Iftaar | 06:39 pm 3rd Ramadhan Sehri | 05:20 pm

Fikkah Jaffaria Iftaar | 06:46 pm Sehri | 05:18 pm



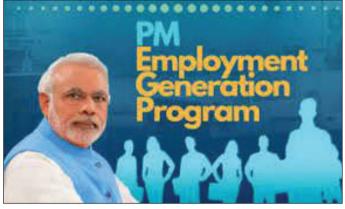
KASHMIR OBSERVER

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J&K Leads India In Job Creation Under PMEGP

Generates Over 3 Lakh Job Opportunities



Agencies

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir has topped for generating maximum employment under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) at the national level.

As per the figures, the union territory received the highest assistance for projects under the scheme and even surpassed states like Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu for generating maximum employment under PMEGP.

Figures suggest that Jammu and Kashmir saw 44,542 projects assisted between 2021-22 and 2023-24 (until Jan 30, 2024), receiving a margin money subsidy of Rs 921.38 crore.

This has led to an estimated 3,56,336 employment opportunities, the highest among all states and accounting for 18 per cent of the total employment generated nationwide under the scheme during this period.

Uttar Pradesh, India's largest state, has seen 32,629 projects assisted with a margin money subsidy utilisation of Rs 1,107.4 crore, leading to an estimated 2,61,032 opportunities. employment

Tamil Nadu, on the other hand, witnessed 17,337 assisted projects with a margin money subsidy of Rs 500.56 crore, resulting in an estimated 1.38.696 jobs.

Overall, the PMEGP has assisted 2,53,710 projects with a margin money subsidy of Rs 8,099 crore, generating an estimated 20,29,680 jobs over the past three years.

Since its inception in 2008-09, the PMEGP has assisted a total of 9.35 lakh enterprises, creating employment for 76.35 lakh persons. The scheme, implemented by the Ministry of MSME through Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), aims to provide employment opportunities to traditional artisans and unemployed youth, particularly in rural areas.

The UT government has also enhanced the financial support through various schemes to the youth to generate employment for themselves and others.

As per the figures given during the UT Level Bankers Committee Meeting, banks operating in J&K have sanctioned Rs 1,213.60 crore in favour of 25,875 beneficiaries | More on P11

PM Inaugurates New Railway Facilities in Kashmir

- » PMBJK at Srinagar
- Gati Shakti Terminal at SAMBA
- » OSOP Stalls at 17 Stations
- » Dedicates Rail Coach Restaurant at Katra

Observer News Service

Jammu: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday laid the foundation stone and dedicated Railway projects worth over Rs 85,000 crores in Jammu and Kashmir.

The PM inaugurated Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Ianaushadhi Kendra at Srinagar railway station and Gati Shakti Terminal at Samba.

Prime Minister also dedicated 'One Station One Product' (OSOP) stalls at Anantnag, Awantipora, Banihal, Awantipora, Baramulla, Budgam, Jammu, Qazigund, Katra, Srinagar, Bijbehara, Kathua, Pampore, Pattan, Kakapora, Panzgam, Sadoor, Mazhom railway stations and Rail Coach Restaurant at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra railway station.



way projects to the people of the Union Territory today. In a Tweet, the Lt Governor

Ownership Rights To Displaced Persons: LG

Says Long Pending Demand Of Displaced Persons Of PoJK, WP Fulfilled

dedicating a number of rail-

said, "A significant day for railway connectivity & infrastructure in the country. Hon'ble PM Sh Narendra Modi Ji laid foundation stone, dedicated Railway projects worth over Rs 85,000 crores that will shape the economic trajectory of various states and UTs."

"Grateful to Hon'ble PM for

revolutionising rail infra & connectivity in J&K. The opening of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendra (PMBJK) at Srinagar railway station will ensure quality medicines at affordable prices to passengers & livelihood opportunities to many," he added.

'One Station | More on P11

224.44 Cr **Sanctioned For Shopian Bypass**

he Union Road Transport and Highways Ministry has sanctioned Rs 224.44 crore to construct a bypass on the national highway in the Shopian district. The announcement was made by Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari. "In Jammu & Kashmir, an allocation of Rs 224.44 crore has been sanctioned for the construction of the Shopian Bypass on National Highway-444, transforming it into a 2-lane configuration with a paved shoulder. This development, spanning 8.925 Km in the Shopian district, will executed using the EPC Mode," Gadkari said in a post on X on Tuesday. He said linking Shopian District with Pulwama on one side and Kulgam

'Education

By Creativity'

ieutenant

Should Be Driven

Governor Manoj

programme on 'leadership

development of academic

administrators' and said

that education should

be driven by creativity

in order to develop the

capacities of young

He said the union

people to be creative.

territory is committed

to reform and revamp

higher education with

the objective of giving

our students the best

curriculum and providing

them knowledge and skills

to compete with the best

in the world. | More on P11

rather than by curriculum

inaugurated the threeday capacity building

Sinha on Tuesday

LS Poll Preparedness In J&K

EC Begins Consultation With Political Parties

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Political parties here on Tuesday urged the Election Commission to hold assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir simultaneously with the Lok Sabha polls as the panel started two-day consultations with stakeholders to review preparedness for the upcoming general elections.

The BJP too has expressed its readiness for simultaneous polls to the Lok Sabha and the Ĵammu and Kashmir assembly.

Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and other officials of the poll panel, who arrived here on Monday for a three-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir, held interactions with delegations from the National Conference (NC), PDP, BJP, CPI(M), Congress, and the Aam



CAA Implementation

Citizenship Seekers

New Delhi: The Ministry of Home Affairs on Tuesday

launched a portal for people eligible to apply for Indian citizenship under the Citizenship

(Amendment) Act 2019, an of-

government notified rules for

implementation of the CAA 2019.

(Amendment) Rules, 2024 un-

der the CAA-2019 have been

notified. A new portal has been

launched, persons eligible under CAA-2019 can apply for citizenship on this portal indi-

ancitizenshiponline.nic.in," the

A mobile app 'CAA-2019' will

also be launched shortly to fa-

cilitate applications through

The Centre on Monday

implemented the Citizenship

(Amendment) Act, 2019, notify-

ing the rules four years after the

law was passed by Parliament to

fast-track citizenship for undoc-

umented non-Muslim migrants

from Pakistan, Bangladesh and

Afghanistan who came to India

With the unveiling of the

rules, the Modi government

will now start granting Indian

nationality to persecuted non-

Muslim migrants -- Hindus,

before December 31, 2014.

Sikhs, Jains, | More on P11

spokesperson said.

mobile app.

The move came a day after the

Citizenship

ficial spokesperson said.

Govt Launches Portal For

Press Trust Of India

Admi Party, officials said here. Nasir Aslam Wani, who led his party's delegation, said they impressed upon the Election Commission the need for holding assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir together with the Lok Sabha polls.

"We told the commission that it has been 10 years that the people of | More on P11

J&K To Procure Helicopter Ambulance

he election department will procure three helicopters. including air-ambulance for the forthcoming LoK Sabha elections in Jammu and Kashmir, and has floated request for proposals (RFP) recently. These steps have been taken in the run up to the preparation for the forthcoming Lok Sabha in Jammu and Kashmir. As per the RFP, the | More on P11

....T20 World Cup

Kashmir Bat Manufacturers Eye 'Big Players'

Fawzul Kabiir, spokesperson of the Bat Manufacturers Association Kashmir, said that this will mark the third consecutive occasion where players will use Kashmiri bats in the world cup.

He said that during the prenent cricketers.



UAE's star cricketer Junaid Siddiqui smashed the biggest six of the ICC T20 World Cup against Sri Lanka in Australia last year using a Kashmir Willow Bat from GR8 Sports, he said.

Kabiir, owner of the unit established by his late father in 1974, further said, "We are engaging with renowned cricketing nations and players and are optimistic that famous players from famous | More on P11

J&K National Front Banned By Govt Under UAPA

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The government on Tuesday banned the Jammu Kashmir National Front led by Naveem Ahmad Khan under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

In an order, the Ministry of Home Affairs declared the JKNF, a constituent of the hardline Hurriyat Conference, an "unlawful association" with immediate effect.

The government said the IKNF has been "indulging in unlawful activities, which are prejudicial to the integrity, sovereignty, and security of

the country."

It said members of the JKNF have remained involved in supporting terrorist activities and anti-India propaganda for fuelling secessionism in Jammu and Kashmir and providing logistic support to terrorists in the Union territory.

It also said JKNF members "have been involved in mobilising violent protesters in

various parts of Kashmir for perpetrating unlawful activities, including supporting terrorist activities, sustained stone pelting on security forces."

The order will have effect for a period of five years.



Committed To Provide Land Title,

Observer News Service

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha laid the foundation stone of PoJK Bhawan at Suketar Jammu on Tuesday. The Lt Governor congratulated the displaced persons of PoJK and Western Pakistan on fulfilling their long pending demand.

The Bhawan will be constructed in 40 Kanal, 17 Marla in the honour of the martyrs.

It will consist of a Balidan Stambh and an Amphitheatre besides other infrastructure to showcase the rich cultural heritage and provide the community office space for meeting and to run the operations for the welfare of displaced persons, he added.

PoJK Bhawan is the testament to the government's unwavering commitment to provide dignity and rights to

displaced persons, | More on P11

THE DISPLACED PERSONS CAN NOT ONLY CAST THEIR VOTE, **CONTEST** an election but also fulfill their aspirations of receiving professional education and government jobs."

Devotees offering prayers inside Jamia Masjid Srinagar on the first day of the holy month of Ramazan.

Are Watermelons In The Market Safe?

Food Safety Dept Ramps Up Inspections

Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: Amid the social media reports of early-ripened fruits, especially watermelon being flooded into the markets of the valley, the Food Safety Drugs & Food Control Organization, Division have directed the concerned officials to undertake rigorous market inspections of fresh fruits and vegetables and other food items along with the sampling.

Natably, during the holy month of Ramazan, people prefer watermelon during Îftari to quench their thirst.

However, rumors have been going around for the past few days that chemicals are being used to expedite the coloring of fruits, raising concerns about food safety and consumer health.

Although the government denied reports of an influx of artificially ripened fruits into



people not to panic, the department ordered its men to take samples of watermelon in all districts of the valley.

"In light of the viral message circulating in social media regarding artificial ripening of watermelons and other fruits, you are hereby directed to undertake rigorous mar-ket inspections of fresh fruits and vegetables and other food items along with the sampling thereof with intimation to this office," reads an | More on P11



vious two World Cups, athletes from lesser-known countries played with Kashmiri bats, but this year, discussions are underway with several promi-

The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited No. 8th Edifice CMH Road Indira Nagar Bangalore 560038 T +91 (0)80 2521 3854 F +91 (0)80 25218555 E inbang@jkbmail.com W www.jkbank.com

E-AUCTION/SALE NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE OF PROPERTIES MORTGAGED TO THE BAN UNDER SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST (SARFAESI) ACT 2002

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd in exercise of powers conferred under SARFAESI Act, 2002 and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand Notice on 09.11.2021 calling upon M/s Translab Innovations Pvt Ltd. Registered Address: No.309, Bluemoon Prime, 2nd Floor, 9th Main, Sector-7, HSR Layout Bengaluru 560102, represented by (i) Angad Bir Mehta, S/o Baljit Singh Mehta, R/o #A-004, Golden Palms NR Layout , Kaggadaspura, Bengaluru-560093, presently residing at #3085, Sobha Cinnamon, Harlur Road, Bengaluru-560102 (Director/Guarantor), (ii) Mrs Manpreet Kour, W/o Harbinder Singh, R/o Kanlibagh, Baramulla Kashmir-193101, presently residing at Flat No. 5015 Sobha Cinnamon & Saffron, Harlui Road, Bengaluru-560102 (Director/Guarantor), (iii) Mr. Harbinder Singh, S/o Inderjeet Singh R/o Kanlibagh, Baramulla Kashmir-193101, presently residing at Flat No. 5015 Sobha Cinnamon & Saffron, Harlur Road, Bengaluru-560102 (Mortgagor/Guarantor) for payment of its dues aggregating to Rs.2,07,58,128.96 (Rupees Two Crore Seven Lakh Fifty Eight Thousand One Hundred Twenty Eight and Paisa Ninety Six Only) as on 30.09.202 together with future interest and other cost and charges within a period of 60 days.

Whereas, the Authorized Officer has taken possession of the mortgaged properties mentioned hereinafter under section 13 (4) of SARFAESI Act 2002 on 20.09.2022. Conse quent upon failure by the borrower to repay the Bank's dues, the Authorized Officer i exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the Act read with rule 8 to 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 notified the sale of the Secured Asset for realization of the dues on "as is where is and/or as is what is and whatsoever there is basis" and "no complaint basis" condition.

Whereas, I the named Authorized Officer in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the Act read with rule 8 to 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 again notifies the sale of the Secured Asset detailed herein for realization of the dues or as is where is and/or as is what is and whatsoever there is, basis" and "no complaint"

M/s Translab Innovations Pvt Ltd. Name of the Borrow-Registered Address: No.309, Bluemoon Prime, 2nd Floor 9th Main Sector 7, HSR Layout Bengaluru 560102. er(s)/ Mortgagor(s)/ Guarantor(s) Director/Guarantor: I. Mr. Angad Bir Singh S/o Baljit Singh Mehta R/o #A-004, Golden Palms, NR Layout Kaggadaspura, Bengaluru -560093.
Presently residing at #3085, Sobha Cinnamon, Harlur Road
Bengaluru-560102. Director/Guarantor: 2. Mrs Manpreet Kour W/o Harbinder Singh R/o Kanlibagh Baramulla Kashmir-193101.
Presently residing at Flat No. 5015 Sobha Cinnamon & Saffron Harlur Road, Bengaluru-560102. Mortgagor/Guarantor: Mr. Harbinder Singh S/o Inderjeet Singh R/o Kanlibagh, Baramulla Kashmir-193101. Presently residing at Flat No. 5015 Sobha Cinnamon & Saffron Harlur Road, Bengaluru-560102. Rs.2,07,58,128.96 (Rupees Two Crore Seven Lakh Fifty-Eight Thousand One Hundred Twenty-Eight and Paisa Ninety-Six Amount in Demand Notice (excluding interest and other expenses from 30.09.2021) Rs. 2,89,23,758.83 (Rupees Two Crore Eighty Nine Lakh Amount Due as on Twenty Three Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Eight and Paisa Eighty Three Only) 29.02.2024 (Excluding interest from 01.03.2024 and other expenses from 31.03.2021) 03 Kanals of fruit bearing orchard land at Kanlibagh Bramullah Description of the under Khasra No.2212 min, Khata No.1389 and Khewat No.302 Mouza Oshkura, Tehsil Baramulla, standing in the name of Mr. mortgaged property (Put on sale) Rs.1,60,65,000.00 (Rupees One Crore Sixty Lakhs Sixty Five Reserve Price Thousand Only) Earnest Money Rs.16,06,500.00 (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Six Thousand Five Deposit (EMD) Hundred Only). **Bid Increase Amount** Rs.1,00,000.00 The Jammu And Kashmir Bank Ltd, Indra Nagar, Bengaluru. Name of the Branch Authorized Ishfaq Sarwar Malik Officer/Designation Last Date & Time of submission of EMD 27.03.2024 - 04:00 PM and Documents Date and Time of 28.03.2024 from 02:30 PM to 03:30 PM e-Auction Earnest Money Deposit THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK LTD BRANCH: Indra Nagar, Bengaluru IFSC: JAKAOINBANG (EMD) & Other Remittance/s detail/s ACCOUNT NO: 0540072000000001 ACCOUNT NAME: RTGS INTER BANK RECEIPTS Account Number

 The E-Auction is being held on "AS IS WHERE IS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHAT SOEVER THERE IS BASIS and NO COMPLAINT BASIS". To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorized officer, there are no encumbrances on the properties, except specifically disclosed herein. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent enquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property/ies put on auction and claims/rights/dues affecting the property, prior to submitting their bid. The Authorized Officer/Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claims/rights/dues. The bidders shall satisfy themselves as to the description, condition or accuracy of the details regarding the

property/ies given hereinabove. and specification before submitting the bid. The physical inspection of property/ies put or auction will be permitted to interested bidders on Bank's working days between 2:00 PM to **4:00 PM up to 27.03.2024** with prior permission of the Authorized officer. Inspection of the documents relating to the properties will be permitted to the interested bidders or their authorized representatives at Branch Indra Nagar, Bengaluru, between 2.00 PM to 4.00 PM up to 27.03.2024. The bid price shall be absolute in terms and should not be linked to an reference. Conditional bids shall be rejected.

3) The interested bidders shall submit their offer along with EMD through website https://sarfae-si.auctiontiger.net (the user ID and password can be obtained free of cost by registering name with "https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net") through their login ID and Password. The EMD 10% of RESERVE PRICE shall be payable through NEFT/RTGS (EMD remittance details given above) on or before 27.03.2024. Please note that Cheques/Demand Drafts shall not be accepted as EMD

4) After Registration by the bidders in the web-site, the intending purchaser/ bidder is required to get the copies of following documents uploaded in the web-portal before last date of submission of the bid(s) viz. i) Copy of the NEFT/RTGS challan. ii) Copy of PAN card/Aadhar Card iii) Proof of identification (KYC) viz. copy of Voter ID Card/Driving License/ Passport etc. iv) Copy of proof of address, v) Duly Filled up & Signed Copy of Annexure II & III attached to the Tender form without which the bid is liable to be rejected.

5) The Interested bidders who require assistance in creating login ID and password, uploading from M/s E-Procurement Technologies Ltd. (Auctiontiger), Ahmadabad. Contact Number :079-68136805/68136837 Mobile Number : 9265562821,9374519754 Contact Person : Mr Ram Sharma Mob No: 9978591888 Contact no. 079-68136880/68136837, E-mail id: ramprasad@auctiontiger.net/ support@auctiontiger.net, and for any property related query may contact Branch Manager Branch Indra Nagar, Bengaluru (Cell# +91-9797666610, Landline: 080-25213854/080-25213855) Email: inbang@jkbmail.com.

6) Only buyers holding valid User ID/Password and confirmed payment of EMD through

NEFT/RTGS shall be eligible for participating in the online auction process.

