



सत्यमेव जयते
Government of
Jammu & Kashmir



Khush-haal
Jammu Kashmir

Aman aur Taraqqi ki Nayee Tasveer



Viksit Bharat, Viksit Jammu Kashmir

Launch and Dedication to the Nation of
Development Projects
worth ₹**6400** crore

by

Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

- Holistic Agricultural Development Programme (HADP) of the UT Government
- 52 Projects including Integrated Development of Hazratbal Shrine under the PRASHAD/Swadesh Darshan Scheme, Government of India
- Launch of 'Dekho Apna Desh' People's Choice Tourist Destination Poll
- Launch of Short-listed Challenge based Destination Development Sites
- Launch of 'Chalo India Global Diaspora Campaign'
- Distribution of 1041 appointment letters

- HADP will equip about 2.5 lakh farmers in J&K with skill development via dedicated Daksh Kisan portal
- About 2000 Kisan Khidmat Ghars will be established under HADP
- Boost to Agriculture, Horticulture and Allied Sectors
- Tourism projects spread across the country will enhance overall experience of tourists and pilgrims with world class infrastructure and amenities

March 7, 2024 | 12:00 Noon
Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar

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Srinagar | Thursday | 07-03-2024

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Obesity A Risk Factor For Stillbirth, Especially At Term: Study

Press Trust Of India

Obesity is a risk factor for stillbirth, especially as the pregnancy advances to term, according to a large study conducted in Canada.

The findings, published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal (CMAJ), suggest that an earlier delivery date may help reduce the risk of stillbirth for pregnant people with obesity.

The researchers analysed data from the Better Outcomes Registry and Network on 6,81,178 (over 6.8 lakh) singleton births,

1,956 of which were stillbirths, in Ontario, Canada between 2012 and 2018.

After adjusting for other stillbirth risk factors like diabetes and high blood pressure, they found that people with class 1 obesity -- with body mass index (BMI) 30-34.9 kilograms per square metre (kg/m2) -- had double the risk of stillbirth at 39 weeks gestation compared to those with normal BMI (18.5-24.9 kg/m2).

For those in obesity classes II and III (BMI 35-39.9 kg/m2 and BMI 40 kg/m2 and higher, respectively), stillbirth risk at 36

weeks was 2 to 2.5 times that of people with normal BMI, the researchers said.

This risk associated with increased BMI, a measure of body fat based on height and weight, further increased with gestational age, with a more than fourfold risk at 40 weeks, they said.

"For other medical conditions that increase the risk of stillbirth, there are guidelines that recommend delivery at 38 or 39 weeks. Interestingly, the risk thresholds for those conditions are lower than the risks we found associated with obesity," said study

lead author, Naila Ramji, an assistant professor at Dalhousie University, Canada.

"We worry that implicit biases against people with obesity may be causing the medical community to take the risks they face less seriously," Ramji said in a statement.

The researchers also looked at whether stillbirths occurred before or during delivery and found a higher risk of stillbirths occurring before delivery in people with class I and II obesity.

They hope that these findings will improve care for this at-risk population.

Before The Hon.ble Court Of Principal District & Session Court At Srinagar

From the office of Advocate Aamir Mushtaq
Chamber No.412 Saddar Court Srinagar.

In the case of: Inayat Sartaj Shah S/o Sartaj Shah Kawoosa
R/o Baghat Barzulla Srinagar

Caveator
V/S
Public at large

Non-caveators

In the matter of: Caveat Petition under section 148-A of CPC

The caveator has apprehension that anyone from public at large may file any writ petition/appeal/application/ any proceedings against the Caveators before the Hon'ble Court of Principal District Judge At Srinagar, or any other subordinate courts as such the Caveator has lodged/ filed a Caveat petition before the Hon'ble Court of Principal District Judge At Srinagar.

Date: 6/03/2024

Aamir Mushtaq & Associates
Advocate J&K High Court

Public Notice

Public Notice My father's name has been wrongly spelled in my University Records as Bashir Ahmad Parray while his correct name is Bashir Ahmad Paray 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 IUST Awantipora within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Rukhsana Bashir
D/o Bashir Ahmad Paray
R/o Chowan Keller Shopian

fko

Public Notice

The caste of my daughter, Sonber Manzoor, in school records has been wrongly written as Gojree while the correct caste is Sheer Gojree 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 Govt High School Karhama within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Manzoor Ahmad Sheer Gojree
F/o Sonber Manzoor
R/o Karhama Tangmarg

bmg

Public Notice

The details of my son Mohammad Ziyaad Lanker in school records has been wrongly written as Mohammad Ziyaad Mother's Name Ruby Arshid while the correct name is Mohammad Ziyaad Lanker, Mother's Name Ruby Jan 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 Principal Burn Hall School Sonwar Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Arshid Ahmad Lanker
F/O Mohammad Ziyaad Lanker
R/O Usman Abad B, 90 Feet Road, Near Ahli Hadees Masjid
Maroof Colony Buchpora Srinagar

nj_r

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan

Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

Public Notice

The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Lolpora) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Haroon Rashid s/o Ab Rashid Sheikh R/o Mamoosa Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 02-03-1997 occurred at Home

In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Naib Tehsildar Pattan

fko_r

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan

Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

Public Notice

The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Pattan) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Areeba Mehraj D/o Mehraj Ud Din Lone R/o Palhalan Pattan Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 28-06-2022 occurred at SDH Pattan

In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Naib Tehsildar Pattan

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Naib Tehsildar Pattan

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Government of Jammu and Kashmir Office Of The Chief Education Officer Mini-Secretariat Kulgam

Tel/Fax: 01931467195; email: ceokulgam31@gmail.com

Advertisement Notification

Subject:- Engagement of Supporting Staff in KGBV Kharmanganish Qaimoh Reference:- Project Director Samagra Shiksha No: Edu/SPD/Sms/KGBV/9204-26/2022-23 Dated: 15-11-2022.

Applications on plan paper are invited from permanent residents of UT J&K District Kulgam Education Zone Qaimoh only for the below mentioned posts purely on contractual basis on consolidated salary in the KGBV Kharmanganish Qaimoh as per the following criteria.

1. Assistant Accountant

Name of the Zone	Name of KGBV	Vacancy
Qaimoh	KGBV Kharmanganish	01

2. Head_Cook/Assistant:Cook/Chowkidar/Peon cum Safiwala

(Village Level A/1 e rit)

Name of the Zone	Name of KGBV	Vacancy
Qaimoh	KGBV Kharmanganish	04 Posts Head Cook 01 Assistant Cook 01 Chokidar 01 Peon cum safiwala 01

Terms And Conditions For Engagement:-

- Only Female candidate of Zone Qaimoh can apply for the post of Accounts Assistant in KGBV Kharmanganish.
- Only Female candidates of Village Khamanganish Zone Qaimoh can apply for the post of Head Cook/Assistant Cook/Chowkidar/Peon Cum Safiwala.
- The engagement shall be purely on term contract basis for one year only. Contract shall be liable to be terminated without any notice in case of performance below acceptable standard.
- The candidate shall fulfill all the eligibility criteria mentioned for the Post.
- The candidate should be domicile of the UT of J&K and must possess the domicile certificate issued by the competent authority in the prescribed format as on last date prescribed for submission of application form.
- Age limit:- The prescribed age limit for the said post as on 01-01-2023 is as under:
General Category = 18 to 40 year
RBA/ST/ALC/SC = 18 to 43 years
- The Selected candidate shall have to file an undertaking on non judicial paper duly attested by Sub-Registrar to the effect that they will not claim in any case any entitlement for absorption in Govt. Services on regular basis.
- The last Date for submission of application forms will be 9 days from the date of Advertisement.

1. Selection Criteria/Norms Assistant Accountant (Contractual):

- The Contractual appointment will be made at Block Level (Zonal Level) and only female candidates shall be considered for selection process.
- The minimum qualification for the post of Assistant Accounts shall be the qualification prescribed by the finance Department for the post of Accounts Assistant - However, The weightage shall be given to the candidates in the following manner:

Graduation	= 70 Marks on	prorata basis
Post-Graduation	= 20 Marks on	prorata basis

- Relevant Experience form Competent Authority, If any. =10 marks (02 marks for each year)
- The selection for the post will be made based on merit/ weightage obtained by the candidates.

2. Selection Criteria/Norms for Head Cook, Assistant Cook, Chowkidar, Peon & Safiwala (Contractual Basis).

- Only female candidates will be selected for the post of Head Cook, Assistant Cook, Chowkidar, Peon Cum Safiwala on vacant posts purely on Contractual basis with a consolidated salary approved by the Ministry of Education in AWP&B
- The selection will be made on the basis of Revenue village level of KGBVKharmanganish Qaimoh where it is situated,
- Preference will be given to those candidates who donate land/have donated land in favour of Education Department for the construction of KGBV at the place where it is working on the need basis upto maximum of two members of a family. The quantum of land in this case should be more than 02 Kanals.
- The minimum qualification of the candidate should be 8th pass. In case, two or more candidates shortlisted for the same post, then the merit in the qualification shall be considered

Documents to be enclosed with the application in both categories.

- POP Certificate (matrkulation/School Certificate).
- Qualification Certificate along with consolidated marks sheet.
- Higher Qualification Certificate along-with consolidated marks sheet.
- Experience Certificate, If any.
- Domicile Certificate.
- AADHAR Card
- PAN Card
- Affidavit.
- Married/Unmarried Certificate.
- Land donation document if any.

No:-CEO/K/Sms/KGBV/9726-29824

DIPK-17542/23

Dated: 06-03-2024

Chief Education
Officer Kulgam

Public Notice

My name has been wrongly written in my Birth Certificate as : Zaid MUZAFFAR while my correct name is : Zaid MUZAFAR 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 Block Development Officer Pattan within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Zaid MUZAFAR
S/O Mohd Muzafar Ahmad
Bhat R/o Bochu Pattan
Baramulla

fko

Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) Office Of The Executive Engineer Electric Division Budgam

E-mail:edbudgam@gmail.com TelNo:01951-255218

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited, e-Tenders, (In Two Cover System) are hereby invited from Govt. approved Electrical Contractors, for works, as details below:-

NIT No./Date	Name of work(s)	Estimated Cost	Completion period
NIT No:EDB_146_of_2023-24 Dated:- 04-03-24	Creation of 63 KVA sub Stations at different locations of JS PHE Division Budgam for sites as per annexure N of SBD	INR 63.78 Lacs	60 Days
NIT No:EDB_147_of_2023-24 Dated:- 04-03-24	Creation of 63 KVA sub Stations at different locations of JS PHE Division Budgam for sites as per annexure N of SBD	INR 46.59 Lacs	60Days
NIT No:EDB_149_of_2023-24 Dated:- 04-03-24	Creation of 63 KVA sub Stations at different locations of JS PHE Division Chadoora for sites as per annexure N of SBD	INR 43.33 Lacs	60Days
NIT No:EDB_150_of_2023-24 Dated:- 04-03-24	Creation of 63 KVA sub Stations at different locations of JS PHE Division Chadoora for sites as per annexure N of SBD	INR 53.29 Lacs	60Days
NIT No:EDB_151_of_2023-24 Dated:- 04-03-24	Creation of 63 KVA sub Stations at different locations of JS PHE Division Chadoora for sites as per annexure N of SBD	INR 49.86 Lacs	60 Days
NIT No:EDB_152_of_2023-24 Dated:- 04-03-24	Creation of 63 KVA sub Stations at different locations of JS PHE Division Chadoora for sites as per annexure N of SBD	INR 68.45Lacs	60 Days
NIT No:EDB_153_of_2023-24 Dated:- 04-03-24	Creation of 63 KVA sub Stations at different locations of JS PHE Division Chadoora for sites as per annexure N of SBD	INR 49.92 Lacs	60 Days

The tender document is available on website <http://ktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view or download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to date as per the details mentioned in the table below:

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document	The standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://ktenders.gov.in in from
B	Sale of Bid Document (Start)	05-03-2024; 4:00 PM
C	Sale of Bid Document (End)	26-03-2024; 4:00 PM
D	Clarification start date	06-03-2024; 10:00 AM
E	Clarification End date	11-03-2024; 4:00 PM
F	e-Bid submission (start) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	12-03-2024; 10:00 AM
G	e-Bid submission (End) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	26-03-2024; 4:00PM
H	Hard Copy of e-tender fee and EMD Instrument & Affidavit that the Firm/ Contractor is not Black listed by any of the Govt. Offices.	Up-to 26-03-2024; 04:00 PM in office of the Executive Engineer ED- Budgam
I	Online commercial and technical e-bid opening date and time	27-03-2024; 2:00PM
J	Online financial e-bid opening date & time (only of the technically qualified bidders)	Will be communicated to the technically qualified bidders
K	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-bids	office of the Executive Engineer ED- Budgam

Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

No: EDB/10145

DIPK-NB-5943/23 Dated: 06-03-2024.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Electric Division Budgam.

Uttar Pradesh's Spectacular Growth Story



The Industrial development and creation of employment opportunities being witnessed in the state are the result of better law and order, good governance, and election of good public representatives, emphasizing that, when intentions are good, results are also good.

- Yogi Adityanath
Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

UP has undergone a meteoric rise in the past seven years, achieving palpable progress across various sectors like law and order, infrastructure, education, and healthcare. Under the Yogi government, the state has become India's second-largest economy, fueled by transparent governance and swift execution of strategic plans. Its business-friendly environment, bolstered by robust security, ample land, and a burgeoning consumer base, has attracted substantial domestic and foreign investments. The February 2023 Global Investors Summit yielded memorandums of understanding exceeding Rs 40 lakh crore, with projects worth Rs 10 lakh crore already breaking ground at GBC@4.0. Throughout the process, policymaking and implementation have prioritized the well-being of women, youth, marginalized communities, and farmers, with rigorous monitoring ensuring impeccable quality across all initiatives.



In the last seven years, crime has reduced in UP and business culture has expanded. An environment of trade, development, and trust has developed in UP in the last seven years.

- Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Women Empowerment



- Gas connections were provided to 1.75 crore families under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana. Free gas cylinder on Deepawali & Holi.
- 54.44 lakh women benefited under Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana.
- 7,276 criminals were punished under the Crime Against Women and POCSO Act.



- 99.55% of complaints were resolved on women's helpline 1090.
- More than 2 lakh women received loans through the Pradhan Mantri Svanidhi Yojana.
- The pension of destitute women increased from ₹ 500 to ₹ 1,000 per month, more than 31 lakh women benefited.
- Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana benefited 17.53 lakh daughters.
- Over 1.5 lakh women were appointed to government positions.

Farmers Welfare



- The State leads in milk, sugarcane, sugar, ethanol, potato, mango, and amla production.
- Completion of 20 projects, among which Ban Sagar, Arjun Sahayak, and Saryu Canal are prominent, has resulted in the creation of more than 23 lakh hectares of additional irrigation potential, thereby benefiting over 44 lakh farmers.
- From 2017 to January 29, 2024, around 48 lakh sugarcane farmers were paid more than Rs 2,36,793 crore.
- Sugarcane Clinic' and 'Agriculture Investment Center' are established and operational at the headquarters of sugarcane committees.



