

Peace Imperative For Development Of J&K: LG

Says There Will Be No Tourism, Development Or Employment Opportunities Left The Day Peace Gets Disturbed

Izhar Nazir Ali

Srinagar: Asserting that peace is a prerequisite for carrying out developmental activities in Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Thursday that there will be no tourism, development or employment opportunities left, and the economy will suffer a hit the day peace gets disturbed in the Union Territory.

"We always have to keep one thing in our minds. I have said this a thousand times, even in Srinagar. Without peace, development cannot take place. And the most important and imperative thing is that peace is to be maintained. Establishing peace is not only the job of police force or administration. For this, citizens too have an important role to play," Sinha said.



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

He was addressing a gathering on Thursday afternoon after inaugurating Eco Park at Shalimar along the Foreshore Road. Earlier, Sinha inaugurated other Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) projects,

including Sunset Plaza and Boulevard Right Walkway near Convention Centre here.

"If we shun our responsibilities and leave everything to police force and the administration, trust me, peace will never

be established," he said. Lashing out at his critics, the LG said that though the era of conflict profiteers was over in Jammu and Kashmir, there were still some left who only wished to see peace getting disturbed. He also accused them of spreading rumors and misinformation to instigate people.

"The day peace gets disturbed, believe me, there will be no tourism, there will be no development, the economy won't rise and there will be no employment opportunities left," Sinha said, alleging that there are still some people, who make baseless and unfounded charges without any evidence.

"These people make attempts to vitiate peaceful atmosphere in Kashmir when something happens around the world," the LG said. **More on P6**

Panel To Probe Deadly Bus Crash In Doda

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has setup a three-member panel to probe the circumstance leading to the bus accident in Doda district even as one more passenger succumbed to injuries, taking the death toll in the incident to 39, officials said Thursday.

The bus skidded off the road and rolled down into a 300-foot gorge in Doda district on Wednesday.

Twenty injured passengers were admitted to a hospital where one of them succumbed to injuries late Wednesday night.

Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar said a committee has been constituted to inquire into the circumstances leading to the accident near Assar in Doda district.

The committee shall inquire into the incident and furnish a detailed inquiry report to his office within a week, officer said.

The members of the committee are Dr Ravi Kumar Bharti, additional district magistrate (ADM), Doda, superintendent engineer and assistant road transport officer.

Locals have blamed frequent accidents in the area to bad conditions of roads in the district coupled with rash driving and overloading of vehicles.

Key Terror Commander Killed In Uri: Army



Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: In a major blow to terror infrastructure and terror sympathisers in the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, security forces have eliminated key launch commander Bashir Ahmad Malik in an anti-infiltration operation in the Uri sector, the army said on Thursday.

Malik and another terrorist were killed Wednesday in a joint operation, codenamed Op Kali, by the army and Jammu and Kashmir Police along the Line of Control.

"The salient aspect of this operation is the neutralization of Bashir Ahmed Malik, one of the two terrorists killed. He was an important cog in the

Pakistan-enabled crossborder terrorism Jammu and Kashmir. He was an important terrorist launch commander for terror tanzems (organisations) from Leepa in the North to the areas in PoJ&K, opposite Rajouri in the South," an army official said.

The official said Malik, who was active for the past 30 years, had enabled infiltration of a number of terrorists who caused the death of many Indian citizens, both security forces personnel as well as civilians.

"His neutralisation is a major blow dealt by us to the terror infrastructure across the line of control and its sympathisers and supporters," the official said.

Repeated infiltration attempts through the **More on P6**

'Admin Committed To Eliminating Terror Ecosystem'

The Jammu and Kashmir administration is committed to eliminating the terror ecosystem in the Union Territory, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Thursday during a meeting to review security measures. Sinha's statement came during a meeting here to review the security situation and development projects in ten districts of the valley. "Chaired a high-level meeting in Srinagar today to review the security and development scenario in all 10 districts of Kashmir Division," the office of J&K LG posted on X. The LG said the Jammu and Kashmir administration is "committed to eliminating the terror ecosystem and ensuring inclusive and progressive development" of the Union Territory, the post added. According to reports, the meeting was aimed to finalise the 'winter strategy' to be adopted by the security agencies during the winter months—'November to March'. "The meeting was aimed to **More on P6**

'Kashmir Is Not Gaza, PM Modi Ensured Bloodless...'

Shehla Rashid Calls PM Modi 'Selfless', Praises Amit Shah

KO web Desk

Srinagar: Stating that Kashmir was not comparable to Gaza, former JNU student leader and BJP critic, Shehla Rashid has credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for achieving a "bloodless" political solution to Kashmir.

In a notable shift, once fire-brand Modi critic Shehla Rashid in an interview acknowledged changes in Jammu and Kashmir and credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah's policies for 'stable governance and economy'



in Jammu and Kashmir.

In an interview with news agency ANI, Rashid said Modi was a 'selfless man'.

She emphasized that the current situation in Kashmir is distinct from Gaza, citing a reduction in protests and sporadic incidents of insurgency and street protests.

In 2010, yes," **More on P6**



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

Kashmir To Witness Foggy Mornings, Evenings

Agencies

Srinagar: With no forecast of any major wet spell in Kashmir, the weatherman here has predicted foggy weather conditions, saying that the minus temperature has been recorded at multiple places in the higher reaches of Kashmir.

Director Meteorological department, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that no significant change in the weather conditions are expected in Jammu & Kashmir.

However, he said that the shallow fog will continue across Kashmir in the morning and evening hours.

"As per the forecast, the weather conditions will continue to remain dry till November 26 as no major wet spell is expected during the period," he said.

Nonetheless, he added that cloudy weather is expected for a few days during the period. Furthermore, **More on P6**

'Nearly 60% J&K Colleges Lack NAAC Accreditation'

Agencies

Srinagar: In Jammu and Kashmir, nearly '60 percent' of colleges functioning in the region are yet to have NAAC accreditation—raising a question on curriculum coverage and teaching-learning processes in higher education institutions.

"Out of 147 colleges, presently 59 colleges have already been granted National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) accreditation," reads an official document.

The Kashmir University was awarded with 48th rank and Jammu university with 66th rank

among the top 100 universities in the country as per India rankings 2021 university MoE for Gol.

Stating the quality assurance, the official documents read that the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) need to get accredited by NAAC for evaluating conformity to the standards of quality in terms of performance related to the educational processes and outcomes, curriculum coverage, teaching-learning processes, faculty, research, infrastructure, learning resources, organization, governance, financial well-being and student services.

Spoke initiatives, **More on P6**

SHORT TAKES

Another Earthquake Jolts Doda

A 3.9-magnitude earthquake hit Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district on Thursday, officials said. No loss of life or damage to property has been reported, they said. The earthquake of 3.9 magnitude occurred at 9:34 am, the National Center for Seismology said. Its epicentre was in Doda. It occurred at latitude 33.05 degrees north and longitude 76.18 degrees east, it said. Most parts of Kashmir come under Seismic Zone V and are prone to earthquakes. Experts give varied reasons **More on P6**

SIU Seizes OGW's Orchard

The Special Investigation Unit (SIU) of Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday attached nearly one acre of orchard land in Pulwama district under provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, officials said. This move comes following the recovery of explosives from the land by security forces earlier in May. The SIU personnel installed a notice board outside the orchard to inform the general public about the attachment. "This is to inform the general public that the orchard land measuring seven **More on P6**

BEYOND THE HEADLINES

Dr Sameer Kaul
Senior Surgical Oncologist

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smlAZqDjptU&t=3s>

Encounter Underway In Kulgam

An encounter broke out between terrorists and security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district on Thursday, officials said here. The security forces had launched a cordon-and-search operation in Nehama village of Kulgam following information about the presence of terrorists in the area, the officials said. The search operation turned into a gunbattle as the ultras opened fire **More on P6**

6 THE OTHER RECOVERIES INCLUDED WAR-LIKE STORES ENCOMPASSING TWO AK SERIES RIFLES, two pistols, four Chinese hand grenades, ammunition along with medicines, eatables, Rupees 2630 in Pakistan currency and Pakistan National Identity Card,"

Alleged Account Disclosures Of Radiologist Court Orders FIR Against Bank Employee

M Ahmad

Srinagar: A court in Srinagar has ordered registration of FIR under "relevant sections of law" against a Banking Associate of Jammu and Kashmir Bank for allegedly disclosing account details of a radiologist.

Forest Magistrate Srinagar, Feroz Ahmad Khan, passed the orders on a complaint filed by Dr Jehangir Ahmad Bhat, the radiologist, through his counsel advocate Amir Masoodi, against one DH Dar, working as Banking

Associate with the JKB. Bhat had alleged that the Banking Associate with "malafide intention" leaked all the information pertaining to his salary account with particular Branch. By doing it, the Banking Associate, he alleged has "committed a breach of trust."

He said that the Banking Associate under the mandate of his duty was supposed to maintain the secrecy as against divulging his account information. Further Bhat alleged that **More on P6**



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

Quitting Smoking Can Lower Diabetes Risk By 30-40 Per Cent: WHO

Press Trust Of India

Quitting smoking can lower the risk of developing type-2 diabetes by 30-40 per cent, according to a new brief jointly developed by the WHO, the International Diabetes Federation and the University of Newcastle.

Evidence suggests that smoking influences the body's ability to regulate blood sugar levels, which can cause type-2 diabetes, the WHO said in a statement.

Type-2 diabetes is one of the most prevalent chronic diseases worldwide, accounting for over 95 per cent of all diabetes cases, the UN agency said.

However, it is often preventable, and factors that contribute to developing type-2 diabetes include being overweight, not getting enough exercise, and genetics, according to the WHO.

The IDF estimates that 537 million people have diabetes, a number that contin-

ues to rise making diabetes the ninth highest cause of death globally, the statement said. The IDF is a non-profit umbrella organisation of more than 240 national diabetes associations in 161 countries and territories.

Smoking also increases



the risk of diabetes-related complications such as cardiovascular disease, kidney failure and blindness, in addition to delaying healing of wound and enhancing the risk of lower limb amputations, WHO's statement said.

"The International Diabetes Federation strongly encourages people to stop smoking to reduce their risk

of diabetes and, if they have diabetes, help avoid complications.

"We call on governments to introduce policy measures that will discourage people from smoking and remove tobacco smoke from all public spaces," said Akhtar Hussain, president of the IDF.

Quitting smoking also reduces the risk of diabetes complications, the UN agency said in its statement.

"Health professionals play a vital role in motivating and guiding individuals with type-2 diabetes in their journey to quit tobacco.

"Simultaneously, governments must take the crucial step of ensuring all indoor public places, workplaces and public transport are completely smoke-free.

"These interventions are essential safeguards against the onset and progression of this and many other chronic diseases," said Ruediger Krech, WHO's Director of Health Promotion. November 14 is observed as the World Diabetes Day.

Government of jammu and kashmir

Office Of The District Magistrate/ Deputy Commissioner Kupwara

Subject: Conduct of Magisterial Inquiry under section 176 Cr. PC.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The undersigned has been nominated as Inquiry Officer vide District Magistrate Kupwara's order No. 105-DCK/Adm of 2023 Dated: 31-10-2023 to conduct Magisterial Inquiry into the incident which led to the killing of five (05) terrorists at Sardari Nard Machil on 26-10-2023.

It is published for the information of the general public, who are having any knowledge of the incident and are desirous to share the same with the undersigned, can attend this office on working days w.e.f 16th of November 2023 to 25th of November 2023 during office hours to get their statement recorded.

No. DCK/ARA/2023/590-92
 DIPK-12357/23
 Dated: 16-11-2023

Inquiry Officer
 Ghulam Nabi Bhat (JKAS)

Subject:- Grant of Registration of the Proposed Travel unit under the name & style "Thrill Top Journey Situated at Tapper waripora NHI

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, I Mr. Basit Ahmad Bhat S/O Bashir Ahmad Bhat R/o Tapper Waripora Bala Kashmir intends to apply in the Department of Tourism for Registration of my proposed Travel Unit under the name and style "Thrill Top Journey situated at NHI Tapper Waripora near petrol pump opposite Ashoka Leyland, Kashmir under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas, I will submit State Subject/Domicile Certificate, Qualification Certificate, Pan Card, Experience Certificate (Minimum 05 Years), Character Certificate (Police Department), Bank Statement (Minimum Balance 10000), Site Plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested by Sub-Registrar, Printing Material (Letter Head/Visiting Card), Photograph of the Unit (Indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport size photographs to the Department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist prior to Registration of weak as an Excursions Agency/Adventure Tour Operator Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12, before my case is processed for registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/Financial Institutions/Bank/Organization, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Assistant Director Tourism Gulmarg: Tourism Registration (e-mail Id:- dtdreg123@gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/newspapers of the valley. No objections beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained.

fk0

Court Of The 2Nd Additional Munsiff JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1st CLASS AT SRINAGAR

(PROCLAMATION REQUIRING OBJECTION FROM GENERAL PUBLIC

Sajid Shafi Applicant
 Registrar, Births and Deaths, SMC Srinagar Versus Non-Applciant

WHEREAS an application has been made before me that Saadi Shafi Father's name Sajid Shafi R/o Rawalpura Bypass Srinagar has born on 21-04-2018 the applicant has sought a direction from this court for registration of the birth particulars, Saadi Shafi, in the concerned register of births and deaths. Proclamation is hereby made that the any person having any objection(s) to this application may appear before this Court (or before me) to file objections within 07 days of this publication.

Dated, this 18th day of August 2023.

