

Good Morning Kashmir

Office of LG J&K @OfficeOfLGJandK



Paid tributes to Pujya Shri Madan Das Devi Ji at his paternal house in Karmala, Solapur. He tirelessly worked for the social change and showed us a new path. His ideas and ideals will continue to guide future generations.

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Around 15,000 Cases Of 'Eye Flu' In J&K

JAHANGEER GANAIE
SRINAGAR: The hospitals in Jammu and Kashmir are witnessing dozens of patients complaining of irritation, redness, swelling and itching in their eyes. The doctors from both Kashmir and Jammu divisions said that more cases of conjunctivitis, popularly known as eye flu, are on the rise. They, however, said there is no need to worry as it goes in around one to two weeks for whoever gets affected. The people need to take precautions, they added. Director Health •P-02



'Hot, Dry Weather Conditions To Continue'

OWAIS GUL
SRINAGAR: As Jammu & Kashmir continues to witness hot weather conditions, the weatherman here has predicted dry weather till August 20, saying that there is no forecast of any major wet spell during the period. Deputy Director Meteorological department (MeT), Mukhtar Ahmad said that there is •P-02



"Would Be Presumptuous Of Anyone..." MEA Reacts To Pakistan's Remarks On SCO Virtual Summit

GMK NEWS NETWORK
NEW DELHI: Reacting to Pakistan's Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's statement on the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) virtual summit conducted under India's presidency, Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi on Friday said that it would be presumptuous of anyone to think that one factor or one person would have had a role in the SCO. "Look, I think on the SCO summit, I think we have spoken, I think more than two or three occasions about the different factors that led to virtual SCO organizing the SCO summit in a virtual mode. It would be certainly presumptuous of anyone to think that one factor or one person would have had a role to play in that," Bagchi said in a briefing. It is pertinent to mention that Pakistan's Foreign Minister said in his exit press conference before they dis-



where Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif called on the international community to "meaningfully engage" with Afghanistan to take the next steps. He said that the international community finds itself at a standstill with Afghanistan. Earlier, the MEA Spokesperson informed, "As you are aware, many international summits in recent years have taken place in the virtual format. Taking all factors into account - and there's no single factor, it's a totality of various factors - we decided the forthcoming summit of the SCO is best done in the same manner, that is virtual." "Preparations for the successful organising and holding of this summit are underway and we are confident that it will produce notable outcomes and will be a success." Bagchi said he wasn't aware of any announcements regarding the meeting being held in a physical format. "We have •P-02

solved the national assembly on August 9, saying his visit to India during SCO summit in a virtual mode. It would be certainly presumptuous of anyone to think that one factor or one person would have had a role to play in that," Bagchi said in a briefing. India held the SCO Leaders Summit this year on July 4, 2023, in a virtual format

Kashmiri Artisan Weaves Indian Map With Tricolour

QAISAR BABA
SRINAGAR: A Kashmiri artisan has translated the famous quote "In love of home, the love of country has its rise" of renowned 19th century English novelist Charles Dickens into reality by •P-02

SED Seek Verification Of PG Degrees Of Teachers

RIYAZ BHAT
SRINAGAR: The government has said that the School Education Department was taking no notice regarding the exigency of verification of PG degrees pursued during service by PostGraduate Masters and Teachers in various disciplines. The department in the past has issued directives several times. However, the Human Resource Management Section of the •P-02



NEET-SS EXAM Aspirants Urges LG Sinha To Intervene

JAHANGEER GANAIE
SRINAGAR: The National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences has said required standards of security aren't being met at Srinagar to hold NEET-SS examination. The National Medical Organisation (NMO) had written to NBE demanding NEET-SS examination centre in Kashmir. While responding to the letter of NMO, •P-02



Terrorism On Its Last Legs, Drug Menace A Challenge: DGP

GMK NEWS NETWORK
SRINAGAR: Director General of Police, Dilbagh Singh Friday remarked the militancy was at its last stage as there is lowest number of terrorists as of now even as the drug menace remained a challenge for the law-enforcement agencies to tackle. The top cop made the remarks on his visit to frontier north Kashmir's Kupwara district. Talking to media on the sidelines of 'Meri Matti Mera Desh' event, DGP Dilbag Singh said that Jammu and



Kashmir is moving towards peace and journey. "A significant progress has been made in curbing militancy so far, thereby reducing the number to only a two-digit number •P-02

Amit Shah Introduces Three Bills To Reform Criminal Justice System

UNI
NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday introduced three Bills in the Lok Sabha intending to reform the criminal justice system by replacing age-old laws enacted during the British rule. The new legislations are the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill, 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Bill, 2023 and Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, 2023 - Shah said the country's criminal justice system has been functioning as per the laws made by the British rulers



according to their convenience, but these three Bills will replace the existing system. He said in the prevalent laws crime against women and children was given slot 302, •P-02

NH Engine Of Economic Growth In J&K: CS



GMK NEWS NETWORK
SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, while reviewing the progress of different highways taken up under Prime Minister Development Program (PMDP) Friday remarked that the traffic authorities should make preparations well ahead of the fruit season to ensure smooth flow of trucks on Jmu-Sgr National Highway, particularly those carrying perishable fruit consignments. In addition to the Principal Secretary, PWD, the meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Forest; Principal Secretary, •P-02

Border Tourism Gains Momentum In Kupwara



AGENCIES
SRINAGAR: As the Keran sector along the Line of Control is emerging as a new favorite destination for tourists in the Kupwara district, the Tourism department has set a target of 200 homestays in the area to overcome accommodation issues. Director Tourism Kashmir Raja Yaqoob said that the aim is to promote eco-friendly home stays in Keran. "We have set a target of 200 home stays in Keran of which 40 has been achieved and we are sure to achieve the target this year only," he said. He also said that Keran is beautiful part of Himalayan ecology, alongside its promotion they have to preserve this place for future generations, so eco-friendly home stays and guest houses will be promoted. He said that Keran is emerging best tourism destination in the Kashmir Valley and government is taking ample measures to bring considerable footfall of tourists here. "Mobile connectivity in the area is being addressed & road stretch which is •P-02

YUG PARIVARTAN Transformative Journey Of J&K



GMK NEWS NETWORK
SRINAGAR: In the wake of momentous changes that followed the reorganization of Jammu and Kashmir into a Union Territory, a dynamic transformation has unfolded across various spheres of development. This metamorphosis, aptly depicted in the Nriya Natika titled "Yug Parivartan-Badalta Jammu Kashmir," orchestrated by the Information Technology Department, J&K, and the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages, sheds light on the monumental shifts that have transpired over the past four years. The curtains rise on a new era as Jammu and Kashmir fully embraces e-governance, bidding adieu to the cumbersome practice of the costly Darbar Move that annually drained around •P-02

INOX LIVE the MOVIE SRINAGAR

INOX CINEMA SHIVPORA SGR

12 AUG Saturday Movies & Timings

GADAR 2	Rocky aur Rani <small>KI PREM KAHANI</small>
 11:40AM, 03:05PM, 06:30PM (Hindi Atmos) UA	 02:30PM, 06:00PM (Hindi) UA
OMG 2	JAILER
 12:30PM, 03:40PM, 06:50PM (Hindi) A	 11:00AM (Telugu with Eng Subtitle) UA

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MEA Reacts To

now communicated to SCO partners about this event being held in virtual format on July 4 and our expectation is that everybody would be able to join," he added.

The theme of the Summit was 'Towards a SECURE SCO'. The SECURE acronym was coined by the Prime Minister at the 2018 SCO Summit and stands for Security; Economy and Trade; Connectivity; Unity; Respect for Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity; and Environment. These themes have been highlighted during our Chairmanship of SCO. (Milap News Network)

Kashmiri Artisan

weaving a carpet of an Indian map with a tricolour inscribed on it to be represented on the occasion of 77th Independence Day.

Mohammad Maqbool Dar, of village Ashtangoo Bandipora, a carpet artisan, has already created history by weaving a mesmerising Kashmiri culture in a silk carpet wall hanging and a tricolour on a carpet in the past that shot him to fame.

Keeping the tradition alive, Dar this time has woven a map of India with tricolour inscribed on a 2 x 2 cotton carpet that took him two months to complete. The wonderful creation is to be represented on the occasion of Independence Day under the "Mere Maati Mere Desh" (My Mother, My Country) initiative.

He believes that the traditional Kashmiri Carpet industry would get a boost from this patriotic gesture towards the country.

Talking to UNI Dar said, "I used to weave something unique on this occasion for the past some years to express my patriotism and love towards the country and I believe this gesture would definitely further explore the carpet industry of Kashmir valley".

The carpet is fast blue in the background and deep saffron (Kesari) at the top, white in the middle there is a navy blue wheel. The lower part is dark green. All three parts are of equal proportion, making the map of India eye-catching.

Dar has a big team of educated girls who are also working with him weaving carpets of different sizes and hues for the past many years.

Dar said that he gave the idea to the Indian Institution of Carpet Technology (IICT), Srinagar, who provided him with the computerised "Talim" of weaving the Map with the tricolour on carpet with a printout of the subject..

Dar, who also runs "Delight Carpet Weavers" society in the area, is associated with carpet weaving for the past 22 years and had 20 looms in north Kashmir's Bandipora district where about 50 young and educated girls from down-trodden families are weaving different wall hangs with zeal and zest to earn their livelihood.

Dar said he has been invited by Deputy Commissioner, Bandipore, Owais Ahmad to the Independence Day function where this map would be showcased.

Dar had previously stunned onlookers by weaving a mesmerising Kashmiri cultural painting, that earned him a huge amount after its presentation in the "Srinagar Hunar Haat" 2021.

Dar appealed to the authorities to provide special incentives to the carpet weavers especially the young poor girls for their economic uplift in the society and to give life to the age-old traditional art in Kashmir Valley.

The quote "In love of home, the love of country has its rise" appeared in Dickens's widely read novel The Old Curiosity Shop which he had serialised between 1840 and 1841. It is said it was so popular that New York readers rushed in huge numbers when the ship carrying the final instalment arrived at the port. Dar is hoping that his latest creation would do an encore. (UNI)

Around 15,000 Cases

Services Jammu Dr Rajeev Kumar Sharma said that 9,127 cases of conjunctivitis were reported in hospitals coming under the control of the Directorate.

Spokesperson of the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir Dr Mir Mushtaq said that so far, 5,320 cases of 'Eye Flu' have been reported in the hospitals in the Kashmir division coming under the DHSK's control.

Giving details of the cases, he said 781 were reported from Anantnag, 15 from Bandipora, 999 from Baramulla, 351 from Budgam, 287 from Ganderbal, 164 from Kulgam, 412 from Kupwara, 924 from Pulwama, 601 from Shopian and 786 from Srinagar.

The officials said that cases are more, as the data doesn't include the cases reported in Government Medical Colleges of both divisions. Almost in every hospital, every day around 20 to 30 cases of 'Eye Flu' are being seen in OPDs.

The DHSK recently issued an advisory to control the spread of the condition where they put emphasis on maintaining optimal hygiene and frequent hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, particularly after touching the face or contaminated surfaces.

In situations where soap and water aren't available, opt for hand sanitiser containing at least 60 percent alcohol, the advisory states.

The advisory mentions, "Avoid touching the eyes to prevent germ transfer. Steer clear of infected individuals as conjunctivitis is highly contagious, refrain from sharing personal items and ensure surfaces prone to virus contact are regularly disinfected, consider wearing eye protection when in close proximity to infected individuals, employ respiratory etiquette by covering the mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, and dispose of tissues properly."

It called for preventing eye rubbing to curb the spread of the virus. "Stay home if infected and seek guidance from a healthcare professional before resuming activities. Adhere to contact lens guidelines, replace lenses and cases regularly, and maintain cleanliness in shared environments, and avoid swimming pools to prevent further transmission," the advisory stated.

The doctors said it is a "self-limiting infection" and each individual's immunity will have a role to play in the course of the disease.

The monsoon's humid and damp conditions provide an ideal breeding ground for viruses or bacteria responsible for these infections to spread rapidly, they said. "This flu can infect

any person of any age group and to stop the spread of the infection; touching of eyes should be avoided, especially unwashed hands," they added.

They said that symptoms of this flu are watery discharge in the eyes, redness, congestion, photophobia and hemorrhages in the superficial layer of the eye.

In most cases, eye flu is not dangerous and can be easily treated with proper care, the doctors said, adding that there are over-the-counter available eye drops and anti-bacterial medications that can be taken with appropriate dosage for eye flu treatment.

However, if left untreated, severe cases of bacterial conjunctivitis may lead to complications that can affect vision, they said—(KNO)

'Hot, Dry Weather

no forecast of a wet spell till August 20, 2023. He added that the weather conditions would remain mostly dry during the next 9 days as there is no possibility of any precipitation during the period as per the forecast.

Deputy Director, MeT said that the maximum temperature would settle in between 31 and 32 degree Celsius during the period, however, thunder showers at a few places during the period cannot be ruled out.

Pertinently, J&K witnessed hot and dry weather conditions since the inception of August month.

Nonetheless, during the ongoing season from June 01-2023 to August 09, 2023, J&K has recorded a precipitation of 336.6 mm against the average rainfall of 337.3 mm.

Srinagar, the summer capital of J&K has recorded a large excess rainfall of 268.4 mm against an average precipitation of 148.9 mm, which is 80 per cent above normal.

Kishtwar is the only station where large deficient rainfall has been recorded in the ongoing season as against the normal precipitation of 265.5 mm, it has received 90.7 mm rainfall, which is 66 per cent deficient than normal.

Moreover, Shopian in Kashmir and Reasi & Poonch in Jammu division have recorded deficient rainfall of 39 per cent and 22 per cent each respectively in the ongoing season—(KNO)

SED Seek

department said that in the previous communiques, "it was requested to furnish information in respect of those Masters and Teachers who have acquired their PG Degrees in various disciplines through regular, distance and private mode during service."

"Despite the reminder and exigency involved, requisite information has not been furnished and uploaded on the dedicated link till date which has been viewed seriously by the authorities," reads the communique.

The concerned officials in this regard said that he was once again directed to request directors of both the regions to realize the exigency of the matter and furnish the requisite information by or before August-15-2023.

"Further the concerned shall be directed to upload the details on the dedicated link upto August-15 after which the link shall be closed and the concerned shall have no claim for seeking their inclusion in the seniority list or promotion," it reads—(KNO)

Aspirants Urges LG

the National Board of Examinations (NBE) has said that the required standards of security aren't being met at the centres available in Srinagar to hold examinations.

"I have got the matter examined with the concerned department. It is for your kind information that NEET Super Specialty Entrance Examination is a high-stake examination conducted by the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences on a pan India basis. For the examination to be held on 9th and 10th September 2023, NBEMS has identified examination centers in 36 cities across the country.

"Consideration of a test city for holding an examination depends upon a multitude of factors including but not limited to the availability of secure test centres to hold a particular examination. The audit of available test centers in the city of Srinagar has revealed that the required standards of security are not met at the centres available to hold the examination as on date. Accordingly, Srinagar has not been considered as a test city for conduct of the said examination," read the letter of NBE to NMO.

The NEET-SS 2023 will be conducted in Jammu city and candidates of J&K can write their exams there.

"It is not feasible to conduct the examination compromising any standards of security applicable. No test centre was offered in the city of Srinagar in the last NEET-SS as well, held on 1st and 2nd September 2022," it added.

Aspirants have questioned that if required standards of security are being met for conducting NEET-PG and UPSC examinations then why not for NEET-SS.

Dr Rubeena Bhat incharge of the resident doctors association of SKIMS Srinagar said that National Board of Examination (NBE) authorities are saying that due to security reasons they are not keeping the centre at Srinagar.

"If the standard for UPSC centre at Srinagar is acceptable then why not for NEET-SS," she asked.

Several candidates who have to appear in the examination said that they will have to spend more than Rs 20,000 per head and at least three to four days of travel to other states to appear in the examination.

"We aren't against setting up examination centre in Jammu but there is a need for such centres in Kashmir as well where there are hundreds of candidates," they said.

"In case no examination centre was being established in Kashmir, we will have to bear the financial strain of flight tickets, and hotel accommodations besides uncertainty due to the frequent closures on the highway."

The upset candidates have already written to LG Manoj Sinha to intervene at the earliest so that they won't have to suffer—(KNO)

Terrorism On

of active terrorists", Singh said adding "these remaining terrorists will also be neutralized soon."

"There is however a challenge posed by the rise in drug trade which needs to be tackled by the law enforcement agencies", the top cop said.

Singh highlighted the increasing number of large-scale events with enthusiastic local participation, indicating a renewed sense of normalcy in the region.

"Activities that were once restricted due to religious and social concerns are now being conducted seamlessly, fostering community interaction and unity," he remarked.

"As part of the Meri Matti Mera Desh program, various initiatives such as Tiranga Rallies and educational activities have been organized across schools, colleges, and civil administration offices in J&K. These initiatives are aimed at honoring the sacrifices made by individuals who laid down their lives for the nation's well-being. During the event, DGP Singh inaugurated five buildings in Kupwara dedicated to the memory of the brave troopers who lost their lives in the line of duty. The buildings were constructed by Kupwara police as a tribute to their sacrifice."

Singh voicing his concern over the challenge of drug trade said that after decades of terrorism, Pakistan has now shifted its strategy towards a "Drug War."

Singh stated, "War against drugs needs combative efforts. Just like we fought militancy, we will wipe out this drug from J-K, hopefully, but we need the active support of people, civil society, and youngsters at large."

As the Independence Day celebrations approach, DGP Singh assured the public that adequate arrangements have been put in place at every district, range, and union territory level. He expressed hope that all functions, including the main Independence Day event in Srinagar, will be conducted peacefully.

The DGP accompanied by several key officials, including IGP Kashmir Zone, Vijay Kumar, DIG NKR, Vivek Gupta, SSP Kupwara Yougal Manhas, and SSP Handwara, Sheema Nabi Qasba inaugurated new police posts in Kandi, Kralpora and Drugmulla during his visit. (GNS)

Amit Shah Introduces

but in the fresh Bills, the first chapter will be crime against women and children.

"Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill, 2023 will replace the CrPc 1860, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Bill, 2023 will replace the Criminal Procedure Code 1858 and Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, 2023 will replace Indian Evidence Act 1872," said Shah.

"These Bills have been brought with an aim to provide justice to the people rather than penalising them," he added.

"The digitalisation system has been introduced in new laws so that during the proceedings in Court files of papers don't accumulate," he added.

"Videography will be required during the search and seizure proceedings to avoid any allegation of framing false charges. Videography will be an important part of investigation," said Shah.

NH Engine Of

Forest; Principal Secretary, PDD; Divisional Commissioners; concerned Deputy Commissioners; representatives from NHAI, NHIDCL, BRO, and many other concerned officers.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Secretary stressed upon the executing agencies to complete all these road projects providing interconnectivity to different regions in the stipulated timeframe. He enjoined upon them that the significance of these roads is very high as the UT, due to its hilly terrain, has hardly any alternative roads to link various parts.

He directed the concerned authorities to strictly stick to the timeline of completing these road projects. He made out that these projects make significant contribution towards the economic upliftment of various parts. All the officers including the Deputy Commissioners should take keen interest in seeing them completed on time.

Regarding the Jammu Ring Road project he asked the concerned Divisional Administration to take early measures for dedicating to public the completed portion of the road from Raya Morh (Samba) to Nagrota (Jammu). He also asked them to renovate the significant Tarnah Bridge at Kathua in shortest timeframe.

Regarding the Ring Road Srinagar the Chief Secretary asked the authorities to ensure that the 20 kms stretch under phase-I is dedicated to public by November this year. He told the concerned Deputy Commissioners of Pulwama and Budgam to look into the aspect of Ribbon development of this road in their areas for generating economic activities optimally.

As far as the Jammu-Akhnor Road is concerned the Chief Secretary asked for completing it in all aspects and dedicating it for the use of general public. He made out that this road is going to play a vital role in bringing this circuit on the tourism map of J&K and increase the footfall to this location.

Dr Mehta while taking review of the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway stressed on the executing agencies to work for completing all the tunnels especially T3, T5 and other viaducts on time. He observed that the travel time has got considerably reduced on this road yet the remaining projects between the Ramban-Banihal stretch needs to be made more reliable.

The Chief Secretary reviewed the progress of the construction of four-laning of Ramban flyover and completion of Banihal Bypass. He also took stock of the under-construction bridge at Qazigund, Railway Over-Bridge at Anantnag and Lasjan flyover. He fixed the timelines for completion of each

of these Road projects and directed for not to extend these beyond the agreed timelines.

Regarding the Delhi-Katra Expressway the Chief Secretary directed for continuing the momentum of work besides meeting timelines set for completing different sub-projects. He asked them that this Road project is of national importance as it leads to the holy shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi visited by millions of pilgrims every year. He said that the work on such a prestigious project should be given due priority for completing it at the earliest.

Dr Mehta also sensitized the executing agencies about the significance of Uri-Poonch Highway. He told them that the work on this project should be taken in hand at the earliest so that it is also completed on time bringing respite to people besides providing alternate route between the two divisions of the UT.

The Chief Secretary also took note of the work done on the Srinagar-Pulwama-Shopian-Kulgam Highway (NH-444). He stressed on completing the bypasses for the towns of Shopian, Kulgam and Pulwama so that the road is complete before the onset of winter. The highway is going to drastically reduce the time taken for traveling to and fro and to reach to Srinagar. City from these districts. He also took stock of the progress made in execution of Srinagar-Baramulla-Uri Highway, Chenani-Sudmahadev-Goha-Khellani, Akhnor-Poonch, Singhpora-Vailoo and Chatroo-Khanabal Highways and stressed on their early completion.

Dr Mehta enquired from the executing agencies about the bottlenecks affecting the pace of their work. He passed directions to the concerned government departments for taking measures to address the bottlenecks. He said that both the executing agencies and different government departments should work in coordination with each other and hold regular deliberations for resolving issues without wasting time.

On the occasion, the Chief Secretary enjoined upon the Divisional Administration Kashmir to ensure that there are no unnecessary halts on the highways in the valley during convoy movement.

Transformative

Rs 400 crore from the exchequer. This transition is emblematic of the UT's commitment to streamlining administrative processes and harnessing technological advancements for greater efficiency.

A pivotal milestone is marked by the establishment of a dedicated Registration Department, overseeing the digitized process of land and property registration. With the advent of digitalization, the UT has ushered in an era of convenience, rendering over 600 services accessible online and obviating the need for cumbersome paperwork.

Unveiling a true embodiment of grassroots democracy, the Block Development Council elections have breathed new life into local governance, empowering communities and fostering a deeper sense of participation and representation.

The visionary "Back To Village" program has carried the administration's presence to the doorsteps of the people, creating an invaluable bridge between policymakers and the realities of the ground. This pioneering initiative has paved the way for more tailored and impactful development strategies.

Addressing historical injustices, Jammu and Kashmir has extended domicile status to marginalized communities, including displaced persons, Valmikis, and children of women married outside the region, effectively dismantling decades of discrimination and exclusion.

The ambitious Prime Minister's Development Package has expedited developmental projects, with an impressive tally of 32 completed projects by May 2023, a stark contrast to the 7 achieved by June 2018.

The thrust towards enhancing hydroelectric power generation is underscored by the augmentation of capacity, set to reach a formidable 3050 MW by 2025-26.

In tandem, the UT has achieved a substantial surge in power transmission capacity, bolstered by the addition of 4020 MVA capacity between April 2019 and March 2023.

Infrastructure development has forged ahead with the connection of 2096 habitations and the construction of 244 bridges, reaffirming Jammu and Kashmir's commitment to spurring economic growth.

Travel dynamics have been redefined, as the travel time between Srinagar and Jammu for Light Motor Vehicles has been significantly reduced from 7-12 hours to a mere 5.5 hours, enhancing regional connectivity and accessibility.

A testament to the commitment towards equitable access to essential services, the current fiscal year (2023-24) promises functional household tap connections for all 18.67 lakh rural households.

The economic horizon of Jammu and Kashmir has been invigorated by a surge in industrial growth, substantiated by an impressive influx of investment proposals totaling a staggering 73,376 Crores.

As a trailblazer in social welfare, the UT unveiled the groundbreaking Universal Health Insurance Scheme, bestowing families with up to Rs 5 lakh health coverage, making Jammu and Kashmir the vanguard of inclusive healthcare.

In the backdrop of these transformative accomplishments, Jammu and Kashmir stands poised on the cusp of a new dawn, propelled by visionary leadership, strategic policy shifts, and an unwavering commitment to progress. The Nriya Natika "Yug Parivartan-Badalta Jammu Kashmir" serves as an evocative testament to this evolution, weaving a narrative of hope, resilience, and a brighter future for the people of the region.

Border Tourism

about 5-6 Kms will also be black topped in coming 4-5 months," he said.

He added that the department has identified around 300 off-beat destinations and border areas are among those destinations. (KNS)

BJP All Set To Return With Thumping Majority In 2024: Rana

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: BJP leader Devender Singh Rana Friday said, India is all set to enter into glorious chapter of its economic and developmental odyssey post-independence to become the world's third blooming economy with Prime Minister Narendra Modi leading the party to its third consecutive term in 2024 general elections.

In an interaction with the various deputations, individuals along with Mrs Veenu Khanna, BJP State Secretary during the weekly public hearing at the BJP headquarters here, Mr Devender Rana said that strong foundations have been laid during the past over nine years since 2014 due to relentless efforts of the Prime Minister in every sector that have caught the imagination of the world

across continents.

"With all positives to its credit, the BJP is going to win the next year's general elections with a thumping majority", he added.

Rana said India's growth trajectory has inspired even the developed nations that underwent most difficult times during the Covid pandemic and added that this is how the vision and steadfastness of the Prime Minister showed the way to all those undergoing the phase of despondency and gloom. He quoted the International Monetary Fund reposing faith in the Indian economy, describing it as a very strong economy. He said the BJP led NDA government has set a target for itself to change the overall scenario of the country by overtaking the political outfits that caused huge damage to the greatest



civilization of the world by indulging in exploitation and appeasement.

Devender Rana said that India has not only become a bright spot in the global econ-

omy but is also witnessing a huge cultural renaissance. He referred to Yoga becoming global and the people around the world looking towards this ancient nation

for quenching their spiritual thirst. This has become possible because of the BJP's strong belief in India's great traditions and values. These have to be imbibed among

the compatriots for making India stronger, he added.

Referring to the turnaround in the overall situation across Jammu and Kashmir, Mr Rana said that the era of uncertainty has been taken over by stability and the phase of gloom by blooming peace, bringing cheer in the lives of the people. He said the Prime Minister has proved beyond any doubt that Modi Hai Tu Mumkin hai while recalling the historic decision of repealing Article 370 and 35A. Nobody had thought such a thing happening in their lifetime given the tentacles of the vicious circle but the Prime Minister and his team made it happen much to the delight of millions, who have suffered due to pangs of these discriminatory constitutional provisions. This landmark decision paved the way for implementing vari-

ous progressive legislations like Right to Education (RTE) Act, Safai Karmachari Act as well as the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, among other similar measures. These have empowered the weaker sections while Jammu and Kashmir is treading the path of holistic development and implementation of various people friendly schemes with full vigour, he added. He said post 5th August 2019 there has been an equitable political, social & economic empowerment of all sections of the society.

Mr Rana called for launching a vigorous awareness campaign to educate the people about fast changing scenarios in Jammu and Kashmir to offset the propaganda of those trying to mislead the people with the only objective of regaining their lost power.

DIPR Organises Plantation Drive Under 'Meri Mitti Mera Desh' Campaign



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Under the ongoing 'Meri Mitti Mera Desh' campaign, the department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Friday organised plantation drive (Vasuda Vandhan) to commemorate the 75 years of Independence being celebrated as Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Director Information, Minga Sherpa along with officers and officials of department participated in the drive and planted several plant saplings in the premises of office complex.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Information highlighted that the 'Vasuda Vandhan' (Earth's Wealth) initiative is being celebrated under AKAM to foster the sense of pride and responsibility among citizens towards environment besides creating awareness about supreme sacrifices made by freedom fighters and soldiers for the cause of our nation. He called upon the officers to create maximum awareness among the people about 'Meri Mitti Mera Desh' campaign as this department has vital role in that.

The drive saw participation of all the officers and officials of the department who planted saplings around the premises of the department.

Dir Libraries Reviews Arrangements For I-Day Celebrations By DL&R



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A meeting of the officers and officials of the Department of Libraries & Research was convened under the chairmanship of Director, Libraries & Research, Mohammad Rafi here Friday to finalize the arrangements for celebration of Independence Day - 2023 by the Department.

The Deputy Director Libraries & Research Kashmir, Assistant Director Libraries & Research Kashmir, Chief & District Librarians from Jammu and Kashmir divisions attended the meeting.

The meeting was informed that the main events regarding celebration of Independence Day - 2023 by the Department will be organized at SPS Library Srinagar and SRS Library Jammu.

The Director Libraries & Research said that all I/Cs of Public Libraries, including Central and District Libraries, shall ensure hoisting of the National Flag at the respective Public Libraries ensuring strict adherence to the set protocol (Flag Code & Order of Precedence).

He said all officers and officials of the Department shall actively participate in the "Meri Mitti, Mera Desh" campaign as also in other celebrations under "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" including "Tiranga Yatras".

He asked the I/Cs of District Libraries to coordinate with the respective District Administrations and ensure active participation of the Department in all the events to be organized by the respective District Administrations in connection with the Independence Day - 2023 celebrations. Instructions were issued to all I/Cs of Central and District libraries to arrange illumination of the respective Library buildings on the eve of Independence Day - 2023.

It was also decided that I/Cs of Public Libraries shall organize special book exhibitions at the respective libraries in connection with the Independence Day - 2023 celebrations to highlight the India's freedom struggle.

'Conman' Kiran Patel Transferred To Gujarat From J&K Jail

AGENCIES

AHMEDABAD- Alleged conman Kiran Patel was on Thursday brought from a jail in Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir to Gujarat on a transfer warrant by the Ahmedabad Crime Branch and placed under arrest in a cheating case, an official said.

This is the seventh FIR against Patel and involves alleged cheating of a businessman by posing as a Class I officer, he said.

Patel made national headlines when he was arrested in Jammu and Kashmir for posing as a top official in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in March after videos showing him moving around under security cover went viral.

He was remanded in the custody of the crime branch till 2pm on Friday, the official said, adding that it is the second occasion when Gujarat police have brought him from J-K through a transfer warrant.

As per the fresh FIR registered with Sola police station in Ahmedabad recently, Patel, a resident of Ghodasar area of city, had cheated Morbi-based businessman Bharat



Patel of Rs 42.86 lakh by posing as a "class-1 government officer," a crime branch release said.

"When Bharat Patel was planning to set up a factory in Morbi a year ago, Kiran Patel approached him claiming he works as a class-1 officer and can get required clearances from the state government using his influence," as per the release.

"Kiran Patel took Rs 42.86 lakh from the businessman in various installments. However, when nothing

was moving for seven to eight months, Bharat Patel found Kiran Patel was lying and filed a police case," as per the FIR.

Kiran Patel has been charged under Indian Penal Code sections 420 (cheating), 406 (breach of trust), 120B (criminal conspiracy) and 170 (impersonation).

Kiran Patel is facing similar FIRs in Ahmedabad, Vadodara and Bayad towns of Gujarat, and in some of the cases, his wife Malini Patel has been held as co-accused.

CONJUNCTIVITIS OUTBREAK

ADDC B'la Chairs Meeting; Discusses Action Plan



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: In view of a sudden surge in conjunctivitis cases (pink eyes) in Baramulla district, the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Baramulla, Aijaz Abdullah Saraf Friday convened a meeting of all concerned officers to discuss the action plan for mitigating the outbreak.

During the meeting, a threadbare discussion was held on the subject wherein a comprehensive action plan was discussed to mitigate the conjunctivitis disease in the district.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADCD showed his concern over the massive outbreak of pink eye disease in the district and said that the sudden surge of conjunctivitis cases has alarmed the people leaving scores of people grappling with the disease. He called for adopting coordinated approach besides adopting precautionary measures to combat the disease.

Briefing the chair about the status of the disease, Chief Medical officer informed that a large number of patients with the same

disease have approached the hospitals during which 780 patients were treated during the current month. He also said that the patients are being thoroughly checked by doctors and are advised to follow the precautionary measures in letter and spirit.

Medical Superintendent, Government Medical College Baramulla also appraised the meeting with regard to the flow of the patients with Conjunctivitis and said that 180 cases got treatment in the hospital.

Other speakers including Expert Ophthalmologist, SDH Sopore, also spoke on the occasion and said that the causes of conjunctivitis vary, encompassing viral and bacterial infections, parasitic infestations, and allergies.

While the discomfort associated with conjunctivitis is undeniable, Senior Ophthalmologist GMC Baramulla, Sheikh Sadat reassured that the condition typically does not pose a threat to one's vision, with most cases resolving without lasting effects. "Timely treatment and proper care, however, are essential to avoid complications," he added.

On the occasion, the team of experts advocated preventive measures, urging people to maintain good hand hygiene through frequent washing with soap and water.

Meanwhile, the ADCD directed concerned Officers to adopt a coordinated approach so that the unexpected outbreak gets eliminated. He also asked concerned authorities to aware the people with regard to the disease.

Moreover, Schools have been instructed to ensure hygiene and promptly report cases of conjunctivitis to nearby health centers. Parents were encouraged to collaborate with schools in managing affected children's conditions.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Zahoor Ahmad Raina; Joint Director Planning, M.Yousuf Rather; Chief Medical officer Baramulla, Dr Bashir Ahmad Malik; Medical superintendent GMC Baramulla, Parvez Masoodi; Consultants, Dr Sheikh Sadat Ophthalmologist GMC and Dr Mohammad Ayaz Ophthalmologist SDH Sopore besides other functionaries of concerned departments were present in the meeting.

MERI MAATI MERA DESH

Dir Tourism Plants Tree Saplings At TRC



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Directorate of Tourism Kashmir organised a plantation drive and took pledge under the banner of the "Meri Maati Mera Desh" campaign.

Director Tourism Kashmir, Raja Yaqoob Farooq, led the endeavor by planting tree saplings.

The event was graced by senior officers and officials, who collectively stood united in their pledge

of commitment towards safeguarding the values of the country.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Tourism Kashmir said that Tourism Department continues to spearhead initiatives that combine environmental consciousness with patriotic fervour. He said the "Meri Maati Mera Desh" campaign stands as a powerful embodiment of collective action and a beacon of hope for a greener, more vibrant future.

MERI MAATI-MERA DESH

CUK Organises Lecture, Debate Competition



GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Department of Politics and Governance in collaboration with Directorate of Students' Welfare (DSW), Friday organised two events on "Meri Maati-Mera Desh" in commemoration of 77th Independence Day.

The first event was a lecture on 'Strengthening Indian Democracy' delivered by Dr. Muzafar Ahmad. He talked about the celebrations of Independence day with the theme of 'Meri Maati- Mera Desh' and its importance for grassroots democracy. He also talked about the importance of celebrating national Independence Day and the role it plays in strengthening the feelings of patriotism.

The second event was a debate competition on the theme 'Meri Maati- Mera Desh'. The student participants included Mr. Zulfikar Ahmad, Mr. Aftab Ahmad,

Mr. Prabash Ranjan and Mr. Abdul Khaliq. Mr. Zulfikar talked about the importance of the "Meri Maati Mera Desh" campaign and the activities to be conducted in different parts of the country. Mr. Aftab Ahmad highlighted the role of Muslim leaders played in the Indian freedom struggle. Mr. Prabash Ranjan, talked about the role of Bhagat Singh in the Indian freedom movement. Mr. Abdul Khaliq also talked about the sacrifices made by the Indian leaders for the cause of the nation.

Dean, DSW and Finance Officer, Dr. Mehraj-ud-din Shah gave the concluding remarks and informed the students about the Meri Maati Mera Desh campaign and its importance for strengthening democracy and different events which the university is conducting in commemoration of 77th independence day.