- Loans totaling Rs 36,000 crore were waived off for 86 lakh farmers.
- Distribution of 37 lakh Kisan Credit Cards
- The ban on providing new private tube well connections in the dark zone has been lifted, resulting in advantages for close to one lakh farmers.
- The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana has facilitated the transfer of around Rs 68,139 crore to the accounts of 2.68 crore farmers via the DBT system.
- 2,51,607 farmers registered under PM Kisan Mandhan Yojna
- More than 11 lakh cows have been protected through the establishment of 6,484 cow shelters.
- Installation of 51,744 solar pumps under PM KUSUM Yojana.
- Financial assistance to farmers for installation of submersible pumps in all 75 districts
- Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Kisan Samridhi Yojana implemented with Rs 602 crore

Mission Rozgar



- More than 6 lakh youth got government jobs under a fair and transparent recruitment process.
- Employment opportunities were provided to more than 2 Cr. people in the MSME/private sector.
- More than 1.65 Lakh individuals were recruited by the Police Department.



- Appointments were made for more than 1.65 lakh teaching positions.
- Uttar Pradesh Skill Development Mission trained 1.215 million youth, while 4.13 lakh found employment in esteemed companies.
- The Vishwakarma Shram Samman Yojana and the One District One Product Skill Upgradation and Toolkit Scheme contributed to the creation of approximately 4.08 lakh jobs.
- October 2023 in the financial year 2023-2024, 7,418 people were employed, and capital investment loans of Rs 1,854.88 lakh were allocated to 408 beneficiaries.
- Employment on a contract basis to more than 3.75 lakh youth.
- Through UP Investors Summit-2018, work on investment projects worth more than Rs. 4.28 lakh crore has started so far, employment to more than 15.52 lakh people.
- Projects worth Rs 10 lakh crore launched through Ground Breaking Ceremony 4.0; 34 lakh people will get employment.

Education on top priority



- Under the School Chalo Abhiyan, 1.92 Cr. children were enrolled.
- Rs 1200 per student is distributed every year to cover expenses related to bags, dresses, sweaters, shoes, socks, and stationery for school children.
- 75 Government Polytechnics are currently in the process of being established or under construction.
- 'Operation Kayakalp' has strengthened and modernized over 1.40 lakh primary and upper primary schools.



- Arrangement of free coaching under Mukhyamantri Abhyudaya Yojana for preparation of competitive examinations.
- A total of 20 lakh tablets/ smartphones have been distributed to talented students.
- More than 2 lakh tablets were distributed to teachers of council schools.
- Over 2 lakh aspirants from disadvantaged segments and weaker sections have benefited so far from free coaching provided by the Mukhyamantri Abhyudaya Yojana to prepare for competitive exams.
- Around 40 lakh girls studying in 44,000 upper primary schools and 746 Kasturba Gandhi Girls Schools have been trained in self-defence as part of the Rani Lakshmi Bai scheme.
- The Diksha App provides high-quality study materials for all subjects, catering to students from class 1 to 12.

Unwavering Commitment to Law and Order



- 71,476 Criminals were Nabbed Under the Gangster Act, while 897 were Under the NSA.
- Compared to 2016, dacoity cases in 2023 dropped by 87%, robbery by 76%, murder by 43%, rioting by 65%, and kidnapping for ransom by 73%.
- The anti-land mafia portal in the state received 3,72,039 complaints regarding illegal occupation, out of which 3,70,748 were successfully resolved. As a result, 66,872 hectares of land have been reclaimed from encroachment.
- A total of 8,54,634 CCTV cameras were installed as part of Operation Trinetra's surveillance network.
- Cybercrime units have been established in every police station.
- Agra, Ghaziabad, Prayagraj, Lucknow, Gautam Buddha Nagar (Noida), Varanasi, and Kanpur have transitioned to the Commissionerate system.
- The formation of women PAC battalions in Lucknow, Gorakhpur, and Badaun has been completed, while preparations are in progress for the establishment of five more battalions.



Iran Seizes US Cargo On Oil Tanker Over Sanctions: Judiciary



Agencies

TEHRAN: Iranian authorities have confiscated the American cargo of an oil tanker seized last year after US-led sanctions prevented the entry of medication into the Islamic republic, the judiciary said Wednesday.

The Marshall Islands-flagged Advantage Sweet was seized in April 2023 while sailing in the Gulf of Oman, a key route for the oil industry.

The vessel, chartered by Chevron Corp, had picked up oil from Kuwait and was bound for Texas before it was seized, an Advantage Tankers spokesperson said at the time.

The Iranian judiciary's Mizan Online website on Wednesday said a Tehran court "ordered the seizure of the American oil cargo on Advantage Sweet," with the cargo's value said to be worth more than \$50 million.

It was not immediately clear when the court order was issued.

It said the oil seizure was in retaliation for "the sanctions of

Western countries, especially the United States which led to the prevention of the sale of drugs needed for epidermolysis bullosa patients."

Iran has been under crippling US sanctions since Washington's 2018 withdrawal from a landmark nuclear deal.

In a 2021 report, United Nations experts cautioned that "over-compliance" with the sanctions had affected people suffering "from a severe and life threatening rare skin condition, epidermolysis bullosa, which causes extremely painful wounds."

The report came following the halt of shipments to Iran by a Swedish bandage company which reportedly offered the most effective treatment for the disease, according to the UN.

The Gulf of Oman has witnessed a series of hijackings and attacks over the years, often involving Iran.

In January, the US military said Iran was "holding five ships and over 90 crew members hostage from vessels seized nearly a year ago."

Journalists Not Employees Under Unfair Labour Practices Act As They Enjoy Special Status: Bombay High Court

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Working journalists do not fall in the definition of employees under the Maharashtra Recognition of Trade Unions and Prevention of Unfair Labour Practices Act as they enjoy a special status, the Bombay High Court has said.

Consequently, a complaint filed by a working journalist under these Acts before an industrial court would not be maintainable, a division bench of Justices Nitin Jamdar and Sandeep Marne said in its order of February 29.

They enjoy a special status under provisions of the Working Journalists Act and have a recourse to settle their disputes under the Industrial Disputes Act, the HC said.

The judgement came on petitions filed by two working journalists challenging orders of the industrial court in 2019 rejecting their complaints on the ground that working journalists did not fall within the term of employee or workman under the Prevention of Unfair Labour Practices Act.

While dismissing the petitions, the HC noted said working journalists constitute a different class with unique privileges and protections in their employment under the Working Journalists Act.

"If there is no difference between the working journalist and workmen then it cannot



The bench noted that the Working Journalists Act, 1955 has already established a mechanism for dispute resolution under the Industrial Disputes Act.

While dismissing the petitions, the HC noted said working journalists constitute a different class with unique privileges and protections in their employment under the Working Journalists Act.

"If there is no difference between the working journalist and workmen then it cannot

be that the working journalist retains special privileges while they are denied to other workmen including non-working journalists," the high court said.

"The scheme of the Working Journalists Act would demonstrate a special status conferred on the working journalists. The Working Journalists Act was enacted to confer a special status on the working journalists and the disputes must be settled according to the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act," the HC said.

Malnutrition 'Extreme' Among Kids, At Least 15 Children Dead From Dehydration At Gaza Hospital

Agencies

GENEVA: UN organisations said on Tuesday that child malnutrition levels in northern Gaza were "particularly extreme" and about three times higher than in the south of the Palestinian enclave where more aid has been available.

Richard Peepkorn, WHO representative for Gaza and the West Bank, said that one in six children under two years of age were acutely malnourished in northern Gaza.

"This was in January. So the situation is likely to be greater today," Peepkorn added, referring to when the data was recorded.

Unicef spokesperson James Elder said malnutrition rates for children under five in northern Gaza, where access to aid has been highly limited since the start of the war between Israel and Hamas on October 7, were three times higher than those in Rafah in the south. Elder said this showed that "when that trickle of aid can come in, it does make a life-saving difference."

At least 15 children have died over the past few days from malnutrition and dehydration at Kamal Adwan hospital in northern Gaza, the health ministry in Gaza said.

Calls for Israel to do more to address the humanitarian crisis have grown louder since the deaths of Palestinians lining



up for aid in Gaza last month. Gaza health authorities said 118 people were killed, attributing the deaths to Israeli fire and calling it a massacre.

Adding to hunger, there is a growing risk from infectious diseases, with nine-in-10 children under the age of five falling sick over the last weeks,

according to Elder. "That becomes the spiral that we are so fearful of infectious diseases, lack of food, a desperate lack of clean water and ongoing bombardment and incredibly still discussion of an offensive into Rafah, which is a city of children," Elder told reporters in Geneva.

"Be More Careful": Election Body To Rahul Gandhi Over Remarks On PM Modi

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Election Commission of India (ECI) asked Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to be more careful and cautious in his public utterances in the wake of his "panauti" (bad omen) and "pickpocket" jibes at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, PTI reported.

Acting on a Delhi High Court directive of December last year, the poll panel also asked Mr Gandhi to follow its recent advisory for star campaigners and political leaders in the right earnest during the election campaign.

In the advisory dated March 1, the Election Commission (ECI) had warned that parties, candidates and star campaigners will face stern action, rather than just 'moral censure' for any violation of the Model Code of Conduct.

It also said that the star campaigners and candidates who have received notices in the past will face stern action for repeat violations of the model code.

The ECI had issued a notice to Mr Gandhi last year after the Congress leader used terms like "panauti" and "pickpocket" for the prime minister.

The commission was also asked on December 21 by the Delhi High Court to decide on the notice it had issued to Mr Gandhi for these comments, saying the statement made by the Congress leader during a speech delivered in November 2023 was "not in good taste".

Disposing of the court directive, the EC has asked Mr Gan-



dhi "to be more careful and cautious in his public utterances in the future," PTI reported.

"After considering all facts in the matter related to remarks such as 'Jebkatra' (pickpocket) and 'panauti', including the court order and Mr Gandhi's reply, the Election Commission has advised him to be more careful and cautious in future," PTI reported.

The commission has further directed Gandhi, as a star campaigner, to take into notice its March 1 advisory for all parties, star campaigners and candidates in right earnest while making public utterances.

The poll panel issued a notice to Mr Gandhi on November 23 seeking his stand on his speeches during his campaigns for the assembly elections in Rajasthan.

The former Congress president took the "pickpocket" dig at Modi during his poll speech, alleging that the prime minister diverts people's attention while industrialist Gautam Adani picks their pockets. This is how pickpockets operate, he had alleged.

The court order followed a petition that had also objected to certain other statements by Mr Gandhi referring to the prime minister as "panauti".

As Chinese 'Spy' Ship Leaves, Maldives Severs Yet Another Tie With India



Press Trust of India

MALE, MALDIVES: Maldives will not renew an agreement with India to conduct hydrographic surveys and plans to acquire the facilities and machines required to do the exercise by itself, President Mohamed Muizzu has announced.

Mr Muizzu also announced that his country is working to establish a 24x7 monitoring system for the Maldivian waters this month to ensure control of its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) despite its significantly large area.

The development comes days after China signed a defence co-operation agreement with the Maldives to provide free military assistance to foster "stronger" bilateral ties.

India-Maldives ties have suffered a setback ever since Mr Muizzu, who is blindly pro-China, assumed office last year. Hours after he took oath in November 2023, one of the first steps Mr Muizzu took, was to demand In-

dia to withdraw all its troops.

Mr Muizzu's new announcement comes days after a Chinese research and 'spy' vessel spent about a week around Male and more than a month just outside Maldives' EEZ.

Speaking at a ceremony at one of the islands that he was visiting on Monday, Mr Muizzu said, the Maldives Ministry of Defence is making efforts to obtain the facilities required for conducting the hydrographic surveys by the country itself.

"This will allow Maldives to conduct the underwater surveys of the country by ourselves. We will then acquire all insights of our underwater features and prepare charts, they will be drawn by us," the president was quoted as saying by Edition.mv, a news portal on Tuesday.

Maldives' former administration, led by then President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, had signed an agreement with the Indian government to conduct hydrographic surveys of Maldives' underwater features.

Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Hanged To Death, Didn't Get Fair Trial: Pak Supreme Court

Agencies

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Supreme Court ruled on Wednesday that former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who was hanged 44 years ago after being convicted of murder, didn't get a fair trial.

Bhutto, the founder of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) now run by his grandson and former foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, was hanged in 1979 after a trial under the military regime of late General Zia-ul-Haq.

"We didn't find that the fair trial and due process requirements were met," said Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa in remarks telecast live of the ruling that he said was a unanimous decision by a nine-member bench headed by him.

The ruling came in response to a judicial reference filed by Bhutto Zardari's father, Asif Ali Zardari, during his tenure as president in 2011. It sought an opinion by the top court on revisiting the death sentence awarded to the PPP founder.

"Our family waited 3 generations to hear these words," Bhutto Zardari said later in a post on X, formerly known as Twitter. The court will issue a de-



tailed order later.

"It is an admission of a colossal miscarriage of justice under Zia's martial law regime," said Yousuf Nazir, London-based political commentator and a close aide of the late prime minister.

Rights groups say Haq's 11 years of dictatorship were marked by an assault on democracy, persecution and jailing of PPP workers and public flogging of opponents and critics.

Nazar said the regime also pushed the conservative Muslim nation into extremism and militancy by propping up and backing militant groups to fight a U.S. proxy war against the then-Soviet Union in Afghanistan.

"It led to an unprecedented level of support for and patronage of religious extremists at the state level," he said.

NEWS MAKERS

Nikki Haley To Drop Out Of US Presidential Race: Report

Agencies

Former US ambassador Nikki Haley is expected to end her primary bid leaving Donald Trump as the sole Republican candidate for the presidential nomination, local media reported Wednesday.

She is expected to announce her decision in a speech around 15:00 GMT on Wednesday, from South Carolina state capital Charleston, where she served as governor, the Wall Street Journal and CNN reported citing sources.

The withdrawal from the race comes after the US leader scored a surprising victory over Donald Trump in the Republican primary in the US state of Vermont, her second win in the race for the White House in 2024.



Donald Trump, 77, maintains a lead in every other state, charging towards the Republican nomination. He celebrated an "amazing night" as he closed in on the Republican presidential nomination with easy wins in the Super Tuesday primaries, setting up an all-but-certain rematch with President Joe Biden on November.

Haley -- a favourite of

affluent, suburban voters and university graduates -- was set to collect only a handful of the delegates needed to secure the nomination.

Former president Trump swept 14 out of 15 states up for grabs on the biggest day of the 2024 race so far, with Haley denying him only in the northeastern state of Vermont as he covets a second term in the Oval Office.

Incumbent Biden also swept the Democratic "Super Tuesday" primaries, although he was effectively uncontested, and the 81-year-old will now turn his attention to his crucial State of the Union speech on Thursday.

Eyeing a historic comeback to the US presidency, Trump told cheering supporters at his Mar-a-Lago

beach club in Florida that they had witnessed "an amazing night and an amazing day."

"They call it 'Super Tuesday' for a reason," said Trump, 77.

"This is a big one. They tell me, the pundits and otherwise, that there has never been one like this, never been anything so conclusive."

Haley, a former South Carolina governor, has failed to throw significant obstacles in Trump's path to the nomination since finishing a distant third in the opening contest in Iowa in January.

Impeached twice, beaten by seven million votes in 2020 and facing 91 felony charges in four trials, Trump has a profile unlike any US presidential election candidate in history.

Man Who Took 217 Covid Vaccines Has Fully Functional Immune System: Study

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Researchers have examined a man in Germany who claims to have received 217 vaccinations against COVID-19 and found that his immune system was fully functional.

Until now, it has been unclear what effects hypervaccination such as this would have on the immune system. Some scientists were of the opinion that immune cells would become less effective after becoming used to the antigens.

However, the case study published in The Lancet Infectious Diseases journal found that the immune system of the person is fully functional.

More than 60 million people in Germany have been vaccinated against SARS-CoV-2, a majority of



them several times, the researchers said.

