

Good Morning Kashmir

15th Year Of Publication

Srinagar • Tuesday 12, March 2024 • Vol: 15 • Issue No: 61 • Pages: 08 • Price: ₹ 2/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paise) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998

Office of LG J&K @OfficeOfLGJandK

Heartiest greetings and good wishes to all on the beginning of the sacred month of Ramzan. May this holy month bring peace, prosperity and joy for everyone.

Army, BSF Install Modern Anti-Drone Systems Along LoC

ALI ASAD

SRINAGAR: In a significant move to bolster security along the Line of Control (LoC) and the border, the Indian Army and Border Security Force (BSF) have deployed state-of-the-art anti-drone systems in the Rajouri-Poonch region of Jammu and Kashmir.

Reports inform that the installation of advanced anti-drone systems has proven to be highly effective in detecting and countering cross-border drone activities. **•P-06**

LS Polls CEC Arrives In Srinagar To Review Preparedness



ALI ASAD

SRINAGAR: Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar arrived in Srinagar on Monday evening to review preparedness for Lok Sabha polls and assess possibility of holding Assembly polls in Jammu & Kashmir.

CEC Kumar and top officials of the poll-body reached here today evening on a three-day visit to the Union Territory to review preparedness for Lok Sabha polls to be held in April-May.

During their visit, the poll-body would assess whether Assembly and Lok Sabha polls can be held together in the Union Territory.

Sources in J&K administration said that the CEC would interact with all deputy commissioners, district police chiefs, divisional commissioners, inspector general of police, Kashmir range and additional director general of police, Jammu on Tuesday at Sheri-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC).

Later, the poll panel would meet representatives of different regional and national political parties tomorrow at the same venue.

The CEC would also meet Chief Secretary Atul Dulloo and Director General of Police RR Swain on Wednesday at Jammu.

It is worthwhile to mention that the commission is assessing the possibility of holding Assembly polls in view of the deadline set-up by the Supreme Court.

On December 11, 2023, the Supreme Court had directed the Election Commission of India **•P-06**

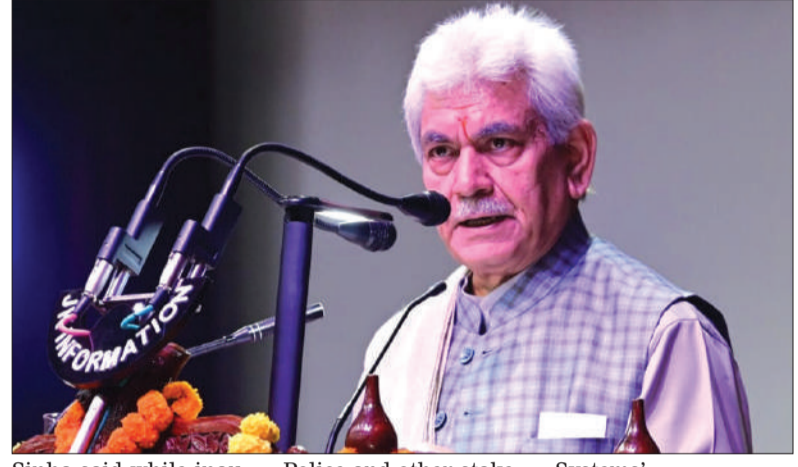
'Don't Touch Innocent, Don't Spare Culprit' Our Policy: LG

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Monday said that those elements responsible for terrorism in J&K are making malicious attempts to lure young boys and girls into unlawful activities, adding that 'don't touch the innocent and don't spare the culprit' is our policy.

"Our Police and Security forces must remain vigilant. It should be ensured that no innocent child falls victim to adversary's nefarious design," LG Sinha said while inaugurating a two-day training programme of Police and other stakeholders on 'Strengthening of Child Protection Systems'.

In his address, the Lt Governor **•P-06**



Disproportionate Assets Case

ACB Raids Five Locations

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Anti Corruption Bureau registered a case into the allegations of acquisition of disproportionate assets accumulated by a public servant posted at National Institute of Technology Srinagar.

ACB said it registered a case against Manzoor Ahmad Tantray S/o Abdul Khaliq Tantray of Ganderal presently posted as Professor in NIT **•P-06**

Centre Notifies Implementation Of Citizenship Amendment Act

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Ahead of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, the Union Home Ministry on Monday notified the rules for the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) -- a major highlight of the BJP's manifesto during the 2019 Lok Sabha polls

-- paving the way for granting citizenship to people of certain faiths facing persecution in countries like Pakistan, **•P-06**

Amit Shah (Modi Ka Parivar) @AmitShah

The Modi government today notified the Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024. These rules will now enable minorities persecuted on religious grounds in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan to acquire citizenship in our nation. With this notification PM Shri @narendramodi Ji has delivered on another commitment and realised the promise of the makers of our constitution to the Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians living in those countries.