7) The interested bidders who may have submitted their EMD not below the 10% of reserve price through online mode before 4.00 P.M. on 27.03.2024 shall be eligible for participating in the e-auction. The e-auction of above properties would be conducted exactly on the scheduled date & time as mentioned above by way of inter-se bidding amongst the bidders. The bidders shall improve their offer in multiple of amount mentioned under the column "Bid Increase Amount" against the Property. In case bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the e-auction, the closing time will automatically get extended for 5 minutes (subject to unlimited extensions of 5 minutes each). The bidder who submits the highest bid (not below the reserve price) on closure of online auction shall be declared as successful bidder and a communication to that effect will be issued through electronic mode which shall be subject to approval by the

Authorized Officer and Secured Creditor.

8) The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of the successful bidder shall be retained towards part sale consideration and the EMD of unsuccessful bidders shall be refunded. The Earnest Money Depos it shall not bear any interest. The successful bidder shall have to deposit 25% of the sale price adjusting the EMD already paid, within 48 hours of the acceptance of bid price by the Authorized Officer and the balance 75% of the sale price on or before 15th day of the sale or within such extended period as agreed upon in writing by and solely at the discretion of the Authorized Officer. In case of default in payment by the successful bidder, the amount already deposited by

the Bidder shall be liable to be forfeited and the property shall be put to re-auction and the defaulting bidder shall have no claim/right in respect of property/amount.

9) The prospective qualified bidders may avail online training on e-auction from M/S E-Procurement Technologies Ltd. prior to the date of e-auction. Neither the Authorized Officer/Bank nor M/s. E-procurement technologies Ltd shall be liable for any network problem and the interested bidders to ensure that they are technically well equipped for participating in the e-Auction event. 10) The purchaser shall bear the applicable stamp duties/additional stamp duty/transfer charges, fees etc. and also all the statutory/non statutory dues, taxes, rates, assessments charges, fees etc. owing to anybody. The successful bidder shall have to bear any tax on account of the sale over and above the bid amount.

11) The Authorized Officer is not bound to accept the highest offer and the Authorized Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject any or all offer(s) or adjourn/postpone/cancel the e-auction without assigning any reason thereof.

12) The bidders are advised to go through the detailed terms and conditions of e-auction available on the website of M/S E-Procurement Technologies Ltd. https://sarfaesi.auctionti-

ger.net before submitting their bids and taking part in e-auction.

13) Participation in the bid shall be deemed to be acceptance of the terms and conditions specified in the e-auction by the bidders/intending purchaser

Date: 12.03.2024 DIPK-NB-6009/23 Place: Bengaluru dated: 12-03-2024

(ISHFAQ SARWAR MALIK) Chief Manager AUTHORIZED OFFICER

Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India CIN: L65110JK1938SGC000048 : T : +91 (0)194 2481 930-35 : F : +91 (0)194 248 1928 : E : info@ikbmail.com : W : www.ikbank.co

DIPK-17810/23

DATED: 12-03-2024



KASHMIR OBSERVER A Srinagar | Wednesday | 13-03-2024 4

Office Of The Advocate Suhail Wani

1. Mohammed Amin Sofi S/o Abdul Gaffar Sofi 2. Khurshid Ahmad Sofi S/o Abdul Gaffar Sofi Both residents of zum zum colony, Rawalpora Srinagar

(Caveators) Versus Public at large

In the matter of :- caveat petition in terms of section 148- A

The caveators has reason to believe/apprehension that the non-caveator may file a suit / Application etc. Before the Hon'ble district court and Revenue court on the ground of distorted facts and in representation of concocted story he may succeed in obtaining some interim order at our back/ex-parte against the caveators and such eventuality the caveators will be put to an irreparable loss and inconvenience it would be proper that the caveators is being given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.

S/d

(Non caveator)

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my 10th, 12th class Degree Certificate somewhere. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the JKBOSE Bemina within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Date of Commencement for submission

Last Date for Submission of Online

Category/

Name of Post

Jr. Grade Nurse

Laboratory

Terms & Conditions:-

Nature of Engagement

Assistant

Period

Salary

Age

Note:-

Agreement

of Online applications

applications.

01

02.

2.

Shama Per S/o Peer Mustafa R/o Wailoo Kunzer

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Govt, Medical College Srinagar

98-Karan Naaar. Srinagar, J&K-190010

HOSPITAL SECTION

Advertisement Notice No 02 AH of 2024

Dated: 12-03-2024

Online applications are invited from eligible candidates of Union Territory of Jammu &

Eligibility Criteria

Diploma in General Nursing & Midwifery/B.Sc

Nursing from any recognized institution/State

10+2 with science or above qualification with

minimum diploma in Laboratory Assistant

course or having Degree in Medical Laboratory

Technology Course from any recognized

Medical

Medical Faculty/J&K Paramedical council

(whichever is earlier).

2020 Dated: 27-11-2020

of sanctioned term

1. The Candidates must be in possession of all required documents and no

document/certificate issued beyond the cutoff date shall be accepted entertained.

2. In case of large number of applications, the candidates shall be shortlisted for the written

In case any post of the aforesaid categories gets filled up on regular basis during the

intervening period from the date of issuance of notification to the date of selection, such posts shall be deemed to have been withdrawn/deleted from the notification and the final selection shall be made as per availability of posts of the time of selection.

In case of tie in the merit obtained in the written test, the following procedures shall be

a. In case of tie between two or more Graduates, the candidate having secured

igher percentage of marks in Graduation will be preferred.
b. In case of tie between Graduates and Diploma holders, the Graduate

candidate will be given preference.

c. In case of the between Diploma holders, the candidate having higher percentage of marks in the Diploma Course will be preferred.

d. In case the tie is not resolved by the above methodology, candidate older in

Instructions for applying online:

a. The necessary instructions for filling-up of online form and submission of fee details shall be available on Government Medical College, Srinagar website

The requisite original documents including domicile certificate issued by the competent authority on the format prescribed for the purpose must be produced at the

time of document verification or as and when sought by the Government Medical

The candidates are required to upload the images of their recent photograph and specimen signature which should be uploaded in (jpeg) format only.

Candidates have to deposit fee of Rs. 500/= (Five Hundrend only) through online mode only i.e. through Net Banking/ Debit Card/ Credit Card.

Applications of those candidates will not considered who do not pay the fee in online

Candidates must take a print out of the application form and fee receipt after successful filling of the application form.

Candidates cannot edit their application form after submission.

Candidates shall ensure that E-mail ID and Phone No's as specified in the online application form are active during the period of selection process.

A link for filling up of online application forms shall be available on the of Government Medical Colleges, Srinagar 14-03-2024 to 25-03-2024. Candidates are required to apply online through the official website

test as per availability of space/resources

written test (to be held subsequently).

age shall be given preference

Medical College Srinagar only.

DISCLAIMER: KASHMIR OBSERVER MAKES EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THATTHE INFORMATION CARRIED IN DISPLAY/CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS, APPEARING IN THE NEWSPAPER IS CORRECT. HOWEVER THE NEWSPAPER TAKES NO RESPONSIBILITY NOR DOES IT NECESSARILY ENDORSETHE CONTENTS OF THESE ADVERTS. THE READERS ARE THEREFORE REQUESTED TO VERIFY THE CONTENTS BEFORE ACTING THEREUPON. MANAGEMENT.

Kashmir for engagement against the following positions on Academic Arrangement Basis

under S.O. 364 of 2020 Dated: 27-11-2020, on the terms and conditions listed below:

institution/State

Paramedical council.

14-03-2024 (10.00 am)

25-03-2024 (4:00 pm)

Faculty/J&K

The engagement against the advertised posts shall

be governed as per S.O. 364 of 2020 Dated: 27-11-2020 and shall always be on Academic

Arrangement Basis without conferment of any

preferential right for regular appointment against

these posts which shall be made strictly in

Initially for a period of one year or till the posts are

filled up on regular basis by the competent authority

The engaged person shall be paid salary at the

minimum of pay scale in accordance with S.O 364 of

The selected Candidates shall have to enter into an

agreement with this institution to the effect that they

will not leave the job before the completion of one

year's contract. Abandoning/ termination of the

agreement as the case may be will require one

month's prior notice on either side; failing which the

salary will not be paid for one month to the incumbent which shall always remain in deposit with

the Department and shall be released on completion

The age of the applicant at the time of

submission of application must not be:-

Below 18 years: and

Above 63 years.

on shall be made purely on the basis of merit obtained by the candidate in the

accordance with the relevant recruitment rules.

bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost wallet contains driving licence, Adhar Card Aayushman Card,Pan Card ,I Card of High court somewhere.Now I want to apply for their duplicate.If anybody has any objection he/ she may contact concerned department within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the Number Plate of my motor cycle Bajaj Pulsar 150 bearing regd no; JK04C- 4416. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/ she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Budgam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Abdul Majid Sofi

S/o Abdul Aziz Sofi BMG R/o Waba Sangam Budgam

No. of

50

10

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Executive Magistrate 1st Class Singhpora within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Rayees Ahmad (DOB 04-02-2006)

inf

S/O Mushtag Ahmad Sheikh

List of Managing Body of Oxford International School

S.	Name	Educational	Profession (in-	Desig. In
No			dicate if in Govt. Service)	School
	Jameel Ahmad Masoodi	MCA	Businessman	Chairman
	Mohmmad Sy- eed Masoodi i		Retired from Govt, service In Health Dept.	Secretary
	Mohd Waseem Zargar	MA B ed	Private Teacher	Member
	Shabir Ahmad Zargar	BA LLB	Advocate	Member
05	Danish Iqbal	,	Businessman Po- lice Uniform Shop	Member
	Firdous Ahmad Oureeshi			Member
07	Àdnan Shakeel	BSC	Private Employee in hospital	Member bmg

Subject:- Grant Of Registration of Paying Guest House/ Home Stay under the name & Style "Rail View Guest House" situated at Bagi Mehtab Srinagar

Public Notice

Whereas I Mohd Ayoub Sheikh S/o Gulam Hassan Sheikh R/o House No 80 Shadab Lane Usmania Colony Baghi Mehtab Srinagar , Kashmir intends to apply in the offie of the prescribed authority of Directorate of Tourism kashmir for Registration of my proposed Paying Guest House/ Home Stay under the name and style "Rail View Guest House " situated at Bagi Mehtab Srinagar under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas, I will submit Landownership Certificate from Concerned Tehsildar with attested photographs of the unit through Dy. Commissioner concerned, Rent/Lease Deed/Partnership Deed/issued by concerned Sub-Registrar, Judicial Magistrate (if applicable NOC from the owner to the effect that the property can be used as Home stay), Character Certificate of the applicant from the concerned Police Station, undertaking from the owner as self declaration, Public Notice inviting objections, if any in print media, list of family members Name. Age, and Photograph self attested by owner, Photographs of the unit as mentioned in the application (each of exterior and individual bed rooms and bathrooms), Inspection report by the Committee (The recommendation of the inspection Committee shall decide whether to issue a registration to the unit or not keeping in view, the type of accommodation and amenity, adhar card.

Now before my case is processed for registration by the Prescribed Authority. The matter is hereby notified for information of general Pubic/ organizations for objections if any and the same should reach to the office of Prescribed Authority within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper of the valley. Objection received beyond the period of 7 days from the date of publication shall not be entertained and the case shall be proceeded under rules as per merit.

University of Kashmir, Srinagar

Notice

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

Name: Faheem Bashir Parentage: Bashir Ahmad R/o Hawal

Registration No: 3445-SME-2015 Certificate/s lost Marks Card Roll No: 15205135027 Session/Year Oct 2018/ Oct Nov.2019

Before University will consider issuance of Duplicate Certificate/s in favour of the candidate, any person having any objection shall report to the undersigned within one week from the date of issuance of this notice. The original certificate/s issued to the

No: F(Duplicate/ MC /PA /KU/24

Assistant Controller of Examinations (PG/UG/Prof

عنوان درخواست از جانب طاهراحمه شاه ولدمرحوم غلام محى الدين شاهسا كنة آرمين كالونى الهي باغ نسبت اجرائي ليكل هيرسر نفيكيك مامله مندجه عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل ہے کہاس کی والدہ حلیمہ بانوسا کنہ آفین كالون البي باغ مورخه 2024-01-01 كوفوت هو چكاہے اس نسبت سائل خواہاں ہے کہا کے حق میں لیگل ہیرسرٹفیکیٹ اجراء کی جائے بروےر یورٹ پٹواری 51سال دختر متوفيه گھريلو کام 46سال پسرمتوفیہ گونمنٹ ملازم سکےعلاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کمینہیں بتلایا گیاہے سر تفکیٹ زیر بحث اجرء کرنے بںاگرکسی شخص یااشخاص کوکوئی عذریااعتراض ہوتو وہ اپناعذریااعتراض سات یوم کے ندر پیش کریں۔میعادگز رنے کے بعد کوئی عذریااعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگاہ۔ نائب تخصيلدارزونيمر

عنوان درخواست از جانب فو زبیعلی دختر مرحوم علی محمدانگریز سا که علمدار کالونی یںا گرکسی شخص مااشخاص کوکوئی عذر ہااعتراض ہوتو وہ اپناعذر ہااعتراض سات یوم کے

لالبازار نسبت اجرائي ليگل هيرسر تفيكيك المدمندجة عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل ہے کہاس کی والدہ شیم بیگم ساکنہ علمدار كالون لالبازار مورخه 2023-02- 10 كوفوت بوچكا باس نسبت سائل خواہاں ہے کہ اسے حق میں لیگل ہیر سرٹفیکیٹ اجراء کی جائے بروے رپورٹ یٹواری حلقہ متوفی کنبہ بذیل ہے فوزیعلی 26سال دختر متوفیہ زرتعلیم اسکےعلاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کمیہ نہیں بتلایا گیاہے سرٹفکییٹ زیر بحث اجرءکرنے ندر پیش کریں۔میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذریااعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگاہ۔

MEDIA LINE

Principal/Dean, Govt. Medical College, Srinagar No: AH-09/Est-II/318/2024/ 8888-91 Dated: 12 -03-2024

Sd/=

{Prof. (Dr.) Masood Tanvir}



Connectivity Se Badhi Raftaar

Double Engine Ki Sarkar

"No Benefits": MK Stalin Says Citizenship Law CAA Won't Be **Implemented In Tamil Nadu**

Press Trust Of India

Chennai: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Tuesday dismissed the Citizenship (Amendment) Act as 'divisive and bereft of any use' and asserted that it will not be implemented in the state.

Hitting out at the BJP regime at the Centre for notifying the rules for implementing the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) 'in a haste' when the Lok Sabha polls are round the corner, Mr Stalin said the CAA and its rules went against the basic structure of the Constitution.

"There is not going to be any use or benefits due to the CAA, which only paves the way for creating divisions among the Indian people. The stand of the government is that this law is completely unwarranted; it is one that must be repealed." Hence, "the Tamil Nadu government will not give any opportunity in any manner to implement the CAA in Tamil Nadu," he asserted in an official release.

Mr Stalin, also president of the ruling DMK, reiterated that the CAA went against pluralism, secularism, mi-

Chandigarh: BJP leader Nay-

ab Singh Saini was sworn in

as Haryana's new chief min-

ister on Tuesday, hours after

Manohar Lal Khattar and his

Cabinet ministers resigned

as members of the new council

of ministers along with Saini.

They are BJP leaders Kanwar

Five others took the oath

Press Trust Of India

from their posts.



There is not going to be any use or benefits due to the CAA, which only paves the way for creating divisions among the Indian people. The stand of the government is that this law is completely unwarranted; it is one that must be repealed

nority communities and the Sri Lankan Tamil refugees.

Bhavan here. He bowed before

Khattar and sought his bless-

BJP named OBC leader Saini

(54) as Haryana's new chief

minister. He is the party's

state unit president and the

just weeks ahead of the Lok

Sabha elections. Khattar's sec-

ond term as chief minister was

The development comes

MP from Kurukshetra.

Earlier in the day, the

ings after being sworn in.

Day After Centre Implements Citizenship Law, A Challenge In Top Court interest of every person to

Press Trust Of India

New DelhI: An application was filed in the Supreme Court on Tuesday seeking a direction to the Centre to stay the implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Rules, 2024 till the pendency of petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 before the apex court.

The application was filed a day after the Centre implemented the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, by notifying the rules four years after the contentious law was passed by Parliament to fasttrack citizenship for undocumented non-Muslim migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan who came to India before December 31, 2014.

The application, filed by the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), which is one of the petitioners who have challenged the citizenship law, has sought the court's direction to ensure no coercive action is taken against people belonging to the Muslim community pending adjudication of the writ petitions. Muslims cannot apply for Indian citizenship under the CAA.

It has urged the apex court to direct the Centre to provisionally permit people belonging to the Muslim community also to apply for citizenship and submit a report on their entitlement.

A separate application has also been filed by the Democratic Youth Federation of India seeking a stay on the Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024. The apex court is already seized of a batch of pleas challenging the constitutional validity of the Citizenship

(Amendment) Act (CAA). In its application, IUML has urged the court to stay the "continued operation of the impugned provisions of Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019; and Citizenship Amendment Rules 2024, which would

defer the implementation of CAA and impugned rules till this court finally decides the matter," the application said. It said the Act was passed

in 2019 and the government waited for over four years to notify the rules.

"The government did not consider it as urgent to implement it for past 4.5 years. Therefore, to wait till final decision of this court would not affect anybody's rights or interest," the application said. It said the IUML had in

The government did not consider it as urgent to implement it for past 4.5 years. Therefore, to wait till final decision of this court would not affect anybody's rights or interest

result in valuable rights being created and citizenship being granted to persons belonging to only certain religions, thereby resulting in a fait accompli situation, during the pendency of the present writ petition".

Seeking a stay on the rules, the application said about 250 petitions challenging the provisions of the CAA were pending before the top court.

"If in case this court finally decided the CAA as unconstitutional, then these people who would have got citizenship under the impugned Act and rules would have to be deprived of their citizenship or stripped of their citizenship, which would create anomalous situation." it said.

"Therefore, it is in the best

its petition itself stated that it was not against giving citizenship to migrants.

"However, its position is that this is a legislation which is based on exclusion of a religion. Since the CAA discriminates on the basis of religion, it strikes at the root of the concept of secularism, which is the basic structure of Constitution," it said.

