



Welcome to our insightful column into the world of financial wisdom! In a time where the specter of financial frauds looms large in Kashmir, this column is curated to be your beacon of light, guiding you through the intricacies of money management and investment decisions. Financial literacy is crucial for making informed and effective decisions about managing money, investments, and overall financial well-being. Our aim is to empower individuals to make sound choices and build a secure financial future.

LAND VALUE OUTLOOK

Irshad Mushtaq

In the year 1965, the cost of per Kanal land at Rajbagh area in Srinagar was just INR 5000. Yes, you read that right, only Rs 5000 for a piece of land. Fast forward 57 years, and the value of that same land has skyrocketed to a staggering Rs 5 crore. That's an annualized compounding return of 17.54%, showcasing the incredible power of compounding, which is often referred to as the 8th wonder of the world.

Now, the big question is, will real estate in Kashmir continue to provide the same 17.54% annual compounding return in the next 20 years? Let's take a closer look through an example. If today's per Kanal land is Rs 1.80 crore, and we expect the same historical return of 17.54% annually compounding, then in 20 years, the value of that land should be a staggering Rs 45.60 crore.

The question of whether history will repeat itself in terms of returns is a big one. Investors need to carefully consider where they put their money, looking for assets that can provide double-digit returns to cover inflation and secure good annualized returns over the long term. Quality financial assets may just be the best solution in that regard. It's important to note that before investing in any product, one should spend quality time on research and consult a trusted advisor for a better future savings and planning. After all, when it comes to investing, the key lies in making informed and educated decisions.

— Author is NISM qualified, Mutual Fund advisor and distributor having experience of 18 years in financial market.

Delayed Flights, Angry Passengers: Air Travel Fraught With Uncertainty

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: It always happens to other people. Or so I thought. Until my flight from balmly Kozhikode to fogged out Delhi was delayed thrice, took off at 12.35 am and then circled over the national capital for close to two hours before landing in almost zero visibility conditions. I reached home on Monday around 6 am, tired, cold, a little traumatised after the night-long ordeal and 'awake' to the realisation that I was one of the lucky ones.

Hundreds of passengers, some old and ailing, others with babies and small children, were stuck at airports across the country with their flights delayed by up to 13 hours, diverted or simply cancelled. As a thick blanket of fog descends over much of north India, particularly Delhi, the very act

of taking a flight is edged with uncertainty. It's an every-winter story and one that I featured in this year. Travelling with me on IndGo flight 6E 5912 that was delayed by three hours - the airline thankfully kept us in the loop with messages - were several luminaries,

including Turkish Ambassador to India Firat Sunel, historian William Dalrymple, and children's author Shobha Tharoor. All of us returning from the Kerala Literature Festival. After many hours of waiting, multiple glasses of coconut water, trying to catch up on sleep and wondering if and when we would ever get to our destination, we were exhausted. But this was just the tip of the proverbial

iceberg we realised soon enough. Flight operations in north India have been affected following low visibility due to dense fog conditions. The cascade effect results in flight disruptions in several other states as well. Scores of flights were disrupted on Tuesday too. On Monday morning, at least 168 flights were delayed and nearly 100 cancelled at the Delhi airport alone.

Tempers ran high - at airports, on board and on social media platforms. An IndiGo passenger -- identified as Sahil Kataria - was arrested after he assaulted a pilot while he was making an announcement inside the aircraft that the flight to Goa waiting to take off at Delhi was further delayed. The incident, in which a woman flight attendant broke down and asked the passenger how he could be so aggressive, took place Sunday evening. Videos of the incident were circulated widely | [More on P10](#)



HUNDREDS OF PASSENGERS, SOME OLD AND AILING, others with babies and small children, were stuck at airports across the country with their flights delayed by up to 13 hours, diverted or simply cancelled.

Rural J&K Transformed Beyond Imagination: LG

Says Those Who Choked ULBs, Panchayats Doing Politics Over The Issue

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday asserted that panchayat and urban local bodies polls would "definitely" be conducted in Jammu and Kashmir after the reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) is implemented.

He alleged that those who deprived the local bodies of funds during their rule were now doing politics on the issue and want the situation to revert, but "we will not allow that".

"I want to tell those colleagues of mine who were panchs, sarpanches and ULB representatives - after the State Reorganisation Act came into force, the reservation of other backward classes was a constitutional necessity and the administration has started the process.



"I want to assure you that after concluding this exercise, ULBs and Panchayat polls will definitely be conducted in Jammu and Kashmir. I want to assert that they will definitely be held," Sinha said here.

He was addressing a gathering after inaugurating a stadium named after the country's first chief of defence staff General Bipin Rawat in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. Sinha said some people

- » Polls In J&K Soon After OBC reservation Process Concludes
- » 100% saturation of schemes will ensure J&K realise its destiny
- » People have equal economic opportunities to grow

'Snowfall Must For Power Projects To Run'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Under the influence of a feeble Western Disturbance, the higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir would likely receive light snowfall during the next 24 hours while as the night chill continued to intensify across the Valley.

According to the local Meteorological department (MeT), light rain and snow over isolated middle and higher reaches is expected during the night of January 16.

Furthermore, another feeble WD is affecting J&K on January 20th night and as a result the light rain, snow over isolated middle and higher reaches is expected on the | [More on P10](#)

Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday hoped for snowfall in Kashmir stating that the snow is a must for power projects to run and the tourism sector to thrive. Addressing a function in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, the LG said that dry winter prevails in Kashmir at present. "I pray to God for snow as snowfall is must for power projects to run, otherwise they will become defunct. Snowfall is also a must to keep the tourism sector thriving," he said. The LG said last year 13 lakh tourists visited Gulmarg and the snow has been a major | [More on P10](#)

Feeble WD to Hit J&K

Agencies

Srinagar: Over the past two months, Kashmir has been gripped by dry weather, leading to a significant surge in respiratory tract infections. Doctors report a sharp increase in patients with Lower Respiratory Tract Infections (LRTIs) and Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTIs), keeping Outpatient Departments (OPDs) at hospitals.

Dr Yusuf Nath, Physician Specialist at Government Gousia Hospital (GGH), Srinagar said, "Dry, chilly air can aggravate respiratory tract irritations such as wheezing and coughing. Cold air also impairs

PROLONGED DRY SPELL

Hospitals Witness Surge in Patients with Respiratory Illnesses

Majid Nabi

Dr Yusuf Nath, Physician Specialist at Government Gousia Hospital (GGH), Srinagar said, "Dry, chilly air can aggravate respiratory tract irritations such as wheezing and coughing. Cold air also impairs



a person's immunity against respiratory conditions like the flu and colds."

The OPD at GGH treats 50% of patients impacted by dry weather conditions, | [More on P10](#)

Action Against Corrupt Top Priority Of Govt: PM

Says Taxpayers' Money Efficiently Utilized And Returned In Diverse Forms



Press Trust Of India

Amaravati: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday asserted that action against corruption and corrupt people has been the priority of the NDA government at the Centre.

Addressing a gathering after inaugurating the National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes and Narcotics (NACIN) in Palasamudram in Sri Satyasai district, Modi said the taxpayers money was being properly utilised and whatever collected is being given back to the people in different forms.

IMPLEMENTATION OF GST AND SIMPLIFIED Income Tax system were brought in during the last 10 years resulting in record tax collection."

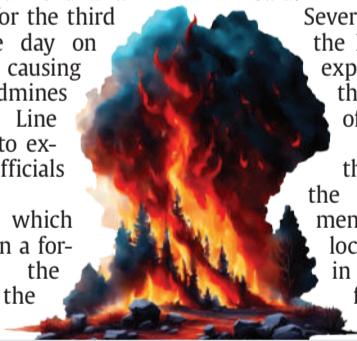
He also claimed that people of this country saved nearly Rs 2.5 lakh crore in tax savings since 2014 after the Modi-led government took over and 10 crore fake names have | [More on P10](#)

Forest Fire Sparks Landmine Explosions Along LoC

Jammu: The forest fire mountainous area of Poonch district, is spreading, they

Balakote and Mendhar areas raged for the third consecutive day on Tuesday, causing several landmines along the Line of Control to explode, officials said.

The fire, which broke out in a forest along the LoC in the



Several landmines in the Mendhar sector exploded following the forest fire, the officials said. Personnel of the army and the forest department along with locals are engaged in controlling the fire, they said.

Houseboat Owners On Edge As Jhelum's Water Levels Recede

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: As Kashmir valley grapples with unprecedented dry weather, the Houseboat owners along the river Jhelum find themselves grappling with a mounting concern as water levels continue to recede.

The idyllic charm of the houseboats is now tinged with apprehension as the dry climate prevailing in the region has exacerbated the situation. Fearful for the safety of their homes afloat, these houseboat owners are maintaining a vigilant watch, enduring sleepless nights in the face of the persistent decline in the water levels of the River Jhelum.

Pertinently, the water level in the Jhelum River has hit the lowest due to a prolonged dry spell in Kashmir, officials on Sunday said. "River Jhelum was flowing at



-0.75 feet at Sangam (Anantnag district) and -0.86 feet at Asham (Bandipora district) on Sunday morning. This is the lowest water level in the river," the officials said.

It had dropped to this level at Sangam in November 2017, they said. Kashmir has been going through a prolonged dry spell this

winter with very little snowfall and a 79 per cent deficit in rainfall was recorded for December while there has been no precipitation in most parts of the valley in the first fortnight of January.

Speaking to Kashmir Observer, spokesperson Houseboat | [More on P10](#)

Narco-dealers To Be Categorised Like Terrorists: DGP

Agencies

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir's Director General of Police (DGP) RR Swain on Tuesday said that the police will categorise the narco-dealers like terrorists who have been categorised in A, B and C category to launch a decisive battle against narco-terrorists.

"Narcotics is a poison. It doesn't grow here but comes from across. Funds generated from narcotics are being used to finance terrorism in J&K. We will be doing a massive mapping and categorising the narco-dealers like we have classified terrorists in A, B and C category. We will soon be able to frame a list of narcotics dealers A, B and C," DGP Swain told reporters on the sidelines of the Closing Ceremony of Police Martyrs Cricket tournament final match at Kathua



district of Jammu, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

He said that more de-addiction centers will come up in J&K. "We will track big fish through the victims of narcotics who are willing to come out of the menace. We will be fighting a decisive battle at a military level and root-out narco-trade from J&K soil," the DGP said. He said that police have lost | [More on P10](#)

Promotion of Banking Associates

HC Bars J&K Bank From Declaring Interview Result

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Tuesday barred Jammu and Kashmir Bank from declaring the result of an interview process in terms of January 11 notification with regard to the promotion of Banking Associates.

A bench of Justice Rahul Bharti also directed the bank to call the petitioners, the Banking Associates who came to attain the status on account of their promotion from the subordinate cadre, for an interview along-with the candidates who have been shortlisted for the interview in terms of notification on January 11 this year.

The court in its order observed that Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd. has given to itself a "Policy for Promotion of Workmen (Banking Associates, Assistants, Banking Associates and Banking Attendants)", which came to be approved on 13 July 2022.

It is in terms of this Policy, the court observed, that the Bank deals with the cadre of Banking Associates, Banking Assistants and Banking Attendants for the purpose of recruitment and promotion.

According to the petitioners, Banking Associates serving in the bank fall in two categories—one who are directly appointed after qualifying IBPS examination, | [More on P10](#)

Jammu And Kashmir Services Selection Board

CPO Chowk, Panjthirhi, Jammu/Zamzam Complex Rambagh, Srinagar
(www.jkssb.nic.in)

Subject: Final Selection List for the posts of Data Entry Operator, advertised under Item No. 098 (UT Cadre, Sub-Department/ Appointing Authority- Chief Electoral Officer, J&K) of Election Department, vide Advertisement Notification No. 04 of 2020 dated 16.12.2020.

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, the Election Department vide indent No. 4568/CEO/Est/SSB/2nd/2775 dated 28.09.2020, among other posts, forwarded the requisition for making direct recruitment to the 23 posts of Data Entry Operator, as per the following break up:

Table with columns: S. No., Advt. No., Item No., Name of the post, Cadre of the post, OM, SC, ST, OSC, ALC/IB, RBA, PSP, EWS, Total posts. Row 1: 1, 04 of 2020, 098, Data Entry Operator, UT, 11, 2, 2, 1, 1, 3, 1, 2, 23

Whereas, as per the indent, the qualification prescribed for the posts was (is) as under:

Table with columns: S.No, Item No., Name of the post, Cadre of the post, Prescribed Qualification (As per Indent). Row 1: 1, 098, Data Entry Operator, UT, Graduation with one year diploma in computer software applications or B.Sc. IT /BCA or three years diploma in computer applications /Software applications from an AICTE recognized institution.

Whereas, the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) advertised the aforesaid 23 posts among other posts of Election Department vide Advertisement Notification No. 04 of 2020 dated 16.12.2020 and the cut-off date, i.e., the last date for applying for the aforementioned posts and for determining the eligibility/academic qualification and validity of category certificates and other such documents of the candidates which may be required as per indent was 31.01.2021; and

Whereas, as per the Notification, the selection to these posts was to be made on the basis of Written Examination only and, accordingly, the JKSSB conducted the OMR Based Test for these posts on 08.10.2023 and, thereafter the JKSSB notified result of candidates for the said posts vide Notification No. JKSSB/CoEOEXAM(UT)/76/2023-03(7291629) dated 13.10.2023; and

Whereas, on the basis of merit obtained by the candidates, the Document Verification was conducted vide Document verification Notice No. JKSSB/CoEOEXAM(UT)/76/2023-03(7291629) dated 13.10.2023, on 20.10.2023, both at Jammu and Srinagar, by the DV Committees constituted vide Order No. 227-SSB of 2023 dated 13.10.2023, followed by the Supplementary DV which was conducted vide Notification No. JKSSB/CoEOEXAM(UT)/76/2023-03(7291629) dated 20.10.2023 on 25.10.2023; and

Whereas, a Selection Committee for preparing the selection to the aforementioned posts was constituted vide Order No. 240-SSB of 2023 dated 25.10.2023; and

Whereas, keeping in view the afore-stated facts, the selection committee prepared the Provisional Selection list, which was approved by the Board in its 245th Board Meeting held on 15th November, 2023, and subsequently notified vide Notification No. JKSSB/SEL/SECY/2023/1060-69 dated 21.11.2023; and

Whereas, the candidate/s aggrieved with this Provisional Selection were asked to represent through the email address deojkssb2023@gmail.com within three days from the date of Notification of the Provisional Selection List, the representations so received have been examined in light of the rules on the subject; and

Whereas, in response to letter No. JKSSB-Sel/Secy/2023-1127 Dated 20.12.2023, the Election Department vide its letter No. CEO-Est-120AF/1/2022-1/3556 Dated 29-12-2023, has provided clarification that:

"...the case of equivalence regarding the eligibility criterion of the selected candidate needs to be taken up with the Skill Development Department which will take some time to receive the same and will be conveyed separately once received from the concerned quarter.

It has been suggested to release the select list of rest of the candidates who fall within the selection zone withholding the selection of that particular candidate in view of requirement of Data Entry Operators for upcoming Lok Sabha elections..."

Whereas, in view of the above clarification, the recommendation of one candidate namely Mr. Altaf Hussain Wani (DV No 1 ADD DV KMR) has been kept withheld; and

Whereas, the Hon'ble Central Administrative Tribunal, Jammu Bench, in the O.A. No. 61/1476/2023(JAMMU), titled Sushil Kumar V/s UT of J and K and ors, in its order dated 10.11.23, had directed that

"...the Original Application is disposed of at the admission stage, without entering into the merits of the case with adirection to respondents to treat a copy of this Original Application as representation of the applicant and decide the same by passing a reasoned and speaking order. While taking a decision in the matter, the respondents should also consider the judgments of Hon'ble Supreme Court, Hon'ble High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and orders of this Tribunal annexed with the Original Application. The applicant shall also be afforded an opportunity of hearing. The whole exercise shall be undertaken within a period of four weeks from the date of receipt of a certified copy of this order."

Whereas, in view of the above directions the candidate namely Mr. Sushil Kumar (DV No. 02 JM) was afforded an opportunity of being heard by means of a notice issued vide Notice No. JKSSB-LEG/364/2023-03(E-7334501) dated 01.01.2024, in response to which the candidate submitted his representation on 03.01.2024, at central office JKSSB Jammu. The matter was deliberated in the Board in its 253rd Board meeting, where after a consideration order was passed vide No. 09 SSB of 2024 dated 05.01.2024, wherein the claims of the candidate were found to be devoid of any merit; and

Whereas, the Board in its 253rd Board Meeting held on 05.01.2024, after deliberations/consideration of representations and in view of the aforementioned clarification, approved the Final Selection List for the 23 posts of Data Entry Operator, advertised under Item No. 098 (UT Cadre, Sub-Department/Appointing Authority-Chief Electoral Officer, J&K) of Election Department, vide Advertisement Notification No. 04 of 2020 dated 16.12.2020.

Now, therefore:

(i) The Final Selection List for 23 posts of Data Entry Operator, advertised under Item No. 098 (UT Cadre, Sub-Department/Appointing Authority- Chief Electoral Officer, J&K) of Election Department, vide Advertisement Notification No. 04 of 2020 dated 16.12.2020, is hereby notified as Annexure-A to this Notification.

(ii) The Selection List shall be subject to the outcome of writ petition(s)/OAs, if any, pending in any Court of Law of the competent jurisdiction.

(iii) The List shall also be subject to the outcome of pending inquiry, if any, involving candidate(s), figuring in this Selection List.

(iv) The formal recommendations to the indenting Department shall be made separately.

By Order

Sd/- (Sachin Jamwal), JKAS Secretary JK& Services Selection Board

No. JKSSB-Scry/19/2023-03 (E-7325564) DIPP-15300/23 Dated: 16.01.2024

University Of Kashmir NAAC Accredited Grade "A"

RESULT NOTIFICATION DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY Mukhtar Ahmad Bhat S/o Gulzar Ahmad Bhat bearing University Registration No. 3806-BJB-2011 who pursued Integrated Ph.D Programme on Whole Time basis in the discipline of Political Science, Department of Political Science, School of Social Sciences submitted thesis titled "Cross-Border Religious Tourism in India-Pakistan Relations: Process and Potential" under the Supervision of Prof. Gull Mohd Wani, Department of Political Science, University of Kashmir, Srinagar is declared qualified for the award of Ph.D degree on 22-12-2023.



inf

University Of Kashmir NAAC Accredited Grade "A"

RESULT NOTIFICATION DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY Janan Ahmad Parry S/o Gh. Nabi Parry bearing University Registration No. 46136-A-2011 who pursued Integrated Ph.D Programme on Whole Time basis in the discipline of Political Science, Department of Political Science, School of Social Sciences submitted thesis titled "Durbar-Move in Jammu & Kashmir and its Impacts" under the Supervision of Dr. Aijaz Ashraf Wani, Associate Professor; Department of Political Science, University of Kashmir, Srinagar is declared qualified for the award of Ph. D degree on 22-12-2023.



INF

From The Office Of Advocate Aasif Irshad & Associate.

In the case of. Pritima Singh Jamwal W/o. Sanjay Dev Singh Jamwal R/O. Asham Sumbal Bandipora A/p. House No. 207, Lane No. 5 Shiv pura srinagar.