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

A Broken Note

Kashmir is famous for its marvelous beauty, sweet music, and vast culture. For centuries people in the valley have been humming Kashmiri traditional songs, and lullabies, with great enthusiasm. In the past people used to hear music near lakes and rivers and under the chinar trees. The village people working in paddy fields sang Kashmiri songs. As time passed away, the modern Kashmiri people found it boring and were inclined towards western music. Unfortunately, Kashmiri music started diminishing with time. The youth in the valley chose Western music over our native music. Kashmiri music is beautiful but in this modern world, it is important to shape some things. The noise of western music had suppressed the music of Kashmir. Youngsters believed that it is boring as they were not aware of its significance. From a few years, we can clearly see Kashmiri songs reviving in the valley. The heart and soul of our culture were Kashmiri folk songs but as Bollywood songs made their entry into our markets, Kashmiris, particularly youngsters, developed a keen liking and interest in them. Today the new age singers are making Kashmiri songs with western pop music which is attracting the youth. It is also giving competition to the old singers. The old songs are designed in the latest version which is increasing the number of listeners. The new generation is attracted to Kashmiri songs but with pop music. Many Youngsters are coming forward in this field and setting up their own music houses. But there is a deep conflict between the old Kashmiri musicians and contemporary music. There are some old singers who think that the traditional music was the original version which must be not overshadowed by Kashmiri music with western pop music. On the other hand, the modern generation feels that the slight western music with Kashmiri lyrics does wonders. It increases the number of listeners. No doubt the traditional songs have been melodious in the olden times but times have changed now. The new generation is creative and is Kashmir remaking Kashmiri songs which will reach every nook and corner of the globe. Thanks to the new singers who are working hard to keep our culture alive.



DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH

Combating violence in sensitive areas of India requires a comprehensive and multi-pronged approach. By addressing root causes, engaging local communities, and investing in education and economic development, these programs aim to foster social solidarity and counter extremist narratives. This introduction sets the stage for effective development initiatives that empower individuals, promote tolerance and build a resilient society against the spread of violence. A comprehensive and multi-pronged approach is needed to design and implement effective development programs to combat violence in vulnerable areas of India.

It is important to understand the underlying factors that contribute to violence in each region. Factors such as economic inequalities, social exclusion, lack of education, and political marginalization often play a role. Involve local communities in the design and implementation of programs. Their insight and active participation are essential to ensure relevance and sustainability. Focus on improving access to quality education and skill development opportunities. Education can empower individuals to make informed choices and oppose extremist ideologies. Promoting inclusive economic growth by investing in infrastructure, industries, and job creation, economic opportunity can help reduce feelings of hopelessness and desperation that extremists can exploit. Encourage dialogue and interaction between different religious, ethnic, and social groups to promote understanding and tolerance.

Building social solidarity can help bridge divisions and reduce the appeal of extremist narratives. Strengthen law enforcement and



justice systems to ensure fair and speedy resolution of conflicts and complaints. A sense of justice is necessary to build trust in institutions. Develop and disseminate counter-narratives that challenge extremist ideologies and propaganda. Media, local influencers, and religious leaders can play an important role in this endeavor. Engage youth through positive activities, sports, arts, and culture to divert attention from extremist influences and provide them with a sense of belonging. Continuously monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of development programs to make necessary adjustments and improvements. Ensure coordination between various government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and international partners to effectively pool resources and expertise.

There are many examples where development programs and approaches have yielded positive results in combating violence. The "Rajasthan Madarsa Board" initiative focuses on the modernization of traditional Islamic schools (madrassas) in the state. By including subjects such as science, mathematics, and English in the curriculum along with religious studies, it provided a

more all-round education to the students. As a result, students became less vulnerable to extremist ideologies. The "Sadbhavana" project in Andhra Pradesh aims to promote social integration among diverse communities. It brought people from different religious backgrounds together for community events, sports, and cultural activities. This increased understanding, reduced mistrust, and helped build stronger ties between communities. The "Udaan" program focuses on providing skill development and job training to the youth in the Kashmir Valley.

By increasing their employability and providing economic opportunities, it aims to combat feelings of alienation and hopelessness among youth, thereby making them less vulnerable to radicalization. Development schemes such as the "Road Connectivity Project" aim to build roads and improve connectivity in affected areas. These projects not only increased access but also brought economic benefits to isolated areas, reducing the influence of extremist groups. The "Gunotsav" program in Assam focuses on improving the quality of education in government schools. By enhancing

the learning environment and teacher training, it improved educational opportunities for children, making them less vulnerable to extremist influences. Some states, such as Kerala, have implemented de-radicalization programs that focus on the rehabilitation of individuals affected by extremist ideologies. These initiatives provide counseling, vocational training, and reintegration support, helping individuals to reintegrate into society.

The success of development programs in combating violence lies in their adaptability, community participation, and continuous evaluation. By addressing underlying factors, fostering social cohesion, and providing opportunities for education and economic development, these initiatives can make a significant impact in vulnerable areas of India. Together, these efforts contribute to building more inclusive, tolerant, and resilient societies, ultimately reducing the effects of violence and promoting lasting positive change.

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Feminism And Historical Struggle For Gender Equality

DR VLADISLAVB SOTIROVIC

It is important to have a short look at the history of this battle for more women's rights. That is why I will shortly explain the ideology and social movement of Feminism, the factor which has driven women in their battle for equal chances and respect. Finally, I will come to my main topic which is the specific problems with which women have to deal concerning politics in Western democracies of (post)industrialized societies.[1] For instance, the question is: What is the representation of women in Western politics today? It would be taken a look at their representation in the Parliaments, and in which number they are able to occupy some key political positions. It will be discussed some evolutions and also the difficulties they still have to deal with because of their gender belonging. The crucial examples are coming from the European Union (the EU) and its Member States. Consequently, it is also important to try to propose some solutions to the issue of female representation in the Parliaments, for instance. Here, I will present the EU's policy towards this issue as an example to try to answer two questions: Is a policy of active interference positive or not? What is about quota policy?

Feminism: In history, there were three big waves of feminism as a social movement; the first one is situated in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and refers mainly to women's suffrage movements which were political and mainly concerned with women's right to vote. The second wave is situated in the 1960s and refers to the ideas and actions associated with the women's liberation movement which campaigned for legal and social equality for women. The third wave is situated at the beginning of the 1990s and still goes on. This wave refers to a continuation of, and a reaction to the perceived failures of second-wave feminism (Krolokke & Soronsen, 2005, pp. 24).

Furthermore, feminism can be seen as an ideology with different writings and investigations on the unequal status of women. In the 1920s and 1930s social science began to investigate gender[2]. There was a main focus on sex roles investigation and while social scientists did not see sex and gender as synonymous, they believed that they were closely connected. They claimed that the particular characteristics of men and women led to the performances of particular social roles. The prevailing sexual division of labor



reflected the close correspondence between gender traits and sex roles. Gender was thus held to be, if not immutable and natural, then at least relatively stable and fixed and, moreover, socially useful. It was even possible to speak about deviancy in relation to those people who were held to be insufficiently 'masculine' or 'feminine' and who could not be accommodated within this schema.

In the 1960s there was an upraise of feminist analyses which claimed that sex roles were assigned by society and male-identifying roles were frequently seen to be more important and deserving of greater social rewards than female-orientated roles. The theories that explained women's particular status in terms of either their 'natural' or 'essential' characteristics were ideological, serving to legitimize an unjust social order that valued men and the 'masculine' more highly than women and the 'feminine'.

On the basis of this analysis, feminists argued that the route to sexual equality and women's liberation lay in challenging conventional sex roles. This was not an easy task as sex roles were deeply entrenched in a complex system of stereotyping, supported by a whole range of social institutions and practices and the state as a patriarchal power (Stearns, 2006, pp. 8-10).

The feminist movement has given rise to a large body of theory that attempts to explain gender inequalities and set forth agendas for overcoming those inequalities. While feminist writers are all concerned with women's unequal position in society, their explanations for it vary substantially. Competing schools of feminism have sought to explain gender inequalities through a variety of deeply embedded social processes, such as sexism, patriarchy, capitalism, and racism (Giddens, 2004, pp. 114).

An example of a feminist school is liberal feminism, which focuses on inequalities in social and cultural attitudes and independent depriva-

tions from which women suffer, such as sexism, unequal payment, and the 'glass ceiling'. Liberal feminists do not focus on gender study though and they do not deal with the root causes of gender inequality and do not acknowledge the systemic nature of women's oppression in society, unlike radical feminists. Radical feminists believe that men are responsible for and benefit from the exploitation of women and believe the world system is a patriarchal one. Radical feminists do not believe that women can be liberated from sexual oppression through reforms or gradual change. Because patriarchy is a systemic phenomenon, they argue, gender equality can only be attained by overthrowing the patriarchal order. (Giddens, 2004, pp. 114-115).

There are many other feminist schools that are worth taking a look at, to mention a few others there is also black feminism, critical feminism, Marxist feminism, poststructuralist feminism, and postcolonial feminism. To discuss all is very interesting but then, I would not have the time left to discuss my main point of focus; the influence of gender in politics.

Politics and Gender: In most political systems, women are vastly underrepresented. Throughout the world, women face obstacles for their participation in politics. These barriers exist in prevailing social and economic systems, as well as in existing political structures. It is not the case that women are not represented, rather than that, they do not have the share of political power that would be expected given free and equal access. In other words, there is a democratic deficit (European Commission).

In 2007, the rate of female representation at the national level stands at merely 18 percent globally. Although this figure has increased in recent years, minimal progress has been made, meaning that the ideal of parity between men and women in national legislatures remains distant (IDEA).

Moreover, there are also very

few women in 'high politics' (or key positions in politics). The achievements of some female individuals like I. Gandhi, G. Meir, B. Bhutto, and M. Thatcher, remarkable as they are, mask a considerable imbalance in the number of women who have political power (Clements & Spinks, 2006, pp. 82-83). The question can be asked if this is a consequence of discriminatory practices based on the belief that women are not 'up' for the job (Stearns, 2006, pp. 28), a belief that is a consequence of traditions and stereotypes.

Some factors which make it hard for women to rise to the top levels of industry and commerce operate with even more vigor in politics. This includes firstly, the enormous drain on an individual's time if they are to rise to the key political functions. Far fewer women, particularly if they choose to have children (and then become locked into a childcare role), are able to devote the time it takes to reach the top positions. Research made clear that childcare and housework are very unequally shared with the women taking on most of the burden. Secondly, the alleged operation of the 'old boys' network in the selection of key positions. Even where the policy is one of promotion to key jobs on merit alone, there are far fewer suitable qualified women (in terms of experience) to choose from. This is largely because access to such suitable qualified previous positions is not there for them in the first place. Thirdly, men also set the very standards by which women will be judged when they apply for senior positions, and these may discriminate against women because they are based on male assumptions of a 'woman's place'. Fourthly, political power might well represent the ultimate ability to influence things. Are men especially reluctant to loosen their grip on this? (Clements & Spinks, 2006, pp. 83, 85-87).

Women have certainly boosted their presence in European govern-

ments, thanks in part to electoral quotas, but are still under-represented despite high-profile exceptions like Angela Merkel and Margaret Thatcher. According to a study by the commission, the European Union's executive arm, even if there are increasing numbers of women candidates their male counterparts still have a better chance of getting elected due to ingrained prejudices and customs.

It's wrong to blame women voters. The main problem is that male voters vote for male candidates, argues Drude Dahlerup, a professor in the Department of Political Science at Stockholm University. "We are changing from the idea that equality will come by itself. Today we realize this is not the way things work, added Dahlerup, who has researched gender quota systems (European Commission).

The proportion of female members of national parliaments (single/lower house) across the EU has risen by around half over the last decade, from 16% in 1997 to 24% in 2008. Sweden, the Netherlands, and Finland are the only EU countries with more than 40% women in parliament, the majority (17) of the EU Member States still have less than 25% women Members of Parliament.

The European Parliament is just above the national parliament's figure with 31% women and 69% men. This is a better balance than in national parliaments[3] but progress towards gender equality has stagnated and there has been little change since the 1999 elections, the representation of women remains more or less static. The 2009 elections represent an opportunity to take the next step forwards. On average, men outnumber women among ministers in national governments by around three to one (25% women, 75% men) (European Commission).

While the last few years have seen a general increase in the number of women in decision-making positions in Europe, women remain very much in the minority in the political (and economic) spheres. In parliaments, governments, and ministries and in the private sector too, power is still firmly in men's hands. The EU sees equality between women and men as a fundamental right. The Commission that handles the subject of gender equality is the 'European Commission for Employment, Social Affairs, and Equal Opportunities'.

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Long Walk To Transgender Rights And Gender Equality

SHOBHA SHUKLA / BOBBY RAMAKANT

Although governments have committed to achieve gender equality by 2030, yet the progress is way off the mark. United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres had recently said that it will take another 300 years to achieve full gender equality. More worrying is the fact that transgender and other gender diverse people, often slip on the blind spot when many governments refer to gender equality and see it with sex and gender binary lens (man and woman, or male and female).

"Though we see progress on transgender rights in many parts of the world but there has been alarming backlash and resistance too. For example, we have seen laws that criminalise LGBTQIAP+ communities, or target transgender people," said Nachale Boonyapisomparn (also known as Hua) while speaking at the Gender Equality Talks #90for90 Global Voices series. Hua is a trans woman activist who was deeply involved with founding of both transgender-registered organisations in Thailand - Sisters Foundation and Foundation of Transgender Alliance for Human Rights (often referred to as Thai TGA). She was also the first coordinator of the Asia Pacific Transgender Network (APTN).

Legal right to gender recognition

Thailand is known for being a relatively safe space for gender diverse peoples. Nachale explains that this is not the full story: "Thailand does not have laws to protect transgender rights at all. We do not have legal gender recognition in Thailand. We have been advocating for same-sex marriage for a long time but it has not been a success yet. However, I must say that Thailand has done very well in responding to HIV among transgender women."

Nachale points out that although HIV programmes have prioritised key populations yet these are limited to transgender women. "Transgender men have remained excluded from HIV programming not only in Thailand but also in other nations," she said.

"We have been working with a range of partners at Thai TGA to draft a civil society version of gender recognition law (or gender identity law), which is ready to be proposed to the parliamentarians," shared Nachale.

Gender-affirming hormone therapy

"Gender identity and sex assigned at birth do not match with each other for transgender men and transgender women. Most of them also have a condition called gender dysphoria, where they do not want to be trapped in the sex assigned to them at birth, rather they want to transition from their sex assigned at birth, and fulfil their gender identity by becoming another gender. The process of gender-affirming hormone therapy is not just a medical intervention, rather it is a fulfilment of not just gender identity but of the whole identity of a person," said Dr Jakkrapatara Boonruang (also known as Dr Fair), research physician at Institute of HIV Research and Innovation (IHRI).

"Gender-affirming hormone therapy should be available to those who want their gender iden-



tity to be fulfilled. It is important to include it in national health schemes globally so that those who need it can access it as well," said Dr Jakkrapatara, who was awarded the prestigious Dr Mark Wainberg Fellowship at the 2023 International AIDS Society (IAS) HIV Science conference (IAS 2023). He was also speak-

ing also struggle in our daily lives. As transgender people we experience trauma, discrimination, and stigma, and are at the risk of being burnt out, feel unwell, or feel like sharing with someone. That is why as an organisation, Thai TGA has created this safe space so that people can do so," said Nachale.

Families matter



at the Gender Equality Talks.

Wellness and healing

Nachale and Thai TGA members recognize that it is important to not only integrate wellness and healing for the community but also their own team members. "As transgender rights activist we have been fighting not only for our community but

with her family and community during the pandemic times. She worked as the Transgender and Gender Non-binary Health Advisor at Apicha Community Health Centre in New York City. Currently, she works as a Partnerships Manager at Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice.

ents, will be stronger, despite growing up in a very gender binary society," said Nachale. Parents of LGBTQIAP+ children also do not have any safe space to share with each other. "Sometimes they blame themselves. That is why we have provided them a safe space too."

Nachale has also worked in USA for over 10 years and moved back to Thailand in 2020 to be

need" principle

"We have to serve what people need. 'Serve people what they need' is an important principle for donors. Instead, we have lot of donors who have their agenda and indicators," said Nachale.

Most social stereotypes, norms, attitudes and practices, reinforce sex and gender binary. Nachale asserted that intersectional approach is necessary to address diverse needs of transgender communities- for example, persons with disabilities, young transgender people, or those among ethnic minorities. "If we truly want to leave no one behind, we have to understand the intersectionality when it comes to advancing rights of transgender communities," said Nachale.

"We have to shake the social institution to think about gender equality and social inclusion of LGBTQIAP+ people," said Nachale while sharing her experience of reaching out to Buddhist religious leaders. Her journey to engage religious leaders on transgender rights and inclusion was not smooth but eventually she made some headway. "We need to create space and entry points for people (such as religious leader) to come and talk with us. Even if we do not agree we have to be compassionate towards each other. We have to show compassion to those who are different, but more importantly we have to show compassion towards our own selves," rightly said Nachale.

She concluded: "We, as activists, are in this struggle to advance gender equality and human rights for a long haul. We need to recognize that countless people have dedicated their lives in this struggle long before us. Many have passed away without seeing how the seeds are which they had so painstakingly planted. We honour them, but at the same time we also need to give ourselves a break when we need it. We have to take care of our own wellness and healing - of our own selves - without feeling guilty."

Shobha Shukla and Bobby Ramakant are part of the editorial team of Citizen News Service. Both of them are on the governing board of Asia Pacific Media Alliance for Health and Development (APCAT Media) and PRB Public Health Reporting Corps. Follow them on Twitter: @Shobha1Shukla, @BobbyRamakant.

"Serve people what they

GMC Sgr, Anwar-ul-Islam foundation organise conference on 'Azmat-i-Imam Hussain'



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Gandhi Memorial College, Srinagar in collaboration with Anwar-ul-Islam foundation Friday organised a one-day conference on the theme 'Azmat-i-Imam Hussain' (AS). The conference was attended by a galaxy of scholars besides students and faculty members of Gandhi Memorial College, Srinagar.