With the unveiling of the rules on Monday, days ahead of the announcement of the Lok Sabha elections, the Modi government will now start granting Indian citizenship to persecuted non-Muslim migrants -- Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis and Christians -- from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh.

Ajit Doval Meets Israeli PM Netanyahu, Discuss Gaza War, Humanitarian Aid

Press Trust Of India

Jerusalem: National Security Adviser Ajit Doval has called on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to discuss regional developments and the urgent need to address the issue of humanitarian assistance to Gaza which is facing catastrophic levels of food insecurity.

"Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met today with Indian National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and updated him on recent developments in the fighting in the Gaza Strip," the Israeli Prime Minister posted on X from his official handle.

More than 30,000 Palestin

The Israel-Hamas conflict has created a growing humanitarian crisis, and the UN has warned that at least 576,000 people across the Gaza Strip one-quarter of the population are facing catastrophic levels of food insecurity.

Western countries have pressed Israel to expand land deliveries by facilitating more routes and opening additional crossings.

Mr Doval also met his Israeli counterpart Tzakhi Hanegbi, who was also present during the meeting with Prime Minister Netanyahu.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been constantly in



ians were estimated to have been killed during the operation in Gaza, which Israel launched in response to the October 7 attack by Hamas militants that left approximately 1,200 Israelis dead and about 250 taken hostage.

The sides also discussed the effort to release the hostages and the issue of humanitarian touch with the important leaders in the region, such as the UAE, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan, and is actively involved in discussions to promote peace and stability in the region.

India has supported efforts to provide necessary humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian population in Gaza sending consignments of essential items

PM Modi Inaugurates Mahatma Gandhi Sabarmati Ashram Redevelopment Project

Press Trust Of India

Ahmedabad: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said previous governments did not have the "political will" to save the country's heritage and a country that does not cherish its heritage loses its future also.

PM Modi launched the 1,200 crore Gandhi Ashram Memorial masterplan at Sabarmati in Gujarat's Ahmedabad city and also inaugurated the redeveloped Kochrah ashram at a function on the anniversary of the famous Dandi Yatra, or salt march,

taken out by Mahatma Gandhi on March 12, 1930. "A country which does not

cherish its heritage loses its future also. Bapu's Sabarmati Ashram is a heritage not only for the country, but for the entire mankind," PM Modi said.

The Sabarmati Ashram has become a pilgrim-

age not only for our freedom movement but also for Viksit Bharat (developed India). Today, Bapu's vision is giving a clear direction to our country for a bright future," he said.

The governments formed after independence "had neither the mentality nor the political will to save such heritage of the country," he said.

"One (reason for which) was the habit of looking at India from a foreign perspective, and the other the compulsion to appease, due to which India's great heritage kept getting destroyed. Encroachment, uncleanliness, disorder all these hijacked our heritage," PM Modi said.



Khattar Resigns, Nayab Singh

Takes Oath As Haryana CM

Saini was administered the oath by Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya during a ceremony held at the Raj Bhavan here. He bowed before Khattar and sought his blessings after being sworn in.

Parkash Dalal and Banwari Lal and Independent MLA Ranjit Singh Chautala.

Saini was administered the oath by Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya during a ceremony held at the Raj

the assembly polls are due.

rived in Chandigarh.

Khattar and all 13 other members of the BJP-led council of ministers submitted their resignations to the governor as a team of the party's central observers ar-

CAA applicants can attach 9 documents to prove country of origin, 20 documents on arrival date in India

Press Trust Of india

New Delhi: Applicants for Indian citizenship under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act 2019 (CAA) can submit any of nine documents, including valid or expired passport, ID cards and land tenancy records, to prove he or she is a national of Afghanistan or Bangladesh or Pakistan.

The applicants can also submit any of 20 documents like copy of visa and immigration stamp on arrival in India, certificate issued by an elected member of any rural

or urban body or a revenue officer to prove that he or she has entered India on or before December 31, 2014, according to the rules of the CAA issued on Monday

The rules also state that the applicants will have to provide an eligibility certificate issued by a locally reputed community institution confirming that he or she belongs to either Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi or Christian community and continues to be a member of that community.

The government on Monday implemented the Citizen-

ship (Amendment) Act, 2019, notifying the rules to fast-track citizenship for undocumented non-Muslim migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan who came to India before December 31, 2014.

Now, Indian nationality will be given under the CAA to the persecuted non-Muslim migrants - Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis and Christians -- from the three countries.

The applicants will have to give a declaration that they "irrevocably" renounce the existing citizenship and that they want to make make "India as permanent home".

Biden says he never meant to keep classified documents

Agencies

WASHINGTON: Over five hours of interviews, President Joe Biden repeatedly told a special counsel that he never meant to retain classified information after he left the vice presidency, but he was at times fuzzy about dates and said he was unfamiliar with the paper trail for some of the sensitive documents he handled.

A transcript of the Biden interviews was made public Tuesday, just as the special counsel, Robert Hur, was going before the House Judiciary Committee to face questions about his investigation of the Democratic president.

Hur, in his report, concluded that Biden should not face criminal charges over his mishandling of documents but also impugned the president's age and competence. The special counsel, for his part, stood by his assessment of the

president's memory as "accurate and fair," in prepared testimony to be delivered to Congress.

In prepared remarks, Hur said: "What I wrote is what I believe the evidence shows, and what I expect jurors would perceive and believe. I did not sanitize my explanation. Nor did I disparage the President unfairly.'

While Biden fumbled some details in his interview, the full transcript could raise questions about Hur's depiction of the 81-year-old president as having "significant limitations" on his memory. It paints a more textured picture of his discussions with prosecutors, filling out some of the gaps left by Hur's accounting of the exchanges.

At the same time, it makes plain that the Republican lawyer never asked Biden about the timing of his son's death, contradicting the president's indignant public objections to that supposed line of questioning.

Office Of The Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora

E-Mail: rbdivisionawantipora@gmail.Com

DATED: 12-03-2024

Mir Niyaz Ahmad, S/0: Mir Hussain Ud Din, R/0: Lajoora Pulwama

NO: T-1/EEA/6637-41

Subject: - Construction Of Gate Keepers Shelter Including Reconstruction Of Portion Of Boundary Wall at Govt ITI Pampore Reference:

1. Executive Engineer PW (R&B) Division Pulwama LOI No: - T-I/EEP/5242-43 dated: 15-072023. 2, Assistant Executive Engineer (R&B) Sub-Division Pampore's Notice No.

N-13/P/1671-72 Dated: -11-09-2023.

N-13/P/733-34 Dated: 19-09-2023 N-13/P/773-74 Dated: 25-09-2023.

N-13/P/805-06 Dated: 03-10-2023. N-13/P/1018-20 Dated: 25-11-2023.

N-13/P/1424-25 Dated: 09-03-2024 In connection with the above mentioned subject and reference, it is to convey that the execution of above subject work stands entrusted to you vide above quoted reference. The alignment of work was provided to you but due to some unknown reasons the execution of work was not started.

Whereas you were directed through above referred Notices to resume the work but you have paid no heed towards the direction and did not start the work. The delay on your part has hampered the target of completion of work, since the work is to be completed within this financial year only. Whereas despite issuing lot of Notices including final notices, you failed to resume the work and depart-

ment had no choice but to proceed for fresh tenders at your rick and cost Whereas Superintending Engineer circle Pulwama/ Shopian vide his letter No 4677-79 dated 27-10-2023 has authorized this office to put the work on tenders at your risk and cost

Whereas you approached the worthy Superintending Engineer R&B Circle Pulwama/Shopian HQ: Pulwama and you gave him the assurance that you will complete the same within one month. Accordingly you were directed by worthy Superintending Engineer R&B Circle Pulwama/Shopian HQ: Pulwama to submit an affidavit dully signed by magistrate regarding the resumption of work and completing the same within one month.

Whereas you submitted an affidavit to this office on 13-11-2023 and requested to allow you to start the work. Accordingly you were allowed to start the work.

Whereas on 22-11-23 (a lapse of 9 days from the submission of affidavit) you came with a JCB and leveled the already laid filling for half day and stopped the work and left the site unattended.

Whereas on 05-01-2024 you resumed the work and started execution on chowkidar hut and walling. Whereas after just gap of few days i.e. on 25-01-2024 you again stopped the work till date, reasons best known to you and you have left the site unattended which has made it prone to any untoward accident for which you will be personally responsible

Whereas superintendent of ITI Pampore has written many letters to department and has shown displeasure about the delay and incompletion of the work.

Whereas on 26-02-2024 AEE R&B Sub-Division Pampore personally visited the site along with the superintendent of ITI where he has observed that the site has been kept unattended and in shabby position. The unnecessary stoppage of work has become a nuisance for ITI Administration

Your unethical approach and unnecessary stoppage of the work has put both the departments in trouble and has definitely dented your credibility once again among the department.

Now you are hereby given last opportunity through this Final notice to start the work within one day positively and complete the work as per your written affidavit falling which action as warranted under rules shall be Initiated against you, which may Include termination of contract and balance work will be put to tender at your risk and cost.

It is pertinent to mention here that if you fail to resume the work within one day there will be no further communication with you from this office and it will be presumed that you are not interesting to start the work and action under rules will be initiated against you which may include foreclosure of the contract and balance work will be put to tenders at your risk and cost which you should note

(TREAT THIS NOTICE AS FINAL NOTICE)

DIPK-17809/23 dated: 12-03-2024

Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora

Srinagar Fruit Mandi **Stocked Up On Fresh Fruits For Ramazan**

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Despite the closure of the national highway, Srinagar's mandi stands stocked with an abundance of vegetables and fruits, President of the Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers Cum Dealers Union said on Tuesday.

"As the month of Ramadan has arrived, preparations are in full swing to meet the increased demand for fresh produce. The Srinagar mandi has been well-prepared to cater to the needs of the people during this auspicious period," the union president Bashir Ahmad Basher said.

He said watermelons. melons, papayas and various other fruits are available in good quantities.

Asked about concerns raised regarding the consumption of early-ripened fruits, Bashir said only the experts could provide accurate insights on the matter.

He assured the public of the quality and freshness of the available produce, saying the mandi is fully stocked with a wide range of fruits and vegetables to meet the needs of consumers.

"With the spirit of Ramadan, Srinagar's Mandi is



TUESDAY MARKS THE FIRST day of the holy month of Ramadan, with worshippers reciting the holy Ouran at Srinagar's central Jamia Masjid. KO Photo, Abid Bhat. KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

'Ladies Special Bus' Goes Missing In **Srinagar, Female Commuters Aghast**

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Female commuters. specially college going students in Srinagar, have expressed disappointment over the absence of "Ladies Special Bus" service, stating that the specialized service by Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC) for female commuters has vanished from the roads.

Several female commuters, especially college students, have rarely seen buses dedicated specifically for female commuters in the city by the Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation.

"Since colleges reopened, I haven't spotted the ladies' special bus. Firstly, the route doesn't even directly connect to my college, so I have to change buses multiple times," said Insha, a student at MA Road College.

She mentioned that in the absence of the ladies' special bus on Srinagar roads, many students like her are forced to board overcrowded public transport buses to reach their colleges or other educational institutions.

Miss Shaheen, a banker, expressed the inconvenience of

Women's Day

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Amar Singh Col-

lege, Cluster University Sri-

nagar observed International

Women's Day in collabora-

tion with the Department of

Social Welfare and Director-

Dr Sheikh Ajaz Bashir, the

nodal principal of Kashmir

division colleges and Princi-

pal of Amar Singh College Sri-

nagar delivered the presiden-

tial address. He emphasized

that gender equality is a sig-

nificant marker of a healthy

society. He also pointed out

that the equality and empow-

erment of women must be

focused both in the education

sector and entrepreneurship.

Head, Department of Environ-

mental Science, Amar Singh

College delivered the inau-

gural address. She apprised

the audience about this year's

Women's Day celebration

theme and stressed the need

for women's empowerment.

Social Welfare Officer North.

Hafiz Abdul Bari, Tehsil

Earlier, Dr. Bazigha Badar

ate of Mission Shakti J&K.

Amar Singh College

Celebrates International



standing among males in overloaded buses daily for her commute to the office, stating that having a ladies' special bus would have been more comfortable.

Several students from Women's College MA Road Srinagar and other colleges shared that reaching their colleges through public transport was often challenging due to overcrowded buses.

"Ladies' special bus service should be reinstated to provide commuting relief for females. These buses should have direct access to areas dominated by educa-

also spoke on the occasion

and highlighted the impor-

tance of women in society.

Dr. Sabina Rasool, Head De-

partment of Education, Amar

Singh College also delivered

a detailed lecture on the sig-

nificance of the Women's Day

celebration. Prof. (Dr.) Syed

Ajaz Farid, Head Department

of Geography also shared his

participation by the students

observed with artists per-

forming Skits and cultural

songs. The Chess event was

also organized exclusively for

women, along with self-de-

fense training camp for wom-

en, and a singing competition.

different skills and crafts by

the women were displayed

in the Taseer Hall. The stalls

witnessed an encouraging

concluded with the certifi-

cate distribution and a brief

The day-long celebration

footfall of visitors.

felicitation ceremony.

Eleven stalls showcasing

and other stakeholders.

The event saw massive

Day-long celebration was

views on the day.

Subject:

tional institutions, government or private offices, and workplaces," suggested a group of women.

According to JKRTC officials. the 'Ladies Special Bus' service has a seat capacity of 32 in each bus, previously the service used to operate from Lal Chowk to four routes. On Soura route the bus would make four singles in a day, two specials to Kashmir University, also with four singles, and to downtown areas passing through Nalla Amir Khan Road, with two singles in a day.

Meanwhile, a senior official

Refusing Chalo App E-Tickets On **Smart Buses Irk Commuters**

SRINAGAR: Passengers travelling Smart City Srinagar's e-buses have expressed concerns with the conductors' refusal to accept e-tickets generated via the Chalo App.

These buses, which are already referred to as smart buses, are not taking tickets purchased through the Chalo App, which poses difficulties in this cashless and digital era, they said. "I recently travelled in a Smart City

bus and obtained a ticket through the Chalo App. However, when I presented the e-ticket to the conductor, he flatly rejected it," Mohammad Yousuf, a passenger complained.

"To my dismay, I had no choice but to pay the fare again," he lamented. The incident has raised concerns among passengers who have em-

a smart wallet. "We are on it, modalities are being discussed, in next 10-15 days we will resume the Ladies

braced the convenience of digital

ticketing but now face hurdles in the

form of conductors unwilling to ac-

knowledge the Chalo App-generated

e-tickets. Another passenger said

he recently travelled in one of these

buses from Srinagar to Chadoora and

realized he was low on cash. "I gener-

ated an e-ticket using the Chalo App

and made the payment online. I feel

ashamed because the conductor

didn't accept my ticket when I showed

In December 2023, Srinagar Smart

City Ltd announced a partnership

with the free Chalo App to help pas-

senger's access e-bus facilities, such

as the ability to view bus schedules,

track the real-time location of e-bus-

es, or pay conductors directly through

it to him," he said.

from the JKRTC told KNO that post Covid-19 pandemic the regular ladies special bus service was ham-Special Bus Service", the senior ofpered, but that they would resume the services soon.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

10-KARAN NAGAR, SRINAGAR, J&K-190010

Notification No. 02 of 2021 dated 26-03-2021. Ref(s): Administrative Department (H&ME) communication No: ME-NG/59/2024-02 Dated: 13-02-2024.

ORDER NO: 1216 -AH OF 2024 DATED: 09-03-2024

Appointment of candidates as X-ray Assistant(s) in Govt. Medical College and Its Associated Hospitals Srinagar, advertised vide JKSSB

On the basis of recommendation made by J&K Service Selection Board vide their communication No:-JKSSB-SD0SECY(UT)/1/2023-01 (E-7099079), Dated: 25-01-2024 conveyed to this office by the Health and Medical Education Department, J&K vide No. ME-NG/59/2024-02 Dated:-13-02-2024, sanction is hereby accorded to the temporary appointment of following two (02) candidates as "X-ray Assistant(s)" in the

h	ay level-4 (25500-61100) iii Government Medicai									
	S. No.	S. No. Name of the candidate Parentage		Address	Date of Birth	Total Score	Selection Category			
	1.	Fayaz Ahmad Chohan (ST)	Mohd Ismail Chohan	Nawa Gabra Moori Mohalla Karnah Kupwara	03-08-1995	97.2014	ST			
	2.	Abrar Amin Khan	Muhammad Amin Khan	Sheerwanipora Lachipora-B, Boniyar, Baramuila	31-03-1996	63.3447	PSP			

The appointee(s) shall report to the office of the Principal/ Dean Govt. Medical College Srinagar within a period of twenty one (21) days from the date of issuance of this order, failing which they shall forego their right to appointment and the same shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio without any further notice.

The appointee(s) shall be allowed to join only after the production of following certificates (In Original) to be verified subsequently:

- Date of Birth certificate.
- Qualification certificate(s). Domicile certificate.

Medical Fitness certificate from Chief Medical Officer (CMO), concerned.

No Objection Certificate (NOC) from District Industries Centre (DIC) and District Employment & Counseling Centre of the Domicile District. If the candidate has taken loan for self employment from DIC/Employment Counseling Centre, they shall relinquish the proprietorship of the unitl enterprise and also stakes, if any, in such self employment unit/enterprise before joining the Government service. He/She shall be required to repay the entire liability in suitable EMI's to be worked out by the DDO concerned from his/her salary, DDO concerned shall obtain an affidavit from the concerned appointees(s) regarding both relinquishment of the proprietorship and stakes, if any, in such self-employment unit enterprise and recovery to be made and also personally monitor its recovery.

Relevant category certificate, wherever applicable. Any other document(s) as requires under rules.

The appointment of the above candidates shall further be subject to the following terms and conditions:-

The salary of the appointee(s) shall not be drawn and disbursed to them unless and until, satisfactory reports in respect of genuineness of Qualification certificate/ Date of Birth certificate/ relevant category certificate (if any), is received from the concerned authorities/

The appointment of the candidates shall be governed by the "New Pension Scheme" as notified vide SR0400 of 2009 dated:-24-12-2009.

The appointee(s) shall be on probation for a period of two (02) years.

The interim arrangement, if any, made against the above posts shall be deemed to have been terminated forthwith.