Fully Prepared To Ensure Peaceful LS Elections: DGP



JEHANGEER GANAI

PULWAMA: Jammu and Kashmir's Director General of Police (DGP) RR Swain Monday said that police are fully prepared to ensure peaceful Lok Sabha elections whenever they are announced and the force will provide a safe and secure atmosphere to enthusiastic voters.

Talking to reporters after inaugurating the police post at Rohmoo in Southern district of Pulwama, the DGP said that police force is fully prepared and geared up for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls in J&K.

"We will ensure peaceful Lok Sabha polls in J&K. We will provide a safe and secure atmosphere to enthusiastic voters," the DGP said, in reply to a query.

Replying to another query about links between **•P-06**

'Tulip Garden To Feature 5 New Varieties, 1.7 Million Tulips Set To Bloom'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a bid to further boost tourism allure of Asia's largest Tulip garden, the Department of Floriculture has added five more new tulip varieties this year besides expanding the existing garden area.

This was informed during a meeting chaired by Commissioner Secretary Floriculture, Sheikh Fayaz Ahmad, held at Civil Secretariat here.

The meeting was also attended by Director Floriculture Kashmir, District Floriculture Officers and other senior officers of the department.

While addressing the meeting, the Commissioner Secretary said that it is the endeavour of the department to make the Tulip Garden more attractive and alluring for the tourists from all over the world.

"This year we have added five new varieties bringing the total number of tulip varieties to 73. These new varieties will give an enchanting experience to the visitors making the **•P-06**



Rains Lash Plains Gulmarg Receives Fresh Snowfall

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort has once again received the fresh snowfall while the plains were lashed by rains as the fresh Western Disturbance (WD) has affected Jammu and Kashmir on Monday.

The occasional sunshine was witnessed in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir and other areas till this afternoon following which the Gulmarg started receiving fresh snowfall, bringing down the mercury at several places.

However, rains lashed Srinagar and other areas this evening.

The rains and snow has occurred under the influence of Western Disturbance that affected J&K today, **•P-06**



11,629 Polling Stations J&K Will Have 86.39 Lakh Voters, Including 2.31 Lakh New Voters

ALI ASAD

SRINAGAR: In a bid to promote maximum voter participation during the coming LS polls in Jammu and Kashmir, arrangements have been made for postal voting for elderly individuals aged above 85 and those with disabilities exceeding 40 percent. This initiative aims to facilitate voting for individuals who may face mobility challenges or other limitations.

Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) PK Pole said in a meeting held here that efforts have been made to establish pink booths dedicated to women, booths tailored for disabled individuals, and separate booths designated for youth in every district.

Moreover, specific polling stations will be staffed solely by women polling personnel, while others will be manned exclusively by personnel with disabilities. Additionally, booths will be operated by youth under 25 years who have served in government roles for at least three years.

"Stringent training has been provided to all polling personnel, ranging from District Election Officers to Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) and police officers, ensuring their preparedness for the electoral process. Training sessions have been conducted in three phases at the district level to equip personnel with the necessary skills and knowledge," the CEO said.

It was informed further that with an electorate of 86.39 lakh voters, including 2.31 lakh new voters, across 11,629 polling stations, comprehensive arrangements have been made to ensure the smooth conduct of elections. Notably, 629 new polling centers have been established to accommodate the growing voter base. Additionally, measures such as the provision of reserve Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) machines have been **•P-06**



J&K Bank Fraud Case ED Attaches Property Worth Rs 4.81 Crore

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Enforcement Directorate on Monday attached properties worth Rs 4.81 crore in Jammu and Kashmir bank fraud case.

In a post on X, ED said that Srinagar Zonal Office has provisionally attached immovable properties worth Rs.4.81 Crore in the form of 18 Kanal of land and building.

It said that property belongs to Isfaq Ahmad Zargar of M/s Nikha Ornaments (12.5 marla), Khalil Ahmad Mughal of M/s JK Gold Jewelry (14 Kanal 16 Marla), Md. Asaraf Dev of M/s Raf Raf Tours and Travel (1 Kanal 12 Marla) and Md. Sayed Kaushar Niyazi of M/s Sayed Tours and Travels (17 Marla)—(KN)



MOVIES Schedule

Tuesday 12 March

www.bookmyshow.com | www.inoxmovies.com | Paytm, Inox App or Directly from the booking counter at the cinema.

