

Terrorism Ending, Tourism Rising In J&K: PM Says His Government Opened The Doors To Development And Peace In J&K By Removing Art-370



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday that his government opened the doors to development and peace in Jammu and Kashmir by removing Article 370.

Terrorism is ending there and tourism rising, Modi said, underlining that his government has committed to the region reaching new heights of development.

Speaking at the Hindustan Times Leadership Summit here, he referred to the theme of the event - 'Beyond Barriers' - and said the 2024 Lok Sabha poll results will see people supporting the ruling BJP "beyond barriers".

The media group's theme of its 2047 summit will be "Developed Nation: What Next", he said in a

lighter vein in reference to his government's call for making the country developed by the centenary of its independence.

He also said a lot of fear-mongering used to be done about the impact of Article 370 removal but his government opened the doors to development and peace in Jammu and Kashmir by removing it.

The PM asserted that his government has broken many real, perceived and exaggerated barriers, laying the foundation for building a developed, grand and prosperous India.

He cited a host of development measures taken by his government to highlight the changes, asserting that India's growing middle class and reducing poverty will | [More on P10](#)

JKP Introduces GPS Tracker Anklets To Monitor Terror Accused

Becomes First Police Force In Country To Use Wearable Device Affixed Around The Ankle Of Accused

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Police has introduced GPS tracker anklets for monitoring the terror accused out on bail, becoming the

first police force in the country to do so, officials said on Saturday.

The GPS tracker anklet is a wearable device affixed around the ankle of the person to be monitored and tracks their movement.

The device is already being used in Western countries such as the USA, United Kingdom, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand to track the movement of accused persons on bail, parole

and house arrest and accordingly de-congests prisons to a large extent.

The officials of the State Investigation Agency (SIA) of the J-K Police have introduced the GPS tracker anklet for monitoring of bail-out terror accused, the officials said.

They said the J-K Police is the first police department in the country to introduce such a device.

The officials said the devices were introduced after

a Special NIA Court, Jammu, passed an order directing the police to affix a GPS tracker anklet on a terror accused -- the importance of which was highlighted by the prosecution department of the police.

Giving details of the case, the officials said in an FIR registered under various sections of UAPA, accused Ghulam Mohd Bhat had applied for bail.

During the pendency of the bail hearing, the accused sought to | [More on P10](#)

DGP Vows To Bring Cop's Killers To Justice



Police have got leads in their investigation into the targeted killing of a policeman in Baramulla and vowed to bring the killers and their supporters to justice, Jammu and Kashmir DGP R R Swain said on Saturday. The director general of police visited slain Head Constable Ghulam Mohammad Dar's residence at Wailoo Kralpora in the north Kashmir district on Saturday. He was accompanied by Additional Director General of Police, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar. | [More on P10](#)

IED Defused Along Busy Road In Jammu

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: A major tragedy was averted with the timely detection of an improvised explosive device (IED) planted along a busy road here on Saturday evening, a police official said.

The IED, fitted inside a tiffin box, was found near Narwal by a police team, the official said. He said traffic movement on the Narwal-Sidrah road | [More on P10](#)

Conman Held For Duping Jobseekers Of Over Rs 50L

Accused Booked Under PSA, Sent To Kot Bhalwal Jail In Jammu

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The sleuths of Crime Branch Srinagar have arrested a notorious fraudster, who had duped job seekers within the Kashmir Valley and outside with a whopping amount of over Rs 5 million.

Manzoor Hussain Qadri of Poshwani village in Pattan was arrested by the sleuths of Police Station Special Crime Wing on Friday from Sanatnagar area of the city, an official spokesperson said. He said a special team, which had been assiduously working on tracing the conman, succeeded in apprehending him.

The accused, he said, is a habitual offender, and was wanted in multiple cases of cheating and | [More on P10](#)

Man Kills Wife To Marry Another Woman: Police

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: A man was arrested for allegedly murdering his wife in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir so that he could marry a second time, police said on Saturday.

The victim Arti Devi was found dead under suspicious circumstances at her Nandpur residence in Ramgarh area of Samba district on October 27, following which police launched inquest proceedings to ascertain the cause of her

death, a police spokesman said. He said police conducted the inquest proceedings and post-mortem. After collecting evidence and police converted it into a murder case to nail the husband, Gurdeep Singh.

Singh was finally arrested, the spokesman said, adding that preliminary investigation suggested that the motive behind committing the alleged murder was to eliminate his wife so that he could marry another woman | [More on P10](#)

3 JKAS Officers Transferred

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Union Territory government on Saturday ordered transfer of three Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) officers in the interest of the administration

According to an order issued by the General Administration Department (GAD) on Saturday, Sana Khan, Jr. Scale JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, has been posted as Under Secretary in the office of Chief Secretary.

The order reads that Farukh Nasir Paul, Jr. Scale JKAS, Under Secretary in the office of Chief Secretary, has been transferred and his services have been placed at the disposal of the Industries and Commerce Department.

"Pallvi, Jr. Scale JKAS, Project Manager, DIC, Udhampur, is transferred and her services are placed at the | [More on P10](#)

MAZBOOTI SE BANI HAR
— DEEWAR SE JHALAKTE HAI —
DIL KE EHSAAAS



Spectrum Adv | 997000698



Scholarship Name 1: AICTE Pragati Scholarship for Girls 2023-24

Description: AICTE Pragati Scholarship for Girls 2023-24 is a government scholarship scheme implemented by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). The scheme aims to provide financial assistance to meritorious female students from economically weaker sections of society to pursue technical education.

- Eligibility: Open for female applicants who have taken admission in full-time first-year diploma or degree programs in approved AICTE institutions. Candidates must have a family income of less than 8,00,000 per annum.
- Prizes & Rewards: Up to 50,000 per annum for every year of study
- Last Date to Apply: 31-12-2023
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/SSGC4

Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir.

Scholarship Name 2: The Tata Capital Pankh Scholarship Programme

Description: An initiative of Tata Capital Limited aimed at providing financial support to students belonging to economically weaker sections of the society to help them fulfil their academic dreams.

- Eligibility: Indian students who are currently studying in Classes 11, 12 general graduation (B.Com., B.Sc., B.A., etc.), diploma and polytechnic courses at recognized institutions are eligible. Applicants must have scored at least 60% marks in the preceding class. The



annual family income of the applicants from all sources must be less than or equal to INR 2.5 lakh.

- Prizes & Rewards: Up to 80% of tuition fees or an amount ranging from INR 10,000 to INR 12,000 (whichever is less)
- Last Date to Apply: 15-11-2023
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/TCPS23

Scholarship Name 3: HDFC Bank Parivartan's ECSS Programme 2023-24

Description: HDFC Bank invites applications from students studying in Class 1 to postgraduation level. The scholarship supports meritorious and needy students belonging to underprivileged sections of society.

Eligibility: The scholarship is open for Indian nationals only. The students must be studying in Class 1 to 12, diploma, ITI, polytechnic, undergraduate or postgraduate (including general and professional) courses. The applicants must have passed their previous qualifying examination with at least 55% marks and their annual family income must be less than or equal to INR 2.5 Lakh. Preference will be given to those applicants who are facing personal or family crises that have occurred during the past three years due to which they are unable to continue bearing the cost of education and are at risk of dropping out.

- Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 75,000
- Last Date to Apply: 31-12-2023
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/HDFC44

Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT

Office Of The Executive Engineer PW (R&B) Division Chrari-Sharief

Near Munsiff Court Chrari-Sharief E-mail: xennrbchrar23@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
Single cover system
E-NIT No. 15/RNB/CHRAR of 2023-24 Dated: 02/11/2023

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

SN	Nome of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ (Incl. GST)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H OF Account	Class Of Contactor
1	Construction of Elementary ACR Building Less School (UPS) at BPS Pakherpora (Civil works only)	51.06	1600	102120	9 months	PAB 2022-23	A

Position of AAA: - Accorded
Position of funds: - Committed
Position of TS: - Sanctioned
Project Authority: SAMAGRA

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	02/01/2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	03/11/2023
3	Bid submission Start Date	03/11/2023
4	Bid Submission End Date	13/11/2023 upto 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids	14/11/2023 at 11:30 AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Charisharief

Note :-The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the NIT carefully before uploading softcopy. Any short fall found in the soft copy will render the Bid rejected. As per Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Sectarier Finance department vide No.Om No.A/24(2017)-651 dtd.07-06-2018 which reads as under :-

- Furnishing of Hard Copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the Bidder who's declared 1st Lowest (L-1) after opening of financial bids.
- The Cost of tender document should be collected by introducing Treasury Challan (Receipt).
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (deposited in MH: 0059) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Charisharief (Tender Inviting Authority) and Earnest Money / Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Charisharief (Tender Receiving Authority). The Bank Guarantee should be valid for 45 days beyond bid validity.
- Note: The Date of Treasury Challan and Earnest Money / Bid security must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.
- The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Charisharief within 07 (Seven) days after the date of receipt of letter of acceptance and shall be released after successful completion of DLP.
- At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the Tender Receiving Authority, i.e., Executive Engineer R&B Division Charisharief. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the total contract cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.
- The date and time of opening of Financial Bids of a responsive bidder shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
- The earnest money (EMD) shall be released in favour of unsuccessful bidders only after submission of original Treasury Challan.
- The earnest money/ performance Security shall be forfeited if:-

- Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
- Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
- Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

9. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

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

9.2 To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate [DSC]" as per information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.

9.3 The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.

9.4 Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

9.5 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid. Besides, original documents related to the bid shall be submitted by L1 before issuance of Allotment in his favour.

9.6. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including earnest Money Deposit, tender documents fee in terms of soft copies and all other documents required as per NIT with technical bid. No document (s) which has/have not been uploaded shall be entertained for technical evaluation in the form of hard copy. However in case of any clarification the bidders all have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.

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

9.7 Bidders should note that if the documents uploaded/ submitted on the basis of which the contract has been awarded are found forged/fake/not genuine at any time, the contract shall be cancelled and the contractor/bidder shall be recommended for blacklisting and debarred from taking part in tendering in PWD/Other Departments for a period of one year in the first instance, besides the performance security deposited for the said work shall be forfeited.

10. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

11. For item rate method the unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

12. The %age rate method requires the bidder to quote a percentage above / below / at par at the bottom of the BOQ percentage template for the work. The percentage quoted by the bidder shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

13. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.

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

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

16. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

17. In case of CRF and any other specified project. The relevant guidelines standard bidding document shall be followed.

All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).

No. 747-756
DIPK-11634/23 Dated: 04/11/2023

Executive Engineer
PW (R&B) Division Charisharief

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR,
Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Bijbehara

e-NIT No. 93 OF 2023-24 No: PHEB:10983-94 Dated:-03.11.2023
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Standard Bidding Document For
L/f of pipes, construction of 0.20 lac gallons SR, presetling tank, 0.40 lac gallons SSFP, 0.30 lac gallons clear water sump, chowkidar quarter cum chemical Shed, chain link fencing, 02 No. Sluice chamber, Retaining Wall for WSS Transit Camp Machbawan under JMM.
...of PHE Division Bijbehara of Kashmir Province of UT of J&K, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JMM)

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Bijbehara invites e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Bidders/ Firms/Companies/ of all classes registered in JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other state Government for below mentioned works at various Water Supply schemes of PHE Division Bijbehara of Kashmir Province of UT of J&K, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JMM).

The bidding process shall be completed online on www.jktenders.gov.in in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2nd consisting of Financial Bid on overall percentage rate basis, in the prescribed BOQ.

Sr No	Particulars of the work (in Rs)	Tender fee	Estimated cost	Earnest money Deposit	Bid Validity	Time of Completion of work (days)
1	L/f of pipes, construction of 0.20 lac gallons SR, presetling tank, 0.40 lac gallons SSFP, 0.30 lac gallons clear water sump, chowkidar quarter cum chemical Shed, chain link fencing, 02 No. Sluice chamber, Retaining Wall for WSS Transit Camp Machbawan under JMM.	As per ANNEXURE-I to this bid document-	As per estimated cost	03% of the estimated cost	180 days	As per ANNEXURE-I to this bid document.

Position of funds: Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JMM)

The tender inviting authority is Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Bijbehara
The awarding authority is District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJMM).

Critical Dates:

I	Publish Date	04.11.2023 09.00 AM
ii	Document Download/sale start Date	04.11.2023 09.00 AM
III	Bid submission start date	04.11.2023 09.00 AM
IV	Bid submission end date	10.11.2023 04.00 PM
V	Date and time of Bid opening	11.11.2023 11.00 PM

- Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in
- The whole bidding process shall be completed online on tender portal www.jktenders.gov.in. The intending bidders can download the bid document from the tender portal and can submit their bids by uploading them on the tender portal.
- The valid bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Superintending Engineer Hydl Circle Ananntnag. Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 4 & 5 of the table and shall be payable at Srinagar.

- The cost of tender documents should be in form of DD/TR/e challan in favour of Superintending Engineer Hydl Circle Ananntnag
- The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of TR/e-challan, Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of financial cover.

5. The bid shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the last date of submission of bids. If any bidder withdraws his bid before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the same shall be considered to be in violation of bid security declaration and shall be dealt with accordingly and the bid shall be declared non-responsive.

6. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website www.jktenders.gov.in.

7. Queries by email if any should be made at pehbijbehara230@gmail.com
Executive Engineer
JSD PHE Division Bijbehara

**ANNEXURE-I
SCHEME WISE LIST OF WORKS**

S.No	Name of WSS	Description of work	Division	Estimated cost (in Lacs)	Class of contract	Time for completion days
1	WSS Transit Camp Machbawan	L/f of pipes, construction of 0.20 lac gallons SR, presetling tank, 0.40 lac gallons SSFP, 0.30 lac gallons clear water sump, chowkidar quarter cum chemical Shed, chain link fencing, 02 No. Sluice chamber, Retaining Wall for WSS Transit Camp Machbawan under JMM.	JSD Bijbehara	183.43	AAY	60 days

Executive Engineer
JSD PHE Division Bijbehara

DIPK-11583/23 Dated: 04-11-2023

J&K Bank
Serving To Empower
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

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited Estates Department Zonal Office Srinagar Website: www.jkbank.com

PREMISES REQUIRED

The Jammu & Kashmir Bank invites offers from owners of premises for outright purchase/ on lease basis for housing its Branch at 90 Feet Soura- Buchpura Road, Srinagar

Carpet Area of Premises	Location
1500 Sft Approx (Preferably Ground Floor)	90 Feet Soura- Buchpura Road

The interested parties/persons owning the premises and having a clear title over the property should submit their offers at Estates Deptt Zonal Office Srinagar, M.A Road Srinagar by or before 24-11-2023.

The tender documents and the terms and conditions relating to same can be obtained in person from Zonal Office mentioned above during working hours and also can be downloaded from Bank's website www.jkbank.com from 03-11-2023.

The Bank reserves the right to cancel/reject any/all offer(s) without assigning any reason therefor.

Note: Only those parties having valid commercial permission of the offered premises need to apply.

Ref: jkb/zo_sgr/Est/22-Dated:01-11-2023 Sd/-
Zonal Head

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-4037/23
dated: 04-11-2023

From The Office Of Advocate Javed Ahmad Langoo.

In the case of:-
Rohie Maqbool W/O Manzoor Ellahi Bhat
R/O Khoja Bagh Aramwari Zero Bridge Rajbagh Srinagar
(caveator)

VERSUS

Public At large
(Non Caveator)

In the matter of:-Caveat petition u/s 148 of CPC.
That the caveator is having reasonable apprehension that any person/s may approach before the Hon.ble court and may file a case or other proceedings against the caveator and may get an ex-parte interim order against the caveator which will be prejudicial and against the rights, interests of the caveator and also against the express provisions of law that the caveator is seeking leave of thi hon.ble court to file the caveat against the public At large as the caveator is having immovable property in Srinagar district such as at khoja bagh Aramwari zero bridge Rajbagh Srinagar fall-ing under survey no 243/105 min khata no 140 and khawat no 12 it would be proper that the caveator be given opportunity of being heard by the hon.ble court before passing any order .

NJ

PUBLIC NOTICE

My DOB has been wrongly written in my Aadhaar Card as 28-08-2008 while my correct DOB as per JK BOSE Records is 28-08-2006 which needs to be corrected. If any body having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Concerned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Ishrat Ibrahim
D/o Mohammad Ibrahim Hurrah
R/o Mala Buchan Baramulla
bmg

از نیابت پہاگان با اجلاس نائب تحصیلدار پہاگان

مضمون :- درخواست نمائند فاروق احمد انگریز ولد مہمل ستاراہنگر ساکن پہاگان تحصیل پشین برادر اجرائی OSC سرٹیفیکٹ تک نخر خودفاصلیہ فاروق

اشہار ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ نمبر پنجوایں صدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست جو کڑکاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پڑاری حلقے سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن واقعی انگریز ذات سے تعلق رکھتا ہے اور ساکن پہاگان پشین میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے ساکن کی کوئی بذیل افراد پیش نہیں ہے۔

فاروق احمد انگریز ولد مہمل ستاراہنگر
شمیر سنگھ زید فاروق احمد
فاضلہ فاروق دختر فاروق احمد
عمر فاروق ولد فاروق احمد
عالیہ فاروق دختر فاروق احمد انگریز

اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی افراد نہیں ہیں۔ کینیڈی میوارہ سالہ 1920 سے روپے تک ہے۔ سرٹیفیکٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عزیما ہو تو وہ عدالت شہر انچارستان دن کے اندر آئے پنے عذریہ عترض دال حد کو دفتر کی اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد ازاں سے میٹھا کوئی عذریہ عترض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار FKO

Srinagar Based Graphic Designer Felicitated By DIPR J&K

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A Srinagar based graphic designer has been felicitated in prestigious Logo Redesigning Competition organized by the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) of Jammu & Kashmir.

Musaib Yousuf (24) hailing from Nowgam area of Srinagar, clinched the second position in the competition held at the DIPR office in Jammu.

Competing against 374 entries, Musaib showcased his exceptional talent and creativity to emerge as a top contender, securing his place among the top five finalists.

