani
 R/o: Shargari Mohalla Nawab Bazar Sgr
 مقدمہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ کی تعمیل کرنے کی بسیار کوشش کی گئی
 - الا تو پتہ جدید پر مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ دستیاب ہوئے اور مذہبی بڈ ریس میں تعمیل لائی
 گئی۔ بدین وجہ حسب استدائی مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ جو بڈ ریس اشتہار بڈ ریس مطلع کیا جاتا
 ہے کہ آپ کے خلاف مقدمہ بعنوان بالا اجراء بغرض وصولی رقم مبلغ
Rs:1,29,668/= زیر سماعت عدالت ہذا ہے۔
 لہذا آپ کو بڈ ریس اشتہار بڈ ریس مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ آپ بغرض بیروی ابراہ ہذا بعنوان
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 بیروی کریں۔ بصورت عدم حاضری حسب ضابطہ کاروائی عمل لائی جائے گی۔ تحریر
 ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج (بنک مقدمات) سرینگر

From the office of;
Advocate Owais Sultan
 In the case of: Mohammad Rafiq Nengroo
 S/O Late Abdul Ahad Nengroo R/O Narkara Gurtang Budgam
 (Caveators)
 Vs
 Public at Large
 (Non Caveator)
 In the matter of Petition in terms of Section 148-A CPC
 The caveators have reason to believe that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition, Appeal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may succeed in obtaining some relief/order at their back/in ex-party against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put to irreparable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order in the interest of justice.
 nj Sd/advocate

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.
 Business Support Division,
 Corporate Headquarters,
 Srinagar, M. A. Road Srinagar, 190001

On-line Request for Proposal (e-RFP)
for
Empanelment of Vendor(s) for Supply,
Installation and comprehensive maintenance
of Note Counting Machines of Desk-
top as well as Floor Type for use at Various
Branches / Currency Chests of the Bank on
Pan India basis

Tender Notice along with Complete Tender document outlining the minimum requirements can be downloaded from and BIDs can be submitted on the Banks' e-Tendering Portal <https://jkbank.abcpocure.com> w.e.f. **October 30, 2023, 16.00 Hrs.** Tender Document can also be downloaded from Bank's Official Website www.jkbank.com. Last date for submission of Bids is **November 21, 2023, 17.00 Hrs.**
e-RFP Ref.No: JKBC/CHQ/BSD/Empanelment-NCM/2023-851
Dated: 25-10-2023
 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

DIPK-NB-3854/23
 DATED: 27-10-2023

THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS (BOPEE)
 Tele/Fax: 0194-2433590, 2437647 (Srinagar); 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jammu)
 Website: www.jkbopee.gov.in E-mail: coejakbopee@gmail.com/helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com

Subject: Provisional Selection List of the candidates belonging to CDP category for admission to the B.Sc. Nursing /B.Sc Para-Medical / B.Sc. Technology Courses - 2023 in the Government / Private Colleges / Institutions of the UT of J&K after conduct of the First Round of online Counseling.
 Reference: i) Notification No. 063-BOPEE of 2023 dated 20.08.2023.
 ii) Notification No. 086-BOPEE of 2023 dated 24.09.2023.

Notification No: 101-BOPEE of 2023
Dated: 25.10.2023

Pursuant to Notification No.063-BOPEE of 2023 dated 20.08.2023 followed by Notification No. 086-BOPEE of 2023 dated 24.09.2023, it was notified that the seats under Children of Defense Personnel (CDP) Category shall be allotted to the concerned category candidates separately on the basis of valid Priority certificates uploaded/submitted by the said candidates. It was further notified by the Board that all the eligible concerned candidates shall submit their CDP Priority Certificate issued by Competent Authority. The eligible candidates under CDP Category have now submitted their CDP Priority Certificates to the Board.
 The list of CDP category candidates who have been allotted seats provisionally for admission to the B.Sc. Nursing /B.Sc Para-Medical / B.Sc. Technology Courses - 2023 in the Government / Private Colleges / Institutions of the UT of J&K on the basis of their Priorities as notified vide S.O 277 of 2021 dated 13.08.2021 issued by the Government of J&K, Department of Social Welfare read with communication F.No. 6(1)/2017/D (Res. II) dated 21.05.2018 of Government of India, Ministry of Defense, Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare and on the basis of choices filled by the candidates during the online process of counselling, is hereby notified as per Annexure "A" to this notification, which shall remain available on website of the Board.

The candidates shall have to report to the respective Colleges allotted to them for completion of admission process w.e.f. the date of issuance of this Notification till 31.10.2023 upto 4:00 p.m. along with following documents in original:-

- 12th Class Marks Card.
- Domicile Certificate.
- Category Certificate, wherever applicable.
- Any other document as may be required by the College Authorities.

The provisionally selected candidates shall have to mandatorily report for admission to the allotted Colleges/Institutions by or before 31.10.2023 upto 04:00 p.m along with their relevant certificates in original, failing which they shall not be eligible for further rounds of counseling, if any, conducted by the Board.

The Colleges shall submit the shortfall, if any, on 31.10.2023 upto 05:00 p.m positively to enable the Board to take further necessary action in the matter.

- Note:-**
- The admission of the candidates is purely provisional and shall be liable to be cancelled in case any information furnished by any candidate(s) proves to be false / fabricated and action as warranted under law shall be initiated against those candidates.
 - If any candidate(s) is found to have concealed any information, his/her selection/admission shall be cancelled ab-initio and fine/penalty shall also be imposed upon him as may be deemed proper by the Board in accordance with the laid down rules.
 - All the Heads of the Institutions/Colleges are requested to keep their admission counters open on Holidays/Off days to facilitate the candidates to complete their admission well in time and the candidates should in their own interest, avoid waiting for the last day for completing the admission formalities as the delay in such matters has the potential of causing hardships to the candidates only.
 - The Heads of the Institutions shall keep record of the admissions and send the shortfall of the candidates, if any, who have not completed their admission within the prescribed time mentioned above through E-mail viz. coejakbopee@gmail.com & helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com on 31.10.2023 upto 05:00 p.m positively along with hard copy duly signed by the Head of the Institution.

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

E & O E
 DIPK-NB-3839/23
 DATED: 27-10-2023
 No. BOPEE/Exam-21/2023 (7320671)
 Dated: 25.10.2023
Sd/-
Controller of Examinations
J&K BOPEE

PUBLIC NOTICE
 My name has been wrongly spelled in the school records of my daughter namely as Yunis Qadri i while the correct spelling is Yunis Qadri which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Tyndale Biscoe Mallinson School Tangmarg Within A Period Of Seven Days From The Date Of Publication this Notice. After That No Objection Shall Be Entertained.
 Yunis Qadri F/o Zara Qadri bmg

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Office Of The Executive Engineer
Irrigation Division Tral

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS
Fresh e-NIT No: 11 OF 2023-24

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT J&K e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K UT Government for below mentioned work :-

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. cost in Lacs	Earnest Money	Class of Contract	Time of Completion	Est of Tender Doc	Major Head	Position of AA	Position of Funds
1.	Stage contract and emergent nature of work for maintenance of Bud Khul/canal systems of irrigation sub-division Awantipora HQ Tral for the year 2023-24 (Part 2)	2.46	4920/=	DEE	From the date of allotment upto end of financial year 2023-24	200/ =	2702 (M&R)	Accorded	Budgetary Provision

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Irrigation Division, Tral.


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

S.No	Activity	Start Date	End Date
1	Publishing date	25/10/2023 @ 18:00 hrs	
2	Download date start	25/10/2023 @ 18:00 hrs	
3	Bid Submission date start	25/10/2023 @ 18:00 hrs	
4	Bid Submission date Ends	01/11/2023 @ 18:00 hrs	
	Date of opening	02/11/2023 @ 14:00 hrs	

- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in.**
- The bids uploaded on the Web Site up to date and time, will be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Tral in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. In case of holiday or any event hampering official work on opening date, the same bid will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
 - The Department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons. The bid submission date is the final date and can't be extended in any manner.
 - Documents to be appended :-**
 - Scanned copy of Registration card along with renewal for the year 2023-24.
 - Scanned copy of card Reg. verification certificate.
 - Scanned copy of CDR @ 02 % of contract value in shape of CDR / FDR else bid will be rejected for which the contractor is himself responsible and shall be released after completion report of the work will be submitted by concerned Assistant Executive Engineer/ AAO.
 - Scanned copy of updated GST registration with latest GSTR-1 and GSTR-3B along with verified PAN Number.
 - Scanned copy of Tender Document fee in the shape of treasury receipt with S.No of work / Name of work (else tender will be rejected) deposited under MH-0701 Remittance in favour of Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Tral payable at any Treasury Office. Other means can't be accepted by tender opening authority.
 - Scanned copy of Contact No. and valid email-ID.
 - ❖ If the tenderer fails to append any one of the above mentioned documents, his tender will be rejected instantly by the tender opening authority on his own responsibility.
 - ❖ All above mentioned documents must be scanned in color format, documents in Grayscale / black & white will be rejected by tender opening authority.
 - Tender Opening authority can reject any bid of the contractor subject to the working performance of the contractor.
 - The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-
 - Any bidder / tenderer withdraw his bids /tender during the period of bid validity or make any modification in terms and conditions of the bid.
 - The contractor fails to execute the agreement within 10 days after fixation of contract.
 - Instruction to bidder 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 acquaint bid submission process.
 - To participate in bidding process bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per information
 - The bidder has to submit their bids online in electronic format with Digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form
 - Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
 - On completion of contract the contractor shall be responsible to remove all un-used material and restore all work in its original position at his own cost.
 - The work has to be executed in a systematic manner keeping in view over all Hygiene and Social Distancing aspect.
 - No price escalation will be paid for completion of the work within stipulated time or extended date of completion due to any reason whatsoever.
 - All items of work shall conform to specifications as per relevant IS codes and as directed by the Engineer in Charge or his representatives.
 - The contractor shall be responsible for carrying out the mandatory tests required or as decided by Engineer -In-Charge for the quality control at his own costs. The cost of conducting all tests shall be borne by the contractor and shall be deemed to have been included in the rates for various items of work and percentage rate tendered. Nothing extra is payable.
 - In case of tie for the position of 1st lowest bidders the bid will be selected by lots process on the same date in presence of 1st lowest bidders.
 - The contractor has to manage housing for laborers, electricity, water storage for material watch and ward and other facilities on his own.
 - The DLP shall be considered 6 months from the date of completion of the work.
 - In case of any typographical error found in the rate list, the items shall be paid strictly as per J&K SOR 2020 and detailed estimate.
 - Contractor has to start the execution of work within 03 days from the date of issuance of allotment order / Letter of intent and the work should be completed within the stipulated time period, failing which penalty up to 10% will be deducted from your claim under rules.
 - In case of unbalanced bid, the successful bidder shall have to produce 3% of Advertised cost as additional performance security in shape of CDR / FDR before fixation of the contract. This bears reference to Chief Engineer Kmr J&FC Department Srinagar's Circular endorsed vide No: 14481-515 Dt:- 03/03/2023.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Irrigation Division Tral.
 No: IDT/2469-77
DIPK-11091/23
DATED: 27-10-2023


The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education
New Campus Bemina Srinagar

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 11th)under Roll No.: 239067070 Session: 2022-20 23 Year 2023 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the concerned School/parent/ Board against my Mother's Name Aubida Muzaffar Instead of Aubida Ahad


Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bemina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.

Name: Numair Muzaffar Wani
F/N: Mohammad Muzaffar Wani
M/N: Aubida Ahad
 jkb

The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education
New Campus Bemina Srinagar

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th)under Roll No.: 112022238 Session: Ann-Reg. Year 2023 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the concerned School/parent/ Board against my Mother's Name Shameerna Begum Instead of Shameerna Begum


Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bemina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.

Name: Mehrooz Bashir
F/N: Bashir Ahmad Lowarhanji
M/N: Shameerna Begum
DOB: 07-03-2006
R/O: Aaloosa Ghat
 jkb

PUBLIC NOTICE
 This is to inform the general public that I have applied for D.O.B of son .If anybody has any objection he/she may contact Municipal Committee Bharderwah within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.
Israr Ahmed Zargar
F/o Mohammad Aariz zargar
R/o Chinar Mohalla
Tehsil- Bharderwah
District-Doda
D.O.B 21-03-2021
 NJ

From The Office Advocate Nassir Hussain Khan & Associates

In the case of :1 Farooq Ahmad Dar 2.Bilal Ahmad Dar 3.Manzoor Ahmad Dar 4.Zahoor Ahmad Dar all sons of Ghulam Mohi ud din Dar all residents of owantibawan soura Srinagar 5.Zoona Begum wife of Ghulam Mohi ud din Dar 6.Nelofar wife of Riyaz Ahmad Wani R/o Malbagh Sgr 7.Nasreena Wife of Ashaq Hussain Kaar R/o Soura Sgr
 (Caveators)
 Vs
 Public at Large
 Non Caveator

In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A The caveators may have apprehension that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition, Ap- peal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may succeed in obtaining some relief/order at their back/in exparte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put in irrepa- rable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.
 NJ Sd/advocate

Daraksha Andrabi Unveils 'Genie' In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Dr. Darkshan Andrabi, Chairperson of the Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board and Minister of State, unveiled 'Genie,' a revolutionary education product designed to transform teaching techniques in schools. The event saw an elite gathering of school owners and distinguished guests.

The 'Genie' launch event marked a significant collaboration between the 'Genie' company and Eduwire Education India Pvt Ltd, a prominent Kashmir-based firm. Syed Moosaib Shah, the Founder Director of Eduwire Education India Pvt Ltd, shared his insights on the innovative product's potential to revolutionize the education sector.

He expressed confidence that 'Genie' would bring about positive changes in the way education is delivered in schools.

Dr. Darkshan An-

drabi, who was the chief guest on the occasion, in her address, emphasized the importance of innovation in education and commended the collaboration between 'Genie' and Eduwire Education India Pvt Ltd.

She acknowledged the potential of 'Genie' to enhance the teaching techniques in schools and create a more effective and engaging learning environment.

'Genie' is expected to provide a comprehensive solution to educators, enabling them to deliver high-quality content and engage students in a more interactive and immersive way. The product is set to play a vital role in enhancing the education sector in Kashmir and beyond.

The event was attended by esteemed school owners, educational experts, and key stakeholders in the education industry, who were enthusiastic about the potential of 'Genie' to make a lasting impact on the field of education.



PIC: Abid Bhat/KO

Devotees Flock Dastgeer Sahib (R.A) Shrine In Srinagar On Annual "Urs"

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Thousands of devotees from across the valley converged at Dastgeer Sahab shrines in Khanyar and Sarai Payeen in Srinagar on the annual Urs of 11th century Sufi saint on Friday.

The biggest congregation on the occasion was held at the Dastgeer Sahib Shrine in the Khanyar, where a sizable number of devotees joined in the night-long prayers (Shab Khawani) to pay homage to the Sufi saint.

At Sarai Bala Dastgeer Sahib Shrine, hundreds of devotees including men, women, and children paid reverence and participated in congregational prayers during a similar gathering.

Congregational prayers on the Urs of Peer Dastgeer Sahab (R.A) were also held at Asar Sharif Anchar Soura Srinagar, Baramulla and Bandipora in north Kashmir.

Devotees from length and breadth of the valley

Friday Prayers Not Allowed At Srinagar's Jamia Masjid

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Congregational prayers at the historic Jamia Masjid in the city were barred for the third consecutive Friday amid apprehension of protests against the Israeli action in Gaza, officials said.

The grand mosque, located in the Nowhatta area of the city, remained locked and security personnel were deployed around it to

maintain law and order, they said.

Hurriyat Conference led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, who also is the chief priest of Kashmir, said the repeated closure of the historic Jamia Masjid and the Mirwaiz's "house detention" are "reminders of the situation in J-K and its fragile normalcy".

It said Kashmiris stand with the people of Palestine irrespective of bans and restrictions on them.

throughed Khanyar to have a glimpse of the holy relic locally known as Mouia Pak, a hair strand of Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir Gilani (R.A). Chief cleric of the

es from holy Quran sought blessings for them and that of their loved ones from almighty on the occasion.

Emotional scenes were also witnessed on the Urs with devotees especially women crying on having the glimpse of holy relic.

Chairperson of Waqf Board Jammu and Kashmir Darakhshan Andrabi visited the holy shrine of Dastgeer Sahib at Khanyar day before yesterday and paid obeisance and took stock of the arrangements placed for the visiting devotees.

The eleven day of Urs Hazrat Sheikh Syed Abdul Qadir Jeelani began on 16th of this month with elaborate arrangements put in place by the administration for the devotees.

The annual Urs of Hazrat Sheikh Syed Abdul Qadir Jeelani begins on 1st day of Rabi Al Thani during which special prayers are held every day till 11th day of Rabi Al Thani.

