

Solar Power Plants Emerge As Popular Option In Crisis-Hit Valley

Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: At a time when people in Kashmir are grappling with severe electricity crisis, the Jammu and Kashmir government's solar energy project has come out as a viable option to reduce burden on the hydroelectricity and to provide hassle-free electricity supply to the people.

Introduced by the Jammu and Kashmir Energy Development Agency (JAKEDA) in 2021, the grid-connected

rooftop solar plants are garnering an exceptional response within the Union Territory, especially Kashmir Valley which faces acute power crisis with the onset of winter.

Under Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE), GoI's Phase - II rooftop solar scheme, domestic electricity consumers across the UT can install rooftop solar power plant at subsidized rates (1-10 kW capacity).

The rooftop Solar Scheme, launched as part of the



National Solar Mission, offers twin benefits to participants.

The scheme provides a 65% subsidy (40% from government

of India and 25% from UT administration), resulting in a substantial reduction in energy bills for residents.

"The scheme reduces the burden on the Power Distribution Transformers as the energy is produced at the consumers end, thus preventing frequent faults in transformers," an official from JAKEDA told Kashmir Observer. "It also supplements energy generation which in turn reduces power curtailment hours. It also customises the

Solar Power Plants as per consumer's energy requirement to completely off-set the monthly electricity bills," he added.

To avail the facility, he said, the consumers can apply online through the web portal www.jk.ahasolar.in following which the system will be installed through JAKEDA empanelled vendors to avail the offered subsidy.

"We have empanelled over 40 firms for providing net-meters and implementation of the scheme. **More on P10**

Slight Respite From Cold As Mercury Rises

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The mercury rose above freezing point at most places in Kashmir last night as residents got respite from cold and fog, officials said on Friday.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a minimum temperature of 0.9 degrees Celsius, the officials said. They said the minimum temperature stayed above freezing point in the city for the first time in five days.

Bandipora, Baramulla, Ganderbal, Kokernag, Kulgam and Kupwara also recorded minimum temperatures between zero degrees Celsius and 1.7 degrees Celsius.

Pahalgam tourist resort in south Kashmir Anantnag district was the coldest recorded place in the valley at minus 3.3 degrees Celsius, followed by Shopian where mercury settled at minus 2.5 degrees Celsius.

Gulmarg ski resort in north Kashmir recorded a low of minus 2.0 degrees Celsius.

The weatherman attributed the rise in minimum temperature last night to the arrival of a western disturbance that is expected to affect the system.

The rise in temperature has resulted in a reduction in early morning fog.

PDD Withdraws 15% Electricity Duty In Its Revised Tariff

Observer News Service

Jammu: In a strategic move to alleviate the impact of a 15% tariff increase, the Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Department (PDD) on Friday announced the withdrawal of Electricity Duty (ED) in its revised power tariff.

The decision, effective from 1st December 2023, comes following the issuance of a new tariff order by the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC), Jammu & Kashmir.

The JERC, after thorough consideration and adherence to standard procedures, implemented a 15% tariff hike while maintaining fixed charges at their existing levels, an official spokesperson said Friday. Notably, the revised overall tariff rate remains below the actual procurement cost incurred by the corporations in supplying power to consumers, he said.

"To safeguard consumers from an increase in their electricity bills, the J&K government has taken a proactive step by withdrawing the 15% ED previously applied to energy charges in the existing tariff structure. This calculated decision



'2400 MWs Electricity Procured To Meet Demand'

Amid the prevailing power crisis in the Valley, the government on Friday said that the Lieutenant Governor has given approval for the procurement of 2400 MWs of electricity from NTPC and Solar Power Corporation of India.

"The power demand in Jammu and Kashmir has increased and at present it is 3200 MWs while the in house generation availability is only 1350 MWs. This issue has been witnessed every year in the winters as the demand usually goes up during this period," Principal Secretary, Power Development Department (PDD), H Rajesh Prasad said while addressing a news conference in Jammu.

He added that the power generation in our own houses usually decreases during winters. "At present it is 85 per cent lower compared to the summer season. In summers, we had a power generation of 1050 MWs in June-July, but now it is only 150 MWs. It is because of the low water level **More on P10**

ensures that the overall impact on consumers' electricity bills is nullified," he added.

Giving an example, the spokesperson said that a sample calculation for a domestic consumer consuming 500 units per month reveals energy charges of Rs. 2185 (calculated at Rs. 3.80 per unit, plus 15% Electricity Duty), fixed charges of Rs. 40, resulting in a total electricity bill of Rs. 2225.

In comparison, he said, the new tariff for 2023-24 sees an increase in energy charges to Rs. 2175 (calculated at Rs. 4.35 per unit), maintaining fixed charges at Rs. 40, resulting in a total electricity bill of Rs. 2215.

"Notably, despite the 15% tariff increase, the withdrawal of the 15% Electricity Duty ensures no increase in the final electricity bill for consumers," he said.

In a remarkable move towards enhancing power supply efficiency, the spokesperson said, PDD has successfully implemented a series of reforms aimed at delivering improved and high-quality power supply to consumers at an affordable price.

He further said that a significant milestone in this reform journey is the restructuring of the power department by unbundling the departmental structure into **More on P10**

Pak Pushing Ex-Army Men Into J&K: Army



Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Pakistan is making attempts to push foreign terrorists into Jammu and Kashmir, Northern Army commander Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi said on Friday, and highlighted that there is a presence of retired soldiers of that country in militant ranks.

He made the remarks after paying his last respects to

the five army personnel, including two captains, killed in gunfights with terrorists during an encounter in the Bajimaal area of Rajouri district's Dharmasal belt on Wednesday and Thursday. Two terrorists, including a Pakistan-based top LeT commander Quari trained in Afghanistan, were killed by security forces during the encounter.

Talking to **More on P10**

LG, Commander Pay Tributes To Fallen Soldiers

J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi, army officers and police on Friday paid floral tributes to five soldiers who were killed in an encounter in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district. The mortal remains of the five army personnel were brought to the **More on P10**

ROUGHLY THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF 20 TO 25 TERRORISTS OPERATING in the area but the way army, police and other intelligence agencies have intensified their operations, we are sure to control the situation within one year."

IGP Warns Strict Measures Against SM Misuse

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Stressing upon the importance of maintaining close synergy between police and other forces to ensure a peaceful environment, the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, K. Birdi on Friday emphasised that stringent measures shall be taken against social media misuse for inciting violence.

The IGP made these remarks while conducting comprehensive security review meetings in South Kashmir's Shopian and Pulwama districts along with DIG South Kashmir Rayees Mohammad Bhat.

During these meetings, a police spokesperson said, the participating officers presented an overview of the steps initiated by them in **More on P10**

KPDCL Recovers Rs 6.63 Cr Dues, Slap Rs 7.95L Fine

On the third day of its ongoing crackdown against defaulters, the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) collected revenue of Rs.6.63 crore from defaulting consumers across the Valley, a KPDCL spokesperson said Friday. Also, he said, the corporation's inspections to check power pilferage breached the 1000 mark with penalties imposed to the tune of Rs.7.95 lakh on Thursday. Giving more details, the spokesperson said that out of 1017 inspections carried out in Kashmir Division, 161 were conducted in Circle I Srinagar, 182 in Circle II Srinagar, 301 in Circle Ganderbal, 147 in Circle Pulwama, 66 in Circle Bijbehara and 160 in Circle Sopore. **More on P10**

Public Notification Can't Be In Conflict With Service Rules: HC

Orders Appointment Of 151 Wireless Assistants As Constable Operators

M Ahmad

Srinagar: Observing the terms and conditions mentioned in the public notification or advertisements cannot be in conflict with the service rules, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Friday directed appointment of 151 Wireless Assistants as Constables (Operator) on regular basis.

A division bench of Chief Justice N Kotiaswar Singh and Justice Puneet Gupta also directed appointment of 63 appellants as Wireless Assistants against the 151 vacant posts with a rider.

Disposing of a number of

appeals regarding recruitment to the posts of Constables (Operators) and Wireless Assistants respectively in Jammu and Kashmir Police, the court also directed the authorities to clarify the status of the "Constable (Operator)" as regards "Constable" as provided in the J&K Police Rules.

In this batch of petitions, the petitioners were earlier appointed as Constables (Operator) and their services were subsequently terminated in terms of the common judgment and order dated 9 May 2014 and were subsequently appointed as Wireless Assistants vide order dated 10 May 2018.

However, their appointments as Wireless Assistants were set aside by Central Administrative Tribunal vide **More on P10**

CHINA PNEUMONIA CASES

Indian Doctors Call For Raising Surveillance, Hygiene Measures

Agencies

New Delhi: Amid a cluster of pneumonia cases in China, Indian doctors have called for increasing surveillance as well as hygiene measures, if such situation arises in the country.

A recent post on ProMED Mail, the online reporting system of the International Society for Infectious Diseases, reported China experiencing a major pneumonia outbreak with no known cause in children. It said the outbreak, causing symptoms such as high fever, and some developing pulmonary nodules is overwhelming paediatric hospitals in the country.

On Thursday, the Union Health Ministry noted that it is "closely monitoring the



reported outbreak of H9N2 cases and clusters of respiratory illness in children" in northern China.

"There is low risk to India from both the avian influenza case reported from China as well as the clusters of respiratory illness," said a statement from the ministry.

It added that the country is prepared for any exigencies that may emerge from the current influenza situation in China.

Doctors, however, called for educating the public on preventive measures such as hand hygiene, influenza vaccinations, while "maintaining composure".

"Unlike Covid, which predominantly affected adults, the new pneumonia outbreak in China raises concerns about a potential vulnerability in children. Given the limited information available, it is essential to prioritise preventive measures such as hand hygiene, influenza vaccinations, isolating affected children, and using face coverings," said Sachin Kumar, Senior Consultant, **More on P10**

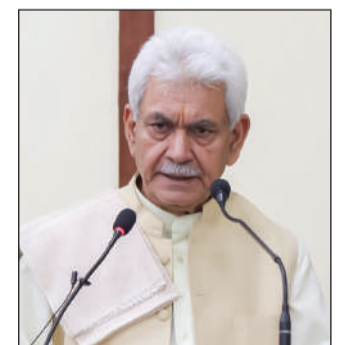
LG Asks Govt Deptts To Take Quick Action On Shortcomings

Addresses Closing Ceremony Of Audit Week At Jammu

Observer News Service

Jammu: Asking all the government departments to take quick action on the shortcomings, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said Friday that in the era of reforms it should be the endeavor of audit community to present the audit report and necessary facts immediately so that action related to the evaluation of policies and programmes is taken without any delay.

"Public audit ensures that every rupee is well spent for the purpose to bring about a change in the lives of the people standing in the last queue of development," Sinha said, while addressing the closing ceremony



of 'Audit Week' at Convention Centre here on Friday.

In his address, the LG appreciated the efforts of the audit community towards transparent and accountable governance.

"One of the earliest institutions established to bring transparency, accountability and honesty in public life is the Institution of **More on P10**

SHORT TAKES

CRPF Constable 'Commits Suicide'

A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) constable on Friday allegedly committed suicide in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir. Mansh Ranjan Dass, son of Harihar Dass of Odisha, allegedly committing suicide inside his camp in Kishtwar district on Friday, a local news agency Kashmir Scroll reported. Quoting sources, the report said that the cause of Dass taking this extreme step was not known immediately. Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of this incident. (KS)

3 Terror Associates Held In Budgam

Security forces on Friday arrested three overground workers alleged to be associated with terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba in Budgam district, officials said. A joint team of Police, army, and CRPF apprehended them during a check of vehicles in Patkote in Beerwah area of Budgam district, they said. One hand grenade, 13 AK rounds, and posters of LeT were recovered from the three men who were identified as Mohammad Younis **More on P10**

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Barkati's Wife Held Over 'Terror Funding'

The State Investigation Agency on Friday arrested a woman for her alleged involvement in a terror funding case in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district, officials said here. The case pertains to the involvement of the Barkati family in orchestrating an extensive fundraising campaign, resulting in the generation of funds amounting to crores of rupees, they said. The officials claimed that the family had managed to raise around Rs 1.74 crore through crowdfunding campaigns. **More on P10**

DGP's Fake Whatsapp Profile Created

Jammu and Kashmir Police on Friday said that a delinquent, fraudster has created a fake whatsapp profile using the number +989914128090 having photo of Director General of Police (DGP), J&K, Rashmi Ranjan Swain as DP. "Action as warranted under law has been initiated. It is informed that since it is a fake profile created with malicious intentions, no-one should reply / respond to this number. Any transaction with this account resulting in a loss or otherwise be reported to the **More on P10**

DDC Chairperson, Bar Prez Meet LG

Nuzhat Ishfaq, Chairperson District Development Council Ganderbal, accompanied by Ishfaq Jabbar, former Legislator called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan here on Friday. The DDC Chairperson discussed with the LG the upgradation and construction of four lane road from Pandach to Manigam of NH-1 in Ganderbal, an official spokesperson said. Also, he said, Advocate Vikram Sharma, President High Court Bar Association Jammu also called on the LG.



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Physicists Detect Second-Most Powerful Cosmic Ray From Beyond Our Galaxy

Press Trust Of India

Researchers have detected the second-most powerful cosmic ray to have come from outside our galaxy. But the exact origin of this "ultra-high-energy" particle from outer space remains a mystery.

Observed in Utah, this is believed to be the most powerful cosmic ray detection since the 'Oh-My-God' particle in 1991 that left physicists puzzled.

Named 'Amaterasu' particle after the sun goddess in Japanese mythology, the second-most powerful cosmic ray has energy

equivalent to "dropping a brick on one's toe from waist's height", the international team of physicists mentioned in their study published in the journal Science.

The energy of the particle was measured at 2.4 x 10²⁰ electron Volts (eV) and was detected on May 27, 2021, the researchers said.

Cosmic rays are charged particles like protons or electrons travelling through the universe at nearly the speed of light.

The charged particles could be remnants of celestial events that have broken down matter to its subatomic constituents.

Because the particles are charged, their flight path resembles a ball in a pinball machine as they zigzag against the electromagnetic fields through the cosmic microwave background, the researchers said.

Referring to 'Amaterasu', John Matthews, study co-author said, "The particles are so high energy, they shouldn't be affected by galactic and extra-galactic magnetic fields. You should be able to point to where they come from in the sky."

This research was conducted at the Telescope Array at the University of Utah (US), which was also witness to the discovery of the highest-energy cosmic ray ever in 1991 during the 'Fly's Eye' experiment. Dubbed as the 'Oh-My-God' particle, the most

powerful cosmic ray shocked astrophysicists as it was believed that nothing in our galaxy had the power to produce it and it was theoretically not possible for cosmic rays travelling to Earth from other galaxies.

The scientists said they are yet to find a "conventional explanation" for these events and believe that this rare phenomena might pertain to particle physics unknown to science.

"But in the case of the Oh-My-God particle and this new particle, you trace its trajectory to its source and there's nothing high energy enough to have produced it. That's the mystery of this..." said Matthews.

Particles with 'Oh-My-God' and 'Amaterasu' energy blast through intergalactic space were relatively unmet. Only the most powerful of celestial events can produce them, the team said.

"Things that people think of as energetic, like supernova, are nowhere near energetic enough for this. You need huge amounts of energy, really high magnetic fields to confine the particle while it gets accelerated," said Matthews.

Analysing the cosmic ray composition for clues of its origins, the researchers said the 'Amaterasu' particle is likely a proton, owing to its relatively unmet trajectory.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice
 Sr. DEN-IV/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date-14.12.2023 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to www.ireps.gov.in

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Single Bid System
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
22.11.2023	30.11.2023	14.12.2023/15:00 Hrs

S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender
1.	318-2023-24-JAT-DRM-FZR	Construction of 56 Nos. Security Morchas & 15 Nos. Guard rooms in JAT (excl.) - PTKC section as per Phase 1 in connection with Multi - Disciplinary committee report.
		Advertised Value Earnest Money Validity of Offer Period of Completion
		Rs.5,31,48,577.42/- Rs.4,15,800/- 60 Days 06 Months
Similar nature of work :- "Construction of building/quarters".		
2.	319-2023-24-JAT-DRM-FZR	Construction of 23 Nos. Security Watch Tower and 11 Nos. GRP Duty rooms in JAT-Lakhanpur section as per Phase 1 in connection with Multi - Disciplinary committee report.
		Advertised Value Earnest Money Validity of Offer Period of Completion
		Rs.3,15,21,844.61/- Rs.3,07,600/- 60 Days 06 Months
Similar nature of work :- "Construction of building/quarters".		

Note: 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.
TENDER No.: 318 & 319-2023-24-JAT-DRM-FZR Dt.: 22.11.2023 3697/23
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT
Office Of The Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Pahalgam
 E-mail:-rnbdivisionpahalgam@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
 Two Covers
 NIT No: 28-EE of 2023-24/2130-39 DATED: 21/11/2023.

Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Pahalgam for and on behalf of the President, of India invites percentage rate bids in electronic tendering system for the following works including their maintenance for five years from the eligible and approved contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State Governments.

S. No	Name of Work	Tendered Cost including GST (Rs.in Lacs.)	Cost of construction Part	Cost of Maintenance Part	Total cost work	Earnest Money	Time of completion	Class of contractor	AA Status	TS Status
1	Construction of Road from Logripora Wajoor to Syed Pathri Reshkhul Bala (Agg length 2.50 Kms)	498.72 Lacs	49.88 Lacs	548.60	8500/-	1097200/-	560 days	"AAY Class"	Accorded CE (R&B) K / AA/25 of 2023-24 Dt 27-09-2023	Accorded CE (R&B) SK/ TS/17 of 2023-24 Dt 16/11/2023 M.H Account NABARD RIDE- XXIX

Position of AAA Accorded
 Position of funds Available

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

S. No	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	22-11-2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	23-11-2023
3	Date & time of Pre-bid meeting	25-11-2023 from 11.00 AM.
4	Bid submission Start Date	27-11-2023 from 10.00 AM.
5	Bid Submission End Date	14-12-2023 upto 4.00 PM.
6	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online) (Tech. Bids)	15-12-2023 10:00 AM in the office of Superintending Engineer, PWD (R&B) Circle Anantnag.

