

Good Morning Kashmir



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Kashmir Records Season's Hottest Day

Srinagar: Sweltering heat conditions continued unabated in Kashmir Valley as Srinagar recorded season's hottest day and 2nd warmest June day in a decade on Thursday. A meteorological department official said that the maximum temperature in Srinagar soared to 34.8°C and it was 5.6°C above normal for the season. Today's temperature surpassed the previous highest of 34.0°C recorded only ●P-02

CS reviews traffic management in Srinagar

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta Thursday chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review the traffic arrangements in the Srinagar City. He also reviewed the status of traffic movement on the Srinagar-Jammu national highway for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra and the ongoing tourist season. The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary ●P-02

J&K charting new path of remarkable growth'

Article 370 was temporary but lasted for 70 years: VP Dhankhar

GMK News Network

JAMMU: Asserting that people are happy since the provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution were abrogated in Jammu and Kashmir, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Thursday said the article was temporary but still lasted for 70 long years.

He also said B R Ambedkar had refused to draft Article 370 while drafting the other articles of the Constitution.

"I had been advocating for it for 20 years. It was an aberration. Go to the text of the Constitution and see that this article was put as a temporary article. It lasted for the last 70 years," Dhankhar said while addressing a convocation of the University of Jammu here.

Stating that the convocation ceremony holds a significant essence in one's life, the Vice President advised the students to never be under tension or stress and never be afraid of failure. He praised the Lt Governor of J&K for steering the UT to newer heights of development.



The Vice President said that Jammu & Kashmir is charting a new path of remarkable growth and development post abrogation of Articles 35-A and 370. The region's integration into the national mainstream has paved the way for investments, development and improved governance, he main-

tained. Shri Dhankhar noted that the region, unlike before, now has the prevalence of harmonious atmosphere and called it as the greatest homage to the life and mission of Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee who laid down his life for building a strong and united India.

The Vice President announced a Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Council of World Affairs and University of Jammu. This, he said, will facilitate greater exposure to the University in domains of culture, education and foreign affairs at a global level.

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manj Sinha expressed gratitude to the Hon'ble Vice President for attending the convocation and blessing the students at the beginning of their working life.

Congratulating the students, the Lt Governor urged them to follow their passion, move forward with new resolutions, adapt to the change and learn new things accordingly, and share the wisdom earned at the University with the world.

"Convocation is the moment of transformation in a student's life. Stepping into the real world is also considered as start of a new mission, a mission to use special knowledge and skills and to contribute in equitable, sustainable growth in building a strong and prosperous India," the Lt Governor

▶▶ LG congratulates students, urges them to follow their passion

▶▶ Convocation is moment of transformation in a student's life: LG

▶▶ NEP promoting education system that makes students conscious: LG

▶▶ Individuality, independent, Critical Thinking will improve resilience and adaptability: LG

Two Lashkar Associates Arrested In Anantnag

Srinagar- Police on Thursday claimed to have arrested two terrorist associates of Lashkar-e-Taiba outfit along with arms and ammunition in Bijbehara area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district. A senior official said that during checking, two persons were arrested along with arms and ammunition. They belong to LeT outfit, the officer said. Both have been ●P-02

Dilapidated pony track poses risk to tourists

Raja Syed Rather

Ganderbal: The tourists at the famous picnic destination Sonamarg have expressed disappointment over the dilapidated pony track leading to the Thajwas Glacier.

Keeping in view the ecological disaster at the glacier area, the authorities banned vehicular traffic on an almost five-kilometre-track leading to Thajwas Glacier and earmarked a pony track for the convenience of tourists. ●P-02

6 Under the guidance of Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji, NEP 2020 is promoting an education system that makes students conscious, not mechanical. It makes them carrier of knowledge, wisdom and values and not a storehouse of memories"Lt Governor

SIU Attaches House Of LeT Associate In South Kashmir

GMK News Network

Srinagar: Police on Thursday said that continuing its crackdown on harbouring terrorists & providing logistic support to them, State Investigation Unit Shopian attached the residential house of Lashkar-i-Toiba terrorist in Subhanpora Bijbehara area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district.

In a statement, the police said that its SIU Shopian under the close supervision of DIG SIU Kashmir, SSP Shopian, DySP CIO SIU Shopian attached the residential house of a terrorist associate in Subhanpora Bijbehara area of Anantnag district, after obtaining nec-

essary sanctions from competent authority. According to police spokesman, during the



course of investigation in case FIR No. 22/2022 of Police Station Zainpora Shopian, under UA(P) Act, a residential house of Abdul Rehman ●P-02

Asiya-Neelofar case

Two doctors terminated for manipulating post-mortem reports

GMK News Network

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday terminated the services of two senior doctors for manipulating post-mortem reports and propagating false narrative regarding the deaths of two women in Shopian district on May, 29, 2009. The doctors have been identified as Nighat Chiloo, a consultant gynaecologist, and Bilal Ahmad Dalal.

Sources said that both the doctors had played a crucial role in falsifying facts and creating a narrative against India by preparing four false post-mortem reports indicating rape and murder of both the women.

The ultimate aim of the duo was to create disaffection against the Indian state by falsely accusing the security forces of rape and murder. The govern-

ment has invoked 311 (2) (c) of the Constitution of India to sack the two doctors after investigation clearly established that Dr. Bilal and Dr Nighat acted on behalf of Pakistan ISI and the terror outfits. The investigation, according to sources, reveals that top echelon of the then government knew about the facts, which was conveniently buried, while Kashmir burnt.

Sources said, after the Shopian conspiracy, Kashmir valley was in flame for 7 months. The seven months of June-December 2009 witnessed 42 strike calls floated by groups like Hurriyat, which resulted in widespread rioting in the valley. Around 600 minor and major law and order incidents were reported from all the districts of the valley, the impact of which lasted till the next year. A total of 251 FIRs were registered in

different police stations for rioting, stone pelting, arson etc. 07 civilians lost their lives and 103 were injured during these protests.



Additionally, 29 police personnel and 06 paramilitary personnel suffered injuries. As per estimate, Rs 6000 crores worth of business was lost in those 7

months. Sources said, Dr. Nighat Shaheen Chiloo, who is working as a Consultant Gynaecologist and currently posted at Sub-District



Hospital, Govt Health Dept, Chadoora, Budgam and Dr. Bilal Ahmad Dalal working as a Medical Officer and is currently posted at NTPHC, Govt Health

Dept Takiya Imam, Shopian, were found to be key players in hatching the conspiracy against Indian State on behalf of Pakistan and Terrorist Outfits. The Shopian episode has emerged to be a classic textbook case study of how Pakistan and its proxies in J&K mobilized their deep assets within several societal and governmental institutions to fabricate a completely false story, give credence to the falsehood by creating false evidence including a totally bogus post-mortem, going to the extent of replacing biological samples to falsely implicate completely innocent police officers and thereby subvert and obstruct the justice system of a proportion that is unprecedented in the annals of criminal justice system.

" Dr. Nighat, Dr Bilal and many others were the lynchpin of this subversion ●P-02

Amit Shah to visit J&K today

SIANS

Srinagar: Union Home Minister Amit Shah will embark on a two-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir today during which he will chair a high-level security review meeting to take stock of the security preparations for



the upcoming Amarnath Yatra that begins on July 1, according to official sources.

While the meeting will take place on Friday, the Union Home Minister is slated to have a darshan of the cave shrine the next day. Also on Saturday, he will visit the Baltal base camp to review preparations made for stay and safety of the pilgrims. ●P-02

Mission Youth

Boon for enhancing skills, promoting youth entrepreneurship

GMK News Network

SRINAGAR: Mission Youth, a comprehensive youth development program, launched by Jammu and Kashmir government, has proved boon towards enhancing skills and entrepreneurship among youth of the region.

The initiative has been successful in addressing the socioeconomic issues faced by the youth of the UT by providing them a platform to optimally harness their skills in different potential entrepreneurial prospects, thereby contributing towards growth and development of the region.

One of the primary objectives of Mission Youth was to address the issue of unemployment among youth which has been successful in creating employment opportunities by providing requisite training and support for entrepreneurship. Under the initiative, the government has established incubation centres and provided financial assistance to

young entrepreneurs to start their own business ventures. This has not only created jobs but also boosted economy of the region.

Muzafar Wani of Ramsoo, Ramban, always dreamt of



owning a vehicle as he wanted to secure a respectable livelihood that could fulfill the needs of his family for a better tomorrow. Wani, who was working as driver couldn't bear expenses of his family including his two daughters with that meagre salary.

"Sometimes I would not get work for many days. Many times I decided to stop my daughters from going to school. I always wanted to educate them but financial constraints always forced me to

look another way". Wani said as he was revealing his struggle of 12 years while working for different vehicle owners on daily basis.

Wani couldn't save enough money to purchase his own vehicle and the unfulfilled needs of the family had ●P-02

6:40 pm (3D Hindi Atmos)

3:15 pm (Hindi)

INOX LIVE THE MOVIE SRINAGAR

INOX CINEMA SHIVPORA

23 June **FRIDAY MOVIES LIST**

☎ 95416 13868

4:10 pm 3D English
6:00 pm (English)

6:20 pm (English)

2:50 pm (English)
With English Subtitles

.....from FRONT PAGE

Kashmir Records Season's

yesterday and was the second warmest day in June in a decade, the official said. He said barring 3 June 2018 when mercury increased to 35°C, never in a decade the mercury has soared above 34.8 in the summer capital of J&K.

Other places including Pahalgam (29.3°C), Qazigund (34.6°C), Kokernag (32.7°C), Kupwara (33.7°C) and Gulmarg (28.0°C) also recorded the hottest day of the season so far, he said.

Qazigund and Kokernag, he said, recorded hottest June day in more than a decade

He said Gulmarg recorded hottest June day in nine years as mercury had on 15 June 2014 touched 26.2°C.

Night temperature also saw increase at most places as Srinagar recorded a low of 20.5°C against 19.7°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 4.79°C for the summer capital.

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 17.2°C against 17.4°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 2.9°C for the gateway town of Kashmir.

Pahalgam, he said, recorded a low of 11.3°C against 10.6°C on the previous night and it was 2.2°C above normal for the famous tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at 17.4°C against 16.5°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 3.3°C for the north Kashmir area.

Kokernag recorded a low of 17.7°C against 18.0°C on the previous night and it was 3.6°C above normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 13.5°C against 13.6°C on previous night and it was above normal by 3.8°C for the popular skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

Jammu recorded a low of 27.8°C against 30.5°C on the previous night and it was 4.7°C above normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal recorded a low of 19.8°C (4.7°C above normal), Batote 21.1°C (3.9°C above normal), Katra 27.2°C (5.2°C below normal) and Baderwah 20.0°C (above normal by 5.1°C). Ladakh's Leh and Kargil recorded a low of 5.2°C and 13.4°C respectively, he said.

Regarding the forecast, he said, mainly dry weather was expected till June 23 "but a brief spell of shower and thunderstorm at one or two places towards late afternoon or evening can't be ruled out".

From June 24-28, he said, generally cloudy weather with intermittent light to moderate thundershower at fairly widespread places has been forecast. "Few places over Jammu Division may receive intense showers for a short period," he said.(GNS)

CS reviews traffic

PWD, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Commissioner SMC, IGP traffic, DIG traffic, DC Srinagar, SSP traffic, VC J&K LCMA and others concerned.

Deputy Commissioners of Anantnag and Ramban attended the meeting through video conferencing.

While chairing the meeting, Dr Mehta stressed upon the officers to take all necessary measures to smoothen the flow of traffic in Srinagar city and all other areas with zero tolerance against offences like wrong parking and lane indiscipline. He expressed concern on the traffic snarls around the Dal Lake area and directed the concerned to take corrective measures in this regard at an earliest.

Maintaining that checking points should not create unnecessary problems for the commuters, CS directed the traffic authorities to make their checking methods more people friendly. He said that there should be no halting of buses at their will and these should stop only at designated locations. He said that wrong parking has to be dealt with strictly and any vehicle found wrongly parked should be towed away.

The Chief Secretary also inquired about the traffic arrangements for the upcoming Amarnath Ji yatra and said that a proper plan should be framed to ensure smooth flow of traffic. He said that the coming months should not witness any traffic jams and all preparations have to be made in advance to plug any loopholes.

Dr Mehta enjoined upon the officers that the experience of yatris on pilgrimage and other tourists should be pleasant so that they promote Jammu and Kashmir as a tourism destination back home.

He also asked the traffic department to hold a stakeholders consultation and formulate SOPs which all stakeholders comply with without need for coercive measures.

The Chief Secretary also inquired about the progress of Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS) in Srinagar and directed the concerned to detect traffic violations through the upgraded system. He said that the traffic department should start generating e-challans against the violators from June 23 at the intersections which are fully automated.

Under the Smart City Project, the authorities have installed closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras and other devices in Srinagar. The cameras have begun sending live video and photo feeds of traffic violations to a command and control centre.

It was informed that the ITMS cameras have been installed about 60 intersections in Srinagar out of which 25 are fully ready to start generating e-challans.

Dr Mehta also asked the Deputy Commissioners of Anantnag and Ramban districts to examine the routes in their respective districts and see that all critical, protective work have been carried out to ensure smooth movement of vehicles.

Article 370 was temporary but

We have to respect individuality and unique talent hidden within each student. Classrooms should inculcate courage, give students the power of independent thinking and inspire them to become a better person and not just a class topper, the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor said, in the future, students will not come to Universities to receive just bookish knowledge or to accumulate more information. Universities will have to prepare human capital which will ensure its relevance in this fast changing world powered by algorithms, he added.

The Lt Governor appreciated the J&K Higher Education Council and Vice Chancellors of all Universities of J&K and associated stakeholders

for their significant contribution in implementing National Education Policy and promoting independent thinking, scientific temper, creativity and nurturing unique personality among the students.

"Under the guidance of Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji, NEP 2020 is promoting an education system that makes students conscious, not mechanical. It makes them carrier of knowledge, wisdom and values and not a storehouse of memories," the Lt Governor said.

"In the coming future, only that education will be relevant which will prepare the student for life-long learning with spiritual and cultural values. Education that will not just impart technical knowledge but promotes individuality, uniqueness of the student. Education that will sharpen student's skill of critical, creative thinking, communication and collaboration and help them to flourish," he observed.

National Education Policy 2020 promotes life-long learning and enables students to adapt to change in different sectors. We cannot predict skills that would be required in the next 10 years but individuality, independent and Critical Thinking, and Creativity will improve resilience and adaptability, he said.

The Lt Governor also extended his hearty congratulations to all the faculty members and teachers of University of Jammu.

Convocation is also a moment of pride for teachers. Our ancient scripture beautifully describes the relationship between Guru and Disciple. Guru prays that his fame and his disciple fame may increase together. This is an example of the highest values of our Indian culture. In that sense, students are not handed over just medals and degrees, but a legacy of values and a huge responsibility on their shoulders to enrich and preserve it for future generations, the Lt Governor said.

Commending the new initiatives of University of Jammu, the Lt Governor said, "I am confident that in the coming days, Jammu University will give new direction to the education sector of the country".

Prof Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu, presented the University report and highlighted special programmes to be rolled out soon. The University is in the process of setting up a full-fledged Directorate of Hindi and a Centre of Excellence in Dogri, he said.

Various significant initiatives of the University of Jammu including programmes like 'College on Wheels', 'Design Your Degree'; promotion of national, local language and culture; translating the Constitution of India into Dogri language; multi-arts festival like Duggar Darpan; initiatives in sync with Hon'ble Prime Minister's call for "Land to Lab" and "Lab to Land" approach; MoU with the High Altitude Warfare School of Army at Gulmarg in the discipline of Disaster Management, received special appreciation from the Hon'ble Vice President.

Dr Sudesh Dhankhar, wife of Hon'ble Vice President; Prof Dinesh Singh, Vice Chairman, Higher Education Council, J&K; Sh Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; Vice Chancellors of various Universities; Members of University Council, eminent personalities; senior officials, faculty members and students attended the Special Convocation ceremony.

Two Lashkar

identified as Abrar ul Haq Katoo son of Mushtaq Ahmed Katoo resident of Arwani Bijbehara and Tauseef Ahmad Bhat son of Mushtaq Ahmed Bhat resident of Shetipora Bijbehara, the officer said.

From their possession, 12 AK 47 rounds, one Grenade and Rs 1 lac were recovered, the officer said.

Meanwhile, an FIR No.150/23 has been registered in police station Bijbehara and investigation has been taken up, the officer added.(GNS)

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Dilapidated

Ponywalas said that not more than one kilometre of the track has been properly maintained while the rest still remains in shambles.

The bad condition of the track poses a grave threat, especially during rains, as it turns slippery, a ponywala said, adding that many tourists have fallen down.

He said that over the past year, numerous tourists have fallen off horses due to the animals' inability to walk properly on the track. There is an urgent need for repairing the tracks, he added.

Meanwhile, Chief Executive Officer, Sonamarg Development Authority, assured that the track will be maintained properly up to the glacier.

"We have prepared the proposal and it will be finalized soon," he said—(KNO)

Two doctors terminated

and obstruction of justice. In Shopian case they acted on behalf of Pakistan and terrorist groups to create unrest in the Valley," Sources said.

A Brief About Shopian Case & The Conspiracy: Asiya and Neelofar of Bongam, Shopian had gone to their apple orchard across the rivulet Rambhara in the afternoon of 29th May 2009. While returning home in the evening hours, they slipped while crossing the rivulet and unfortunately died by drowning. The dead bodies were found early in the morning next day, a little ahead downstream. The bodies were recovered by the family members. Assisted by local police the bodies were taken by the family members to their home. Since the deceased were young and did not die of known illness, the local police initiated inquest proceedings (under section 174 CrPC). By the time the bodies reached the sub district hospital in Shopian, the terrorist-separatist networks had smelled an opportunity to hijack the episode p-02 and use it as a major tool for creating a vicious cycle of arson-rioting-street violence, resulting in a sizable number of civilians getting killed or injured in the process of maintaining law and order, which in turn adding to more anger, more rioting, more force to control it, more deaths and more injuries.

Dr. Nighat, Dr Bilal and other accused hatched a conspiracy to falsify the post-mortem reports of the two victims. Not one but four different post-mortems were prepared each full of intra and inter inconsistency and contradictions by the doctors. Things that did not exist in the unfortunate accident were artificially added. Things that existed were deliberately omitted. Moreover, biological samples belonging to unknown persons (not of the deceased) were fraudulently obtained and placed on record. Four police officers including a District SP were arrested during the initial investigation and put in jail. However, the CBI investigation revealed that they were falsely implicated.

Sources said the CBI did a fantastic job but the justice remained elusive because the local CBI counsel was threatened by the terror outfits and their assets not to pursue the case.