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR 12 Rabi-ul-Sani 1445	PRAYERS	
	FAJR	5:21
ZUHR	12:15	
ASR	4:07	
Magrib	5:48	
ISHA	7:09	

This Day In History

- 306 - Maxentius proclaimed Emperor of Rome
- 312 - Emperor Constantine the Great beats rival Maxentius at the Battle of the Milvian Bridge
- 1420 - Beijing is declared the capital of the Ming dynasty under the Yongle Emperor
- 1492 - Christopher Columbus sights Cuba and claims it for Spain under the name "Juana"
- 1516 - Battle of Yavis Khan: Turkish forces under the Grand Vizier Sinan Pasha defeat the Mameluks near Gaza
- 1531 - Battle of Amba Sel: Imam Ahmad ibn Ibrahim al-Ghazi again defeats the army of Lebna Dengel, Emperor of Ethiopia. The southern part of Ethiopia falls under Imam
- 1740 - Ivan VI becomes Tsar of Russia [05=Oct 17]
- 1831 - Michael Faraday demonstrates his dynamo invention, an electrical generator
- 1864 - Second Battle at Fair Oaks, Virginia, ends with 1554 casualties
- 1864 - Battle of Wauhatchie, Tennessee
- 1886 - Statue of Liberty dedicated by US President Grover Cleveland, celebrated by first confetti (ticker tape) parade in New York City
- 1914 - German battle cruiser Goeben enters Black Sea
- 1916 - Australian government holds a national referendum seeking support for the proposal of compulsory conscription; it is rejected
- 1918 - Czechoslovakia gains independence as Austria-Hungary breaks up
- 1922 - Benito Mussolini takes control of Italy's government
- 1924 - French-Russian trade agreement signed
- 1943 - German submarine U-220 sunk by US aircraft in the Atlantic
- 1944 - Russia & Bulgaria sign weapons pact
- 1946 - German rocket engineers begin work in USSR
- 1948 - Flag of Israel is adopted
- 1954 - Nobel Prize for Literature is awarded to Ernest Hemingway
- 1962 - Radio Moscow reports nuclear missiles in Cuba deactivated
- 1970 - US/USSR sign an agreement to discuss joint space efforts
- 1971 - Great Britain becomes 6th nation to have a satellite (Prospero) in orbit

From KO Archives

MoU Contained Some Deficiencies

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a candid admission, the chief minister, Dr Fa-rooq Abdullah, today said the Centre had taken him for a ride when the former union energy Minister P K Kumaramanglam, obtained his signatures on the memorandum of understanding (MoU) whose contents later turned out to be detrimental to the state's interests.

According to a CNS report Dr Abdullah told the state assembly during an obituary reference to the late Kumaramanglam that a MoU had been signed between him and union minister. However, when the documents were prepared the union energy minister allegedly with malafide intentions, obtained his signatures on such papers which, on closer scrutiny later revealed that these were against the interests of the state.

However an official handout issued today said the chief minister had said "the MoU signed by him with the then union energy minister had been signed in good faith to benefit the State." However the handout said "Later on the state officials pointed out some deficiencies." He said he immediately up the matter with Kumaramanglam who "readily agreed". But before correction could be effected, the union Minister passed away.

"These clauses have to be modified to protect the interests of the State" Dr. Abdullah added.

When contacted the principal secretary power development department Ajit Kumar told Observer News Service, the 'deficiencies pertained to the state's claim for reimbursement of the expenditure it had already incurred on the power projects. The MoU did not mention this. However, Kumar said the Centre had agreed to reimburse the expenditure and necessary modifications would be incorporated in the MoU shortly.

(Kashmir Observer, October 28, 2000)

از عدالت ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج (بنک مقدمات) سرینگر
با اجلاس: اروند شرما
JK BANK LTD B/U: ZAKURA SRINAGAR
بنام
Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat
دعوی وصولیاتی رقم مبلغ **Rs:6,06,325/=**
اشتہار بمراد آگاہی بنام
Arshid Hussain S/o: Ghulam Mustafa
R/o: Saida Kadal Hassanabad Rainawari Sgr
مقدمہ مندرجہ عنوان صدر میں مدعا علیہ/مدعا علیہ کی تیسری کیل کرانے کی بسیار کوشش کی گئی۔
- الا نہ تو پتہ جدید پر مدعا علیہ/مدعا علیہ دستیاب ہوئے اور نہ ہی بذریعہ تیسری کیل لائی
گئی۔ بدین وجہ حسب استنادی مدعا علیہ/مدعا علیہ جو بذریعہ اشتہار بذراطلاع کیا جاتا
ہے کہ آپ کے خلاف مقدمہ بعنوان بالا اجراء بغرض وصولی رقم مبلغ **Rs:6,06,325/=**
لہذا آپ کو بذریعہ اشتہار بذراطلاع کیا جاتا ہے کہ آپ بغرض بیرونی اجراء ہذا بعنوان
بالا مورخہ 28.10.2023 اصالتاً یا وکالتاً بروقت پتھیری حاضر آکر مقدمہ بذرا
بیرونی کریں۔ بصورت عدم حاضری حسب ضابطہ کارروائی عمل لائی جائے گی۔ پتھیری
ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج، بنک مقدمات سرینگر
nj

از عدالت ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج (بنک مقدمات) سرینگر
با اجلاس: اروند شرما
JK BANK LTD B/U: BARZULLA SRINAGAR
بنام
M/S Ab Aziz Qasab
دعوی وصولیاتی رقم مبلغ **Rs:11,13,694/=**
اشتہار بمراد آگاہی بنام
M/S Abdul Aziz Qasab through its Sole Prop.
Abdul Aziz Qasab S/o: Sana Ullah Qasab
R/o: Abi Guzar Srinagar
مقدمہ مندرجہ عنوان صدر میں مدعا علیہ/مدعا علیہ کی تیسری کیل کرانے کی بسیار کوشش کی گئی۔
- الا نہ تو پتہ جدید پر مدعا علیہ/مدعا علیہ دستیاب ہوئے اور نہ ہی بذریعہ تیسری کیل لائی
گئی۔ بدین وجہ حسب استنادی مدعا علیہ/مدعا علیہ جو بذریعہ اشتہار بذراطلاع کیا جاتا
ہے کہ آپ کے خلاف مقدمہ بعنوان بالا اجراء بغرض وصولی رقم مبلغ **Rs:11,13,694/=**
لہذا آپ کو بذریعہ اشتہار بذراطلاع کیا جاتا ہے کہ آپ بغرض بیرونی اجراء ہذا بعنوان
بالا مورخہ 28.10.2023 اصالتاً یا وکالتاً بروقت پتھیری حاضر آکر مقدمہ بذرا
بیرونی کریں۔ بصورت عدم حاضری حسب ضابطہ کارروائی عمل لائی جائے گی۔ پتھیری
ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج، بنک مقدمات سرینگر
nj

Public Notice

My name & Parentage has been wrongly written in my passport as Hazik Bin Afzal Father's Name: Mohd Afzal Bhat Mother's Name: Shabeena while my correct name & parentage is Hazik Bin Afzal Bhat Father's Name: Mohammad Afzal Bhat Mother's Name: Shabeena Afzal which needs to be corrected.

If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact passport office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

inf

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the District Election Officer, Anantnag
Ph: 01932-222291, 222337 (Office) Fax: 01932-22291 email: entanantnag@nic.in

"Greater participation for a Stronger Democracy"

No: DEO/Ang/SSR/2023/ Dated: 25-10-2023
Subject: Revised Schedule for Special Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls with reference to 01-01-2024 as the qualifying date.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Election Commission of India has issued revised schedule for conduct of Special Summary Revision of Photo Electoral Rolls w.r.t. 01-01-2024 as the qualifying date. The different stages of the revision are detailed below:-

S.No.	Revision Activity	Timeline
1	Publication of Integrated draft Electoral Rolls	27-10-2023 (Friday)
2	Period for filing claims and objections	From 27-10-2023 (Friday) to 09-12-2023 (Saturday)
3	Special Campaign dates	04-11-2023 (Saturday) 05-11-2023 (Sunday) 18-11-2023 (Saturday) 19-11-2023 (Sunday)
4	Disposal of Claims and Objections	By 26-12-2023 (Tuesday)
5	(i) Checking of health parameters and obtaining Commission's permission for final publication. (ii) Updating database and printing of supplements.	By 01-01-2024 (Monday)
6	Final Publication of Electoral Roll	05-01-2024 (Friday)

The Draft Photo Electoral Rolls have been published on 27-10-2023 at all the Polling Stations, Offices of Assistant Electoral Registration Officers, and Electoral Registration Officers and District Election Officer for public inspection. Any person attaining 18 years age as on 01-01-2024 or who have been left out is eligible for registration as voter in the electoral roll. Similarly the persons with incorrect particulars/entry in the roll can also apply before the concerned ERO/AERO and BLO for modification within the prescribed schedule. The necessary forms for inclusion in Form-6, Objection to the inclusion of name in Form-7, Correction of the entry/transposition of entry/replacement of EPIC and Marking of PWD in Form-8 have been kept available at all the above designated places for supplying free of cost to the public. Besides this the advance applications of those persons who shall achieve the qualifying age with reference to the two subsequent qualifying dates i.e. 1st April, 1st July & 1st October shall also be received during revision exercise. The disposal of such advance forms/claims shall be completed in the first month of concerned quarter only.

However, online applications can also be filed by a person for inclusion, objection to the inclusion of name, correction or transposition of entry in the electoral rolls by login @ www.voters.eci.gov.in and Voter Helpline App.

Sd/-
District Election Officer,
Anantnag.

DIPK-11100/23
DATED: 27-10-2023

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER GANDERBAL
Old Hospital Road, Duderhama Ganderbal
Telephone/Fax: 0194-2416244 Email: ganderbalcom@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor J&K(UT) sealed Tenders are invited from registered dealers for supply of heating Commercial Gas cylinders (19 Kg) during the winter season 2023-24 to Chief Medical Officer Ganderbal as per the requirement to be submitted by the Office authorities. The tender has to intimate the amount of rebate per cylinder and as per approved rates of the company. The Tender should reach the office of undersigned within 10 days from the date of publication and as per the terms and conditions given below.

- The supplies should be authorized dealer of LPG Company.
- The Gas cylinder must be sealed and will be accepted after proper weight check as per the schedule of the company norms.
- The leakage underweight cylinders shall not be accepted and will be responsibility of the firm for replacement.
- The firm has to submit undertaking the supplies will be arranged as per the supply order and proper time and in case firms fails to supply the Gas, supplies will be arranged from L2.
- The supplies should reach in the store of the CMO Office.

Sd/
Chief Medical Officer
Ganderbal.

No: - CMO/Gbl/Tender 2023/10074-76
:DIPK-11051/23
Dated: -27.10.2023.

Indian Troops Need To Leave Maldives, Says Incoming President

Agencies

Maldives intends to be "fully independent" and will ask Indian troops stationed in the island nation to leave, says President-elect Mohamed Muizzu, as New Delhi and Beijing both vie for influence in the region.



In a heated election campaign, Muizzu had accused incumbent Ibrahim Solih of allowing India unchecked sway over the island nation's affairs and of surrendering the country's sovereignty by allowing Indian troops to be stationed there.

"It happens to be Indian foreign military presence here," Muizzu, the newly elected head of the Indian Ocean archipelago, said in a wide-ranging interview to Bloomberg TV. He added that his reaction would be the same if the troops were of any other country.

Around 70 Indian military personnel maintain New Delhi-sponsored radar stations and surveillance aircrafts. Indian warships help patrol Maldives' exclusive economic zone.

Muizzu said he has already begun negotiations with the Indian government on removing its military presence, calling those talks "very successful already."

"We want a bilateral relationship that's mutually beneficial," Muizzu said, adding that Indian soldiers won't be replaced by troops from other countries. Asking India to remove military personnel no way indicates "that I'm going to allow China or any other country to bring their military troops here," he said.

Muizzu's win extends the tug-of-war between China and India for influence over the strategically located Indian Ocean. Successive governments have tilted either toward India or China. Both Asian powerhouses have invested heavily in upgrading Maldives infrastructure and extended loans, as they compete with each other.

The US and its allies such as Japan and Australia are looking to isolate an increasingly assertive and assured Beijing and have invested heavily in propping-up New Delhi as a regional counterweight and key partner in Asia. That seemed to pay off as Muizzu's predecessor, Solih steered the country closer to India.

SEEKING COOPERATION

Muizzu now promises to change tack by removing India troops and addressing the adverse trade balance with the South Asian neighbor.

"We want assistance, cooperation with all the countries," Muizzu said, dismissing the notion that the elections were a referendum on closer ties with either China or India.

India Will Fight Legal Battle To Bring Back Its Eight Nationals From Qatar: BJP

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: India will fight a legal battle to bring back all eight former Indian Navy personnel who have been handed down death sentence by a court in Qatar, the BJP said on Friday.

Replying to a related question at a press conference here at the party headquarters, BJP national spokesperson Ajay Alok said the Ministry of External Affairs is already looking into the matter.

"And, India has duly placed its stand also on the issue," he told reporters.

"We are surprised to see that such things also happen. We will fight a legal battle in this matter. The international court of justice is there. I think government of India will place its stand and we will definitely succeed in bringing them back from there," Alok added.

The eight former Indian Navy personnel were on Thursday handed down death sentence by a court in Qatar, a verdict that was described as "deeply shocking" by India as it vowed to explore all legal options in the case.

The Indian nationals, who



worked with private company Al Dahra, were arrested in August last year reportedly in an alleged case of espionage. Neither the Qatari authorities nor New Delhi made the charges against the Indian nationals public.

"We have initial information that the Court of First Instance of Qatar has today passed a judgement in the case involving eight Indian employees of Al Dahra company," the MEA said on Thursday.

"We are deeply shocked by the verdict of death penalty and are awaiting the detailed judgement. We are in touch with the family members and the legal team, and we are exploring all legal options," it said.

The MEA said it will continue to extend all consular and legal assistance to the Indians.

After Finding South No Safer, Gazans Head Back North



Agencies

KHAN YUNIS: When Israel warned civilians to leave northern Gaza, Rahma Saqallah and her family fled south. But after Israeli bombs killed her husband and three of her children, she decided to head back home.

"Wherever we go, we will die," Saqallah said, as she prepared to leave the city of Khan Yunis, in the south of the territory to return to Gaza City with her surviving child.

She is among roughly 600,000 Palestinians who went south in response to Israel's warning to evacuate

"for your own safety".

But repeated deadly strikes on the south of the territory in recent days have prompted 30,000 of the displaced to head back home, according to UN figures.

Many were in any case struggling to find shelter in Khan Yunis, an already densely populated city which has been swamped by the influx of families fleeing the north.

On Wednesday, before leaving, Saqallah said: "My husband and my three sons, Daoud, Mohammad and Majed, became martyrs on Tuesday at dawn."

'DIE IN OUR OWN HOMES'

Her husband was 47, her son Majed 9, and Daoud 18, while Mohammad was due to "celebrate his 15th birthday today (Wednesday)", she said. The strike "destroyed the second and third floors" of the apartment building in which multiple families, around 60 people, were sheltering, she said.

It killed 11 members of her extended family and 26 people from other families.

"From my family, only me and my daughter Raghad (17) are still alive. We are alive but I cannot say that we are well," she said.

'Israel' Delays Ground Invasion As US Readies For Blowback: WSJ

Agencies

'Israel's' ground invasion of the Gaza Strip will be delayed to give the United States the chance to transfer additional air defense systems into the Middle East, The Wall Street Journal reported, citing sources.

The US Department of State had previously stated that it would be transferring air defense assets to the Middle East to protect its troops and assets in the region.

WSJ says the US will deploy 12 air defense systems to counter attacks on its troops in Iraq, Syria, Kuwait, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. Furthermore, concerned Israeli officials have agreed to delay an expected ground invasion of the Gaza Strip until the air defense systems are set up as early as later this week.

Unnamed US officials told the newspaper that the US expects its troops and bases to be attacked by several groups in the region when the ground invasion ensues.

"Israel" is also said to be taking this opportunity to retrieve some of the captives held by the Resistance in Gaza in exchange for humanitarian aid, which it has blocked off more than 2 million people for more than two weeks.



At least 24 US military personnel were wounded by successful attacks by Resistance factions in Iraq, in response to the ongoing massacres in Gaza.

The US has been a major backer of the Israeli aggression on Gaza, providing the Israeli war cabinet with the diplomatic, logistical, and military cover to carry out its crimes against the Palestinian people.

Earlier on Wednesday, the US Embassy in Kuwait issued a security alert confirming threats against US military bases in Kuwait, which were posted on X.

The embassy's statement read that it was "aware of threats made on social media by Alwiyat al-Waad al-Haq, a militia group in Iraq, against US military bases in Kuwait." It added, "As a result, the US

Embassy in Kuwait is limiting its activity on US military bases to essential and official events only," adding that US citizens are advised to "remain alert".

This comes after the Alwiyat al-Waad al-Haq (True Promise Brigades) who identify themselves as the "sons of the Arabian Peninsula" affirmed that "patience has limits in the face of what we are witnessing today against the Palestinian people," declaring that the group considers US bases in Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates "legitimate targets".

The US-orchestrated war on Gaza might bring the Middle East into a regional war, as multiple officials that belong to the Axis of Resistance have warned against the continued massacring of the Palestinian people, promising to take further action.



Ram Temple In Ayodhya Will Be Ready Soon, Says PM Modi

Press Trust of India

CHITRAKOOT: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the Ram temple in Ayodhya will soon be ready, and hailed the contribution of Hindu spiritual leader Jagadguru Rambhadracharya in its making.

Speaking at a public function at Tulsi Peeth of Jagadguru Rambhadracharya at Chitrakoot in Madhya Pradesh, the PM also said that Sanskrit is not only the language of traditions, but also of our progress and identity.

"...Jagadguru Rambhadracharya ji has played a big role in fulfilling one of the dreams of every countrymen - the Ram temple, for which you have contributed so much, in and outside the court, is also going to be ready," the prime minister said as Hindu leaders present at the gathering cheered.