The man examined by a team at Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nurnberg (FAU) in Germany claims to have received 217 vaccinations for private reasons. There is official confirmation for 134 of these vaccinations, they said.

"We learned about his case via newspaper articles," said Kilian Schober from FAU.

"We then contacted him and invited him to undergo various tests in Erlangen (a

city in Germany). He was very interested in doing so," he said.

Vaccinations contain parts of the pathogen or a type of construction plan that the vaccinated person's cells can use to produce these pathogenic components themselves.

Thanks to these antigens, the immune system learns to recognise the real pathogen in the event of a later infection. It can then react more rapidly and forcibly.

The researchers wanted to analyse what happens if the body's immune system is exposed extremely often to a specific antigen.

"That may be the case in a chronic infection such as HIV or hepatitis B, that has regular flare-ups," explained Schober.

"There is an indication that certain types of

immune cells, known as T-cells, then become fatigued, leading to them releasing fewer pro-inflammatory messenger substances," he added.

This and other effects triggered by the cells becoming used to the antigens can weaken the immune system, which is then no longer able to combat the pathogen so effectively.

However, the study does not deliver any indication that this is the case, the researchers said.

"We were also able to take blood samples ourselves when the man received a further vaccination during the study at his own insistence. We were able to use these samples to determine exactly how the immune system reacts to the vaccination," Schober said.

PM Modi's Kashmir Visit- Hopes High for Positive Changes

KO POLITICAL EDITOR

Srinagar: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Srinagar, his first since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019, has generated some buzz, not just in the Kashmir valley but across the country. That the visit comes in the run-up to general elections which the BJP seems poised to win has also contributed to the hype. And it is likely that the PM's address at Bakshi Stadium in the heart of Srinagar to an expected massive gathering of people would put more media focus on Kashmir. Beyond the buzz, hype and the

political goal of the visit, the PM's speech in Srinagar towards the fag end of his second term caps one of his government's most unprecedented steps - the repeal of the constitutional provision that granted J&K its special status within Indian Union. And as the PM lands in Srinagar on Thursday morning, he would have every reason to be satisfied with the outcome of the move that was billed as deeply fraught when it was carried out on August 5, 2019.

Kashmir has come a long way since the revocation of the Article 370. Security-wise also,



the situation has transformed to a large extent. This has happened incrementally over the period with

violence declining sharply, reaching its lowest last year. In reply to a query in J&K in early

KASHMIR HAS COME A LONG WAY SINCE THE REVOCATION OF THE ARTICLE 370. SECURITY-WISE ALSO, the situation has transformed to a large extent. This has happened incrementally over the period with violence declining sharply, reaching its lowest last year.

February, Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Nityanand Rai said in parliament

that the security situation has shown a significant improvement since 2019. He said that in 2019, "the number of terrorist initiated incidents were 153 that came down to 126 in 2020, 129 in 2021 and 125 in 2022."

"In 2023, only 46 such incidents were reported," the reply read.

According to the minister's data, 80 security personnel lost their lives in 2019, 63 in 2020, 42 in 2021, 32 in 2022 while only 30 were killed in 2023. Similarly 157 militants were killed in 2019, 221 in 2020, 180 in 2021, 187 in 2022 and 73 in 2023. This shows more | [More on PII](#)

KO ANALYSIS

KU, CUK Postpone Exams Scheduled For Today

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The University of Kashmir and Central University of Kashmir Wednesday postponed all exams that were scheduled to be held on March-07 (Thursday).

The Assistant Controller of Examinations of KU said that all the examinations of the university which are scheduled to be held on March-07-2024 stands postponed.

It said that the fresh dates shall be issued soon.

Meanwhile, CUK in a communique

Live Telecast Of PM's Speech

255 Blocks Set Up With Big Screens

Agencies

Srinagar: Bharatiya Janata Party's J&K president Ravinder Raina on Wednesday said that 255 blocks of the Union Territory are equipped with big screens for the live telecast of PM Modi's speech, and Bakshi Stadium will be filled to capacity as people are arriving in large numbers.

"Prominent stadiums of Srinagar like SKICC, Sher-e-Kashmir and other large parks and grounds will be prepared for the live telecast of PM's speech, as it is set to be a historic rally in the history of Jammu and Kashmir," he said. He said that | [More on PII](#)

PM MODI'S VISIT

PM To Dedicate 5000 Cr To Boost Agriculture Economy In J&K

Participate In 'Viksit Bharat Viksit Jammu Kashmir' Program

Dedicate To Nation Holistic Agriculture Development Programme

1,400 Crore Under Swadesh Darshan, PRASHAD Scheme

Integrated Development of Hazratbal Shrine

43 Projects to Develop Pilgrimage, Tourist Sites Across India

Chalo India Global Diaspora Campaign

Appointment Orders to 1,000 New Govt Recruits of J&K

Interact with Beneficiaries of Various Govt Schemes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will unveil multiple development projects and address a public meeting in Srinagar today during his first visit to Kashmir after his government abrogated the provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution, which gave special rights to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

According to an official statement, Modi will attend the "Viksit Bharat Viksit Jammu Kashmir"

HADP programme is expected to equip about 2.5 LAKH FARMERS with skill development.

programme at Srinagar's Bakshi Stadium and will dedicate to the nation Rs 5,000 crore programme - the 'Holistic Agriculture Development Programme' - for boosting agriculture in Jammu and Kashmir, an official handout said here on Wednesday.

Modi will also dedicate to the nation and launch multiple projects worth over Rs 1,400 crore under Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation And Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive) scheme, including the project for 'Integrated Development of Hazratbal Shrine', Srinagar.

He will also launch the 'Dekho Apna Desh People's Choice Tourist Destination Poll' and 'Chalo India Global Diaspora Campaign'. The prime minister will also announce tourist destinations selected under Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD) Scheme.

Besides, Prime Minister Modi will distribute appointment orders to about 1,000 new government recruits of Jammu and Kashmir and will also interact with beneficiaries of various government schemes, including women achievers, lakhpatis | [More on PII](#)

Bakshi Stadium Draped In National Tricolour Marine Commandos To Patrol Water Bodies

Agencies

Srinagar: The Bakshi Stadium here has been draped in national tricolour for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit today even as stringent security arrangements have been put in place to ensure the high profile event passes off peacefully. The officials said that tight security

arrangements have been made for the visit of the prime minister, which will be his first to the valley since abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

The security forces have been deployed in numbers all along the routes to be taken by Prime Minister Modi during his stay in Srinagar while barricades have been established at many places | [More on PII](#)

IGP Traffic Announces Route Plan

Roll Number Slips To Be Treated As Passes For Students

Srinagar: As Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit Srinagar tomorrow, the Inspector General (IG) Traffic, Bhim Sen Tuti stated that the roads leading to the venue will remain closed for public transport.

Addressing media persons, IG Traffic said that starting from 4:00 AM until 7:00 PM on March 7, the traffic movement from Jehangir Chowk to Rambagh and Rajbagh to LD Hospital-Tulsi Bagh route will be restricted.

"Motorists travelling between Jehangir Chowk and Rambagh are advised to use alternative routes through interior roads, specifically the Rambagh-Hyderpora-Moomina Bad-Batmaloo road instead of the Solina-Magarmal Bagh axis," said the IGP Traffic.

Also, traffic assistance points will be stationed at strategic locations to facilitate smooth movement along these routes, he added.

Similarly, motorists travelling from Radio Kashmir-Rajbagh and adjacent areas towards Solina-Rambagh are advised to take the M/RR Road-Jehangir Chowk Batmaloo-Moomina Bad-Hyderpora route instead of the Rajbagh-Jawahar Nagar-LD Hospital-Tulsi Bagh Road axis.

Additionally, movement of vehicles from | [More on PII](#)

2022 HAWAL ACID ATTACK CASE

Court Awards Life Sentence, 40 Lakh Fine To Convict

M Ahmad

Srinagar: A court on Wednesday sentenced a man to imprisonment for life and imposed a whopping Rs 40 lakh fine on him, two days after holding him guilty for throwing acid on a 24-year-old woman in Hawal area here in February 2022.

"Keeping in view the plight of the victim, one would feel that the ancient theory of punishment vis. eye for eye would only meet the ends of justice in this case but, that is not permissible now in the civilized society

like ours which is governed by the law," said Principal Sessions Judge Srinagar Jawad Ahmad while pronouncing imprisonment for life to the convict, Sajid Altaf Sheikh (Rather) son of Mohammad Altaf Sheikh (Rather) of Khalpora Buchwara Dalgate Srinagar.

Referring to the Supreme Court of India's judgment, the court observed that "stricter yardstick while awarding sentence" in cases of violent crimes against the women was to act as "deterrent." "In the instant case the brutal inhuman acid attack by the convict on | [More on PII](#)



Submit Property Returns Before March 17 Or Face Action: Govt Warns Employees

Agencies

Srinagar: The Government of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has issued a stern warning to its employees, stressing that failure to submit property returns before March 17 will result in legal consequences under the Jammu and Kashmir Public Men and Public Servants Declaration of Assets Act and its associated

regulations. According to official sources, a significant number of employees have yet to meet the extended deadline for the submission of property details.

Initially, mandated by Circular No. 36-JK (GAD) of 2023 and subsequent notifications, all government employees in Jammu and Kashmir were required to file their | [More on PII](#)

'TRIPLE-THERAPY METHOD'

FCIK Appeals PM To Rejuvenate Ailing industry In J&K

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Ahead of Prime Minister's visit to Kashmir, the Federation of Chambers of Industries Kashmir (FCIK) has called for his attention to the ailing industrial sector in Jammu and Kashmir, appealing for a revival through a proposed triple-therapy method, along with additional measures. This approach encompasses earmarking 25% funds from the Central Industrial Scheme for existing industries, substantial procurement of identified industrial goods from local enterprises under the Public Procurement Policy, and the establishment of a structured mechanism to facilitate hassle-free credit flow and banking services for MSMEs.

While hailing the vision of PM Modi for industrial development in Jammu and Kashmir with his approval for an incentive scheme of 28400 Crores in 2021, the apex chamber said that booking of expenditure under the scheme would take place only after setting up of new



enterprises on ground which was likely to take some time owing infrastructural constraints though the UT government was putting in hard efforts for the same.

FCIK has solicited approval of Prime Minister for earmarking 25% of CIDS-2021 for around 40000 existing industrial units towards their revival, rehabilitation, diversification, expansion, scaling up, modernization and upgradation. The sum earmarked could be utilized for incentives provided under the CIS besides funding the incentives provided under UT government schemes and policies including those of revival of sick units, turnover incentive, GST

reimbursement etc.

The FCIK expressed confidence that upon their rejuvenation, the existing units had the potential to bounce back with renewed vigor and energy to contribute in the economic development and employment generation of J&K in consonance with the vision and efforts of Hon'ble Prime Minister.

"The new initiative would pave way for optimum capacity utilization of the existing units which doesn't surpass even the break-even point presently" stated FCIK.

Shakeel Qalandar, former President of FCIK, expressed that it has been their stance for decades that the government should compensate for business interruptions in units. "In the case of shutdowns and curfews, we need to place the responsibility on the government as it has failed to protect the business industry from such occurrences. Why hasn't this been addressed in recent years? What has changed? It is the will of the government that is keeping | [More on PII](#)

Kashmir Fruit Growers Pen Open Letter To PM

Welcoming Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his visit to Kashmir, the valley's fruit growers on Wednesday urged him to consider implementing the market intervention and crop insurance schemes. Bashir Ahmad Basheer, chairman of the Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers Cum Dealers Union, said they warmly welcome PM Modi to Srinagar and hope that steps will be taken for the welfare of the | [More on PII](#)

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Govt To Adapt 30 Villages Around Wular Lake



Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir are likely to adopt at least 30 villages around the Asia's second largest Wular Lake in North Kashmir's Bandipora district for solid waste management.

An official from the Wular Conservation and Management Authority (WUCMA) told Kashmir Observer that the department has as of now adopted three villages out of 30 on the pilot bases for the solid waste management.

The three villages are Saderkoot payeen and Garoora. The authorities are considering the addition of another village. Project Coordinator, WUCMA,

Owais Farooq Mir said that the idea is to arrest all the solid waste that goes into Wular.

"We will implement the model in three villages and if it becomes successful, we will replicate it in other villages as well," Mir said.

Notably, all solid waste carried by the Jhelum River flows directly into Wular Lake. In addition to the waste from the Jhelum, the refuse from 30 villages located around the Lake also finds its way into it, contributing to water pollution.

Mir said that it will be a 'full proof model' that includes—collection, segregation and the proper disposal of solid waste, according | [More on PII](#)

IN ADDITION TO THE WASTE FROM THE JHELUM, THE REFUSE FROM 30 VILLAGES located around the Wular Lake also finds its way into it, contributing to water pollution.

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Thursday | 07-03-2024

PM's visit

As prime minister Narendra Modi embarks on his first visit to Kashmir today following the repeal of Article 370, the political landscape is abuzz with anticipation. The visit promises to be a significant milestone, marked by the unveiling of multiple developmental projects aimed at fostering economic growth, particularly in the agri-economy, and enhancing tourism infrastructure in the Union Territory.

A focal point of the Prime Minister's itinerary is the "Viksit Bharat Viksit Jammu Kashmir" program at Srinagar's Bakshi Stadium. Here, the PM is set to inaugurate initiatives amounting to nearly Rs 5,000 crore, specifically designed to bolster the agri-economy. The "Holistic Agriculture Development Programme" (HADP) is poised to be a game-changer, encompassing horticulture, agriculture, and livestock husbandry. The comprehensive initiative is expected to provide training to approximately 2.5 lakh farmers, establish 2,000 farmers' service centers, and create robust value chains for the welfare of the farming community.

The PM will also launch nationwide projects in the tourism sector, exceeding Rs 1,400 crore. Under the "Swadesh Darshan" and "PRASHAD" schemes, he will unveil projects like the integrated development of the revered Hazratbal shrine in Srinagar. This aligns with his vision to elevate the overall experience for tourists and pilgrims visiting key pilgrimage and tourism sites across the country.

As Jammu and Kashmir continues to witness a series of development projects, it is essential to recognize the transformative impact of these endeavors on the lives of its residents. The concerted efforts to address various facets of development – be it religious, tourism, employment, or agriculture – reflect a comprehensive and inclusive approach that aims to uplift the region and its people.

The reverberations of the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, which led to the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories, are still felt. The visit, therefore, assumes great political significance, with the Lok Sabha elections looming and opposition parties seeking clarity on the prospects of Assembly polls in the region. Jammu and Kashmir has been without an elected government since 2018, and the call for a return to democratic governance has been gaining momentum.

Prime Minister Modi's visit provides a platform to address these concerns and underline the government's vision for the political future of Jammu and Kashmir. The region has undergone significant constitutional changes, and the time is ripe for a renewed commitment to democratic governance.

OTHER OPINION

Decoding the script

The Genome India Project, a project funded and coordinated by the Department of Biotechnology, announced that it had finished sequencing 10,000 Indian genomes. This means that the complete genomes – the DNA blueprint that constitutes and maintains human bodies – from 10,000 individuals were analysed to create a 'reference' Indian human genome. India first sequenced a human genome in 2006. In a way, the latest enterprise would be akin to the creation of the first ever detailed map of India – with all political units, key geographical and topographical features – as opposed to a world map prepared elsewhere, with India just one of several countries and devoid of granular detail. Are 10,000 individuals representative of a country of over a billion? Surely not. But for now, it is the best there is and forms a vital template, the basis on which many more insights can be prised. The most immediate application is in combating disease. In 2009, geneticists in India, as part of an international collaboration, discovered that an aberration in a protein, MYBPC3 (cardiac myosin binding protein C), was correlated with a high risk of heart failure. This genetic variant was present in approximately 4% of those of Indian ancestry – a higher than expected number given that this problematic variant is rare.