"Tens of hundreds of news and op-ed stories came to be published in local, national and international media vilifying the Indian State for encouraging rape murder and mayhem in Kashmir using its security forces and later hushing it up. The effects of these write-ups have been devastating. Hundreds of youngsters expressed their desire to join terrorism to avenge the dishonour of the women. Immediately after the local setup of terror network in Shopian twisted the drowning incident as rape and murder, the next layer of terror entities based in Srinagar took over the reins of the campaign. HCBA led by Mian Qayoom Srinagar filed a PIL. HCBA has always maintained that it doesn't believe in Indian Constitution. PIL filed by Mian Qayoom led group of lawyers calling themselves as HCBA was a part of the mobilization of resources by the Pakistan ISI and terror outfits," Sources said.

CBI INVESTIGATION REVEALS THE TRUTH & LARGER CONSPIRACY: After CBI's painstaking investigation had revealed that Asiya and Neelofar were not raped and died due to drowning and that Doctors were part of the conspiracy to forge the evidence to paint it as a rape and murder, Mian Qayoom's Bar association asked Pakistan to take up the 'Shopian rape issue' with the International Court of Justice (ICJ) at the Hague. He alleged that the Government of India had failed to deliver justice. His General Secretary G.N Shaheen said, Pakistan was under obligation to take up the issue as 'it is a party to the Kashmir dispute.

"It was premeditated on the part of Pakistan proxy Mian Qayoom and his associates and it is also evident from a series of public press conferences and street protests, he and his associates immediately organized rejecting the CBI findings. The point is: he was least interested in truth, rule of law, due process of law if it was not his version," Sources said.

Sources also said that due to efficient and speedy CBI investigation amidst extremely difficult and hostile conditions which found out the truth backed by compelling evidence that the two women died because of drowning and there was no rape and murder. The CBI investigation also exposed the devious and diabolical role of specific lawyers, doctors and others who subverted and obstructed the justice. The CBI's findings played a crucial role in bringing down the street violence and also in pushing back the false narrative.

However, the terror ecosystem delayed the framing of the charges by the trial court by filing a petition for quashment of charge-sheet in the High Court through two of the accused advocates (advocate Altaf Mohand and advocate Sheikh Mubarak) and ensuring that the CBI counsel does not appear to defend the CBI.

Sources said perusal of available records have revealed very disturbing facts: prima facie it appears that the CBI's local counsel repeatedly failed to appear and represent the CBI's case in the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir resulting in an adverse order that had grave national security implications. Out of 40 'hearings', he appeared only on 06 hearings, perhaps because he was threatened by the terror ecosystem ruling the roost prior to August 2019.

Sources further said that the absence of the CBI's local counsel went unnoticed and unaddressed for a shocking period of around 8 years and 3 months.

"The local CBI counsel absence facilitated in saving the 13 accused (06 doctors, 05 lawyers and 02 civilians) especially Dr. Nighat from being tried for creating false evidence such as bogus post-mortems, maliciously obtaining biological samples of

body fluids (vaginal swabs and spermatozoa) of unknown persons and fraudulently placing it as to be of deceased women, criminally intimidating persons to give false evidence and all of these to falsely implicate security force/police personnel for rape and murder which never happened," Sources said.

It has been further revealed that departmental probe against the doctors for hatching the biggest crime was also sabotaged by the elements in power at that time.

SIU Attaches House

Ganai son of Mohammad Shaban Ganai father of terrorist associate Zubair Ahmad Ganai resident of Subhanpora Bijbehara has been found used by terrorists of proscribed terrorist outfit LeT.

Accordingly, process for attachment of property belonging to the above accused falling within the ambit proceeds of militancy was initiated by SIU Shopian under section 25 of UA(P) Act, he said.

Amit Shah to

"During his visit to the union territory, the Home Minister will also meet delegations of political parties and the civil society," the sources said.

The delegations will include representatives of the Gujjar, Bakarwals and the Pahari communities, they added.

Security forces have been put on high alert for the VVIP visit.

Boon for enhancing skills,

left him in a devastating feeling of frustration and depression. That is when the Mumkin scheme started by J&K Government through Mission Youth came to the rescue of Wani.

"In October last year, a friend of mine informed me about the 'Mumkin' livelihood scheme for unemployed youth and asked me to contact Mission Youth officials, Wani asserted. It was like a dream come true when I was informed about the benefits of the scheme, he said". An elated Wani said that he is satisfied being the happy owner of Tata Yodha and is earning enough to feed his family and educate his daughters.

In the present financial year, 4482 youth have been facilitated for self-employment under the scheme with a total financial support of 165 crore through scheme banking partner and 16 crore as government contribution towards subsidy. Self-employment avenues created under this scheme have instilled a sense of self-reliance and positivity among youth.

Similarly, Tejaswani scheme is a specially tailored self-employment programme for empowerment of young women of Jammu & Kashmir aimed to promote entrepreneurship among them.

This scheme helped them in attaining economic independence and improved their social status. All women entrepreneurs covered under the program have been given Entrepreneurship Development Program trainings through Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), for attaining proper market skills and technology knowhow for making their business viable.

Afshana of Ganderbal always dreamt of securing a respectable livelihood that could fulfill her personal and family's financial needs. She, before opting for Tejaswani, used to give home tuition to small children in her neighbourhood. However, that was not sufficient to bear her personal expenses. "Sometimes I would feel very distraught. I always wanted to serve my family and society but financial constraints always forced me to look another way", Afshana said as she was recalling her past.

Afshana established a poultry farm with the assistance provided under Tejaswani scheme and now she is providing employment to five more fellow girls.

This financial year, assistance to more than 1588 women entrepreneurs has been provided under the scheme with a resultant employment generation of 3615. Total financial assistance to the tune of 102 crore has been sanctioned along with an amount of 12 crore as government contribution towards subsidy. Likewise, the Mission Youth started Youth Volunteer Program for youth engagement at grassroots level and rolled out a special volunteer program in the name of YOUTH CLUBS. The initiative was approved by the Governing Body of Mission Youth, headed by Lieutenant Governor. The volunteer program was made fully operational on the eve of International Youth Day 2021 and 4500 youth clubs have been constituted under the program across the UT.

More than one lakh youth have been involved in volunteer activities through the program who got opportunity to work through real challenges and make meaningful change in the society. Youth have been enabled to learn new social skills like collaboration and problem solving that are vital to succeed in academics, workplace, and their personal lives.

An amount of 7.25 crore has been provided as grant in aid for specified activities of the youth clubs in present financial year.

"We always felt alienated from the system but after joining Youth Volunteer Program of Mission Youth, we are feeling part of policy making and governance", said Aqib from Pulwama.

The youth volunteer members of Pulwama organized a month long drug de-addiction campaign in every Panchayat of the district recently. "We will make Pulwama a drug free district within next few months", said an enthusiastic Youth volunteer.

Mission Youth has been a game changer for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. The initiative has provided the youth with the necessary resources and support to enhance their skills and promote entrepreneurship, thereby contributing to the socio-economic development of the region. The success of Mission Youth serves as an inspiration for other states to implement similar initiatives for the development of their youth.

Mission Youth has succeeded in turning J-K youth into ambassadors of innovation, peace and development through systematic interventions for youth engagement and outreach under six domains including livelihood generation, education/skill development, financial assistance, counseling/theory, sports and recreation.

Remarkably, tremendous work performed by the Mission Youth during past few years bore fruit when the Mission Youth was awarded with Prime Minister's award for the Excellence in Public Administration 2022, under the Innovation (State) category on 16th Civil Services Day this year.

SED issues advisory to combat ill-effects of heat wave

BHAT IMRAN

Srinagar: In order to combat the ongoing heat wave in Kashmir, School Education Department Thursday issued a detailed instructions to be followed by all educational institutes.

In the guidelines regarding precautions to be observed by schools to combat the ill-effects of heat wave, Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) in a circular said that the prevailing heat wave in various parts of Kashmir Division may pose a risk at times to the health of the school going Students.

DSEK said that in order to combat the ill effects of the heat wave, the heads of all educational institutions of government as well as private are advised to adhere to the issued guidelines.

"The guidelines are advisory in nature and schools may use as per local conditions in the manner deemed fit to prepare their own SOPs and guidelines to combat ill effects of the heat wave in their schools," DSEK said.

It also said that the guidelines shall be disseminated among parents, students and teachers for maximum care and benefits.

Guidelines:
 Modifications in daily routines:
 Morning Assembly should be brief and conducted in such an area or in classrooms where students are not exposed to direct sunlight.
 Sports and other outdoor activities be adjusted in early hours.
 Care be taken during assembly and dispersal of students.
Transportation:
 Overcrowding in school buses be strictly avoided and students as per seating capacity be carried in school buses.

Drinking water and first aid kits must be available in buses.
 School Buses and Vans be parked in shaded areas.
 Parents be sensitized to pick up the children personally wherever applicable.
Hydration:
 Sufficient potable water be kept available at multiple places preferably in water coolers or earthen pots (Pitchers).
 Students should be sensitized regarding proper hydration and advised to sip water at regular intervals.
 Increased hydration naturally results in increased use of washrooms so washrooms need to be kept in clean and hygienic conditions.
Food and Meals:
 Meals served to students under PM POSHAN must be served hot and fresh.
 Students carrying food in tiffin be advised to bring light food for lunch which would not become stale easily.
 Lunch of the students be checked before consumption.
 Do's and Don'ts to be displayed at prominent places
Do's:
 Drink sufficient water even if not thirsty.
 Use ORS (Oral Rehydration Solution), homemade drink like Lassi, Lemon Water etc. to keep yourself hydrated.
 Cover your head by Hat, Umbrella or scarf etc. Stay indoors as much as possible.
 In case of illness or faintness, consult doctor immediately.
Don'ts:
 Don't go outside empty stomach or immediately after consuming food.
 Avoid direct sun especially in the afternoon.
 Don't go outside bare foot.
 Don't eat junk or spicy or stale food—(KNO)

High profile event of 'Vitasta Cultural Festival' set to begin today

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The third and final high profile event of "Vitasta Cultural Festival" is all set to begin today with all pomp and show at Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), located on the picturesque banks of Dal Lake, popularly known as "Srinagar's Jewel".
 Union Home Minister, Amit Shah would be inaugurating the carnival.
 Apart from esteemed presence of Home Minister, a multitude of distinguished dignitaries from Jammu and Kashmir, as well as other parts of the country, including Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha and Union Minister of State for Culture, Meenakshi Lekhi, will also grace this momentous occasion, scheduled to be held from June 23 to 25.
 The grand festival, named after the ancient Vedic name of Jhelum River, aims to bring to life



Prime Minister, Narendra Modi's, vision of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' (One India, Great India) under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav initiative. The festival being organised by the Union Ministry of Culture through the North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala, is the last in the series of three programmes of 'Vitasta'. Earlier, this festival was organised in Chennai (Tamil Nadu) and Pune (Maharashtra).
 The dignitaries will also visit the exhibition and art camp organised at the venue. The entry of the attendees would be strictly on the entry cards being issued by the organisers. All the participants are compulsory required to bring their invitation letters for entry to the event.

Deaf, mute orphan siblings from south Kashmir pass class 10 exam with flying colours

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Anantnag: Two deaf and mute orphan siblings from the Hussanpora Bagh area of Bijbehara in south Kashmir's Anantnag district have passed the 10th class examina-
 where hundreds of specially-abled students are receiving education.
 They said that people with disabilities should never lose their hope but follow their dreams with passion. "They too can lead a successful and cheerful life," they said.
 The siblings, however, said there should be separate schools and colleges for the specially-abled children so as to "lead an independent life".
 Their brother Owais Ahmad while talking said he suffered a lot, especially when both Ahsaan and Bisma were studying in primary classes.
 "I work as a labourer and I will leave no stone unturned by their teacher, Ahsaan and Bisma said they are thankful to Javed Ahmad Tak, a Padma Shri awardee who started this school
 tion with flying colours the results of which were declared on Monday.
 Mohammad Ahsaan and Bisma Jan, the students of the Zaiba Appa Institute of Inclusive Education, Bijbehara, have secured 361 and 389 marks respectively. The siblings lost their parents around a decade ago and are raised by their brother.
 In a sign language explained by their teacher, Ahsaan and Bisma said they are thankful to Javed Ahmad Tak, a Padma Shri awardee who started this school



VC NITI Aayog tours B'la; reviews Dev Scenario under ADP

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: The Vice Chairman, National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog, Suman Kumar Bery Thursday remarked that in the last few years the developmental scenario of J&K has changed drastically and significant progress is being witnessed on the ground. He also said that the initiatives are being taken for the progress and prosperity of the people.
 The Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog said this during his extensive tour to Baramulla district today where he carried out an array of activities meant for the overall development of the district.
 At the outset, S.K Bery accompanied by Secretary Planning Development and Monitoring Department, Dr. Raghav Langar visited Government Higher Secondary School Pattan where he inspected Smart class rooms and held an interaction with the students and staff. While inspecting the Smart Class Rooms, S.K Bery applauded the administration for installing the sophisticated equipment in the school and said that the smart classrooms have been equipped with the latest technological equipment enabling the students to get education via modern means and methods. He also held an interaction with the students and school faculty wherein he emphasized the importance of providing quality education to all the students.
 S.K Bery also held a brief interaction with National and International sports champions there. A series of demonstrations were showcased by the champions during which the Vice Chairman NITI Aayog called the champions an inspiration for the youth.
 The Vice Chairman NITI Aayog also paid a visit to Community Health Centre

and took stock of the functioning of the institute, besides having a firsthand appraisal of Medicare and other health services being provided to the patients.
 Interacting with the patients, the Vice Chairman NITI Aayog enquired about the same and exhorted upon the concerned authorities to provide efficient and qualitative health services to the people. Being informed that identified indicators under ADP. She also highlighted the achievements made in sectors like Agriculture and Water Resources, Health and Nutrition, Skill Development and Financial Inclusion and Basic Infrastructure.
 Elaborating further, the DDC said that the efforts of district administration in saturating the identified indicators under ADP have been recognized at Centre developmental economy.
 S.K Bery also appreciated the efforts and tremendous progress made by district administration Baramulla in ADP.
 He further said that the Government aims to assess the various constraints of Aspirational Districts to work upon them for better implementation of the programme. He also impressed upon the concerned officers to work with added Zeal and cohesion in order to be amongst the top ranks of the country in ADP.
 Later, the Vice Chairman NITI Aayog e-launched/e-founded various projects meant for the overall development of the district. The three major projects e-launched and e-founded include Plastic Waste Management Unit at Palhalan Pattan, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and Millets cultivation in Baramulla respectively.
 On the occasion, the Vice Chairman NITI Aayog in presence of Dr. Raghav Langar and Deputy Commissioner Baramulla handed over a cheque worth Rs.15 lacs to Chopans through Sheep Husbandry Department for recognition of its efforts in saturating the desired deliverables. Sanction letters among the eligible beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) were also distributed.
 Meanwhile, the Vice Chairman NITI Aayog visited Government Medical College Baramulla where he laid stone foundation of Medical Records Department (MRD) section in presence of Dr. Raghav Langar, Principal GMC Baramulla, Dr Ruby Reshi, Superintendent Medical College Dr. Parvaiz Masoodi and other concerned. The said project is being undertaken for its execution at an estimated cost of Rs. 52 lacs.



'Probe ordered against ULB head'

VC SDA to enquire into allegations of misconduct by President MC Yaripora

FAIZAN WANI

Srinagar: The administration of Jammu & Kashmir has ordered an enquiry into alleged misconduct by president Municipal Committee Yaripora, Kulgam.
 The Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD) has appointed Haris Ahmed Handoo, vice-chairman Srinagar Development Authority, as an inquiry officer to enquire into the matter of alleged misconduct of president Municipal Committee Muhammad Yosouf Khan. "It is further ordered that Mohd Rafeeq Bhat, JKAS, Deputy Director, Urban Local Body, shall be the presenting officer in the case," reads an order.
 The probe has been ordered under Section 26 of Jammu & Kashmir Municipal Council Act-2000 which empowers the Government to remove a president or vice-president of Municipality from his office on the ground of abuse of his powers or of habitual failure to perform his duties.
 The inquiry officer has been directed to complete the probe within a period of 10 days, the order states.
 It is pertinent to mention that the Housing & Urban Development Department had ordered probes against heads of several urban local bodies in Kashmir.
 In September last year, it had removed Bilal Ahmad Bhat, President, Municipal Committee, Awantipora from his office on the grounds of abuse of his official powers—(KNO)

Majority of schools underperform in class 12 exams in Kupwara

TASADUQ HUSSAIN

Kupwara: In the recently declared results of class 12, 19 out of 54 higher secondary schools in Kupwara district have performed poorly with less than 50 per cent results.
 Kupwara district has a total of 54 Higher Secondary Schools, 102 High Schools, 70 Middle Schools and 894 Primary Schools.
 As per the details available, 19 higher secondary schools have underperformed in the recently declared result of class 12 with below 50% result.
 Figures revealed that 19 Higher Secondary schools have not even managed to cross 50 per cent mark, raising ques-

tion on state of education in the district.
 Of these underperforming institutions only 5 have managed to cross 45 per cent pass percentage. They include BHSS Sanzipora, Laderwan, Tarathpora, Batpora Magam and GHSS Kupwara. Another four more schools have managed to cross 40 per cent pass percentage. They include BHSS Lone Harrie, Kralpora, Sogam, Kandi Khass.
 A total of 824 boys and 742 girls appeared in the examination from the district. Of them, 350 each boys and 350 have passed the examination.
 BHSS Warapora has managed to secure a 40 per cent pass percentage. "In this institution a total of 37 boys and 33 girls appeared in the examination. Of them, only 13 boys and 15 girls passed the examination," showed the figures.
 It said that three schools have not managed to touch the 40 per cent mark as well. They include BHSS Kalaroos, GHSS Trehgam and BHSS Halmatpora have attained the pass percentage of 38.68, 39.39 and 37.86 only. In these institutions a total of 488 boys and 414 girls appeared in the examination of which 179 boys and 166 have passed the examination.
 The figures also revealed that 2 institutions have even failed to secure a pass percentage of 35 per cent. BHSS Keran and BHSS Warsun have secured only 34.55 and 32.00 pass percentage. In these two institutions a total of 110 boys and 70 girls appeared in the examination of which 31 boys and 18 girls attained the pass percentage.
 Three schools, the data revealed, have secured only 25, 25 and 24 pass percentage. They include HSS Tekipora, BHSS Khumriyal and BHSS Kuroosa. A total of 315 boys and 243 girls had appeared in the examination. Of them, only 85 boys and 58 girls have passed the exams.
 At BHSS Teetwal a total of 59 boys and 20 girls had appeared in the examination. Of them, only 10 boys and 4 girls have passed the exams—(KNO)

AG holds interactive session with State Taxes Department

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Advocate General, D C Raina, Thursday conducted an interactive session with State Taxes Department, Srinagar.
 Commissioner State Taxes, Dr. Rashmi Singh, Additional Commissioner, Tax Planning, Ankita Kar, Additional Commissioner (Administration and Enforcement) Kashmir, Shakeel Maqbool and Additional Commissioner (Administration and Enforcement) Jammu, Namrita Dogra along with Deputy Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners and State Tax Officers from both Jammu and Kashmir divisions were present on the occasion.
 D C Raina is the first Advocate General of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and remained Counsel for the Sales Taxes Department in 1980s in the High Court as well as Supreme Court of India. He has in-depth legal acumen not only in constitutional laws but is known for his taxation legal expertise throughout the country.
 The purpose of the session was to provide the STOs with a facilitative and interactive forum for advice on various legal aspects related to taxes.
 Addressing the session, Advocate General stated that since GST is a fairly new law, it is critical for officers to ensure that the orders they issue are not only in accordance with the principle of natural justice but also vividly clear in their reasoning with adherence to letter and spirit of the law. He impressed upon the officers to upload speaking orders whenever such orders for assessment, cancellation, refund etc. are required to be passed.
 Meanwhile, an interactive question and answer session was also held where in several queries of STOs and other officers were addressed by the Advocate General who was flanked by Govt Advocate Sajad Ashraf.
 Additional Commissioner (Administration and Enforcement), Jammu, provided some key takeaways whereas Additional Commissioner (Administration and Enforcement) Kashmir offered vote of gratitude.