He also mentioned the invitation given to him by the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra for the consecration ceremony of the Ram temple, which is expected to take place on January 22.

Praising Jagadguru Rambhadracharya for his wisdom, the prime minister said, "This level of wisdom is never personal, this wisdom is a national treasure." The PM also remembered his contribution in the Swachh Bharat Mission as one of the nine key ambassadors.

On the occasion, he released three books 'Ashtadhyayi Bhashya', 'Ramanandacharya Charitam' and 'Bhagwan Shri Krishna ki Rashtroleela' written by Jagadguru Rambhadracharya.

PM Modi said national goals like cleanliness, health and Clean Ganga are being realised now.

Talking about Sanskrit language, he said efforts were made to uproot the culture and heritage of India during the thousand year old era of slavery.

"The slave mentality which was carried forward by certain individuals resulted in a feeling of enmity towards Sanskrit... Sanskrit is not only the language of traditions, it is also the language of our progress and identity," he said, and highlighted his government's efforts in the past nine years to promote Sanskrit in the country.

The PM also expressed confidence that Chitrakoot will scale new heights of development.

Tulsi Peeth, an important religious and social service institution in Chitrakoot, was established by Jagadguru Rambhadracharya in 1987 and is one of the leading publishers of Hindu religious literature.

After his arrival in Chitrakoot earlier in the day, PM Modi offered prayers at the famous Raghunath temple and addressed a function to mark the birth centenary celebrations of industrialist late Arvind Bhai Mafatlal.

OPS, Laptop For College Students, English Medium Schools Among Rajasthan CM's 5 Guarantees

Press Trust of India

JAIPUR: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Friday announced five guarantees for the people of the state, including a law on Old Pension Scheme, buying cow dung and providing a laptop or a tablet to government college students, if his government is reelected in the November 25 elections.

Addressing a press conference here, the Congress leader also attacked the Centre alleging a misuse of the Enforcement Directorate.

"A chief minister (Bhupesh Baghel) had to say that more than dogs, it's the ED that is on the prowl in the country. (Desh me kutton se jyada ED ghum rahi hai). What could be a bigger misfortune than this?" he said.

"Whatever comment he must have made, you can understand that he must have done that in great pain," Gehlot told the press conference. "You (agencies) have become a political weapon. Modi ji, you do not understand, your countdown has begun." The ED raided premis-



es of state Congress chief Govind Singh Dotasra on Thursday.

Gehlot said the ED targeted the Congress leader because he is quite vocal against the BJP.

Announcing his five guarantees, Gehlot promised school education in English medium, buying cow dung at Rs 2 per kg under 'godhan scheme' and Rs 15-lakh insurance cover for losses in natural disasters.

He also said a law will be passed to ensure the Old Pension Scheme for government employees so that no future dispensation can stop OPS. He said students taking admission in government colleges will be given a tablet or a laptop in the first year.

PM Modi is following our 'guarantee model', he claimed.

Odisha: 14-Year-Old-Girl Pedals Trolley 35 Km To Carry Injured Father To Hospital

Press Trust of India

BHADRAK: A 14-year-old girl pedalled a trolley rickshaw 35 km to take her injured father to the district headquarters hospital (DHH) in Odisha's Bhadrak.

The incident happened on October 23 but came to light on Thursday when some local people and journalists spotted the girl near Mohatab Chhak in Bhadrak town while she was taking her father back home on the trolley.

The girl Sujata Sethi (14) of Nadi-gan village took her injured father to Dhamnagar hospital, about 14 km away from her village, pedalling her father's trolley.

However, doctors asked her to shift her father to Bhadrak DHH. She pedalled the trolley 35 km to bring her father to the district hospital on October 23. Her father Sambhunath was injured in a group clash on October 22, sources said.

According to Sujata, doctors at Bhadrak DHH advised her to go back and come after a week for an operation. "I neither have money to hire a private vehicle nor a mobile phone



to call the ambulance. So, I used my father's trolley to bring him (Sambhunath) to the hospital," she said.

After getting information about the incident, Bhadrak MLA Sanjib Mallick and former Dhamnagar MLA Rajendra Das reached the girl and extended necessary help.

Bhadrak Chief District Medical Of-

ficer (CDMO) Santanu Patra said the patient was admitted on October 23 for treatment. He was advised for an operation after a week.

"We have no provision for ambulance service to return the patients to home... He will remain in the hospital till the end of the treatment," Patra said.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR,
OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BUDGAM

Subject: Auction of Entry Fee / Terminal Tax Collection contract for the year 2023-24 and 2024-25 w.e.f. 08-11-2023 to 07-11-2024.

AUCTION NOTICE.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K UT, term e-tenders (in single cover system) are invited from the interested persons / parties for Auction of Adda/Entry Fee / Terminal Tax of Municipal Council Budgam, for the year 2023-24 and 2024-25 w.e.f. 08-11-2023 to 07-11-2024 for a period of 365 days. The Minimum reserved bid is fixed for Rs.65,00,000/- (Rupees Sixty-Five Lacs Only). The Tax/rate schedule of the vehicles is detailed in the tender notice and the successful highest bidder is bound to recover Entry Fee as per the same schedule. The critical dates are detailed as under:-

1	Date of issue of Tender Notice	25-10-2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 25-10-2023 to 03.11.2023
3	Bid submission Start Date	25-10-2023 from 5.00 PM
4	Bid submission End Date	03.11.2023 upto 11.00 AM
5	Date & Time of opening of Bids (Online) ,	04.11.2023 at 02.00 AM in the office of the Executive Officer, Municipal Council Budgam.
6	Submission of Performance Security (PS)	The highest bidder, has to deposit 10% of contract value cost, on spot at the declaration of highest bidder and same will be forfeited if terms and conditions shall be breached.
7	Mode of Payment	10% token money on spot after evaluation of successful bidder (Technical/ Financial Evaluation). 65% to be deposited on the time of possession of posts. 25% after three months from date of possession, for which successful bidder shall submit the irrevocable bank guarantee from any nationalized bank within seven days from the date of possession, failing which the contract shall be cancelled, without any intimation.
8		Cash deposit Rs. 100000/- pledged to Accounts officer MC Budgam at the time of opening of bid (CDR) in original

The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in. The bids of the responsive bidders shall be opened online on the same website in the office of the Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Budgam.
NO:-MC/Bud/2023-24/4338-44
Dated: 25-10-2023

DIPK-NB-3838-23
DT: 27/10/2023

Chief Executive Officer,
Municipal Council
Budgam

Chairman DDC, Waqf Chairperson Meets LG



SRINAGAR: Chairman, District Development Council (DDC) Budgam Nazir Ahmad Khan and Chairperson J&K Waqf Board Dr Darakhshah Andrabi on Friday called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan here.

met the LG and apprised him on various issues of public importance.

Later, a delegation of J&K Gujjar Bakerwal Students Alliance also called on LG Sinha.

Also, Padma Shri Dr Kanubhai Tailor, President, Disable Welfare Trust of India met Lieutenant Governor at Raj Bhawan.

Besides them, Haji Farooq Mir, Vice Chairman, District Development Council Kupwara

Centre Lacks Courage To Hold Polls In J&K: Omar

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The BJP government at the Centre lacks the courage to hold polls in Jammu and Kashmir and even the parliamentary elections would not be held here had it not been a matter of compulsion, National Conference leader Omar Abdullah has claimed.

"In the Supreme Court, they (BJP-led Central government) said that elections to urban local bodies and panchayats will be held. But there is no notification. The challenges encountered in Kargil (LAHDC-Kargil) polls would extend across Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

"The last Assembly elections were held in 2014. We have been under the governor's rule for five years. There have been claims of significant improvements post-2019. If so, why the delay in elections?" Abdullah posed.



The NC leader claimed that the reluctance to hold elections stems from the BJP's apprehension about facing the electorate. The BJP exudes confidence in the public but a palpable fear lies within their ranks, he asserted.

"They are well aware of the public's sentiment. Conducting parliamentary elections is their compulsion. If they weren't com-

pelled, they wouldn't even hold a parliamentary election," Abdullah told reporters in Poonch district on Thursday evening.

"They shy away from facing the people. There will be no Panchayat, BDC, DDC, urban local body or assembly elections before the parliamentary polls," he said.

"LAHDC-Kargil poll results proved their apprehensions. The NC-Congress alliance secured 22 out of 26 seats. Even the two independent candidates who won in the polls extended their support for us," the NC leader said.

Abdullah assured daily wagers in Jammu and Kashmir that elections were inevitable and they would be regularised once the NC came to power.

"Rest assured, elections will be held sooner or later. Once the NC government assumes power, we will move towards regularising the status of daily wagers," he affirmed.

Abdullah alleged that the MP from Jammu never prioritised the welfare of the people.

"It is now our duty to carefully select the NC candidate. I will engage with every segment across the 16 to 17 assembly segments in this parliamentary seat, ensuring everyone's voice is heard.

Army Celebrates Landing Of Forces In Kashmir In 1947

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The army on Friday celebrated the 'Shaurya Diwas' here to mark the 76th year of the landing of forces in Kashmir which ensured the first civil-military victory of Independent India.

The Indian Army troops landed at the Budgam Airport to evict Pakistani forces from Jammu and Kashmir, a day after the Instrument of Accession was signed between Maharaja Hari Singh and the Republic of India.

During the 'Shaurya Diwas' organised on Friday, a replication of the historic event was performed to pay obeisance to the brave soldiers and the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The audience, including senior Army and Air Force

officers, and students, witnessed the re-enactment of history, covering the violation of Standstill Agreement by Pakistan. The event also depicted the arrival of the Indian Army soldiers on October 27, 1947, to evict the Pakistani Forces.

Speaking on the occasion, the general officer commanding (GoC) of the army's Srinagar-based 15 Corps, Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai said the occasion is celebrated to remember the historic day which ensured Jammu and Kashmir is still an integral part of India.

The Army showed courage in its first big operation in independent India and foiled the nefarious designs of the enemy, saving Kashmir from going under Pakistan's occupation, he said.



DEVOTEES RAISE THEIR HANDS in supplication as the holy relic of Hazrat Sheikh Syed Abdur Qadir Jeelani, popularly known as Dastgeer Sahab (RA) is displayed on his annual Urs in Srinagar's Khanyar locality on Friday.

KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

Constant Endeavour From Across LoC To Disturb Peace In J&K: Army

27 Terrorists Eliminated During 10 Infiltration Attempts: GoC Kalia

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: There is a constant endeavour from across the Line of Control (LoC) to disturb peace and vitiate the security environment in Jammu and Kashmir as normalcy has not gone down well with the inimical elements, a senior army officer said on Friday.

Addressing a press conference on Operation Shikhanja launched along the LoC in Machil sector in north Kashmir's Kupwara, where five militants were killed while trying to infiltrate, General Officer Commanding (Vajr Division) Major General Girish Kalia said the security forces are committed to defeat any attempt of the enemy to disrupt the security situation in the Union territory.

"Normalcy and prosperity in Kashmir have not gone down well with the inimical elements. That is why there is a constant endeavour from across the LoC to disturb peace and vitiate the security environment in J-K," Maj Gen Kalia told reporters at Kupwara.

"In the last eight months, we have had 10 such attempts in our divisional area of responsibility, which have resulted in the elimination of 27 terrorists, and recovery of a large quantity of war-like



stores," he said.

The GoC said the security forces have also recovered a huge quantity of narcotics which establishes a deep nexus between defence establishments in Pakistan and terrorist groups.

They are all determined to create disturbance in the valley and impact the future generations in Jammu and Kashmir, he added.

Maj Gen Kalia said the security forces are working in complete synergy and are committed to defeat any attempt of the enemy to disrupt the security situation in the Kashmir valley with firm resoluteness and steadfast commitment.

Colonel Rajat Birman, commanding officer of the 56 Rashtrya Rifles unit which is involved in the anti-infiltration operation, gave details about the operation.

He said based on specific in-

telligence input regarding an infiltration attempt by a group of foreign terrorists, a joint operation was launched in the Machil sector along the LoC on the night of October 25/26.

"Multiple ambushes were laid by security forces ahead of the anti-infiltration fence along the LoC. The area is thickly forested with dense foliage. Taking advantage of difficult terrain and dense vegetation, a group of five terrorists infiltrated from across the LoC," he said.

On October 26, around 1010 hours, the infiltrating terrorists were intercepted by alert troops. The terrorist opened fire and attempted to flee. In the intense firefight that ensued and continued through the day, the troops employed modern surveillance devices and quadcopters to locate the terrorists in the difficult terrain, he said.

LG Felicitates Bravery Award Recipients

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Friday presented the Social Bravery Award to Dr Beena Budki, Faisal Shah, Muheet Butt, Dr. Saraswati and V. Shankar at Raj Bhawan here.

The LG congratulated the recipients of the award for their contribution in promoting the culture of Jammu Kashmir, an official spokesperson said.

He said that Dr Beena Budki, President Hindi Kashmiri San-



gam expressed gratitude to the LG for the support in the successful conduct of Yagnopaveet organised at Mata Kheer Bhawani

Temple, Ganderbal from October 24 to 26, 2023 in which devotees of Kanchi Mutt from Tamil Nadu had also participated.

Wullar Lake Phase-II

Rs. 59.59 Cr Allocated For Conservation, Tourism promotion



Agencies

SRINAGAR: An allocation of Rs. 59.59 crore for Phase-II has been approved by the Wullar Conservation and Management Authority (WUCMA) to support the Integrated Management Plan for Conservation of Wullar Lake, with the goal of attracting tourists, enhancing the lake's beauty, and restoring its former grandeur.

Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad said that comprehensive efforts have been taken to safeguard and protect Wullar Lake, with the government having sanctioned a work program with a budget of Rs. 59.59 crore for the fiscal year 2023-24.

"Key initiatives within this program included water management, the completion of Wullar Walkway Phase-II, the implementation of various eco-development projects, the creation of a cycling track around the lake, the introduction of water sports, and the inclusion of Shikara boats," he added.

He stated that a holistic ecotourism plan for Wullar Lake is in progress, reflecting the government's commitment to position the lake as a prominent tourist destination, and officials are dedicated to executing the conservation work plan with a focus on benefiting local communities.

Regarding the selection of locations for lake beautification, the DC said that the picturesque Zurimanz village, often referred to as "Bangladesh," has been chosen as an idyllic destination for both domestic and foreign tourists. This choice includes plans for introducing water sports activities and various other initiatives.

"An enchanting pedestrian pathway is currently under development around the lake, poised to captivate an increasing number of

tourists. Further enhancements are planned for this phase," he added.

Over the past 30 years, Wullar Lake has faced a decline in its carrying capacity due to deforestation and encroachment, leading to water quality deterioration caused by the disposal of untreated sewage and solid waste, alongside issues like blocked inlet and outlet channels and forest degradation in the catchment areas.

Although the Wullar Conservation and Management Authority (WUCMA) was established for lake conservation in September 2012, substantial progress began only in May of the previous year. The project's first phase, focused on ecotourism development, involves an expenditure of ₹200 crore from the Union Territory's fund, with a total estimated project cost of ₹1,600 crore.

In addition to land and water resource management, WUCMA focused on preserving biodiversity, promoting ecotourism, creating a lake shoreline, establishing recreational parks, bird-watching spots, and constructing the Wullar Boulevard.

Recently, the second meeting of the WUCMA was chaired by Principal Secretary for Forest, Ecology, and Environment, Dheeraj Gupta. The meeting included a review of progress on various wetland conservation projects, notably the Integrated Management Plan for Conservation of Wullar Lake.

Principal Secretary Gupta instructed WUCMA officers to implement all necessary measures for the preservation and conservation of Wullar Lake while emphasizing the significance of wetlands in maintaining ecological balance, playing roles in water purification, flood control, biodiversity habitat, and contributing to J&K's economy as popular tourist destinations.

Spl Secretary Logistics Reviews Progress Of PMGS In J&K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Special Secretary (Logistics), Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Sumita Dawra reviewed the progress made by UT of Jammu and Kashmir on PM GatiShakti National Master Plan at Srinagar on Friday.

Dawra discussed the prospects of improving usage of PM GatiShakti approach for infrastructure planning and area development with Administrative Secretary, Industry and Commerce Vikramjit Singh.

Dawra said that following the completion of two years of PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, significant progress has been seen in adoption of the National Master Plan (NMP) for multimodal infrastructure planning by Ministries and States/UTs.

As of now 39 Central Govern-

ment Departments/Ministries, all 28 States and 8 Union Territories have been onboarded onto the PMGS-NMP with their respective State Master Plans and are utilizing the GIS data layers to plan infrastructure projects.

She informed that, with use of PMGS, MoRTH has planned over 8,891 kms length of roads using NMP. MOR has planned over 27,000 kms on NMP and has reported greater speed in completing Final Location Surveys (FLS) – MOR finalized 427 Final Location Surveys (FLS) in FY' 22 compared to 57 in FY

'21. In the case of Detail Route Survey (DRS) done by MoPNG, it used to take 6-9 months to prepare 46 reports manually but now using NMP through electronic DRS (eDRS) within the click of a button the DRS reports gets created which has made the process simpler and faster.

CS Reviews Performance Of Revenue Department

Directs Avoiding Unnecessary Presence Of Applicants In Patwar Khanas

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Friday held a comprehensive review of the functioning of the Revenue Department here.