Call 95416 13868 For assistance with tickets

GAAMI (TELUGU)
11:00AM (A)

LAAPATAA LADIES (HINDI)
05:00PM (U/A)

SHAITAN (HINDI) ATMOS
11:50AM, 02:30PM
03:45PM (HINDI) (U/A)

BREATH TAKING EPIC

DUNE PART TWO
12:30PM, 05:30PM (ENGLISH) (U/A)

TERI BAATON MEIN AISA ULJHA JIYA (HINDI)
02:00PM (U/A)

JKSDM hosts State Level India Skills Competition in J&K UT

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The J&K Skill Development Mission (JKSDM), in collaboration with Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), GoI and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and with the active support of Skill Department J&K, has kick started the state level competition of different job roles in the UT of J&K.

India's excellence in different artistic and culinary skill sets is described in our ancient and contemporary literature and it will not be an exaggeration to say that it is still ingrained in the soil of the remotest part of the country.

Further, after globalization India has also developed its niche particularly in IT related skill sets like web designing, graphic design technology, IT software solutions for business, mobile robotics etc.

To make India the "Skill Capital" of the world, it is essentially required to showcase the country's



excellence in different skill sets across the globe.

To penetrate these competitions to the remotest part of the country and to encourage Indian youth to participate in these competitions and get selected to participate in World Skills and other International competitions, the India Skills competitions 2023-24 have been organized by Jammu and Kashmir Skill Development Mission.

India Skills Competition is the best way to recognize and celebrate the hardwork

and dedication of our participants at the J&K UT level Competition.

Among the job roles selected, the State Level Competition of Auto Body Repair and CNC Turning Skill Sets, was organized today at CIIT, Government Polytechnic Jammu the academic partners to JKSDM. The candidates from across UT of J&K participated in the state level competition, which will lead them to pre National competitions and National level competitions and

finally the winner will participate in World Skills Competitions scheduled in Lyon France later this year.

"JKSDM will continue to organize such initiatives and give opportunity to youth of J&K, State Level Competitions in 18 skill sets are being conducted at various venues across the UT wherein more than 250 candidates will compete to represent J&K in Pre National and National Level Competitions" said Leena Padha, Mission Director, JKSDM.

DC B'la ensures AMF at Polling Stations for LS Elections

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: In preparation for the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections, the Deputy Commissioner/ District Election Officer Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, accompanied by ADC Sopore, Shabir Ahmad Raina and SP Sopore Divya Dev Monday conducted a comprehensive inspection of various polling stations within Sopore sub-division.

The visit aimed to ensure the availability of Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) at all polling stations, in adherence to the guidelines of Election Commission of India. The team meticulously assessed the infrastructure and amenities at



each location to guarantee a smooth and efficient voting process for the electorate.

The thorough inspection covered a range of essential aspects including accessi-

bility, ramps availability, sanitation facilities, provision of drinking water and electricity supply, and any deficiencies identified were promptly raised to the concerned departments.

Speaking during the visit, the DEO emphasized the importance of providing adequate facilities to both voters and polling staff, to ensure a conducive environment for conducting free, fair and transparent elections.

Minga Sherpa further commended the efforts of all stakeholders involved in the preparations and urged continued cooperation to ensure the success of the electoral exercise.

He also reaffirmed the administration's commitment to upholding the principles of democracy and urged all eligible citizens to exercise their fundamental right to vote to shape the nation's future through the democratic process.

LOK SABHA ELECTIONS

Training imparted to Zonal, Sectoral Police Officers

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: The District Election Office Kulgam Monday conducted a day long training session for Zonal/ Sectoral Officers and Zonal/ Sectoral Police officers and allied staff for forthcoming General Election to Lok Sabha 2024 at the Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat, here.

The training program focused on equipping Zonal/ Sectoral Officers and Zonal/ Sectoral Police officers with the necessary skills and knowledge to

effectively manage their designated zones and sectors during the Lok Sabha elections.

The training session was presided over by the District Election Officer (DEO) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan.

Addressing the participants, DEO apprised the officers about their role and urged them to adhere to the rules and regulations, ensuring that elections in the district are conducted in a free, fair and transparent manner. All were apprised about

their role in election process like election management, Assured Minimum facilities, Transport plan, pre-poll, Poll Day Arrangements and post-poll duties of Zonal/ Sectoral Officers and adhering to the provisions of the Model Code of Conduct.

During the training session, SSP Kulgam, Sahil Sarangal also deliberated on the need for alertness and security of the voters and polling parties as the top most priority of the administration duty. The District Level

Master Trainers presented detailed information regarding the preparation and conduct of the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections.

On the occasion, a question answer session was also held during which participants raised several queries to which the Master Trainers gave satisfactory answers, clearing all the doubts about the election procedures and rules.

Dy-DEO, Bilal Kamgar and other District officers also participated in the programme.