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan/Receipt (Debited to M.H.0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Pahalgam and Earnest Money in the shape of CDR/FDR in favour of Superintending Engineer, PWD (R&B) Circle Anantnag falling which the tender will be rejected out rightly. The issuance date of the Treasury Challan and CDR/FDR must be in between the date of Downloading to Bid Submission end Date. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan/Receipt (Debited to M.H.0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer Muffasil (R&B) Division Pahalgam. The name of work or NIT No S.No. should clearly be mentioned on the Treasury Challan and Earnest Money in the shape of CDR/FDR in favour of Superintending Engineer, PWD (R&B) Circle Anantnag falling which the tender will be rejected out rightly.

2. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Superintending Engineer, PWD (R&B) Circle Pahalgam. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

3. The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Superintending Engineer, PWD (R&B) Circle Anantnag (tender receiving authority).

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

5. 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 the specified time limit.
 c. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
 d. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

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

6.2. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.

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

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

6.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid.

6.6. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.

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

7. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
 Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pahalgam and Bid Security Declaration must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The original Treasury Challan (cost of tender document), CDR/FDR (earnest money/bid security) and relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of contract.

9. Bidders should quote in percentage below/the percentage above or at par at the bottom of the BOQ Percentage Template for the Work.

10. 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.

11. Price escalation and Taxes:- Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

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

13. For the NABARD project, the NABARD guidelines shall be strictly followed.

14. Instructions to Bidder (ITB)
 The Bidder must have to upload (soft copies) of the following documents (Photostat/Original should be clearly seen in all respect):-
 Valid original Treasury Challan/Receipt (MH.0059) in favour of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Pahalgam. The Issuance date of the Treasury Challan must be in between the date of Downloading to Bid Submission end Date. The name of work or NIT No S.No. should clearly be mentioned on the Treasury Challan
 Earnest Money in the shape of CDR/FDR in favour of Superintending Engineer (R&B) Circle Anantnag. The Issuance date of the CDR/FDR must be in between the date of Downloading to Bid Submission end Date
 Registration Card valid for the year 2023-24 with card verification. If the contractor has no Card Verification, he has to submit an affidavit duly certified by 1st Class Executive Magistrate and uploaded with the technical bid.
 Valid GSTIN/ PAN Card No.
 The Latest Self Attested with Current Date Liability Certificate "Certificate by the bidder to the effect that he has no sales tax /cost liability/arrears"
 The Bidder should upload the Tender Document form attached below (Not Mandatory)
 Bidder must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including Earnest Money and tender documents fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid. No document (s) which has /have not been uploaded shall not be entertained in the 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
 Bidder shall furnish proof of latest returns in GST-3/GSTR-3B. i.e. latest clearance certificate FORM GST-3/GSTR-3B of the preceding Month/Quarter to the issue of NIT. Illustration:- For the NIT issued in November-2023, the bidder has to upload the latest clearance certificate GST-3/GSTR-3B of the preceding month i.e. of October -2023/Preceding Quarter (July-September 2023)
 The lowest Tender will have to submit hard copies of all documents uploaded on e-tendering portal before issuance of LOI or Allotment.
 Class of Contract is strictly as per Column number 7. No other CARD and Certificate is accepted.
 Class "A" Civil contractors can participate in e-tendering for the works subjected to condition that they will upload an agreement deed with any Hot Mix Plant Owner from whom the materials / machinery shall be procured and also proof of Hot Mix Plant.
 14.1. The bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submission of bid.
 14.2. Non attendance of pre-bid meeting will not be cause of disqualification of the bidder.
 14.3. All documents relating to the bid shall be in the English Language.
 14.4. Bidder must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents and tender documents fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid. However, in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.
 15. All other terms and conditions shall be strictly as per SBD circulated.
 16. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids
 No: EE/NIT/ 2130-39
 DIPK-12780/23
 Dated:-24/11/2023

Sd/
 Executive Engineer
 PWD (R&B) Division
 Pahalgam

Technology Development Board
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 Website: www.tdb.gov.in

VACANCY NOTICE

Applications are invited from Indian citizens for the following post/position in TDB:

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1.	Section Officer	01	Deputation/Absorption
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DST and TDB websites (www.dst.gov.in and www.tdb.gov.in) may be referred for detailed vacancy notice along with qualifications, experience, consolidated emoluments per month, age limit, eligibility criteria application format and other terms and conditions etc.

Last date of receipt of application is **05 January, 2024 till 5:00 PM**

Any update/corrigendum/addendum etc. will be uploaded only on the TDB's official website, hence, candidates are advised to visit TDB's official website regularly.

Under Secretary, TDB
 Tel. 011-26511184

CBC-36106/12/0021/2324

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Advertisement 2023 (December Batch)
CCRAS Post Doctoral Fellowship Scheme (CCRAS PDF Scheme)

The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), an autonomous body of the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India, has recently initiated "CCRAS Post Doctoral Fellowship Scheme" with the approval of Ministry of Ayush to identify promising young researchers with innovative ideas and provide them with training and research opportunities in different multidisciplinary areas in the field of Ayurveda. The scheme aims at facilitating their transition from mentored to independent research career. CCRAS intends to offer ten (10) such fellowships every year to promising fresh PhD/PG degree holders of Ayurveda and Ph.D. holders of related science disciplines at reputed organizations like CSIR, ICMR, DBT, National Institutes, recognized Universities and National Institutions of Ayush etc. These fellowships will be allocated by Director General, CCRAS, depending upon the needs of the Institute/Centre. 7 PDF have been awarded in June, 2023 batch. This advertisement is to apply for the remaining 3 PDF for December, 2023 batch. The Last Date of Application is 31st December, 2023 for December, 2023 batch.

The eligible aspirants may visit the Council's website www.ccras.nic.in for the details of the CCRAS PDF Scheme, application form, undertaking and full advertisement including eligibility, age limit, tenure, remuneration, how to apply and mode of selection etc.

CBC-17216/12/0029/2324
Administrative Officer (Estt.)

From The Court Of
Principal District Judge, Srinagar
 Present : Mr. Jawad Ahmad

Mohammad Younis Mir S/o Late Mohammad Amin Mir R/o Narparistan Fateh Kadal Srinagar A/P Govt Housing Colony, Elahi Bagh Sgr
 Petitioner

Versus

1. Public At Large
 2. Nighat Parveen D/o Late Mohammad Amin Mir W/o Abdul Hamid Ahangar R/o Shah Anwar Colony Hyderabad Sgr
 3. Tahira Shafi D/o Late Mohammad Amin Mir R/o Sheikh Hamza Colony Eidgah Srinagar
 Respondent

In the matter of Application for appointment of Guardian for the person and property of Minor(s)

Notice to public at Large
 Where the petitioners(s) FILED ABOVE TITLED PETITION BEFORE THIS COURT for appointment of guardian the person and property of minor(s) namely Khair Un Nisa D/o Late Mohammad Amin Mir R/o Narparistan Fateh Kadal Sgr A/P Govt Housing Colony Elahi Bagh Sgr. The petition is pending disposal before this court and the next date of hearing is fixed 09-12-2023 Public Notice is hereby issued, informing all and sundry through the medium of this proclamation that at any anyone has any objection, he/she / they shall appear before this court either personally or through counsel or any authorized agent and file objections on or before 09-12-2023 Failing which the petition will be taken up and appropriate orders will be passed in the same. In case, the date fixed is declared as holiday the matter shall be taken on the next working day.
 Given under my hand and seal of this court on --
 Jawad Ahmad
 Principal District Judge, Srinagar

From the office of Advocate Syed Munazer
 In the case of
 1.Hanan Saif W/o Dr Arshid Ali
 R/o kanthol,tehsil koteranka, rajouri
 2.Ridwana akhtar W/o saifuddin wani
 R/o banihal,ramban
 (Caveators)

VS PUBLIC AT LARGE

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my school records as Anusha Zehra While my correct name is Taskeen Zehra which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Tyndle Bisco Tangmarg within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Taskeen Zehra
 D/O Nazir Ahmad Malla R/O Magam bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my 8th pass discharge certificate. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Govt Higher Secondary School Aripanthan within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Suraya Jan
 D/O Gulam Hassan Kumar
 R/O Badran Magam bmg

DEMISE

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our father **Mohammad Shafi Sofi (DADDY)** s/o Jalal-ud-din Sofi, R/o Kadi Kadal (at present Lane-2, H.No. 134, Sir Syed Colony Upper Soura). May Allah (SWT) bestow you a place in Jannatul-Fordous (Ameen). The Chaharun of the deceased will be held on **Sunday, 26th Nov, 2023 at 11.00 a.m** at the graveyard situated near Gani Memorial Stadium near Librarry, Wantpora Rajouri Kadal Srinagar. Taziyati Majlis will be held at the our residence.
 Ladies are requested not to bring any kind of fruit etc.
BEREAVED:
 Dr Rayees Ahmad Sofi (SON) : 7006552636
 Adil Shafi Sofi (SON)
 Farooq Ahmad Shawl (SON-IN-LAW)
 All near and dears

SMC To Act Tough Against Shopkeepers Littering Around Their Shops

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a bid to keep the surroundings clean, the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has decided to act against the shopkeepers in case the garbage is found outside their shops.

All the ward officers and Sanitation Officers have been directed to take action against the shopkeepers who are found involved in throwing garbage outside their shops.

"It has been found that the shopkeepers while closing their shops throw garbage on the roads, which affects the cleanliness of the City," the officials stated, adding that the concerned Ward officers and Sanitation officers have been directed to act against these shopkeepers.

"The action will be taken

by these officers themselves or have been asked to send the pictures of garbage outside the shops or their GEO tagged photo to the MSO or CSO so that action is taken against them," the officials said.

They said that directions in this regard have been passed by the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) Commissioner, Athar Aamir Khan.

Pertinently, the locals also admitted the fact that the shopkeepers throw the garbage outside their shops, especially while closing down their respective business units.

"This measure taken by the SMC would help in ensuring cleanliness and also prevent such non-serious attitude of some shopkeepers," the local said while hailing the directions from SMC Commissioner.



As cold conditions intensified across Kashmir, demand for underfloor heating system picks up amid worsening power crises. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

DC Srinagar Chairs Rogi Kalyan Samiti Meeting

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Friday chaired a meeting of "Rogi Kalyan Samiti" (RKS) of Government JLN Hospital, Rainawari here at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex to review the functioning and patient care facilities available at the Hospital and progress of works taken with respect to the facility upgradation of the Hospital.

The meeting among others was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Programme Officer, ICDS, Chief Medical Officer, District Officer PCB, Executive Engineers of R&B,

PDD, PHE, City Drainage, DGM Housing Board, Medical Superintendent JLN, Deputy medical Superintendent, JLN, Tehsildar Khanwar, Chief Sanitation Officer, District Ayush Officer and SHO Rainawari.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review about the Hospital functioning, besides physical and financial progress of the works taken for hospital infrastructure upgradation.

On the occasion, the DC, who is also the Chairman "Rogi Kalyan Samiti" was apprised about the progress and performance registered by the Hospital under different indicators.

Employees AT SKIMS Bemina Experience 'Work-Stress'

Medical Superintendent Orders 'Psychiatric' Checkup

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: The medical superintendent of SKIMS Medical College Bemina has ordered a psychiatric checkup of employees for their personal as well as the wellbeing of patient care, since the strain of staff members has escalated, resulting in 'psychiatric breakdown'.

An excessive workload, disagreement with superiors or coworkers, or impending deadlines might cause a decline in job performance, anxiety and despair among the staffers, according to a psychiatrist at the Psychiatric Hospital Srinagar.

Stress-related issues, he said, are reported from all hospitals where pa-

tient traffic remains high and the pressure on staff is severe.

The Medical Superintendent of SKIMS Medical College Bemina in an official communiqué to the Head of the Department (HoD) Psychiatry has claimed that the frequency of work-related stress has been high in the hospital.

"It has been observed that the employees of the hospital side are having stress symptoms at work, the frequency seems at the higher rate as is evident from various episodes that are happening on a day to day basis," reads MS's letter, dated November 18, 2023.

You are hereby requested to chart out a program so that the employees

get the psychiatric checkup for the well being of the employees and patient care, it adds.

Muzaffar Jan, secretary to the Medical Superintendent, SKIMS Medical College Bemina told Kashmir Observer that a periodic psychiatric examination is a standard practice to ascertain an employee's mental health.

"These kinds of drills happen occasionally, so there's no need to freak out. Employees too are humans and experience stress occasionally for a variety of reasons, that does not always indicate that the issue is more serious. We still review the order tomorrow to see what needs to be done," he added.

- 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
- BUBHERA: 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
10 Jumada al-Awwal
1445

PRAYERS	
FAJR	5: 44
ZUHR	12:17
ASR	3: 47
Magrib	5:27
ISHA	6:51

This Day In History

- 1667- A deadly earthquake rocks Shemakha, in the Caucasus, killing 80,000 people.
- 1715- First English patent granted to an American, for processing corn
- 1741- Elizabeth of Russia seizes power in a coup with the aid of Imperial Russian guards in Saint Petersburg, Russia
- 1758- Britain captures Fort Duquesne (later Fort Pitt/Pittsburgh) from French
- 1783- Britain evacuates New York city, its last military position in the United States
- 1839- Cyclone slams south eastern India with high winds and a 40 foot storm surge, destroying city of Coringa. Storm waves sweep inland, destroying 20,000 ships and killing an estimated 300,000 people.
- 1863- Battle of Missionary Ridge, Tennessee
- 1876- Indian Wars: In retaliation for the American defeat at the Battle of the Little Bighorn, United States Army troops sack Chief Dull Knife's sleeping Cheyenne village at the headwaters of the Powder River.
- 1897 -Spain grants Puerto Rico autonomy
- 1899- Battle at Graspan, Cape colony: General Methuen beats Farmers
- 1905- Telimco makes the 1st ever advertisement for a radio set, by advertising a \$8.50 set in the "Scientific American" which claimed to receive signals for up to one mile
- 1912- Socialist International rejects that world war is coming
- 1930- Ito, Japan records 690 earthquake shocks in 1 day
- 1933- 1st Soviet liquid fuel rocket attains altitude of 261' (80m)
- 1935- International Institute for Social History (IISG) forms in Amsterdam
- 1936- Germany & Japan sign anti-Komintern pact
- 1942 -National Organization for Aid to Underground, LO, forms
- 1944- World War II: A German V-2 rocket hits a Woolworth's store in Deptford, United Kingdom, killing 160 shoppers.
- 1947- New Zealand accedes to Statute of Westminster, becomes a dominion
- 1955- Race segregation forbidden on trains & buses between US states
- 1957- US President Dwight Eisenhower suffers a mild stroke, impairing his speech
- 1958- Senegal becomes an autonomous state in French Community
- 1965- Congo military coup under Gen Mobutu, President Kasavubu overthrown
- 1973 - 3 Palestinians hijack KLM B747 above Iraq, to Dubai.
- 1979 - Israel returns Alma oilfields in Gulf of Suez to Egypt.
- 1983 - Soyuz T-9 returns to Earth, 149 days after take-off.
- 1983 - Syria & Saudi Arabia announce cease-fire in PLO civil war in Tripoli.
- 1983 - World's greatest robbery 26 million pounds worth of gold, diamonds & cash stolen from the Brink's-Mat warehouse at Heathrow Airport, England.
- 1986 - Iran-Contra affair erupts, President Reagan reveals secret arms deal.
- 1987 - Supertyphoon Nina pummels the Philippines with category 5 winds of 165 mph and a surge that swallows entire villages. At least 1,036 deaths attributed to the storm.
- 2005 - Polish Minister of National Defence Radek Sikorski opens Warsaw Pact archives to historians. Maps of possible nuclear strikes against Western Europe, including nuclear annihilation of 43 Polish cities by Soviet-controlled forces revealed.
- 2007 - The first European Parliament election and a referendum on changing the voting system (called by the President and declared invalid because of insufficient turnout) were held in Romania.
- 2009 - Flooding in Jeddah, Saudia Arabia; powerful storm brings 3 years' worth of rain in 4 hours, killing over 150 people and sweeping thousands of cars away during Hajj.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my wallet contains Aadhar Card, Pan Card, Driving licence bearing no. JK012019000057, Election card, E-Sharam card, ATM card of PNB on 19/11/2023 around Nishat Srinagar. Now I want to apply for their duplicate. If anybody has any objection he/she may contact concerned departments within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Muneer Ahmad Reshi
S/o Mohammad Ramzan Reshi
R/o Pahloo Brane Nishat nj

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the number plate of my auto bearing regd no: JK05H-0334. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Sopore within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Riyaz Ahmad Shah fko_r
S/o Abdul Khaliq Shah
R/o Palhallan Pattan Shah Mohalla

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION ANANTNAG

NIT NO 147 OF R&B/Anantnag/2023-24 /E-TENDERING/16400-409
DATED 22-11-2023

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

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Laes)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of Completion	Major Head	Position of AA	Class of Contractor
1.	Repairment of Toilet points and Ramp at Polling Station Pehroo.	1.30	200	2600	20 Days	Normal Resources	Accorded Vide Order No. MC/Ang/313 of 2023, Dated 18.08.2023	DEE Class Only
2.	Construction of lane from H/o Mohd Ashraf Beigh to Reyaz Ahmad Kabear at SK Colony Ward No 09	2.16	200	4320	20 Days	Normal Resources	Accorded Vide Order No. MC/Ang/343 of 2023, Dated 06.10.2023	DEE Class Only

Project Authority: Municipal Council Anantnag.

