

Good Morning Kashmir

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Office of LG J&K
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J&K is the new success story in the country today. Our overall economic growth is demonstrating resilience and strength and scripting considerable achievement in every sector, bringing improvement in the lives of the people to build a strong Union Territory.

Centre Bans Shabir Shah's JKDFP
SRINAGAR: After banning Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) and Jammu & Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), the Government of India on Thursday declared Jammu & Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (JKDFP) headed by jailed separatist leader Shabir Ahmad Shah as an "unlawful association".
In a notification, the Central Government today declared the Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (JKDFP) as an unlawful association in exercise of powers vested with it under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.
Jammu and Kashmir Democratic • P-02

Student Injured In Anantnag Terror Attack Succumbs

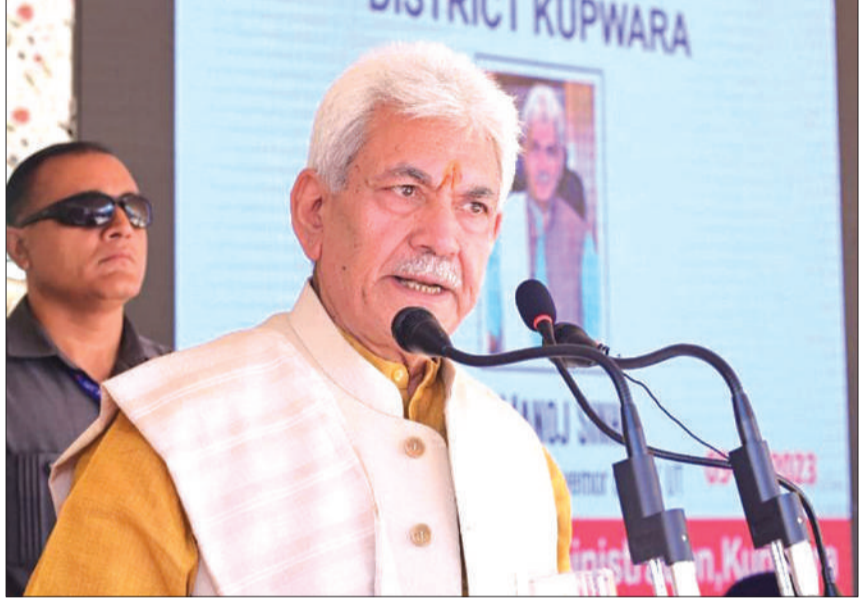


REHAN QAYOOM MIR
Soura, here. Earlier, the terrorists fired upon a Class 10th student, identified as Sahil Bashir, son of Bashir Ahmad Dar, a resident of Watrigam Dialgam at Wanihama, leaving him critically injured. He was immediately shifted to GMC Anantnag, for treatment, where from he was referred to SKIMS Soura for advanced treatment; however, the student lost the battle with life at the institute this evening.
An official from SKIMS Soura, told KNO, that the injured youth has succumbed to his injuries—(KNO)

J&K New Success Story In Country Today: LG Sinha

Inaugurates Dev Projects Worth Rs. 26 Cr In Kupwara

GMK NEWS NETWORK
SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Thursday said that Jammu Kashmir is the new success story in country today, adding that our economic growth is demonstrating resilience and scripting considerable achievement in every sector.
"Jammu Kashmir is the new success story in the country today. Our overall economic growth is demonstrating resilience and scripting considerable achievement in every sector, bringing improvement in the lives of the people to build a strong Union Territory," the Lt Governor said while inaugurating multiple development projects worth more than Rs. 26 Crores in Kupwara.
Addressing a public function at Boys Higher Secondary School, the Lt Governor shared the phenomenal developmental journey of Kupwara district over the last three



years. He said the border district has embarked on a significant capacity building in infrastructure sector. The projects inaugurated today are the reflective of government's commitment to provide better quality of life to the people of Kupwara, he added.
After decades of neglect, Kupwara and many other districts are now connected to mainstream of development and witnessing growth of a vibrant and inclusive economy. Various initiatives and a holistic approach in implementation are fulfilling the needs of deprived section of society, he said.
In the current FY, J&K administration is targeting to complete 3241 works to ensure future growth and progress of all areas, he added.
Highlighting the efforts of the government to accelerate the pace of development in the district, the Lt Governor • P-02

India, UAE Enter Pact For RuPay Usage
NEW DELHI: The NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPIL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), on Thursday entered into a strategic partnership agreement with Al Etihad Payments (AEP) for domestic card scheme (RuPay) implementation in the UAE.
The AEP is an indirect subsidiary of the Central Bank of UAE (CBUAE). As per the • P-02

2.50 Lakh Backdoor Recruitments Made In Past: CS Mehta

TASADUQ HUSSAIN
KUPWARA: Stating that the Union Territory administration is committed to transparency, the Chief Secretary of J&K Thursday said that over 2.50 Lakh backdoor recruitments were done in the past and nothing such is prevalent now. He was also quick to add that youth need to aim big and not look at daily wage jobs.
Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta was accompanying LG J&K Manoj Sinha alongside other top administrative officials including ADGP Kashmir



Vijay Kumar. Addressing the gathering, CS said that between 2021-22 a total of 30,000 employment opportunities were generated and people of Jammu and Kashmir • P-02

Committed To Destroy Last Remnants Of Terrorism: DGP

GMK NEWS NETWORK
SRINAGAR: J&K Police chief Dilbag Singh said on Thursday that the police are working together with other security forces with great commitment and resolve to destroy the last remnants of terrorism in the Union Territory.
The DGP was on a visit to the high ground area of Anantnag district where he interacted with the joint party of the police, army and CAPFs that was part of Wednesday's encounter in Kulgam district in which two local terrorists were killed.
Senior army, police and CAPF officers were present during the interaction. The DGP appreciated the swift and clean operation of tracking down and eliminating the terrorists.
"We are committed to provide a better and secure environment to the people of Jammu and Kashmir who have seen the worst times of Pakistan-sponsored disturbance and destruction during over the last three decades," he said.
The DGP also presented rewards to the personnel who were part of the Kulgam encounter. • P-02



CWC Widens Ambit, Rescues 11 More Kids

BEGGING MENACE
SRINAGAR: Continuing its drive against child beggars in Srinagar, the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) Srinagar conducted surprise raids in Karan Nagar area of the city and rescued 11 children.
The special drive by CWC continued for the second day today and a total of 25 children have been rescued in two days. "We have received multiple complaints from different parts of Srinagar and at this point, we cannot disclose the locations," • P-02



Doodhpathri Breaks Records, Attracts 2.6 Million Tourists In 9 Months



NAVEED UL HAQ
SRINAGAR: Doodhpathri, once a hidden gem nestled in the heart of central Kashmir's Budgam district, has undergone a remarkable transformation, evolving into a must-visit tourist destination. In just nine months, this scenic spot has broken records, attracting an astonishing influx of over 2.6 million visitors from various parts of the world.
Nargis Suraya, Chief Executive Officer of Doodhpathri Development Authority (DDA) credited the area's recent surge in popularity to years of development and hard work. She said the restored network facilities have encouraged people to visit, even for overnight stays.
"In the last nine months, Doodhpathri welcomed 2.628 million visitors, including 2,826 international tourists. This surge indicates that the place has rapidly become a must-visit spot in the Kashmir Valley," she said, adding that during the first four months of this year, nearly 200,000 people visited, but in the nine months since, the number has surged to 2.6 million.
Suraya emphasised the DDA's commitment to making Doodhpathri • P-02

'Vote Those Dedicated To Public Welfare' LG Hints At Upcoming Elections In UT

TASADUQ HUSSAIN
KUPWARA: In a significant announcement, Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha on Thursday hinted at the commencement of the poll process in the Union Territory as he urged the people to brace themselves for the upcoming Urban Local Body (ULB), Panchayat and Parliament elections.
Speaking at a gathering in north Kashmir's Kupwara district, the LG underlined the critical need for active participation in the democratic process. He reminded the people that the days of falling for hollow promises were over.
"People are now well aware of fake promises made by politicians and are demanding concrete action from their leaders," he said.
Accompanied by Chief Secretary Dr Arun Mehta and other top administrative officials, including ADGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar, the Lieutenant Governor expressed • P-02



INOX LIVE the MOVIE SRINAGAR

INOX CINEMA SHIVPORA SGR

Friday 06 Oct Movies Schedule

JAWAN 4:00PM, 6:40PM, (Hindi) UA	FUKREY 3 3:30PM (Hindi) UA
THE EXORCIST: BELIEVER 2:30PM (Eng with Eng Subtitles) A	MISSION RANIGANJ 5:00PM, 8:00PM (Hindi ATMOS) UA
	THANK YOU FOR COMING 7:30PM (Hindi) A

DLTFC Approves 27 Cases For Financial Help In Kulgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: A District Level Task Force Committee (DLTFC) meeting was held Thursday at the secretariat, here under the chairmanship of Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kulgam, Showkat Ahmad Rather.

A total of 34 cases were placed before the committee and 27 cases were approved by the committee at Project

cost of Rs.1.57 Crore involving margin money of R.55 lacs and providing employment opportunities to 135 educated unemployed youth.

The JKREGP scheme is being implemented by Jammu & Kashmir Khadi and Village Industries Board (J&K KVIB) to harness and divert the potential and enthusiasm of youth for establishment of productive

enterprise in the micro industrial sector and to create employment opportunities for others.

The bank representatives were directed by the chair to take the credit decision within 28 days from the receipt of DLTFC recommended applications from the KVIB Kulgam, also no security will be insisted upon by the bank except in agriculture and allied beyond the project cost of Rs. 5 lacs.

Mental Health Awareness Week Kick-Starts At Amar Singh College

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Department of Psychology and Psychological Counselling Cell Amar Singh College Thursday kick-started week-long programmes for observing 'Mental Health Awareness Week' focusing on this year's theme 'Mental Health is a Universal Human Right'.

Dr. Ulfat Jan, Head Department of Psychology emphasized the need to acknowledge mental health issues as human rights issues and contended

that all general human rights treaties apply to people with mental illness.

A lecture on Mental Health and Drug Abuse was delivered by Dr. Mehvish Registrar Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) and the expert was invited for the occasion.

Dr. Mehvish deliberated on the issue of substance use and its repercussions for mental health. She argued that the co-occurring disorders may further deteriorate the situation of the sufferer. She stressed the need to take substantive mea-

sures to ensure the eradication of concurrent disorders.

The Open Mike Session followed the lecture in which students participated with enthusiasm and shared the details of their personal battle with mental health issues. The open mike session was appreciated by the students, experts and guests alike.

Speaking at the event, Prof. (Dr) Sheikh Ajaz Bashir, Principal Amar Singh College and Nodal Principal Kashmir Division Colleges appreciated the efforts put in by the Department of Psychology and Psy-

chological Counselling Cell for organizing a productive event and wished them the best for the upcoming programmes.

The principal also brought up the curtain on board of gratitude for students, guests and faculties to share what they are thankful for. He also launched the pledge campaign to learn about mental illness to talk about it and to contribute to fostering mental health and well-being for all.

The participants at the event also included the officials of Mission Youth Initiative an NGO working for mental well-being.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

J&K New Success

said the 20 major infrastructural projects worth more than Rs 3144 Cr are under execution in Kupwara, which will be the key to future growth, bring prosperity to the population in rural and urban areas and expand the base of local market and promote entrepreneurship.

In the last Financial Year, 2444 development works were completed, and the first ever grid connectivity for Keran and Machil in 73 years was provided during 2021-22 enabling 19 Panchayats close to LoC to chart new pathways of progress and prosperity to secure their future as well as that of future generations, he added.

The Lt Governor reiterated the resolve of the UT Administration to tap the huge tourism potential of Kupwara.

"We have given a big boost to tourism sector to transform socio-economic condition of the people of this beautiful region and to provide expanded opportunities to youth," he said.

The Lt Governor called upon PRI representatives to motivate farmers and connect them with PM Fasal Bima Yojana and other agriculture-related schemes. He further stressed on Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS) in the district to facilitate the creation of Farmer Producer Organizations.

It should be the collective endeavour to ensure that at least 6000 youth are engaged with self-employment ventures this year and start their entrepreneurial journey, he said.

Responding to the demands projected by the PRI representatives, the Lt Governor assured that every possible step will be taken to strengthen the mobile connectivity and augment sports facilities in the district.

He further called upon the citizens to discharge their responsibility towards the government by paying for the services. Capable people should pay their power bills then only the government can waive off the bills of the poor, he said.

Sh Irfan Sultan Panditpori, Chairman, District Development Council Kupwara and other PRI and ULB representatives expressed their gratitude to the Lt Governor-led UT Administration for addressing the development needs of the people of Kupwara.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary reiterated the commitment of the administration to tap the potential of the district across the sectors.

The projects worth Rs 26.84 crores inaugurated by the Lt Governor include construction of NTPHC at Nowgam, Langate; construction/ upgradation of Dhani Tadd upto Prada Pandov road at Tangdar; upgradation of 5-km road from Pandithpora Langate via Al Maqsood Colony Hajan; construction of 08 roomed building at HSS Warnow Lolab and Water Supply Schemes at Machil, Athrota and Tangdar.

Sh Vijay Kumar, ADGP Kashmir; Dr Mandep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Sh Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Dr. Piyush Singla, Secretary Revenue; Ms Ayushi Sudan, Deputy Commissioner Kupwara; Sh Riyaz Mir, President Municipal Council Kupwara; members of PRIs & ULBs; senior officials and people in large number were present.

Centre Bans Shabir

Freedom Party was formed in 1998 by Shabir Ahmad Shah, who is currently in jail.

In the notification, the Central government said that the founder of the JKDFP had called Kashmir a 'dispute' and ruled out any settlement within the framework of the Constitution of India.

According to the MHA, the members of the JKDFP have been at the forefront of secessionist activities in Jammu and Kashmir and want to create a separate Islamic State.

It further says that the JKDFP and its leaders or members, particularly its founder Shabir Ahmad Shah, have been indulging in unlawful activities, which are prejudicial to the integrity, sovereignty, security and communal harmony of the country.

It states that the JKDFP and its members have been involved in the violent terrorist activities with an intent to create a reign of terror in the country, thereby endangering the security and public order of the State, and its anti-national activities also show disrespect and disregard to the constitutional authority and sovereignty of the State.

According to the notification, the central government said that if there is no immedi-

ate curb or control of unlawful activities of the Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party, it will use this opportunity to continue with the anti-national activities which are detrimental to the territorial integrity, security and sovereignty of the country.

It further said that if there is no curb or control on its activities, it will continue advocating the secession of Jammu and Kashmir from the Union of India while disputing its accession to the Union of India—(KNO)

India, UAE Enter

agreement, NIPL and AEP will work together to build, implement, and operationalise UAE's national domestic card scheme (DCS).

It will aim to facilitate the growth of e-commerce and digital transactions in the UAE, bolster financial inclusion, support the UAE's digitisation agenda, increase alternate payment options, reduce the cost of payments, and enhance the UAE's competitiveness and position as a global payments leader.

The partnership aligns perfectly with NIPL's mission to offer its knowledge and expertise to assist other countries in establishing their own cost-efficient, and secure payment systems.

The DCS solution is based on the principles of sovereignty, speed to market, innovation, digitisation, and strategic independence. The DCS solution provided by NIPL consists of a RuPay stack and value-added services like fraud monitoring services and analytics.

NIPL will also assist AEP in formulating the operating regulations for their domestic card scheme.(IANS)

2.50 Lakh Backdoor

were recruited. "Record number of engagements have been done. No backdoor entry has indeed been made so far. Nothing much will surface as it used to happen in the past. We aim to provide equal opportunity to each common and poor individual of J&K."

"More than 2.50 lakh people were recruited in the past through backdoor channels. What type of system is this? No one should rely on backdoor channel entry. All of this has come to an end now. Those who deserve jobs and those who don't should look for alternative work to earn a livelihood," the CS said.

He suggested that youth need to think big rather than relying on daily wage jobs.

He said that the water supply will reach every remote place by the end of this year. "People need to keep a check while work is going on since no such scheme will come early years. By the end of the year, the aim is to achieve 100 % work done in this regard."

The CS said that J&K has borrowed power of 31,000 crore rupees. "Even after giving a 50 per cent subsidy, we are not able to get even 20 percent of the charges from consumers. They don't pay monthly payments."

He said that 24-hour power supply can be a reality in the entire J&K only if people cooperate. "If 100% payment is done by all, we will get 24-hour power supply across the region. People need to be responsible and make 24 supply a reality for that people need to pay their bills timely," the CS said.

On the education sector, the CS said that students need to at least qualify 12th standard in this era of education. "If there are problems or some challenges all of them can be mitigated. We need to make sure that our youth is well educated."

About the health sector, he said that people need to make golden cards. "It is very beneficial for everyone. Till now about 7% of cards are pending individually."

Referring to the importance of sports, he said that grounds have been made in each panchayat across J&K. "Everyone needs to take part in the sports activities."

On Nasha Mukh Bharat, he said that it is being ensured and everyone should stay away from such practices.

Referring to the achievement of J&K, the CS said that our region has been able to record 100 per cent digitization. "We are now number one across the country. There is no need to visit offices anymore. All services, schemes, and information are available on mobile which is just a click away. About 900 services are available online. No government official can show any incompetence in working on grievances filed online. We have so far made about 1,000 officers pay fines for not responding to online queries," he said.

With online services, he said, now the

government has come to the people and is available on the phone.

Regarding tourism, he said that places like Bungus, Keran, and Teethwal will be taken to the next level in tourism activities.

He also advised the district administration to work toward an unemployment-free Kupwara. "Administration in Kupwara will work towards unemployment free Kupwara. Youth and women empowerment shall be their priority."—(KNO)

Committed To

Singh said that jawans and officers working in Jammu and Kashmir have been displaying indomitable courage while fighting different challenges, which he said has strengthened peace in the UT.

The DGP said that he is proud of the dedication and commitment exhibited by one and all in maintaining peace and order in the UT.

"We have to respond to each and every evil design of terrorists dictated from across the border more strongly," he said.

The DGP stressed on the utilisation of technical as well as human resources in tracking and eliminating the remaining terrorists.

He also directed for monitoring and keeping vigilance on terror support systems to demolish the ecosystem. He said that barring a few instances, the UT is by and large peaceful and for that he congratulated the personnel of police, other security forces and people for their joint efforts.

The DGP also cautioned the forces and people of J&K about the conspiracy of Pakistan which has been making continuous attempts to disturb peace and tranquility in Jammu and Kashmir.

He directed that the war on drugs should be taken to the next level as Pakistan is now using drugs to generate funds for terror activities and to "harm our young generation".(IANS)

CWC Widens

as the drive will continue in the coming days as well, and we have identified many spots in different areas of Srinagar," said the head of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) for Srinagar, Dr. Khair-un-Nisa.