Dir H&H reviews progress on Labelling of Handicraft products

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Director Handicrafts & Handlooms Kashmir Thursday took a review meeting to discuss the progress made by the Department on QR code based labelling for the GI & non GI crafts products. On this occasion Director was apprised that besides the labelling work being undertaken for the seven GI registered crafts Pashmina, Soni, Kani Shawl, Carpet, Paper Machie, Walnut carving and Khatambund, QR code based labelling of the copperware products has also been started in association with the copper manufacturers union. The members of copperware association who were also present in the meeting raised the issue that the number of products being labelled needs to be increased and promotion of the QR code based labels needs to be increased by the Department to create awareness among the buyers of the handmade copper products.
 Director H&H Kashmir assured the stakeholders that the manpower required for the labelling work would be increased significantly and a promotional campaign for the copperware will also be intensified to create awareness about the QR code based label.
 The officials of the Department on the occasion demonstrated the features of the QR code based label to the members of the crewl and chain stitch association.
 The Association, while appreciating the efforts of the Department to promote the authentic handmade products assured full support in the implementation of the QR code based labels for crewl and chain stitch products.

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

COACHING CONUNDRUM

Coaching centres over the last five years have come up in every nook and corner of the valley. The private education industry has become very big and has glamourised it like anything. Present day a student not enrolled in any lucrative coaching centre is considered as an old-fashioned entity. The advancement in this field of education has brought with it both good and the ugly, and the noble cause which was the basic ingredient has taken a back seat and money-minting and large-scale commercialization has taken over giving it a bad name. The so-called coaching centres are looting money from students in the name of providing better education facilities. Students across the valley are tempted to study in these institutes and insist their parents for admission at any cost. Education is hope for millions to make a quality change for generations to come. Living with ignorance is living life nothing more than that of an animal. There is one more craze nowadays, i.e., these institutions want merit students in their classes so that they can attract others. They also announce some awards and rewards for those who make good progress. Some City based e-institutions have the habit of advertising the students' photos in leading newspapers stating that so and so as scores cent per cent in the particular exams. Children believe that if they study in these institutes they will achieve their goals. In fact, teachers nowadays are being used by coaching institutes as well as schools as the marketing persons to bring in new admission and that is spoiling the very name of the noble profession. Children are themselves responsible for giving credibility to these coaching centres. It has become a medium of earning money. They don't care whether a student scores good marks or not. All they want is to give a blow to education.

ENHANCING THE SUCCESS OF IVF WITH ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

DR. NEELAM BANERJEE



With recent technological advancements made in the field of fertility treatment, the procedures of Artificial Reproductive Techniques (ART) have made humungous improvements in terms of success rates and safety. Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI) is a form of the micro-assisted fertilization process, one of the common IVF procedures performed clinically for over 20 years. While the IVF procedure involves mixing thousands of motile sperms with each egg in a dish known as the insemination of eggs, expecting that the sperms and eggs would interact through biochemistry. But in cases where either egg or sperm factors are deficient, then very few eggs become fertilized after incubation. However, ICSI has proven to be of immense advantages in cases of Oligozoospermia (low sperm count), Teratozoospermia (abnormal morphology of sperms), and Sperm Transport Disorder, where sperms are produced in adequate numbers, but with depleted motility, quality and concentration.

Revolution in ICSI Technique

ICSI has revolutionized in the treatment of male infertility and when combined with the IVF procedure, the sperm requirement for egg fertilization has dropped from a hundred to only one viable sperm. This has led to the recent development of aggressive new techniques to provide viable sperm for egg fertilization from men with low or no sperm count. Making use of Artificial intelligence, nanotechnology, Laser Assisted Hatching, and robotic ICSI

procedures has revolutionized the outcomes through a selection of the best sperms and best embryos.

Artificial Intelligence - As of now the Artificial Intelligence-based technology, which is still under clinical trial has very high predictive success in identifying the best embryo, in terms of its growth pattern. In this technique, the AI system reviews a massive amount of data (over hundreds of images of each embryo) and analyses the greatest likelihood of each embryo developing into a fetal heart. The embryo with the highest score, and therefore the highest potential

volume, and insertion of sperm into an oocyte with a high degree of reproducibility. Requiring minimal human involvement, various such trials have been successfully conducted with a high success rate of above 90% and a survival rate of 90.7%.

Laser-Assisted Hatching - In some cases, the possibilities also arise that the embryo implantation to the uterus is not successful, pertaining to sporadic reasons. In such cases, once the best embryo is chosen, a procedure known as laser-assisted hatching is performed on the selected embryo before implanta-

tion. Since in some situations, the outer layer of the embryo may thicken abnormally, laser-assisted hatching scientifically allows to make a small opening on the outer layer making it easier for the embryo to implant better to the endometrium.

In-Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) is an Artificial Reproductive Technique (ART) comprising of controlled ovarian hyperstimulation followed by retrieval of eggs from the ovaries, fertilization with sperms in the laboratory, and subsequent transfer of the so-formed embryos inside the uterus. The embryos are cultured in the laboratory for 3-5 days. The treatment is now highly refined with the application

of ICSI (Intra Cytoplasmic Sperm Injection), Blastocyst culture, Laser Assisted Hatching, and TESE (testicular sperm extraction) to name a few.

While it is imperative to say that the IVF procedure requires special care and attention during the process and once after conception, pregnancy is just as precarious as normal conception. With the availability of experienced experts, doctors, nurses, and other medical staff, there is no need to panic for those conceived through IVF, motherhood is the most precious gift for such women.

Having provided the best-in-class



technology for years, it is the vision and endeavor of "The IVF Centre at Yatharth Hospital Greater Noida, to provide Affordable, Reliable, and Transparent treatment to couples battling fertility issues. It is advantageous for the patients to now utilize the well-equipped, modern sophisticated technology taken care of by the experts. Women in different age groups have different health concerns, which will also be appropriately addressed here.

- Dr Neelam Banerjee, Senior Consultant - Gynecology endoscopy & IVF, Yatharth Hospital Greater Noida

Sustainable development wins

WHEN FARMERS CHOOSE TO GROW FOOD, NOT TOBACCO

SHOBHA SHUKLA



"We need food, not tobacco," was the theme of the World No Tobacco Day 2023. The UN health agency, the World Health Organization (WHO) rightly points out that tobacco contributes to increased food insecurity. Apart from being a deadly health hazard that is responsible for over 8 million deaths every year globally, tobacco production also adversely impacts economic stability, food security, gender equality, and our environment.

Grow food, not tobacco, a new report by WHO recalls that globally 349 million people are facing acute food insecurity, many of them in countries where tobacco cultivation has increased by 15% in the last decade. Tragically, 9 out of the 10 largest tobacco producers are low- and middle-income countries, and 4 of these are also low-income food-deficit countries.

It is deplorable that 3.5 million hectares of fertile land across 124 countries are converted for tobacco growing each year - even in places where people are starving. Tobacco cultivation also contributes to deforestation of 200,000 hectares a year, that is cleared annually for tobacco growing and curing. Growing tobacco requires heavy use of pesticides and fertilizers, leading to soil degradation. As soil fertility is depleted, land used for growing tobacco becomes infertile for growing food crops.

The tobacco industry often touts itself as an 'advocate' for the 'livelihood' of tobacco farmers while it hides the fact that tobacco consumption results in a loss of over USD 1.4 trillion to global economy and devastates lives, and our planet. Some farmers and government officials also see tobacco as a cash crop that can generate economic growth. But this is far from the truth. Contrary to tobacco industry claims, research from across the globe shows that tobacco cultivation is neither safe - it can result in green tobacco sickness - nor lucrative. It does not provide a prosperous livelihood for most smallholder farmers and most of them struggle economically. They either incur losses, or generate small profits that are insufficient to support a household.

A WHO report on tobacco and the envi-

ronment found that "short-term benefits of the crop are offset by long-term consequences of increased food insecurity, frequent sustained farmers' debt, illness and poverty among farmworkers, and widespread environmental damage. Moreover 1.3 million child labourers are estimated to be working on tobacco farms, instead of going to school. India and Indonesia are among the top five producers of tobacco in the world. India is the second largest producer of tobacco in the world (and the largest tobacco producer in the WHO Southeast Asia region, followed by Indonesia).

Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director for WHO Southeast Asia region had said that tobacco farmers and tobacco growers and workers are often used by the tobacco industry as front groups to rally against tobacco control. "It is time that the governments and policymakers across the region hold the tobacco industry accountable for the health, environmental and economic costs of tobacco cultivation and use, including the deepening food crisis," she said.

Even though the pace is slow, tobacco growing countries in the southeast Asian region are taking initiatives towards providing alternative livelihoods to tobacco growers and workers. There are success stories from Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka, where tobacco-growing farmers have successfully shifted over to economically viable alternative crops.

During the 7th APCAT Summit of Mayors in Bali (held in December 2022), I spoke with some Indonesian farmers, who had switched from growing tobacco to other crops. This Summit was organised by Asia Pacific Cities Alliance for Health and Development (APCAT).

One of them, Istanto, a farmer from Indonesia's Magelang Regency, had transitioned to growing sweet potatoes. On being asked why the switch from 'bitter' and deadly tobacco to 'sweet' and life-nourishing sweet potato, this is what he had to say: "I started this in 2012. That year the weather was not good for tobacco cultivation so I thought of growing sweet potatoes. And now there are 8 villages that have joined me and switched over to growing sweet potatoes and other crops like corn, pepper, and vegetables. Tobacco is harvested only once a year, but sweet potatoes grow all the year round and can be dug out every day."

"From my personal experience, operational costs for both crops are the same, but profits are much higher from other crops as compared to tobacco. The operational cost per 10 hectare (1000 square metres) is around Indonesian Rupiah (IDR) 2 million for both. But it is at least three times more profitable to grow sweet potatoes as compared to tobacco. While the profit from

growing tobacco on a piece of 10 hectares land is IDR 2.5 million (USD 168), from the same land I am able to make a profit of IDR 6-7 million (USD 470) by growing sweet potatoes, even when the weather is not very good. The profit is even more, when the weather is optimum. When I was young I smoked but now I do not. Now my mission is to #EndTobacco," he added.

The region from where Istanto comes (Magelang Regency) has reduced the area of tobacco plantation from 7,573 hectares in 2012 to 5,265 hectares in 2022.

Another young farmer, who I spoke with, had gone one step ahead. He has not only switched to growing sweet potatoes but also processes them to make snacks from them and sell them.

"Sweet potatoes that are smaller in size, do not fetch a good price. So I make sweet savouries from them and supply them to traders in Jakarta, Yogyakarta, Semarang, Kalimantan and even to Trans Mart in Central Java. I have employed 30 youth to manage this work and so I am generating employment as well. Moreover, unlike tobacco, which requires heavy use of pesticides and fertilisers and contributes to soil degradation, sweet potatoes do not need chemical fertilisers at all. I have also quit smoking, once I switched to growing sweet potatoes," he said proudly.

Yet another farmer I met had switched to growing coffee. He said that, "Tobacco crops are very much weather dependent. If it rains during harvest time, we get poor quality tobacco and so its price automatically goes down and the farmers experience heavy losses. So, since 1999 I, along with 14 other farmers, started transitioning to growing coffee. In 2002 we started intercropping it with other plants. We had to fight 20 lawsuits filed by the tobacco industry against us. Today there are 800 households in my village who have shifted to growing other crops, including vegetables. Now with the presence of other horticultural crops, and with coffee prices getting better, our profits have increased. We started with coffee but have now shifted to growing vegetables too."

"If the weather is good for tobacco then profits are almost the same for both tobacco and coffee. But if not, then growing coffee is more profitable. My message is that there are other crops to grow and not just tobacco. We cannot just depend upon tobacco. We are gradually shifting from growing tobacco. We must diversify and try growing other crops which are equally profitable if not more," he said.

Istanto is the founder of the Indonesian Multicultural Farmers Forum, that has been playing a pivotal role in encouraging farmers to switch to alternate crops. In recognition of these efforts, the WHO pre-

sented the Indonesia Multicultural Farmers Forum with a WHO Director General's World No Tobacco Day Award 2023.

As tobacco cultivation is water intensive, farmers from water scarce regions in Bangladesh are replacing tobacco farming with tea, sunflower, maize and mustard, that consume less water and yield higher profits. One news story cites the example of one such farmer who turned his fortune by starting a small tea garden of 0.6 hectares. He made a profit of BDT 300,000 (USD 2770) from his tea garden in 2021, which is more than twice the profit he used to make from growing tobacco. Other tobacco farmers are shifting to growing sunflower and mustard that are less labour intensive and at the same time, yield better profits. As a result, area of tobacco cultivation fell from 950 hectares in 2020 to 650 hectares in 2021, while the area of mustard rose from 75 hectares to 250 hectares in the country.

In India too farmers are shifting to other crops. As per a news report, tobacco acreage and production in the country have started declining as the government is encouraging farmers to shift to alternative crops like food grains, cereals, pulses, oilseeds, vegetables, sugarcane, oil palm, chilli, groundnut, and French beans, as well as to dairy and poultry activities.

Dr Tara Singh Bam, Asia Pacific Regional Director at the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union) rightly remarked: "There is an urgent need to take legal measures to reduce tobacco growing and help farmers to move into the production of alternative food crops."

Governments and policy-makers must step up legislation, develop suitable policies and strategies, and enable market conditions for tobacco farmers to shift to growing food crops. They should stop subsidizing tobacco crops and instead help farmers grow food.

The 8th Asia Pacific Summit of Mayors (APCAT 2023) will be held in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. It is likely that sub-national government leaders from several cities of countries in Asia Pacific will advance their commitment to progress towards ending tobacco and preventing non-communicable diseases (NCDs), as well as ending TB and viral hepatitis.

Do we want at least two square meals a day for everyone on planet Earth or do we want to gasp with smoke-filled lungs?

The choice is ours to make and to make it now. Else we are doomed.

Shobha Shukla is the award-winning founding Managing Editor and Executive Director of Citizen News Service and is a feminist, health and development justice advocate.

Unmasking the Mirage

Unemployment and its Impact on Marriage



PEER MOHAMMAD AMIR QURESHI

Marriage, the opulent spiritual act of commitment, unfolds in Islam as a celestial contract adorned with profound responsibilities. Rooted in divine belief, it heralds a spiritual union, sealed under Allah's watchful gaze. Far from a mere dalliance, it breathes life into humanity's survival, bestowing purpose and nurturing the very fabric of existence. One of the profound Hadiths that sheds light on the significance of marriage states, "When a man marries, he has fulfilled half of his religion, so let him fear Allah regarding the remaining half." This profound saying underscores that marriage is not merely a worldly affair, but a deeply spiritual act that brings one closer to Allah and completes one's religious obligations. The sacred goal of becoming husband and wife surpasses the carnal realm, beckoning partners to harmonize as stalwart allies, offering unwavering support, boundless respect, and collective effort, weaving a symphony of shared endeavors.

The Messenger of Allah, peace be upon him, illuminated the path of marriage with his divine guidance. He once said, "The most complete of believers in faith are those with the best character, and the best of you

are the best to their wives." This timeless Hadith encapsulates the essence of marital harmony, emphasizing the paramount importance of virtuous behavior and kindness towards one's spouse. In the Islamic ethos, husband, and wife are akin to celestial garments, interwoven with delicate grace. Such is the momentous weight that marriage bears on life's grand tapestry that accurate counsel becomes a priceless gem for those who seek its luminous wisdom. For the divine tenets prescribe chastity, humility, honesty, compassion, kindness, loyalty, and philanthropy as foundational virtues, unveiling a path that transcends mere ritualistic fulfillment. The Messenger of Allah, peace be upon him, further imparted wisdom concerning timely action in the realm of marriage. He advised, "Do not delay in three things: offering the obligatory prayer when its time comes, performing the funeral prayer when the deceased's body is ready, and marrying a woman when a suitable match is found."

This Hadith highlights the importance of seizing opportune moments in forging marital bonds, ensuring that the blessings of companionship, love, and familial stability are not needlessly postponed. Alas, society's distorted valuation of individuals based solely on their vocations, status, and financial prowess births a cascade of afflictions: belated nuptials, fractured unions, superficial love alliances, and even the tragic epidemic of suicides. The insightful study titled "Youth in India 2022," orchestrated by the erudite Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, has unveiled a compelling revelation: Jammu and Kashmir has transgressed the

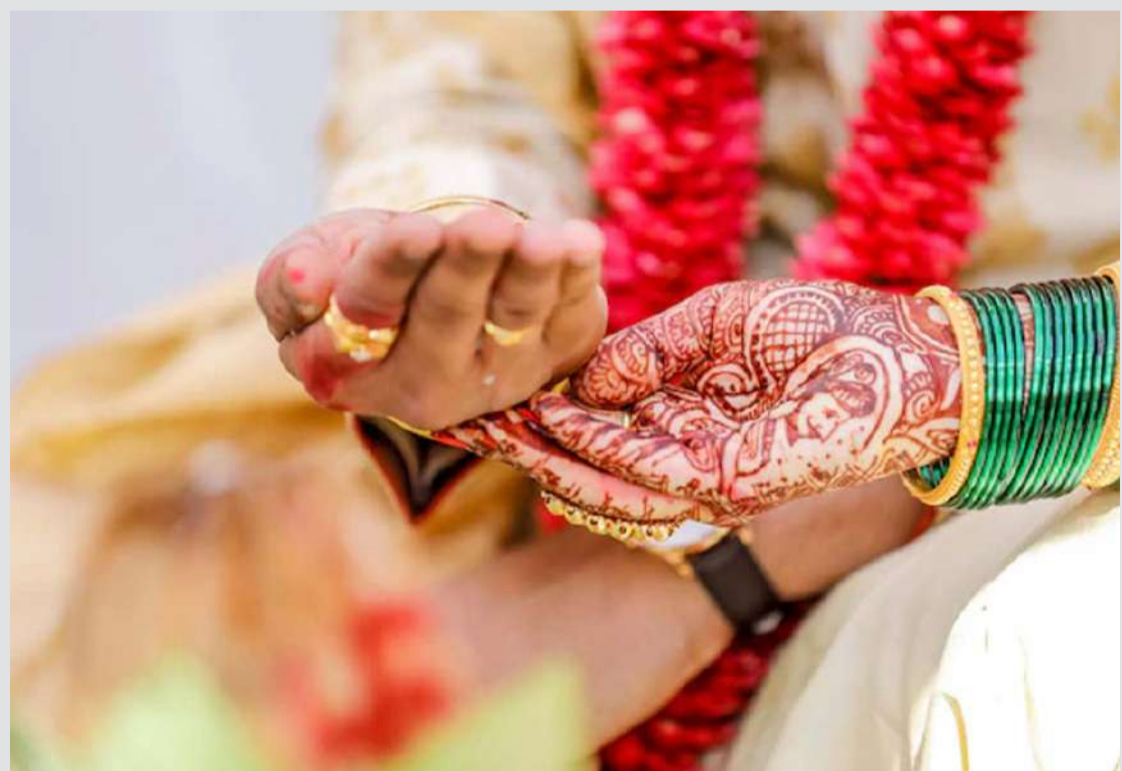
customary bounds of matrimonial unions. Astonishingly, a staggering 29.1% of its vibrant youth remain unmarried and Possess the loftiest proportion of unwedded youth in comparison to the other states of this magnificent nation, India. Regrettably, contemporary times have witnessed an unsettling predilection for government employees, while skilled artisans, laborers, and small traders find their worth forsaken. A haunting ritual of discrimination emerges, weighing the

we stumble through life's intricate choices, unaware of Allah's commands and the teachings bestowed by the Holy Prophet. Let us not forget that unemployment, a transient state, neither besmirches nor defines an individual's worth.