Caveator V Public At large

In the matter of. Caveat application in terms of section 148 Cpc. That the caveator has reason to believe / apprehension that the non caveator (s) may file a petition before the Hon'ble high court srinagar on the ground of misrepresentation & may succeed in obtaining some relief or order at their back against the caveator & in that eventuality the caveator will be put in irreparable loss. It would be proper that the caveator is being given an opportunity of being heard by the hon'ble high court before passing any order

Sd Advocate Asif irshad Dated 16.2.2023

nj

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate . if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file the same in the office of the Municipal Committee Magam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Mir Ahmad Ali (DOB 05-03-2017) S/o Ali Mohammad Mir R/o Yagipora Magam

bmg

University of Kashmir, Srinagar Notice

The candidate whose particulars are given below has reported to the University that he / she has lost his/her University Certificate/s and has applied for issuance of duplicate certificate/s:

Name: Zakiya Awan Paretname:- Barkat Ullah Awan Residence:- Kudara Bandipora Registration No : 52731-W-2008 Certificate/s lost:- BA 3rd Year Roll No/s:- 20930905 Session/ Year : Backlog December 2020 Before University will consider issuance of Duplicate Certificate/s in favour of the candidate, any person having any objection shall report to the undersigned within one week from the date of issuance of this notice. The original certificate/s issued to the candidate be treated as cancelled No: F(Duplicate) MC-6th Sem/PA /KU/24

Assistant Controller of Examinations (PG/UG/Prof

bb

University of Kashmir, Srinagar Notice

The candidate whose particulars are given below has reported to the University that he / she has lost his/her University Certificate/s and has applied for issuance of duplicate certificate/s:

Name: Zakiya Awan Paretname:- Barkat Ullah Awan Residence:- Kudara Bandipora Registration No : 52731-W-2008 Certificate/s lost:- BA 3rd Year Roll No/s:- 9522 Session/ Year : Annual 2009 Before University will consider issuance of Duplicate Certificate/s in favour of the candidate, any person having any objection shall report to the undersigned within one week from the date of issuance of this notice. The original certificate/s issued to the candidate be treated as cancelled No: F(Duplicate) MC-6th Sem/PA /KU/24

Assistant Controller of Examinations (PG/UG/Prof

bb

From The Office Of Mir Naveed Gul Advocate J&K High Court At Srinagar

In the case of:

- 1. Mrs. Sitara Banu W/o Nissar Ahmad Wani R/o Wani Kocha, Gulshan Nagar, Natipora, Near Ahmad Hospital, Srinagar, Kashmir, J&K. 2. Mr. Nisar Ahmad Wani S/o Ghulam Mohammad Wani. R/o Wani Kocha, Gulshan Nagar, Natipora, Near Ahmad Hospital, Srinagar, Kashmir, J&K. 3. Mr. Suhaib Nissar Wani. S/o Nissar Ahmad Wani. R/o Wani Kocha, Gulshan Nagar, Natipora, Near Ahmad Hospital, Srinagar, Kashmir, J&K. 4. Irfan Ahmad Lone S/o Late Mohammad Yousuf Lone. R/o Lone Mohalla, Chanapora, Srinagar.

... Caveator's

VERSUS Public at Large

... Non-Caveator's

In the matter of: Caveat Petition

The Caveator's have reasons to believe/apprehension that Non-Caveator's may file a Suit/Petition/Appeal or any other type of proceedings before the Hon'ble Court & on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation & cooked story & may succeed in obtaining some relief/order at their back/Ex-Parte against the Caveator's & in such eventuality the Caveator's will be put to an irreparable loss & inconvenience. It would be proper that Caveator's be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble Court before passing any order.

Mir Naveed Gul Advocate & Associates J&K High Court at Srinagar. 7780932849/600538007

nj

PUBLIC NOTICE

I am applying fresh pesticide license on behalf of M/S AGRICO ORGANICS LIMITED Near Police Line Bapora Shopian if any body have any objection may contact Plant protection office Lal mandi srinagar with a period of seven days AIJAZ Ahmad SHEIKH S.o. AB RASHID SHEIKH R.o. SANGRAN DIST:- SHOPIAN

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

my DOB has been wrongly written in my Aadhaar Card while my correct DOB as per school records is 04-04-1984. Now I have applied for the correction of DOB in Aadhaar Card. if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the Concerned Office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Bashir Ahmad Ganie S/o Gh Rasool Ganie

bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Mohd. Syed Rather am seeking correction of name and parentage of my ward in CBSE records viz (Old Particulars) MAHIDA SAYEED D/O MOHAMMAD SAYEED (New Particulars) MA-DIHA SYED D/O MOHD. SYED RATHER, in this case any person having any objections whatsoever may contact RANBIR GOVT PRESS JAMMU within 7 days. After 7 days no objections will be accepted.

nj

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my JK Bank details as Gh Hassan Yattoo while my correct name as per Aadhaar is Gulam Hussain Yattoo which needs to be corrected. if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Branch Manager J&K Bank Magam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Gulam Hussain Yattoo S/o Mohammad Jaffar Yattoo R/o Magam

bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public/ Financial Institutions Govt. /Semi Govt. Organizations are hereby informed that the unit M/s Unity (Steel Industries IIE Barazulla Budgam is formally registered with this office under No: 01/04/1/03813/PMT/MSME dated 07.12.2010 for the activity of manufacturing of "Gates Grills. Angle Iron Posts. Main Hole" as a proprietorship concern of Mrs. Neelam Rashid Khan W/O Lt. Mohammad Farooq Zargar and (2) Mrs Khanan Farooq D/O Lt. Mohammad Farooq Zargar R/O Karannagar Srinagar. The unit holders intends to change the constitution of the unit by induction of partner namely Mr. Tufail Ahmad S/O Mr. Ghulam Nabi Mir R/O Parraypora, Baghat, Srinagar

Anybody having any objections with regard to the said change in the constitution of the unit shall report to office of General Manager DIC Budgam within Seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. The objections received after due date shall not be entertained.

fko



Baba Reshi Folk Theatre Lalpora Tangmarg Kashmir staged a Folk Band Pather "Prench Wall Pather" in at Higher Secondary Lalpora on 13-01-2024 . The Programme was financed by Deptt of Culture New Delhi and was presided by Famous Drama Activist Mr. Manzoor Ahmad Mir . A large number of people witnessed the programme. The audience praised Artists work and the best them of the Pather. The above folk theatre is working since last 50 years for preservation of Band Pather .

bmg

Subject-Grant of Registration of the Proposed Travel unit under the name and style M/S Heights and Hues Tour & Travel Situated at Nagbal, Ganderbal.

Public Notice

Whereas, I Mr/Ms Majid Parvaiz S/O D/O W/O Parvaiz Ahmad Bhat R/O Rangli Ganderbal, Kashmir intends to apply in the Department of Tourism for the Registration of my proposed travel unit under the name and style "M/S Heights and Hues Tour & Travel" Situated at Nagbal Ganderbal, Kashmir under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12. Whereas, I will submit State Subject/Domicile Certificate, Qualification Certificate Pan Card, Experience Certificate (Minimum 05 Years), Character Certificate (Police Department), Bank Statement (Minimum Balance 10000), Site Plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested by Sub-Registrar, Printing Material (Letter Head/Visiting Card), Photograph of the Unit (Indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport size photographs to the Department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist prior to Registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency/ Adventure tour operator. Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12, before my case is processed for registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/Financial Institutions/Bank/Organization, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director: Tourism Registration (e-mail Id-dtreg/123@gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/newspapers of the valley. No objections beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained.

Media line

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Particulars in my J&K Bank Account has been wrongly written as Fatima Bano W/o Gulam Hussain Rather While the correct particulars are Fahima Begum W/O Gulam Hussain Ganie which needs to be corrected. if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Branch Manager JK Bank Singpora within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Fahima Begum W/o Gulam Hussain Ganie

bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

I am applying for issuance of Pesticides Licence under name and style Shah Pesticides Mashwara Shopian. if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Plant Protection Officer Lalmandi Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Aabid Gull Shah S/o Ghulam Mohd Shah R/o Mashwara Shopian

fko

Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora) / chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of WAHID AHMAD LONE S/O GHULAM RASOOL LONE R/O BURZAWACHAN Tehsil Kreeri Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth, as 26/02/2017 and event has been shown to be occurred at S.D.H Kreeri for issuance of delay order .In this connection .

if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained. kri Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora) / chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of USMAN PARVAIZ S/O PARVAIZ AHMAD SHEIKH R/O MANGAM Tehsil Kreeri Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth, as 15.06.2017 and event has been shown to be occurred at S.D.H Kreeri for issuance of delay order .In this connection .

if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained. kri Executive Magistrate 1st Class

From the office of Advocate Mansoor Nabi

In the case of; Farooq Ahmad malik S/o Ghulam Mohammad malik R/o Zoonimar near Ration Depot

Caveator

vs Public at large...

Non caveator

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

Sd/advocate

Advertisement in Urdu for a folk band performance by Baba Reshi Folk Theatre. Includes details about the performance, date, and contact information for the manager.

DC Srinagar Visits Makdoom Mandal, Ganpatiyar & Soumyaar Temples

Observer News Service

Srinagar: With an aim to revive and preserve the Religious Places/Heritage Sites that have historical, cultural, religious significance, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat Today visited various religious and heritage sites of the District.

Accompanied by senior Officers from District Administration undertook site visit of the works being taken for restoration, revival, preservation and maintenance of Architecture and Heritage of religious places/assets in District.

The DC visited Makdoom Mandal near Shrine of Makdoom Sahib RA, Ganpatyar Temple and Soumyaar Temple being preserved as heritage monuments.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner stressed

on all concerned executing agencies to adopt a coordinated approach to ensure timely completion of all historical and heritage religious places/assets of the District.

The DC said the aim of the projects is to revive and preserve the Religious Places/Heritage Sites that have historical, cultural, religious significance, besides reflecting the representation of every community and every section of our cultural society.

The DC stressed that conservation efforts must retain the aesthetic, historic and social values of our great civilization and cultural legacy.

The DC further asked the Officers of the line Departments to ensure transparency and effective onsite monitoring of the projects, besides follow value-based methodologies and integrated approach to complete the conservation projects efficiently.



Srinagar Emerging As New 'Paradigm' Of Urban Transformation In India: J&K LG

Inaugurates Renovated Habbakadal Bridge At Shehr-e-Khas

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha claimed on Tuesday that Srinagar has become the talk of the major Indian cities after beginning to emerge as a new model of urban transformation in the country.

The LG said that Srinagar is the most talked about city in India at the moment due to the remarkable improvements brought about by the Srinagar Smart City Ltd in the summer capital.

The Srinagar Smart City project, which has completely transformed Srinagar's looks, is the greatest accomplishment Shehr-e-Khas has made to yet, he claimed.

"Srinagar is emerging as a new paradigm for urban transformation and has become the most talked about city among the major cities of India. SSCL, which has transformed the look of Srinagar, I think, is

LG Releases 'The North Kashmir Gazette' In Srinagar

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha released the 'The North Kashmir Gazette', a joint endeavor of Kashmir Writers Association and Indian Army, at Raj Bhawan, today.

The Lt Governor commended the efforts of the Indian Army and Kashmir Writers Association to promote dreamy destinations of North Kashmir and unexplored, unspoiled charm of border areas.

North Kashmir has great potential and we have a huge opportunity to develop a sustainable tourism sector and promote its medicinal and cultural values. The

offbeat destinations like Bungus and Gurez are offering unique experiences to the visitors and we have made efforts to strengthen the necessary infrastructure. I am confident this travel publication will provide a window to the readers to explore lesser-known gems of North Kashmir, he said.

The Lt Governor highlighted the significant role of private players, youth, writers and civil society members in the growth of the tourism sector in rural areas. He also emphasized on the promotion of Kashmiri and other regional languages, especially among the youth of the UT.

the biggest achievement Shehr-e-Khas ever has made," LG told reporters after inaugurating renovated Habbakadal Bridge here this evening.

Sinha said the project, which is being executed under the Srinagar Smart City, was a wonderful gift for the people of the old city, hoping that Srinagar will serve as an example in the time to come.

He also said the work on five kilometer Jhelum River Front phase 2 at the estimated cost of Rs 17.85 Cr has begun and the initiative would improve the quality of living of the people of the cold city.

Replying to a media query on whether the previous government neglected Srinagar, the LG said it would not be appropriate to say whether or not Srinagar was neglected, everything that is going on right now is good.

The LG also claimed that the video clip from December 31st became more popular than those from Goa or other Indian states.

Srinagar is emerging as a new paradigm for urban transformation and has become the most talked about city among the major cities of India

Mandeep Kaur Reviews Working Of SMC, SSCL

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Commissioner Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department, Mandeep Kaur, today chaired an introductory cum review meeting of Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) and Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) here to assess working of these organizations besides evaluating the ongoing projects and developments in the city.

Commissioner SMC/CEO, SSCL, Dr. Owais Ahmed, displayed a comprehensive PowerPoint Presentation highlighting the achievements and future goals of the Corporation and the Srinagar Smart City Limited. The presentation covered various aspects including infrastructure development, urban planning, waste management and other critical areas of municipal governance.

OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Waqora) has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of MOHAMMAD ALTAF RATHER S/O JAID Ahmad RATHER R/O TELGAM Tehsil Kreeri Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth, as 28.04.2021 at S.D.H Kreece and event has been shown to be occurred /

In this connection, if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained. KRI Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Islamia College of Science & Commerce

NAAC Re-Accredited Grade 'A'

UGC -Autonomous, Affiliated with University of Kashmir
Hawal, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir -190002

DYD (FYUGP) ADMISSION NOTIFICATION

Islamia College of Science and Commerce under the patronage of Higher Education Department UT of J&K announces admission to the Design your Degree, DYD (FYUG) Academic Programme from the current academic session 2023-24.

"DYD Programme Highlights"
"My Career, My Degree, My Design"

The prospective students will:

- Experience a joyous academic progression, experience learning by doing.
- Enjoy transdisciplinary approach: to identify and express their innate capabilities, and inculcate in them, holistic development, critical thinking and encourage collaborative learning.
- See unconventional but modern and latest pedagogy of teaching learning - to empower them to discover themselves.
- Have an exposure to the learning beyond the walls of the class room teaching.
- Be involved in an academic atmosphere to enable them to explore and integrate their capabilities and potential to be problem solvers.
- Walk through the first four semesters of DYD to incubate and identify their talent and areas of interest which will help them to design their degree in their own way.

ACTIVITY	DATE
Availability of online application forms on College Website www.islamiacollege.edu.in	16-01-2024
Closure date for submission of Application form	25-01-2024
Applicants have to submit hard copies of Application form along with fee paid receipt with the admission section of the college	By or before 26-01-2024 4:30 PM
Notification regarding the mode of selection of candidates	27-01-2024

Eligibility	Intake
Pass Higher Secondary Part-II Examination in any stream and marks obtained not less than 50% (in aggregate at 10+2 level) or equivalent grade scale of respective Boards/Universities (45% marks for reserved categories).	20 (Twenty only)

Reservation policy as per UT of J&K

Application Procedure:-

- Aspirants shall have to visit College website www.islamiacollege.edu.in
- The aspirants have to fill selection form online.
- A non-refundable processing fee of Rs. 100 (Rupees One Hundred only) will have to be deposited by the candidates through online payment gateway.
- Depending upon the response of applicants the selection process may involve the following mode:-

Component	Weightage
Class 12 th Marks	10% of pro rata basis
OMR Based Test	70%
Group discussion	10%
Personal Interview	10%

OR

Merit of Class 12th with group discussion and personal interview.

i. Applicant figuring in the selection list will have to complete the admission formalities within stipulated time from the date of issuance of merit list. Failure of which, shall render in forfeiture of the seat for the programme and the same shall be offered to next applicant as per merit.

ii. Reservation policy is applicable as per the prevalent reservation policy of the UT of J&K.

iii. In case any information furnished by the applicant is found false, forged, incomplete, incorrect, the selection of such applicants shall be cancelled/terminated at any stage without any notice.

iv. No claim for admission on the basis of under process certificate in reserved category etc. shall be entertained.

No. ICS/3826-37/D-18

DIPK-NB-5279/23 Dated:16-01-2024

S/-
Prof. (Dr.) Khurshid Ahmad Khan
Principal

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office Of The Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Pahalgam.

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Fresh eNIT NO 520F R&B/Pahalgam/2023-24 DATED 16/01/2024

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on item rate basis in single cover system 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 Lacs)	Cost of T./Doc. (In Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of Completion In days	Class of Contractor
1.	Arrangements for Celebration of Republic Day 2024 at Pahalgam	21250	200	425	One day	D

Position of AA/TS-Accorded

Position of Funds Available

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:

1. The time of completion of the works shall be dependent on the availability of funds. In case funds are made available in the current financial year the time of completion shall be defined accordingly as per the instructions of the Engineer In-charge.

S. No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	16/01/2024
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 17/01/2024 (10:00 AM) To 23/01/2024 (04:00PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 17/01/2024 (10:00AM) To 23/01/2024 (04:00PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	23/01/2024 (4:10:00pm)
5	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	23/01/2024

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / E-Challan (Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pahalgam (Tender Inviting Authority) (NIT No. and Name of Work/Item No. to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (Refer 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/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Pahalgam (Tender receiving Authority).

3. All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/DD. Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive.

4. 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/DD in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pahalgam (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 LI as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.

5. The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/DD of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance security @5% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/DD and same shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work.

6.1 The rates quoted in the BOQ are inclusive of all applicable taxes with 18% GST
6.2 The date and time of opening of Bid shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Pahalgam.

7. In case the amount arrived after addition/deduction of quoted percentage to BOQ amount and quoted amount of BOQ vary, the minimum of the two shall be taken as the amount for award of contract.

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

9. Bidders has to upload bid declaration form.

10. The Earnest Money/Performance Security shall be forfeited if:

- Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid.
- Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period before issue of letter of intent.
- Successful Bidder fails to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
- If at any stage of work, the Bidder back up from the contract, again the Performance security/EMD as well as work done claim will be forfeited.

No. EE/R&B/Pgm/_____
DIPK-15329/23 Dated 16/01/2024

Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division Pahalgam

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



PRAYERS

FAJR	6 : 08
ZUHR	12:38
ASR	4: 07
Magrib	5:50
ISHA	7:14

This Day In History

- 1287- King Alfonso III of Aragon invades Minorca
- 1377 -Pope Gregory XI moves the Papacy back to Rome from Avignon
- 1501- Cesare Borgia returns in triumph to Rome from Romagna
- 1524- Italian explorer Giovanni da Verrazzano's sets sail aboard French ship La Dauphine to find a passage to China - finds North America instead
- 1536- Francois Rabelais absolved of apostasy by Pope Paul III
- 1595- King Henry IV of France declares war on Spain - lasts till 1598
- 1601- France gains Bresse, Bugey, Valromey & Gex in treaty with Spain
- 1656- Brandenburg & Sweden sign Treaty of Königsberg
- 1746- Battle of Falkirk Muir, the Jacobites under Charles Stuart defeat Hanoverian forces
- 1757 -German Diet declares war on Prussia
- 1773- Captain James Cook becomes the first to cross Antarctic Circle (66° 33' S)
- 1781- Battle of Cowpens: American revolutionary forces led by Brigadier General Daniel Morgan defeat the British under Lieutenant Colonel Banastre Tarleton in a decisive double envelopment near the town of Cowpens, a turning point in the American reconquest of South Carolina
- 1852- British recognize independence of Transvaal (in South Africa)
- 1862 -Jan 22nd) BBT Ft Henry, Tennessee by USS Lexington
- 1885- Battle of Abu Klea (Battle of Abu Tulayh), Sudan: British Desert Column defeat Mahdist forces: 76 British and 1,100 Mahdists killed
- 1893- Franco-Russian Alliance is signed
- 1895- French president Casimir-Perier resigns; Félix Faure installed.
- 1899- US takes possession of Wake Island in the Pacific

- 1915- Battle of Sarikamish ends with a Russian victory over Ottoman forces led by Enver Pasha with loss of over 30,000 men of the Turkish Third Army during Caucasus Campaign
- 1915- Russia occupies Bukovina & Western Ukraine
- 1920- Paul Deschanel elected President of France
- 1928- 1st fully automatic photographic film developing machine patented
- 1938- Joseph P. Kennedy becomes the 44th United States Ambassador to the United Kingdom
- 1938- Supreme Soviet elects Michail Kalinin as presidium chairman
- 1939- Ed Barrow is elected Yankee president succeeding deceased J Ruppert
- 1945- Nazis begin evacuation of Auschwitz concentration camp to other camps in Austria and Germany as the Red Army advanced across Poland
- 1945- Soviet army enters the devastated city of Warsaw and clears German resistance
- 1948- Netherlands & Indonesia agree to a ceasefire
- 1961- US President Dwight D. Eisenhower delivers a televised farewell address to the nation three days before leaving office, in which he warns against the accumulation of power by the "military-industrial complex".
- 1962- NASA civilian pilot Neil Armstrong takes hypersonic research plane X-15 to 40,690m
- 1969- Soviet spacecraft Soyuz 5 lands
- 1979- USSR performs underground nuclear test
- 1980- NASA launches Flitsatcom-3
- 1987 - US President Reagan signs secret order permitting covert sale of arms to Iran
- 1991 - Iraq fires 8 Scud missiles on Israel
- 1995 - 7.2 earthquake destroys Kobe, Japan and kills 5,372
- 1996 - The Czech Republic applies for membership of the European Union.
- 1996 - Iraq agrees to talks concerning a UN plan to allow for the Iraqi sale of \$1 billion of oil; proceeds from the sale would be used for humanitarian purposes
- 1998- US President Bill Clinton faces sexual

IRGC Missiles Destroy Mossad, ISIS Bases In Iraq And Syria



The Cradle

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) announced in the early hours of 16 January that multiple ballistic missiles successfully hit positions of the Israeli Mossad in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region (IKR) and the headquarters of the anti-Iran Turkistan Islamic Party in Syria's Idlib governorate.