The appointment in Divisional Cadre is non-transferable from one Division to another or from one Medical College to another. 6. The appointment of the appointee(s) shall be subject to outcome of writ petition(s), if any, pending on the subject in any court of com-

petent jurisdiction. The inter-seniority of the above appointee(s) shall be as per the merit secured by them in selection process as indicated against them in the selection list furnished by the J&K Services Selection Board.

The appointee(s) shall give an undertaking in the shape of an affidavit duly attested by 1st Class Judicial Magistrate to the effect that if on verification, their Qualification/Date of Birth/Reserved category certificate(s) from the concerned issuing authorities are found fake/forged, his/her appointment as "X-Ray Assistant" in Govt. Medical College & Its Associated Hospitals Srinagar shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio and the legal action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against them. They in that case will not claim for any dues from Govt. Medical College Srinagar.

No. AH-09/Est-I/2024/8817-24 Dated: 09/03/2024

Medical College Srinagar



AIRPORTS

TRAFFIC POLICE: 9419993745, 01998-266686 PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883

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CAPD: 18001807011 SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081 Ambulance: Kashmer EMS Service: +919484100200

RAILWAYS SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

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-(Closed)



PRAYERS FAJR 5:23 **ZUHR** 12:41 ASR 4:56 6:39 Magrib ISHA 8:00

This Day In History

- 1567 Battle at Oosterweel: Spanish troops destroy Geuzenleger
- 1569 Battle of Jarnac, Count of Anjou defeats Huguenots
- 1591 Battle at Tondibi: Moroccan army under Judar defeats Sultan Askia Ishaq II of Songhai
- 1865 Confederate President Jefferson Davis signs bill authorizing use of slaves as soldiers
- 1881 Alexander II of Russia is assassinated by members of far-left terror group 'People's Will' who throw a bomb at him in the city of St. Petersburg
- 1884 Siege of Khartoum, Sudan begins by Mahdist forces, lasts 10 months
- 1900 British troops occupy Bloemfontein, capital of the Orange Free State (Boer War)
- 1911 The Colonial-Born and Settlers Indian Association is formed at a meeting in Durban, South Africa, and has at its aim to fight the infamous 3 poll tax
- 1912 Bulgaria and Serbia conclude an alliance pact ostensibly against Austria, but it secretly provides for a possible war against Turkey 1918 - Trotsky gains control of the Red Army
- 1920 After the German government is forced to cut its army to 10,000 men, military groups plot an unsuccessful coup - a revolt ended by a general strike
- 1921 Mongolia (formerly Outer Mongolia) declares independence from China
- 1922 George Bernard Shaw's "Back to Methusaleh V" premieres in NYC
- 1935 Driving tests introduced in Great Britain 1938 -In a process known as Anschluss, Austria is annexed into Nazi Germany 1938 - World News Roundup is broadcast for the
- first time on CBS Radio in the United States. 1943 - Failed assassin attempt on Hitler during
- Smolensk-Rastenburg flight 1963 - Indonesia & Netherlands reinstate
- diplomatic relations
- 1964 Turkey threatens Cyprus with armed attack
- 1969 Apollo 9 returns to Earth 1970 - Digital Equipment Corp introduces PDP-11
- minicomputer 1973 - Syria adopts constitution
- 1986 Soyuz T-15 carries 2 cosmonauts to Soviet
- space station Mir 1986 -Microsoft has its Initial public offering.
- 1989 27th shuttle, Discovery 8, launched, 1st woman to do the countdown

From KO Archives

Musharraf Accepts Cricket Invitation

'SLAMABAD - Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf has accepted an offer to travel to India to watch the cricket series between the

A Pakistan Foreign Ministry spokesman said Gen Musharraf had yet to decide which matches he would be attending.

It will be his first trip to India since a tense summit meeting between the two countries in

"We are looking at the schedule of the presi-

dent," foreign office spokesman Jalil Abbas Jiiani told foreign news agency "It depends on the convenience of the presi-

dent." he added. Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh told parliament he hoped the president and his family would enjoy their visit.

(Kashmir Observer, 13 March, 2005)



Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited Central Stationary Department Nowgam, Byepass

On-Line Request for Quotes (e-RFQ)

Supply of Table Stationery Items (File Covers/ Envelopes etc)

RFQ Notice along with Complete RFQ document outlining the minimum requirements can be downloaded from and BIDs can be submitted on the Banks' e-Tendering Portal https://ikbank.abcprocure.com w.e.f. March 13, 2024, 16.00 Hrs. RFQ Document can also be downloaded from Bank's Official Website www.jkbank.com. Last date for submission of Bids is April 03, 2024, 17.00 Hrs.

e- RFQ Ref. No.: JKB/CSD/Table-Stationery-P178/2024-1011 Dated : 11-03-2024 Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India CIN: L65110JK1938SGC000048; T : +91 (0)194 2481 930-35; F : +91 (0)194 2481 928; E : info@jkbmail.com : W : www.jkbank.com

DT: 12/03/2024

DT: 12/03/2024

DIPK-17773-23

Prof. (Dr.) Masood Tanvir Principal/Dean

KASHMIR OBSERVER[™]

Wednesday | 13-03-2024

Return Of **Heatwaves**

s we head into the spring of 2024, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has cast a spotlight on the impending summer, forecasting above-normal maximum temperatures and prolonged heat waves from March to May. The heat is set to grip Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, north interior Karnataka, and southern Maharashtra, with El Nino conditions persisting until May, amplifying the intensity of the forecast. The weather experts have drawn attention to the historical correlation between El Nino and heightened heatwave conditions, signaling an extended duration of scorching temperatures.

Amidst the concerning summer forecast, an anomaly has emerged in Kashmir Valley, typically known for its cold winters. The region witnessed an unusually warm winter from November through January - including the 40-day harshest period of Chillai Kalan - marked by an absence of snowfall and day temperatures hovering above 15 degrees Celsius, comparable to New Delhi. This uncharacteristic warmth raised alarms, hinting at potential repercussions for the year ahead. This, in turn, has triggered concerns about the depletion of glaciers, which could impact water bodies and pose challenges for agriculture and hydropower facilities. As one of India's coldest places experiencing a deviation from its winter norms, Kashmir's situation highlights the broader impact of climate change on diverse regions.

The southern part of the country has already experienced an early onset of warm weather, with February 2024 being the warmest on record since 1901. South peninsular India saw a mean temperature of 27.13 degrees Celsius, surpassing the normal of 25.93 degrees Celsius

True, the warming winters are one of the most conspicuous signs of climate change. Sadly, this troubling state of affairs is not going to end anytime soon. As things stand, climate change looms large as the leading global challenge over the next ten years. The World Economic Forum's latest Global Risks Report lists climate change at the top in its four structural forces "that will shape the materialization and management of global risks over the next decade." More alarmingly, climate change dominates the risks landscape across all three timeframes outlined in the report - 2024, 2023-2024, and the ten-year time horizon.

The convergence of El Nino, prolonged heatwaves, and unexpected winter warmth, particularly in Kashmir, highlights the need for proactive measures in water resource management, agriculture, and energy planning. As we navigate the complexities of a changing climate in 2024, staying vigilant and adaptive becomes paramount, especially in regions seeing unexpected deviations from their traditional weather patterns.

OTHER OPINON

Names and bonds

he Supreme Court's refusal to grant any further time to the State Bank of India (SBI) to furnish details of those who purchased and parties that encashed electoral bonds since April 2019 has foiled an ill-advised attempt to seek postponement of the disclosure until after the general election. The SBI has now been asked to disclose to the Election Commission of India (ECI), by the end of March 12, the names of details of the purchasers of the bonds, the dates on which these were bought, and denominations. The bank should also disclose the names of parties that redeemed the bonds, along with dates and denominations. The ECI has to host the information on its website by March 15. The upshot of the bank's application for time until June 30 is that it is now quite clear that it must disclose the data available to it, and need not try and match the names of the donors with the parties. It appears that the initial directions of the Constitution Bench, as part of its February 15 judgment invalidating the electoral bonds scheme, had been construed to mean that the SBI was required to match with exactitude all the purchasers with the recipients. The bank deemed this a "time-consuming" exercise, as the details

were in separate silos and not stored in digital format. In rejecting the bank's application for time and keeping the threat of contempt action alive, the Court has sent a message that it will not brook any further delay. The Bench has also rightly questioned the bank's silence on what had been done to comply with the order until the filing of an application for extension of time, just two days before the March 6 deadline. It is now quite apparent that even manually matching the two datasets could not have taken as long as the four months the SBI wanted. A question may arise as to whether the voters' right to information, the very basis for the Court finding the anonymous donation scheme unconstitutional, will be fulfilled by mere disclosure of the names of bond purchasers and the parties that received the funds, without authentic data on who donated what amount to which party. Given that the bonds have to be redeemed within a 15-day window, it may still be possible for a diligent civil society to use the disclosures to match donors and parties based on the proximity between dates of purchase and redemption. The data may also help unravel whether corporate houses or individuals benefited from their donations to ruling parties at the Centre and in the States, or if the contributions were made in response to any threat of investigation and prosecution. The Hindu

New Railway Lines Would Severely Impact Kashmir's Apple Industry

Sacrificing 5500 Kanals of agriculture land will be disastrous as our valley has very small landholdings



Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

ecently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the Banihal-Sangaldan Railway Line in J&K. He flagged off the first electric train in the Kashmir Valley running from Baramulla station on Feb-

The Banihal-Sangaldan Railway Line has been constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 15,863 crore and is expected to revolutionize the railway transportation system in J&K. Sangaldan is located in Reasi district and this is around 48 kms from Banihal. Very soon Sangaldan will be further connected with Katra railway station.

The work on the 63 kms Katra Sangaldan section is going at a fast pace and is in an advanced stage of completion. This section includes 14 main tunnels and 5 escape tunnels. The mining work on all these tunnels has been completed. Out of a total scope of 67 kms, 59 kms track lining has been completed.

Out of 33 bridges, 32 bridges are complete and work on the last bridge is also in the advanced stage. Within coming months Srinagar would get connected with Jammu through this railway line. All this is part of the 272 Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Line (USBRL) project which is likely to be completed in July-August 2024. However, the Baramulla to Banihal rail line was already operational, a stretch of 48 km was added to this line last month (Banihal Sangaldan).

The Udhampur -Srinagar -Baramulla railway project (USBRL project) also includes the world's highest railway bridge over the Chenab River. The deck height above the river bed of the Chenab Bridge is 359 meters and the length of the bridge is 1315 meters. The cost of the bridge is Rs 1486 crore. However, the estimated cost of the entire project is Rs 41,119 crore

New Railway Lines in Kashmir

Some more railway lines have been sancmed by the Ministry of Railways for Kashmir valley for which a survey was recently started. Last year, during the winter session of parliament, the Minister for Railways Ashwani Vaishnav while responding to some Members of Parliament gave a detailed report on the extension of the Indian railways network to Jammu & Kashmir. In a written reply given to joint questions put forward by Lok Sabha MPs Jugal Kishore, Jamyang T Namgyal, Bidyut Mahato the Union Railway Minister said that Udhampur Srinagar Baramulla Railway Line -USBRL project is, perhaps, the most difficult new railway line project undertaken in the country post-independence, but within coming months the work would finally be completed. The Minister in his reply said:

"The terrain passes through the young Himalayas, which are full of geological surprises and numerous problems. This section predominantly involves tunnelling i.e. 97.42 Km out of 111 Km (i.e. 87%) of length of Katra-Banihal section is in tunnels and maximum length of tunnel T-49 is 12.77 Km, which will be the longest transportation railway tunnel in the country. Railway has made the world's highest Railway Bridge over Chenab river in Reasi District of Jammu & Kashmir. The iconic Chenab Bridge is 1315 m long having Arch span of 467 m and height of 359 m above river bed. Indian Railways first cablestayed bridge has been constructed over AnjiKhad. Its bridge deck is 331m above the river bed level and height of its Main pylon is 193m.

He said that another track of 135 kms would be laid on the Banihal Baramulla. He also said that new railway lines on Baramulla-Uri section (50km), Sopore-Kupwara (33.7km), Awantipora-Shopian (27.6km), Anantnag-Bijbehara-Pahalgam (77.5km) would also be laid in the coming years

Apple farmers not happy

Traveling by train from Kashmir to Udhampur -Jammu and then to New Delhi has been a dream of Kashmiri people. The railway line laid between Banihal and Baramulla has given a great boost not only to the economy but every day thousands of people travel between Banihal and Baramulla via Kulgam, Anantnag, Pulwama, Srinagar, Budgam and Baramulla districts at very minimal cost. People from Srinagar or Budgam who worked in Baramulla, Kupwara, Anantnag or Kulgam many years back would



People will get good money but they will lose their livelihood as well and more land where new apple farms can be developed isn't available at all

usually stay in rented accomodation in these places as travelling to and fro daily was not possible. But for the last many years they travel these long distances by train as Banihal - Baramulla rail link has made this possible. The train journey is not only cheap but it takes very less time as well and there are no traffic jams at all.

These are the positive aspects of the Railways in Kashmir. As the Govt of India is planning to further connect different areas in Kashmir vallev via railway network, this might indeed give a relief to commuters but it would severely impact our agriculture especially the apple industry. It is important to note that very less agricultural land was acquired while laying railway lines between Udhampur – Banihal section via Katra and Sangaldan as most of the land acquired was forest land located in rugged mountains . On the contrary, when a railway line was laid between Qazigund to Baramulla in Kashmir valley during late 1990s or early 2000, 90 % of the land that was acquired was agricultural land. As the project was first of its kind in Kashmir valley, people welcomed it and sacrificed their land as well. Infact Govt of India compensated the affected landowners and even many were given jobs also in the railways. This Railway line was further extended to Banihal from Qazigund via an 11 kms long tunnel and for this purpose not much agricultural land was acquired. But as the Govt is planning to further expand railway connectivity to other areas within Kashmir valley, this will definitely impact the agriculture land especially the apple orchards in north and South Kashmir.

During expansion of NH 44 Srinagar Jammu and construction of Srinagar Ring Road already we have lost almost 10,000 kanals of farmland in Anantnag, Pulwama, Budgam and Srinagar districts in last 6 to 7 years and now if more and more land is acquired for highways and railways it would have severe consequences in the years

The Government is planning to connect Baramulla-Uri (50km), Sopore-Kupwara (33.7km) Awantipora-Shopian (27.6km), Anantnag-Bijbehara-Pahalgam (77.5km) with a railway network but are we aware how much farmland we would have to sacrifice for it?

In total, over 190 km long railway line would be laid in these areas which are located in North and South Kashmir. Unfortunately, in all these areas 100% land that would be acquired is highly fertile and has fully grown apple trees on it. In the Baramulla-Uri section a lot of forest land with wildlife would get impacted if the railway line is laid . As the Railway Ministry started a survey in Bijbehara Pahalgam section people were seen protesting and the videos went viral on social media. In Shopian Zainapora also people protested after survey teams went to some villages. A local news portal The Kashmiririyat had filed a detailed report on this.

The report published by The Kashmiriyat on its website had quoted a 56 year old Bashir Ahmed Bhat an apple grower from Rehsipora Zainapora in Shopian district. The poor farmer is completely disturbed as his apple orchard would get impacted with the proposed railway line and he has no other source of income.

"I was informed that the government is taking our land up for a vital railway line project. We rely on apple orchards for our livelihood and the railway line is not much needed in our area and it will impact our bread and butter.We do not understand who is seeking the construction of the project. Not a single person, political party or representative has sought this project. Our apple industry will take a major hit, if the project is not stopped," said Bashir Ahmed Bhat while talking to The Kashmiriyat

Are new railway lines feasible in Kashmir?

More than 90 % of farmers in Jammu & Kashmir are marginal farmers as per official figures. The size of small agricultural landholdings in J&K was estimated at 0.55 hectares by the Agriculture Census 2015-16, but unofficial sources say they are much smaller, 0. 35 hectares or six (6) kanals we can say. In Kashmir Valley, the size is even smaller. During the 2010-2011 Agriculture Census, the average size of operational land holdings in India was 1.15 hectares. This figure was also lower, at 0.62 hectares, for Jammu and Kashmir. Districts in Kashmir Valley had even lower landholding sizes than the state as a whole: Anantnag 0.39 hectares, Kulgam 0.39, Shopian 0.56. Pulwama 0.48, Srinagar 0.31, Budgam 0.43, Baramulla 0.51, Ganderbal 0.37, Bandipora 0.48, and Kupwara 0.51. This figure fell during the 2015-16 Agriculture Census. In the Valley, where most farmers own less than an acre of land, any government policy related to land acquisition, especially for "development projects" take into account the fragile mountainous environment and climatic conditions as well.

One understands the importance of Baramulla- Srinagar- Udhampur Railway project but to take railway lines to Pahalgam and Kupwara or Uri by sacrificing so many apple orchards and green forests would prove to be disastrous. Kashmiri people would have loved to give their land for this project had their landholdings been huge like we see in states like Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat or Rajasthan. If someone loses his half acres (4 kanals) of apple farm will he be able to buy a new one or set up a new farm? No, because there is hardly any land availability in the apple producing areas of South and North Kashmir. Infact under the Right to Fair Compensation Act 2013 the affected people would get good compensation but they won't be able to set up new apple farms as Kashmir valley has meager landholding and our agricultural land is shrinking at a very fast rate.

To make a 1 km highway or Railway line in India, around 1.50 hectares of land is required i.e 30 kanals of land. This means Govt requires around 1000 kanals of land for Baramulla Kupwara railline (33.7 kms). Similarly for Anantnag Bijbehara Pahalgam railway line 2340 kanals of land is required and most of this land is under apple cultivation. On the proposed Awantipura-Shopian railway line which is estimated to be 27.6 kms long, more than 840 kanals of land would be required but most of the land is under apple cultivation. Baramulla Uri rail line will require 1500 kanals of land. In total, this amounts to more than 5500 kanals (278 hectares). Will the Govt prefer local economy over development? People will get good money but they will lose their livelihood as well and more land where new apple farms can be developed isn't available at all. In such a scenario will the Govt revisit their policy on further expansion of railway lines in Kashmir valley?

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

Compassion is Divine

Mushtaq Hurra

ompassion is a divine attribute which erases the boundaries of religion and faith and liberates man from the shackles of duality and division. Compassion stations humans substantially high above the celestial creatures. Allama Iqbal had said, "The reason for creation of humans is for love and compassion, else, for obedience, the angels did not have a match."