Instead, it is our collective responsibility to ensure justice prevails, upholding the rights of the jobless. We beseech Allah to illuminate our path, resurrecting the teachings we have forsaken in our pursuit of worldly gains. The pervasive phenom-

demanding a fortune worth lakhs of rupees. Islam completely forbids any extravagance in all spheres of life including marriages one should always remember the saying of Prophet Mohammad (SAW) regarded simple marriages as the best marriages "The best marriage is that upon which the least trouble and expense are bestowed" (Mishkat).

In the resplendent tapestry of Islamic matrimony, we uncover a symphony woven with divine threads, where souls



legitimacy of income sources, the halal or haram, the eligible or ineligible, casting a shadow on the essence of genuine connections. In this somber reality,

enon of postponed matrimony can be ascribed, in essence, to the scourge of unemployment, for myriad are the factors that obstruct individuals from embarking on the sacred journey of wedlock, be it the odious burden of dowry or the exorbitant demands of Mehr.

Furthermore, one must not overlook the culpability of the burgeoning prevalence of elaborate customs woven into the fabric of nuptial ceremonies, wherein extravagance assumes myriad forms, such as the incorporation of novel gastronomic delights in the grandiose wazwan or the ostentatious splendor of opulent banquet halls,

entwine, hearts synchronize, and purpose intertwines. Let us embrace this celestial covenant, glistening with the brilliance of profound virtues, as we traverse the pathways of marital bliss, tethered by love, spirituality, and a shared vision. In this sacred communion, we shall find solace, harmony, and the resplendence that surpasses the transitory, emerging triumphant in the eternal embrace of Allah's grace.

The author is pursuing M.Sc in Biological Sciences from HNBGU, Utrakhand. He can be mailed at ehsaanamy133@gmail.com



"When a man marries, he has fulfilled half of his religion, so let him fear Allah regarding the remaining half." This profound saying underscores that marriage is not merely a worldly affair, but a deeply spiritual act that brings one closer to Allah and completes one's religious obligations. The sacred goal of becoming husband and wife surpasses the carnal realm, beckoning partners to harmonize as stalwart allies, offering unwavering support, boundless respect, and collective effort, weaving a symphony of shared endeavors.

To promote offbeat destinations, Tourism Deptt. celebrates Yoga day across Kashmir



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In order to give push to wellness tourism and further promote the offbeat destinations, the Department of Tourism celebrated the International Day of Yoga at multiple offbeat locations across Kashmir valley.

The celebrations were held under the overall supervision of Director Tourism Kashmir, Raja Yaqoob Farooq at Naranag in Ganderbal, Nagdandi Ashram in Anantnag, Teetwal LOC in Kupwara and Aharbal in Kulgam.

The aim of holding the yoga celebrations at these

offbeat destinations was to further promote these destinations and give push to health and wellness tourism across the UT.

The Department, it may be mentioned, has been promoting the lesser-known locations by showcasing their tourism potential and encourag-

ing travellers to explore the off-beat destinations of Jammu & Kashmir. Also the Department has been introducing many new tourism products like wellness tourism, adventure tourism, wedding tourism, MICE tourism etc besides leisure tourism.

PD&SJ Kulgam chairs 3rd DCC meet

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: The 3rd District Coordination Committee (DCC) meeting of various stakeholders for the justice delivery system was held under the chairmanship of Principal District and Sessions Judge (PD&SJ) Kulgam, Mohammad Ashraf Bhat at Rest House Chawalgam, Kulgam.

The meeting was attended by Additional Sessions Judge Kulgam, Chief Judicial Magistrate Kulgam, Secretary DLSA Kulgam and Public Prosecutor Kulgam.

Meeting was also attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Executive Engineer R&B Division Kulgam, Assistant Executive Engineer from R&B, PDD, Chief Medical Officer, DY.S.P Hqrs, Executive Officer Municipal Committee Qazigund, officers of the Housing Board and Superintendent District Jail Anantnag.

During the meeting, the point wise agenda was discussed threadbare and

the various procedural hiccups and other impediments in timely execution of highlighted points were shared with the concerned stakeholders present in the meeting.

The Chairman, emphasized upon the participants for streamlining and enhancing the level of coordination between the courts and other stakeholders for strengthening the justice delivery system and for the said purpose all the participants assured their cooperation on ground to enhance the judicial output by providing required infrastructures and other logistic support to remove the impediment if any at the earliest.

The Chairman extended gratitude to all the participants of the meeting and the meeting was concluded with the hope that the commitments made by the stakeholders in the meeting will get implemented in letter and spirit on ground and review there-of shall be taken in the next Coordination Meeting.

DC B'gam takes stock of beautification works along Humhama-Budgam road



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: The Deputy Commissioner (DC), Budgam Akshay Labroo Thursday took stock of beautification works along the Humhama-Budgam road.

During inspection, DC said that under face-lifting of roads, a robust drainage system will be developed, besides streamlining of public utilities and regular sanitation and cleanliness drives be also carried out at all identified spots from Humhama Chowk to Budgam road stretch.

He instructed the concerned to ensure bush cutting and covering of open areas besides dumping points be shifted from roadside for the public convenience.

Direction was given to the concerned for illu-

mination of Bridge at Naraspora near Railway Approach road besides coloring of electric poles under the beautification of the town areas.

The DC also took stock of construction of Clock Tower at Old Bus Stand, landscaping and tile works there. Instructions were given for completion of all ongoing works in a stipulated time frame.

DC directed the concerned to ensure macadamization of all identified spots, and removal of construction material and legacy waste from either side of the road for smooth and hassle-free movement of both public as well private transport.

Earlier, DC also flagged-off a sanitation rally under Safai Abhiyaan campaign at Humhama Chowk.

DC Shopian felicitates NEET, Class 10, 12 top performers

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: A felicitation ceremony was Thursday organised by the Chief Education Officer Shopian to felicitate the students with outstanding performance in NEET 2023, Class 10th and Class 12th examinations.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb was the chief guest at the felicitation ceremony, which was also attended by officials of the education department along

with scores of top performing students.

The DC along with Chief Education Officer Shopian, Mohd Mushtaq felicitated students and congratulated them and wished them for their bright future.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC delivered a motivational talk. He said the students should set a specific goal early in life and prepare accordingly to achieve it. The determination, hard work and calmness are the secret of success, continued DC.

'LAND TRANSFER FOR 125-BEDDED HOSPITAL IN BUDGAM' Chairman DDC Budgam expresses gratitude to LG Sinha

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: The Chairman, District Development Council (DDC) Budgam, Nazir Ahmad Khan Thursday extended his heartfelt gratitude to the Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha, for his timely approval of the long-pending demand to transfer land for the establishment of a 125-bedded hospital in Budgam.

This crucial decision is set to significantly improve healthcare services in the district and cater to the growing medical needs of the local community.

Over the years, the residents of Budgam have been facing challenges in accessing adequate healthcare

facilities due to the limited capacity of the existing medical infrastructure. The establishment of a 125-bedded hospital has been a persistent demand, and Chairman DDC Budgam has wholeheartedly appreciated the decisive action taken by the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor to address this pressing issue.

The approval of land transfer for the hospital demonstrates the Lieutenant Governor's unwavering commitment to the welfare and well-being of the people of Jammu & Kashmir. By addressing the long-standing demand, the Lieutenant Governor has paved the way for a significant improvement in healthcare services in

Budgam, ensuring that residents have access to quality medical care closer to their homes.

Chairman DDC Budgam emphasized that the establishment of the 125-bedded hospital will not only enhance healthcare facilities but also contribute to the overall development of the district. The provision of comprehensive medical services will positively impact the lives of individuals, families, and the community at large, fostering a healthier and more prosperous society.

Nazir Ahmad Khan expressed his deep appreciation to the Honorable Lieutenant Governor for his vision, leadership, and prompt action in approv-

ing the land transfer for the hospital. The Chairman also acknowledges the efforts of the administration and all stakeholders involved in making this significant step forward a reality.

The District Development Council Budgam is eagerly looking forward to the speedy implementation of the project and remains committed to extending full support to the concerned authorities.

Chairman DDC Budgam believes that the establishment of the 125-bedded hospital will bring a positive transformation to the healthcare landscape of Budgam and significantly improve the lives of its residents.

DC Kathua reviews Eid-Ul-Azha arrangements



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KATHUA: Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rakesh Minhas Thursday chaired a meeting of officers to take stock of arrangements for Eid-Ul-Azha in the district.

The meeting was attended by ASP, Paramjeet Singh; ACR, XEN PDD, XEN Jal Shakti Department, AD FCS & CA, CEO Kathua MC and other district officers. Besides, ADC Basohli, ADC Billawar, SDM Hiranagar and Tehsildar Bani joined the meeting virtually.

The DC held detailed deliberations with officers of the concerned departments to ensure the availability of water supply, First aid, Fire tenders, uninterrupted power supply, security arrangements and proper cleanliness in the district.

The DC exhorted the officers to keep a strict vigil against profiteering and black-marketing of essential commodities during the festive days besides ensuring quality of eatables.

The FCS&CA department was directed to ensure distribution of ration among the people, making sure availability

of essential commodities besides displaying rate lists of eatables by the shopkeepers in the District.

The team was asked to conduct frequent visits to the market particularly during the festival days to keep a check on overcharging and ensure that good quality eatables are provided to the people.

District Police authorities were asked to deploy adequate police personnel at traffic jam prone places of the town, besides ensuring traffic regulation by the Traffic police.

Directions were also passed to PDD and Jal Shakti Department to ensure uninterrupted power and water supply especially during the Eid days. He also directed the Municipal authorities to undertake cleanliness drives in the localities so that it wears a festive look.

He also said that proper arrangements should be put in place at Eid Gahs as per the past practice for the convenience of the devotees.

The DC enjoined upon all the heads of Sub-divisions to convene meetings with stakeholders to ensure timely arrangements for Eid-Ul-Azha.

Young India resurging is golden feature of 9 Saal Bemisaal: Juhi Manhas



GMK NEWS NETWORK

UDHAMPUR: Vice Chairperson, District Development Council, Udhampur Juhi Manhas Pathania Thursday said that 'Young India' exploring new heights and horizons in an ecosystem which has been carefully created is the golden feature of 9 saal Bemisaal.

PM Narendra Modi Government has focused on 'ease of pursuing studies and careers' which has virtually given wings to the aspirations, talent and capacities of students. She was felicitating meritorious students of class 10th, and NEET qualifiers at a colourful programme organised in the precincts of Sri Devi Bani temple, Manwal. The ceremony was organized to recognize and appreciate the hard work and dedication of local students who had excelled in their class 10th examinations.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice Chairperson congratulated the students and encouraged them to continue their academic pursuits with dedication and perseverance. She emphasized the importance of education

in shaping the future of the youth and the nation. She further applauded the way the local students have excelled in toughest conditions in areas where the electricity is not uninterrupted and paucity of staff in the schools.

The Vice Chairperson also highlighted the efforts of the current government in promoting education and ensuring access to quality education for all. She urged the students to take advantage of the various educational schemes and initiatives like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, PM e-vidhya, e-Pathshala, DIKSHA etc launched by the government and work towards their academic and personal growth.

The ceremony was attended by parents, Beopar Mandal, NGOs, and prominent citizens who applauded the efforts of the students and appreciated the initiative taken by the Vice Chairperson in recognizing their achievements. The Vice Chairperson expressed her gratitude to all those who had contributed to the success of the students epically their teachers and parents and wished the students all the best for their future endeavors.

Traffic on Nashri- Banihal stretch to remain suspended for road maintenance

GMK NEWS NETWORK

RAMBAN: Vehicular traffic would remain suspended on either side of the Nashri- Banihal stretch for necessary repair and maintenance works on Friday, traffic authorities said Thursday.

As per traffic advisory issued by the Senior Superintendent of Traffic Police, NHW Ramban June 23rd, 2023 (Friday) has been declared as "Traffic Dry Day" on NH-44 between Chenani Nashri Tunnel to Navyoga Tunnel Banihal. The Traffic Police

issued the advisory on the recommendations of National Highway Authority of India for undertaking important repair and maintenance works on NH-44 stretch between Chenani Nashri Tunnel to Navyoga Tunnel Banihal.

As per the advisory, No Light Motor Vehicle or Heavy Motor Vehicle, except medical emergency vehicles, will be allowed to ply on NH-44 between Nashri Tunnel-Navyoga Tunnel and Vice-Versa from 06 a.m. on June 23, 2023 till 06 AM June 24, 2023.

DDC Shopian reviews performance of Banks

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: The District Development Commissioner, (DDC) Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb Thursday chaired the District Consultative Committee (DCC) cum District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting at Mini Secretariat, Shopian. J&K Bank has disbursed 89 percent of total credit amounting to Rs 1203.74 crore in the district for the financial year 2022-23, intimated District Lead Bank, Manager Farooq Ahmad.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION CONSTRUCTION DIVISION PAMPORE.
DATE CORRIGENDUM

In view of representation made by few contractors the dates of the Fresh e-NIT No. 08 of 2023-24 circulated vide No. PICD/940-53 Dated: - 13-06-2023 are hereby extended as below: -

1	Bid submission date ends	03-07-2023 (06.00 PM)
2	Bid opening date	04-07-2023 (11.00 AM)

All other terms and conditions shall be the same as laid down in the original e-NIT.

NO.PICD/1101-14
Dated:- 22-06-2023
DIPK-3960-23
DT: 22/06/2023

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Irrigation Construction Division,
Pampore

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR
-----Telefax:- 0194-2496089, Email ID:- xenmhchdk@yahoo.in-----
GIST OF E-TENDER

NIT No: MHCHD/TS /2023-24/29/e-tendering Dated: 20.06.2023

For and on behalf of the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UT, e-tenders, valid for 180 days, are invited from the Registered, reputed & experienced firms as detailed in the NIT for below mentioned works:

Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	Time of completion	TS No.	AAA accorded	Earnest Money (In Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Establishment of Waste Disposal/Autoclaving and Media preparation Laboratory in the Department of Microbiology at GMC, Anantnag	7.218	1000	20 days	MHCHD/TS/19 Dt: 06/23	25 GMCA(Pig) of 2023, Dated: 17-06-2023 (Principal GMC Anantnag)	14,500/-

- Downloading of Bids:- The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from 20.06.2023(18.00 hrs) and can be downloaded from 20.06.2023 (18.00 hrs).
- Uploading: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site from 20.06.2023 (18.00 hrs) to 04.07.2023 (12:00hrs) in two (02) covers.
- Opening of Bids:- The bids received upto due date and time shall be opened on 04.07.2023 (14.00 hrs) or any date convenient to the department in the office of Executive Engineer, Srinagar.

No: MHCHD/TS/2020-09
Dated: 20-06-2023

DIPK-3835-23
DT: 21/06/2023

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
MHCHD, Srinagar

"I am a fan...," Elon Musk after meeting PM Modi; planning to visit India next year

GMK NEWS NETWORK

UNITED STATES: Tesla CEO and Twitter owner Elon Musk on Tuesday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is on a four-day State visit to the US and said that he is a fan of him and was honoured to meet him. Speaking on PM Modi's leadership role in making technology inclusive so that digital infrastructure can be created, he said, "I can say he really wants to do the right thing for India. He wants to be open, he wants to be supportive of new companies, obviously, but at the same time, make sure it accrues to India's advantage, which is obviously that's the job I'm saying, I am a fan of Modi," to ANI.



In response to PM Modi's tweet regarding his meeting with business leaders in the US, Musk tweeted, "It was an honor to meet again." "In the USA, I will also get the opportunity to meet business leaders, interact with the Indian community and meet thought leaders from different walks of life. We seek to deepen India-USA ties in key sectors like trade, commerce, innovation, technology and other such areas," tweeted PM Modi.

He also divulged plans to visit India anytime soon. On being questioned over whether PM Modi extended an invitation to him, he said, "He did. And yes, I'm tentatively planning to visit India again next year. I'm looking

forward to it." Notably, this is the first meeting between PM Modi and Musk after he became the owner of Twitter. PM Modi earlier met Musk in 2015 during a visit to Tesla Motors factory in California.

"Well, I'm actually incredibly excited about the future of India. I think India has more promise than any large country in the world," told Musk to ANI. Speaking about the takeaways from the meeting, Musk said that PM Modi really cares about India because he is pushing

them to make significant investments in India, which is something that they intend to do and are just trying to figure out the right timing.

Earlier, during an interview with The Wall Street Journal, Musk was asked if the automaker was interested in the Indian market. "Absolutely," he replied. He added that Tesla will likely finalise a location to set up its India factory by the end of this year.

"It was a fantastic meeting with the Prime Minister

and I like him quite a lot. He visited our Tesla Fremont Factory several years ago, and so we've now known each other for a while, said Musk after meeting PM Modi today. Speaking about future plans and investment in India, he said, "Yeah, well, I think there's a tremendous amount of potential for all three pillars of the sustainable energy future. The three pillars are sustainable energy generation through solar and wind, primarily. And obviously, India is great

for solar. And the amount of land area you actually need to generate enough electricity to power India is very small. I believe it'd be probably one or 2 per cent of the land area of India. So it's very doable. And then you need to pair that with stationary battery packs because the sun doesn't shine at night. And then you need electric vehicles, and then you have a sustainable energy future. And I think the interesting thing people will find is that this is a lower cost way to go as well."