Sd/- (AHTZAZ AHMED)
 NJ 2nd Additional (JMJC), Srinagar

Public Notice

I have applied for the issuance of "D Class" Contractor Card . If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may contact the concerned R&B office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Tahir Ali Bhat
 S/o Nasir Ali Bhat
 R/o Harinara Singhpora Pattan Baramulla bmg

Public Notice

I have applied for the issuance of DOB Certificate from the office of the Block Development Officer Hard Aboora . If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the above mentioned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mahir Ahmad Ganie
 S/o Bashir Ahmad Ganie R/o Goigam bmg
 Tehsil Karwhama

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

Present: Shafeeq Ahmad Malik

Shabir Ahmad Zaz

V/S

Nassir Ahmad Zaz

Notice Through Publication to
 1. Roohi Bano
 2. Sobia Ds/O Ghulam Ahmad Zaz
 Residents of Minjanpora Nawakadal Srinagar

Whereas, above titled suit has been filed against you in this court and you have been conveyed as defendant no: 03 ad 05 The next date of hearing is fixed on 28-11-2023
 Whereas, Summons were issued for your appearance in this court, but you avoided to acknowledge the summons, as a result the summons got returned as untraced. This way you did not appear before the Court to answer the suit and it appears that your attendance may not be procured through the issuance of ordinary summons. You are as such summoned through this Publication and directed to appear before this Court personally or through counsel on 28-11-2023 failing to which appropriate orders will be penned against you. In case the date fixed in declared as holiday the matter shall be taken up on next following day.
 Given under my Hand and Seal of this court.

Ist Additional Munsiff Srinagar
 nj

THE JAMMU & KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION NEW CAMPUS, BEMINA SRINAGAR

PUBLIC NOTICE



I have passed/appeared in SSE/HSE-II (Class 10th/11th/12th) under Roll No. 1313292 Session-2022 Year: 2022 through The Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education. The error committed by the School/Parent/Board against my father's name as Manzoor Ahmad Khan instead of Manzoor Ahmad Khan. Now I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education, New Campus Bemina, Srinagar. If any person has any objection in this regard may file the same in the office of the Deputy Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period, no objection will be entertained. This is published for the information of the general public. The correct particulars be recorded as under.

Name: Huzafa Khan
 Father's name: Manzoor Ahmad Khan
 Mother's name: Zubeda
 D.O.B. 26-2-2005 Medialine

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

Office Of The Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Projects Division III, Srinagar.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

FRESH NIT No. 31 of 11/2023 Dated: 15-11-2023

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders (In Single Cover System) are invited on Percentage basis for the below mentioned works from approved and eligible Contractors Registered with UT of J&K Govt. CPWD, JKPWD, MES, Railways, and other State/Central Governments as per pre-qualification criteria in this bid document for each of the following works:-

S. No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Incl. GST & Carriage) (Rs. In lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money @2%of Ad. Cost (In Rupees)	Time of Completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account
1.	Internal Repairs / renovation of U-Shaped Block bwo repairs of bathrooms / kitchens, tile paths, panelling, face lifting and other allied works at Set No. B-47 and B-48 Budshah flats Srinagar.	2.50	200/-	5000/-	20 Days	DEE	M&R
2.	Internal Repairs / renovation of I-Shaped Block bwo repairs of bathrooms / kitchens, tile paths, panelling, face lifting and other allied works at Flat No. B-56 (II) Budshah flats Srinagar.	2.49	200/-	4980/-	20 Days	DEE	
3.	Internal Repairs / renovation of U-Shaped Block bwo repairs of bathrooms / kitchens, tile paths, panelling, face lifting and other allied works at Flat No. B-25 Budshah flats Srinagar.	2.50	200/-	5000/-	20 Days	DEE	
4.	Internal Repairs / renovation of I-Shaped Block bwo repairs of bathrooms / kitchens, tile paths, panelling, face lifting and other allied works at Flat no. B-54 Budshah flats Srinagar.	2.50	200/-	5000/-	20 Days	DEE	
5.	Internal Repairs / renovation of I-Shaped Block bwo repairs of bathrooms / kitchens, tile paths, panelling, face lifting and other allied works at Flat No. A-56 Budshah flats Srinagar.	2.50	200/-	5000/-	20 Days	DEE	
6.	Internal Repairs / renovation of U-Shaped Block bwo repairs of bathrooms / kitchens, tile paths, panelling, face lifting and other allied works at Set No. B-15, Budshah flats Srinagar.	2.45	200/-	4900/-	20 Days	DEE	
7.	Internal Repairs / renovation of 4 blocks (24 sets) bwo repairs of bathrooms / kitchens, tiling, panelling, face lifting and other allied works at Set A-4 Old Natipora Srinagar.	2.48	200/-	4960/-	20 Days	DEE	
8.	Internal Repairs / renovation of J-type Quarters J-31 to J-65 bwo repairs of bathrooms / kitchens, tile paths, panelling, face lifting and other allied works at Quarter No J-31 at Jawahar Nagar Srinagar.	2.50	200/-	5000/-	20 Days	DEE	
9.	Repair / Renovation of boundary walling behind block R.S. T. U. V block at Tulsi. Bagh Srinagar (RD 0 - RD 25 MT).	1.88	200/-	3760/-	28 Days	DEE	
10.	Repair / Renovation of boundary walling behind block R.S. T. U. V block at Tulsi. Bagh Srinagar (RD 25 - RD 50 MT).	1.88	200/-	3760/-	28 Days	DEE	
11.	Repair / Renovation of boundary walling behind block R.S. T. U. V block at Tulsi. Bagh Srinagar (RD 50 - RD 75 MT).	1.95	200/-	3900/-	28 Days	DEE	
12.	Repair / Renovation of boundary walling behind block R.S. T. U. V block at Tulsi. Bagh Srinagar (RD 75 - RD 100 MT).	1.95	200/-	3900/-	28 Days	DEE	

Position of AAA : Accorded by Director, Estates Department
 Position of TS : Accorded
 Position of Funds : Available
 Project Authority : Estates Department, Kashmir

1. SCHEDULE OF TENDER:-
 The Bidding documents consisting of pre-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 the scheduled date given below in Table 2.

S. No.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	15.11.2023
1.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	16.11.2023 From 10.00 AM
2.	Bid submission Start Date	16.11.2023 From 10.00 AM
3.	Bid Submission End Date	22.11.2023 up to 4:00 PM
4.	Date and Time of Opening of Bids (Online)	23.11.2023 up to 12:00 AM in the office of the Executive Engineer PW (R&B) Project Division-III, Polo View, Srinagar.

2. DOCUMENTS COMPRISING THE BID:-
 Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)
 Bill of Quantities (BOQ)
 3. INTEGRITY OF THE BID PROCESS:-
 Information leading to clarification, examination, evaluation, Comparison of bids and recommendations for award of contract extra during the bid process is confidential.
 All bidders are advised not to make any attempt to influence any officer or official of the department or any person related to them, and any such attempt made will result in disqualification of the bidder at any stage of the bid process including appropriate action under existing provision of law.
 Misconduct / Misbehavior observed during the tender opening process with any officer/official shall be dealt under rules and in terms of the enlistment of registration of contractor in the Department and shall be subject to cancellation of registration card issued by this department or any other department.

4. BID WITHDRAWAL/SUBSTITUTION/MODIFICATION/VALIDITY:-
 The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after the due date and time as per server time. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidder need not make any additional payment towards the cost of the tender document.
 For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted.
 In the online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential-submission of bids is allowed any number of times.
 The bidders may withdraw their bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, re-submission of the bid is not allowed.
 No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids.
 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 at the office of the Executive Engineer, PW(R&B) Project Division III Polo View Srinagar.
 The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical bids.

S. No	Percentage of unbalanced bid viz. advertised cost on account of low rates	Additional Security Advertised value of work as a percentage of advertised cost
1	Up to and including 15% below	Nil
2	Greater than 15% up to 20% below	5%
3	Greater than 20% up to 25% below	10%
4	Greater than 25% up to 30 % below	15%
5	Greater than 30% below	20%

The additional CDR/FDR/DD/BG in respect of works shall be released only after successful competition of work in case of the successful bidder.
 6. CONSIDERATION OF ABNORMALLY LOW BIDS
 An Abnormally Low Bid is one where the Bid price, along with other components of the Bid, appears excessively low, raising significant concerns about the Bidder's ability to execute the contract at the proposed price.
 In such instances, the Division reserves the right to request written clarifications from the Bidder.
 These clarifications may encompass a comprehensive/detailed analysis of the Bid price concerning the project's scope, timeline, resource allocation, risk distribution, and other specifications outlined in the bidding documents.
 Upon conducting a thorough evaluation of the price analyses, if the Division concludes that the Bidder has failed to sufficiently demonstrate its capacity to fulfill the contract at the specified price, the Division retains the discretion to reject the Bid.

7. BIDDER/TENDERER DEBARMENT CASES:-
 The bidder shall be debarred for tendering process for a period of 3 years, from the date of notification, if:-
 o Any bidder/ tenderer withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 o Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security @5% of the Advertised cost within the specified time limit.
 o Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required additional performance security @ (as per TABLE 3) in addition to normal performance security @ 5% of the Advertised Cost for unbalanced bid in the form of CDR/FDR/DD/BG, wherever applicable.
 o Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
 8. TENDER FEE (Cost of Tender documents):-
 Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan Dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date. Deposited in M.H. 0059 Mentioning therein the Name of work, e-NIT No. & Dated. In the name of Executive Engineer PW (R&B) Project Division III (Tender Inviting Authority) As the cost of the tender document mentioned in Table 1 in this NIT.

9. EARNEST MONEY DEPOSIT (EMD):-
 At the time of bidding, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/DD/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e., Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Project Division III Srinagar. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of Normal Performance Security of 5% of the Advertised Cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/ Maintenance Period and Submission of Treasury Challan.
 Earnest money of the bidder(s) will be forfeited in following cases:
 When the bidder withdraws his bid during the period of bid validity on account of any reason.
 The successful bidder (LI) will be required to submit all original documents of the bid in the office of Executive Engineer, PW (R&B) Project Division III, 9-A Polo View Srinagar within 3 days of opening of the financial bids. Failure of which the CDR/FDR/DD/BG of the LI bidder shall be forfeited and he will be also debarred from participating in future tendering in this Division for the next 2 two years.

10. PERFORMANCE SECURITY:-
 Normal Performance Security
 Within 07 (seven) days after the date of receipt of the Letter of Acceptance, the successful bidder/contractor shall deliver to the Employer/concerned authority, a Normal Performance Security in any of the required form of CDR/FDR/DD/BG for an amount equivalent to 5% of value of contract (Advertised Cost) as per Govt. of India, Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure Procurement Policy Division's office Memorandum dated 30th December 2021.
 The performance security shall be released after expiry of Defect Liability Period (DLP).
 If the Performance Security is provided by the successful bidder in the form of a bank guarantee, it shall be issued by either (a) at the Bidder's option, by a Nationalized / Scheduled Indian Bank (b) by a foreign bank located in India and acceptable to the Employer.
 Additional Performance security
 Additional performance security is applicable only for the unbalanced bids specified in PARA 5.
 Within 07 (seven) days after the date of receipt of the Letter of Acceptance, the successful bidder/contractor shall deliver to the Employer/concerned authority, additional performance security in addition to the Normal Performance Security in any of the required form of CDR/FDR/DD/BG for an amount equivalent to percentage specified in the TABLE 3 of value of contract (Advertised Cost) as per PWD ENGINEERING MANUAL 2020 under 26.4 clause CHAPTER 20.
 The additional performance security shall be released after successful completion of the work.

11. INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDER (ITB)
 All bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualification criteria/ qualification information with their bids.
 Copies of original documents defining constitution/ legal status/ place of registration and principal place of Business. Those cards which stands renewed/generated through www.jkpwdoms.gov.in are eligible for bidding only.
 Valid GSTIN Registration No. & Pan No. along with the latest GST Return Form GST-3/GSTR-3B i.e. latest clearance certificate.
 The confirmation status of GST-3/GSTR-3B will be verified online.
 If it is determined to be invalid, the defaulting contractor shall be barred from participating in the future tendering process.
 Only digitally issued and renewed contractor registration cards through www.jkpwdoms.gov.in shall be accepted for contractors registered with PW(R&B) department.
 However, contractors registered with other departments must have online registration on www.jkpwdoms.gov.in.
 Earnest money/Bid Security & tender document Fee indicating name of the work/NIT No. therein.
 No documents which have /have not been uploaded shall be entertained in the form of hard copy. However, in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents.
 Class of Contract is strictly as per Column number 7 in table 1.
 No other CARD and Certificate is accepted.
 All documents relating to the bid shall be in the English language.

DIPK-12307/23
 dated: 16-11-2023

Sd/-
 Executive Engineer
 PW (R&B) Project Division III
 Srinagar.

Seminar On World Philosophy Day Organized At Amar Singh College

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Department of Philosophy, Amar Singh College Cluster University, Srinagar today organized an Inter-College seminar on the theme 'The Human of The Future', to celebrate the World Philosophy Day, 2023, here.

The program commenced with the welcome address proposed by Prof. Tabasum Lone, Head Department of Philosophy. In her address Prof. Tabasum reflected on the importance of World Philosophy Day and also accentuated the importance of this year's theme 'The Human of The Future'.

Prof. Tabasum pointed out that by awakening minds to the exercise of thinking and the reasoned confrontation of opinions, philosophy helps to build a more tolerant, more respectful society and that shall be the determining force in molding

the human of the future.

The presidential address was delivered by Prof. (Dr) Sheikh Ajaz Bashir, Principal Amar Singh College and Nodal Principal Kashmir Division colleges. He pointed out that Philosophy is an inspiring discipline as well as an everyday practice that can transform societies. By enabling to discover the diversity of the intellectual currents in the world, philosophy can go a long way in stimulating intercultural dialogue.

Prof. Ajaz contended that the awakening minds to the exercise of thinking and the reasoned confrontation of opinions can go a long way to build a more tolerant, more respectful society.

Immediately after the presidential address the seminar commenced and the students from seven participating colleges of the Kashmir division elaborated and exchanged their ideas about the human of the future.