Musaib was felicitated by the Commissioner Secretary IT & Information Department J&K, Prerna Puri in presence of

the Director of DIPR, and other dignitaries. The recognition by Ms Puri not only highlighted Musaib's design prowess but also served as an inspiration for young designers in the region.

The competition, which drew widespread participation, was a testament to the thriving artistic community within the region, providing a platform for professionals to demonstrate their skills and contribute to the state's visual identity.

This accolade is a significant milestone in Musaib's career, propelling him into the limelight and acknowledging his potential as a promising graphic designer. His achievement is a source of pride for the Nowgam area and a beacon of inspiration for his peers in the graphic design community.



Boatman ferrys school children to thier home in wrold famous Dal Lake on a sunny Saturday afternoon. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

'Sunset Park' For Tourists Comes Up In Dal Lake

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a bid to attract more visitors to the world famous Dal Lake, the Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) has come up with a 'Sunset Park' along the water body. The officials said the project was completed in a record time of two and half months only.

The world famous Dal Lake is witnessing a massive footfall of tourists throughout the year while many visitors were seen clicking pictures and witnessing

the sunset on the embankment of the water body here.

Athar Aamir Khan said that in the congested area, a good space of land was identified recently where the sunset park has come up with the Smart City project.

"It is the only place where a good space is available and can accommodate a good number of people," he said, the people were seen witnessing the sunset and clicking pictures following which it was decided that a sunset park will be constructed at

the place to provide a space to the people so they can enjoy a quality time on the banks of Dal Lake.

"The park has been constructed in a record time of two and a half months," he said, adding more such facilities will come up for the visitors at the spot.

"We have already identified a piece of land, while the work has been started to provide a parking space for the visitors so the traffic movement is not hampered," he said, adding the park will attract more visitors to Dal Lake.

'SMC's Tenure To End Today, Delay In ULB Polls Violation Of Constitution'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Mayor of Srinagar, Parvez Ahmad Qadri Saturday expressed displeasure over the delay in conducting Urban Local Body (ULB) polls in the region.

Addressing a news conference here, Qadri said the term of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) is set to conclude tomorrow. He

said the delay in conducting the elections has raised questions about the government's commitment to democratic processes.

He said during the reorganization act, the constitutional amendment was clearly specified, which stated that the Delimitation Commission, along with the Election Commission, should conduct the election before the tenure ends.

Special Drive Conducted To Ensure Quality Sweets During Festive Season

Observer News Service

Srinagar: To ensure the availability of quality sweets during the ongoing festive season, the Food Safety wing of Drugs and Food Control Org. (D&FCO) Kashmir today conducted a special drive.

On the occasion, a team of Intelligence cum Legal Cell and Food Safety wing of District Srinagar, inspected the premises of sweets manufacturing unit M/S A.R. Sweets situated at Sammandar Bagh

Opposite Sangermal Complex Srinagar.

During inspection of the said premises, the team found that the sweets, particularly Kaju Katli, were being processed in unhygienic condition on wooden planks. The unit was operating in gross violation of the provisions of Food Safety and Standards Act as non-food grade plastic materials were being utilized for processing.

Besides, no Medical report of Food handlers

was available as is mandated under law and the raw material in store was in haphazard manner. Also the labeling of sweets as per the Food Standards Act was not followed by the manufacturer.

Two samples of sweets were lifted by the concerned Food Safety Officer for the purpose of laboratory analysis and Sweets (Kaju Katli) weighing around 50 kgs and raw material stored in non-food grade plastic were destroyed by the team on the spot.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR Jammu And Kashmir Services Selection Board

CPO Chowk, Panjtirthi, Jammu / Zamzam Complex
Rambagh Srinagar
www.Jkssb.nic.in

Subject: Result/Scoresheet of candidates in the Computer Based Written Test (CBT) for the Posts of Sub Inspector, Home Department.

NOTICE

Whereas, the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) conducted Computer Based Written Test (CBT) for the posts of Sub Inspector, Home Department, UT Cadre, advertised vide Advertisement Notification No. 06 of 2021, under item No. 668, from 07-12-2022 to 20-12-2022; and

Whereas, the final answer key in respect of CBT examinations for the said posts was finalized and notified vide No. JKSSB-COE0EXAM(UT)/54/2022-03 (7057013), dated: 03-11-2023; and

Whereas, in terms of S.O. 290 of 2021 dated: 20-08-2021 issued by the Home Department, J&K Government and in pursuance of addendum to Advertisement Notification No. 06 of 2021 dated: 21-10-2021, issued vide No. SSB/Secy/Adv. NO./2021/7527-42 dated: 05-11-2021, the candidates possessing National Cadet Corps (NCC) certificates shall be awarded additional marks at the following scale:-

- a. 5% of the maximum marks of the examination for NCC "C" certificate holders.
- b. 3% of the maximum marks of the examination for NCC "B" certificate holders.
- c. 2% of the maximum marks of the examination for NCC "A" certificate holders.

Whereas, some candidates approached the Hon'ble Central Administrative Tribunal, Jammu Bench through the medium of O.A./1855/2021, titled Vikram Kumar & Others V/s Union of Territory of J&K & Others, with the plea to direct the respondents to prescribed the upper-age limit as 33 years for recruitment to the post of Sub-Inspectors, advertised by J&K Services Selection Board vide Advertisement Notification No. 06 of 2021, dated: 21-10-2021; and

Whereas, the Hon'ble Central Administrative Tribunal, while considering the matter on 17/12/2021 directed as under:

"...Meanwhile the application forms of the applicants be accepted provided the last date for accepting the forms, as per submission of the learned counsel for the applicants, is 18-12-2021 and thereafter, the applicants to be permitted to participate in the selection process at their own cost and risk.

However, the result of the applicants shall not be declared till further orders from the Tribunal..."

Whereas, in compliance to the above referred directions of the Hon'ble Tribunal, the result of such applicants is kept withheld till further orders of the Hon'ble CAT/disposal of the OAs; and

Now, therefore, in view of the above, the result/scoresheet, based on the performance of candidates who appeared in the Computer Based Written Test (CBT) for the posts of Sub Inspector, UT Cadre, advertised vide Advertisement Notification No. 06 of 2021, under Item No. 668, on 07-12-2022 to 20-12-2022, except in whose cases Hon'ble Tribunal has issued above orders, is hereby notified as Annexure "A". The score/result in respect of candidates figuring in Annexure "B" has been withheld by the Board.


It is further notified that:

- i. mere figuring in the result/scoresheet shall not entitle a candidate to be short-listed for further stages of selection and that he/she has to fulfil other eligibility conditions, as laid down and decision of the Board in this regard shall be final.
- ii. the Jammu & Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) will call candidates falling in the consideration zone, based on the merit obtained by them, for Physical Standard Test / Physical Endurance Test, the schedule for which shall be notified separately.
- iii. The additional marks awarded to the candidates claiming to possess the NCC certificates shall be subject to verification.

No.: JKSSB-COE0EXAM(UT)/54/2022-03 (7057013)

Reyaz Ahmad Malik (JKAS)
Controller of Examinations
JK Service Selection Board

DIPK-11587/23
Dated: 04-11-2023

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited

 M. A. Road, Srinagar - 190 001
 Tel: (0194) 2481930-35 Fax: (0194) 2481928
 Visit us at: www.jkbank.com
 CIN: L65110JK1938SGC000048

Possession Notice

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

Whereas Mr. Bilal Ahmad Wani, as the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 16.02.2023thereby calling upon the Borrower namely M/S Al Kabir Fleshy Food Centre Prop. Mr. Feroz Ahmad Charloo S/O Kh. Ali Mohammad Charloo R/OQaziyaZainakadal Srinagar presently residing at ShahiHamdan Lane House no.99 behind Noora Hospital HMT Srinagarto repay an amount ofRs.84,01,000/- (RupeesEighty Four Lac OneThousand Only)being the balance outstanding as on 31.01.2023 in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken symbolic possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this the31thday of Octoberof the year 2023.

The said borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property/ies in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating toRs.80,99,315.63 (Rupees EightyLac Ninety NineThousand Three Hundred Fifteen and Paise Sixty Three Only)togetherwith future interest thereon from 01.11.2023and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

The borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property

1. Mortgage of leasehold rights of land measuring 12 Marlas allotted in favour of the party by SIDCO/DIC Srinagar alongwith Civil Structures constructed thereupon situated in Industrial Estate Khonmoh Srinagar.
2. Mortgage of land measuring 01Kanal bearing Khasra No.130, Khata No.369 and Khewat No.199situated at MouzaDaderhama Tehsil & District Ganderbalstanding in the name of Ms. Deeba Khalid D/O Khalid Mehmood R/O GogoBagh Srinagar.

Bilal Ahmad Wani
Authorized Officer

Dated: 31.10.2023

Place: KhonmohSrinagar

Abbas Advt

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



PRAYERS	
FAJR	5 : 30
ZUHR	12:15
ASR	3: 58
Magrib	5:38
ISHA	7: 01

HIJRI CALENDAR
20 Rabi-ul-Sani
1445

This Day In History

- 1556 - Akbar (14) succeeds his father Humajun as Sultan of Delhi
- 1556 - Battle at Panipat: Mogollegers beat hindu leader Hemu
- 1605 - Gunpowder Plot: Catholic conspirator Guy Fawkes attempts to blow up King James I and the British Parliament. Plot discovered, Guy Fawkes caught, tortured and later executed along with seven others.
- 1678 - Brandenburgse troops occupy Greifswald in Sweden
- 1725 - Spain & Austria sign secret treaty
- 1757 - Battle at Rossbach (7 year war/French & Indian War)
- 1838 - Honduras declares independence of Central American Federation
- 1862 - Battle at Barbee's Crossroads, Virginia: 51 casualties
- 1873 - Due to the fallout from the Pacific Scandal, John A. Macdonald resigns as Prime Minister of Canada
- 1881 - French government-Ferry resigns
- 188 - 1,1600 police and volunteers attack Mori settlement at Parihaka in western Taranaki which had become the symbol of protest against the confiscation of M ori land, New Zealand
- 1900 - Under US military control since the end of the Spanish-American War in 1898, Cuba now calls its own constitutional convention
- 1911 - Italy attacks Turkish North-Africa (Libya), takes Tripoli & Cyrenaica
- 1912 - Democrat candidate Woodrow Wilson is elected President of the United States, defeating Republican incumbent William Howard Taft and Progressive candidate Theodore Roosevelt
- 1913 - Ludwig III crowned king of Bavaria
- 1914 - Britain declares war on Turkey and annexes Cyprus, occupied since 1878; the immediate reason is to keep it from being taken by Turkey
- 1916 - Emperors Wilhelm II (Germany) and Franz Jozef I (Austria-Hungary) establish the kingdom of Poland
- 1916 - Second Chamber accept initial impetus to general males/female suffrage
- 1916 - The Everett Massacre takes place in Everett, Washington as political differences lead to a shootout between IWW organizers and local police.
- 1917 - Gen Pershing & US troops see action on Western Front for 1st time
- 1921 - Soviet Russia signs a treaty with Mongolia, temporarily supporting the new government against China and Japanese incursions
- 1925 - Mussolini disbands Italian socialist parties
- 1930 - Nobel for literature awarded to Sinclair Lewis for "Babbitt"
- 1933 - Spanish Basques vote for autonomy
- 1937 - Adolf Hitler informs his military leaders in a secret meeting of his intentions of going to war
- 1940 - Franklin D. Roosevelt is re-elected President of the United States for an unprecedented third term, defeating Republican candidate Wendell Willkie
- 1941 - Japanese naval staff officers Suzuki and Maejima leave Pearl Harbor.
- 1943 - Vatican in Rome bombed by unknown source
- 1944 - Allied troops reach Zoutelande, Walcheren
- 1944 - Canadian & British troops liberate Dinteloord
- 1953 - Nobel prize for physics awarded to Frederik Zernicke
- 1956 - Britain and France land airborne forces at Port Said in Egypt, escalating the Suez Crisis
- 1964 - US launches Mariner 3 toward Mars; no data returned
- 1967 - ATS-3 launched by US to take first pictures of full Earth disc
- 1967 - US troops conquer Loc Ninh South Vietnam
- 1967 - Yemen president Sallal flees
- 1975 - British government sends troops to Belize
- 1978 - Iranian PM Jaafar Sharif-Emami resigns to Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi
- 1979 - Iran government of Bazargan resigns
- 1979 - Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini declares US "The Great Satan"

Delhi Gasps For Breath As Haze Persists For 5th Consecutive Day



Press Trust of India

Pollution levels in Delhi and its surrounding areas dipped marginally overnight due to a relatively better wind speed, though the concentration of poisonous PM2.5 was still over 80 times the healthy limit prescribed by the World Health Organization (WHO). A thick toxic haze lingered over the city for the fifth consecutive day, with doctors expressing concerns that air pollution is causing an increase in respiratory and eye problems among children and the elderly.

The concentration of PM2.5, fine particulate matter capable of penetrating deep into the respiratory system and triggering health problems, exceeded the government-prescribed safe limit of 60 microgrammes per cubic metre by seven to eight times at multiple locations throughout Delhi-NCR. It was 80 to 100 times the healthy limit of 5 microgrammes per cubic metre set by the WHO.

Air quality in Delhi-NCR declined over the past week due to a gradual drop in temperatures, calm winds that trap pollution, and a surge in post-harvest paddy straw burning across Punjab and Haryana.

Data from the Central Pollution Control Board shows that Delhi's air quality index increased by over 200 points between October 27 and November 3, culminating in a descent into the "severe plus" category (above 450) on Friday.

However, the 24-hour average AQI, recorded at 4 pm every day, marginally improved from 468 on Friday to 415 on Saturday.

Friday's 24-hour average AQI was the worst since the previous high of 471 recorded on November 12, 2021.

The air quality in neighbouring Ghaziabad (394), Gurugram (404), Noida (408), Greater Noida (490) and Faridabad (438) also reported hazardous air quality.

Delhi's air quality ranks among the worst in the world's

capital cities.

A report by the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC) in August said that air pollution is shortening lives by almost 12 years in Delhi.

The hazardous pollution levels compelled many to forgo their morning walks, sports, and other outdoor activities.

Parents are a worried lot as health experts say children breathe faster, taking in more pollutants.

Unfavourable meteorological conditions, combined with emissions from vehicles, paddy straw burning, firecrackers, and other local pollution sources, contribute to hazardous air quality levels in Delhi-NCR during the winter every year.

According to an analysis conducted by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), the capital experiences peak pollution from November 1 to November 15 when the number of stubble burning incidents in Punjab and Haryana increases.

Smoke from stubble burning accounted for 24.5 percent of the PM2.5 pollution in Delhi on Saturday, dropping from 35 percent on Friday, according to a numerical model-based system developed by the Pune-based Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology.

Officials at the Commission for Air Quality Management, a central government panel that formulates strategies to combat pollution in Delhi-NCR, expect pollution levels to further decline due to comparatively better meteorological conditions and curbs imposed on certain polluting activities, including non-essential construction work, starting Thursday.

On Friday, the commission deferred the implementation of stricter measures under the air pollution control plan, called the Graded Response Action Plan, citing a declining trend in the AQI in the region.

A day earlier, the pollution control body had ordered a ban on non-essential construction work and specific categories of polluting vehicles.

UN Official Says Average Gazan Living On Two Pieces Of Bread A Day, Scarce Water

Agencies

The average Gazan is living on two pieces of Arabic bread made from flour the UN had stockpiled in the region, yet the main refrain now being heard in the street is "Water, water," the Gaza director for the UN agency for Palestinian refugees said Friday.

Thomas White, who said he travelled "the length and breadth of Gaza in the last few weeks," described the place as a "scene of death and destruction." No place is safe now, he said, and people fear for their lives, their future and their ability to feed their families.

The Palestinian refugee agency, known as UNRWA, is supporting about 89 bakeries across Gaza, aiming to get bread to 1.7 million people, White told diplomats from the UN's 193 member nations in a video briefing from Gaza.

But, he said, "now people are beyond looking for bread. It's looking for water."

UN deputy Mideast coordinator Lynn Hastings, who is also the humanitarian coordinator for the Palestinian territories, said only one of three water supply lines from Israel is operational.

"Many people are relying on brackish or saline ground water, if at all," she said.

In the briefing, UN humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths also said intense negotiations are taking place among authorities from Israel, Egypt, the United States and United Nations on allowing fuel to enter Gaza.

Fuel, he said, is essential for the functioning of institutions, hospitals and the distribution of water and electricity. "We must allow these supplies reli-



ably, repetitively and dependently into Gaza."

Backup generators, which have been essential to keep hospitals, water desalination plants, food production facilities and other essential services operating "are one by one grinding to a halt as fuel supplies run out," Hastings said.

White pointed to other major problems.

Sewage is not being treated and instead is being pumped into the sea, he said. "But when you speak to municipal workers, the reality is once their fuel runs out, that sewage will flow in the streets."

In addition, he said, cooking gas that was brought into Gaza from Egypt by the private sector before the war is increasingly in short supply. Aid organisations like UNRWA "are not going to be able to step in and replicate the network of distribution by the private sector for this essential item," he said.

White said close to 600,000 people are sheltering in 149 UNRWA facilities, most of them schools, but the agency has lost contact with many in the north, where Israel is carrying intense ground and air operations following Hamas' surprise Oct. 7 attacks.

An average of 4,000 displaced Gazans are living in the schools without the resources to maintain proper sanitation, he said. "The conditions are desperate," with women and children sleeping in the classrooms and men sleeping outside in the open, he said.

The UN can't provide them safety, White said, pointing to over 50 UNRWA facilities impacted by the conflict, including five direct hits. "At last count, 38 people have died in our shelters. I fear that with the fighting going on in the north right now, that number is going to grow significantly," he said.

Griffiths, the humanitarian chief, said 72 UNRWA staff members had been killed since Oct. 7. "I think it's the highest number of UN staff lost in a conflict," he said.