Musk also said that he is looking forward to bringing Starlink to India as well. "The Starlink Internet, which I think can be incredibly helpful for sort of remote or rural villages where they perhaps either may have no access to the Internet or the Internet is very expensive and slow," he said.

Notably, his meeting comes days after former Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey alleged that the BJP-led central government threatened to shut down Twitter in India and have its employees raided at the height of the farmers' protest in 2020. PM Modi will be meeting over two dozen thought leaders from various fields after he lands in New York today.

These leaders comprise Nobel laureates, economists, artists, scientists, scholars, entrepreneurs, academics and experts from the health sector. (MILAP NEWS NETWORK)

"India is working hard to fight terrorism": Member of Sikh community

GMK NEWS NETWORK



NEW YORK: Darshan Singh Dhaliwal, a member of the Sikh community, on Tuesday, said that India is working hard to fight against terrorism.

"India is really working hard to fight terrorism. And we can see it back home and every place else. There are very few people who are kind to us," Dhaliwal said as he was heading to the 9/11 Memorial.

On September 11, 2001, terrorists al Qaeda hijacked four aeroplanes and carried out suicide attacks in the United States in which 2,977 people lost their lives.

Two of the planes were flown into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, a third plane hit the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, just outside Washington, D.C., and the fourth plane crashed in a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

Notably, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has arrived in New York today on his first official State visit to the US.

Meanwhile, another Indian origin residing in the US, Vipin Dutta said, "I am from Jammu and Kashmir and have seen terrorism first hand. I've been living in the US for the last 25 years and we have seen what has happened to the Kashmiris and Hindus in Jammu and Kashmir. And terrorism and terrorists are always a bad thing all over the world."

"The US has seen it

and stood with everybody."

He also pointed out PM Modi's statement "this is not an era of war" and said which world leader has the courage to tell this to Russia's President Vladimir Putin. He also stated that with this statement, PM Modi sent a clear message, "There is just no room in the world for any acts of terrorism."

PM Modi is also going to address the joint sitting of the Congress, the first Indian PM to address the Congress twice. In 2016, PM Modi spoke about how India and the US have overcome the hesitations of the past during his Congress address.

Ricky Kej, a renowned musician, described it as a remarkable fusion of two nations—one being the largest democracy on Earth and the other known as the oldest democracy.

Meanwhile, three-time Grammy award-winning musician Ricky Kej said, "I am in New York for Prime Minister Modi's visit. It is a beautiful amalgamation of two countries, one is the largest democracy on this earth and the other is said to be the oldest democracy on earth. We're going to the 9/11 Memorial because it's a heart-wrenching site and a constant reminder that terrorism in any form is absolutely not acceptable. We are here in full solidarity with the families of the victims to show that what happened to them was absolutely wrong and should not happen again." (MILAP NEWS NETWORK)

CELEBRATING ARTISTIC FUSION

National Painters' camp embraces Kashmir's cultural heritage

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KASHMIR: Kashmir Valley is currently buzzing with artistic fervour as the National Painters' Camp, a collaborative initiative between the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages and the North Zone Cultural Centre (NZCC), is underway.

The camp, held as part of the Vitasta Festival, was inaugurated by Bharat Singh Manhas, JKAS Secretary of the Academy, amidst the presence of renowned artist Masood Hus-

sain and Ravinder Sharma, Programme Officer of NZCC.

This grand gathering has attracted talented artists from various states of North India, who have come together with local artists to celebrate the rich cultural heritage of the region. The camp serves as a platform for artists to showcase their diverse talents and engage in artistic exchanges, fostering a vibrant atmosphere of creativity.

Bharat Singh Manhas emphasized the significance of artists as a treasure of talent

for any society, stating, "Their talent needs to be utilized in all respects." He highlighted the purpose of the festival, which aims to celebrate artists in all their forms while honouring the cultural heritage of the region in its myriad manifestations.

Furthermore, he expressed that the festival would offer a multitude of cultural and musical performances, free of charge, for the general public to enjoy.

Masood Hussain, an acclaimed artist, and Sh. Ravinder Sharma also shared their perspectives on the occasion,

acknowledging the importance of such gatherings in promoting artistic expression and cultural exchange.

Among the distinguished artists invited to participate in the camp are Masood Hussain from Srinagar, K.S. Gill from Amritsar, Jang S. Verman, Suman Chib, Shivani Khajuria, Ashok Mehra, Kamalnain Bhan from Jammu, Jaspreet Singh from Chandigarh, Durgesh Kumar Atal from Gurgaon, Norbu Wangyal from Himachal Pradesh, Prabhjot Singh from Kalka, Javed Iqbal Sopori,

Masood Tabish, Snober Jeelani Shah, Muneer Ahmed Khan, and Ifra Jan Shah from Kashmir. These artists are elated and expressed their gratitude to the government for initiating such a remarkable platform.

Painters' camp unfolds, and the scenic beauty of Kashmir serves as an inspiring backdrop, igniting the creativity of the artists and influencing their artistic expressions. The camp encourages artists to explore new techniques, experiment with diverse styles, and celebrate the cultural tapestry of

Kashmir through their artwork.

The amalgamation of artistic talents from different regions brings forth a vibrant fusion, showcasing the diverse colours, textures, and narratives that define Kashmiri art. The camp not only provides a platform for artists to exchange ideas and learn from one another but also creates a deeper understanding and appreciation for the rich artistic heritage of Kashmir.

In the words of one of the participating artists, Ifra Jan Shah, "This camp is a convergence of artistic souls, a space

where we transcend boundaries and celebrate the beauty of diversity. It is a unique opportunity to learn from each other, grow as artists, and create meaningful connections."

In this picturesque valley, where nature's splendour intertwines with artistic expression, the National Painters' Camp unfolds as a vibrant tapestry that weaves together the threads of tradition, innovation, and the collective spirit of artistic brilliance. (MILAP NEWS NETWORK)

Amritsar: The Indian City Where No One Goes Hungry

GMK NEWS NETWORK

Amritsar is a city in northwestern India best known for the Golden Temple, one of the most revered religious sites in the country. But the temple is more than just a place of worship; it is also a symbol of the city's efforts to combat hunger. The temple's Langar, or communal kitchen, serves free meals to anyone who visits, regardless of religion, caste, or social status. In a country where millions go hungry daily, the Langar program is a beacon of hope and an example of how faith-based initiatives can bring about positive societal change.

The Sikh community founded the Golden Temple and the Langar Kitchen almost simultaneously. The philosophy behind the creation of the Langar was to provide free, nutritious food to anyone who visited the Golden Temple, regardless of their caste, religion, or social status. The Langar embodies the Sikh belief in "seva," which means selfless service to the community. The Langar also manifests Sikhism's core tenet of equality, which opposes social and economic disparities. The Langar is a well-organized kitchen that operates 24/7 and serves free food to an average of 100,000 people daily. The kitchen runs on donations from Sikh communities worldwide, and every contribution is humbly accepted. The cooking, serving, and cleaning system is harmonized, and volunteers from

all backgrounds participate throughout the day. No one is paid for their work, and no one is ever turned away from the Langar. On festivals and holidays, the number of people served can exceed 500,000. The Langar's menu consists of simple yet nutritious vegetarian food. The menu consists primarily of rice, lentils, vegetables, and flatbread, with a dessert or snack. Everything is prepared using traditional methods, and fresh ingredients are used to maintain quality and nutrition.

Langar's impact goes far beyond just feeding people. It fosters a sense of community, unity, and equality. People of all religions, castes, and social standings sit and eat together, sharing the same food and space. The Langar's inclusive atmosphere even extends to the kitchen, where the humble tasks of peeling garlic or washing dishes are done together without any sense of hierarchy. The Langar is a place where fundamental human values such as kindness, compassion, and generosity are celebrated, and those who partake in its offerings feel physically and spiritually nourished.

The Golden Temple's langar program is not only an example of Indian hospitality but also a demonstration of how religious institutions can contribute to creating a more equitable society. The program's success is partly due to the temple's organizational structure, which operates on a fully decentralized system. The temple is managed by

a democratically-elected body of Sikhs known as the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), which oversees the temple's operations and finances. The SGPC is accountable to the Sikh community and works to ensure that the langar program is run efficiently, sustainably, and with the highest standards of hygiene and cleanliness. The Langar has had an impact far beyond Amritsar. It has inspired similar initiatives in different parts of the world, such as the Langar Seva Society in Vancouver, Canada, and the Dalit Welfare Organization in Chennai, India. Langar has shown that hunger is not a problem that needs to be tackled only by governments and NGOs but can be addressed as a community. Langar has also demonstrated that a simple act of kindness can profoundly impact society.

Amritsar's Langar is an extraordinary example of how religion can inspire social and humanitarian initiatives. It shows that we can find ways to uplift our communities and promote equality even in the face of economic and social disparities. The success of Langar's model is that it can be done without financial investment or specialized technical expertise. It is simply an expression of the love and compassion that lies at the heart of Sikhism. Amritsar's Langar stands out as a testament to the infinite power of kindness and generosity in a world where millions suffer from hunger and poverty. (MILAP NEWS NETWORK)

India slams China for blocking proposal in UN to label Sajid Mir as 'global terrorist'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW YORK: India has lashed out at China for blocking proposals at the United Nations to designate Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Tayyiba's Sajid Mir as a "global terrorist."

"...If we cannot get established terrorists who have been proscribed across global landscapes listed under security council architecture for pure geopolitical interest, then we do not really have the genuine political will needed to sincerely fight this challenge of terrorism..." Prakash Gupta, Joint Secretary, at the Ministry of External Affairs, said at the United Nations counter-terrorism meeting on Tuesday.

In a stern response to China's move at a high-level summit, India without naming its neighbouring country said it "had strong reasons to believe that something was genuinely wrong in the global sanctions regime as manifested in the Security Council."

Detailing a history of terror attacks in India, Gupta said, "India has faced the brunt of terrorism largely flowing from across our borders for well over three decades. Whether it is the Mumbai terror attack of 2008, the 2016 Pathankot Air Base attack, or the 2019 Pulwama terror attacks, we have lost several thousands of innocent civilians as well as the bravest of our armed forces in this battle against terrorism."

"But regretfully, justice still continues to elude the victims of the Mumbai terror attacks," he added.

The MEA Joint Secretary then played an audio in which Mir is heard instructing the attack on Chabad House, one of the terror targets in the Mumbai attack.

"Even as the terror attacks were unfolding, Sajid Mir, a very

dreaded terrorist who directed the terrorists from across the border in real time to hunt down foreigners in the Taj Hotel and kill them indiscriminately. He was listed as a proscribed terrorist under the national laws of India. He was proscribed, under the laws of the United States, this host country and of several other countries globally, many of whose nationals lost their lives," Gupta added.

He then in a veiled attack on China said, "When the proposal for labelling him as a global terrorist did not go through the Security Council sanctions regime, we had strong reasons to believe that something was genuinely wrong in the global sanctions regime as manifested in the Security Council."

"We really do not have the genuine political will needed to sincerely fight this challenge of terrorism," India said.

Even 15 years after the Mumbai terrorist attacks, its masterminds have not yet been brought to justice.

So the first and most critical gap we feel addressing is avoiding double standards and this self-defeating justification of good terrorists versus bad terrorists.

The MEA joint secretary also reiterated PM Modi and said, "We consider that even a single attack is one too many, and even a single life lost is one too many."

On Tuesday, Beijing blocked the proposal that had been moved by the US and co-designated by India to blacklist Mir under the 1267 Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee of the UN Security Council as a global terrorist and subject him to assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo.

China's blocking of the proposal by the US and India comes as prime minister Narendra Modi is in the US for his first State visit. Sajid Mir, one of India's most

wanted terrorists, is wanted for his involvement in the 2008 terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India. Mir served as the chief planner of the attacks, directing preparations and reconnaissance, and was one of the Pakistan-based controllers during the attacks.

"Beginning on November 26, 2008, and continuing through November 29, 2008, ten attackers trained by the Pakistan-based foreign terrorist organization Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LeT) carried out a series of coordinated attacks against multiple targets in Mumbai, including hotels, cafes, and a train station, killing approximately 170 people. Six Americans were killed during the three-day attacks," the FBI website reads.

Earlier in 2022, India at the UN counter-terror meet in Mumbai revealed in detail Pakistan's role in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack by playing Pakistan-based terrorist Sajid Mir's audiotape. In the audio clip, he is heard directing the attack on Chabad House during Mumbai 26/11 terror attacks.

Meanwhile, China, in recent months, has blocked several bids to designate several terrorists based in Pakistan. In October last year, Beijing put on hold a proposal to list Talha Saeed, son of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) chief Hafiz Saeed. This bid was moved by India and co-supported by the US, under the 1267 sanction regime.

It was the fifth time that China has blocked an India-US proposal in recent months, Lashkar-e-Taiba member Shahid Mahmood in October, Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist Sajid Mir in September, LeT and Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD) leader Abdul Rehman Makki in June, as well as Abdul Rauf Azhar in August, the brother of Jaish-e-Mohammed (JEM) chief Masood Aghar, were protected by Beijing. (MILAP NEWS NETWORK)

57 blasphemy cases registered in Pakistan from January to May 2023: Report

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ISLAMABAD: At least 57 cases of alleged blasphemy have been registered in Pakistan from January to May 2023, Eurasia Review reported, adding that the highest number of such cases, 28 in total, were reported in Punjab while Sindh followed with 16 cases, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with 8 and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) with 5.

Two Christian teenagers, identified as Adil Baber and Simon Masih, were recently accused of blasphemy in Lahore, Pakistan. The allegations against them were levelled by the police constable Zahid Sohail, soon after he had indulged in an altercation with the young accusers on May 28.

According to the registered First Information Report (FIR) No 902/23, Sohail alleged that the boys uttered blasphemous remarks against the Holy Name of the Prophet Muhammad while he was walking to a mosque to pray.

Adil Baber is 18 years old while Simon Masih is 14.

The accused's families denied the allegations, claiming it was the result of a personal dispute between the two boys and Sohail, as they had a pre-vious altercation. Moreover, the families argued that during the initial confrontation, witnesses present at the scene demanded evidence to substantiate

the claims but none was reportedly provided at the time of the arrest.

The family, while demanding a free trial, urged the authorities to address their concerns about the fairness and objectivity of the investigation process, with questions surrounding the potential bias given that the accuser is also a police officer.

Human Rights activist Joseph Jansen and chairperson of Voice for Justice, condemned the incident, adding that the increase in the misuse of the blasphemy laws and its use as a retaliation act to settle personal disputes must be stopped, as numerous people languish in prisons for years until the courts finally realize the miscarriage of justice and set them free, Eurasia Review reported.

Further, according to the report, a fair trial is the right of every citizen guaranteed in the constitution of Pakistan and the protection of accusers until proven guilty is the responsibility of the state.

Jansen further asked for a proactive response from the authorities to safeguard the young boys and their families during and after the legal proceedings, as such fabricated accusations often lead to the climate of mob violence and vigilante justice targeting religious minorities. (MILAP NEWS NETWORK)

PM Modi meets top American CEOs, seeks technological collaboration



IANNS NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is currently on a state visit to the US, met a cross section of American CEOs in Washington and sought their technological collaboration in India.

pany to contribute towards strengthening the semiconductor ecosystem in India and also to develop process technology and advanced packaging capabilities.

Modi and Dickerson discussed the potential of Applied Materials' collaboration with academic institutions in India to create a skilled workforce.

The Prime Minister then met CEO of General Electric (GE) Lawrence Culp Jr., during which Modi apprecia-

ted the company for its long-term commitment of manufacturing in India.

The discussion focused on GE's greater technology collaboration to promote manufacturing in India, while Modi also invited the company to play a greater role in the aviation and renewable energy sectors in India.

Later in the day, Modi also met Sanjay Mehrotra, the Indian-American CEO of Micron.

The Prime Minister invited Micron Technology to boost semiconductor manufacturing in India and also noted that the country can provide competitive advantages in various parts of the semiconductor supply chain.

On Thursday, Modi will address the US Congress and also attend a state dinner at the White House hosted by President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden.

Tally Solutions eyes 2X growth, launches TallyPrime 3.0

UNI HYDERABAD: Tally Solutions, India's leading business management software provider, has announced the launch of TallyPrime 3.0.

Priced at Rs 18,000 plus GST, this latest version software comes with a completely revamped GST solution, significant improvements in the reporting capability, and better capabilities to help businesses collect outstanding dues faster, said Bhuwan Ranjan, General Manager - South Zone, Tally Solutions Pvt. Ltd, on the occasion on Wednesday.

Tally Solutions hopes this release will be a stepping stone to double its revenue and take its customer base from 2.3 to 3.5 million customers in the next 2-years, he said.

"Telangana is one of the most dynamic state of India and home to over 26 Lakh MSMEs with key business across categories including IT /ITES, Pharmaceuticals, Food Processing, Textile, Handicrafts amongst others, he said nearly 1.5 lakh GSTIN base in Hyderabad alone and 6 lakh in across Telangana. We are enjoying close to 70 percent market share."

Digitization is one of the key pre-requisite for MSMEs to grow and scale and Tally Solutions has been working closely with MSME's in Hyderabad, overall in Telangana to address this gap. The company will continue to host sensitization sessions independently and in collaboration with industry bodies to help MSMEs address their challenges and adopt automation, he said.

ernment both to simplify and tighten the compliance system. Keeping this constant change in mind, we have completely revamped our GST experience to make it tremendously flexible for businesses to remain compliant with confidence. We have also taken our reporting system and introduced the ability to create unlimited custom reports with simple to use search and save capabilities. We are committed to bringing solutions to our customers that they can truly use and grow with."

With the multi-GSTIN capability, TallyPrime 3.0 users will be able to manage multiple GSTIN data in a single Tally Company giving tremendous flexibility to the customers to maintain their business data centrally using a single company with ease and efficiency, he claimed. The new release ensures trailblazing speed while generating GST returns and reconciliation of GSTR 1, 2A and 3B in a much more seamless manner. It offers a digital payment request feature, enabling businesses to enhance operations and scalability. Businesses can generate and embed payment links or QR codes into their invoices or other reports, he informed.

Customers can make the payment through various preferred modes like domestic and international debit and credit cards, EMIs, Pay Later, Net banking, UPI and mobile wallets thereby significantly increasing the speed of money movement and easing out cash flow problems for the business owners. Tally has collaborated with PayU and Razorpay as payment gateway partners, he said.

Germany's top newspaper slashing 20% of jobs, replacing workers with AI

IANNS LONDON: German media giant Axel Springer is laying off 20 percent of newsroom jobs and apparently replacing some employees with artificial intelligence (AI) technology, reports surfaced on Thursday.