Compassion and empathy undoubtedly bestow prominence to humans in the animal kingdom. Had worship, prostration and Godly adoration been the sole purpose behind the creation of man, then angels were more than sufficient to carry out the assignment. Allah's prophet (peace be upon him) has categorically admonished believers to not be callous and fiendish. The beloved prophet PBUH has said, "A man can be anything, but can't be pious if he does not possess a compassionate heart."

Mother nature is a paragon of compassion and epitome of empathy. She produces thousands of instances of altruistic love and compassion. Borrowing nectar to tiny honeybees is an act of compassion by polychromatic blooms, transformation of a flower into a fruit is a similitude of selfless compassion, allofeeding a brood of young ones by a parent bird is the truest manifestation of compassion, self abandonment by clouds to rain to the call of the parched soil is a beautiful way to be compassionate, restoring smile on a melancholic face is certainly a gesture of considerate compassion, a pat of empathy on a weak shoulder is a generous move of compassion, solidarity with a hap-



less soul is the noblest form of compassion, extending helping hand to a needy pauper is the angelic exhibition of compassion, feeding hungry and thirsty is the divinely compassion. Compassion is the crown which places man on the throne of the world as its king. It adds grace and elegance to the viceroy of Allah SWT, and elevates his stature among all the creatures of the universe.

Compassion softens human hearts, and grants divine proximity and propinquity to those who possess great virtue. It earns people the pleasure of Allah SWT. Blessed are the compassionate and cursed are the cruel. Souls with treasures full of empathy and compassion are actually the avatars and incarnations of God on the

earth. But, cessation of the virtue sinks the man to the lowest of low.

Compassionate people are the ambassadors of Allah SWT on the planet earth, because Allah SWT loves compassion and admires compassionate hearts. Our beloved prophet Muhammad PBUH was the embodiment of compassion. He (PBUH) set unprecedented examples of compassion, empathy and love. Pages of history bear witness to His (PBUH) exceptional and prodigious character which melted even stony hearts and his (PBUH) rigid foes. The entire world has failed to produce such unblemished and unmatched personal disposition.

Once, an old lady was waiting on the threshold of her house with all her belongings packed in a sack. It was the time when the proclamation of prophet-hood had ceased all sorts of pampering and admiration for the prophet PBUH. Well, the old lady was too weak to lift the sack on her shoul-

Rehmatalill-Aalameen PBUH happened to pass by, and saw the old mother in distress. He (PBUH) stopped and went to the old lady and said, "Mother, you seem to be worried. Can I extend any kind of help to you?" The old lady sobbed and replied, " My son, I am leaving the place for some unknown enchanter and conjurer of Mekkah, whose black magic breaches blood relationships. He allegedly is the enemy of our Gods (Idols). His preaching has created chaos and confusion in the entire

Mekkah. He is a merchant of hatred and antagonism. He instigates people to kill each other. He incites trouble and frenzied mayhem in our peaceful city. He beguiles innocents to follow his new religion.

"I am leaving my homeland to escape his charm and influence. Keep away from him." Beloved prophet PBUH didn't reciprocate, rather kept mum, took the belongings on his own shoulders and asked the old lady about her destination. The old lady and the beloved prophet PBUH hit the road by foot. The old lady continued her advice throughout the journey, and repeatedly warned the young man to elude the treachery of the new preacher.

Meanwhile, the old lady asked the young man to stop. "Drop the sack here, I have reached my new home." Said the mother. She thanked the young man for his extraordinary patience, character and behaviour. "My son, I have forgotten to ask your name. Who are you? What is your name? Thank God, we have great sons like in our city." She added.. Our beloved prophet PBUH smiled and said, "Old mother, I am the magician who is the perpetual eyesore for the respected tribesmen of Quraish. I am the preacher who is being castigated in Mekkah. My name is Mohammad PBUH."

The old lady broke down into sighs and sobs. She at once begged for a pardon and recited Kalima Shahadah. Subhanallah! An epitome of patience, compassion and sympathy is our beloved prophet PBUH.

Author is a Teacher and a Columnist. He can be reached at mushtaghurra143@gmail.com

7 Ways to Engage With the Quran if You Can't Read or Understand Arabic

Ramadan will be here in less than a week. The most special month of the year filled with Allah SWT's blessings, mercy and forgiveness. It is also special because it is the month of the Qur'an – it was during Ramadan that it was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad — through Angel Jibreel (AS). One of the main goals of this month is to reconnect with the Qur'an – to read it, understand it and live it. Allah, with His Infinite Wisdom, revealed the Qur'an in Arabic and made it easy for us to understand in any language. In this piece, we cover seven ways to engage with the Qur'an this Ramadan if you do not read or understand Arabic.

"We did not send any messenger but (speaking) in the language of his people, so that he might clearly convey the message to them." [Surah Ibrahim 14:4]

"And thus have We revealed to you an Arabic Qur'an, that you may warn the mother city (Makkah) and those around it, and that you may give warning of the day of gathering together wherein is no doubt; a party shall be in the garden and (another) party in the burning fire." [Surah Ash-Shuraa 42:7]

"And if We had made it a non-Arabic Qur'an, they would have said, "Why are its verses not explained in detail [in our language]? Is it a foreign [recitation] and an Arab [messenger]?" Say, "It is, for those who believe, a guidance and cure." And those who do not believe – in their ears is deafness, and it is upon them blindness. Those are being called from a distant place."" [Surah Fussilat 41:44]

"Indeed, We have made it an Arabic Qur'an that you might understand." [Surah Az-Zukhruf 43:3]

Arabic is a rich, highly developed language and the words of Allah in the Qur'an not only stunned the people of Makkah at the time, but the many layers of meaning continue to surprise scholars even to this day.

"And We did not give Prophet Muhammad, knowledge of poetry, nor is it befitting for him. It is not but a message and a clear Qur'an" [Surah Ya-Sin 36:60]

We hope that these tips will be of benefit and help you connect with the Qur'an this month and beyond.

1. Find a good translation that works for you:

Do some research on the top translations in your native language and take some time to read through them to find one that works for you; we

all learn differently and what works for others may not work for you. Use a word-to-word translation to understand the definitions of specific words and to remember the meanings of frequently used words in the Qur'an. Also, use several different translations to truly grasp the meanings of each verse. Many websites allow you to choose between different translations or include the different translations side by side.

Quran Online
Quran Explorer
Recite Quran
Corpus Quran
Legacy Quran
Quran
Quran

2. Listen to the audio recitation:

Whether you fully understand the verses being recited or not, there are benefits in listening to the Qur'an mindfully:

There is healing in listening to the recitation of the Our'an:

"And We send down of the Qur'an that which is a healing and a mercy to those who believe (in Islamic Monotheism and act on it), and it increases the Zalimoon (polytheists and wrongdoers) nothing but loss." [Surah Al-Isra 17:82]

Listening to the Qur'an serves as a reminder: "Truly there is a reminder in this for anyone who has a heart, or who listens attentively with presence of mind." [Surah Qaf 50:37]

Listening to the Qur'an envelopes us in blessings and mercy:

"When the Qur'an is read, listen attentively, and fall silent, so that you may be blessed with mercy." [Surah Al-A'raf 7:204]

Listening to the Qur'an is a sign that guidance and understanding has been bestowed on us by Allah:

"Those who listen to what is said and follow what is best. These are the ones whom Allah has guided; these are the people of understanding.." [Surah Az-Zumar 39:18]

As you listen to the audio recitation, follow along with the transliteration to familiarise yourself with the Arabic words.

3. Recite anyway

While it is truly a struggle to recite words that

look and sound foreign to you, there is a blessing even in that struggle. Prophet Muhammad said, "Verily the one who recites the Qur'an beautifully, smoothly, and precisely, he will be in the company of the noble and obedient angels. And as for the one who recites with difficulty, stammering or stumbling through its verses, then he will have twice that reward."

Prophet Muhammad said, "Whoever recites a letter from the Book of Allah, he will receive one good deed as ten good deeds like it. I do not say that Alif Lam Mim is one letter, but rather Alif is a letter, Lam is a letter, and Mim is a letter." [Tirmidhi]

Prophet Muhammad said, "It is imperative for you to have Taqwa (fear/consciousness of Allah) for this is the accumulation of all good. Upon you is Jihad in the path of Allah for it is the monasticism of the Muslims and upon you is the Remembrance of Allah and the recitation of His Book, for it is light for you on earth and (a means by which) you will be mentioned in the Heavens"

Find a Youtube series that works best for you to learn to recite the Qur'an at your pace, maybe pair up with a friend to compare notes and help each other through the tough spots. Also use the transliteration as you follow along with a recorded recitation and enrol in a class where you can get feedback from a teacher.

It is also recommended to memorise Surah Al Fatihah through the repeated recitation of the transliteration and listening to the audio as it is most repeated in the five daily prayers. One of the miracles of the Qur'an is that it is easy to understand and remember. This is not to say that the journey to learning it will be an easy one but that just like with anything, with some focus and good instruction, it can be done. As Allah says:

"And We have indeed made the Qur'an easy to understand and remember, then is there any that will remember (or receive admonition)?" [Surah Al-Qamar 54:17]

If you learn how to recite, you can slow down Youtube videos of reciters to follow along too.

4. Get a Kids Qur'an

One of the blessings of being in a time where we have access to a range of resources for both adults and children is that when we seek a simpler breakdown we can often find this in children's resources as they are intended to ensure communication

is clear. I have often looked to children's books to remind myself of the Prophets in a particular story or remind myself of the sequence of the stories in the Qur'an. It allows you to strip down and reminds us that the Qur'an has many stories about Prophets and Sahabah we can learn from InshaAllah.

5. Use a Qur'an pen reader

For some, an investment in a Qur'an pen reader can help you recognise and learn the letters. As you point the pen onto the text, the pen reads it out for you and whether you want to learn the letters and how to pronounce them or you are trying to memorize a surah, this is an excellent tool! You can choose from 27 different voices and multiple languages!

6. Listen to lectures with tafseer (explanation of the Qur'an) explaining linguistic nuances:

Listen to tafseer lectures from your favourite scholars as they explain the translation of the Qur'an, including the linguistic nuances of the Arabic text. The words of Allah are truly miraculous and understanding the subtleties makes reading the Qur'an a wholesome experience.

Al-Qurtubi says in his tafsir, "The metaphor of those who recite the Qur'an without knowing its tafsir is that of some people to whom a letter comes from their king at night when they have no lamp. They are alarmed, not knowing what the letter contains. The metaphor of the one who knows the tafsir is that of a man who brings [with] them a lamp so that they can read what the letter says."

7. Live the Qur'an

At the end of the day, the best thing you can do with what you learn from the Qur'an is to live it. Whether you know one line or more, when you come across knowledge from the Qur'an work towards implementing it and applying it to your life. The Qur'an has been sent as a guide for our time on this earth: learn the Qur'an, live what it teaches and teach ahead.

The Prophet said, "The best among you (Muslims) are those who learn the Qur'an and teach it." [Bukhari]

The article was originally published by Amaliah

Novel Biomarker Test To Identify Sleep-Deprived Drivers May Help Avoid Road Accidents

Press Trust Of India

cientists have developed a new blood test that can accurately detect sleep-deprived drivers by using biomarkers that may help avoid road accidents in the future.

The experts Monash University in Australia, and the University of Birmingham, UK, noted that the level of sleep deprivation increases the risk of serious injury or fatality in critical situations.

The study, published in the journal Science Advances, shows that the biomarker used in the test accurately predicted when the study volunteers had been awake for over 24 hours under controlled laboratory conditions. Future work could examine whether these biomarkers are evident in saliva or breath and

lead to a roadside test. The test detected whether individuals had been awake for 24 hours with a 99.2 per cent probability of being correct when compared to wellrested samples, the re-

searchers said. When a single samwas considered without the well-rested comparison (similar to a diagnostic blood test), it dropped to 89.1 per cent,



This is a

discovery

for sleep

scientists.

and could be

to the future

management

of health and

safety relating

to insufficient

sleep

transformative

really exciting

which was still very high, they said.

With about 20 per cent of road accidents worldwide caused by sleep deprivation, researchers hope the discovery may inform future tests to quickly and simply identify sleep-deprived drivers.

The biomarker could also be developed for other situations where sleep deprivation may lead to catastrophic consequences, such as in safety-critical workplaces.

"This is a really exciting discovery for scientists, and sleep could be transformative to the future management of health and safety relating to insufficient sleep," said study senior author

Anderson who led the research while she was with Monash University.

While more work is required, this is a promising first step," said Anderson, Professor at the University of Birmingham.

The researchers noted that there is strong evidence that less than five hours of sleep is associated with unsafe driving.

However, driving after being awake for 24 hours is at least comparable to more than double the Australian legal limit of alcohol performancewise, they said.

The test may be also ideal for future forensic use but further validation is required.

Study first author Katy Jeppe, from Monash University, said it was difficult to say how soon the test could be developed for post-accident use.

"Next steps would be to test it in a less controlled environment and maybe under forensic conditions, particularly if it was to be used as evidence for crashes involving drivers falling asleep," Jeppe said.

"Given it is blood, the test is more limited in a roadside context, but future work could examine whether our metabolites, and therefore the biomarker, are evident in saliva or breath," the researcher said.

This sleep deprivation biomarker is based on 24 hours or more awake but can detect down to 18 hours awake. A biomarker for limited sleep over the previous night could be developed but more research is required to combine the time since sleep with the amount of sleep in the predictions.

"Much further work would be needed if laws were to change and a sleep deprivation test introduced on the road or in workplaces," Jeppe said.

"This would include further validation of biomarkers, as well as establishing safe levels of sleep to prevent and recover from impairment, not to mention the extensive legal process," he added.

Deepfakes Can Help Sway Public Opinion, Discredit People Or Politicians: Experts

As billions of people will vote in elections around the world this year, growing threats from artificial intelligence (AI) technology such as deepfake videos and voice synching can be used to help influence public opinion, discredit people or politicians, experts said on Sunday.

This year, elections will be held in more than 50 countries around the world, including India.

"Deepfakes pose a significant threat to democracy, as they are frequently weaponised to manipulate opinions, influence stock prices, and create misinformation," Harish Kumar GS, head of Sales, India and SAARC, Check Point Software Technologies.

'These deepfake videos and voice synching can be used to help sway public opinion, discredit individuals or politicians, especially during salient timing such as elections, disrupting the political party and destroying the politician's image and reputation and disturbing the democratic system," he added.

The proliferation of deepfake content surged in late 2017, with over 7,900 videos online. By early 2019, this number nearly doubled to 14,678, and the trend continues to escalate, according to experts.

Recently, deepfake videos of former US President Bill Clinton and current President Joe Biden were fabricated and circulated to confuse citizens during the presidential elections.

Similarly, a deepfake video of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky urging soldiers to surrender in their fight against Russia was shared on social media, creating panic and confusion.

The Indian government has issued directives to social media platforms such as X and Meta, urging them to regulate the proliferation of AI-generated deepfake content.

Ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has issued an advisory to such platforms to remove AI-generated deepfakes from their platforms.



To combat these threats, experts said that organisations must defend themselves against deepfake attacks.

"As AI continues to advance, it becomes imperative to manage its dual role by harnessing its capabilities to combat deepfake threats while mitigating the risks associated with potential misuse," said Vishal Salvi, CEO of Quick Heal Technologies.

He also mentioned that despite the numerous potential drawbacks, AI is anticipated to advance cybersecurity and aid organisations in establishing more robust security measures

According to experts, effective detection of deepfake content requires meticulous examination of various aspects of the media.

To detect such content, they suggested to begin by scrutinising facial expressions and movements for inconsistencies, such as irregular blinking patterns or discrepancies between audio and visual cues.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Office Of The Child Development **Project Officer, Wavoora**

Re-Advertisement Notice: No. 03 of 2023-24. Dated:- 11-03-2024

Subject: Re-Advertisement for Recruitment of Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) in Anganwadi Centres of POSHAN Project WAVOO-

Reference: 1. Government order No 222-JK(SWD) of 2022 Dated:30.11.2022 2. Government Order No.103-JK(SWD) of 2023 dated: 28.04.2023

Sr. No.	Name of Project	Name of Post	No. of Post	
1	Poshan Project Wavoora	Sahayikas (AWH)	03	
Total	03			

Applications are invited in the Prescribed Performa in Annexure "A" from the eligible candidates for engagement Anganwadi Helpers on Honorarium basis for afore men-

ANNEXURE 'A'

tioned posts of Anganwadi Centres. The important dates/details with regard to the posts are as under a)

Date of commencement for submission of application 11-03-2024

Last date for submission of applications is 16-03-2024

Annexure B- Name of the Post, Location/Ward , Qualification and Criteria for selection

Format of Application Name of POSHAN Project Name of Anganwadi Centre_ Post applied for Name of the Candidat 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. Father's Name Husband's Name

Address for correspondence

Ward .No.

Date of Birth

Age as on 01.01.2023_ Academic Qualification Sr.No. Marks Obtained Examination Board/University Year of Passing **Total Marks** Percentage passed 3

14. Do the candidate belong to Retiring AWW/AWH (YES/NO) 15. **Document Attached:**

Date_ Signature of the candidate_

ANNEXURE 'B'

Detail of Vacant Posts (AWW/AWH) along with name and location of AWC.

l	Sr.No.	NAME OF ANGANWADI CENTRE	WARD NO.	Name of Panchayat	NAME OF POST	NO. OF POSTS
l				Halga		
l	1	Rang Old Warnow	02	Warnow-D	Anganwardi Helper	01
l	2	Khan Mohalla Cheepora	05	Cheepora	Anganwardi Helper	01
l	3	Putpora	02	Chererkot –B	Anganwardi Helper	01
ı		•				

Anganwadi Helpers

The selection of Helper shall be restricted to the electoral ward where Anganwadi Centre is located. Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 years shall be eligible.

The candidate must be domicile of the UT of J&K.

Minimum qualification for Anganwadi Helper shall be matriculation.

In case no matriculate candidate available in the ward, candidates with qualification not less than 8th standard shall be considered. The committee shall select the most destitute/needy married woman of the ward as helper from amongst those who fulfil the qualification criteria. In case no married

candidate is available, unmarried candidate may be considered. In case eligible candidate is available within the family of retiring AWWs/AWHs, the said candidate shall qualify for additional two percent points.