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

S. No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	22-11-2023
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 23-11-2023 (09:00AM)
		To 29-11-2023 (04:30PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 23-11-2023 (09:00AM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 29-11-2023 (04:30PM)
		30-11-2023 (01:00PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	In the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag. Tender Inviting Authority [NIT No. Name of Work/Item No. to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan.] (Relier Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 (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/BBG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag (Tender receiving Authority).
- All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BBG. Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.
- 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/BBG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag (Tender receiving authority) within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarment of the Contractor be forwarded to Higher Authorities for a period of 01 Year.
- The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BBG of the successful Bidder shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bid
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
 - Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
 - To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
 - The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
 - Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
 - Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.
 - Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents including tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid.
- Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
- Scanned copy of cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BBG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The Original Treasury Challan (Cost of Tender Document), EMD and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract.
- 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.
- Price escalation and taxes: The %age quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
- Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
- All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.

DIPK-12758/23
dated: 24-11-2023

(Er Rubena Kousar)
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Anantnag

Dr Ashraf thanks people for their condolences

Dr Mohammad Ashraf Ganie, Professor of Endocrinology & Metabolism, SKIMS Soura has expressed gratitude to all those people who offered their condolences on the demise of his beloved mother

Mtr Taja Begum
W/o Late Mohammad Shaban Ganie
of Dangarpora, Shadimarg,

who passed away on 16th November 2023 and was laid to rest at her ancestral graveyard at Dangarpora on 17th November 2023.

"Our family expresses sincere gratitude especially to our neighbours and the inhabitants of Dangarpora, Shadimarg and its surrounding areas for reaching out and standing by us in this moment of grief," Dr Ashraf said.

I am also grateful to people from all walks of life, my neighbours at Al-Farooq Colony, Sanatnagar, my friends, colleagues and faculty at SKIMS, my former colleagues and faculty at AIIMS New Delhi, members of Endocrine Society of India, ITS, RSSDI, MPCOS Society and investigators of various ongoing research networks and the whole medical fraternity for offering their condolences by personally visiting our residence or reaching out to us telephonically, he said.

We request all to remember our beloved mother in their prayers, he said.

Follow Orders If You Want To Do Business In India: Delhi High Court To Domain Name Registrars

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Friday cautioned domain name registrars (DNRs) against non-compliance of judicial orders and said if they want to do business in India, then they should follow its directions on taking action against those indulging in illegal activities online, or run the risk of being "blocked" by MEITY.

A bench headed by Acting Chief Justice Manmohan said DNRs cannot "become instrument of syndication" and called upon them to "remain vigilant" in the face of misuse of known trademarks to register websites to carry out illegal and fraudulent activities.

"If you have to do business in India, we will lay guidelines and you have to comply. We will lay down a mechanism. These (DNRs) people have to comply. We can't allow millions to be cheated. Some serious matter is going on here," said the bench, also comprising Justice Mini Pushkarna.

The court observed that there was a huge magnitude of business in the country for DNRs who cannot be allowed

to become "scam units".

"We can't change the international system but if you operate in India, we will ask you to follow certain (norms). We will tell MEITY (Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology) to block the DNR if you don't comply," it said.

The court's observations came while dealing with a case initiated by it on its own in relation to the issue of misuse of trademark of several entities through fraudulent websites and the role of DNRs in such situations.

The court said that filing of repeated cases by aggrieved parties, whose trademarks are illegally used by offenders for registering their websites, has to stop and the DNRs should look into preventing registration of such offending domains in the first instance.

The court made GoDaddy and the Ministry of Home Affairs parties to the proceedings and listed the matter for further hearing on January 9.

"You are a major player. You know when fraud is taking place," the court told GoDaddy's counsel, adding that the entity should "think about" the concerns raised by it during the hearing in the "right perspective".

Board Games, Cards, Yoga For 41 Trapped Workers In Uttarakhand Tunnel



Press Trust of India

UTTARKASHI/DEHRADUN: Rescuers plan to provide board games and playing cards to the 41 workers trapped inside the Silkyara tunnel for 12 days as the operation to evacuate them continues to get disrupted by multiple delays, an official said on Thursday.

Late on Thursday, boring through the rubble of the collapsed tunnel was put on hold again, apparently after cracks appeared in the platform on which the drilling machine rests.

This is the third time that the drilling exercise has been halted since the multi-agency rescue mission began on November 12 after a stretch of the under-construction tunnel in Uttarakhand's Char Dham route collapsed.

Officials said the rescuers have managed to drill the rubble up to 48 metres. However, another 10 metres remain to be covered to allow the trapped labourers to be evacuated.

A team of a dozen doctors, including general physicians and psychiatrists from Uttarakhand and Dehradun, are stationed at the site.

of the trapped workers, another medical expert said their morale needs to stay high and they must remain motivated. A team of doctors speaks daily to the workers and asks about their health and mental conditions.

The latest obstacle came hours after the rescue operation resumed earlier in the day, following a six-hour delay to cut through an iron girder that came in the way of the auger machine late on Wednesday.

Officials said the rescuers have managed to drill the rubble up to 48 metres. However, another 10 metres remain to be covered to allow the trapped labourers to be evacuated.

A team of a dozen doctors, including general physicians and psychiatrists from Uttarakhand and Dehradun, are stationed at the site.

Speaking on the mental health

Israel, Gaza Begin Four-Day Ceasefire After Nearly 7 Weeks Of Bloody War



Agencies

GAZA/ISRAEL BORDER: The first Israeli women and children hostages due to be released under the first ceasefire deal of the war with Hamas were being freed on Friday, Israeli TV channels reported, and Thailand said 12 Thai workers were also released.

Israeli media reported that the Israeli hostages had been handed to the Red Cross and to an Egyptian security team. Reuters could not immediately confirm this.

Thai Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin said in a social media post that the 12 Thai workers had been released from captivity in Gaza. A source briefed on the negotiations said the release of the Thais, who were all men, was unre-

lated to the truce negotiations and followed a separate track of talks with Hamas mediated by Egypt and Qatar.

Under the terms of the four-day Israel-Hamas truce, 13 women and children out of around 240 hostages captured by Hamas fighters on a killing spree in southern Israel on Oct. 7 were expected to comprise the first group to be released.

They had been due to be freed with the aid of the Red Cross and an Egyptian security team at 4 p.m. (1400 GMT), nine hours after the start of the ceasefire, and to be flown home under military guard.

In exchange, Israel was due to release the first 39 Palestinians from its jails on Friday, among them 24 women and 15 teenagers.

A total of 50 hostages and 150 Palestinian prisoners are to be freed under the four-day truce, though Israel said the ceasefire could be extended if Hamas continues to release hostages at a rate of at least 10 per day. A Palestinian source has said up to 100 hostages could go free.

Earlier on Friday, combat between Israeli troops and Hamas fighters halted for the first time in seven weeks in a temporary truce ahead of the hostage release.

No big bombings, artillery strikes or rocket attacks were reported, although Hamas and Israel both accused each other of sporadic shootings and other violations.

Both said the war would resume on full throttle as soon as the truce was over.

What Is The Humanitarian Situation In Besieged Gaza?

Agencies

GENEVA: Israel and Hamas started a four-day ceasefire in Gaza on Friday with aid agencies hoping to use the pause in fighting to ramp up aid deliveries into the besieged enclave.

Shortages of food, fuel, drinking water and medicines have worsened in recent weeks and U.N. agencies have warned of mass disease outbreaks that could cause death rates to surge. Parts of northern Gaza has been cut off from outside help for weeks, with one U.N. spokesperson describing it as a "hell on earth".

DISPLACEMENT
Over 1.7 million people of Gaza's population of 2.3 million are estimated to be internally displaced. Of them, about 1 million are staying in at least 156 shelters run by the U.N. Palestinian refugee agency (UNRWA), according to the U.N. humanitarian office (OCHA).

Shelters are overcrowded and at more than four times capacity, with tens of thousands of civilians having fled south to escape the bulk of Israeli bombardments in recent days. However, the south has



also been hammered by Israeli air strikes that have killed and injured non-combatants.

Most displaced men and older boys are sleeping in the open, next to the external walls of the shelters. Some families have pitched tents outside a shelter in Khan Younis, OCHA said.

HOSPITALS
None of the hospitals in northern Gaza are functioning normally due to bombardments and lack of fuel. OCHA says that only eight of 11 facilities in the south are functional and only one of them can perform complex surgery, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

The WHO says it has been asked to help evacuate three

northern hospitals and plans are underway.

The number of premature births has risen by almost a third in Israeli-besieged Gaza over the past month as mothers suffer growing stress and trauma, according to Oxfam.

AID DELIVERIES
The Rafah crossing reopened for limited aid supplies on Oct. 21 and all other crossings into Gaza remain shut.

A total of 80 trucks carrying humanitarian supplies entered from Egypt on Nov. 23.

Egypt has said 130,000 litres of diesel and four trucks of gas will be delivered daily to Gaza when the truce starts, and that 200 trucks of aid would enter Gaza daily.



Afghanistan Shuts Embassy In Delhi, Cites "Persistent Challenges"

New Delhi: The Afghan embassy has announced its permanent closure in New Delhi.

Releasing an official statement on the closure of its diplomatic mission in New Delhi, the Afghan embassy said, "Effective from November 23, 2023 owing to persistent challenges from the Indian government. The decision follows the embassy's earlier cessation of operations on September 30, a move made in the hope that the Indian government stance will favourably change to let the mission operate normally."

The embassy said it was 'cognisant' that some may attempt to characterise this move as an internal conflict, allegedly involving diplomats who switched allegiance to the Taliban, adding "that this decision is a result of broader changes in policy and interests".

"To the Afghan citizens in India, the Embassy extends its sincere gratitude for their understanding and support throughout our mission's tenure," it added.

Despite "limitations in resources and power", the Afghan embassy said it has worked "tirelessly for their betterment and in the absence of a legitimate government in Kabul".

Over the past two years and three months, the Afghan community in India has witnessed a significant decline, with Afghan refugees, students, and traders leaving the country, the embassy noted in its statement, adding that the number has nearly halved since August 2021, with very limited new visas being is-

sued during this period. "We assure the Afghan community that the mission operated with transparency, accountability, and a commitment to fair treatment based on the goodwill and interests of Afghanistan considering historic ties and bilateral relations with India," it added.

"Unfortunately, efforts have been made to tarnish our image and hinder diplomatic efforts in order to justify the presence and work of Taliban-appointed and affiliated diplomats. In the face of these challenges, our committed team worked diligently in the most difficult circumstances, prioritizing the interests of the 40 million Afghans in every possible sphere from securing humanitarian aid and online education scholarships to facilitating ease in trade and advocating for the formation of a broad-based government," the Afghan embassy stated further in its statement.

It added that the Afghan embassy "exerted diplomatic pressure in its power on those who defy the will of the Afghan people by failing to form an inclusive government and denying millions of girls the right to attend school".

As of now, there are no diplomats from the Afghan Republic in India. Those who served in the national capital have safely reached third countries, the embassy informed through its release, adding that the only individuals present in India are diplomats affiliated with the Taliban, visibly attending their regular online meetings.

IndiGo Flight Diverted To Karachi Due To Medical Emergency, Passenger Dies

Agencies

NEW DELHI: A Hyderabad-bound international flight of IndiGo made an emergency landing in Pakistan's Karachi after a passenger experienced a medical emergency on board, the airline said on Thursday.

The passenger could not survive and was declared dead on arrival.

The incident was reported on Wednesday.

"There was a medical emergency on board IndiGo flight 6E 68 operating from Jeddah to Hyderabad. The captain diverted the flight to Karachi, where the passenger was attended to by a doctor on arrival," the airline said in a statement.

"Unfortunately, the passenger did not survive and was de-

clared dead on arrival," it said. "The flight departed from Karachi after completing formalities and landed in Hyderabad at



0908 IST," the airline added.

In a similar incident reported in August this year, an IndiGo flight from Mumbai to Ranchi was diverted to Nagpur after a medical emergency on board.

The passenger was offloaded and rushed to a nearby hospital where he was declared dead.

First Woman Supreme Court Judge M Fathima Beevi's Last Rites Performed In Kerala



Press Trust of India

PATHANAMTHITTA, KERALA: First woman Supreme Court judge and former Tamil Nadu Governor M Fathima Beevi was laid to rest at the qabristan of the town Juma Masjid in Kerala's Pathanamthitta on Friday with full state honours.

Hundreds of people thronged the Pathanamthitta town hall in the afternoon where the body of the departed judge was placed for the public to pay their last respects.

Pathanamthitta District Collector A Shibui, IAS, laid a floral wreath on the body on behalf

of the Kerala government and Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. Additional District Magistrate (ADM) presented a floral wreath on behalf of Health Minister Veena George.

A wreath was laid on behalf of Goa Governor P Sreedharan Pillai as well.

Kerala High Court judges, Assembly Deputy Speaker Chittayam Gopakumar, and MLAs K U Jenish Kumar and Pramod Narayanan were among those who visited Justice Beevi's residence and paid their respects.

Justice Beevi died at a private hospital in Kollam on Thursday at the age of 96.

Kerala Man Arrested For Threatening To Blow Up Mumbai Airport

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: A Kerala resident was arrested by the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) on Friday for allegedly threatening to blow up the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport here if he was not paid "one million US dollars in Bitcoin", an official said.

The ATS started a probe after the Mumbai International Airport Limited, which operates the airport, received a threatening email in its feedback inbox at 11.06 am on Thursday, the police official said.

"This is a final warning to your airport. We will blast Terminal 2 in 48 hours unless one million US dollars in Bitcoin is transferred to the address. Another alert will be after 24 Hrs," the email read.

A First Information Report (FIR) was registered under Indian Penal Code sections 385 (putting a person in fear of injury in order to commit extortion) and 505 (1) (b) (statements made with intent to cause fear or alarm to the public or against the public tranquillity) at the Sahar police station.

The ATS cyber cell, which started a parallel investigation, traced the IP address from which the email had been sent to Kerala, following which a team flew to the southern state and arrested the accused.

He was being brought to Mumbai and would be handed over to Sahar Police, the official said without disclosing the accused's identity.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER TRAL DISTRICT PULWAMA

Sub: Invitation of Quotations

PUBLIC NOTICE

Quotations / short tenders are invited from reputed firms or a Joint Venture or Individuals for:

- Collection, Transportation and Disposal of Solid Wastes from all Halqa Panchayats of Block Tral (Exclusive Funded from User Charges)
- Supply of flex Banners/ Wall Paintings (Writing and Photos) etc under different Schemes of the department (On need Basis).
- Supply of different eatables viz Tea , Lunch, Dinner etc during different events / functions of the department/ Elections etc. (On Need Basis)

Application form (Separately under all three categories) with detailed terms and conditions can be had from the office against cost of Rs 500/= to be credited in to the official account / in the form of Bank Draft pledged to Block Development Officer Tral by or before last date which is 06 working days from the publication of this notice. The last date for submission of Quotation/short Tenders is 02-12-2023 and will be opened on the same date at 1.00 PM at BHQ.

Block Development Officer
Tral

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER DADSAR DISTT. PULWAMA

Sub: Invitation of Quotations

PUBLIC NOTICE

Quotations / short tenders are invited from reputed firms or a Joint Venture or Individuals for:

- Collection, Transportation and Disposal of Solid Wastes from all Halqa Panchayats of Block Dadsara (Exclusive Funded from User Charges)
- Supply of flex Banners/ Wall Paintings (Writing and Photos) etc under different Schemes of the department (On need Basis).
- Supply of different eatables viz Tea , Lunch, Dinner etc during different events / functions of the department/ Elections etc. (On Need Basis)

Application form (Separately under all three categories) with detailed terms and conditions can be had from the office against cost of Rs 500/- to be credited in to the official account / in the form of Bank Draft pledged to Block Development Officer Dadsara by or before last date which is 6 working days from the publication of this notice. The last date for submission of Quotation/short Tenders is 02-12-2023 and will be opened on the same date at 1.00 PM at BHQ.

DIPK-12830-23
DT: 24/11/2023

Block Development Officer
Dadsara

After Successful Autumn, Kashmir Tourism Braces For Packed Winter

Agencies

SRINAGAR: After a successful autumn, Kashmir is witnessing a spurt in the bookings for winter months, thereby indicating a packed season this year.

Travel agents of Kashmir said they witnessed a huge flow of tourism this autumn after many years. They expect the winter to be a lucrative season for Kashmir tourism given a huge spike in the enquiries and bookings by tourists.

"It was for the first time in the history of Jammu and Kashmir tourism that we received a huge flow of tourism in autumn. Now, winter, which has always been a lucrative season for Kashmir tourism, is going to break all the previous records this year," said Rauf Trambo, president Travel Agents Association of Kashmir (TAAK).

He said they are reporting advance bookings by the tourists particularly for Christmas and New Year.

"Kashmir is the most sought destination during winter. Bookings are coming in large numbers for Christmas and New Year, when Gulmarg tends

to be the main attraction. We are hopeful to have a great winter this season," Trambo said.

Pertinently, the government this year is gearing to keep Sonmarg open for tourists this winter.

Trambo said the opening of Sonmarg for tourists could prove a game changer since they receive a lot of enquiries for the famed tourist destination.

"Apart from Sonmarg, Doodhpathri and Pahalgam are also in good demand for winter. This destination will bring a new flavour of adventure for tourists visiting during winter," he said.

Travel agents said they have added various services in their packages this winter.

"We have included musical evenings and gala dinners for tourists visiting the valley on the eve of Christmas and New Year. Further, those who visit during January and afterwards will be taken to Sonmarg and Doodhpathri for winter adventure sports," said Umar Ahmad, another travel agent.