The Gaza Health Ministry's total of more than 9,000 people killed in Gaza is four times as many deaths as during the 50-day conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza in 2014 when just over 2,200 Palestinians were killed, Griffiths said.

He added that the real toll will only emerge once buildings are cleared and rubble is taken away.



Militants Attack Pakistan Air Force Training Base In Punjab Province, 3 Aircraft Damaged

Press Trust of India

ISLAMABAD: Heavily-armed militants attacked a Pakistan Air Force training base in Punjab province early Saturday, damaging three grounded aircraft, the army said.

In a statement, the Pakistan Army said that the Mianwali Training Air Base of Pakistan Air Force was attacked by terrorists but soldiers foiled it by killing three of the attackers and cornering three others.

"However, during the attack, some damage to three already grounded aircraft and a fuel bowser also occurred," the statement said.

It said that three terrorists

were "neutralised while entering the base while the remaining three terrorists have been cornered/isolated due to timely and effective response by the troops".

It further added that a comprehensive joint clearance and combing operation is in the final stages to completely clear the area.

"Pakistan Armed Forces remain committed to eliminating the menace of terrorism from the country at all costs," the army said.

The attack comes hours after a series of terror strikes that killed at least 17 soldiers in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Over 50 Haryana Schoolgirls Accuse Principal Of Sexual Harassment, Case Filed

Press Trust of India

CHANDIGARH: Over 50 female students of a government school in Jind district have accused their principal of sexual harassment, the Haryana State Commission for Women said on Friday as it pulled up the police for their lackadaisical approach to the complaints.

The commission said they had forwarded the complaints from a few female students of the school to the police on September 14 but action was taken only on October 30.

The Haryana police had on Monday booked the school principal, days after he was suspended by the Jind administration over allegations of sexual harassment of a few students.

The Jind police have formed teams to arrest the accused, a police official from the district said on Friday, stating that the principal, who is aged around 55 years, is evading arrest.

Speaking to reporters in Panchkula, the State Commission for Women's chairperson Renu Bhatia said, "We have received 60 written complaints against the principal from the girl students. Out of this, 50 are complaints from girls who stated physical abuse at the hands of the accused. Ten other girls, in their complaint, said they knew the principal was into such things," Ms Bhatia added that all the complainants were minor.

The victims alleged that the accused used to call them to his office and "indulge in obscene acts", she said.

"Initially, we received a complaint on September 13 from some female students and forwarded it to the police the very next day. From September 14 to October 29, there was no action on their end," Ms Bhatia said, pointing at the "lackadaisical

approach" of the Jind police in the matter.

"The girls later contacted us again. We spoke to the Superintendent of Police after which an FIR was registered," she added.

Ms Bhatia also asked why the accused was not arrested immediately once the FIR was registered, which gave him time to abscond.

A woman District Education Officer's alleged lapse is also being investigated by the commission to find out why she did not act when she received the complaints, Ms Bhatia said.

A female teacher's role who allegedly supported the principal is also being investigated, she added.

She said some girls contacted the commission on Thursday evening alleging that they received phone calls from unknown persons who pressured them to recall their statement.

The commission's chairman urged the Haryana DGP and the Jind Superintendent of Police to ensure that the accused is arrested immediately. "Such persons deserve to be sent behind bars immediately," she said.

Ms Bhatia said the commission had proof that the principal used to call some of the girls on their phones and tried to chat with them, adding that he had kept at least three mobile phones which were not known to his family or anyone else.

The accused had allegedly installed a tinted door at his office in the school, the police had said.

The principal did not have a good record in other schools too where he was posted, Ms Bhatia said, adding that there were complaints of misbehaviour with female students against him at two other schools, she said.

Israel Claims Responsibility For Attack Outside Gaza's Largest Hospital

Agencies

Israel has claimed responsibility for an attack outside the Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, the largest in the enclave, saying that a fighter jet had struck an ambulance used by Hamas personnel.

In a post on X late Friday, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said: "A Hamas terrorist cell was identified using an ambulance. In response, an IDF aircraft struck and neutralized the Hamas terrorists, who were operating within the ambulance."

We emphasize that this area in Gaza is a war zone. Civilians are repeatedly called upon to evacuate southward for their own safety."

In a separate statement, the military said that the ambulance was "being used by a Hamas terrorist cell in close proximity to their position in the battle zone".

"A number of Hamas terrorist operatives were killed in the strike. We have information which demonstrates that Hamas' method of operation is to transfer terrorist operatives and weapons in ambulances." CNN quoted the statement as saying.



But the UN Relief Works Agency (UNRWA) has said that "a convoy of ambulances evacuating patients from Shifa hospital in Gaza city to the Rafah crossing with Egypt, was struck three times in the vicinity of the hospital".

Citing initial reports, the UN body said that at least 13 people were killed and 26 injured.

Earlier Friday, a spokesman for the Gaza-based Palestinian Health Ministry had also said that the ambulance was in a medical convoy from the hospital, traveling to the Rafah border crossing, and had informed the International Committee of the Red Cross

about the move.

On its part, the ICRC confirmed it was aware of the scheduled movement of a convoy of vehicles carrying wounded patients from northern Gaza to the south, but it was not part of it.

"We were informed by the MoH (Ministry of Health) about the planned convoy, but we were not part of it," the ICRC told CNN.

"Even if we were not present, this is still medical convoy, and any violence towards medical personnel is unacceptable... No doctors, nurses, or any medical professionals should ever die while working to save lives."

Class 10 Student Dies By Suicide After Mobile Taken By School Authorities

Press Trust of India

BHUBANESWAR: A student of Class 10 allegedly died by suicide on his school premises in Khurda district after his mobile phone was "seized" on Friday, police said.

The minor boy, who stayed at the school hostel, was found hanging from a tree on Friday morning, a police officer said.

He took the extreme step after his mobile phone was reportedly seized by the school authority.

"We have recovered the



body and informed his family members. Investigation has been started into the unnatural death," said SDPO (Khurda Sadar) Dilip Das.

GOVERNMENT OF UNION TERRITORY JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DALGATE DIVISION SRINAGAR

EXTENSION NOTICE-3

Reference:- This office NIT No: 13/e-tendering/DAL/2023-24/2210-26 Dated 19-10-2023. (e-Tendering).

For the above reference NIT, the dates has been extended for S.No.3 & 4 due to Nil response:-

1.	Bid Submission end date	07-11-2023 upto 4.00 P.M
2.	Date and time of opening of Bid (online)	08-11-2023 at 11.00 A.M in the office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Dalgate Division Srinagar.

All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

No. 2895-2907
Dated. 03-11-2023

sd./
Executive Engineer,
(R&B) Dalgate Division Srinagar.

DIPK-11603-23
DT: 04/11/2023

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, SOURA, SRINAGAR.

NOTICE

Subject: Engagement of Nursing Aids G-III on Academic Arrangement Basis at Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, Soura, Srinagar.

It is notified for information of all the concerned that the engagement order of candidates for the post of Nursing Aid G-III at Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, Soura, Srinagar advertised vide Notice No. 01 of 2023, dated 17.06.2023 on Academic Arrangement Basis has been issued vide Order No. SIMS 231 (P) of 2023, dated 31.10.2023 and is available on the official website of SKIMS (www.skims.ac.in).

The engagees are required to join within a period of 21 days from the date of issuance of the Order failing which the candidates shall forego their right to engagement which shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio without any further notice.

Candidates are advised to visit the official website of SKIMS for complete order.

No. SIMS 302 13 18 01/2023-8315
Dated: November, 03, 2023.
DIPK-NB-4043-23
DT: 04/11/2023

Sd/-
(Gulzar Ahmad Dar), JKAS,
Additional Director, SKIMS &
Ex-Officio Special Secretary to Govt.

CS Interacts With RTI, Social Activists In Srinagar; Jammu

Chairman JK RTI Movement Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat Urges Mehta To Start Online RTI Portal

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Saturday held interactive sessions with the Right to Information Act (RTI) and social activists in the twin capital cities of Srinagar and Jammu in the Union Territory.

In Srinagar, the interaction was held on Saturday morning at Banquet Hall, and later in the afternoon at Convention Center, Jammu as part of the ongoing Vigilance Awareness Week.

Besides Commissioner Secretary, GAD senior civil and police functionaries from Divisional & District Administrations were present at both the venues. These included Divisional Commissioner Kashmir/Jammu; Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar/Jammu; SSP Srinagar/Jammu; Commissioner JMC/SMC; several HoDs and other Sectoral Officers of the concerned districts.

The RTI Activists from different parts of the Kashmir and Jammu divisions participated in these interactions and made various suggestions for further enhancing transparency, accountability and speedy delivery of public services in a corruption free environment.



Chairman JK RTI Movement Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat and other participants urged CS to start an online RTI portal so that people can seek information through digital mode. CS agreed this in person and said online RTI will be a reality soon.

Senior Members gave some suggestions for better Governance which were well taken by CS especially starting an online RTI portal.

CS said since the introduction of the digital governance system in the UT, filing of RTI applications by people has seen a sharp dip as all information about government schemes, development works, their

implementation and execution is available in public domain. He encouraged all of them to often visit the Janbhagadari portal for so as to keep people informed of works under implementation in their areas.

The Chief Secretary also made a mention of PSGA bolstered by the feedback mechanisms of Auto-appeal and RAS which has increased the efficiency of service delivery to public substantially. He revealed that the delivery of services hovers at around 80% within laid down time lines and more than 86% applicants have given the positive feedback regarding this services availed by them.

On the occasion, the Chief Secretary stressed on the RTI activists to extend their constructive support to the administration in weeding out undesirable elements

which misuse processes for private benefits.

Dr Mehta maintained that the Government has adopted a zero tolerance towards corruption and has worked on the principle of increasing citizen participation in governance, with more accountability and transparency in government business.

With regard to the burning societal issue of drug menace, the Chief Secretary said that the government is committed to make the UT 'NashaMukht'. He stated that it is evident that the legal action against the drug trade has been greatly enhanced with increased focus of police and civil administration.

He maintained that hundreds of FIRs had been registered during this year against the persons involved in this illicit trade. He enumerated measures taken by government like establishment Deaddiction centers in every district, enhanced vigil on drug stores and creating of awareness among students in schools and colleges. He urged these Social Activists to play their role and cooperate with the Administration in total eradication of this menace from J&K.

Justice Sindhu Sharma Inspects District Court Budgam

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Justice Sindhu Sharma, Judge High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Administrative Judge for District Budgam) inspected District Court complex Budgam on Saturday.

Justice Sindhu Sharma was accompanied by Registrar General; Mr. Shahzad Azeem received by Principal District & Sessions Judge, Budgam Mr. Khalil Ahmed Choudhary.

The High Court Judge interacted with the judicial officers posted at district headquarter, Budgam and gave patient hearing to all judicial officers vis-a-vis

infrastructure and other issues faced by them in their respective courts.

Justice Sindhu Sharma directed all the judicial officers for early disposal of cases both civil and criminal. She instructed the judicial officers that old cases pending for more than 10 years shall be listed twice a month and under trial cases be listed twice in a month.

The High Court Judge ensured that steps will be taken to redress all the grievances at large and assured that all the courts within District Budgam shall be at par with the best courts of the UT based on National Module.

LG visits Skill Development Institute Bhubaneswar

Observer News Service

BHUBANESWAR: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Saturday visited the Skill Development Institute, Bhubaneswar.

The LG interacted with the officials, students and trainers, who informed him about advanced skill training for Indian and global needs and functioning of Centres of Excellence in partnership with leading industry players.

He said that we have a historic opportunity to take the leadership in the skilling, re-skilling and up-skilling to give a new height to ascending tra-

jectory of the economic growth

Sinha discussed the industry-aligned courses in diverse domains such as mechanical, construction, IT, ITeS, manufacturing, Internet of Things and hospitality.

"It is our mission to transform India into a developed nation and industry-aligned courses will ensure self-reliance in critical technologies and it will boost up the employment potential," he added. Skill Development Institute, Bhubaneswar is a philanthropic initiative of Oil PSUs under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.

NSD To Organise 5-Day Srinagar Theatre Festival From Next Week

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The National School of Drama (NSD) is organising a five-day Srinagar Theatre Festival here from the next week, during which a number of plays will be staged.

Addressing a press conference in Srinagar on Saturday, Chief of the Repertory Company, NSD, Rajesh Singh, said the festival is being organised in collaboration with the J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages from November 6-10.

The NSD Repertory Company will perform its play for the first time in Srinagar, Singh said.

Earlier, it had organised the Summer Theatre Festival 2023 at differ-

ent locations in Odisha and Delhi, reaching about 1,04,000 people through different segments of the festival, he said.

The company has been providing a professional platform for the graduates of the NSD and other theatre schools as well as experienced theatre practitioners of India.

Singh said the inaugural ceremony of the festival will be graced by Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, as the guest of honour, while Bharat Singh Manhas and Bashir Dada will be the special guests.

On the occasion, the inaugural address will be delivered by Chairperson, NSD Society, Paresh Rawal.

"Laila Majnun", a play written

by Ismail Chunara and directed by Padma Shri Ram Gopal Bajaj, will be showcased in the Inaugural ceremony," Singh said.

Various plays will be staged during the festival, including "Khoob Ladi Mardaani Subhadra Ki Zubani" written by Asif Ali and directed by Bharti Sharma, "Maai Ri Main Ka Se Kahun" a musical play based on Vijaydan Detha's story Dhuvividha and directed by Ajay Kumar, "Andha Yug" written by Dharamvir Bharti and directed by Padma Shri Professor Ram Gopal Bajaj and "Taj Mahal Ka Tender" written by Ajay Shukla and directed by Chittaranjan Tripathy.

The entry to the theatre would be free of cost on a 'first come first serve' basis, he added.

Firecrackers Banned Along IB In Jammu

Press Trust Of India

ARNIA: The administration on Friday ordered a ban on sale and use of firecrackers along the International Border in Jammu district, officials said.

The district administration issued an order tonight to ban the sale and use of firecrackers.

Loudspeaker fitted police vehicles drove around the border areas along IB in Arnia and R S Pura asking people to keep away from sale and use of firecrackers in the border belt.

"The ban has been ordered on the selling and bursting of firecrackers in a 5-km area along the IB. Those found involved in violation of it will be prosecuted as per law," announced a police official on loud speaker in the border hamlets tonight.

This step has been taken in view of security aspects in the border belt.

SIA Carries Out Searches In Poonch

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Special Investigation Agency (SIA) carried out searches at a house in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district in connection with a terror-related case on Saturday, officials said.

The searches were conducted around 4 am at the house of suspect Mohammad Hafiz in Kanuyian village, they added.

Hafiz was not present at his house when it was raided, the officials said. Meanwhile, the officials said a joint cordon-and-search operation was launched by police and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) at Copra top, Bachian Wali, Shindara, Thandi Kassi and Mohalla Saedan in Poonch district early in the morning. The operation was underway when last reports were received, they said.

Train Crushes Student To Death

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A teenage student on Saturday was killed after being hit by a train between Bijbehara-Panzgam section in South Kashmir.

Arsalan Jalal of Darbhag Shopian was mowed down by the train in the Naina area on Saturday afternoon, reports said. A student of 11th class, Jalal received critical injuries in the accident. He succumbed to his injuries before he could be evacuated to the hospital for treatment.

Meanwhile, Police have taken cognizance of the incident.

FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2023

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during Deepawali and Chhath Puja Festivals, Northern Railway has planned to run the following Festival Special Trains in addition to normal regular trains as per schedule given below:-

LIST OF FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS ORIGINATING/TERMINATING IN NORTHERN RAILWAY

Table with 7 columns: Spl. Train No., Station From, Dept. Time, Station to, Arr. Time, Frequency / Day, Period. Lists various special trains like 03255 Patna Jn to Anand Vihar Terminal, etc.

LIST OF FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS PASSING THROUGH NORTHERN RAILWAY NETWORK

Table with 7 columns: Spl. Train No., Station From, Dept. Time, Station to, Arr. Time, Frequency / Day, Period. Lists trains passing through the network like 09075 Mumbai Central to Kathgodam, etc.

Position as on 04.11.2023. For any kind of information such as arrival/departure timings and stoppages enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTES App. NORTHERN RAILWAY logo and website information.

Alarming Rise Of Drug Abuse: A Collective Failure

Mushtaq Rather

“A significant percentage of respondents are unaware of the existence of these centers, NGOs working in the field of drug de-addiction, or the centers operating in the Kashmir valley. This widespread unawareness exacerbates the problem and underscores the need for extensive efforts to combat this menace”

Drug addiction has surged dramatically over the past decade, catching everyone off guard and leading to catastrophic consequences not only for the victims of drug abuse but also shrouding our entire societal fabric in a cloud of despair and gloom. It is primarily a collective failure of society to prevent our youth from succumbing to the drug menace. Unfortunately, as integral members of society, our approach has been abysmal in recognizing and addressing such activities in our midst, often dismissing the potential fatal consequences. We often think, "It's not related to my immediate family members, so why should I speak out against it?" This pessimistic approach has allowed the drug menace to deeply infiltrate our social structure, making it seemingly uncontrollable. The damage already inflicted is irreparable, as we've lost numerous young individuals to drugs, with many others seeing their potential and careers tarnished. The economic distress imposed on the families of drug-affected youth is also unimaginable.

The geographical location of Jammu and Kashmir makes it susceptible to drug trafficking, especially across the Union Territory. The Kashmir valley is one of the hardest-hit regions by drug abuse. Various factors contribute to this menace, including unemployment, the conflict-ridden history of Jammu and Kashmir, peer pressure, unfulfilled aspirations, expectations placed on children by parents, poverty, and corruption. Researchers have identified major drugs of abuse in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, such as tobacco, cannabis, alcohol, benzodiazepines (including sleeping pills like alprax and valium), opiates (like codeine, heroin, and morphine), brown sugar, and inhalants (like fevicol, SR, glue, paint thinner, petrol, shoe polish, etc.).