Khurshid Ahmad Qanungo, Showkat Hussain Keing, Shakeel Qalandar, Syed Humayun Qaisar and Haneef Balkhi were the guests on this occasion. The conference opened with recitation of the verses of the Quran. This was followed by a welcome address delivered by Chairman Anwar-ul-Islam foundation. In his presidential speech, the college Principal, Prof (Dr) G M Lone exhorted the audience to

embrace the message of patience, steadfastness and courage exhibited by Imam Hussain in the battlefield of Karbala. Khurshid Ahmad Qanungo, Showkat Hussain Keing and Afaq Chisti were among the speakers who spoke on various dimensions of the personality of Imam Hussain (AS). The book titled "Sargazash" was also released during the proceedings of this conference.

Mega Tiranga rally witnesses overwhelming response in Pulwama

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: As part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mohatsav' and under 'Meri Maati, Mera Desh' campaign, a massive Tiranga Rally was Friday organised at Awantipora, Pulwama.

The rally witnessed massive participation of over 30,000 people including all stakeholders.

The rally was flagged-off by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom during a grand ceremony held at DPL Awantipora.

The Sub-Divisional Administration Awantipora and Tral coordinated the event and Officers and staff from Administration also participated in the event.

The rally started from the District Police lines Awantipora and passed through the main town Awantipora and culminated at the Gates of Islamic University of Science & Technology (IUST) Awantipora. Participants were carrying the national flag and were enthusiastic about their participation in the grand rally.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that the idea behind the campaign of 'Meri Maati, Mera Desh' in general and Tiranga yatra in particular, is to instill the feeling of patriotism in the hearts of people



and reminisce the journey of India and those who have contributed towards creating this great nation. The DC said that in connection with the 'Meri Maati, Mera Desh' campaign, multiple events are being organised in the district and many more Tiranga rallies will be held in coming days. He further informed that on 12th August one mega Tiranga rally is scheduled at DPL Pulwama and urged everyone to be part of the grand rally to cherish the

ones who made our independence possible. Dr Basharat congratulated people for their enthusiasm and commitment and urged them to participate wholeheartedly in the upcoming events of 'Meri Maati, Mera Desh' programme. SSP Awantipora, Aijaz Ahmad Zargar; ADC Awantipora, Zaffar Ahmad Shawl; ADC Tral, Sajid Yehaya Naqash and Cmtt. CRPF 130 Btl., Rajiv Yadav among others participated in the rally.

'MARI MATI MARA DESH' Agri deptt conducts Awareness programme in Kokernag



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In Celebration of the 75 years of India's Independence, a mega Awareness programme under the aegis 'Meri Maati, Mera Desh' was Friday held at Sagram Kokernag.

The awareness programme was inaugurated by the Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director emphasised the importance of 'Meri Maati, Mera Desh' campaign. He asked the officers/officials of the department that the best way to celebrate the event would be to work in complete coordination with the farming community of the region.

He asked them to put in every possible effort for the development and prosperity of the agriculture sector. He also assured the farmers that the department would be there for them, during their every endeavour to achieve success in

the field of agriculture. Director Agriculture said that the 'Meri Maati, Mera Desh' campaign is aimed at invoking feelings of patriotism and unity in the hearts of people and promoting a sense of respect for the soil of the nation and symbols of countries' independence. Director Agriculture congratulated the people of Sagram and adjacent areas for G.I tagging of Mushk-budji rice. He said after G.I tagging only the authorised user has the exclusive rights to use the geographical indication in relation to this aromatic rice. He said this will boost the product not only at national level but also at international level. It will increase the export and thereby promote economic prosperity of producers, related stakeholders and will contribute to GDP of the country. Chief Agriculture Officer Anantnag, Aijaz Hussain Dar and other senior officers were also present on the occasion.

AIG-R Kashmir visits SR Office Kangan

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: The Additional Inspector General Registrations (AIG-R) Kashmir, Sajad Hussain Ganaie Friday visited Sub Registrar office Kangan to assess the overall functioning of the SR office. On the occasion, AIG-R took detailed review about the functioning of the SR office, interacted with staff, examined various records and also enquired about the issues faced, if any. He directed for strict adherence to the timelines so that the general public do not face any inconvenience in the registration of their documents.

AIG-R Kashmir emphasized that as the department has already switched over to e-Office mode so that all correspondence/communications is made through e-Office. He reiterated that NGDRS has eased the process of document Registration, brought transparency and facilitated time bound service delivery. The AIG-R was accompanied by Tehsildar HQ.

'Meri Maati, Mera Desh' programme celebrated across Anantnag

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: 'Meri Maati, Mera Desh' programme was Friday held with great zeal and enthusiasm at various locations across Anantnag with an aim to promote environmental awareness, community engagement and patriotic spirit. The event witnessed active participation from residents of all age groups.

District Administration Anantnag with joint efforts of Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Anantnag, Bashir Ahmad Wani; Chairman DLSA Anantnag, Tabasum Qadri;

Chairman MC Anantnag, Hilal Ahmad Shah and various officers highlighted the significance of preserving our natural resources and nurturing a sense of pride in our nation. Activities included tree plantation drives, cleanliness campaigns, debate, Cultural programmes, Painting Competition and educational sessions on sustainable living. Volunteers and participants came together to plant a variety of native trees, contributing to the greening of the region. This initiative was aimed at enhancing the local environment and creating a lasting positive

impact on the community. Cleaning drives were conducted in public spaces, parks, and market areas. Participants enthusiastically collected waste and emphasized the importance of waste segregation and responsible disposal to maintain the cleanliness and hygiene of the region. Interactive sessions were organized to educate attendees about the importance of sustainable practices, conservation of resources, and the need to reduce carbon footprint. Experts from various fields shared valuable insights and tips for a more eco-friendly lifestyle.

DC Kulgam reviews arrangements for I-Day celebration

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr Bilal Mohi-Uddin Bhat Friday convened a meeting of Officers to review arrangements to be put in place by different departments for celebration of Independence Day, 2023.

During the meeting, DPL Kulgam was finalized as the main venue where the Tricolour will be hoisted by the chief guest followed by the march past to be presented by contingents from District Police, CRPF, IRPF, Women Contingent, Police

band, NCC, students and other contingents. Threading discussion was also held with regard to the security arrangements, traffic regulation, seating arrangements, Full Dress Rehearsal, decoration, PAS, power and water supply, transport arrangements, sanitation, Medicare facilities, invitation cards, Barricading at venue of the function, etc. The DC directed all officers to make fool-proof arrangements at all levels in advance for the National event to make it a great success.

He instructed the Officers to ensure all related arrangements are made well in advance and work in close coordination for the smooth conduct of Independence Day celebrations across the district. PDD and Jal Shakti departments were directed to ensure proper management of electricity and water including water tankers at the venue. The CMO was asked to ensure proper medical facilities along with staff and ambulances at the venue of celebration. The EO of Municipality

Council Kulgam was directed by the DC to ensure proper sanitation and cleanliness of the main venue and town. PDD was tasked for illumination of the mini-secretariat and other main offices. The meeting was attended by ADDC, Showkat Ahmad Rafter; ADC, Vigar Ahmad Giri; SDM Noorabad, Bashir Ul Hassan; ACR, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz; CEO, CMO, Commandant CRPF 18th battalion, DIO, Tehsildars, Dy.SP Hq., Ex. Engineers of R&B and PHE, and other district and sectoral officers of the district.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, TRANS. LINE MAINTT. DIVISION-7, JKPTCL BEMINA, SRINAGAR-190010
 Ph. No. 0194-3516481 e-mail: tmd7.jkptcl@gmail.com
EXTENSION NOTICE
 Due to poor response, the last date for submission of bids in respect of e-NIT No. TLMD-7/12 of 2023 dated: 31-07-2023 for Consultancy services including providing of Drawings, estimates, finalization of tender documents, Monitoring, Inspection & Quality control during execution of work for Strengthening and recasting of tower foundations of 220KV D/c Alusteng-Mirbazar Transmission Line (Capex 2023-24) is hereby extended with revised critical dates as under.

1	E-bids submission end date and time	17-08-2023 (14:00 Hrs)
2	Online techno commercial e-bid opening date and time	18-08-2023 (16:00 Hrs)

All other terms and conditions of e-NIT will remain same.
 No. TLMD-7/TS/1395-97
 Dated: 10 :08: 2023
 DIPP-NB-2551-23
 DT: 11/08/2023
 Executive Engineer
 TLMD-7 Srinagar

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPTT. GROUND WATER DIVISION SRINAGAR
 BAGHI-ALI-MARDAN, NOWSHARA SRINAGAR.
 E- mail: - pwegwd@yahoo.com, Tel./ Fax No:- 0194-2411285

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS
GIST of Detailed e- NIT No. - JS-PHE/GWDS/ 17 of 2023-24.
 For and on behalf of lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, fresh e-tenders are invited in two cover system from registered experienced Contractors of Production wells having good experience of ground water drilling as per the details given as under:-

S.No	Name of work	Est. Cost Rs. in Lacs	Earnest money	Cost of Tender Document	Time of completion	Class of Contract	Major Head /Programme	Tender Call
01	Construction of 01 No. 250 mm Nominal Dia Casing Gravel Packed Production Well at WSS Odina Najin Gadhud District Bandipora	Rs. 41.91 Lacs	Rs. 83,820/-	Rs.2000/-	45 Days	Registered for Construction of Gravel Packed Production Tube Wells	UT CAPEX 2023-24	1 st

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT SHEEP HUSBANDRY OFFICER ANANTNAG
 Tel/ Fax No. 01932-222542 Email: dshoa.sheep@gmail.com

AUCTION NOTICE

Department of Sheep Husbandry Anantnag is going to conduct the public auction of walnut crop at Fodder Farm Rambirpora, FDF Ganeshpora, Sheep Extension Centre Pahalgam and Nowgam. All the interested persons/parties may participate in the auction process at the designated venues as per the schedule given.

Place	Date and Time
Sheep Extension Centre Nowgam	17-08-2023 10:00 am
Fodder Farm Rambirpora	17-08-2023 11:30 am
FDF Ganeshpora	17-08-2023 2:00 pm
Sheep Extension Centre Pahalgam	17-08-2023 4:00 pm

Terms and conditions:
 1) The minimum bid for walnut crop to be auctioned at Fodder Farm Rambirpora has been fixed Rs. 0.90 lacs.
 2) The successful bidders have to deposit the amount in cash on spot.
 3) The committee reserves the right to accept or reject any bid without assigning any reason thereof.
 4) Other terms and conditions shall be communicated on spot.

No. DSHOA/Stores/2023-24/2676-79
 Dated: 11.08.2023.
 DIPP-6891-23
 DT: 11/08/2023
 Sd/= District
 Sheep Husbandry Officer,
 Anantnag.

Position of Funds:- Available
 Authorization issued by Chief Engineer JS (PHE) Deptt. Srinagar Kmr's vide his office letter No: CE/PHE/15557-58, Dated: 07.08.2023.
 The Bidding Documents and other details can be downloaded from the website: [https:// www.jktenders.gov.in](https://www.jktenders.gov.in)
 From 11.08.2023 (04:00 p.m.) UPTO 21.08.2023 (02:00 p.m.)

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings (if any), Book of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms, conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the website: <https:// www.jktenders.gov.in>
 As per Critical Dates/Information scheduled given below

1. Publishing Date	11-08-2023 (10:00 A.M)
2. Period of Downloading of Bids	11-08-2023 (10:00 A.M) upto 21-08-2023 (02:00 P.M)
3. Period of Submission of bids	11-08-2023 (11:00 A.M) upto 21-08-2023 (02:00 P.M)
4. Date of opening of Tender.	22-08-2023 (11:00 A.M)
5. Tender Receiving Authority: Executive Engineer , Jal Shakti (PHE) Ground Water Srinagar Kashmir-190011	
6. Document Cost : Non-Refundable in the shape of Treasury Challan/ receipt deposited to Account Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar(at Saddar Treasury Srinagar) (The firm shall specify the name of work for which apply)	
7. Bid Validity Period: 180 Days	
8. The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on www.jktenders.gov.in	
9. The bids of only those agencies shall be accepted who possess valid registration certificate of construction of production wells.	

Bids must be accompanied by bid security viz: Earnest Money in shape of CDR/FDR and (The date of CDR/FDR etc must not be prior to 03 months from the date of issuance of this e-NIT and Treasury Receipt (mentioning therein the NIT No., S.No. of work and Advertised Cost as per the NIT) as cost of Tender Document under Account Head 0215 to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Ground Water Division Srinagar (as specified in the table (I) (Page 1st). Bid security will have to be in any one of the forms as specified in the bidding documents and shall be valid for 180 Days after opening of bid. Bids will be opened in the Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Ground Water Division Srinagar (H.Q. Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar) on 22.08.2023 at 11:00 am. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
 No: -JS-PHE/GWDS/Corrs./ 3084-97
 Dated: 10-08-2023
 DIPP-6886-23
 DT: 11/08/2023
 Sd/= Executive Engineer
 Jal Shakti PHE Ground Water Division,
 Srinagar.

Renovated Clock Tower at Lal Chowk Gives Glimpse of London

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In Srinagar, the newly renovated historic clock tower at Lal Chowk has emerged as a delightful surprise, capturing the attention of locals and tourists alike. With its resplendent charm and the melodious chime of its bells echoing through the streets every hour, this iconic structure has become a symbol of normalcy and a cherished memory for many.

The clock tower, also known as Ghanta Ghar, holds a special place in the hearts of the community. What once began as an advertising spectacle by the Bajaj Company many decades ago has now evolved into a historical landmark that stands as a testament to the passage of time. As the bells toll rhythmically, they not only mark the hours but also signify a shared history that binds generations.

Passers-by are drawn to the tower not only by its auditory allure but also by its aesthetic appeal. Local shopkeepers and tourists alike find themselves captivated by the tower's enchanting transformation. "The new look of the Clock Tower is becoming a major point of attraction for one and all," a shopkeeper expressed with enthusiasm.



The tower's architecture has sparked comparisons with London's iconic Elizabeth Tower, often affectionately referred to as the Big Ben. This resemblance to a symbol of a far-off city has given rise to a unique sense of connection and curiosity.

For Farooq Ahmad, a shopkeeper with a deep appreciation for history, the clock tower embodies significance beyond its visual and auditory splendor. "Bells ringing at the newly renovated Clock Tower alert everyone and give a reassuring sense of normalcy," he shared. Indeed, the tower's hourly chime serves as a gentle

reminder of the constancy amidst the ebb and flow of daily life, evoking a sense of comfort and unity.

Javid Ahmed, a fruit seller who witnesses the tower's allure every day, shared his perspective on its newfound charm. "One feels as if we are in London. The new look of the clock tower is indeed an attractive one," he mused. The tower's transformation has reinvigorated the spirit of the area, offering a touch of elegance and timelessness that resonates with residents and visitors alike.

The completion of this remarkable project has been a labor of love, a

culmination of dedication and meticulous craftsmanship. Iftikhar Kakroo, Chief Engineer of Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL), expressed his satisfaction with the progress. "With 99 percent of the work on the clock tower completed, we are on track for the grand inauguration before the Independence Day on August 15," he proudly declared. The tower's European design has not only garnered widespread acclaim but has also sparked a viral sensation across social media platforms, further extending its allure to a global audience. (Milap News Network)

Skyrocketing price of saffron brings smiles on the faces of farmers



GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: After GI tagging of saffron, the farmers have hiked its production resulting in substantial earning of revenues.

Soon after harvesting, the saffron is dried through machines, and a GI tag is given at Spice Park. Traditional drying affected the quality of saffron. In the last three years, saffron prices have increased by almost 63 percent as demand soared in the national and international markets. Right now, a kilogram of saffron is sold at Rs 300,000 against Rs 150,000 or less three years ago.

"Our saffron now directly goes to Dubai and in the future, it will rule other countries also," the news reported quoted Saffron Growers' Association (SGA)

president Abdul Majeed Wani saying this. Now, people have to pay Rs 3,250, for 10 gm of Kashmiri saffron, which is equivalent to the price of 47 gm of silver, according to the report.

One of the main reasons behind the sharp rise in Kashmiri saffron is its acknowledgment by the Indian government. The golden crop received geographical identification (GI) tag last year.

Notably, Kashmiri saffron is the only GI-tagged saffron in the world. The GI certification of Kashmiri saffron by Geographical Indications Registry would cease the adulteration and would also put an end to the marketing of saffron cultivated in other countries under the garb of being produced in Kashmir.

The adulteration of saffron had been affecting the economic interests of the farmers associated with this crop. GI labelling helps in identifying products that have a specific geographical origin and they possess premium qualities than similar products originated in other parts of the world.

With the help of GI tag, producer of that product are easily able to sell them in national or international market. It is important for the GI labelled product to have qualities, characteristics or reputation of the product to be essentially due to its place of origin.

Kashmiri saffron adds colour and flavour to biryani and many other dishes. Its exotic aroma is an additional delight for food lovers. In the wake of increasing demand of Kashmiri Kesar, its

per-hectare production has increased manifold, and has provided income opportunities to farmers in Kashmir.

The GI tagging has equally revolutionized the handicrafts sector. An official said that there was an 1,100 percent increase in Pashmina GI last year. Pashmina dealers said GI tag will prove to be a game changer.

"Right now, we are supplying a good chunk of Pashmina to the Middle East, Europe, and some parts of Asia. They are very much concerned with the purity that only GI tag has made possible. The production has started improving so has the export," said Musadiq Shah, Senior Vice-President, Kashmir Pashmina organization (Milap News Network)

India extends support worth \$246,852 to boost flood resilience in Suriname

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW YORK: India has extended support amounting to \$ 246,852.71 for a project aimed at bolstering early flood warning services to communities in Suriname.

The support extended by the India-UN Development Partnership Fund is in direct response to a request from the Government of Suriname, as part of their efforts to enhance resilience against flooding resulting from excessive rainfall, as per a release issued by India's Permanent Mission to UN.

Indian Ambassador to UN Ruchira Kamboj on Thursday tweeted: "Strengthening flood resilience in #Suriname underscores India's #CARICOM commitment. With a pledge of \$ 246,852.71 from the #IndiaUN-Fund early warning services against flooding get a vital

boost." Suriname is in need of an advanced next-generation weather forecasting workstation. The proposed project entails the procurement and installation of an Automatic Weather Station and Automatic Water Level Stations, as per the release issued by the Permanent Mission to UN.