An official of the tourism department said they have made the entire arrangement to ensure a successful winter season. —(KNO)



A VENDOR PUSHING HIS vegetable laden handcart on a busy street in Srinagar on a cold and foggy Friday morning. KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

Panchayat, Assembly Polls Should Be Held With LS Elections: AJKPC

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference (AJKPC) on Friday said the panchayat and Assembly elections should be held simultaneously with the Lok Sabha polls in the Union Territory.

"The panchayat elections should be held in Jammu and Kashmir before January 9 to fulfil the constitutional and democratic requirements. Elections should be held simultaneously for the panchayats, Assembly and the Parliament," president of the panchayat conference Anil Sharma told reporters in Srinagar.

Sharma said the people of Jammu and Kashmir should be given the right to elect their new representatives.

"The decision to defer the polls is unconstitutional and undemocratic and we are fighting against it. If the government can hold the Par-

liament elections, why not the Assembly and panchayat polls? They have made preparations for the Lok Sabha polls, they have appointed the nodal



officer, why cannot they hold other elections?" he added.

Responding to a question, Sharma said the security situation was conducive for holding elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

"We believe that the situation is good enough for holding elections. The government is also saying that the situation is good. After formation of the

Union Territory, the perspective of the government towards democracy has changed. Elections were held in 2011 (panchayat) and in 2014 (Assembly and Lok Sabha).

"That was a time when people were not participating in the elections. Today, the people are demanding holding of elections in Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

Sharma alleged the aim of the BJP government is to win the five Lok Sabha seats of Jammu and Kashmir. "They are making the rural population of the Union Territory the sacrificial lamb for it."

Sharma said the government was raising the issue of delimitation in the panchayats as a delaying tactic for holding the polls.

"...Why did the government not do it last year? The delimitation exercise requires eight to nine months. They should have done it last year," he said.

DIGITAL INITIATIVES TO EMPOWER DROPOUT STUDENTS

DC Sehrish Asgar Launches 'Noor' Programme In Baramulla

Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: In an endeavour to identify and bring 'Out of School Children' into regular education, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Dr. Syed Sehrish Asgar, today launched 'Noor', campaign at Baramulla here.

'Noor' program is a digital

door-to-door campaign of the Education Department with which all the dropouts can be brought into the formal education system.

After launching the ambitious initiative, Dr. Sehrish commended the education department's dedicated efforts in reintegrating dropout stu-

dents into the formal education framework.

The DC emphasized the significance of this initiative in driving improvements across crucial indicators as part of the Aspirational District Programme.

Furthermore, Dr. Sehrish exhorted upon the appointed zonal coordinators to leverage

Kishtwar Village Celebrates Telecom Connectivity

Observer News Service

KISHTWAR: In yet another momentous stride towards ensuring comprehensive development in the far-flung regions of District Kishtwar, the remote Sumcham village in the Paddar Subdivision, nestled close to the Kargil region and adjacent to the renowned Paddar Sapphire Mine, on Friday celebrated the inauguration of telecommunication service.

Marking this pivotal occasion, a JIO mobile tower has been successfully installed at the Dangail area. Through the use of VSAT technology, the entire vicinity of Dangail and its surroundings now revel in seamless connectivity through the JIO network.

With the seamless efforts of LG Administration J&K and under the close guidance of District Development Commissioner Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav, the District Adminis-

tration has effectively spear-headed the provision of mobile network facilities to this previously isolated region.

Situated at an elevation of 3250 meters from Mean Sea Level (MSL), Sumcham, a segment of Losaini village, has undergone transformative interventions, having received solar power packs earlier from the district administration. The installation of the mobile tower has solidified telecommunication accessibility to this high-altitude region.

Assuring further advancements, JIO authorities have indicated plans to connect the mobile tower through fiber optics, promising an even more enhanced connectivity experience.

The strategic installation of the mobile network in Sumcham will play a pivotal role in catering to the 100% Buddhist population residing in this high-altitude habitation, even during the harsh winter months.

COMMUNAL HARMONY WEEK CAMPAIGN

Fundraising Day, Flag Day Observed At Shopian

Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: Under the week-long celebrations of communal harmony week, the Flag Day or Fund Raising Day was on Friday organised by the District Administration Shopian at Mini Secretariat, here in order to contribute towards the welfare of destitute population, affected by violence and to honour the National Flag.

The Flag Day celebrations and donation drive were led by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb who hoisted the National Flag at the inauguration of the function.

Students of various schools and staff present on the occasion were sensitized on the rationale behind celebrations of communal harmony and Flag Day.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC highlighted that the aim of the organisation of Flag or Fund Raising Day, is to raise donations for the welfare of

destitutes, orphans, widows, specially-abled, old aged, affected by violence and to honour the National Flag, which represents the unity and diversity of the country.

He said, it is our moral responsibility to financially contribute towards the upliftment of victims and help authorities toward the cause.

On the occasion, DC provided financial assistance under the scheme 'Rehabilitation of Militancy Victims' sponsored by the Social Welfare Department to various destitute children of the district.

Monthly pensions to hundreds of widows, orphans, old aged and specially-abled are being provided in the district by the Department of Social Welfare through RMV Scheme.

National Foundation of Communal Harmony (NFCH) through Project Assist also assists the violence hit students through scholarships.

DIPR Officials Complete Week-Long Media & Communication Course At IIMC

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: The week-long Media and Communication Course tailored for Officers and Officials of the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Jammu & Kashmir culminated Friday at the prestigious Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), New Delhi.

The valedictory function, graced by Dr. Govind Singh, Dean Academics, and Prof. Dr. Rakesh Goswami, Course Director DJ, IIMC, witnessed an inspiring address to the participants. Dr. Goswami extended his best wishes to the participants for their future endeavors, emphasizing the importance of effective communication in the dynamic landscape of media and public relations.

Dr. Bilal Mukhtar, Deputy Director PR Srinagar, affirmed that the department is poised to benefit significantly from the session, incorporating updated insights into their work environment. He said the course aimed at fostering a culture of continuous learning and skill development, aligning with contemporary communi-

cation trends.

Dr Bilal emphasized that the department will ensure that such types of training courses of its employees will enhance their capability to perform duties professionally.

Dharmapal, DD AV, DIPR, expressed gratitude for the enriching learning experiences shared during the intensive training.

He highlighted the potential of the course to enhance prospective communication and acknowledged the future vision of DIPR J&K.

Dharmapal conveyed sincere thanks to the IIMC faculty for orchestrating a comprehensive and impactful course. He also praised Course Coordinator Ms. Sandhya Jhaa for her commendable coordination throughout the program.

A felicitation ceremony marked the culmination of the event, where officers and officials of DIPR were presented with training certificates by IIMC.

This recognition underscored their commitment to professional growth and expertise in the realm of media and communication.

Mirwaiz Grieved Over Bizman Abrar Hussain's Death

Condolences Demise Of Abdul Ghani Bhat, Abdul Razaq Gagroo

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Awami Action Committee (AAC) Chairman Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir, Dr Moulvi Muhammad Umar Farooq has expressed his deep grief and sorrow over the demise of a leading businessman of Shahr-e-Khaas and a social activist Khawaja Abrar Hussain, resident of Kawangarpora, Srinagar, and termed it a big loss.

In his condolence statement, Mirwaiz said that Abrar was a compassionate soul always ready to help others. His unwavering commitment to fostering sectarian unity stands as a testament to his noble character. A true representative of Shahr-e-Khaas, he was a kind and generous person. He said Abrar's selflessness touched many lives. His departure is deeply mourned.

Mirwaiz expressed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, especially the deceased's father Khawaja Ghulam Muhammad Sahib and his brothers, on this tragedy and prayed for Jannat-ul-Firdous for Khawaja Abrar Hussain.

The AAC also expressed deep sorrow and grief over the demise of its workers, Abdul Ghani Bhat, resident of Zonimar, and Abdul Razaq Gagroo, resident of Kawdara.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

Sr. DEN-V/FZSR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date- 12.12.2023 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information login to www.ireps.gov.in

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Two Packet System
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
20.11.2023	28.11.2023	12.12.2023/15:00 Hrs

S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
1.	317-2023-24-BDGM-DRM-FZR	Construction of 17 no. security morcha, 14 no. Guard room, new GRP barracks (01/60 bedded at HRSB & 01/60 bedded at SDUA) and new RPF barracks (01/50 bedded & 01/08 bedded for SOs at SDUA) under SSE/Works/BAHL as per Phase-1 of Multi Disciplinary Committee report in BAHL-BRML section, Package:1	15,48,47,227.44/-	9,24,200/-	90 Days	9 Months

Similar Nature of work :- Construction of Building/quarters.

Note 1:- Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender. Tender Notice No:- 317-2023-24-BDGM-DRM-FZR Date :24.11.2023 3705/2023

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ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.

Tele: 01933-247954/247955. Website: www.iust.ac.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-NIT No: - IUST/EW/ELE/TEND/STAGE/23/08. Dated: - 24-11-2023.

For and on behalf of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora, J&K UT, E-Tenders (in Two cover system) are invited on percentage basis, from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt. / CPWD / Railways or other State / Central Govt. Departments for the following work.

Name of work	Electrical Stage Contract 2023-24 at IUST Awantipora.
Advertised Cost of Construction	Rs. 24,00,000.00 (Rupees twenty-four lakhs only)
Class of Contract	Class "A"
Bid submission Start Date	24-11-2023.
Bid submission End Date	15-12-2023 Up to 6:00 PM.
Date of Submission of DD (Hard Copy).	18-12-2023 (during office hours)
Bids shall be opened at IUST on	19-12-2023 at 11.00 AM.
Tender document can be downloaded from website.	(https://jktenders.gov.in .)

Detailed Tender Notice is available on university website www.iust.ac.in Sd/-
DIPK-NB-4418-23 Executive Engineer, IUST
DT: 24/11/2023

Email ID: rbddivisionawantipora@gmail.com Government of Jammu & Kashmir Ph.....

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Single Cover System Dated:23/11/2023

E-NIT No. 81/EEA/R&B of 2023-24/3136-46

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

SN	Nome of Work	Adv. Cost (incl. GST) (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of completion (days)	M.H OF Account	Class Of Contactor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Construction of Drinking Water Tank with concrete plinth/iron stand, adjoining passenger shed at old bus stand Drangbal Pampore.	0.39	200/-	2% of Adv cost	7 working days	MPLADS Grants for the year 2023-24.	DEE
2	Repairment of Passenger Shed at Old Bus Stand Drangbal Pampore.	2.74	200/-	2% of Adv cost	10 working days	MPLADS Grants for the year 2023-24.	DEE

Position of AAA: Accorded- vide No: 124/DCP of 2023. Dated: 17.11.2023

Position of funds: - Available

Position of TS: - Sanctioned

Project Authority: DDCP

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	23/11/2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	24/11/2023
3	Bid submission Start Date	25/11/2023
4	Bid Submission End Date	04/12/2023 upto 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids	05/12/2023 at 11.00 AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora.

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (deposited in MH: 0059) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora (tender receiving authority).
Note:- The Date of Treasury Challan and Earnest Money / Bid security must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

2.1 The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora within 07 (Seven) 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 beyond bid validity.

3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e., Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the allotted cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

4. All Bidders shall to quote the rates in BOQ including GST. GST @ 18% or as admissible will be added separately at the time of issuance of Allotment by the allotting authority.

Head Draftsman DIPK-12764-23 DT: 24/11/2023 Technical Officer Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora

Revolutionizing Education

India's Leap into Virtual Universities and the Path to a Digital Future

Ummar Jamal

“The advent of a virtual university in Jammu and Kashmir holds the potential to reverse this trend by offering quality higher education opportunities within the state. This not only addresses the economic drain caused by student migration but also ensures that educational pursuits are not hampered by external crises, such as the Covid-19 pandemic. By providing a platform for remote learning, a virtual university becomes a powerful tool for the empowerment of the local population, contributing to the overall development and prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir

Societal and business transformations unfold with significant impact when unforeseen circumstances prompt widespread exploration of innovative concepts. A prime example is seen during World War II, where the absence of American men led to women showcasing their competence in traditionally male roles, demonstrating their capability with excellence. In the same way, the Coronavirus pandemic forced global experimentation with remote teaching, thereby making us realise that online learning is the future of education.

In recent years the landscape of conventional education has undergone a significant transformation. The confines of a traditional classroom are no longer the sole avenue for learning. With the advent of the internet and cutting-edge technologies, education has transcended physical boundaries. Today, the opportunity for a high-quality education presents itself anywhere and anytime, as long as one has internet access. We find ourselves on the brink of a new epoch – the evolution of online learning.

The conventional model of brick-and-mortar universities faces a challenge from the emergence of virtual institutions. These virtual institutions have become more than just an alternative; they have become a necessity. In a country as diverse and populous as India, the need for virtual universities is paramount.

Recent Developments

In January 2021, the Indian government unveiled plans to establish a virtual university with the aim of integrating technology into education. The subsequent Budget for 2021-22 was expected to prioritize this initiative. During a high-level stakeholder meeting in January 2021, Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, the Union Minister of Education, emphasized the government's intent to create Virtual Universities, distinct from open universities, to bolster higher education as envisioned in the National Education Policy (NEP).

The Union Budget of India on February 1, 2022, announced the establishment of the nation's first centrally operated digital university. This pioneering move seeks to enhance global access to high-quality higher education. The budget also outlined plans to elevate virtual labs and top-tier electronic learning resources. This strategic decision follows the introduction of two state-run digital universities in India: the Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology established in January 2020, and the subsequent announcement of a digital university in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, in February 2021.

Why Virtual Universities

An imperative driving the establishment of virtual universities in India is the drive to enhance accessibility and inclusivity. The vast geographical expanse of the country often poses obstacles for students in remote or rural areas to access quality higher education. Virtual universities can bridge this gap by providing an online platform that eliminates the need for physical relocation, making education accessible to all, regardless of their geographic location.

India currently has 35 million students enrolled in higher education, resulting in a gross enrolment ratio (GER) of 26 percent. Comparatively, China, with a larger population, boasts a significantly higher GER of 51.6 percent. To achieve the goal of a 50 percent GER by 2035, as stipulated in the NEP 2020, prioritizing online learning is paramount. The NEP's provisions for flexible entry-exit points and credit banks will be optimally realized in an online setting. It will pave the way for the digitisation of higher education enshrined in the National Education Policy of India 2020.

Virtual university in Jammu and Kashmir

One of the primary objectives of virtual univer-



sities is the universalization of education, and in a state where the literacy rate is as low as 67.16% according to the 2011 census, the establishment of a full-fledged virtual university akin to the successful model in Kerala, where various professional and non-professional courses are offered, could prove instrumental in elevating educational standards. The introduction of a virtual university in Jammu and Kashmir has potential to bring in a new era of educational accessibility, addressing longstanding challenges and unlocking a myriad of benefits for the region.

A significant issue that has plagued Jammu and Kashmir is the migration of students to other states in pursuit of higher education opportunities. The departure of Kashmiri students not only deprives the state of its intellectual capital but also inflicts a substantial economic toll. Astonishingly, around Rs 1500 crore drains from the Valley each year due to this migration, exacerbating the region's financial challenges and impeding sustainable development.

The nationwide lockdown in response to the Covid-19 pandemic further underscored the challenges faced by Kashmiri students studying outside the state. The J&K government reported over 10,000 stranded students in different states during the lockdown, highlighting the urgency of bridging the educational gap within the region. The actual number of affected students could be even higher, considering that many had returned to the Valley before the imposition of the lockdown.

The advent of a virtual university in Jammu and Kashmir holds the potential to reverse this trend by offering quality higher education opportunities within the state. This not only addresses the economic drain caused by student migration but also ensures that educational pursuits are not hampered by external crises, such as the Covid-19 pandemic. By providing a platform for remote learning, a virtual university becomes a powerful tool for the empowerment of the local population, contributing to the overall development and prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir.

Advantages of Virtual University

Virtual universities offer unparalleled flexibility in terms of learning schedules and formats, catering to diverse demographics such as working professionals, homemakers, and individuals with various commitments. By enabling students to access lectures and study materials at their own pace, virtual universities facilitate a harmonious integration of education with other responsibilities, nurturing a culture of lifelong learning.

Conventional universities entail substantial costs, encompassing tuition fees, accommodation, and commuting expenses. Virtual universities can substantially alleviate these financial burdens by eliminating the need for physical infrastructure and associated costs. This economic advantage enables students to receive quality education while

enjoying the comfort of their own homes.

Collaboration with experts and professionals worldwide is a hallmark of virtual universities, offering a diverse range of courses that may not be available in traditional institutions. This diversification caters to niche interests and emerging fields, empowering students to explore passions and cultivate specialized skills.

Integrating technology into education enhances the learning experience. Virtual universities employ innovative tools like virtual reality, simulations, and interactive platforms to render complex concepts comprehensible and engaging. This approach stimulates critical thinking and creativity among students.

Virtual universities possess the potential to foster a global learning environment by connecting students with peers and educators from different countries. This exposure encourages cross-cultural collaboration, idea exchange, and a comprehensive perspective on various issues, equipping students to thrive in an interconnected world.

Conventional universities often grapple with resource constraints and overcrowding. Virtual universities can scale more efficiently, accommodating a larger student body without undue strain on resources. This scalability aligns with the surging demand for higher education in a densely populated nation like India.

The establishment of virtual universities dovetails with efforts towards environmental conservation. Reduced commuting and decreased reliance on physical infrastructure contribute to a smaller carbon footprint, rendering education more sustainable.

Tailpiece

As the nation progresses towards a digital future, embracing virtual education stands as a key to unlocking the full potential of its citizens and propelling India onto the global stage as a knowledge powerhouse. The potential benefits, encompassing cost-effectiveness, diverse course offerings, and global networking, present a compelling rationale for the integration of virtual universities into India's educational landscape.

In the digital age, possessing digital literacy and proficiency is imperative. Establishing more and more virtual universities will enable India to equip its citizens for the demands of the 21st-century job market. Graduates with experience in online learning are better poised to leverage technology in their careers and adapt to remote work scenarios.