She said that on Wednesday 14 children including four girls (all of them minors), and they have been sent to the shelter homes of CWC. "Once we take the child with us, their parents or legal guardians reach out to us, and after legal formalities and counseling, we follow up with the procedure. For those children who don't have parents or legal guardians, we become their custodians, and we take care of their schooling under other schemes provided by the central government," said Dr Nisa.

When asked about mostly outsiders being involved in begging and child labour, Dr. Nisa said, "For us, a child is a child, whether they are locals or non-locals. Once we receive information about child labour or begging, we visit the spot and rescue the child. Every child has its rights, and we have to safeguard them," said Dr. Nisa while adding that this stage of a child is the golden age and needs to be optimized for schooling and building a career.

She further said that, "for the general public, if anybody wants to raise a complaint about child labour, child trafficking, or child begging, they can reach our office at Bemina, Srinagar, contact us through social media platforms, or call us on our toll-free number: 1098

To a query that police and security officials accompanying them may scare the child, Dr. Nisa said: "The police protection is for our assistance, and the public is supporting us, with a very positive response, and its the responsibility of the special jewelle police unit to rescue the children itself, to maintain the law and law. Once we come to rescue, we need a police party along with us because if the child doesn't want to come with you, that's when the role of the police comes in, and the complaints about child labour and child trafficking are coming from the public."

Explaining about the drive, Dr Nisa said: "When the drive in a selected area is started, they, along with the labour department and police officials, conduct the operation and rehabilitate the children involved in begging, child labour, and child trafficking. The police officers accompany us to ensure the rescued children so that they can be safely handed over to our shelters."—(KNO)

LG Hints At

his deep connection with Kupwara, citing various developmental milestones achieved during his tenure.

He underscored the electrification of border areas like Keran and Machil, a feat not accomplished since independence. He also announced the revival of cinema culture in Kashmir after a hiatus of 33 years and the inauguration of a multipurpose sports hall in Handwara.

Sinha highlighted several agricultural initiatives aimed at improving the lives of the people in Kupwara. He revealed that under the PM Kisan scheme, farmers in Kupwara received assistance totalling 390 crore rupees, benefiting over 1 lakh farmers. "The region witnessed significant growth in agricultural productivity, with crop yields increasing from 1.02 metric tons to 1.06 lakh metric tons and from 65 quintals to 74 quintals per hectare in the past three years," he said, adding that beekeeping and milk production also experienced substantial growth, indicating the administration's commitment to enhancing the agricultural sector.

Addressing concerns about unemployment, the LG stated that the administration had introduced merit-based employment opportunities, ensuring transparency and fairness in the recruitment process. Dismissing rumours about favouritism, he said all government schemes were directed towards benefiting the common and poor citizens.

Manoj Sinha acknowledged the unparalleled natural beauty of Kupwara and the potential of tourism in the region. He revealed that tourist influx had significantly increased, with 306,000 visitors in the last financial year, compared to 6,791 in 2019. The administration was actively working on infrastructural developments, including road construction and a railway connection, to boost tourism further, he said.

On the developmental front, the LG outlined the progress made in Kupwara, highlighting the completion of numerous projects. He mentioned the allocation of funds for power projects, roads, and various infrastructural initiatives, demonstrating the administration's commitment to the district's overall development.

Giving hope to those who lament the poor mobile connectivity across the district, the LG vowed to eliminate mobile connectivity issues across Kupwara, and pay special attention to improving electricity transmission.

He assured the residents of Kupwara that issues related to mobile connectivity and electricity would be resolved promptly. He urged citizens to fulfill their civic duties by voting in upcoming elections, emphasising that only those dedicated to public welfare would be elected.

The Lieutenant Governor also digitally inaugurated several developmental projects, including infrastructure upgrades across the district.

The LG Sinha on the occasion assured that the administration is committed to the welfare of the poor, and all citizens can expect direct benefits from the various government schemes, without any discrimination.

"The government is committed to comprehensive development, transparency, and the active participation of citizens in the democratic process," he said.

He expressed confidence in the people of J&K and stressed the importance of working together to build a prosperous and peaceful future for the people of UT—(KNO)

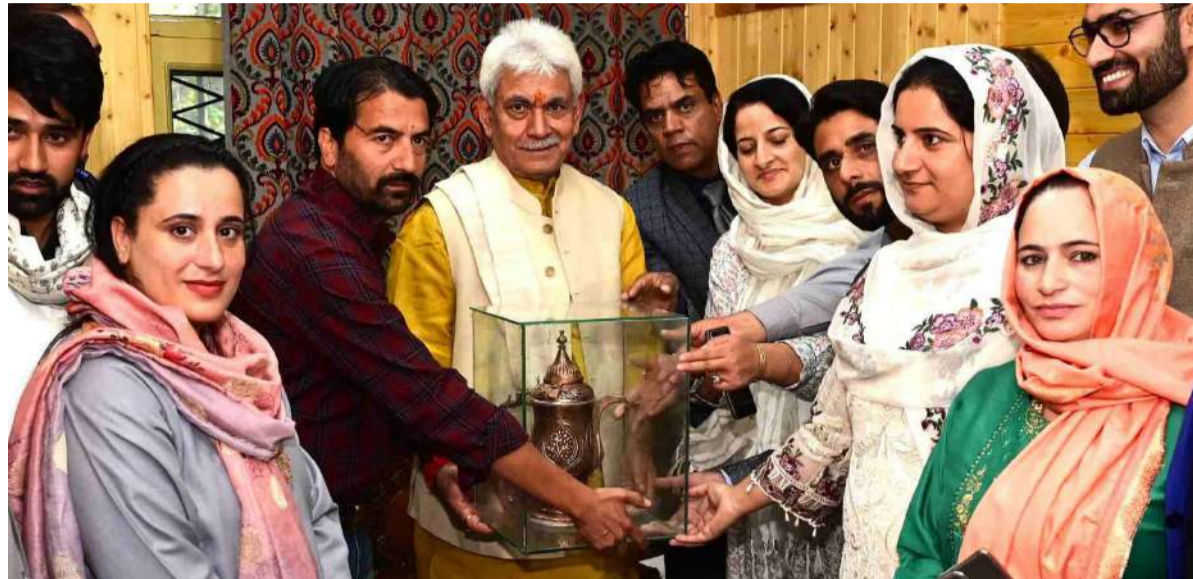
Doodhpathri Breaks

even more appealing to both locals and tourists, both national and international. "We are witnessing not only local tourists but also foreigners who truly appreciate this location. They spend considerable time here, contributing to the local economy and providing livelihoods for those working in the area," she noted.

The CEO of DDA highlighted the natural beauty of Doodhpathri, pointing out its breathtaking landscapes meticulously crafted by nature. She announced that this year, four films were shot in this picturesque location. "This development is highly positive for the region's tourism industry and the global cinema scene," she said.

Suraya also revealed plans to transform Doodhpathri into a premier winter destination. "Just like in previous years, we will keep the roads to Doodhpathri clear of snow, ensuring easy access for visitors," she said, adding that for those seeking adventure, skiing and snow scooters will be available, promising a thrilling winter experience—(KNO)

LG interacts with PRIs and public representatives at Kupwara



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha interacted with members of Panchayati Raj Institutions and public representatives during his visit to

Kupwara Thursday. Several delegations led by Sh Irfan Sultan Panditpori, Chairman, District Development Council Kupwara; heads of Municipal Council and Block Development Councils project-

ed various development issues of their respective areas.

The Lt Governor assured the members of the delegations of appropriate redressal of the issues and demands pro-

jected by them during the interaction. He reiterated the commitment of the UT Administration to fulfill the aspirations and developmental needs of the people of the Union Territory.

'Over 70% people in J&K passive smokers'

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: Addressing the pressing issue of smoking and tobacco consumption in Jammu and Kashmir, Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, R R Bhatnagar on Thursday emphasised the significant challenges posed by this problem, revealing that approximately 70 percent of the population in the Union Territory are passive smokers.

Speaking at a media workshop in Srinagar, Bhatnagar, highlighted the alarming statistics. He pointed out that the incidence of smoking in J&K is alarmingly high, with passive smoking affecting 70 percent of households and 60 percent of offices.

Bhatnagar stressed that tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable deaths and called for unified efforts to eradicate this menace. He emphasised the importance of educating young people about the adverse effects of tobacco consumption, including its potential link to alcoholism, cannabis use, and other drug-related issues. "We must act urgently on a war footing basis; it is critical for the well-being of our



citizens and the future of our region," he added.

Bhupinder Kumar, Administrative Secretary of the Health and Medical Education (H&ME) department, echoed Advisor Bhatnagar's concerns, saying that tobacco consumption, both through smoking and non-smoking methods, remains a significant challenge in J&K.

He said smoking is a major risk factor for chronic diseases such as cancer and cardiovascular diseases in the region. He stressed on the need to

reach out to end-users and educate them about the harmful effects of tobacco to achieve success in prevention efforts.

Acknowledging the long battle against this menace, Secretary H&ME pointed out the visible progress in curbing tobacco consumption in public places due to efforts under the COTPA (Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act) regulations. However, he emphasised that smoking continues to pose a considerable challenge, making J&K one of the regions

with the highest number of smokers in the country.

Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK), Dr Mushtaq Ahmad Rather, also shared insights on the progress made in recent years. He noted a positive change on the ground, with a declining trend in incidents of smoking in public places.

Dr Mushtaq revealed that fines amounting to around 1.5 lakh rupees were imposed on violators caught smoking in public areas this year. He underscored the dangers of passive smoking, especially for children and elderly parents, urging everyone to quit smoking.

The DHSK highlighted the connection between smoking and drug abuse, pointing out that most drug abusers start with smoking before transitioning to more severe substances. He stressed on the need for immediate action, warning about the potentially dire consequences if action is not taken promptly.

According to the latest survey by DHSK, out of 70 thousand drug addicts, 50 thousand were intravenous (IV) drug users, all of whom were initially smokers—(KNO)

Gandarbal Press Association holds elections, elects Mir Aftab as president



RAJA SYED RATHER

GANDARBAL: Gandarbal Press Association (GPA) Thursday held its first General Body elections at Auditorium of Government Degree College Gandarbal.

Mir Aftab Ahmed was elected as president of the Association. In contrast, Ghulam Nabi Raina was elected as vice President, Saleem Wani as general secretary, Raja Syed Rather as treasurer and Hadi Hidayat was Nominated as Spokesperson of the Association.

The elections were conducted freely and fairly through a well-decorated ballot voting process under

the vigil of ADDC Gandarbal Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani and Principal Government Degree College Fozia Fatima as Chief Guest.

The Election Committee of Gandarbal Press Association headed by senior journalist Ayaz Sofi and other members Hadi Hidayat, Aaqib Rasool, Mukhtar Ahmad, and Adil Mustafa played a vital role in the smooth conduct of the elections.

On the occasion, the oath ceremony was also organized under the chairmanship of ADDC Gandarbal. The newly elected president, vice president, general secretary, and treasurer took oath to

work under the constitution and framework of the Gandarbal Press Association. They also gave assurance to work for the benefit of Press fraternity and society on the whole assured implementation of free, fair, and fearless journalism, and pledged to end yellow and pseudo-journalism.

Finally, all members of the Gandarbal Press Association extend their gratitude towards Snowland Hotels and Resorts Sonamarg, Star Knights a group of star companies, New Dreamland Educational Institute Gandarbal, and Master Mechanics Gandarbal for their cooperation.

Saurabh Bhagat reviews status of skilling of youth identified under B2V

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Commissioner Secretary, Skill Development Department, Saurabh Bhagat, Thursday chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review the Skill training of 85000 Youth identified under Back to Village and My Town my Pride initiatives.

The meeting was attended by Mission Director, JK Skill Development Mission; District Development Commissioners (All); Director Skill Development Department (SDD); Additional Secretary, SDD, Principal, Food Craft Institute, Jammu, All concerned Principals / Superintendents of Government Polytechnics/ITIS Jammu/ Kashmir. Besides, outstation officers attended the meeting through video conferencing.

While chairing the meeting, Saurabh Bhagat held a comprehensive review of various schemes and initiatives undertaken by the department. He assessed progress, achievements, and challenges faced by JKSDM to empower the youth of Jammu and Kashmir with relevant skills and employment opportunities.

He took a detailed review of skill training of youth district/trade wise by the concerned departments identified under B2V4/ MTMP.

Highlighting the need



for working on a single government approach, he emphasized upon the officers to maintain convergence with other departments for bridging the skill gap and enhancing employability avenues for the youth of J&K. He said that we should have a unified data on districts which should go to all agencies, thus preventing overlapping of data.

Commissioner Secretary asked the DCs to come up with District Skill Committee meeting every month and re-examine their plans in view of the demands arising from new schemes like Vishwakarma, Jal Mitra, PM Kaushal. He said that regular monthly reports will get us an idea of what is happening at the district level and take corrective steps accordingly.

Saurabh Bhagat said that DCs should come up with creative programmes and utilise their resources effectively. He said that DCs should get more training centres registered in their respective districts as the training and skilling has attained a huge signifi-

cance at the national level.

He also elucidated that it is the endeavour of government to upskill youth in high value skills so that they are able to seize employment in any part of the globe. He urged the educated youth to come forward for gaining right skills in the best of the skill institutes for earning their livelihood in a respectable manner.

Commissioner Secretary also said that government will provide more funds to the districts for having block, tehsil and district level skill melas and placement fairs.

While calling for expediting the process for training of people, Saurabh Bhagat said that DCs should have a clear idea of how many people have been sponsored for training and how many have been trained and how many were certified.

He also asked the DCs to create a repository of trained people so that we fine tune our MES system and districts should also broaden their skill training base for better outcomes.

DC Srinagar inaugurates Silk Carpet Centre in Eidgah



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Thursday inaugurated a Centre of Silk Carpet here at Eidgah in Shahr-e Khaas of the District under Karkhandaar Scheme of Handicraft and Handloom Department.

On the occasion, Chief Planning Officer, Mohammad Yaseen Lone, Assistant Director Handicrafts & Handloom, Mohsina Irshad, Tehsildar Eidgah, Ishfaq Ahmad Khan other senior officers along with the team of one District one product and large number of Artisans were present.

Speaking on the occasion Deputy Commissioner congratulated the Karkhandaar Unit Holder, Rafiq Ahmad Sofi of Rathpora, Eidgah of the District and emphasized on the hard work that goes in every single knot of carpet weaving. He appreciated the new technology in the form of iron looms and GI tagging mechanism that confers legal protection to the products, prevents unauthorized use of a GI tag prod-

ucts and helps consumers to get quality products of desired traits besides assures the authenticity of the products.

While appreciating the contribution of Artisans and their magical hard work in revival, preservation and promotion of Traditional Art and crafts, the DC assured the Artisans that all support required by the local Artisans will be provided by the Government in order to boost their manufacturing and exports with impetus on supporting the industry from the production stage to the exporting stage. He emphasized on the role of the Handicraft sector in generating employment in Kashmir Division and supporting the economy and making the women as well as men community self-independent.

DC also emphasised on incorporating IT interventions in the handicraft craft sector to encourage younger generations to carry forward the rich heritage of world famous crafts and industries associated with Carpet weaving and other Handloom/Handicraft products thereby generating employment avenues.

Srinagar Admin conducts anti-encroachment drive

Over 71 kanals of Prime land worth crores retrieved from illegal possessions

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The District Administration Srinagar on Thursday undertook major anti-encroachment operations across the District to retrieve Government Land from the illegal occupants and reclaimed over 71 kanals of prime State/ Kahcharie land worth crores from the land grabbers.

The Anti-encroachment operation was launched in all 7 Tehsils of the District including, Eidgah, North Srinagar, Panthachowk, Khanyar, South Srinagar, Central Shalteng and Chanapora Tehsil.

The special anti-encroachment Squads constituted by District Administration Srinagar headed by respective Tehsildars conducted massive anti-encroachment drives while taking assistance of Police and other Departments.

A team of Revenue and Police Officers/Officials headed by Tehsildar North, Kaiser Mehmood launched a massive anti-encroachment



ment drive in Batpora, Shalimar and Syedpora Bala villages and retrieved 14 kanals and 5 marlas of State/Kacharie land from the land grabbers under survey no. 1604, 1605, 76 min and 37 min.

Similarly, in a major anti-encroachment drive launched at In Khanyar Tehsil 35 kanals and 9 marlas of State land was also retrieved in Brane villages under survey no. 4929/399/2744 under the supervision of Tehsildar Khanyar, Aailya Tabasum.

In Lasjan village under the supervision of Tehsildar Pantha Chowk, Rakib Ahmad as many as 5 kanals and 5 marlas of land was retrieved under survey no 27/1 and 142 min at Zawoor and Lasjan areas of the Tehsil.

Likewise, in Zoonimar

village in Eidgah Tehsil, a Revenue Team headed by Tehsildar, Ishfaq Ahmad Khan retrieved 08 kanals of State land under survey no. 1266 Minworth Rs 40.74 crore from the illegal occupants.

In South Tehsil of the District, a team headed by Tehsildar, Moean Azhar conducted an anti-encroachment drive in Shivpora area retrieved 27 marlas of land under survey no. 168 min and 169 min from the encroachers.

Similarly, in Gund Hassi Bhat and Khushipora villages of Central Shalteng Tehsil 02 kanals and 09 marlas of State Land has been evicted under the supervision of Tehsildar Shalteng Kaser Ahmad from the land grabbers under survey no. 156min and 895/281.

ACB arrests Patwari while accepting bribe in Budgam

NAVEED UL HAQ

BUDGAM: The Anti Corruption Bureau on Thursday said it caught a Patwari red-handed while demanding and accepting bribe in central Kashmir's Budgam district.

An official said that Ashiq Hussain, Patwari, Halqa Sharifabad, Budgam was caught red handed by sleuths of ACB in a well laid trap while demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 10,000 from a complainant.

He said the amount was recovered from the accused Patwari on the spot in the presence of the independent witnesses. He said the ACB Srinagar has registered a formal case FIR No. 21/2023 U/S 7 PC Act 1988. The official said the accused Patwari was arrested on spot and taken into custody.

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, (JAL SHAKTI) PHE, MECHANICAL RURAL DIVISION, SGR.

GIST of E-Tender.
E-N.I.T. No.- PHE/MRD/TS/ 94 of 10/2023

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, E-tenders are invited in two cover system from approved and eligible Contractors having GST registration/registered with J&K Govt., Railway and other State/Central Government Organizations for the following work:-

Sr.	Nature of Work	Name of the Water Supply Scheme	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Doc.	Time of Completion	Programme
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
A	Electro-mechanical works to be carried out at WSS	Watsun Manigam	23.40	Reg. of Electrical or Mechanical Nature of Work whichever is applicable	500/=	21 days	Languishing

AAA: Accorded
Technical Sanction: Granted
Critical Dates/Information.