Axel Springer CEO Mathias Dopfner, a friend of Tesla CEO Elon Musk, has ushered in a "digital-only" phase, reports CNN. The roles of editors, photo editors, proofreaders and other employees involved in print production will "no longer exist as they do today," the publisher wrote in its memo.

Australia threatens to fine Musk's Twitter over rising online hate

IANNS SYDNEY: Australia's cyber regulator on Thursday issued a legal notice to Elon Musk-run Twitter, seeking information about what the social media giant is doing to tackle online hate on the platform.

If Twitter fails to respond to the notice within 28 days, the company could face maximum financial penalties of nearly \$700,000 a day for continuing breaches.

Australian eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant said that Twitter's terms of use and policies currently prohibit hateful conduct on the platform, but rising complaints to eSafety and reports of this content remaining publicly visible on the platform, show that Twitter is not likely to be enforcing its own rules. "We are seeing a worrying surge in hate online," eSafety research shows that nearly 1 in 5 Australians have experienced some form of online hate," she said in a statement.

"This level of online abuse is already inexcusably high, but if you're a First Nations Australian, you are disabled or identify as LGBTIQ+ you experience online hate at double the rate of the rest of the population," Grant added.

According to eSafety Commissioner, they received more complaints about online hate on Twitter in the past 12 months than any other platform and has received an increasing number of reports of serious online abuse since Musk's takeover of the company in October, 2022.

The rise in complaints

also coincides with a slashing of Twitter's global workforce from 8,000 employees to 1,500, including in its trust and safety teams, coupled with ending its public policy presence in Australia.

"Twitter appears to have dropped the ball on tackling hate. A third of all complaints about online hate reported to us are now happening on Twitter."

"We are also aware of reports that the reinstatement of some of these previously banned accounts has emboldened extreme polarisers, peddlers of outrage and hate, including neo-Nazis both in Australia and overseas," she noted. Last month, US advocacy group GLAAD designated Twitter as the most hateful platform towards the LGBTQ+ community as part of their third annual social media index.

Research by the UK-based Center for Countering Digital Hate (CCDH) demonstrated that slurs against African Americans showed up on Twitter an average of 1,282 times a day before Musk took over the platform. Afterwards, they more than doubled to an average of 3,876 times a day. The CCDH also found that those paying for a Twitter Blue Check seemed to enjoy a level of impunity when it came to the enforcement of Twitter's rules governing online hate.

"We need accountability from these platforms and action to protect their users and you cannot have accountability without transparency and that's what legal notices like this one are designed to achieve," Grant said.

Nothing may foray into smartwatch segment

IANNS LONDON: London-based consumer electronic brand Nothing will reportedly enter the smartwatch market.

Leaker Mukul Sharma had spotted a trademark called 'CMF BY Nothing'

earlier this year, however recently, the same trademark was spotted attached to a product's certification listing with the model number 'D395,' reports Android Authority.

This product is expected to be a smartwatch. In February, when a

user tweeted, "please tell me @nothing will enter the smartwatch business one day. I used to pray for times like this," Nothing CEO Carl Pei replied, "Learning about the category."

Pei on Monday had shown off a transparent USB Type-C cable for

the upcoming 'Phone (2)' smartphone. He had also said, "Man, our new USB Type-C cable is 'nice'." Last week, the electronic brand announced that it will launch its next flagship smartphone, Phone (2), in India on July 11.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION CHADOORA NOTICE INVITING TENDERS E-NIT No. 46 of R&B /3437-48/2023-24 Dated 21/06/2023 Single Cover System For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

Modi's visit to US will be helpful to implement Indo-Pacific strategies: South Korea

UNI

SEOUL: Welcoming Prime Minister Narendra Modi's historic visit to the US, a top official at the South Korean foreign ministry on Thursday said it will be helpful for the country to implement their Indo-Pacific strategies.

Also calling it a good signal, he said, PM Modi's visit would also mean that the US would try to support India's policies towards South Asia.

"It is a good signal for us too. India will be having different relations with the US. This means the US will try to support India's policies towards South Asia, and at the same time it will be helpful for us to implement our Indo-Pacific strategies, and especially our strategy would be based on



three important principles of them would be the inclusiveness."

"So, we welcome His Excellency PM Modi's visit to the US," the Korean official told reporters here replying to a UNI query. US President Joe

Biden and First Lady Jill Biden on Wednesday received PM Modi at the White House.

The President, the First Lady and PM gathered for an intimate dinner and enjoyed a musical tribute to the regions of India,

according to the White House.

Modi arrived in Washington from New York where he led a historic event at the UN Headquarters earlier in the day to commemorate the 9th International Day of Yoga, attended by UN officials, diplomats and prominent personalities.

PM Modi gifted Biden a special sandalwood box which highlights the value and respect Indian tradition associates with experience, officials said.

Modi gave President Biden the unique sandalwood box sourced from Mysuru with intricately carved flora and fauna patterns and handcrafted by a master craftsman from Jaipur during an intimate dinner at the White House on Wednesday.

Indian among 4 killed as truck rams into pick-up in Sharjah

SIANS

DUBAI: An Indian and three Pakistanis died on the spot after a pick-up in which they were travelling flipped several times over after being hit by a heavy truck in Sharjah, a media report said.

The accident occurred at around 5.45 a.m. on Wednesday morning on the Sharjah-Al Dhaid Road between the Al Dhaid Bridge and Al Zubair district. The Khaleej Times reported.

The accident occurred when the pick-up's driver entered the Sharjah-Dhaid Road from an entry point without checking the extreme right lane of the highway, said Colonel Abdullah Al Dukhan, Deputy Director-General of Sharjah Police.



He added that the speeding truck driver also did not expect a vehicle to enter the lane suddenly.

The truck loaded with sand rammed the pick-up, causing the latter to flip over several times.

Due to the crash, the engine cabin of the truck separated from its body and fell on the pick-up, which was the reason

behind the instant death of the four passengers, Colonel Al Dukhan was cited as saying in The Khaleej Times.

The operations room received a call about the accident and immediately dispatched the ambulance units to the site.

While the driver of the heavy truck is safe, the bodies of the four passen-

gers have been shifted to Al Kuwaiti Hospital morgue.

The Al Dhaid Road, which sees fatal accidents frequently, has been opened for traffic without much delay.

Recently, six Asian expatriates died and 15 others were injured when a heavy truck collided with a bus transporting workers on the same road.

9 detained after China restaurant blast kills 31



SIANS

BEIJING: Nine people were detained on Thursday over a massive explosion at a barbecue restaurant in China's Yinchuan city which killed at least 31 people.

Authorities said that the detained persons included the owner of the Fuyang Barbecue Restaurant, as well as staffers and shareholders of the eatery, reports Xinhua news agency.

Assets of the nine people have also been frozen.

Verification of the identities of the victims is underway and local authorities are also conducting an investigation into the cause of the accident.

The explosion occurred at around 8.40 p.m. on Wednesday due to an alleged gas leak at the restaurant which is part of a cluster of eateries and entertainment venues in Yinchuan, the capital of

the Ningxia autonomous region.

Seven injured persons are currently being treated at a hospital.

The detentions came shortly after President Xi Jinping demanded to hold the relevant people accountable in accordance with the law.

He also called for maximum efforts in treating the wounded and boosting safety measures.

"We must do our best to rescue the injured and reassure the families of the casualties, identify the cause of the accident as soon as possible, and seriously pursue responsibility according to the law," the BBC quoted Xi as saying.

Fire and rescue services dispatched more than 100 personnel and 20 vehicles to the scene, the Ministry of Emergency Management said.

The rescue operation lasted until 4 a.m. on Thursday.

Violent storm rips through Texas town, 3 dead

SIANS

HOUSTON: At least three people were killed and about a dozen buildings damaged after a violent storm ripped through the small town of Matador in Texas, authorities said.

Matador, which has about 600 residents, is located some 290 miles northwest of Dallas, reports The New York Times.



According to William Iwasko, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Lubbock, the town was under a tornado warning as the storm ripped through the area at around 8 p.m. on Wednesday night.

"Based on the damage, there was most likely a tornado" in Matador, but that will be determined on Thursday, he added.

While confirming the

fatalities, Matador Mayor Pat Smith said that an unknown number of people may be injured and that there was "a whole lot of damage", with electricity also down across the town.

He said several businesses and homes were destroyed on the west end of the town, adding that rescue workers pulled residents from collapsed houses.

"It's really, really bad," The New York Times quoted the Mayor as saying.

Wednesday night's storm came nearly a week after a tornado pummeled the town of Perryton, also in Texas, killing three people and destroying dozens of mobile homes.

That tornado was part of a ferocious series of storms that swept across the South last week.

Death toll from destruction of Kakhovka dam rises to 46

UNI

KYIV: The death toll from the flooding in the Russian-controlled part of the Kherson Region caused by the destruction of the Kakhovka dam has increased to 46 people, local emergency services told Sputnik on Thursday.

"After the destruction of the Kakhovka hydroelectric power station, the death toll in the Kherson Region increased to 46," an emergency services spokesperson said.



The upper part of the Kakhovka power plant on the Dniro River was damaged overnight from June 5 to June 6.

Its crumbling caused an uncontrollable outflow of water to towns on the Russian-controlled eastern bank of the river and the Ukrainian-held western bank.

Moscow and Kiev have blamed each other for the dam's destruction.

Authorities in some of the affected areas evacuated the population.



Office Address: Sheikh Bagh Forest Complex Srinagar -190001

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Email: cfkashmir@gmail.com

(Selection of Candidates as Junior Assistants 2023 - Notice)

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, KASHMIR.

Subject: - Final Selection of candidates for the posts of Junior Assistants (District Cadre Srinagar and Baramulla) in terms of Notification No. 03 of 2021 dated: 04-06-2021 and Item No. 584 & 589.

Reference: - Communication No. PCCF/NG/Estt/698 dated: 24-03-2023 and No: PCCF/NG/Estt/47/1172 dated: 02-06-2023 from the PCCF (HoFF) Jammu and Kashmir.

NOTICE

Whereas, the PCCF (HoFF) Jammu and Kashmir vide communication No. PCCF/ NG/Estt/698 dated: 24-03-2023 and No: PCCF/ NG/ Estt/47/1172 dated: 02-06-2023 has forwarded the selection list of candidates for the posts of Junior Assistants (Divisional & District Cadres) issued by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board in terms of Notification No. 03 of 2021 dated: 04-06-2021 to this Office for issuance of formal appointment orders in respect of the selected candidates after fulfilling all the Codal formalities in terms of Jammu and Kashmir Forest (Subordinate) Service Recruitment Rules notified vide SRO- 335 of 1991 and getting verification of character & antecedents in terms of Government Order No. 1003-JK(GAD) of 2021 dated: 27-09-2021 and Circular No. 18-JK (GAD) of 2022 dated: 20-05-2022.

Whereas, in order to process the verification of Character & Antecedents on Employee Verification System (EVS), the e-mail IDs and contact numbers of the selected candidates are required.

Now, therefore, in view of the above, the following two candidates whose withheld selection has been released by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board vide No. JKSSB-PLAN/25/2022-03 (E-7069680) dated: 04-05-2023 duly forwarded by the Administrative Department Forests vide communication No. FST-NG/5/2021-02 dated: 19-05-2023 and PCCF (HoFF) J&K vide letter No. PCCF/NG/Estt/47/1172 dated: 02-06-2023, are hereby called upon to submit their e-mail IDs and contact number details to this Office in person or through e-mail ID: cfkashmir@gmail.com and cfkadmsection@gmail.com by or before 30-06-2023 positively for uploading the same on Employee Verification System (EVS):-

Sr. No	Item Number of the Selection list	Name of the candidate	Parentage	Residence	Selection Category	Cadre
01	584	Faisal Jan	Ab Rash id Najar	H No. 328, Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar	OM	SRINAGAR
02	589	Arun Kumar	Kuldeep Raj	Ward No:2, Khandwal Jammu	SC	BARAMULLA

The details be furnished in the following format:-

Sr. No.	Item Number of the Selection list	Name of the candidate	Parentage	Residence	Selection Category	Cadre	E-mail ID	Contact number
I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX

It must be noted that in case any of the candidates fail to submit the required details within the stipulated time, it shall be presumed that he / she is not interested take up the appointment as Junior Assistant in Forest Department (territorial Kashmir region) and shall forfeit the right of appointment without any further notice.

No: CCF(K)/Admn/2023/Sel-JAs/
Dated: - June - 21-2023

(Mohammad Maqbool Bhat)

DIPK-3910-23

Administrative Officer,
O/o Chief Conservator of Forests,
Kashmir

DT: 22/06/2023

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER, HAJIN

Office Address: Banger Mohallah Hajin Opposite GGHS Hajin Email: cdpohajin04@gmail.com

Subject:- Engagement of candidates for the post Sanginis (AWWs).

This office has advertised nine posts of Sanginis (AWWs) vide advertisement notice No.- 01 of 2023 Dated:- 25-05-2023 under endorsement no.- CDPO/ Poshan/H/2023/229-31 Dated:- 25-05-2023 and same was published through department of information vide DIP NO.- 132361 in daily Newspapers (Kashmir Observer & Good morning Kashmir) on 28-05-2023 and vide publicity was given through PRIs and same was also uploaded on website of District Administration Banihalpora and applications were received accordingly. After proper Scrutiny of application forms by the District level selection committee constituted vide Government Order No.- 222-JK(SWD) of 2022 Dated:- 30-11-2022, the final merit list of candidates for each ward was made accordingly as per H.R policy for Sanginis (AWWs) which is now being published for inviting of objections if any, within 10 days from the date of publication, after expiry of cut date no objection shall be entertained. The merit list of all candidate is mentioned at Annexure "A" and provisional / Tentative selection list as per Annexure "B" is shown below for each ward from were applications for engagement of Sanginis (AWWs) were received.

"Annexure A"

S.NO	Name of Candidate	Parentage/Husbands Name	D-O-B	Name of Location for which she has applied	Marks obtained as per 12 th marks sheet submitted by Candidate	Percentage of Marks
01	Muskana Rafiq	Mohammad Rafiq Rather	19-09-2004	Sofi Mohalla Ward No:- 03 Goshbugh C	421/500	84.20%
02	Jabeena Bano	Nazir Ahmad Rather	04-12-1990	Sofi Mohalla Ward No:- 03 Goshbugh C	346/750	46.13%
03	Suriya Bashir	Ishaq Hussain ganaie	05-05-1995	Sofi Mohalla Ward No:- 03 Goshbugh C	205/500	41.00%
04	Asmat Ara	Bashir ahmad Rather	16-09-2002	Gund Prang Ward NO:- 07	371/500	74.20%
05	Sarjeela Shafi	Mohammad Shafi Rather	05-11-1998	Gund Prang Ward NO:- 07	354/500	70.80%
06	Syeda Yousof	Mohmad yousof Rather	20-11-1998	Gund Prang Ward NO:- 07	289/500	57.80%
07	Shaista Bano	Mehraj ud din Wagay	03-02-1998	Gund Prang Ward NO:- 07	279/500	55.80%
08	Tabasum Rasheed	Mudaber Ahmad Wagay	04-12-1989	Gund Prang Ward NO:- 07	410/750	54.67%
09	Bushra Ali	Ali Mohammad Wagay	03-05-1995	Gund Prang Ward NO:- 07	273/500	54.60%
10	Najmeema Hassan	Ghulam Hassan Wagay	16-11-1998	Gund Prang Ward NO:- 07	261/500	52.20%
11	Tahira Razaq	Rais ul islam Rather	01-03-1987	Gund Prang Ward NO:- 07	296/750	39.47%
12	Sakeena Ali	Ali Mohammad Najar	01-01-1990	Gund Prang Ward NO:- 07	270/750	36%
13	Suraya Jan	Mohd Younus Rather	01-04-1994	Rather Mohalla Ward NO:- 08 Safapora	560/750	74.67%
14	Ishrat Amin	Owais Qayoom	16-03-1991	Rather Mohalla Ward NO:- 08 Safapora	436/750	58.13%

"Annexure B"

S.NO	Name of Candidate	Parentage/Husbands Name	D-O-B	Name of Location for which she has applied	Marks obtained as per 12 th marks sheet submitted by Candidate	Percentage of Marks
01	Muskana Rafiq	Mohammad Rafiq Rather	19-09-2004	Sofi Mohalla Ward No:- 03 Goshbugh C	421/500	84.20%
02	Asmat Ara	Bashir ahmad Rather	16-09-2002	Gund Prang Ward NO:- 07	371/500	74.20%
03	Suraya Jan	Mohd Younus Rather	01-04-1994	Rather Mohalla Ward NO:- 08 Safapora	560/750	74.67%

No: CDPO/Poshan/HAJIN/2023/
Dated: -06-2023

DIPK-3849-23
DT: 21/06/2023

Child Development Project Officer
Poshan Project Hajin

PM outlines 5-point proposal for India-US collaboration in education, research

UNI

NEW DELHI/WASHINGTON: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday outlined a five-point proposal for energising the India-US collaboration in the education and research sector, during a special event on skilling attended by US First Lady Jill Biden.

The points outlined at the 'India and USA: Skilling for Future' event are:

- Integrated approach bringing together government, industry and academia
- Encouraging exchange of Teachers & Students
- Organising Hackathons on various subjects between the two countries
- Mutual recognition of vocational skills qualifications
- Encouraging visits of people associated with education and research.

The event was held at the National Science Centre in Washington DC.

The event focused on workforce redevelopment across higher education institutions to expand and enhance access to quality



education across society. Prime Minister Modi highlighted the numerous steps taken by India to promote education, skilling and innovation. He appreciated ongoing bilateral academic exchanges, and collaborations between Indian and US academic and research ecosystems. The event was attended by the President of Northern Virginia Community College, President of Association of American Universities, President and CEO of Micron Technology, and students. Prime Minister Modi in a tweet said he was hon-

oured that the US First Lady joined the event. "Honoured that @FLOTUS @DrBiden joined us in a special event relating to skill development. Skilling is a top priority for India and we are dedicated to creating a proficient workforce that can boost enterprise and value creation." The MEA spokesperson in a tweet said: "Together in Skilling for the Future. PM @narendramodi & @FLOTUS @DrBiden participated in a unique event focused on promoting vocational education and

skill development among youth." "PM & @FLOTUS discussed collaborative efforts aimed at creating a workforce for the future. PM highlighted various initiatives undertaken by India to promote education, research & entrepreneurship." The US First Lady in a tweet said: "Education is a cornerstone of the bond between the United States and India. Today, @narendramodi and I heard how our countries are empowering the next generation to learn and grow together to tackle global challenges."

G20 countries must play role in promoting research, innovation in edu sector: PM Modi

UNI

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday stressed that G20 countries can play a crucial role in promoting research and innovation in the education sector, especially in the Global South.

Addressing the G20 Education Ministers' Meet held in Pune via video message from the US, the Prime Minister urged the dignitaries to create a path for increased research collaborations in the education field.