India has close to 4,500 population groups and the subcontinent's history of being ordered along caste lines through endogamy implies that rare genetic variants, many harmful, that ordinarily through the course of evolution ought to have died out, persist. When the Human Genome Project published its reference 'human genome' in 2003, at a cost of nearly \$3 billion, it rang with a 'brave-new-world' promise of humanity having finally decoded the secrets of the genome, mapping every awry gene to a disease and a future of 'personalised medicine'. Much of Genome India's sales pitch reflects similar promises. However, the subsequent decades have tempered such expectations. For one, only a small fraction of disease is monogenic (determined by a single gene). Despite advances in knowledge of how rare, inherited genes caused debilitating disease, little could be done as the necessary medicines, if discovered, were usually too expensive for those in need. In other words, genome sequencing only opened up new realms of complexity. While Genome India should go beyond the 10,000 mark, it must also be truly democratic. The findings ought not be locked up in the ivory towers of academia and should involve imaginative collaborations with scientists, students, technology companies, ethicists and social scientists to push forward India's understanding of itself.

The Hindu

Modi Must Push for Green Investments in J&K

Investments in sustainable tourism, organic farming, renewable energy, waste management will create more jobs and ensure sustainable development of J&K



Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

With an aim to encourage people to install solar panels on their rooftops, the 2024-25 Interim Budget has provided for a budgetary allocation of Rs 10,000 crores in this sector. This is a massive 110% increase from Rs 4,757 crore allocated towards the solar energy sector in the financial year 2023-2024.

On February 1st 2024, the Union Finance Minister Sitharaman announced this from the floor of the parliament while presenting the interim budget. The Finance Minister also said that the Centre will offer viability gap funding (VGF) for certain wind energy projects, introduce mandatory blending of compressed biogas in natural gas products and strengthen the electric vehicle ecosystem in steps towards India's commitments to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2070. Soon after the massive budgetary allocation in the solar energy sector, the Government officially launched "PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana." This scheme is projected to entail an investment of Rs 75,000 crore in India in the coming years.

Prime Minister Modi, while announcing the launch of this renewable energy scheme on social media platform X, reiterated the government's commitment to providing 300 units of free power to 10 million beneficiary households.

"In order to further sustainable development and people's well-being, we are launching the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana. This project, with an investment of over Rs. 75,000 crores, aims to light up 1 crore households by providing up to 300 units of free electricity every month," he said in a tweet.

Subsidized Electricity from Clean Energy

At a time when installation of smart meters is being severely criticized in J&K and people have to pay huge electricity bills, PM's Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana will be a game changer in J&K in the coming years. The BJP lead Govt at the Centre seems focussed on free or subsidized electricity.

To popularize this centrally sponsored scheme at the grassroots level, the village Panchayats and municipalities will be incentivized to promote rooftop solar systems in their respective jurisdictions. This scheme according to experts will lead to more massive decrease in the power bills and will also ensure employment generation as well.

"From substantive subsidies, which will be given directly to people's bank accounts, to heavily concessional bank loans, the Central Government will ensure that there is no cost burden on the people. All stakeholders will be integrated into a National Online Portal which will further convenience," PM Modi said in another post on X

Rs 18000 annual savings

While presenting the interim budget, the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that the 10 million beneficiaries of this new scheme would be able to get 300 units of free power through the rooftop solar installations and this would result in an annual saving of Rs15,000-18,000 per year per family approximately. The Union Finance Secretary T V Somanathan after the presentation of the budget also added that the government has provisioned Rs10,000 crore for rooftop solar in the budget.

The Union Power Minister R K Singh who also holds the charge of New and Renewable on February 2nd last month said the subsidy for rooftop solar installations had been hiked from 40% to 60% under the new scheme. The Govt of India is planning to implement this scheme through Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) established by central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) designated for each state.

India's national statement at COP 28th

Bhupender Yadav, the Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, while presenting India's national statement at COP 28 in Dubai on December 9th 2023, had said that India has been at the forefront of supporting action-oriented steps at the global level in response



At a time when installation of smart meters is being severely criticized in J&K and people have to pay huge electricity bills, PM's Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana will be a game changer in J&K in the coming years

to climate change. He told the august gathering that the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi gave a call to the world to join Mission LiFE – Lifestyle for Environment which bears testimony to India's action-oriented approach.

He highlighted the Green Credit Initiative created and the historic pact of adoption of the Green Development Pact by the G20 nations as part of the New Delhi Declaration. Union Minister also while throwing light on the GreenHouse Gas Emissions -GHG said that India has finalized its Third National Communication based on GHG inventory of 2019 along with Initial Adaptation Communication.

"In our endeavour to decouple economic growth from greenhouse gas emissions, India has successfully reduced the emission intensity vis-à-vis its GDP by 33% between 2005 and 2019, thus achieving the initial NDC target for 2030, 11 years ahead of the scheduled time. India has also achieved 40% of electric installed capacity through non fossil fuel sources, nine years ahead of the target for 2030. Between 2017 and 2023, India has added around 100 GW of installed electric capacity, of which around 80% is attributed to non-fossil fuel-based resources", The Union Minister added.

Green Investment in J&K

Planet earth is facing several challenges like global warming, climate change, loss of biodiversity, deforestation, and pollution. This is

At a time when Kashmir valley is losing its fertile agricultural land to non-farm activities and our streams are getting over-exploited with mining and some are getting choked with solid and liquid waste, I see a dark future for Kashmir. At this crucial juncture, PM Modi can resolve these issues to help Jammu & Kashmir's environment to breathe for many centuries to come

more severe in the Himalayan region especially Jammu & Kashmir.

The best investment in J&K is to invest towards sustainable development. As PM Modi is already committed towards clean and green energy and massive budgetary allocations have been made in these sectors especially solar energy, wind energy, compressed biogas - CBG etc. I believe all these sectors have a huge scope in J&K as well as Ladakh. PM Modi must encourage investments in these sectors. Other sectors which will strengthen the green investment in J&K are sustainable agriculture, horticulture, floriculture, dairy, sheep and goat farming etc.

There is a great scope to invest in waste management and sustainable tourism as well. It will create job opportunities in different sectors such as clean energy, green transportation, and sustainable tourism. The growth of this sector will also increase the demand for green jobs and will create opportunities for innovation and entrepreneurship in the sustainability sector. The sustainable agriculture or horticulture practices with least use of pesticides will promote soil health and reduce land degradation. This will also strengthen our biodiversity, wildlife and all our natural ecosystems which are right now under severe threat.

As per the draft Wind Power Policy of Govt, J&K has an installable wind energy potential of 5311 MW at 50m height and 5685 MW at 80m height but not even 5 MW of electricity is generated in J&K from wind. On the contrary, 10,000 MW of electricity is generated from wind in Gujarat and Tamilnadu. Similarly from Dal lake weeds, horticulture and agriculture waste large quantities of compressed biogas -CBG can be manufactured but this option has not been explored. Govt can seek huge investments in electric mobility, setting up eco lodges and setting up organic vegetable and fruit farms

Conclusion

Prime Minister Modi's slogans like One sun, One world, One grid; One earth, One family, One future has to be transformed into a reality. Infact, by doubling the budgetary allocation towards the solar energy sector and allocating huge funds for setting up compressed biogas plants or increasing electric mobility across India, the Govt has already started fulfilling its commitments.

At a time when Kashmir valley is losing its fertile agricultural land to non-farm activities and our streams are getting over-exploited with mining and some are getting choked with solid and liquid waste, I see a dark future for Kashmir. At this crucial juncture, PM Modi can resolve these issues to help Jammu & Kashmir breathe for many centuries to come.

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 and Chairman Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement. Feedback: bhatrajamuzaffar@gmail.com

VIKSIT BHARAT Jammu and Kashmir's Stride Towards Economic Prosperity

KO Web Desk

As India embarks on its journey towards becoming a developed nation by 2047 under the visionary framework of Viksit Bharat, the state of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) stands as a shining example of progress and potential. Over the past few years, J&K has made significant strides in industrial growth, aligning itself with the nation's ambitious goals.

One of the most striking aspects of J&K's development story is the surge in industrial investment, showcasing a robust commitment to economic advancement. Proposals totaling 90,000 crore have flooded in, promising to not only inject vitality into the economy but also generate employment opportunities for over 4 lakh citizens. This influx of investment underscores the growing confidence of both domestic and international stakeholders in the region's economic prospects.

In the fiscal year 2022-23 alone, J&K realized investments worth 2153 crore, indicating a steady pace of economic development and a tangible impact on the ground. This steady flow of investments serves as a testament to the conducive business environment cultivated within the region.

A significant milestone in J&K's economic journey was the securing of its first Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) project, marked by the introduction of the 'Mall of Srinagar' and two IT Towers. This landmark achievement attracted 500 crore in FDI, signaling international confidence in the region's economic potential and opening new avenues for



growth and collaboration.

Furthermore, the establishment of a Single Window System has streamlined administrative processes, offering over 170 services online and facilitating ease of doing business. This initiative not only simplifies bureaucratic hurdles but also underscores the government's commitment to fostering a business-friendly ecosystem.

The Micro, Small, and Medium

Enterprises (MSME) sector in J&K has emerged as a beacon of resilience and growth, experiencing a remarkable 54% increase in exports. This sector's exponential growth not only contributes to the region's economic prosperity but also highlights the entrepreneurial spirit and innovation thriving within J&K.

As Jammu and Kashmir charts its course towards economic prosperity, it stands shoulder to shoulder

with the nation in its quest for development by 2047. The concerted efforts and strategic initiatives undertaken in the realm of industrial growth serve as a testament to J&K's unwavering commitment to realizing the vision of a prosperous and vibrant India. With each milestone achieved, J&K paves the way for a brighter and more prosperous future for its people and the nation as a whole.

Empowering Communities

The Impact of PMAY In Jammu and Kashmir

KO Web Desk

by rural communities.

The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) stands as a beacon of hope for millions of low and moderate-income families across India, aiming to provide them with access to affordable housing. In the picturesque landscape of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), the PMAY has emerged as a transformative force, ushering in a new era of security and dignity for its residents.

Bridging the Urban-Rural Divide

J&K, with its diverse population and unique blend of urban and rural communities, faces distinct challenges in housing provision. The PMAY addresses these challenges through its dual components: Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) (PMAY-U) and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin) (PMAY-G). By catering to both urban and rural populations, the scheme ensures inclusivity and equity in housing development.

Transformative Impact in Rural Areas

In the rural hinterlands of J&K, where access to basic amenities is often limited, the PMAY-G has been a game-changer. With a targeted approach, the scheme aims to uplift the living standards of the rural poor by providing them with pucca houses equipped with essential facilities like toilets, electricity, and clean drinking water.

The success stories emerging from villages across J&K bear testimony to the transformative impact of PMAY-G. From Kathua to Baramulla, families once grappling with the harsh realities of kutcha houses now find solace in sturdy pucca structures, shielded from the vagaries of weather. The scheme's convergence with other initiatives, such as the Saubhagya Scheme and Ujjwala Yojana, further enhances its effectiveness in addressing multifaceted challenges faced

Empowering Urban Dwellers

In urban centers like Srinagar and Jammu, where rapid urbanization often outpaces infrastructure development, PMAY-U plays a pivotal role in providing affordable housing solutions. By extending credit-linked subsidies to eligible beneficiaries, the scheme makes homeownership a reality for many who would otherwise struggle to afford it.

The testimonials of beneficiaries, like Mehnaz Akhtar and Ganesh Chander, underscore the profound impact of PMAY on their lives. For them, owning a home was once a distant dream, but thanks to the government's proactive measures, it has become a tangible reality. These narratives not only celebrate individual achievements but also highlight the collective triumph of communities empowered by government schemes.

Toward a Viksit Bharat

As J&K marches towards a brighter future, PMAY stands as a shining example of the government's commitment to inclusive growth and development. By addressing the fundamental need for shelter, the scheme lays the foundation for holistic progress, empowering individuals and communities to realize their full potential.

In conclusion, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) has emerged as a catalyst for change in Jammu and Kashmir, providing a ray of hope to millions of marginalized families. Through its multifaceted approach, the scheme addresses the unique needs of both urban and rural populations, fostering inclusive development and empowering communities.

As we celebrate the achievements of PMAY, let us also reaffirm our commitment to building a Viksit Bharat, where every citizen has access to safe and affordable housing.

From Economic Revival to Social Empowerment, J&K Shines Bright

KO Web Desk

In a remarkable testament to resilience, innovation, and inclusive governance, the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) has emerged as a beacon of progress and prosperity. With a comprehensive approach spanning economic revitalization, social empowerment, and infrastructural development, the region has undergone a transformative journey under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

The successful conclusion of the G20 summit in Srinagar not only showcased the economic prowess of J&K but also dealt a resounding blow to terrorism, fostering a climate of peace and stability. The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra witnessed unprecedented participation, setting a new record and highlighting the enthusiasm of the populace towards economic growth and development.

Under the able leadership of PM Modi, initiatives like the Holistic Agriculture Development Program and the Prime Minister's Crop Insurance Scheme have ushered in a new era of agricultural prosperity. With a focus on innovation and sustainability, J&K is set to become a hub for agricultural excellence, with GI-tagged products like Sulai Honey and Bhaderwah Rajmah gaining international recognition.

The industrial revolution sweeping across the region has attracted substantial investments, paving the way for job creation and economic empowerment. With investment proposals exceeding Rs. 90,000 crores and the development of 46 new industrial estates, J&K is poised to emerge as a manufacturing powerhouse, contributing significantly to the 'Made in India' initiative.

The administration's commitment to grassroots democracy is exemplified by the establishment of a strong three-tier Panchayati Raj system, empowering local governments and strengthening grassroots governance. Initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI) Yojana and the National Education Policy are revolutionizing the education sector, ensuring holistic development and global competitiveness of students.

Efforts to bridge the digital divide have led to a digital revolution, with over 1,000 public services now available online, promoting transparency and efficiency in governance. The successful implementation of the e-Shram portal and the Prime Minister's Shram



Yogi Maandhan Yojana are ensuring the welfare of workers in the unorganized sector, providing them with social security and dignity.

The dream of railway connectivity from Kashmir to Kanyakumari is set to become a reality, with significant progress on projects like the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway and the Akhnoor-Poonch road. The construction of tunnels, flyovers, and bypasses under the Prime Minister's Development Programme is enhancing connectivity and fostering economic growth across the region.

The Jal Jeevan Mission has ensured access to clean tap water for every household, earning J&K the distinction of 'High Achievers' at the national level. Infrastructural upgrades in the health sector, including the development of new AIIMS and State Cancer Institutes, are revolutionizing public health services, ensuring access to quality healthcare for all residents.

J&K's rich cultural heritage and natural beauty continue to attract tourists from around the globe, with a record influx of visitors in 2023. Initiatives like the granting of industry status to the tourism sector and the

International Film Festival of India are promoting J&K as a premier tourist destination and a hub for filmmaking.

The resettlement and welfare of minority communities, including Kashmiri Pandits and refugees from West Pakistan, are key priorities for the administration. Land ownership rights for refugees and initiatives like the Prime Minister's Van Dhan Vikas Yojana are empowering tribal communities and rural women, fostering socio-economic development and inclusive growth.