These additions will serve to elevate the capabilities of the National HydroMet Network, thus enhancing the monitoring of rainfall and flood situations, and thereby fortifying the foundation of an effective early warning system. Additionally, a cutting-edge ArcGIS cloud-based geospatial platform will be developed to analyze areas prone to susceptibility to flooding.

Kamboj stated: "India has consistently supported Suriname through a variety of com-



munity development projects, extending concessional lines of credit, and providing humanitarian assistance whenever required. This project, aimed at establishing an early climate warning system, will undoubtedly save lives, empower businesses to adapt their operations, and safeguard valuable property."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a meeting in September 2019, engaged with leaders of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in New York. The Prime Minister underscored the intention to foster partnerships with CARICOM countries in a manner that effectively addresses the unique needs and priorities of the CARICOM region.

This commitment reflects India's unwavering dedication to strengthening its political, economic, and cultural ties with

CARICOM nations, as per the release.

The India-UN Development Partnership Fund, initiated by the Government of India in June 2017, stands as a beacon of support for projects in developing nations that contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.

Guided by the principles of South-South cooperation, the Fund places paramount importance on national ownership and leadership, equality, sustainability, capacity development at the local level, and mutual benefit. The Government of India has pledged a total of \$ 150 million over the next decade for the Fund. To date, the Fund has successfully supported 75 development projects spanning 56 countries, according to the official release. (Milap News Network)

India bars makers of military drones from using Chinese parts

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: India in recent months has barred domestic manufacturers of military drones from using components made in China over concerns about security vulnerabilities, according to four defense and industry officials and documents reviewed by Reuters. The measure comes amid tensions between the nuclear-armed neighbors and as New Delhi pursues a military modernization that envisages greater use of unmanned quadcopters, long-endurance systems, and other autonomous platforms, Reuters reports.

But as the nascent Indian industry looks to meet the military's needs, the defense and industry figures said India's security leaders were worried that intelligence-gathering could be compromised by Chinese-made parts in drones' communication functions, cameras, radio transmission, and operating software. Three of these people and some of the six other government and industry figures interviewed by Reuters spoke on the condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to talk to the media or because of the topic's sensitivity.

India's Defence Ministry did not respond to Reuters questions. India's approach, reported by Reuters for the first time, complements phased import restrictions on surveillance drones since 2020 and is being implemented through military tenders, documents show.

At two meetings in February and March to discuss drone tenders, Indian military officials



told potential bidders that equipment or subcomponents from "countries sharing land borders with India will not be acceptable for security reasons", according to minutes reviewed by Reuters. The minutes did not identify the military officials.

One tender document said such subsystems had "security loopholes" that

compromised critical military data, and called for vendors to disclose components' origin. A senior defense official told Reuters the reference to neighboring countries was a euphemism for China, adding that Indian industry had become dependent on the world's second-largest economy despite concern about cyber attacks.

Beijing has denied involvement in cyber

attacks. China's Commerce Ministry, which last week announced export controls on some drones and drone-related equipment, did not respond to questions about India's measures. The United States Congress in 2019 banned the Pentagon from buying or using drones and components made in China. (Milap News Network)

Youth-run farm in Trashigang finds success in growing pineapples

GMK NEWS NETWORK

THIMPHU: A youth-run farm located in Trashigang's Kanglung district has become a successful venture in Bhutan by growing pineapples, reported Bhutan Live.

The Marpheng Organic Farm is run by Kanglung native Kinga Wangchuk, age 26. For most young people, commercial farming is not their first job choice. However, individuals who desire to start farming could find inspiration from the Marpheng Organic Farm, which raises pineapples.

The youth organisation was given the Land Use Certificate for a farm with a larger than 18-acre plot of land through the King's People's Project. It is carried out by the Trashigang district administration and the Agriculture Research and Development Centre, or ARDC, in Wengkhari, Bhutan Live reported.

Ten acres were planted with pineapples, and four of those acres produced fruit last year. The remaining six are anticipated to produce fruit the following year. By the end of this month, the farm anticipates harvesting more than 3,000 kilograms of the fruit.

The group originally consisted of five people, but Kinga is currently the only one who is still employed on the farm. Three others departed for private reasons, but one of them passed away in the previous year. Kinga has made nearly Nu 1.1 M from selling pineapple fruit and seedlings while using paid workers when he required assistance. He anticipates earning Nu 0.5 M this year, according to Bhutan Live. Pineapples bear fruit twice a year, in January and August.

The farm has to pay half a million ngultrum annually towards a total loan of Nu 3.5 M. Kinga now has only Nu 2.7 M left to pay back. He is confident that the farm will do well, Bhutan Live reported.

Kinga intends to plant pineapples on the remaining field where he has been producing winter chilli and other vegetables because they have proven to be considerably more profitable. One of the People's Project projects, the Marpheng Organic Farm opened its doors in 2019 so that motivated youth might work on vacant land suitable for commercial farming. (Milap News Network)

Pakistan: Railway workers complain of residential quarters' terrible conditions

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ISLAMABAD: Due to years of neglect, several colonies and settlements of lower-tier workers of the Pakistan Railways (PR) remain in a crumbling state, reported The Express Tribune.

According to the residents, the recent rains and flooding have worsened the situation.

The leader of the Union of Railway Workers, Mubarak Hussain, said that the problems of the railway quarters were increasing daily. The ceilings and walls of the damaged houses are caving in and are posing a huge threat to the residents.

According to The Express Tribune, two roofs have collapsed so far in the governmental quarters. However, no fatalities have been reported.

Chaudhry Aamir, another office holder of an employees' union, said that the roof of a house at the Railway Bakery Chowk had collapsed.

"This is the second incident of the collapse of the roof of the railway quar-

ters in Bakery Chowk. But the railway administration has failed to survey the old houses and or conduct repair work," he said.

He further warned that these quarters are dangerous with the people living in them at risk.

Railway quarters which date back to 1912 have the most problems. These stables are 12 feet in length and width with a 10-foot yard in front, a small kitchen and a washroom. Back in the day, it would house a horse and its groom. These stables exceeded one thousand, reported The Express Tribune.

These stables were built along the railway tracks and were handed over to the railways which then converted these stables into residential quarters for employees of the Basic Pay Scale (BPS) four.

Following the establishment of Pakistan, there were other 335 houses allocated to employees and officers.

These quarters currently include 11 residential colonies of Rawalpindi Railway. They include CDL Workshop Colony, Traffic Colony, Commer-

cial Colony, Locomotive Shed Colony, Construction Colony, Talab Colony and Carriage Colony. The Express Tribune reported.

These quarters remain in a dilapidated state with leaking roofs common. The walls are in different stages of wear and tear. The sewage and sanitation system do not function anymore.

According to The Express Tribune, there was wild foliage with the area presenting an unkempt look. Residents also said they did not have water, electricity or gas.

Residents said that the quarters have not been repaired for the last 20 years. The minor repairs that were done were washed away in the rain after two to three months.

Meanwhile, sources in the Divisional Superintendent's Office of Railway Rawalpindi Division said that the divisional superintendent has ordered the survey of these railway quarters, reported The Express Tribune. Following this, funds would be released and repair and paint jobs would start, they said. (Milap News Network)

PARLIAMENT AMENDS GST LAWS

28% levy on online gaming, horse racing & gambling from Oct 1

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Parliament on Friday passed the amendments in the Central GST as well as Integrated GST legislation to allow 28 percent levy on the full face value of bets placed in casinos, horse racing, and online gaming.

The Lok Sabha passed the Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and the Integrated Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023, which were later returned by the Rajya Sabha.

States will now get the amendments passed in the state GST laws in their respective Assemblies.

The amendments pertain to the insertion of a provision in the Schedule III of the CGST Act, 2017, to provide clarity on the taxation of supplies in casinos, horse racing and online gaming.

The amendment in IGST Act relates to inserting a provision to impose GST liability on online money gaming provided by offshore entities. Such entities would be required to get GST registration in India.

The amendments will

also provide for blocking access to online gaming platforms located overseas in case of failure to comply

28 percent GST on these activities and had further said that after six months, if the need arises, the tax

Ranjan Chowdhury.

Before walking out, the Congress leaders were seen standing in the



with registration and tax payment provisions.

The two bills were cleared by the Union cabinet earlier this week, and their passage by Parliament will now allow implementation of the 28 percent GST levy on online gaming, horse racing, and gambling in casinos from October 1 onwards.

During its meeting held on August 2, the GST council had fixed the date of October 1 for levying

structure may be changed. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday introduced the two bills in the Lok Sabha, which was the last day of the monsoon session.

Both the bills were passed without discussion through a voice vote by the Lower House, as the opposition was absent since it had staged a walkout in protest against the suspension of the leader of Congress in the House, Adhir

well of the House holding placards that read 'Save Democracy', and shouting slogans 'Nirav Modi Come to the House' and 'Manipur mein Nirav Hai' or 'There is silence on Manipur'.

Before walking out, Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi said that the opposition was doing so as the prestige and the honor of the House was being violated by suspending opposition members.

Global community must find ways to debt restructuring of low-income nations: FM



UNI

MUMBAI: Noting that the high debt level of poor countries poses risks to their sustainable development, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Friday that the international community must collaborate and find stronger ways to coordinate debt restructuring for low-income and vulnerable middle-income countries facing debt distress.

Addressing the G20 Event on Global Economy: Challenges, Opportunities, and the Way Forward in Virtual mode, the Minister said the Indian G20 presidency has placed great importance on the management of global debt vulnerabilities, demonstrating a commitment to voicing the concerns of the global south.

Sitharaman said a primary focus of India's G20 presidency in 2023 has been to strengthen multi-lateral development banks

(MDBs) to address the shared global challenges of the 21st century.

The Minister said that MDBs are facing increasing demands from donor and borrowing countries to expand their lending operations beyond their core development mandates.

"However, MDBs are currently not equipped to address this rising demand for their resources adequately. To explore possible solutions that can constructively contribute to the efforts that MDBs are undertaking, the Indian G20 Presidency set up an expert group on strengthening MDBs," she noted.

Referring to the recommendations given by the expert group, Sitharaman said these suggestions, if implemented within each MDB's governance framework, can significantly enhance their capacity to address diverse financing challenges in the future with a focus on the priorities of the global south.

After Modi's praise, mixed reception for LIC, HAL shares at bourses



IAN S

CHENNAI: A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi singled out Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and praised their performance in Parliament, their shares got mixed reception from the investors.

While LIC's shares went up, HAL's counter after the initial boost came down. Replying to the opposition-led no-confidence motion in the Lok Sabha on Thursday, Modi praised the two government companies.

He said HAL is touching new heights of success and has registered the highest-ever revenue.

Throwing light on the ills spoken by the opposition about the LIC, Modi said that it is growing stronger with each passing day.

On Friday, the shares of LIC opened at Rs 676.95 (previous day closing

price Rs 642.10) and later changed hands at around Rs 660.

The Asian life insurance giant on Thursday said it closed the first quarter of FY24 with a higher net profit of Rs 9,543.71 crore.

On the other hand, HAL's scrip opened at Rs 3,824.94 (previous closing Rs 3,791.25) and touched a high of Rs 3,869.30 and later was changing hands for Rs 3,769.40.

This is despite HAL logging impressive first-quarter results.

According to HAL, it closed the first quarter of FY24 with an operational revenue of Rs 3,915.34 crore (Q1FY 23 Rs 3,622.52 crore) and a net profit of Rs 814.19 crore (Rs 606.66 crore).

The after-tax profit got a boost with HAL's other income during the period under review going up to Rs 410.79 crore from Rs 192.09 crore earned during previous year corresponding period.

Hyderabad emerges as preferred destination for advanced R&D : KTR

UNI

HYDERABAD: Telangana Information Technology (IT) Minister K T Rama Rao on Friday said that Hyderabad has emerged as the preferred destination for establishing advanced Research and Development (R&D), design, and engineering facilities in various sectors.

Speaking at the foundation stone laying ceremony of "Amara Raja e+ Energy Labs, an Advanced Energy Research & Innovation Centre" at Shamshabad near here, the Minister underlined the significance of the Research &

Innovation Centre within Amara Raja Batteries Limited's Giga-Corridor initiative with an investment of Rs 9,500 crore that will encompass this research facility and a Gigafactory at Divitipalli for manufacturing Li-ion cells and battery packs.

This endeavor is pivotal in steering India's transition towards sustainable energy and mobility solutions.

KTR said, the emerging landscape of lithium-ion technologies within Giga factories is of paramount importance in India. Consequently, a focus on continual research and innova-

tion becomes imperative to ensure the success of this burgeoning technology.

As India accelerates its move towards embracing electric vehicle (EV) adoption, the establishment of a domestic, advanced self-sustaining supply chain ecosystem is instrumental in realizing the nation's transition to electric mobility.

The Minister articulated his belief that sustainable and shared mobility represent the future of India, highlighting Amara Raja's prudent investment in shaping this forward-looking ecosystem.

He said that Amara Raja is playing a pivotal

role in fostering research and innovation within the sector.

The new center is anticipated to serve as a pivotal hub for various stakeholders across the ecosystem and supply chain, offering access to essential testing and prototyping facilities.

India's projected demand for advanced energy storage batteries is set to reach 260 gigawatt-hours by 2030. With a goal of producing 60 percent of this demand domestically, Telangana aims to contribute significantly by hosting about 30 giga-watt-hour capacity lithium-ion giga factories by 2030.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

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

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

CIVIL WORKS

SINGLE COVER SYSTEM (upto Rs.2.50 Crores)

EE/R&B/Divn/Gbl/e-Tender Fresh NITNo.72 of 2023-24 issued under endorsement No.7400-05 Dated:11.08.2023

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

S.No	Name of the Work	Adv. Cost (Rs.In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M. H of Account	Project Authority	Class Of Contactor
1.	Construction of drain from H/o Ab Rahim Mir to H/o Mohsin at Herpora Ward No.8 under Normal Grants.		Rs.200/=	Rs.2840/=	15-Days	Normal Grants	Municipal Council Ganderbal	DEE
2.	Construction of lane from H/o Ab Aziz to H/o Habibullah Parra under Normal Grants.		Rs.200/=	Rs.2900/=	15-Days	Normal Grants	Municipal Council Ganderbal	DEE

Position of AAA:-Accorded, Position of funds:-Available.

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	11-08-2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	11/08/2023from4:00PM.
3	Bid submission Start Date	11/08/2023from4:00 PM.
4	Bid Submission End Date	16/08/2023upto4.00PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	16/08/2023 at 4:05 P.M in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document (as mentioned above) in shape of Treasury Receipt/e-Challan in favour of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Ganderbal.

Note:- The Date of Treasury Challan must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

3. The Bidders shall upload earnest money equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the shape of CDR/FDR at the time of tendering pledged in favour of Executive EngineerR&BDivisionGanderbaland5%of the allotted cost as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG by the successful bidder pledged in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal. The Performance Security i.e, 5% shall be released after successful completion of the Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. The EMD of 2% of successful bidders shall be released after receipt of 5% Performance Security/after award of the contract for the Work is issued.

3.1 Note:-All bidders shall submit the uploaded Treasury Challan in Original before issuance allotment.

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

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

6. The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-

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

b. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

c. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

6(A). Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

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

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

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

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

6.5 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid. Besides, original photo copies of documents related to the bid be submitted physically I by registered post /through courier before the date specified in Para-1.

6.6. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including Bid Security Declaration, tender documents fee in terms of soft copies and all other documents required as per NIT with technical bid. No document (s) which has/have not been uploaded shall be entertained for technical evaluation in the form of hard copy. However in case of any clarification the bidders all have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.

Note:-Scan all the documents on100 dpi with black and white option.

6.6(a) Bidders should note that if the documents uploaded/submitted on the basis of which the contract has been awarded are forged/fake/not genuine at any time, the contract shall be cancelled and the contractor/bidder shall be recommended for blacklisting and debarred from taking part in tendering which the PWD/Other Departments for a period of one year in the first instance, besides the performance security deposited for the said work shall be forfeited.

7. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

8. For item rate method the unit 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 upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

The %age rate method requires the bidder to quote a percentage above/below/at par at the bottom of the BOQ percentage template for the work. The percentage quoted by the bidder shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

10. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to creates imilar BOQ manually.

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

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

13. In case of CRF and any other specified project. The relevant guidelines standard bidding document shall be followed.

14. Bidders should note that if the documents uploaded /submitted on the basis of which the Contract has been awarded are found fake/not genuine at any time , the contract shall be cancelled and the contractor /bidder shall be blacklisted for participation in this division for a period of five years besides the Performance Security deposited for the said work shall be forfeited.

15. Instructions to Bidder(ITB).

15.1 All bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualification criteria qualification information with their bids:-

- Copies of original documents defining constitution/legal status,place of registration and principal place of Business with Cell No. and Correspondence address.
- Scanned copy of E-challan/Treasury receipt.
- Scanned copy of Registration Card with latest renewal on JKPWOMS portal
- Scanned copy of Valid GSTIN No. & PAN No.
- Scanned Copy of GSTIN Registration and latest clearance certificate FORM GST-3Bofthe Latest Quarter i.e April-June2023/Qualifying Month,ie,June-2023.

Illustrations:-

The bidder has to upload the latest clearance certificate FORM GST-3B of the Latest quarter i.e, April-June2023/Qualifying Month. ie, June-2023.

All bidders shall upload Verification Certificate from concerned Chief Engineer/Superintending Engineer of Enlistment Registration Card 15.2 The bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings Before submission of bid.

15.3 Non attendance of pre-bid meeting will not be cause of disqualification of the bidder.

15.4 All documents relating to the bid shall be in the English Language.

15.5 Bidder must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including earnest money and tender documents fee in terms of sop copies with technical bid.No document(s)which has/have not been uploaded shall be entertained in the form of hard copy. However, in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of sop copies if need arises.

a) Extension of time shall be also admissible in the event of temporary suspension of work.

16. The tender/bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down inNIT.

17. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).