1. Publishing Date	05-10-2023 (5:00 PM)
2. Period of Downloading of Bids	05-10-2023 (5:00 PM) to 12-10-2023 11.00 A.M)
3. Period of Submission of bids	05-10-2023 (5:00 PM) to 12-10-2023 11.00 A.M)
4. Date of opening of Tender/Timing	12-10-2023 at (12:00 P.M)
5. Tender Receiving Authority: Executive Engineer, (Jal Shakti) PHE Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar	
6. Document Cost: Non-Refundable in the shape of Treasury Challan/receipt shall be deposited to Account Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar (The firm shall specify the e-NIT No. & name of work for which applied)	
7. Bid Validity Period: 180 Days	
8. The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on www.Jktenders.gov.in	
9. Instead of EMD the firm has to furnish "Bid Security Declaration", format of the declaration is mentioned in the Bid Document	

Note:- The tenderer who is declared as L1 after opening of price bid will deposit 5% of the Estimated cost of the work in shape of CDR/FDR before allotment is issued in his favour.
No. -PHE/MRD/TS/3169-73
DT: - 05/10/2023

DIPK-9840-23
DT: 05/10/2023

Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Rural
Division Srinagar.

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Dog Bite Cases

The number of dog bite cases in Kashmir is increasing at an alarming pace. Dogs are everywhere, almost everywhere – in every road, lanes and warrens. There is one roundabout in Jawahar Nagar area of uptown Srinagar where a prospective filmmaker can shoot a horror movie unedited – the place of a mere 50 square meters has hundreds of dogs squatted right in the middle of the road ready to pounce on anyone who dares to walk alone during evening and night hours. According to a report released to the local press an alarming 4,396 bite victims, mostly dog bites, were reported to the Anti-Rabies Clinic at Srinagar's SMHS Hospital in the last six months this year. And if we take a full financial year into consideration from 1st April 2022 till 31st March 2023, as many as 6,875 bite cases were reported. This is beyond belief. The dogs in Kashmir appear to be well-fed due to the non-vegetarian food inclination of the citizens of the valley. They are usually flocked around the shops and butchers waiting for them throw a few offals at them. We appreciate the efforts of the state administration in as far as sterilization efforts are concerned. However, this sterilization drive seems not have met with the intended success. The government can rope in more volunteers, provide them with basic training and this way intensify that process. The Srinagar Municipality Corporation had used a technique of relocating the dogs to a few sub-urban areas on the periphery of Srinagar – a move which has already led to a few fatal attacks in the paddy fields. We expect that the government would seriously pursue this case as these thousands of people are losing thousands of work hours to the treatment of dog bites. Besides, the presence of so many dogs on almost every street is creating a fear psychosis. We hope government has a plan in offing to lower the number of dog attacks. Srinagar city deserves an environment where one could walk freely during evening hours or go freely to places of worship at the cusp of dawn.



BY HILAL BUKHARI

School-based Assessment is the assessment conducted by the teachers in the schools they teach in. The subject teachers continue to assess their students throughout the session and thus teaching, learning and assessment go hand in hand in an integrated manner. It is a learner-centric methodology and activity-based pedagogy. It is different from the traditional method of examinations and assessment. It is a repetitive method that continues throughout the session in order to narrow down all the learning gaps in the students.

In its wider sense, SBA includes assessment for learning, assessment as learning and assessment of learning. The main motive is what is called the all-round development of the learners in a more effective and efficient manner. It assesses the learners both formally as well as informally. One of the basic features of SBA is that it leads to collaborative learning. It lends more emphasis on understanding the concepts. Because the New Educational Policy 2020 also stresses the concept of understanding of the learners.

School-based assessment does away with traditional and faulty methods like forcing the students to learn under the threat of examinations. It



is not merely about labeling the learners and dividing them into Slow learners, bright students problem children etc. Its main aim would be to identify the learning gaps in conceptual understanding and employment of the sophisticated methods to narrow down those gaps. It inspires the learners to provide friendly feedback to enrich learning in a proper learning environment. The traditional method of assessment left all stress on the written examinations which only forced students to memorize too much even without bothering about the concept clarification. The experts later came to realise that this way of learning could not be beneficial to the students in the long run. SBA thus believes more in formative assessment which shall assess the basic learning of the students and their concept clarification in every subject, topic and lesson

throughout the session. It shall be more beneficial, efficient and comprehensive in bringing real change in the teaching-learning process.

School-Based Assessment combines the main features of both formative and summative assessment in a proper manner. Although it gives more importance to formative assessment, the features of summative assessment too are added in order to bring better results. It believes in classroom-based sessional assessments throughout the session to keep the students alert and active during the teaching-learning process. Formative assessment occurs during the learning process while summative assessment begins at the end of the process. Formative assessment allows the teachers and the learners to pivot the strategies mid-stream while summative assessment provides final evaluation of knowledge and skills

taught and learnt. Formative assessment identifies the areas of improvement while the summative assessment identifies the areas of concern. During the formative assessment, the students give their feedback while after the summative assessment, the students are provided with the grades.

Thus, by including both types of assessment properly we can witness a revolutionary change in the whole education system. If the teachers are able to learn and implement the SBA properly and wholeheartedly there can hardly be any doubt that skies would be our limits as far as our formal education system is concerned. It will certainly lead to learning that would be holistic, integrated, enjoyable, and engaging for the learners.

[Hilal Bukhari is a teacher in school education department]

Specially-Abled: Time To Part With Cumbersome Policies



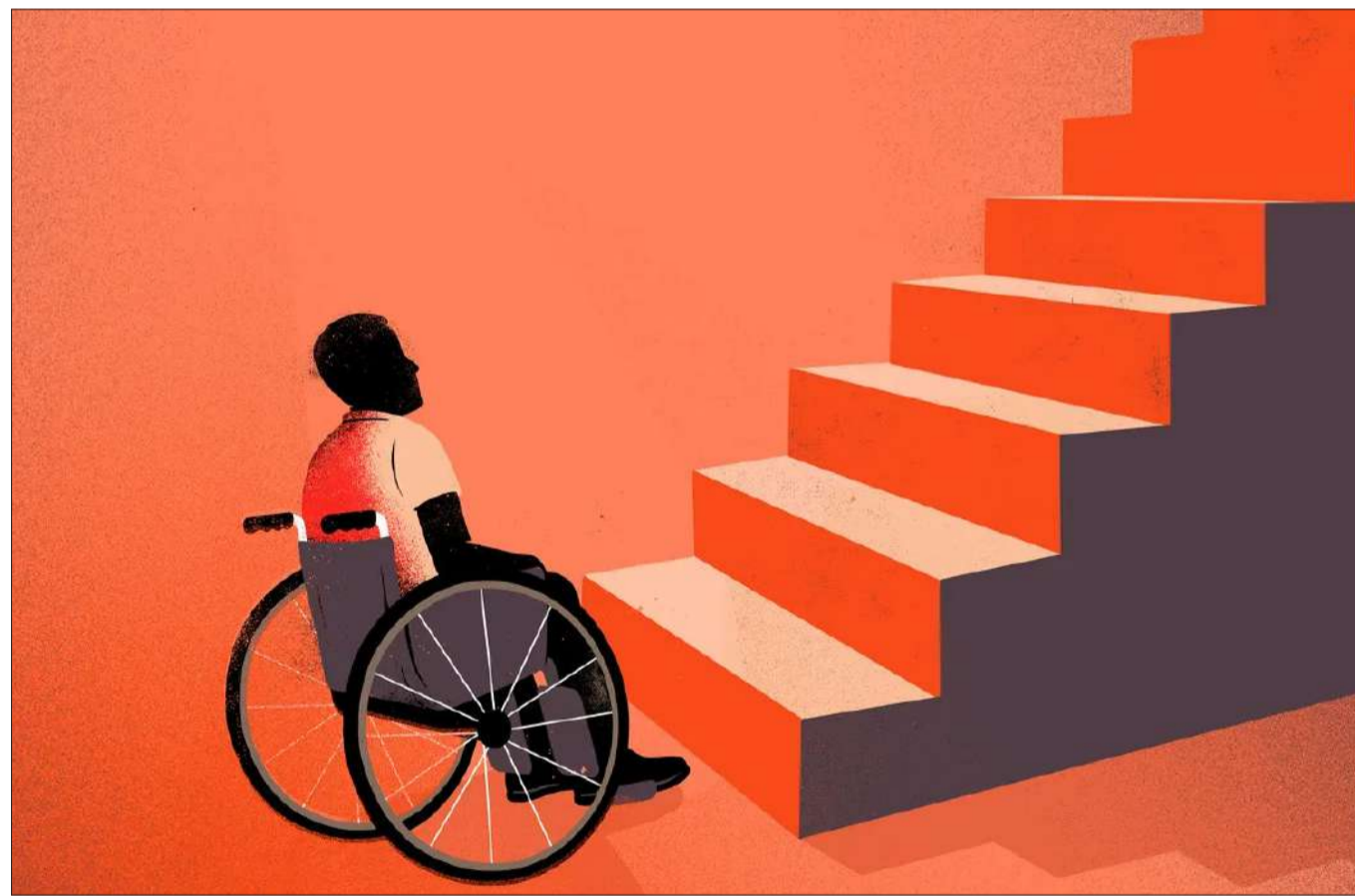
ASIF AHMAD BHAT

Following the latest order in letter and spirit entailed that the differently-abled were made to wander from pillar to post to get their documents verified like Unique Disability Identity card (UDID), which a person could get only at certain places; a document to be verified at the concerned Bank authorities; an affidavit from a first-class magistrate; and an e-ticket from food and civil supplies department - and the list is endless.

A while back, the government issued an order for specially-abled persons to get their document of disability re-verified. The purpose of this order was to expose the corrupt elements. Basically, a lot of people had registered themselves as disabled when in reality they were physically fit.

On the one hand, it was a good initiative to expose those masquerading as handicapped. On the other hand, it was the beginning of a hectic process for the genuinely differently-abled as they had to navigate a hugely bureaucratic set up. They were made to wander from pillar to post to get their documents verified like Unique Disability Identity card (UDID), which a person could get only at certain places; a document to be verified at the concerned Bank authorities; an affidavit from a first-class magistrate; and an e-ticket from food and civil supplies department - and the list is endless.

Another major problem faced by them was that they could not afford help from a relative or a friend; they had to do it themselves. The burden of the 'Bio-Metric' lay on their head as did everything else. They had to visit each department multiple times to get their documents verified. The time-gap between the appointments (visits) was in itself



frustrating. For example, to get a UDID card, a specially-abled person had first to visit the concerned department to book the appointment. Almost after a week or two, he again was supposed to visit it to get his Biometric done. The third time, he had to visit the local computer operator to get it downloaded or printed out. Similarly, they were to get an E-ticket from the food and civil supplies department. They had to submit the documents on the first visit and almost after ten to fifteen days, e-ticket was issued in their favour.

The sufferings of specially-abled people did not end here. Not only did they have to wait for almost half a month to get the documents verified, but also the buildings of these institutions or departments were in itself a major hurdle as in a lot of them the elevators or lifts were either non-existent or malfunctioning, adding to their suffering. They had to go to either the first or second floor of each department to get their

work done. They had to wait until a bunch of people would come and lift them in arms (or through either through their wheelchair) to get them to their concerned room for documentation. After completing the formalities, they again had to wait for people to get them down stairs.

This process of them being lifted by other people was emotionally taxing for them as it forced them to seek help from others all the time.

Also, they had to wait in line for a long time to get their appointments. I remember, when I had to visit the Medical Board at Jawahar Nagar to avail the signature of a concerned medical officer for scholarship. I saw a queue of around fifty to sixty people waiting outside for their turn. One among the reasons for that larger queue was that the Medical Board used to be open on only two days in a week, adding to their misery. In case, if any person fails to fulfil prescribed formalities, he or she has to go

through the same haphazard process of waiting a month to get the appointment.

It is not only the fault of those various institutions, but the state too is responsible. Changing the name of disability to specially-abled is not enough. Delivering speeches on disability day won't improve their condition. No doubt the state took this step to bring transparency and allow the real beneficiaries to avail benefit. But the manner of its implementation was not people-friendly.

Postscript:

- It is the collective responsibility of society to not let them feel that they have any disability.
- The state must restructure the layout of their buildings, shifting the main office to the ground floor or making special arrangements so that the specially-abled person will not suffer to get their work done.
- The state may provide an

increment in their pension.

- The criteria to avail the various documents must be simple and easy.
- Their work must be given a top priority to avoid frequent visits.
- A separate department apart from the social welfare department must be there that is linked with all the concerned institutions or departments, so that specially-abled people need not visit various departments to get their work completed.
- No doubt there are numerous NGOs who tirelessly work for improving the standard of specially-abled persons. Still, there are deficiencies and loopholes about their policies - and it require immediate attention.

[Asif Ahmad Bhat is currently pursuing M.A in history from University of Kashmir]

Ending TB One Barangay At A Time



SHOBHA SHUKLA / BOBBY RAMAKANT

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."
- Margaret Mead.

Bearing testimony to this, a small group of people in Bantayan Municipality of Cebu, Philippines, has changed the lives of many people affected by tuberculosis (TB). TB, despite being preventable and curable, continues to be the deadliest of the infectious diseases in high TB burden countries.

Carrying innovative new diagnostic tools for TB in plastic tubs, they went from islet to islet on pump boats, braving inclement weather, to screen and diagnose people with TB. This resulted in a tremendous increase in TB case finding upfront: 316% rise in new TB case detection, and 1292% rise in screening of those with presumptive TB.

Imagine the difference it can make in the Philippines' fight to end TB if such interventions can be scaled up and become a norm.

As per the latest Global TB Report 2022 of the World Health Organization (WHO), out of the estimated 741,000 people with TB in the Philippines, only 321,600 were notified to the national programme, and over 60,000 lives were lost due to TB.

As of now, only 43 out of every 100 people with TB are reached by the TB services in the Philippines, and only 65% of those reached, get a WHO recommended molecular test diagnosis, while the rest get a smear microscopy (which underperforms in TB diagnosis), or get treated without any bacteriological confirmation.

As early and accurate TB diagnosis is the gateway to TB care pathway (and breaking the chain of infection transmission), the Philippines has a two-fold task:

Firstly, it must ensure that it is reaching out to all those with TB (and not just 43/100), and

Secondly, it must use WHO recommended molecular tests to diagnose TB timely and correctly. This paradigm shift in TB diagnostics is a critical entry point, not only to the full spectrum of TB care cascade, but also towards ending TB in the country.

Ending TB - one barangay at a time with x-ray and Truenat

When the WHO recommended point-of-care, decentralised, laboratory independent and battery operated molecular test Truenat (made by Molbio Diagnostics), along with the ultra-portable and battery operated x-ray made by Fujifilm, was deployed in Bantayan islets, new TB case notifications, as well as treatment success rate, increased manifold, confirmed Dr Samantha Tinsay, Municipal Health Officer, Bantayan Municipality, Cebu, Philippines. "TB is a disease of poverty. Unfortunately here in our island of Bantayan a lot of people have TB because of malnutrition and poor hygiene," she said. Malnutrition is the biggest risk factor for TB.

Using latest and state-of-the-art diagnostic tools in the Philippines was made possible in 2022 by introducing New Tools Project (iNTP) of the Stop TB Partnership and United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which has helped in the rollout of a package of latest innovations in diagnostics, treatments, and digital health technologies to strengthen TB care in high burden countries.

Bantayan is the largest municipality of Bantayan island and it has 25 barangays (small townships) and one district hospital which is understaffed and undersupplied. These areas are also marked as geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDA). Most of the people here are fisherfolk or farmers and their income is Pesos 300-350 (USD 6-7) a day.

"During September to October 2022, we were able to screen 1774 people with presumptive TB by bringing these tools right to their doorstep. Most of them cannot afford to travel to the mainland for diagnosis or treatment. So we brought TB point-of-care testing to their doorsteps and saw a



very high increase in case detection as well as in treatment success rate," said Dr Tinsay. "As TB diagnostic technology was brought to the people (and not the other way round), people were more open to getting tested for TB."

"When the going gets tough, the

not have stopped as patients were already waiting at the clinic," said the spirited Dr Tinsay.

Making a difference
Because of the introduction of new tools, TB case detection went up from 110 in 2021, to 458 in 2022 (an increase of >316%). The number

organisations, who are willing to donate mobile x-rays with trucks that have x-ray machines in them. But the challenge in using them is that you cannot bring the trucks to the islets. They are situated in the mainland, which is good, but not as good as the Truenat and ultraport-

This was more than any diagnostic centre will ever test and start treatment for TB in one day."

The Fujifilm ultraportable x-ray and Truenat molecular testing machine do not require laboratory infrastructure. "We were out in an open field and the barangay officials had just put up tents. We used a shower curtain as a makeshift screen for x-ray. It was like setting up a photo booth anywhere for the ultraportable x-ray," she said.

On 16 September 2022, her team recorded the highest TB case finding rate of 14.4% in Kabac. Narrating her experience of travelling to Hilitongan where travel is difficult due to low tide, her team began at 6am in the morning to reach there on time. TB case notification rate was 12.3%. They used a local church facility to set up the x-ray and molecular testing equipment.

Her hardest travel was to Luyongbaybay on 30th September 2022 for which she and her team had to leave at 3am when it was high tide (if it is low tide then they cannot cross the sea as the boat gets stuck). TB screening and testing was done right outside the day-care centre and inside a gym. "I was the only doctor there and I checked 238 patients from 6am until 4 pm. We also provided free blood sugar testing and some paediatric check-ups," she said. "This was the maximum number of patients we checked in one day, thanks once again to the teamwork and very supportive barangay officials. Before we arrived, there was a thunderstorm, so we were soaking wet (drenched) when we reached this Barangay. We were not carrying any change of clothes with us. Once again, the barangay officials and the people of the islet were very supportive (and gave us free t-shirts to wear)."

"On an average we were testing 70 to 120 patients in a day, using these new tools. Every barangay that we went to, there was at least one positive case of TB. Nowhere was there zero case detection," she told.

The future ahead
In Bantayan island there are 3 different municipalities. Bantayan is the largest, and the other two are Santa Fe and Madridejos. "If we get the innovative New Tools Project back, we are willing to share the case findings with the other two municipalities, just as we did last year," said Dr Tinsay.

"Just two days ago we had a patient living with HIV, who also had TB, who passed away at the age of 24 years. This should not happen anymore. A lot of people do not seek help because of the TB stigma, and because the diagnostic tools are at such far flung places and out of reach for them. By bringing point-of-care testing at their doorstep, we can help end TB- one barangay at a time," she summed up.

(Shobha Shukla and Bobby Ramakant are part of the editorial team of CNS. Both 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.)



Find TB to stop TB

Photo courtesy: Dr Samantha Tinsay, Bantayan Rural Health Unit

tough gets going"

When Dr Samantha Tinsay began the introduction of these new innovative diagnostic tools in September 2022, extreme climate events - such as typhoons and storms - compounded the challenge. But it was sheer determination on her and her team's part to hop on a pump boat and brave the storms and typhoons to go from islet to islet and find TB, and treat TB.