Drug addiction has become a matter of grave concern, with a significant increase in the consumption of hard drugs like heroin and other opioids. Data presented by the Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment in Parliament is alarming, indicating that nearly 10 lakh people in Jammu and Kashmir are victims of the drug menace. This number has seen an unprecedented upward trend over the years. Shockingly, 1.44 lakh people in Jammu and Kashmir are active consumers of cannabis, including 36,000 females. Such statistics are a shock to the collective conscience of our society, as the most vulnerable segment is increasingly falling prey to substance abuse. It's worth noting that 5.34 lakh men and a substantial number of 8,000 women are involved in opioid addiction, while 1.6 lakh men and 9,000 women are victims of sedative addiction. A recent survey by the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) in Srinagar has revealed that Jammu and Kashmir has even surpassed Punjab, known as the drug menace capital of India.

Official figures from the Jammu and

Kashmir Government indicate that 41,110 drug addicts sought treatment for drug abuse in Kashmir in 2022, nearly double the number from the previous year, which was 23,403. Dr. Yasir Rather, a Professor of Psychiatry at IMHANS, Srinagar, attributes this increase to the rising cost of heroin due to a decrease in its supply. He also notes that the cost of a gram of heroin has risen from Rs 2000-3000 in 2022 to around 6000 in 2023. Consequently, many abusers have been left with no choice but to seek treatment. According to a study titled "Prevalence and Pattern of Substance Use Disorders in Kashmir (2022)" conducted by IMHANS, heroin is the primary drug in the valley. This study also reveals that the average cost incurred by one person con-



suming a gram of heroin per day amounts to 8,183, signifying significant economic implications. The study further indicates that over two-thirds of drug addicts started substance abuse between the ages of 11 and 20. Additionally, 91.9% of patients studied exhibited multi-substance abuse, with inhalant use being predominant among adolescents. Nicotine, cannabis, alcohol, opioids, and benzodiazepines were more prevalent in the age group of 21 to 30.

Research in the southern landscape of the Kashmir valley highlights a disturbing lack of awareness regarding drug de-addiction centers among drug abusers and their families. A significant percentage of respondents are unaware of the existence of these centers, NGOs working in the field of drug de-addiction, or the centers operating in the Kashmir valley. This widespread unawareness exacerbates the problem and underscores the need for extensive efforts to combat this menace.

Drug abuse and the rise in societal crime

It is a well-acknowledged reality that the increasing trend in drug abuse cases has led to a surge in heinous crimes within society. The need for a substantial amount of cash to procure highly sedative drugs has pushed drug abusers to explore illegal means to acquire them, no matter the cost. One of the most concerning ramifications of drug abuse today is the rise in homicide cases, especially among young individuals. It has become commonplace for drug abusers to resort to theft

from their families and relatives to sustain their drug addiction. Dr. Yasir Rather, a Professor of Psychiatry at IMHANS Srinagar, unequivocally asserts that the escalating crime rate in Kashmir may be linked to the surge in heroin abusers. Some addicts resort to burglary and even murder out of desperation and frustration to acquire drugs. Over time, some addicts become drug peddlers to ensure a continuous cash flow.

For instance, in March of this year, a 32-year-old resident of Dangerpora village in Sopore, North Kashmir, strangled his 70-year-old mother. The evident reason was the drug addiction of the perpetrator, and his sole intention in murdering his mother was to satisfy the unjust demand for money to buy drugs. Another similar incident occurred in Gopalpora village, Anantnag, where a teenager, along with a friend, brutally attacked his mother, blaming his father initially for the heinous crime. Such incidents are not isolated and are unfortunately becoming more common in the Southern region of the Kashmir valley. The incident of a baker in Aishmuqam Pahalgam has also shaken the conscience of residents. The baker, allegedly under the influence of drugs, attacked his own family members and neighbors, resulting in the death of three individuals, including his mother, and injuring seven others.

Our society is facing a critical crossroads, and we seem to be hesitant to take the necessary actions to curb this menace. It is high time that we address this issue with a sense of urgency and implement a comprehensive action plan to counter the drug menace.

A Remedial Action Plan to Counter the Drug Menace

The widespread lack of awareness about the existence of drug de-addiction centers highlights the urgent need to operationalize large-scale centers accessible to substance users seeking treatment.

Additionally, parents play a pivotal role in keeping their children away from drugs. Unreasonable expectations placed on children by their parents can lead to increased mental distress. When children can't meet their parents' expectations, they often turn to drugs to cope with the resulting mental trauma, trapping themselves in the vicious cycle of drug abuse. Parents should provide support to their children and collaborate with them in pursuing careers of their choice, rather than pressuring them into careers they don't desire.

The community can be an effective tool in combating the drug menace, provided it acts as a cohesive unit, vocally opposing the unscrupulous elements.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The author is an educator and research scholar

As Israel and Hamas keep their daggers drawn, destabilising the Middle East, New Delhi should keep alternative strategies in mind, especially its Act East policy. This becomes important as it is a region with which India may have to postpone the strengthening of economic and trading ties. The Act East policy is intended to strengthen India's strategic and trade relationships with Asia-Pacific/East Asian/Southeast Asian countries—especially with Japan and South Korea, and with the ASEAN.

Trade has long driven development in the Asia-Pacific. For instance, Japan and South Korea have achieved high-income status through export-driven development strategies. Meanwhile, the strengths of emerging economies in the region explain why, in part. They account for 17% of global goods and services, with India contributing 1.8%. Their dual strategy aims at countering China while having it as a member of two of their three most prominent trade organisations—the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

Simultaneously, they also hold that China can only be checkmated if their own economies grow stronger. The shift in global supply chains triggered by the pandemic, Russia's war in Ukraine, and a possible prolonged conflict in the Middle East could affect their economies. Additionally, since their largest markets are in the Asia-Pacific itself, they have

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation India and global supply chains

Anita Inder Singh

favoured trade integration in the region.

That is why intra-regional trade accounted for more than half of the total export growth of East Asia in the last decade, while exports to the US, European Union (EU), and Japan accounted for 30% in 2021. Semiconductors and other computer equipment, computers, TV sets, and mobile phones were exported from highly developed economies like Japan, South Korea, China, and Taiwan after being assembled in less developed Asia-Pacific countries including Malaysia and Vietnam, and sometimes also China.

One result has been the growth of consumer demand in East Asian countries over the last 10 years. This growth poses a political dilemma, since China has surpassed the US and the EU as their largest customer. They have dealt with this problem by lowering barriers to regional trade and subsequently to regional integration. This includes non-tariff barriers, especially on digital goods. Their rationale is that stronger intra-

regional trade and economic integration will diversify supply chains. Also, such trade—and countries that demand their goods—can offer protection against uncertainties and shifts in global trade and growth.

India is not a member of the Partnership (CPTPP) which excludes China, and the RCEP and APEC, which include China. The 21-member APEC includes Asia-Pacific, Western, and Latin American countries. Home to over 2.9 billion people, it is a major force in shaping regional economic policies, promoting trade, investment and cooperation between its members, who can simultaneously share, and learn from, the experiences of other member-states.

India could benefit from joining APEC. This could provide APEC members with the opportunity to create more investment opportunities in the country. Membership could also increase their access to India's labour force and expand its markets. Aligning with APEC

by simplifying and harmonising trade procedures and regulations could boost India's exports, attract foreign direct investment and support domestic initiatives like Make in India. To increase trade, India should also invest more in the ASEAN, which was a top recipient of FDI in developing regions (second after China in 2021).

Despite their different political systems and attitudes to China and the US, countries are also investing in one another. For instance, the Asia-Pacific's fast-growing economies, sometimes hailed as the world's factories, have expanding markets because their percentage of buyers is growing. At the moment, 54% of the ASEAN's population comprises 29% of the world's consumer middle-class population. Some 65% of the ASEAN's population could join the international consumer class by the end of this decade. Optimists predict that East Asia could become the largest consumer market by then.

More domestic jobs and household

consumption can act as a shock absorber for global economic crises. Additionally, policies to lower barriers to regional trade could deepen regional integration. This is why Asia-Pacific countries keep trying to reduce, if not remove, non-tariff barriers, especially in digital services.

Finally, India should pay more attention to the linkages between trade, investment and services that are integral to global supply chains (GSCs). Many of its trading friends—including Japan—complain about its increased protectionism over the last few years. Its limited economic liberalisation hampers its integration with GSCs. This, in turn, could stand in the way of taking advantage of the China-Plus-One strategy, which the West—and the World Bank—hope will dissuade countries from investing mainly in China and encourage them to diversify their businesses to alternative destinations.

India's emergence as a reliable investment base and its introduction of tariffs that are comparable to those of Asia's strong emerging market economies for its manufacturing sector could realise its potential for integration into GSCs. This would certainly be to India's economic and strategic advantage.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by Financial Express

AUTUMN'S SPLENDOR

Embracing the Art of Letting Go

Madeeha Munir

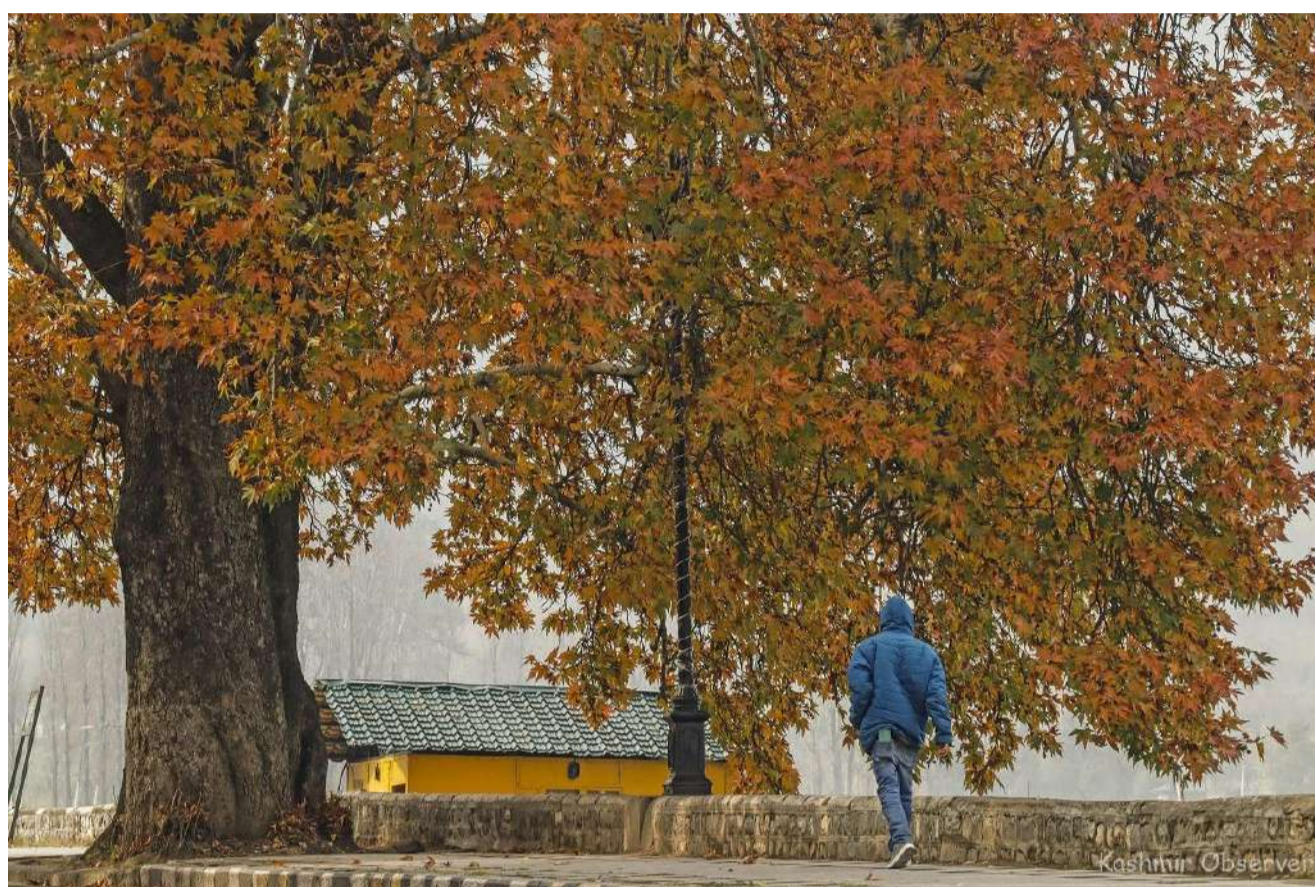
When the dog days of summer give way to the crisp and vibrant embrace of autumn, nature unfolds a spectacular transformation before our eyes. Trees, once lush and green, shed their leaves, painting the world with hues of red, yellow, and orange. It is in the midst of this seasonal shift that autumn offers a profound lesson on the art of letting go.

Autumn, often celebrated for its resplendent display of colors, encapsulates the essence of impermanence. Just as the leaves gracefully descend from the branches, it is a stark reminder of the natural cycle of life. It echoes the phases of existence—birth, growth, maturity, decline, and the inevitable release. This vivid demonstration of nature's cycle encourages us to embrace the transience of our own lives, navigate change with grace, and release the things that no longer serve us.

Khaled Hosseini, the author of "The Kite Runner," poignantly encapsulates the spirit of autumn when he wrote, "The leaves did not become less beautiful when they fell from the branches; they just continued to show their beauty as they scattered and returned to the earth." In these words, he captures the beauty that can be found in the release of what was once held dear, a beauty that endures and transforms as we let go.

Autumn beckons us to reflect on the past year as leaves fall gracefully from the trees. In their descent, we witness the trees surrendering their foliage, mirroring the need to release the burdens of old grudges, regrets, and attachments. Much like the trees preparing for new growth in the spring, we must let go of past grievances to pave the way for fresh opportunities and personal growth.

Albert Camus, the renowned philosopher and author, eloquently describes autumn as "a second spring when every leaf is a flower." The leaves' descent, while symbolizing



the end of one phase, also signals a new beginning. The art of letting go creates space for renewal, reminding us of the necessity of shedding the old to make room for fresh possibilities and personal transformation.

Change, an undeniable facet of life, is beautifully exemplified by the arrival of autumn. The trees, in their graceful surrender, teach us to embrace change with an open heart and an eagerness to explore new experiences and opportunities. Autumn reminds us that just as the world transforms,

so must we. In the words of Victor Hugo, "Even the darkest night will end, and the sun will rise." Change brings with it the promise of new beginnings, and by embracing it, we can welcome the sun after even the darkest of nights.

In the art of release, we uncover the true essence of beauty. Adrienne Rich, a celebrated poet and essayist, remarked that "In the process of letting go, you will lose many things from the past, but you will find yourself." Much like the trees that shed

their foliage, we too can cast off old habits, unhealthy relationships, and fears. In this process, we unearth our own hidden potential and embrace our true selves.

Simplicity takes center stage during the autumn season. The trees, as they shed their leaves, demonstrate the beauty found in simplicity. In their bare branches, we find an elegant minimalism that speaks to our hearts. It encourages us to simplify our lives by letting go of unnecessary layers that weigh us down. In this simplicity, we dis-

cover inner peace, clarity, and a newfound appreciation for life's essential beauty.

Finally, autumn's transition underscores the resilience inherent in nature. As the trees adapt to colder weather and shorter days by gracefully letting go of their leaves, they remind us of our own capacity to navigate change. Just as the trees exhibit resilience in the face of change, we too can find inspiration in their ability to weather transitions with courage and grace.

In the words of Charles Dickens, "Reflect on your present blessings, on which every man has many, not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some." Just as the trees demonstrate their resilience in the face of change, we can draw inspiration from their ability to weather transitions with courage and poise.

In conclusion, as we witness the vibrant colors of autumn and its striking example of the art of letting go, we are reminded to release the past, embrace change, and find beauty in simplicity. Nature's wisdom during this season encourages us to navigate life's inevitable transitions with grace and resilience.

So, as autumn unfolds its magnificent hues, let us take this opportunity to learn from its art of letting go and apply it to our own lives, enriching our journey with growth, transformation, and inner peace. Autumn's splendor serves as a reminder that in letting go, we find renewal, in change, we find growth, and in simplicity, we find beauty.

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

PULL QUOTE: Autumn's transition underscores the resilience inherent in nature. As the trees adapt to colder weather and shorter days by gracefully letting go of their leaves, they remind us of our own capacity to navigate change. Just as the trees exhibit resilience in the face of change, we too can find inspiration in their ability to weather transitions with courage and grace

How Reading Fiction Can Save the Day

Jo Adetunji

There is a fair chance that someone in your close circle of friends and family will be using a smartphone, e-reader or tablet computer to read the latest bestseller over the holidays this year. Since the 2007 and the introduction of Kindle in 2010, such devices have changed the way that people engage with books. Most newspapers, including the 166-year-old New York Times have completed their digital transition, and some are now exclusively online. In academia, journal articles are increasingly published first in digital form, and sometimes exclusively so. But when it comes to books, the paper form has shown unexpected resilience.

Ground-breaking inventions

The digital or screen revolution we are living today is on the same scale as two other major events that radically changed humanity: the invention of writing 6,000 years ago in the form of clay inscriptions in Mesopotamia and Gutenberg's invention of printing with moveable type in the 15th century.

These ground-breaking inventions were regarded with suspicion by many contemporaries. Plato considered writing a threat to human memory, and monks agonised over the demise of their way of life. In 1492, for example, the abbot Johannes Trithemius wrote *De laude scriptorium manualium*, which he had printed in 1494 for better effect. In both cases the contemporary sceptics were right.

Human powers of memory are nowhere near what they were before the advent of writing, and printing spelled the end of the monastic scriptorium.

Not surprisingly, the screen revolution, too, has its detractors, and once again, their criticisms frequently have their basis in truth. In the E-READ research network, to which we belong, we are trying to understand the function of reading in the digital age especially at a time where research points out the negative impact of screens.

Screen addiction

Smartphone usage among teenagers has been compared to drug addiction. Worldwide surveys show that a whole generation has been growing up constantly



online, checking the smartphone up to 75 times a day. These so-called "digital natives" are, according to a recent Italian study, less autonomous and less happy than their predecessors. They face new social anxieties like "FOMO" (fear of missing out) and "vamping" (late-night texting).