DC Kulgam reviews arrangements for Ramadan



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan Monday convened a meeting of concerned officers to review and finalize the arrangements for the ensuing holy month of Ramadan.

During the meeting, the DC instructed Officers of Jal Shakti and KPDCL to ensure hassle free water and electricity supply to the consumers during the month of Ramadan especially at the Sehri and Ifar times.

Emphasizing on the sanitation and lighting of towns and municipal areas, the DC directed Executive Officers of Municipal Committees to launch special cleanli-

ness drives in the district with focus on roads, lanes, drains and regular lifting of wastage from markets and also installation of more lights in their respective towns.

He also directed the concerned to form special market checking squads to keep check on profiteering, hoarding and overcharging by shopkeepers.

The meeting among others was attended by ADDC, Bashir Ahmad Wani; ACR, Ex. Engineer Jal Shakti, Tehsil-dars, AEEs of Jal Shakti, PDD, EOs, officers from Sheep and Animal husbandry and other Officers, besides, Auqaf Committee members and members from trade union also attended the meeting.

Awareness programme on Agri, Allied sector schemes held in B'pora

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: The Department of Agriculture Bandipora and KVK-Gurez of SKUAST-K on Monday organised a day long awareness program regarding various schemes of agriculture and allied sectors.

The programme was presided over by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel Ul Rehman and was attended by ADC Umar Shafi Pandit, Chief Horticulture Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Head KVK Gurez and Bandipora and other concerned.

More than 150 rural youth, SHG members from Bandipora and Gurez participated in the program.

Speaking on the occasion, DC emphasized the involvement of youth in agriculture and allied sectors and sensitizing rural youth about various agricultural and allied sector schemes for fostering sustainable development.

He urged youth to come forward and avail benefits of Government schemes and asked the concerned

officers to initiate a campaign for sensitizing rural youth, SHG members and other stakeholders about the various schemes launched by Government under HADP.

The DC, on the occasion, stressed on officers of agriculture and allied departments to intensify efforts for the hand-holding of youth through various Government schemes.

He said in agriculture and other allied sector schemes, farmers are the main stakeholders and asked the departments to take up the HADP cases on priority.

On the occasion, experts from KVK Gurez, KVK Bandipora, and different departments highlighted measures to promote natural farming practices among farmers besides highlighted provisions of various schemes of Government, launched for farmers welfare.

The speakers also highlighted government initiatives aimed at enhancing agricultural productivity, promoting entrepreneurship, and improving overall livelihood.

Secretary visits Govt Press, inspects functioning

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Secretary ARI and Trainings, Shabnam Kamili, Monday visited the Government Press Srinagar, Sempora and inspected functioning of all its sections.

The Secretary had an extensive tour of different sections of the press complex where she inspected the ongoing works. She interacted with

the press employees enquiring them about the functioning of their respective units.

She also took stock of election related works besides other government tasks being executed in different wings of the press. She directed the General Manager, Government Press Srinagar, Aijaz Ahmad Akhoun, to execute and expedite the Lok Sabha election works on priority basis.

LOK SABHA ELECTION

DEO B'pora constitutes District Grievance Committee



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: In view of the upcoming General Elections to Lok Sabha-2024, the District Election Officer (DEO) Bandipora, Shakeel Ul Rehman Monday constituted a three-member Grievance Committee.

According to the order vide number 25-DEO/BPR of 2024 Dated 10-03-2024, ADDC Bandipora Mohammad Ashraf Bhat shall head the committee with Sheikh Abid Manzoor, DTO Bandipora, Shameem Ahmad, LDM Bandipora, as its members.

The committee has been authorized to 'suo moto' examine each case of seizure made by the police or SST or Flying Squad in violation of the model code of conduct.

Moreover the committee has been asked to follow

the SOPs notified by ECI and the subsequent guidelines via letter No: 76/ECI/SOP/EEM/EEPS/2023, dated: 23/11/2023.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JS-PHE DEPTT. RURAL WATER SUPPLY DIVISION, GANDERBAL/SGR.

H. Q: Duderhama Ganderbal.
e-mail: pherwsd@gmail.com, Phone/ Fax: 0194 - 2416292,

Reference: This Office e-NIT No: 70/JS-PHE/RWSD/Civil of 2023-24, issued Under No: JS-PHE/RWSD/Corrs/ 16144 - 68, Dated: 04.03.2024, Work figuring at S. No: 01 bearing Tender ID No. 2024_PHE_246367_1

CORRIGENDUM

Please read "Supply, installation, testing and commissioning at site of hot & cold commercial water purifier having three dispensing options of hot, cold and ambient water, installation type-table top, filtration technology - reverse osmosis (RO/ ultraviolet (UV), purification rate 10-15 LPH, Storage capacity 12 liters and above, operating input voltage 230 V AC / 50 HZ along with all accessories, carriages upto site of installation complete job including all taxes, levies and overheads as per directions of Engineer In-charge" in respect of item No. 01 for the work advertised vide this office above referred e - NIT No. & date bearing tender id mentioned above, instead of previous nomenclature of the said item.