"In response to the recent crimes committed by terrorist groups and the martyrdom of a number of our citizens in Kerem and Rask, the gathering places of leaders and key elements associated with the recent terrorist operations that took place in Iran were bombed. In particular, ISIS was bombed in part of the occupied Syrian territory and destroyed via several ballistic missiles," the IRGC said in a statement.

ISIS claimed responsibility for the terror attack that left dozens dead near the tomb of the late Quds Force Commander Qassem Soleimani. According to Tehran, their intelligence determined that the masterminds of the attack were gathered in Idlib in territory controlled by the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) armed group - formerly known as the Al-Qaeda-affiliated Nusra Front.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran always supports the peace, stability, and security of the region and adheres to the observance of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries," Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said on Tuesday morning, adding: "Terrorism is a pervasive global threat and Iran is determined to fight ter-

rorism within the framework of joint regional and international cooperation."

According to local sources who spoke with Al-Mayadeen, the attack on northwest Syria "targeted training camps, logistical support headquarters, and a medical point for militants of the Turkistan Islamic Party" in an area "where ISIS Khorasan militants are trained and are transported by the US to Afghanistan and the Iranian border, to direct strikes inside Iran."

In Erbil, the capital of the IKR, the Iranian missiles leveled an alleged Mossad base that was reportedly involved in coordinating the recent assassinations of several commanders of the IRGC and the Resistance Axis, in particular IRGC General Razi Mousavi.

The IRGC noted that the Mossad center was used "to develop espionage operations and plan acts of terrorism" across the region, especially in Iran.

In response to the attack, the Iraqi government condemned Iran and threatened to "take all legal measures" and submit a complaint to the UN Security Council.

"The government of the Republic of Iraq expresses its strong denunciation and condemnation of the Iranian aggression against the city of Erbil, represented by the bombing of safe residential places with ballistic missiles, which led to casualties among civilians," the Iraqi foreign ministry said in a statement, adding that the attack is "an aggression against the sovereignty of Iraq and the security of the Iraqi people, and an insult to good neighborliness and the security of the region."

Refusal To Consummate Marriage, Denying Physical Intimacy Is Mental Cruelty: High Court

Press Trust of India

JABALPUR, MP: Refusal to consummate marriage and denial of physical intimacy amounts to mental cruelty and is a valid ground for divorce, the Madhya Pradesh High Court has held.

A division bench of Justices Sheel Nagu and Vinay Saraf on January 3 granted divorce to a man on the ground that his wife had refused to consummate the marriage and had denied physical intimacy with him since their wedding in 2006.

"The non-consummation of marriage and denial of physical intimacy amounts to mental cruelty," the high court said in its order.

As per the appeal filed by the man, he married the woman in July 2006. However, his wife refused to cohabit with him and consummate the marriage as she claimed that she was forced into the marriage.

The woman allegedly told the man that she was in love with

someone else and requested the man to unite them.

The man said he left for the US for work the same month, and in September, the woman went to live with her family and never returned.

In 2011, the man filed an application before a family court in Bhopal seeking divorce. In 2014, the family court rejected the plea. The man then filed an appeal in the high court.

The high court, in its order, noted that on several occasions, the woman refused to consummate the marriage and have physical relations with her husband.

"We understand that unilateral refusal to have sexual intercourse for a considerable period without any physical incapacity or valid reason can amount to mental cruelty," the bench said.

While quashing the family court order, the high court said the lower court had wrongly held that failure on the part of the wife to consummate the marriage cannot be a ground for divorce.

Rituals Begin At Ram Temple Ahead Of Mega Consecration Ceremony In Ayodhya

Press Trust of India

AYODHYA, UTTAR PRADESH: The run-up to the Ram Mandir consecration ceremony in Ayodhya on January 22 began today with a series of rituals, led by a member of the temple trust and his wife. These rituals will reach their finale with the consecration, or 'pran pratishtha, of the idol of Ram Lalla at the new temple in Ayodhya.

"The 'anushtan' has started and will continue till January 22, the day of the consecration ceremony. Eleven priests are performing the rituals invoking all goddesses and gods," Ram temple chief priest Satyendra Das said.

The 'yajman' at the rituals - including the ones conducted on the final consecration days - is trust member Anil Mishra and his wife Usha Mishra.

Typically, the 'yajman' is the main "host" of a "puja" - the person on whose behalf the prayers are offered. Mishra has to attend the rituals on all days, including on January 22 when Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be present.

Mr Mishra confirmed that he is the "yajman" for the ceremony.

PM Modi is scheduled to deliver a speech at the end of



the consecration ceremony, expected to be attended by 8,000 guests.

But only a handful of them will be allowed inside the sanctum sanctorum of the temple.

The trust said there are seven adhvivas in the 'pran pratishtha' and a minimum of three adhvivas are in practice.

There are 121 'acharyas' who are conducting the rituals and Ganeshwar Shastri Dravid is overseeing, coordinating and directing all proceedings of the "anushtan". The principal 'acharya' will be Laxmikant Dixit of Kashi.

Over the next week, rituals like 'teerth poojan', 'jal yatra' and 'gandhadhivas' will take place. On Monday, the 'prayaschita' and 'karmakuti poojan' took place.

The Ram temple 'pran pratishtha' will begin at 12.20 pm on January 22 and is expected to end by 1 pm, temple trust general secretary Champat Rai told reporters on Monday.

Settling a fractious issue that goes back more than a century, the apex court in a historic verdict in 2019 backed the construction of a Ram temple by a trust at the disputed site in Ayodhya and ruled that an alternative five-acre plot must be found for a mosque in the Hindu holy town.

Prime Minister Modi performed the 'bhoomi puja' of the temple in August 2020, bringing to fruition the BJP's 'mandir' movement that defined its politics for three decades and took it to the heights of power.

Israel Pounds Gaza As Fears Grow Of Widening War

Agencies

PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES: Israel pummelled southern Gaza on Tuesday, killing dozens, even as authorities announced the winding down of the intense phase of the war that has inflamed tensions across the Middle East.

The government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has come under mounting international pressure to end its offensive in Gaza launched in response to Hamas's unprecedented October 7 attacks.

But fears are mounting the war could be widening, with Iran and its proxies stepping up attacks across the region in solidarity with Hamas, the Islamist movement that rules the Palestinian territory.

A wave of Israeli strikes killed at least 78 people in the Gaza Strip overnight, Hamas's press office said. An AFP correspondent said the southern city of Khan Yunis was hit hard.

A barrage of 50 rockets was fired later toward Netivot in southern Israel, without causing any casualties, the army said. The attack was claimed by Hamas's armed wing, the Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades.

Fighting has ravaged Gaza since October 7, when Hamas militants carried out an unparalleled attack on Israel that resulted in about 1,140 deaths, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on Israeli figures.

Militants also dragged about 250 hostages back to



Gaza, 132 of whom Israel says are still in the Palestinian territory, including at least 25 believed to have been killed.

At least 24,285 Palestinians, about 70 percent of them women, children and adolescents, have been killed in Gaza in Israeli bombardments and ground operations since October 7, according to the Hamas government.

"Tamp down flames" Khan Yunis has been the focus of Israeli military operations since the army said on January 6 that it had dismantled Hamas's military structures in the north and was shifting its focus to the south.

Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant had said on Monday that intense operations would soon be winding down in the territory's south.

"In southern Gaza we will reach this achievement and it will end soon, and in both places, the moment will come when we will move to the

next phase," he said, without giving a time frame.

The army announced Tuesday the death of two more soldiers in Gaza, bringing the total number killed since its ground invasion began to 190.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday reiterated calls to stop the fighting. "We need an immediate humanitarian ceasefire to ensure sufficient aid gets to where it is needed, to facilitate the release of the hostages, to tamp down the flames of wider war -- because the longer the conflict in Gaza continues, the greater the risk of escalation and miscalculation," he said.

Israeli officials have repeatedly warned the fighting will go on for months.

Yemen ship attack Violence involving regional allies of Iran-backed Hamas -- considered a terrorist group by the United States and the European Union -- has surged since the war began.

Pak Court Indicts Imran Khan His Wife Bushra In Un-Islamic Nikah Case

Press Trust of India

ISLAMABAD: A Pakistani court on Tuesday indicted former prime minister Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi in a case of solemnising their marriage against Islamic laws, according to a media report.

Khan, the 71-year-old Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder who was removed from power in April 2022, and his wife have denied all charges in the case registered by Bushra's former husband, Khawar Maneeka, last month, Geo TV reported.

Senior Civil Judge Quadrul-Allah read out the charges in the court set up in the high security Adiala Jail, with Khan in attendance. However, his wife did not appear, which annoyed the judge as previous indictments were postponed because of her absence, the channel said.

The development comes a day after the Islamabad High Court reserved its verdict on Bushra's plea seeking dismissal of her former husband's case.

In her petition, Bushra contended the admissibility of Maneeka's petition saying that a trial court has no jurisdiction to hear it while also urging the court to declare "null and void" the order of the additional sessions judge East on January 11.

Last month, Maneeka moved a district and sessions court in Islamabad challenging Khan and Bushra's marriage. His plea was submitted only a day after petitioner Muhamad Hanif



withdrew a similar petition challenging the nikah of the PTI chief "due to technical reasons".

Furthermore, she has also stressed that her ex-husband's complaint was filed under malice for nefarious purposes, falsely alleging marriage during iddat on the basis of false and fabricated documents.

In their judgments, the high courts declared marriages in iddat to be irregular, not annulled, the plea noted.

Iddat is a waiting period that a Muslim woman must observe on account of the death of her husband or dissolution of the marriage.

During Monday's hearing, Bushra's lawyer underscored that Maneeka, in his petition, claimed that his wife was a fornicator. The counsel wondered why the ex-husband was raising this issue six years after their marriage had ended.

The controversy surrounding Khan's marriage escalated when Maneeka, in an interview with a private news channel, said that Khan and Bibi had married during iddat. In 2015, Khan divorced his second wife Reham Khan through email.

Muslim Women Need No Legal Order To Record Divorce: Kerala High Court

Press Trust of India

KOCHI: The Kerala High Court has held that a divorced Muslim woman need not be sent to a court of law for recording the talaq if it is otherwise in order as per the personal law.

Justice P V Kunhikrishnan said that merely because a woman registered her marriage as per the Kerala Registration of Marriages (Common) Rules, 2008, she need not be dragged to a court of law for recording her divorce if it was obtained as per her personal law.

"A divorced Muslim woman need not be sent to a court of law for recording the talaq if it is otherwise in order as per the personal law. The officer concerned can record the talaq without insisting on a court order.

"I think that there is a lacuna in Rule 2008 in this regard. The legislature should think about the same. The registry will forward a copy of this judgment to the Chief Secretary of the state to do the needful in accordance with law," Justice Kunhikrishnan said in his January 10 judgment.

The court observed that under the Rules of 2008, a divorced Muslim woman cannot remarry till the entry in the marriage register was removed by approaching a competent court of law, but the husband faces no such hindrance.

The order and observations of the court came on a divorced Muslim woman's plea seeking

directions to the Local Registrar of Marriages to record her divorce in the marriage register.

She moved the court for the relief as the Registrar refused to record the divorce entry on the ground that the Rules of 2008 do not contain any provision authorising him to do so.

While considering the plea, the court questioned that once the husband pronounced talaq, can the marriage registration as per the Rules of 2008 be a burden to the Muslim woman alone.

In the instant case the marriage between the couple was solemnised in 2012, but it did not last long and the husband pronounced talaq in 2014.

The woman also got a divorce certificate issued by the Thalasseri Mahal Khazi.

However, when she went to make the entry of divorce in the marriage register as required under the Rules of 2008, the Registrar had refused to do so.

Disagreeing with the stand of the Registrar, the court said, "If there is the power to register the marriage, the power to record the divorce is also inherent and ancillary to the authority who registers the marriage, if there is a divorce under the personal law."

The court directed the Local Registrar of Marriages to consider the woman's application for recording the divorce entry and pass appropriate orders on that after issuing a notice to her ex-husband.

Why President Mohamed Muizzu Wants India To Withdraw All Its Troops From Maldives

Agencies

The Maldives on Sunday set a deadline of March 15 for India to withdraw all its troops from the archipelago.

The deadline was set shortly after Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu returned from a state visit to China. New Delhi has so far not commented directly on the demand.

How many Indian troops are stationed in the Maldives?

Officials in both Male and New Delhi say that 77 Indian soldiers are posted in the archipelago country, known for its sun-kissed beaches and luxury holiday resorts. There are also 12 medical personnel from the Indian armed forces.

Why are they there?

India says the soldiers provide



help with humanitarian aid and medical evacuations for the residents of the remote islands of the country.

India has given Male two helicopters and a Dornier aircraft, which are mostly used for marine surveillance, search and rescue operations and medical evacuations. The Indian troops manage these operations.

The first helicopter and crew started operations in the Maldives

in 2010 when Mohamed Nasheed was President of the islands.

Why does the Maldives want them out?

India has traditionally enjoyed strong ties with the Maldives, which depends on New Delhi for essentials for its 5,00,000 people, including rice, vegetables, medicines, and humanitarian assistance.

In 1988, India sent troops to help then-President Abdul Gayoom fight a coup attempt. The troops were withdrawn immediately afterwards.

However, the dependence on India and assertions that New Delhi interferes in the Maldives' domestic politics have raised concerns within the country.

Muizzu was elected President in November, riding on an "India Out" campaign, in contrast to the

pro-India policies of most of his predecessors.

He has called New Delhi's influence a threat to the country's sovereignty and pledged to remove Indian troops from the Maldivian soil.

After Muizzu met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of COP28 in the UAE in December, the two countries launched negotiations to review their ties, including the presence of these troops.

How is China involved?

Rivals New Delhi and Beijing vie for influence in the Maldives given its strategic location southwest of India's southern tip.

The islands sit along one of the busiest maritime trade highways on the Indian Ocean, through which nearly 80 per cent of China's oil imports pass.

New Zealand MP Quits Over Shoplifting Allegations, Says Mental Health Issues And Work Stress Has Led...

Agencies

WELLINGTON: A New Zealand Green Party parliamentarian resigned on Monday after it was alleged by media that she had shoplifted at high-end local boutiques on at least three occasions.

Without specifically addressing the accusations, the member of parliament, Golriz Ghahraman, said in a statement that mental health issues and work stress had led to her acting in a way that was completely out of character.

"People should, rightly, expect the highest standards of behaviour from their elected representatives. I fell short. I'm



Auckland, and at Cre8ive-workz in Wellington.

New Zealand Police said in a statement they were investigating an incident at a Ponsoby store in December but would not give any other details. They did not confirm the incident involved Ghahraman.

Ghahraman said she thanked Scotties Boutique for their kindness and empathy.

Green Party co-leader James Shaw said while parliament was a stressful place for everybody, Ghahraman had a particularly difficult time as she had received numerous threats from members of the public since arriving in office.

Rehana Batul Reviews Functioning Of Info Deptt



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Secretary Information Department, Rehana Batul on Tuesday conducted a comprehensive review of the department's working at the Civil Secretariat here.

Director of Information & PR, Jatin Kishore; Special Secretary Information Department, Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad; Director of Finance (Information), Joint Director Information Jammu, Atul Gupta;

Joint Director Information (Headquarters), Veveik Puri, Joint Director Information Kashmir, Mohd Aslam Khan; Deputy Directors Information, Films Production Officer, Field Publicity Officers, Accounts Officer, and other concerned attended the meeting.

At the outset of the meeting, Director Information, Jatin Kishore highlighted the department's achievements, including exemplary media coverage of the G20 Summit, the launch of a revamped de-

partmental website in November 2023, and the adoption of a new logo in July last year.

Joint Director (Headquarters), Veveik Puri provided a detailed presentation, offering valuable insights into the department's work profile and major policies, including Media Policy 2020 among others.

He informed the meeting about the department's successful participation in the International Film Festival 2023 in Goa. Secretary Batul praised the department, stating that over 300 film shooting permissions have been granted in Jammu and Kashmir, showcasing the department's commitment and responsiveness to the film industry both nationally and internationally.

Acknowledging the positive response from filmmakers during the festival, the Secretary remarked that DIPR's participation at IFF 2023 at Goa was wonderful, sending a positive message to filmmakers in India and abroad.

Security Situation In Kashmir Good, But Still Some Distance To Cover: GoC 15 Corps

Press Trust of India

BARAMULLA: The security situation in Kashmir is good, but there is still some distance needed to cover to achieve complete peace, a senior Army officer said here on Tuesday.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the inaugural function of the General Bipin Rawat Sports Stadium here, the Corps Commander of the Army's 15 Corps or Chinar Corps, Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai, said the security situation in the valley was good.

"Not a day to speak about that, but the situation is good. You heard our army commander (Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi) also speak about it. It is good, but yet, there is a little distance that we have to move forward (to cover)," the army officer said.

He said Kashmir is moving ahead and there are bright days and a very bright future ahead



for the youth of the valley.

To a question about narco-terrorism, the Corps Commander said the Army is working in that direction and trying to control that aspect of terrorism.

"We are completely involved with the state administration and the J-K Police in trying to control that aspect of terrorism. So, we are working in that direction," he added.

The stadium named after the country's first chief of defence staff was inaugurated by Jam-

mu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

Lt Gen Ghai said it was a very proud day for the country.

"This is a huge event. It is a very big day for the Army and perhaps for Baramulla as well because a stadium has been named after Gen Bipin Rawat. I am sure it is a very proud moment for the country and for the state of J-K that a stadium is being named after Gen Rawat who not only commanded 19 Infantry Division (in north Kashmir), but has a special place in the heart of the people of J-K," the Corps Commander said.

He said the Army would provide all the required help to improve the facilities at the stadium.

"Its facilities will increase. Definitely, we will do whatever will be required to. We will be involved in the improvement of the facilities for the stadium," he said.

34 Lakh J&K Workers Register On E-Shram Portal Till Date: Govt

Labour Com asks for seamless delivery of services, fast track disposal of Labour Court cases



KO News Service

JAMMU: Labour Commissioner, J&K, Charandeep Singh Tuesday took a comprehensive review of the functioning of the Labour Department in a meeting with officers here.