At the outset, Chief Secretary was briefed by Secretary, Revenue Department, Dr Piyush Singla about the status of online services of Revenue Department, steps taken for demystification of Revenue records, progress on developing the module for online Girdawari, various key parameters under DILRMP, digitisation and geo-referencing of Cadastral Maps, AGRISTACK, SVAMITVA, ULPIN, utilisation of land for public projects/ purpose among other things.

During the meeting, Chief Secretary stressed on full implementation of

Auto Appeal System for all the online services of the Department to ensure timely delivery of services to common masses. He said that the data regarding pendency under Public Service Guarantee Act, 2011, in delivery of services should be analysed to identify the officers with highest pendency beyond stipulated timelines under the act and taking of strict disciplinary action against them during the vigilance week.

Chief Secretary said that under no circumstances will Patwaris summon / solicit unnecessary physical presence of applicants for online services and in exceptional circumstances, formal notices outlining the cause for which their physical presence is required should be issued.

The Patwaris have also

been directed to maintain a separate register in their offices to record on daily basis the details of persons visiting their offices physically and to outline the purpose of the visit. He further stressed on geo-referencing of cadastral maps of all pending villages and completion of process of pending pass book distribution immediately.

Chief Secretary emphasized that pendency in delivery of online services should be cleared in mission mode. He said that regular feedback of services must be solicited from field functionaries and the applicants to ensure smooth service delivery to the citizens.

Dr. Mehta also took review of several measures taken to streamline the working of the department

and to make the crucial revenue records readily available to public. He took note of the progress made in developing of online Girdawari module. The module is going to enable field functionaries to record seasonal crop details instantly besides ensuring that the Girdawari is done in the field recording geo-coordinates of the respective fields.

Chief Secretary also reviewed progress made in demystification of revenue records so that it is understandable to general public in easy to understand language. He enquired about the GoI sponsored programs like AGRISTACK, SVAMITVA, ULPIN, etc. He made out that the progress in the implementation of these programs should be further fast tracked for the benefit of public at the earliest.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

RESHAM GHAR COLONY, BAKSHI NAGAR, JAMMU - 180001

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

Jammu: 0191-2566528 [f] 2566530
Srinagar: 0194-2312629 [f] 2312631

Subject: Conduct of Written Examination for various posts notified vide Notification Nos

- 30-PSC(DR-P) of 2022 dated 30.12.2022
- 35-PSC (DR-P) of 2023 dated 03.08.2023

NOTICE

DATED: 27-10-2023

In partial modification to Notice dated: 26.10.2023, It is for information of ill the eligible candidates who are appearing in the written test for Librarian with a Degree in Library Science (Central Library)/Assistant Professor, Dentistry notified vide above mentioned advertisement notifications, that the Written Examination (Objective Type) for shortlisting of candidates shall be conducted as per programme given below:

S. No.	Name of the discipline	Date /Session
1.	Librarian with a Degree in Library Science (Central Library) Assistant Professor, Dentistry	29.10.2023 (Sunday) Afternoon Shift 02.30 PM to 04:30 PM

The examination of the above mentioned disciplines shall now be held at Government, Boys Higher Secondary School, Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar and J&K PSC, Examination Hall, Resham Ghar Colony Bakshi Nagar Jammu. Further, the amended Admit cards of these disciplines will be uploaded on the website of the Commission on 27.10.2023 (06.00 PM). However, those candidates who are unable to download their Admit Cards may approach the Commission office by or before 28.10.2023 at Jammu/Srinagar.

Note: The other conditions shall remain same as mentioned in Notice dated 26.10.2023
No: PSC/Exam/AP/H&ME/2023/35
Dated: 27-10-2023.

DIPK-1118/23
DT: 27/10/2023

DR VARNIKA RAJ JKAS
Undersecretary
J&K Public Service Commission

Navigating Diversity

Challenges and Opportunities in Kashmir's Education System

Farooq Shah

“
The absence of diversity in our schools, a consequence of historical strife, has unwittingly cast a shadow over the minds of the young, leaving them bereft of an essential facet of life: understanding the multitude of beliefs that colour our world.

In Kashmir, where once the echoes of different faiths harmonized in the air, a silent transformation has taken place. The absence of diversity in our schools, a consequence of historical strife, has unwittingly cast a shadow over the minds of the young, leaving them bereft of an essential facet of life: understanding the multitude of beliefs that colour our world.

As our educational institutions have become monochromatic, devoid of the vibrant hues of varied faiths, they fail to provide an environment where young minds can naturally absorb the invaluable lessons of acceptance, empathy, and cultural understanding.

In this singular atmosphere, students are denied the opportunity to interact with peers from different backgrounds, missing out on the organic learning that comes from simply observing, understanding, and appreciating the differences that make us human. The implications of this lack of diversity are far-reaching, affecting not only the individual but also society as a whole.

In exploring the repercussions of this educational homogeneity, we unravel a critical truth: the absence of diversity robs us not only of our shared heritage but also of the very essence of what it means to be truly human.

Diversity is the vibrant thread that weaves together a rich, harmonious existence. It paints the world in a multitude of colours, languages, and beliefs, making our human experience infinitely exotic.

Kashmir, once a shining example of religious harmony and coexistence, found itself caught in the tempestuous winds of change in the early 1990s. The repercussions of the armed rebellion altered the social fabric of the region dramatically, leading to the exodus of the Kashmiri Pandits. The departure of this community, which had been an integral part of Kashmiri society for generations, left behind a void that transformed the valley into a monochromatic landscape, where religious diversity became a distant memory.

In the past, Kashmir stood as a beacon of unity, where Pandits and Muslims shared not just a geographical space but a deep-rooted camaraderie. The cultural exchanges were not just limited to festivals and traditions; they were imbibed in the very essence of daily life. This harmonious existence was disrupted, and the subsequent generations grew up in an environment devoid of the enriching presence of multiple faiths.

When different communities coexist, there is an inherent dynamic at play: a healthy competition that sharpens the edges of understanding, knowledge, and perspectives. Much like a knife is sharpened by rubbing its edge against a sharpener of a different make, the interaction between diverse communities triggers a vigorous exchange of ideas, beliefs, and cultural practices.

This interplay not only refines individual understanding but also polishes the collective consciousness of society. Each community, like the different materials of the knife and the sharpener, brings unique attributes, experiences, and viewpoints,



contributing to a shared, nuanced understanding of the world.

When this diversity is eroded, as witnessed in Kashmir post the exodus of the Pandits, the sharpening effect has diminished rather gone forever. The absence of healthy competition in the natural learning setting leaves the edges of knowledge and understanding blunt, leading to a stagnation in intellectual growth and social harmony.

The loss of religious diversity not only deprives individuals of the opportunity to learn from one another but also stifles the potential for innovation, empathy, and cultural enrichment that thrive in the fertile ground of multicultural interaction.

In a world that is becoming increasingly interconnected, the need for cultural and religious understanding is more significant than ever. The rigid, one-dimensional education system in Kashmir fails to prepare its youth for the global stage. As these students step outside the valley for higher education, they are suddenly confronted with a mosaic of beliefs and traditions. Unfamiliar with this diversity, they find themselves ill-equipped to navigate this multicultural world.

The consequences of this lack of exposure are profound. These young minds, unaccustomed to diversity, struggle to adapt and integrate into the broader society.

Unfamiliarity with diversity creates a chasm between these young minds and the broader society they eventually step into. Struggling to adapt, they find themselves ill-equipped to navigate the complexities of a world where differences are not just prevalent but celebrated.

Imagine a student, educated in a religiously homogeneous environment, suddenly encountering a spectrum of beliefs, practices, and traditions beyond the familiar confines of their upbringing.

Such a collision of worlds can be jarring, leading to a sense of alienation and discomfort. These individuals, unaccustomed to the richness of diversity, often face challenges in comprehending viewpoints that differ from their own.

When young individuals, confined within the narrow boundaries

of a monochromatic educational setting, encounter differences outside their familiar scope, it can create a clash of cultures, beliefs, and perspectives. This collision, fueled by ignorance and lack of exposure, can escalate into incidents of violence, ranging from verbal disputes and clashes to more serious scuffles.

These conflicts may, at times, spiral out of control, leading to a hostile atmosphere within educational institutions. Such violent fallout not only affects the immediate individuals involved but also creates a ripple effect, poisoning the overall school environment and hindering the growth of a generation capable of embracing diversity with open minds and hearts.

Education, the cornerstone of societal progress, suffered a severe blow in this altered landscape. Schools, once melting pots of diverse cultures and beliefs, became monotonous echo chambers, resonating with a singular religious narrative. The absence of religious diversity meant that children were denied the opportunity to broaden their horizons, to learn about the myriad ways humanity expresses its spirituality, and to appreciate the beauty in our differences.

In a society that thrives on cooperation, understanding, and mutual respect, their struggle to integrate hampers not only their personal growth but also the harmony of the communities they become a part of. The ripple effect of this struggle resonates far beyond the individual, impacting the very fabric of societal unity. It underscores the urgent need for education to serve as a bridge, connecting diverse perspectives and nurturing a generation capable of embracing differences with open minds and empathetic hearts.

It is high time that we recognize the shortcomings of the current education system and work towards creating an inclusive environment where students are exposed to the richness of human experience. By doing so, we not only empower the next generation to embrace diversity but also pave the way for a more compassionate and harmonious world.

In response to the pressing need for inclusivity in Kashmir's schools, a multi-faceted approach must be

adopted, acknowledging the significance of religious diversity in shaping young minds.

Firstly, standardizing the curricular calendar across educational institutions can ensure that students are exposed to a wide array of religious festivals and cultural events, fostering an environment of acceptance and mutual respect.

Morning assemblies, an integral part of school routines, can serve as a powerful platform for instilling values of tolerance by diversifying their content to include prayers, hymns, or reflections from various faiths.

Additionally, encouraging students to actively engage with different religious themes through skits and plays not only nurtures creativity but also provides an empathetic understanding of diverse beliefs.

However, the transformative potential lies in student exchange programs. Allowing students from different states to spend time studying in each other's schools for a fortnight can provide an immersive experience, breaking down barriers and dispelling misconceptions. Such exchanges facilitate first-hand interactions, enabling students to attend classes, participate in extracurricular activities, and form bonds with peers from diverse backgrounds.

Furthermore, community engagement and parental involvement are pivotal. Workshops and seminars can bring together parents, teachers, and community leaders to share cultural practices and traditions, enriching the learning environment.

Sensitization workshops for teachers are equally crucial, equipping them with inclusive teaching methods and strategies to manage diverse student interactions positively.

By embracing these measures holistically, Kashmir's schools can evolve into inclusive spaces, nurturing generations that not only embrace diversity but also champion it as a source of strength, fostering a harmonious and unified society.

- Author is an educationist and social media influencer. He can be reached at: mfshah@gmail.com



OBSERVER MAIL

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

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

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

A Call for Repentance

At the undersigned Palestinian Christian institutions and grassroots movements, grieve and lament the renewed cycle of violence in our land. As we were about to publish this open letter, some of us lost dear friends and family members in the atrocious Israeli bombardment of innocent civilians on October 19, 2023, Christians included, who were taking refuge in the historical Greek Orthodox Church of Saint Porphyrius in Gaza. Words fail to express our shock and horror with regard to the on-going war in our land. We deeply mourn the death and suffering of all people because it is our firm conviction that all humans are made in God's image. We are also profoundly troubled when the name of God is invoked to pro-

mote violence and religious national ideologies. Further, we watch with horror the way many western Christians are offering unwavering support to Israel's war against the people of Palestine. While we recognize the numerous voices that have spoken and continue to speak for the cause of truth and justice in our land, we write to challenge western theologians and church leaders who have voiced uncritical support for Israel and to call them to repent and change. Sadly, the actions and double standards of some Christian leaders have gravely hurt their Christian witness and have severely distorted their moral judgment with regards to the situation in our land.

We come alongside fellow Christians in condemning all attacks on civilians, especially

defenseless families and children. Yet, we are disturbed by the silence of many church leaders and theologians when it is Palestinian civilians who are killed. We are also horrified by the refusal of some western Christians to condemn the ongoing Israeli occupation of Palestine, and, in some instances, their justification of and support for the occupation. Further, we are appalled by how some Christians have legitimized Israel's ongoing indiscriminate attacks on Gaza, which have, so far, claimed the lives of more than 3,700 Palestinians, the majority of whom are women and children. These attacks have resulted in the wholesale destruction of entire neighborhoods and the forced displacement of over one million Palestinians. The Israeli military has utilized tactics that target

civilians such as the use of white phosphorus, the cutting off of water, fuel, and electricity, and the bombardment of schools, hospitals, and places of worship—including the heinous massacre at Al-Ahli Anglican-Baptist Hospital and the bombardment of the Greek Orthodox Church of Saint Porphyrius

Signed by
Bethlehem Bible College; Sabeel Ecumenical Center for Liberation Theology; Dar al-Kalima University; Al-Liqa Center for Religious, Heritage and Cultural Studies in the Holy Land; The East Jerusalem YMCA; Arab Orthodox Society, Jerusalem etc

ISRAEL-HAMAS

Conflict At Time Of New Geopolitical Divisions Could Worsen Economic Outlook

Daniele Bianchi

Global geopolitical tensions often play a pivotal role in shaping people's perceptions of economic growth. Research shows concern about such issues can cause people and businesses to become more cautious about spending and investing, which can ultimately lead to economic recession.

The recent escalation of the Israel-Palestine conflict is no different. Investors around the world are worried about the repercussions of this war – particularly in light of an already bleak picture for global economic growth.

Hamas's October 7 attack on southern Israel is the latest chapter of a cycle of violence that has been going on in this region for decades and, sadly, seems to have no end in sight. While the reasons behind these events are complex, the conflict's potential immediate and long-term economic ramifications are easier to grasp.

After all, if the Russia-Ukraine war has taught us one thing, it's that we should be mindful of the intricate interdependencies that shape the global economic and geopolitical landscape.

How conflicts can affect the economy

Internal and inter-state conflicts often have a significant effect on stock market indices, exchange rates, and commodity prices – sometimes even sending prices higher in the lead-up to hostilities. The longer-term economic impact is typically more complicated to assess, however. The lasting effects of even seemingly dramatic events on investor behaviour can be hard to predict.

Conflicts in the Middle East tend to lead to spikes in oil prices – think of the OPEC oil embargo of 1973-1974, the Iranian revolution of 1978-1979, the Iran-Iraq War initiated in 1980, and the first Persian Gulf War in 1990-91. Since the region accounts for nearly a third of global oil supply, any instability can create market uncertainty based on concerns about interruptions to global oil supply.



This uncertainty is reflected in the risk premium in oil markets. This is the price paid for oil traded ahead of time in the futures markets versus the real-time price of oil. It reflects the profits that speculators expect to receive from buying and selling oil during a time of conflict, as well as the hedging needs of businesses that produce and consume oil and their concerns about supply and demand.

And so, the effect of the latest Israel-Hamas conflict on global financial markets will depend on the involvement of other major regional powers. If the conflict remains between Israel and Hamas, the effect will probably be limited and arguably exclusive to countries with direct trade exposure to Israel or Palestine.

But if the conflict spreads to major oil-producing nations in the region such as Iran,

the global economy could face severe repercussions as energy costs for businesses and households could spike if supply is interrupted.

Higher energy prices would hamper central banks' efforts to tame inflation pressures in most advanced and emerging economies. If this leads to a "higher for longer" monetary policy that keeps interest rates elevated, it would push up the cost of borrowing and refinancing by governments, companies and people.

History can offer some insights into how the impact on the global economy could unfold under these different scenarios. For instance, the 50-day war between Israel and Hamas in 2014, which killed 2,200 people, mostly civilians, had no significant effect on the global economy or financial markets.

Yet, when Israel and Hezbollah clashed in Lebanon in 2006, oil prices surged globally due to fears of a broader conflict in the Middle East.

What to expect this time

Unfortunately, there is another factor to consider at the moment. The escalation of the Israel-Palestine conflict has happened alongside the realignment of various global alliances. This slow creep of "deglobalisation" can be seen in a shift in trade policies in recent years.

Countries such as the US and UK are relocating economic activity including sourcing or manufacturing products from different countries out of concern about relying on suppliers in potentially hostile regions, as

well as the impact of imports from low-wage countries on struggling local labour markets

At the moment, these shifts can also be seen in the reactions to the Hamas attack on Israel. A two-state solution to the Israel/Palestine conflict was initially laid out by the United Nations in 1947 and reaffirmed in 1974, with almost unanimous support around the world.

But there has been some nuance in the international reactions to the attack. With most western countries quickly voicing support for Israel's right to defend itself, while countries like China and Russia called for a ceasefire without taking a stance on Hamas.

This suggests that the issue of Israel-Palestine could tie in with the broader trend towards the new geopolitical divisions that were already starting to emerge before Hamas's attack.

A prolonged conflict between Israel and Palestine, especially with the involvement of major regional powers, could further accelerate this global realignment and have detrimental consequences for global economic growth.

Under these circumstances, investors are already bracing for increased financial volatility across the board – from stocks and government bonds to commodity markets. So-called safe-haven assets like gold are typically used as protection against overwhelming economic uncertainty. The price of gold has shot up following the latest escalation in the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Financial markets will continue to monitor the conflict between Israel and Hamas for signs of escalation. Anything that pushes oil prices up further will reignite fears of higher inflation.

Unfortunately, this is happening just as many countries were starting to see inflation slow again after two years of persistently high consumer prices.

Daniele Bianchi is Associate Professor of Finance, Queen Mary University of London. This article was first published on The Conversation.