Laborers extract sand from River Jhelum near Old Zero Bridge using 'Khoch' a type of boat which they owns and uses for earning his livelihood on a cold, foggy Thursday morning. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

KU's Social Work Students Concludes Transformative Fieldwork Tour To Hyderabad

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Department of Social Work at the University of Kashmir celebrated a significant milestone as forty postgraduate students pursuing their Master's in Social Work (MSW) recently wrapped up an immersive Rural Camp/Fieldwork Tour to Hyderabad.

The twelve days tour from November 2nd to 14th was meticulously designed to bridge the gap between theoretical learning and practical applications in rural development and social work.

Collaborating with the Bosco Institute of Research and Development for Youth (BIRDY) was pivotal in providing students with hands-on learning experiences. Interactive sessions and visits to the Don Bosco Campus exposed them to the tangible implementation of social work initiatives, offering a comprehensive understanding of the field beyond textbooks.

A pivotal moment during this tour was the active participation of these students in the National Social Work Congress hosted at Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) in Hyderabad. This platform facilitated idea exchange, research showcasing, and networking with seasoned professionals, significantly enhancing their grasp of social sciences and its real-world applications.

The tour didn't merely stop at conferences but also encompassed visits to esteemed institutions such as the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) and the Rural Technological Park (RTP) in Hyderabad. These visits provided invaluable insights into the challenges and innovative approaches in rural development, shedding light on the integration of technology to address societal issues.

Dr. Shazia Manzoor, Head of the Department of Social Work at the University of Kashmir, emphasized the instrumental

role played by the university's leadership in the success of their recent educational endeavor. Speaking about the transformative Rural Camp/Fieldwork Tour to Hyderabad, Dr. Manzoor highlighted the pivotal contributions of Prof. Nilofer Khan, the esteemed Vice-Chancellor.

"Prof. Nilofer Khan's visionary guidance has been foundational to the success of this educational initiative," stated Dr. Manzoor. "Her unwavering support and guidance paved the way for this enriching experience, setting the tone for our students' immersive learning journey."

Acknowledging the indispensable role of administrative support, Dr. Manzoor expressed gratitude for the steadfast backing provided by Registrar Dr. Nisar Ah Mir and Jt Registrar (Budget) Dr. Ashfaq Ah. Zarri. "Their support was integral in ensuring the smooth execution of this transformative journey," she emphasized.

DMC Celebrates National Metallurgist Day At NIT Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a spirited celebration of National Metallurgist Day, Dhaatu Mitra, the official club of the Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering (MME) at National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar.

The event featured a diverse range of activities, including a challenging quiz, a creative drawing competition, an eloquent extempore session, and a research poster competition.

Students enthusiastically participated, demonstrating their profound knowledge of metallurgy and their creative flair.

Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. (Dr) Sudhakar Yedla, graced the occasion as the

chief guest. He appreciated Dhaatu Mitra for organizing an event that not only celebrated the significance of National Metallurgist Day but showcased the talents and expertise of MME community.

He emphasized the importance of such events in promoting innovation and camaraderie among students.

Prof. Yedla lauded the efforts of Dhaatu Mitra in providing a platform for students to showcase their talents and explore the vast realm of metallurgy beyond the classroom.

The event was attended by all the faculty members of MME and HOD Prof Atikur Rahman, faculty coordinators Dr. Nitika Kundan and Dr Anshul Gupta.

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
02 Jumada al-Awwal
1445

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 38
ZUHR	12:14
ASR	3: 52
Magrib	5:31
ISHA	7: 56

This Day In History

- 473 - The future Zeno I is named associate emperor by Emperor Leo I.
- 1183 - Battle of Mizushima: Japanese Taira clan defeat the Minamoto
- 1278 - 680 Jews arrested (293 hanged) in England for counterfeiting coins
- 1292 - (O.S.) John Balliol becomes King of Scots.
- 1511 - England, Spain and the Holy Roman Empire sign anti-French covenant The Treaty of Westminster.
- 1555 - William of Orange becomes member of Council of State.
- 1558 - Elizabeth I aged 25 ascends English throne upon death of her half sister Queen "Bloody" Mary.
- 1558 - The Church of England is re-established.
- Event of interest: Event of interest
- 1603 - English explorer, writer and courtier Sir Walter Raleigh goes on trial for treason.
- 1636 - Henrique Dias, Brazilian general, wins a decisive battle against the Dutch in Brazil.
- 1659 - Peace of the Pyrenees is signed between France and Spain.
- 1796 - Battle of Arcole-Napoleon I's French forces beat Austrians in Italy.
- 1812 - Napoleonic Wars: Battle of Krasnoi during Napoleon's retreat from Moscow.
- 1869 - Suez Canal in Egypt opens, linking Mediterranean and Red seas
- 1877 - Russia launches a surprise night attack that overruns Turkish forces at Kars, Armenia.
- 1903 - In the Treaty of Petropolis, Bolivia cedes the territory of Arce to Brazil; Bolivia gains rail and water outlets in the east.
- 1913 - The first ship sails through the Panama Canal, which connects the Atlantic and Pacific oceans
- 1917 - Lenin defends "temporary" removal of freedom of the press.
- 1918 - German troops evacuate Brussels.
- 1922 - The last sultan of the Ottoman Empire Mehmed VI is expelled to Malta on British warship
- 1933 - United States recognizes Soviet Union, opens trade.

From KO Archives

Graveyards To Pave Way For Golf Course

Srinagar: To turn the State Chief Minister's 'dream-project' of laying a golf-course on the shores of Dal lake into reality, few of the blue-eyed officials are torching trees and even exhuming dead for leveling the course.

This is in addition to the inconvenience caused to hundreds of inhabitants, who were asked to vacate their ancestral houses in order to pave way for CM's 'dream course'. That, however, does not affect the green belt in any way, say the officials, who are busy in cajoling the CM.

Even the Lakes and Water Ways Department has no objection to the dream project for the reasons best known to its high-ups. Perhaps this is CM's project, under whom comes every ministry and not to talk of officials.

While the pristine beauty of Dal Lake has already been desecrated, the proposed golf course on 209 kanals of land may eventually remain an everlasting had patch on its shores. The green trees are being axed and wild shrubs and precious herbs torched to ashes at the orders of few of the officials.

The golf-course that will come up after complete deforestation in the area would be known by the name of International Golf Course. The officials say it will lure foreign golfers to the state.

To add to it all the officials have now ordered to raise to ground some four graveyards that fall in the area, which is being converted into a golf courses. Sources said that Ziethyar, Theed, Chashma Shahi, Male Taing and Prahpora graveyards have been levelled by the bulldozers, pressed into service by the officials. (CNS)

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 17 NOVEMBER, 1998)

Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

Office Of The Executive Engineer (R&B) Dalgate Division Srinagar

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (for Road work/bridges/Buildings)
TWO COVER SYSTEM (above Rs. 2.50 Crores)
NIT No:- 18of R&B / 3382-98/2023-24 Dated:- 15-11-2023 (E-tendering)

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

S. No	Name of Work	Construction Cost (in lacs)	Tendered Cost Maintenance Cost (in lacs)	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	Ref to Auth/A.A	Ref. to T.S	Class of Contractor
1.	Upgradation of Shah Mohalla, Moominabad, Khyber Colony main road Khonmoh.	375.33	37.53	412.86	5500/-	8,25,720/-	540 days	9 AA No.CE (R&B) K-AA/37 of 2023-24 dtd.27-09-2023	10 CE (R&B) CK/TS/680 of AAY 2023-24 dtd.11-11-2023	11

Major Head of Account = 5054 NABARD (RIDF-XXIX)
Position of funds = Available.

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	15-11-2023
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 16-11-2023, 10.00 A.M
3.	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	17-11-2023 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Superintending Engineer (R&B) Circle Srinagar South.
4.	Bid submission Start Date	18-11-2023 From 10.30 A.M
5.	Bid Submission End Date	28-11-2023 upto 4.00 P.M
6.	The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Superintending Engineer (R&B) Circle Srinagar South.	As per time specified in SBD.
7.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	29-11-2023 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Superintending Engineer (R&B) Circle Srinagar South.
8.	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

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 above schedule.
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 the tender shall be rejected.

1.1 Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document (as mentioned above) in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Dalgate Division Srinagar (The Date of Treasury Challan must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date).

2. 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 Superintending Engineer PW(R&B) circle Srinagar South (as the case may be) within 15 days after the date of receipt of letter of acceptance and shall be released after successful completion of DLP. The Bank Guarantee should be valid for 45 days beyond DLP.

3. Bidders can resubmit/withdraw the bids as specified.

4. The date and time of opening of Financial-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 Financial-bids of Responsive-bidders shall be opened online in the Office of Superintending Engineer PW(R&B) Circle Srinagar South. The date for same shall be intimated separately.

5. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.

6. The earnest money shall be forfeited, if-
a) 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.
b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period issue of letter on intent.
c) In case contractor fails to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

7. Instructions to Bidders (ITB).

7.1 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.

7.2. 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 vendors.

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

7.4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-2.

7.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents mentioned in NIT and SBD with technical bid. Documents which has/have not been uploaded shall not be entertained in form of hard copy. However, in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.

8. Instructions to Bidders (ITB).

8.1 All bidders shall include the following information and documents with their bids:-
a. Copies of original documents defining constitution/ legal status, place of registration and principal place of Business.
b. Scanned copy of GSTIN Registration with return clearance certificate (Form GST-3B) for the month of September -2023 or latest or Quarter (July- September -2023-24).
c. Scanned copy of Enlistment/Regd. Certificate with current Renewal Certificate. (Only digitally issued and re-

newed contractor registration cards through jkpwds.jk.gov.in shall be accepted for contractors registered with PW(R&B) department. However, contractor's registered with other departments must also have online registration and renewal on jkpwds.gov.in in light of circular No. GDAT/PS/DR/7172456/196 dtd.24-05-2023 issued by J&K Finance department.

4. Scanned copy of PAN card, (as reflected in GST Regd./GST Form-3B).

e. All bidders shall upload Treasury Challan (Tender document cost) (dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid submission End date) by debit to M.H.0059 in favour of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Dalgate Srinagar (Tender inviting authority).

f. Scanned copy of Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG (dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid submission End date) Pledged to Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Srinagar South (Tender Receiving Authority).

g. All other documents as mentioned in SBD/NIT.

8. All bidders shall upload Enlistment Registration Card Verification Certificate from concerned Chief Engineer /Superintending Engineer.

The failure to upload any of the documents as mentioned in E- NIT/ SBD will lead to the disqualification of the Bidder at the Technical Bid stage.

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

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

10. 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 Superintending Engineer PW(R&B) Circle Srinagar South (as the case may be) within 15 days after the date of receipt of letter of acceptance and shall be released after successful completion of DLP. The Bank Guarantee should be valid for 45 days beyond DLP. Bidders may contact office of the Superintending Engineer (R&B) Circle Srinagar South or concerned Executive Engineer for any guidance for getting DSC or any other relevant details in respect of e-tendering process.

11. 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 BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the Percentage rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.

12. 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 unless otherwise specified.

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

14. Defect Liability Period shall be 05 Years after date of completion.

15. All key construction material (i.e. cement, steel, bitumen, pipes etc) shall have to be arranged by the contractor strictly as per specifications with the approval of Engineer-in-charge.

16. Qualification criteria for the work and other terms and conditions are contained in the bidding document available on website.

**No.EE/DAL/ 3382-98
DIPK-12336/23 Dated: 16-11-2023**

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

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Friday | 17-11-2023

Save wetlands

As we head into winter, Kashmir's wetland reserves are witnessing the arrival of migratory birds from across the world. Flying across continents, they seek refuge from the winter harshness of their habitats. And this has been happening over centuries. Last year alone, around twelve lakh migratory birds descended upon these waters.

The birds, coming from places like Siberia, China, the Philippines, Eastern Europe, and Japan, start arriving in October, seeking respite from extreme cold conditions. The wetlands of Kashmir, including Hokersar, Wular Lake, Haigam, Shalbugh, among others, become bustling habitats for these visitors until March when they return to their homelands.

But the birds face two challenges: one, the threat of poaching and second, the vanishing wetlands. has been a concern for both the migratory birds and the Wildlife Department. Efforts have been made to mitigate this threat, with increased vigilance and regular checks conducted to curb illegal hunting activities. Measures to maintain adequate water levels in the wetlands have also been undertaken to ensure a conducive environment for the visiting birds.

A recent report from the Government of India has revealed that between 2006 and 2018, Jammu & Kashmir lost over 2372 kanals of precious wetlands. This loss equates to more than 120 hectares and signifies a grave environmental challenge. The wetland ecosystems in Kashmir, including Dal Lake, Anchar, Wular, Haigam, Shalbugh, Narkara, and Hokersar, have suffered a drastic reduction in size over the years. These waterbodies, once revered as "nature's kidneys," are now at the brink of extinction.

Hokersar wetland, hailed as the 'queen wetland of Kashmir' and designated as a site of international importance under the Ramsar Convention in 2005, has lost 5.75 square kilometers of its area over the last forty years.

And this should be a cause for deep concern. As for poaching, the Wildlife Department should mount increased vigilance and periodic crackdowns to prevent it. But saving wetlands themselves calls for a much broader effort. The government needs to adopt comprehensive measures to safeguard vital ecosystems. To start with, we need an immediate and concerted action to counter the factors contributing to their decline, something that has been absent so far.

The recent designation of Shalbugh and Haigam as Ramsar sites offers some hope as it signals international acknowledgment and commitment to protecting these fragile habitats. However, mere recognition is not enough. It demands concerted efforts, collaborative action, and stringent measures to stem the tide of degradation.

OTHER OPINION

Life over death

It is disappointing that the parliamentary committee that examined the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the proposed criminal statute likely to replace the IPC, has not made a recommendation to abolish the death penalty. Instead, the standing committee on Home Affairs, despite submissions from experts and jurists on abolition, chose to make a bland recommendation "that the matter may be left for the government to consider". Its observation is limited to a remark that it "has understood that the reason for a passionate argument against the death penalty is that the judicial system can be fallible and to prevent an innocent person from being wrongly sentenced to death". However, domain experts had made some persuasive submissions before the panel: that instances of trial courts awarding death were on the rise, whereas statistical trends showed that the Supreme Court of India was leaning away from capital punishment; that social scientists had demonstrated it had no deterrent effect and that global opinion was in favour of its abolition. The Court awarded the death penalty to only seven people from 2007 to 2022, while all death sentences were either set aside or commuted to life in 2023, as they did not fall under the "rarest of rare cases".