The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, under the guidance of Honorable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, witnessed an unprecedented participation of almost 4 million people, setting a new milestone in public engagement and enthusiasm towards economic development. The administration's commitment to fostering entrepreneurship and job creation has resulted in economic assistance totaling Rs. 1384 crores being provided to 94,680 young entrepreneurs in Jammu and Kashmir. Merit-based recruitment processes and initiatives like the Holistic Agriculture De-

velopment Program have further bolstered the region's economic growth, generating employment opportunities for thousands of youth and bringing monumental changes to the lives of farmer families.

The ambitious plans for infrastructural development have transformed the landscape of Jammu and Kashmir, with significant progress witnessed in projects like the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway and the Akhnoor-Poonch road. The construction of tunnels, flyovers, and bypasses is not only enhancing connectivity but also stimulating economic growth across the region. Moreover, initiatives like the Prime Minister's Gram Sadak Yojana have ensured rural connectivity, linking all rural settlements as per the 2011 census data, and laying the foundation for inclusive development.

The administration's focus on grassroots democracy has resulted in the establishment of a robust three-tier Panchayati Raj system, empowering local government institutions and strengthening grassroots governance. Initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI) Yojana and the

National Education Policy are revolutionizing the education sector, ensuring access to quality education and skill development opportunities for students across Jammu and Kashmir. Moreover, the digital revolution has streamlined governance processes, with over 1,000 public services now available online, promoting transparency and efficiency in service delivery.

Jammu and Kashmir's rich cultural heritage and natural beauty continue to captivate tourists from around the world, with initiatives like GI tagging for handicrafts and the International Film Festival of India further promoting the region as a premier tourist destination. The region's offbeat tourism destinations have witnessed a significant influx of visitors, contributing to the strengthening of the local economy and showcasing the diverse cultural fabric of Jammu and Kashmir.

The administration's commitment to the welfare of marginalized communities, including Kashmiri Pandits, refugees, and tribal communities, is evident in initiatives like the granting of land ownership rights and the implementation of welfare schemes like the Prime Minister's Van Dhan Vikas Yojana.

As Jammu and Kashmir embarks on a journey of progress and prosperity, it serves as a shining example of inclusive governance, economic resilience, and social empowerment. With a holistic approach encompassing economic revitalization, infrastructural development, and cultural promotion, the region is poised to realize its full potential and emerge as a model of growth and development for the nation. Under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, J&K is truly shining bright, illuminating the path towards a brighter, more prosperous future for all its residents.

With meticulous planning and strategic implementation, Jammu and Kashmir has embraced a new era of progress and prosperity. From economic revitalization to social empowerment, the region has witnessed remarkable transformations under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The successful conclusion of the G20 summit in Srinagar served as a global platform to showcase the economic strength and cultural richness of J&K, while also delivering a resounding message against terrorism and extremism.

AWB Lauds SMC's ABC&AVC For Excellent Dog Population Management

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Animal Birth Control and Anti-Rabies Vaccination Centre (ABC&AVC) at Tengpora, established by the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), received high commendations from an inspection team led by Dr. S.K Dutta, Joint Commissioner (AH), Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying/ Secretary, Animal Welfare Board of India, Government of India.

During the inspection, the Municipal Veterinary Officer SMC presented a comprehensive overview of the Corporation's proactive measures to tackle the issue of stray dogs within the Srinagar city.

The presentation highlighted the strategies and dedicated efforts employed by SMC to address the challenges associated with stray dog population management within the city.

The inspection team, comprising experts in the fields of Animal Welfare and Animal Birth Control surgeries, acknowledged the ABC Center at Tengpora as a shining example of excellence in stray dog sterilization and rabies immunization.

Dr. S.K Dutta, speaking on behalf of the inspection team, lauded SMC's commitment to animal welfare and public health through the establishment of such a well-equipped and efficient facility.

International Women's Day Celebrated At Zila Sainik Bhawan, Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, in collaboration with Human Rights & Anti-Corruption Forum Srinagar (HR&ACF), and Department of Social Welfare (DoSW), Srinagar Wednesday celebrated International Women's Day at Zila Sainik Bhawan Srinagar.

The awareness program was held under the guidance of Chairman (PDJ) DLSA, Srinagar, Jawad Ahmed.

The event was graced by the presence of Jawad Ahmed, Chairman DLSA (PDJ) Srinagar as chief guest.

Jahangir Ahmad Bakshi, Secretary DLSA, Srinagar, officials of DLSA, Srinagar, District Social Welfare office, Srinagar, Zila Sainik Bhawan, Srinagar & LADCs and Para Legal Volunteers of DLSA, Srinagar, were also present on the occasion.

The event served as a platform to raise awareness about the rights of women and inspire action towards creating a more just and equitable society.

Chairman DLSA (PDJ), Srinagar, in his presidential speech, emphasized the crucial role women play in society and highlighted the need for continued efforts to address gender disparities. He highlighted the need for increased legal awareness among women and access to justice for those who have faced discrimination or violence.

Ruqaya Ashraf, District Development Officer, Srinagar, addressed the participants and highlighted the various welfare schemes and initiatives implemented by the government to empower women. She urged women to take advantage of these programs to improve their lives and realize their full potential.



Conference Spotlights Role of Linguistics In Technology & Education At KU

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A two-day International Conference on 'India as a Linguistic Area with Special Reference to the Non-scheduled Languages' commenced in the Department of Linguistics, University of Kashmir on Wednesday.

The conference is being organized in collaboration with the Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysuru and Society for Endangered and Lesser Known Languages, Lucknow.

The inaugural session, held at Gandhi Bhawan, University of Kashmir, was presided over by the Controller of Examinations, Dr. Majid Zaman who appreciated the department for undertaking such academic endeavors which are relevant with regard to the teaching and learning of languages. Dr. Zaman highlighted the role of linguistics in technology, especially machine translation.

Head, Department of Linguistics Prof. Aejaz Mohammed Sheikh talked about the theme of the conference. He informed the audience that the call for papers for the conference got a huge response from across the country and the department had to limit the acceptance to only 37.

The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Pradeep Kumar Das, Chairman, Centre for Linguistics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, who shared valuable insights on the significance of revitalization of non-schedule languages. He talked about different strategies that are relevant for documenting the lesser known languages.

Prof. Das also deliberated upon

the significance of lesser known languages in that they are treasure houses of indigenous knowledge and with loss of a language, the treasure gets lost.

He also talked about the steps the Linguistic Society of India, the prestigious association established in 1928, is taking in this regard.

The conference is being attended by more than 40 delegates from

The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Pradeep Kumar Das, Chairman, Centre for Linguistics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, who shared valuable insights on the significance of revitalization of non-schedule languages

the steps that are needed for standardizing these languages in order to implement NEP which lays emphasis on the utilization of local languages/ mother tongues as media of instruction at the school level.

Prof. Kavita Rastogi, Director Society for Endangered Languages talked about various activities undertaken by the society. She thanked the department of Linguistics for hosting the conference. Prof. Muhammad Jehangeer Warsi, Chairman, Department of Linguistics, AMU, Aligarh and President, Linguistic Society of India talked about

different parts of the country including AMU, Aligarh, JNU, BHU, Nagaland University, University of Gujarat, Mumbai University, etc.

Besides three plenary lectures, scheduled to be delivered by Prof. Kavita Rastogi and Prof. Kakali Mukherjee and an online lecture by Prof. Shobanna Chelliah from Indian University, USA is part of the schedule of the conference.

Dr. Sheeba Hassan, Assistant Professor, Department of Linguistics conducted the proceedings and Dr. Saima Jan, Assistant Professor, Department of Linguistics, presented vote of thanks.

Director F&ES Inaugurates State Of Art Headquarters Canteen

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Director Fire & Emergency Services, Alok Kumar inaugurated State of Art Headquarters Canteen at Fire & Emergency Services Headquarters Batamaloo Srinagar.

The canteen has facilities of Lunch, Dinner, and refreshment besides having a sale counter of daily use items at concessional rates for the jawans, a statement issued here.

The Director also passed on spot directions for regular inspection/

surprise check through a team of officers headed by Medical Officer Fire & Emergency Services, for upkeep of hygiene and cleanliness of the canteen and providing of hygienic and nutritious food to the jawans in the headquarter Canteen.

Office of the District Social Welfare Officer, Shopian
Mini-Secretariat, Arhama Shopian-192303
Ph. No 01933-261896 e-mail dswshopian@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

The following Beneficiaries who are getting pension under NSAP are hereby directed to report District Social Welfare Office, Mini-Secretariat Shopian within Seven Days (07), after the publication of this notice along with all requisite documents as per NSAP guidelines, failing which the action under rules will be initiated against them as this office has done door to door field verification and adverse report has been received against them as mentioned in the remark's column.

S.No.	Name	Parentage	Address	D-Code	Remarks
01	Achpal Singh	Jatha Singh	Panjer Shopian	720-09	Government Employee
02	Nigeena Akhter	Sheeraz Ahmad Naikoo	Ratnipora	21-15	Government Employee
03	Zamruda Akhter	Bashir Ahmad Ahanger	Shopian	42-15	Government Pensioner
04	Haleema Banoo	Wd/o Habibullah Wachkoo	Gagran Shopian	155-05	Government Pensioner

Note: - The notice will be served in person to the concerned beneficiaries also.

DIPK-17567/23 dated: 06-08-2023

Sd/-
District Social Welfare Officer,
Shopian

NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sr.DEE/TRD/FZR acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the works as under. Bidders will be able to submit their original /revised bids upto closing date 28.03.2024 at 15.00 Hrs only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall not be considered.

Tender No.	Name of work	App. Cost (Rs.)	Cost of Tender form(Rs.)	Date & time for submission of tender	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Completion period	Opening of tender	Website Particulars
526-TRD-FZR-2023-24	Electrification of Washing Lines No. 1, 2 and train rest line at Firozpur yard over Firozpur division	78,86,881.01 p	NIL	Upto 28.03.2024 15.00 Hrs.	1,57,700/-	Six (06) Months	28.03.2024 after 15.00 Hrs.	www.irps.gov.in
527-TRD-FZR-2023-24	TRD work in c/w Provision of Auxiliary Transformers for improvement of illumination inside Tunnels in JAT-SVDK section over Firozpur division	24,36,228.50p	NIL	Upto 28.03.2024 15.00 Hrs.	48,700/-	Six (06) Months	28.03.2024 after 15.00 Hrs.	www.irps.gov.in

Note: Tenderer (s) may please note that offers received without Bid Security either in cash through e-payment gateway or as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents (as per Annexure-21) valid for a period of 90 days beyond the bid validity period, will be considered as incomplete & invalid offer and for which contractor shall have no claim on Railway.

No.: 526 & 527-TRD-FZR-2023-24 Dated: 06.03.2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 712/24

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
SKIMS Medical College-Hospital
BEMINA, SRINAGAR - 190018
Department of Materials Management
Email: mmo@skimsmc.edu.in, Ph: 0194-2493226

Sub: Cancellation of Tender for supply/installation/commissioning of Blood Gas Analyzer on reagent rental basis.

Ref: 1. NleT No: SKIMS MCH 03 Tender of 2023 Dated: 17/04/2023.

Tenders invited vide NleT No: SKIMS MCH 03 Tender of 2023 Dated: 17/04/2023, for supply/installation/ commissioning of Blood Gas Analyzer on reagent rental basis for the Department of Biochemistry, SKIMS MCH Bemina Srinagar is hereby cancelled.

Sd/-
Materials Management Officer
(SKIMS MCH Bemina)
No: SKIMS/MCH/MMD/38/23/952-58
DIPK-NB-5951/23 Dated: 06/03/2024.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Office Of The Child Development Project Officer Poshan Project Boniyar
(PUBLIC NOTICE).

Sub: Selection List of Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) of Poshan Project Boniyar.

In pursuance to Government Order No.103-JK(SWD) of 2023 Dated: 28-04-2023, and approval conveyed by Mission Director Poshan J&K Srinagar vide No: MD/Poshan/Estt/13281-94 Dated: 08-05-2023, and posts advertised by this office vide No's: CDPO/POSHAN/Adv/2023/65-94 dated 26-05-2023 for selection of Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) for Anganwadi Centres of Poshan Project Boniyar, and selection list of eligible candidates has been prepared as per criteria laid down vide Government Order No.103-JK(SWD) of 2023 Dated: 28-04-2023/ Government Order No.222-JK(SWD) of 2022 Dated: 30-11-2022 and No: SWD-ICDS/43/2022 Dated: 14-08-2023 and selection list has been framed is herewith as Annexure "A" are hereby published for information to general public and inviting appeal/objections if any. The appeal/objection if any against the said selection list, shall be filed in the office of Poshan Project Boniyar against proper receipt by or before 12-03-2024 up to 4:00 Pm, no appeal/objection shall be entertained after expiry of the last date for filling appeal/objections.

Annexure-A

S. No	Name of the Candidate	Parentage/ W/o	Residence	Ward No	Marks in class 10TH	Max Marks	Percentage	Whether Married /Un-Married
1	Kulsuma Begum	Aimer Majeed Lone	Bodriyali	06	236	500	47.20%	Yes

Child Dev. Project Officer
Poshan Boniyar
No: CDPO/POSHAN/Adv/2024/1380-87
DIPK-17539/23
Dated: 06-03-2024

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
25 Shaban
1445

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 30
ZUHR	12:43
ASR	4: 51
Magrib	6:35
ISHA	7: 55

This Day In History

- 1964 - Cassius Clay converts to Islam, and is renamed Muhammad Ali
- 1965 - US begins regular bombing & strafing of N Vietnam
- 1967 - A fire at a restaurant in Montgomery, Alabama kills 25 people.
- 1969 - Al-Fatah leader Yasser Arafat becomes president of PLO
- 1971 - Switzerland votes for national women's suffrage in a referendum
- 1974 - Grenada gains independence from Britain (National Day)
- 1976 - World's largest telescope (600 cm) begins operation (USSR).
- 1977 - Soyuz 24 launches with 2 cosmonauts
- 1978 - Ethiopian offensive in Ogaden desert
- 1986 - Haiti's President-for-Life Jean-Claude Duvalier flees to France Henri Namphy becomes leader of Haiti
- 1986 - Corazon Aquino defeats incumbent Filipino dictator Ferdinand Marcos but fraudulent returns gave the election to Marcos.
- 1987 - Police in South Korea make hundreds of arrests during protest demonstrations, the country's biggest for 6 years, after a student died in custody.
- 1990 - Karachi police kill 22 anti-nationalistic demonstrators
- 1990 - USSR Communist party agrees to allow opposition political parties
- 1991 - The IRA launches a mortar attack on 10 Downing Street during a cabinet meeting.
- 1992 - European Union becomes official under Maastricht treaties.
- 1994 - Jim Nabors undergoes a liver transplant.

From KO Archives

People Line Up For Historic Bus Travel

Observer News Service

Srinagar - Hundreds of enthusiastic people lined up at Regional Passport Office in Srinagar on Friday for application forms for travel on the first bus in 57 years to other part of Kashmir separated by a military Control Line.

New Delhi and Islamabad agreed in February to start (ie bus service between two capitals of Srinagar and Muzaffarabad on either side of the divide.

Significantly both rivals dropped their rigid stances and agreed demands by Kashmiris to use simple permits instead of passports of either country for traveling from one part to another of the divided state which people here regard as a single entity.

Kashmiris will use special permits, issued by both sides, to cross the Line of Control, instead of passports and visas. On the first day the Passport Office, designated as issuing authority, provided 100 application forms to people wishing to travel on April 7 and 14.