All other terms and conditions of the e - NIT shall remain unchanged

No. JS-PHE/ RWSD/ Corrs./ 16317 - 41 Sd/-
Date: 07.03.2024. (Er. Samiullah Beigh)
DIPK-17705-23 Executive Engineer JS-PHE,
DT: 11/03/2024 RWS Division Ganderbal/SGR.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR,

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DIVISION BIJBEHARA

e-NIT No. 1170F2023-24 No: PHEB:16091-16101 Dated:-09.03.2024

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Bijbehara invites e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Bidders/Firms/Companies/ of all classes registered in JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other state Government for below mentioned works at various Water Supply schemes of PHE Division Bijbehara of Kashmir Province of UT of J&K.

The bidding process shall be completed online on www.jktenders.gov.in in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2nd consisting of Financial Bid on over all percentage rate basis, in the prescribed BOQ.

Sr No	Particulars of the work Tender fee (inRs)	Estimated cost	Earnest money Deposit	Bid Validity	Time of Completion of work (days)
1	Construction of 10,000 gallons sump and approach road for WSS Tapping of Spring under NABARD.	As per Annexure-I to this bid document-	02% of the estimated cost	180 days	As per ANNEXURE-I to this bid document.

The tender inviting authority is Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Bijbehara.

Critical Dates:

i	Publish Date	09.03.2024 02.00 PM
ii	Document Download/sale start Date	09.03.2024 02.00 PM
iii	Bid submission start date	09.03.2024 02.00 PM
iv	Bid submission end date	14.03.2024 04.00 PM
v	Date and time of Bid opening	15.03.2024 11.00 AM

- Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in
- The whole bidding process shall be completed online on tender portal www.jktenders.gov.in. The intending bidders can download the bid document from the tender portal and can submit their bids by uploading the month tender portal.
- The valid bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer PHE Division Bijbehara. Bids must be accompanied by earnest money and cost of Tender Document as specified in Annexure.
- The cost of tender documents should be in form of DD/TR/e challan in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Division Bijbehara.
- The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of TR/e-challan, Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of financial cover.
- The bids shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the last date of submission of bids. If any bidder withdraws his bid before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid,
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website www.jktenders.gov.in.
- Queries by email if any should be made at phebijbehara230@gmail.com

Unbalanced Tender:

- In case tender of the lowest tenderer is found unbalanced, the successful one shall have to produce additional performance security in shape of CDR/FDR before fixation of contract as per following breakup within a period of 07 days (from opening of tender), failing which the CDR of the tenderer shall be forfeited

S. No.	Percentage of Unbalanced Tender viz advertised cost on account of low rates	Additional performance security
1	Upto and including 15% below	Nil
2	Greater than 15% and upto 20% below	5%
3	Greater than 20% and upto 25% below	10%
4	Greater than 25% and upto 30% below	15%
5	Greater than 30%	20%

ANNEXURE-I

SCHEME WISE LIST OF WORKS

S.No	Description of work	Estimated cost (in Lacs)	Earnest Money	Cost of tender document fee	Class of contract	Time for completion days
1	Construction of 10,000 gallons sump and approach road for WSS Tapping of Spring under NABARD.	12.30	24,600	1000	BEE CEE DEE	45days

Sl No	DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR QUALIFYING
01	Enlistment card Registration with latest card renewal 2023-24 or online mode
02	Card verification
03	Latest GST Certificate along with GST 3B
04	Treasury Challan/e-Challan
05	Scanned copy of the latest Income Tax Return.
06	Earnest Money equivalent to 2% of Advertised Cost shall have to be uploaded by the tenderer in the shape of CDR/FDR without which the tender shall not be entertained
07	Debarred Affidavit duly notarized
08	Bidder Address details
09	Application for pre-Qualification as specified in the NIT.
09	The tenderers who wish to participate shall have to submit/upload the affidavit stating they're in that, if he is declared L1 after opening of financial bid, he will submit the performance security (unbalanced bid) of Advertised cost as mentioned in the NIT.

DIPK-17685-23
DT: 11/08/2024

Executive Engineer
JSD PHE Division Bijbehara

Govt starts conducting safety audit of 10 years old bridges

MUBASHIR AALAM WANI

SRINAGAR: After completing the first leg, the Jammu and Kashmir administration has started another phase of conducting the safety audit of bridges across Jammu and Kashmir.