Members who added notes of dissent to the report also highlighted the argument that capital punishment has been shown to be no deterrent; that imprisonment for the remainder of the convict's natural life will be a more rigorous punishment and provide scope for reform; and that most of those on death row came from underprivileged backgrounds. They have also made the point that the three Bills proposing a new body of criminal law are substantially the same as the existing IPC, Code of Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act. If at all, Parliament moves to enact the draft Bills, with changes suggested by the parliamentary panel, it will be in the fitness of things if it is used as an occasion to reconsider the need to retain the death penalty. The BNS has defined 'life imprisonment' as a term for the remainder of one's natural life, and this should be the default alternative to death sentences. The case for abolition will gain strength if the trend of seeking premature release of life convicts on political grounds is arrested and life terms without remission become more common. Remission should be a humanitarian act and never a source of political controversy. Removing capital punishment from the statute book and introducing a rational and universal remission policy will be a substantive reform in the justice system.

The Hindu

Palestine Conflict Overshadows Ukraine War

Asad Mirza



“**Indeed, it is even possible the United States will start reducing its support to Ukraine, and the EU would not be able to make up for that shortfall, as it is not equipped to match the deep coffers of the U.S. This is due to the fact that traditionally the U.S. can't leave Israel, one of its most staunch allies, alone at this juncture, as this may transform into a completely reworked geopolitical scenario in the region with its accompanied global impact, and which the U.S. could least afford at present, with President Joe Biden facing one of the most crucial times of his presidency**

Ukraine's ambitions of joining the European Union (EU) received an important boost on Wednesday 8th November, when the bloc's executive body said detailed negotiations on Ukraine's membership should begin next year.

A recent EU report has said that the so-called accession talks should finally start, 18 months after the EU accepted Ukraine as a candidate state. The same report recommended that the process should also begin with Moldova, which borders Ukraine.

On Wednesday 8th November, EU President Ursula von der Leyen said: "Today is a historic day, because today the Commission recommends that the Council opens accession negotiations with Ukraine and with Moldova."

Ukraine has long held ambitions to join the EU. In 2013, then-President Viktor Yanukovich was ousted after weeks of street protests when he decided to scrap a trade deal with the EU and instead shift towards Russia, this was followed in March 2014 by Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea. Historically, the aim of joining the bloc - along with NATO - has formally been part of Ukraine's constitution since 2019.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, who applied for EU membership in February 2022, shortly before Russia invaded his country, welcomed Wednesday's announcement.

Zelensky said that, today, the history of Ukraine and the whole of Europe has taken the right step. Despite all the difficulties, we are moving forward.

And although Ukraine welcomed Brussels' suggestion that talks are open and it fully expects the 27 EU member states to agree and adopt the position later this year, the recommendation comes with some caveats that will be hard for Kyiv to comply with at this moment, particularly around the issue of fighting corruption.

Interestingly, it seems that the western resolve in support of Ukraine has remained remarkably solid ever since February 2022. Apart from extending finan-

cial and military support, their support for Ukraine joining Western institutions like the EU and NATO, many European officials have privately expressed wonder at precisely how long Europe has not only remained focused, but also not torn itself apart on the issue, as reported by the CNN.

Remarkably, Ukraine has had what the European diplomat described as "our undivided attention" for the best part of two years.

Since February 2022, Zelenskyy has become a master at using the media to further his political aims. He has been able to persuade various Western governments to supply Ukraine with more weapons, ammunition and money for the defensive campaign against Russia using the moral pressure of defending the Ukrainian citizens.

This sentimental sale has resulted in Ukraine getting many advanced armaments, which might not have been possible in the peaceful time, such as heavy artillery, modern air defence systems, Leopard 2 tanks and even F-16 fighter jets - all weapons systems whose delivery to Ukraine had previously seemed unfathomable.

Significantly, Ukrainian officials have been concerned that lately global and in particular the U.S. attention has shifted from Ukraine to the Middle East since the Hamas attacks on Israel on 7th October.

This trend could be noticed in the manner in which President Joe Biden has requested a further \$106 billion from Congress for Israel, Ukraine and the Pacific Rim. But the Republicans have put a spanner in his plans, Mike Johnson, the new speaker of the House, has agreed to wave through \$14 billion for Israel, but hasn't released even a single cent for Ukraine. Similarly, in the Senate, the Republicans only want to release the money for Kyiv if the U.S. government tightens its rules for asylum-seekers.

In reality any end to U.S. aid would be no less than a disaster for Ukraine. Its army is suffering from huge shortages after more than 600 days of war. At the moment Kyiv's list of priorities are weapons for air defence - from portable devices

including Stinger missiles to state-of-the-art missile defence systems like Europe's Iris-T. Artillery and electronic warfare equipment to defend against Russian drones are also urgently needed in this war of attrition.

Commenting editorially on the development The Guardian commented editorially, that responding to recent talk of "war fatigue" in the west, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy recently acknowledged the gruelling nature of the attritional conflict that has been forced on Ukraine by Vladimir Putin. Nevertheless, he added, he was confident that support for Ukraine in its struggle against Russian forces remained robust.

The Guardian's editorial further opined that this view was vindicated on Wednesday, when Ms von der Leyen recommended that the European Union begin membership talks with Ukraine. This was a necessary and much-needed act of solidarity - all the more so at a time when international attention is focused on the tragic events in the Middle East.

Indeed, it is even possible the United States will start reducing its support to Ukraine, and the EU would not be able to make up for that shortfall, as it is not equipped to match the deep coffers of the U.S.

This is due to the fact that traditionally the U.S. can't leave Israel, one of its most staunch allies, alone at this juncture, as this may transform into a completely reworked geopolitical scenario in the region with its accompanied global impact, and which the U.S. could least afford at present, with President Joe Biden facing one of the most crucial times of his presidency, with attacks from the liberal elements throughout the country accompanied with the Republican offensive for the next year's presidential elections.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial
Asad Mirza is a Delhi-based senior political and international affairs commentator



OBSERVER
MAIL

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

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

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

Underpaid Play School Staff

A young woman, just out of college, is teaching at my son's play school. She works from 10:00 - 3:00 pm. Young toddlers such as mine are very difficult to handle and one would think that these teachers would be compensated fairly for their work. Would you believe me if I say that these teachers who take care of so many toddlers and give a full working day worth of time every single day a week in every month, are paid as low as three thousand rupees a month!

While we often applaud teachers for their dedication and contributions to society, it is disheartening

to witness the exploitation of these educators, particularly in the critical early childhood education sector.

Play schools serve as the foundation for a child's educational journey, where teachers play a pivotal role in shaping young minds. However, the teachers in Srinagar's play schools are facing dire financial circumstances due to inadequate compensation. Most of these play schools aren't even registered! These educators, responsible for nurturing the intellectual and emotional growth of our children, are often subjected to meager salaries that do not align with the value of their work.

Low wages not only lead to fi-

nancial stress for teachers but also hinder their ability to provide quality education. Underpaid teachers may struggle to make ends meet, resulting in reduced motivation and, ultimately, a decline in the quality of early childhood education. This vicious cycle affects the very foundation of a child's learning experience.

It is essential for the government, educational institutions, and society as a whole to recognize the significance of early childhood education and the vital role teachers play in it. Adequate compensation is not only a matter of fairness but also an investment in the future of our children. Well-paid and motivated

teachers are more likely to deliver high-quality education, ensuring that our youngest learners receive the best possible start in their educational journey.

I urge the relevant authorities and stakeholders in Srinagar to address this issue promptly by implementing fair compensation packages for play school teachers. It is time to acknowledge their dedication and hard work by providing them with wages that reflect the importance of their role in shaping the future of our children and our society.

Sincerely,
A Parent

Mindful Fridays

What is “ME TIME” and How Does it Improve Your Mental Health?

Wasim Kakroo

“Intelligent living simply means recognizing the perishable nature of Life and choosing not to postpone happiness. It means focusing only on what matters most to you, on what you love doing. A simple beginning can be made by investing in your “Me Time”, in one hour on yourself daily – start with your health and with what you are deeply passionate about, what makes you come alive! When you do create that one hour for yourself, you will, magically, see how you gain control of the remaining 23 hours of the day!” — AVIS Viswanathan

Do you ever feel like there is never a moment of peace in your life?

Are your family, your friends, your partner, and your coworkers, all constantly demanding your time and attention?

You're not alone, so don't worry.

The demands of modern life—doing business, having a job, taking care of a family, and engaging in social obligations—can be too much to handle. Whatever your lifestyle requires, you must watch out for burnout.

We frequently put everyone else's demands ahead of our own because we don't want to appear selfish or feel guilty, but this approach is unhealthy.

It's crucial to give yourself some “me time”; otherwise it seems practically difficult to schedule time for ourselves in a constantly buzzing society. There are numerous excuses for delaying “me time” until tomorrow, but when tomorrow finally comes, the situation is still the same. The key to practising self-care and being your best self is understanding why, how, and when to have a “me time”.

SIGNS THAT YOU NEED SOME “ME TIME”: Sometimes it can be difficult to recognize the indications that you might benefit from spending time alone. Few signs, among others include:

- having a bad mood
- readily getting annoyed by sometimes insignificant things getting easily bored in social interactions
- a feeling of being overwhelmed or overstimulated
- having difficulties in focusing.
- feeling uneasy and anxious in social situations

The good news is that some “me

time” can have a big rejuvenating effect even if you are battling with any of the above mentioned signs. According to one study, those who claimed to spend 11% or less of their time alone felt less stressed out during subsequent challenging social situations.

WHY IS “ME TIME” BENEFICIAL?

1. REDUCE TENSION AND RELAX

If you don't make “me” time a priority, you'll feel more drained, frazzled, and rushed. Being under constant strain will make you more stressed out and lead to burnout. Take a break to relax, get your energy back, and reduce your stress levels.

2. RESET YOUR BRAIN TO INCREASE YOUR PRODUCTIVITY

Having a never-ending to-do list and working nonstop is unhealthy. The human brain was not designed to maintain focus for long periods of time. If you want to remain productive, you must take frequent breaks. You'll feel refreshed and be able to get back on track if you engage in fun activities during such breaks.

3. INCREASE FOCUS AND FACILITATE PROBLEM-SOLVING

If you've been trying to concentrate on finishing a task or resolving a problem but you don't seem to be making any progress, take a break. Your brain won't be under as much stress if you are engaged in activities you enjoy. When you don't try to force the answer, you'll frequently discover that it just comes to you.

4. SPEND TIME REFLECTING UPON AND UNDERSTANDING YOURSELF BETTER.

Every so often, we need to pause and assess where we are. What matters most to us? What are our guiding principles? What are we aiming for? On occasions, we can become so preoccupied with daily activities that we lose sight of our values and our identity. We risk feeling unsatisfied and unhappy if we don't match our activities with our values.

5. STRENGTHEN YOUR RELATIONSHIPS

Making your needs a priority shows others that you value your own needs. Others may start to take advantage of you if you don't respect yourself. People will value you if you value yourself.

You will feel more energised, healthier, and happier after spend-



ARE YOUR FAMILY, YOUR FRIENDS, YOUR PARTNER, AND YOUR COWORKERS, ALL CONSTANTLY DEMANDING YOUR TIME AND ATTENTION? You're not alone, so don't worry. The demands of modern life—doing business, having a job, taking care of a family, and engaging in social obligations—can be too much to handle. Whatever your lifestyle requires, you must watch out for burnout

ing time with yourself, which will improve your ability to care for and support the people you value.

6. BETTER BALANCING OF WORK AND LIFE

It is easier to achieve a better work-life balance when you are aware of how important taking care of yourself is. Instead of taking on every work, issue, or chore that comes your way, you learn to say “no” and walk away. This makes it possible for you to better handle the crucial aspects of your lives.

7. INCREASED WELLBEING

We feel better when we are engaged in the activities we enjoy. Happier feelings increase our opti-

mism, well-being, and sense of fulfillment. Making time for enjoyment, relaxation, or self-care enhances our wellbeing and sense of self worth.

WHAT SHOULD OUR “ME TIME” INVOLVE?

1. DECIDE ON A TIME

Consider the best time for you to be by yourself. Make sure others are aware that they shouldn't interrupt you during that time by adding that time to your schedule.

2. MINDFUL BREATHING

When you only have a few minutes, concentrating on your breath is a potent technique to restore your mind-body connection. Your body can turn off any stress that has been unconsciously triggered by con-

sciously taking deep breaths in and out. This switches your body and mind back to “rest and digest” mode from “fight or flight.”

Pay attention to various areas of your body as you breathe in and out. This heals your spirit and the link between your mind and body.

In fact, starting a regular meditation practice will provide beneficial long-term effects like improved memory and concentration.

3. DISCONNECT FROM SOCIAL MEDIA

Eliminate any sources of distraction, especially those that encourage social comparisons, such as social media. Instead of concentrating on

what other people are doing, you should think about focus more on your own thoughts and pursue your own interests.

Disable all of your phone's notifications, and make sure someone knows how to contact you in case of emergency. Then, unwind. Use this time to indulge in a sleep or some journaling, concentrating solely on that activity while keeping a positive self-image.

Pick up a real book (not one on a device), worthy to read. Feel it in your hands, and note how it was made. Take note of the book's pages, weight, type and size of fonts, and binding and then drown yourself in its content.

4. GET INNOVATIVE

Many people hold jobs that do not allow room for creativity, whether because of business policies, safety concerns, or legal requirements. Therefore, one excellent approach to spend your “me time” is to indulge in hobbies that you may not have engaged in since you were a child. It includes activities such as creating crafts, playing a musical instrument, having hands on pottery or painting.