"We have issued 100 application forms to people wishing to travel on the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus on April 7 and 14," said passport officer John Silshi. Sixty people will be allowed to make the trip on those dates after security and intelligence agencies check their applications.

"It's a great day. I heard an announcement on radio and came rushing. Thank God I got the form! Now I hope that I will get a permit as well," said Mohammad Shafi as he clutched the document.

However, many others were disappointed. Omar Imtiaz from Baramulla said he could not apply for the permit. It wasn't immediately clear why.

"They should have issued more application forms," he said. "I have been waiting for this day since the service was announced. I am sad."

The 105-mile bus route culling through the scenic Kashmir valley along the river Jehlum was a major all-weather trade route till 1948.

Recent heavy snowfall which blocked Kashmir's only road link with India created severe shortages of essentials in the Kashmir valley besides stranding thousands for the weeks together leading to deaths of scores of passengers. The road has been since come to be known as a killer highway. The re-opening of new road is being viewed as a major development ever since Kashmir conflict began nearly six decades ago.

(Kashmir Observer, 07March, 2005)

Govt plans to crack whip against cattle smuggling in JK

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In a determined effort to curb the rampant issue of cattle smuggling, the police have initiated "Operation Kamdhenu" in the Jammu, Samba, and Kathua (JSK) police ranges. This crackdown aims not only to tackle the immediate smuggling activities but also to target the masterminds behind these illicit operations.

According to reports received by the news agency, under Operation Kamdhenu, a comprehensive strategy has been devised to scrutinize the activities of cattle smugglers. The focus is not just on apprehending the immediate perpetrators but also on identifying and registering the names of main conspirators in the FIR. Additionally, assets of the accused will be assessed as part of the investigation process.



Reports inform that key officers including SP Rural Jammu, DSP Headquarters Samba, and DSP (Dar) Kathua have been appointed as nodal officers to oversee the effective implementation of Operation Kamdhenu. This operation includes a meticulous approach where details such as the engine and chassis numbers, mobile numbers, and Aadhar card details of vehicles involved in smuggling will be documented and added to the case files.

The decision to register the names of main conspirators in the FIR marks a significant step towards holding the masterminds accountable for their actions. Government sources inform that this move is expected to provide law enforcement with valuable leads and enable them to pursue more effective measures against cattle smuggling networks.

It was informed further that Kathua district, within the JSK

range, has witnessed a surge in incidents of cattle smuggling, making it imperative for Operation Kamdhenu to be rigorously enforced in this region. By targeting the main actors behind these illegal activities, the police aim to significantly mitigate the issue of cattle smuggling in the area.

"To ensure the integrity of the operation and prevent any potential escalation of religious tensions, the police have decided to limit media coverage of cases related to cattle smuggling. This decision includes refraining from releasing photos or videos of foiled smuggling attempts, with the intent of avoiding any undue provocation of sentiments." Official sources informed—(KNO)

GMC Jammu Offers Genetic Cancer Testing With Next Gen Tech.

Agencies

SRINAGAR: For the very first time, the Government Medical College Jammu has initiated genetic cancer testing using Next Generation Technology.

An official informed the news agency that the Department of Microbiology at GMC Jammu has successfully started genetic testing for BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutations using cutting-edge Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) technology.

He said the initiative aims to enhance capacity in genetic sequencing and provide the most advanced technology in diagnostics and research. NGS is being utilized in oncogenetic testing for BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes, targeting harmful mutations that predispose individuals or their relatives to cancer.

"Mutations in the BRCA1 or BRCA2 genes can significantly increase the risk of developing breast cancer, making up to 65-85% for BRCA1 mutations and 40-85% for BRCA2 mutations by the age of 70," he

said, adding, "Positive BRCA1 or BRCA2 results enable individuals to make informed decisions about available options to potentially reduce their risk of developing breast cancer."

The department also plans to gradually incorporate Human Papillomavirus NGS testing in the second phase.

Dr Sandeep Dogra, Head of the Department of Microbiology at GMC Jammu, said this technology represents the forefront of diagnostics and resources. By identifying genetic mutations before symptoms appear, this cutting-edge technology allows for tailored therapies based on individual requirements, he said.

Dr Dogra explained, "The testing usually takes 7-10 days, with multiple people being tested simultaneously. Currently, these facilities are provided free of cost at the hospital and involve specialised machinery and expertise. Such tests are conducted based on recommendations from oncologists."

He said such tests are being on the recommendations of oncologists. Once such probability is found in any person, then a clinical oncologist can advise him and offer different things that he can adapt, he said, adding that in the next five to ten years, diagnosis will be based on genetics and it helps in catching disease very early.

Officials said that NGS technology has revolutionised cancer genetic testing by offering a deeper understanding of tumour genetics and guiding personalised treatment strategies. It enables simultaneous analysis of multiple genes, enhancing diagnostic accuracy, identifying therapeutic targets, predicting treatment response, and monitoring tumour evolution over time, they said.

"NGS facilitates the detection of rare genetic mutations and allows monitoring of tumour evolution over time. It also aids in the early detection of treatment resistance and guides adjustments in therapy," the officials said—(KNO)

J&K Achieves 62% Progress In PMDP Implementation

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir administration has achieved a progress of more than 62 per cent in the implementation of projects sanctioned under the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP).

As per news agency, an outlay of Rs 80,068 crore, PMDP was announced in the year 2015. The PMDP initially included 63 major infrastructure projects across roads, power, health, tourism and other key sectors aimed at bridging the development gap in the former state.

In 2019 when J&K's was bifurcated into two union territories, 53 projects worth Rs 58,477 crore were allocated to the UT of J&K, with the remaining going to Ladakh.

As per the figures available with the KNO, 33 out of total 53 projects have been completed till December, which makes a progress of more than 62 per cent in the implementation of PMDP in Jammu and Kashmir.

Figures reveal that Rs 45,448 crore has been utilized out of

the total Rs 46,981 crore released for these 53 projects.

Major projects under the PMDP include all-weather roads, power infrastructure, health institutes, tourism facilities as well as flood management and rehabilitation works.

The last few years have seen a noticeable increase in the rate of implementation as steps were taken to address problems like land acquisition, clearances, and court disputes that had previously slowed down development.

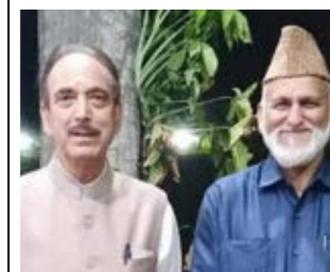
Officials said the administration is working 'tirelessly' to ensure the completion of these projects in limited time.

They said the UT government as well as the centre too was monitoring these projects, which are aimed at fulfilling the developmental needs of people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The PMDP forms a key part of the Modi government's push for accelerated development in J&K since its reorganization in 2019.

The Home Ministry is also closely monitoring to make sure all projects that have been approved get finished on time—(KNO)

Azad Fields G M Saroori in Lok Sabha Elections



KO NEWS SERVICE

BUDGAM: The Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) headed by Ghulam Nabi Azad on Wednesday announced G M Saroori as its candidate for Udhampur Lok Sabha seat in the upcoming general polls.

The announcement was made at a public rally addressed by Azad at Chrar-e-Shareef in Budgam district of central Kashmir.

"For Udhampur, it is my intention and I will discuss it with others that G M Saroori will contest. He is the most senior leader and four-time MLA and vice chairperson of our party. I think I am active, but he is more active than me. He is the appropriate candidate. We have not yet taken a final decision, but we have zeroed in on the name," Azad told reporters after the rally.

The DPAP also announced Saroori's name in a statement and on the party's X handle.

"DPAP chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad has announced G.M. Saroori as the candidate for Udhampur-Doda Parliamentary constituency in the Lok Sabha elections," the party said.

Azad said the party has not taken a final decision on fielding candidates on other constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir.

To a question on why the party was not announcing the candidates, Azad said it will not make much difference even if the party makes the announcement at the eleventh hour.

"Some habits of the Congress party are still with me like announcing the candidature at the last moment. However, it will not make a much difference because I have been visiting every area. Even if the candidate comes at the eleventh hour, it will not make much of a difference," Azad said.

Outsourcing of Driving Licence Printing Fails to Ease Delays

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Despite outsourcing the printing of driving licenses, people from different parts of Kashmir have expressed their resentment, stating that outsourcing of the process has not provided any relief to them.

An applicant from Srinagar, who had applied for the driving license told the news agency, that since December last year, he has

been going to the RTO office in Srinagar for collection of his driving license, but has to return disappointed.

"There are many like me who have been facing the same problem, although authorities in the RTO earlier said they have outsourced the printing of driving license, but nothing much has happened on the ground", he said.

Similarly, several other applicants complained of de-

lays in receiving their driving license, stating that delays have pushed them to the wall.

Reacting to the reports, Regional Transport Officer (RTO) Kashmir, Syed Shahinawaz Bukhari said that the process is on to clear the backlog pendency and that issuance of license will return to its normal course.

"Of total 1,78,000 backlog licenses, 86,000 have been printed, while the remaining backlog is expect-

ed to be cleared by next 15-20 days," he said.

He said that once the clearing of the backlog will be over there won't be any issue with regard to issuance of driving licenses.

Pertinently, RTO Kashmir had earlier stated that printing of driving licenses was outsourced to a government agency, assuring that the move was aimed to clear the printing of backlog driving licenses—(KNO)

Hakim Shoaib, Others In City Join Apni Party

Bukhari greets new party members from Srinagar's Zadibal constituency

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Apni Party in Srinagar received a boost after several youth leaders, some belonging to influential families of the city, joined the party.

These youth leaders joined the party at the party headquarters in Srinagar on Wednesday. Party president Syed Altaf Bukhari and former mayor of Srinagar, Junaid Azim Mattu welcomed these prominent political and social leaders from Srinagar's Zadibal constituency.

The new entrants included Hakim Shoaib Sajad, Tabish Pathan, and Hakim Burhan, who joined the party along with their supporters. The party president and other leaders gave a warm welcome to the new entrants.

Speaking on the occasion, Syed Altaf Bukhari reiterated the party's agenda and said, "Post August 2019, when the entire Jammu and Kashmir was in chaos and extreme uncertainty, and people were apprehensive that there could be demographic change and this region would even lose its identity, we established Apni Party to stand

by our people. It was a conscious and well-thought-out decision by all of us. We are committed and dedicated to protecting the rights of the people."

Taking a dig at the traditional political parties, the Apni Party President said, "Until just a few years ago, traditional political parties and their leaders would talk in a different tune and tenor, leading people to unachievable goals through emotional sloganeering. But, just a few years down the line, they say what we decided while launching the Apni Party."

Reaffirming his conviction, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari said, "In 1947, the then leadership had a choice to accede with either India or Pakistan. They decided to be with India. That day, J&K was destined to be a part and parcel of the country, and it will remain so forever."

Speaking on the occasion, Junaid Azim Mattu assured the new entrants that Apni Party would provide them ample opportunities to serve the people in their respective areas and work for the overall well-being of the masses in Jammu and Kashmir.

Various Public Delegations Call On LG Sinha



KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: A public delegation led by Sh Reyaz Ahmad Bhat, Member District Development Council, Devsar-B, Kulgam called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha, today at Raj Bhawan.

Subsequently, members of Civil Society Lolab headed by Abdul Majeed Reshi, called on the Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha and conveyed their gratitude to the Lt Governor led UT Administration for promotion of tourism in Lolab area.

Fr Shaiju Chacko, Chairman,

Diocesan Education Board also called on the Lt Governor.

Meanwhile, Representatives of Gujjar Mahasabha, Baramulla headed by its Chairman Choudhary Nazir called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan.

The delegation expressed gratitude to the Lt Governor led UT Administration for taking dedicated welfare measures for Gujjar and other tribal communities in Jammu Kashmir.

A delegation of Ex-Servicemen led by Sh Atta Mohammad Wani also called on the Lt Governor.

Health Department Organize Program On PCPNDT Act

KO NEWS SERVICE

SHOPIAN: The Department of Health in collaboration with District Hub for Empowerment of Women, Mission Shakti Shopian on Wednesday organized a one day awareness programme on effective implementation of PCPNDT Act at SBGM Nursing College of Science and Technology Shopian.

Speaking on the occasion, CMO, Dr.Arshid Hussain emphasized the importance of effective implementation of PCPNDT Act. He said that the child sex ratio is an important indicator of social health of any society and any kind of decline in the sex ratio can be detrimental for demography of the region, which can ultimately imbalance the whole system of mankind.

Dr. Arshid said that the government is quite serious and

firm enough for taking any measures required for balancing the sex ratio. He said that to usher a healthy child sex ratio and curtail the menace of sex selection, implementation mechanism of Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, needs to be strengthened at all levels.

He further stressed upon the officers to ensure no violation of the Act takes place in the first place and any violation in this regard shall be dealt strictly.

The CMO emphasized for evolving a robust mechanism to curb all illegal practices. He also stressed that regular meetings of Regulatory Bodies/Committees should be conducted at all levels. He asked for ensuring regular inspections/surprise visits by the Appropriate Authorities at each level.

J&K Bank Facilitates Swift Settlement Of Insurance Claims



KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Providing a major relief to the bereaved families, J&K Bank facilitated the swift settlement of MetLoan & Life Suraksha (MLLS) insurance claims of its deceased borrowers who had their accounts in different branches of the Bank. Since last month, the claims worth Rs 3.42 Crores were paid to the family members of 74 deceased customers who belonged to the Kathua Zone of the Bank.

The Bank's Zonal Head (Kathua) Sanjeev Kumar along with Zonal Head (Credit Life - PNB MetLife) Irfan Ali Zargar dis-

played the symbolic cheque worth Rs 3.42 Crores handed over to the nominees/Legal Heirs of the deceased customers in presence of Cluster Head (Kathua) Vinay Gupta, Cluster Head (Samba) Sanjay Kumar Belowo, Zonal Insurance Co-ordinator Vibha Bharti, Branch Heads of respective branches and other officials of the Bank and PNB MetLife including their Regional Manager Nisar Ahmad Khan and Territory Manager Suresh Kumar Vaid.

Expressing gratitude to the Bank and its Insurance partner MetLife, Claimants described settlement of claim as a big relief for the family amid tough times.

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMAND ANANTNAG.

SHORT TERM AUCTION NOTICE.