Document Verification

The candidate who is shortlisted for Document verification will be required to appear for Document Verification along-with the original documents as well as self-attested Photostat copy of each document as per the Advertisement Notification. The candidate must be in possession of the prescribed academic qualification and other document like Domicile Certificate, on or before the last date of submission of application form.

Marks sheet(s)/Diploma/Degree of the qualification prescribed for the post as per Adverti

Date of Birth/Matriculate Certificate. . Domicile Certificate.

Candidates have to bring two passport size recent colour photographs and one original Photo ID proof. Photo ID Proof can be Voter ID card.

The candidate who are supposed to furnish various certificate issued by or before the prescribed cut-off date, shall be required to produce them at the time of Document Verification or as may be sought by the Committee; in case of failure, the committee shall take necessary decision which shall be final ANNEXURE C

All applicants to submit affidavit stating following facts: All Documents submitted are correct, without any mismatch, scanning, duplicate or fallacious in nature. If found incorrect or in any of the above stated situation the candi-

dature of deponent may be cancelled and liable to action under law. Maximum qualification is Graduation for vacancy of Anganwadi Helper and Class X for and this is as per facts and onus of proving it to be true lies with the deponent The deponent has read the HR policy no. 222-JK(SWD) of 2022 dated: 30.11.2022 and is well versed with all salient features of the policy and shall be applicable to the deponent in case of selection as Anganwadi worker/ Anganwadi Helper

No:- CDPO/Poshan/Wav/Adv/ DIPK-17744/23 Date:- 12/03/2024.

Child Dev Project Officer POSHAN Wavoora

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Higher Education Department Civil Secretariat, J&K

Subject:- Appointment of Assistant Professor (Commerce) in the Higher Education Department. Reference: Letter No. PSC/DR-HE/AP- Commerce/2023 dated 02-11-2023 from the J&K Public Service Commission, J&K.

Government Order No. 171 - JK (HE) of 2024 Dated: 11-03-2024

In continuation to the Government Order No. 88-JK(HE) of 2024 dated 22.02.2024 and as recommended by the J&K Public Service Commission, sanction is hereby accorded to the appointment of Mr. Sanjay Malhotra S/o Roop Lai R/o Meen Charkan Meen Charkan Bari Brahhmana under SC Category as Assistant Professor (Commerce) on regular temporary basis in the pay band of Rs. 15600-39100 with AGP Rs. 6000/- (Pre-revised) Academic Level-10 with pay structure of Rs. 57700/- in the Higher Education Department notionally w.e.f 22.02.2024 and monetarily with immediate effect.

The appointee shall report to the Nodal Principal, Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu within a period of 21 days from the date of issuance of this order failing which his appointment shall be deemed to have been cancelled without any notice.

The appointment of the candidate shall be subject to the following conditions:-

1. The appointee will be on probation for a period of two years from the date of joining.

The appointment of the above candidate shall be governed by the "New Pension Scheme" as per SRO-400 of 2009 dated 24-12-2009.

The appointee shall, at the time of joining, produce the following testimonials in original which will be verified by the concerned Principal.

a. Domicile Certificate.

b. Date of Birth Certificate.

c.Qualification and Marks Certificate i.e. NET/SLET/Ph.D. etc and Marks Cards/Degrees.

d. Category Certificate as may be applicable to the appointees.

e. Health and Medical Certificate.

f. Any other certificate as required under law.

The salary of the appointee shall be drawn and disbursed only after the receipt of the satisfactory report in respect of genuineness of Qualification/Date of Birth/Relevant Category Certificate and subject to production of an affidavit (as

The inter-se-seniority of the candidate shall be determined in terms of the

The appointment of the candidate shall remain provisional till such time as the certificates get verified by the concerned Principal and are found to be in order. In case any certificate is found to be fake, inadequate or not consistent with eligibility requirements, the appointment of the candidate shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio.

The appointment of the candidate shall be subject to outcome of Writ Petition(s), if any, pending before any Court of

By order of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sd/-(Alok Kumar), IRS **Principal Secretary to the Government**

No. HED-GAZ/385/2023-04 (7331171) DIPK-17767/23 Dated: 12-03-2024

Annexure-A to Government Order No.:- 171 - JK (HED) of 2024

Dated:-11:03:2024 **AFFIDAVIT**

_do hereby solemnly declare on oath

that:

(a) My name has been recommended by the J&K Public Service Commission for appointment as Assistant Professor ___ _ in the Higher Education Department.

(b) I understand that the verification report in respect of the Qualification/Date of Birth/Reserved category certificate has not been

furnished by the concerned verifying agency in my case. I, therefore, undertake that in the event of permitting me to join, pending Receipt of the verification report in respect of the Qualifica-

tion/Date of Birth/Reserved category certificate, I shall have no claim for the post in the event of my being adversely reported upon by the verifying agency found not be genuine.

DEPONENT

VERIFICATION

I,_S/o,

The contents of this affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing has been concealed therein. DEPONENT

After PDP, Omar Targets Congress Amid Seat Sharing Embargo

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) Vice President Omar Abdullah declared that his party would not relinquish any of the three seats in the Kashmir Valley to the People's Democratic Party (PDP).

Instead, he offered the Congress the opportunity to allocate either two seats in Jammu or one seat in Ladakh from their share. This statement comes amidst ongoing discussions between the NC and Congress regarding seat sharing for the upcoming elections.

SRINAGAR: The Special Judge, Anti Corruption (CBI Cases) Jammu

has convicted Tilak Raj, then head

goods clerk of the northern railway,

who was posted at railway station

news agency-Kashmir News Ob-

server (KNO), a spokesperson said

that CBI had registered the case on

08.07.2013 on a complaint against

The statement reads that it was al-

leged that accused were demanding

bribe of Rs 22,000 from the complain-

ant for reducing the penalty charges,

levied due to delay in lifting the con-

GANDERBAL: In a joint effort to com-

bat women harassment and violence,

Police in collaboration with Special

Cell for Women conducted a mass

awareness drive in District Ganderbal.

tions of SSP Ganderbal Sandeep Gupta-

IPS, and supervised by Shri Gh Hassan-

JKPS Headquarters Ganderbal, aimed

to empower women by informing

them about their rights and encourag-

ing them to report crimes against them

During the drive, a special po-

to the nearest Police Stations.

The initiative, held under the direc-

"CBI laid a trap on 08.07.2013 and

Police Conducts Awareness Drive

Against Women Harassment in Gb'l

signment from Railway Station.

Tarsem Lal and Kameshwar Singh.

In a statement, issued to the

Iammu in a bribery case.



According to the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO), speaking in Jammu, Omar emphasized NC's firm stance on retaining their existing seats in Kashmir while engaging in nego-

during the trap, the accused Tilak

Raj accepted bribe of Rs 20,000

from the complainant, which he

shared with other two accused per-

sons as well. The trap team caught

all the three accused and arrested

vestigation, chargesheet was filed be-

fore the court of Anti Corruption (CBI

Cases) Jammu on 02-01-2014 against

all the accused and charges were

framed against them on 30-04-2014.

sons namely Tarsem Lal and Ka-

meshwar Singh expired, hence trial

against them was abated. After trial,

the court held remaining accused

Tilak Raj guilty. Quantum of pun-

ishment will be pronounced tomor-

lice team, accompanied by social

workers of Special Cell, engaged

with various segments of the com-

munity, including students, men,

women, and girls. One of the key as-

pects of the drive involved sharing

emergency contact numbers with

public transport operators, covering

a range of vehicles from large buses

to small vehicles, electric buses, and

sumos. This dissemination aimed

to raise awareness about women

harassment and the legal repercus-

sions perpetrators face.

"During trial, two accused per-

It added that after completion of in-

them," it reads.

Jammu Court Convicts Railway

Official In Bribery Case

tial allocations in other regions.

"The NC has previously announced its intention to contest all three seats in Kashmir, and discussions are underway with Congress regarding two seats in Jammu and one in Ladakh," Omar said.

He reiterated the party's demand for synchronizing assembly elections with the Lok Sabha polls, emphasizing that denying the people of Jammu and Kashmir their right to participate in assembly elections would be unjust. He pointed out that if the Lok Sab-

ha elections could proceed and Prime Minister Modi could hold rallies in Srinagar, there should be no impediment to conducting assembly elections as well.

In a veiled critique directed at Congress regarding seat sharing, Omar asserted that while they were open to allocating seats from their share to the PDP, NC would stand firm on retaining its previously won seats. He also expressed skepticism about PDP's chances of securing victory in the Jammu, Udhampur, and Ladakh constituencies—(KNO)

BJP Has Given Ramazan Gift To

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said notifying the rules for the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) days before the announcement of the Lok Sabha elections shows the BJP is not confident about winning 400 seats in the

"It was passed in 2019, but notifying the CAA perhaps they feel that their position is weak and that is why they have to use these new weapons," he told

The Muslims have always been a target of the BJP, which is not something new for the party. Even in the CAA, the Muslims have been made a specific target. This is not new politics for the BJP, this has been their approach before as well," he said.

notification as the "Ramadhan gift" for the Muslims and expressed regret over it. "They have given a Ramadhan gift to the Muslims of

the country by notifying the CAA. We regret it," he said. Asked about the visit of the Election Commission of India, Abdullah said that his party delegation met the poll body and demanded that Parliament and assembly elections be held simultaneously.

"Let us see what they decide." he said.

Muslims By Notifying CAA: Omar

ensuing polls.

(rules) just a few days before the bugle of elections is to be blown, perhaps it makes it clear what the aim is. They (BJP) were saying that after the (construction) of the Ram Temple, they cannot lose. But

Abdullah said it is evident that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) wants to use religion in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

In a sarcastic remark, Abdullah termed the CAA

Haj Pilgrims Asked To **Deposit Arrangement Dues**

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Haj Committee Tuesday informed all selected Haj Pilgrims to deposit the Haj Arrangement Dues viz. Transport/ Container charges/ Services of Home-guard Volunteers/ Air Cargo Charges/ Service providers and other handling charges to be incurred by JK Haj Committee through J&K Bank in Account No: 1206040500005039.

The pay-in-slip can also be downloaded from www.jkshc.org. The payment can also be made using J&K Bank's Application 'M-Pay'.

The concerned pilgrims are required to deposit the receipt (pay-in-slips) of the amount at the office of respective Deputy Commissioners/ Haj House, Srinagar at the time of collection of passports and other travel documents.

Pilgrims who do not want to avail boarding/ lodging facility at Haj House, Srinagar shall pay Rs.1000/- per pil-

Pilgrims belonging to Kashmir/ Jammu Division / Ladakh who want to avail the boarding/ lodging facility at Haj House, Srinagar shall have to

pay an additional amount of Rs.500 per night.

Pilgrims of Ladakh/ Other States/ UT's travelling from Srinagar Embarkation Point shall have to deposit Rs.550 per pilgrim only.

Pilgrims travelling from Delhi/ Mumbai/ Other Embarkation Point shall have to pay Rs.300 only per Pilgrim as Administrative charges

CBC's Exhibition Concludes At Ganderbal

KO NEWS SERVICE

GANDERBAL: The Central Bureau of Communication Srinagar, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, Tuesday successfully concluded its five-day Integrated Outreach Programme and Exhibition at the Mini Secretariat, Ganderbal.

The exhibition, which commenced on March 8, served as a platform to showcase the remarkable progress achieved by the government across various sectors over the past decade, with focus on rural development, healthcare, agriculture, horticulture, fisheries, ICDS, and education.

Under the overarching themes of Viksit Bharat, Mission Life, Agnipath, and Swachh Bharat Mission, the event aimed to inform and educate the general populace about the government's initiatives and achievements.

Throughout the duration of the exhibition, attendees were treated to a series of informative lectures and presentations delivered by experts and officials from diverse government departments. These sessions delved into the intricacies of different schemes, highlighting their successes and future targets.

A large number of beneficiaries participated in the programme and shared their inspiring success stories, showcasing the tangible impact of various government schemes on their lives.

On the final day, representatives from the Agriculture Department, Fisheries, and Horticulture provided detailed insights into their respective sectors, including information on employment generation schemes.

The artists from the City Cultural Group, empanelled with CBC Srinagar presented informative skits on various government schemes.

Director of CBC Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Ghulam Abbas said that the exhibition received an overwhelming response from the public, fulfilling the

Shopian Villagers Demand Shifting Of Proposed Railway Line

Agencies

SHOPIAN: The residents of Reshipora and its adjacent areas in Zainapora hamlet of South Kashmir's Shopian district are up in arms against the proposed railway line through the

The residents of the area told the news agency, that the government must either shift this proposed railway line or shouldn't construct it as the project will leave hundreds of families landless.

Bashir Ahmad, a senior citizen of the village told KNO that they have planted apple trees 3-4 decades ago and since then they have been taking care of them by spending their money and time.

He said that when these trees started bearing fruits, the government has proposed a railway line that is going to leave them landless.

Junaid Ahmad, another local, said that most of the people in the village are dependent on their orchards for their livelihood and if this railway line will be constructed, it will snatch their livelihood.

Sangrama Villagers Face Acute Water Scarcity

BARAMULLA: The residents of San-Baramulla district here have accused supply. The authorities have the Jal Shakti department of ignoring their plights, saying that they are being forced to consume contaminated

Speaking to news agency, Syed Colony Sangrama villagers said that they have been battling with the challenges of water supply for the last at least 15 years.

They also alleged the concerned de-

partment is least bothered about their genuine grievances.

"We are facing an acute turned a deaf ear towards our repeated pleas. They are making no effort to ease our difficulties," Moomin Fayaz, a local, said.

Fayaz added that they are being forced to fetch water from wells and local streams, which usually remain contaminated, thereby leading to the health hazard for them.

"We were getting tanker services

to meet the ends, however, the department stopped the services for the reasons best known to them." said Fatima Begum, a local.

The residents appealed Commissioner Baramulla and the concerned department to look into the matter at an earliest.

Meanwhile, Assistant Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Department Sopore, Mudasir Ahmed told KNO that they will look into it and ensure the residents won't suffer anymore—(KNO)

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

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

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (for Road work/bridges/Buildings)

TWO COVER SYSTEM (above Rs. 2.50 Crores) FRESH To NIT 107 NIT No:- 115/13301-10 / RnB/SPN/e-tendering/2023-24 Dated:- 11-03-2024

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

•	S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of Completion	Opening of tender (Technical Bid)	Class of Contractor
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	1	Construction of Car Parking at Town Shopian (Phase-I).	472.11 (including GST Amount)	5500/-	944220/-	01 Year	22-03-2024 at 11:00 A.M	AAY Class Only"

Major Head of Account =FC Grants UT Capex Budget =MC/ SPN/Works/42 of 2023 Dated 14-08-2023 Position of TS = CE(R&B) SK/TS/57 of 2023-24 Dated 14-02-2024

Position of Funds = Approved. Project Authority = Municipal Council Shopian

_		
1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	11-03-2024
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 14-03-2024,10:00 A.M to 20-03-2024, 2:00 P.M
3.	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	13-03-2024 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B)
٥.	Date, Time and place of pre-bld meeting	Circle Pulwama/Shopian H.Q Pulwama.
4.	Bid submission Start Date	14-03-2024 From 10.00 A.M
5.	Bid Submission End Date	20-03-2024 up to 2:00 P.M
6.	Data & time of anoning of Tachnical Dida (Online)	22-03 -2024 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B)
0.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	Circle Pulwama/Shopian H.Q Shopian
7.	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.O), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per below schedule:
Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt (Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian 2.

Tender Inviting Authority] (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Pulwama/Shopian H.Q Pulwama

3. All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG. Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as Non-responsive

The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Superintend The 1st towest responsive (successful) Blocer has to produce an amount equal to 3 no contract as reformance sections in the snape of color, a long section in the snape of color, a long The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Perfu

the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work 6. The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Office of Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Pulwama/Shopian H.Q Pulwama._The date for same shall be intimated separately

The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids. The earnest money/performance security shall be forfeited, If:-

Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period before issue of letter on intent In case contractor fails to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

9.1. on manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.into acquaint bid submission process.

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

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

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

Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents

Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons 11.

Scanned copy of Cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Shopian (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Pulwama/Shopian H.Q Pulwama (Tender Receiving Authority) must be uploaded with the Technical bid documents for the work. After opening of financial bids, the lowest bidder shall submit the Performance Security in the form of CDR/BG/FDR in the Office of the Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Pulwama/Shopian H.Q Pulwama. Failure to do so shall render the first lowest successful bidder non- responsive. The Original Treasury Challan (Cost of Tender Document), EMD (earnest money) and othe shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract.

No:NIT/13301-10 DIPK-17760-23 Dated:11-03-2024 DT: 12/03/2024 Sd/sd/sd/ **Head Draftsman Head Assistant** Technical officer Camp Clerk **Executive Engineer** PW(R&B) Division Shopian

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR DEPARTMENT OF MATERIALS MANAGEMENT ESTATES SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES SOURA, SRINAGAR

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

NIT NO: SIMS 229/ESTATES/e-NIT 01 of 2024 Dated: 11-03-2024

E-tenders are invited, for and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, through Director SKIMS & Ex-Officio Secretary to Government for outsourcing of following Public Car parking Slots at SKIMS Soura, Srinagar for a period of one year 2024-25 to be reckoned from the date of taking over of position of Car Parking Slots against realization of parking fee indicated against each type of vehicle for a period of one year to be submitted underTwo Bid Cover System- Cover I "Technical Bid" & Cover II "Price Bid" from those parties/persons having one year experience for running of car parking slots issued by any Government/Semi Government Hospital/ /Municipal Corporation with respective allotment order copies having one year successful completion certificate from the concerned department along with the solvency certificate of Rs. 1.00 Cr.