Charandeep Singh, who recently assumed charge as Labour Commissioner, emphasised the need to reach out to the Labourers and generate awareness among them regarding various welfare schemes being implemented for their benefit.

"We need to reach out to workers in both the organized and the un-organised sector and facilitate them in availing

benefits under various schemes of the Government and to also ensure that any grievance arising between labour and the management of establishments are settled amicably as per labour laws", he said adding that disposal of Labour court cases under payment of wages, compensation and gratuity also needs to be fast tracked across all districts.

While reviewing the status of registrations on the e-shram Portal, it was informed that over 34.3 Lakh workers of J&K have registered on the Portal till date.

E-Shram Portal which acts as a National Database of the unorganised workers has been

launched by the Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India. The unorganised workers including migrant workers and domestic workers can register on the portal on self-declaration basis. Registration on the portal facilitates delivery of Social Security and welfare Schemes to the workers.

The Labour Commissioner called for sustained efforts by the officers in generating awareness among the workers regarding registration on the e-shram Portal and benefits associated with it and to ensure that no workers are left out.

"Registration on the e-shram Portal will facilitate seamless delivery of benefits under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Man Dhan Pension Scheme (PM-SYM) and other UT and Central Government schemes to the workers" he said.

Dry Spell Brings Unusual Benefits, Concerns For LoC Areas

Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: The snowless winter in Kashmir has kept the residents of border areas along the Line of Control (LoC) in north Kashmir connected by road with the rest of the valley, a situation uncommon during heavy snowfall.

The snowless landscape has not only allowed for unhindered road connectivity but has also enabled residents to carry out agricultural activities, a situation unusual for this time of the year.

Residents, speaking to the news agency, said the border areas typically receive substantial snowfall. They said the prolonged dry weather has, for the first time in decades, kept the border areas connected by road to the rest of the valley.

This unique situation has permitted agricultural activities to continue for the past month, which would typically be hampered by heavy snowfall.

Ahmadullah Khan, a local resident, expressed concern about water shortages in various LoC areas, such as PTL, Kilshay, Budaab, Zidgay, and Kashpath areas of Gurez. While these areas usually receive spring-based water supply, the persistent dry conditions have led to some degree

of water scarcity, he said. Muzaffar Ahmad, another resident, said there has been no snow cricket in Gurez Valley this year due to the lack of snowfall. "For the first time in my life, I am witnessing the region, which is usually covered in snow, being snowless," he said.

While plains in Kashmir experienced dryness in the past, the border areas consistently received substantial snowfall. This year marks a departure from the norm, with both plains and border areas witnessing the same dry conditions, raising concerns among residents.

Residents from the border town of Kupwara said while the dry weather has maintained their connection with the rest of the Kashmir Valley, they miss the harsh winter for which the border areas were known.

Despite the current benefits of road connectivity and continued agricultural activities, people have expressed concerns about the problems arising during April and May, which are crucial months for agricultural activities.

Zaheer Ahmad, a local from Kupwara, said there has been bud swelling in several plants due to the high daytime temperatures in these areas, signalling potential challenges ahead—(KNO)

2.5 Lakh Unite For Anantnag's Development Initiatives

KO News Service

ANANTNAG: The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) is creating waves in Block Anantnag, witnessing an overwhelming surge in public involvement.

The journey through Donipawa, Uttersoo Nijigund, Anzulla, Chee, Aung, Matipora Gram Panchayats reflects a united commitment to regional development.

Launched on November 15, 2023, the VBSY has achieved significant milestones in Anantnag district.

In just 50 days, over 2.53 lakh people actively engaged, showcasing the profound impact of this initiative in unifying communities for the common goal of a developed India.

The Yatra, extending to the farthest corners of the dis-

trict, has played a pivotal role in spreading awareness about various government welfare schemes. On-ground services like PM Ujjwala Yojana enrollments, MY Bharat volunteer registrations, and distribution of Ayushman cards have ensured direct engagement, bringing essential social welfare programs to even the most remote areas.

During the Yatra, citizens actively participated in various government schemes, with over 2499 individuals gaining access to clean cooking fuel under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana. Ayushman cards have provided comprehensive health cover to thousands, while health screenings at Health Camps benefited more than 94,184 citizens.

'Tehreek-e-Hurriyat As An Unlawful Association'

Govt Constitutes Tribunal To Adjudicate Grounds For The Ban

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Tuesday set up a tribunal consisting of a Delhi High Court judge to adjudicate if there is sufficient ground for declaring pro-Pakistan separatist Tehreek-e-Hurriyat, Jammu and Kashmir, as an unlawful association.

The Jammu and Kashmir-based group, founded by deceased separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani, was declared outlawed by the government on December 31 under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, for five years.

In a notification, the Union Home Ministry said exercising the powers

conferred by sub-section (1) of section 5 read with sub-section (1) of section 4 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, (37 of 1967), the Central government constituted the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal consisting of Justice Sachin Datta, Judge, High Court of Delhi, for the purpose of adjudicating whether or not there is sufficient cause for declaring the Tehreek-e-Hurriyat (TeH), Jammu and Kashmir, as an unlawful association.

The organisation was declared banned as it has been fomenting terrorism and spreading anti-India propaganda in the Union territory.

While imposing the ban on the separatist amalgam, the Union Home Ministry had said it is known for its involvement in fomenting terrorism and anti-India propaganda for felling the secessionist activities in Jammu and Kashmir. The TeH's objective is to separate Jammu and Kashmir from India and establish Islamic rule in Jammu and Kashmir.

The ministry said the leaders and members of the TeH have been involved in raising funds through various sources, including Pakistan and its proxy organisations, for perpetrating unlawful activities, including supporting terrorist activities and sus-

tained stone-pelting on the security forces in Jammu and Kashmir.

The ministry said the TeH and its members by their activities show sheer disrespect towards the constitutional authority and constitutional set up of the country.

The TeH members are also paying tributes to the terrorists, who were killed in encounters with the security forces and its members have been involved in supporting terrorist activities with an intent to create a reign of terror in the country, thereby endangering the security and public order of the state, the notification said.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

DIRECTORATE OF FLORICULTURE (G&P) DEPARTMENT KASHMIR

Tel-0194-2474234 Fax-2482032 - email: - kashflori@rediffmail.com

GIST OF E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 05 OF 2024

DATED:-15/01/2024

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of J&K, e-tender is invited from various Govt. Approved Registered Dealing Agencies/Suppliers for supply of Sheep Manure (Decomposed) as per the details given in the BOQ:-

S.No.	Name of Job	Period of Contract	Value of Security Deposit	Cost of Tender Document
01.	Sheep Manure (Decomposed) for District Srinagar, Budgam, Ganderbal/Bandipora, Baramulla, Kupwara, Anantnag/Kulgam, Pulwama/Shoipan	(01) One year from the date of award of Contract	Rs.60,000.00 Pledged to Accounts Officer, Department of Floriculture (G&P) Kashmir.	Rs.1000.00 in shape of e-challan.

The e-NIT consisting of complete information, eligibility, criteria, specification Book of quantities (BOQ), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from J&K State e-procurement Portal www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of date given below:-

1	Period of downloading of bidding documents	16/01/2024 from 02:00 PM to 05/02/2024 up to 02:00 PM
2	Bid submission Start Date	16/01/2024 from 03:00 PM
3	Bid submission End date	05/02/2024 up to 02:00 PM
4	Date and time of Opening of Tenders	08/02/2024 at 02:00 PM

In case of any eventuality, the tender opening date will be considered the next working date.

Sd/-
Accounts Officer,
(Member Secretary)
Floriculture Department
Kashmir

DIPK-15317-23
DT: 16/01/2024

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER GENERATION DIVISION POWER HOUSE GANDEBAL

Email: xeneganderbal@gmail.com Tel / fax - 01942-416234
e-NIT No. GDG/16 of 2023-24 Dated: 15/01/2024

e-NOTICE INVITING TENDER

On behalf of Managing Director JKPDC, online e-bids in double cover system are invited (Cover-I-Techno-Commercial Bid and Cover-II-Price Bid) from authorised firms/ contractors/Self Help Groups registered with J&K government or any organization owned by PSUs/ State Government/ Central Government having sufficient related experience for undertaking the following titled work at Generation Division Ganderbal.

S. No	Scope Of Work	Quantity	Cost Of Tender Document	Estimated cost (Rs)	EMD @ 2% (Rs)	Time Completion
1.	Painting of columns and beams of 33kv switch yard at power house Ganderbal.	As per scope	Rs 500/-	4.54 lacs	9100/-	Within 30 days from date of LOA

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.jkspdc.nic.in as per schedule of dates given below.

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	15-01-2024
2.	Period of downloading of bidding document	17-01-2024 to 01-02-2024
3.	Bid submission Start Date	17-01-2024 1400 hrs
4.	Bid submission End Date	01-02-2024 up to 1600 hrs
5.	Deadline for receiving Hard Copies of e-NIT uploaded document.	01-02-2024 up to 1600 hrs
6.	Date and time of opening of Bid (online)	03-02-2024 or any other convenient date.
7.	Venue for submitting the hard cop of EMD & Cost of tender (proof)	Office of the Executive Engineer, Generation Division, Ganderbal, Kashmir.

Position of AAA - Accorded
Technical Sanction - Sanctioned
Position of Funds - Available

- The entire process of bidding shall be online. The bidding document consisting of BOQ (Bill of Quantities), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the government website www.jktenders.gov.in or www.jkspdc.nic.in. The bidder has to submit the bids (complete in all respects) online on the said website. The subsequent opening as well as comparison of bids (on the opening date/time) shall be online on the said website.
- The following documents are to be uploaded along with the bid; otherwise the bid shall be liable for rejection:
 - Details of Contractor along with working phone no. and e-mail id on the letter head of contractor.
 - Cost of Tender Document in the shape of demand draft in favour of the Chief Pay & Accounts Officer Kangan with the detail as: Account No. 0071010200005002 IFSC code : JAKAOKANGAN Bank: J&K bank Ltd Kangan
 - Earnest Money Deposit in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Chief Pay & Accounts Officer Kangan.
 - Copy of Valid Registration Certificate.
 - Copy of valid GST Registration Certificate.
 - Copy of PAN Card.
 - Experience / Work Orders and Completion Certificates copies.
 - Income tax Certificate for last three years.
 - Information regarding the current litigation (if any) in which the bidder is involved; parties concerned and disputed amount on registered affidavit/ stamp paper of Rs 10/-.
- The bidders need to submit the proof/cost of e-bid document as stated above through Demand Draft pledged to the Chief Pay Accounts Officer Kangan payable at Kangan with the detail as: Account No. 0071010200005002 IFSC code : JAKAOKANGAN Bank: J&K bank Ltd Kangan The Demand Draft must be uploaded along with the e-Bids but the original demand draft should reach the office of Executive Engineer, Generation Division, Ganderbal up to the cutoff date.
- All the e-bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD @ Rs. 9100/- in the form of CDR/FDR/BG only, pledged to the Chief Pay Accounts Officer Kangan payable at Kangan. Hard Copies of original instrument of EMD and cost of tender document shall be submitted to the office of the Executive Engineer, Generation Division, Ganderbal up to the cutoff date.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-
 - Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
 - Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 07 days after fixation of contract.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of price bids.
- The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened on same website in the Office of Superintending Engineer Generation Circle-II Bemia Srinagar Kashmir.
- No price bid will be accepted in physical form.
- The bidders are advised to visit the site for assessment and go through the contents of the SBD before quoting the rates.
- Modification in scope of work and extension of period of download of tender specification, closing opening date if required will be notified through corrigendum.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Generation Division
Ganderbal

No: GDG/T/309-17
Dated:- 15-01-2024
DIPK-NB-5265-23
DT: 16/01/2024

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Wednesday | 17-01-2024

Second Yatra

In a fresh move geared to reinvigorate the Congress party and countering the BJP's political influence in the run up to the Parliament election, Congress president Rahul Gandhi has embarked on his 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra,' a 6,713 km journey from Manipur to Maharashtra. Launched in Thoubal district in Manipur, the yatra is designed to traverse 15 states, covering 100 Lok Sabha constituencies before culminating in Mumbai on March 20-21.

The yatra, Gandhi's second in just over a year, seeks to establish an alternative narrative of a "harmonious and equitable" society, countering what he perceives as the BJP's politics of "violence, hatred, and monopoly." Riding in a custom-made Volvo bus equipped with a hydraulic lift for on-the-go public addresses, Gandhi intends to engage with the people, listening to their concerns and building a vision for a more inclusive India.

Surprisingly, during the launch in Thoubal, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge took on the BJP, accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi of exploiting religious sentiments for electoral gains, particularly in light of the upcoming inauguration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. Gandhi, in his address, highlighted Manipur as a symbol of the BJP and RSS's divisive politics.

In the run-up to the Lok Sabha elections, the 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra' appears to be a calculated move by the Congress to rejuvenate its political standing. By addressing economic, social, and political issues, Rahul Gandhi aims to present an alternative vision for India, one that resonates with the aspirations of a diverse and inclusive society. The success of this yatra will depend on its ability to mobilize public support and translate the envisioned vision into tangible political momentum.

The yatra follows the Congress' loss of three major states - Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh - to the BJP in recent state elections. This has set back the party's chances to get the better of the BJP in the upcoming national elections. The fresh yatra can certainly mobilize some support for the party but would that be enough to defeat the BJP? Unlikely. The saffron party under the overarching leadership of the prime minister Narendra Modi is now more entrenched than ever. In the decade of its reign so far, the party has exhibited the singular ability to adapt, evolve and reinvent itself. Every other party including the Congress has failed to match up. Would the second yatra in a year do it for Rahul Gandhi and, in turn, for the Congress and the wider opposition? The odds are against it, as the outcome of the first yatra shows. Congress and the other opposition parties will need to do more to beat the BJP at its game.

Note From Editor

Climate Change: No Chill in Chilai Kalan

The unusual weather patterns that Kashmir has been witnessing, especially the lack of snow has drawn the attention of our writers and readers. The community shared memories, worries about ecosystem impacts, and called for a collective understanding of the environmental challenges. Curated here are a few of the many submissions we received by the KO community which reiterated the need for caution and expressed great concern regarding climate change in Kashmir.



Kashmir Observer

No Snow in Sight

Culpability and Consequences

We shouldn't even think of development on the pattern of Delhi, Mumbai or Indore

Raja Muzaffar Bhat

Chilai Kalan, which in Kashmir refers to the time between 21st December to 30th of January, is considered the harshest month of winter here. It is going to be over in 15 days and there's no snow in sight.

As of January 16th, 2024, there has been no snowfall from December 21st, 2023. Snowfall did occur on November 10, 2023, and December 16, 2023, in the mountains of Kashmir and hills, particularly in Gulmarg, Sonamarg, Doodh Pathri, and Yusmarg, with recorded amounts of 4 to 6 inches. Nevertheless, it was a mild snowfall, and the snow melted away within a few weeks.

These unusual weather patterns have caused a lot of concern for not only the environmentalists or weather experts but also those associated with the winter tourism industry as many tourists have cancelled their bookings. Many skiing players are said to have cancelled their bookings as there is not even an inch of snow in Gulmarg. The local schools in Srinagar and other districts who had plans to bring their students to Gulmarg have also cancelled their bookings and some have lost their advance money as well which they had paid to hotels in Gulmarg.

Rivers and Streams Drying Up

A few days back, Mukhtar Ahmad, director of the Indian Meteorological Department at Srinagar, while talking to a private news channel had said that the situation next summer could turn serious as there might not be enough water to feed the snow-fed rivers. A majority of rivers and streams in J&K are snow-fed and emerge from glaciers and if there is no snowfall in the higher reaches it will lead to drought in the summer.

In fact the use of heavy machinery like JCBs and L&T Cranes has been banned by National Green Tribunal (NGT) and is being finally enforced on the ground from June 1st 2023 but the damage already caused in the last 2 years has been intense. The locals say that the damage that has been caused to Doodh Ganga, Shali Ganga, Vaishav, Romshi or Rambhara streams in Budgam, Pulwama, Kulgam or Shopian during the last 2 years has been massive as compared to riverbed mining done in last 15 years.

Mahesh Palawat, Vice President meteorology Skymet weather services, told India Today in an in-

The consequences of unplanned development and uncontrolled urbanisation in Jammu & Kashmir have caused severe environmental imbalance. We have destroyed everything. Laws and rules governing air and water pollution are violated not only by the private players but even by the law enforcing agencies like J&K Pollution Control Board, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Municipal Committee and Geology and Mining Department

terview that less or no snowfall in Jammu & Kashmir will be serious as the glaciers won't get recharged. "In summer these glaciers will melt at a faster pace", Mr Palawat said. He further said that if the trend continued, it could gradually lead to snow-fed rivers drying up.

Glaciers are receding

The melting of glaciers in Jammu & Kashmir including Ladakh will severely impact the water availability in the Himalayan region with consequent adverse effect on the dependent livelihoods, a leading scientist has warned. In September last year, the Govt of India had proposed forming a 13-member technical committee to evaluate the "carrying capacity" of 13 Himalayan States which includes J&K as frequent landslides leading to deaths and destruction had led the Supreme Court to moot a re-evaluation of the load-carrying capacity of hill towns and cities. Till date it is not known who is the evaluating officer having been assigned the work to be taken up in J&K and Ladakh.

Studies show that glaciers in Himalayan region have dwindled by 25% in the last 60 years while 48% of them could vanish by the century's end even with moderate climate change.

Earth scientist and Vice Chancellor Islamic University of Sciences and Technology-IUST Awantipora Kashmir Prof Shakeel Ahmad Romshoo, while talking to PTT in October last year had said:

"We have about 18,000 glaciers, some of these glaciers are big like the Siachen glacier which in one dimension has a length of about 65 kms. The huge glaciers we have, about 500 to

600 metres thick, are huge resources in J&K and Ladakh. The other thing that is happening in this region under the climate change is that we get less snowfall and comparatively we get more rainfall"

Who is to Blame?

The consequences of unplanned development and uncontrolled urbanisation in Jammu & Kashmir have caused severe environmental imbalance. We have destroyed everything. Laws and rules governing air and water pollution are violated not only by the private players but even by the law enforcing agencies like J&K Pollution Control Board, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Municipal Committee and Geology and Mining Department.

Air Pollution from cement and brick kilns has increased black carbon emissions and that is enhancing glacial meltdown. No snowfall in Kashmir during Chilaikalan has global climate change reasons but the environmental disaster we caused locally is also responsible for it. If there will be less snowfall or no snowfall, the 2024 summer will teach us lots of lessons.

I hope it snows in the coming days and weeks and let us all pray for it. We shouldn't even think of development on the pattern of Delhi, Mumbai or Indore. We live in an ecologically sensitive region and the Supreme Court has also taken a serious note of it as well in the matter of Ashok Kumar Raghav V/S Union of India case. In response to this Public Interest Litigation -PIL, the Govt of India in January 2020, circulated among the 13 Himalayan states guidelines for assessing the carrying capacity of their hill stations, including cities and eco-sensitive zones. It had sent a reminder on May 19, 2023 to all the 13 States to undertake the study and submit the action plan as early as possible but it is not known what action plan has been submitted by J&K Govt.

Read the complete version of the article on our website

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

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is an Acumen Fellow. He is Founder and Chairman of Jammu and Kashmir RTI Movement. He was selected for RTI fellowship by Govt of India -Department of Personnel and Training -DoPT in 2011-2012

Climate Change Casts a Dry Shadow on Kashmir Valley

Umer Nazir

As the crisp winter air settles in the picturesque Kashmir Valley, an unusual calm prevails over the region. The mountains, often decorated in a blanket of snow, now stand naked. The absence of winter's touch paints a somber picture, signaling a troubling narrative for the Valley's environment.

Dry weather conditions have entrenched themselves in the region, with no promise of rain or snowfall in the foreseeable future. This shift in climate patterns poses a significant threat to the delicate ecological balance of Kashmir, a place known for its pristine beauty and harmonious coexistence with nature.