"When we started this project in September 2022, it was the middle of the typhoon season. So one of the challenges we often faced was the bad weather conditions. It took a lot of teamwork and effort with my staff and the barangay healthcare workers and officials of the local health unit - It was an all-in-one effort supported by the community," shared Dr Tinsay.

The x-ray and Truenat molecular test were brought to the Bantayan Rural Health Unit, and packed in a suitcase with wheels for transportation. Both of these machines fitted well in a moulded plastic tub, and were transported via pump boats.

On 29 October 2022, Tropical Storm Nalgae, locally known as Paeng, hit the Philippines, and affected around 4.8 million people within a week. On that fateful day, Dr Samantha Tinsay and her team were en route to one of the islets with the diagnostics tools in tow. "We did not know that a storm signal had been raised, and that nobody should be travelling or working as we were out of the range of mobile signal. Nevertheless, rain or sunshine, we were working and could

of people who got tested for TB also went up from 180 people in 2021, to 2506 people in 2022 (an astronomical increase of 1292%).

"TB treatment success rate has also increased to 97% in 2023," she confirmed. Average TB treatment success rate in the Philippines was 76% in 2021 as per the WHO report.

"These new innovative TB diagnostic tools are very crucial in the fight against TB, especially for people living in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDA). These tools can really help eradicate TB. Bringing these tools to the people in a country like the Philippines where TB is very rampant, will help end TB, one Barangay at a time," rightly said Dr Tinsay.

TB diagnosis before the new tools were introduced in Bantayan

"I started working in Bantayan in November 2021. Prior to that the method of screening for TB was inefficient and also expensive for the people. We had the Gene Xpert machine for molecular testing. But getting the x-ray done was a challenge for the patients as they did not want to pay Pesos 350- 450 extra for the x-ray. It was more than their income for one day. In 2022, (before the Truenat molecular test or portable x-ray came), we started a partnership with an NGO called the Philippine Business for Social Progress. They provided free chest x-ray vouchers, which was very helpful. But the hurdle was that the people did not want to pay the boat fare to go to the x-ray labs. Now we have more partners, including Christian

able x-ray. They are the real point-of-care screening and confirmatory tests for TB that we can do right at the doorstep of people and can schedule it anywhere anytime!" said Dr Tinsay.

Flowchart for TB screening and testing

The barangay health workers checked the vital signs of the persons, the community nurses took the persons' medical history and did their registration. Then, the radiology technicians took the chest x-ray. "If the chest x-ray was positive, then molecular testing of sputum was done by the medical technologist, using Truenat molecular test machine, and they were accordingly referred to doctors to begin medical treatment on the spot, as well as for provider initiated counselling and testing for HIV. We also did HIV testing on the spot on the same day, as we know that a lot of persons with HIV are also co-infected with TB. We wanted to end the stigma and the frustration of the patient by offering the tests on the spot," she added.

Artificial intelligence

The portable x-ray uses artificial intelligence to read TB and shows a red spot if there is TB.

Recounting her experience of intensified TB case finding, Dr Tinsay shared that "On 6th of September 2022, our first stop was at Sayao in Bantigue barangay, which has one of the highest cases of TB in this barangay. Here we tested 117 patients out of which 7 were confirmed positive for TB, a case detection rate of 6%. All this was done on the same day. We started at 8am and finished at ~5pm.

Executive Committee CAMPA finalizes AAP of Operations for 2023-24



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Executive Committee of CAMPA met Thursday under the chairmanship of Roshan Jaggi, Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, J&K (PCCF&HOFF) Forest Department/also Chairman Executive Committee of CAMPA. Representatives of Administrative Departments of Finance, Forest, Environment & Ecology, Revenue, Science & Technology, Tribal Affairs, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Agriculture Production and Farmer Welfare, Planning & Monitoring participated in the meeting. Senior Officers of Forest and allied Departments including Chief Wildlife Warden, Addl. Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Conservation Act), and Chief Accounts Officer attended the meeting. Special invitees including APCCF Jammu, APCCF Kashmir, CF

North, South, Srinagar, Chenab, West and East Circles participated, non-official members, Nazir-Ben-Nazir (NGO Member) and Ch. Asaf Iqbal, Expert on Tribal matters, also participated in the meeting. PCCF & HoFF, J&K Forest Department in his opening remarks gave an overview of the main activities of CAMPA. He informed that under "Green Jammu and Kashmir Drive/Green India Mission", a record number of plants are being planted with the people's participation. In the current year, the department has enhanced the target of planting from 1.50 to 1.75 Crore plants. He explained the importance of digitization of old demarcation records and the need for strengthening the boundary lines of vulnerable forests by erecting robust boundary pillars. He made a reference to the decision taken by the Steering Committee in its meeting held on 23.01.2023

to scale up the work of demarcation of remaining forests to secure the vulnerable forest land from encroachment. He informed that recently the J&K Government has issued directions vide No. FST-PCB/7/2021-02 dated 08.08.2023 to the forest department to complete the work of Digitization, Survey and BP fixing in all vulnerable category of "Forests" by end of March 2024. The Chief Executive Officer, CAMPA, Asaf Mehmood Sagar made a presentation on the progress of implementation of the approved Annual Plan of Operation (APO) of 2023-24 and the additional APO for 2023-24 under CAMPA. He informed that against the current years' afforestation target of 13719 ha area, 4461 ha area stood planted with 18.50 lakh plants. He presented the agenda of the meeting before the Committee. After detailed discussions, the proposed Addi-

tional Annual Plan of Operations for 2023-24 was considered and recommended by the Executive Committee for approval to the National Authority, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India for final approval. The proposed works in the plan included taking up Digitization and Demarcation of Forest Boundaries in a time bound manner as per the directions issued by the Government of J&K, utilization of savings accrued due to e-tendering, to facilitate smooth and timely execution of various works approved under CAMPA and other related schemes of Forest and allied wings by way of having project implementation units and execution of urgent nature works to protect and strengthen the vulnerable areas of PAs of Jammu and in Shalbugh Wetland Conservation Reserve of Wildlife Protection Department.

DC Baramulla reviews Healthcare facilities at CHC Sheeri



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr. Syed Sehrish Asgar Thursday visited the Community Health Centre (CHC) Sheeri to take stock of healthcare facilities being provided to the patients. Apart from inspecting various wards and sections of the CHC, Dr. Sehrish enquired about the availability of medicines, diagnostics and other facilities in the hospital.

Interacting with the patients and their attendants, the DC enquired about their wellbeing and the facilities being provided to them and also listened to their issues and demands. The DC enjoined upon the entire medical and paramedical staff to serve the patients with utmost dedication and sincerity so that they are made feel comfortable while receiving treatment. Dr. Sehrish also reiterated the district administration's commitment to provide requisite quality healthcare facilities to the people. Later, the DC also visited ITI Baramulla where she reviewed the progress of Skill development and interacted with youth engaged with Embroidery, Handicrafts and other skills. On the occasion, the DC stressed on imparting skilled training to the unemployed youth of the district to help them get trained in various trades for becoming self-reliant and self employed.

Reiterating administration's commitment of engaging local potential in Skill Development, the DC said that skilled training shall provide ample opportunities to the unemployed youth in both manufacturing and service sectors and help in tackling the rising graph of unemployment in the district. The DC was accompanied by Joint Director Planning and other Officers and officials during the visit.

DC Budgam inspects shifting of PHC Pahroo to new building



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: The Deputy Commissioner (DC), Budgam, Akshay Labroo Thursday inspected the shifting of PHC Pahroo to a new permanent building at Pahroo village in Chadoora. Consequently, a new PHC building has been made functional at Pahroo. While taking stock of healthcare facilities, the DC inspected different facilities including dental section, lab, OPD, general wards and registration section. Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that the new building for healthcare facilities has been made functional now to ensure better patient care to the local population. He said that, "the LG administration has a straight objective to ensure all approved and

sanctioned projects are completed in a stipulated time frame and dedicated to the general public at the earliest." He said in the previous few weeks, various other health centres including NTPHCs at Kaniham, Magam have been made functional and dedicated to cater better healthcare to patients in Budgam district. He directed concerned to ensure robust functioning of the health centre and better health services to patients. On the occasion, the DC listened to the local deputations and assured them that all their other genuine demands shall be taken up with the relevant quarters for prompt redressal. Among others, SDM Chadoora, CMO Budgam, Tehildar BK Pora, BMO Chattergam were also present on the occasion.

Redressal of grievances received on IGRAMS reviewed in G'bal

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: The Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Ganderbal, Mehraj-ud-Din Shah (Nodal officer for JK-IGRAMS) Thursday convened a meeting of officers to review the status of public grievances received on Integrated Grievance Redressal and Monitoring System (IGRAMS) in the district. On the occasion, ADC took review of disposal of grievances department wise and instructed the officers to ensure quality disposal of public grievances within the stipulated time frame. While interacting with the officers, the ADC reiterated

that the District Administration is committed to ensure quality and timely disposal of grievances of the locals and action will follow if any laxity is found vis-a-vis their disposal. He also directed concerned departments to dispose-off the pending grievances at an earliest. The meeting was attended by Program Officer ICDS, SDM Kangan, Executive Engineer I&FC, Executive Engineer R&B Ganderbal, Executive Engineer PMGSY, all Tehsildars, Chief Education Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, Assistant Director FCS&CA, BDO Safapora and EO Municipality.

ADDC B'pora chairs DLTFC meeting, approves 12 cases

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Ali Afsar Khan Thursday chaired second District Level Task Force Committee (DLTFC) meeting for the examination of applications submitted under the Jammu & Kashmir Rural Employment Generation Program. A total of 19 applications were received for financial assistance to support unemployed youth in the

region. After scrutiny, 12 were approved for financial assistance, however 6 were absent and 1 was disqualified due to pending formalities. It was given out that the approved applicants will receive the financial support they need to kick-start their entrepreneurial journeys, contributing to the overall economic development of the area. Among others, the meeting was attended by General Manager DIC Bandipora, Lead District Manager Bandipora, Superintendent ITI Bandipora besides other concerned.

CBTP on Silk Weaving Technology commences in Rajbagh

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A Capacity Building Training (CBT) programme was started by Silk Technical Service Centre, CSTRI, Central Silk Board, Jammu at JKI Silk Weaving factory Rajbagh Srinagar. The training program was inaugurated by Dr. Vikas Gupta, Managing Director, Jammu Kashmir Industries Ltd at the conference hall of JKI Weaving Factory, Srinagar. The Managing Director, JKI interacted with all the weaver trainees and asked

them about their introduction, experience and existing problems. He said it is a good initiative of the Central Silk Board for the development of silk business, under which the handloom and power loom weaving work is being improved. Dr. Gupta said that this is a great opportunity to learn new things as Central Silk Board officers will come here and organize training for all the weavers in the factory campus. All the participants should come forward and suggest taking benefit from textile experts and designers with

new technology, so that silk product manufacturing can be upgraded by the Jammu and Kashmir industry. Scientist-D and Coordinator of the training program N. S. Gahlot, Silk Technical Service Centre, CSTRI, Jammu gave a brief of the objective of this training program which is to produce silk fabrics as per the market demand in Jammu and Kashmir. Apart from 15 visiting officers, 17 men and 3 women participated in the training program on "Silk Weaving Technology". During training program

from 4th to 13th October (10 days) skills of weavers will be enhanced, maintenance of power loom machine parts, reducing defects in silk fabric will be reduced and training course kit, weaving kit/material, will be arranged for all the 20 trainees and each trainee will be given a wage allowance/honorarium of Rs 1500. After successful training, certificates will be issued to all trainees by the Director, Central Silk Technological Research Institute (CSTRI), Central Silk Board, Bangalore.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL ENGINEERING WING BARAMULLA.

E-NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-NIT No: -242/Xen/Rew/Bla/2023-2024 Dated: 04/10/2023

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders (In Single Cover System) are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors Regd. With J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following work:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs.)	EMD AMOUNT	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account	Position of AAA/TS
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Upgradation and beautification of Latishot Pond BWO Construction of RCC Bunds and Quarry Stone Pitching , Halqa Panchayat Nowpora ,under UT Capex (Amrit Sarover) CD PYT year 2023-24 Block: Tujjar Shareif	22.18	1100	44360	30days	BEE/CEE/DEE	CD & PYT	AAA Accorded
2	Construction of Bund at Playground of Govt. Higher Secondary School Zalooru under Untied Grants year 2023-24 Block Tujjar Shareif	3.16	200	6320	30days	DEE	Untied Grants	AAA Accorded
3	C/O Drains at at Bewa/Behrapora under ADP BDC for the year 2023-24 Block Walloo	2.89	200	5780	30days	DEE	ADP	AAA Accorded
4	Construction of Food godown near Auto stand Drangbal. Under ADP (PRI) year 2023-24 Block Baramulla	5.00	200	10000	30days	DEE	ADP	AAA Accorded

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 the scheduled date given below.

1	Date of issue of Tender Notice	04-10-2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 04-10-2023 to 09-10-2023 up to 6:00 PM
3	Bid submission Start date	04-10-2023
4	Bid Submission End Date	09-10-2023 up to 6:00 PM
5	Date and time of Opening of Bids (Online)	Technical Bids will be opened on 10-10-2023 at 11:00 AM in the office of the Executive Engineer REW Baramulla and Financial Bid opening will be declared online.

- The G.O No.238-F of 2021 DATED:08.09.2021 issued by the Govt(Finance Deptt)that the participation in the tendering process of works upto an amount of Rs 3.00 lacs is restricted to the resident of concerned panchayat. In the event of inadequate response to a tender, participation from adjoining panchayat shall be permitted & participant to upload Panchayat certificate necessary.
- If the Bidder quotes his Bid exceeding the tendering Cost, his bid will be automatically rejected.
- In case of dilemma/confusion, the rate and the unit against any item shown in Boq, the SOR rate along with its unit will be applicable.
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of treasury challan/receipt under HEAD 0515 mentioning therein Name of work and NIT No. in favour of the Executive Engineer, REW Division Baramulla (Tender Inviting Authority).
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site at the office of the Executive Engineer, REW Division Baramulla.
- All the Bidders has to deposit Earnest Money (2% of Advertised cost) in shape of CDR/FDR at the time of tendering as per the Circular of Finance Department.
- The 1ST Lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3 % of allotted cost of Contract as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR within 02 Days after opening of financial bid and shall be released after successful completion of DLP as per norms. The EMD of 2% of successful bidders shall be released after receipt of 3% performance security.
- Unbalanced Bid: The successful bidder shall have to deposit an additional performance security in the shape of CDR/ FDR/ BG before award of contract in case the bid of the successful bidder is found to be unbalanced and the following scale shall apply thereto:-

S.No	Percentage of unbalanced bid viz -a- viz Adv. Cost	Additional performance security to be deposited on
1	Upto and including 15% below	Nil
2	>15% upto and including 20% below	5%
3	>20% upto and including 25% below	10%
4	>25% upto and including 30% below	15%
5	>30% below	20%

- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical bids.
- The earnest money/performance security shall be forfeited, if:-
 - Any bidder/ tenderer withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
 - Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- 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 acquire bid submission process.
- 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 vendors.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid. Besides, original documents related to bid be submitted physically by the bidder who is declared as L1 immediately after opening of financial bid.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of necessary documents in terms of soft copies with the technical bid & no documents in terms of hard copies shall be entertained. However, in case of any clarification, the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.
- DOCUMENTS TO BE UPLOADED IN SOFT: Scanned copy of valid registration card along with Latest Renewal , EMD/TR as per NIT, GST, Latest clearance, PAN.
- The earnest money in favour of un-successful/ non-responsive bidders shall be released only after ensuring submission of tender document fee in original, irrespective of Hard copies, failure of submission of tender document fee by the bidder using site shall entail him for blacklisting.
- Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
- Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of treasury challan/receipt in favour of the Executive Engineer REW Division Baramulla and Earnest Money/ Bid Security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG if applicable pledged to Executive Engineer, REW Division Baramulla (Tender Inviting Authority) must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The original treasury challan/receipt (cost of tender document), CDR/FDR/BG (earnest money/bid security) and relevant bid documents etc be submitted to the tender opening authority by the bidder who is declared as L1 immediately after opening of financial bid. The tender receiving authority reserves the right of opening of the tenders on due date or any other convenient available date or rejecting any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the item rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
- Price escalation & taxes:- 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 up to completion of the work unless otherwise, specified deductions 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.
- Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
- In case of CRF & any other specified project the relevant guidelines/ standard bidding documents shall be followed

No: 1864- 1871
Dated: 04-10-2023

DIPK-9883-23
DT: 05/10/2023

Executive Engineer,
REW Baramulla

TRAFFIC CONGESTION

Additional Auto stands proposed for Doda town

GMK NEWS NETWORK

DODA: To alleviate traffic congestion in Doda Town, Deputy Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan Thursday convened a crucial meeting of the designated members of Auto Rickshaw Stands Management Committee headed by ACR Sanjeev Kumar, to identify new feasible auto stands in the Doda Town. The meeting was held in the office chamber of DC Doda.

A comprehensive discussion ensued regarding the efficient operation and management of existing auto stands within the town. The Deputy Commissioner proposed the establishment of new auto stands at strategic locations to accommodate the increasing passenger traffic.

DC issued directives to enhance the aesthetics of the primary auto stand near the old bus stand, adjacent to the fountain point. Additionally, he suggested the installation of small vendor carts near the fountain area to accommodate vendors who were displaced. Furthermore, the Deputy Commissioner instructed the committee



to establish electric auto stands near Ganpati Brigade, close to the police Chowki at Ghat Road and near Bharat Nallah.

To improve the visibility and management, the DC recommended painting yellow lines at all existing auto stands and affixing signboards with unique auto stand numbers. Furthermore, specific number plates, bearing the symbol "D" and sequential numbering (1, 2, 3, etc.), were proposed for auto vehicles. In a bid to monitor their activities, the DC directed

the installation of CCTV cameras at all auto stands. Addressing the needs of hospital-bound passengers, the Deputy Commissioner suggested the establishment of an auto stand near the Associated Hospital of GMC Doda. In a move to ensure accountability, officials were instructed to issue identity cards to auto drivers, linking them with their respective vehicles.

During the meeting, it was revealed that approximately 225 autos are registered under the Motor Vehicles Department. The

DC also advocated for the creation of an auto stand near the Clock Tower on Dessa Road, adjacent to the SSP office complex. Many new auto stand locations were proposed to effectively manage and control congestion arising from heavy traffic.

The meeting saw the attendance of key officials, including ACR Doda, CPO Doda, SP Doda, Accounts Officer DC Office Doda, ARTO Doda, Executive Officer MC Doda, and officers from the Traffic Police Department.

Rajouri: Phone Live-in Grievance Program gets overwhelming response



GMK NEWS NETWORK

RAJOURI: In a remarkable display of civic engagement, the 8th episode of the Phone Live-in Grievances redressal program, held in Rajouri Thursday, witnessed an extraordinary response with more than 60 calls pouring in from residents across the district.