S.No. Location of Car Parking Areas T		Type of vehicles to be parked		Parking fe	Parking fee for each entry		ng fee 12 to	Minimum reserve		
П	3.110.		Location of Car Farking Aleas	Type	oi veilicles to be parked	per vehicle upto 12 hours		24 hours		price bid.
	1.	>	SKIMS Poly Clinic Car Parking	>	Four Wheelers (LMV).	>	Rs. 20/-	>	Rs. 40/-	Rs. 87,54,390/-
П			area (09:00 AM to 05:00 PM).	\triangleright	Two/Three Wheelers.	>	Rs. 10/-		Rs. 20/-	
П	2.	>	SKIMS Nurses Hostel Car Parking							
			area 24 x 7 (Round the clock).							
	2	>	SKIMS Maternity Hospital Car							
	3.		Parking area 24 x 7(Round the							
П			Clock).							
П	4.	>	SKIMSC-type Car Parking area							
П			24 x7 (Round the clock).							
	5.	>	SKIMS Emergency Car Parking							
П	•		area 24 x 7 (Round the clock).							
Ľ										
ı			_ Earnes	st Mo	ney Deposit (EMD) Ter	nder Docur	nent Fee			

	1	10.1.40. 2.004	
	1. Rs. 4,38,000/-	Rs. 2000/-	
	Schedule	of dates:	
1	Tender publishing date	11/03/2024	
2	Tender Download Start Date	11/03/2024	
3	Clarification start date	11/03/2024	
4	Last date of clarification (if any)	16/03/2024 (upto 4.00PM)	
5	Bid Submission Start Date	17/03/2024	

05/04/2024 (At 12: 00 Noon) **Technical Bid Open Date** The bidding documents consisting of qualifying criteria, eligibility criteria, terms & conditions and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the schedule of dates mentioned above. No Clarification /representation shall be entertained after

expiry of the last date of clarification SIMS 229/ESTATES/e-NIT-01/2024-902-07

DIPK-NB-6008-23 Dated: 11/03/2024 DT: 12/03/2024

Bid Submission End Date

02/04/2024 (upto 2:00 pm)

Sr. Materials Management Officer (Estates) SKIMS Soura

J&K Bank Inks MoU **With SANY Bharat**



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: With a view to provide concessions to the prospective borrowers besides convenience, Jammu and Kashmir Bank Tuesday entered into an agreement with SANY Heavy India Pvt. Ltd. (SANY Bharat) and become one of the preferred financiers for the purchase of earthmoving and construction equipment manufactured and

marketed by the company.

Deputy General Manager (Corporate Banking/MSME) put in his signatures for the Bank, while as the Chief Operating Officer (COO) Sanjay Saxena signed the MoU on behalf of SANY during a ceremony held at the Bank's headquarters, which was also attended by senior officers from both the organizations.

Pertinently, SANY- a global supplier of excavators, cranes, wheel loaders and other heavy machines- is a leading manufacturer of earthmoving and construction equipment in the

Terming the association between two leading companies in their own fields a fruitful proposition especially involving a large clientele engaged in construc-

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Principal Secretary

Agriculture Production Department (APD), Shailendra Kumar,

Tuesday chaired a meeting of

agriculture, horticulture de-

partments and allied sectors

here to evaluate the progress

of various Centrally Sponsored

Schemes, CAPEX, and HADP

The Principal Secretary also

financial accomplish-

reviewed both the physical

ments achieved through these

by Director Finance APD, Di-

rector Horticulture Jammu, CL

Sharma, Director Agriculture

Jammu, Heads of Departments

of agriculture and allied sectors

and district officers and other

At the outset, Director Hor-

ticulture Jammu, CL Sharma

briefed the meeting about

the expenditure and progress

made under UT Capex, HADP

The meeting was attended

implementation.

concerned.

Emphasizes prudent fund utilization

ways look for opportunities that are beneficial to our customers. With J&K and Ladakh picking up pace in terms of construction of roads/rail links and other developmental works, the demand for earth moving and construction equipment is on the rise. That is where the prospective buyers of SANY equipment will benefit by availing finance under J&K Bank **Construction Equipment Finance** scheme - an easy-to-avail product tailored to meet the varied financial requirements of people."

He also stressed upon the need to strengthen the relationship between the two companies to achieve mutually beneficial future growth.

Calling J&K Bank a leading force of economic well-being in its core operational geographies COO SANY Sanjay Saxena expressed hope that the tie-up will further boost its sales in this region. He said, "J&K Bank has a huge market share in terms of lending in this part of the world. It is such a great moment for us to enter into a formal tie up with the Bank commanding huge presence across length and breadth of J&K and Ladakh

and other Centrally Sponsored

Schemes in respect of Horticul-

covered centrally sponsored

schemes such as RKVY, MIDH,

IDDS, ATMA, NFSM, PM KISAN,

Soil Health Card scheme, KCO

scheme, among others, empha-

sizing the holistic development

approach under the Holistic

Agriculture Development Pro-

Addressing the meeting,

Shailendra Kumar emphasized

the importance of prudent fund

utilization across various CSSs,

HADP projects, and CAPEX. He

urged officers to ensure full ex-

penditure of allocated funds to

prevent any gaps, emphasizing

transparency and accountabil-

He also urged officers to

closely collaborate with dis-

trict administrations to exe-

cute initiatives effectively and

reach farmers with the latest

agricultural and horticultural

gramme (HADP).

ity at all levels.

technologies.

The meeting extensively

ture sector.

Retail Inflation Eases To 4-Month Low Of 5.09% In February

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI Retail inflation in February eased to a fourmonth low of 5.09 per cent, remaining within the Reserve Bank's comfort zone of 6 per cent for the sixth month in a row, showed a government data released on Tuesday.

The February inflation print based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) was almost unchanged compared to the January number of 5.1 per cent, though prices of certain items in the food basket firmed up.

The inflation in the food basket rose marginally to 8.66 per cent in February from 8.3 per cent in the preceding month, according to the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

On month-on-month basis, inflation eased marginally in case of vegetables, fruits, 'oils and fats' and 'pulses and products' in February. However, the rate of price rise was higher in 'cereals and products', 'meat and fish' and 'milk and products' segments.

The food basked has nearly 50 per cent weight in the CPI. NSO said the average inflation in the rural areas was higher at 5.34 per cent in February

compared to 4.78 per cent in



urban parts of the country. Among states, the highest

inflation was in Odisha at 7.55 per cent during February and lowest in Delhi at 2.42 per cent. The Reserve Bank of India

has been tasked by the government to ensure retail inflation remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side.

Last month, the central bank projected the CPI inflation at 5.4 per cent for current fiscal (2023-24) and 5 per cent for anuary-March quarter.

Commenting on the CPI data, Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, ICRA, said barring food and beverages, the inflation across all other sub-groups eased in February 2024, indicating that

the momentum in the nonfood items continued to track a welcome moderation.

"In an encouraging trend, the core-CPI (CPI excluding food and beverages, fuel and light and petrol and diesel for vehicles) eased to 3.5 per cent in February 2024 from 3.7 per cent in January 2024, which is the lowest reading for this metric based on the available data since Jan 2015," she said.

The NSO collects price data from selected 1,114 urban markets and 1,181 villages covering all states and UTs.

The RBI's rate setting panel, Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), mainly factors in the retail inflation while deciding the benchmark interest rate.

Vision 2024: Pioneering **Real Estate Growth In J&K**

Observer News Service

JAMMU: In a significant development aimed at bolstering the real estate sector in Jammu and Kashmir, a high-profile meeting was convened at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu.

The meeting was co-chaired by Mandeep Kaur, Commissioner Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department, and Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary Industries.

The participation included a delegation from the National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO), signifying a collaborative effort towards the region's real estate growth.

The primary focus of the meeting was to revisit the key outcomes of the Real Estate Summit 1.0, evaluating the current status of its initiatives and strategizing on how to effectively mobilize these for moving forward. This approach underscores the government's commitment not only towards enhancing the real estate infrastructure in the region but also ensuring sustainable urban development.

The discussions emphasized the need for leveraging the

unique potential of Jammu and Kashmir's real estate market, making it more accessible and attractive to investors both nationally and internationally.

The meeting explored various avenues to stimulate growth in the sector, including easing regulatory processes, enhancing transparency and implementing investor-friend-

Mandeep Kaur and Vikramjit Singh highlighted the government's vision of transforming Jammu and Kashmir into a real estate and industrial hub, capable of contributing significantly towards region's economy. They reiterated the commitment towards working closely with stakeholders such as NAREDCO to facilitate real-

ization of this vision. The meeting concluded with a resolution to take proactive steps towards implementation of the discussed strategies to bring out the progressive policies and required changes in the regulatory frameworks making J&K one of the most preferred investment destinations. Besides, roadmap for organizing Real Estate Summit 2.0 was also discussed in the

IIP Growth Slows To 3.8 Pc In Jan On besides its ever increasing pantion business, DGM Nishikant Poor Showing By Manufacturing, **Shailendra Reviews Progress Mining: Govt Data** On CSSs, CAPEX, HADP

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India's industrial production growth slowed to 3.8 per cent in January 2024, mainly due to poor performance of manufacturing, mining and power sectors, according to official data released on Tuesday.

The factory output growth measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) was 5.8 per cent in January 2023.

In December 2023, IIP growth stood at 4.2 per cent. It was 2.4 per cent in Novem-

During the April-Janury period of this fiscal, III growth touched 5.9 per cent, up from 5.5 per cent in the year-ago period.

"India's Index of Industrial Production grows by 3.8 per cent in January 2024," the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation said in a release.

As per the latest data, the manufacturing sector's output growth decelerated to 3.2 per cent in January against 4.5 per cent a year ago.

The power generation growth also slowed to 5.6 per cent in January from 12.7 per cent growth in the year-ago period.

The mining output growth decelerated to 5.9 per cent in the month under review





"INDIA'S INDEX **OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION GROWS** BY 3.8 PER CENT IN **JANUARY 2024," THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS** & PROGRAMME **IMPLEMENTATION** SAID IN A RELEASE.

against 9 per cent.

As per use-based classification, the capital goods segment growth fell to 4.1 per cent in January 2024 compared to a growth of 10.5 per cent in the year-ago period.

In January this year, consumer durables output expanded 10.9 per cent. It had contracted by 8.2 per cent in January 2023.

goods output declined by 0.3 per cent compared to a 6.5 per cent expansion in January

According to the data, infrastructure/construction goods too reported a deceleration at 4.6 per cent in January 2024 against an 11.3 per cent expansion in the year-ago period.

The data also showed that the output of primary goods logged 2.9 per cent growth in January this year, down from 9.8 per cent a year ago.

The expansion in the intermediate goods segment was 4.8 per cent in the month under review, higher than the 1.4 per cent recorded in the same period a year ago.

Sensex Edges Higher, Nifty Ends **Almost Flat Amid Volatile Trade**

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Equity market benchmark Sensex higher on Tuesday due to heavy buying in index heavyweights like HDFC Bank, TCS and Reliance Industries amid mixed cues from Asian markets.

Witnessing a volatile trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex closed 165.32 points or 0.22 per cent higher at 73,667.96. During the day, the barometer surged

sharp profit booking. However, mid and small-cap stocks remained pressured, primarily due to apprehensions regarding inflated valuations," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said.

"Global sentiment remained mixed as investors awaited key US inflation data, which could offer insights into the Fed's interest rate decisions. Additionally, market participants are anticipating India's infla-



501.52 points to 74,004.16.

The broader Nifty, however, ended almost flat at 22,335.70, inching up 3.05 points or 0.01 per cent.

Among Sensex firms, HDFC Bank climbed more than 2 per cent. TCS, Maruti, Infosys, Reliance Industries and Bharti Airtel were among the major

State Bank of India, JSW Steel, ITC, Tata Motors, Ultra-Tech Cement and Nestle were among the laggards.

"The domestic market witnessed range-bound trading today after the previous day's

tion figures scheduled for release today, to remain consistent with the previous month, which will be at the middle of RBI's tolerance range," he added.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge declined 2.11 per cent and midcap index dipped 1.31 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, realty plummeted by 3.53 per cent, industrials by 1.74 per cent, commodities by 1.73 per cent, services by 1.70 per cent, utilities by 1.59 per cent and metal by 1.34 per cent. IT and Teck were the only gainers.

NCLAT Upholds Jet Airways Transfer Of Ownership To Jalan Kalrock

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Insolvency appellate tribunal NCLAT on Tuesday upheld the resolution plan of grounded carrier Jet Airways and approved the transfer of its ownership to Jalan Kalrock Consortium.

The NCLAT bench has directed the Jet Airways monitoring committee to complete the transfer of ownership within 90 days.

Besides, it has also directed the lenders of Jet Airways to adjust the Rs 150 crore paid by the consortium as performance bank guarantee.

The lenders of Jet Airways and Jalan Kalrock Consortium (JKC), the successful bidder, are in a legal tussle for more than a year over the transfer of the management of the grounded carrier.

Earlier, the lenders had approached the Supreme Court, which had declined to interfere in the matter and had directed the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal



(NCLAT) to take a decision on the issue.

The NCLAT directed the managing committee, consisting of lenders led by SBI, to create security on immovable properties as offered by the successful resolution applicant (SRA) JKC within 30 days.

Upon creation of such security. lenders were directed to adjust the performance bank guarantee of Rs 150 crore towards the payment of the same amount from the SRA.

The NCLAT has directed that within 30 days of the creation of security, lenders will issue shares of Jet Airways to SRA and hand over the company.

Dir Agri Inaugurates First Harvest Of Himsona Tomato Variety

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Director Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Jammu Arvinder Singh Reen, inaugurated the first harvest of the Himsona to-

ment Scheme, showcasing the potential for cultivating advanced and productive tomato varieties in the Jammu region. He emphasised farmers to cultivate Himsona tomato variety which

has high yield potential, long dura-



mato variety, here Tuesday. The Director picked up these highquality tomatoes, grown under the controlled conditions of Naturally Ventilated Poly Green House (NVP-

GH) structure. Speaking on the occasion, the Director said that this marks a significant achievement for the Vegetable Improve-

tion variety and good for long distance transportation.

During the programme JD Inputs Sanjay Verma, ID Extension Satish Sharma, Agronomist Vegetable Development Scheme Jammu Vikas Padha besides other field staff of vegetable improvement scheme were also present at the inaugural function.

Two-Day HRD Programme On Apple Blotch Leaf Miner Concludes At SKUAST-K



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR Central Integrated Pest Management Centre, Srinagar, Govt. of India, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare in collaboration with State Horticulture Department, and SKUAST-K, conducted a two-day human resource development programme on 'Apple Blotch Leaf Miner' at Conference Hall of Vice Chancellor

Secretariat, SKUAST-K. The two day awareness/training programme was inaugurated in the presence of Director Horticulture, Zahoor Ahmed Bhat; Director Research SKUAST-K, Dr. Haroon Naik; Joint Director (E), IPM Division, DPPQ&S Dr.

Sunita Pandey; Deputy Director (PP), RCIPMC Faridabad, Dr. Vandana Pandey; Assistant Director (PP) CIPMC Jammu, Dr. Mithilesh Kumar Arya; Prof. & Head Division of Entomology, Dr. Manzoor Ahmed Parray; Prof & Head Division of Pathology, Dr. Shaheen Kauser and other officials of Horticulture Department and Senior Scientists of SKUAST-K Initially opening remark on the programme was given by Dr. Manzoor Ahmed Parray, followed by a detailed lecture given on the Emerging Challenges of Insect ABLM by Dr. Sunita Pandey, wherein thread bear light was shed on management of fruit crop to prevent from the threat of devastating disease of leaf miner.

"Prince Of Fake": Frenchman Sold Fake Luxury Watches Worth \$3.3 Million

Agenceis

Paris: The trial of a Frenchman accused of making millions selling fake luxury watches is putting the spotlight on an elaborate commerce of lucrative replicas spanning the globe.

Nicknamed "the prince of fake," Julien V. has freely admitted to running a network of fake watch sales in France from Thailand between 2019 and 2022, before being arrested.

He told investigators that contractors in China produced up to 10 watches per day for him --most of them fakes of the luxury Swiss brand Rolex -- resulting in total sales of 12,000 watches for a turnover of three million euros (\$3.3 million).

However, a watch expert



quoted in the Nice-Matin newspaper, Michel Vittini, said he believed Julien V. sold "at least 50,000" fake Rolexes.

Some of them appear to have been virtually indistinguishable from the real thing, with Julien V. claiming that he could "make it completely real, or completely fake" depending on "what makes the customer happy".

A credible China-made Rolex replica was priced at 500 euros, rising to 1,300 euros if it also had the double of a genuine serial number engraved, he said.

For 6,500 euros the watch had an original automatic mechanism, and a custom-made timepiece made of entirely genuine parts could go up to 60,000 euros.

Real Rolexes cost from around 5,000 euros to upwards of 70,000 euros and keep or increase their value in the second-hand market.

The high-quality fakes attracted the attention of Swiss watchmakers who hired private investigators, according to French media.

Investigators closed in on Julien V. after arresting some of his online resellers.

On trial since last week, he has taken charge of his own defence at the trial where he faces an army of lawyers for half a dozen of Swiss luxury watchmakers who have brought a civil case against him.

Julien V., born in the French Riviera city of Nice in 1994 and a former pizza delivery man, said that he was a millionaire by the time he was 25, had 4 million euros stashed away in cryptocurrency bitcoin and owned a Lamborghini as well as several properties in Thailand.

Accepting orders via WhatsApp, he would ship the watches first to Germany to avoid attracting the attention of French customs, and then into France through the open border between both countries.

One of his co-defendants, reseller Florian R., said that he would buy fake Rolexes for 200 euros and sell them for 400.

Asked by the presiding judge why he didn't charge more, Florian R. said: "These are fakes, I don't cheat people."

The verdict in the trial is due on March 20.

Google Restricts Gemini AI From Answering Questions On Global Elections

Agenceis

Google is restricting AI chatbot Gemini from answering questions about the global elections set to happen this year, the Alphabet-owned firm said on Tuesday, as it looks to avoid potential missteps in the deployment of the technology.

The update comes at a time when advancements in generative AI, including image and video generation, have fanned concerns of misinformation and fake news among the public, prompting governments to regulate the technology.

When asked about elections such as the upcoming U.S. presidential match-up between Joe Biden and Donald Trump, Gemini responds with "I'm still learning how to answer this question. In the

meantime, try Google Search". Google had announced restrictions within the U.S. in December, saying they would come into effect ahead of the election.

"In preparation for the many elections happening around the world in 2024 and out of an abundance of caution, we are restricting the types of election-related queries for which Gemini will return responses," a compa-

ny spokesperson said on Tuesday.
Aside from the United States,
national elections are set to be
held in several large countries
including South Africa and India,
the world's largest democracy.