The device as a medium is not to blame, but its online nature encourages a 24/7 connectivity, inducing greater distraction and more fragmented reading habits. The prime victim here is deep or immersive reading, whether in literature or all sorts of narrative and argumentative texts, included academic ones.

Is it possible for us to counter these unwelcome side effects of the digital revolution? The good news is yes. Part of the solution lies in changing our habits by reading fiction and enjoying solitude.

Experience solitude

Thuy-vy Nguyen, along with his colleagues from Rochester University found that solitude can lead to relaxation and stress reduction. The researchers define solitude as "as being alone for a period of time with no access to devices, personal interactions, external stimuli, or activities." In all four studies, the solitude lasted 15 minutes and the subjects were instructed to sit alone and not engage in any activities or to carry out an activity alone as to

think either positive or neutral thoughts.

In one part of the experiment, subjects were provided with a short recreational reading, titled "Glamorous Crossing: How Pan-Am Airways Dominated International Travel in the 1930s". The results were similar to that of the other activities carried out in solitude: people were more relaxed and calm.

Reading carried out in "fertile solitude" fosters readers' resilience and greater impermeability to social pressures and expectations, such as those encountered especially on social media. It may of course also incite people to do their reading on paper, simply because they find that more relaxing than using an online device. But if reading is good for you, reading fiction is even better.

Find the good in you

Scholars have indeed recently provided empirical evidence for claims that literary reading positively affects social cognition skills and empathy. Psychologist Raymond Mar and his colleagues found that the more fiction people read – and it can be of any kind – the better they scored on tests that measure a form of empathy.

In another experiment, professor of psychology Dan Johnson found that participants who read an excerpt from a novel about the plight of an Arab-Muslim wom-

an showed a significant increase in empathy for Arab-Muslims and in their intrinsic motivation to reduce prejudice.

Literary readers could actually counterbalance the unhealthy trend of hatred and indifference which is rife on the Internet. In experiments related to an ongoing project at the Institute for Advanced Study in Paris, we could show that literary readers feel compassion for morally positive characters but not for morally bad ones. At the Max-Planck-Institute for Empirical Aesthetics in Frankfurt, we ran an experiment manipulating a literary text.

In one version, the protagonist is a doctor volunteering in Africa, in the other he is a Nazi who fled to South Africa. In the two versions we changed only four sentences concerning the moral nature of the protagonist and preserved the rest of the text almost entirely in form and content. 120 German subjects read either the text with the morally positive protagonist or the one with morally negative protagonist and afterwards rated the aesthetic and moral value of the text and answered several empathy/sympathy-related questions. While the results have not yet been published, they clearly show that the sympathy measures were affected by the moral nature of the protagonist.

Thus, literature can be considered a moral laboratory which enhances our prosocial traits.

Now how do we get young people – our so-called digital natives – to read without being constantly distracted by their various social networks and other communication tools? Here are a few more tips.

Teach people how to (really) read

To ensure that literature regains (or gains) a central place in people's reading aspirations, the didactics of literature in the digital age must be drastically overhauled. While text and author-oriented approaches are still dominant in European schools, new studies show the need to implement "experiential approaches" where the focus should be on the addressee of the text – for example, students. Research suggests that listening to student preferences (instead of imposing texts) and helping them choose the right book to fit a particular moment in their lives instigates much greater engagement.

That way we can make literary fiction mean a great deal more to adolescent readers and enhance what they can gain from it for their social lives and for their personal development.

Incidentally, it may be that paper itself is an invaluable ally here. Research has been shown that its material properties suit our memory better. Psychologist Rakefet Ackermann, also a member of the E-READ network, explained that despite immense technological advances, learners still prefer studying text from hardcopy pages rather than computer screens. She revealed that while learning performance on digital devices is not worse than on paper, surprisingly, it's our metacognitive capacity fails us. When reading an article on screen a person is less prepared to evaluate how much she has understood or – in case of studying also – memorized.

What our own experiments on the appeal of paper books showed is that readers of works on paper engage more deeply while those who use digital devices tend to read more shallowly.

So do we want to really sharply contrast digital and paper reading, and do we oppose reading from screens? No. We need to adapt our tools to our needs and to develop them in order deliberately to make reading a profound component of our social and cultural habits. The more we understand about digital reading the more we can salvage from the precious past we inherited.

By arrangements with The Conversation

Is Salt Really A New Culprit in Type 2 Diabetes?

The Conversation

When people think of foods related to type 2 diabetes, they often think of sugar (even though the evidence for that is still not clear). Now, a new study from the US points the finger at salt.

The study, conducted by researchers at Tulane University in New Orleans, used data on about 400,000 adults, taken from the UK Biobank study. This observational study followed the participants for nearly twelve years. In that time, around 13,000 developed type 2 diabetes.

In a press release, the principal investigator on the study said that "taking the saltshaker off the table can help prevent type 2 diabetes". But is it really as simple as that?

For a start, this type of study, called an observational study, cannot prove that one thing causes another, only that one thing is related to another. (There could be other factors at play.) So it is not appropriate to say removing the saltshaker "can help prevent".

My colleague Dan Green and I have previously criticised university press releases such as this as they can lead to misleading news stories. The Tulane study can only suggest an association between salt use and the risk of developing type 2 diabetes nothing more.

This is before considering the quality of the data itself.

The data used to assess salt use, was based on the simple question: "Do you add salt to your food?" (It specifically excluded salt added in cooking.)

The question the participants in the study answered only had the options: "never/rarely", "sometimes", "usually" or "always". This means it is not possible to estimate from the answers how much salt might be associated with an increased risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

Processed food is the biggest source Normal salt intake in countries like the



UK is about 8g or two teaspoons a day. But about three-quarters of this comes from processed foods. Most of the rest is added during cooking with very little added at the table.

The NHS advises that people should limit their daily salt intake to around 6g. Although people in the UK have reduced their salt intake over the last couple of decades, there is still a way to go.

Given that salt reduction is a public

health goal, it is important to be able to quantify intake to see if there is potential for what is known as a "dose-response" effect. The data reported was unable to suggest if consuming 2g of salt a day added at the table increases the risk of developing type 2 diabetes more than consuming, say, 1g a day.

The researchers used other tests of salt intake, including an estimate of how much salt participants lost in their urine over 24 hours. This is the most accurate way to measure sodium or salt intake.

This approach also suggested that higher sodium in the urine was linked to a higher risk of developing type 2 diabetes. However, what participants ate was not considered at all in this analysis. So it is not clear if salt can be directly implicated in increasing a person's risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

There is some evidence that increasing salt intake, as measured by sodium in urine may be linked to increased levels of the stress hormone cortisol. This has been linked to increased blood pressure and the reduced effectiveness of the hormone insulin.

Insulin normally controls blood glucose levels and is a key part of how type 2 diabetes develops. However, evidence for this mechanism has only been shown in rats.

Reducing salt is still a good idea

What we can be more sure about is that people with type 2 diabetes, who often also have high blood pressure tend to see their blood pressure improve when they consume less salt.

So the take-home message is: using less salt as part of a healthy diet, which is known to reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes, is a good idea.

This study did not show how much we need to reduce our salt intake by, it only suggested a weak association between adding salt to food and risk of developing type 2 diabetes. So it is better to focus on what is known to reduce the risk of developing type 2 diabetes, which is to maintain a healthy weight, be physically active and eat a healthy diet.

iPhone Owners Keep Devices Longer Than Android Smartphone Users: Report

IAN S

Apple iPhone users keep their devices for a longer period than Android smartphone users, for at least two years or more, a new report has revealed.

About 61 per cent of iPhone buyers kept their previous iPhone for two years or more in the US, compared to 43 per cent of Android owners.

Far more iPhone owners (29 per cent) owned their previous iPhone for three years or more than Android owners (21 per cent), according to data from Consumer Intelligence Research Partners.

Conversely, few iPhone owners (10 per cent) owned their previous iPhone for a year or less, compared to almost a quarter of Android owners.

"The conventional wisdom is that iPhone owners are affluent and tech/fashion conscious, and Android owners are budget conscious. In theory, that should make iPhone buyers likely to upgrade quickly, but that is not the case," said the report.

For the most part, Android phones are less expensive, so Android owners may be willing to retire a relatively new phone.

"iPhone models are upgraded once a year, so there is a single

annual catalyst for buying a new phone. In contrast, across the Android market, Samsung, Google, Motorola, and other brands each release new phones at least annually," the report explained.

While there is brand loyalty within the Android market, there are more moments to consider upgrading.

"Maybe iPhones are more durable and reliable, so the user experience is better for a longer period. Or maybe some iPhone owners are easily satisfied, comfortable with their aging iPhones, and not that interested in the latest and greatest models," the report mentioned.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR (UT)
**Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Food Safety
Drugs & Food Control Organization
Kashmir Division, Bemina Srinagar**

Press Release

Complaint against Naaz Foods for supplying sub-standard food items

On the basis of complaint received against one namely Naaz Foods for supplying sub-standard food items in the market, a team comprising Intelligence cum Legal Cell Kashmir Division and Food Safety department Ganderbal inspected the said premises situated at Makaanbagh, Nagbal falling in District Ganderbal.

During inspection the team found that the meat products were being processed for manufacturing of Kabab and Rista. The unit was being operated illegally without FSSAI license under unhygienic condition. No preventive measures were taken for restricting the entry of pests and the employees working in the unit were without proper uniform/PPGs. The premises was also without floor and wall tiling. The manufacturer was also using synthetic food colour for preparing the foods. The proprietor of the unit was penalized under Section 69 of Food Safety and Standards Act and a sample of prepared food was lifted for the purpose of laboratory analysis. About 50 kgs of minced meat with added synthetic colour was destroyed and the unit was sealed by the concerned Food Safety Officer in the interest of public health and for further investigation in the matter.

Meat, chicken and fish are categorized as high risk foods. The sale, storage and distribution of all meat products if not maintained under recommended temperature (-18 C for prolonged storage and 0-5 C for brief storage) can deteriorate its quality rapidly thereby rendering it potentially hazardous for human health. Thus the public in general are advised to follow similar practices at home also to consume all meat products safely.

Sd/-
Deputy Commissioner,
Food Safety,
Drugs & Food Control Organization,
Kashmir Division Srinagar

No:- DCFs/K/2023-24/1017-19
DIPK-11636/23 Dated:04-11-2023

**Jammu & Kashmir Small Scale Industries
Development Corporation Limited (SICOP)**
(A J&K Government Undertaking)
Office of the Project Manager (Electrical)
Sanat Ghar Bemina, Srinagar

E-NIT NO: SICOP/PME 18 of 2023-24 dated: 03-11-2023
TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of Managing Director, J&K SICOP, e-tenders in two cover system are invited from reputed/registered firm for the following work:

Name of work	Adv. cost (Rs. in lac)	EMD (Rs. in lac)	Cost of tender document (Rs.)	Time of completion
Upgradation of electric work for Heemal Hostel at Govt. Degree College for Heemal Hostel at Govt. Degree College for Women, Anantnag.	5.00	0.10	2000.00	06 weeks from the date of placement of order

- The tender document for the above job can be downloaded on the website www.jktenders.gov.in from 03-11-2023 (12.00 Hrs) onwards.
- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the same website from 03-11-2023 (12.00 Hrs) to 23-11-2023 (16.00 Hrs) only.
- The uploaded Pre-qualification bids in the first instance on the website will be opened on 24-11-2023 (12.30 Hrs) in the office of Project Manager (Elect.), SICOP, Srinagar. In case of holiday on the date of opening of bid, will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. The financial bids of only those firms shall be opened who qualify in technical bid.
- The Charges towards cost of tender document i.e. Rs.2,000/- duly pledged to Project Manager (E), SICOP shall be deposited in account No. 0148010200000003, IFSC Code JAKAOKARRAN J&K Bank, Gole Market, Karan Nagar, Srinagar and scanned copy of the receipt of the same be uploaded online.
- The conditional tenders shall be rejected out rightly.
- All documents required as per tender document should be uploaded with the technical bid.
- Complete bidding process will be online (Price Bid not to be submitted in physical form).

Sd/-
Project Manager
SICOP

DIPK-NB-4045/23
dated: 04-11-2023

Govt. Of Jammu & Kashmir (U.T.)
Office Of The Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Vailoo
FRESH NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No.58/5314-23 of R&B/Vailoo /2023-2024/e-tendering/ DATED:04/11/2023

E-tenders (In single cover system) from qualified contractors registered with the J&K UT Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments are invited for Snow Clearance mechanically/manually (Stage-wise) as per Annexure-A on a Percentage Rate basis for a contract period of one year.

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

S.No	Stage Name	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1.	Snow Clearance Stage – 15	200	1000	3054 Snow	All Classes

Table 1:

No.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	04/11/2023
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	04/11/2023 at 1:00PM
3.	Bid submission Start Date	04/11/2023 at 1:00PM
4.	Bid Submission End Date	09/11/2023 at 1:00PM
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	09/11/2023 at 1:30 PM

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

3 All bidders are required to submit bid security or earnest money for an amount of Rs.1000/- at the time of tendering in the form of CDRs, FDRs, or BGs pledged to the authority responsible for receiving bids, in this case Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Vailoo. In strict accordance with the Government's circular and other instructions as required, the successful bidder will be required to provide performance security in the amount of Rs.10,000/- at the time of contract award. Following the fixing of the contract in favour of the successful bidder, the unsuccessful bidders will receive the earnest money/bid security. The successful bidder's performance security will be released only after completed successfully performance of the Contract.

4 The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD R&B Vailoo

5 Only those contractors are eligible for taking part in the bidding process whose contractor registration card is enrolled online on the JKPWDOMS portal.

6 The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 30 days from the date of opening of technical bids.

7 The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-

- Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
- Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within three days from the date of intimation.
- Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 15 days.

8 Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

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

- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate' (DSC) as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature.
- No bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Table 1.
- All bidders must UPLOAD the following information and documents with their bids, in addition to the qualification criteria / qualification information, (All documents pertaining to the bid must be in English):
- All bidders must submit copies of original documents defining their constitution/legal status, place of registration, and principal place of business, as well as their cell phone number and e-mail address.
- A valid Contractor/Firm Registration Certificate issued by a competent authority in accordance with the Contractor Registration Act.
- Treasury Challan/Earnest money
- Valid GSTIN Registration & PAN Card
- Valid Latest clearance certificate FORM GSTR-3B of last quarter or latest month, whichever is applicable.
- The bidder must make sure to upload scanned copies of all required documents, including the tender documents fee, along with the technical bid. No document(s) that haven't been uploaded will be accepted in hard copy form. However, the bidders will be required to provide original documents in support of the soft copies upon request in the event of any clarification.
- Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option
- All documents relating to the bid shall be in the English Language.
- Bidders should be fully cognizant that, in the event that documents uploaded or submitted are discovered to be fraudulent or factually incorrect, the contract would be cancelled, and the Contractor/bidder would be barred from further participation in this Division or Department for a period of three years, in addition to the forfeiture of the performance security deposited for the relevant work.
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case, they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.
- The bidder should, at his own expense and risk, visit the worksite and its surroundings before submitting a bid in order to ascertain any limitations and thresholds. Any consequential claims on this count will not be considered.
- The DEPARTMENT reserves the right to waive minor irregularities. The DEPARTMENT also reserves the right to waive a mandatory requirement provided that:
 - the requirement is not mandated by law;
 - all of the otherwise responsive proposals failed to meet the mandatory requirement; or
 - in the sole discretion of the DEPARTMENT, the failure to comply with the mandatory requirement does not materially affect the procurement or the Department's interests associated with the procurement.
- In response to the evaluation of bid proposals, the evaluation committee may ask one, some, or all of the bidders to clarify specific aspects of their proposals. A request for clarification may be made to address minor ambiguities, irregularities, informalities, or typing errors. With the exception of apparent clerical errors, deficiencies or material omissions cannot be fixed by clarifications, and proposals cannot be revised or modified. The bidder might be required to make an oral presentation about its bid proposal to the Department. Bidders are not permitted to attend the oral presentations of their competitors. Action by the Department in this regard should not be construed to imply acceptance or rejection of a bid proposal.

SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT & FLEET REQUIREMENTS

- To fulfill the requirements of this contract, the Contractor will inevitably be required to present documentary proof in support of contractor owned or leased vehicles. The company name must be prominently displayed on both sides of any vehicles used by the Contractor to carry out this contract.
- All vehicles used in the performance of this contract shall be in operable condition and meet the safety requirements. The Department may inspect the Contractor's vehicles at any time and direct the removal of any unsafe or non-functional vehicles. All vehicles shall be registered, licensed, having Department of Transportation numbers visible and insured, and operated by a licensed driver as required by law; and follow all regulations related to parking, driving, and licensing.
- The equipment used by the Contractor must be of a caliber, size, and type appropriate for carrying out the required work. The equipment of the Contractor must be in good condition and capable of running effectively and safely.
- The Contractor's equipment shall be of a quality, size and type suitable for accomplishing the required work. The Contractor's equipment shall be in good repair and able to operate efficiently and safely.
- The Contractor's equipment shall have the proper safety devices maintained at all times while in use. If equipment does not contain proper safety devices and/or is being operated in an unsafe manner, the Department shall direct the Contractor to remove such equipment and/or operator until the deficiency is corrected to the satisfaction of the Department.
- The Department may inspect the Contractor's equipment and tools at any time.
- The Contractor will be required to procure its own attachment compatible with JCB machines and/or use snow plough attachments provided by the DEPARTMENT. The Department will provide the attachment on a nominal rental basis based on the cost of procurement and the functional life of the attachments to be fitted on the Machine/JCB listed on the snow clearing equipment submitted with this bid, and the Contractor must acknowledge receipt of it. The Department may ask the equipment to be returned at the end of the winter season. All equipment shall be subject to inspection, retrieval, repair or maintenance at the end of each snow fall and at any time during this contract period. In the event of any negligence or carelessness in the use and maintenance of the provided equipment, the DEPARTMENT will determine the amount of the loss or value of the damaged equipment, for which the contractor will be charged the replacement cost of the equipment less appropriate depreciation that will be billed to the contractor or deducted from due claims.
- All required snow plough apparatus shall be properly installed on the Machines, and the Machines will have to be ready to respond to a snow callout by October 20th of each contract year. During each winter season in which this contract is in effect, the equipment shall be installed continuously from October 15th to April 30th of the following year. Machines listed on this contract shall not be used on any other plowing or spreading contracts. The contractor shall not use DEPARTMENT equipment for any purpose other than the plowing of targeted roads and/or as directed by DEPARTMENT representatives. Any violation will result in a minimum penalty of Rs.5,000.00 per offense to be deducted from accrued claims in the contractor's account and may result in termination of the contract.
- The Contractor shall remain in communication with the Department prior to, during, and after each Snow Fall. The Contractor shall report its hourly activities to the Department through Departments online snow clearing management system. The Contractor's reporting must be done "real time" and include: (i) Roads/lengths Cleared (ii) date and time of operations; (iii) quantity of snow and/or ice removed; (iv) equipment and materials used; (v) staff utilized; (vi) challenges or problems encountered during the operations; and (vii) time and date stamped photographs of snow removal operations (including before, during, and after photographs). The Contractor shall submit its claim supported with these documents.
- The Contractor's personnel should have the necessary experience and licenses to perform the required work. Key personnel shall include, at a minimum, the individual who has the authority and responsibility for ensuring that the Contractor's responsibilities are properly discharged and will be responsible for dispatching crews and equipment; and the key foreman who will oversee and supervise the work in the field. The Contractor will not be permitted to reassign any of the key personnel unless the Department approves the proposed reassignment and the proposed replacement. Besides the Contractor shall have to designate two Key Personnel to be available to communicate with the Department by telephone and email twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week over the course of the contract.
- Upon execution of the Contract, the Contractor and all its member firms, if any, and each of its Subcontractors (if any permissible) shall submit to the Department a list of current employees that will be assigned to the Contract, the date they were hired and whether or not they live in the UT. The Contractor shall maintain detailed records relating to the general hiring of community residents and non-residents.
- The Contractor will be required to maintain the following types of insurance throughout the life of the contract.
 - Commercial general public liability insurance ("Liability Insurance") against liability for bodily injury, death and property damage arising from any one occurrence and from the aggregate of all occurrences within each policy year. The policies shall contain blanket contractual coverage (including coverage for the indemnity clauses to be provided under the Agreement) and completed operations coverage (for 3 years).
 - Workers' compensation providing statutory benefits for all persons employed by the Contractor, or its contractors and subcontractors (permitted, if any) at or in connection with the Work.
 - Automobile Liability, including Hired and Non-Owned Auto Liability for each occurrence for bodily injury and property damage
- The Contractor shall perform the work with its own forces. In the event that the Contractor desires to engage one or more subcontractors to assist with the work, it shall obtain the Department's written approval of any such subcontractor. All subcontractors shall be required to comply with the insurance requirements set forth herein. In addition, the Contractor shall be responsible for all work performed by the subcontractors and shall assume the risk of the subcontractors' non-performance.
- The Contractor shall submit with each claim cost backup supporting such claims.
- The Department will notify the Contractor within fifteen (15) calendar days after receiving any claim for payment of any defect in the claim or the work which may result in the Department's declining to pay all or a part of the claimed amount. The Department may withhold payment from the Contractor, in whole or part, as appropriate, if any.
- The Contractor shall perform the Services hereunder in accordance with all applicable local and Union statutes, laws, codes, ordinances, regulations, rules, requirements and orders ("Applicable Laws").
- The Department shall be at liberty to add or Delete a Road or a stretch there off from the listed Stage Contract scope
- The tender / bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Vailoo

DIPK-11605/23 dated: 04-11-2023

JKRLM Signs MoU With Kudumbashree NRO To Support Micro Enterprise Development Prog In J&K

This partnership will have transformative impact on economic empowerment of rural communities: Comm Secy RDD

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) and Kudumbashree NRO (National Resources Organisation) have entered into a partnership agreement to support the Micro Enterprise Development (MED) programme in Jammu & Kashmir.

The objective of this initiative is to create sustainable livelihood opportunities and promote economic empowerment for rural communities.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed and exchanged through a video conference, in presence of Commissioner Secretary, Rural Development Department & Panchayati Raj, Mandeep Kaur, on Saturday.

Through this collaboration between JKRLM and Kudumbashree, the MED initiative is expected to



have a significant impact on the lives of rural communities in 11 blocks of 9 districts, including 7 in Kashmir and 5 in Jammu as of now. This initiative will contribute towards poverty reduction, women empowerment and overall socio-economic development of rural women of J&K.

The MED initiative emphasizes support for establishment and growth of

micro-enterprises, particularly among SHG women and vulnerable sections of society. JKRLM and Kudumbashree will provide training, capacity building, credit access, and marketing linkages for these micro-enterprises.

Congratulating the officials of JKRLM and Kudumbashree, Commissioner Secretary highlighted the positive impact that this partnership will have on

the economic empowerment of rural communities.

Mandeep Kaur said that "the partnership between JKRLM and Kudumbashree will identify and support potential entrepreneurs, offering capacity building programs, skill development training, and financial assistance to aid in establishing and managing businesses effectively".

Commissioner Secretary hoped that Kudumbashree NRO will share their expertise and experience with JKRLM and wished them all the best for their endeavours in Jammu & Kashmir.

On the occasion of signing of MoU, Mission Director JKRLM, Indu Kanwal Chib, spoke about the importance of partnership between JKRLM and Kudumbashree NRO. She highlighted that this collaboration will provide support and play a crucial

role in promoting entrepreneurship and supporting the socio-economic development of rural communities in Jammu & Kashmir.

This Micro Enterprise Development programme is expected to create a positive impact on the lives of women entrepreneurs of JKRLM. It aims to provide sustainable livelihood opportunities, enabling self-reliance and contributing to the overall development of the communities, she added.

It is worth mentioning that Kudumbashree NRO will support Self Help Group (SHG) members of JKRLM and their family member enterprises in the non-farm sector. This support includes not only providing assistance in setting up businesses but also offering the necessary hand-holding and post-enterprise grounding support.

J&K Minerals Ltd, GJEPC Organize Special Display Of Kashmir Blue Sapphire At Jaipur

Observer News Service

JAIPUR: Jammu and Kashmir Minerals Limited in association with Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) Jaipur, organized a consultative meeting cum special display of world famous Kashmir blue Sapphire at GJEPC Convention centre, Jaipur.

Secretary, Mining, Dr. Rashmi Singh, was the guest of honour on the occasion while Director-Geology and Mining, Rakesh Magotra, Managing Director, J&K minerals Limited, Vikram Gupta among other officers of the Corporation attended the event.

While speaking on the occasion, Dr Rashmi Singh said that the Government of J&K is progressively working towards exploration of various minerals in the UT. In this direction, the Paddar Sapphire mines are



currently being explored by MECL (Govt. of India PSU). She added that all possible steps are being taken up by the Government for commercial exploration and exploitation of rare earth elements like Lithium etc.

The meeting was attended by a large gathering of members associated with the gemstone trade.

Convener-CGS Panel, GJEPC, Mahendra Agarwal, briefed that Gem and Jewellery sector is contributing around 7% of GDP of India thus have established itself as an important economic sector of the country. GJEPC also expressed

its willingness to have further collaboration with J&K Government for conducting such awareness programme to attract investment in J&K.

The audience were briefed about the history of sapphire exploration and brief details about the upcoming global e-auction, modus operandi for participation in e-auction etc. A brief PPT was also presented, in this regard, giving all the information regarding e-auction of Sapphire to the members.

The members examined the quality of some sample lots of rough sapphire brought along by the J&K minerals Ltd officials. Such an exhibition of sapphire not only raised the awareness among the prospective buyers of sapphire but also helped in wider publicity, networking, building databases, which will help in greater marketability of sapphire/corundum in ensuing e-auction.

Sumlar Belt Emerging As Trout Hub Of Bandipora

Meet Basit, a 21 year old Journalism student of Bandipora who made waves with successful Trout Farming Venture

Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: With the implementation of various government schemes, Fisheries department Bandipora has brought significant change in fisheries growth and economic development in the district.

Young people like Basit, a 21-year-old trainee journalist from Sumlar village in Bandipora district, are making a positive impact in the Bandipora fisheries sector. Basit, along with his uncle, is setting up fish farms in different areas of Bandipora, creating jobs for local youth.

They established a 'Trout Farm' in their village supported by the Fisheries department of Jammu and Kashmir. Trout is a valuable cold-cum-freshwater fish that thrives in the region's ideal conditions.

To boost their business, Basit set up a selling pond on the Srinagar-Bandipora highway, attracting customers and increasing their success. Basit, a journalism student, mentioned that they found satisfaction in government schemes over the past four years for the development of the fisheries sector.

With guidance from the Fisheries Department and subsidies provided by the department, Basit and his uncle



expanded their venture. Presently, Basit is not only supporting his family but also employing other youth directly and benefiting others indirectly through his trade.

He expressed gratitude to the Fisheries Department for their support and timely advice which results in profitable returns from his fisheries business unit.

Basit's venture encourages other young people to take advantage of government schemes for employment opportunities.

Basit and his uncle have not only developed their farm but have also provided good-paying jobs to other youth

engaged in their farm. This initiative showcases the positive impact of youth-driven employment schemes.

Inam ul Haq, resource person of Fisheries department informed that the department is running two prominent schemes Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and Aquaculture Development schemes besides other youth engagement programmes.

He said Under PMMSY the department provides two types of units, trout and carp units for which 40 percent of project cost is Government Assistance and 60 percent is beneficiary share.

Besides Delhi-NCR, NCCF To Sell Onion At Subsidised Rate Of Rs 25/ Kg In Other States Too

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Besides Delhi-NCR, cooperative body NCCF on Friday said it will retail onion at a subsidised rate of Rs 25 per kg in other states too in order to provide relief to consumers from the high prices of the key kitchen staple.

On behalf of the central government, the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India (NCCF) started retailing onion at a subsidised rate from September 9 at 100 different locations in and around Delhi.

"In addition to Delhi-NCR, we have increased our coverage to all states from Jammu and Kashmir to Kerala," NCCF said in a statement.

The cooperative body has been selling onion online for the last two weeks through the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) platform through Paytm, MagicPin and MyStore in Srinagar, Jaipur, Varanasi and Delhi-NCR, it said.

So far, 416 vans are plying and have sold 2,219.61 tonnes onion in the retail markets, it added.

Retail onion prices have shot up in the last two weeks up to Rs 80 per kg in different parts of the country amid a delay in the arrival of fresh crops and hoarding of old crops by traders.

NCCF is selling onion from the government's buffer stock of 5 lakh tonnes maintained for the current year.

The all-India average retail price of onion was ruling at Rs 59.56 per kilogram on Friday with a maximum rate quoted at Rs 88 per kg and a minimum rate was Rs 18 per kg. In Delhi, retail onion price was Rs 75 per kg, as per the government data.

DGCA Proposes Changes To Flight Crew Duty Norms

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Aviation regulator DGCA has proposed various changes to norms governing duty timings of flight crew, including more rest time for pilots, amid concerns over fatigue.

In recent times, the issue of fatigue among pilots has come to the fore, especially after the death of an IndiGo pilot, who had collapsed at the boarding gate of Nagpur airport.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has proposed a weekly rest of continuous 48 hours, and reduced flight duty period of 10 hours for pilots operating flights at night.

Besides, the heads of operations of scheduled airlines have to submit a quarterly report to the DGCA on the fatigue reports received and action taken during the preceding quarter, as per the draft norms.

"An operator shall ensure that the minimum weekly rest of continuous 48 hours including two local nights is provided such that there shall never be more than 168 hours between the end of one weekly rest period and the start of the next," it said. Currently, the rest period is 36 hours.

Changes have been proposed to the Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) pertaining to 'Duty Period, Flight Duty Period, Flight Time Limitations and Prescribed Rest Periods -- Flight crew Engaged in Scheduled Air Transport Operations' and comments have been sought on the draft till December 4.

Khyber Cement Unveils New Brand Identity

'Dil Se Banao' Inspires a Vision for Progress in Jammu & Kashmir's Cement Industry

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Khyber Cement, a prominent cement brand in Jammu & Kashmir, recently launched its new logo with the tagline 'Dil se banao'. At a recently concluded dealer meet in Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, Khyber Cement introduced their dealers to the new, modernity-based brand identity. Leveraging forward-thinking strategies and a community-centric approach to progress, Khyber Cement's key stakeholders took the lead, guiding those present through the brand-new website, their latest promotional video, the new corporate branding and packaging along with the long-term strategy of the Company.

Khyber Cement believes in planning above all, incorporating that thought process into their website, elevating the user experience by showing how every process is sketched out and then completed to perfection. The new video campaign highlights the ethos of Khyber Cement and its impact on the Cement indus-



try and fraternity. While stressing its importance, it showcases the company's ambitious 'Dil se banao' campaign. While speaking to the dealers at the event, the stakeholders shone a light on the brand's new identity.

According to Khyber CEO Umar Trambo, "With a new vision and logo, Khyber Industries has reinvented itself but still retains its core values. At Khyber, we believe in 'Dil se banao', even incorporating the heart of Khyber into our new logo. Our customers trust our brand, and our only objective is to never let their trust down. With our rebranding, we hope to aim higher and reach farther than ever before. Our goal is unchanged, provid-

ing high-quality supplies for the community, and creating a lasting impact. We will continue to make every possible effort to aid our Khyber family and our surroundings."

Tarun Chauhan, an expert consultant to Khyber Cement and an advertising veteran said, "Despite cementing Khyber's presence in the cement industry, this rebranding is geared towards forging an even stronger bond with our customers. We have an unwavering commitment and genuine dedication to creating a stronger, more vibrant Jammu and Kashmir. From our website to our production technologies, everything is geared towards creating a better environment."

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY KUPWARA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY OFFICER
KUPWARA

CAHO/Kup/Tech Dated:- /11/2023

NOTICE

Applications are invited on the prescribed format from schedule tribe farmers who are permanent residents of below mentioned villages of Veterinary Block Kupwara for establishing 17 single cow dairy units in order to establish Milk Villages under PMAAGY 2023-24

Name of the Villages: Ogbal (Block Kupwara)

Eligibility Criteria:-

1. He/she must be Schedule Tribe and permanent resident of the above-mentioned villages.
2. Must have age not less than 18 years.
3. Must be unemployed (Important). Must possess a cow shed.
4. Should not have availed any benefit under the SCA to TSP for last 3 years for which he will submit an affidavit (Important).
5. Must be experienced in dairy farming.
6. Only one member per household can apply.
7. Application must be duly authenticated by the revenue authorities concerned/ members of the state advisory Board and duly verified by the concerned Block veterinary Officer/VAS.
8. He/ She must give assurance in writing to finance minimum 15% of the cost of the unit.
9. Women beneficiaries will be given preference (with 10% reservation).

Documents to be attached:-

1. Domicile certificate/ Ration card/Voter ID card/ Aadhar card/ Schedule Tribe Certificate (any one of the reference document).
2. Experience certificate form BVO/ VAS Concerned.
3. Unemployment certificate from a Gazetted Officer.
4. Techno-feasibility report from the concerned BVO/VAS (Important).
5. Affidavit to the effect that he will run the unit under the guidance of Animal Husbandry Department and will not dispose off the unit until necessary that too with the consent/ intimation of the department

The application form complete in all respect must reach in the office of concerned BVO (Kupwara) by or before 13th of NOV 2023. The BVO after proper verification will submit the forms to this office.

Email: cahokupwara@kanimalhusbandry.net **Chief Animal Husbandry Officer,**
Kupwara

Phone:-01955-252283

Government of Jammu And Kashmir
Department of Animal Husbandry Kupwara
Office of the Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Kupwara
CAHO/Kup/Tech Dated:- /11/2023

Application form for establishing Single Cow Dairy Units under PMAAGY 2023-24

1. Name:- _____
2. S/o, D/o, W/o:- _____
3. Resident of village:- _____
4. Tehsil:- _____
5. District:- _____
6. Name of the Milk village:- _____
7. Contact No. _____
8. Approximate Monthly Income _____
9. No. of cows already owned _____
10. Whether having cow shed _____ (Yes/No)
11. Whether having any assistance received under the said scheme (yes/No)
12. If yes, year of Assistance _____

Space for attested Photograph

Signature of the applicant

I hereby certify an oath that the above information is correct to the best of my knowledge and nothing has been concealed there in.
I also certify that I have not received any assistance under this scheme for last three years.

Signature of the applicant

Certificate from the Revenue Department (Not below the rank of Naib Tehsildar)

It is certified that Mr./Mrs/Miss/ _____
S/o. D/o. W/o. _____ is a permanent resident of village _____
Block _____ and belongs to schedule tribe community

Seal and Signature of the Competent Authority

Techno-feasibility report and verification certificate

Seal & signature of the VAS/BVO concerned

Email:cahokupwara@kanimalhusbandry.net **Phone:-01955-252283**

DIPK-11642-23
DT: 04/11/2023

Congress, NC, CPI(M) slam J&K admin for warning employees against protests

Press Trust of India

Jammu: The Congress, National Conference (NC) and CPI(M) criticised the Jammu and Kashmir administration on Saturday for warning its employees against staging protests, describing the move as an attempt to "crush every voice of dissent" in the Union Territory.

The lieutenant governor-led administration warned the employees on Friday against going ahead with their proposed agitation, saying such acts will attract disciplinary action.

The Jammu and Kashmir Government Employees (Conduct) Rules, 1971 make it clear that no government employee shall resort to or, in any way, abet any form of strike in connection with any matter pertaining to his service or the service of any other government employee.

"The aforesaid provision of law is not merely declaratory in nature and shall definitely entail consequences in the event of any such employee found immersed in such acts," the order said.

Reacting to the development, Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) senior vice-president and media in-charge Ravinder Sharma said, "The administration under the central government wants to crush every voice of dissent, which is very dangerous, anti-employees and anti-people."