It is hereby notified for the information of public in general and timber dealers in particular that the sale of wooden logs of different species existing in the premises of Fire & Emergency Services, Hqrs. Samal Anantnag shall be held as per the direction issued by the Director, Fire & Emergency Services, J&K vide No. DFES-GENOMISC/1/2024-02-CC-7393143 dated 03.02.2024 through an open auction in the office of the Deputy Director, Fire & Emergency Services, Samal Anantnag on 13.03.2024 at 11:00 am positively. The details of the stocks to be put to an open auction are as under:-

S.No.	Species	No. of Logs	Volume in cft.
01	Popular	44	120.45
02	Ulmus	09	10.310
03	Willow	78	249.75
Total		131	380.510

- The auction through open bid will be conducted in accordance with the following terms and conditions:-
- The intending bidders are advised to inspect the stocks notified to be auctioned prior to their participation so as to have a correct assessment regarding quality/quantity of the wooden logs existing in the premises of Fire & Emergency Services Hqrs. Samal Anantnag.
 - The intending bidders participating in the open auction shall move forward their participation application appended with a revenue stamp of Rs. 5/- and submit it in the office of the Deputy Director, Fire & Emergency Services, Samal Anantnag well before the commencement of auction on the given date.
 - The successful (highest) bidder shall have to deposit the entire money of the bid amount in the shape of Cheque/ Demand Draft of any Nationalized Bank of India payable to Deputy Director, Fire & Emergency Services, Command Anantnag ON SPOT.
 - In case, the day of auction happens to be a holiday or in the event of any other unavoidable circumstances, the auction will be held on the next working day at the same venue and on the same date & time.
 - Any other condition/ clearances which otherwise are not specifically contained shall form to be abide by the successful bidder as per the rules/ act in vogue.
 - Indemnity: In case of any dispute, accidents during the course of execution of the contract, the contractor shall be bound and solely responsible to meet and settle down all the claims at his own risk and cost; and shall indemnify the department against any sort of liabilities.
 - Payment of Labor: The payment to the laborers shall be the sole responsibility of contractor. The department will not entertain any claim on account of non-payment of wages to the laborers by the contractor.
 - Local laws and Rules: The contractor shall abide by all regulations and laws including labor laws, Revenue and other Authorities. For any violation he shall be liable to be dealt with under the relevant laws. No compensation whatsoever on this account shall be payable to the contractor by the Department.
 - Insurance: Any accidental or incidental occurrence during the course of execution shall be entirely liability of the contractor. The contractor has to observe due care and caution as not to cause any harm or damage to life of the working laborers. The insurance cover of the working laborers working for the successful bidder shall be the responsibility of the contractor.

NO: DDF&ES-A/Accts/2024/ 398-401
Dated: 06.03.2024

DIPK-17574-23
DT: 06/03/2024

Deputy Director,
Fire & Emergency Services, 1
Command Anantnag

IND v ENG: Wood Replaces Robinson, Rohit Hails Ashwin

Agencies

DHARAMSALA: England recalled fast bowler Mark Wood in the lone change to their side as they chase a consolation victory in the final test against India beginning in Dharamsala on Thursday. Seamer Ollie Robinson lose his place after his wicketless outing in the fourth test in Ranchi, where India grabbed an unassailable 3-1 lead in the riveting five-match series, which concludes at the picturesque Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium.

Wood joins James Anderson in England's seam attack, while Tom Hartley and Shoaib Bashir will shoulder the spin load with Joe Root chipping in with his part-time off-spin. "I think going with two seamers and two spinners is probably the right call," England captain Ben Stokes told reporters on the eve of the match.



"We felt there would probably be a bit more grass on the wicket just because of where we are, but overall I think the wicket looks an absolute belter. "So playing two seamers and still having Bash and Tom gives

us a good mixture when you're a little bit unsure of what it will do as the test goes on."

Stokes expected batters to dominate the contest and would particularly want his good friend Jonny Bairstow to

shrug off his poor form in what would be the batter's 100th test. "If I was a captain here in a one-day game I wouldn't want to win the toss because I wouldn't know what to do looking at how good the wicket looks," Stokes

said in his assessment of the pitch.

"Again, we'll just have to wait and see how it plays out and whether we're batting or bowling first we'll have a better idea of how the game needs to play out."

Having secured their 17th consecutive test series win at home, India can afford to relax in Dharamsala but Ravichandran Ashwin will be keen to make his 100th test a special occasion.

Home captain Rohit Sharma heaped praise on the off-spinner, who claimed his 500th test wicket in the ongoing series, calling him a "match-winner".

"It's a big achievement for any player to play 100 tests," Rohit told reporters.

"It's a big milestone. Ashwin is a big match-winner for us. "If you look at his performances in the last five-seven years, he has contributed in every series. Players like him are rare."

Short TAKES

Khelo India Medal Winners Now Eligible For Government Jobs

Medal winners in all Khelo India competitions will now be eligible for government jobs as per a revised criteria, Sports Minister Anurag Thakur said on Wednesday. "This groundbreaking step now extends eligibility to medal winners from the Khelo India Games—Youth, University, Para and Winter Games—to be eligible for government jobs. Additionally, games and events have been clearly defined to ensure inclusivity across various sports," Thakur said in his post on X.

Mumbai's Ismail Bowls Fastest Delivery In Women's Cricket

Mumbai Indians' Shabnim Ismail bowled the fastest delivery in women's cricket on Tuesday with a 132.1kph ball that thudded into the pads of Delhi Capitals captain Meg Lanning in their Women's Premier League (WPL) match.

South African Ismail delivered the thunderbolt with the second ball of the third over of the match and while the lbw appeal was turned down the 35-year-old still entered the record books as the first woman to breach the 130kph mark, according to the International Cricket Council.

Vidarbha Defeat Madhya Pradesh, To Meet Mumbai In Ranji Final

The pace bowling pair of Aditya Thakare and Yash Thakur battered the Madhya Pradesh tail as Vidarbha defeated their rivals by 62 runs to set up a Ranji Trophy title clash with Mumbai, here on Wednesday.

Madhya Pradesh, who were in a precarious position at stumps on day four at 228/6 requiring 93 more runs to win, withered in the face of hostile bowling from the duo who shared the spoils in the first session of the final day to earn Vidarbha a memorable semifinal win.

Jaiswal Breaks Into Top 10 In ICC Rankings For Test Batter

Young India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal on Wednesday broke into the top-10 of the ICC rankings for Test batters for the first time in his career on the back of his tremendous form in the ongoing home series against England.

Jaiswal, who made his Test debut in 2023, jumped two places to be at 10th spot with 727 rating points to his kitty. The 22-year-old is only the fifth Indian ever to have crossed the 600-run mark in a Test series

Real Madrid's Bellingham Suspended Two Games For Dissent

Real Madrid midfielder Jude Bellingham has been suspended for two games by La Liga for showing contempt towards the referee having received a red card after the final whistle in their 2-2 draw with Valencia on Saturday.

The referee's report said the England international had displayed an "aggressive attitude" as he disputed referee Jesus Gil Manzano's decision to blow the whistle when he headed Brahim Diaz's cross into the net in the ninth minute of added time for what would have been a winning goal.

AIP Water Sports C'ship: J&K Police Wins Gold, 2 Silver Medals

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Hosts J&K Police secured a gold medal in Canoeing 1000 meter event on Wednesday in the 23rd All India Police Water Sports Championship 2024, being held at Back Lawn of SKICC Srinagar.

J&K Police team of Adil Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, Imityyaz Hussain, Moisar Ahmad Bhat and Imran Hussain raced the distance in 01:46:196 to take the award.



In single Canoeing event, J&K Police clinched silver as Mubashir Hussain clocked 02:05:936 in the race. The team won another silver

medal in the two-player Canoeing race, with Adil Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat and Mubashir Hussain clinching the spot by clocking 02:02:548.

Kashmiri Siblings Shine in Skiing, Secure Four Medals

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Kashmir's star siblings, Baraar Sajad Qazi and Mannat Sajad Qazi, have made a significant impact in skiing. The pair recently participated in the National Alpine Skiing Championship held at Gulmarg, where they collectively secured four medals.

Baraar, competing in the

J2 category, earned two silver medals in the Slalom and Giant Slalom events. Meanwhile, Mannat, the youngest skier in the C1 category, secured two bronze medals in the same events.

Mannat, a student at Malinson Girls School in Srinagar, credited her brother for inspiring her to pursue skiing.

Baraar, with over a decade of skiing experience, expressed



pride in his sister's achievements and expressed optimism for their continued success.

The Qazi siblings garnered praise and recognition from fellow participants, officials, and dignitaries at the championship. (KNS).

Sachin Honors Amir Hussain At ISPL Inauguration



Agencies

SRINAGAR: Indian cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar won hearts when he invited J&K's para-cricket captain Amir Hussain Lone and his family to the inauguration of ISPL. During the match Sachin was seen donning Amir's cricket uniform that won millions of hearts across the globe.

Amir Hussain who hails from Bijbehara village in south Kashmir's Anantnag met "Master Blaster" Sachin Tendulkar while the internationally ac-

claimed cricketer was on his Kashmir visit along with wife and daughter.

Sachin had called him his inspiration as he played cricket despite being a differently-abled cricketer. In a recent gesture for the player, Sachin also played a match with Amir.

Lone, who is a big fan of Virat Kohli, also paid a visit to the Gujarat Giants squad, a team owned by Adani Group in WPL 2024. He thanked the Adani Group for taking care of him during challenging times and inviting him to meet the GG cricketers.

In Series Of Comebacks, Rohit Aces Captaincy Test

Press Trust of India

DHARAMSALA: The contest against England's 'Bazballers' was probably the biggest Test of Rohit Sharma's captaincy at home and not only did the India skipper ace it, he also got to "learn a lot" about his leadership in what he described as a "series of comebacks" India have been put under pressure in all the four Tests played thus far but after the Hyderabad debacle, the hosts managed to put the pressure back on the opposition to seal the series in Ranchi. The finale starts here on Thursday.

Rohit struggled to define the 'Bazball' approach adopted by England but gave the opponents due credit.

"Honestly, I don't know what Bazball means... whether it is to go and strike? whether it is to go and defend and wait for the loose ball? because I've not seen any wild swinging from anyone, I don't know exactly what this term means," Rohit said on Wednesday.

"But yeah clearly they've played better cricket than the last series they were here. And you've got to give credit to two of their batters who got big hundreds (Ollie Pope and Ben Duckett)," he added.

Earlier, Duckett had suggested that the series' leading run-getter Yashasvi Jaiswal learned a lot from the op-



ponents' fearless approach. Rohit was amused when reminded of that remark.

"I think there was this guy called Rishabh Pant in our team. Probably Ben Duckett hasn't seen him bat," he quipped.

India are expected to win at home but what made the feat remarkable was that the home team bossed over 'Bazball' in the absence of senior players including Virat Kohli, Mohammed Shami and K L Rahul, who only played the series-opener.

It forced India to play four debutants in Sarfaraz

Khan, Dhruv Jurel, Akash Deep and Rajat Patidar.

Besides Patidar, all the rookies were able to make an impact and the MP batter would be desperate to make amends here.

On the eve of the final Test, Rohit was asked about his thoughts on the fiercely fought series and his learnings from it, and he had a lot to say.

"...there are a lot of different challenges that came our way right from Test match No. 1 till now. During the series as well, as a captain, this was probably the series where I got to learn a lot about how to utilise the players I have at their best," said Rohit.

"And when the pressure is put back on you, how to respond to certain situations of the game. I am glad that I was captaining this series, it made me understand where I have lacked as a captain as well and what are the things I need to do differently.

"Well, learnings from this series are big. Obviously, there is one more (match) to go and I am sure I will understand a lot more here as well, but yeah different challenges are thrown at you, that is where the captain is looked up to."

Considering the recent past, rank turners were expected in the series but sporting tracks were laid out for the first four games and the Dharamsala surface too wore a flat look a

day before the game.

Was the series win on good tracks more pleasing for the Indian captain?

"I have a different take on this because whether it is a rank turner or a good pitch, you have to win. Rank turner is not just for us but for them as well. So both teams play on that and both teams have an advantage or disadvantage.

"I won't say that I am satisfied to win on a pitch like this. It's good but a win is a win. The way we won is important for me because a lot of time, we were behind in the game and we bounced back from there," he said.

"From the first Test to the Ranchi Test. We were ahead in Hyderabad but lost that Test. The Vizag Test went neck-to-neck. In Rajkot, we scored big but they came back to bat well and it was important for us to come back and we did. Basically, it has been a series of comebacks for us. We have come back from being down in one session to dominating the next."

How the youngsters, especially debutants, responded in tense situations pleased Rohit the most.

"Throughout the series you must have seen that we have absorbed pressure and put it back on the opposition. This has been satisfying, especially with a group of boys, who have not been under such pressure situations," he said.

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Construction Division, Srinagar. Gist of Notice Inviting e-Tender e-NIT Nos. MICD/65, MICD/66 and MICD/67 of 2023-24 all dated: 05-03-2024.

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of UT of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited in two cover reputed Mechanical/Electrical SSI unit holders/contractors/fabricators/firms for following works respectively. The bidding process shall be completed online in two covers viz. Cover '1st' -Tender fee and Earnest Money details, Deposit, fulfillment of prequalification criteria, technical specifications and acceptance to terms and conditions of the tender. Cover '2nd' - Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

e NIT No.	Name/ Particulars of the work	Name of Division	Quantity.	Cost of document/ tender fee (In Rs.)	Earnest money (In Rs.)	Validity of Rates
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
MICD/65 of 2023-24 Dated: 05/03/24	Electro-Mechanical works at various Tube well irrigation schemes of MICD Snoorkalipora, Meej 2nd and lukbawan	Mechanical Irrigation Construction Division, Srinagar	As per requirement	Rs. 1300/-	Rs. 2200/-	90 days
MICD/66 of 2023-24 Dated: 05/03/24	Repairs works to voltage stabilizer of Tube well scheme of Tumlilhal Pulwama and Topping up of Toil and other required works at various Tube well irrigation scheme across Districts of valley			Rs. 2400/-	Rs. 200/-	
MICD/67 of 2023-24 Dated: 05/03/24	Replacement of damaged sluice valves at tube well irrigation scheme saidpora Pulwama. Repairs to 100Ampere LT panel at tube well scheme lukbawan Anantang			Rs. 1400/-	Rs. 200/-	

Position of funds: Demanded under ARD. AAA Accorded vide Superintending Engineer Mechanical Circle I & F.C Department Srinagar's No: - 80-MCO of 2022-23 dated: - 31.03.2023.

Key/critical Dates:

Date of Hosting In Website/ Publish date	05/03/2024 (1600Hrs)		
Document download/sale start date	05/03/2024 (1600 Hrs).		
Bid submission start date	05/03/2024. (1600Hrs)	Bid submission end date	12/05/2024 (1200 Hrs)
Bid opening date	12/05/2024 (1600 Hrs)		

Each tender should be accompanied with a Bid declaration Form/Cost of tender document in the form of as detailed above, pledged to the Executive Engineer MICD Srinagar in absence of Bid declaration form, the Tenders shall be rejected outright. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website <http://jitenders.gov.in>. Any information regarding the tenders can be had from this office on all working days.

DIPK-17565/23
dated: 06-03-2024

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Mech. Irr. Const. Division,
Srinagar.

PM Modi's Kashmir

or less a steep downward trend, more so since last year.

The New Year's Eve celebrations at Lal Chowk in Srinagar further symbolized the evolving dynamics of the region following the abrogation of Article 370. Things seem likely to improve further this year.

One biggest indicator of the new normalcy, as recurrently highlighted by the home minister Amit Shah, has been the growth of tourism. And last year is said to have broken all previous records with tourists arrival said to have crossed over one crore, the highest so far, beating by far even the pre-turmoil period record. This has generated employment for the thousands of people who had lost their jobs during Covid pandemic. Going forward, the situation looks set to only improve further, hopefully with all other political and social drivers of the place remaining unchanged.

Besides, with a significant increase in foreign tourist arrivals, travel agents anticipate further global promotion of Kashmir's tourism. The prospects of foreign tourists from Thailand, Europe, and the Gulf visiting in large numbers have raised hopes for a robust winter tourism season in the coming months.

It remains to be seen what the PM would say in his keenly awaited speech. From all indications, the speech would largely be development-focused. The PM's announcements are anticipated to include a Rs 5,000-crore "Holistic Agriculture Development Programme" and 52 tourism-related projects worth Rs 140 crore.

Though the address will have a distinct political dimension, much of that will be of relevance to the ongoing national political scene than Kashmir. However, according to some social media posts, the PM is likely to promise restoration of statehood to J&K following parliamentary elections which his party is favourite to win. Or at least a promise of Assembly elections.