This initiative, aimed at providing a direct platform for district residents to voice their concerns and receive immediate solutions from the district administration, garnered enthusiastic participation from individuals across the district.

Under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner

Vikas Kundal, callers had the opportunity to express their concerns on a wide range of issues. Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal exhibited patience and unwavering commitment in addressing concerns of each caller, offering invaluable guidance and support to resolve their problems.

In response to the concerns of the residents, Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal assured them that swift and effective measures would be taken to address their issues within specified timeframes. He encouraged residents to continue providing feedback and suggestions, emphasizing the constructive role

these inputs play in enhancing governance and development in the district.

The Phone Live-in Grievance Program stands as a shining example of the continuous efforts of the district administration to improve public service delivery and strengthen the government-citizen relationship.

The remarkable success of this program has earned widespread acclaim, serving as a direct avenue for individuals to voice their concerns and seek redressal directly from the District Administration. It has significantly contributed to enhancing transparency and accountability within the district

administration. The 8th episode of the Phone Live-in Grievance Program is a significant milestone, reaffirming the unwavering commitment of the District Administration to engage with the people of Rajouri.

Officers who attended the program were included ADC Rajouri, Rajiv Kumar Khajuria; CPO Mohammad Khurshid, PO ICDS, Shoket Mehmood Malik; ACD Vijay Verma, ACP Sheraz Chowhan, DPO Auqil Nuvaed, CMO Dr. Rajinder Sharma, CEO Education Sultana Kouser, XEN PWD (R&B) Rajouri Sardar Khan, XEN Jal Shakti Rajouri Ashwini Sharma and other officers.

92800 street lights installed in Jammu Municipal limits: JMC

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: All the 75 wards within the jurisdiction of Jammu Municipal Corporation are being provided with street lights in two phases.

As per the JMC, till date installation of 61300 street lights has been completed under phase-I and the work of installation of street lights under phase-II is in progress. Out of 35130 street lights in phase-II, about 31500 lights have been installed.

The job of installation and commissioning is going on as per the tripartite agreement among Power Development Department, EESL and Housing & Urban Development Department.

As per the agreement PDD has to make available the whole infrastructure viz. providing of poles,



phase wire and allied accessories meant for the installation of these street lights and EESL has to provide street lights of different wattages as per the requirement of the area. The JMC has to supervise and make the payment for

the maintenance of these street lights as per the agreement.

As per the tripartite agreement, the EESL has to provide the street lights with necessary accessories and has to maintain these lights for 07 years.

The JMC has to make the payment for the maintenance of street lights as per the agreement and JMC is doing so for the completed 61300 street lights only. The maintenance part is taken by EESL on regular basis and there are 3 ways in which the complaints can be registered with EESL viz. Toll Free No. 1800-180-3580; JK.LED app for J&K only, whereas another app is available on all India level is EESL SAMPARK app.

The individuals can lodge their complaints on these portals and the same are being rectified by EESL on regular basis and a perfect record in this behalf is being maintained by EESL and being periodically checked also. This keeps a thorough check on the maintenance part rendered by EESL.

Kundal reviews progress of Jal JJM Schemes



GMK NEWS NETWORK

RAJOURI: In pursuance to the government's commitment to provide clean drinking water to rural communities, Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal chaired a pivotal meeting to assess the progress of the Jal Jeevan Mission schemes.

In this crucial gathering, Deputy Commissioner Kundal underscored the utmost importance of top-notch work quality, on-time project completion and vigilant supervision to meet the goals of the mission. The meeting highlighted significant strides already achieved in Rajouri, where 293 JJM schemes have been green-lit and 244 schemes are actively underway.

To expedite scheme completion, Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal issued a resolute directive to officers to adopt a result-oriented approach and adhere strictly to predefined timelines. With unwavering dedication and concerted efforts, the mission is rapidly transforming into a reality, promising a healthier and happier life for the region's residents.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the imperative of embracing a holistic water management approach. It's not merely about providing access to clean drinking water; it's equally about preserving and sustainably harnessing this vital resource.

This meeting serves as a testament to the unwavering commitment of the District Administration to implementing the Jal Jeevan Mission effectively, ensuring that rural areas gain access to this basic necessity - clean drinking water.

In essence, this meeting provided a constructive platform for officers to share their experiences, exchange innovative ideas, and collaboratively tackle challenges in executing the Jal Jeevan Mission. Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal rallied them to persist with dedication and unwavering commitment in achieving the objectives of the mission.

The meeting was attended by the CPO, Mohammad Khurshid; SE Hydraulics, Bharam Jyoti Sharma; XEN Jal Shakti Rajouri, Ashwini Sharma; XEN Jal Shakti Nowshera, Vipin Kumar, and other officers.

Rs 3.25 lakh provided to NoKs of road accident victims in Rajouri

GMK NEWS NETWORK

RAJOURI: In a compassionate initiative, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal provided Rs 3.25 Lakh to the Next of Kin (NoK) of road accident victims in the District. Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Pawan Kumar was also present on the occasion.

The Deputy Commissioner presented cheques amounting to Rs 3.25 lakhs to the aggrieved families of four unfortunate road accident victims. This humanitarian aid was extended under the aegis of the Jammu and Kashmir Road Accident Victim Fund.

The primary aim of this fund is to extend immediate relief to the dependents, kith and kin, and legal heirs of individuals who have tragically lost their lives or sustained injuries in road accidents. This assistance encompasses a wide spectrum, encompassing road accidents involving both passenger and private vehicles, including those owned by government corporations and public sector undertakings.

DSC discusses rollout of revised Skill Dev Plan in Doda

GMK NEWS NETWORK

DODA: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Vishesh Mahajan, who is also the Chairman of the District Skill Committee (DSC), led a significant meeting to discuss the rollout of the revised Skill Development Plan in Doda.

Manujinder Singh, the Mahatma Gandhi National Fellow (MGNF) for District Doda, presented a comprehensive report on the program's objectives and action plan. Singh detailed various artisan-based schemes and self-help groups related to skills development in the committee meeting for discussion and approval.

During the meeting, expert committee members provided insights into the challenges hindering the implementation of the skills development program and offered valuable suggestions to overcome these bottlenecks.

DDC Doda emphasized the importance of identifying the right stakeholders to implement the skills development program effectively. He also urged the motivation of women for handicrafts and beauty-related courses and proposed introducing driving courses, including dumper and JCB driving and operating courses, at ITIs.



DDC Doda suggested the introduction of a virtual driving school to offer driving courses online, providing livelihood opportunities for unemployed youth in the district. He instructed the Deputy Director Employment and the head of the driving institutes to advertise the training courses related to driving. The DDC also highlighted the need for skills development in the agro and tourism sectors to create employment opportunities for unemployed youth. He directed the stakeholder departments to hold weekly review meetings to monitor the progress of the skills development programs in the district.

The meeting involved a detailed discussion on the scope of various skills development aspects across departments and identified bottlenecks hindering program implementation. DDC Doda and the members of the skills development committee explored a wide range of training and course opportunities.

The meeting highlighted the commitment of Doda's administration to empower its youth through skill development, offering a path to employment and economic growth in various sectors, including agriculture and tourism. Deputy Director Employment Doda will oversee the skill development plan, and stakeholders will collaborate to plan training programs in agro-based skills, contributing to the district's economic development.

Attendees at the meeting included CEO BDA, CPO Doda, Deputy Director of Employment Doda, DSWO Doda, Principal of Polytechnic College Doda, Superintendent of ITI Doda, Assistant Director of Handloom and Handicraft, District Officer JKEDI Doda, Nodal Officer NRLM District Doda, Mahatma Gandhi National Fellow Manjinder Singh, and representatives from Agriculture, Horticulture and other concerned departments.

SPMR College of Commerce felicitates Safai Karamcharis



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Continuing the healthy practice of the college, a felicitation program of Safai Karamcharis was organized Thursday here in Government SPMR College of Commerce.

The program was held to show gratitude towards civic staff for their contribution in keeping the college campus clean. The appreciation was offered as a kind of psychological incentive to all human beings to work better and with dedication.

The Chief Guest, Principal of the college, Dr. Surinder Kumar Sharma expressed his gratitude to the civic workers for keeping the college surroundings neat and hygienic. To provide their services,

they come early and make the campus ready for the start of the day, he said. He further added that they are the real warriors who have given their services even at the toughest and deadly times of covid.

All the Safai karamcharis Mr Kabir, Mr. Rinku, Ms Anjelina, Ms Neelam, Ms Hafeeza, Ms Bobby, Mr. Sunny and Ms Raj Begum were garlanded and felicitated with mementos and Gifts.

Prof Savita Jamwal also encouraged the workers to work in unison and irrespective of allotted areas. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Deepak Pathania said that all the cleanliness staff work as a team and involve themselves in activities such as segregation of waste, compost making and

proper disposal of solid waste. Dr. Pathania further added that all should respect them as they are the indispensable workforce who clean the mess created by others which is indeed a difficult task to do for any human being. The faculty members should cooperate in making things easy and not difficult for them.

Later, the Safai Karamcharis and staff members enjoyed eatables and tea thereafter. Mr. Rinku and Mr. Sunny made the occasion lively by singing songs. The whole program was coordinated by Prof Savita Jamwal, Dr. Monika Malhotra, Prof. Deepshikha Sharma and Dr. Deepak Pathania. The proceedings of the program were conducted by Prof Apfan Ali.

DC Kathua conducts extensive tour of Bani, peripheral areas



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KATHUA: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rakesh Minhas Thursday conducted an extensive tour of Bani sub-division where he inspected several ongoing projects besides taking stock of the tourism scenario of its peripheral areas.

The DC was accompanied by CEO Basohli Bani Development Authority (BDA) and SDM Bani. He inspected the assets of the Tourism Department and enquired about the status of acquisition of 450 kanal land where scope of enhancing the amenities vis a vis tourism shall be explored.

The DC visited the site for Sports Stadium coming up at Saarthal to be developed by J&K Sports Council and took appraisal of the progress made so far.

While inspecting the Trout Fish Centre of Fisheries Department at Saarthal, the DC was apprised by AD Fisheries about the fishery scenario of the area

and departmental efforts towards extending proper hand holding to farming community.

The DC also inspected the Potato seed Development Farm established by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare at Bani for which 110 kanal land has been allocated to encourage off season farming in the area. He directed CAO Kathua to take on board the local farming community to augment their income by adopting off season farming activities.

At village Lowang, the DC listened to the grievances and demands put forth by the PRIs and locals and assured early redressal of the same.

While speaking on the occasion, the DC said the initiative of visiting Saarthal area was to get first hand idea of the tourism related infra available and to explore the scope of organising mega events to foster the tourism economy in the picturesque valley and adjoining areas.

India becomes 4th-highest funded fintech startup ecosystem globally

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BENGALURU: India's fintech sector saw a 68 per cent surge in funding in the July-September period (Q3) from the previous quarter, as the country became the fourth-highest funded fintech startup ecosystem globally, a report showed on Thursday.

Overall, the country is the third largest startup ecosystem globally with nearly 1 lakh startups, behind the US and China.

No new unicorns were created in Q3, while it saw 7 acquisitions and 2 IPOs. Bengaluru led the funding in the fintech space, followed by Mumbai and Noida, according to the report by Tracxn, the leading market intelligence platform.

Peak XV Partners, Y Combinator, and Accel emerged as the leading investors in the fintech



sector.

The sector witnessed significant growth in specific segments with alternative lending, banking tech and RegTech emerging as top performers in the first half this year.

Alternative Lending, in particular, clocked a remarkable growth of 259 per cent compared to Q2 2023, reaching \$305 million in funding.

The BNPL (buy now pay later) sector which has seen significant growth

and adoption within the country contributed to the growth in this sector.

"In a time of global economic uncertainty, India's fintech sector has demonstrated exceptional resilience and growth," said Neha Singh, Co-Founder, Tracxn.

This surge reflects the industry's dynamism and innovation, positioning India as a leading global fintech player, she added.

Banking Tech received funding of \$282 million in

Q3 2023, which is a growth of 396 per cent compared to Q2, and 81 per cent compared to Q3 2022.

RegTech (regulatory technology) received funding of \$229 million in Q3, which is a growth of 100 per cent compared to the previous quarter.

Payments, embedded finance and Internet-first insurance platforms saw a drop of 91 per cent, 99 per cent and 64 per cent, respectively.

Q3 2023 also witnessed significant funding in late-stage rounds, with Perfios, a real-time credit-decisioning platform, securing a notable \$229 million in a Series D round led by Kedaara Capital.

The quarter saw seven acquisitions, a slight drop of 12 per cent from eight acquisitions in Q3 2022.

Two companies, Zagle and Veevin went public in Q3, said the report.

Indian-origin NASA scientist to lead rocket mission into 2023 solar eclipse

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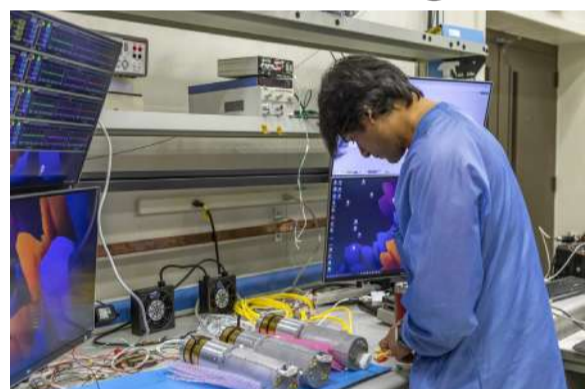
WASHINGTON: An Indian-origin scientist at NASA is helping a mission that aims to launch three rockets during the 2023 annular eclipse on October 14.

The mission, known as Atmospheric Perturbations around the Eclipse Path or APEP, is led by Aroh Barjatya, will study how the sudden drop in sunlight affects our upper atmosphere, the space agency has said.

On October 14, people viewing the annular solar eclipse will experience the sun dimming to 10 percent its normal brightness, leaving only a bright "ring of fire" of sunlight as the moon eclipses the sun.

Some 50 miles up and beyond, the air itself becomes electric. Scientists call this atmospheric layer the ionosphere because it is where the UV component of sunlight can pry electrons away from atoms to form a sea of high-flying ions and electrons.

The sun's constant energy keeps these mutually attracted particles separated throughout the day. But as the sun dips below the horizon, many recom-



bine into neutral atoms for the night, only to part ways again at sunrise.

During a solar eclipse, the sunlight vanishes and reappears over a small part of the landscape almost at once. In a flash, ionospheric temperature and density drop, then rise again, sending waves rippling through the ionosphere.

"If you think of the ionosphere as a pond with some gentle ripples on it, the eclipse is like a motorboat that suddenly rips through the water," said Barjatya, a professor of engineering physics at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Florida.

"It creates a wake immediately underneath and behind it, and then the water level momentarily goes up

as it rushes back in."

The APEP team plans to launch three rockets in succession -- one about 35 minutes before local peak eclipse, one during peak eclipse, and one 35 minutes after. They will fly just outside the path of annularity, where the moon passes directly in front of the sun.

Each rocket will deploy four small scientific instruments that will measure changes in electric and magnetic fields, density, and temperature. If they are successful, these will be the first simultaneous measurements taken from multiple locations in the ionosphere during a solar eclipse.

Barjatya chose sounding rockets to answer the team's science questions

because they can pinpoint and measure specific regions of space with high fidelity. They can also measure changes that happen at different altitudes as the suborbital rocket ascends and falls back to Earth.

The APEP rockets will take measurements between 70 to 325 kilometres above the ground along their trajectory.

In addition, a ground-based observation will collect ionospheric density and neutral wind measurements. A team from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Haystack Observatory in Westford, will run their radar to measure ionospheric perturbations farther away from the eclipse path.

Finally, a team of students from Embry-Riddle will deploy high-altitude balloons (reaching 100,000 feet) every 20 minutes to measure weather changes as the eclipse passes by.

The APEP rockets launched in New Mexico will be recovered and then relaunched from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia, on April 8, 2024, when a total solar eclipse will cross the US from Texas to Maine.

Indian gaming platform WinZO enters Brazil amid 400% GST hike

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Home-grown vernacular social gaming platform WinZO on Thursday announced the launch of its app in Brazil, as gaming companies in the country feel threatened by a massive 400 percent hike in GST. WinZO will invest \$25 million in Brazil in distribution and branding for more than 100 partner game developers.

"We have built a tech stack that caters to over 150 million young users from Bharat today and can be scaled across the world," said Paavan Nanda, Co-founder of WinZO.

The decision to enter the Brazilian market is driven by a strategic approach to diversify and address challenges posed in India to all the companies by the 400 percent hike in GST in India, said the company.

This move will help the platform's partner game developers export games such as Carrom, Chess, Car Race etc, and gain free access to Brazil, the fourth-largest mobile gaming market with over 90 million users.

The partner game developers will get access to the

new market and users without any cost of technology, marketing, and distribution, said WinZO.

Brazil has witnessed a significant surge in the popularity of mobile gaming with about 4.6 billion mobile game downloads in 2022.

The expansion came as companies explore ways to steer through challenges posed by a 400 percent hike in the GST, which threatens the survival of most content/IP creators in their nascent stages which have the potential to catapult India into a leadership position within the global gaming arena.

"It is noteworthy that taxation rates globally, including countries such as the US, the UK, Australia, and Germany, are applied to the commissions for casual games of Skill that are treated differently from Fantasy Sports," said WinZO.

Brazil levies indirect taxes such as 2-5 per cent as municipal tax, applicable to the commission earned by the company. This month, WinZO will also launch and represent the first-ever India Pavilion at the Brazil Game Show, the largest gaming show in Latin America.

OpenAI's text-to-image tool DALL-E 3 now available in Bing Chat

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Microsoft has announced that DALL-E 3, the latest text-to-image model from OpenAI, is now generally available to everyone within Bing Chat and Bing.com/create for free.

It's been available for about a week, first to Bing Enterprise users and then to Bing Image Creator, but it's now available to everyone.

"The DALL-E 3 model from OpenAI delivers enhancements that improve the overall quality and detail of images, along with greater accuracy for human hands, faces, and text in images," Microsoft said in a blogpost.

OpenAI's text-to-image AI model DALL-E 3, the third version, comes with a number of improvements, including the ability to follow user prompts more accurately and reliably.

The OpenAI model also has new safety features, such as invisible watermarks with time and date stamps to identify AI content, and a moderation

system that automatically removes inappropriate or harmful images.

The tech giant said that it has trained the model on its terms of service and community guidelines, and it will automatically



avoid images, "that contain nudity, violence, hate speech, or illegal activities."

Meanwhile, Microsoft has started to roll out a new update to its Paint app called Paint Creator, a new AI-powered experience powered by DALL-E which will help you create artwork in Paint by describing in a few words what you want to create.

The users will need to optionally select an art style and then click Create. Paint Creator will generate three variations of artwork for them to choose from. Select any of them to add to the canvas to start creating.

Delhi Metro expands WhatsApp-based ticketing system to all lines

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on Thursday announced the expansion of its innovative WhatsApp-based ticketing system to all lines, covering the Delhi National Capital Region (NCR), including the Gurugram Rapid Metro in collaboration with Meta and their authorised partner Pelocal Fintech Pvt Ltd.