He said the employees have a fundamental right to protest against the failure of the administration to address their genuine issues.

"The Congress fully defends and supports the democratic and fundamental rights of every citizen, including the employees, and demands immediate withdrawal of the order," Sharma said, accusing the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Union Territory administration of adopting a

"dictatorial attitude" against the employees.

NC's provincial secretary Sheikh Bashir Ahmad said the order makes it clear that nobody is allowed to speak in Jammu and Kashmir.

"An employee is governed by rules, but he has every right to defend any injustice against him.... After August 5, 2019 (when the BJP-led Centre abrogated the provisions of Article 370 and bifurcated the erstwhile state into Union territories), Jammu and Kashmir was virtually turned into a prison for more than a year. So what can be expected from this administration?" he asked.

The NC leader claimed that the current situation is such that even political activists are hesitant to speak, fearing imprisonment.

"Recently, former MP Sheikh Abdul Rehman had to spend a night at a police station to stop some activists from holding demonstrations against the Gaza-Israel war. What type of democracy is this?" he asked, adding, "You are free in Jammu and Kashmir with your mouth locked and hands and legs tied."

Senior Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader M Y Tarigami said the order contravenes the International Labour Organisation (ILO) conventions to which India is a party.

"Government employees only stage demonstrations or take out rallies when their legitimate and just demands are not fulfilled. The directive is yet another assault on the employees' and workers' constitutional rights," he said.

Asserting that the Left party will resist any attempt to curb the legitimate rights of the working class, Tarigami alleged that the Jammu and Kashmir administration has nothing to offer to its employees, especially the daily wagers and scheme workers who have not received their salaries for months.

LG attends Kashmir Education, Culture & Science Society's 'Shikara' Fest in New Delhi

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today attended the 'Shikara' Fest organised by Kashmir Education, Culture and Science Society in New Delhi.

In his address, the Lt Governor commended the endeavour of the Kashmir Education, Culture and Science Society to celebrate Kashmir's rich and unique cultural and artistic heritage, its tradition, cuisine and providing a platform to showcase variety of handmade creative products during the two-day event.

He highlighted the important role of culture in building a stronger structure of society and to strengthen the national fabric.

"Culture means ocean of values which extend infinite possibilities of learning of age-old traditions and developing better understanding and appreciation of cultural ethos," the Lt Governor said.

Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, we are making dedicated efforts to promote, preserve and enrich our cultural heritage. It is also being ensured that the development taking place across Jammu Kashmir is inclusive and reflects our ethos, he added.

At the Shikara Fest, the Lt Governor shared the transformational journey of Jammu Kashmir. In the last three years, the situation has changed and 90 percent of the people are satisfied that normalcy has returned now, he added.

Stone pelting has become a thing of the past; street protests, closure of schools, colleges and markets on the call of neighboring country and its handlers have ended, and people are now living freely, these are the biggest changes visible on the ground, the Lt Governor said.



He said the Rule of Law has been established in the UT of J&K and strict action is being taken against those supporting terrorism.

The Lt Governor also highlighted the steps taken by the government for the rehabilitation of Kashmiri migrant families and to fulfill the promise of providing 6000 transit accommodations and 6000 jobs under the Hon'ble Prime Minister's Development Package.

Almost all the posts have been filled. Despite various obstacles in Transit accommodation we had faced earlier, 1665 new accommodation units have been allocated, 1785 more will be dedicated before the month of March and the remaining will be completed by the end of 2024, he said.

I am constantly in touch with Kashmiri migrant and other minority community members

and their concerning issues are being taken up for the resolution with utmost sensitivity, the Lt Governor added.

He said the administration had also launched an online portal for redressal of grievances related to Kashmir Migrants' immovable properties.

Most of the encroached properties are freed from the possession of illegal occupants. We are committed to resolving the issues of distressed sale of properties by the Kashmiri migrant families, he added.

The Lt Governor said the government is also exploring the possibilities to provide land at low price to government employees in Srinagar to build their own houses.

Members of the Kashmir Education, Culture & Science Society and prominent personalities from diverse fields were present on the occasion.

HC imposes Rs 20K cost on Centre for not paying pension to 96-year-old freedom fighter



Press Trust of India

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court has imposed cost of Rs 20,000 on the central government for its "lackadaisical approach" in granting pension to a 96-year-old freedom fighter.

The high court said the case reflected "complete sad state of affairs" as freedom fighter Uttim Lal Singh was made to wait for over 40 years and run from pillar to post to get his rightful pension.

Justice Subramonium Prasad directed the Centre to pay Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension to Singh within 12 weeks with interest from 1980.

"It is painful to see the way in which the freedom fighters are being treated and the insensitivity shown by the Union of India towards freedom fighter who has fought for the independence of the country," the high court said.

"For the lackadaisical approach of the Union of India, this court deems it fit to impose costs of Rs 20,000 on the Union of India. Let the costs be paid to the petitioner within 6 weeks from today," the court said in its judgement passed on November 2.

It noted that the government of Bihar had recommended the petitioner's case and sent the original documents to the central government in March 1985. However, the documents got lost while they were with the central government.

The court noted that the

Bihar government had verified the petitioner's name once again and sent a letter to the central government on July 14, 2022. The pension, however, was not released yet, it said.

"The inaction of the Central Government is actually an insult to the freedom fighter who was declared as a proclaimed offender and probably his entire land would have been attached in the proceedings initiated by the British Government. The very spirit of the pension scheme is being defeated by the stonewall approach of the Government of India which cannot be appreciated by this court," the high court said.

The court was dealing with a petition by Singh who said he was born in 1927 and had participated in the Quit India Movement and other movements associated with the freedom struggle. It said he was made an accused by the British government and declared a proclaimed officer in September 1943.

He had applied for the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension in March 1982 and his name was sent by the Bihar government to the Centre in February 1983. The recommendation was reiterated in September 2009, the plea said.

In November 2017, the central government said Singh's records were not available with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Bihar government was requested to share verified copies of the relevant documents.

Bangladesh Opens Landmark Metro Rail To Ease Traffic Jams In Dhaka

Press Trust of India

Dhaka: Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Saturday opened the second phase of overhead metro rail service to ease Dhaka's notorious traffic jams, earning the city an ill repute of being the world's slowest city.

"Today, we're so delighted," Hasina said while opening the metro rail service between Uttara and Motijheel, which has eight stations and spans 9.53 kilometres.

On December 28 last year, Bangladesh launched its first metro rail service with Japanese assistance to ease commuting in the capital Dhaka, one of the most congested cities in the world.

State-owned Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd (DMTCL) has been entrusted with the task of operating the service built with Japanese technical

and financial assistance.

"The commuters will be able to travel over 20-kilometre distance from Uttara area to Motijheel (business district) in little over 30 minutes," DMTCL managing director M.N. Siddique told reporters.

The commuters usually need over an hour to travel the distance during non-peak hours by road, while during the start or end of office hours, they often required as many as two and half hours.

The prime minister had opened the first phase of the route from Uttara to Agargaon on December 28 last year while opening the second phase on Saturday she boarded the metro and headed to Motijheel for another inaugural programme at the station.

According to officials concerned, each train can run at a speed of 100 to 110 kilometres per hour with 2,300 passengers.



The service is designed to carry 60,000 passengers per hour and half a million passengers per day. "One train will arrive at each station every four minutes," Siddique said.

The metro rail system was built at a cost of Taka 334.720 billions (USD 4 million).

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) provided Taka 19,719 of the total amount while the rest was financed by Bangladesh's own exchequer.

The service opened on Saturday is called "Mass Rapid Transit Line 6" or MRT Line-6

while five more routes will be opened in phases with one being an underground track. The routes are intended to bring Dhaka under an integrated network of metro rail services in subsequent phases covering areas on the city outskirts as well.

Hasina on Saturday also formally inaugurated the construction work of MRT Line-5 to build a 140-kilometre metro rail network in the capital and adjacent areas.

On Line 5 (North), the source said, the 20-km rail line with 14 stations is supposed to connect Hemayetpur and Bhataria via Gabtoli, Mirpur, and Gulshan.

Analysts say the opening of the service has a political connotation as unrest gripped the country with the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) launching a street campaign on October 28, demanding Hasina's resignation ahead of the scheduled January

general elections.

The premier and her ruling Awami League leaders on Saturday pointed out the government's achievements in infrastructure sectors particularly the opening of earlier this year the Padma Bridge connecting southwestern Bangladesh with the rest of the country through road and railways.

At least six people, including a policeman, were killed in the past week in Dhaka and elsewhere while over 200 others, including journalists, were injured across the country as the BNP and its far-right allies intensified their campaign for a non-party polls-time government.

The opening of the metro network came five weeks after the US-based National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) dubbed Dhaka as the world's "slowest city" and Flint City of Michigan in the US as the fastest one, in a study covering 1,200

cities in 152 countries.

According to Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) Dhaka city traffic speed in 2023 dropped to 4.5 km per hour from 21 km a decade ago despite government spending of a staggering Taka 28,000 crore to ease the notorious traffic congestions.

The Time magazine carried a report on the study in its latest September 29 issue saying: "Even at midnight, with few cars on the road, the trip in Dhaka the slowest city in the world is still 30 minutes, or three times as long as the trip in Flint -- the world's fastest".

The South Asian country earlier this month also opened a major part of its first elevated expressway connecting major city points and expects to complete the next phase by 2024 while both the infrastructures are expected to ease people's travel miseries in Dhaka.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Terrorism Ending

become the foundation for a massive economic cycle.

The country has risen to become the fifth largest economy in the world and will occupy the third position in our third term, he asserted.

Citing data, Modi said the number of those filing income tax returns has almost doubled in 2023 to 7.5 crore in 10 years while the mean income has risen by up to Rs 13 lakh.

The length of highways being built daily has risen to 30 km from 12 km while the number of operational airports has more than doubled to almost 150 from 70. Over 40,000 km rail track has been doubled by his government against only 20,000 km done till 2014, he said.

Such a sea change has taken place, Modi said.

JKP Introduces

be released on interim bail. The accused is undergoing trial for being associated with different terrorist organisations and being involved in terror financing at the behest of proscribed terrorist organisation Hizbul Mujahideen (HM), they said.

Bhat was arrested in the current FIR while attempting to transport the proceeds of terrorism to the tune of Rs 2.5 lakh at the behest of HM.

The accused is also convicted by the NIA Court Patiala House, Delhi, in another case for being associated with a terrorist organisation and for conspiracy for a terrorist act, the officials said.

In the Special NIA Court, Jammu, the importance of close monitoring of the terror accused and the stringent conditions for grant

of bail under the UAPA, 1967, was highlighted by the prosecution department of Zonal Police Headquarters (ZPHQ), Jammu, the officials said.

"Finding merit in the submissions of the prosecution, the Special NIA Court, Jammu, was pleased to pass an order directing J-K Police to affix a GPS tracker ankle on the accused," they added.

J-K Police is the pioneering police department in the country to provide for affixing of GPS tracker anklets to persons seeking bail, they said.

DGP Vows To Bring

Dar was shot dead on October 31. Talking to reporters outside Dar's residence, Swain said police have vowed to bring the perpetrators of the terror crime to justice.

"We have lost a member of our police parivar, a noble man, a father, a brother and a citizen of Kashmir. All the officers, including the ADGP, DIG, SSP and SHO, have vowed to go to the bottom of the matter and identify the killer and all those who supported him in any way and bring them to justice," Swain said.

He said the investigation into Dar's killing is on but the details cannot be shared.

"We have got leads in the case and are working on those. We are fully confident that we will bring them (perpetrators) to justice," the DGP added.

He said there is no doubt that some people sitting across the border are trying to disturb the peace here, but asserted that all their plots would be foiled.

"They have not shunned their plans (of violence). They will continue to make plans, but if we change the atmosphere here and take

people along, it will render their plans unsuccessful. They will send people here, but we will create such a situation that they will find no supporters here," Swain said.

The DGP said starting this winter, police will launch a strategy to create such a situation in Jammu and Kashmir where no one will be ready to support terrorists and their handlers across the border.

"Pakistani land is not under our control and they send people, arms and ammunition or narcotics here. They are not sending money to build hospitals, schools or roads. But we will be successful in foiling their attempts when no one here will be ready to support them.

"We will create such a situation here and in this regard, our first action will start from this winter. We will not allow any loss of life of our colleagues or civilians. Whoever supports them, whether they are sitting across the border or here, will be brought to justice," Swain asserted.

3 JKAS Officers

disposal of Social Welfare Department," reads the order issued by Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner/Secretary to the government

IED Defused

was suspended immediately after the detection of the IED which was later removed by the bomb disposal squad.

The official said a case was registered and efforts underway to arrest those responsible for planting the IED.

The alertness of police foiled the attempt to set off an explosion in Jammu, the official said.

Conman Held

fraud and had been evading his arrest.

Giving details about Qadri's modus operandi, the spokesperson said that he used to lure gullible youth from various areas by promising to provide or manage government jobs for them. In exchange, he said, the accused would extort huge amounts from them by deceitful means, thus indulging in cheating as well as other crimes.

"He always looked for ways to mint money by illegal means and had caused huge losses to the victims," the spokesperson said, adding that the accused has a history of criminal charges under various Case FIRs pending against him.

Divulging more details about the cases, he said, Qadri faces an FIR No. 36/2014 U/S 420,468,120-B RPC of P/S CBK, for his involvement in grabbing an amount of Rs 23 lakh from the complainants on the pretext of engaging various people of Jammu and Poonch in government jobs and giving them fake appointment orders.

The investigation, he said, in the case is under progress.

In another case, FIR No. 65/2016 u/s 420, 468, 109 RPC of P/S CBK, the spokesperson said, the accused is involved in providing appointment orders in respect of some candidates, which were later on found to be fake and forged. This case too, he said, is being investigated.

Similarly, in case FIR No. 05/2017 U/S 419, 420, 468, 471, 34 RPC P/S CBK, he said, the accused was found involved in issuance of a fake and forged appointment order bearing NO. 511 of FD/2013 dated 17.03.2013 of

Forest Department, purported to have been issued by Commissioner Secretary Forests Civil Secretariat, Srinagar.

"The investigation of the instant case has been closed as proved and the charge sheet therefore presented before the court of Special Mobile Magistrate 13th Finance Srinagar, on 30.06.2022 against him," he said.

"In case FIR No. 42/2023 u/s 420,468 RPC of P/S EOW, the accused is involved in providing a fake appointment order bearing No: 741 dated 23.06.2012 and a fake Departmental Identity Card to the complainant for an amount of Rs. 2.15 lakh. The investigation in the said case is under progress," he added.

In two more cases FIR No. 51/2023 and 52/2023 registered under sections 420,468, 471 RPC of police station economic offence wing (EOW), the spokesperson said, Qadri cheated the complainants for an amount of Rs 15 lakh on the promise of providing them with government jobs and instead provided them with fake appointment orders of Agriculture Department and Forest Department.

Besides, he also cheated the complainant by promising him that he would manage to get his sons appointed in the Forest Department for which the complainant gave an amount of Rs 14.50 lakh to the accused, which was grabbed.

Both the cases are currently under investigation.

"The accused has been lodged at Central Jail Kot Bhalwal Jammu under PSA, in compliance to PSA detention warrant issued by District Magistrate Srinagar," the spokesperson added.

Man Kills Wife

he was in a relationship with.

Unbeaten India Face Formidable South Africa

Press Trust of India

KOLKATA: The top spot is at stake and an unconquered Indian team will certainly feel a sense of déjà vu when it takes on a red-hot South Africa on Sunday in what will be a battle of equals in the World Cup.

It promises to be a fascinating contest and Virat Kohli and Ravichandran Ashwin can't escape that "been there in this position" feeling since they were part of the World Cup squad that had a similar run in 2011.

The only game that India had lost in the 2011 edition was against South Africa when an unheralded Robin Peterson had smashed Ashish Nehra for 19 runs after Indian batting imploded in Nagpur despite a hundred from Sachin Tendulkar.

Kohli, who is one short of record-equaling 49th ODI hundred, and Ashwin are the only players in the current squad who were part of In-



dia's title-winning run. On Sunday, Rohit Sharma's players need to guard themselves from complacency and emulate the all-conquering Australian team of 2007 which won the World Cup without losing a single game.

A win and 16 points would



confirm India's top spot with a match left against the Netherlands.

The die-hard Indian fans however won't mind law of averages catching up before the knock-out stage and not feel the heat when it matters most.

South Africa's batting line-

up, filled with power-hitters and game-changers will test India's 'pace galactics' before the semi-finals.

An unprecedented demand of tickets has added to the excitement to the Eden contest which in bigger picture will determine the group toppers heading into the semi-finals.

Pakistan Pip New Zealand To Keep Semis Hopes Alive

Press Trust of India

BENGALURU: Fakhar Zaman hit an extraordinary hundred and the weather gods too smiled on 'unpredictable' Pakistan, who miraculously kept their semi-final hopes alive after walking away with a crucial 21-run win over New Zealand through DLS method in World Cup, here on Saturday.

Zaman (126 off 81 balls) and skipper Babar Azam (66 off 63 balls) helped Pakistan to 200 for 1 in 25.3 overs when the skies opened up for the second time to end the proceedings.

At that point Pakistan were 21 runs ahead of the DLS calculations in a daunting chase of 402 which was revised to 342 in 41 overs.

New Zealand will feel gutted after making a mammoth 401 for six, riding on Rachin Ravindra's 94-ball 108 and comeback man Kane Williamson's 79-ball 95.

Pakistan now have eight points with a match to go against struggling England, while New Zealand (NRR:



+0.855), also on eight points, will face on-their-way-out Sri Lanka in their final league game.

Pakistan (-0.424), however, still remain at the sixth place on the table behind Afghanistan

(-0.330) because of the net run rate.

Those calculations apart, those with a sense of history will trace these fateful happenings to Pakistan's campaign in the 1992 World Cup when weather and mathematics helped them first to the semi-finals and then eventually to the title.

But for all that, Pakistan on this need to be indebted to the power of Zaman, who carted the New Zealand bowlers around the park with utter disdain.