No.7400-05 Dated:11-08-23 DPK-6927-23 DT: 11/08/2023 Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal

After 47 Years, Russia Journeys To Moon With Luna-25

IAN S

MOSCOW: After 47 years, Russia is set to return to the Moon with its Luna 25 lander mission.

Luna-25 took off atop a Soyuz-2.1b rocket from the Vostochny launch facility in Russia at 2:10 a.m. Moscow time (4:40 am IST) on Friday, TASS news agency reported.

Russia's last lunar mission, Luna-24 was launched in 1976, during the former Soviet Union period.

It successfully delivered about 170 grams of moon samples to Earth.

Luna-25 is expected to reach the Moon's orbit on August 12 before landing on August 21.

The spacecraft will spend between three and seven days about 100 km above the lunar surface before touching down

in the area of the Boguslawsky crater.

Manzinus and Pentland-A craters have been named as alternative landing sites.

Once landing safely, Luna-25 aims to work on the lunar surface for at least one Earth year.

Its key goal is to polish the soft landing technology. If successful, the mission may become the first spacecraft ever to land near the South Pole of Moon.

Luna-25's "most important task, to put it simply, is to sit where no one has sat," Maxim Litvak, a chief scientist for the mission from Russia's Space Research Institute (known by the acronym IKI), said in a posting on the IKI website.

"Now everyone is aiming for the polar regions; this area is intriguing to everyone in the scientific community," Litvak



There are signs of ice in the soil of the Luna-25 landing area; said.

this can be seen from data from orbit. In the equatorial regions where we landed earlier, this is not the case."

Interestingly, Luna-25 is slated to touch down around the same time, and in the same general area, as India's Chandrayaan 3 probe, which launched on July 14 and arrived in lunar orbit on August 6.

US space agency NASA also plans to establish one or bases near the moon's south pole by the end of the 2020s, via its Artemis programme.

The spacecraft aims to search for natural resources, including water, and study the effects of space rays and electromagnetic emissions on the lunar surface.

The lander is equipped with several cameras. They will make a timelapse footage of the landing and an HDR wide-angle

image of the moonscape.

Luna-25 will turn its cameras during pre-programmed periods and on a signal from the Earth, TASS reported.

Meanwhile, the Russian space agency Roscosmos' Director General also announced timeframes for upcoming Moon missions.

"Luna-26 is scheduled for 2027, Luna-27 - for 2028, Luna-28 - in 2030 or later," Yury Borisov was quoted as saying.

After that, Russia's space corporation will launch the next phase of the programme.

"Subsequently, we will begin the next phase - a manned mission and the construction of a lunar base - with our colleagues from China," Borisov said. "This would be a long-lasting and important program and we expect many countries to join it."

Hawaii Wildfire Death Toll Rises To 53, Expected To Grow Higher



UNI

LOS ANGELES: At least 53 people have been confirmed dead in the devastating hurricane-driven wildfires in Hawaii's Maui Island, authorities said.

"As firefighting efforts continue, 17 additional fatalities have been confirmed today amid the active Lahaina fire. This brings the death toll to 53 people," Maui County wrote on the county's official website.

The death toll was 36 earlier in the day. Strong winds from Hurricane Dora were to blame for the deadly wildfires, destroying parts of Lahaina, a tourist spot on Maui Island.

Officials warned the death toll could grow even higher.

The wildfire that caused widespread damage in Lahaina town was reported to be 80 percent contained this morning after the fire department reported making progress in fighting the Lahaina fire and fires in Pulehu and Upcountry Maui, said county officials in an earlier press release.

Officials said that the status of all three fires remained unchanged as of Thursday afternoon.

U.S. President Joe Biden on Thursday morning approved a major disaster declaration for Hawaii in the wake of the devastating hurricane-driven wildfires.

Hawaii Governor Josh Green is on Maui to survey the damage. In a video speech at the scene in Lahaina, Green said that "over a thousand buildings" have likely been destroyed.

"This is a tragic day for everyone in Hawaii and the nation. Our hearts go out to the families of the victims and the survivors suffering through the deadliest natural disaster the state has seen in generations," he said in an earlier statement.

29 Dead, 16 Missing In Rain-Related Disasters In China's Hebei



IAN S

BEIJING: At least 29 people have been killed in disasters triggered by the recent torrential rain in China's Hebei province, while 16 people still remained unaccounted for, local authorities said on Friday.

Torrential downpours and severe flooding have wreaked havoc across 110 counties, cities, and districts in the province, reports Xinhua news agency.

Infrastructure including transportation, power, communication, and water facilities in the disaster-stricken areas suffered damage.

The province had incurred a direct economic loss of 95.81 billion yuan (\$13.38 billion), and the overall extent of the disaster was still being assessed and verified.

As of Thursday, the flooding had affected an estimated 3.89 million people.

A total of 1,150,700 hectares of crops had been affected, with 131,500 hectares demolished.

Residential areas also suffered losses, with 40,900 houses having collapsed, while 155,500 houses were severely damaged.

A total of 1,150 primary and secondary schools, along with kindergartens, also suffered damages.

Six Foreigners Arrested In Killing Of Ecuadorian Presidential Candidate

IAN S

QUITO: Six suspects arrested in connection with the assassination of Ecuadorian presidential candidate Fernando Villavicencio and another accused who was shot dead are all foreigners, police have confirmed.

The six armed suspects, all members of organised crime groups, were captured hiding in a house in Quito, the country's capital, Xinhua news agency quoted a police report as saying.

Describing the killing as "a political crime of a terrorist nature", Interior Minister Juan Zapata confirmed all suspects are foreigners without revealing their nationalities.

The minister noted that the police will continue investigating and seeking a motive for the crime.

Villavicencio, the candidate for the presidential election which will be held on August 25, was killed on Wednesday in an armed attack following a political rally in Quito.



President Guillermo Lasso has decreed three days of national mourning and a 60-day state of emergency throughout the country "due to serious internal upheaval", which includes the mobilisation of the armed forces and the police to maintain order and public safety.

The assassination, which the government attributed to organised crime, occurred amid the electoral

campaign for elections, which will go ahead as planned on August 20, Lasso said in a statement on Thursday night.

The 59-year-old Villavicencio was a journalist and former National Assembly member, who forged his political career with a series of denunciations of corruption.

He was, according to polls, in fourth place for the upcoming elections.

Over 18,000 Evacuated In Myanmar State After Rivers Swell Above Danger Mark

UNI

YANGON: Over 18,000 people have been relocated to shelters in southern Myanmar's Kayin State due to rising river levels surpassing the danger mark, the state-run television channel MRTV has reported.

"We are establishing additional shelters in response to flooding across six townships in Kayin State," the TV report cited U Saw Khin Maung Myint, spokesperson of the Kayin State government as saying on Thursday.

Currently, there are 11 shelters in Hpa-an township, eight in Hlaingbyi, seven each in Kyain-seikgyi and Kawkareik, eight in Myawaddy and three in Hpapun in Kayin State, he said.

Rivers in Kayin State including Thanlwin River have overflowed, and some sections of a major road connecting Kayin State's capital Hpa-an and Mon State's capital Mawlamyine were also inundated, he added.

Furthermore, some railway routes between Yangon and Mawlamyine were canceled on Tuesday due to flooding in sections of the railway tracks between Bago



and Mawlamyine, the state media reported.

The country's Department of Meteorology and Hydrology reported that six rivers across the Southeast Asian nation exceeded their danger levels on Wednesday afternoon.

The weather department also issued a warning for residents living near riverbanks or low-lying areas in Bago Region's Madauk town and Bago township, Kayin State's Hpa-an township, and

Kachin State's Mogaung township to remain vigilant about potential flood risks.

Ko Aye Hla, a Bago resident, told Xinhua on Thursday, "Despite experiencing annual floods, this year's inundation is the most severe in approximately three years. The ground floor of my house is currently submerged."

Some residents from Bago's low-lying areas have been relocated to monasteries and shelters in higher regions, he added.

More Chinese Nationals Arrested In Nepal Gold Smuggling Case

IAN S

KATHMANDU: In connection to a massive gold smuggling racket, Nepal Police on Friday arrested two more Chinese nationals from the Kathmandu airport while they were awaiting to board a flight to Beijing.

Last month, the police confiscated one quintal of gold smuggled from Hong Kong and arrested some Chinese and Nepali nationals in connection.

The final destination of the smuggled gold is believed to be India, according to the Nepal Police.

The two Chinese nationals arrested on Friday were identified as Li Jialin and Li Fuyan.

The two were in the black list of the Department of Revenue Intelli-

gence for their alleged involvement in the gold smuggling case.

A huge debate is going on in Nepal's parliament over investigating the case and the main opposition, CPN-UML has been obstructing the regular house proceedings over the issue.

While the CPN-UML is demanding a high-level probe into the case, the government is being criticised for not initiating an investigation for organised crime even after it was revealed that the smuggling was well-planned and taking place with the involvement of nationals from multiple countries.

Initially, the Department of Revenue Investigation was probing the matter but after huge pressure from different quarters, now the government has handed over the

responsibility to Central Investigation Bureau, a special arm of the Nepal Police that handles organised crime.

The two Chinese nationals have been handed over to the Bureau for further interrogation, according to the Nepal Police.

On July 18, the Department of Revenue Investigation had seized a huge quantity of gold from Sina-mangal, Kathmandu after the consignment had passed the airport customs undetected.

The department had sent the gold, hidden in cartons of motorcycle brake shoes and electric shavers, to the Nepal Rastra Bank, where the yellow metal's gross weight was found to be 155kg.

A total of 18 people have been arrested so far.

DENGUE IN BANGLADESH

Records Highest Daily Spike Of Nearly 3,000, Death Toll Rises To 364



UNI

year, the DGHS said.

DHAKA: In a grim landmark, a total of 2,959 people were diagnosed with dengue fever in Bangladesh in the past 24 hours on Thursday, the highest number in a single day so far this year, said the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) under the Ministry of Health.

Also in the same period, 12 people died due to the mosquito-borne disease. According to figures reported by the DGHS, 1,097 people were diagnosed with dengue in Dhaka alone Thursday.

With the fresh infections reported as of 8:00 a.m. local time Thursday, the number of dengue cases has surged to 78,028 in Bangladesh so far this

year, the DGHS said. So far in August, 26,196 dengue cases were recorded after 43,854 people were infected with the disease in July, according to the DGHS, which confirmed 364 dengue deaths so far this year.

While 113 deaths were reported so far in August, there were 204 deaths in July and 34 in June, the DGHS said.

In order to fight the rising number of dengue cases, Bangladeshi health authorities have strengthened measures to check the breeding of mosquitoes and conduct antilarval operations.

The June-September monsoon period is the season of dengue fever in Bangladesh, which is considered a high-risk nation for mosquito-borne diseases.

About 120 Suspects Apprehended In S.korea For Posting Online Murder Threats



IAN S

SEOUL: About 120 people have been apprehended across South Korea for posting murder threats on various online sites following the recent back-to-back fatal stabbing attacks in the Seoul metropolitan area, the Korean National Police Agency (KNPA) said on Friday.

The KNPA said it has detected 315 online murder threats and nabbed 119 suspects on charges of writing those threats as of 9 a.m. Friday reports Yonhap News agency.

Online murder threats began to surface after a 33-year-old man wielding a knife killed one person and injured three others near a subway station

in Seoul on July 21 and spiked after another man killed one and wounded 13 others in a rampage at a department store in Seongnam, south of Seoul, on August 3.

The police agency said the number of online murder threats and relevant detainees surged by 121 and 52, respectively, from Monday, noting teens accounted for 34, or 52.3 percent, of 65 people apprehended so far.

The police and the prosecution said they are determined to seek stern punishment for those caught writing online murder threats in consideration of growing public fears.

The prosecution has so far put 12 murder threat suspects under formal arrest.

Data protection bill among 22 bills passed in LS monsoon session

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Friday while presenting the main highlights of the monsoon session, said that while 20 bills were introduced and 22 were passed. The no-confidence motion against the government was also moved by Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi, however, it was dismissed through voice vote after three days of discussion, he informed.

Some of the key bills which were passed during the just concluded monsoon session, were the Anusandhan National Research Foundation Bill, 2023, the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2023, the Indian Institutes of Management (Amendment) Bill, 2023, and the



Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023 among many others. As many as 17 sittings of Lok Sabha took place during the session, which

had begun on July 20. During this period, the House functioned for 44 hours and 15 minutes, Birla said. Thereafter, he adjourned the House sine die.

Prime minister Narendra Modi was present in the House on the occasion. Data protection bill among 22 bills passed in LS monsoon session, House adjourned sine die.

'SADAK SURAKHYA FORCE'

Punjab constitutes a 5,000-man police force for road safety

IAN S

CHANDIGARH: In a significant decision aimed at saving the precious lives from road accidents, the Punjab government on Friday gave nod for constituting Sadak Surakhya Force (SSF) in the state that comprises 5,000 police personnel.

A decision to this effect was taken at the meeting of the Council of Ministers held here.

A spokesperson for the Chief Minister's Office said the Cabinet gave its consent to launch this force as a plan for road safety for covering 5,500 km of state and national highways.

The Cabinet opined that Punjab has witnessed a significant increase in traffic and road infrastructure over the past few decades. The state has a 72,078-km-long road network, including the national and state highways, which constitute 5.64 percent (4,025 km).

The Cabinet expressed concerns that 65 percent of road fatalities take place on the national and state

highways. In 2021, 4,476 lives were lost in 580 road accidents. Most of these fatal accidents take place between 6 pm and 12 am when the presence of police on these roads is minimal.

As per the Cabinet, highway patrol routes have been identified based on the past years' road accident trends.

As many as 144 patrolling vehicles, fitted with specialized equipment to check drunken driving and speeding, will be deployed on these routes, each covering a distance of 30 km. A sum of Rs 30 crore will be spent on purchase of vehicles and the equipment installed in them.

Around 5,000 police personnel will be deployed in Sadak Suraksha Force out of which around 1,200-1,500 police personnel will be immediately provided out of the newly recruited police personnel.

As a mark of respect to the great freedom fighters and national heroes, the Cabinet also gave consent to set up a martyrs memorial in a leading park of every district.

Eye flu spreading fast in HP: Authorities

UNI

August 15.

HAMIRPUR: Eye flu (Conjunctivitis) is spreading in all parts of Himachal Pradesh, with Hamirpur, Una, and Bilaspur districts being the worst hit as thousands of people mostly children - have fallen prey to the virus.

In Hamirpur district, the number of those suffering from the eye flu has risen to 2609 by Thursday night, according to Dr RK Agnihotri, Chief Medical Officer.

He said the district health department has instructed school and college authorities to make their wards aware of the virus and ensure they don't join their institutions if they are suffering from the virus or having its symptoms.

Agnihotri said hundreds of students have left their hostels and gone home fearing the viral attack.

Meanwhile, reports reaching here said the worst affected are the Badsar revenue sub-divisions of the district.

In NIT, Hamirpur, the number of eye flu patients has risen to around 900. Offline classes in the institute have been halted till

A spokesman of the NIT said students had been advised not to venture out and remain in their hostels to keep away from the virus that spreads like wildfire.

Agnihotri said there was no shortage of medicines for the eye flu in the hospitals and those suffering from it should not take medicines without any prescriptions at home and instead visit the nearby hospitals for treatment.

In Una district, Devinder Chandel, the Director of Education said the cases of eye flu were continuously increasing in the district. He instructed the heads of all government and non-government schools in the district to make children aware of preventive measures.

In Bilaspur district, the authorities have told the people to maintain proper cleanliness and keep them away from eye flu patients.

A spokesman of the district administration said instructions have been issued to the education department to guide children properly about eye flu and its causes and how to keep away from it.

India's first agriculture data exchange launched in Hyderabad

IAN S

HYDERABAD: India's first Agricultural Data Exchange (ADeX) was launched in Hyderabad on Friday.

Developed as a digital public infrastructure (DPI) for the agriculture sector, ADeX is a collaboration between the Government of Telangana, World Economic Forum, and the Indian Institute of Science, Telangana Minister for Information Technology and Industries K. T. Rama Rao launched ADeX and Agriculture Data Management Framework (ADMF).

"Both ADeX and ADMF provide the right platform to ensure fair and efficient usage of agricultural data by the industry and start-ups and provide a big boost

to the data economy specifically in the agri-sector. These initiatives help Telangana lead the country from the front in using innovation and technology to drive food systems transformation and improve the livelihoods of farmers," he said.

It is an open-source, open standard and interoperable public good, democratizing access to data and enabling the public and private sector to build applications and deliver services to benefit society.

Purushottam Kaushik, Head, Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution India, World Economic Forum stated: "Data and digital ecosystems are critical for responsible innovation in the agriculture sector. The agriculture data exchange and the agri-

culture data management framework highlight the power of multi-stakeholder communities and collective action in addressing complex challenges in the agriculture sector."

The software platform facilitates the secure, standards-based exchange of data between agricultural data users like agri application developers and agricultural data providers like government agencies, private companies, NGOs and universities.

Commenting on the launch, Prof G. Rangarajan, Director, IISc, said: "ADeX will prove to be a game changer in the agriculture ecosystem providing impetus to research and innovation in the sector and creating value by mobilising data for

healthy, sustainable and environmentally friendly agriculture practices."

Under the first phase of the project, the ADeX platform is currently deployed in the district of Khammam and over a period, it will be expanded to the entire state.

At the launch, several agtechs demonstrated their digital solutions using data accessed through ADeX, such as market advisory, pest prediction advisory and easy access to credit.

The government of Telangana also released the Agriculture Data Management Framework (ADMF).