Since its introduction on the Airport Express Line in June, passengers have been experiencing the con-

venience of this service. Passengers can now simply send a message with the text 'Hi' to +91 9650855800 on WhatsApp or scan the QR code to effortlessly purchase metro tickets using their smartphones across the whole network.

"WhatsApp is the preferred messaging platform for the majority of Indians, and buying a metro ticket will now be as easy as messaging a friend or family member. We are confident that this integration will encourage more commuters to choose the Delhi

metro as their preferred mode of travel," Vikas Kumar, Managing Director of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), said in a statement.

The key features of the WhatsApp ticketing service include - up to a maximum of six QR tickets can be generated by a user in a single time, tickets can be booked between 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. for all lines and from 4 a.m. to 11 p.m. for the Airport Line (Orange Line), and ticket cancellations are not allowed in WhatsApp ticketing.

A marginal convenience fee will be applied to transactions made via credit/debit card, while no convenience fee will be charged for UPI-based transactions.

"Our goal is to simplify the transit experience for WhatsApp users, and this is another step in that direction. Every day, millions of commuters rely on the Delhi metro to reach their desired destinations, and we are thrilled to provide this ticketing experience within their WhatsApp chats," said Ravi Garg, Director, Business Messaging, Meta India.

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION URI

Expression of interest (EOI) Fresh to Nit No.53

eNIT No.67 of 2023-24/3862-71/R&B Uri e-tendering For and on behalf of Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders (In Single Cover System) are being invited on an percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with the J&K Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments for the following works.

DATED: 05-10-2023

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In lacs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Class of Contract	Cost of Tender Document (In Rupees)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Providing Consultancy services for Architectural structural, electrical, mechanical design/drawings and soil investigation for providing the conceptual design for approval and final detailed project report with drawings as required in 7 set in colour A3 size complete with surveying by ETS overall site plan floor plans section and elevations on all four sides with truss joinery fire fitting sanitary and water supply electrical layout arboriculture including door, window trim details as required complete in accordance with the standing instructions of the architectural council of India. For Construction of office cum residential quarter at lagama Uri.	0.84	1700/-	Architecture I/Structural Consultancy	200/=
2.	Providing Consultancy services for Architectural structural, electrical, mechanical design/drawings and soil investigation for providing the conceptual design for approval and final detailed project report with drawings as required in 7 set in colour A3 size complete with surveying by ETS overall site plan floor plans section and elevations on all four sides with truss joinery fire fitting sanitary and water supply electrical layout arboriculture including door, window trim details as required complete in accordance with the standing instructions of the architectural council of India. For Construction of sub office cum store at Uri.	0.42	850/-	Architecture I/Structural Consultancy	200/=

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

1.	Date of Issue of EOI Notice.	05.10.2023
2.	Period of Downloading of Bidding Documents.	From 05-10-2023 11:00 A.M To 13-10-2023 02:00 P.M
3.	Bid Submission Start Date.	05.10.2023 From 11:00 A.M.
4.	Bid Submission End Date.	13-10-2023 2:00 P.M
5.	Date and Time of Opening of Bids (Online).	13-10-2023 03:00 P.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri.

- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid. Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
 - The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons. 8. Scanned copy of Bid Security Declaration Form and cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt/DD for outsider UT of J&K bidders in favour of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Uri(The Date of Treasury Challan/DD should be the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The Original Treasury Challan (Cost of Tender Document) and other relevant bid documents including Bid Security Declaration Form shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract.
 - Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.
 - Price escalation and taxes: The rate quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees, shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes up to completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the Bidder on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
 - Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
 - In case of CRF and other specified project, the relevant guideline/ standard bidding document shall be followed.
- Instruction to bidder (ITB)
- All Bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualifying criteria/qualification information with the bids.
 - All bidders shall upload Copies of Original Documents defining constitution/ Legal status, place of registration and principal place of Business with Cell No. and Correspondence Address. b. All Bidders shall upload Treasury Challan.
 - All Bidders shall upload completely filled Bid Security Declaration Form.
 - All Bidders shall upload Valid Registration with renewal Side (Latest), Valid GSTIN No. & PAN No.
 - All Bidders shall upload Scanned Copy of GSTIN Registration and latest clearance certificate/Acknowledge Receipt of GST Return Copy "FORM GSTR-3B" Latest Quarter/Latest Month.
 - The bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submission of bid.
 - All the documents relating to the bid shall be in English language.
 - Bidder must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including tender documents fee in terms of soft 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 soft copies if need arises.
 - Extension of time shall be also admissible in the event of temporary suspension of work.
 - The tender/ bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirement as laid down in NIT
 - All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.ANNEXURE "I"

TERMS OF REFERENCE: The Bidder (Firm/Consultant/Agency/Company) under these terms of reference (TOR) will be required to prepare the following documents and services in phases in the process of the Construction of the above named work/Works.

- Detailed Topographic Surveys
 - Shall have to conduct topographic survey to determine and understand the detailed land profiles and features.
 - Conduct an engineering survey of the site to prepare a topographic map of the site using survey tools such as total station and other necessary equipment.
 - The map should be prepared in convenient scale with the following features
 - Should show contours in map of the area.
 - Indicate spot levels and contour labels.
 - Indicate all the existing features of the site as per accurate scale.
 - Should incorporate at least 4 Nos. of land profile and cross-section of the site.
 - The final submission of the map should be made in the softcopy with 3 sets of hard copies. B. Detailed Geotechnical Investigations. Scope of geotechnical investigations shall be as follows:
 - Borehole advancement to 15 meters at least 3 locations.
 - Collection of disturbed samples at a regular interval
 - Collection of at least two undisturbed samples in each bore holes
 - Laboratory test and analysis of data to determine the engineering properties of soil start.
 - Technical report of the investigation work.
 - Predict liquefaction of soil strata and recommend necessary preventive measures against liquefaction;
 - The above-mentioned depths and number are indicative. The Consultant shall decide the required depth after soil investigation according to the field condition and design parameters.
- Scope of Multi-Hazards Risk Assessment shall be as follows:
 - The Consultant shall conduct a study on assessment of possible risks/hazards of the proposed site. 2. Land use condition and watershed management.
- Prepare Detailed Architectural / Engineering Design
 - Architectural and all Engineering Design including Structural, Electrical, Sanitary, and HVAC 2. Prepare a master plan of the Building showing all the services and the layout of the proposed structure including landscaping.
- Prepare detailed architectural and engineering design and working drawings for the construction of all the buildings and supporting infrastructures. The detailed drawings must include architectural, structural, electrical, water supply and sanitary and HVAC including the landscape design in compliance with the prevailing Indian National Building code, CPWD and Construction Guidelines.
 - Building structure includes:
 - Building as per National Building Codes and Minimum Service Standard.
 - Other infrastructures and services.
 - Access Road and drainage works.
 - Compound wall
 - Retaining wall.
 - Landscaping including parking areas and garages for Vehicles.
 - Preparation of detailed cost estimates and procurement documents.
 - The consultant shall prepare the detailed quantity estimates, analysis of rates, cost estimates, bill of quantities, technical specifications and procurement documents for the works. The consultant is bound to visit the site as and when required by the undersigned for smooth execution of the project.
 - The Structural Drawings/Architectural Drawings and other Service Drawings need to be vetted/proof Checked by DIQC/NIT Srinagar for third party wetting before start of work.

No.2023-24/3862-71 Dated:-05-10-2023. DPK-9862-23 DT: 05/10/2023 Sd/= Executive Engineer, R&B Division Uri.

War causes over \$150bn damage to Ukraine's infrastructure



IAN S

KYIV: Russia's ongoing war against Ukraine has caused \$151.2 billion in direct damage to the latter country's infrastructure as of September this year since the invasion first started in February 2022, a new study revealed.

According to the study by the Kiev School of Economics, the damages have increased by over \$700 million as compared to June 2023, from \$150.5 billion to \$151.2 billion.

It revealed that the housing sector was the worst hit, amounting to \$55.9 billion.

In total, 167,200 housing units have been destroyed

or damaged as a result of the hostilities, comprising 147,800 private houses, 19.1 thousand apartment buildings, and an additional 0.35 thousand dormitories.

The regions Donetsk, Kiev, Luhansk, Kharkiv, Mykolaiv, Chernihiv, Kherson and Zaporizhia have been the most severely affected.

In second and third place in terms of damages are the infrastructure and industry sectors, with \$36.6 billion and \$11.4 billion in damages, respectively.

Since the beginning of the war, 18 airports, civil airfields, 344 bridges and overpasses, and over 25,000 kilometers of state and local highways and com-

munal roads have been damaged.

Damages in the industry sector encompass at least 426 large and medium-sized private enterprises and state-owned companies that have been damaged or destroyed due to the war.

Meanwhile, the education sector has also been significantly affected.

As of the beginning of September, the war has caused \$10.1 billion in damages, marking an increase of over \$400 million compared to June.

The total number of damaged and destroyed educational facilities has exceeded 3,500, including more than 1,700 second-

ary education institutions, over 1,000 preschools, and 586 higher education institutions.

According to regional military administrations, the highest number of destroyed and damaged educational institutions were recorded in Donetsk, Kharkiv, Kherson, Mykolaiv, Zaporizhia, and Kiev regions.

Additionally, direct losses in the healthcare sector also continue to escalate, estimated at \$2.9 billion as of September 1.

In total, the war has led to the destruction or damage of 1,223 medical facilities, including 384 hospitals and 352 dispensaries.

White House waives 26 federal laws to allow building border wall in Texas

IAN S

HOUSTON: In the wake of a fresh surge of migrants influx, the White House has waived 26 federal laws to allow border wall construction in Starr County, Texas, the S Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said.

It marks a U-turn of the Biden administration since building the border wall was a signature promise by former President Donald Trump in his 2016 campaign and has been fiercely criticized by the Democrats since then, reports Xinhua news agency.

President Joe Biden halted the construction during his first week in the White House in Jan. 2021.

"There is presently an acute and immediate need to construct physical barriers and roads in the vicinity of the border of the US in order to prevent unlawful entries into the United States in the project areas," DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said in a notice posted on Wednesday night on the US Federal Register, an office that prepares and publishes a wide variety of public documents.

Mayorkas said he is using his authority provided by Congress to waive these laws, including the Clean Air Act, Safe Drinking Water Act and Endangered Species Act.



The waivers avoid time-consuming reviews and lawsuits challenging violation of environmental laws, making way for using funds from a related congressional appropriation in 2019 to build up the border wall in Starr County in the Rio Grande Valley Sector.

The piecemeal construction will add up to an additional 32 km to the existing border barrier system in the area, local media reported.

There is a "high illegal entry" in the county, with more than 245,000 migrant encounters recorded in the region during the current fiscal year, latest government data showed.

"After years of denying that a border wall and other physical barriers are effective, the DHS announcement represents a sea change in the administration's thinking: A secure wall is an effective tool for maintaining control of our borders," Dan Stein, chief of the Federation for American Immigration Reform, said in a statement.

Representative Henry Cuellar, a Texan Democrat, voiced his different opinion regarding the renewed wall-building effort in a statement.

"A border wall is a 14th century solution to a 21st century problem. It will not bolster border security in

Starr County," he said. Some environmental advocates expressed concern that the construction will run through public lands, habitats of endangered plants and species like the Ocelot, a spotted wild cat.

During the Trump administration, about 724 km of barriers were built along the southwest US-Mexico border between 2017 and 2021.

There were more than 260,000 encounters at the southern US border in September, which would be the highest monthly total on record, according to a Fox News report, citing Customs and Border Protection sources.

2023 on track to becoming hottest year, Sep breaks records

IAN S

LONDON: As September registered unprecedented temperatures to become the fourth consecutive month of this year, 2023 is on track to be the hottest in recorded history, according to the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service.

Data released by the Service on Wednesday revealed that September beat the previous monthly record set in 2020 by a staggering 0.5 degrees Celsius, reports CNN.

There has never been a month so abnormally hot since Copernicus' records began in 1940, it said.

"The unprecedented temperatures for the time of year observed in September - following a record summer - have broken records by an extraordinary amount,"



Samantha Burgess, deputy director of Copernicus, said in a statement.

September had an average global air temperature of 16.38 degrees Celsius, making the month 0.93 degrees Celsius hotter than the 1991 to 2020 average, and 1.75 degrees Celsius hotter than the September average for the pre-industrial era, before the world started burning large amounts of fossil fuels.

The month also wit-

nessed devastating floods in Libya and Greece, Bulgaria and Turkey that killed thousands of people.

While Canada grappled with its unprecedented wildfire season, parts of South America were scorched by record-breaking heat.

Meanwhile, New York was flooded with record rainfall.

Ocean temperatures also shattered records in September, CNN reported.

The average sea surface

temperatures reached 20.92 degrees Celsius, the highest on record for September and the second-highest on record for any month, after August of this year.

Antarctic sea ice also reached record lows for this time of year.

Due to these record-breaking events, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has put the chances of 2023 to becoming the hottest on record at more than 93 percent.

Typhoon Koinu leaves almost 200 injured in Taiwan



UNI

TAIPEI: At least 190 people were injured by typhoon Koinu in Taiwan, while over 60,000 houses and commercial buildings are still without power, the Central News Agency (CNA) of Taiwan reported on Thursday.

Typhoon Koinu reached the coast of Pingtung County in the south of the island at about 8:20 local time (00:20 GMT), when the pressure in the typhoon's eye was estimated at 945 hPa (hectopascals), the maximum wind speed reached up to 48 meters per second (106.8 miles per hour). The wind destroyed commercial banners, wires, city constructions and knocked down the trees.

On Wednesday, a historically strongest ever wind of 95 meters per second (212 miles per hour) was registered in the southeastern coast of the island, on Lan Yu island (Orchid Island).

According to Taiwan Power, the typhoon has left over 174,500 houses and commercial buildings without electric energy. Currently, the electric energy supply is restored in most typhoon-hit areas, however, over 60,000 households are still without power.

Due to the disaster, local airports have canceled 42 international flights and 182 local ones. Ferry service has also been suspended.

The typhoon will continue to impact the weather within the island until Friday morning. The meteorological agency earlier warned about possible rainfall in the counties of Pingtung, Taitung and Hualien as well as in mountainous areas of Taipei.

New Zealand adds 6 new marine reserves



IAN S

WELLINGTON: The New Zealand government on Thursday announced six new marine reserves between Oamaru and The Catlins in the South Island to protect the oceans and biodiversity.

They are the first marine reserves in the southeast South Island, which increases the area of marine reserves around mainland New Zealand by more than two-thirds, said Conservation Minister Willow-Jean Prime in Dunedin, reports Xinhua news agency.

This spectacular coastline from Oamaru to Southland is home to some of New Zealand's most endangered species, like the yellow-eyed penguin, northern royal albatross and New Zealand sea lion, Prime said.

It includes estuarine and tidal lagoons, rocky reefs, offshore canyons,

giant kelp forests and deepwater bryozoan or lace coral thickets, and an array of marine life that were under pressure from human activity, she said.

"Local communities have worked hard on this for more than a decade, and it is a huge pleasure to be able to deliver on it for them," said the Minister.

Minister for Oceans and Fisheries Rachel Brooking said the six marine reserves were the first step in creating a network of marine protection in the area.

A successful commercial fishing industry can not be realized in an unhealthy ocean, Brooking said.

New Zealand has 44 marine reserves, increasing to 50 with the six new reserves.

Marine reserves allow for activities such as boating, snorkeling and diving but do not allow any taking of seafood.

Australians set to limit Christmas shopping spree under cost-of-living pressure

IAN S

CANBERRA: Australia's top retail body estimated on Thursday that the pre-Christmas spending in 2023 is tipped to remain nearly the same as last year's results, as citizens have a tighter rein on their budgets due to the cost-of-living crisis.

Provisional forecasts by the Australian Retailers Association (ARA) and Roy Morgan indicated a total of A\$66.8 billion to be spent during the November to December 24 Christmas trading period, up slightly by 0.1 percent from last year's level, reports Xinhua news agency.

Spending on food is projected to account for the lion's share, making up A\$26.7 billion of the overall spending and increasing by 2.4 percent compared

to last year. While department stores and other retailing, such as recreational goods, books, and cosmetics, are poised for a 2.9 percent and a 1.7 percent growth in sales.

The categories of hospitality, household goods, and clothing are bracing for a softening of spending in the lead up to Christmas.

Both South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory are set to have a growth of 1.2 percent in sales, followed by Tasmania, Western Australia, Northern Territory, and Victoria, with spending in Queensland and New South Wales predicted to fall.

ARA CEO Paul Zahra noted that a softening of spending on discretionary goods is expected given the current economic conditions and the persistent cost-of-living crunch.

Turkish military conducts 3rd air operation against PKK in Iraq

IAN S

ANKARA: Turkey's military carried out its third cross-border air operation into Iraq, after a suicide bomb attack in the capital Ankara.

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan warned at a security meeting on Wednesday that all the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and the Syrian Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) infrastructure and energy facilities in Syria and Iraq are now "legitimate targets for the Turkish military".

Fidan revealed that the two assailants responsible for Sunday's suicide bomb attack in Ankara came from Syria. Turkish Interior Ministry identified the two attackers as PKK members, Xinhua news agency reported.

The PKK, listed as a terrorist organisation by Turkey, the US, and the European Union, has been rebelling against the Turkish government for more than three decades. Turkey also sees the YPG group as the Syrian branch of the PKK.

The attack in front of the Turkish



Interior Ministry's building on Sunday resulted in the injuries of two police officers. During the attack, one suicide bomber blew himself up while the other was shot dead by the police.

The Turkish Armed Forces carried out two major air operations on Sunday and Tuesday against the PKK and destroyed 22 targets including caves, bunkers, shelters and warehouses in northern Iraq, said the Turkish Defence Ministry.

The Turkish forces frequently

carry out ground operations, airstrikes, and artillery bombardments in northern Iraq against the PKK, especially in the Qandil Mountains, the main base of the group.

The Turkish Army launched Operation Euphrates Shield in 2016, Operation Olive Branch in 2018, Operation Peace Spring in 2019, and Operation Spring Shield in 2020 in northern Syria in order to create a YPG-free zone along its border with neighbouring countries.

9 killed in RSF paramilitary group's strike on Sudan's medical center



UNI

KHARTOUM: Nine civilians have been killed and 15 more have been wounded as a result of a strike on a medical center at a mosque in Khartoum Bahri, a city to the north of Khartoum, by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) paramilitary group, Sudanese armed forces spokesman Nabil Abdallah said.

The dissolved rebel Rapid Support Forces have shelled a medical center at a mosque in Bahri, having killed nine civilians and injured 15 others," Abdallah said.

The paramilitary group has yet to make an official statement on the shelling.