The absence of snow, an ideal aspect of Kashmir's winters, not only affects the scenic charm but also has far-reaching consequences for the region's water resources. The snowmelt from the mountains typically feeds into rivers and sustains the valley's agriculture. With the current dearth of snow, the water tables are at risk, impacting not only the agricultural sector but also the daily lives of the local population.

Climate change is not an abstract concept for the people of Kashmir; it is a tangible force altering their way of life. The traditional rhythms of the seasons, crucial for agriculture and livelihoods, are disrupted. The delicate balance between nature and human activity is off balance, and the consequences are becoming increasingly evident.

The valley's ecosystems are interconnected, and the absence of snow disrupts this delicate dance. Flora and fauna that rely on the seasonal changes for their life cycles are now grappling with an unanticipated shift. The ecological web is being stretched, and the repercussions may extend beyond the immediate surroundings.

Addressing the issue of climate change in Kashmir requires a multi-pronged approach. Firstly, raising awareness about the local impact of climate change is crucial. Communities need to understand the changes occurring in their environment and how it directly affects their lives. Education and outreach programs can play a pivotal role in fostering a sense of responsibility towards the environment.

Additionally, there is a need for sustainable practices in agriculture and water management. Farmers, the backbone of the valley, must adapt to changing weather patterns and adopt techniques that ensure the judicious use of water resources. Government initiatives and support can play a pivotal role in facilitating this transition.

The dry weather conditions in Kashmir Valley serve as a stark reminder that climate change is not a distant threat but a pressing reality. The time to act is now, for the sake of the valley's environment, its people, and the generations that will inherit the consequences of our actions.

OTHER OPINION

Chilai Kalan Heat: A Weather Paradox

DR.MASOON AHMAD BEIG

In the shadow of the towering Himalayas, the once-harmonious scenery of Chilai-kalan in Kashmir today bears witness to a terrible narrative written in the lack of rain and snow, coupled by a steady rise in temperatures. The air, once fresh with the promise of a cool winter breeze, now bears the weight of a looming ecological disaster. The continuous tramp in temperatures puts a cloud over this region, upsetting the delicate equilibrium that has supported life for millennia. The lack of the soothing touch of snow, a characteristic feature of Chilai-kalan's winters, transforms the area into a barren scene, with whispers of dry winds replacing the comfortable calm of snowfall. The heavens, bereft of life-giving precipitation, convey a quiet narrative of thirst, while the ground underneath grows dry and cracked. In this melancholy symphony of climate change, Chilai-kalan confronts a future that appears to disintegrate before its eyes, where natural rhythms are replaced by an eerie quiet, and the once vivid tapestry of the seasons fades into a mournful monotony of increasing temperatures and desolate landscapes.

The Chilai-kalan is known for its biting cold, snow and rain. But this year it looks like June outside. The cool hill stations of the valley are devoid of snow. The hot sunny day prevailed since the advent of Chilai-kalan on 21st of December. Every day the temperature is showing an increasing trend as per IMD Srinagar temperature these days is 6-70 C above normal and Kashmir Valley is hotter than many northern states of India which is not less than a tragedy because in future the rising temperature will have large scale impacts on various spheres of life. Second, the valley's extreme fall in precipitation will result in a tragedy in the following months, as severe drought conditions will lead to a decrease in food grain output and, lastly, an invitation to food security in the valley.

The drop in snow will have an influence on glacier accumulation in the future, and the heat will accelerate glacier retreat, affecting river discharge and, as a result, agriculture owing to a lack of irrigation. Another tragedy is that the present dry spell and extreme heat have drastically reduced river flow, which has damaged dam refilling and negatively impacted hydropower output. As a result, we are currently experiencing long-term curtailments and frequent power outages. If things stay this way, things might get worse.

The ongoing January heat may cause early flowering of plants in Kashmir, potentially causing negative impacts on agricultural practices. The risk of late spring frost, which could damage delicate flowers, could lead to reduced fruit yields and impact farmers' livelihoods. The altered timing of flowering may also disrupt ecosystems, increasing pest and disease pressure, potentially compromising the health and productivity of fruit trees. The mismatch between flowering periods and pollinator availability could hinder pollination, reducing fruit set and impacting crop yields. The early flowering may coincide with inadequate water availability, exacerbating farmers' challenges.

SMALL ACTS,
BIG IMPACT

Navigating Life With Compassion And Grace

Aubaid Ahmad Akhoun

In the intricate tapestry of life, the principle that the good you do for others will find its way back to you holds a profound truth. It's a timeless belief that resonates across cultures and religions, encapsulating the essence of humanity's interconnectedness.

"Whoever relieves a believer's distress, Allah will relieve his distress in this world and the Hereafter." - Imam Nawawi

Acts of kindness, no matter how small, possess a remarkable ability to create a positive ripple effect. When you extend a helping hand or offer support to someone in need, you set in motion a chain of goodwill. This ripple, though unseen, travels through the intricate threads of existence, weaving connections that bind us all.

"The example of the believers in their affection, mercy, and compassion for each other is that of a body. When any limb aches, the whole body reacts with sleeplessness and fever." - Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him)

The essence of spreading kindness always lies not just in the anticipation of personal gain but in the acknowledgment of our shared humanity. Each act of compassion contributes to a collective reservoir of positive energy that, like a reservoir, can be drawn upon in times of need.

"Allah is kind and loves kindness in all matters." - Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him)

The belief that helping others is not just a moral duty but a pathway to divine assistance adds a spiritual dimension to our actions. In the Islamic faith, the promise that Allah will help those who help others serves as a reminder of the interconnected relationship between our deeds and the benevolent forces that govern our lives.



The Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, exemplified the significance of kindness through his teachings and actions. His life serves as a beacon, guiding us to emulate compassion, empathy, and selflessness. By helping others, we align ourselves with the teachings of Islam and contribute to the betterment of society.

It's important to recognize that acts of kindness need not be grand gestures. Small, sincere efforts have the power to create significant impact. A kind word, a thoughtful gesture, or a helping hand extended in times of need can be the catalyst for positive change.

"In the heart of a believer, his humility, love, and kindness towards others is the true reflection of his faith." - Ibn Qayyim Al-Jawziyya

In a world often marked by challenges and uncertainties, the call to spread kindness always stands as a beacon of hope. It invites us to look beyond our differences and extend a hand to our fellow human beings. By doing so, we not only make a difference in others' lives but also set in motion a cycle of positivity that enriches our own.

As we navigate the complexities of life, let us engrain in our hearts the belief that kindness is never wasted. Whether acknowledged or not, the goodness we sow finds its way back to us, shaping a future where compassion reigns supreme. May we be agents of positive change, inspired by the timeless truth that by helping others, we pave the way for a world where kindness is abundant, and Allah's blessings are ever-present.

Aubaid Ahmad Akhoun is an Educational Columnist, Motivational Speaker, and Associate Editor of the weekly educational publication 'Education Quill.'

In a world often marked by challenges and uncertainties, the call to spread kindness always stands as a beacon of hope. It invites us to look beyond our differences and extend a hand to our fellow human beings. By doing so, we not only make a difference in others' lives but also set in motion a cycle of positivity that enriches our own

ULTRA-PROCESSED FOODS Here's what the evidence actually says about them

Eric Robinson

The perils of ultra-processed foods received widespread coverage in recent months – thanks in no small part to the publication and promotion of TV presenter and doctor of virology Chris Van Tulleken's book *Ultra-Processed People*.

Ultra-processed foods, in short, are commercially manufactured food products that include ingredients you wouldn't cook with at home. Some of this processing makes foods more palatable, some increases shelf life and makes them more affordable – such as whole-meal supermarket bread, for example.

Scientists have long known that foods high in saturated fat, salt, sugar, calories or which contain too few wholegrains and fibre contribute to greater risk of health problems – such as obesity, hypertension, heart disease and type 2 diabetes.

A fair number of ultra-processed foods will have some of these unfavourable nutritional profiles – but many don't. What is new and controversial about ultra-processed food is the idea that food processing itself is deadly.

Van Tulleken's book argues that "it is the ultra-processing, not the nutritional content, that's the problem". Musing on why some pizza isn't great for our waist lines, he writes "the only question is whether it is an ultra-

processed food". Van Tulleken also claims ultra-processed food is linked to more deaths than tobacco, and is the number one cause of early death globally.

But, in my view a lot of this is just wrong.

Myths scrutinised

Ultra-processed foods haven't been shown to be the largest cause of deaths globally and no scientific study has ever found this.

I believe this bold but misleading claim appears to be a misinterpretation of research which suggests that poor diet is a leading cause of death. Most deaths attributed to poor diet in this and similar studies are due to factors such as not eating enough fruit and veg, oily fish or wholegrains.

Nor is there strong evidence that whether a food is ultra-processed or not is what determines how it may affect your health.

Many studies have shown that people whose diets are high in ultra-processed foods have poorer health compared to those whose diets contain fewer ultra-processed foods. However, research suggests that it's some specific types of ultra-processed foods that are linked to worse health in studies that examine this, rather than all ultra-processed foods.

This includes categories like sugary drinks and processed meats, which we have known for some time are bad for health. Eating other foods classed as ultra-processed does not predict worse health. And some studies have even shown them to predict better health. Brown bread and cereals, are good examples.

Pretty much all scientific studies used as evidence on the harms of ultra-processed foods are "observational studies". This means the researchers don't change a person's diet to see what happens to their health – they observe the health of people based on what they report they eat.

As such, observational studies can only try to account for all the ways in which people who eat a lot of ultra-processed foods versus fewer ultra-processed foods differ.

This is key to ultra-processing, because there may be unmeasured factors about a person or their diet that cause worse health – making it appear the number of ultra-processed foods in a person's diet is harming their health, when it isn't.

A recent study captures this perfectly.

The study looked at whether ultra-

processed food consumption was associated with developing cancer. It was, as shown in other studies. But it also looked at whether ultra-processed food consumption was associated with a health outcome it should have no plausible reason to be associated with: accidental death. People who ate a lot of ultra-processed foods were more likely to die in car crashes, falls and other accidents, it turns out.

There's no plausible reason why processed food would cause accidental death. Rather, the reason is probably something else that has either not been accurately measured and accounted for or not measured at all – known as a "confounding factor".

People from poorer backgrounds are more likely to be victims of accidental death – as are people who have worse mental health. We also know that people from poorer backgrounds or who have worse mental health often eat more ultra-processed food.

A study can measure a person's income, but the many ways in which living in poverty or having worse mental health can damage physical health are very difficult to measure with any accuracy. They therefore may be examples of confounding factors that make ultra-processed food appear to predict worsening health, like cancer.

Given the doom and dread about food processing, you'd think there's convincing evi-

dence that has identified how food processing harms health in humans. But there isn't. Panels of scientists from the US and UK (both with and without histories of food industry funding) agree on this and agree that it currently isn't clear if food processing itself harms health.

I believe there's good reason to conduct more research to understand ultra-processed food and health. But this is a long way from Van Tulleken's assertion that we're eating "food that isn't food" and that ultra-processed food is worse for health than smoking.

Hype around ultra-processed food is problematic because it may be causing unnecessary anxiety among people who already struggle with food or worry about their health.

As well as confusing the public on what food is and isn't healthy, ultra-processed food hype may also distract attention from much-needed government action to restrict food industry marketing and sales of the types of foods we already know are bad for health – foods higher in sugar, salt, saturated fat and calories.

Perhaps in the future, convincing evidence might show that some specific types of food processing can cause severe health problems. But until then, sensationalist messages and misleading claims about ultra-processed food are very real problems.

By arrangements with *The Conversation*



Disrupted Sleep In Midlife Linked To Memory, Thinking Problems Later: Study

Press Trust Of India

People who have disrupted sleep in their 30s and 40s may be more likely to have memory and thinking problems a decade later, according to new research.

The study, published in the journal *Neurology*, does not prove that sleep quality causes cognitive decline but only shows an association.

"Given that signs of Alzheimer's disease start to accumulate in the brain several decades before symptoms begin, understanding the connection between sleep and cognition earlier in life is critical for understanding the role of sleep problems as a risk factor for the disease," said study author Yue Leng, from the University of California, San Francisco, US.

"Our findings indicate that the quality rather than the quantity of sleep matters most for cognitive health in middle age," Leng said.

The study involved 526 people with an average age of 40. They were followed for 11 years.

Researchers looked at participants' sleep duration and quality. The participants wore a wrist activity monitor for three consecutive days on two occasions approximately one year apart to calculate their averages.

They slept for an average of six hours, the researchers said.

Participants also reported bedtimes and wake times in a sleep diary and completed a sleep quality survey with scores ranging from zero to 21, with higher scores indicating poorer sleep quality.



A total of 239 people, or 46 per cent, reported poor sleep with a score greater than five, the researchers found. Participants also completed a series of memory and thinking tests.

The researchers also looked at sleep fragmentation, which measures repetitive short interruptions of sleep.

They looked at both the percentage of time spent moving and the percentage of time spent not moving for one minute or less during sleep.

After adding these two percentages together, the researchers found that participants had an average sleep fragmentation of 19 per cent.

The team then divided the participants into three groups based on their sleep fragmentation score.

Of the 175 people with the most disrupted sleep, 44 had poor cognitive performance 10 years later, compared to 10 of the 176 people with the least disrupted sleep, according to the researchers.



Our findings indicate that the quality rather than the quantity of sleep matters most for cognitive health in middle age

After adjusting for age, gender, race, and education, people who had the most disrupted sleep had more than twice the odds of having poor cognitive performance when compared to those with the least disrupted sleep.

There was no difference in cognitive performance at midlife for those in the middle group compared to the group with the least disrupted sleep, the researchers said.

"More research is needed to assess the link between sleep disturbances and cognition at different stages of life and to identify if critical life periods exist when sleep is more strongly associated with cognition," Leng said.

"Future studies could open up new opportunities for the prevention of Alzheimer's disease later in life," the researcher added.

Office Of The Child Development Project Officer Poshan Shangus.

MERIT BASED TENTATIVE SELECTION LIST OF THE CANDIDATES APPLIED FOR OF THE POST OF SAHAYIKAS (Anganwadi HELPER) IN RESPONSE TO ADV.NOTICE NO-01 OF 2023 DATED:- 16.05.2023 OF CDPO SHANGUS ARE AS UNDER:-

S.No	Applica-tion S.No	Panchayat Halka/ Municipal Ward	Name of the Candidate	Parentage, W/O	Residence	Qualifica-tion	Board	DOB	Married/Unmarried	Marks 10th			Addl 02 Points as per HR Policy	Total Merit
										Max Marks	Marks Obtained	% of Marks		
1	4	Kuchepora (03)	Iqra Riyaz	W/O Rahil Rashid Kuchep	Kuchepora	Matric		10/24/2001	Married	500	283	56.60	2	58.6
2	33	Ganie Mohalla (05)	Shabroza Jan	Manzoor Ahmad Ganie	OHO PAISAN	8th		05.11.1996	Married	500	172	28.67		
3	35	Pehlipora (02)	Dazy Jan	Nisar Ahmad Chopan	Pehlipora Deethu	8th	GMS DANDI-PORA	10.10.1995	Married	600	406	67.66	2	69.66
4	47	Wangam Herpora (03)	Rukhsana Akhter	W/O Mukhtar Ahmad Mir	Herpora Wangam	8th		01.12.1988	Married	500	191	38.00		
5	55	Sheikh Mohalla (15'B)	Sumaira Jan	Amir Hussain Wagay	Sheikh Mohalla	8th		03.01.2002	Married					

MERIT BASED TENTATIVE SELECTION LIST OF THE CANDIDATES APPLIED FOR OF THE POST OF SAHAYIKAS (Anganwadi HELPER) IN RESPONSE TO ADV.NOTICE NO:- 18 OF 2023 DATED:- 10.08.2023 OF CDPO SHANGUS ARE AS UNDER :-

S.No	Applica-tion S.No	Panchayat Halka/ Municipal Ward	Name of the Candidate	Parentage,W/O	Residence	Qualifica-tion	Board	DOB	Married/Un-married	Marks 10th			Addl 02 Points as per HR Policy	Total Merit
										Max Marks	Marks Obtained	% of Marks		
1	1	Khul Chuhur (03)	Shaheena Yousuf	Ishfaq Ahmad Bhat	ASTAN Mohalla Khulchur	10th	JKBOSE	5/4/1983	Married	500	166	33.20	Nil	33.2
2	2	Kreeri(06)	Kulsuma Akhter	Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat	Naik Mohalla Kreeri	10th	JKBOSE	2/2/1998	Married	500	172	34.4	Nil	34.4
3	22	Isso I	Solia Ali	Muzaffer Ahmad Bhat	Isso Herpora	10th	JKBOSE	3/1/1994	Married	500	228	47	Nil	47
4	25	RS PORA A	ShagufTA Akhter	Sajad Ahmad Sheikh	Sheikh Mohalla RS PORA 03	9th	Hnafia Ed Inst RS Por a	5/4/1988	married	500	210	42	2	44
5	6	Chowgam	Sharifa Begum	Mohd Iqbal Khan	Sunglan Chadpora	10 th	JKBOSE	4/10/1997	Married	500	261	52	2	54
6	11	Uttersoo	Semi Jan	Mohd Iqbal Wani	Gadwalpora Uttersoo 03	10th	JKBOSE	6/5/1989	Married	500	195	39	Nil	39
7	9	Rakhi Brah	Gulshana Akhter	Gulzar Ahmad Khan	Barjinarid Rakhi BraH -05	8TH	JKBOSE	2/1/1994	Married	600	178	29.66	Nil	29.66
8	13	Barriangan B	Shakeela Begum	Mohd Amin Gojar	Ram Lachi 2	8TH	GMS UTER-SOO	8/5/1990	Married	500	236	47	2	49
9	12	Chowgam	Shubeena Akhter	Irfan Ahmad Khan	Pathrijobal A--02	8th	JKBOSE	10/28/2002	Married	600	300	50	nil	50
10	14	Barriangan	Dilshada Akhter	Haroon Ahmad Gojar	Goswani wooder 4	8TH	JKBOSE	2/10/1998	Married	600	175	29.1	Nil	29.1
11	17	Nowgam A	Shobey Akhter	Mazoor Ahmad Lone	Khudpora Nowgma A	8th	JKBOSE	2/10/1987	Married	600	31	51	Nil	51
12	18	Ogilbalan	Mehmooda Akhter	Sajad Ahmad Bhat	Pandit Mohalla Somrunu 05	8th	JKBOSE	1/1/1988	Married				Nil	
13	4	RS Pora B	ShagufTA Majeed	Towseef Yousuf	Lone Mohalla RSPORA10 04	10	JKBOSE	12/8/1986	Married	500	257	51	2	53
14	20	Brah A	Sumi Mushtaq	Nisar Ahmad Bhat	Herpora Brah 05	8th	JKBOSE	3/1/1989	Married				nil	
15	21	Dethu A	Aasiya Akhter	Sajad Ahmad Ganie	Herpora Deethu 04	10th	JKBOSE	11/2/1993	Married	500	181	36	nil	36
16	15	Cheerpora	Asmat Bashir	Aijaz Ahmad Kumar	Kumar Mohall Cheer-pora-06	8TH	JKBOSE	3/24/1997	Married	600	292	48.66	nil	48.66

MERIT BASED TENETATIVE SELECTION LIST OF THE CANDIDATES APPLIED FOR OF THE POST OF SAHAYIKAS (Anganwadi HELPER) IN RESPONSE TO ADV.NOTICE NO:- 31 OF 2023 DATED:- 16.12 .2023 OF CDPO SHANGUS ARE AS UNDER:-

S.No	Applica-tion S.No	Panchayat Halka/ Municipal Ward	Name of the Candidate	Parentage,W/O	Residence	Qualifica-tion	Board	DOB	Married/Unmarried	Marks 10th			Addl 02 Points as per HR Policy	Total Merit
										Max Marks	Marks Obtained	% of Marks		
1		Brah A	Sareena Banoo	Mushtaq Ahmad Shergari	Wagy Mohalla Brah	10th	JK BOSE	7/7/1990	married	500	236	47.00		47
2	2	Kreeri Beighpora	Sharida Akhter	Muzaffer Ahmad Beigh	Beighpora	10th	jkbose	2/20/1991	Married	500	208	41.6	2	43.6
3	3	Krad Buchan Herpora 05	Shenu JAN	Basharat Ahmad Shah	Buchan Herpora	10th	jkbose	3/10/1991	married	500	188	37.6	2	39.6
4	4	Shergund 07	Marena JAN	Arif Ahmad	Checki Shergund	8th	GHS BRARI-ANGAN	3/1/1997	Married	600	268	44.66		44.66
5	4	Panchalthan Wazkhah 04	Nasreena Akhter	Bilal ahmad Khan Gojer	wuzkhah	10th	jkbose	12/29/2004	married	500	259	55		55
6	6	Ranipora Tangpora 04	Munaza	Ali Mohd Najr	Tangpora	10th	jkbose	10/15/1999	unmarried	500	170	34		34
7	8	Pushroo Mughal Mohalla Andora 05	Shahnaz Akhter	Altaf Ahmad khan	Mughal Mohalla Andora	9th	GHS AN-DOORA	3/7/1997	UNMARRIED	600	392	78.4		78.4
8	24	Shangus A Khan-pora 08	Firdosa Akhter	Adil Nazir Wani	Khanpora	13th	jkbose	1/1/1990	Married	500	370	74		74
9	11	Nowgam Mukdam-pora B. 02	Saigja Jan	D/o: Rgh Mohuddin Bhat	Mukdampora	10th	jkbose	7/10/2001	unmarried	500	180	36		36
10	11	Uttersoo Sheikh Mohalla 03	Romie Jan	W/o: Manzoor Ahmad Lone	Sheikh Mohalla	10th	jkbose	09/058/2000	married	500	210	42		42
11	12	Kuthar Hajam Mohalla 06	Anjum Ara	Ishfaq Ahmad Hajam	Hajma Mohalla	8th	GHS KHAR-PORA	2/8/1990	married					
12	21	Pushroo Grees Mohalla 03	Saima Amin	W/O: Mohd Hussain	Grees Mohalla	10th	jkbose	4/1/1992	married	500	209	41.8		41.8
13	25	Panchalthan Pc 01	Parvaiza Akhter	W/o: Mohd Sideeq	Panchalthan	8th	GMS UT-TERSOO	3/3/1990	married					
14	16	Krad Wangam 02	Meenaza Nazir	W/o: Sajad Ahmad Malik	Wangam	9th	GHS ISSUS	11/4/1998	MARRIED	1200	478	39.83		39.83

Note: Any Objection regarding the above merit based Tentative Selection List may be Accepted with in ten days of the publiaction of the List.After that Any Claim will not be entertained.