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

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Air pollution is a pan-India problem. In 2022, the average PM2.5 levels across the country were 10.7 times higher than the WHO standard. This means that almost the entire country breathes air considered unsafe by the WHO. The cost of this pollution is around 1.2 million premature deaths and 3% of GDP. Multiple studies show that air pollution in rural areas is as severe as in urban areas, and about 70% of premature deaths from air pollution happen in villages.

The question thus is: Where does all this PM2.5 (particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in size) come from? Recent iFOREST research has attempted to answer this question. Using globally accepted methodology and government data, the research shows that India emits approximately 5.2 million tonnes (MT) of PM2.5 annually, excluding dust from natural and manmade sources.

About 48% of these emissions come from the use of biomass, such as fuelwood and dung cakes, for cooking and heating. Open burning of crop residues contributes an additional 6.5%, making biomass burning responsible for 55% of total PM2.5 emissions. Industry and power plants are the second-largest emitters, contributing about 37%. The transport sector, a major focus of air pollution mitigation, contributes about 7% of the total PM2.5 emissions.

But how could this be? How can emissions

What Pollutes India?

Chandra Bhushan

from all industries and power plants (India has the world's second-largest fleet of coal-based power plants) and 300 million plus vehicles plying on roads be less than those from the chullahs of the poor? The answer is simple: unlike automobiles and industries where some pollution control devices are used, biomass cookstoves and open burning in fields emit all of their pollutants unconstrained into the air. Thus, PM2.5 emission per kilogram of biomass in cookstoves is tens to hundreds of times more than those from per kg of coal in power plants or diesel in automobiles. This is precisely why rural areas suffer equally from air pollution.

The Regional Emission Inventory in Asia (REAS), an initiative by researchers from Japan to estimate air pollution from Asian countries, provides data on India's PM2.5 emissions from 1950 to 2015 for specific sectors. iFOREST research, which follows REAS's methodology, has estimated the emissions for 2021. The analysis of both datasets indicates that the emissions from the industry sec-

tor are on an upward trend, while those from the transport sector and power plants peaked in 2010 and have declined marginally.

The most significant emissions decline has happened from residential cooking. PM2.5 emissions from cooking have dropped by 13% or about 0.3 MT during 2010-2021 due to the shift to LPG. Thus, the 50 million households that have shifted to LPG as their primary cooking fuel between 2010 and 2021, thanks to programs like Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), have contributed the most to reducing air pollution.

To address air pollution decisively, we must go beyond "optics" like odd-even, banning construction, spraying water, inducing artificial rains, etc. and focus on energy transition.

Energy transition in the residential sector would provide the biggest gains. Thus, shifting households to LPG, biogas, or electricity for cooking and heating would eliminate 48% of India's PM2.5 emissions. Doing so would also eliminate

800,000 premature deaths directly caused by exposure to PM2.5 inside the household and enable the country to achieve its commitments under Sustainable Development Goal 7 to provide "clean energy to all by 2030". While this is a herculean task, it can be achieved with focused policy interventions like PMUY.

Similarly, energy transition in industry, especially MSMEs, and rigorous monitoring and enforcement would be necessary to decrease industrial pollution. On the other hand, a shift to EVs in the automobile sector would be necessary to reduce vehicular pollution.

Lastly, eliminating stubble burning is essential to decrease severe and hazardous pollution days in Delhi-NCR. This practice contributes to PM2.5 emissions equal to those from all of India's vehicles. Both incentives and penalties should be deployed to eliminate this environmentally damaging practice.

These are the steps for controlling air pollution in the country; anything less would not suffice.

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

Unmatched Traditional Crafts of Kashmir valley

Mohammad Hanief

Kashmir, paradise on earth, is a place famous for its picturesque beauty. Apart from its abundant and mesmerizing nature, handicrafts add another feather on Kashmir's cap. The rich culture of handicrafts ubiquitous in Kashmir has been an asset not just for the region but for the entire nation.

Kashmiri handicrafts provide a comprehensive option for visitors to choose from. The traditional artisans painstakingly make handlooms, wood carving, home decors, everything of Kashmir. Tourists always have a satisfactory experience with their souvenir collection, thanks to Kashmiri handicrafts.

The long tradition of handicrafts has been a vital part of the communities in Kashmir. Kashmiri handicrafts' locus is in the districts of Srinagar, Ganderbal, and Budgam. The rich culture of these places, along with some other neighbourhoods, brings to life the distinctive heritage of the Kashmiri handicrafts.

The unique artistic experiments with shawls, bedsheets, inkstands, boxes, palkis, spoons, and trunks were famous across India and abroad. The art of shawl making was native to Kashmir. The notable hand-crafted works of the traditional artists of Kashmir have come a long way and have become eminent due to their efficiency as high-quality art globally.

Papier Mache is an art form that was cultivated in China. The Chinese paper-modelling art form from the Hans Dynasty travelled far and wide in the wake of craft trade across the globe. The art form came to India in the 14th Century with Mir Syed Ali Hamdani, a Persian mystic.

The Kashmiri style of representing Papier Mache is unique. The intrinsic designs, the colourful dyes, and different objects made with Papier Mache are of the highest quality. There are two steps in making Paper Mache. The first step is called Sakhtsazi, and the second step is called Naqashi.

The fashion of carpet weaving also came to India with Persian travellers. Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin is thought to be the one to bring carpet weavers from Persia and Central Asia to Kashmir, India. The term 'Kal Baffi' is used for hand-knotted carpets. The locals of Kashmir took an interest in the art and business and learned the tradition to pass it from generation to



Kashmir Observer

generation.

Three main features decide the quality of the carpets: the design, the yarn, and the weaving style. The more complex the delicate works are, the more price it will fetch. The hand-woven carpets and rugs of Kashmir have caught people's attention from different parts of the world. The Persian style of weaving carpets has become a very intricate part of Kashmiri culture.

Pashmina weaving is probably one of the most famous handicrafts in Kashmir. The name Pashmina inevitably calls to mind the place Kashmir. Pashmina has come a long way from being a piece of clothing protecting people from the extreme cold of Kashmir to becoming a fine luxury item.

Completing a Pashmina product requires a lot of skill and hard work. Retention of the softness of the fabric, deciding

colours, selecting a pattern, and finally weaving unique designs all require expert knowledge and skill. The tradition of Pashmina making is quintessential to Kashmir, and the fine quality of the items and its more delicate construction of patterns make Pashmina an asset to Kashmiri handicrafts.

The art of wood carving is essentially a special kind of handicraft. Kashmir houses many artisans who specialize in the art of wood carving. The wood from the walnut trees primitive in Kashmir serves as the base on which artists show their calibre of wood carving. The wood from the walnut tree is very sturdy and is the right choice for producing hard work. Wood carvings result in a lot of products. Willow Wicker Craft, also known as Keani Keam in Kashmir, is a handmade craft involving the weaving of willow reeds.

Willow weaving is a local economic

tradition in the valley. While other crafts' products are mostly used for decoration, the uniqueness of this craft is that a willow product may be used as both a decoration and a domestic utility item to store and transport culinary items on special occasions such as Eid or a wedding ceremony.

Copperware making has long been a part of Kashmiri culture. Historians think that artists and dealers from Iran and Iraq introduced this beautiful craftsmanship about 700 years ago. Mir Sayyid Ali Hamdani, an Islamic teacher from Persia, was essential in popularising copperware among the locals, and he brought craftsmen from Central Asia to train locals.

During the reign of King Budshah Zain-ul-Abideen, however, the copperware craft prospered. During the Mughal Empire, Kashmiri metallurgy specialised in the production of cannon barrels and

swords. The handles of swords were decorated using techniques such as casting and forging iron, as well as enamelling, or Meenakari as it is generally called. With the demise of the Mughal era at the end of the nineteenth century, Kashmiri metalworkers refocused their expertise on manufacturing vessels, now embellished with Meenakari.

Beautiful household utility and décor abound in Srinagar's downtown bazaar. Shehr-e-Khaas has been a centre for copperware since the 19th century, with the old markets of Zaina Kadal still maintaining this beautiful craftsmanship. Artistic utensils still adorn the downtown shops today.

Namda refers to a type of matting. Bed covers and mattresses are also made of it. Namdas are most commonly used as traditional matting to decorate homes. Namda creation is a rare and unusual skill that involves felting wool rather than weaving it to create magnificent floor pieces. There is a culture of sitting on the floor in every Kashmiri household, whether it be a royal castle or a humble hut. During the winter months, when the weather is typical, with heavy snowfall, icy cold winds, and sub-zero temperatures, the floor becomes agonisingly cold, and Namda comes to the rescue to create a comfortable sitting arrangement on the floor.

The Namda market is mostly found in Kashmir's downtown neighbourhoods of Shehr-e-khaas, Anantnag, Rainawari, and Baramulla. For many artisans in the Valley, Namda craft remains their sole source of income.

Kashmiri handicraft holds in different stores kinds of embroidery that catches the eye of tourists and locals both. Following are some of the variant types of embroidery authentic as Kashmiri handicrafts.

Kashmir's serene nature and rich culture are a source of many traditions of the different communities. Kashmiri handicrafts and their continuous practice for generations show how important handicrafts are. Buying an authentic Kashmiri handicraft will be a long-term investment for the beauty, durability, and uniqueness of the products, which remain for a long time. Kashmiri handicrafts are, therefore, an industry that thrives and grows with each passing day.

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Forget Dystopian Scenarios, AI is Pervasive Today

Anjana Susarla

The turmoil at ChatGPT-maker OpenAI, bookended by the board of directors firing high-profile CEO Sam Altman on Nov. 17, 2023, and rehiring him just four days later, has put a spotlight on artificial intelligence safety and concerns about the rapid development of artificial general intelligence, or AGI. AGI is loosely defined as human-level intelligence across a range of tasks.

The OpenAI board stated that Altman's termination was for lack of candor, but speculation has centered on a rift between Altman and members of the board over concerns that OpenAI's remarkable growth – products such as ChatGPT and Dall-E have acquired hundreds of millions of users worldwide – has hindered the company's ability to focus on catastrophic risks posed by AGI.

OpenAI's goal of developing AGI has become entwined with the idea of AI acquiring superintelligent capabilities and the need to safeguard against the technology being misused or going rogue. But for now, AGI and its attendant risks are speculative. Task-specific forms of AI, meanwhile, are very real, have become widespread and often fly under the radar.

As a researcher of information systems and responsible AI, I study how these everyday algorithms work – and how they can harm people.

AI is pervasive

AI plays a visible part in many people's daily lives, from face recognition



unlocking your phone to speech recognition powering your digital assistant. It also plays roles you might be vaguely aware of – for example, shaping your social media and online shopping sessions, guiding your video-watching choices and matching you with a driver in a ride-sharing service.

AI also affects your life in ways that might completely escape your notice. If you're applying for a job, many employers use AI in the hiring process. Your bosses might be using it to identify employees who are likely to quit. If you're applying for a loan, odds are your bank is using AI to decide whether to grant it. If you're being treated for a medical condition, your health care providers might use it to assess your medical images. And if you know someone caught up in the criminal justice system, AI

could well play a role in determining the course of their life.

Algorithmic harms

Many of the AI systems that fly under the radar have biases that can cause harm. For example, machine learning methods use inductive logic, which starts with a set of premises, to generalize patterns from training data. A machine learning-based resume screening tool was found to be biased against women because the training data reflected past practices when most resumes were submitted by men.

The use of predictive methods in areas ranging from health care to child welfare could exhibit biases such as cohort bias that lead to unequal risk assessments across different groups

in society. Even when legal practices prohibit discrimination based on attributes such as race and gender – for example, in consumer lending – proxy discrimination can still occur. This happens when algorithmic decision-making models do not use characteristics that are legally protected, such as race, and instead use characteristics that are highly correlated or connected with the legally protected characteristic, like neighborhood. Studies have found that risk-equivalent Black and Latino borrowers pay significantly higher interest rates on government-sponsored enterprise securitized and Federal Housing Authority insured loans than white borrowers.

Another form of bias occurs when decision-makers use an algorithm differently from how the algorithm's designers intended. In a well-known example, a neural network learned to associate asthma with a lower risk of death from pneumonia. This was because asthmatics with pneumonia are traditionally given more aggressive treatment that lowers their mortality risk compared to the overall population. However, if the outcome from such a neural network is used in hospital bed allocation, then those with asthma and admitted with pneumonia would be dangerously deprioritized.

Biases from algorithms can also result from complex societal feedback loops. For example, when predicting recidivism, authorities attempt to predict which people convicted of crimes are likely to commit crimes again. But the data used to train predictive algorithms is actually about who is likely to get re-

arrested.

AI safety in the here and now

The Biden administration's recent executive order and enforcement efforts by federal agencies such as the Federal Trade Commission are the first steps in recognizing and safeguarding against algorithmic harms.

And though large language models, such as GPT-3 that powers ChatGPT, and multimodal large language models, such as GPT-4, are steps on the road toward artificial general intelligence, they are also algorithms people are increasingly using in school, work and daily life. It's important to consider the biases that result from widespread use of large language models.

For example, these models could exhibit biases resulting from negative stereotyping involving gender, race or religion, as well as biases in representation of minorities and disabled people. As these models demonstrate the ability to outperform humans on tests such as the bar exam, I believe that they require greater scrutiny to ensure that AI-augmented work conforms to standards of transparency, accuracy and source crediting, and that stakeholders have the authority to enforce such standards.

Ultimately, who wins and loses from large-scale deployment of AI may not be about rogue superintelligence, but about understanding who is vulnerable when algorithmic decision-making is ubiquitous.

By arrangements with The Conversation

'People With Joint, Muscle Disorders Expected To Increase By 115 Pc By 2050'

Press Trust Of India

More than a billion people globally are expected to have disorders of joints, muscles, bones, ligaments, tendons and spine by 2050, up from about half a billion in 2020, according to a new study published in The Lancet Rheumatology journal.

The projected figure of musculoskeletal disorder cases is an increase of about 115 per cent from

that of 2020, and most regions were projected to have at least a 50 per cent increase in cases between 2020 and 2050, the international study by The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, University of Washington, US, found.

"We highlight there is a substantial burden of what are categorised as 'other' musculoskeletal disorders that would otherwise go unrecognised," said joint first author Manasi Murthy Mittinty from Flinders University College of Medicine, Australia.

The musculoskeletal disorders



studied were a large and growing source of disability in the world that requires public policy consideration, she said.

"Not only are the number of people worldwide living with other musculoskeletal conditions such as systemic lupus erythematosus and spondylopathies increasing but so will be their healthcare needs in 2050 and beyond," said Mittinty.

The musculoskeletal disorders were prevalent 47.4 per cent higher in women than in men, and increased with age to peak at 65-69 years in both the sexes, the re-

search found after analysing data from 23 countries. It then estimated prevalence of these disorders in 204 countries and territories from 1990 to 2020 and made projections for 2050 using statistical analyses.

"A factor which may add to the projection of course is the emergence of post-COVID-19 implications where a growing cohort of related conditions characterised by musculoskeletal symptoms and loss of mobility are recognised, adding further pressure on health systems and communities," said Mittinty.

'Chlorine Disinfectant No More Effective Than Water At Killing Hospital Superbug'

Press Trust Of India

One of the primary chlorine disinfectants currently being used to clean hospital scrubs and surfaces does not kill the most common cause of antibiotic-associated illness in health care settings globally, according to a study.

Researchers at the University of Plymouth in the UK found that spores of Clostridioides difficile, commonly known as C. diff, are completely unaffected despite being treated with high concentrations of bleach used in many hospitals.

They found that the chlorine chemicals are no more effective at damaging the spores when used as a surface disinfectant than using water with no additives.

The study, published in the journal Microbiology, shows that susceptible people working and being treated in clinical settings might be unknowingly placed at risk of contracting the superbug.

With incidence of disinfectant over-use only serving to fuel rises in antimicrobial resistance (AMR) worldwide, the researchers call for urgent research to find alternative strategies to disinfect C. diff spores in order to break the chain of transmission in clinical environments.

"With incidence of anti-microbial resistance on the rise, the threat posed by superbugs to human health is increasing," said Tina Joshi, Associate Professor at the University of Plymouth, who carried out the study with Humaira Ahmed, a fourth-year Medicine student at the university.

"But far from demonstrating that



our clinical environments are clean and safe for staff and patients, this study highlights the ability of C. diff spores to tolerate disinfection at in-use and recommended active chlorine concentrations," Joshi said.

C. diff is a microbe that causes diarrhea, colitis and other bowel complications and is known to infect millions of people all over the world each year.

The study examined spore response of three different strains of C. diff to three clinical in-use concentrations of sodium hypochlorite.

The spores were then spiked onto surgical scrubs and patient gowns, examined using scanning electron microscopes to establish if there were any morphological changes to the outer spore coat.

"Understanding how these spores and disinfectants interact is integral to practical management of C. diff infection and reducing the burden of infection in health care settings," Joshi said.

"However, there are still unanswered questions regarding the extent of biocide tolerance within C. diff and whether it is affected by antibiotic co-tolerance. With AMR increasing globally, the need to find those answers—both for C. diff and other superbugs—has never been more pressing," she added.