The framework has been developed after extensive public and industry consultations on the crucial aspects of data protection, management, and innovation.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER FLOOD CONTROL DIVISION ANANTNAG

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

E-NIT NO. 10 of 2023-24

For and on behalf of Hon'ble Lt. Governor of J&K U.T., e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on "Percentage basis" (Single Click) from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K.U.T Govt./ CPWD// Railways/Other Governments/ Union Territories for the following works:-

S. No	Name of work	Advt. Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Earnest Money Deposit (Amt in Rs)	Time for completion	Class of Contract	Cost of Tender Document (Rs)	Major Head of Account	Tender Opening Authority
1	Construction of Flood Protection works at Padshahibagh on River Jehlum by way of toe wall and stone pitching (IRRSS2020100083)	20.00	40000/=	30 Days	BEE/CEE	2500/=	MH - 4711 CAPEX 2323	Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Anantnag
2	Construction of Flood Protection works at Vulnerable Spots of Perin Nallah from RD 2200 to 3300 mtrs (IRRSS2020100087)	37.46	74920/=	45 Days	AAY/BEE	4600/=		
3	Construction of cement concrete lining wall at Zongalpora Nallah. (IRRSS2021100131)	54.62	109240/=	60 Days	AAY	6500/=		
4	Construction of Chain Link fencing/ protection work around the land occupied at Dandipora Fisheries Department Quarter. (IRRSS2022100329)	13.12	26240/=	25 Days	BEE/CEE/DEE	1500/=		
5	Const. of bund from Rehmat-E-Alam hospital Sarmal upto Mujum (Anantnag) length 500 to 600 feet height 2-3 feet to save the inhabitants of S.K. Colony Batapora Anchidora Usmanabad. (IRRSS2022100337)	20.00	40000/=	30 Days	BEE/CEE	2500/=		
6	Flood Protection work on left side of Daksum Nallah at Chookura Dessu. (IRRSS2324100073)	10.00	20000/=	20 Days	CEE/DEE	1200/=		
7	Construction of FP Bund on L/S of Veshow Nallah at village Panipora near RD 21440 mtrs (IRRSS2324100075)	25.00	50000/=	35 Days	BEE/CEE	2500/=		
8	Construction of FP bund of Trout Nallah near Eidgah RD 4900 to 5050 mtrs at Kulgam Part 1st (Length 81.6 mtrs) (IRRSS2324100074)	9.14	18280/=	20 Days	CEE/DEE	1200/=		
9	Construction of FP bund for protection/beautification on R/S of Trout Nallah near Tehsil Office Kulgam RD 3650 to 3750 mtrs (IRRSS2324100074)	10.86	21720/=	20 Days	BEE/CEE/DEE	1300/=		

Position of Funds: Budgetary allocation 2023-24.

Position of Administrative Approval: Accorded

Position of Technical Sanction: Accorded

The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, set of terms and conditions, and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the schedule of dates given below:

1	Date of issue of Tender Notice	11-08-2023 at 06:00 PM
2	Date of start of downloading	11-08-2023 at 06:00 PM
3	Bid submission start date Technical/ Financial	11-08-2023 at 06:00 PM
4	Bid submission end date	18-08-2023 at 04:00 PM
5	Date & Time of opening of Bids (online).	19-08-2023 at 10:00 AM

Terms and Conditions:

- Bids must be accompanied with proof of the cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury receipt in favour of Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Anantnag (tender inviting authority). The name of the work shall be legible along with NIT number and item number neatly written on the face of TR. Any deficiency will lead to cancellation of the tender also the date of treasury challan should be in between the date of start of Bid and bid submission end date.
- The successful bidder shall have to submit the hardcopy of EMD @ 2% in the shape of CDR/ FDR and duly uploaded, treasury challan and other allied documents as mentioned in para-4.
- Additional Performance Security is to be deposited by the L1 bidder as per the latest order by the finance department endorsed by Chief Engineer Kmr. I&FC Department Srinagar vide No. 14481-515 dated:-.03-03-2023 which reads as under "Only performance security of 3% should be sought from bidders with due consideration to the clause 5.6.4 of Manual for Procurement of works 2022", if failed the tender shall be rejected.
- Bidders are advised to use the pre qualification document area in their user on www.jktenders.gov.in portal to store, the required documents as given below
 - Latest GSTIN clearance Monthly / Quarterly as opted along with PAN.
 - Registration card with the latest renewal.
 - Treasury challan (0702) must be uploaded in vivid format carrying no corrections or omissions so that they can be verified discretely by the Tender opening committee.
 - Scanned copy of EMD in shape of CDR/ FDR.
 - Card verification letter.
 - Registered mobile number and E-mail ID in the shape of Bidders address form.
 - BOQ.
 - The Bidder shall have to upload an Affidavit that he has not been defaulter in any Department for the last year i.e.2022-23.
 - The scanned documents must be uploaded in PDF format. Any deficiency in the above mentioned conditions will lead to rejection of the bid which shall be noted.
- The date and time of opening of Technical Bids shall be notified on the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message at their e-mail address. The Financial Bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on the same website in the office of the Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Anantnag (Tender Receiving Authority).
- Contractor/ Bidder who fails to submit the CDR/Treasury Challan as required, their EMD will be forfeited besides they will be barred/prohibited from participating in the Tendering process for a period of One year (01 Year) or which the authorities may deem fit and proper in the first instance. Their online uploaded tenders will not be considered for the said period.
- The bid for the work shall remain valid for 90 days from the date of the opening of the bid.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited if: Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid.
- Failure of the successful bidder to execute the agreement within 7 Days after fixation of contract.
- In case of tie for the position of 1st lowest bidder the bids should be out rightly rejected and the work shall be put to fresh tenders.
- Instructions to Bidder (ITB): -
 - All bidders shall include the following information and documents with their Bids GSTN/PAN/Treasury Challan, & Registration Card duly renewed for the current year.
 - The bidder at his responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submission of the bid.
 - If the material in shape of wire crates are provided from store, the rate will be as per PSL.

All other terms & conditions shall be the same as laid down in the PWD Form 25 (Double Agreement Form).

No.FCD/Ang/2216-38

Dated :- 11-08-2023

DIPK-6930-23

DT: 11/08/2023

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Flood Control Division Anantnag

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PWD (R&B) CIRCLE

ANANTNAG-KULGAM HQ KHANABAL

e.mail: sepwkdhannabal@gmail.com/seestabhannabal@gmail.com

NO. SE/ANG-KUL/1st/2023/F/ADM/4591-95 DATED:- 10-08-2023

M/S R.K Construction & Builders Pvt.Ltd.,
M.D: Mohammad Rafiq Kumar,
S/O Mohammad Sultan Kumar,
R/O Peer Taklya Kokernag,
Regd. Card No. CE/R&B/K-04/2020-21.

(FINAL NOTICE)

Sub:- Fixation of contract for "Construction of Road from Nandimarg to Gulabgarh (upto Pandow Chollan Kashmir Side) Phase 1st KM Ist-6th".
Ref:- 1.Executive Engineer R&B Division Kulgam's Fresh NIT No. 64/2021-22/R&B/Kul/e-tendering/4377-97, dt.9-8-2021.

- Contract allotment No.7825-28, dt.25-10-2021 Issued by Superintending Engineer PWD(R&B) Circle Anantnag-Kulgam.
- Whereas, the work namely "Construction of Road from Nandimarg to Gulabgarh (up to Pandow Chollan Kashmir Side) Phase 1st KM Ist-6th" was put to tenders by the Executive Engineer R&B Division Kulgam vide Fresh NIT No. 64/2021-22/ R&B/Kul/e-tendering/4377-97, dt.9-8-2021 at the advertised cost of Rs.623.24 lacs;
- Whereas, on the basis of first lower bidder the contract for the work was fixed and allotted for execution with allotted cost of Rs.51729554/- in your favour vide this office allotment No.7825-28,dt.25-10-2021 with one year period of completion.
- Whereas, due to non-completion of the allotted work within the fixed time limits as per work contract notices were served to you by the concerned AEE vide No.DHP/1005-06,dt.25-3-2023 and No.DHP/292-93/dt.3-7-2023 for completion of the project immediately in view of urgency expressed by the higher authorities, failing which the matter shall be recommended to the higher authorities for following actions.
 - Forfeiture of CDR deposited by you against the work.
 - Black listing of your agency for breach of contract (C) Tendering out the balance work at your risk and cost.
- Whereas, in view of non-response from your side in reference to above notices to resume the allotted work, the Executive Engineer R&B Division Kulgam vide communication No.5755-58,dt.5-8-2023, also served for a notice to you to resume the halted work forthwith within three(03) days from the date of issuance of letter and in case of failure the balance work shall be put to fresh tenders at your risk and cost, besides the CDR of the work shall be forfeited and you shall be debarred from participating in the tendering process in PW(R&B)Department for at least two years.
- Now in view of above stated facts, you are provided one more opportunity through the medium of this final notice to resume the allotted work within a period of five(05) days from the date of issuance of this final notice and completed the same at the earliest, failing which the matter shall be referred to the Chief Engineer PW(R&B)Department Kashmir for initiating following actions against you for breach of contract.
 - Forfeiture of your CDR/Proforma security.
 - Debarring you(firm) for participating in the tendering process for at least two years in the PW(R&B)Department.
 - Balance work of the project be put to fresh tenders at your risk and cost.
 - Any other penalty as deemed fit by the higher authorities.

DIPK-6901-23
DT: 11/08/2023

(ER. Fayaz Ahmad Baba)
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
(R&B) CIRCLE ANG-KULGAM

Inter-School Sports Finals, Prize Distribution ceremony held in Sopore



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: The Department of Youth Services and Sports, Zone Dangerpora, of Sub Division Sopore Friday held an exhilarating inter-school sports finals and prize distribution ceremony at Government High School Brate Kalan.

The event showcased remarkable talent and sportsmanship as students from various schools competed in Kabbadi, Kho Kho, and Volleyball tournaments. The response to the event was overwhelming, with hundreds of enthusiastic students participating in the inter-school competitions. The Zonal Physical Edu-

cation Officer expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all the participating schools and the diligent field staff who contributed to the success of the event. Distinguished guests, including the Principal of HSS Dangerpora, Principal of HSS Botingoo, ZEO Dangerpora, and the Headmaster of HS Brate Kalan

attended the ceremony. They took the opportunity to motivate and inspire the participants, commending their dedication and passion for sports. The efforts of the Youth Services and Sports Department, Baramulla, were lauded for fostering a culture of sports and healthy competition.

132ND DURAND CUP

FC Goa take on NorthEast FC in prelude to Mohun Bagan v East Bengal derby

SIANS

GUWAHATI/KOLKATA: Mohun Bagan Super Giant and East Bengal in the biggest clash of the season while FC Goa meet NorthEast United in another crucial clash in Guwahati's Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium on the second Super Saturday of the 132nd Durand Cup.

The Group D game between the Gaurs and the Highlanders kicks off in the afternoon whereas the Group A derby game in Kolkata's Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (VYBK) at 4.45 pm.

4-0 win over the same opponents. Both winners also had hat-trick men in those games with a young and impressive Parthib Gogoi bringing up the tournament's and his first in senior football to begin with and then Noah Sadaoui of the Gaurs, netting three in their game against a hapless Shillong four days later.

Sadaoui spoke to the Durand media team ahead of Saturday's clash saying, "I'm glad to have notched my first hat-trick in Indian football, but the most important thing is to play well as a team. We are

good form.

The biggest game in Indian football

No other game in Indian football mobilises and generates excitement among so many people and a whole state, as much as a clash between century-old rivals Mohun Bagan Super Giant and Emami East Bengal. The buzz in Kolkata is palpable.

For the record, Mohun Bagan Super Giant have a hundred per cent record from the two games they have played so far in Group A and are sitting pretty on the top and with an embarrassment of footballing

be a fantastic game with a fantastic atmosphere. We will give our best. We don't have the full squad but our practice is going well. Our guys are really hard-working. We are trying to build a team for the future. The management is good. So we are expecting to put up a fight tomorrow and try to win."

Mohun Bagan head coach Juan Ferrando also acknowledged the importance of the game saying, "Derby is always a different match. We have to give our best tomorrow and get three points to go to the



The match between Manolo Marquez-schooled FC Goa and the Juan Pedro Benali-coached NEUFC will essentially be a battle of who takes the top spot, at least momentarily, in Group D.

With both the Gaurs and the Highlanders beating Shillong Lajong in their respective opening games, Saturday's winner would fancy their knockout qualification chances. Downtown Heroes of Kashmir is the third team in the group and is yet to play their first game.

While the Gaurs overwhelmed Shillong 6-0, a young Highlanders side is also impressive in their

happy with how we played on Tuesday. We'll take on a strong opponent once again in NorthEast United, and we'll try to do what the Coach says so that we play well and win again."

He also added, "We are aiming at qualifying for the knockouts and winning the Durand Cup."

The Highlanders also have their engine in Frenchman Romain Philippoteaux, who had a brilliant first game. With talent like Phalguni Singh and Gani Nigam in support and the assurance of Chalieu in goal, the Gaurs will definitely have a match on their hands, despite their

riches to boot.

East Bengal on the other hand, in their only game so far, drew 2-2 against a Bangladesh Army side who did not score in any of their other two games. They have a new coach and a new set of players who assembled just before the start of the tournament and have not won a derby for over four years now.

The two teams had a pre-match presser and here is what Carles Cuadrat, the Emami East Bengal gaffer had to say on the importance of the derby among other things,

"We understand the value of this Derby. It will

next round. Mohun Bagan is a big club so we have to be prepared for the CFL, Durand Cup, and AFC Cup. This time East Bengal has some good players. Mandar is a good player. In my opinion, we have a quality side so we have to make the best decision. We hope that we will do well tomorrow."

So even as Mohun Bagan Super Giant go into the game as clear favourites as the coaches made it aptly clear in as many words, all records and data will be put behind on Saturday by fans and players alike, as they focus on the task ahead, which is to win in the season's first derby.

13 CLUBS, 156 MATCHES

AIFF League Committee decides on I-League 2023-24 Format

SIANS

NEW DELHI: The All-India Football Federation's (AIFF) League Committee on Friday decided on the I-League 2023-24 format with 13 clubs participating in a home-and-away double round-robin format.

The participation of the clubs, however, is subject to the fulfilment of the AIFF's Club Licensing process.

A total of 156 matches will be played throughout the season, with each team playing 24 matches. The club finishing at the top

of the table at the end of the league will be declared I-League 2023-24 champions and will be eligible for promotion to the Indian Super League 2024-25 provided they fulfill the Club Licensing criteria.

"More and more clubs are coming up to participate in not just the I-League, but the third division as well. We are all committed to arriving at the best decisions to make the league structure competitive. That would encourage clubs to aspire to rise from the district level to the national level,

and help in the overall improvement of Indian football," AIFF Secretary General Dr. Shaji Prabhakaran said.

Last season's champions Punjab FC have already been promoted to the ISL. The two relegated sides from the 2022-23 I-League season -- Mumbai Kenkre FC and Sudeva Delhi FC -- have been replaced by Delhi FC and Shillong Lajong FC, the top two sides from the 2022-23 Second Division League. Inter Kashi and Namdhari FC have been admitted into the I-League as corporate entries, the

AIFF release said.

The committee reiterated that clubs could register five foreigners in their squads, with a maximum of three allowed on the pitch at a time for the I-League 2023-24. There will no longer be any AFC player quota requirements.

"Earlier, we did not have a properly tiered league structure, but that has changed. Now, the ISL, the I-League, Second Division, and Third Division are all connected with each other to create a strong league structure," said committee chairperson Lalnghinglova Hmar.

WI v IND

India aim for significant contribution from batters as they eye series-levelling win



SIANS

LAUDERHILL: After losing the first two T20I matches to the West Indies, India kept the five-game series alive with a resounding seven-wicket win in the third game, thanks to superlative efforts from vice-captain Suryakumar Yadav and Tilak Varma.

Now with the series action shifting to Lauderhill in Florida, USA, for the last two matches, India will be hoping that other batters step up to make significant contributions in the fourth T20I happening on Saturday.

West Indies are still leading the series 2-1, owing to India's batting barring Varma not coming to the party. Though Suryakumar got back his groove in the third T20I, India would require the likes of Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, captain Hardik Pandya and the rest of the lower-order batters to step up and play a huge role in run-making.

till now. Jaiswal, brought in place of Ishan Kishan at the top, got out cheaply on his T20I debut.

With Hardik yet to find his peak form with the bat and India's tail starting from number eight, the need of the hour is for bigger contributions from the batting department in unison. In the bowling department, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel and Yuzvendra Chahal have been impressive as a spin outfit, while Arshdeep Singh and Mukesh Kumar are doing a tidy job.

For the West Indies, building up to next year's T20 World Cup at home, there is a chance for them to win back-to-back T20I series for the first time since 2017 if they manage to beat India on Saturday.

Just like India, West Indies batters haven't clicked in unison, with Nicholas Pooran in the midst of a purple patch and captain Rovman Powell providing big hits to some extent. Kyle Mayers, Shimron Hetmyer and Brandon King need to stand up with the bat if West Indies are to pose a strong challenge to India.

There is a forecast for some rain in the afternoon as the USA readies itself to see some international cricket action featuring India after witnessing three weeks of MLC extravaganza.

The two teams have played six T20Is in their face-offs at Lauderhill, with India winning four games, West Indies just once, and the other one being washed out.

Squads:
India: Ishan Kishan (wk), Shubman Gill, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Tilak Varma, Suryakumar Yadav (vc), Sanju Samson (wicket-keeper), Hardik Pandya (c), Axar Patel, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Ravi Bishnoi, Arshdeep Singh, Umran Malik, Avesh Khan, Mukesh Kumar

West Indies: Rovman Powell (c), Kyle Mayers (vc), Johnson Charles, Roston Chase, Shimron Hetmyer, Jason Holder, Shai Hope, Akeal Hosein, Alzarri Joseph, Brandon King, Obed McCoy, Nicholas Pooran (wk), Romario Shephard, Odean Smith, Oshane Thomas.