Initiated in the year 2022, the authorities have completed the process of conducting the safety audit of bridges, which were more than 20 years old.

Officials said the Roads and Buildings department has now initiated conducting a safety audit of bridges, which have completed 10 years.

"The exercise of conducting safety audits of bridges which have completed 20 years concluded during 2022-23. Now, the process of safety audit for bridges, which are 10 years old, has also started," they said.

Officials said the primary objective behind the exercise is to assess the condition of bridges, identify potential weaknesses, and recommend necessary measures to reinforce their structural stability.



"We will soon complete the audit of these leftover bridges as well. Ensuring the safety of bridges is of paramount importance for the well-being of our citizens and the smooth functioning of our infrastructure. This audit will help us address any potential risks and take proactive measures to enhance the durability and safety of these vital structures," they said.

The safety audit encompasses various aspects, including the assessment of structural components, such as the foundation, superstructure, and sub-structure, as well as the examination of factors such as corrosion, wear and tear, and load-bearing capacity. Special attention

is being given to bridges located in areas prone to seismic activity or adverse weather conditions, officials said.

The safety audit of bridges is being conducted given the recent incidents of bridge collapses in India. In August last year, a railway bridge being built across a ravine in Mizoram state collapsed, killing at least 26 labourers working on the project—(KNO)

Dr Mehraj D. Shah, Head of the Research Centre for Residue and Quality Analysis at SKUAST Kashmir said, "Watermelon is not our main crop. Usually, people use ethylene and other chemicals for the quick ripening of the fruit. Any chemical used for earlier ripening isn't good for health, whichever fruit it may be."

He explained, "The maximum permissible level of pesticides is a limit for exported fruits and vegetables that most countries adhere to. Any consignment that exceeds such limits is rejected upon testing. However, such testing isn't conducted for domestic purposes, and these rules aren't applied for local use. It should be implemented here too." Dr Shah said every pes-

RAMADAN

Expert warns against consuming early-ripened fruits

UMAISAR GULL GANIE

SRINAGAR: Experts have strongly advised against consuming early-ripened fruits, especially watermelon, due to potential adverse health effects. They said consumers can distinguish artificially ripened fruits by their taste, which often lacks the sweetness found in mature fruits.

Dr Mehraj D. Shah, Head of the Research Centre for Residue and Quality Analysis at SKUAST Kashmir said, "Watermelon is not our main crop. Usually, people use ethylene and other chemicals for the quick ripening of the fruit. Any chemical used for earlier ripening isn't good for health, whichever fruit it may be."

He explained, "The maximum permissible level of pesticides is a limit for exported fruits and vegetables that most countries adhere to. Any consignment that exceeds such limits is rejected upon testing. However, such testing isn't conducted for domestic purposes, and these rules aren't applied for local use. It should be implemented here too." Dr Shah said every pes-

icide, once sprayed, has a waiting period before consumption. "However, there are no such criteria in Kashmir or any other part of the country. There is a need for testing procedures for fruits and vegetables regarding forced ripening or natural ripening," he said.



Fruits arriving early in the market are either the result of chemical use or the injection of chemicals after the fruit is set to be transported, which is very unhealthy, the doctor said,

adding that forced ripening fruits lack natural taste and their Total Soluble Sugars (TSS), which determine maturity index, couldn't be seen in such fruits.

The expert said that testing would determine the maturity of the fruit as every pesticide has adverse effects.

During Ramadan, to manage water levels in the body, there are other options than watermelon, Dr Shah added.

Chairman of Kash-

mir Valley Fruit Growers Union, Bashir Ahmad Basher told KNO that they have no idea about artificially ripened fruits. He said the concerned authorities should test the fruits.

According to Bashir, Kashmir receives watermelon even in winter, but people usually consume it during Ramadan. "We can't determine whether the fruit is ripened artificially or mature. It can be scientifically checked by authorities only," he said—(KNO)

Passengers aghast over non-acceptance of Chalo App e-tickets

NAVEED UL HAQ

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

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

"I recently travelled in a Smart City bus and obtained a ticket through the Chalo App. However, when I presented the e-ticket to the conductor, he flatly rejected it," Mohammad Yousuf, a passenger said.

"To my dismay, I had no choice but to pay the fare again," he lamented.

The incident has raised concerns among passengers who have embraced the convenience of digital ticketing but now face hurdles in the form of conductors unwilling to acknowledge the Chalo App-generated e-tickets.

Another passenger told KNO that he recently travelled in one of these buses from Srinagar to Chadoora

and realised he was low on cash. "I generated an e-ticket using the Chalo App and made the payment online. I feel ashamed because the conductor didn't accept my ticket when I showed it to him," he said.