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Online Request for Tender (e-NIT)
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Kind Attention Rail Passengers
IMPORTANT NOTICE

This is notified for the information of rail passengers that the Northern Railway has decided to change the days of operation of train no. 22447/22448 New Delhi - Amb Andaura - New Delhi Vande Bharat Express and 22439/22440 New Delhi - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra - New Delhi Vande Bharat Express as per details given below:-

Train No. & Name	Existing		Revised		Date
	Days of run	Except	Days of run	Except	
22447 New Delhi - Amb Andaura Vande Bharat Express	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Sat, Sun	Friday	Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun	Tuesday	Ex. New Delhi : 21.03.2024 Ex. Amb Andaura : 21.03.2024
22448 Amb Andaura - New Delhi Vande Bharat Express	Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun	Tuesday	Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun	Wednesday	Ex. New Delhi : 21.03.2024 Ex. Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra : 21.03.2024

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

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DATED: 23-11-2023

ازعدالت سبج اسپیشل موبائل مجسٹریٹ سرینگر
بااجلاس: احسان ملک

سرکارملہ 04 سال 2022
تھانہ پولیس GRP نوگام
بجرانم 379,427,411,201, IFC
147,153,174, R. Act

وارنٹ گرفتاری عام زبردفعہ 512 ف/ف بخلاف
Mohammad Shaheen Sheikh S/O: Maizan Sheikh
R/O: Narela 8 Pocket New Delhi A/P: Babademb Srinagar.

مقدمہ مندرجہ عنوان العصور میں ملزم مذکورہ بالا مدعہ صدر داز سے غیر حاضر چلا آ رہا ہے۔ اس کو بارہا بطریق معمول طلب کیا گیا ہے الا تا ہوز دستیاب نہ ہوا۔ قبیل کتبہ نے اپنے رپورٹ میں تحریری طور اظہار کیا کہ ملزم مذکورہ کا کوئی اتہ پتہ نہ ہے اور اس کی دستیابی بطریق معمول ناممکن ہے۔ اس طور عدالت حد احوال نامان ہوا ہے کہ واقعی ملزم مذکورہ کو بطریق معمول طلب کرنا ناممکن ہے۔

لہذا حکم ہوا۔

کہ ملزم مذکورہ اندر حدود ریاست جموں و کشمیر جہاں کی بھی دستیاب ہوا اسے گرفتار کر کے عدالت حد احوال پیش کریں درج رہے کہ وارنٹ حد احوال دستیاب ملزم زیر کار رہے گی۔

تحریر العصور 05-10-2023

سبج اسپیشل موبائل مجسٹریٹ سرینگر

ازعدالت سبج اسپیشل موبائل مجسٹریٹ سرینگر
بااجلاس: احسان ملک

سرکارملہ 04 سال 2022
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وارنٹ گرفتاری عام زبردفعہ 512 ف/ف بخلاف
Mohammad Sahil Sheikh S/o Shaib Ali Sheikh R/o Narela Alipora New Delhi,
A/P : HMT Srinagar

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Mst. Nargis Begum Alias Paana W/O: Ab Rehman Sheikh
R/O: Haftchinar Shergari Srinagar.

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Shair Ali Malla S/O: Himayat Malla R/O: Madanpora Khadar New Delhi,
A/P: Haftchinar Shergari Srinagar.

مقدمہ مندرجہ عنوان العصور میں ملزم مذکورہ بالا مدعہ صدر داز سے غیر حاضر چلا آ رہا ہے۔ اس کو بارہا بطریق معمول طلب کیا گیا ہے الا تا ہوز دستیاب نہ ہوا۔ قبیل کتبہ نے اپنے رپورٹ میں تحریری طور اظہار کیا کہ ملزم مذکورہ کا کوئی اتہ پتہ نہ ہے اور اس کی دستیابی بطریق معمول ناممکن ہے۔ اس طور عدالت حد احوال نامان ہوا ہے کہ واقعی ملزم مذکورہ کو بطریق معمول طلب کرنا ناممکن ہے۔

لہذا حکم ہوا۔

کہ ملزم مذکورہ اندر حدود ریاست جموں و کشمیر جہاں کی بھی دستیاب ہوا اسے گرفتار کر کے عدالت حد احوال پیش کریں درج رہے کہ وارنٹ حد احوال دستیاب ملزم زیر کار رہے گی۔

تحریر العصور 05-10-2023

سبج اسپیشل موبائل مجسٹریٹ سرینگر

DIPK-12775/23
dated: 24-11-2023

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SHO/P/S GRP Srinagar

What SEBI Intends To Do To Protect Investors From Volatility In Stock Market, Asks SC

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday asked the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) what the capital markets regulator intends to do for ensuring the protection of investors from extreme volatility in the stock market.

While hearing a batch of pleas concerning the Adani-Hindenburg row, a bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud observed one of the principal reasons which led the apex court to intervene in these petitions was the extreme volatility of stock market.

"Now what does SEBI intend to do to protect this kind of volatility... which leads to a loss of investor value," the bench, also comprising justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who was representing the SEBI.

"Has SEBI looked at whether it is necessary to tighten the regulations. What is SEBI intending to do in terms of ensuring the protection of investors," the bench said.

"We must," Mehta said.

The bench said SEBI has to take steps to ensure that instances of loss of investors' wealth, consequent on short selling or volatility in the stock

market, were obviated in the future.

"What has SEBI done on investigating the volatility in the market," the court asked.

Mehta told the bench about the steps taken by the SEBI.

The bench reserved its order in the matter.

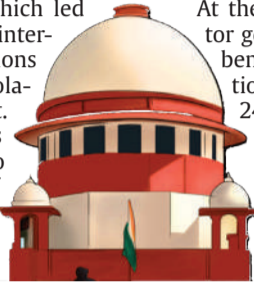
The bench also expressed its reservation in directing SEBI to investigate the matter based on some media reports which were relied by one of the petitioners.

At the outset, the solicitor general apprised the bench that investigation in 22 out of the 24 cases relating to allegations against the Adani group were over.

"For remaining two, we need information from foreign regulators etc. and some other information. We have been in consultation with them. Some information has come but that is where we are not in control of the time limit for obvious reasons...," he said.

During the hearing, the bench also asked whether the SEBI has found any element of wrong doing in so far as short selling was concerned.

Mehta said wherever the capital markets regulator has found short selling, they are taking action as per the SEBI Act.



DGCA Issues Circular On Measures To Deal With Signal Interference In Airspace

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Aviation watchdog DGCA has issued a circular to airlines and the Airports Authority of India (AAI) on measures to deal with threats from jamming and spoofing of the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) amid reports of such interference in the Middle East.

The circular provides comprehensive mitigation measures and action plans for aircraft operators, pilots, Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSP) and air traffic controllers. This includes the development of contingency procedures in co-ordination with equipment manufacturers and assessing operational risk by conducting a safety risk assessment.

AAI is the country's ANSP, and air traffic controllers also come under it.

In a release on Friday, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said it has released an advisory circular on GNSS interference in the airspace.

The watchdog said the circular highlights the emerging threats of GNSS jamming and spoofing, the various geographical areas where it has been observed, and its potential impact on aircraft and ground-based systems.



Generally, GNSS spoofing and jamming refers to attempts to manipulate a user's navigation system by giving false signals.

In the wake of the reports of GNSS interference over airspace in the Middle East in the recent past, DGCA formed an internal committee on October 4.

The committee took stock of the situation, sensitised operators, and started discussions with leading experts from around the world on the subject.

After taking the inputs into account, DGCA said recommendations have been included in the circular for tackling the emerging threat considering the best practices, latest developments and ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organisation) guidance on the matter.

Besides, the circular pro-

vides a mechanism for ANSP to establish a threat monitoring and analysis network in close coordination with DGCA for preventive as well as reactive threat monitoring and analysis of reports of GNSS interference to generate valuable insights with data and new developments to have a robust and immediate threat response.

According to DGCA, the aviation industry is grappling with uncertainties due to new threats and reports of GNSS jamming and spoofing.

The circular gives the much-needed guidance and clarity to all concerned with a practical roadmap and action plan to deal with the threat of GNSS interference in airspace in an effective manner, it added.

GNSS is vital for aircraft navigation.

Sebi Proposes Flexibility In Framework Of Trading Plans Under Insider Rules

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Capital markets regulator Sebi on Friday came out with a proposal to provide flexibility in adopting trading plans by persons, who are perpetually in possession of unpublished price sensitive information.

Under the rule, 'Trading Plans' (TP) enable persons like senior management or Key Managerial Personnel (KMP), who are perpetually in possession of Unpublished Price Sensitive Information (UPSI), to trade in securities in a compliant manner.

"Since the introduction of trading plans in 2015, data and market feedback suggest that the current regulatory requirements in respect of trading plans are onerous and consequently, trading plans are not very popular," Sebi said in its consultation paper.

Accordingly, Sebi constituted a working group that was mandated to review provisions of TP under the insider trading rules.

As per the consultation paper, the working group has recommended that a minimum cool-off period between disclosure of TP and implementation of TP should be reduced to four months from six months at present.

In addition, the minimum

coverage period requirement should be slashed to two months from the current twelve months.

It has also been suggested that the requirement of black-out period for trading in TP should be done away with.

"The insider shall have flexibility, during formulation of TP, to provide price limits i.e. upper price limits for buy trades and lower price limits for sell trades. Such price limit shall be within +/-20 per cent of the closing price on date of submission of TP.

"If price of the security, during execution, is outside the price limit set by the insider, the trade shall not be executed. If no price limit is opted for, the trade has to be undertaken irrespective of the prevailing price," the working group has recommended.

It has been suggested that contra-trade provisions should be applicable on trades executed under TP as well and there should be a disclosure of TP proposed to be done in two days from the date of approval of such plan to stock exchanges.

While there is no prescribed format for disclosure of TP, it typically contains the personal details such as name and designation of the insider along with the trades planned to be undertaken.

Delhi Airport To Cross 70 Mn Passenger Traffic In FY24: DIAL Chief

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Delhi airport will cross the pre-pandemic passenger traffic level at more than 70 million this fiscal and expects to complete the expansion of Terminal 1 by the end of February next year that will increase the domestic air passenger handling capacity by 23 million, a top official said on Friday.

Besides, airport operator DIAL CEO Videsh Kumar Jaipuria said Terminal 2 (T2) will be converted into an international terminal for a short term.

Currently, T2 is for domestic flights and has a passenger handling capacity of 15 million.

The Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) in the national capital is the country's largest airport and is operated by the Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL).

Currently, the airport has three terminals -- T1, T2 and T3 -- and depending on traffic trends, the operator will take a decision on having T4. At present, only T3 has international operations.

In an interview to PTI here, Jaipuria said there is a good revival of passenger traffic.

"This (financial) year, we are going to end up (with) higher than pre-Covid (passenger traffic level). We had a maximum of 69.3 million



passengers during pre-Covid. Last (financial) year, we did 65.3 million and this financial year, we will cross 70 million," he said.

Out of the total, over 52 million will be domestic passengers and around 18 million will be international passengers.

DIAL will also revisit its master plan for the airport that was prepared in 2016 and the current capacity levels are based on that plan.

The expansion of T1 is likely to get completed by February end next year. Once it is complete, the terminal's passenger handling capacity will increase from 17 million to 40 million, Jaipuria said.

"Then, we will have an overall domestic capacity of 40 million in T1 and 25 million in T3. (Currently), the domestic capacity at T2 is 15 million," he said and added that the international passenger handling capacity at T3 is around 20 million.

From the projections, he said, "we are very comfortable with domestic capacity but we are going to be tight in two years from now (when it comes to) international capacity".

As part of the 2016 master plan, T4 is supposed to be developed with a capacity of around 40 million. So, the master plan is talking about T4 being fully domestic, T3 getting converted fully into international and T1 being completely domestic, he noted.

According to the DIAL chief, the plan is that instead of being a domestic terminal, T2 will be converted into an international terminal for a short term.

On T2 conversion, Jaipuria said DIAL still has to do the stakeholders' consultations.

"If everything gets finalised... by June-July next year, we should be able to convert T2 into international (terminal)," he added.

This City Recorded Highest Jump In Average Residential Property Prices In 3 Years

ANI

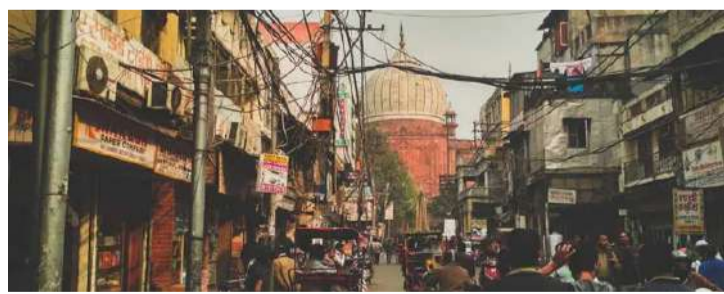
NEW DELHI: Buoyed by strong housing demand, the average residential property prices in key markets across the top seven Indian cities saw a significant surge in the last three years.

According to real estate consultancy firm Anarock's research data, it indicated that among the key micro markets, Hyderabad's Gachibowli recorded the highest 33 percent jump in average residential prices between during the past three years (October 2020-October 2023), followed by Kondapur with a 31 percent rise.

In Gachibowli, the average residential prices as of October 2023-end stand at approximately ₹6,355 per sq. ft. In the corresponding period of 2020, average prices in this locality were ₹4,790 per sq. ft.

Hyderabad's Kondapur recorded a 31 percent average price rise in this period - from ₹4,650 per sq. ft. by October-end 2020 to ₹6,090 per sq. ft. by October-end 2023, Anarock data showed.

Gachibowli and Kondapur fol-



lowed Bengaluru's Whitefield with a 29 percent jump in this three-year period - from ₹4,900 per sq. ft. to ₹6,325 per sq. ft. now.

Key areas in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region and Delhi NCR also saw average prices surge between 13-27 percent in this three-year span. In NCR's Greater Noida West, average prices have increased by 27 percent in the period. In Mumbai, Lower Parel saw average prices appreciate by 21 percent.

Here are some of the city-wise trends:

"The end of October, marking the end of the festive season, typically denotes the culmination of the year's peak housing sales period. Barring discounts, 2020 was

a year of price stagnation and a year most developers would prefer to forget. The scenario in 2023 is markedly different - backed by strong demand, housing sales across the top seven cities have created a new peak this year with sales far exceeding the previous peak of 2014," said Prashant Thakur, Regional Director and Head - Research, ANAROCK Group.

Up to the pandemic year of 2020, average residential prices across cities had remained largely range-bound.

"Among the top seven cities, key areas in the IT-led cities Hyderabad, Bengaluru, and Pune saw the highest surge in average prices," said Mr Thakur.

India's Forex Reserves Jump \$5.08 Billion To \$595.40 Billion

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: India's forex reserves increased by USD 5.077 billion to USD 595.397 billion during the week ended November 17, the Reserve Bank said on Friday.

In the previous reporting week, the kitty declined USD 462 million to USD 590.321 billion. For the week ended November 17, the foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased USD 4.387 billion to USD 526.391 billion, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). It can be noted that in October 2021, the country's forex kitty had reached an all-time high of USD 645 billion.

The reserves took a hit as the central bank deployed the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused majorly by global developments since last year.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

Gold reserves were up USD 527 million to USD 46.042 billion during the week, the RBI said.

The Special Drawing Rights were up USD 120 million to USD 18.131 billion, it said.

India's reserve position with the IMF was up USD 42 million to USD 4.833 billion in the reporting week, the RBI data showed.

IBC Recoveries Declining, Resolution Timelines Getting Prolonged: Crisil

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Introduction of a focused bankruptcy law has helped improve the credit culture in India, but the last few years have seen a decline in recoveries and the resolution timelines getting prolonged, Crisil Ratings on Friday.

In a note to observe the seven years of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), the rating agency said the recovery rates have fallen to 32 per cent in September 2023, from 43 per cent in March 2019.

At the same time, the average resolution time has increased from 324 days to 653 days, versus the stipulated 330 days, it said.

The IBC has helped in resolving debt worth Rs 3.16 lakh crore stuck in 808 cases in the past seven years, the leading credit rating agency said.

Its senior director Mohit Makhija said the IBC is "the most potent code" in India's corporate loan history, which has brought a "behavioural change" in borrowers.

"The fear of losing companies has led to over Rs 9 lakh crore of filed debt being settled before the cases arrived at the IBC doorstep for admission. This is around three times the stressed debt resolved via the code in the past seven years, underscoring its deterrence effect," he said.

The agency also recommended solutions around the current challenges on recoveries and timelines, saying there is a need to remove some impediments.

It reasoned that there is a



limited judicial bench strength and delays in identification and acknowledgement of default which is leading to some of the troubles.

The recovery rates have been suppressed because of significant delays in the pre-IBC admission stage, it said, pointing out that the same has increased to 650 days in FY22 from 450 days in FY19 increased from about 450 days in fiscal 2019, it said.

The rating agency said 90 amendments have been carried out to the law so far, including some over the last year like approval for sale of assets/ resolution plan on a segregated basis, increasing the number of National Company Law Tribunal benches to 16 and extending timelines for filing claims.

Its director Sushant Sarode said Capacity augmentation, Digitalisation and Expansion of pre-pack resolutions to large corporates can help improve the efficiency of IBC.

There is a backlog of 13,000 cases under IBC, which includes 2,073 ongoing corporate insolvency resolutions, he said.

The agency argued that the recoveries from IBC are better than the earlier debt resolution mechanisms, which averaged between 5-20 per cent.

RBI Slaps Penalties Totalling Rs 10.34 Cr On Citibank, Bank Of Baroda, IOB



Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank on Friday imposed penalties totalling Rs 10.34 crore on Citibank, Bank of Baroda, and Indian Overseas Bank for contravention of various regulatory norms.

The highest penalty of Rs 5 crore has been imposed on Citibank NA for non-compliance of norms related to depositor education and awareness fund scheme, and code of conduct on outsourcing of financial services, the RBI said in a statement.

A fine of Rs 4.34 crore was imposed on the state-owned

Bank of Baroda for violation of certain directions related to the creation of a central repository of large common exposures, and others, another release said.

Chennai-based public sector lender Indian Overseas Bank was slapped with a Rs 1 crore fine for contravention of directions concerning loans and advances.

In all three cases, the Reserve Bank of India said, penalties are based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the banks with their customers.

Markets Close Modestly Lower; IT Stocks Weigh

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty closed with modest losses for the second straight session on Friday, following selling in IT stocks amid a lack of fresh buying triggers.