On April 15, violent clashes broke out between the Sudanese army and the RSF. Paramilitary commander Gen. Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo accused Abdel Fattah Burhan, the head of the Sudanese sovereignty council and commander of the armed forces, of being reluctant to hand over power to the civilian government. The parties to the conflict have since introduced a number of temporary nationwide ceasefires, but none has helped settle the conflict.

The UN estimates the death toll from the conflict in the hundreds, while the Red Cross has warned that extended hostilities risk

Under Ujjwala scheme, cylinders to be sold at Rs 600: Modi



SIANS

JODHPUR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday that under the Ujjwala scheme, the beneficiaries will now pay Rs 600 for a 14.2 kg cylinder.

"This will benefit women across the country besides 70 lakh families of Rajasthan," he said while addressing a mammoth gathering here.

"If BJP comes to power, it will result in a prosperous Rajasthan," Modi said, adding that "I will ask Gehlotji to rest, we will take care of everything. Gehlotji skipped the inauguration of projects worth thousands of crores in Jodhpur as he knows that the state will be safe under Modi," he quipped.

Modi further said that once BJP assumes power, it will ensure that the railway stations get a complete face-lift and emerge better than airports.

"Airports are made luxu-

rious as they are frequented by the rich. Since the poor go to railway stations, I will make all the railway stations, including the one in Jodhpur, better than airports," he said.

Commenting on the Lal Dairy, Prime Minister Modi said, "In the last five years, the state government has done nothing for the state. It has only been about the chair game which continued 24/7. People say that Lal Dairy contains every black deed of the corrupt Congress. The dark secrets of Lal Dairy should be revealed. Since Congress will not allow the secret to be out, the state needs the BJP government."

Taking on the paper mafia, he said that the paper mafia of Congress has ruined the future of lakhs of youth here.

"The youth of Rajasthan are demanding justice. Congress, which promised unemployment allowance at the time of elections,

handed over the youth to the mafia. The BJP government will take strict action against every such mafia and will eliminate them," he added.

On the deteriorating law and order, Modi said, "The Congress MLAs here feel insecure. Crimes against daughters have taken place in Jodhpur, Sanchore, Jalore. If BJP comes, it will bring women security."

He also spoke on corruption cases in water schemes and said, "Congress is not concerned with the problems of daughters. There is a water problem in Rajasthan, we want to provide tap connection to every house, but the government here is hindering the work. Here corruption is being promoted even in water schemes," he added.

"Many states of India are fighting a tough battle for water, but look at the character of BJP that when I was the CM of Gujarat, Rajasthan needed Narmada water.

We didn't waste an hour, we did not do this a favour, but we are proud," he said.

PM further spoke on the film 'The Vaccine War' and said, "A film called vaccine war has been released. The hard work of scientists has been depicted well in that film. I congratulate the filmmakers that you have shown the power of science," he added.

The Prime Minister further spoke of his poverty and said, "I know about poverty and its problems as I have lived in penury. After 2014, we made such a policy which is eliminating poverty."

Addressing the gathering, BJP state president C.P. Joshi alleged that Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Thursday sought the terrorist organisation Popular Front of India (PFI) suggestions for the development of Rajasthan.

PFI's name is at number 41 or 42 in the list of invited institutions.

North Bengal floods: One killed, 11 missing & over 5,000 displaced

SIANS

KOLKATA: A child was killed and 11 people were missing in floods in the hills of Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Kurseong in north Bengal that come under the jurisdiction of the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA), according to the GTA chief executive Anit Thapa.

"Over 5,000 people in the GTA area have been displaced as their houses were completely destroyed by the flood. GTA has decided to bear the entire cost of reconstruction of their houses," Thapa told media persons after meeting the affected people on Thursday afternoon.

He informed that the West Bengal government has formed a special committee to oversee the entire process of tackling the crisis and ensure quick rescue and relief operations for the affected people.

"I am also a member of the committee. The situa-



tion is really alarming and thousands of people have been affected. Those affected include the students who study at the different residential schools in the hills. We have made alternative arrangements for them so that they continue with their studies staying as paying guests at reasonable rates," Thapa said.

Meanwhile, a death has been reported at Krishnaganj in Nadia district in South Bengal on Thursday, where a 56-year-old man died after his mud-house collapsed following heavy rain there. The flood situation is also critical in this district as several parts are waterlogged.

Distinct areas in Malda

district in north Bengal were waterlogged, as the Mahananda River started swelling following continuous rainfall there. Even the campus of Malda Medical College & Hospital in Malda town is also underwater. The situation has become even more alarming as a dam in the Bamangola area in the district has developed cracks.

ED raids continue in 12 locations in Bengal municipality job scam

SIANS

KOLKATA: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) raids at 12 locations in connection with the multi-crore cash-for-municipalities recruitment scam in West Bengal was continuing since early Thursday.

The raids started simultaneously at 12 locations from around 5 a.m., and each team of the raiding ED sleuths were escorted by armed personnel from central armed police forces personnel.

The important places where the raids are continuing include the residences of state food & supplies minister and former chairman of Madhyamgram Municipality Rathin Ghosh; Kamarhati Municipality chairman



Gopal Saha; Baranagar Municipality chairman Aparna Moulik and South Dum Dum Municipality vice-chairman Nitai Dutta, among others. All these four municipalities are in North 24 Parganas district.

Sources said that besides conducting raid and search operations, the central agency sleuths are also questioning Ghosh about his knowledge of the recruitments in Madhyamgram Municipality as he was the erstwhile chairman here.

As per ED estimates of the many urban civic bodies scattered throughout the state that are under the central agency scanner because of the recruitment irregularities there, the maximum are from North 24 Parganas district.

Ghosh has questioned the timing of the raid and search operations which are coinciding with the Trinamool Congress' announcement of the 'March to Raj Bhavan' agitation in Kolkata as a mark of protest against the Delhi Police over its action on the elected party representatives at Krishi Bhavan in Delhi on Tuesday evening.

"ED raids have become a common factor in West Bengal. However, the outcomes of such raid and search operations are generally zero.

But this will not affect our 'March to Raj Bhavan' programme," he said.

Ghosh's name came up in the case after incriminating documents procured by the ED showed his involvement when he was the chairman of Madhyamgram Municipality in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal.

It is learnt that Ghosh's name had surfaced following incriminating documents seized by the ED sleuths from ABS Infozone, the agency outsourced by different municipalities in the state for conducting the recruitment examination process there, which indicated towards massive irregularities in the recruitment process in Madhyamgram Municipality between 2014 and 2018.

MP notifies 35% reservation for women in state govt jobs

SIANS

BHOPAL: The BJP-led Madhya Pradesh government has announced 35 percent reservation for women in the state government jobs, except the forest department.

For this, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan government has made an amendment to the Madhya Pradesh Civils Services (Special Provision for Appointment of Women) Rules, 1997.

The notification issued by the state government said, "Notwithstanding anything contained in any service rules, there shall be reserved 35 percent of all posts in the service under the state (except Forest Department) in favour of women at the stage of direct recruitment and the said reservation shall be horizontal and compartment-



wise."

Notably, the decision comes ahead of the Assembly election in Madhya Pradesh which is scheduled very near and poll dates are likely to be announced soon.

Importantly, the step came days after the 'Women's reservation Bill' passed by Parliament, which became law after getting

the assent from President Droupadi Murmu.

The 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhnyam', which provides 33 percent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha as well as the state legislative Assemblies, was unanimously passed, becoming the first Bill to be passed in the new Parliament building.

The state will elect legislators from 230 Assembly constituencies

Krishi Kumbh 2.0 is to enhance technical awareness among farmers in UP

UNI

LUCKNOW: With an aim to bring more than two lakh farmers from across the country and make the world familiar with Uttar Pradesh's agricultural culture, the state government is gearing up to transform Krishi Kumbh 2.0 into a prominent global event, which is likely to be held in December this year.

The primary goal of Krishi Kumbh 2.0 is to enhance technical awareness among the farmers in UP.

The event will introduce the farmers to new agricultural technologies and innovations and it will be organised at the Indian Sugarcane Research Institute in Lucknow.

Recently, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath held a high-level meeting during which he laid a strong emphasis on the participation of more than 2 lakh farmers in the second edition of the Krishi Kumbh.

Directives were issued to invite esteemed national and international agricultural companies and organisations, agricultural



universities, agricultural science centers and progressive farmers.

In this context, emphasis was also placed on their involvement in learning about new farming and agricultural practices in various nations, including Japan, Israel, Germany, and the USA.

During Krishi Kumbh 2.0, there will be discussions on several agricultural topics. These discussions will focus on challenges related to cow-based natural farming, climate change preparedness, encouragement for sustainable agriculture, entrepreneurship based on FPOs, cost reduc-

tion in farming, and efforts to increase the contribution of the agriculture sector in making the state a trillion dollar economy.

The discussions will also cover various dimensions of agriculture, including lectures, demonstrations of agricultural drones, and agricultural exhibitions.

After the Yogi government came to power in 2017, the first Krishi Kumbh was held in 2018.

It received praise from all over the country. More than one lakh farmers participated from various departments, and discussions were held on several topics in 14 sessions.

3.17 cr registered electors in upcoming Assembly polls in Telangana

UNI

HYDERABAD: Telangana has 3,17,17,389 registered electors including 2,58,71,493 male voters across 119 assembly constituencies for the upcoming Assembly elections in the state, according to a final electoral roll, released by the Chief Electoral Officer here on Wednesday.

Of the total electors,

1,58,43,339 are female voters, and 2,57,57,999 are transgender voters.

Additionally, there are 15,338 service electors, who are eligible to cast their ballots. A significant achievement of the campaign is the addition of 5,32,990 youth voters in the age group of 18-19 years, which makes up 2.56 per cent of the total voter base.

A total of 17,01,087 new voter registrations were recorded.

Eligible voters who could not enroll earlier are advised to add their names to the list.

Voters can easily access information about their polling stations and details through the 'eci.gov.in' website or the Voter Help Line App (VHA). In case of any discrepancies in the enrollment details, voters can apply for corrections using Form 8 through VHA app or local BLO.

Rs 8,526.76 lakh approved for 124 PM SHRI schools in Haryana

SIANS

CHANDIGARH: Haryana Chief Secretary Sanjeev Kaushal on Thursday said the Union government had selected 3,893 benchmark schools in the state based on their performance in seven domains.

In the first phase, 124 senior secondary schools were chosen as PM SHRI schools after a selection process. However, model Sanskriti schools were not considered for selection, he said.

To help the schools transform, a budget of Rs 8,526.76 lakh has been approved for 124 PM SHRI schools in Haryana.

Kaushal emphasised the importance of providing

dedicated support to physically and mentally challenged students. During the discussion on broadening students' practical education experiences beyond the state, he directed the officers to arrange educational trips to renowned institutions such as ISRO, Science City, and other organisations to enrich their scientific knowledge on a national level.

Additionally, he urged the officers to educate students about cybercrimes and financial literacy, equipping them with essential life skills. He also underscored the importance of ensuring the accessibility of basic amenities such as clean drinking water, toilets and electricity.

CBI registers case against CBFC employees, others for taking Rs 7 L bribe

SIANS

NEW DELHI: The CBI has registered a case against unidentified Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) employees and three other persons for taking a bribe of Rs 7 lakhs.

While the three accused were identified as Merlin Menaga, Jeeja Ramdas, Rajan M, the others have not been named.

Based on a complaint, the CBI has alleged that last month, one of the accused entered into a conspiracy with the others to obtain a bribe of Rs 7 lakhs in order to get a required censor certificate from CBFC for a movie dubbed in Hindi.

The complainant and subsequently after negotiation, she allegedly accepted Rs 6,54,000 in two bank accounts of two other accused.

"Thereafter on September 26, the required certificate was allegedly issued by the CBFC for the said movie dubbed in Hindi. It was also alleged that in addition to the said amount, the said accused obtained Rs 20,000 in her bank account from the account of a private company as coordinating fees for herself," an official said.

"An amount of Rs.6,50,000 was allegedly withdrawn immediately in cash, out of Rs. 6,54,000. Searches were conducted at four different locations including in Mumbai at the premises of accused and others associated with the accused which led to recovery of incriminating documents."

29TH NATIONAL THANG-TA CHAMPIONSHIP

Advisor Bhatnagar felicitates medal winners

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar Thursday remarked that the sports infrastructure has been amplified in every nook and corner of Jammu and Kashmir, underlining the government's commitment to promoting sports here.

The Advisor made these remarks while addressing the medal felicitation ceremony of 29th Junior National Thang-Ta Championship 2023 at Multi-purpose Indoor Hall, Polo Ground, here.

This prestigious championship was organized by the Jammu and Kashmir Thang-Ta Association under the auspices of the Thang-Ta Federation of India, with sponsorship from the J&K Sports Council.

Addressing the gathering, Advisor Bhatnagar said that it is remarkable to witness that more than 550 participants are part of this unique championship coming from all parts of our country. He added that the championship



witnessed competitive battles between the participants which reflects its popularity among the youth. He highlighted that this sport is also getting popular in Jammu and Kashmir with active participation of youth from all districts.

The Advisor further said that the present LG led Administration is committed to empowerment of youth in every field and are

constantly nurturing and celebrating young talent in every sphere.

While congratulating medal winners, Advisor Bhatnagar said that such events not only serve as platforms for personal growth and physical fitness but also instil discipline and self-confidence among the participants.

The Advisor also praised the efforts of the Sports Council in hosting

this remarkable event, recognizing its potential for future excellence. He also congratulated the organizing committee of the J&K Thang-Ta Association for the successful completion of the championship.

During the felicitation ceremony, Haryana was declared overall team champion with Manipur as the 1st runner-up and Jammu and Kashmir as 2nd of the championship.

MEN'S ODI WC

Threat from fast-bowlers with the new ball looms large on the tournament

IAN S

NEW DELHI: When the 2023 Men's ODI World Cup opener between England and New Zealand begins at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Thursday afternoon, it being the re-match of the 2019 finale at Lord's won't just be on the minds of fans from both countries.

Yes, both teams have sufficient batting power in their ranks and boast of effective spinners. But New Zealand and England also match up well on the fast-bowling front. Despite losing Tim Southee for Thursday's opener, Trent Boult's threat looms large on England's batters.

Remember that final at Lord's in 2019 - when Boult almost trapped Jason Roy lbw with an inswinger from over the wicket, only for the right-handed batter to survive on umpire's call, leading the way to a nervy start for England, which led to a dramatic final.

On his return to ODI cricket last month, after a year of playing franchise T20 leagues, Boult was back to remind everyone of his class in the format, an example of which was taking 5-51 at The Oval, even when Ben Stokes was blazing his way to 182.

Since 2022, Boult has taken 16 wickets in power-play, a phase where he has excelled in white-ball games. Giving him company is right-arm pacer Matt Henry, who has taken 18 wickets in 20 matches at the same phase. The Boult-Henry new-ball pair combination gives New Zealand the strength in its fast-bowling arsenal.

Apart from Boult and Henry, India's Mohammed Siraj is heading the list for leading fast-bowlers in the



first power-play. Siraj had a far-from-ideal start to international career, but has turned tables since 2022.

He has picked 32 wickets in 28 games in this phase, averaging 16.9 and at an economy rate of 4.3, forming a striking new-ball pair with Jasprit Bumrah and playing a big part in the resurrection of India's fortunes in this phase of the game.

Australia have Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood as their new-ball strike pair. From an England perspective, Chris Woakes, Reece Topley, David Willey and Sam Curran are capable bowlers, but have been underwhelming in the first ten overs, with their average going above 50.

Pakistan also have a new-ball striker in Shaheen Shah Afridi, but hasn't been much incisive post the opening over. Since 2022, he has taken five wickets in the opening over, but after that, he has taken only six scalps.

There is something in the new-ball attacks which always makes the fast-bowlers, especially the ones who bowl full or can execute a short-ball barrage, a good threat which looms over the batters in the upcoming 2023 Men's ODI World Cup.

It has been observed that the new ball swings a

lot in the first ten overs in India and then shows less lateral movement once the phase is over. In the observations from the ODIs post 2019 Men's ODI World Cup, from the statistics provided by Cricket-21, fast-bowlers have benefited in the first power-play, when they have gone fuller with the swing or with the usage of short balls at the batters.

Pacers in the first power-play have bowled 22.6% deliveries on fuller length, picking 159 wickets while averaging 37 and at an economy rate of 7. It is followed by 51.9% deliveries being good length, yielding 285 wickets at an average of 24.8 and economy rate of 3.6, while back of length deliveries were at 20.4%, giving 108 scalps at an average of 39.4 and economy rate of 5.6.

The corresponding figures for the spinners in the first power-play look as - 66.6% deliveries on the good length have brought 65 wickets at an average of 23.5 and economy rate of 3.9. The fuller length deliveries were at 15.6%, giving eight scalps, with the average shooting up to 63.5 and economy rate of 5.5.

When it comes to middle overs, considered the toughest phase for the pacers and also the decider between winning and losing teams, good length deliveries (316 wickets,

32.9 average and 4.2 economy rate) and yorkers (20 wickets, 16.4 average, 4.3 economy rate) instantly take the centre stage from a fast-bowlers perspective, though high-pace enforcers are also preferred by teams.

The same is the case with death overs: - yorkers turn out to be a goldmine for fast bowlers, giving them 45 wickets at an average of 12.3 and an economy rate of 5. Though pacers have a higher economy (9.2) in the last 10 overs when going fuller, it has given them 214 scalps at a strike rate of 13. In terms of good length in the last ten overs, fast bowlers have got 176 wickets at an average of 20.5 and an economy rate of 6.8.

Good length is also what has given spinners most returns: 648 scalps at an average of 31.3 and economy rate of 4.6 in middle overs, followed by 144 wickets at an average of 21.2 and economy rate of 6 in the death, a phase where they tend to bowl more than in the first ten overs.

Moreover, between the last ODI World Cup and the upcoming edition, more teams have been bowled out than in any other four-year cycle of the quadrennial event. In fact, last two years have seen more teams failing to complete their quota of 50 overs; it stands at 37.5% in 2022 and 43.94% in 2023, before the start of the World Cup.

With the bat, hosts India have most number of 300+ totals after 2019 World Cup ended - at 17, followed by defending champions England and Bangladesh at nine respectively. In terms of batting second, New Zealand have most 275+ totals - at 11, followed by India at 10 and Pakistan at 8.

FIFA World Cup 2030 to span three continents with Morocco, Portugal, and Spain as co-hosts

IAN S

GENEVA: The FIFA World Cup 2030 is set to be co-hosted by Morocco, Portugal, and Spain, with three other countries in South America also involved in staging games to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the event, according to FIFA.

The FIFA Council conducted a videoconference in Zurich, Switzerland, to confirm the sole candidacy,

which is a combined bid of Morocco, Portugal, and Spain. They will receive automatic qualification to the tournament if they complete a successful bidding process in 2024, Xinhua reports.