Government OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER REWDIVISION BANDIPORA

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Dated: 09/08/2023

E- NIT No. 79 /2023-24
For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Of Union Territory Of J&K , e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with UT of J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name Of Work	Adv. Cost(In Lacs)	Tender Fee (In rs.)	Time of completion	Class Of Contractor	EMD (In Rs.)	Major Head	Panchayat/Gram Sabha	Type Of Tender
1	Construction Of Two No Warer Tankies At (1) Higher Secondry School Shahgund And (2) Aush Center	3.00	300/-	50 Days	Dee/Others	3% Of Adv Cost	Pri	Block- Naidkhai Halqa:- Shahgund C	Halqa Level
2	Const Of Cc Path At Wno 9 Gundiboon Naidkhai	1.72	200/-	30 Days	Dee/Others	3% Of Adv Cost	Pri	Block- Naidkhai Halqa:- Gundiboon	Halqa Level
3	Construction Cc Path From H/O Ajaz Ahmad Malla To Onwards At Ganaie Mohalla Wno 4	1.64	200/-	30 Days	Dee/Others	3% Of Adv Cost	Pri	Block- Naidkhai Halqa:-Markundal	Halqa Level
4	Const Of Cc Path At Different Sports At Naidkhai C	2.43	200/-	30 Days	Dee/Others	3% Of Adv Cost	Ddc	Block- Naidkhai Halqa:naidkhai C	Halqa Level
5	Construction Of Cc Path From Main Bund To H/O Ab Gani Malla Mir Mohalla Naidkhai And Others Wno 1.	3.00	300/-	30 Days	Dee/Others	3% Of Adv Cost	Pri	Block- Naidkhai Halqa:naidkhai C	Halqa Level
6	Construction Of Pcc Path Near H/O Gh Rasool Mallah And Others	1.50	200/-	30 Days	Dee/Others	3% Of Adv Cost	Pri	Block- Naidkhai Halqa:- Markundal	Halqa Level
7	Const Of Cc Path Near H/O Manzoor Ahmad Dar And Others	2.50	200/-	30 Days	Dee/Others	3% Of Adv Cost	Pri	Block- Naidkhai Halqa:markundal	Halqa Level
8	Const Of Cc Path With P/Wall From Main Road To H/O Ab Samad Najar Wno 1	1.71	200/-	30 Days	Dee/Others	3% Of Adv Cost	Pri	Block- Naidkhai Halqa:- Naidkhai D	Halqa Level
9	Construction Of Tile Path From Main Road To H/O Irfan Ahmad Lone & Masroof Ah Mir ,Ab Rashid Dar	1.61	200/-	30 Days	Dee/Others	3% Of Adv Cost	Pri	Block- Naidkhai Halqa:- Naidkhai C	Halqa Level
10	Construction Of Cc Path At Wno 1 And 7 At Gundiboon And Kanipora	1.90	200/-	30 Days	Dee/Others	3% of Adv Cost	PRI	Block- Naidkhai Halqa:-Gundiboon	Halqa level
11	Const Of Drain From L/O Abdul Majeed Parrey Onwards	1.50	200/-	30 Days	Dee/Others	3% of Adv Cost	PRI	Block- Naidkhai Halqa:MARKUNDAL	Halqa level
12	Construction Of Road With B/Wall From Main Road To H/O Mushtaq Ahmad Ganaie	1.27	200/-	30 Days	Dee/Others	3% of Adv Cost	PRI	Block- Naidkhai Halqa:- pushwari	Halqa level
13	Construction Of Tile Path At Masjid Sharif Laribal Pushwari	0.935	200/-	30 Days	Dee/Others	3% of Adv Cost	PRI	Block- Naidkhai Halqa:- pushwari	Halqa level
14	Construction Of Culvert At Shiekh Kull Near H/O Mohammad Maqbool Lone	2.99	200/-	30 Days	Dee/Others	3% of Adv Cost	PRI	Block- Naidkhai Halqa:- shahgund c	Halqa level
15	Const Of Darain At Bonikhan Stataion To Onwards Phase 2Nd,	2.00	200/-	30 Days	Dee/Others	3% of Adv Cost	DDC	Block- Naidkhai Halqa:- Naidkhai A	Halqa level

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	10-08-2023
2.	Online Bid submission Start Date	10-08-2023 from 04:00 PM
3.	Online Bid Submission End Date	18-08-2023 up to 04:00 PM
4.	Date & time of opening of Online Bids	19-08-2023 at 11:00 AM or any convenient day In theoffice of the Executive Engineer REW Bandipora
5.	Note: Hard copy of original Tender Document, Fee Receipt and EMD shall be deposited after the financial bid is opened. In case the original Tender Document Fee Receipt and EMD is not Deposited within 5 days after the Financial Bid is Opened for all responsive bidders Who have participated online, the Department shall serve the Notice as per Rules.	

NO:-XEN/REW/BPR/9689-95
DATED:-09-08-2023

DIPK-6895-23
DT: 11/08/2023

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
REW Bandipora

75 YEARS OF INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE

Justice Tashi Rabstan visits Udhampur, inspects facilities at district jail

GMK NEWS NETWORK

UDHAMPUR: To commemorate the 75 years of India's Independence, J&K Legal Services Authority and Juvenile Justice Committee, High Court of J&K and Ladakh has organized a series of awareness programmes in various Child Care Institutions, Observation Homes, One Stop Center cum Shelter Homes being run by NGOs and Social Welfare Department, various schools and Jails in different districts of UT of J&K.

In this connection today, Justice Tashi Rabstan, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority accompanied by Mrs. Rajni Rabstan, PDJ Udhampur Haq Nawaz Zargar (Chairperson DLSA) Udhampur and Amit Kumar Gupta, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority as well as Juvenile Justice Committee High Court of J&K and Ladakh visited District Jail, Jagriti Old Age Home, One Stop Center (OSC), Parisha and Palash (Child Care Institution for Girls and Boys) here.

On his arrival at District Jail Udhampur, Justice Tashi was accorded a ceremonial Guard of Honour.

During the visit, Justice Tashi inspected the Legal Aid Clinic, e-mulakat center, VC facility room, STD facility, IGNOU



Center, Kitchen/dining area, 10 bedded dispensary and dental centre besides inspecting the female and male barracks of the Jail inmates. He also interacted with them to enquire about their well-being as well as facilities being provided to them. During the interaction, the inmates informed the Justice Tashi that they are being served with proper diet by the Jail authorities and are being represented in their respective cases by the lawyers either engaged by them or provided by the Legal Services Authority.

To commemorate and celebrate the 75 years of independence, the Jail inmates performed a brief cultural programme and recited patriotic poems to showcase their talent that was highly appreciated by the attendees.

Meanwhile, Justice Tashi visited "Jagriti" Old Age Home run by an NGO,

where he was received by the President and staff of the Home. During interaction with the home inmates varied experiences in different walks of life were shared by them. President of the home raised issues of security, non-availability of doctor, physiotherapist and non-receipt of grant-in-aid from social welfare department from last two years.

Justice Tashi assured the management of hktne that these issues will be redressed on priority.

Later, Justice Tashi visited One Stop Centre to take stock of facilities available there, and interacted with the staff to get first hand information about the working of the centre.

Further, Justice Tashi visited Parisha (Home for Girls) having a capacity to house 25 inmates, where presently 15 girls were staying as well as 'Palash'

having capacity of around 50 persons. He held discussion on varied topics with the children to have an idea about the level of understanding they had.

Justice Tashi appreciated the social welfare department for maintaining these institutions with all required facilities like AC dormitories, Recreation Hall with big LED, Computer Lab, well maintained kitchen and dining hall, facility for indoor games, open Gym. He asked them to establish similar kind of facilities in all the CCIs.

On this occasion, a joint Cultural programme was organized by the inmates of Palash and Parisha displaying the immense talent possessed by them. Heart-touching performance was delivered by the girl artists in "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" that left the audience spell bound.

Addl. District & Sessions Judge, CJM, Secretary DLSA, Pr. Magistrate JJB along with other judicial officers and team of LADCs, Addl. Deputy Commissioner, Addl. SP, District Social Welfare Officer with staff and Para Legal Volunteers of Udhampur were present on the occasion. Plantation drives were also held at all the places visited by Justice Tashi to make the environment of such institutions/homes better and greener.

Patriotic fervour engulfs Jammu amid AKAM celebrations

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Reflecting widespread festive mood, Jammu division witnessed massive public participation in variety of activities organised as part of nationwide Meri Maati Mere Desh Campaign launched towards the end of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav- the 75 week grand celebration to commemorate 75 years of India's independence and the glorious history of her people.

At Udhampur: District Administration Udhampur organized a mega Tiranga rally as part of Nationwide Meri Mera Desh campaign launched under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" here Boys.

Deputy Commissioner, Sachin Kumar Vaishya along with SSP, Dr Vinod Kumar flagged off and participated in Tiranga rally from Government Degree College comprising more than 2000 children from different schools of the district, Officers/officials of government departments, Police, Paramilitary and Civil defense personnel, Ex-Servicemen, members of Beopar Mandal and Civil Society, besides elected public representatives. The rally passed through Dak Bunglow, MH Chowk, Matadoor stand, Gole market, Ramnagar Chowk, Court road, Slatia chowk, Barrian and finally culminated at Martyrs Chowk Domain.

Later, the participants took Panch Pran Pledge administered by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Harbans Sharma flagged off a Tiranga Rally from Government Model Higher Secondary, Ramban comprising nearly one thousand students of the different schools.

CEO Ramban, Devdand, ZEO, Firdous Ahmed, Principal Kewal Sharma, staff attended the programme.



A "Panch Pran" pledge - the five life forces was also administered to the participants, embodying their commitment to uphold the nation's values.

Meanwhile, Tiranga rallies and other events were also held at different educational institutions and locations across the district

Meanwhile, Government Higher Secondary School, Batote, organized a Parbhat Feri besides various events under the Meri Maati Mera Desh campaign in which locals, students and staff of schools participated.

At Rajouri: In a remarkable display of commitment to environmental conservation and national pride, Deputy Commissioner of Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, led the 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' initiative by hoisting the national flag and plantation drive in the premises of the Tehsildar's office.

At Reasi: District Administration Reasi organized a Heritage walk

and promotional Rally on JJM, Nasha Mukht Bharat, Anaemia Mukht and TB Mukht Bharat from District Administrative Complex to Bhimgarh Fort, which was flagged off by Deputy Commissioner Reasi Babila Rakwal under the ongoing campaign "Meri Maati Mera Desh".

Students from different educational institutions from across Reasi Town took part in the rally holding colorful banners and placards in their hands with messages against substance abuse. They raised slogans against the social evil and pledged to join their hands to eradicate this menace from society.

Later, a cycle rally was flagged off by District Programme Officer, Mohd. Anwar Bandy in the presence of District Panchayat Officer, CMO and Tehsildar Reasi. The rally started from the District Administrative Complex and culminated at Bhimgarh Fort via Reasi town. Refreshments were distributed among students.

Later, District Development Commissioner Reasi Babila Rakwal participated in the Dogra Food Festival with SHG ladies organised by the Tourism Department in collaboration with JKRLM. at Duggar Dhani in Kheral Panchayat of Block Pouri

The event aimed to reinforce the bond between the community and the nation, while also fostering a greener and healthier environment.

MERI MAATI MERA DESH

Safina Baig presides programme in Kreeri

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: As part of the ongoing 'Meri Maati, Mera Desh' campaign being celebrated throughout the country with zeal and fervour, the Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC) Baramulla, Safina Baig Friday presided over a grand function at Kreeri village of Wagoor block.

On the occasion, the Chairperson DDC carried out a range of activities envisaged in the campaign.

Assistant Commissioner Development, Shabir Ahmad Hakak; Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Baramulla, Gulzar Ahmad Khan; District Panchayat officer, Tehsildar Wagoor,



heads/ representatives of several departments, PRIs, students, volunteers among other prominent stakeholders marked their overwhelming participation.

At the outset, the DDC

Chairperson inaugurated the memorable board 'Shilphalakam' to pay tributes to the freedom fighters of the country.

While paying salutations, Baig said that the bravery and patriotism of the free-

dom fighters will remain an inspiration for ages.

Meanwhile, Panch Pran pledge was taken at the occasion which aimed to instill a sense of patriotism and responsibilities among the people.

LG pays tribute to late Shri Madan Das Devi Ji

GMK NEWS NETWORK



MAHARASHTRA: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha Friday met the family members of Late Shri Madan Das Devi ji at their residence in Solapur. He paid tributes to Shri Madan Das Devi Ji and conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the

bereaved family. "Paid tributes to Pujya Shri Madan Das Devi Ji at his paternal house in Karmala, Solapur. He tirelessly worked for the social change and showed us a new path. His ideas and ideals will continue to guide future generations," the Lt Governor tweeted.

'MERI MAATI MERA DESH' Panch Pran Pledge held in various police establishments in G'bl



RAJA SYED

SRINAGAR: Ganderbal Police held Friday Panch Pran Pledge ceremony under the theme "Meri Maati Mera Desh; Mitti Ko Naman, Veeron Ka Vandana" in all Police Establishments of the District. The main Pledge ceremony was observed at DPL Ganderbal.

On the directions of SSP Ganderbal Shri Nikhil Borkar-IPS Dy.SP Hqr's Ganderbal Shri Gh Hassan-JKPS administers the Pledge to Officers and Jawans. After reading out the pledge, he briefed the officers/officials and explained the meaning as

well as purpose of Panch Pran Pledge, with focus to make India a developed & prosperous Nation. He stressed upon the participants to eliminate their mental slavery & be proud of our rich heritage, uphold unity and solidarity, fulfill duties as citizens & to respect those who sacrificed their precious lives for the sake of the Nation.

Moreover, RI & LO DPL Ganderbal alongwith other officers were also present on the said occasion.

Finally, Dy.SP Hqr's Ganderbal thanked all the participants who joined the Panch Pran Pledge Ceremony with huge fervour and enthusiasm.

Walking 4,000 steps a day lowers your risk of dying: DAK

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Friday said walking fewer steps a day significantly reduces a person's risk of early death.

"If you walk just 4,000 steps a day, you can substantially lower your risk of dying," said DAK President Dr Nisar ul Hassan in a statement issued here.

Dr Hassan said according to a large study published in European Journal of Preventive Cardiology on Wednesday walking 3,967 steps a day reduces the risk of death from any cause, while taking 2,337 steps a day can significantly decrease the risk of dying from cardiovascular disease.

For every additional 1000 steps a day, the risk of dying from any cause falls by 15%, while a 500 extra steps leads to a 7 per cent drop in the risk of death from cardiovascular disease.

"That shows the more you walk, the greater the health benefits," he said.

Dr Hassan said researchers of the study found that adults 60 and older who walked between 6,000 and 10,000 steps a day saw a 42% reduction

in risk of early death, while people under 60 who walked between 7,000 and 13,000 steps a day had a 49% reduction in risk.

"This gives us to understand that health benefits are more if we start early," he said.

The DAK President said for years, it has been unclear how many minimum steps we should strive for to start seeing health benefits.

"Studies on walking are many, but this one for the first time sets a prescription dose for lifestyle correction," he said.

Dr Nisar said the study recommendation suits our population. Most Kashmiris are not up to extreme physical exercises. These fewer steps are doable for all.

He said the message of the study is loud and clear. Walk more and sit less.

Physical activity is good for health and a sedentary lifestyle invites a huge lot of health issues.

"As per World Health Organization (WHO) data, insufficient physical activity is the fourth most frequent cause of death in the world, with 3.2 million deaths a year related to physical inactivity," he added.

GDA carries demolition drive across Gulmarg

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Enforcement wing of Gulmarg Development Authority (ADDC) Baramulla, Aijaz Abdullah Saraf Friday convened a meeting of all concerned officers to discuss the action plan for mitigating the outbreak.

During the meeting, a threadbare discussion was held on the subject wherein a comprehensive action plan was discussed to mitigate the conjunctivitis disease in the district.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADCD showed his concern over the massive outbreak of pink eye disease in the district and said that the sudden surge of conjunctivitis cases has alarmed the people leaving scores of people grappling with the disease. He called for adopting coordinated approach besides adopting precautionary measures to combat the disease.

According to a spokesman of GDA, such drives would be intensified in the coming days.

CONJUNCTIVITIS OUTBREAK

ADDC B'la chairs meeting; discusses Action Plan

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: In view of a sudden surge in conjunctivitis cases (pink eyes) in Baramulla district, the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Baramulla, Aijaz Abdullah Saraf Friday convened a meeting of all concerned officers to discuss the action plan for mitigating the outbreak.

During the meeting, a threadbare discussion was held on the subject wherein a comprehensive action plan was discussed to mitigate the conjunctivitis disease in the district.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADCD showed his concern over the massive outbreak of pink eye disease in the district and said that the sudden surge of conjunctivitis cases has alarmed the people leaving scores of people grappling with the disease. He called for adopting coordinated approach besides adopting precautionary measures to combat the disease.

Briefing the chair about the status of the disease, Chief Medical officer informed that a large number of patients with the same disease have approached the hospitals during which 780 patients were treated during the current month. He also said that the patients are being thoroughly checked by doctors and are advised to follow the precautionary measures in letter and spirit.

Medical Superintendent, Government Medical College Baramulla also appraised the meeting with regard to the flow of the patients with Conjunctivitis and said that 180 cases got treatment in the hospital.

Other speakers including Expert Ophthalmologist, SDH Sopore, also spoke on the occasion and said that the causes of conjunctivitis vary, encompassing viral and bacterial infections, parasitic infestations, and allergies.

Ophthalmologist GMC Baramulla, Sheikh Sadat reassured that the condition typically does not pose a threat to one's vision, with most cases resolving without lasting effects. "Timely treatment and proper care, however, are essential to avoid complications," he added.

On the occasion, the team of experts advocated preventive measures, urging people to maintain good hand hygiene through frequent washing with soap and water.

Meanwhile, the ADCD directed concerned Officers to adopt a coordinated approach so that the unexpected outbreak gets eliminated. He also asked concerned authorities to aware the people with regard to the disease.

Moreover, Schools have been instructed to ensure hygiene and promptly report cases of conjunctivitis to nearby health centers. Parents were encouraged to collaborate with schools in managing affected children's conditions.

THE JAMMU & KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION NEW CAMPUS BEMINA, SRINAGAR NOTICE

The candidate whose photograph is attached in this notice has lost his qualification certificate of class 10th batch 2019 with name Urooj Nabi Parray S/O Gh Nabi Parray and Masooda Bano R/O Lalpora, Kunzer district Baramulla, registration no' N18440080042 and Roll no' 2411268. Now, the candidate has applied for the issuance of duplicate qualification certificate before the case will be processed under rules. Anybody (if) having any kind of objection in this regard may file the same at office of the undersigned within 7 days of period from the date of publication of this notice, after passing time no objections shall be entertained.



Sd/- Assistant Secretary, Certificates, KD