What is the Hunza diet? Is it realistic? Why is the Western world so obsessed with it?

Ashok Malhotra

In a lecture delivered to the University of Pittsburgh in 1921, a colonial medical researcher in British India named Dr Robert McCarrison first made reference to a "Himalayan" people he had encountered. According to him, this group of people had exceptional physiques and low susceptibility to illness, leading them to live for an unusually long time. Later that year, McCarrison published *Studies in Deficiency Disease*. In the book, he confirmed that the Himalayan people he was discussing were the Hunzakuts (henceforth "Hunzas", but these days referred to as the Burusho people) who lived in Gilgit, northwest India (now Pakistan).

McCarrison attributed their longevity to the region's traditional diet, which he claimed was made up of "grains, vegetables, and fruits, with a certain amount of milk and butter, and goat's meat only on feast days". Crucially, the Hunzas consumed simple foodstuffs, unlike the processed and mass-produced food which McCarrison asserted to be commonly eaten in Britain at the time. By McCarrison's reckoning, this diet prevented the "tribe" from suffering the kinds of ailment to which supposedly "civilised" peoples were prone.

Dr Guy Wrench, a British doctor and advocate of preventative medicine, was inspired by McCarrison's work to pen *The Wheel of Health* (1938). Never having visited Hunza himself, he relied upon McCarrison's claims to espouse the supposed health benefits of organic vegetables and to warn against industrialised food production. He also drew on selected European travel accounts and second-hand anecdotal evidence to make complementary claims regarding the Hunzas' physical strength, endurance and intelligence. Like McCarrison, he claimed that these traits stemmed from their dietary choices and agricultural practices. Wrench averred that the Hunzas were predominantly



lactovegetarians who consumed large quantities of fruit, wheat chapatis, pulses, vegetables, dried apricots, milk and milk-based products. Moreover, they either ate vegetables raw or ensured that they did not overboil them, gaining the maximum minerals and vitamins from the plants.

Hunzas, according to Wrench, did not consume foodstuffs and beverages like tea and sugar which were popular in Britain. A common thread running through Wrench's account is that the Hunzas did not consume foods that had been imported from elsewhere or had undergone any mechanised process or chemical adulteration. Such processing, he believed, would have diminished the food's nutritional properties.

Wrench deployed the Hunzas strategically to argue that Britain and other Western industrialised nations should return to the unprocessed and unrefined diets of yesteryear, in order to obtain a higher standard of health for their populations. The Hunzas, in Wrench's account, were

traditional agricultural practitioners. They collected their own faeces and manure from their cattle, and returned them to the soil to ensure its fertility. In this respect, *The Wheel of Health* resonated with the embryonic organic movement that was developing in Britain at this time. Leading figures from this movement, such as the writer and politician Gerard Wallow and the aristocrat Lord Northbourne, as well as the agricultural scientists Albert Howard and Eve Balfour, subsequently hailed the Hunzas as a people who testified to the benefits of holistic farming practices and organic diets.

The idea was also picked up by Jerome Rodale in the United States of America, who repeated many of the same claims in his *The Healthy Hunzas* (1948). Rodale's narrative, however, was further influenced by James Hilton's novel *Lost Horizon* (1933), which depicted a fictional mountainside location in Tibet where people lived on average for several hundred years in a state of contentment, peace and per-

fect health. Rodale constructed Hunza as a veritable Shangri-La where its people experienced similarly high standards of physical health.

In addition, Hunzas were said to suffer from none of the social or psychological problems that prevailed in the USA, such as crime, divorce, juvenile delinquency and anxiety. Rodale attributed this, once again, to the Hunzas' dietary habits and farming practices. In the 1960s came a series of travel accounts by North American authors. These writers were inspired to visit Hunza and spill much ink about this Shangri-La. Book-length examples include *Hunza Land* (1960), *Hunza Health Secrets for Long Life and Happiness* (1964), *Hunza: 15 Secrets of the World's Healthiest and Oldest Living People* (1968), and *Yoga: The Art of Living: Hunza Way to Health* (1969). All these narratives confirmed the notion that Hunza was a paradise on earth, and progressively more exaggerated claims were made during this period. Indeed, the books claimed some of

these Hunzas as the oldest inhabitants of the planet. Renee Taylor in *Hunza Health Secrets for Long Life and Happiness* even stated that she encountered a 145-year-old man energetically playing volleyball. She also asserted that the Hunzas were consummate meditators, expert breathers and yoga practitioners.

It is important to remember that these travellers all came under the sway of the Mir of Hunza Jamal Khan, who ruled Hunza as a semi-autonomous kingdom between 1945 and 1974. Jamal Khan hosted them and supplied them with information during their stays in Hunza. They were always chaperoned during their tours by a member of the Mir's family or his entourage. Since they could not understand the native language Burushaski, they were dependent upon their accompanying translators when seeking to obtain information. The Mir was keen for his own reasons to keep an eye on foreign visitors. Although the North American authors presented *The Hunza Diet* and the Mir as firmly in control of Hunza, his situation was actually more precarious in postcolonial Pakistan.

In 1947, when India was partitioned, Mir Jamal Khan opted to join the State of Pakistan as a semi-autonomous kingdom. However, he was also conscious after Pakistan's Independence that the Pakistani central government would seek to exert greater control over Hunza and take away more of his powers. Yet Jamal Khan was keen to maintain control and autonomy in the wake of external pressures. Consequently, he was invested in catering to the orientalist preconceptions of these North American authors that Hunza was an idyllic region uncontaminated by the deleterious effects of modernisation. Indeed, he sought to promote the notion that any interference from outside could threaten this supposed Shangri-La.

This article was first published on The Conversation.

How Eggs Of Dengue-Carrying Mosquito Survive Found

Press Trust Of India

Eggs of the mosquito that carries the viruses responsible for dengue and Chikungunya can survive extreme dehydration by altering their metabolism, according to a study that offers potential new ways to control the spread of the diseases.

Researchers at the Institute for Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine in Bengaluru and the Indian Institute of Technology, Mandi noted that cells are made mostly of water, and desiccation is a potentially fatal event for any organism, since the structures of many proteins and other cellular molecules are dependent on adequate hydration.

While many types of microbes have evolved mechanisms to survive drying out, only a few animals have. Among them is the mosquito *Aedes aegypti*, the carrier of a variety of viral diseases, including, Zika, dengue, yellow fever, and Chikungunya.

Originally found in North Africa, *Aedes aegypti* has expanded globally, and is now a threat in warm, moist regions



throughout the world.

Aedes eggs require from 48 to 72 hours to hatch into larvae, and the researchers found that they must be at least 15 hours old to survive desiccation. Eggs that were dried out before this stage failed to hatch when rehydrated.

"Given the importance of *Aedes aegypti* as a primary vector for numerous viral dis-

eases that affect nearly half the world's population, as well as the rapid geographical expansion of this mosquito vector, these results provide a foundation for reducing *Aedes* egg survival and global spread," said Sunil Laxman from the Institute for Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine.

"Additionally, some of the

specific inhibitors described here that reduce desiccation resistance in *Aedes aegypti* eggs, as well as new ones affecting other steps in the egg desiccation tolerance pathway, may prove useful as vector-control agents," Laxman said.

The team compared the proteomes of viable eggs that had and had not been desiccated, and

6 Aedes eggs require from 48 to 72 hours to hatch into larvae, and the researchers found that they must be at least 15 hours old to survive desiccation. Eggs that were dried out before this stage failed to hatch when rehydrated.

found multiple major changes in metabolic pathways within the desiccated eggs.

These included increases in the levels of those enzymes that promote fat metabolism, and a decrease in those which together shunted cellular metabolism towards the production and use of fatty acids.

Overall, the level of metabolism was reduced, while the levels of the amino acids arginine and glutamine were increased. In addition, enzymes that reduce the damaging effects of oxidative stress, a known consequence of dehydration, were also increased.

When linked together, arginine molecules form polyamines, which are known to help protect nucleic acids, proteins, and membranes from damage.

The researchers showed that the eggs accumulate polyamines, suggesting that they may be a key aspect of desiccation tolerance.

To test this, they fed egg-laying female mosquitoes an inhibitor of polyamine synthesis. The eggs that they laid were significantly less able to survive desiccation than eggs from untreated females.

A second inhibitor, this one of fatty acid metabolism, also reduced egg viability after desiccation.

Finally, the researchers showed that this fatty acid inhibitor reduced polyamine synthesis, indicating that one role of the increase in fatty acid breakdown is to supply the energy needed for production of protective polyamines.

"*Aedes* mosquito eggs can indefinitely survive after drying up completely, and hatch into viable larvae. The embryos rewire their metabolism upon drying, to protect themselves through desiccation, and revive after water becomes available again," Laxman added.

Concerning Level Of Lead, Cadmium In Chocolate, Finds Study

Reuters

Consumer Reports said on Wednesday it had found "concerning" levels of lead and cadmium in a third of various chocolate products it tested recently, and called on Hershey to reduce the amounts of heavy metals in its chocolate.

The non-profit consumer group said 16 of the 48 products from various makers that its scientists tested contained potentially harmful levels of lead, cadmium or both.

Consumer Reports tested products in seven categories: dark chocolate bars, milk chocolate bars, cocoa powder, chocolate chips, and mixes for brownies, chocolate cake and hot chocolate.

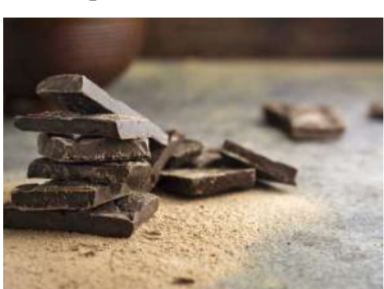
Products found to contain excessive metal content included a dark chocolate bar and hot chocolate mix from Walmart, cocoa powder from Hershey's and Droste, semi-sweet chocolate chips from Target, and hot chocolate mixes from Trader Joe's, Nestle and Starbucks.

Only milk chocolate bars, which have fewer cocoa solids, were found not to contain excessive metal content.

Consumer Reports has said

long-term exposure to the metals can result in nervous system problems, immune system suppression and kidney damage, with greater danger to pregnant women and young children.

The US Food and Drug Administration told the nonprofit that experts consider chocolate a



"minor source of exposure" to lead and cadmium internationally, but that manufacturers and processors remain responsible for ensuring their food's safety.

Wednesday's study followed Consumer Reports' findings last December that 23 of 28 tested dark chocolate bars contained excessive lead or cadmium, including Hershey products sold under its own

brand and the Lily's and Scharffen Berger brands.

Consumer Reports food policy director Brian Ronholm said Hershey, as a "leading and popular brand," should commit to making its chocolate safer. The nonprofit did not on Wednesday ask other manufacturers for the same commitment.

In March, Hershey Chief Financial Officer Steve Voskuil said his company was looking to reduce levels of lead and cadmium, saying the metals are elements in soil that can occur naturally in a chocolate product.

"We would love to eradicate it completely," Voskuil said.

Consumer Reports said more than 75,000 consumers signed an earlier petition for Hershey to reduce heavy metals in its chocolate, and that it is now again petitioning the company.

Hershey referred a request for comment to the National Confectioners Association.

"Chocolate and cocoa are safe to eat and can be enjoyed as treats as they have been for centuries," said Christopher Gindlesperger, a spokesman for the trade group.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION BUDGAM

Engineering Complex, Budgam-191111

Email Id xenrnbdivbud@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
NIT No:- 117/MDB/2023-24/9230-45 DATED: 25.10.2023

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of UT of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders are being invited on an item rate basis / percentage basis (as applicable) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with the J&K Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/ Central Governments for the following works:

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money CDR/ FDR (Rs)	Time of Completion (days)	Class of Contractor	Major Head of account
1.	Impmt/Upgradation of Inner rods of Bagiseer Bala Haran Haripora, Hanjikipora-B and Soibugh by way of GSB and G-II, Upgradation of Kambah Mohalla link from H/O Ab. Majeed Sofi taking off from Warsangam road by way of GSB and Grade-II	83.00	1600/-	166000/-	45	AAY	UT sector (4059)

Project Authority: Chief Engineer, PWD (R&B) Kashmir

Position of AAA: Accorded

Position of TS: Accorded

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	25/10/2023
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	25/10/2023
3.	Bid submission Start Date	25/10/2023
4.	Bid Submission End Date	06/11/2023 upto 4.00 PM.
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online) (Tech. Bids)	07/11/2023 11.00 AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Budgam
6.	Submission of Performance Security (PS)	Within 7days of receipt of LOI. (The bidder as to provide 5% of allotted Cost as Performance Security within 7days after opening of Financial Bid) in shape of CDR/FDR/BG

No: EE/MDB/NIT/9230-45

DIPK-11076/23

DATED:-27-10-2023

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
(R&B) Division Budgam.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Executive Engineer Mechanical And Hospitals Division Srinagar

(Tele-fax No: 019-2496089, e-mail id: xenrmhchdk@yahoo.in)

Subject: - 1. Repairs/replacement of oxygen points and vacuum points in wards 9, ward 16 and ward 11 at Govt. SMHS Hospital, Srinagar
11. Servicing of 250 kva (Kirloskar make) and 250 kva DG set (Cummins make) at Govt. Bone & Joint Hospital Srinagar.
111. General overhauling of hot water generators along with allied works at Govt. Dental College, Srinagar.
Iv. Refilling of ABC/CO2/Mechanical Foam type fire extinguishers at Govt. KNH Hospital Srinagar
v Refilling of fire extinguishers at various locations at Govt. Bone and Joint Hospital Srinagar.
vi. Servicing of 200 kva Cummins make DG set installed at Govt. PD Hospital Srinagar.
vii. Dismantling/servicing and re-installing of split type AC units along with allied works at PD Hospital Srinagar.
VIII. Providing and fitting of 1000 Amp capacity change over at boiler house of Govt. SMHS Hospital Srinagar.
ix. Servicing of 320 kva Kirloskar make DG set installed at Govt. PD Hospital Srinagar.

Ref : 1. This office e- NIT no: M&HDS/TS/2023-24/109/e-tendering Dated 16.10.2023
11. This office e- NIT no: M&HDS/TS/2023-24/111/e-tendering Dated 17.10.2023.
111. This office e- NIT no: M&HDS/TS/2023-24/112/e-tendering Dated 18.10.2023.

EXTENSION

In view of poor/no response, the Critical dates of above subject work(s) tendered vide above referred e-NIT(s) are extended as follows:-

S.No	Description	Date and Time
1.	Last Date of Bid Submission	01.11.2023 (12:00 hrs)
2.	Date of Bid Opening	01.11.2023 (15:00 hrs)

All other Terms and Conditions of the NIT shall remain the same.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Mechanical & Hospitals Division,
Srinagar

No: M&HDS/TS/ 6487-19
DIPK-11052/23
Dated: 27.10.2023

Executive Engineer, Transmission Line Maintt. Division-VIII, Srinagar

Jammu and Kashmir Tele Fax 0194-2491342

Power Development Corporation J & K Srinagar. E- mail: tlmd8jktcl@gmail.com

TIME EXTENSION NOTICE-2

(e-NIT No. TLMD-VIII/TS/13 of 2023 Dated: 22-09-2023.)

No-TLMD-VIII /TS/ 2384-88

Dated: 25 :10 :2023

In view of the repeated requests received from various interesting Bidders besides to ensure better & healthy response, the Critical Dates in respect of e-NIT No. TLMD-VIII/TS/13 of 2023 Dated: 22-09-2023 issued by this Division under endorsement No. TLMD-VIII/TS/2595-99 Dated: 22 :09 :2023 for "Re-Conducting of Existing 220kV D/C New Wopoh - Mir Bazar Transmission Line by HTLS Conductor for Augmentation of Power Carrying Capacity in District Anantnag and Kulgam in Kashmir Valley" are further extended as under.

S.#	Description	Date/Time Extension
1.	Pre Bid Conference in the Office of Chief Engineer (Transmission) JKPTCL Srinagar.	11-11-2023 (2.30PM)
2.	Last Date for Submission of Hard Copies of e-Bid	14-11-2023 (2.00PM)
3.	Online e-Bid Submission End Date (Submission of e-Tender, Tender Fee, EMD & Other qualification / Supporting Documents in PDF Form.	13-11-2023 (4.00PM)
4.	Online Techno Commercial e-Bid Opening Date	14-11-2023 (4.00PM)

(Necessary Corrigendum with respect to certain clarifications requested by the interesting Bidders shall be issued separately)
All other Terms & Conditions as detailed in the e-NIT/SBD shall remain unchanged.

DIPK-NB-3847/23
DATED: 27-10-2023

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
TLMD-VIII, Srinagar.



Tata Group To Manufacture iPhones In India As Wistron Approves \$125 Million Sale

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Tata Group is all set to become the first Indian iPhone maker as Wistron's board has approved the plan for the sale of its India plant to the salt-to-software conglomerate.

In a statement, Wistron said the transaction price is tentatively estimated at USD 125 million.

"Wistron Corp held a Board of Directors meeting today and granted approval for its subsidiaries, SMS InfoComm (Singapore) Pte Ltd and Wistron Hong Kong Ltd to sign the Share Purchase Agreement with Tata Electronics Pvt Ltd (TEPL) for the sale of its 100 per cent indirect stake in Wistron InfoComm Manufacturing (India) Pvt Ltd (WMMI)," Wistron announced in the statement.

On confirmation and signing of relevant agreements by both sides, the deal will proceed to obtain necessary approvals.