The visit comes amid calls from political parties in the Valley for simultaneous Assembly elections with the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, as J&K has been without an elected government since 2018. And should this "Modi ki guarantee" be promised, it will certainly create a lot of goodwill for him in both Kashmir and Jammu.

PM To Dedicate

didis, farmers and entrepreneurs etc. The 'Holistic Agriculture Development Programme' (HADP) programme is expected to equip about 2.5 lakh farmers with skill development via dedicated Daksh Kisan portal.

Under the programme, about 2,000 Kisan Khidmat Ghars will be established and robust value chains will be put in place for the welfare of the farming community, the official handout said.

The multiple initiatives under the Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD schemes to be dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Modi include development of 'Integrated Development of Hazratbal Shrine' in Srinagar, J&K; tourism facilities developed in Northeast circuit in Meghalaya; Spiritual Circuit in Bihar and Rajasthan; Rural and Tirthankar Circuit in Bihar; development of Jogulamba Devi Temple, Jogulamba Gadwal District, Telangana; and development of Amarkantak Temple, Annupur District, Madhya Pradesh.

Prime Minister Modi will also launch about 43 projects that will develop a wide range of pilgrimage and tourist sites across the country.

These include important religious sites like the Annaram Temple in Kakinada district of Andhra Pradesh; Navagraha temples in Thanjavur and Mayiladuthurai district of Tamil Nadu and Karaikal district of Puducherry, Sri Chamundeswari Devi Temple, Mysore District, Karnataka; Karni Mata Mandir, Bikaner District Rajasthan; Maa Chintpurni Temple, Una District, Himachal Pradesh; Basilica of Bom Jesus Church, Goa, among others.

The projects also include development of various other sites and experience centres like Mechuka Adventure Park in Arunachal Pradesh; Rural Tourism Cluster Experience at Gunji, Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand; Ecotourism zone at Ananthagiri forest, Ananthagiri, Telangana; Meghalayan Age Cave Experience and Waterfall Trails Experience at Sohra, Meghalaya; Reimagining Cinnamara Tea Estate, Jorhat, Assam; Ecotourism experience at Kanjli Wetland, Kapurthala, Punjab; Julley Leh Biodiversity Park, Leh, among others.

During the programme, Prime Minister Modi will announce 42 tourist destinations selected

under Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD) Scheme. The innovative scheme, announced during Union Budget 2023-24, aims to provide end-to-end tourist experiences by catalysing development of tourist destinations while also promoting sustainability and ushering competitiveness in the tourism sector.

The 42 destinations have been identified in four categories (16 in Culture & Heritage Destination; 11 in spiritual destinations; 10 in Ecotourism and Amrit Dharohar; and 5 in Vibrant Village).

Prime Minister Modi will launch the first ever nation-wide initiative to identify the pulse of the nation on tourism, in the form of 'Dekho Apna Desh People's Choice 2024'.

The aim of the nation-wide poll is to engage with citizens to identify most preferred tourist attractions and understand tourist perceptions across five tourism categories - Spiritual, Cultural & Heritage, Nature & Wildlife, Adventure, and other categories. Besides the four main categories, the 'other' category is where one can vote for their personal favourites and help uncover hidden tourism gems in the form of unexplored tourism attractions and destinations like Vibrant Border Villages, Wellness Tourism, Wedding Tourism etc.

The prime minister will launch the 'Chalo India Global Diaspora Campaign' with an aim to inspire the Indian diaspora to become Incredible India ambassadors and promote tourism to India.

The campaign is being launched based on the clarion call of the prime minister, wherein he requested the Indian diaspora members to encourage at least five non-Indian friends to travel to India.

With more than three crore overseas Indians, the diaspora can serve as a powerful catalyst for Indian tourism, acting as cultural ambassadors, the handout reads.

Bakhshi Stadium

to prevent movement of the people during the VIP visit, the officials said.

Drones and CCTV cameras are being used for surveillance while foot patroling by the security forces has been intensified in a two kilometre radius around the venue.

Marine commandos have been deployed in river Jhelum and Dal Lake to prevent the use of these water bodies for any subversive activities, they said.

Several schools falling along the route to be taken by the prime minister have been closed for Wednesday and Thursday while board examinations scheduled to be held on Thursday have been postponed till next month.

PM Modi will be arriving at 12 noon tomorrow. He will land at the Srinagar international airport where he will board an army chopper to army's 15 Corps headquarters where he will lay wreaths at the war memorial and pay tributes to fallen heroes. Sources said from the Badamibagh Cantonment, PM Modi will travel by road to the Bakshi Stadium where he will address a gathering of over one lakh people.

According to Srinagar police, Srinagar city has been declared as a 'Temporary Red Zone' for the operation of drones and quadcopters, as per provisions of Rule 24 (2) of Drone Rules, 2021 with immediate effect. "All unauthorized drone operations in the Red Zone are liable to be penalised as per relevant provisions of Drone Rules, 2021," Srinagar police said and urged people to cooperate.

Sources said that vital road links from Jehangir Chowk to Solina, Zero Bridge to Lal Ded have been sealed and blocked at some points as part of security measures. As per BJP's J&K Chief Ravinder Raina, Srinagar has been decorated with flags, hoardings, bunting and banners of PM Modi and "we are expecting a gathering of two lakh people at Bakshi Stadium." BJP J&K spokesman Altaf Thakur said that the rally is going to be historic with huge participation of people. Almost 10,000 BJP flags and 1000 bunting and hoardings have been installed at the venue and other parts of city by BJP workers.

IGP Traffic Announces

Panthachowk towards Sonwar and vice versa will be discouraged during this period. "Students appearing for examinations are urged to carry valid ID cards and roll number slips and to reach their examination centers before 8:30 AM and leave after 3:00 PM to avoid any inconvenience, with special arrangements made for them at traffic assistance points," mentioned the IGP Traffic.

Furthermore, motorists are advised to avoid traveling on Gupkar road and instead use the

Dalgate-Nehru park road to reach their destinations. Citizens are reminded to park their vehicles only at designated parking places to prevent congestion, as wrongly parked vehicles will be towed.

Moreover, in case of emergencies or assistance, citizens can contact the Traffic Police on the special service number (103).m, added the IGP Traffic. "The restrictions and advisories are implemented to ensure the safety and smooth functioning of traffic during the Prime Minister's visit to Srinagar," he added

Court Awards

the victim is an uncivilized and heartless crime committed by the convict on a young, innocent and defenseless girl (victim) in the evening on 1st of February, 2022 while she was returning to her home from her workplace," the court said, adding, "The chilling evening of 1st February, 2022 became a darkest and blackest evening of her life when by the horrific act of the convict, all hopes and dreams of her future got lost."

"The barbaric act of the convict, the court said, was not a spontaneous act where it could have been that he had no time to think over the repercussions of such act.

"After careful consideration of the submissions made by both the sides and having regard to the nature of the attack, the court observed that the permanent disfigurement caused to the victim by the use of corrosive substance by the convict and the impact of the disfigurement on the future life of the victim both physical and emotional, I find that the convict does not deserve leniency and no other punishment except the maximum punishment of life imprisonment prescribed under law for his act can do the real and complete justice to the victim," the court said, accordingly sentenced him to suffer imprisonment for life and fine of Rs 40 lakhs for commission of offence punishable under Section 326-A IPC read with Section 34 IPC.

"In default of payment of fine, a warrant for levy shall be issued to the District Collector, Srinagar in terms of Section 421 (1) (b) of Cr.P.C authorizing him to realize the amount of fine as arrears of land revenue from the movable or immovable property or both of the convict," the court said, adding, "As and when the fine is recovered from the convict, same shall be paid to the victim in terms of proviso 2 to Section 326-A of IPC."

The evidence, the court said, has proved that much before the occurrence, the convict had made the preparation for the act when he had obtained the acid from accused No.2 (Mohammad Saleem Kumar) on the pretext of erasing the name of the victim which he had written on his chest.

"It has also come in the evidence of the victim and her father that after the breakdown of the engagement of the convict with the victim, he (convict) once threatened victim to disfigure her face if she does not agree to marry him. This proves that it was a well thought of, well planned and an organized act of the convict."

The other accused namely Mohammad Saleem Kumar, who was also facing trial with Sajid for offences under section 326-A r/w 120-B IPC in the same FIR, has been acquitted for these offences but, held guilty and convicted for offence punishable under section 336 IPC. He was sentenced to three months imprisonment. "The three months imprisonment imposed upon him has been set off from the period of detention he had undergone during investigation and trial of the case".

The crime had sent shock waves on the evening of February 1, 2022 when the main accused accompanied by the juvenile (name withheld) threw acid on the 24-year-old woman after she allegedly rejected his marriage proposal.

Soon after the attack, police had constituted a special investigation team headed by SP North Raja Zuhair (JKPS) with Yasir Parrey (SDPO) Khanyar, SHOs of police stations Safakadal, Nowhatta besides SHO of Srinagar Women's Police station as its members to investigate the case (FIR No 08/2022) under section 326-A and 120-B IPC).

Submit Property

property returns for 2023 on the PRS Portal by January 31, 2024, with an extension granted until February 27, 2024.

Despite the extended deadline, a worrying number of employees have failed to comply, raising concerns about widespread non-compliance with mandatory procedures.

To address this issue, the General

Administration Department has provided a final opportunity for defaulting employees to rectify their non-compliance. "From March 3, 2024, until March 17, 2024, employees can utilize the online submission option on the PRS Portal to fulfill their obligations.

Employees who had registered on the portal but failed to submit their property returns are urged to do so during this stipulated period. "Additionally, unregistered employees must first register on the portal before submitting their returns. To ensure a smooth process, employees are advised to update their contact information on the CPIS portal to address any issues related to OTP".

Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) have been tasked with facilitating this process, while any technical concerns can be directed to support-prs@jk.gov.in for prompt resolution.

Controlling Officers and DDOs are reminded of their responsibility to ensure full compliance with property return filings within their respective establishments, with Administrative Departments overseeing progress and adherence to directives.

It is emphasised that adherence to the prescribed timeline is imperative for all employees to avoid potential repercussions under the law.

In a bid to streamline the process and make it more user-friendly, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has launched an online portal for filing annual property returns (PRS Portal) by every government employee, as mandated under the Jammu and Kashmir Public Servants Declaration of Assets Act and associated rules.

Under these regulations, every public servant is required to submit an annual return detailing all assets possessed by them and their family members.

This includes movable property exceeding two months' basic salary, with full particulars required for various assets such as cash balance, bank deposits, shares, debentures, jewellery, and household items.

Furthermore, public servants must promptly notify the prescribed authority of any acquisitions or transfers of movable property exceeding two months' basic salary in value.

Failure to adhere to these obligations may lead to legal action as per the provisions of the aforementioned Act and associated regulations.

FCIK Appeals

the businesses open and there aren't shut-downs anymore. It also seems to reflect the government's will to keep businesses operational and prevent closure," Qalandar said.

While flagging the issue of marketing, FCIK has sought intervention of Prime Minister for his directions to reserve substantial portion of industrial goods being procured by the UT/ Central government departments/ PSUs for local manufacturers and processors. FCIK invited the attention of Prime Minister that most of the local manufacturers and processors had been rendered workless after the UT government directed its subordinate departments and Public Sector Undertakings for making their purchases through GeM portal where the local units were unable to compete with their counterparts from industrially advanced states for many reasons. FCIK has also advocated encouragement and incentives for the units that sought to meet demand outside the region.

Kashmir Fruit

horticulture sector.

The fruit growers' union in an open letter to PM Modi demanded subsidies on insecticides, pesticides, fungicides and fertilizers, as well as the availability of high-density plant material.

"The Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers Cum Dealers Union, which serves as an umbrella body for all Fruit Growers Associations of the Valley, warmly welcomes your visit to the Kashmir Valley on 07-03-2024, with expectations that you will take all necessary measures for the promotion of the Horticulture Industry in J&K (UT)," reads the letter.

The pressing issues for consideration in the interest of the Horticulture Sector of J&K (UT) include the introduction of a Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for "Grade C" Apple and Fallen/ Ghiran, and the implementation of the Crop Insurance Scheme.

Basheer said there is a large proportion of C-grade apples, which makes it difficult for growers to sell them. So, there is a need for the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), he said.

"The Market Intervention Scheme by the Union government played an important role in procuring inferior quality C-grade apples in the

valley since 2017 when the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) first launched the scheme," he said, adding that there is a dire need for the implementation of a crop insurance scheme due to annual crop damage caused by hailstorms and other adverse weather conditions.

The growers' and dealers' union also highlighted the burden of an 18% GST on insecticides, pesticides, fungicides, fertilizers and cardboard materials, saying this raises the production cost of fresh fruits. They requested a reduction in the GST rate on these items to alleviate the financial strain on the horticulture industry.

They also called for the treatment of Tree Spray Oil as an agricultural product, consideration for the establishment of a separate Horticulture Estate similar to Industrial Estates in J&K (UT), and the provision of funds in the Central/State Budget Estimates for the establishment of CA/ cold stores, canning factories, juice plants and other allied facilities for the benefit of valley-based fruit growers and dealers.

The union also sought subsidies on insecticides, pesticides, fungicides, fertilizers, cardboard cartons, plastic trays, baskets, waste papers and the availability of high-density plant material for the rejuvenation of fruit orchards.

Govt To Adapt

to ecological requirements.

He said they are trying to rope-in some Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs) who have expertise in solid waste management.

"Infact we had a meeting with SEEDS (Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society) foundation and we sought a proposal that will be discussed with other stakeholders," he added.

Mir added that they will tie-up with any entrepreneur for the waste recycling.

In 2022, the union territory government sanctioned a Solid Waste Management (SWM) plant at a cost of Rs 6.00 crores to Bandipora district.

The authorities have started a massive dewatering process in the lake and the work is executed by the irrigation and flood control department.

The government is also constructing an eco-friendly walkway to boost the ecotourism potential of the lake. The walkway has a length of 2.5 Km which will be completed by December 2024. The work is being executed by the R & B department of Jammu and Kashmir.

The official revealed that the project includes a tiled pathway, a cycle track, green recreational areas, and two parking lots, all at a designated cost of Rs. 18.76 crore. The walkway, once completed, will offer stunning views of the Wular Lake.

Mir said that the government is keen to boost tourism in the area to enhance tourism in the region, with a particular emphasis on generating livelihood opportunities for the residents.

In 2022, the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh directed the government to file an Action Taken Report (ATR) regarding the latest position of lake conservation matters taken by said Authority to conserve the lake.

In response to the submission, the government submitted the latest progress with regards to encroachment status and lake conservation and management action programme.

They informed the court that all efforts are made to retrieve the balance encroachments from Lake in which officials of Revenue, Forest & WUCMA departments are working with synergy to remove encroachments from the lake.

They said that the water holding capacity through the Wular Action Plan of Lake is likely to be completed in 2022-23 at a cost of Rs. 200 Crore.

An official from the WUCMA said that the project is still going on and all the work will be completed in the coming years.

KU, CUK Postpone

said, "The examinations scheduled for March-07-2024 postponed. The date for the examinations shall be notified separately."

Live Telecast Of

people of Jammu and Kashmir are eagerly awaiting Prime Minister Narendra Modi to give him a grand welcome at Srinagar's Bakshi Stadium today.

Speaking to reporters at the press enclave here, Raina said more than two lakh people are expected to welcome the Prime Minister.

Responding to a query about common people not being allowed to protest in the Srinagar press enclave, the BJP J&K chief said, "Everyone should get their rights, and no one needs to protest anywhere as everyone's concerns should be addressed and no one should face any problems."

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