No: CDPO/ICDS/SHG/2023/617.
DIPK-15294/23 Date: 16.01.2024.

S/D=

Child Development
Project Officer Poshan Shangus (Member Secretary)

0194-2310283 exenrajbaghsr@gmail.com
Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Rajbagh Srinagar.
Lal Mandi, Near L.D. Hospital Srinagar- 190008.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
E-NIT No.68/R&B/RAJ of 2023-24 issued under Endorsement No.5633-43
Dated:15.01.2024.

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:-

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rupees In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	Major Head	Class of Contractor
1.	Replacement of Overhead Water Tank at L.D. Including allied pipe Networks.	25.44 (Incl. Cost of Material +GST)	1100/-	50880/-	30 Days	Capex Budget 4210-Medical	"AYV/BEE"
2.	Replacement/ Repairs of Windows & Glass panes at Govt. L.D. Hospital Srinagar	4.04 (Incl. Cost of Material +GST)	200/-	8080/-	07 Days		"DEE"

Position of AAA: Accorded order No: 20-MCS of 2023 Dated: 27.06.2023. (for Sr.No.1)
77-MCS of 2023 Dated: 16.02.2023. (for Sr.No.2)

Position of Technical Sanction:43 of 2023-2024 Dated: 01/2024. (for Sr.No.1)

44 of 2023-2024 Dated: 01/2024. (for Sr.No.2)

Position of Funds: Available/Committed/Budgeted.

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	15.01.2024.
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	16.01.2024 from 10:00AM
3.	Bid submission Start Date	16.01.2024 from 10:00 AM
4.	Bid Submission End Date	22.01.2024 upto 04.00 PM
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	22.01.2024 at 04:05PM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar.

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan under M.H-0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division RajbaghSrinagar (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challans should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date)pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division RajbaghSrinagar (Tender Receiving Authority).

3. At the time of tendering, all the bidders must upload Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)/Bid Security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR pledged to the Tender Receiving Authority i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar (The date of Earnest money should be between Date of Start of bid and bid submission End date). The successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% of allotted cost in shape of CDR/FDR at the time of contract award. The Earnest Money/Bid Security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of performance security of 5% of the total allotted cost which will be released under rules after successful completion of the DLP.

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

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

6. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

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

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

8. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double Agreement Form) and detailed NIT issued vide this office No. 07/CDII/2011-12/389-414 dated 07.04.2011.

No.5633-43
DIPK-15267/23 Dated 16.01.2024.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
R&B Rajbagh Division
Srinagar (NM)

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Executive Engineer R&B Division Rafiabab, Watergam.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Fresh e-NIT No. EE/R&B/Rafiabad/47 of 2023-24, Dated 16.01.2024 .

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders are invited by Executive Engineer R&B Div.Rafiabad (watergam) on (Aggregate Percentage Basis) from approved and eligible Civil Contractors registered with J&K UT Govt., PWD, CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Govt. for the following work:-

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Earnest Money @ 2% of Adv. Cost	Cost of T/Doc/Time of Completion	Class of Contract	Major Head of Account
2	Construction of road from Druso to road to H/O Mohd Akbar Darat Marzigund ward No.12 MC Watergam	2.55 5100/-	200/-	15 days	DEE	IDMT

The Bidding documents 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 www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

S.No	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	16/01/2024
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	16/01/2024
3.	Bid submission Start Date	16/01/2024
4.	Bid Submission End Date	24/01/2024 at 4.00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	25/01/2024 at 11.00 A.M in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Div.Rafiabad (watergam)

Project Authority Executive Officer Municipal Committee Watergam

Position of AAA: Accorded.

Position of TS: Available

Special conditions:-

- The intending tenderers must have sufficient skilled /unskilled labour force.
- All intending Bidders have to upload Scanned copy of Earnest money @ 2% as per the circular issued by Chief Engineer PWR(B) Department Kashmir, vide No. CE/RBK/HD/32857-92, Dated: 01-01-2022.
- Intending bidders shall upload scanned copies of documents of valid Registration card (2023-24) PAN / GST registration with clearance of November/December 2023 or 2nd Quarter/3rd Quarter 2023-24 (July-Sep 2023/Oct-Dec 2023) , Treasury Receipt (Dated between the bid start date and the bid submission end date) deposited in MH 0059 and CDR, FDR, BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Div.Rafiabad (watergam). However successful bidder shall produce the original copies of same within 3 days after opening of tenders.
- The successful Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of allotted cost as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG within 03 days after opening of tenders and same shall be released after expiry of Defect Liability period (DLP)
- The Earnest Money Deposit of 2% of successful bidder shall be released after receipt of 5% performance security.
- The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or all tenders without assigning any reason therefor.
- The typographical error in the BOQ like unit of item, quantity of item, rate of item etc. If any found during e-NIT or after end date of NIT, shall be rectified as per the estimate in the allotment/Agreement of work.

General Conditions:

- The bidders will provide email ID and complete postal address including cell numbers.
- 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 Website in o/o Executive Engineer R&B Div.Rafiabad (watergam) (Tender Receiving Authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of Bids
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, if-
a. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or make 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 7 days after fixation of contract.
- Bidders

CS Reviews Implementation Of Projects Under HADP

More than 5 lakh farmers under KisanSamparkAbhiyan & 19000 youth contacted under YuvaVani reach out programs



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Tuesday reviewed the major achievements and progress on the implementation of all the 29 projects and sub-projects of the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) here in the UT through different Project Grounding & Monitoring Committees (PGMCs) headed by senior officers of the UT administration. Besides the Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, the meeting was attended by the Vice Chancellors, SKUAST K/J; MD, HADP; Deputy Commissioners; Chairmen PGMCs; concerned HoDs; Bank representatives and other officers.

Outstation based officers participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

While reviewing the progress on the achievements made in implementation of this program the Chief Secretary emphasized upon prompt decision on the fate of applications re-

ceived on the portal. He asked for moving ahead from the tendering and other modalities and focus on the establishment of different production units by the eligible beneficiaries.

He directed the two agricultural varisities to make short informational videos demonstrating the essential ingredients and processes of each agricultural activity for the awareness of farmers. He asked each Deputy Commissioner to generate awareness about the benefits of this program in their areas especially on the occasions of Block di-washed across panchayats and attended by farmers in large numbers.

While speaking about this massive program Dulloo made out that all the projects have been tailored out to bring maximum benefit to the farmers here. He observed that the projects are inclusive of different components for development of agriculture sector and many folds enhancement in the income of our farmers.

Property prices grew 19% annually in October-December 2023: Report

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Property prices rose 19 per cent annually during the October-December period, according to a report by real estate platform Magicbricks.

Property prices across 13 prime cities increased 18.8 per cent Year-on-Year (YoY) and 3.97 per cent quarter-on-quarter (QoQ) during October-December 2023, the report re-

ported. YoY, it decreased 16.9 per cent QoQ, primarily due to rising property prices.

The listings reduced 16.9 per cent YoY, with exceptions in Mumbai (4.2 per cent YoY) and Hyderabad (0.4 per cent YoY), where supply increased.

"The year 2023 served as a pivotal period for the real estate sector, witnessing an exponential surge in residential demand propelled by robust macroeconomic factors and



leased on Tuesday said.

Gurugram (32.1 per cent YoY), Greater Noida (31 per cent YoY), Noida (26.1 per cent YoY), and Hyderabad (15.8 per cent YoY) exhibited the highest appreciation during this period, it added.

Based on the data of over 2 crore customers within the primary (first-time sale) and secondary (resale) residential real estate market on the Magicbricks platform, the report indicated that while demand (searches) increased 2 per cent

positive customer sentiment," Abhishek Bhadra, Head of Research at Magicbricks, said.

"However, constrained residential supply and increasing home loan rates had an inflationary impact on residential prices, subsequently declining demand this quarter. Despite these short-term challenges, we foresee a positive trajectory for residential demand in the medium- to long-term, anticipating a rebound in supply and moderation in residential prices," he said.

Progress On Implementation Of 'Himayat' Scheme In J&K Reviewed

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Secretary, Planning Development and Monitoring Department (PD&MD), Aijaz Asad, Tuesday convened a meeting with officers of Rural Development Department to review progress on implementation of "Himayat" scheme in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was convened to analyze the current status of Himayat scheme (PMDP Project) besides deliberating on strategies aimed at to ensure effective implementation of the ambitious programme in the UT. Highlighting the significance of the scheme in fostering economic development and employment opportunities, the Secretary called upon the concerned authorities to further step up efforts towards ensuring successful implementation of the scheme benefitting maximum beneficiaries.

Secretary asked the Rural Development Department to provide information on the existing gap between the training imparted to the prospective beneficiaries and the subsequent placement opportunities extended to them. The prime objective behind launching this schemes is to facilitate the trained individuals with gainful employment.

Aijaz Asad took stock of existing flaws in smooth execution of the scheme and asked the officers to work out and recommend remedial measures to contain those impediments for obtaining the set targets under the programme. He exhorted upon the concerned officers to work collaboratively towards refining the implementation strategy, addressing challenges and streamlining the process to achieve the scheme's overarching objectives.

Escalating Prices Bring Down Gold Demand In Kashmir

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The escalating cost of gold is giving a tough time to the dealers in Kashmir who said the demand for this yellow metal has fallen considerably in Kashmir.

Gold has seen unprecedented price hikes in recent months, reaching once unimaginable levels. The price of 24-carat gold rose Rs 170 in early trade on Tuesday, with ten grams of the precious metal selling at Rs 63,270.

The ripple effect of this surge has now reached Kashmir, where dealers are reporting a staggering drop in demand for the yellow metal.

Local gold dealers, who have long been a staple in Kashmir's vibrant economy, are feeling the pinch as customers turn away from gold due to its exorbitant prices.

"There is a fall of almost 95 per cent in the demand for gold currently. A 24-carat gold sells at Rs 6300 per gram in Kashmir, which is almost Rs 200 less than the cost of per gram of gold in the country. Still, we don't get customers now," said Bashir Ahmad



Rather, the President of the All Kashmir Valley Gold Dealers and Workers Union.

Rather said the instability in the gold prices has compelled people not to invest in gold and silver.

"We have been witnessing that the gold prices have not been stable for a couple of weeks. It had led to a recession among gold dealers countrywide. We would often make good sales even during winters which is off-season for gold dealers in Kashmir. This winter we are facing immense losses," he said.

The soaring prices have led to a sharp decline in the

purchasing power of consumers, with many finding it difficult to afford gold for traditional occasions such as engagements and weddings. The economic downturn has created a ripple effect across various sectors, impacting the livelihoods of those dependent on the gold industry.

"Kashmiris mostly prefer to buy gold when its rates come down. For the last few months, the gold rates have been touching the sky. As such people have deferred functions like engagements, which mostly do happen during winter," said Noor Mohammad Zargar, a gold dealer. (KNO)

Amid Dry Spell, SKUAST-K Issues Advisory For Farmers, Orchardists



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Amid ongoing dry spell in the Kashmir valley, the Directorate of Research—Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST) has issued an advisory for orchardists and farmers.

According to the advisory, the Apple, Almond and Apricot orchardists have been asked to avoid pruning of orchards, saying that it may lead to freezing injury of the cut

ends and may activate buds leading to sprouting.

"Avoid irrigation as it may lead to root damage due to freezing & may activate sprouting. Maintain sanitation of orchards. Remove all twigs & fruit from the orchard and bury them deep in soil. Perform bur lapping if not done so far on tree trunks," the advisory reads.

For field crops like oil seeds, wheat, peas and oats, the advisory has asked for thinning of brown sarsoon crop, use of

organic mulch & field sanitation and to install yellow sticky trap 10 mt apart.

Following the isolated reports of vegetable crop damage, the advisory has asked to maintain weed free conditions in all standing crops to avoid competition for moisture.

"Use organic/ inorganic mulch wherever possible. Surface scrapping to facilitate aeration & moisture conservation. Apply shallow irrigation only if needed critically & that too during day," reads the advisory.

DC Kulgam Reviews Export Promotion Action Plan

Observer News Service

KULGAM: With a vision to enhance the Export Promotion from the district and to make the district an export hub to boost the local economy, a meeting of the District Level Export Promotion Committee was Tuesday held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan.

The meeting discussed the modalities for formulating a detailed Export Promotion Action Plan for the Kulgam district.

During the meeting, GM DIC, Bashir Ahmad through a PowerPoint presentation shared a blueprint regarding the District Export Promotion Plan and it was given out that Red Chillies and Garlic have been identified under One District One Product (ODOP) (a government of

India initiative) in Kulgam District.

The DC took a detailed appraisal of the measures undertaken for boosting exports of various products that are being produced in the district.

He instructed the concerned officers to mobilize their technical staff and ensure an increment in production of Red Chillies and Garlic by 20 percent this year.

Comprehensive discussion on the subject was held wherein various issues about the finalization of the District Export Action Plan were discussed and DC directed to put the final export plan for approval in the next meeting after revisiting the Draft Plan.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Showkat Ahmad Rather; JDP Zahid Sajjad; GM DIC, DM NABARD, CHO, CAO and other officers.



Wholesale Inflation Rises To 0.73% In December Amid Sharp Hike In Food Prices

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation rose to a nine-month high of 0.73 per cent in December 2023, mainly due to a sharp rise in food prices.

The WPI inflation was in the negative zone from April to October and had turned positive in November at 0.26 per cent. In December 2022, it was 5.02 per cent.

"Positive rate of inflation in December 2023 is primarily due to increase in prices of food articles, machinery & equipment, other manufacturing, other transport equipment and computer, electronics & optical products etc," the commerce and industry ministry said in a statement on Monday.

The last high level of WPI inflation was recorded in March 2023, when it was 1.41 per cent.

In December 2023, food inflation rose to 9.38 per cent from 8.18 per cent in November.

Within food articles, items that contributed significantly

to wholesale inflation were paddy, pulses and vegetables.

Inflation in vegetables and pulses was 26.30 per cent and 19.60 per cent respectively, while in paddy it was 10.54 per cent in December 2023.

Within vegetables, onion inflation was 91.77 per cent and has been consistently in double digits since August 2023. Potato continued to be in deflation at (-)24.08 per cent in December.

In the fuel and power segment, inflation was (-)2.41 per cent, as against (-)4.61 per cent in November 2023. In manufactured products, inflation was (-)0.71 per cent, as against (-)0.64 per cent in the previous month.

Barclays in its report said the wholesale inflation trajectory shows input costs remain under control and the momentum in food and manufactured product prices eased significantly.

"We expect RBI to begin monetary easing from June, with three 25 basis points rate cuts in the current calendar year," Barclays said.

Maruti Suzuki Hikes Prices Across Models Amid Slowdown In Demand Of Cars

Reuters

BENGALURU: Maruti Suzuki India, the country's top car maker, on Tuesday hiked prices of its models by 0.45%, far lower than its hike in January last year, signalling a slowdown in the demand for its cars.

Maruti and its peers had said towards the end of 2023 that they planned to hike prices from January due to increased commodity costs.

The company, majority owned by Japan's Suzuki Motor has struggled with sluggish sales in the small car segment, as the income levels of its traditional customers failed to keep pace with the escalating prices of goods ranging from cars to consumer products.

Analysts expect passenger vehicle sales to grow around mid-single digits this fiscal and slow down further in the next, following a surge in sales in the last fiscal driven by pent-up demand due to COVID.

The maker of the Swift hatchback had increased prices averaging 1.1% across its entire car lineup in January last year, more than double the latest hike.

Automakers in India increase the prices of their vehicles in January every year after attempting to woo customers with seasonal discounts.

Considering the year-end, coupled with low demand for entry-level vehicles, Maruti increased discounts on its lesser-priced models by 40-45% in December 2023.