However, buying interest in banking counters helped the bourses limit the losses, the traders said.

In a highly volatile trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 47.77 points or 0.07 per cent to settle at 65,970.04. During the day, it gyrated 207.59 points, hitting a high of 66,101.64 and a low of 65,894.05.

The Nifty slipped 7.30 points or 0.04 per cent to 19,794.70.

On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark climbed 175.31 points or 0.26 per cent, and the Nifty advanced 62.9 points or 0.31 per cent.

"Global shares drifted on Friday in the absence of guidance from Wall Street, which was closed for the Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday. Invest-

tors were sceptical of whether the US Federal Reserve is done with interest rate hikes that kept risk appetite in check," said Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities.

Among the Sensex firms, HCL Tech, Wipro, Tata Consultancy Services, Tech Mahindra, Nestle, Tata Motors, Infosys, Bharti Airtel, UltraTech Cement and Tata Steel were among the laggards.

On the other hand, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, JSW Steel, Mahindra & Mahindra and Kotak Mahindra Bank were the major gainers.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge gained 0.14 per cent, and the midcap index advanced 0.13 per cent.

Among the indices, tech fell 0.89 per cent, IT declined 0.88 per cent, FMCG (0.49 per cent), consumer durables (0.36 per cent) and telecommunication (0.25 per cent).

Commodities, financial services, healthcare, industrials, bankex and capital goods were among the gainers.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Solar Power Plants

However, people can directly apply through the online portal," he noted.

Notably, the JAKEDA inked Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with J&K Bank for loans with a quantum of Rs 2.6lakh for the purchase of solar power plants by the people.

He further said the solar plant provides electricity to homes with clean solar energy. The plant occupies only 80-100 sq. ft roof area per KW and generates 120-140 units of energy per KW per month on an average. The project also saves approx. Rs 500/- per KW per month in electricity bills.

The official further said that the plant offsets about 0.73 tons of carbon emission annually per KW which is equivalent to planting 33 trees.

Maqsood Ali Banka, Executive Engineer of JAKEDA told Kashmir Observer that most of the smart meter consumers have installed the solar plants and efforts were afoot to cover 10,000 households under this scheme.

"As of now, over 1600 individuals with smart meters have installed the plants with a cumulative capacity of 8.5 MW. Smart meters are imperative for installing the solar plant," he said.

"But if anyone wants to install solar panels in a non-metered area, we provide net energy meters that record import and export of the energy," he added.

Regarding the surplus power, Banka said that the energy will be imported and exported through smart meters.

Citing an example, Banka explained, "If you produce 5KW of electricity but only utilize 3KW, it implies that you've exported 2KWs of electricity, and this surplus will be evident in your monthly bill."

He said there is only one variant of the plant. The solar rooftops are available from 1 KW to 10 KW capacity and five years free maintenance is also provided to the consumers.

Banka said people mostly prefer 3 KW plant which costs around Rs 1.57 lakh. The UT government provides Rs 39, 445 subsidy while MNRE provides Rs 63,112. A consumer has to pay only Rs 55,224 to get the solar plant installed.

Notably, the department has organised many week-long mega solar Expos across the Valley aiming to raise awareness among the people about the benefits of rooftop solar plants and other beneficiary oriented schemes.

According to Lenin Kundoo, an executive engineer at PDD, the drive promoting solar energy isn't solely an eco-friendly trend but a vital necessity, particularly in areas like Kashmir, known for severe winters.

"All of us have to come together in reducing carbon emissions. People need to adopt this technology to get rid of the power crises," he added.

IGP Warns Strict

their respective districts to counter any challenges and threats faced by the inimical elements at the ground level.

The IGP, he said, urged the officers to bolster the anti-terrorist grid with heightened intelligence efforts and intensified operations. He said emphasis was placed on vigilant surveillance of terrorist associates and decisive legal measures.

"He said that it is of crucial importance to enhance security surveillance of all vital establishments & locations besides to take care of vulnerable persons to thwart away the nefarious designs of terrorists in the areas. He reiterated the need to keep strict surveillance over the terrorist associates/ANEs and take all necessary measures under law against them," he added.

According to the police spokesperson, a focused initiative against the drug menace was also emphasized.

Stressing the need to eliminate drugs from society, he said, Birdi directed personal supervision of narcotics cases, improving conviction rates and building robust police-public relationships, especially with youth.

"Besides, he also directed the officers to build up strong police-public relationship and conduct regular interactive meetings with general public as such meetings particularly with youth will not only help in curbing the drug menace but will strengthen the police-public interface. He impressed upon them to develop a mechanism wherein the bond between people and police gets stronger," he added.

The meeting in Shopian was attended by SP Shopian Tanushree, Addl. SP Shopian Naresh Singh and other senior officers. Similarly in Pulwama, the meeting was attended by SSP Pulwama Mohammad Yousif, Addl. SP Pulwama Tanveer Ahmad and other senior officers of the district.

PDD Withdraws

two Distribution Companies (DISCOMS) and a Transmission Corporation. This long-awaited reform aligns Jammu & Kashmir with other Indian States/UTs, ensuring consumer services are enhanced while ensuring the sustainability of the power sector.

"To facilitate this restructuring, a substantial financial package of Rs. 5000 crores was allocated for the comprehensive upgrade of infrastructure under various Central Sector Schemes. This investment aims to create adequate capacities in almost every district, providing regular and quality power supply to citizens," he added.

To ensure that the newly formed corporations are provided with a clean balance sheet, the spokesperson said that all the outstanding dues on account of power purchase, accumulated to the tune of Rs. 30700 Crores over several years, were taken over by the Government and cleared by availing soft loans under GOI Schemes like Atmanirbhar Bharat and LPS Rules 2022.

Accordingly, he said, a conducive platform has been provided to the discoms to operate

on sound business principles and deliver optimal services to consumers, thereby enhancing overall consumer satisfaction levels.

"In the present system as well, the discoms continue to grapple with high losses attributed mainly to power theft, poor metering and low tariff rates, which are a major cause of concern not only for the department but also threaten the overall efficiency of the sector. The high Aggregate Technical & Commercial (AT&C) losses, reaching 44% in Jammu and 58% in Kashmir as compared to the national average of 16.44%, have left DISCOMS unable to meet power purchase expenses, leaving aside other critical expenditures like Operations & Maintenance (O&M) and capital investments, which still continue to be supported by Government," he added.

For ensuring financial sustainability of the power sector, the spokesperson said that even GOI has launched schemes like Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) whereunder conditional grants linked to the performance of discoms on certain pre-defined parameters have been provisioned.

He said that the parameters which are required to be maintained for proper fund-flow under the schemes, the DISCOMS need to implement crucial measures such as adopting cost-reflective tariffs, reducing AT&C losses, reducing ACS-ARR Gap and various other reforms to ensure financial sustainability of the sector, thereby ensuring uninterrupted power supply in line with the evolving living standards of consumers.

"In today's modern era, as the entire country progresses towards a digital India with a focus on on-demand services, the power sector is no exception," the spokesperson said.

"It is analogous to any other commodity we purchase from the market, where the consumer pays, and the seller provides. Fundamentally, consumers seek nothing more than uninterrupted power supply, whether they are urban or rural consumers. Additionally, it is the duty of every utility to meet the expectations and needs of the consumers it serves," he added.

'2400 MWs Electricity

in the river and other water bodies," Prasad said.

Principal Secretary said that the government has now procured an electricity of 2400 MWs, saying that the J&K has agreement for more, but it depends upon the power generation as well.

According to him, a long term decision has been taken by the government to meet the power demand in Jammu and Kashmir during winters, saying that it will take some time to make sure that the electricity is available here.

"To end this paucity for the future as well, we have taken a permanent decision in this regard, 950 MWs have been purchased through PPA with NTPC, 1650 MWs from Solar Power Corporation of India (SPCI) and through the Government of India's Shakti Policy, 500 MWs on reasonable rates as base load power has been procured," he said, adding that the LG Manoj Sinha has given approval in this regard.

KPDCL Recovers

Around 245 KW load was added across 6 Circles of the Corporation during the drives.

"A penalty of Rs.7.95 lakh was imposed across all 19 Electric Divisions on those found hooking wires on bare conductors and bypassing the meters. Meanwhile, 52 Domestic Transformers (DTs) were also reported damaged on Thursday due to overloading, down from 64 reported on Wednesday," he said.

The spokesperson further stated that another 1048 domestic, commercial and industrial connections were also disconnected for non-payment of energy dues which were pending for more than three months. This includes 731 domestic, 266 commercial and 31 industrial consumers.

The spokesman stated that the inspection and disconnection drives against power theft and defaulting consumers respectively will help the Corporation in sticking to the curtailment schedule.

While KPDCL received 52 damaged DTs in its various workshops on Thursday, 61 transformers were also repaired for replacement, to comply with the stipulated timelines fixed by the Government.

"As many as 74 transformers are in different stages of repair, 27 others are in ovens at Central Workshop Pampore," the spokesperson added, while quoting Executive Engineer, CVWS, Pampore.

Expressing concern over the repeat damage of repaired transformers, the spokesperson urged the consumers to use power judiciously within their agreed load, failing which the DTs will get damaged again, thus causing inconvenience to genuine consumers.

"Cases of repeat damage to repaired transformers has been reported from Central Workshop at Pampore and a few of the divisional-level workshops. This trend will affect replacement timeline fixed by the Government," the spokesperson warned while advocating strict adherence to load capacity of DTs.

KPDCL advised all domestic, commercial and industrial consumers to pay their pending energy dues or face permanent disconnection. KPDCL collected Rs.6.63 crore as pending energy dues on Thursday from the consumers. With the Corporation going into overdrive, the revenue realization figures are likely to go up further in the coming few weeks.

Pak Pushing

reporters, the Lt General said operations have been intensified in the border districts of Rajouri and Poonch to clear the region of more than two dozen foreign terrorists within a year. The killing of the two dreaded foreign terrorists is a major setback for Pakistan's plans to destabilise the region, said

the army commander.

Asked about the presence of some special forces' personnel of Pakistan among terrorist ranks, the Lt General said that "when we tried to seek identification of terrorists, we came to know that some of them are retired army personnel (of Pakistan)".

"Pakistan is making attempts to push foreign terrorists into this region due to lack of support from the local population, especially the youth who are reluctant to get recruited in terrorist ranks. Our efforts are on to neutralise the foreign terrorists," Lt General Dwivedi said.

Asked if Pakistan intends to push more terrorists in the coming months to disrupt upcoming elections, including the Lok Sabha polls, he answered in the affirmative without going into details.

On the number of active terrorists in the south of Pir Panjal, he said the number of terrorists in the Rajouri-Poonch belt fluctuates as the area is connected with the national highway. "Roughly there is a possibility of 20 to 25 terrorists operating in the area but the way army, police and other intelligence agencies have intensified their operations, we are sure to control the situation within one year," Lt General Dwivedi said.

Mentioning the killings of the terrorists in the Bajimaal encounter, he said, "They have created an ecosystem and their killing has dealt a severe blow to Pakistan to disturb the region."

He said the sacrifice of the five soldiers led to the neutralisation of the two dreaded terrorists and it is a big achievement. "The two terrorists were active for the last one year and we were not able to find them. Someone was providing weapons, ammunition and also information," Lt General Dwivedi said.

It was very important to neutralise them as they were responsible for 10 civilian killings in Dhangri and TCP in Rajouri town besides masterminding attacks on security forces at Kandi in which five army personnel lost their lives, he said.

The army commander said it was possible that they were trained in several countries, including Pakistan and Afghanistan.

"They were highly trained foreign terrorists and our brave soldiers without paying attention to their safety got into the operation and eliminated them. The troops have done a laudable job," he said.

Lt General Dwivedi, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, General Officer Commanding of the Jammu-based White Knight Corps, Lt General Sandeep Jain, Director General of Police R R Swain, Additional Director General of Police, Law and Order, Vijay Kumar, and Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone, Anand Jain, were among those who laid wreaths on the coffins of the fallen soldiers of the Bajimaal encounter.

"I bow to our army bravehearts, Captain MV Pranjal, Captain Shubham Gupta, Havaldar Abdul Majid, Lance Naik Sanjay Bisht, Paratrooper Sachin Laur martyred while protecting the motherland during an anti-terrorist operation in Rajouri. Their valour and sacrifice will never be forgotten. Condolences to their families," the Lt Governor posted on X after the wreath laying ceremony.

Referring to his recent interaction with Captain Bisht, Lt Gen Dwivedi said, "I handed him a commendation card myself and asked him what he wants to do in the future. His reply was that he will do something big within seven days. He sacrificed his life for the nation."

He also referred to a statement of Captain Pranjal's father lauding his son's bravery. He said it has boosted the morale of the troops and motivated them to do more such operations for the country, the army official said.

"The killing of Quari is not only a big achievement for the security forces, but also a morale booster for the civilians who were living under fear. This fear has now gone and more people will come forward to help in neutralisation of the active terrorists," he said.

He also lauded the local populace for their support and said the latest success was because of their support to the army.

LG, Commander

Army General Hospital in Jammu from Rajouri where a wreath-laying ceremony was organised.

Sinha, Lt Gen Dwivedi, Chief Secretary Dr A K Mehta, DGP R R Swain, Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar and IGP Anand Jain were among a large number of officials of armed forces, civilians and police who paid tributes to the slain army men with full military honours.

Those who laid down their lives fighting terrorists were Captain M V Pranjal (63 RR) of Mangalore area of Karnataka, Captain Shubham Gupta (9 Para) of Agra of Uttar Pradesh, Havaldar Abdul Majid (Para) of Ajote in Poonch, J-K; Lance Naik Sanjay Bist of Halli Padli area of Nainital, UK and Paratrooper Sachin Laur of Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh.

The coffins of the slain army personnel wrapped in the tricolour will be airlifted to their native places from Jammu for their last rites, officials said.

Two terrorists, including a top Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander trained in Afghanistan, and five soldiers including two captains were killed in a 36-hour-long gunfight with security forces on Wednesday and Thursday in the Bajimaal area of Darmsal.

Captain Pranjal is survived by his wife Aditi G, while Capt Gupta leaves behind his father Basant Kumar Gupta.

Havaldar Majid is survived by his wife Sagera Bi and three children, while Lance Naik Bisht and Paratrooper Laur leave behind their mothers Manju Devi and Bhagwati Devi, respectively.

Public Notification

dated 28 May 2021. Thus, being aggrieved by the order of the CAT, these writ petitions

came to be filed before the court.

Also, several appellants who were initially appointed as Constables (Operator) as per the merit list/select list prepared district-wise, in terms of an advertisement issued on 09 March 2007 and their appointments were successfully challenged by the private respondents primarily on the ground that appointments to these posts were to be made on the basis of the select list prepared at the State level and not by preparing district wise select list.

The appellants, the court said are stated to be numbering 151 and who are presently serving as Wireless Assistants, shall forthwith be appointed as Constables (Operator) on regular basis by adjusting against the 170 vacant posts of Constables (Operator) and their appointments shall be given effect notionally from the date they were initially appointed as Constables (Operator), without any back wages.

"The services of those persons who are already appointed as Constables (Operator) after the services of the appellants were terminated vide order dated 19.01.2017 will remain undisturbed and will be en-bloc senior to the appellants in the LPAs (appeals) as the seniority of the Constables (Operator) should be based on the state level merit list which was prepared in terms of the direction issued by the Single Judge in the impugned judgment and order dated 09.05.2014as this would truly reflect the comparative merit of the candidates, irrespective of the fact that they may be appointed on different dates and in different districts," the court said in the 41-page judgment.

The authorities, the court said, in order to avoid any such similar future litigation shall also clarify the status/position of the "Constable (Operator)" as regards "Constable" as provided in the J & K Police Rules, 1960.

"The private respondents who have continued to pursue their claim till now, stated to be numbering 63, shall be appointed as Wireless Assistants against the resultant 151 (one fifty-one) vacant posts of Wireless Assistants, subject to their suitability and on attaining the benchmark in terms of the performance in the recruitment process pursuant to the advertisement dated 09.03.2007, as may be decided by the appointing authority within a period of one month from today."

The court also observed that the public notification or the advertisement, which is an invitation to the eligible candidates, will ordinarily be a mirror reflection of the provisions of the service rules governing the posts, as appointment to such advertised posts has to be in accordance with the service rules.

"As a corollary, the terms and conditions mentioned in the public notification/advertisements cannot be in conflict with the service rules, as the service rules are generally statutory in nature and thus have the force of law and have to be meticulously followed," the court said, adding, "The terms and conditions mentioned in the advertisement, thus, cannot be in derogation of the service rules."

The advertisement for the posts, the court said, should also indicate the manner in which the recruitment is to be conducted as provided under the service rules.

Indian Doctors

Pulmonology and Critical Care Medicine, Sakra World Hospital.

"Various factors, including viral mutations or environmental conditions, can contribute to the new pneumonia outbreak in China. India should take proactive measures to protect children by enhancing surveillance, encouraging vaccination, and implementing public health awareness campaigns," added Anjali R Nath, Consultant Pulmonologist, SPARSH Hospital.

While the outbreak raised concerns of a new virus or a mutation in an existing respiratory virus, China assured the World Health Organisation that they did not detect any unusual or novel pathogen.

The WHO said that China, on Thursday, provided data indicating an increase in outpatient consultations and hospital admissions of children due to Mycoplasma pneumoniae pneumonia since May, and RSV, adenovirus and influenza virus since October.

Mycoplasma pneumoniae is a common respiratory pathogen and a common cause of paediatric pneumonia, and is readily treated with antibiotics.

"Chinese authorities advised that there has been no detection of any unusual or novel pathogens or unusual clinical presentations, including in Beijing and Liaoning," the WHO said in a statement.

China said there has been a "general increase in respiratory illnesses due to multiple known pathogens. They further stated that the rise in respiratory illness has not resulted in patient loads exceeding hospital capacities".