"Following the completion of the transaction, Wistron will make the required announce-

ments and filings in accordance with applicable regulation," it noted.

The plant of Wistron is located near Bengaluru.

The announcement by Wistron was shared by Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar in a post on X (formerly Twitter).

"@TataCompanies will now start making iPhones from India for domestic and global markets from India," Chandrasekhar said, congratulating the Tata team for taking over Wistron operations.

"Thank you @Wistron for your contributions, and great going for Apple in building a global supply chain from India with Indian companies at its helm," Chandrasekhar said in the post.

The IT Ministry, he said, stands fully in support of the growth of global Indian electronics companies that will, in turn, support global electronic brands who want to make India their trusted manufacturing and talent partner.

Ambani Scions Get Shareholder Nod, Attend Maiden Reliance Board Meeting



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's three children on Friday attended the board meeting of Reliance Industries Ltd soon after they won shareholders' nod to be a director on the board of India's most valuable company.

All three - twins Akash and Isha, and Anant - attended the meeting of the board of directors called to approve second quarter (July-September) earnings of Reliance Industries Ltd, company officials said.

Akash was in the national capital in the forenoon, attending the India Mobile Congress, where Jio, a unit of Reliance, unveiled a satellite broadband service to broaden internet access to the remotest corners of the country.

The three got shareholder nod through a postal ballot, setting in motion a succession plan at India's most valuable company.

While twins Akash and Isha, 32, got more than 98 per cent of the votes for a board seat, Anant, 28, whose appointment had been opposed by proxy advisory firms because of his young age, managed to get 92.7 per cent votes, according to a stock exchange filing of the company.

Company chairman Mukesh Ambani, 66, had at the company's annual shareholders meeting in August announced that his three children Akash, Isha and Anant would be inducted into Reliance's board of directors (BoD).

He had also stated that he would continue to be the chairman and CEO of the company for five more years, with a focus on grooming and empowering its 'next-gen' leaders.

Thereafter, Reliance sent out a postal ballot to shareholders seeking a nod for their appointment to the board of directors of the company. The results of the shareholder vote were posted by Reliance on Friday.

Retail Onion Price Up 57%; Centre Steps Up Buffer Onion Sale To Provide Relief To Consumers



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: As all-India average retail onion price shoots up by 57 per cent to Rs 47 per kg, the Centre on Friday decided to step up the sale of buffer onion at a subsidised rate of Rs 25 per kg in retail markets in order to provide relief to consumers.

The all-India average retail price of onion rose to Rs 47 per kg on Friday, from Rs 30 per kg in the year-ago period, as per the data maintained by the consumer affairs ministry.

In the national capital, retail price of onion was at Rs 40/kg on Friday as against Rs 30/kg in the year-ago period, the data showed.

"We have been offloading buffer onions since mid-August and we are stepping up the retail sale in order to

check further rise in prices and provide relief to the consumers," Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh told PTI.

According to the ministry, onion is being offloaded from the buffer stock in both wholesale and retail markets in states where there is a sharp rise in prices. Since mid-August, about 1.7 lakh tonne of buffer onion has been offloaded in 22 states at different locations.

In retail markets, buffer onion is being offloaded through two cooperative bodies NCCF and NAFED outlets and vehicles at a subsidised rate of Rs 25 per kg. In Delhi too, buffer onion is being sold at this subsidised rate.

A senior ministry official said the delay in kharif onion sowing due to weather reasons has resulted in less

coverage and late arrival of the crop.

The fresh kharif onion should have started arriving by now but it has not. With stored rabi onion getting exhausted and delay in arrival of kharif onion, there is a tight supply situation, resulting in price increase in both wholesale and retail markets, the official added.

He also mentioned that the government has doubled the buffer onion stock for the current year and this should improve domestic availability and check prices in the coming days.

For 2023-24 fiscal year, the consumer affairs ministry through NCCF and NAFED has maintained a buffer onion stock of 5 lakh tonne and plans to procure additional 2 lakh tonne onion in the coming days.

FinMin Notifies Prospective Levy Of GST On Corporate Guarantees

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The finance ministry has issued a notification stating goods and services tax will be levied on guarantees provided by corporates to their subsidiaries prospectively.

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) council, comprising central and state finance ministers, had earlier this month clarified on the taxability of corporate guarantee, saying it would be subject to 18 per cent GST.

Tax experts had then sought clarity on GST levy on past transactions as many companies might not be able to recover the tax from subsidiaries or group companies.

The finance ministry on Thursday notified amendments to Central GST rules, saying that the corporate guarantee would be taxable from the date of the notification.



GST at 18 per cent will be levied on 1 per cent of the total amount guaranteed by the parent company or the actual consideration, whichever is higher, the notification said.

"This prospective modification shall have no bearing on transactions executed prior to October 26, consequently preserving the tax risk associ-

ated with past transactions," AMRG & Associates Senior Partner Rajat Mohan said.

Corporate entities must carefully evaluate their tax position when reviewing or renewing corporate guarantees and within lending agreements where contractual constraints prevent the assessment of consideration, Mohan added.

Govt Extends Deadline For Halal Certification Body Accreditation And Export Unit Registration

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The government on Friday extended the time period for accreditation of halal certification bodies and registration of export units by six months till April 5, 2024.

On April 6 this year, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) notified policy conditions for halal certification process for meat and meat products while directing the existing bodies to seek accreditation from National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB) for i-CAS (Indian Conformity Assessment Scheme) Halal in six months.

"Time period for accreditation of halal certification bodies and registration of export units have been extended by a period of six months i.e., up to April 5, 2024," the DGFT said in a notification.

DGFT is an arm of the ministry which deals with exports and import-related issues.

As per the guidelines, meat and its products are allowed to be exported as 'halal certified' only if they are produced, processed and packaged in a facility having a valid certificate issued by a body accredited by a board of the Quality Council of India.

They have to seek accreditation from NABCB.

Products covered under the notification include meat of bovine animals, fish and chilled meat of sheep and goats; and sausages and similar meat



products.

To streamline the certification of meat and meat products as halal from the country, a scheme titled 'India Conformity Assessment Scheme (i-CAS)' has been developed.

Earlier, there was no mandatory halal certification system in India regulated by the government as the country does not have a national regulation for the certification.

The global halal food market reached a value of USD 197.8 billion in 2021. Looking ahead, the market is projected to reach USD 3,907.7 billion by 2027.

In India, the country's halal industry is still in its infancy. There are no specific labelling requirements for halal food products imported to India.

Halal certification is given by many private companies in the country, marking the food or products as permissible.

The major halal-certifying organisations in the country include Halal India Pvt Ltd and Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind Halal Trust.

The International Halal Accreditation Forum (IHAFF) is an international network of accreditation bodies mandated to enforce halal standards in their economies.

Jio Launches Satellite-Based Gigabit Broadband To Provide Hi-Speed Connectivity To Remote Locations

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Reliance Jio on Friday announced it has successfully demonstrated India's first satellite-based giga-fibre service to provide high-speed broadband services to previously inaccessible geographies within India.

Jio demonstrated JioSpaceFiber, its new satellite broadband, at the India Mobile Congress on Friday.

Chairman of Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd Akash Ambani also showcased Jio's indigenous technology and products, including JioSpaceFiber, to Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Jio pavilion at the event.

The service will be available across the length and breadth of the country at highly affordable prices, the company said in a release.

Jio currently delivers high-speed broadband fixed line and wireless services to over 450 million Indian consumers.

"To accelerate digital inclusivity for every household in India, Jio has added JioSpaceFiber to its premier lineup of broadband services, JioFiber



and JioAirFiber," the release said.

The satellite network will also support additional capacity for mobile backhaul, further enhancing the availability and scale of Jio 5G in the remotest parts of the country.

Jio is partnering with SES to access the world's latest in medium earth orbit (MEO) satellite technology, the only MEO constellation capable of delivering truly unique Gigabit, fibre-like services from space.

"With Jio having access to a combination of SES's O3b and new O3b mPOWER satellites, it is the only company that offers game-changing technology, providing scalable and affordable broadband across all of India with a level of guaranteed reliability and service flexibility that is a first in the industry," Jio said.

Sensex, Nifty Rebound Over 1 Pc After Six Sessions Of Losses

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty on Friday reversed their six-session losing streak and rebounded more than 1 per cent on value-buying in auto, IT, financial and energy stocks.

Better-than-expected quarterly financial results of corporates also boosted investor sentiments even as uncertainties persisted over the escalating tensions in the Middle East, according to analysts.

In a largely range-bound trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex rose 634.65 points or 1.01 per cent to settle at 63,782.80 points. During the session, it swung between a high of 63,913.13 points and a low of 63,393.37 points.

Likewise, the wider gauge Nifty surged 202.45 points or 1.07 per cent to 19,059.70 points.

"Domestic equities ended higher following positive global cues. The US Q3 GDP data came in at a two-year high of 4.9 per cent, which was better than the expectation of 4.2 per cent and shows strong US economy resilience.

"Even on the domestic front,

heavyweights like Maruti, Cipla and Dr Reddy came out with robust results during the session, which boosted investor sentiments," Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.

Axis Bank was the biggest gainer in the Sensex pack, rising 3.07 per cent, followed by HCL Tech, SBI, NTPC, Tata Motors, Nestle India, and Infosys.

Shares of index heavyweight Reliance Industries witnessed heavy buying as it surged 1.75 per cent to close at Rs 2,265.25 apiece. The company will announce its quarterly financial numbers after market hours.

Maruti Suzuki India on Friday reported a whopping 80.3 per cent increase in net profit at Rs 3,716.5 crore in the July-September quarter driven by better sales, softening commodity prices, cost reduction efforts and higher non-operating income.

On the other hand, Asian Paints, Ultratech Cement and ITC were the laggards.

"The domestic market recovered well compared to yesterday's sharp corrections, due to

restrained FII selling, along with moderation in currency and global bond yield volatility.

"To date, the Q2 results outcome is decent, which is in line with the buoyant estimate. Yet, the market is not enthusiastic as we are at the cusp of earnings downgrade in anticipation of a further slowdown in the world economy due to elevated interest rates and geopolitical risk," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Jeojit Financial Services, said.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge gained 1.70 per cent, and the smallcap index rose 1.89 per cent.

All the sectoral indices ended in the green, utility gained 2.22 per cent, power jumped 2.04 per cent, services (1.79 per cent), industrial (1.63 per cent), realty (1.63 per cent) and IT (1.36 per cent).

In six trading sessions till October 26, Sensex had declined 3,279.94 points.

"Asian markets mostly rose after data showed the US economy was growing robustly and as robust forecasts from Amazon.com and Intel, along with a pull-back in Treasury yields lifted megacaps.

Income Tax Dept Sensitises Officers About Taxation, Financial Matters

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Income Tax Department and the office of the Deputy Commissioner on Friday organised an outreach and sensitisation program to promote awareness and understanding of taxation and financial matters.

During the program, Deputy Commissioner Income Tax Jammu, Dr. Mohnish Digra, along with Income Tax Officer Jammu, Rajneesh Gupta, led an interactive session with the Drawing and Disbursing Officers and Assistant Accounts Officers representing different departments.

Dr. Mohnish Digra, emphasised the importance of financial literacy and underscored India's aspiration to become a developed nation by 2047. He highlighted the consistent increase in net Direct Tax collections and the number of income tax return filed over the years.

Furthermore, Dr. Mohnish Digra, addressed the audience regarding a concerning trend of claiming wrongful deductions to secure fraudulent refunds, leading to losses for the government. DDOs were sensitised about their role in verifying the legitimacy of such deductions

by employees, with a reminder that the Income Tax Department closely monitors such cases.

Rajneesh Gupta, stressed the serious consequences of claiming fraudulent refunds, including scrutiny of cases, tax recovery and the imposition of penalties under section 270A, amounting to 200% of the evaded tax. He noted that such actions can lead to prosecution under section 276C of the Income Tax Act, potentially resulting in rigorous imprisonment of up to seven years.

Gupta also informed the audience about the available remedies for rectifying errors, such as filing updated returns under section 139(8A) of the IT Act for Assessment Years 2021-22 and 2022-23, with the payment of 50% and 25% penalties, respectively, in addition to the tax. Revision of ITR for Assessment Year 2023-24 can be done without any penalty.

Throughout the program, interactions took place, addressing various issues related to the accurate filing of ITRs, the utilisation of the Income Tax chatbot, different deductions available under the Income Tax Act of 1961 and the benefits of tax calculation under both the old and new tax regimes.

'GI Tag Has Opened New Window To Saffron At National, Int'l Levels'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal Friday visited Saffron fields of Pampore and took stock of the saffron harvesting activities and interventions by the department.

The Director impressed upon the field officers to work in close coordination with the saffron farmers and ensure that proper guidance is provided to the farmers during the pre and post harvesting (flower picking) operations.

He said that department is working to bring more newer areas under saffron cultivation and added that GI tag has opened new window to Kashmir saffron at national and international levels.

Iqbal impressed upon the saffron growers to take benefit from the latest facilities and technological interventions available at India International Kashmir Saffron Trade Centre (IIKSTC).

Later, the Director held an interactive meeting with a central team on saffron crop. The meeting discussed the overall scenario of saffron crop in Kashmir division and an exchange of ideas took place among the participants of meeting.

Joint Director Agriculture Extension GM Dhobi, Dy Director National Horticulture Board, representatives of central team on saffron crop, were also present in the meeting.



CS Flags Off J&K Contingent Of Amrit Kalash Yatra For New Delhi

83 Lakh People Participated In Nearly 2 Month Long 'Amrit Kalash Yatra' Journey

Observer News Service

Jammu: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta Friday flagged off Amrit Kalash Yatra under "Meri Mati Mera Desh" (Mitti Ko Naman Veeron Ko Vandan) to New Delhi at Conventional Centre Jammu here.

Those who were present included Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Home, R K Goel; Commissioner Secretary GAD, Sanjeev Verma; Secretary Culture, Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, other Administrative Secretaries, IGP Jammu, Div Com Jammu, DC Jammu and senior officers of civil and police administration besides a large number of members of PRIs across the UT.

The program was started with the lighting of traditional lamp by the Chief guest and other dignitaries.

On the occasion, the Chief Secretary also administered a Pledge on PanchPran (Pratigya) with the participants including developed country by 1947.

Chief Secretary and other dignitaries also kept some Mitti in the Kalash (pot) under 'muthibharmitti' during the program. He called it a symbolic step to show the solidarity with other countrymen of our great nation.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Secretary said that 83 lakh people from Jammu and Kashmir participated in Meri Maati Mera Desh that is highest participation on the basis of population ratio of the States/UTs of the country. He called this achievement remarkable and appreciated all who took make this a reality.

Dr Mehta also appreciated the concerned departments for making this a



grand success in the UT. He said a large number of events were conducted at panchayat and block levels. During the program, Mitti (soil) was collected

from every household and was mixed to celebrate the rich cultural, linguistic and social diversity of the country. Chief Secretary maintained that the

UT has attained top most status in various fields by virtue of the commitment of both people and administration together. He made out that each household of J&K should feel proud of this brisk pace of development which the UT has made during the past couple of years.

Dr Mehta observed that the UT has now made it an attribute to figure among top most performers in the country in almost all of the programs carried out at national level.

Earlier, Secretary Culture, Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah also highlighted the activities carried out during the first phase of this event at panchayat and block level. He also addressed the representatives who are scheduled to participate in the final program at New Delhi on 31st of this month.

Earlier, the Chief secretary also kickstarted a plantation drive as part

of 'Vasudha Vandhan' by planting a tree in the campus. He also unveiled a Shilphalakam in the same premises to celebrate the creation of highest number of these structures in the UT.

It is to be mentioned here that this Amrit Kalash yatra contains mitti from each household and collected at block level and is to be taken to New Delhi by a volunteer for creation of a national monument to be called AmritVatika.

The Chief Secretary complimented all stakeholders for successful culmination of this year long program. The J&K contingent comprises of nearly 400 volunteers from each block and ULB of the UT. The teams shall be led by officers from culture and District level nodal officers for smooth movement of this yatra to the National Capital.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Border Flares

gun fire and targeted our posts. Around 1 am the Rangers again fired and targeted BSF posts, leading to an exchange of fire," the statement said.

Firing continued till 2:45 am, it said.

The BSF said the condition of the injured jawan was stable while material damage was being ascertained.

The intermittent exchange of fire between Pakistani Rangers and BSF personnel along the International Border in Arnia and RS Pura sectors of Jammu district ended early Friday.

Scores of families that had fled the border hamlets overnight after the unprovoked firing by Pakistani Rangers have now started returning to their homes.

Cross-Border Shelling

in the Arnia area and lasted for around seven hours.

A BSF jawan and a woman were injured in the Pakistani firing, while several houses were damaged by the shelling, officials said.

Ishant Saini's brother Deepak told PTI, "We are feeling sorry for the guests who left in panic without enjoying the feast after being informed about Pakistani shelling in our village."

He said that they had to make last-minute changes to some of the marriage rituals as well. "As per our tradition, the 'phere' was supposed to be performed at the bride's house. But since it is located near the zero line, we decided to perform this important ritual at this venue as well," Deepak told PTI at the marriage hall.

"This is the time for harvesting paddy. But the Pakistani firing forced the labourers to flee. It is after a gap of four to five years that our village came under (mortar) shelling from Pakistan," said Deepak Choudhary, a local of Nai Basti village.

He said that at least half a dozen shells landed in the village, leaving her relative Rajni Bala injured. She is now undergoing treatment at the Government Medical College Hospital in Jammu.