In December 2023, Srinagar Smart City Ltd announced a partnership with the free Chalo App to help passengers access e-bus facilities, such as the ability to view bus schedules, track the real-time location of e-buses, or pay conductors directly through a smart wallet.

"However, to date, these e-buses do not accept tickets generated via the Chalo App," said students who board these buses daily.

Sahil Ahmad, a college student, said, "We are not earning yet, a mere 25 rupees means a lot to us."

People have urged the Smart City authorities to address the issue immediately to ensure passengers can fully benefit from the digital infrastructure in place.

An official of the Srinagar Smart City said they will look into the matter. He assured that the issue will be resolved at the earliest—(KNO)

Kashmiris were deceived in the name of 'Azaadi' over past 75 years: Azad

ALI ASAD

SRINAGAR: At a public meeting in Anantnag on Monday, Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) chief and former Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad castigated leaders who he accused of deceiving the people of Jammu and Kashmir with false promises of Azaadi and autonomy over the past 75 years.

Azad emphasized that every party, whether national or regional, has had the opportunity to govern in Jammu and Kashmir, providing the people with a choice in selecting a government that works for their interests. He condemned the leaders who, he claimed, had exploited the aspirations of Kashmiris for their own political gains.

In a direct attack on the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Azad refuted accusations of being the B Team of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), asserting that those leveling such accusations had themselves collaborated with the BJP in the past. He highlighted instances of leaders beginning their political careers as

ministers in BJP governments.

Azad also expressed skepticism about the potential impact of the Modi wave in Jammu and Kashmir, citing the region's distinct cultural identity. "It is difficult to say whether the Modi wave will have any impact in Jammu and Kashmir or not. Jammu and Kashmir is different from other states of India. Due to its mixed culture, it is difficult to say who will influence Jammu and Kashmir," Azad said.

He noted the complexity of the political landscape in the state and the difficulty in predicting which influences would resonate with its diverse population.

Regarding the recent entry of Arun Goyal, a former Election Commissioner, into politics, Azad downplayed concerns about its adverse effects. He stated that while it may be unusual for an Election Commissioner to resign and join politics, it is not unprecedented in India. Azad reassured the gathering that such transitions have occurred before and should not be cause for alarm—(KNO)

EK BHARAT SHRESHTHA BHARAT

CBC Srinagar hosts insightful Seminar on NEP-2020

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Central Bureau of Communication (CBC) Srinagar, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Govt of India Monday organized a day-long seminar at Ganderbal, focusing on the transformative impacts of the New Education Policy 2020 (NEP) and Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat initiative in realising the dream of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

The seminar was part of the ongoing five-day exhibition being held by the Bureau at Mini Secretariat Ganderbal on Viksit Bharat.

Speakers including Mohammad Yousuf Wani, Principal DIET Ganderbal, Asma Zahoor, Nazir Ahmed Lone, and Shamsul Haq delivered comprehensive lectures and presentations, shedding light on various aspects of NEP 2020 and its practical implementation within Jammu and Kashmir. They also elaborated on the remarkable achievements and effective execution of diverse educational schemes aimed at fostering inclusive education across Ganderbal district.

Highlighting the pivotal role of NEP, the resource persons emphasized its potential as a catalyst in realizing the vision of a developed India by 2047, underscoring its significance as a transformative



force in the educational landscape.

The resource persons also delved into the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Programme, specifically addressing its implications for Jammu and Kashmir in showcasing J&K's rich cultural heritage across the country.

A short documentary showcasing the strides made towards inclusive education in Ganderbal district was also played for the audiences.

An open quiz was also organised for the participants who were later awarded with trophies and certificates.

The Cultural troupes empanelled with CBC

Srinagar entertained the audiences with colourful performances on various themes including Viksit Bharat, Mission Life, Agnipath, Swachh Bharat etc.

On the concluding day of the exhibition tomorrow, resource persons from the Agriculture, Horticulture, and Fisheries departments will deliver lectures on their respective schemes.

These departments have also set up informative stalls, offering a glimpse into their initiatives and employment opportunities, thus empowering attendees with valuable insights into diverse career paths.

State-level 'India Skills Competitions' held at IHM

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The J&K Skill Development Mission, in collaboration with Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), GoI and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) Monday held State Level Competition of Cooking skill at Institute of Hotel Management.

The candidates from J&K participated in the state level competition, which will lead to being selected to participate in Pre-National competitions and National level competitions and finally the winner will participate in World Skills Competitions scheduled in Lyon, France later this year.

Such initiatives are necessary for the youth



to showcase their skills for exploring better employment opportunities in the advanced relevant fields, said Chef Yasin who was as Jury for competition.