The left-hander had missed a large part of the tournament with an injury but Zaman produced a freak innings at the most opportune time to keep Pakistan in the race to the last four stage.

Zaman conjured his hundred in just 63 balls as he never gave a breathing space to the Kiwis bowlers - pacers or spinners.

His preferred scoring area was the arc between mid-wicket and long-on and the New Zealand bowlers kept on feeding to his strength.

J&K Badminton Championship Underway In Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Secretary YSS Sarmad Hafeez inaugurated the 50th J&K Badminton Championship at Sher-i-Kashmir Indoor Sports Complex Srinagar on Saturday. The five-day event will witness participation of around two hundred players representing different districts of J&K.

Sarmad Hafeez asked the J&K Badminton Association to pitch up for organizing a na-

tional badminton event in J&K and assured full support on this account. He also directed that the camp for national level badminton players should become a regular feature in J&K with boost in game related infrastructure in the region.

On the occasion, Secretary J&K Sports Council Nuzhat Gull highlighted the measures taken for improvement of Badminton and its related infrastructure in J&K.

Real Kashmir Beat TRAU, Stay Perfect In I-League



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Real Kashmir FC and coach Ishaq Ahmad registered their second straight win of the 2023-24 I-League season after defeating TRAU FC 1-0 on Saturday at Synthetic Turf TRC here. The hosts beat Rajasthan United FC 2-0 in the opening game played at the same venue.

Winger Jeremy Laldinpuia scored the only goal of the game right at the stroke of half time to send the jam-packed TRC ground into raptures. The home support for Real Kashmir was in loud voice throughout the game, ensuring the team played with grit and determination.

Laldinpuia showed remarkable individual effort in the goal, cutting pass two defenders before a one-two set him up for a curler in the bottom right corner.

The second half proved to be a nail biter for the local support as Real Kashmir dug deep and

protected their lead, allowing the Manipuri football club, TRAU, to put immense pressure on the team's backline.

TRAU missed several chances late in the game, however, the hosts held on as coach Ishaq Ahmad continued his perfect home record for the Snow Leopards.

Real Kashmir's next game is also at home against Churchill Brothers FC on Wednesday, November 8, with kick off at 2 pm.

Real Kashmir XI:
78 Muheet Khan, 4 Mohammad Hammad (C), 22 Carlos Lomba, 6 Hyder Yousuf, 30 Wayne Vaz, 7 Mohammad Inam, 28 Jeremy Laldinpuia, 17 Lalramdinsanga Ralte

11 Mohammad Ahteab, 9 Gnohere Krizo, 18 Dion Menezes

Substitutes: Sowban Hilal, Shivam Pednekar, Ifham Tariq, Adnan Ayub, Kiran Pandhare, Mohammad Asrar, Huzafah Dar, Hafiz ur Rehman, Mohammad Maksoud, Shahid Nazir.

J&K Win 37 Medals At 37th National Games

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K have won 37 medals, including 5 Gold, 8 Silver and 9 Bronze, at the 37th National Games being played at Goa.

The J&K athletes most shined in the discipline of Pencak Silat, bagging 4 Gold, 3 Silver and 5 Bronze medals. J&K also won 1 Silver In Taekwondo, 1 Gold, 2 Silver and 2 Bronze in Wushu, 1 Bronze in Rollball, 1 Bronze in Netball, 2 Silver in Gymnastics.

The games began on October 25 and are slated to end on



November 9, with over 10,000 sportspersons competing in 43 sports disciplines.

Maharashtra leads the overall medals tally, with 162 medals, including 60 Gold.

National Softball Championship Begins In Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Secretary, Youth Services and Sports (YSS), Sarmad Hafeez, on Saturday inaugurated the 45th Senior National Softball Championship at Bakshi Stadium here. The champions will also be played at Multiple Sports Complex Gindun Ground, Rajbagh.

The inaugural ceremony of the national event was held at Bakshi Stadium.

While addressing the participants, Sarmad Hafeez said that the championship is expected to generate an intense competition among the teams, as they strive to be crowned as the national champions.

Sarmad Hafeez said that such championships not only provide a platform for athletes to showcase their skills but also serves as an opportunity for them to compete for national honour. The winners of the championship will not only be recognized as the best in the country but will also gain prestige and recognition for their achievements, he added.

Secretary said that this is



the series of national events that J&K has been hosting and till now four national level competitions in Handball, Arm Wrestling, Thang-Ta and Football have been held.

Among others present on the occasion included, Secretary J&K Sports Council Nuzhat Gull, Dr. Zaffar Iqbal CAO Sports Council, Muzaffar Hussain Wani Divisional Sports Officer, Kashmir and office bearers of Softball Association of India including Dr Praveen Anorkar, Director International tours, LR Moria Secretary General, Shirikant

Thorat, Dharmaji Choudankar, Vice President, Tabinder Sahu Vice President from Softball Association of India, Abdul Rehman Shigan and Waseem Ahmad President and General Secretary, J&K Softball Association of J&K.

The championship will consist of matches in both the men's and women's sections. With a total of 27 teams in the men's section and 25 teams in the women's section. There will be a total of 52 teams participating in the tournament. The event will last for five days and conclude on 8th of this month.

J&K Defeat CISE To Lift NSG Football Title

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The J&K Under-19 football team defeated CISE 1-0 on Saturday to win the 67th National School Games' Football title.

The Under-19's team beat Kerala in the semifinal to make it to the finals.

The game was played on an equal footing as both teams gave little away in the all-important matchup.

In volleyball, the championship game was played between Rajasthan and UP. Kunal Das of West Bengal was awarded player of the volleyball tournament. J&K finished third in the volleyball championship.

Sri Lanka Cancel Training Due To 'Severe' Air Pollution In Delhi

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Sri Lanka cancelled their opening training session in the national capital on Saturday due to "severe" air pollution but Bangladesh braved the adverse weather conditions to train, a day after choosing to skip their practice session.

Bangladesh, who arrived here on Wednesday, had decided against practising on Friday as the pollution levels in the city hit the "severe plus" category.

Sri Lanka followed them into staying indoors on Saturday when the Air Quality Index stood at 407 in the morning. "It was cancelled owing to the air quality issue," said a SLC source, referring to the Saturday's training session.

However, Bangladesh players, wearing masks, came out for practice at the Feroz Shah Kotla. An AQI between zero and 50 is considered "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", 101 and 200 "moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", and 401 and 500 "severe".

It is unlikely that the International Cricket Council (ICC) will shift the game out of Delhi but the call on whether the match will go ahead will only be taken on that day.

"We are currently assessing the situation. The ICC and our hosts the BCCI take the well-being of all participants seriously and are monitoring the air quality in Delhi. We are taking expert advice to assess the situation," an ICC spokesper-



son told PTI.

The air quality is usually assessed by match officials on the day of a game. It is not the first time that Sri Lanka are having to deal with Delhi's notorious air pollution. The players had to wear masks during the Test series back in 2017. Even the Bangladesh cricketers resorted to wearing masks in Delhi ahead of a T20 in 2019.

On Friday, Bangladesh team director Khaled Mahmud said the players developed cough after going out in the city and therefore the management decided to cancel the first training session. On Friday, the air quality plummeted to the "severe plus" category.

"Many (cricketers) went out yesterday (Thursday) and now they are having some kind of coughing so there is a risk factor involved and so we cancelled the training so that they don't get unwell," said Mahmud at the team hotel.

Trekking Equipment, Hire Shop Inaugurated In Bemina

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a lift to adventure tourism in Srinagar, a trekking equipment hire shop, "Climb With Us" was inaugurated in Bemina on Saturday here.

The occasion was graced by Parvaiz Ah Shalla, Branch Head of JK Bank, Baghat; Aijaz Ahmad, Advanced Manager; and Jamsheed Ah. Bhat from the Tourism Department.

Climb With Us owner Burhan Nazir, is poised to serve adventurous souls seeking to explore the awe-inspiring landscapes

rates. We offer an extensive selection of equipment, including rucksacks, winter collections, trekking gear, sleeping bags, tents, and more, ensuring that trekkers are well-prepared for their adventures."

The shop offers top-tier trekking and mountaineering equipment, prioritizing safety and comfort for trekkers, mountaineers, and adventure enthusiasts.

Burhan Nazir emphasized that their aim is to make adventure sports accessible to a broader audience by providing



of Kashmir through trekking and mountaineering. Tourists and trekkers can now access premium-quality trekking and mountaineering equipment, conveniently consolidated under one roof.

Burhan Nazir expressed his enthusiasm, stating, "We are thrilled to offer adventure enthusiasts the opportunity to immerse themselves in the unparalleled beauty of Kashmir's mountains. Our shop is committed to providing tourists and trekkers with the best camping, climbing, hiking, trekking equipment at nominal

equipment at nominal rates. The shop boasts an extensive array of equipment, including rucksacks, winter collections, trekking gear, sleeping bags, tents, and various other essentials for trekking and mountaineering.

With this latest addition to the adventure tourism infrastructure in Kashmir, both locals and tourists can now embark on exhilarating treks and mountaineering expeditions. The shop's strategic location in Bemina ensures easy accessibility for those seeking adventure in this picturesque region.

Australia Knock England Out Of WC With 33-Run Win

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: Adam Zampa produced three timely strikes in the middle overs as Australia knocked out defending champions England out of the ODI World Cup with a 33-run win here on Saturday, their fifth consecutive victory.

Australian batters were guilty of not converting starts but still managed to post 286 against arch-rivals

Zampa landed the killer blows to stop England at 253 in 48.1 overs. Chris Woakes (32 off 33) tried his best towards the end but it wasn't enough.

It was all over for England when Moen's slog sweep off Zampa arrived straight into the hands of David Warner at deep mid-wicket.

Earlier, Labuschagne, Steve Smith (44 off 52), Cameron Green (47 off 52) and Marcus Stoinis (35 off 32) were among the batters who failed to cash



in on their starts. Leggie Adil Rashid (2/38) was crucial as usual while pacer Mark Wood (2/70) was back to his menacing ways, using the short ball to hurry the opposition batters, especially Green.

Chris Woakes (4/54) delivered with the new ball for the second game in a row, removing the dangerous opening duo of David Warner (15) and Travis Head (11). He also struck twice in the death overs.

England, Marnus Labuschagne (71 off 83) recorded his highest score of the tournament.

England, whose formidable batting line-up has massively underperformed in their title defence, had a good opportunity to pick up a win after four consecutive losses.

Amid heavy dew, Ben Stokes (64 off 90) kept the chase alive while batting alongside Dawid Malan (50 off 64) and Moen Ali (42 off 43) before

India Releases Helpline Number For Citizens After Nepal Earthquake

Agenceis

New Delhi: After a massive 6.4-magnitude earthquake jolted Nepal, claimed 132 lives and several injured, India has released an emergency contact number for Indians who require urgent assistance.

"Alert Emergency Contact Number for Indians requiring assistance due to the recent earthquake in Nepal: +977-9851316807 MEA India," India in Nepal posted on X (formerly Twitter).

Following the earthquake of 6.4 magnitude, National Center for Seismology (NCS) Director Dr OP Mishra said that two important factors for the severity of the occurrence in the Himalayan region were the time and structure of buildings in the area.

The NCS Director also said that it is not the earthquake that kills people, but the kind of structure in the region.

"The intensity in Nepal was very strong, but when it came to Delhi it was reduced. Intensity is

the degree of sitting, but magnitude 6.4 is the content of energy. Earthquake does not kill people it is the structure that kills people," Mishra told ANI.

Earlier today, Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' arrived in Jajarkot to meet the affected people. Officials have been asked to deploy ambulances near the helipad of Nepalgunj Airport and military barracks.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that he is "deeply saddened" by the loss of lives and damage caused by the earthquake in Nepal. PM Modi offered support to Nepal and expressed India's willingness to extend all possible assistance.

According to the National Centre for Seismology, the magnitude of the earthquake on the Richter Scale was recorded at 6.4 and the epicentre of the quake was in Nepal at a depth of 10 km.

The tremors of the earthquake were also felt in several districts of North India including Delhi-NCR, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar.

157 Killed As 6.4 Magnitude Earthquake Jolts Nepal's Mountainous Western Region



Agenceis

At least 157 people were killed and over 160 others injured when a powerful 6.4 magnitude earthquake, the worst since 2015, struck Nepal and destroyed hundreds of houses in the Himalayan nation's remote mountainous region, officials said on Saturday.

According to the National Earthquake Monitoring and Research Centre, the earthquake with an epicentre in Jajarkot district, about 500km west of Kathmandu, was recorded at 11:47 pm on Friday.

Friday's earthquake is the most devastating one in Nepal since the 2015 earthquake that killed around 9,000 people and injured more than 22,000 others.

The impact of the quake was felt in Kathmandu and surrounding districts, and even in New Delhi in neighbouring India.

The Nepal Army has mobilised its personnel to carry out rescue work in the quake-hit areas, according to Nepal Army spokesperson Krishna Prasad Bhandari.

Rescue workers on Saturday dug through the rubble of collapsed houses to find survivors.

The Jajarkot and Rukum districts of western Nepal were worst hit by the quake.

As many as 157 people were killed so far in the quake, Home

Ministry officials said. While 105 people were killed in Jajarkot, 52 died in Rukum West, they said, adding that 166 people were injured in Jajarkot, Rukum West, Dailekh and Jumla districts.

Deputy Mayor Sarita Singh of Nalgadh Municipality in Jajarkot was among those killed in the quake, officials said.

The death toll is expected to rise, they said.

The Nepal government has announced Rs 50 million each for Jajarkot and Rukum districts as immediate relief.

Additionally, the Home Ministry decided to allocate Rs 5.5 million to the disaster relief funds of both the Jajarkot and Rukum West districts, aiming to support the rescue and relief operations for the affected individuals.

India has also offered to extend all possible assistance to Nepal.

In a post on X, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he is deeply saddened by the loss of lives and damage due to the earthquake in Nepal. "India stands in solidarity with the people of Nepal and is ready to extend all possible assistance," he said.

The US embassy in Kathmandu said the United States stands ready to assist Nepal as it "recovers from this terrible earthquake".

China has also offered to provide emergency materials worth NPR 100 million to the affected districts of Jajarkot and Rukum, officials said.

Around 159 aftershocks have been recorded following last night's earthquake, the National Earthquake Monitoring and Research Centre reported.

Many people spent the night in the open because of fear of further quakes and damage to their houses. People were seen digging through the rubble to rescue trapped people from the remains of collapsed buildings, according to posts on social media.

As the roads were blocked and bridges damaged, rescue and relief work at the quake-hit sites have been obstructed, according to officials.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has dispatched initial relief supplies via the Nepali Army's helicopters.

Prime Minister Pushpakamal Dahal 'Prachanda' on Saturday toured the quake-hit region with a medical team Saturday morning.

During the visit, he gathered information about the extent of the damage and inspected the affected areas. Later, he returned to Surkhet from Jajarkot, along with seven injured people and their family members.

UK MP Who Told Activist To 'Go Back To Bahrain' Guilty Of Racial Abuse

Agenceis

London: A British lawmaker who once commanded UN peacekeeping troops in Bosnia was fined on Friday, after being found guilty of racial abuse.

Conservative MP Bob Stewart, 74, was convicted of a racially aggravated public order offence and ordered to pay £163,600 (\$743) plus costs after a one-day trial at a court in central London.

The former army officer had been confronted by human rights activist Sayed Ahmed Alwadaei after an event at the Bahraini Embassy in December last year.

Alwadaei, who was protesting outside, shouted: "Bob Stewart, for how much did you sell yourself to the Bahraini regime?"

The MP replied: "Go away, I hate you. You make a lot of fuss. Go back to Bahrain."

In footage played during a trial at Westminster Magistrates' Court, Stewart told Alwadaei: "You're taking money off my country, go away."

He also said: "Now shut up, you stupid man."

The activist told judge Paul Goldspring he was exercising his right to protest alleged corruption and human rights violations in the Middle Eastern country by

questioning Stewart. He said he had not intended to insult the MP, whom he accused of being financed by Bahrain and of acting as a "well-known defender" of the regime.

The protester also claimed that during a trip to the country, Stewart had chanted "God save the king of Bahrain".

"I feel that I was dehumanised, like I was someone who is not welcomed in the UK," Alwadaei said when asked about the exchange.

Alwadaei, the director of the London-based Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy, said if he did return to Bahrain, he would "undoubtedly be killed and tortured".

Stewart, apologised for his remarks last December, telling the Guardian newspaper, which first reported the incident, he had been "persistently taunted".

He commanded United Nations peacekeeping forces in Bosnia during the Balkans conflict in the 1990s, retiring from the military in 1996 before becoming an MP in 2010.

During the hearing, Stewart insisted: "I am not a racist."

Goldspring said: "I accept he is not racist per se, but that is not the case against him. Good men can do bad things."

"USA Will Collapse Just Like The USSR", Claims Hamas's New Warning: Report

Agenceis

Beirut: Amid the ongoing Israel-Hamas war, senior Hamas official, Ali Baraka warned that one day the United States of America will be a "thing of the past" and "collapse like USSR", the Jerusalem Post reported.

Ali Baraka made these remarks at an interview with a Lebanese YouTube channel on November 2.

"The United States was established by Britain and global Freemasonry, and it will collapse just like the USSR did," Jerusalem Post quoted him as saying in the interview, which was translated by the Middle East Media Research Institute.

"All of America's enemies in the region are consulting and getting closer, and the day may come when

they join the war together, and turn America into a thing of the past," the Hamas official warned.

"America will not remain powerful," he added.

Ali Baraka also praised North Korea's ability to strike the US.

"Yes. As you know, the leader of North Korea is, perhaps the only one in the world capable of striking the United States. He is the only one," Ali Baraka said.

He added, "North Korea, however, does have the capability to strike America. The day may come when North Korea intervenes, because it is, after all, part of [our] alliance".

The Hamas official said that a Hamas delegation recently travelled to Moscow and one will also travel to Beijing.



Quick eats for busy people

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WASKA

Chicken Crispy

Burger

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