The house of Pawan Kumar of Buley Chek village near the zero line also suffered damage due to the explosion of a mortar shell.

"We had forgotten about the cross-border shelling... now we are in panic as the underground bunkers are not in proper condition," he said.

Vijay Kumar, a soldier who had come to his village on leave said, "We had to leave our village as we cannot take shelter in underground bunkers which have not been used for a long time. How long will we tolerate shelling from Pakistan?"

He said since this is the season of weddings, people initially took the sound of firing as the bursting of firecrackers but as the intensity grew, they fled for safety.

Highlighting the need for upkeep of the underground bunkers, Vijay Kumar said these have turned into dens of snakes and poisonous insects.

These shelters must be cleaned immediately and must have an electricity supply, he said.

Rupali Devi, who along with her husband also left their village, said all the people residing in the border areas do not have access to underground bunkers.

"We have not thought of a situation where we have to leave our homes again. While I am outside the village, many of my family members are there. Thankfully they are safe," another local Sohan said.

Students Take

Pakistan last night.

"The school falls within the range of Pakistani shelling and most of the 50-odd students did not turn up in view of the tense situation. However, those who did were accommodated inside the underground bunker within the school premises," Anju Seth, a teacher from the school, said. In all, 15 students took classes in the bunker.

She said the school got numerous phone calls from panic-stricken parents since morning. "We told them that it was their call whether they wanted to send their wards to the school, and that the management had decided to hold the classes in the bunker for the safety of the students for the time being."

Sethi said the government has built underground bunkers for the border residents for a purpose and "we are using the facility for the benefit of the children."

Himankshi Devi, a class 8 student, said her family decided to move to a safer place after the heavy shelling by Pakistan.

"We were frightened by the shelling but I motivated them to stay back. I want to attend my school otherwise my studies will get impacted," she said, adding, "my fear was gone when I reached the school and our classes

shifted to an underground bunker."

Her classmate Shravan Kumar, who wants to be a soldier, said he will continue to go to school, come what may.

"Ceasefire or no ceasefire, life on the border will continue, so we have to adjust with the situation and ensure that we do not miss our classes," he said.

Nidhi, also a class 8 student, said she wants to join the police force and staying home serves no purpose.

"We used to attend our classes in underground bunkers some five years back when there were frequent ceasefire violations. We have enjoyed peace on the border since and hope there is no more firing so that we can attend our classes normally," she said.

Shutdowns, Stone-Pelting

in world development and we are slowly moving in this direction of making this era the era of our nation," he added.

Sopore Man Gets

committed offence u/s 138 read with section 142 of Negotiable Instruments Act. Therefore, (the) accused is convicted for commission of offence u/s 138 Negotiable Instruments Act only," the court said and sentenced him to undergo simple imprisonment for a period of six months.

The court also sentenced him by way of fine to the tune of rupees double the cheque amount which equals to Rs.6, 52,000.

"The fine imposed shall be recovered by issuance of levy warrant to be executed by District Collector Baramulla authorizing him to realize the total amounting to Rs 6,52,000 (Six Lacs Fifty two thousand) by execution/attachment through civil process against both movable and immovable property of the accused," the court said and directed District Collector Baramulla to file compliance report within one month.

According to the plea, the complainant had paid advance money to the accused in connection with apple business. However after a few years, the business ties did not remain the same and finally after the settlement of accounts, an amount of Rs. 3,26,000 (Three lac Twenty Six thousand) were found outstanding against the accused. The accused had issued a cheque to the complainant in 2020 which was dishonoured.

2014 Not A Date

"Everyone knows what happened during the 2G (telecom spectrum allocation during the UPA government). During our government, 4G was expanded but there was no stain on us," he said. "I am confident that India will lead the world in 6G technology."

Modi took swipes at the Congress-led UPA, saying just like outdated phones whose frozen screens won't work no matter how many swipes were done or buttons pressed, the previous government too was in such a perpetual frozen state.

"A restart, or charging the battery or even changing the battery did not work," he said.

The same was true for the government of that time, he said. "The Indian economy and the then government were in the perpetual hang or frozen mode."

"In 2014, people gave up such outdated phones and gave us an opportunity to serve the country," he said.

Modi said the coming to power of his government led to a sea change - "At that time we were importers of mobile phones. Now we are an exporter of mobile phones. At that time our presence in mobile manufacturing was negligible. Now we are the world's second biggest mobile phone manufacturer. Then there was no clear vision on electronics manufacturing. Today we are exporting around Rs 2 lakh crore worth of electronics."

Recently, Google announced that they will make their Pixel phones in India. This comes on the back of Samsung already making its Fold-5 and Apple manufacturing iPhone-15 in India, he said. "Today we all are proud that the entire world is using made in India mobile phones."

India Mobile Congress (IMC) is the largest telecom, media, and technology forum in Asia. The IMC 2023 aims to strengthen India's position as a developer, manufacturer, and exporter of key cutting-edge technologies. During the programme, the prime minister awarded 100 '5G Use Case Labs' to educational institutions across the country.

Modi said the 5G rollout surprised the world. "India moved from the 5G rollout stage to 5G reach out stage," he said.

Within one year of 5G rollout, the prime minister said 4 lakh 5G base stations, which cover more than 97 per cent of the cities and 80 per cent of the population, have been installed.

The speed of median mobile broadband speeds have increased 3 times within one year and India moved from the 118th position to the 43rd position in terms of broadband speed. "India is not only expanding the 5G network in the country but also laying emphasis on becoming a leader in 6G," he said.

He said beyond ranking and numbers, improvement in internet connectivity and speed leads to enhanced ease of living. He narrated the benefits of improved connectivity and speed in education, medicine, tourism, and agriculture.

"We believe in the power of democratization. The benefit of development should reach every section and region, everyone should benefit from the resources in India, everyone should have a life of dignity and the benefit of technology should reach everyone. We are working rapidly in this direction," he said. "For me, this is the biggest social empowerment."

He went on to state that "access to capital, access to resources and access to technology" is a priority for our government. Collateral-free loans under the Mudra scheme, access to toilets, and DBT through JAM Trinity are steps in that direction.

The prime minister emphasized that India's startup ecosystem has made a significant place for itself in the world in the last few years. "India has made a century of unicorns in fairly less time and has now become one of the top 3 startup ecosystems in the world."

Before 2014, India was home to only a few hundred startups which have now grown to about one lakh.

Prime Minister Modi also touched upon the 'Aspire' programme, an initiative by the IMC to mentor startups in the country and exuded confidence that the step will hugely benefit the youth of India.

He stressed on the need to take the success in mobile and electronics manufacturing even further. "For the success of both hardware and software in the tech ecosystem, it is important that we build a strong semiconductor manufacturing sector in India," he said, adding the Rs 80,000 crore PLI scheme is going on for the development of semiconductors.

Today, semiconductor companies around the world are investing in semiconductor assembly and testing facilities in collaboration with Indian companies.

India's semiconductor mission is moving forward with the vision of meeting not only its domestic demand but also the needs of the world, he added.

Prime Minister Modi also highlighted threats from cybersecurity and the safety of network infrastructure.

He lamented the missed opportunities when it came to the adoption of new technologies in the past.

"This period of the 21st century is the time of India's Thought Leadership," he said and urged thought leaders to create new domains which can be followed by others.

He gave the example of the UPI which is leading the entire world in the digital payments system today. "India has the power of young demography and the power of vibrant democracy."

The 100 5G labs initiative is an endeavour to realize the opportunities associated with 5G technology by encouraging the development of 5G applications which cater, both to India's unique needs as well as the global demands.

The unique initiative will foster innovation across various socioeconomic sectors like education, agriculture, health, power, transportation etc, and propel the country into the forefront of usage of 5G technology.

'India Most Favourite

Kashmir, here on Friday.

Speaking on India's emergence as a strong economic power, the LG said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government policies and programmes for holistic development have put the economy on a sustainable path of high-growth and shaping the economic trajectory of India.

"Today, India is the most favourite destination for trade and investment and we continue to be the fastest-growing economy in the world. With the vision of inclusive, progressive and sustainable growth, it is being ensured that fruits of our development percolate to the grassroots," he said.

He called for collective efforts to unlock the potential of growth-oriented sectors and put a special focus on job creation, infrastructure and investment, women empowerment, MSMEs, skill development, health and nutrition, which are the important pillars of India 2.0.

Sinha also shared the socio-economic reforms introduced in various sectors over the

past few years to bring J&K at par with other developed regions in the country.

"We have prepared a blueprint for Governance @ 2047 and are executing comprehensive strategies to meet the future goals in key sectors like education, health, human resource, industry, infrastructure, connectivity, tourism, agriculture & allied sectors," he said.

He also commended the important contribution of IEASA in improving the understanding of the development process and economic policies of the country.

Earlier, the LG in his address appreciated the endeavour of the Indian Economics & Allied Services Association for deliberation on India's development strategy of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat, development issues of J&K, Ladakh and tribal population in India and comprehensive analysis of policy measures towards the achievement of Viksit Bharat by 2047, during the three-day conference.

Prof Sudhakar Panda, IEASA and Dr Alok Kumar Secretary IEASA also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the key features of the annual conference.

LG also released the Conference Souvenir on the occasion.

Swain Given

Jammu and Kashmir, in addition to his existing charge with effect from November 1, 2023 and until further order," the order said.

Swain, who served as police chief of both the winter and summer capitals - Jammu and Srinagar - had an extensive tenure of 15 years on central deputation. He was also the SSP of Ramban, Poonch and Leh.

The officer returned to the state cadre in 2020, where he was elevated as Intelligence Chief this year in June, replacing senior IPS officer B Srinivas, who has now been posted as DGP Puducherry.

Presently serving as the Intelligence Chief of the Union Territory, Swain had also served in the J&K Vigilance organisation in 2004-06 as AIG and DIG.

Doctors Alarmed

Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

"This generally happens when drug users exchange needles or other related equipment while injecting drugs, and when their judgment is clouded by drugs and they engage in unprotected intercourse with an infected partner," he said.

"His brain and behavior are severely affected by drug addiction to the point that a drug addict loses self-control. Drug abuse can accelerate the spread of HIV and aggravate its symptoms, particularly in the brain. A drug addict is sexually more active than an average person and being high on drugs they don't even bother to use protection while having an intercourse," he added.

Expressing serious concern over the rising drug menace among youngsters in the Valley, renowned virologist and president Doctors Association of Kashmir (DAK), Dr Nisar-ul-Hassan said the drug abusers are more vulnerable to viral infections, including HIV and hepatitis B and C.

"Needles and syringes are potential sources of Hepatitis C for a drug addict. The Hepatitis C virus is more likely to spread when needles and syringes are shared or reused because they can hold more blood after used than syringes with fixed needles," Dr Nisar told Kashmir Observer.

Hepatitis B virus (HBV), he said, uses both direct and indirect processes to help in the development of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC).

"Living with a chronic infection of either the hepatitis B or hepatitis C virus raises chances of developing liver cancer. Hepatitis B infection-related inflammation can result in cirrhosis, or significant liver scarring, which can compromise the liver's capacity to function," the DAK president added.

He said that SMHS hospital receives an increased number of Hepatitis B and C patients on a daily basis who use drugs, and that any laxity on the patient's side vis-à-vis treatment might result in his premature and unexpected death.

"A drug user is more susceptible to HIV-AIDS in addition to hepatitis C and B because they inject drugs more often using contaminated syringes. Hepatitis C and B are on the rise in the Kashmir Valley, with worrisome rates," he said.

ECI Orders

the website of the Chief Electoral Officer, J&K (ceojk.nic.in) for the information of all concerned", notice reads. "Assistant Electoral Registration Officer (Migrant) in Delhi, Jammu & Udhampur shall receive the claims and objections from the Kashmiri Migrants living within their jurisdiction as per the schedule mentioned above", it adds.

The notice further reads that all individuals who are 18 years of age or above as on 01-01-2024 can get their names enrolled in the electoral rolls by filing Form No. 6 used for registration of new electors. It adds that Form-7 can be used for objections to proposed inclusion/for deletion of name in existing electoral roll, Form-8 can be used for multiple purposes like correction of any particulars in the roll, shifting of residence (within or outside constituency), replacement of EPIC, and marking of person with disability and Form 6B can be used for capturing Aadhaar number of the existing electors.

The notice also reads that in addition to above, all those who shall be attaining the age of eligibility on the remaining three qualifying dates, i.e 1st April, 1st July and 1st October, 2024 can also submit their advance claims and the Forms & Draft Electoral Roll can be downloaded at www.ceojk.nic.in.

Further, the notice reads that the claims and objections can be filled in both online as well as offline mode. For online filing of claims/objections, one can log on to Voter's Service Portal (voterseci.gov.in) or download voter helpline app (VHA) and for offline mode, the concerned BLO/AERO/ERO can be contacted, it adds.

The notice also reads that all stakeholders are requested to participate in the revision exercise in order to ensure that the maximum number of eligible voters are enrolled in the Electoral Rolls.

Pesky Power Cuts

the power scenario is adding to the losses every day," he said.

Meanwhile, Principal Secretary Power Development Department (PDD), H Rajesh Prasad said that the electricity to the consumers is being supplied as per the power demand in both the divisions of Jammu & Kashmir.

The Principal Secretary said that the power demand at present in Kashmir is 1200 MWs while in Jammu it is 1100 MWs, which fluctuates, but the supply is being ensured as per the demand.

Compared to last year, adequate electricity is being supplied to the people at this time as the power cuts have reduced, he said, adding that as and when the power demand increases, more electricity will be procured to ensure adequate electricity to the consumers.

"In a meeting held today, the officials were asked to strictly adhere to the power curtailment," he said when asked about the complaints of erratic power supply to the people-(KNO)

Dry Weather

"Overall, no major wet spell for the next ten days in Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

Wanted Criminal

Bishna and Kishtwar, they said.

Bengali Tourist

have started further proceedings in this regard.

Jammu Bans Bovine

bulls, calves etc cannot be transported from Jammu to other districts except with permission from the District Magistrate or Additional District Magistrate, Jammu.

This order shall come into force with immediate effect and shall remain in force for a period of two months from the date of its issuance till the same is rescinded, whichever is earlier.

PM Modi Wishes

the test of time," he added.

Tiger Kills

way to Kota from Jaipur and would visit the hospital where Nagar's body has been kept.

An employee of Abhedha Biological Park, who did not wish to be named, said Nagar's neck was dislocated in the attack.

"The gate of the enclosure was most likely left open or was loosely bolted after the caretaker sprayed the medicine on the tiger. When he was leaving, the tiger, which was uneasy due to the medicine, attacked him. The caretaker's neck was dislocated in the incident," the employee said.

As people raised an alarm, the tiger went back to its cage. Nagar was rushed to the hospital, where doctors declared him dead, he added.

Abhedha Biological Park incharge Sunil Gupta said the tiger has been undergoing treatment for an injury.

The caretaker sprayed medicine every day on the tiger's injury, he said.

The caretaker's body has been kept in the mortuary for post-mortem examination, the officials said.

Upbeat Australia Take On Formidable New Zealand

Press Trust of India

DHARAMSALA: An upbeat Australia will look to maintain their winning momentum and extend their dominant record against New Zealand in the World Cup, when the Trans-Tasman rivals face each other in a block-buster clash here on Saturday.

Australia bounced back from a poor start -- defeats against hosts India and South Africa -- with three wins on the trot, including a record 309-run thumping of the Netherlands in their last outing to sound warning bells to their opponents.

Entering a crucial phase in the tournament, the five-time champions are currently placed at fourth position, one spot behind New Zealand after five games each. And the Pat Cummins-led side would look to carry forward the momentum and strengthen their position in the top four.

Even though New Zealand have been one of the top teams in the competition, their ordinary bilateral ODI and World Cup against Australia makes Cummins and Co



the favourites.

With eight wins and three losses in 11 matches in World Cups so far and overall 95 wins and 39 losses in 141 ODIs, Australia have historically been the better team in the Trans-Tasman rivalry.

The fact that New Zealand's last ODI win over Australia came six years ago in 2017 would also have a great bearing

on the contest here, to be played at the picturesque HPCA Stadium.

Teams (from):

Australia: Pat Cummins (c), Steve Smith, Alex Carey, Josh Inglis, Sean Abbott, Ashton Agar, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Mitch Marsh, Glenn Maxwell, Marcus Stoinis, David Warner,

New Zealand: Kane Williamson (c), Trent Boult, Mark Chapman, Devon Conway (wk), Lockie Ferguson, Matt Henry, Tom Latham (vc & wk), Daryl Mitchell, Jimmy Neesham, Glenn Phillips (wk), Rachin Ravindra, Mitchell Santner, Ish Sodhi, Tim Southee and Will Young.
Time: 10:30am IST.

Wounded Bangla Tigers Aim To Revive WC Campaign Against Dutch

Press Trust of India

KOLKATA: Seeking a revival of fortunes, Bangladesh and Netherlands will have one last chance to keep their slender semifinals hopes alive when they clash with each other as the World Cup finally arrives at the hallowed Eden Gardens here on Saturday.

As the sports-crazy city awakens from its 10-day Durga Puja revelry, the World Cup finally arrives in Kolkata, 23 days and 27 matches into the global showpiece.

The familiar buzz and the World Cup excitement is, however, missing from the venue that is all decked-up for its leg of five matches which include the marquee India-South Africa clash and the second semifinal. Both teams have one win from four outings. Call it their misfortune or lack of proper planning, Bangladesh's campaign has fallen miserably after they began on a positive note with a comprehensive win over Afghanistan.