You can decide to enroll yourself in an online course to learn a new hobby.

5. INVEST IN BETTER PERSONAL CARE

Try to dedicate two hours to taking care of yourself. Take a bath and indulge in aromatherapy products to create a spa like experience at home. Take long, deep breaths and picture any tensions or negativity you may be holding onto being washed away by the warm water while you enjoy the environment you have created.

Everyone has a different need for “me time”, thus there is no ideal quantity. Identify some activities you could enjoy performing alone, then begin to practise. Try finding a balance between “me time” and social time that suits your particular needs. Some people might only need a few minutes every now and then to lift their spirits, while others might need longer periods of “me time”.

The author is a licensed clinical psychologist (alumni of Govt. Medical College Srinagar) and works as a consultant clinical psychologist at Centre for Mental Health Services (CMHS) at Rambagh Srinagar. He can be reached at 8825067196

How Iran's ‘National Poet’ Hafez Shirazi Captivated Hearts Worldwide With His Verse

Humaira Ahad

Surrounded by mighty trees and beautiful orchards lies the mausoleum of Hafez Shirazi in the cultural capital of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Shiraz. The ‘national poet’ of Iran is resting peacefully, visited by legions of his devotees from across the world every day.

While I was lost in deep thought staring at his grave, a rosy-cheeked boy came rushing and insisted that I consult Hafez for divination and promised that the poet would provide answers to my questions.

Hafez is not confined to Hafezieh, the up-scale area where his final resting place is situated in Shiraz, but seeped into the everyday life of Iranians, young and old, urban or rural.

At every place and on every important occasion, Iranians consult the Persian poet's masterpiece ‘Divan e Hafez’ to seek answers, help and guidance. The poet never disappoints.

Poetry, in particular, that of Hafez, occupies a significant place in Iranian society. This art form is an important part of the lives of all Iranians.

From the crowded streets of Tehran to the sleepy hamlets of Khorasan, from the vast deserts of Yazd to the dense forests of Mazandaran, poetry resonates everywhere.

A taxi driver reciting Maulana Rumi, a baker quoting Khayyam, or a doctor using verses of Saadi to communicate an idea to his patients is a common sight in Iran.

However, among all Persian poets, Hafez occupies a special place for Iranians.

They not only consult him to foresee their future through “Faal-e-Hafez” (augury), but the poetry of the celebrated poet has had a lasting influence on great people, including the founder of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini.

Khawaje Shams-u-Din Mohammad Hafez Shirazi was born in 1315 in the city of Shiraz. Having memorized the Holy Quran at a young age, he was bestowed the title of “Hafez”.

The spiritual enlightenment that Hafez attained and personified traveled beyond the borders of Iran and influenced the great minds of the world, in both the East and the West.

Reciting the poetry of the master lyricist in Persian acts as a soothing balm for parched souls. For many, his poetry is a rendezvous with nature where the whistling of the breeze, the songs of the birds, the murmuring of the streams of water, and the whole orchestra of nature help them enjoy the joy of life.

HAFEZ AND THE WEST

The influence of Hafez extends far beyond contemporary Iran. The poetry of the Nightingale of Shiraz has had a hypnotic influence only on the East, but his verses also inspired poets in the West.

Founding oriental studies as an academic field, the prominent orientalist, Joseph von Hammer Purgstall, translated the Divan e Hafez in 1846. The translated work inspired Goethe to create a collection of poems titled The West-Eastern Divan.

The poetry of Hafez led Goethe, the legendary German philosopher, to call him “Saint Hafiz” and a “Celestial Friend”, as it oozes with spiritualism and asceticism.

For Goethe, Persian poetic language

reached its zenith in the verses of Hafez in whom he was able to find the magnificence of ideas and the view of the world he had been searching all his life.

Inspired by Goethe's West-Eastern Divan, a number of German poets, including Friedrich Ruckert and August von Platen, composed poems on the model of Ghazal.

Hafez's poetry is considered the very epitome of the Ghazal tradition.

Prominent among the German thinkers fascinated by Hafez was Friedrich Nietzsche, who repeatedly mentioned him in his seminal works.

Nietzsche was deeply interested in Hafez and praised him as an ideal poet and spent many years reading his works. The Persian poet appears almost a dozen times in the writings of Nietzsche.

“Nietzsche praised Hafez for ‘mocking blissfully’. For him, Hafez is the Oriental free-spirit man who keeps celebrating the joys and sorrows of life. Nietzsche commends such an attitude as a sign of a positive and courageous valuation of life,” writes Dariush Ashouri, a prominent Iranian thinker.

According to Ashouri, Nietzsche finds in Hafez a prime example of ‘Dionysian’ ecstatic wisdom, which he extols extensively in his philosophy.

In a poem dedicated to Hafez, Nietzsche glorifies the insight of the Persian poet and his poetry.

“The tavern you have built with your hand is far greater than any house, the wine you have made therein all the world fails to imbibe, the bird which was once called the phoenix is now dwelling in your house, the mouse which gave birth to a mountain is yourself, you are everyone and no one,” he writes.

“You are the tavern and the wine you are the phoenix, the mountain and the mouse you keep pouring in yourself, and you keep filling with yourself the deepest valley you are the brightest light you are the intoxication of all intoxication you are what need do you have to ask for wine.”

HAFEZ'S TIMELESS POETRY

For Sir William Jones, the famous British philologist, the poetry of Hafez was a form of meditation on divine perfection. The first poem of Hafez to have appeared in the English language was translated by Jones in the eighteenth century.

The poem was titled “A Persian Song” and played a significant role in introducing the bard of Shiraz to the English-speaking world.

According to the famous German orientalist Annamarie Schimmel, Hafez is like a pure decorated jewel with endless colors. His words are not restricted by time, but he is a poet who has crossed the limitations of time and space and is universal belonging to all times.

However, as per Schimmel, understanding Hafez is not easy as he uses a secret language, and only those who can understand the culture of Hafez can understand him and his poetry.

While discussing Hafez and his poetry in a conversation with the Press TV website, Sonia, a French student of Islamic studies said, “The knowledge of God is essential for the attainment of love.”

“Even prayer without love is meaningless, Hafiz teaches us to love and perfect our prayer,” she said.

The influence of Hafez stretched from Europe to America, when Ralph Waldo Emerson, the famous American poet and

philosopher got acquainted with Hafez.

While introducing the Persian poet, Emerson described him as “the prince of Persian poets.”

“His extraordinary gifts add to some of the attributes of Pindar, Anacreon, Horace and Burns...He accosts all topics with an easy audacity,” Emerson writes.

“He fears nothing. He sees too far; he sees throughout; such is the only man I wish to see and be.”

According to mystics, God created the world as a mirror to reflect His grandeur and glory. For Hafez, the whole world with all its diverse forms and phenomena is a manifestation of God.

Praising the acclaimed lyricist Emerson said, “Leave him but a corner of nature, a lane, a den, a cowshed... he promises to win to that scorned spot the light of the moon and stars, the love of man, the smile of beauty, and the homage of art.”

Under the influence of Hafez's Saki-Nameh, the American philosopher poet wrote Bacchus, which is widely regarded as one of the finest poems in English literature.

“I find Hafez to be a poet of penetrating insight into the true nature of reality. His poetry is masterful, combining literary excellence with experiential wisdom,” American Ph.D. scholar of mystic studies said in a conversation with the Press TV website.

Hafez in Indian sub-continent Hafez's literary reputation reached the Indian subcontinent during his lifetime.

One of the oldest manuscripts of Divan-e-Hafez preserved in an Indian library shows that Humayun and Jahangir, the Mughal emperors of India, frequently consulted it for faal.

Abul-Fazl, author of Akbarnama, writes that Divan-e-Hafez was one of the main books read in the court of the Mughal emperor Akbar.

Praised as an incomparable master of the Ghazal tradition, this genre of literature which conquered new heights in the Urdu language was hugely influenced by the Ghazals of Hafez Shirazi.

Shahab Ahmed, a Pakistan-American scholar of Islam referred to Hafez's Divan as “the most widely-copied, widely-circulated, widely-read, widely-memorized, widely-recited, widely-invoked, and widely-proverbialized book of poetry in Islamic history.”

In the sub-continent, the verses of the great Persian poet and thinker have also been written in amulets to get spiritual benefits and ward off evil forces.

Hafez is still read and still loved in India, which is evident from the fact that Dr. Balram Shukla, Director of the Swami Vivekananda Institute Tehran, has translated parts of Divan-e-Hafez into Hindi language.

“In India, previous generations could enjoy Hafez from the original Persian, hence we don't find its translations in Indian languages,” Dr. Shukla said in a conversation with the Press TV website.

“But now as Persian is not very much in vogue in India, it is our duty to translate these magnum opuses into our languages, otherwise our new generation would be deprived of these great minds.”

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

Russian artist who protested Ukraine war gets 7 years in prison in latest crackdown on free speech

Tallinn: A Russian court on Thursday convicted an artist and musician for swapping supermarket price tags with antiwar messages, sentencing her to seven years in prison in one of the highest-profile cases involving the recent crackdown on free speech.

Sasha Skochilenko was arrested in her native St. Petersburg in April 2022 and charged with spreading false information about the military after replacing price tags with ones that decried Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"The Russian army bombed an arts schools in Mariupol. Some 400 people were hiding in it from the shelling," one read. Another said, "Russian conscripts are being sent to Ukraine. Lives of our children are the price of this war."

A customer at the supermarket who found the slogans reported them to authorities.

Skochilenko's arrest came about a month after authorities adopted a law effectively criminalising any public expression about the war that deviates from the official Kremlin line. The legislation has been used in a widespread crackdown on opposition politicians, human rights activists and ordinary citizens critical of the Kremlin, with many receiving lengthy prison terms.

Skochilenko, 33, has not denied replacing the price tags but rejected the accusation of spreading knowingly false information.

She did not intend to disparage the military, but rather wanted to stop the fighting, her lawyer Yana Nepovinnova told The Associated Press last week.

"She is a very empathetic, peace-loving person. To her, in general, the word war is the most terrible thing imaginable, as is the suffering of people," Nepovinnova said.

Russian independent news site Mediazona quoted Skochilenko as saying in her final statement on court on Thursday that the case against her was "weird and ridiculous" so much so that officials in the facility where she is detained "open their eyes widely and exclaim: Is this really what people are being imprisoned for now?"

She also alleged that an investigator working on her case even quit his job, telling one of her lawyers that he "didn't join the Investigative Committee to work on cases like (the one) against Sasha Skochilenko."

Delhi's air quality severe, vehicular emissions largest contributor

New Delhi: Delhi's air quality worsened within the severe category on Thursday as unfavourable meteorological conditions hindered the dispersion of pollutants.

Recent findings from a joint project by the Delhi government and IIT-Kanpur found that vehicular emissions accounted for about 38 per cent of the capital's air pollution on Wednesday. This reduced to 25 per cent on Thursday.

Secondary inorganic aerosols -- particles such as sulfate and nitrate that are formed in the atmosphere due to the interaction of gases and particulate pollutants from sources like power plants, refineries, and vehicles -- is the second major contributor to Delhi's foul air, accounting for 30 to 35 per cent of the air pollution in the city over the last few days.

Calm winds and low temperatures are allowing accumulation of pollutants and relief is unlikely over the next few days, an official at the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

An improvement in the wind speed November 21 onwards might bring air pollution levels down, he said.

Delhi's 24-hour average Air Quality Index, recorded at 4 pm every day, stood at 419 on Thursday. It was 401 on Wednesday, 397 on Tuesday, 358 on Monday and 218 on Sunday, 220 on Saturday and 279 on Friday.

Neighbouring Ghaziabad (376), Gurugram (363), Greater



Noida (340), Noida (355) and Faridabad (424) also recorded very poor to severe air quality.

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, 401 and 450 severe and above 450 severe plus.

Delhi's air quality dropped over the last few days despite the state government implementing stringent measures, including a ban on construction work and the entry of diesel-guzzling trucks into the city, to control pollution.

According to IQAir, a Swiss company that specialises in air quality monitoring, Delhi was the most polluted city in the world on Thursday, followed by Baghdad and Lahore.

A system developed by the Pune-based Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology to identify the contribution of different pollution sources showed stubble-burning accounted for 7.5 per cent of the air pollution

in the capital on Thursday. It is likely to come down to 3.5 per cent on Friday and 3 per cent on Saturday.

An official of the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) had earlier said stringent measures, including a ban on construction work and the entry of polluting trucks in the national capital, under the final stage of the central government's air pollution control plan called the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) will continue until further orders.

The Delhi government on Thursday set up a six-member special task force to ensure strict implementation of measures outlined in the GRAP in the capital.

Delhi's special secretary (environment) will head the STF whose members include senior officials from the departments of transport, traffic, revenue, Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and Public Works Department (PWD).

The STF will coordinate with

all the departments involved in the enforcement of pollution control measures and submit a report to the government daily, Environment Minister Gopal Rai told reporters.

Earlier this week, Rai had said the city government may implement the odd-even car rationing scheme if the AQI crosses the 450 mark.

The government last week postponed the implementation of the scheme, which permits cars to operate on alternate days based on the odd or even last digit of their registration numbers, after a notable improvement in the city's air quality due to rain on Friday.

Doctors say breathing in the polluted air of Delhi is equivalent to the harmful effects of smoking approximately 10 cigarettes a day.

Prolonged exposure to high levels of pollution can cause or exacerbate respiratory problems such as asthma, bronchitis and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and dramatically raise the risk of cardiovascular disease, they said.

Unfavourable meteorological conditions, combined with vehicular emissions, paddy-straw burning, firecrackers and other local pollution sources, contribute to hazardous air quality levels in Delhi-NCR during winters.