Stressing the role of G-20 countries, he said there is a need for striking the right balance between the opportunities and challenges posed by technology.

Modi also pointed out that India would be happy to share these experiences and resources, particularly with those in the Global South.

Underlining the need to make our youth future-ready by continuously skilling, reskilling, and up-skilling them, the Prime Minister emphasized aligning their competencies with evolving work profiles and practices.

"In India, we are undertaking skill mapping where the Education, Skill, and Labour Ministries are



working in tandem on this initiative," he said. Modi also suggested that G-20 countries can undertake skill mapping at the global level and find gaps that need to be plugged in. Highlighting the role of digital technology, he said it can serve as an equalizer and promotes inclusivity... adding that it is a force multiplier in increasing access to education and adapting to future needs". He also touched upon the potential of Artificial Intelligence which offers great potential in the field of learning, skilling, and education. Throwing light on the emphasis laid on research

and innovation, the Prime Minister said India has set up ten thousand 'Atal Tinkering Labs' across the country which act as research and innovation nurseries for our school children. He informed that more than 7.5 million students are working on more than 1.2 million innovative projects in these labs. Highlighting the significance of the G20 Education Ministers' meeting towards the future of our children and youth, the Prime Minister expressed delight that the group has identified green transition, digital transformations and women's empowerment as accelerators for achieving

Sustainable Development Goals. "Education is at the root of all these efforts", the Prime Minister said. The Prime Minister said education is not only the foundation upon which our civilization has been built, but it is also the architect of humanity's future. The Prime Minister referred to the Education Ministers as the Sherpas and said they are leading mankind in its effort for development, peace, and prosperity for all. "The need to adapt and use new e-learning innovatively and said the objective must be to provide quality education with better governance," he said.

Flood situation worsens in Assam, 1.20 lakh people affected

IAN S

GUWAHATI: The flood situation in Assam deteriorated further on Thursday with more areas being inundated due to an upsurge in the water levels as torrential rain continued to lash the state. According to the latest

A total of 20 districts and sub-divisions have been flooded, with over 10,000 hectares of crops damaged and more than 1 lakh animals affected.

The state administration has opened at least 14 relief camps in flood-hit districts. Another 17 relief distribution centres were



bulletin of Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), over 1,19,800 people have been affected by the floods in the districts of Dhemaji, Dhubri, Kokrajhar, Baksa, Barpeta, Darrang, Lakhimpur, Nalbari, Sonitpur and Udalguri.

Nalbari is currently the worst-hit with almost 45,000 people reeling under flood waters, followed by Baksa (26,500) and Lakhimpur (25,000), according to the ASDMA data.

also operating. More than 2,000 people have taken refuge in the relief camps. The State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) has swung into action and already rescued 1,280 people. Meanwhile, the regional centre of the India Meteorological Department in Guwahati has issued an 'orange alert' and predicted heavy to extremely heavy rainfall in the state over the next few days.

TN anti-graft organisation alleges Rs 136 cr corruption in cooperative societies

IAN S

CHENNAI: Anti-graft organisation in Tamil Nadu, Arappur Iyyakam, has alleged that in the past six years, corruption to the tune of Rs 136 crore was done in cooperative societies of the state.

Arappur Iyyakam, a social organisation based in the state, has actively been pursuing against corrupt practices involving government and allied bodies in the state and had brought out many reports that had led to inquiries and actions in the state.

In a statement, the organisation said that as per an RTI response, corruption to the tune of Rs 1 lakh to 10 lakh have taken place in around 62 per cent of cooperative societies in the state.

Corruption of Rs 10 lakh to Rs 50 lakh have taken place in 18 per cent of the societies, it added.

The society called upon the state government to conduct a proper inquiry and to take action against those involved and to reg-

ister an FIR against those who have indulged in corruption in these cooperative societies.

The Arappur Iyyakam demanded that the government take action against the secretaries and employees of these cooper-



erative societies who are "involved" in corruption. The organisation wants the government to recover the money that was lost from these cooperative societies from those responsible for inflicting the losses.

Arappur Iyyakam has already petitioned the Tamil Nadu Cooperatives Minister KR Periyakuruppan, Finance Minister Thangam Thenarasu and Chief Secretary V. Irai Anbu to take action against those responsible for the corrupt deals in these cooperative societies.

Tel: 0194-2416090 Fax: 0194-2416090 Email: eomcganderbal@gmail.com

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL GANDERBAL
SHORT TERM QUOTATION

For and on behalf of the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir State sealed quotations affixed with Rs: 5/- revenue stamps are invited from the registered dealers/ mechanical workshops for repairing of Sucker Vehicle of this Council as per below mentioned details:-

S.No	Name of items with description	Rate to be quoted
1	Pump Repairing and Four Wheel alignments.	Complete Job
2	M.Oil change/M.oil , Oil filter, Diesel filter and Air Filter	Complete Job
3	Tie Road End and Steering Box and Motor Bearing	Complete Job
4	Qaman	Complete Job
5	Front Mirror and Window's repairing	Complete Job

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- The sealed tenders should accompany with CDR of Rs:- 1500 (Rupees Fifteen Hundred Only) pledged to Chief Executive Officer Municipal Council Ganderbal without CDR no tender will be entertained
- The sealed quotations should reach to the office of the undersigned by or before 24/06/2023 up to 2 pm either by post or by hand on the printed letter head of firm/mechanic.
- The rates should be quoted both in words and figures without cutting/ overwriting.
- The quotations shall be opened on the same day after 2 pm or on any other convenient day to the opening authority in presence of the agency who which to be remain present.
- The successful dealers shall be bound to repair the vehicle items as per the above referred details.
- The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the quotations without any reason.
- Further details can be had from the office of the undersigned during the working hours.
- The rates should be quoted inclusion of all applicable taxes.
- The interested party /agency can visit the office during office hours for checking of the Vehicle.

No: MC/GBL/2023/1350-53
Dated:-19/062023

Chief Executive Officer
Municipal Council
Ganderbal

DIPK-NB-1406-23
DT: 21/06/2023

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (4th Call)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION GANDERBAL
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
EE/R&B/Divn/Gbl/e-tenderFreshNITNo.37of 2023-24 issued under endorsement No.4025-29
Dated.22.06.2023

For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tenders are being invited on an **Percentage age basis** (as applicable) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with the J&K Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money (in rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1.	Improvement/Upgradation of link at Ahanger Mohalla to Filtration Plant Gutli-bagh under C&T (Machine Mix laid with Mechanically/Manually).	19.24	Rs.800/=	Rs.38480/-	07 Days	C&T	AAY with HMPO/ (CEE/ BEE) Class Civil with Registered MoU with HMPO

Project Authority: R&B Department
Position of AAA: Accorded
Position of funds: Available

- The bidding documents, which would include qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications/drawings, a bill of quantities (B.O.Q), a set of contract terms and conditions, and other details, can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in on the dates listed below: -

S.No	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	22/06/2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	22/06/2023 from 1.00 PM.
3	Bid submission Start Date	22/06/2023 from 1.00 PM.
4	Bid Submission End Date	27/06/2023 from 4.00PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	27/06/2023 from 4.05 PM in the office of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Ganderbal

- Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.
- At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/ FDR/ BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal. The successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/ Maintenance Period.
- The date and time of bid opening shall be notified on the Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and automatically communicated to bidders via an e-mail message sent to their e-mail address. Responsive bidders' bids will be opened online on the same Web Site in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal (tender receiving authority).
- Bids for the work shall be valid for 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- Bidders are advised to download the bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as the "Bidders Manual Kit" option on the website www.jktenders.gov to familiarize themselves with the bid submission process.
- In order to participate in the bidding process, bidders must obtain a 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' under the Information Technology Act of 2000. Any approved Vendor can provide bidders with a digital certificate.
- Bidders must submit their bids in electronic format with a digital signature online. No physical bids will be accepted.
- Bids will be opened online in accordance with the time schedule specified in Para-1.
- Bidders must upload online scanned copy of all required documents (within the document upload limits) with their technical bid.

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

- The department will not be held responsible for any delays in online submission due to unanticipated circumstances.
- The original Treasury Challan (Cost of tender document) and other Uploaded bid documents shall have to be produced on demand by the successful bidder at the time of contract signing, and in the case of unsuccessful bidders, 2% EMD in the form of CDR/ FDR/ BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal, will be released only after production of Original Treasury Challan of uploaded Scanned copy (Cost of tender document).
- Bidders are advised not to change the contents of the BOQ (Bill of Quantities). They should never attempt to create similar BOQ manually.
- Bidders should be fully cognizant that if the documents uploaded/ submitted on the basis of which the contract was awarded are later discovered to be fake/ not genuine, the contract will be cancelled and the Contractor/ bidder will be blacklisted from participating in this Division/ Department for a period of three years, in addition to the performance security deposited for the said work being forfeited.
- Price escalation and Taxes: -The bidder's percentage shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes up to the completion of the work. Taxes shall be deducted from the contractor's bills on the gross amount of the bill at the time of recovery at the rates in effect at the time of recovery.
- Bidders are advised to use the "My Documents" area in their R&B e-Tendering portal user account to store any required documents.
- All bidders must UPLOAD the following information and documents with their bids, in addition to the qualification criteria / qualification information, (All documents pertaining to the bid must be in English):
 - All bidders must submit copies of original documents defining their constitution/legal status, place of registration, and principal place of business, as well as their cell phone number and e-mail address.
 - A valid Contractor/ Firm Registration Certificate issued by a competent authority in accordance with the Contractor Registration Act.
 - Treasury Challan & Earnest money
 - Valid PAN Card
 - Scanned copy of Registration Card with latest renewal on JKPWOMS portal
- Scanned copy of GSTIN registration and most recent clearance certificate FORM GST-3B of the Latest Quarter i.e. January-March 2023/Qualifying Month i.e. May 2023.
- Bidders are advised to quote Rate without GST. GST @ 18% shall be added at the time of allotment by allotting authority.
- The rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes excluding GST. GST @ 18% shall be added at the time of allotment by allotting authority upto completion of the work unless otherwise, specified.
- In case the contractor/agency doesn't own/possesses Hot mix plant, it shall submit a MOU on notarised affidavit with any registered HPMO on conditions of providing of machine mixed material as mentioned in the NIT/ SBD/ BOQ and in compliance to all the desired tests and checks required as per the guidelines or on the directions of engineer in charge.
- The HPMO with whom there is an MOU shall not be participant in the same tender and under the circumstances both participants shall be disqualified.
- In case work isn't started on the scheduled date as communicated by engineer in charge, the department shall put the work for fresh tenders without any notice keeping in view the limited season for macadamisation.
- Scanned copy of GSTIN registration and most recent clearance certificate FORM GST-3B of the Latest Quarter i.e. January-March 2023/Qualifying Month i.e. May-2023.
- Bidder shall upload a Self-Certified Performance declaration (Annexed format) in support of performance in respect of Bitumen Macadam Works executed by the agency during the year 2021-22.
- Bidders are expected to submit technical bids along with scanned copies of all required documents. No document (s) that have not been uploaded will be accepted in hard copy for evaluation consideration. However, if need arises, Hard copies of any specific supporting documents, on the other hand, may be required on demand in support of documents posted online for clarification during technical evaluation.
- The bidder should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submitting a bid, and no claim based on constrained site conditions will be entertained after the bid is accepted.

No:4025-29
Dated:22-06-2023

DIPK-3947-23
DT: 22/06/2023

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Ganderbal



Subroto Football Cup

Mallinson Girls School Score 8 goals, enter Finals

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Department of Youth Services & Sports Thursday inaugurated the highly anticipated Inter-District Provincial Level Subroto Mukherji Cup Football Championship Under-14 Boys in north Kashmir's Baramulla. The tournament was inaugurated by the Principal of Government Degree College Baramulla and Chairman Municipal Council Baramulla jointly. The opening ceremony of this prestigious championship took place at a designated venue in Baramulla, witnessing the presence of distinguished guests and huge

presence of sports lovers and employees of the Department of Y&S&S. The participating teams from all the 10 districts of the Kashmir province showcased their enthusiasm and passion for the game as they marched onto the field. These talented players, all under the age of 14, demonstrated their dedication and love for football. The 62nd edition of Subroto Cup International Football Tournament 2023 is scheduled to be held at New Delhi for Junior Boys (U-17) and Junior Girls (U-17) and the Sub-Junior Boys (U-14) is scheduled at Bengaluru. The tentative dates for the tournament is Sept 14th to October

23rd 2023. Meanwhile, to select the champion school teams in different age group categories, the Department of Youth Services and Sports J&K conducted matches of girls football teams. Joint Director Kashmir of Y&S&S Waseem Raja visited Bakshi Stadium Srinagar on Thursday and interacted with Girls Football Teams of IDPS Bandipora and Islamia High School Budgam. Bandipora team after defeating their opponents played another scheduled match of the day. In the second scheduled match held at the venue, IDPS Bandipora locked horns with Football team of Mallinson

Girls' School Srinagar. MGS emerged winners while shooting 8 goals on nil. Team MGS shall lock horns in the Inter-divisional UT level finale with the winning team of Jammu division in the days to come. The final Team shall represent J&K UT in the esteemed Tournament at National Level. Pertinently the Subroto Cup-2023 returned after a hiatus of two years and in the Kashmir Division the matches of Provincial Level for school boys are presently being played in District Baramulla at Degree College Ground. The aim of the tournament is to use sports to foster friendship among the youth.

Wushu selection trials for the 19th Asian Games being held in Srinagar

SCFA drubs Real Kashmir

SRINAGAR: The Wushu Association of India will conduct the final selection trials for the 19th Asian Games on the 23rd and 24th of this month at Sher-I Kashmir Indoor Stadium, Srinagar where one of the Wushu preparatory camps is already in progress since 6th June and shall conclude on 3rd August.

Around forty-five players are part of the camp and in the second phase of the one-month-long camp which is likely to commence on 1st July, thirty-seven players will train under the tutelage of renowned coaches. The team will immediately leave for China for foreign exposure training for 45 days and will be stationed there till the commencement of the Asian Games.

One of the probable for the world championship scheduled to be held in the USA later this year will be part of the camp. Pertinently national Wushu team bagged two gold medals in the last world outing in 2019.

The selection trials are being held in the backdrop of the directions from MYAS which has asked the affiliated state and UT units to send entries by name to be forwarded to the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) by or before the 30th of this month.

The Sports Authority of India has also sanctioned a 2 month long preparatory national Wushu coaching camp at Srinagar, a prelude to the 19th Asian Games at Hangzhou from 25th September to 8th October this year.

The Wushu Association of India has constituted a selection committee for



the purpose headed by Jitender Singh Bajwa and Suheel Ahmad, president, and CEO respectively of the Wushu Association of India and Dronacharya awardee Kuldeep Handoo, the national Chief Coach of India besides Dr. Arif and Abhilash Saxena are also part of the committee. Observers from the Sports Authority of India will also be part of the selection committee for the 19th Asian Games.

The National doping team comprising four officials will screen the team and educate them about the ill effects of substance abuse.

The national chief coach of India Kuldeep Handoo said that the Sports Authority of India is planning to set up a permanent center for Wushu in J&K which has already received a nod from the J&K Sports Council.

Meanwhile, special sports activities under

My Youth My Pride were held at Chattro, Kishtwar during which activities in Carrom and Tug of War were conducted. More than ninety students took part in the event. In the activities held under the banner of one of the special sports activities and to reach and engage maximum youth in sports, Tug of War and Carrom activities were also organized in the village Nangali Sahib in the border area of the district Poonch.

In one of the major developments, Sports Council Football Academy drubbed Real Kashmir FC in a thrilling match. The encounter which was piped to be a high-intensity game lived up to its expectation.

In one of the matches of Srinagar DFA Premier Division League, played at Synthetic Turf Football, TRC the Real Kashmir was humbled by Sports Council Football Academy trainees. Youngster Rizwan scored

the solitary goal in the 64th minute of the game.

The Sports Council Football Academy had fielded players between 15-17 years for the league to give them game exposure against major clubs like Real Kashmir.

Pertinently Sports Council has produced many national players of immense repute, besides contributing to ISL and I-League teams, J&K Teams, and Leading Private Clubs.

Ever since its inception in the year 2017, eleven players from the academy have represented the country in different age group categories.

The ecstatic coach of SCFA, Javed Ahmad said that the boys have been training very hard and, in the days, to come many promising trainees of the academy will go on to become the prominent faces of Football in the country.

Amar Singh College celebrates 'International Yoga Day-2023'

Yoga spreads positivity around: Prof. Ajaz Bashir

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Department of Physical Education & Sports in collaboration with NSS Wings of Amar Singh College celebrated 9th International Yoga Day with a motto of spreading awareness about the Vedic Practice, Yoga and Meditation, under this year's theme "Yoga for Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" which describes the desire for 'One earth, One family and One future'.

A large number of students from varied courses of the college participated and performed different Asanas demonstrated by Physical Director, Ravinder Kour.

The function was attended by Principal Amar Singh College, Prof. Sheikh Ajaz Bashir; Convener Sports Committee, Prof. Abdul Nayeem Khan; NSS Programme officers, Prof. Shabnam Ara, Prof. Arshad Ahmad Masoodi, Prof. Shah Nawaz Muntazir and Members of Sports Committee.



Speaking on occasion, Prof. Sheikh Ajaz highlighted the history of International Day of Yoga and briefed the students about the theme "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam". He said that yoga is an old practice which originated in India and has been recognised by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) as an International Day since 21st June 2015.

Prof. Ajaz maintained that Yoga has various physical and mental benefits. It helps in reduction

of stress, anxiety, depression and other psychological problems. He added that yoga develops a positive approach and spreads positivity around. He also applauded the organisers for a successful event.

Prof. Abdul Nayeem Khan, Convener Sports Committee, threw light on the goals of the programme and the importance of Yoga in the present era.

The programme concluded with the vote of thanks by Physical Director, Ravinder Kour.

Mighty Japan on India's sights in do-or-die battle

UNI

BANGKOK: It's down to the last game in Group D of the AFC U-17 Asian Cup for India, and it's the biggest one of them all so far.

Japan awaits the Blue Colts in a match that will be played at the Rajamangala Stadium in Bangkok, Thailand, one that will decide the fate for the boys from the subcontinent.

India head coach Bibiano Fernandes knows of the mammoth task that lies in front of his side, but feels that it is one that his boys can scale, if they stick to the plan.

"It's quite simple for us. We need to win against Japan, and that should be enough to take us through to the quarter-finals. However, that is easier said than done. Japan are one of the best teams in this competition, they are the defending champions," said Fernandes. "It won't at all be easy, but it's not impossible."

"Funny things have happened in football, and you never know. We will go into the game as the underdogs, no doubt, but if a couple of

chances go our way, and we play to the plans, we can get what we were looking for," he said.

Group D is still an open affair on the final match-day, as all four teams stand a chance to make it to the last eight. For India, it is a rather difficult equation, where they have to defeat Japan and hope for Uzbekistan to get at least a draw against Vietnam.