NORTHERN RAILWAY				
E-Tender Notice				
Sr. DEN/HQ/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.reps.gov.in with closing date-02.02.2024 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.reps.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.reps.gov.in				
Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System		
Open	Works	Single Bid System		
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time		
10.01.2024	19.01.2024	02.02.2024/15:00 Hrs		
S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender		
1.	366-2023-24-ADEN-2-FZR	Continuous scour monitoring of foundation of Bridge No. 84 on JUC-FZR section ADEN-2/FZR.		
		Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer
		19,94,972.67/-	39,900/-	60 Days
		Period of Completion	16 Months	
		Similar nature of work :- "NIL"		
2.	370-2023-24-ADEN-2-FZR	Misc. P-Way Works for track maintenance in the section of SSE/P-Way/FZR in the jurisdiction of ADEN-2/FZR		
		Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer
		28,64,919.23/-	57,300/-	60 Days
		Period of Completion	09 Months	
		Similar nature of work :- "NIL"		
3.	371-2023-24-ADEN-2-FZR	Misc. P-Way Works for track maintenance in the section of SSE/P-Way/LNK in the jurisdiction of ADEN-2/FZR.		
		Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer
		28,64,919.23/-	57,300/-	60 Days
		Period of Completion	09 Months	
		Similar nature of work :- "NIL"		
4.	372-2023-24-ADEN-2-FZR	Misc. P-Way Works for track maintenance in the section of SSE/P-Way/FKA in the jurisdiction of ADEN-2/FZR.		
		Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer
		28,64,919.23/-	57,300/-	60 Days
		Period of Completion	09 Months	
		Similar nature of work :- "NIL"		
5.	373-2023-24-ADEN-1-FZR	Repair and maintenance of bridges in the section of ADEN-1/FZR under Sr. DEN-HQ/FZR.		
		Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer
		22,85,983.02/-	45,700/-	60 Days
		Period of Completion	04 Months	
		Similar nature of work :- "NIL"		
6.	374-2023-24-ADEN-2-FZR	Crossing of 1200 mm dia DI K-7 Water supply pipe line passing through 1600 mm dia M.S. heavy duty casing pipe under the Railway Track ROB No. A-2 at km 3/5-6 on JUC-FZR section under ADEN-2/FZR		
		Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer
		80,81,940.44/-	1,61,600/-	60 Days
		Period of Completion	04 Months	
		Similar nature of work :- "Construction of bridge with pipe & Box pushing technique/Crossing of under ground cable/pipeline etc."		
Note 1:- Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender. No:- 366, 370, 371, 372 & 374-2023-24-ADEN-2-FZR & 373-2023-24-ADEN-1-FZR Date: 15.01.2024				
196/2024				
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE				

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATION DIVISION
KASHMIR POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED (KPDCI)
PDD COMPLEX BEMINA, SRINAGAR
 E-mail: ccp.rpdpr.a@gmail.com | Tel No: 0194-2490821 | Fax No: 0194-2490829

EXTENSION NOTICE NO 1

In view of poor response to the e-NIT issued for "Replacement of defunct Addressable Fire Alarm System, Rodent Repellent System, High Sensitivity Smoke Detection System, CCTV System and Access Control System at Data Centre, Bemina, Srinagar" Vide this office, NIT No: CEO/IT&C/ 21 of 2023 Dated: 18/12/2023 (Tender ID No.: 2023_PDD_240551_1) the last date for online submission of bids is hereby further extended up to 22-01-2024, 14:00Hrs. The details to submit e-Bid online up to the date and time are mentioned in the table below:

A	e-Bid submission (end) date & time(Extended)	22/01/2024:1400 Hrs
B	Online Technical e-Bid Opening date and Time	24/01/2024:1400 Hrs
C	Venue of opening of technical Bids	Office of the Chief Executive Officer, IT & C division , KPDCI
D	Online Financial e-Bid Opening date and Time	Will be separately communicated to the technically responsive bidders

No: CEO-IT&C/ 2233-34
 Dated:15-01-2023

DIPK-NB-5267-23
 DT: 16/01/2024

Chief Executive Officer
 IT and Communication Division
 KPDCI

General Manager Reviews Performance Of Northern Railway Presented Safety Awards For Outstanding Work For Improving Safety

New Delhi: Sh. Shobhan Choudhuri, General Manager Northern Railway held a review meeting with the departmental heads of Northern Railway and DRMs. Deliberations were held on keeping focus on mobility enhancement and other developmental infrastructure works and safety on tracks. He instructed official to keep close and strict vigil during heavy fog season. He asked officials to maintain smooth rail movement without compromising safety.

Apart from performance review the GM also presented Safety Awards to 4 vigilant employees for their contribution towards maintain high standards for safety and security of passengers and railway property

He reviewed the work done over



The zone in improving the maintenance standard of track, welds, joints and removal of scrap lying near the tracks. He instructed the divisions to expedite the works related with mobility enhancement and conducting drives to check the progress. He stressed upon the safety

during ongoing winter season and all efforts should be done to curb any kind of obstruction during operation of trains.

Sh. Choudhuri also said that, whenever necessary and required the concerned staff should be counsel and trained. He said the monitoring of rail fractures and rail welds should be done extensively and no error should be left.

He emphasized upon minimizing the human failure in train operation. He also instructed the department heads and DRMs, to maintain the punctuality and keep pace for freight loading with safety as priority.

Northern Railway is committed to provide safe, smooth and efficient services to its customers.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Delayed Flights,

on social media. The flight took off from Delhi after a delay of more than 10 hours, according to flight tracking website flightradar24.

And in more signs of air passengers at the absolute end of their tether, many people rushed out of an IndiGo aircraft at Mumbai airport, some sitting on the tarmac and eating food as their diverted Goa-Delhi flight landed after a long delay on Sunday.

As photographs and video clips were distributed on social media, aviation security watchdog BCAS issued show cause notices to IndiGo and Mumbai airport operator MIAL over the incident, official sources said on Tuesday.

The sources said the aircraft was allotted a remote bay C-33 instead of a Contact Stand, an aircraft parking stand that is suitable for walking passengers to and from an aircraft from an allocated boarding gate. This further added to passenger woes and deprived them the opportunity to avail basic facilities like rest rooms and refreshments at the terminal, they added.

Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia also held a meeting with all ministry officials to discuss the matter. In a statement on Monday, he had said the government is taking a slew of steps to improve the situation and assured people that all stakeholders are "working round the clock to minimise the fog-related impact".

"It is my earnest request to all travellers to bear with us during this difficult period," he posted on X.

The stories were plenty.

An Air India flight from Calicut to Mumbai was delayed by more than 12 hours - from 6.50 pm on Sunday to 8.30 am on Monday.

"It was a nightmare. First, we were told our flight has been rescheduled to 9.55 pm and later around 10-10.30 pm, after asking the staff multiple times, they told us that it will now take-off tomorrow at 7.35 am.

"To top it all, we, who were made to wait at the airport since 4 pm, were told to leave the airport premises without giving any assurance about our accommodation for the night. We really have to put our foot down to get the accommodation, even then it was not provided to all," passenger Anshika Verma told PTI.

Many vented their ire on X. Visuals of long queues at airports, some sitting or lying on the floor waiting to get updates on their flight status made the rounds of various social media platforms.

In a lengthy post on X on Monday, actor Ranvir Shorey called out IndiGo for an alleged 10-hour delay, claiming the staff "lied" to him about the holdup citing bad weather issues. The 51-year-old actor, desperate to get to his child, did not name the airport.

"... Our flight took off at around midnight, 10 hours after the scheduled time of the flight! We will be filing a complaint for the trauma we have been doled out yesterday by @IndiGo6E in the name of air travel," said the Mumbai-based actor. The "Khosla Ka Ghosla" actor alleged that the aircraft didn't have a pilot assigned for the flight and seven friends were travelling in.

Later, an IndiGo spokesperson said the team is "actively working" to address his concern. Last week, actors Radhika Apte and Surbhi Chandna also shared their air travel ordeal on social media.

While Apte claimed she was among several passengers who were locked in an aerobridge for hours after their flight was delayed, Chandna slammed another air carrier for allegedly "offloading" her luggage and "mentally torturing" her.

"... Today morning I had a flight at 8:30. It's 10:50 now and the flight has still not boarded. BUT the flight said we were boarding and put all the passengers in the aerobridge and LOCKED IT! The passengers with small babies, elderly people have been locked in for over an hour," wrote Apte while sharing pictures of herself and the co-passengers squatting on the aerobridge.

Indigo and Air India issued statements following the severe backlash by their respective customers for their poor handling of flights.

While Air India said they are "working hard to restore schedules", and sincerely regret the inconvenience caused to its passengers, Indigo assured people that it has "sufficient CAT III qualified pilots" and argued that the number of diversion cases "represents a very small fraction" of the 2,000 daily flights operated by them.

"We are putting in every effort to minimize inconvenience to passengers in the event of flight disruption due to bad weather," read the statement from IndiGo.

Rural J&K Transformed

remembering them now. I do not want to say anything, but, I think the people here know very well who those people are and what their intentions are.

"They want Panchayats to return to the same

situation and that everything should happen through them, but, I want to assure you that we will not allow that," he said.

He appealed to the people, especially the youth, to participate in the Republic Day celebrations and keep the tricolour flying high.

"I urge you to take part in large numbers in the 'Jhanda Ooncha Rahay Hamara' programme. I want the skies of Baramulla to be filled with Tiranga," he said.

At Baramulla, the LG joined the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, and called for collective efforts from all sections of the society to ensure that no beneficiary is left behind.

He also inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for development projects worth Rs 38 crore.

He said the impressive participation of the citizens during the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra across the UT is a reflection of the transformation that happened in J&K, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, over the past few years.

"All the districts are witnessing accelerated growth and rural Jammu Kashmir has been transformed beyond imagination," the LG said. "We have been able to fulfill the hopes and aspirations of the people to a large extent. Today, the people of Jammu Kashmir have better quality life and equal economic opportunities to grow, he added.

He further said, "Our efforts towards the creation of new infrastructure, knowledge economy and achieving 100% saturation of schemes will ensure J&K realise its destiny."

The LG inspected the stalls, put up various departments and handed over sanction letters to beneficiaries under different government schemes. He administered the 'Hamara Sankalp Viksit Bharat' pledge to officials and the citizens.

He also flagged off a fleet of Garbage Collection Vehicles for rural areas of the district.

The demonstration of sports activities and cultural performances received special appreciation from the Lt Governor.

The projects inaugurated by the LG today include Office Accommodation for Block Development Council Tangmar; WSS Aglar; Retrofitting works of Water Supply Schemes at Sagipora Razakpora, Achabal Doabgah, Gund Dalwash, Gani Wani Manchkhud; Sub Stations and Improvement of LT/HT Network in the District and Model School at Government Higher Secondary School Pattan.

The projects for which foundation stones were laid by the LG include Astro Turf for Football at Sheikh-ul-Alam Stadium; 8-Lane Synthetic Athletic track Surface at Tulihal Sopore; Installation of Blow Moulded Chairs for General Bipin Rawat Stadium; Spawn Production Laboratory in Public Sector under (HADP) for Mushroom Promotion in Baramulla and Laboratory Block at Government Higher Secondary School Autothora.

Safina Baig, Chairperson, District Development Council Baramulla; Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai, GOC 15 Corps; Vidhi Kumar Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary Youth Services and Sports; Minga Sherpa, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla; senior officers of Security Forces, Civil and Police administration; former PRI members; youth and people in large numbers were present.

'Snowfall Must

attraction there. "Six new destinations have been added to the list in Baramulla district but in absence of snow, tourists would prefer to stay away," he said.

Action Against

been weeded out of the documents.

"In the last 10 years, we have empowered the poor, farmers, women and youth.... In the last 10 years approximately 10 crore fake names have been weeded out of the documents. Today, every paisa sent from Delhi (Centre) reaches the bank account of the beneficiary who is entitled to it. Fight against corruption and action against corrupt people has been the priority of the government," he said.

Modi further said a lot of tax reforms such as implementation of GST and simplified the Income Tax system, were brought in during the last 10 years resulting in record tax collection.

"Several reforms were brought in in the tax system during the last 10 years. Earlier, there used to be different tax systems which common citizens found difficult to understand. Due to lack of transparency, honest tax payers and business people were being troubled," he said.

Pointing to the introduction of the "faceless tax assessment" system in the country, Modi said due to these reforms today in the country record tax collection is being witnessed.

Commemorating the Thiruvalluvar Day, the Prime Minister quoted the great Tamil sage and underlined the role of revenue officers in collecting taxes that led to people's welfare in

a democracy.

Earlier in the day, PM Modi visited the historic Veerabhadra temple in Lepakshi and offered prayers.

Modi chanted songs in praise of Lord Ram, listened to special hymns sung in Telugu extolling the deity, and also witnessed a puppet show on the epic Ramayana featuring Ram, Lakshman, Sita and Ravana.

The PM said he is undergoing an 11-day special anushthan before the Pran Pratishtha (consecration) at the temple at Ayodhya Dham and expressed gratitude for being blessed at the temple during this period.

Acknowledging the atmosphere of Ram Bhakti pervading the country, Modi pointed out that Lord Ram's inspiration goes beyond devotion.

According to him, Shri Ram is such a great symbol of good governance that he can be a great inspiration for NACIN too.

"The NACIN's role is to provide a modern ecosystem to the country which will ease trade and business in the country," he said.

Ahead of Ram temple consecration in Ayodhya, PM Modi said whole country is immersed in Ram Bhakti."

Citing a report released by NITI Aayog, he said almost 25 crore people have been lifted out of poverty in the last 9 years by the efforts of his government.

Modi expressed confidence that the poor of the country have the potential to defeat poverty if they are given the means and resources.

Feeble WD

particular date as well.

According to the news agency KNO, the night temperature continued to settle below freezing point across the Valley with Srinagar recording a low of minus 4.6 degree Celsius.

Qazigund, the gateway of Kashmir, has recorded a low of minus 4.4 degree Celsius while Pahlagam was once again the coldest place at minus 5.4 degree Celsius.

Gulmarg ski-resort, has recorded a low of minus 3.1 degree Celsius while Kokernag and Kupwara recorded a minimum temperature of minus 2.3 degree Celsius and minus 4.4 degree Celsius respectively.

Moreover, Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that overall, no significant weather activity is expected till 24th January.

During January 25-27, there is a possibility of light rain, snow at scattered places during 25th to 27th as per indications of different models, he said, adding that the forecast in this regard will be updated in coming days.

Hospitals Witness

according to Dr. Yusuf, indicating a rise in respiratory infections in Kashmir.

"Elderly people are prone to respiratory illnesses especially those suffering from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), kidney ailments and heart diseases. We recommend them to not venture out early in the morning and move out only in case of an emergency, that too with adequate clothing," he added.

A senior resident doctor at the Shri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) Hospital also claimed that 60% of patients at the valley's major referral hospital have lung infections.

"I think that acute respiratory illnesses account for a majority of the patients visiting SMHS. This results from being exposed to the dry cold weather. Elderly or morbid individuals make up the majority of URTI and LRTI patients," he told Kashmir Observer.

"Upper respiratory infections usually persist between one to two weeks and often disappear on their own," he added.

He suggested that a person who spends a lot of time indoors can prevent respiratory tract infections by using face masks.

Pulmonologist and HoD, Chest Diseases Hospital Srinagar, Dr Naveed Nazir Shah said that the respiratory tract infections have witnessed a significant rise because "the immune system in the respiratory tract is weakened by low air humidity, which exacerbates existing medical disorders."

"In order to optimize treatment and keep the respiratory tract diseases under control, I advise these patients to see their physician prior to the arrival of winter. When one family member becomes infected, the whole family is affected. Therefore, it's good to isolate the person for at least five days, before he exhibits symptoms, Dr. Naveed added.

Dr Naveed cautioned elderly people with COPD or chronic bronchitis against stepping outside in the cold, saying the cold air they inhale might worsen their conditions. "Drink plenty of lukewarm water for neutralizing the effect of humidity," Dr Naveed said, adding that flu vaccination is effective for respiratory well-being.

Health professionals advised individuals to avoid self-medication and consult a doctor as soon as they exhibit signs of a respiratory

tract infection. They also said that the people should drink enough fluids, as the same would aid in fending off the negative effects of the dry weather.

Self-medication and disregarding safety precautions, including not wearing face masks indoors, the doctors said, lead to respiratory tract infections that not only exacerbate the symptoms but also have a detrimental effect on other family members.

"It has been observed that people take antibiotics on a local chemist's advice, not caring about the potential repercussions. Not only does this practice worsen the issue, but also make the immune system of an individual less active in future," Dr Yusuf said.

Houseboat Owners

owner's River Jhelum, Ghulam Qadir Gasi, 57, said that he is witnessing such a situation for the first time in his life.

According to Gasi, much like a fish relies on water for its survival, a houseboat is similarly dependent on water to stay buoyant. When faced with diminishing water levels, maintaining the buoyancy of the houseboat becomes a challenging task.

"I have never seen water level as low as today, I have only seen it when dredging of Jhelum was done" Gasi said.

"We are consistently keeping a watchful eye on the houseboats around the clock, employing a long wooden stick for inspection. Our assessment involves checking whether the bottom of the houseboat is afloat or in contact with the land. If we discover that the bottom is touching the land, we proceed to guide the houseboat towards the center of the River Jhelum."

Gasi further explained that, despite the presence of houseboats in both the Jhelum River and Dal Lake, the circumstances are distinct. He said that the Houseboats situated in the Jhelum River face a heightened risk of submersion.

"When we compare Dal Lake and the Jhelum River, these are two different scenarios. The submerged land surface beneath the water level in Dal Lake is flat, whereas, in the case of the Jhelum River, the land surface beneath the houseboats is slanting," Gasi said.

"In the Jhelum River, the land surface slopes upwards towards the bund, rendering the houseboats vulnerable in the event of low water. During a decrease in water level, the houseboat tilts towards the river, allowing water to seep in from all sides, posing a risk of submersion," he added.

"This mirrors the dynamics observed during flooding. In Dal Lake, if the water level recedes, the houseboat remains balanced and rests directly on the underlying land, facilitating a smooth landing. However, in the Jhelum River, the scenario is entirely different."

Other houseboat owners have also voiced similar concerns. Noor Mohammad, in his late fifties said that he is also witnessing such a receding water level for the first time in his lifetime.

"I have my houseboat stationed near a silk factory and it is a commercial one. I am keeping a close vigil myself and it is scary. The houseboat is particularly made for water and with every inch of water receding, the houseboats are at a higher risk of drowning," Mohammad said

"If during night the water level further recedes, the houseboat can overturn and in case of imbalance, the water seems to seep into the houseboats from all sides and it loses all the control and eventually it sinks into the water," he added.

Mohammad Anees, another commercial Houseboat owner, said his family lost their floating abode due to the heavy winds in summers and he did not wish the same fate for his commercial houseboat.

"The dry weather is not only risking the survival of Houseboats but it is also taking a toll on the livelihood of Houseboat owners. It has been several months we are putting up in a rented accommodation as we lost our residential houseboat to severe winds," Anees said.

"Now we have one commercial houseboat left, we don't want to lose it to ever receding water levels."

Pertinently, there are a total of 86 houseboats situated along the Jhelum River, extending from the old zero bridge to the Foot Bridge. Several decades ago, the river boasted approximately 250 houseboats. However, over time, this number has dwindled and currently, there are around 86 houseboats remaining.

Faizan Arif, an independent weatherman from Kashmir said throughout the year, the water from glaciers gets added up in river Jhelum throughout the year. However, with the decrease in rainfall, the water level has receded and the water flow from glaciers decreases from the glaciers due to the subzero temperature.

"With the decrease in rainfall and with a

huge deficit, the water level is decreasing. The flow from other streams to Jhelum is from the previous fall. But in absence of a major snowfall, the water levels have decreased and it will keep decreasing until there is a major spell," Arif told Kashmir Observer.

"There aren't many reservoirs in Kashmir and this will cause water shortage as well. It will cause harm to our agriculture sector as well as horticulture."

Faizan cautioned that without significant rainfall in February and March, those with fish farms relying on springs may face continued challenges in the future.

"If the uncertainty of the future remains; an increase in precipitation during these months could potentially help us overcome the deficit."

Narco-dealers

1650 brave men so far in line of duty and per the resources available at their own level and at the disposal of J&K administration, families of police martyrs are being taken care of.

"As already stated by the LG sahib that Sainik Colonies will come up in Kashmir and Jammu, these colonies will accommodate families of police martyrs as well. Children of the police martyrs will get hostel facilities in these colonies that are set to come up in the next two years," the DGP said.

To a query about the security situation in Rajouri-Poonch, he said that security forces are working out to wipe out terrorism and dismantle its eco-system wherever it exists. Pertinently, Rajouri-Poonch has been an area of concern for the security agencies, especially the army that lost 20 soldiers in 2023 in a spate of attacks. LG Manoj Sinha has stated that a counter-terror plan has been rolled out to deal with the situation in Rajouri-Poonch.

HC Bars J&K

and others are promoted from the subordinate cadre.