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

HDFC Bank Marks International Fraud Awareness Week

Srinagar: HDFC Bank, hosted a one-day conference on 'Banking Cybercrime Prevention and Detection' in collaboration with Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), to commemorate International Fraud Awareness Week (IFAW). This is the 4th year in a row that HDFC Bank has been actively contributing to Cyber Fraud Awareness during the IFAW.

The Conference was attended by eminent dignitaries from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, IIPA, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C), National Cyber Security Coordinator (NCSC), CERT-in, Delhi Police, Haryana Police, Uttar Pradesh Police and senior officials from leading banks and financial intermediaries.

S N Tripathi DG, IIPA (Retd. IAS) said, "In the digital age, the battle against cybercrime requires a united front. Collaboration and awareness should be our strongest shields. Let us stand together against cyber threats, ensuring the safety and trust of individuals and organisations alike."

Speaking on the occasion Prashant Mehra, Group Head, Retail Portfolio Management and Fraud Control, HDFC Bank said, "Cybercrime is a serious threat to the privacy and well-being of individuals and organisations as well as to national security. The Bank has also been educating people about safe banking practices that would protect them from being victims of fraud. Through this conference our aim is to foster dialogue and collaboration among the participants and to generate concrete and actionable recommendations for enhancing cyber security and resilience."

On the sidelines of the conference, HDFC Bank unveiled industry's first transaction verification method which operates over WhatsApp. This allows verification without voice information by customers. This will be launched for customers before the end of the year.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Peace Imperative

in an apparent reference to the J&K political parties carrying out demonstrations against the war in Palestine.

On this occasion, Sinha also hailed the SSSL officers for excellent city planning and execution of the important developmental projects. With such projects, he said, Srinagar was gradually regaining its lost glory.

"Srinagar is becoming an example for the country on how urban transformation is taking place. We should be proud of these achievements and not of the person who was born here and has killed 100 people," he said.

He also asserted that the ongoing developmental and beautification works were just a beginning not a destination.

"Destination is still away. And I'm sure, someday we will also reach there," he said, adding "Not only Kashmir but for Jammu and Kashmir, Srinagar is emerging as a centre of development. I know in coming days, the sunset point will become a favourite tourist destination and provide ample employment opportunities to our youth."

The LG also said that he was ready to talk to people with an open heart if they have any grievances or difficulties.

Earlier, the LG inaugurated Dal Lake Sunset Plaza, Right-side Walkway of Boulevard Road from Badyari Chowk to Nishat garden, Phase-I of Northern Foreshore Road Lakefront project from Nishat to Naseem Bagh.

"Dal Lakefront projects are testimony to our commitment of reviving the historical social relationship of Srinagar city with lakes and rivers and providing a better quality of life," he said.

"Incredibly beautiful Dal Lake Sunset Plaza, Eco Park at Shalimar, 9.30 km stretch of right-side Walkway of Boulevard Road from Badyari Chowk to Nishat Bagh and Phase-I of Northern Foreshore Road Lakefront project from Nishat to Naseem Bagh, will offer a bundle of happiness to people," he added.

He said the projects dedicated to the public today will be the most unique and serene attractions of the city.

"It will provide an opportunity to explore soothing environment, creative urban life, scenic plaza and numerous charming spots to sit and enjoy mother nature's rhythm," he said, adding "Pedestrian walkway, cycling facility, and open space around Dal Lake will enhance the experience of citizens and tourists."

At the inaugural ceremony, the LG also highlighted the Urban Transformation being carried out by his administration and the significant steps taken to improve tourism and economic activities in the UT.

Dal Lake Sunset Plaza, the first clear Open Space around Dal Lake, Boulevard Road with more than 1000 sqm area has been developed at a cost of Rs 80 lakh with public amenities like interactive seating spaces, parking management, state-of-the-art illumination, and landscaping. SSSL has also planned to introduce food kiosks in the plaza through local start-ups.

Eco Park at Shalimar, Foreshore

Road developed by Jammu & Kashmir Lake Conservation and Management Authority in convergence with Srinagar Municipal Corporation under AMRUT mission at a cost of Rs 1.97 Cr, caters to the aesthetic appeal of the surroundings and provides vibrant space for tourists and locals along the pristine Dal Lake.

The 9.30 km stretch of the right-side Walkway of Boulevard Road from Badyari Chowk to Nishat Bagh at a cost of Rs 14.19 Cr has been developed with facilities like universal access, seating and public plazas and other amenities.

Besides other senior functionaries of the administration who attended the project inauguration events included Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Vidhi Kumar Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; Mohammad Aijaz, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; Athar Amir Khan, CEO Srinagar Smart City Limited.

Admin Committed

work out a plan to ensure there is no disturbance to the prevailing peace and to further cement the peace in UT to provide more relief to common people," a source revealed to KNO.

He said that with an aim to see a record number of tourists during winter months, the meeting discussed various means to ensure safety and security of all guests including foreign visitors to the Valley. It may be recalled that post G-20 summit in Srinagar in May this year, foreign tourist arrivals have picked up after a long time.

The source stated that those who participated include Principal Secretary home department, R K Goyal, Chief Secretary A K Mehta, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bhiduri, DGP J&K RR Swain, ADGP Law and Order Vijay Kumar, IGP Kashmir V K Birdi and Deputy Commissioners of all ten districts besides other officials from the civil administration.

An official present in the meeting said that Sinha stressed on keeping the development momentum on during the winter months stating that "winter months shouldn't become hurdle in the ongoing development in the Valley." He said that developmental works should be speeded up till the snowfall is witnessed in Kashmir.

The LG, as per sources, while expressing satisfaction over the peaceful atmosphere prevailing in Kashmir, said that more efforts need to be put in to eliminate the terror-co system and the remaining terrorists. "Security forces have to ensure that peace becomes a permanent feature in J&K," he said.

This is the second security review meeting chaired by LG in Srinagar for a fortnight. Earlier, on November 1, LG chaired a Unified High Command meeting in Srinagar. Sources said the primary focus of today's meeting was to deliberate on development that entails ongoing projects, projects nearing completion. "Focus was to ensure development gains pace while braving winter challenges," sources said.

Encounter Underway

towards the security personnel, they

added. No report of any casualty has so far been received, the officials said, adding that further details are awaited.

Key Terror Commander

same area in the Uri sector of Baramulla district was a display of desperation by the adversary to push more terrorists into the Kashmir valley to spoil the prevailing peace and tranquility, he said.

"We have a robust line of control security grid and we are on a high vigil. The Indian Army is well prepared to defeat any such infiltrations attempts and we will not let the enemy succeed with his devious designs," he added.

The joint operation was launched in the early hours of 15 November on specific intelligence from "own sources and SB, Srinagar, with respect to the likelihood of infiltration of terrorists across Line of Control in Uri sector", the officials said.

It was the second infiltration bid in the area with the last few days. The first bid was also thwarted.

"Based on the intelligence own counter intelligence and surveillance grids in this area was strengthened and own ambush were deployed," the official said.

He said the weather during the operation was inclement and the area of this operation was treacherous in terms of terrain.

"This operation has resulted in neutralisation of two terrorists, whose mortal remains have been recovered. However, there may be more terrorist casualties who could be on the other side of the Line of Control. We did not cross the Line of Control.

"The other recoveries included war-like stores encompassing two AK series rifles, two pistols, four Chinese hand grenades, ammunition along with medicines, eatables, Rupees 2630 in Pakistan currency and Pakistan National identity Card," the official added.

'Kashmir Is Not

Shehla Rashid said. "But today, when I see it, I am much more grateful for today's situation. Kashmir is not Gaza, it has become clear that Kashmir is not Gaza, because Kashmir was just involved in these back-and-forth protests and sporadic incidents of insurgency and infiltrations," she said.

Rashid, who seems to be in complete awe of the prime minister and his decisions, during the interview, claimed there have been zero civilian casualties since 2019, the year when Article 370 was revoked in Kashmir.

"The present government treats Kashmir not as a security problem, but as a political problem. Because of Article 370, there was a sense that we are separated. There was a sense that we are special, but it wasn't really serving any purpose; but people held on to it. People like me used to say that this is a sign of federalism, and federalism is good within the ambit of the Indian Constitution. But the abrogation has served to end the duality... the identity crisis... the hesitation to say 'Are you an Indian or are you a Kashmiri?' has ended. I credit the

current establishment for not treating Kashmir as a law and order or security problem because it was not. I think they managed to correctly diagnose the problem," she said.

"Right now, we see a really well-intentioned administration. The Prime Minister - he doesn't care about criticism. He has taken so many radical decisions, even at the cost of his popularity. He doesn't care about criticism. He is a selfless man who works for the national interest. You look at the Home Minister - he has ensured peace in Kashmir, regardless of what anyone criticised at that time," she said.

"Union Home Minister Amit Shah during his visit to Srinagar told Kashmiris that it is their country and they can live and go wherever they want. These were his exact words. And we should take a moment and acknowledge that we are living through a historically very important phase. We should be lucky that we are in this country and not anywhere else in the world right now. Because there is peace, there is development and we've just overtaken our former colonizers, the United Kingdom as the fifth largest economy," she said further.

"Zero civilian casualties in Kashmir" Rashid was quoted by the ANI, "There have been court-martial cases of some army personnel who were involved in the fake encounter. Is it not what we were asking all along? There will be people who will say why you are saying this? They have not actually visited Kashmir recently. They have not seen the kind of change, the visible change. That's why I decided to speak out," she said.

On August 5, 2019, the Centre issued an order amending The Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 1954, and superseding it with The Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 2019. The Indian government made all provisions of the Constitution applicable to Jammu and Kashmir and amended Article 367 to directly apply the Constitution of India to the region.

On August 6, the President issued a declaration under Article 370(3), rendering all of its clauses, except the one stating that all articles of the Constitution shall apply to J&K, inoperative.

Shehla was amongst the 23 petitioners who had moved the Supreme Court against the revocation of Article 370 in 2022, alongside Kashmiri bureaucrat and 2010 IAS topper Shah Faesal. However, the duo later withdrew their names from the petition and came out in support of the Center's decision.

"There are congressional committee reports in the US that will still say restore the internet in Kashmir whereas the internet is in full bloom, 5G is working. But a lot of these narratives whether they are motivated they know. It is a feature of our times. It is polarisation. People do not want to acknowledge their opponents for doing good work and that is not good for democracy," she told ANI.

"Muslims are lucky to live in Modi's India"

On being asked about the

discrimination and atrocities the Muslim community faces, Rashid said that political academics classify them as the second largest majority instead of the minority.

She said that Muslims should consider themselves lucky to be living in India. "Yes, they hurt you as a Muslim, but as a Muslim do we keep focusing or harping on that narrative on the negatives? I don't think so because we've lost years doing that. This is our country as much as it is anyone else's country," Rashid said.

On growing communalism, Rashid said that it existed way before the inception of the Bharatiya Janata Party. "Is there communalism in this country, yes. Seventy years back we were partitioned on a religious basis. So we cannot say that communalism began when the BJP came in 2014. We have been partitioned on religious lines and it was a bloody partition by all accounts. There has been communalism and there will continue to be communalism. At the same time, the problem with the critical orientation is that we only focus on the negatives. We forget to celebrate the positives," she said.

The former student leader acknowledged her struggles at JNU, particularly after the sedition charges against former research scholar Umar Khalid and then JNU Student Union president Kanhaiya Kumar in 2017. Rashid highlighted the backlash against JNU and emphasized that certain slogans, such as "Bharat Tere Tukde Honge" and "Laal Salam," were never raised at the university.

Sharing the interview on social media, Rashid captioned it, "What caused my change of heart is the realisation that the Hon'ble PM @narendramodi is a selfless man who is taking radical decisions to transform India. He has braved intense criticism but remained steadfast to his vision of inclusive development that leaves no one behind."

'Nearly 60% J&K

in addition to virtual labs and mass and mass media communication labs have been established by the department," it reads.

The document further reads that the government has identified 16 GDCs to start B.VOC and 14 more GDCs identified for establishing Center for invention innovation incubation and training for increasing the employability of the youth.

"At least 30 colleges have been in the process of starting research activities by establishing research hubs under the Hub and Spoke model," it reads.

The document further reads that 50 colleges have been identified to start skill courses of level-4 of NSQF from the basket of skill sector council.

Stating the development and welfare program, authorities have further said that higher education will lay full emphasis on various welfare programs that he must undertake--(KNO)

Kashmir To Witness

the MeT Director stated that the temperature in plains would settle around one degree Celsius in the next few days while in higher reaches, minus temperature has been recorded at

various places.

As per the details, J&K has recorded large excess rainfall from October 01-November 15 as against the normal precipitation of 49.5 mm, the Union Territory has recorded 115.0 mm rainfall.

In the last one and a half month, the highest precipitation has been recorded in Samba where against a normal precipitation of 14.5 mm, a rainfall of 119.0 mm was recorded.

Srinagar, the summer capital of J&K, has however, recorded excess rainfall as against the normal precipitation of 45.0 mm, the district has recorded 70.0 mm rainfall.

11 stations as per the data have recorded large excess rainfall while Shopian in Kashmir is the only station where deficient precipitation of 39 per cent has been recorded during the period--(KNO)

Court Orders

he has got lot of spam communications from the last several months which he suspects was due to the actions of the Banking Associate.

Subsequent to filing of the complaint, police had directed the Station House Officer concerned to file a report.

"I have heard Counsel for the applicant, perused the arguments made in the complaint...a cumulative reading of averments of police report draws only one conclusion that there has been commission of cognizable offence and as such police station concerned was to register an FIR under the relevant provisions of law," the court said, adding, "In the ...police report it has been mentioned by the police that they have received a communication from the bank wherein the bank has acknowledged and admitted that a disciplinary authority has been constituted against the employee..."

Ultimately, the court observed that it deemed it proper to direct SHO police station Parimpora to register an FIR against the accused (Banking Associate) for commission of offences under relevant provisions of law. It also directed the SHO to furnish the compliance report in clear and in terms as to whether FIR is a registered or not.