"It's difficult, but the boys are really motivated to do well against Japan. It's an opportunity to play against one of the best teams in Asia, and I am happy to say that that is not lost on them," said Fernandes. "We have to believe with all our heart, and hopefully providence will favour us once the match comes to an end."

The Blue Colts have not been able to fire as hard as they would have wished to in their first two games, drawing 1-1 against Vietnam, and losing 0-1 to Uzbekistan. Fernandes has been working

on certain areas where he feels India has been lacking.

Super Sunil's hat-trick sinks Pakistan in SAFF Championship

UNI

BENGALURU: The Indian senior men's team kicked off their SAFF Championship title defence with a 4-0 victory over Pakistan in Group A at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here on Wednesday night.

Sunil Chhetri netted an early brace before adding another after the break for his fourth international hat-trick, thereby taking his tally to 90 goals.

Substitute Udanta Singh then finished the job with the fourth goal late to sum up a memorable night for the Blue Tigers on their return to Bengaluru after almost six years.

Kuwait beat Nepal 3-1 in the tournament opener earlier in the day. India are

top of the Group A standings on goal difference after matchday 1.

This was one of the biggest victories for India against Pakistan. In the 1999 SAF Games India defeated their rivals from across the border 5-2 with IM Vijayan scoring a hat-trick. Chhetri is the third Indian to find a hat-trick against Pakistan after Puran Bahadur and IM Vijayan.

Chhetri said after the match, "We are very happy to start the tournament on a winning note. A game in these rainy conditions is not easy, so I'm really happy, majorly because we kept a clean sheet, and also because so many fans turned up to support us today."



Less than 72 hours after a high-octane final victory in the Hero Intercontinental Cup in Bhubaneswar, India were off to a lightning-quick start in Bengaluru.

Pakistan goalkeeper Saqib Hanif had looked shaky right from the beginning and Chhetri

took full advantage in the 10th minute. The skipper pressed high and capitalised on a mis-control from the custodian to slot the ball into an empty net.

Just five minutes later, Sahal Abdul Samad showed quick feet to skip past a couple of challenges

before feeding Anirudh Thapa, who's shot hit a Pakistan defender's hand. The resulting India penalty was dispatched with ease by Chhetri.

Even with a two-goal lead, India maintained their high pressure and saw Chhange's left-footed shot on the turn saved before Sahal hit the side netting. Standing over a free-kick right outside the box, Chhetri sent it over the wall but just wide of the near post.

At the stroke of half-time, India head coach Igor Stimac was sent off for interrupting a quick throw-in from Pakistan. Assistant coach Mahesh Gawali deputised for him on the touchline after the break.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
DIRECTORATE OF SCHOOL EDUCATION KASHMIR, J&K
 Ms. Anita Bhat
 Teacher, BHSS Natipora
 District Srinagar
 No: DSEK/Estt/III/B-Trs/MZ/83/021/8773 Dated: 20/06/2023
Final Show Cause Notice
 Whereas, you remained un-authorizedly absent from your legitimate duties w.e.f 01/03/2019 and left the station without seeking prior permission and sanction of leave from the competent authority; and
 Whereas, the teacher was served with a show cause notice by this office vide No: DSEK/Estt/III/b-Trs/MMZ/83/021/727 dated: 09/04/2021, wherein she was provided an opportunity to present herself before the Directorate along with her statement of defense, which you replied but upon its examination it was found unsatisfactory and un-substantial by any documentary evidence; and
 Whereas, the issue was got enquired by the Deputy CEO Srinagar on 09/05/2022, who in his report communicated that you have availed chunk of leaves of 678 days in various spells from the year 2011 to 2018; and
 Whereas, it has also been stated that you attended your duties for few days to draw salary of winter breaks of 2017-2018 and 2018-2019; and
 Whereas, remaining un-authorizedly absent from duties off and on indicates that you are not interested to work on the post of teacher in the Department; and
 Whereas, un-authorized absence from legitimate duties by a Government Employee attracts action as warranted in terms of Article 128 of J&K Civil Services Rules (Volume I) of 1956, which reads as under:-
 'Absence without leave or after the end of leave involves loss of appointment.'
 Whereas, the issue was placed before the Designated Committee in its various meetings and latest on 08/04/2023, and the committee after thread-bare discussion took the decision to issue Final show cause notice.
 Now, therefore a Final Show Cause Notice in terms of Article 128 of J&K Civil Services Rules (Volume I) of 1956, is hereby issued for remaining unauthorized absent from your legitimate duties w.e.f 01/03/2019 & an opportunity is hereby again given to you as to why the Department shall not terminate your services w.e.f 01/03/2019 and your reply in the defense if any, must reach to this Directorate within 07 days after issuance of this notice, failing which it shall be construed that you have nothing to say in this regard and proposed action shall be initiated against you without any further notice.
 DIPK-3963-23
 DT: 22/06/2023
 Sd/-Director,
 School Education Kashmir

Secretary DARPG, CS assess status of grievance disposal

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), GoI, V Srinivas along with the Chief Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta chaired a meeting Thursday to assess the status of grievance disposal in the UT on central government's CPGRAMS portal as well as J&K Government's JKIGRAMS portal.



ernment officials involved in grievance redressal on the portal. Speaking during the meeting, Dr. Mehta highlighted the importance of effective public service delivery and prompt resolution of citizens' grievances. He called upon the officers of J&K Government to identify areas of improvement and devise strategies to enhance the grievance redressal mechanism in Jammu and Kashmir. Dr. Mehta impressed upon the officers of Public Grievances department for regular monitoring and evaluation of the grievance redressal system to identify bottlenecks and implement corrective measures to address them. He enjoined upon the officers that all the grievances should be

disposed within thirty days as per the recent directions of Central Government. Secretary DARPG, V Srinivas while speaking during the meeting, remarked that JKIGRAMS portal is functioning efficiently and serves as a great centralized platform for citizens to highlight their grievances with high-level officers and track their progress through a transparent and accountable system. He emphasized upon the Nodal officers to focus on quality disposal of grievances with a greater level of citizen satisfaction. The Secretary further emphasized upon the Public Grievances department of J&K to focus on capacity building of Grievance Redressal officers so

that the quality of grievance disposal is improved. He also called upon them to publicise the monthly reports about best performing officers as well as the laggards to make the grievance redressal more effective. Speaking during the meeting, Rehana Batul informed the meeting that the disposal rate on JKIGRAMS portal till June this is of the order of 96 percent and till date 3,10,132 grievances have been disposed of out of 3,22,964 grievances received on portal. She further informed the meeting that out of 26,739 grievances received by JKIGRAMS through CPGRAMS portal, 25,755 have been disposed of with a disposal rate of 96 percent.

Table Top exercise conducted ahead of SANJY in G'bal



GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Thursday conducted Table Top Exercise with all stakeholders involved in the management of the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) at the Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat, Ganderbal.

The meeting was chaired by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir along with Brig. B.S Thakur from NDMA. The NDMA conducted such Table Top and Mock Exercise prior to Yatra in its efforts to improve preparedness and response mechanisms for various disasters.

At the outset, the DC briefed the participants about the objectives and scope of Table Top and mock exercise. He stressed for well planning, better coordination and better response among various participating agencies.

Brig. B.S Thakur highlighted the challenges during Yatra and how to manage major incidents. During the meeting, officials from SDMA pre-

sented an overview of the Disaster Plan and preparedness for SANJY-2023. Various departments including State Disaster Response Force, IMD, BRO, Jal Shakti, KPDC, I&FC, Health, communication and connectivity besides various security agencies also presented detailed overview of disaster plans.

The meeting was informed that mock exercises shall be conducted at Baltal base camp on June 24 to assess the preparedness and response mechanism of all the stakeholders involved in the management of the upcoming Amarnath Yatra.

The meeting highlighted the role and responsibilities of the concerned stakeholders. The officials were sensitized on how to plan for efficient and effective disaster preparedness besides how to focus on managing emergencies and how to handle the situation during exigencies.

Officers were urged to identify gaps, prepare objective tasks, challenges, resources, problem areas and remedial measures to be taken in case of any disaster.

'IMPLEMENTATION OF MUSHROOM CULTIVATION TECHNOLOGY'

Agri deptt signs MoU with GCW Srinagar



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In an important step towards the promotion of small scale Agri-enterprises like mushroom cultivation and to attract educated young minds towards these enterprises, Agriculture department Kashmir Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Government College for Women (GCW) M.A Road Srinagar. The MoU was signed between Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal, Director Agriculture Kashmir and Professor Ruhi Jan Kanth, Principal GCW, M.A road Srinagar.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Agriculture observed that the signing of MoU with the said Educational institution will provide us an opportunity to reach out to the students and make them understand the skill based interventions in the agri-

culture and allied sectors. He said with the help of this initiative the Agriculture department would be able to incorporate agri-skills among the students, which on one hand will make them acquainted with the basic agriculture activities and on the other hand will increase the employability among the students in agriculture and allied fields. Iqbal said the agri-skilled educated youth could play a vital role in the development of the agriculture sector in the region and could contribute to the economic scenario of the valley. He said the main aim is to make our educated youth job providers, not the job seekers.

Principal GCW, MA road Srinagar also expressed her views and marked the importance of signing the MoU with the agriculture department for the overall benefit of students.

HSS Dangi wacha felicitates NEET qualifiers

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: Govt Higher Secondary School, Dangi wacha Wednesday felicitated its students for qualifying the NEET-2023.

In a statement, Media Secretary HSS said that in the NEET-UG results, students of HSS Dangi wacha have achieved records with Mohammad Mohsin Masoodi, a student of HSS Dangi wacha securing top marks. Other students who qualify the NEET-2023 exam include Sheikh Huzafa and Toufeeq Dilawar.

Teachers during the felicitation ceremony said that students of HSS Dan-



giwacha have once again registered historic success in NEET-2023, which is the

country's most prominent medical entrance exam. The program was

attended by civil society members, faculty members, and students. The NEET qualifiers later discussed their strategies with students to qualify for this prestigious exam.

Civil Society Chairman Mr Basharat Mehraj congratulated all the students and the faculty of the school for this great achievement.

At last, the program culminated with facilitation of students with trophies and certificates. The teaching staff of secondary wing was also felicitated for attaining 97% result in recently declared 10th class result.

'23000 TABLETS WORTH RS 6.70 LAKH SEIZED'

Srinagar Admin conducts intensive raid on Courier Agency

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: On the directions of the Deputy Commissioner (DC), Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, the District Administration in collaboration with Drug Control Organization wing carried out an intensive raid of a Courier agency operating in Srinagar District and seized a huge quantity of intoxicating drugs/consignments.

Taking cognizance of the specific input regarding trafficking of psychotropic substances by some anti-social elements through aerial route, a team of Drug Control Organization under the supervision of Deputy Drug Controller, Kashmir, Mrs Night Shah Jabeen raided a courier service agency and seized as many as 23000 tablets of different brands of Tapentadol valued at around Rs 6.70 lakh.

Meanwhile, the particulars of consignee and consignor mentioned on the consignment are under investigation and the Drug Controller department is in process of completing the procedure of relevant regulations and all such persons who have connived in the omission/breach shall be booked under law in due course of time.

Worth to mention that Tapentadol is a schedule H1 Opioid analgesic and has to be sold against the prescriptions of RMP for medicinal purposes. The Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 provides that the record of sale of this drug has to be maintained by preserving the prescription for record and also maintain records of sale in the shape of cash memo /credit memo. It has been observed that these drugs are being used by adolescents for addiction purposes.

Appreciating the efforts put in by the team of Drug Controller Organization, Kashmir, the Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar Aijaz Asad stressed the team to bring the matter to its logical end. He further asked the Department to continue such inspection in future to eradicate the menace of drugs from the District.

The DC also urged the Pharmaceutical agencies and Courier service agencies operating in Srinagar District to bring such illegal activities into the notice of Drug Controller organization and District Administration, so that menace of drug addiction which has become a social evil can be eradicated from the society.

Orientation training prog on yatra monitoring held at ICC, HMT

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SRINAGAR: Following the directions of Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, an orientation cum training program was Thursday held at Integrated Command & Control Centre (ICCC), HMT regarding the functioning of the centre to make officers of the concerned departments familiar with their roles and responsibilities.

The entire training programme was supervised by incharge, ICC, Director Land Management, SDA, Zahoor Ahmad Magray.

The training was imparted by the Incharge Divisional Control Room and Revenue Attorney in Div Com Office, Tahir Magray.

In a detailed presentation, he gave an overview regarding operation ICC which has been put in use for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra since 2022 and is being integrated with RFID to monitor Yatra remotely on a real time basis. ICC has been envisaged to facilitate effective management of operations, exceptional scenarios and disaster

mitigation using information and communication technologies.

Besides, he also elaborated management of time, resources and manpower through effective and efficient commands.

He said all the data collection is working through RFID cards and geo-tagging besides the information from Camp directors and concerned police officers.

Magray explained department wise roles for extending services to yatris and following the daily track of availability of essential items and services.

He informed that the huge influx of yatris is expected this year and advised departments to make adequate arrangements for the entire phase of the yatra.

He educated participants regarding how to quickly respond to disasters and emergencies and adherence to accurate dissemination of information.

Besides, he touched on the other aspects of yatra including sanitation, langars, helpline numbers and coordination among departments.

Altaf Thakur asks admin to facilitate Urs observance

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SRINAGAR: Senior BJP leader and the party's JK Spokesman, Altaf Thakur Thursday sought proper arrangements for devotees during the upcoming Urs observance of Ameer-e-Kabir Mir Syed Ali Hamadani (RA) at his revered Shrine in Tral.

In a statement, Thakur impressed upon the district administration to make

all possible arrangements for the forthcoming Urs. "I expect a well-synchronised effort by the administration during the Urs observance," he said.

Senior BJP leader impressed upon the administration to ensure uninterrupted power supply,

steady water deliverance to the shrine in view of the forthcoming Urs observance. "I have been given assurance that power and electricity will be ensured," Thakur said.

Thakur said that he spoke to Jal Shakti Department officials and urged

them to ensure uninterrupted water supply to Khan Khah-e-Faiz Panah Tral on the occasion of Annual Urs of Ameer-e-Kabir (RA).

He said that it was due to the efforts and hard work of great saint, Islam was spread in Kashmir. He urged people of Tral to participate in the night-long prayers at Khankha-e-Faiz Panah Tral and seek blessings of Almighty Allah.

Meet Snober Jeelani Shah, Kashmir's young and talented artist

ZUBAIR QURESHI

SRINAGAR: In a world where art is a window to the soul, Snober Jeelani Shah, a 25-year-old professional artist hailing from the Srinagar, has emerged as a beacon of creativity and self-expression.

With her undeniable talent and unwavering dedication, Snober has established herself as a rising star in the art community, captivating audiences with her thought-provoking works that delve deep into the realms of introspection. Snober's artistic journey began in 2018, but her passion for art dates back much further. After completing her Bachelor's degree in visual arts from the University of Kashmir in 2022, she embarked on a path to showcase her unique perspective through various platforms.

Notably, Snober participated in the prestigious Students Kochi Biennale 2021-22, under the guidance and curation of the esteemed Vasuda Thozur. This experience served as a

pivotal moment in her career, allowing her to connect with fellow artists and expand her artistic horizons.

Reflecting on this opportunity, Snober said, "Participating in the Students Kochi Biennale was a transformative experience for me. It opened doors to new artistic possibilities and allowed me to interact with artists from diverse backgrounds, enriching my artistic journey."

Acknowledging the importance of continuous learning, Snober actively sought opportunities to refine her skills.

She attended a workshop organized by CP Krishnapriya at Kashmir University, which provided her with valuable insights and inspiration.

Additionally, she participated in an online workshop led by Sujit Malik in 2020, further enriching her artistic repertoire.

Talking about the impact of these workshops, Snober said, "Attending workshops has been instrumental in honing my artistic skills and

expanding my creative vision. I am grateful for the valuable lessons and techniques I have learned, which have shaped my artistic journey."

For Snober, art is more than just a visual medium; it is a profound form of introspection.

"Art allows me to explore the depths of my thoughts and emotions, giving voice to the unspoken and unveiling hidden truths. It serves as a means of self-reflection, enabling me to better understand myself and the world around me," she said.

This introspective approach is evident in her artwork, which resonates with viewers on a deeper level, evoking a range of emotions and inviting introspection.

Throughout her journey, Snober credits her support system for fueling her passion. She expresses deep gratitude towards her friends, teachers, and family, who have always stood by her side.

However, Snober says that her mentor Showkat Kathjoo has played a vital role in shaping



her artistic identity. Speaking fondly of her mentor, Showkat Kathjoo, she said, "Mr Kathjoo has been my guiding light, constantly pushing me to challenge my boundaries and explore new artistic avenues. His unwavering belief in my abilities has been an endless source of inspiration." The guidance and encouragement from her mentor have been pivotal in Snober's artistic

growth and development. Drawing inspiration from surrealist artists, Snober's work showcases a unique blend of imagination and reality. She seamlessly combines elements from her surroundings with abstract concepts, creating captivating visual narratives that stimulate the viewer's imagination.

Explaining her artistic approach, Snober says, "Surrealist artists have had a profound impact on my work. Their ability to merge the ordinary with the extraordinary has inspired me to explore the limitless possibilities of artistic expression."

Snober's talent has garnered recognition, with her participation in notable exhibitions, such as the Yuva Sambhava by the Raza Foundation in 2022 and her involvement in the Students Kochi Biennale 2021. These exhibitions have provided Snober with a platform to showcase her unique artistic voice and connect with art enthusiasts worldwide.

Sharing her exhibition experiences, Snober shares, "Being part of these exhibitions has been a tremendous honour. It has given me the opportunity to share my artwork with a wider audience and receive valuable feedback that encourages me to continue pushing the boundaries of my artistic practice."

Her commitment to art extends beyond exhibitions, as she actively participates in national and local camps. In March 2023, she attended VITASTA, a 7-day installation camp organized by the Lalit Kala Academy in Pune, where she further honed her skills and collaborated with fellow artists.

"Participating in VITASTA was an immersive experience that allowed me to immerse myself in art and connect with artists who share the same passion. It was a transformative journey of creative exploration and self-discovery," she said.

Most recently, Snober enthusiastically participated in a 7-day camp at Pahalgam,

organized by the Sansar Chand Baru Memorial Trust, named Kavya Bhoomi, in June 2023.

Talking about the same, Snober said, "The camp at Pahalgam provided me with a serene and picturesque backdrop to delve deeper into my artistic process. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with nature, and fellow artists, and create art that reflects the essence of the beautiful Kashmiri landscape."

Through her thought-provoking works and relentless pursuit of artistic growth, Snober reminds us that art has the capacity to transcend boundaries, bridge gaps, and ignite a fire within each of us.

"Art is a language that speaks to the core of our being. I strive to create art that resonates with people on a deeper level, igniting emotions and sparking conversations. My ultimate goal is to touch hearts, inspire minds, and leave a lasting impact through my art," Snober said. (MNN)