For the purpose of their next promotion and alleviation to become Assistant Manager (JMGS-I) officers, 80% is to be done through promotion from the Banking Associates cadre, whereas 20% is by direct recruitment, they said.

With respect to 80% of promotion of Banking Associates to the post of Assistant Manager (JMGS-I), they said, the Policy envisages and recognizes two channels: one channel on the basis of seniority cum selectivity channel and the other one is fast track and merit channel as is envisaged under Clause 4.1 of the Policy.

Under this seniority cum selectivity channel, they said, there is further classification obtaining with respect to the Banking Associates.

The Banking Associates who are appointed after qualifying IBPS examination possessing seven years of regular service as such on 31st March of the preceding financial year are eligible for promotion to JMGS-I.

The Banking Associates who have come to be so appointed on the basis of promotion from subordinate cadre and have completed seven years of service as such are mandatorily required to go through an eligibility screening written test (objective type) for participation for the promotion under seniority cum selectivity channel, the court was told.

"It is where the petitioners figure. The problem that has brought the petitioners before this Court through the medium of this writ petition is that instead of according them an eligibility screening written test (objective type), the petitioners have been clubbed with category two of under fast track/merit channel candidates and subjected to bear written examination, which in terms of the policy intent, is meant to be only for the Banking Associates who have completed three years of regular service and are willing to take chance for proving their merit for the purpose of promotion by undertaking the written examination in a promotion process envisaged for the said category," the court said.

"Since the petitioners reckon that they have been prejudiced by being subjected to a written examination meant for fast track and merit channel, as such, they do not find themselves qualifying the "rigorous" written examination and, as such, are left out of list of candidates who have been called for interview in terms of notification dated January 11, 2024, which has come to be issued post filing of the present writ petition by the petitioners, the court said.

"The petitioners are staring at loss of a promotion opportunity in their favour having completed seven years of service as Banking Associates and still not getting a call for consideration by reference to an alleged disqualification having not made it through the written examination which was meant for fast track/merit channel," the court said and issued notice to the bank.

LG Lays Foundation To Two Sports Projects In Baramulla



Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated and laid the foundation stone to two sports projects on Tuesday in Baramulla. The LG laid the foundation stone for an astro turf at Baramulla Stadium, renamed after General Bipin Rawat, and an eight-lane synthetic athletic track surface at Tulibal, Sopore. Paying homage to the brave soldier and military strategist, the LG

remembered the service of General Bipin Rawat in North Kashmir in various capacities. The football stadium in Baramulla will also be fitted with blow moulded chairs.

The LG also highlighted the key initiatives taken by the J&K Administration for the development of Baramulla District.

The demonstration of sports activities and cultural performances on the occasion received special appreciation from the LG.

Safina Baig, Chairperson, District Development Council Baramulla; Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai, GOC 15 Corps; Vidhi Kumar Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary Youth Services and Sports; Minga Sherpa, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla; senior officers of Security Forces, Civil and Police administration; former PRI members; youth and people in large numbers were present.

Plenty To Play For: Afghanistan Coach Ahead Of 3rd T20I

Press Trust of India

BENGALURU: Afghanistan coach Jonathan Trott said his bowlers will have to put pressure on Indian batters in the middle-overs for them to be competitive against the home side in the third and final T20I here on Wednesday.

Afghanistan are looking to score a consolation win after India won Mohali and Indore matches to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the rubber. India had scaled down targets with consummate ease in the previous two matches.

"I will be looking at getting closer to a good 40 overs from us tomorrow. Being able to put some pressure on the Indian side in the middle overs with the ball would be nice.

"It's something that we want to get better at if we want to compete at the World Cup (in June). So, plenty to play for at such a historic venue," said Trott in his pre-match press meet on Tuesday.

Part of their struggle with the ball has its genesis in the absence of injured Rashid Khan, and Trott said Afghanistan management is giving ample time for the star spinner to recover.

"It is a case of us making sure that we are careful with his back. He is such an influential player. We have to make sure he is 100% ready and not rush him back from that type of surgery. It is important to give him the time and



he is working extremely hard.

"He has got a few more appointments and check-ups to make sure everything is okay. So, there is no real time-frame. I hope it is sooner rather than later. But there is no pressure and no rush," said Trott.

Afghanistan batters also have not really fired in this series, and Trott attributed that underwhelming effort to his side playing not enough T20s of late.

"We haven't played a lot of T20s recently. As a side, we take a while to get into the rhythm. We saw ourselves build towards that 50-over WC with the Asia Cup and a series before

that. Hopefully, tomorrow we can get it all together," he said. Trott offered a clear path for his batsmen to register some runs against their names.

"We need batters going into the last ten. We have seen how hard it is to stop batters in the last five overs. What we did really well in Mohali is that in the last ten overs we got 110 runs, I think for two wickets. But in Indore, in the middle overs, we went nine overs at six (runs) an over, building up for the last five. So, we do well for one game and don't do it in the next. We need to do it more if you want to compete for the series, in World Cups," he added.

India, England Australia Should Do More: WI CEO



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The big three in world cricket, including India, England and Australia should do more to save smaller Test playing teams and ICC's current revenue sharing model is "completely broken", said Cricket West Indies CEO Johnny Grave.

India being the engine of the game pockets close to 40 per cent of ICC's net annual earnings, followed by England and Australia, who get a single digit share.

"The revenue-share model is completely broken. If we really want to operate as a cricketing community, we are only as strong as the weakest team, and we've got to change the mindset of bilateral cricket," Grave was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.

At the moment, the players of the teams like South Africa and West Indies are having to prioritise franchise cricket over their international commitments.

South Africa recently announced a third string squad for their Test tour of New Zealand and West In-

dies too were forced to leave out senior players like Jason Holder for the tour of Australia beginning on Wednesday.

Grave also highlighted Cricket West Indies' big spending on air travel.

"We took a women's team there (Australia) and we won a T20I against all the odds, and match fees and international air flights cost us three-quarters of a million dollars.

"We've got a Test team there, an ODI team and a T20I team, which will cost us another million-plus dollars in terms of match fees and airfares. We spend more on airfares than anyone else in the world.

"In percentage terms, we will spend more than anyone on red-ball cricket so I would argue against any narrative that the West Indies aren't interested in Test cricket.

"Hopefully, the South Africa series has woken up the Australian media to the realities of what it's like to operate Test cricket, and unless the boards change the economic model, I don't think Test cricket will thrive outside of the Big Three," Grave said.

Pat Cummins, Deepti Sharma Win ICC POTM December Honours

Agencies

DUBAI: Australia skipper Pat Cummins wins ICC Men's Player of the Month award for bowling heroics in the Test triumph against Pakistan. Meanwhile, Deepti Sharma of India won the maiden ICC Women's Player of the Month award thanks to her multi-format brilliance against England and Australia, according to a release from the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Tuesday. ICC revealed the Men's and Women's



Player of the Month award winners for December 2023 after shortlists were announced last week. Pat Cummins caps a spectacular 2023 with the ICC Men's Player of the Month award for December, following a supreme bowling performance in his side's victorious Test series against Pakistan.

On the other hand, Deepti Sharma won her first ICC Women's Player of the Month prize after batting and bowling brilliance in all three formats secured notable victories for India over strong opposition in England and Australia.

Cummins was at the forefront of Australia's Test success over Pakistan in December, demonstrating the leadership and bowling prowess that personified Australia's surge to success in 2023, winning their maiden World Test Championship mace, and their sixth Men's Cricket World Cup crown earlier in the year.

The highlight of another spectacular month for Cummins came in the side's second Test victory over Pakistan in Melbourne. The pacer took ten wickets



in the match, which included an inspiring spell as the match approached a nervy climax. His five for 48 in the second innings included the prized wicket of a well-set Mohammed Rizwan - Cummins' 250th in the longest format - ensuring Australia dramatically snatched victory.

Cummins overcame fellow Test stars Tajul Islam of Bangladesh and Glenn Phillips of New Zealand to claim the December prize, while Sharma wins ahead of teammate Jemimah Rodrigues and Zimbabwe's Precious Marange. (ANI)

ICC Bans Bangladesh's Nasir Hossain For Two Years



Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Bangladesh all-rounder Nasir Hossain was on Tuesday banned from all cricket for two years, with six months of that suspended, after he accepted three charges of breaching the Emirates Cricket Board's Anti-Corruption Code.

Hossain, who was charged by the ICC (in its capacity as the Designated Anti-Corruption Official under the ECB Code) in September 2023, admitted to three charges.

Charge No. 1 relates to "Breach of Article 2.4.3 of the Code, in that he failed to disclose to the Designated Anti-Corruption Official (without unnecessary delay) the receipt of a gift that was offered to him that had a value of over US\$750, namely the gift of a new iPhone 12," said the ICC in a statement.

He also "failed to disclose to the Designated Anti-Corruption Official full details of the approach or invitation he received to engage in Corrupt Conduct via the new iPhone 12.

"Charge No. 3 - Breach of Article 2.4.6 of the Code, in that he failed or

refused, without compelling justification, to co-operate with the Designated Anti-Corruption Official's investigation in relation to possible Corrupt Conduct under the Code, including (without limitation) failing to provide accurately and completely any information and/or documentation requested by the Designated Anti-Corruption Official (whether as part of a formal Demand pursuant to Article 4.3 or otherwise) as part of such investigation." As per the statement, the 32-year-old admitted to the charges and has agreed to the sanction.

"Subject to him satisfying the conditions in respect of the suspended part of the sanction, he will be free to resume international cricket on 7 April 2025," the ICC added.

Hossain was among the eight people associated with the Pune Devils franchise who were charged for alleged corruption in the 2020-21 edition of Abu Dhabi T10.

Hossain has represented Bangladesh in 19 Tests, 65 ODIs and 31 T20s. He last played for the country in 2018.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Swiatek Aces Kenin Test, Alcaraz Sees Off Veteran Gasquet

Agencies

Iga Swiatek came through an opening test of fire in her hunt for a first Australian Open title on Tuesday before Spaniard Carlos Alcaraz wrapped up the third day's play with an entertaining victory over French veteran Richard Gasquet on Tuesday.

Poland's world number one Swiatek had been handed a stern opening draw in hot and blustery conditions that made things difficult for players across the grounds, including Britain's Jack Draper who was physically sick after beating Marcos Giron. But the Polish four-time Grand Slam champion responded in style and twice fought back from a break down to win 7-6(2) 6-2.

Alcaraz was spared the worst of the heat as he made his return to the



tournament after missing it last year. Concluding a balmy night session on Rod Laver Arena against a man who won his first ATP tour match a year before he was even born, the 20-year-old Alcaraz won 7-6(5) 6-1 6-2.

The young Spaniard, wearing a sleeveless vest top, was given a run for his money by 131-ranked Gasquet who produced some signature backhand

winners to get within two points of taking the opening set in the tiebreaker. But Alcaraz responded to reel off three successive points and once he had the first set in his pocket he cruised.

He will face Italian Lorenzo Sonego in round two. Swiatek's strong form will be tested to the full in the opening week as she tries to play a course to her first Australian Open title.

Messi Edges Haaland In Tiebreaker For FIFA Best Player Award

Agencies

LONDON: Lionel Messi landed another prestigious award in soccer - barely.

The Argentina star needed a tiebreaker with Erling Haaland to win FIFA's best men's player prize on Monday.

He has national team captains to thank.

The voting breakdown showed Messi and Haaland with 48 points each after voting by a global panel of national team coaches and captains, selected journalists, plus fans online. The tiebreaker was whoever had more first-place or "5-point" scores from the votes of national team captains. That category was 107 to 64 for the Inter Miami forward.

Neither player showed up at the awards ceremony at Hamersmith Apollo theater in west London. Kylian Mbappé, the third finalist, skipped it too.

Messi had moved from Paris Saint-Germain to Inter Miami and led the David Beckham-owned



team to a little-known Leagues Cup title - all while single-handedly elevating soccer's relevance in the United States.

The 36-year-old Argentina star also topped Haaland and Mbappé for his eighth Ballon d'Or award last October.

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola was named best men's coach, and England coach Sarina



Wiegman took the women's prize. Guardiola led City to a treble of titles: Champions League, Premier League and FA Cup.

Messi secured the FIFA award for the eighth time in 15 years. He had won it last year, too, after leading Argentina to the 2022 World Cup title.

Fans voted overwhelmingly for Messi, and journalists favored

Haaland. The Man City striker had a slight edge in the votes from national team coaches. The national team captains leaned Messi.

The men's award did not consider the World Cup, which ended 13 months ago. It recognized achievements from after the tournament through Aug. 20.

Haaland and Mbappé could make good arguments that they deserved to win.

Haaland scored 28 goals in 36 games in all club competitions from after the World Cup through the end of the 2022-23 season as a driving force in Manchester City winning the treble. The 6-foot-4 striker then scored three goals in two appearances for Norway in June.

Mbappe scored at nearly a goal-per-game clip in the period of eligibility for PSG and then for France in European Championship qualifying in March and June.

The best goalkeeper awards went to Ederson of Brazil and Manchester City, and Mary Earps of England and Manchester United.

Soon, You May Watch Videos Without SIM Card Or Internet: Centre's Big Plan

Agenceis

New Delhi: Mobile users may soon be able to stream videos without a SIM card or an internet connection as Direct-to-Mobile broadcasting could become a reality in the near future.

Addressing a Broadcasting Summit, Information and Broadcasting Secretary Apurva Chandra said trials of the home-grown Direct-to-Mobile (D2M) technology would soon be held in 19 cities and made a strong pitch for reserving the 470-582 MHz spectrum for this emerging technology.

Mr Chandra said a 25-30 per cent shift of video traffic to D2M would unplug the 5G networks, accelerating the nation's digital evolution and democratising content delivery.

Last year, pilot projects to test the D2M technology were carried out in Bengaluru, Kartavya Path and Noida.

Mr Chandra said the D2M technology would help reach nearly 8-9 crore "TV Dark"

homes across the country. Of the 280 million households in the country, only 190 million have television sets. He said there were 80 crore smartphones in the country and 69 per cent of content accessed by users was in the video format.

Mr Chandra said heavy use of video led to the clogging of mobile networks, which resulted in the buffering of content.

Developed by Saankhya Labs and IIT Kanpur, the D2M broadcasting technology leverages terrestrial telecommunication infrastructure and public broadcaster-assigned spectrum to transmit video, audio, and data signals directly to compatible mobile and smart devices.

With the potential to reach over a billion mobile devices, the adoption of D2M technology promises transformative benefits, including cost reductions in data transmission and access, improvements in network efficiency and resilience, and potentially leading to the establishment of a nationwide emergency alert system.

108-Foot Incense Stick Lit At Ram Temple, Fragrance May Reach 50 Km

Agenceis

Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh: Sri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust Mahant Nriyaya Gopal Das today lit a 108-foot-long incense stick brought here from Gujarat.

Mr Das lit the incense stick amid a huge crowd chanting "Jai Shri Ram".

The fragrance from the incense stick will reach a distance of 50 km, it has been claimed.

The incense stick weighing 3,610 kg has a width of around three-and-a-half feet. It has been brought to this Uttar Pradesh town from Gujarat's



Vadodara.

Cow dung, ghee, essence, flower extracts and herbs were used to prepare the incense stick, which, once lit, will last for about a month and a half.

The consecration ceremony of the Ram temple in Ayodhya is scheduled to be held on January 22.

How To Charge A Phone In War-Hit Gaza: Patience Required, Sunshine Helps

Agenceis

Gaza: Huddling around a bewildering tangle of cables and extension leads plugged into a hospital power outlet, displaced Gazan men are pursuing a critical but elusive goal: getting their phones charged.

In wartime Gaza, a charged phone is nothing less than a lifeline. It serves to check on loved ones after Israeli bombardments, helps find out where food and water might be available, and provides light in tents after darkness falls.

"Every day we come here for three or four hours and waste time to charge our phones," said Mohammed Abu Skheta, who fled with his family, including a baby boy, from Al-Shati refugee camp in northern Gaza to a tent in Rafah, southern Gaza.

"It's a dream to fully charge it. It's very difficult. You can charge it to 50 or 60%, 70% at most," he said.

The charging spot outside the Emirati Hospital in Rafah is popular because it is free. The hospital allows displaced people to plug cables into its power sockets, which are fed either by solar panels or by a generator, when there is fuel for that.

Elsewhere, some households or small businesses that have solar panels allow people to charge, but often for a fee, which not all can afford.

"My financial situation is difficult, so I have to look for an alternative, such as charging at a hospital or shop, without paying money," said Abu Skheta.

Phones are not the only devices in need of regular charging. Mohamad Abu Taha, a barber in Rafah, said he was relying on a solar panel at the family home to recharge his electric razor in between jobs.

"For almost every haircut, I send my nephew to charge the ra-

zor. I have to inform the customer that if it's sunny I can work, if not then I cannot," he said.

One tailor in Rafah has got around the lack of electricity by converting a dismantled child's bicycle into a pedal dynamo to power his sewing machine.

No Place To Charge
The war in Gaza started when Hamas attacked southern Israel on October 7, killing 1,200 people and kidnapping 240 hostages, of whom more than 130 are still being held captive, according to Israel's tally.

Vowing to destroy Hamas, Israel has responded with a siege, bombardment, and ground invasion of Gaza which have killed more than 24,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza health officials.

Most of the population is displaced, and severe shortages of food, water, electricity and medicines have resulted in a humanitarian catastrophe, according to the United Nations.

Charging a phone has become one of the challenges of daily life, as time-consuming and frustrating as the search for bread or water.

"We came here to charge, but there is no place," said Mahmoud Marouf, who is displaced from Jabalia in northern Gaza, and had

brought a battery similar to the ones in cars to the charging spot at the Emirati Hospital.

Alongside phones, people bring such batteries to charge so that they can then power devices they need in their tents.

Volunteers at the hospital organise a rota allowing people to charge for a certain period of time. The system helps avoid tensions by giving access to precious sockets to as many people as possible, but demand is too high to satisfy everyone.

Marouf said he needed to charge his battery to power medical devices for his children, who have respiratory conditions.

"We got them a large battery and came to charge it, because hospitals are full," he said.

Despite the tedium, those lucky enough to have a spot waited patiently for their phones to charge as much as possible.

"It lasts us for one day, or one day and a half at most, not more. We use it for lighting only," said Mohamad Al-Shamali, who is displaced from Gaza City.

"Calls and telecoms are down so we don't have internet. We try as much as we can to secure lighting, to see the roads we are walking on and inside the tent we are in, no more than that."



India ranked 35th for leveraging future possibilities; UK on top

Agenceis

India has been ranked 35th on a global index of countries best placed for leveraging future possibilities while the UK topped the list released in Davos on Monday.

The Future Possibilities Index (FPI), a flagship global future trends study released by Newsweek Vantage and Horizon Group on sidelines of the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting, has Denmark, the US, the Netherlands and Germany in the top five after the UK.

Among large emerging markets, China is placed highest at 19th this year, followed by Brazil at 30th, India (35th) and South Africa (50th).

The study compared the factors that will help governments, investors and other private sector stakeholders leverage six global, transformational trends for growth and wellbeing across 70 countries.

These six global transformational trends are Exabyte Economy (advanced digital technologies), Wellbeing Economy (health prevention

and wellness), Net Zero Economy (reduction of carbon emissions), Circular Economy (recycling and reuse), BioGrowth Economy (food and agriculture innovations), and Experience Economy (consumption of experiences instead of physical goods).

The combined business opportunity of all six trends is estimated at more than USD 44 trillion by 2030, more than 40 per cent of global GDP in 2023, the study said.

The study used data from recognised international organisations as well as a survey of 5,000 business executives conducted for the project by Phronesis Partners.

These opportunities are likely to benefit the Global North more than the Global South in terms of economic growth and broader societal wellbeing and a strong industry base is needed to benefit, the report found.

The international development community must help developing countries take full advantage of these opportunities by strengthening related industries, it added.



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



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