Another Earthquake

for earthquakes in J&K including various faults run through Kashmir and exploding of gases. Kashmir valley is vulnerable to disasters. At least 13 districts out of 100 districts in India have been identified as 'multi hazard districts'.

SIU Seizes

kanals and seven marlas (nearly 40,000 square feet) under khasra number 207 at village Chirat, Arigam, Pulwama, belonging to Ghulam Nabi Wani, the father of accused Ishaq Ahmad Wani, stands attached under section 25 of the UA(PA) of the competent authority," the notice reads.

While the notice directed the owner not to sell, transfer or lease the property to anyone, it also warned the public against purchasing it.

J&K Polls Should Be Held Without Any Delay: Azad

'Banihal Will Be Developed As Economic Power House Of J&K'

Observer News Service

BANIHAL: Democratic Progressive Azad Party chairman and former Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad on Thursday said that Banihal will be developed as an economic power house of Jammu and Kashmir and its people will reap the dividends of tourism and agriculture sectors once he forms the government.



However, he said that elections in Jammu and Kashmir should be held without further delay since people repose faith in only electoral democracy and it has no substitute so far in the world.

Azad said that it is only the people's representative who can provide the governance to the people at door step instead of bureaucrats who are right now running the show.

"The people can approach their representative for their day to day issues. All of them can't afford to knock the doors of officers and civil secretariat," he said, while addressing a mammoth gathering of people at Neel, Banihal.

The former chief minister said that it was during his tenure hospitals, roads and colleges were built in Banihal.

"Prior to that the region was landlocked with dismal economic opportunities for its people. Since then the economy has grown and the jobs for its people have also risen due to which people are not forced to migrate

for employment," he said.

Azad said that once his party comes to power, the overall socioeconomic development will take place in the area since Banihal is close to his heart.

"I have a special place for you people in my heart and I assure you Banihal will be one of the emerging tourist hubs in entire Jammu and Kashmir. People should come here and spend their time that will give flip to local economy," he said.

The DPAP chairman said that more colleges, hospitals will be provided to ease the health care facilities for its people since most of the people here cannot afford to travel long distances for the treatment purposes. He said providing quality education to the people here is also one of his main aims to ensure the youth of Banihal can compete at national and international level.

"The educational facilities in Banihal must be of higher standards so that any youth here can compete with national and international students and crave out his or her own space," he said, assuring people that not only the developmental projects will be sanctioned but the quality standard won't be compromised.

Azad said that while he was always focusing on sanctioning of projects for Banihal, however, he faced hiccups in its execution due to insensitivity of officials at ground level.

Gaza Evacuated Kashmiri Woman Looking Forward To Her Homeward Journey

Press Trust Of India

CAIRO: After being evacuated from war-torn Hamas-ruled Gaza with the help of Indian missions in the region, Lubna Nazir Shaboo is now looking forward to her homeward journey from Cairo to Kashmir.

Lubna, an Indian from Jammu & Kashmir living in Gaza, and her daughter Karima had crossed the Rafah border on Monday evening and reached the Egyptian capital the next day.

"I safely crossed over from Gaza at the Rafah border and am now awaiting my return to Kashmir," Lubna Nazir Shaboo told PTI from Cairo.

She said the return journey plan was in the works. She profusely thanked the Indian diplomatic missions in the region -- in Ramallah, Tel Aviv, and Cairo -- for making the evacuation possible from the war-torn area. Soon after the Hamas-Israel conflict broke out on October 7, Lubna reached out to PTI on October 10 seeking help.

Lubna's one son and one daughter have been studying in Cairo.

Soon after she reached Cairo, the Indian Embassy in Cairo tweeted along with a photo of the Indian ambassador to Egypt Ajit Gupte with Lubna and her daughter: "Amb @AjitVGupte received Mrs Lubna Nazir Shaboo, Indian national who has just arrived safely in



Cairo, after being evacuated from Gaza. She and her family are in good health. Mrs Lubna expressed deep gratitude to @indembcairo, @indemtel and @ROIIRamallah for their assistance (sic)."

She also shared a video with PTI, which she had recorded at the Rafah border after reaching the Egyptian side.

"The situation was too bad in Gaza. We did not have water, electricity or internet and the telecommunication was too bad. We went through a very bad phase over there. The situation is worsening day by day. There are people who are dying every day and there are people who are injured and there are dead people who are also lying under the debris."

"There is a scarcity of everything. Food supplies, medicines. There is no medical care. Hospitals are out of service. Bombardment is happening everywhere," she said in the video and added: "I hope that this video will reach the

people and it will convey the message that Gaza is getting choked by every second."

"There is no phone, there is no electricity. There is no internet and on Thursday, they are going to declare Gaza to be out of any telecommunication service. There will be no communication anymore. And we will not be knowing what is going on in Gaza anymore. Gaza is in a very bad situation (sic)," she described.

Narrating the conditions in the Gaza Strip, pounded by Israel after the October 7 Hamas attack, and how babies, children, women, and civilians in general have been killed, Lubna said, "We don't know what more is going to happen in the coming days. There is hope that this thing will stop at once and pray for peace in this place."

More than 11,000 Palestinians have been killed in the Gaza Strip since Israel began attacks after Hamas attack killed over 1200 Israelis.

We Aim To Ensure A Prosperous J&K: Bukhari

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Apni Party President, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari said on Thursday that his party's primary objectives include, striving for durable peace, prosperity, and development in Jammu and Kashmir.

He made these remarks during an event organised at the party headquarters here on Thursday.

During the event, a party spokesperson said, Vice Chairperson of District Development Council (DDC) from Kulgam Shaziya Jan, and BJP's former constituency president in Kulgam's Damhal Hanjipora Mohammad Ashraf Dar, formally joined Apni Party. The event was organised by the party's District President, Kulgam Abdul Majeed Padder.

Bukhari, the spokesperson said, greeted the new members

into the party fold and assured them that the entire party leadership would back them in their activities and work for serving the people in their respective areas.

"From today, you all are part and parcel of this party, which has a clear-cut agenda of working for the well-being of our people. Our primary objectives include striving for durable peace, prosperity, and development in Jammu and Kashmir. We aim to ensure a prosperous Jammu and Kashmir for your younger generation and the generations to come. I assure you that when you are out there working for the agenda, you will receive full support and cooperation from the party's leadership," he said.

"This party will provide you ample opportunities to serve the people in your respective areas," he added.



SOLEMN TRIBUTE

Budgam's Legal Fraternity Mourns Demise Of Justice Sanjeev Kumar's Father

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: A condolence meeting was convened at the Court Room of the Principal District & Session's Judge, Budgam here on Thursday to express solidarity with Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Judge High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, on demise of his father Utam Chand Shukla.

The condolence meet was presided over by Principal District & Sessions Judge, Budgam Mr. Khalil Ahmad Choudhary to honor the life and mourn the untimely demise of Utam Chand Shukla.

Principal District & Sessions Judge, Budgam extended profound condolences and expressed heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family and to Justice Sanjeev Kumar. Among the judicial officers in attendance were Aijaz Ahmad Khan, Additional District & Session's Judge, Budgam, Noor Mohammad Mir, Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM), Budgam, Sheikh Gowher, Special Mobile Magistrate, Budgam, and Ms. Farrah Bashir, Muniff Budgam. The solemn gathering also saw the participation and presence



Nisar Ahmad Kuchay, President of the Bar Association, Budgam, alongside members of the Bar, administrative staff, and ministerial staff of the District Court Complex, Budgam.

Their attendance symbolized a unified legal fraternity standing in support during this moment of sorrow and grief.

In a touching gesture of reverence, the participants observed two minutes of silence, a poignant tribute to honor the departed soul of Utam Chand Shukla. The legacy of Utam Chand Shukla remains etched in the hearts and memories of all who had the privilege of knowing him.

J&K Under BJP's Tyrannical Rule: Cong Leader Mir

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Congress Working Committee (CWC) member Ghulam Ahmad Mir alleged on Thursday that Jammu and Kashmir is under the "tyrannical" rule of the BJP.

He also accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of diverting people's attention from real issues by adopting diversionary tactics.

"Jammu and Kashmir is apparently under the tyrannical rule of the BJP. People are not allowed to raise their voice against discrimination and the failure to mitigate their sufferings," Mir said at a function of the Congress party in Anantnag.

Expressing concern over a shortage of ration, unemployment and unscheduled power cuts, he asked the Union Territory administration to shun the "negligent attitude" towards the genuine needs of people.

Addressing the gathering of Congress workers, Mir said the BJP government has set a trend of diverting people's attention from real issues by adopting diversionary tactics, besides suppressing the voices being raised against its misrule and mismanagement.

"Apparently, the BJP government is exhibiting its animosity towards the people of Jammu and Kashmir by sidelining their genuine needs, despite knowing that they are feeling isolated and depressed in the absence of a popular government. Elected governments are mandated to address public issues and take effective measures regarding joblessness, developmental needs and various other issues concerning them on the ground," he said.

Mir demanded restoration of the democratic process in Jammu and Kashmir without any further delay.

Doda Bus Accident: Family Torn Apart By Tragedy

Press Trust Of India

KISHTWAR: When Saksham and his younger brother Riksham left home with their mother on Wednesday to return to school in Jammu, no one in their family could have imagined it would be their last journey together.

While Saksham, 14, and his mother Ashu Devi died after their bus fell into a 300-ft-deep gorge in Doda, Riksham, 11, is fighting for his life in the district's Government Medical College (GMC) Hospital.

The young boys' father Ajay Parihar, an ex-serviceman and a Sena Medal awardee, is shattered and numb with shock.

Ajay's elder brother said on Thursday that Saksham and Riksham had come home to attend his daughter's wedding.

"After attending the wedding, they were returning to Jammu to appear for their exams," he said.

The administration has left people to die, Ajay's brother said angrily, complaining about the poor condition of roads, unchecked rash driving and overloading of vehicles.

"Had the administration fixed accountability, this accident would have not happened and we

would have not lost our family members," he added.

Another relative of the family, Suresh, said Ajay wanted his sons to join the Army.

Ajay wanted to give his sons the best education and they were studying in a premier institution in Jammu, according to the family's relatives.

Scores of people gathered at Ajay's house in the Beda-Bhata area of Kishtwar on Wednesday night after the news about the accident broke.

Saksham and his mother were among the 39 people killed when their bus, which was carrying 58 passengers, skidded off the road and rolled down into the gorge. Twenty people were injured in the incident that took place near Trungal-Assar on the Batote-Kishtwar national highway.

Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir
POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ELECTRIC O&M DIVISION KULGAM
Mini Secretariat Kulgam, Email: exenpddkulgam@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
NIT No: EDK/e-tender/81 of 2023-24, Dated 16-11-2023

For and on behalf of the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UT, e-tenders are hereby invited from Registered Class-A Electrical Contractors for following work under District Capex Budget 2023-24.

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost. (Rs Lacs)	Cost of T./Doc. (In Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of Completion
1.	Electric Supply to Finance Complex Kulgam through LTAB Cable under District Capex Budget 2023-24.	4.34	200	8680	30 Days

Project Authority: District Development Commissioner Kulgam
Position of AAA: Accorded vide order No: 409-DDCK of 2023 Dated 10-09-2020
Position of TEC: Accorded vide No: EDK/TS/3916-17 Dated 14.11.2023

1. The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), SBD of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below. Interested bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below. The Quoted rates shall be Firm, inclusive of all taxes and duties, GST, freight, transportation up to working sites. The rates shall include costs, if any attracted towards mandatory inspections / testing by the designated agencies and the department will not be required to pay / reimburse anything over and above the price quoted

	Publishing Date & Time	16-11-2023 (1700 Hrs)
1	Document Download / Sale Start Date & Time	16-11-2023 (1700 Hrs)
2	Seek Clarification Start Date & Time	16-11-2023 (1700 Hrs)
3	Seek Clarification End Date & Time	21-11-2023 (1400 Hrs)
4	Bid Submission Start Date & Time	16-11-2023 (1700 Hrs)
5	Bid Submission End Date & Time	27-11-2023 (1300 Hrs)
6	Bid opening date & Time	28-11-2023 (1300 Hrs)
7	Venue of opening Bids	Electric O&M Division Kulgam

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Receipt (Under MH- 0801 PDD) in favour of Executive Engineer Electric O&M Division Kulgam (Tender Inviting Authority) (Name of Work & NIT NO. to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer Electric O&M Division Kulgam (Tender receiving Authority). Non-Submission of Tender Fee/ Earnest Money/ Bid Security shall render the bidder as Non- responsive.

3. The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) 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 Electric O&M Division Kulgam (Tender receiving authority) within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of 01 Year. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarment of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.

4. The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance security @5% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. 5. MSME: Only those MSME's shall be considered responsive who shall have the domain of Installation of Electrical Infrastructure (DTS, Poles, Conductor, LTAB Cable, HTAB Cable, Metering) at LT & HT Level in their certificate of incorporation/ registration (UDYAM).

No: EDK/TS/3962-70
Dated: 16-11-2023

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
O&M Division Kulgam

DIPK-NB-4261-23
DT: 16/11/2023

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT SOIL CONSERVATION OFFICER, DIVISION BUDGAM.
e-NIT NO: - 13 OF 2023-24 DATED: - 11-11-2023

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble President of India, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir / Central Govt. Organizations for the following works: -

S.NO	NAME OF WORK	ADV. COST (Rs. In Lacs)	CLASS OF CONTRACTOR	Cost of Tender Document. Rs)	TIME OF COMPLETION	Receiving/ Opening Committee
1	Soil & Conservation works by way of Aforestation works in Pits and of B/L Plants, , Dabbling of H.C. nuts Bag Embankment & Crib at Ziyatnalla Charisharf Zone Doodhganga	3.94	"DEE"	Rs. 200/=	45 calendar days.	Tender Opening Committee
2	Soil & Conservation works by way of Aforestation works in Pits and Trenches of B/L Plants, Planting of Conifer Poly bag plants, and Dabbling of H.C. nuts at Frestwar Shalnar Zone Budgam	2.85	"DEE"	Rs. 200/=	45 calendar days.	Tender Opening Committee

The e-NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bills of quantities, (B.O.Q) set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Website: - www.jktenders.gov.in.