India has asked tech firms to seek government approval before the public release of AI tools that are "unreliable" or under trial, and to label them for the potential to return wrong answers.

CONTD. FROM FRONT **PAGE 1**

J&K Leads India

under various employment generation schemes, including PMEGP, NRLM, NULM, PMWMY, CCS for artisans and weavers and JKREGP up to September 30, 2023

Out of Rs 1,213.60 crore, the banks sanctioned Rs 882.64 crore for 15,230 beneficiaries under PMEGP, Rs 274.14 crore for 9,145 beneficiaries under NRLM, Rs 9.99 crore for 323 beneficiaries under NULM, Rs 1.31 crore for 116 beneficiaries under PMWMY, Rs 8.22 crore for 516 beneficiaries under CCS for Artisans and Weavers and Rs.37.30 crore for545 beneficiaries under JKREGP.

PM Inaugurates

One Product' (OSOP) stalls at Anantnag, Pampore, Pattan, Kakapora, Panzgam, Sadoor, Mazhom, Awantipora, Banihal, Baramulla, Budgam, Jammu, Qazigund, Katra, Srinagar, Bijbehara, Kathua will provide additional income opportunities to artisans from marginal sections.

OSOP will promote the rich heritage of these areas and it will also strengthen 'Vocal for Local' and 'One District One Product Campaign'. These stalls will provide passengers the opportunity to experience and purchase authentic local goods.

The Lt Governor said that PM has also gifted a Gati Shakti Terminal at Samba & Rail Coach Restaurant at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra railway station. "Gati Shakti terminal will play a pivotal role in bolstering transportation networks and streamlining movement of goods across the region."

Govt Launches Portal For

Buddhists, Parsis and Christians -from the three countries. The rules comes into force with immediate effect.

Committed To Provide

who were deprived of their rights and suffered atrocities for decades, the Lt Governor said.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji gave displaced families all the rights and other benefits after a long wait of over seven decades. Now, they have the same rights as any other citizen of the country and various other new opportunities are being made available to them," he said.

Today, the displaced persons can

not only cast their vote, contest an election but also fulfill their aspirations of receiving professional education and government jobs, the Lt Governor further added.

resolve of the government, under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister for the socio-economic and political

empowerment of displaced families. "The Government of India and J&K Administration is sensitive to the needs and demands of the displaced families. We are committed to provide land title and ownership rights to displaced persons," the Lt Governor said.

He also called upon the community members to avail the benefits of the special camps being organized by the government. These special camps in Jammu, Samba and Kathua aim to saturate various government schemes and provide skill training and self-employment to youth, empower the women and to provide all the support to the farmers of the community.

Anil Kaul, Secretary, Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction; Arvind Karwani, Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants); Deepak Kapoor, President, PoJK Visthapit Sewa Samiti, senior officers and a large number of members of displaced families were present.

224.44 Cr Sanctioned

on the other within the Union Territory of J-K, the project holds strategic significance.

"It is poised to significantly benefit apple growers in south Kashmir, particularly in Shopian district, known as the 'Apple bowl of the valley', by facilitating swift transportation of produce to markets. The overall impact includes improved connectivity and heightened road safety measures," the minister said.

'Education Should

"Education should be driven by creativity rather than by curriculum. It should be about developing the capacities of young people to be creative. It should be the main lever for a more competitive economy and educational institutions as well as other social institutions must follow this model," Sinha said in his keynote address at the conference here.

The Lt Governor lauded the collective effort of the University of Jammu and National Institute of Educational

Planning and Administration (NIEPA) for organising the workshop, which focuses on implementation of National Education Policy 2020 and internationalisation of higher education.

He said, under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Jammu Kashmir is leading the reforms in the nation's educational ecosystem.

The Lt Governor called upon the educational institutions to transform their campuses into the hub of skill development and innovation, and make their important contribution in realising the limitless potential of the youth of Jammu Kashmir.

"Ideas are new wealth and the universities should focus on creating intellectual property. Educational institutions should focus on developing students' capacities to be creative, innovative and focus on programmes to bring positive social change," Sinha said.

Addressing the eminent educationists and heads of institutions, the Lt Governor highlighted five aims and vision to create a strong foundation for future-oriented education.

"Classrooms should be an enabler of imagination. Mentoring and not only teaching should be the main focus of educational institutions to thrive in the 21st century," he observed.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor called upon the teaching community, students and all the stakeholders to work with the resolve to establish Jammu Kashmir as a knowledge economy and contribute to the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

He further emphasized on creating a conducive environment for foreign students in the educational institutions of the Union Territory. PTI

EC Beains

Jammu and Kashmir have been deprived of their democratic rights. So, the assembly elections be held along with Lok Sabha polls. The commission gave us a patient hearing," Wani said.

gave us a patient hearing," Wani said. He said conducting two elections separately in a year would disturb Jammu and Kashmir's economy.

"The tourism sector here is very vibrant and people are expecting a huge rush of tourists. So, if two elections are held in a year (separately), then the economic activity will be disrupted. Also, it is the prime minister's dream to have one nation, one election. So why not start that from Jammu and Kashmir," the National Conference

leader told reporters.

Wani said the party delegation also told the Election Commission that people here have apprehensions that the elections would not be fair. The EC should ensure a level playing field in the elections, he said.

"The commission heard us patiently but the decision is theirs," he added. PDP leader Ghulam Nabi Lone

Hanjura said his party also batted for holding assembly and Lok Sabha elections simultaneously. "It is now up to the Election Commission to decide on this," he told reporters after the meeting.

BJP leader R S Pathania and his party is ready for simultaneous polls. He alleged that the NC, PDP and Congress were "frauds who have spread smokescreen in the name of half-truths to befool the people of Jammu and Kashmir".

The BJP leader demanded that poll-

ing booths be set up at places outside the Union territory where the members of the Kashmiri Pandit community have been living to facilitate their voting.

After the meeting with political parties, the poll panel will hold a detailed review of the election preparedness with District Election Officers and superintendents of police, officials said.

In the evening, the Election Commission officials will interact with Jammu and Kashmir chief electoral officer P K Pole and nodal officers of the state police. The election commission officials will hold similar interactions in Jammu on Wednesday.

There has been a growing demand from political quarters in Jammu and Kashmir that the Election Commission should hold assembly polls here simultaneously with the Lok Sabha polls or immediately after the general elections.

Former chief ministers Farooq Abdullah and Ghulam Nabi Azad have raised this demand in the past two weeks.

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Saturday held a meeting with the civil and police administration to sensitise them about the measures to be taken for the smooth conduct of the Lok Sabha polls in the Union Territory.

J&K To Procure

chief electoral officer of Jammu and Kashmir invites online bids from reputed companies, agencies and service providers for the provision of one helicopter Ambulance, one single engine helicopter and twin engine helicopter on wet lease basis for the Lok Sabha elections 2024 in J&K.

While helicopter ambulance will be required for five days during each phase of the election, one single engine helicopter will be required with effect from three days before election day of the first phase to election day of the last phase of the Lok Sabha elections 2024 in Jammu and Kashmir, it said

The twin engine helicopter will be in use as and when required for the Lok Sabha elections, it added.

The helicopter ambulance and single engine helicopter are intended to be stationed at any location within Jammu and Kashmir, depending upon the requirement and the election phases, it said.

The twin engine helicopter may not be stationed in J&K but has to be provided as and when required for which prior intimation of 48 hours will be provided by the department to the operator.

The helicopter ambulance is a service, wherein a patient under critical or bedded condition is transferred from their home site and location to desired location for medical treatment on an helicopter ambulance that has emergency facilities on board, it added.

The helicopter ambulance shall be fully equipped with ICU facilities to ensure safe and effective treatment of patients during the flight, up to the time they reach their destination, the chopper should be equipped with cargo doors to enable easy movement of structures and other instruments.

A single engine rotary wing flying machine capable of carrying five or more than five passengers along with the minimum personal baggage or equipment at high altitude, it added.

Kashmir Bat

cricketing nations will use Kashmiri bats in the upcoming T20 World Cup," he said.

He said Kashmiri bats have emerged as formidable competitors to English willow bats due to their cost-effectiveness. "We are the sole producers capable of offering these bats at very lower rates compared to English willow," he added.

Fawzul said while they previously manufactured white-label

goods or raw materials for bats sent to Jalandhar, Meerut and other cities for branding and sale to international players, they now produce bats locally. "We are confident that Kashmiri bats will gain prominence on the international stage, with famous cricketers opting to use them in the upcoming T20 World Cup," he said.

Kabiir also mentioned the recent visit of legendary cricketer Sachin Tendulkar which he said was an endorsement of the quality bats produced in the region. "This endorsement has resonated with cricket enthusiasts not only in India but also in other countries, and has led to a notable uptick in demand," he said.

Are Watermelons

order, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer.

It further says, "This drive shall continue during the ensuing month of holy Ramazan so as to ensure the availability of standard food items to the consumers. The Action taken Report in this matter shall be submitted to the undersigned on a weekly basis."

Yameen ul Nabi, Assistant Commissioner, Food Safety in Drug & Food Control Organization said that they have taken the samples of watermelon from different areas of Srinagar city including from Fruit mandi, Parimpora and have sent them to the laboratory for tests.

"The reports will come in three days," Nabi said.

He however, told Kashmir Observer that the physical analysis of the fruits has not revealed any adverse findings.

"But we still have taken the samples and everything will be cleared in the coming days," he added.

Nabi added that currently only a single variety of watermelon is available in the market and the consumers can identify themselves whether the fruit is genuine or artificially ripened.

"The pale yellow spot on the watermelon indicates ripeness naturally, while a pale green or red indicates immaturity," he added.

He added that none of the samples taken from the markets were pale green, which could indicate that the fruit has been ripened artificially.

Shagufa Jalal, Deputy Commissioner, J&K Drug and Food Control Organisation, said that the samples are being taken in every district of the valley.

27 year of Publication

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OR SCAN

China, Iran and Russia stage joint naval drills in Gulf of Oman



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The navies of China, Iran and Russia have begun joint drills in the Gulf of Oman, their fifth common military exercise in recent years.

The war games starting on Tuesday coincide with heightened tensions in the region as Israel's war on Gaza rages for a sixth month and Yemen's Houthi rebels have launched attacks on ships in the Red Sea in response.

Russia's defence ministry said the exercises that will run through Friday and involve warships and aviation would focus on the protection of "maritime economic activity".

State media reported that a grouping of ships from Russia's Pacific Fleet, led by the Varyag cruiser, arrived at the Iranian port of Chabahar on Monday ahead of the drills that will see representatives from the navies of Azerbaijan, India, Kazakhstan, Oman, Pakistan and South Africa act as observers.

For its part, China's defence ministry said the drills - called "Maritime Security Belt - 2024" were aimed at "jointly maintaining regional maritime security".

"China will send ... guideddestroyer Ürumqi, guided-missile frigate Linyi and comprehensive supply ship Dongpinghu to participate in the exercise," the ministry added in a statement, without providing further details.

Iranian state media, meanwhile, reported that the exercise's goal is to strengthen "the security of international maritime trade, combating piracy and maritime terrorism", among others.

The drills come as a United States-led naval coalition has been operating in Red Sea waters since December 2023 trying to counter the Houthi attacks.

Separately, some 20,000 troops from 13 NATO members are conducting drills in the north of new member Sweden as well as its neighbours Finland and Norway.

The Nordic exercise is part of wider exercises called Steadfast Defender 24, the largest in decades for the US-led military alliance, with up to 90,000 troops taking part over several months. The alliance says the intention is "to demonstrate NATO's ability to defend every inch of its territory" widely seen as a signal to Russia.

■ CHINA WILL SEND ... GUIDED-MISSILE destroyer Urumqi, guided-missile frigate Linyi and comprehensive supply ship Dongpinghu to participate in the exercise."

US Intelligence Warns Of Mounting Challenges To Current World Order

cies have warned that the country faces an "increasingly fragile world order".

The alarm was sent through the 2024 Annual Threat Assessment report issued on Monday. The document on worldwide threats to US national security cautions that China, Iran and Russia are challenging the current international rules-based order.

The report, outlining the collective insights of the US intelligence community, says the country "faces an increasingly fragile global order, strained by great power competition, transnational challenges and regional conflicts".

Focusing on threats from China and Russia, the report notes the latter's invasion of Ukraine. It also points at the risk of broader conflict related to Israel's campaign against Hamas in Gaza since the October 7 attacks by the Iran-aligned movement that governs the enclave.

"An ambitious but anxious China, a confrontational Russia, some regional powers, such as Iran, and more capable non-state actors are challenging longstanding rules of the international system as well as US primacy within it," the report reads.

Chinese war support

China is providing economic and security assistance to Russia as it wages war in Ukraine, supporting Russia's industrial base, the report said.

The report notes that trade between China and Russia has been increasing and that Chinese exports of goods with potential military use have risen more than threefold since 2022.

In a testimony to the Senate Intelligence Committee in Washington, DC, Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines urged lawmakers to approve more military assistance for Ukraine.

It was "hard to imagine how Ukraine" could hold territory it has recaptured from Russia without more assistance from Washington, she said.

The report also warned that China could use technology to try to destabilise the US directly.

"[China] may attempt to influ-



ence the US elections in 2024 at some level because of its desire to sideline critics of China and magnify US societal divisions," it

Republican House of Representatives Speaker Mike Johnson, an ally of former President Donald Trump, has so far refused to call a vote on a bill that would provide \$60bn more for Ukraine. The measure has passed the Democratic-run Senate.

Central Intelligence Agency Director William Burns told the upper house that continuing support for Ukraine would also send a message to China about aggression towards Taiwan or in the South China Sea.

'Generational impact on terrorism'

Haines noted concern that the conflict in Gaza between Israel and Hamas threatens to spread global insecurity.

"The crisis in Gaza is a stark example of how regional developments have the potential of broader and even global implications," she said.

"While it is too early to tell, it is likely that the Gaza conflict will have a generational impact on terrorism. Both al-Qaeda and ISIL [ISIS], inspired by Hamas, have directed supporters to conduct attacks against Israeli and US interests," she added, also noting the attacks by Yemen's Houthis on shipping.

Haines, who will also report to Congress on Tuesday, added that US intelligence assesses that Hezbollah and Iran "do not want to cause an escalation of the conflict that pulls us or them into a full-

After a protester interrupted the hearing with shouts about the need to protect civilians in Gaza, Burns was asked about children in the Palestinian enclave.

"The reality is that there are children who are starving. They're malnourished as a result of the fact that humanitarian assistance can't get to them. It's very difficult to distribute humanitarian assistance effectively unless you have a ceasefire," he said.

Regarding Israel, the report noted that "Netanyahu's viability as leader as well as his governing coalition of far-right and ultraorthodox parties that pursued hardline policies on Palestinian and security issues may be in jeopardy. "Distrust of Netanyahu's abil-

ity to rule has deepened and broadened across the public from its already high levels before the war, and we expect large protests demanding his resignation and new elections. A different, more moderate government is a possibility," it said.

Emotions rose in the hearing as some senators discussed immigration across the US border with Mexico, which Trump has made a focus of his campaign to defeat Democratic President Joe Biden in the November election.

FBI Director Christopher Wray expressed concern about the terrorism implications from potential targeting of vulnerabilities at the border", noting rising threats from US nationals inspired by armed groups and other foreign fighters since Hamas's attack on Israel on October 7.

Global life expectancy declines by 1.6 years during COVID-19 pandemic, reveals Lancet study

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expectancy dropped by 1.6 years between 2019 and 2021, a sharp reversal from past improvements, according to a research published in The Lancet journal.

One of the first to fully evaluate demographic trends in the context of the first two years of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, the study has published findings, which researchers said, could have implications for health systems, economies and societies around the world.

The findings also included those of an ageing worldwide population. The study found that life expectancy declined in 84 per cent of countries and territories during this time. This demonstrated the "devastating potential impacts of novel pathogens", the researchers said.

Places such as Mexico City, Peru and Bolivia experienced some of the largest drops, the study found.

The researchers also found a marked increase in adult mortality rates globally during the pandemic in 2020 and 2021, reversing past decreasing trends. However, child mortality con-

tinued to drop amid the COVID-19 pandemic, albeit more slowly than in earlier years, with half a million fewer deaths among children under five years in 2021 compared to 2019, they found. The researchers said stark

differences in child mortality persisted regionally, with one in every four children who died globally living in South Asia and two in every four children who died living in sub-Saharan Africa.

The estimates reported here will enable key stakeholders to better understand and address the profound changes that have occurred in the global health landscape following the first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic and longer-term trends in the future, they said.

The research, coordinated by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), University of Washington (UW), US, presented updated estimates from the Global Burden of Disease Study (GBD) 2021.

GBD 2021, the newly pub-

lished most recent round of GBD results, is one of the first studies to fully evaluate demographic trends in the context of the first two years of the pandemic.

Measuring mortality, excess mortality from the COVID-19 pandemic, life expectancy and population, the researchers estimated that global death rate jumped among people aged over 15 years -- by 22 per cent in men and 17 per cent in women -- from 2019 to 2021.

Roughly 131 million people died globally from all causes in 2020 and 2021 combined, of which the pandemic caused about 16 million, either directly by infecting or indirectly by bringing about social, economic or behavioural changes, they estimated.

The team identified high mortality during the pandemic in places previously less recognised or reported such as Jordan and Nicaragua. The high pandemic-related excess deaths in these countries were not apparent in previous all-age excess mortality estimates, they said.

Conversely, they found Barbados, New Zealand and Antigua and Barbuda to be among those places experiencing some of the lowest excess mortality from the pandemic.

The pandemic did not, however, completely erase historic progress made in enhancing life expectancy at birth, which rose by nearly 23 years between 1950 and 2021, they said. Assessing population trends, the researchers found that in 2021, the global population almost touched 7.9 billion, with 56 of 204 countries and territories peaking and subsequently shrinking.
The decline in global popula-

tion was observed to begin in 2017 following years of stagnation, which accelerated during the pandemic. Many lower-income countries, however, continued to see rapid population growth, with the largest share coming from Sub-Saharan Africa (39.5 per cent) and South Asia (26.3 per cent), they said.

The researchers said that further, the global population is ageing with the number of people aged 65 years and older now increasing faster than the number of people younger than 15 years in 188 of 204 countries and territories.