Bangladesh had to face three heavyweights in defending champions England, last edition's runners-up New Zealand



and hosts India and the 'Bangla Tigers' failed to spring any magic to see their World Cup campaign almost done and dusted. They were next drawn against South Africa, who were not pre-tournament favourites but the way the Proteas have taken the tournament by storm the Shakib Al Hasan-led side did not have any Plan B for a course-correction.

It has been a not so memorable campaign for the bottom-placed Netherlands barring the upset win over South Africa at

Dharamsala.

Since then, they have succumbed to losses against Sri Lanka and the resurgent Australia in their last two matches. Chasing a mammoth 400, the Dutchmen folded for 90 to concede a record 309-run defeat to Australia.

It remains to be seen how their batters cope against the wounded Bangla Tigers who will hope to revive their campaign in the Puja carnival atmosphere here.

Match Starts: 2 pm IST.

Real Kashmir Play RUFC In I-League Opener Today



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K's premier football club, Real Kashmir FC, is set to kick off the 2023-24 I-League season at Synthetic Turf TRC in Srinagar on Saturday, October 28, when they take on Rajasthan United FC at 2:00 PM. The game will be broadcast live on 'Eurosport.'

Real Kashmir have signed a number of local talent to bolster their squad. The team announced the signing of at least 10 local footballers to the team in the recent weeks.

J&K football legend Ishfaq Ahmad will take charge of

local players and others from across the country."

Real Kashmir 2023-24 Squad: Muheet Shabir, Muhammad Hammad, Sowban Hilal Siddiqui, Shaher Shaheen, Richard Osei Agyemang, Kamalpreet Singh, Lamine Moro, Paolenmang Tuboi, Jayraj Ghelani, Shahid Nazir Wani, Sarineo Fernandes, Asrar Rehbar, Yakubu Wadudu, Owais Malla, Nestor Dias, Mohammad Inam, Loken Meitei, Parvaiz Parray, Rupert Nongrum, Reuben Letkhontinchon
Head Coach: Ishfaq Ahmad

"It's a completely new squad, and even the coaching staff is new," Ahmad told I-League. "In one of my first conversations with the owner, it became clear that he was interested in giving more opportunities to local players."

"He wanted to give them a platform which they lack and I completely agree, it's a great idea. That said, we have a good mix of foreign players,

JKFA Name J&K Women's Team Probables For Nationals



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The J&K Football Association on Friday announced the list of 28 probables for the J&K senior women's football team to participate in the upcoming 28th National Football Championship.

The candidates will now compete in a coaching camp

to determine the final list of 22 players that will represent J&K in the national competition.

"We are thrilled to announce the selection of talented players for the coaching camp. These young athletes have demonstrated their skills, dedication, and potential to make us proud," the FA said in a statement.

28 Probables For J&K Senior

Women's Football Team:

Afsha Ashiq, Arpita Mahajan, Aada, Sabreena, Seerat Parray, Neeta, Ruqaya Ali, Afreena Amir, Gorni Rajput, Somya, Rupali, Shabnum, Shrunya Devi, Zara Riyaz, Pantajalii, Tanzeel, Nadiya Nighat, Shivali, Charu Sharma, Riya, Mahrukh, Mehroosh Baba, Nida, Tanishqa Pal, Shah Seerat, Numra, Muskan Tariq, Fouqia

J&K Gymnasts Win Another Silver In National School Games



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The J&K Gymnastics team secured another Silver medal on Friday at a group event in the ongoing 37th National School Games being held at Goa.

The J&K Gymnastics team included Gourav Chettri, Parul Mehra, Dhruv Dewan, Laksh Mahajan and Manav Gupta. The team defeated SSCB, Gujarat and West Bengal in their run to the final round of competition.

J&K Sports Council congratulated the team for their Silver medal.

SRINAGAR PREMIER LEAGUE

Aiman Shines As Iqbal Sports Beat Kashmir Panthers 3-2

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Aiman scored two goals as Iqbal Sports FC beat Kashmir Panther FC in a 2023 Srinagar Premier League match on Friday at Bakshi Stadium here.

The lone Premier Division game saw plenty of excitement as both teams played competitive football while going for the win. Kashmir Panthers took the lead in the 20th minute as Arpan found the back of the net. Iqbal Sports equalised in the 38th minute with

Aiman bringing his side back on equal footing. At half time, the scores read 1-1.

The second half saw Iqbal Sports take the lead for the first time in the game, as Shakir made it 2-1 in the 64th minute. Protecting a slender lead, Aiman scored Iqbal Sports' third goal in the 90th minute. Kashmir Panthers got one back in added time through Arpan, but it only proved to be a consolation. Iqbal Sports FC secured a 3-2 win, with Aiman named man of the match.



Next Generation 'Clasico': Bellingham Faces 1st Game Against Barcelona

The Associated Press

BARCELONA: Jude Bellingham has blossomed into a clinical scorer since joining Real Madrid. Now his team hopes Bellingham will be fully fit when he faces his first "clasico" match at Barcelona on Saturday.

The England midfielder is on scoring streak with 11 goals in 12 matches so far this campaign, compared to 14 goals in all of last season for German side Borussia Dortmund.

Bellingham appeared to be bothered by a leg problem when he was substituted after scoring his latest goal in a 2-1 win at Braga in the Champions League on Tuesday. Coach Carlo Ancelotti, however, said immediately after the victory that it was nothing serious.

"He's all right," Ancelotti said. "He was feeling it a little bit in his abductors because it was a soft pitch. He's a little tired but that's to be expected."

Madrid tops the Spanish league level on points with Girona, with Barcelona one point behind in third place going into

the game between the fierce rivals. Atletico Madrid is also fourth at three points back.

If he is in top form, Bellingham should once again be the focus of an attack that has been prolific despite losing Karim Benzema this summer.

Barcelona also has several injury doubts. Top scorer Robert Lewandowski, who has six goals overall, has missed the last three games with an ankle injury, while midfielders Pedri Rodríguez and Frenkie de Jong, winger Raphinha and Jule Koundé have also been sidelined.

Coach Xavi Hernández would not say if he expects to have these players back on Saturday.

"We won't force anyone (to come back too soon). They have to be 100 percent ready," Xavi said after Barcelona beat Shakhtar Donetsk 2-1 in the Champions League on Wednesday.

The absences of those regular starters has had an upside: it has allowed Barcelona to give opportunities to the latest



young talents to emerge from its La Masia youth academy.

Midfielder Fermin López, 20, was the team's best player against Shakhtar, scoring a goal and hitting the woodwork twice. That came four days after 17-year-old Marc Guiu

became the second-youngest player this century to score on his league debut when he netted in a 1-0 win over Athletic Bilbao.

Not to forget 16-year-old Lamine Yamal, who is adding up records after becoming the

youngest player to score for both Barcelona and Spain in recent weeks.

Ferran Torres and newcomer João Félix, both 23 years old, have also made the most of their chances to start in attack with Lewandowski and Raphinha out, combining for eight goals.

All in all, this "clasico" promises to be a game featuring a new generation of players for both sides with Madrid relying on Bellingham (20), Vinicius Júnior (23), and Eduardo Camavinga (20), and Barcelona able to counter with its own crop of youngsters.

It will be the first "clasico" Barcelona plays after the exit of Sergio Busquets and Jordi Alba, the last pillars of its golden era when it won everything with Lionel Messi and Xavi as a player. For Madrid, Ancelotti will have to decide how to use Luka Modric, the 38-year-old former Ballon d'Or winner, who has lost his set place in the starting 11 since the arrival of Bellingham.

CONTROVERSY

Real Madrid president Florentino Pérez reportedly won't accompany the team, as he normally does to games against Barcelona, after relations between the powerhouses -- who remain aligned behind the frustrated Super League plan -- have been strained by off-the-field controversies.

Madrid and Barcelona have been estranged by the scandal of Barcelona's payment of millions of euros over several years to a former referee working in the Spanish soccer federation. The case is being investigated by a judge.

Barcelona president Joan Laporta has denied any wrongdoing by the club and said it is all witch hunt that favors Madrid.

Tension also increased after Barcelona board member Miquel Camps posted a message on X, formerly known as Twitter, this week calling Vinicius a "clown," apparently for his playing style during the game at Braga. Camps later erased the message, and Barcelona spokes-

man Rafa Yuste called it "inappropriate."

ROLLING STONES SHIRTS

Barcelona's players will wear special shirts for the game featuring the Rolling Stones' iconic "hot lips" logo in place of its normal shirt sponsor.

Barcelona, which has a sponsorship deal with audio-streaming service Spotify, has worn special shirts for recent "clasicos" at Lluís Companys Olympic Stadium, where Barcelona is playing this season while Camp Nou is remodeled.

The game will be the first "clasico" at Lluís Companys Olympic Stadium, where Barcelona is playing this season while Camp Nou is remodeled.

OTHER CHASERS

Girona can move provisionally into the league lead if it gets at least a point against Rafa Benítez's struggling Celta Vigo on Friday.

Atletico hosts Alaves on Sunday with Antoine Griezmann having scored seven goals in the league, only one fewer Bellingham.

"Is He Here?": US Shooter On The Run, Residents "Take Turns" Sleeping

Agenceis
Lewiston, United States: When Kyle Green and his partner learned a gunman had just gone on a shooting spree near their home in Lewiston, Maine, they slowly lowered the blinds and told their children it was movie night. Locking all the doors, they sat down in front of a screen in a darkened upstairs bedroom with their two dogs and dozing kids, ages 10 and 12, following the shooting deaths of at least 18 people at a bowling alley and bar-restaurant.

With the suspect still on the run, Green, a 40-year-old software engineer who spoke to AFP in front of his house, said he and his partner "took turns" sleeping, in order to keep watch until the morning.

"Where is he now? Is he here? That's a terrible feeling," Green said, clearing his throat to hide emotion.

Like many of his neighbors on his quiet, tree-lined street, he is struggling to process what happened.

On Thursday, Lewiston was practically a ghost town, with residents ordered to stay indoors and schools closed following the Wednesday evening shooting rampage.

A high school parking lot was



taken over by police officers in fatigues, armed to the teeth. Streets near the targeted establishments were cordoned off with crime scene tape.

Pharmacies, restaurants and the overwhelming majority of businesses were closed. A few cars passed by from time to time, but the trash has not been collected and no children play outside on slides and swings.

A sign in the city center flashes the message: "Shelter in place."

Debra Wright was just sitting down to eat Wednesday evening when she heard police and ambulance sirens wailing. Schemengees, the bar restaurant targeted by the shooter, is just a three-minute drive from her home.

"When we found out I was terrified," the 71-year-old told AFP from behind the wheel of her car.

"You know, Maine isn't usually like this. I've lived here all my life," she said, adding "I will never feel safe like I have."

Since she will probably spend the night alone at home, Wright said she couldn't help but be worried but was reassured by the thought that she had deadbolts installed on her doors.

Plus, "I have my dogs in my house," she said.

In this normally quiet city, the shootings came as a shock.

"It's different when this type of tragedy happens in your hometown," Anthony Nadeau, a 45-year-old state employee who had just finished smoking a cigarette on his porch, told AFP.

He is friends with the owners of the bowling alley, Just-in-Time, and has spent many an evening at Schemengees.

He added that "Maine and a lot of states... could do a little bit more considering the history of gun violence in the United States."

Green, who staged the movie night with his family, is not optimistic.

"I'd love to tell you that maybe this is the one that spurs some sort of action," he said, but then added: "It won't be."

"It will be treated like every other mass casualty event."

Secret Underground City Beneath Gaza, With Bunkers, Storage, Booby Traps

Agenceis
Jerusalem/London: What lies in wait for Israeli ground troops in Gaza, security sources say, is a Hamas tunnel network hundreds of kilometres long and up to 80 metres deep, described by one freed hostage as "a spider's web" and by one expert as the "Viet Cong times 10".

The Palestinian Islamist group has different kinds of tunnels running beneath the sandy 360-sq-km coastal strip and its borders - including attack, smuggling, storage and operational burrows, Western and Middle East sources familiar with the matter said.

The United States believes Israel's special forces will face an unprecedented challenge having to battle Hamas militants while trying to avoid killing hostages held below ground, a U.S. official said.

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin noted that Iraq's nine-month-long battle to retake the city of Mosul from Islamic State might prove to have been easier than what awaits the Israelis - likely to be "a lot of IEDs (improvised explosive devices), a lot of booby traps, and just a really grinding activity".

Even though Israel has invested heavily in tunnel detection - including a sensor-equipped underground barrier it called an "iron wall" - Hamas is still thought to have working tunnels to the outside world.

After the last round of hostilities in 2021, Hamas's leader in Gaza, Yehya Al-Sinwar, said: "They started saying they destroyed 100kms of Hamas tunnels. I am telling you, the tunnels we have in the Gaza Strip exceed 500kms. Even if their narrative is true, they only destroyed 20% of the tunnels."

HOSTAGE WITNESS
There has been no corroboration of the comment by Sinwar, who is thought to be hiding underground ahead of an expected Israeli ground offensive.

But the estimate of hundreds of kilometres is widely accepted by security analysts, even though the blockaded coastal strip is only 40km (25 miles) long.

With Israel in full control of Gaza's air and sea access and 59km of its 72km land borders - with Egypt 13km to the south - tunnels provide one of the few ways for Hamas to bring in weapons, equipment and people.

Thousands Of Wild Horses To Be Shot In Australia, Here's Why

Agenceis
Sydney, Australia: Australia approved on Friday the aerial shooting of wild horses in one of the country's largest national parks, resuming a contentious practice that authorities described as "essential" to protect native wildlife.

An estimated 19,000 wild horses - known locally as "brumbies" - live in Kosciuszko National Park, a number that has increased by a third in the last two years.

New South Wales state authorities want to cut the population to 3,000 by mid-2027.

The national park already traps, re-homes and shoots horses from the ground, but the state's environment minister Penny Sharpe said this was not enough.

"Threatened native species are in danger of extinction and the entire ecosystem is under threat," she said. "We must take action."

"This was not an easy decision -- no one wants to have to kill wild horses," she added.

Aerial shooting from helicopters was used for a brief period in 2000, when more than 600 wild horses were shot over three days.

But a fierce public backlash resulted in the method being banned.

Those against culling say the horses are part of Australia's national identity, a nostalgic reminder of the days when tough



stockmen and women worked in the country's rugged Snowy Mountains. Brumbies are thought to have descended from horses that escaped or were abandoned around the early 1800s.

A storied rugby team in the country's capital Canberra is named after the animal.

They were celebrated by the Australian "bush poet" Banjo Paterson, who waxed lyrical about a "wild, unhandled" creature who roamed the mountains "neath moon and star".

But early farmers had a less romantic view: they saw the animals

as pests that ruined fences and competed with livestock for feed.

It is a view echoed by conservationists, who say the horses destroy native plants through grazing and trampling, increase soil erosion, foul waterholes, and cause the collapse of wildlife burrows.

"The unique and complex ecosystems of the Australian Alps have been trampled for too long," said Jacqui Mumford, head of the Nature Conservation Council, an environmental group.

She said brumbies' activities damaged "at least 25 threatened alpine flora and 14 threatened alpine

fauna species, including the iconic corroboree frog, the broad-toothed rat and rare alpine orchids."

Australia has up to 400,000 feral horses, according to the Invasive Species Council, a conservation group that has welcomed the decision to resume aerial shooting.

The group's advocacy manager, Jack Gough, said the brumby population in New South Wales was growing at a rate of between 15 and 18 percent a year.

The number of wild horses being removed through the current methods was "well below" the population growth rate, he added.

IMAM HUSSAIN (A.S) FOUNDATION, SRINAGAR

Imam Hussain Foundation Feels Pleasure To Provide the Services Of The Following Specialists At Imam Hussain (A.s) Hospital, Bemina To Facilitate The Patients In General.

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<p>2. PAEDIATRICS Dr. TAJAMUL HUSSAIN SHERAZI MBBS MD (pediatrics) PG Pediatric Nutrition (Boston University and school of Medicine. USA) 8.30 a. m to 9. 30 a. m (Summer). 9 a. m to 10 a. m (winter.) Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.</p>	<p>6. OPHTHALMOLOGY. Dr. MOHAMMAD AYAZ BHAT MBBS MD Consultant (Ophthalmology) Sundays 9.30 a.m to 11.30</p>
<p>3. NEUROLOGY Dr. SYED QAUNAIN MS FICS Experience in N/ S SKIMS and Superspeciality Hospital GMC, Srinagar. 10.30 a. m to 12. 30 p. m (daily except Saturday & Sunday)</p>	<p>7. MEDICINE Dr. WASEEM RAJA MD (Medicine), DNB Gastroenterology. Member of American College of Gastroenterology. Tuesday & Friday 4.30pm</p>
<p>4. GEN. SURGERY Dr. NAZIR AHMAD MALIK - MS (Gen. Surgery) STT Laparoscopic Surgery, (AIIMS New Delhi) General and laparoscopic surgeon 10.30 a. m to 11.30 a. m (daily except Sundays.)</p>	<p>8. ORTHOPEDIC Dr. JITENDRA SINGH MBBS MD D'ORTHO. DNB Ortho Consultant orthopedic surgeon. Wednesday 4.30 pm</p>
	<p>9. Dr. SEEMA HUSSAINI MBBS (experience in (Gynae/ Obs, Sonography.) Sundays : 9.30 a. m to 11.30 a. m</p>

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