Position of AA: Accorded
Position of T/S: Accorded
Position of Funds : Budgeted

Publishing Date: -	13-11-2023
Download Start Date: -	15-11-2023 from 01:30 PM
Bid submission Start Date: -	15-11-2023 from 01:30 PM
Bid submission End Date: -	21-11-2023 Up to 06:00 PM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid Online. -	22-11-2023 at 03:00 PM in the Office of Joint Director Kashmir Soil & Water Conservation Department Hafchinar Srinagar.
Date of Opening of Financial Bid Online: -	To be opened (Online) at any convenient date & time after complete Evaluation of Technical Bids Received.

The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website: - <https://jktenders.gov.in>

- The date for opening of Technical & Financial bids online shall be opened as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bids uploaded must accompany Govt. Treasury Receipt (cost of tender document) in shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406- Forest and Bid Security Deposit in shape of performed enclosed at Annexure "A". The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.
- As per rule 171 of GFR-2017, Performance Security shall have to be deposited by successful bidder to the order of 3% of the value of contract and if there are compelling circumstances, performance security in excess of three percent may also be demanded.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website jktenders.gov.in
- To participate in bidding process bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act Bidders can get Digital Certificate form approved vendor.
- The bidders have to submit their Technical & financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No Technical or financial bid will be accepted in physical/hard form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents i.e Valid Registration Card issued by PWD/CPWD duly renewed for the current financial year 2020-21, PAN, Valid GST Registration, Govt. Treasury receipt/Challan(cost of Tender Document) and Bid Security Deposit in shape of performed enclosed at Annexure "A".
- The successful bidder has to produce Valid Labour Registration Certificate issued by Labour Department after issuance of award of contract.
- The Department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission of the bid due to any reason (technical or otherwise).
- The Department shall not be held responsible for selection criteria/policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of Information regarding publishing the NIT, in any of the newspaper under circulation.
- The tender accepting Authority however reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form 25 (double leaf) and as per the detailed document.

NO:SCB/e-Tenders/UT Capex/2023-24/472-76 Dated: - 11/11/2023

DIPK-12345-23
DT: 16/11/2023

District Officer
Soil & Water Conservation Deptt.
Budgam.

Australia Edge SA, Play India In ODI WC Final



Agencies

KOLKATA: Australia sealed their place in Sunday's final of the 50-over World Cup against India following a nervy three-wicket victory against South Africa in the second semi-final on Thursday. Australia bowled out South Africa for a below-par 212 despite David Miller's defiant 101 but the chase was not as straightforward as Pat Cummins and his team

would have liked. Travis Head (62) led Australia's rollicking start before a mid-innings wobble put the five-time champions in a spot of bother. South Africa did not let big partnerships bloom but Australia eventually reached the target with 16 balls to spare with Steve Smith (30) and Jos Inglis (28) providing useful cameos. Earlier, Temba Bavuma's decision to bat under

an overcast sky backfired and South Africa slumped to 24-4 inside 12 overs before light rain held up play. Miller and Heinrich Klaasen (47) arrested the slide after play resumed with a 95-run partnership but Head's double strike put Australia back in charge. Miller smashed Cummins for a six to bring up his hundred but fell in the same over trying to clear the rope again. India beat

New Zealand in the first semi-final on Wednesday to book their place in the final in Ahmedabad. **Brief score:** South Africa: 212 all out in 49.4 overs (David Miller 101, Heinrich Klaasen 47; Pat Cummins 3/51, Mitchell Starc 3/34, Josh Hazlewood 2/12). Australia: 215/7 in 47.2 overs (Travis Head 62; Tabaiz Shamsi 2/42, Gerald Coetzee 2/44, Keshav Maharaj 1/24).

Battle-Hardened By Tough Win Over NZ, India Await Final Test

Agencies

MUMBAI: Unbeaten India passed their first real test in the World Cup in the semi-final against New Zealand on Wednesday and the hosts will hope that the win over their bogey team will make them battle-hardened for the final.

India arrived at the Wankhede Stadium, where they lifted their second and last World Cup trophy in 2011, looking invincible, winning all nine round-robin matches without any stiff challenge, including a four-wicket win over New Zealand. But then the Black Caps had also ended India's strong run at the same stage of the 2019 edition while Kane Williamson's team also beat them in the inaugural World Test Championship final two years ago.

India had also exited the 2015 edition of the 50-over World Cup at the semi-final stage with a defeat to Australia.

"Today being the semi-finals, I wouldn't say that there was no pressure," India captain Rohit Sharma told host broadcaster Star Sports, adding that the team wanted to treat the match as just another round-robin game.

"Whenever you play the game, there is always pressure, and obviously, semi-final adds a bit of extra there. But I think the guys were doing the job."

As Daryl Mitchell and Williamson grew in confidence during their third-wicket stand of 181 during New Zealand's chase of 398, the stadium



went silent while millions of fans across the country probably wondered if the Black Caps would be the cause of another heartbreak for India. "It was important to stay calm. At one point, the crowd went absolutely silent, that's the nature of the game," Sharma said. "But we knew that we had to pull something up from our sleeves and need a magic, either a good catch or a run out or maybe a magic delivery."

Fast bowler Mohammed Shami provided that touch of magic with 7-57 - the best figures by an Indian in an one-day international and also his third five-wicket haul in the tournament taking him to the top wicket-takers list with 23. India looked uncharacteristically sloppy on the field

against New Zealand, with Shami dropping a fairly simple catch off Williamson, Ravindra Jadeja giving away overthrows and the hosts also muddling up run-out opportunities.

Sharma will be hoping that his team leave the mistakes behind as they head Ahmedabad for Sunday's final where they will meet Australia.

"We knew there would be pressure on us at some stage. We just had to stay collected. That's what we did. We were very calm even though we were sloppy in the field," Sharma said.

"But that can happen. We've got nine perfect games on the field. So these things are bound to happen. But I'm glad that we could get the job done in the end."

Inter School Thang-Ta Trials Begin In Ganderbal



Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: YSS Ganderbal started the selection process of Thang-Ta players for the upcoming Inter District Provincial Level Thang-Ta competitions on Thursday. The trials are being conducted at Indoor Sports Complex Sehpora. The Department is providing an opportunity to young players to showcase their talent and represent their

district. On the opening day, selection trials were conducted for Boys of all age groups, in which 45 student-athletes from different schools of the district participated. The selected players will compete in the upcoming Inter District Provincial Level Thang-Ta championships, which will be held soon. The selection trials for Girls AAG shall be conducted in the upcoming day.

Downtown Heroes Beat SCFA In Srinagar Premier League

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Downtown Heroes FC defeated Sports Council Football Academy 3-0 on Thursday at Synthetic Turf TRC in the lone Round 20 game of the 2023 Srinagar Premier League.

The undefeated Downtown Heroes sit atop the Premier Division and were heavy favourites against J&K Sports Council's academy team full of young prospects.

The Heroes got going on the half hour mark after Afreen opened the score in the 29th minute. Afreen made it 2-0 for Downtown few minutes later, plucking the SCFA defence in the 32nd minute.

The SCFA boys showed some fight in the second half, but Shahid put the game to bed for the Downtown Heroes, making it 3-0 in the 75th minute. Afreen was awarded man of the match for his



two-goal performance.

The win solidifies Downtown Heroes' place at the top of the 2023 Srinagar Premier League standings. Today's Premier Division ac-

tion will see J&K Bank FC take on FC1. FC1, another undefeated side in the league, might just lose the tag against a football powerhouse. The game kicks off at 3:00 PM at TRC.

Judo North Zone Women's League From Nov 18 In Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The city of Srinagar is all set to host yet another national-level event, with the 3rd

Khelo India North Zone Women's Judo League commencing at Sheri-Kashmir Indoor Stadium from November 18. Judo Association J&K will over-

see the games as a number of participants from various States/UTs are expected to compete in the event. The Judo League will go on till November 21.

Palestine Draw 0-0 With Lebanon As Gaza Conflict Takes Toll On Players

Agencies

SHARJAH: Palestine drew 0-0 with Lebanon on Thursday in a World Cup qualifier played without fans in the United Arab Emirates due to the Israel-Gaza conflict. The match had been scheduled to be played in Beirut but Israel's response to the attack by Hamas on Oct. 7 caused officials to switch the match to Sharjah.

The whole Palestinian team wore traditional keffiyeh, chequered black and white scarves, before the national anthems and there was a minute's silence for those killed in the conflict before kickoff. Despite starting official training only four days ago, the Palestinians started the game well.

Yet Lebanon captain Hassan Maatouk had the first chance after 12 minutes, with his long-range shot going wide, before Atta Gaber responded for the Palestinians with a header on the half-hour mark that went over. Karim Darwish missed a good chance for Lebanon three minutes into the second half and Palestine, ranked 94th by



FIFA, had a Tamer Seyam shot saved by Lebanon goalkeeper Moustafa Matar.

Lebanon's Ali Al Haj shot into the side netting after 87 minutes before Matar saved Dabagh's close-range shot with his out-stretched leg in the final minute. This week's matches marked the start of the second phase of qualifiers for the expanded 48-team 2026 World Cup, when Asia will have eight guaranteed berths plus a possible ninth available through an intercontinental playoff. The top two finishers in each

of the nine groups advance to the third phase. The Palestinians usually host games at Al-Ram's Faisal Al-Husseini Stadium on the West Bank but they will meet Australia next in Kuwait on Nov. 21.

Gaza Conflict Takes Toll On Palestinian Players, Says PFA Official

The Israel-Gaza conflict has disrupted preparations by the Palestinian team for their 2026 World Cup qualifier against Lebanon, but the players were determined to put on a good

showing, a team official and player said. The match is being played in neutral venue of Sharjah, in the United Arab Emirates, because of the conflict.

It had originally been scheduled to be played in Beirut, with the Palestinians set to host Australia the following week, but Israel's response to the attack by Hamas on Oct. 7 forced officials to find new venues. The Palestinians usually host games at Al-Ram's Faisal Al-Husseini Stadium on the West Bank.

"Everything changed after Oct. 7 with the start of the conflict in Gaza," Palestine Football Association (PFA) media manager Ahmed Rajoub told the National media outlet. "All sporting activities stopped completely in Palestine, and the football team was forced to move to Jordan. The first real training for the national team ... took place on Monday in Sharjah four days ago."

"We had some training sessions in Jordan, and in the absence of Gaza players, this was not enough to prepare for an ideal match in the qualifiers." Lebanon and the Palestinians

met at the Khalid bin Mohamed Stadium in the UAE before the latter take on Australia in Kuwait on Nov. 21.

Rajoub said the situation in Gaza was weighing heavily on the players.

"We just can't get the players focused on the game when people are killed and injured every day since the conflict started," he said.

"The players don't talk about football, but about the war, and when they are in the room or the bus, they rush to follow the current events via their mobile phones to check on their families, relatives and friends.

"But we want to say, despite all these issues and this difficult period, the players definitely want to win, no matter how hard it may be."

Before the game, Palestinian midfielder Mohammed Rashid had said the team would give their best. "It's really hard to stay focused," Rashid said. "I think there's no choice for us to, for example, postpone the game; we have to play, so this is exactly why we're here now."

Kohli Can Break Sachin's Record Of 100 Centuries: Shastri

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Star batsman Virat Kohli might now be holding the record for most ODI hundreds, but former India head coach Ravi Shastri firmly believed that the 35-year-old is well on his way to break another big landmark Sachin Tendulkar's 100 international hundreds.

Along with his 50 ODI centuries, Kohli also has 29 hundreds in Tests and one in T20Is for a total of 80 scores above 100. He earlier broke Tendulkar's mark of 49 one-day hundreds against New Zealand in the World Cup semi-finals here on Wednesday.

"Who would have thought when Sachin Tendulkar got 100 hundreds that anyone would come close? And, he's got 80; 80 international hundreds, 50 of them in the one-day game, which makes him the highest. Unreal," said Shastri during The ICC Review.

"Nothing's impossible because such players, when they start reeling off hundreds, then they score them pretty quickly. His next 10 innings, you might see another five hundreds.

"You have three formats of the game, and he's part of all those formats. To think that he still has three or four years of cricket ahead of him is simply mind-boggling." Shastri was also in awe of Kohli's ability to soak in the pressure.

"I think his composure, his body language, his calmness at the crease (in this WC). I have seen him come out in previous World Cups where he's like a cat on a hot tin roof. He wanted to get on



with it straight away. None of that sort here. He's taken his time, marked his guard, soaked the pressure, given himself time, and understood his role of batting deep in the innings. He's just been wonderful," he added.

Shastri had worked closely with Kohli during his reign as the coach and pointed out that with a strict diet cardio and fitness control, he maintains his fitness at the top level, allowing him to run between the wickets freely.

"One of the features of his batting has been his running between the wickets. The fact that he doesn't have to hit boundaries and sixes, he can run hard between the wickets because of his physical fitness.

"That takes the pressure off him. Even when he's not getting the boundaries, he's still rotating the strike. He always has that uncanny ability of making it up towards the back end of the innings," he added.

Shastri also elaborated on Kohli's batting preparations that are a combination of mental shifts, technical tinkering and physical fitness.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
(Constituent unit of AUJKBOF and Affiliated to AIBOA)
M A LINK ROAD SRINAGAR KASHMIR

CONDOLENCE

The membership is deeply saddened on demise of our colleague Mr Basharat Qazi incharge (Sr.Manager) Digital Branch Srinagar R/o channapora bye pass Srinagar, who left for his eternal journey to hereafter on 15.11.2023. The undersigned on behalf of JKBOA Kashmir pay heartfelt condolences to bereaved family and patience in this time of distrust; praying for the eternal solace and highest place in Jannah.

Tariq Ahmad Mir
Secretary