Some of these increases are earlier in the season than historically experienced, but not unexpected given the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions, as similarly experienced in other countries. No changes in the disease presentation were reported by the Chinese health authorities, the UN health body said.

LG Asks Govt

Comptroller and Auditor General of India. Our forefathers while drafting the Constitution had a clear opinion that the Auditor General would be the most important officer in the democratic processes," he said.

Quoting Baba Saheb Ambedkar, the LG said that the position of the Auditor General is the most important in the Indian Constitution and he will be the only person who will see to it that there is no expenditure in excess of what the Parliament has voted for or what is

provided for in the Appropriation Bill of the Parliament.

He also impressed on the government departments to take quick action on the shortcomings.

"In the era of reforms, it should be the endeavor of audit community to present the audit report and necessary facts immediately so that action related to the evaluation of policies and programmes is taken without any delay," Sinha said.

"Audit observation and recommendation should be seen as a guide so that every penny of public exchequer improves the living standards of the common man," he added.

The LG asked all officers to change their thinking of looking at audit reports and audit observations as criticism of their work.

"If you read these reports carefully and follow the recommendations of the audit community, necessary improvements can be brought in governance," he added.

At the ceremony, the LG talked about the significant change taking place in the administrative and business processes due to e-governance and digital penetration.

This change, he said, has brought new challenges and opportunities for audit community to pay special attention to the safety and security of the IT system and also make institutions and youth partners at the Panchayat level.

"On the one hand, the use of artificial intelligence and knowledge-based expert systems has facilitated audit risk evaluation, internal control evaluation, and audit planning, while on the other new challenges have also emerged due to concerns about data security and minimum human control," the LG said.

"We have to strike a balance and use every tool available to ensure proper utilization of resources and make life easier for the beneficiaries of the schemes," he added.

The LG commended the key endeavors of the Audit and Accounts Offices of J&K, over the last few years. He said initiatives such as bulk settlement of pending audit paras, collaborative corrective action with UT departments to improve their operations, pension adalats, and progress in end-to-end computerization of pension cases showcase their commitment to innovation and efficiency.

"These initiatives not only benefit the UT Administration's departments but also directly impact the lives of the ordinary citizens of our Union Territory," he added.

The LG further said that the week-long audit day celebrations provide us with an opportunity to reflect on the critical role the audit community plays in contributing to good governance and shaping the governance landscape of our Nation.

DGP's Fake

nearest Police Station or Cyber Police Station Srinagar/Jammu," police said in a statement.

The people can contact on Cyber Police Station Jammu - 0191-2436709 & Cyber Police Station Srinagar - 9596770555.

Barkati's Wife

"These funds were raised for personal gains and a significant portion of the collected funds was allegedly misused for undisclosed purposes, including financing of secessionist and terrorist activities.

"A substantial portion of the acquired funds had been deposited in various Fixed Deposit Receipts under the names of the Barkati family members, raising questions about the legitimacy of the sources and utilization of the funds," an official said.

According to officials, these funds were used for money laundering and the acquisition of undisclosed assets for the propagation of radicalism within the Kashmir Valley.

"While Sarjan Barkati was arrested in August this year, his wife Shabroza Bano has been evading arrest after her role surfaced in the case," an official said.

Bano was arrested on Friday. She, along with her husband has been found involved in terror financing by raising money through crowdfunding, he added.

Officials said the State Investigation Agency, during the investigation, identified Shabroza Bano as one of the conspirators. She was in constant contact with Pakistani handlers through encrypted messaging platforms, they added.

According to police, Sarjan Barkati was a prominent figure in organizing large-scale protests, rallies and clashes with security forces in the 2016 summer agitation.

"During that period, he was instrumental in abetting youth to storm security forces establishments for which more than 30 FIRs were registered against him in various police stations of the Kashmir Valley," an official said.

CRPF Constable

Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of this incident. (KS)

3 Terror Associates

Dar, Syed Jahangir Shah, and Irfan Ahmad Wagay.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Inayat Rasool Wani wants to open a travel agency under the name of Ice & Hills holidays at lasjan ,srinagar. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact the tourism department within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection will be entertained.

INAYAT RASOOL WANI
LASJAN ,SRINAGAR

Mitchell Marsh Faces Legal Storm Over Trophy Stunt

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: A leader of an activist group has filed a police complaint against Australian cricketer Mitchell Marsh for placing his feet on the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup trophy, police said on Friday.

The complaint was lodged on Tuesday by Pandit Keshav Dev, the president of the Bhrashtachar Virodhi Sena, at the Delhi Gate Police Station in Aligarh.

"A complaint has been received. But so far, a case has not been registered, and further procedures will follow only after receiving a report from the cyber cell," Superintendent of Police (City) Mrigank Shekhar said.

In his complaint, Keshav Dev alleged that the



Australian cricketer had India and disrespected handed over to the winning team by "the Prime Minister of the country."

Australia won the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup, defeating India in the final match on November 19 in Ahmedabad. Marsh was seen lounging after the match with his feet on the trophy. His pictures with the pose that surfaced on social media saw many people criticizing and several others defending him.

Mohammed Shami Takes A Dig At Mitchell Marsh

Team India star pacer Mohammed Shami has taken a dig at the Australian all-rounder Mitchell Marsh.

"I am hurt. The trophy for which all the teams in the world fight, the trophy which you want to lift over your head, keeping a foot on that trophy did not make me happy," said Shami.

IPL Trading: Is Hardik Pandya On His Way Out Of Gujarat Titans?

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: India's T20I captain Hardik Pandya is at the centre of the biggest trading news ahead of this year's Indian Premier League (IPL) auction as the Gujarat Titans skipper could be on his way out and is being linked with a potential return to Mumbai Indians.

With Mumbai Indians refusing to comment on the development, one would need to wait till November 26, the closing day for IPL's trading window.

Pandya had played seven seasons of IPL for Mumbai before being released prior to the 2022 season. After joining Gujarat Titans, Pandya led the side to back-to-back IPL finals, including earning them the trophy in their debut season.

"Yes, I can confirm that there has been talks of Hardik going to MI. There remains a chance that he might switch sides but at this moment, nothing more can be confirmed as of now as the deal is yet to be signed," said an IPL source tracking develop-



ments in Gujarat Titans.

Since trading involves swapping of players, it is still not clear that if Pandya returns to MI fold, who could switch over to the Titans. There is no confirmation yet from MI whether they have decided to release their Rs 8 crore mega buy Jofra Archer, who has been injured for the better part of the last two seasons.

With the IPL Governing Council increasing the purse by an additional Rs 5 crore, MI go into the mini-auction with Rs 5.50 crore

(up from the existing Rs 50 lakh purse) unless they release some of their big buys to swell the reserve money.

If Pandya finally signs up for MI on dotted lines, the big question remains is whether he is going to play under iconic Rohit Sharma, who has led the side to five trophies and has been in prime form.

These are the questions that remain unanswered for now and the picture will only be clear once BCCI officially announces the final trading list.

Grand Warriors Academy Trainee Wins Silver In Taekwondo C'ship

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Open Kashmir Taekwondo Championships 2023 concluded on Friday at Indoor Hall, Polo Ground here.

The championships were held from November 23 to 24 under the theme "Play For Peace" and were coordinated

Adil Hussain Khan, the coach of Grand Warriors, stated that encouraging girls to play sports is crucial for their overall growth and empowerment. It is imperative to challenge societal norms, provide equal opportunities, and create a safe and inclusive environment for girls in sports.



by the J&K Taekwondo Association under the aegis of Taekwondo Federation of India.

A large number of players from various districts of Kashmir participated in the two-days long taekwondo championship.

Mohsina Jeelani from Grand Warriors Academy of Martial Arts won Silver Medal in the Open Kashmir Taekwondo Championship 2023.

The chief guest on the event was Ajay Kumar Yadav (IG CRPF), while as RK Baruah Commandant 132 BN, Narinder Kumar CRO, Adv Neelofar, Padma Shree Faisal Ali, Manager Indoor Stadium, were guests of honour.

The Taekwondo Association also felicitated Ms. Afreen Hyder, who recently clinched Silver medal in 37th National Games which was held in Goa.

LG Attends Closing Ceremony Of 67th National School Games



Observer News Service

JAMMU: J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated the Synthetic Athletic track at University of Jammu and addressed the closing ceremony of 67th National Schools Games in Judo Under-14 Boys & Girls and Fencing Under-19 Boys & Girls, on Friday.

In his address on the occasion, the LG congratulated the budding sporting talents for their remarkable performance in various sporting disciplines.

National School Games provide the launching platform for young sporting talents.

From this platform a new journey begins for all of you, which will pave the way for many opportunities as well as excellence in international sporting events, the LG said.

He said the achievements of J&K's athletes in the recently concluded Asian Games, Asian Para Games and Asian Para Archery Games is a testimony to new sports culture under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The LG encouraged the young players to work hard to transform their inherent talent and set new goals every day to fulfill the destiny for which they were born.

At the closing ceremony,

the Lt Governor shared the efforts of the UT Administration to popularize a robust sports culture in Jammu Kashmir.

He said the new sports policy, world-class facilities and mentoring of sports persons have created a conducive environment to excel and bring laurels to the UT and the nation in international tournaments.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the LG; Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary Youth Services and Sports, senior officials, officers bearers of School Games Federation of India, eminent sports personalities, coaches and youth in large number were present.

J&K Blind Cricket Team Wins National T20 Tournery Opener

Agencies

JAMMU: The sixth edition of Men's National T20 Cricket Tournament for the Blind 2023-24 also known as Nagesh Trophy, kicked off on Thursday with four teams battling out on Day 1 here in Jammu. The Nagesh Trophy is being played from November 23, 2023, to January 30, 2024. The League stage will be played till Decem-

ber 29, 2023. Former Indian cricketer Mohammad Kaif has also joined hands with the Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI) as a Brand Ambassador for the Nagesh Trophy. On Friday, Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir will face off each other in the second game here at University of Jammu.

After the league matches end on December 29, 2023,



ber 29, 2023.

In the first match of the League stage of the Nagesh Trophy in Group E, Jammu & Kashmir thrashed Indian Railways by 82 runs here at the University of Jammu.

Batting first, Jammu and Kashmir slammed a mammoth total of 234/4 in the allotted 20 overs with Mohammad Azeem scoring 158 runs in just 77 balls. The side then bowled out Railways for 152 in 18 overs to kickstart their campaign with a win.

the Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI) in association with the Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled will hold the Super 8 Stage Matches at Nagpur, Maharashtra in January 2024.

A total of 28 Teams (State / UT's) and an Indian Railways team which is represented by the Visually Impaired working in Railways) will play in the T20 format Tournament. 28 teams are divided based on last year's ranking into six groups. (ANI)

Barcelona & Real Madrid Return To Action After Spate Of Injuries

The Associated Press

BARCELONA: Barcelona and Real Madrid will be without three of their top young players when the Spanish league returns this weekend, after they were injured during the international break.

Barcelona lost 19-year-old Gavi for the rest of the season when the all-terrain midfielder tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee and damaged his lateral meniscus during Spain's final European Championship qualifier. Spain was already qualified for next year's tournament in Germany before it beat Georgia 3-1 on Sunday.

National team coach Luis de la Fuente has come under criticism in Spain's sports media for not substituting Gavi when his knee buckled inward during a collision with an opponent. He played on for a few minutes only to collapse in tears before limping off. He will now undergo surgery that will most likely also rule him out for Spain at Euro 2024.

Gavi, despite his age, has emerged as a key player for Spain and for his club. He is Barcelona's best tackler in midfield and replacing him



will be no easy task for coach Xavi Hernández.

Barcelona visits Rayo Vallecano on Saturday. It sits third in the league standings, four points behind surprising leader Girona and two points

behind Real Madrid.

Gavi has played the second most minutes of any outfield player this season for Barcelona, only behind Ilkay Gundogan. The player from near Seville had taken on more im-

portance in recent weeks when fellow midfielders Pedri and Frenkie de Jong were both recovering from muscle complaints.

Pedri returned to play for Barcelona before the international break

and De Jong is back training for the first time since he was hurt in September. Fermin Lopez, 20, should continue to have opportunities after impressing since moving up from Barcelona's youth teams.

Goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen is also doubtful after he hurt his back while with Germany. If he can not play at the 10th-placed Rayo, then rarely used Inaki Peña will be in goal.

Madrid visits 16th-place Cadiz on Sunday needing to find replacements for forward Vinicius Junior and multi-use midfielder Eduardo Camavinga.

Vinicius tore a leg muscle in his left leg during Brazil's 2-1 loss at Colombia on Friday. That should sideline the player who was key to Madrid winning its 14th European Cup two seasons ago for several weeks.

Vinicius' injury leaves Carlo Ancelotti without one of his top scorers after Karim Benzema left in the off-season for Saudi Arabia. Newcomer Jude Bellingham has so far picked up the scoring load with a league-high 10 goals and 13 goals in all competitions. The 23-year-old Vinicius has chipped in with six goals overall.

Vinicius' absence could open the

door for Joselu to start alongside Rodrygo in attack, and perhaps lead to more minutes for Luka Modric or Brahim Diaz. The 38-year-old Modric has become a second-half substitute for Ancelotti this season after being a career starter.

The 21-year-old Camavinga tore a ligament in his right knee in training with France.

His absence leaves Ancelotti without one of his most versatile players, who can play as a holding midfielder or at right back. Camavinga started all four of Madrid's Champions League games and appeared in all 13 of its Spanish league matches this season.

Girona has been defying expectations by winning 11 of 13 games. It next faces Athletic Bilbao at home on Monday.

Midfielder Aleix Garcia became the first ever Girona player to play for Spain last week.

Striker Artem Dovbyk and winger Viktor Tsygankov both started for Ukraine in its scoreless draw with Italy on Monday. That result sent Italy into Euro 2024 and Ukraine to a playoff to see if it can join them next summer.

How music evokes deep emotions and boosts memory



Agencis

Have you ever wondered why a particular song can transport you back in time, evoking powerful emotions and vivid memories? A new study published in Nature Communications has shed light on the remarkable connection between music, emotions, and memory, unraveling the mysteries behind our profound reactions to certain melodies. The study reveals that musicians and composers who skillfully weave emotional events together to tell a story are actually imbuing our memories with a rich temporal structure and a longer sense of time. It seems that the very fabric of music has the power to shape our perception of time, leaving a lasting imprint in our minds.

Dr. McClay, one of the lead researchers, explains, "Intense moments of emotional change and suspense, like the musical phrases in Queen's 'Bohemian Rhapsody,' could be remembered as having lasted longer than less emotive experiences of similar length." In other words, music has the ability to stretch time, making emotionally charged moments feel more substantial and everlasting.

Interestingly, the direction of emotional change also plays a crucial role in memory integration. The research suggests that memories of sequential items feel closer together in time when the shift in emotions is towards positivity. On the contrary, a shift towards more negative emotions tends to separate and expand the mental distance between new memories. This finding highlights the significance of positive emotional experiences in consolidating memories and recalling their order accurately.

The study didn't stop at exploring the immediate effects of music on memory and emotions. Participants were surveyed the following day, revealing that intense positive emotions led to better memory retention. This suggests that feeling more positive and energized can fuse different elements of an experience together in memory, creating a more comprehensive recollection of the event.

Dr. Sachs, another researcher involved in the study, emphasized the potential of music as an intervention technique. "Most music-based therapies for disorders rely on the fact that listening to music can help patients relax or feel enjoyment, which reduces negative emotional symptoms," he stated. However, this study offers a new perspective, proposing that emotionally dynamic music might directly treat the memory issues associated with such disorders. By leveraging the power of positive emotions, music could potentially help individuals with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) reintegrate traumatic memories and prevent them from spilling over into everyday life.

Dr. Clewett, a researcher specialising in PTSD, expressed optimism about the impact of these findings on individuals with trauma-related disorders. He explained, "We think we can deploy positive emotions, possibly using music, to help people with PTSD put that original memory in a box and reintegrate it, so that negative emotions don't spill over into everyday life." This groundbreaking approach could revolutionise the treatment of PTSD by harnessing the profound emotional impact of music to facilitate the healing process.

From Solo To Team: Uncovering The Benefits Of Cooperative Gaming

Agencis

A team of researchers at the University of Konstanz is on a mission to uncover the secrets of how our brains work together when we collaborate. This captivating study poses an intriguing challenge for the field of cognitive neuroscience.

Led by a doctoral candidate named Karl-Philipp Flösch, the researchers, based at the Centre for the Advanced Study of Collective Behaviour, recently published their groundbreaking discoveries in the journal Psychophysiology.



To study cooperative behavior in a controlled environment, they cleverly chose the iconic video game Pacman, which has captured the hearts of gamers worldwide for decades.

But this wasn't just any ordinary game of Pacman. In this

modified version, two players connect through screens and must work together to guide Pacman to the goal. However, here comes the twist: only one player can see the path ahead, while the other player must rely on special symbols shown on the screen to communicate. Cooperation becomes the key to success as players seamlessly collaborate to navigate the hidden maze.

During these gameplay sessions, the researchers used a special technique called EEG to measure the players' brain activity. EEG, short for

electroencephalography, allows scientists to capture the brain's responses with incredible precision, down to the millisecond.

The scientists focused on analyzing a specific brain reaction called the P3 component, which is known to become stronger when we encounter important and relevant information. They hypothesized that the players' roles in the game would significantly influence their brain reactions.

Their findings confirmed their hypothesis and shed light on the crucial role that different roles play in cooperation.

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

STORIES OF LOVE, LONGING & FRIENDSHIP

Catch prominent poet, writer and actor, **Bashir Dada** on 'The Other Side' Show', a popular show on Kashmir Observer TV.

MAZBOOTI SE BANI HAR

— DEEWAR SE JHALAKTE HAI —

DIL KE EHSAAAS