"The FIFA Council also agreed unanimously that the only bid to host the FIFA World Cup 2030 will be the joint bid of Morocco, Portugal, and Spain," FIFA President Gianni Infantino was quoted as saying

in the FIFA statement. "In 2030, we will have a unique global footprint, three continents - Africa, Europe, and South America - six countries - Argentina, Morocco, Paraguay, Portugal, Spain, and Uruguay - welcoming and uniting the world while celebrating together the beautiful game, the centenary and the FIFA World Cup."

The council agreed to host a centenary celebration ceremony in Uruguay's capi-

tal Montevideo, where the first-ever FIFA World Cup took place in 1930. Besides, Uruguay, Argentina and Paraguay will organise one match each of the FIFA World Cup 2030.

"The first of these three matches will of course be played at the stadium where it all began, in Montevideo's mythical Estadio Centenario, precisely to celebrate the centenary edition of the FIFA World Cup," FIFA said.

DC Budgam initiates Upgradation, Renovation works of Sports Stadium Budgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo Thursday initiated the upgradation/ renovation work of Sports Stadium Budgam.

Besides students of various schools, District Youth Services and Sports Officer, District Information Officer, AEE R&B Budgam and other officers and officials of various departments were present.

Highlighting the beautification of whole Budgam town and various other projects which were earlier e-inaugurated by Lt. Governor, the DC said the facility would witness great sports enthusiasm wherein young



sportspersons and school students will get an opportunity to polish their skills and showcase their talent.

He further said that the upgradation of infrastructure at Sports Stadium Budgam will foster a productive environment for people of the district to participate in diverse sports activities.

Acknowledging the piv-

otal role sports plays in community development, the DC emphasised the commitment to providing top-notch infrastructure for players.

The project aims to revitalize the stadium, creating a hub for sporting excellence and community engagement, he added.

The phase-1 of this upgradation plan shall

include laying of path tiles, modernising facilities such as fixing of cricket practice net, upgrading seating arrangements, renovation, painting of Walls and installation of 45 kva generator.

The DC expressed gratitude for the collective efforts and support from the community, locals and other concerned departments. He said that the refurbished sports stadium will serve as a catalyst for local talent to flourish on regional and national platforms.

The repair and renovation project reflects the LG administration's commitment to holistic development, emphasizing the role of sports in shaping a vibrant and strong community, the DC added.

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT BONIYAR ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

Applications on prescribed proforma (Annexure-I) are hereby invited from the eligible female candidates of the Panch wards/Municipal Wards shown against the below mentioned Panchayat Halqa/Municipal Wards, for the engagement of Sanginis (AWWs) for the Anganwadi Centres of POSHAN Project Boniyar on "Honorary basis". The applications along with required documents shall be deposited in the Office of undersigned i.e. the Child Development Project Officer Poshan Project Boniyar by or before: 18-10-2023 against proper receipt.

S.NO	NAME OF THE DISTRICT	NAME OF THE PROJECT	NAME OF PANCHAYAT/ MUNICIPALITY WARD	VACANCY OF SANGINIS (ANGANWADI WORKERS)	
				NO. OF PANCH WARD/ MC.WARD	NAME OF AWC
1	Baramulla	Boniyar	Ijarah	Ward No:08 Peemiya	Peemiya
2	Baramulla	Boniyar	Bonali	Ward No: 01 Bonali	Bonali-A
3	Baramulla	Boniyar	Zehanpora	Ward No:06 Zehanpora	Wani Mohalla Zehanpora

Criteria for Selection of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) Shall remain as envisaged in the Govt. Order No 103 JK(SWD) OF 2023 Dated 28.04.2023 i.e.

- Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 years shall be considered for the post.
- The candidate should be a domicile of the UT of J&K.
- The candidate should be a resident of the Electoral Ward where AWC is situated. Name in the voter list for the ward shall be considered as the proof of residence of the candidate. In case the name of the candidate appears in voter list along with her parents then she must provide certificate of being unmarried issued by the concerned Tehsildar. Wherever there is any dispute as to residence for any reason then a residence proof certifying the ward of residence from the concerned SDM/ACR shall be considered.
- Minimum Education qualification should be 10+2 pass and maximum graduation. In case no 10+2 pass candidate is available in the ward, 10+2 pass candidate from the adjoining ward shall be considered which would require prior approval of Mission Director, Mission Poshan.
- In case suitable candidate is not available from adjoining ward, candidate from the nearest ward within the Panchayat can be considered subject to the approval of the MD, Mission Poshan.
- Weightage shall be given on the basis of marks obtained in 10+2 and selection shall be done purely on merit basis & no other criteria to be considered.
- In case eligible candidate is available within the family of retiring AWW/AWH the said candidal shall qualify for additional two percent points.
- Candidates with qualification higher than graduation shall not be considered.
- In case of tie in merit of the eligible candidate, candidate with higher age will be preferred.

- Self-attested copies of documents to be attached with the application form:
- Panch Ward Certificate / present / continuous, ward residence certificate based on the voter list of the ward certificate issued by BDO concerned as per format enclosed (in case of any dispute as to residence for any reason then the residence proof certifying the ward of residence from the concerned SDM/ACR shall be considered).
 - Domicile Certificate issued by Tehsildar concerned.
 - Date of Birth Certificate.
 - Academic Qualification Certificates with Marks card of 10+2 and Graduation (if applicable).
 - If candidate belong to family of retired AWW/AWH, Copy of document proof.
 - Non employment Certificate from a Gazetted Officer.
 - Unmarried Certificate from respective Tehsildars.

- All applicants to submit affidavit stating following facts dully attested by 1st class Magistrate:
- All Documents submitted are correct, without any mismatch, scanning, duplicate or fallacious in nature. If found incorrect or in any of the above stated situation the candidature of deponent may be cancelled and liable to action under law.
 - Maximum qualification is Graduation for vacancy of Anganwadi worker and Class X for Anganwadi Helper and this is as per facts and onus of proving it to be true lies with the deponent.
 - The deponent has read the HR policy no. 222-JK(SWD) of 2022 dated: 30.11.2022 and is well versed with all salient features of the policy and shall be applicable to the deponent in case of selection as Anganwadi worker/ Anganwadi Helper.

Note: Prescribed Application Proforma can be had from the office of the undersigned "Free of Cost".

No:CDPO/POSHAN/Adv/2023/766-88
Dated: 04-10-2023

Child Dev. Project Officer
Poshan Boniyar

(ANNEXURE-I)

APPLICATION FORM FOR ENGAGEMENT OF SANGINI (ANGANWADI WORKER)

- Name of the District: - Baramulla
- Name of the ICDS Project: Boniyar.
- Name of the Anganwadi Centre for which engagement sought.....
- Panch Ward/MC Ward..... Panchayat Halqa/MC Ward.....
- Name of the Candidate (In Block Letters).....
- Fathers Name (In Block Letters).....
- Marital Status: - Married /Un Married
- Husbands Name (if married).....
- Place of Permanent Residence.....
Mohalla.....Village.....
Panch Ward Constituency.....
- Name of the Panchayat Halqa.....
House No.....(As per latest Panchayat Ward Electoral) Block.....
- Address for Correspondence.....Mobile No:.....
- Date of Birth.....

D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y

- Age as on 01-01-2023.
- Academic Qualification

S.No	Examination passed	Board/School	Year of passing	Marks Obtained	Max. Marks	%age
1						
2						
3						

- Do candidate belong to family of retired AWW/AWH (Yes/No).
- Documents attached.
- Panch Ward Certificate / present / continuous, ward residence certificate based on the voter list of the ward issued by BDO concerned along with attested voter list (in case of any dispute as to residence for any reason then the residence proof certifying the ward of residence from the concerned SDM/ACR shall be considered).
- Domicile Certificate issued by Tehsildar concerned.
- Date of Birth Certificate.
- Academic Qualification Certificates with Marks card of 10+2.
- If candidate belong to family of retired AWW/AWH, then copy of the e-ration card.
- Non employment Certificate from a Gazetted Officer.
- Unmarried Certificate from respective Tehsildars.
- All applicants to submit affidavit stating the facts mentioned earlier in the notification.

UNDERTAKING

I,.....D/o, W/o.....R/o..... do hereby certify that the contents of the application given above are correct and true to the best of my knowledge. In case any of the above contents is found incorrect, the selection committee shall have the right to reject my application and similarly revoke my engagement order.

Signature of Candidate

Signature of Candidate.

FORMAT FOR PANCH WARD CERTIFICATE- TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

This is to certify that the candidate namely.....D/o,W/o.....
R/o..... is residing in Panch Ward of Panchayat Halqa.....
It is further certified that her name is enlisted in electoral / voter list of the panch ward at S. No.....

Photograph of the applicant duly attested

No:.....
Dated:.....
DIPK-9853-23
DT: 05/10/2023

Signature of Block Development Officer

President Murmu to visit KU on its 20th annual Convocation

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: President of India, Droupadi Murmu, is set to visit the Kashmir University on October 11, 2023, where she will serve as the chief guest for the institution's 20th annual Convocation.

The event will witness President Murmu conferring degrees to over 53,000 candidates from various academic disciplines. As per the schedule, President Murmu will also deliver the Convocation address to the assembly of graduates and dignitaries at the Convocation Complex of the University of Kashmir, Hazratbal, Srinagar.

The grand event is scheduled to mark the culmination of the academic journey for students who have completed their courses from 2021 to mid-2023. As per the official figures a staggering 53,523 candidates will be conferred their degrees during this momentous occasion.

Among these recipients, 46,812 will be awarded



undergraduate degrees, 5,509 will receive postgraduate degrees, while 572 will be conferred with doctoral degrees (Ph.D.), and an additional 10 candidates will earn Master of Philosophy (M.Phil) degrees. On the occasion, around 320 students, comprising 210 girls and 110 boys, will be honoured with gold and silver medals, along with cash prizes.

The gold medals will be distributed to 283 students, including 189 girls and 94 boys, while sponsored gold medals will be awarded to 21 students, featuring 13 girls and two boys. More-

over, sponsored silver medals will be presented to four candidates including two boys and girls each while the sponsored cash prizes will be granted to 12 students including six boys and six girls.

Preparations for the Convocation are in full swing, with the full dress rehearsal scheduled for October 7, 2023, at 2:00 PM at the Convocation Complex of the University. As per the University notification, all the registered candidates are expected to participate in the rehearsal after collecting their Special Identity Cards

and robes from dedicated desks established for this purpose in the new administration block. "These desks will be operational from 10:00 AM onwards on October 7," it reads. The University notification states that specific details regarding transportation, seating arrangements, and other logistical matters for the Convocation will be communicated separately by the respective committees involved in organizing the event. "Students and attendees are advised to regularly check the University's official website at www.kashmiruniversity.net for further updates," the notification reads.

The University of Kashmir has already postponed the exams slated for October 6 and 10 of this year. "October 6 exams were postponed in view of the Friday following while the October 10 exams have been postponed keeping in view the security reasons as the President is visiting the campus next day," an official said—(KNO)

LG pays homage to bravehearts of Army at Vajr War Memorial



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Thursday paid homage to the bravehearts of the Army and laid wreath at Vajr War Memorial, HQ 28 Infantry Division Kupwara. He also visited the Vajr Gatha Museum and Exhibition Centre.

"The courage, valour,

dedication and spirit of our brave soldiers to protect the integrity and sovereignty of the nation is unparalleled," the Lt Governor said.

"Vajr Gatha Museum and Exhibition Centre is a living testament of sacrifice, devotion and zeal of the Jawans of our army. The presence of our valiant jawans, officers

on the border inspires the people to work with dedication to build Viksit Bharat," the Lt Governor added.

Later, Major General Girish Kalia, GOC, Vajr Division briefed the Lt Governor on the preparedness of the Army in securing the areas under the Division and also discussed the overall secu-

rity environment in the region.

Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Sh Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Dr. Piyush Singla, Secretary Revenue; Ms Ayushi Sudan, Deputy Commissioner Kupwara and senior officers of Army were present.

Dumping site fire causes health issues for Bandipora's Zalwan residents

SAJID RAINA

BANDIPORA: Residents of the main town in north Kashmir's Bandipora district are facing distress as an ongoing fire at a dumping disposal site in the Zalwan area engulfs the vicinity in thick, acrid smoke.

The locals said that they are grappling with health issues due to the relentless smog. Many locals reported adverse health effects.

"I had an uncontrollable coughing fit walking outside last night and nearly vomited from it," said Ishfaq Ahmad, a resident.

The noxious odour permeates even inside homes, forcing us to keep their windows tightly shut, he said, adding that several parts of the town remain shrouded in heavy fumes, and the acrid smell of burning plastic exacerbates the situation.

Abdul Majeed, an elderly local, said the problem is compounded by the fact that garbage collected from all over Bandipora town is dumped at this site, where it is set ablaze by unknown miscreants. "The toxic smoke, besides being an environmental hazard, poses a significant health threat to the local population," he said.

"We have no idea who is burning this garbage every day," lamented Mohammad Ashraf, another local resident.

"People are experiencing eye irritation, sneezing, and discomfort, with some resorting to wearing masks even within the confines of their homes. Children, too, are not immune to the effects and have been complaining about eye irritation," he added.

The locals said that despite their persistent demands for the relocation of the dumping site, the authorities have not done anything.

Last year, the Pollution Control Committee identified that solid waste was being haphazardly and unscientifically dumped at the Zalwan Nassu site, dangerously close to the district headquarters of Bandipora and in proximity to the critical Wular Lake catchment area.

Meanwhile, an official told KNO that response teams have swiftly arrived at the scene to determine the cause of the fire. "Measures will be taken to perform earth filling to contain the fire, and comprehensive efforts will be made to ensure the fire is completely extinguished," he said—(KNO)

SDH Pakherpora lacks operation theatre, people suffer

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: Residents of Pakherpora and adjacent areas in Budgam are facing inconvenience in absence of an operation theatre at SDH Pakherpora.

The residents said that after a wait of around two decades, the hospital was shifted to a new building but it doesn't serve the purpose for which it was constructed.

"Even for minor surgery we are forced to visit District hospital Pulwama as theatre hasn't been made functional at SDH Pakherpora," they said.

Besides heavy snow-bound areas like Abhama, Kanidajan and Yousmarg, the hospital caters to a huge chunk of the population, they added.

Sajad Ahmad, a local resident said that currently the hospital is function-

ing as SDH only on papers while the facilities are as good as a PHC.

He said that a gynaecologist was posted at the hospital but was transferred without any replacement.

Locals said that despite bringing these issues in notice of concerned authorities several times but no attention is being directed towards it.

"Whenever we have brought the issue of operation theatre in the issue of higher ups, we are being assured that the theatre will be functional within two weeks," they said.

An official of the health department said that they are on it and the theatre will be functional within the next three weeks.

He said that gynaecologist has already resumed her duties at the hospital while posts lying vacant are also being filled—(KNO)

Authorities seize 3 private vehicles in Sopore for ferrying passengers

WARIS FAYAZ

SOPORE: Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO), Baramulla, warned private Eco vehicle owners ferrying passengers without permit of strict action if they continue the practice.

An official at the Motor Vehicle Department,

Sopore said that a checking drive was launched jointly by the teams from Police and the Motor Vehicles Department Baramulla, during which three vehicles who were ferrying passengers illegally were seized.

The vehicles seized were violating the rules and regulations under the

MV Acts and were ferrying the passengers without a permit, the official said.

Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO), Baramulla, Muazzam Ali warned the private vehicle (Eco) owners from ferrying the passengers illegally without proper documentation.

Those who are found violating the law will be

dealt with strictly besides vehicles will be seized on spot, he said.

The inspection was carried after receiving multiple complaints regarding the use of private vehicles (without permit) as taxis by the general public especially from the main chowk and Shahdargh stands—(KNO)

20 years on, IG Road shopkeepers await rehabilitation: KTA

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a poignant reminder of unfulfilled promises, more than two decades have passed since over 300 shopkeepers along the historic IG road were displaced from their businesses, and to this day, they continue to await rehabilitation.

The Kashmir Traders Alliance (KTA) is now urging the Lieutenant Governor (LG) administration to intervene and provide justice to these affected businessmen who have endured years of hardship and uncertainty.

According to KTA, President Aijaz Shahdhar the saga dates back to December 2002 when the then government, led by Mufti Sayeed, ordered the demolition of all shops along IG road, citing concerns that their presence defaced the area and left an unfavourable impression on passing tourists.

"At that time, shopkeepers were given assurances by the Deputy Chief Minister, Muzaffar Baig, that they would be rehabilitated. They were instructed to submit their registrations to the Custodian General,

a directive that all affected shopkeepers promptly followed. The government's commitment was clear: a complex would be constructed to facilitate their rehabilitation."

"Fast forward to the present day, and the promises made in 2002 remain unfulfilled. A complex was indeed built, but shockingly, instead of allocating these shops to the displaced shopkeepers, they were sold to other individuals. Furthermore, property owners along IG Road have reconstructed shops on the premises, adding to the irony of the situation." "Meanwhile, the 300 shopkeepers who were displaced almost two decades ago continue to live in limbo, their lives and livelihoods hanging in the balance," Shahdhar said.

KTA President Aijaz Shahdhar expressed the frustration and disappointment of the affected community, stating, "We have pursued this issue with successive regimes, but regrettably, nothing substantive has been done to address our plight. This incident has shattered many families and disrupted numerous lives."

Woman from Dooru allegedly dies of medical negligence at GMC Anantnag

JAHANGEER GANAIE

ANANTNAG: A woman from Dooru area of Anantnag allegedly died of medical negligence at Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag while the authorities here have constituted a committee to probe the matter.

Relatives of the woman from Qamar Dooru said that they were waiting for her echocardiogram, or "echo", from morning 10 am to 3:30 pm and were not even allowed to enter the room where echo is being done.

"While waiting for the

turn, she died and even doctors at the hospital told us that she died of low oxygen level," they said.

"It is negligence on part of the staff and authorities must investigate the matter and take action against the staff involved in the negligence," they said.

Meanwhile, an official of the hospital told KNO that they have constituted a committee to enquire into the matter.

"We will definitely take action against the persons involved in any kind of negligence," he assured—(KNO)

Residents in Mawer urge authorities to repair road

WARIS FAYAZ

HANDWARA: Residents in Dudkul Haril of Mawer in Handwara have urged authorities to repair the dilapidated road as it caused them problems.

Locals said that the road is dotted with huge potholes and has not been repaired for the last several years.

"We apprised the authorities number of

times but in vain", they said.

Residents said that the tall claims of the government of taking development to the next level is seen nowhere in their village, even if they always remain at the forefront during the elections.

They urged Lieutenant Governor led administration to address their grievance—(KNO)

Man electrocuted to death in Baramulla village

AGENCIES

BARAMULLA: A 30-year-old man got electrocuted to death at his home in Rangwar village in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Reports said that the man identified as Imtiyaz Ahmed Rather (30) son of Ghulam Qadir Rather of Rangwar, received electric shock at his home today. They said that soon after the incident he was shifted to hospital, where doctors pronounced him dead. Police have taken cognizance of the incident—(KNO)

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