Dr. Safiq ur Rehman, another Jury Member said that our skilled youth must make maximum use of such opportunities.

JKSDM will continue

to organize such initiatives and give opportunities to youth of J&K. State Level Competitions in 18 skill sets are being conducted at various venues across the UT wherein more than 250 candidates will compete to represent J&K in Pre National and National Level Competitions, Leena Padma, Mission Director, JKSDM said.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE DEVSAR

Subject:- Extension of Tender for Adda Entry Fee/Terminal Tax Colletion contract published vide E-NIT No: MC/DVR/2023-24/58 Dated: 04-03-2024

Due to poor response to the Tender Notice issued/ circulated vide this office No. MC/DVR/2023-24/58 Dated: 04-03-2024, is hereby extended upto 21-03-2024. The documents can be obtained/downloaded from the designated portal i.e.; jktenders web site till 21-03-2024 upto 02:00 pm. The other terms & conditions will remain same as laid down in the basic Tender Notice. The bid shall be opened on the Next day i.e.; 22-03-2024 at 12.00 pm

No.- MC/DVR/2023-24/2859-62
 Dated:- 11-03-2024

Sd/
 Executive Officer,
 Municipal Committee, Devsar

DIPK-NB-5993-23
 DT: 11/03/2024

Dir Agri inaugurates Hi-tech Polyhouse in Kulgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal Monday conducted an extensive visit to different areas of Kulgam.

During the visit, the Director reviewed the progress on different works under Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP). He also inaugurated a hi-tech polyhouse at Radwani Kulgam. He inspected different under-construction hi-tech polyhouses in different areas of Kulgam District. He also visited the Bio ponics saffron corm production unit at Kulgam.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director highlighted the importance of different projects under

(HADP). He said the projects under HADP have been designed in such a way that the small and marginal farmers could establish their own agriculture income based units.

He acknowledged the significance of awareness among the farming community and asked the officers to sensitize and encourage the farmers to avail benefits of various projects under (HADP). He impressed upon them to put in all the efforts and ensure that all the set targets under different projects of (HADP) are achieved in a time-bound manner.

Chief agriculture officer Kulgam, Reyaz Ahmad Malik and other officers of the district were present on the occasion.

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI(PHE)DEPTT.
GROUND WATER DIVISION SRINAGAR BAGHI-ALI-MARDAN, NOWSHARA SRINAGAR.
 E-mail:- phegwd@yahoo.com, Tel./FaxNo:- 0194-2411285

EXTENSION NOTICE 2ND

Sub: 1. Design, supply, installation of dual solar drinking water pumping system with inbuilt controller and borewell (Spv dual pumps) of capacity of 2 hp 9 m height staging / 10kl tank, with five years on site and unconditional warrantee anywhere in UT of J&K on turnkey basis for Kupwara constituency.

2. Design, supply, installation of dual solar drinking water pumping system with inbuilt controller and borewell (spv dual pumps) of capacity of 2 hp 9 m height staging / 10kl tank, with five years on site and unconditional warrantee anywhere in UT of J & K on turnkey basis for Handwara constituency.

3. Design, supply, installation of dual solar drinking water pumping system with inbuilt controller and borewell (spv dual pumps) of capacity of 2 hp 9 m height staging / 10kl tank, with five years on site and unconditional Warrantee anywhere in ut of j&k on turnkey basis for various constituencies of Kupwara district.

Refer Due to "No Response" for the work advertised vide e-NIT No: 56/ JS- PHE/GWDS/Mech. Of 2023-24 issued vide this office endorsement No: JS-PHE/ GWDS/ Corrs. /10075-87, Dated: 12-02-2024 bearing tender ID No: 2024_PHE_244794_1,2 & 3. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 11-03-2024 Up-to 02:00 PM are extended as per the details given below: -

S. No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Period of submission of bids	18-03-2024 Up-to 09:00 AM
2.	Date of opening of tenders	18-03-2024 04.00 PM

NOTE:
 All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endstt: nos.

No: JS-PHE/GWDS/Corrs./11291-300
 Dated: 11-03-2024

DIPK-17730-23
 DT: 11/03/2024

Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
 Ground Water Division Srinagar.

Adenomyosis On The Rise Among Indian Women



DR. PRADEEP MULEY

Adenomyosis, a condition characterized by the abnormal growth of endometrial tissue within the muscular walls of the uterus, has become an increasingly prevalent concern among Indian women in recent years. Pertaining to the same, it is crucial to shed light on this rising trend, exploring its causes, associated issues, and the innovative non-surgical approach of Uterine Artery Embolization (UAE) in treating adenomyosis.

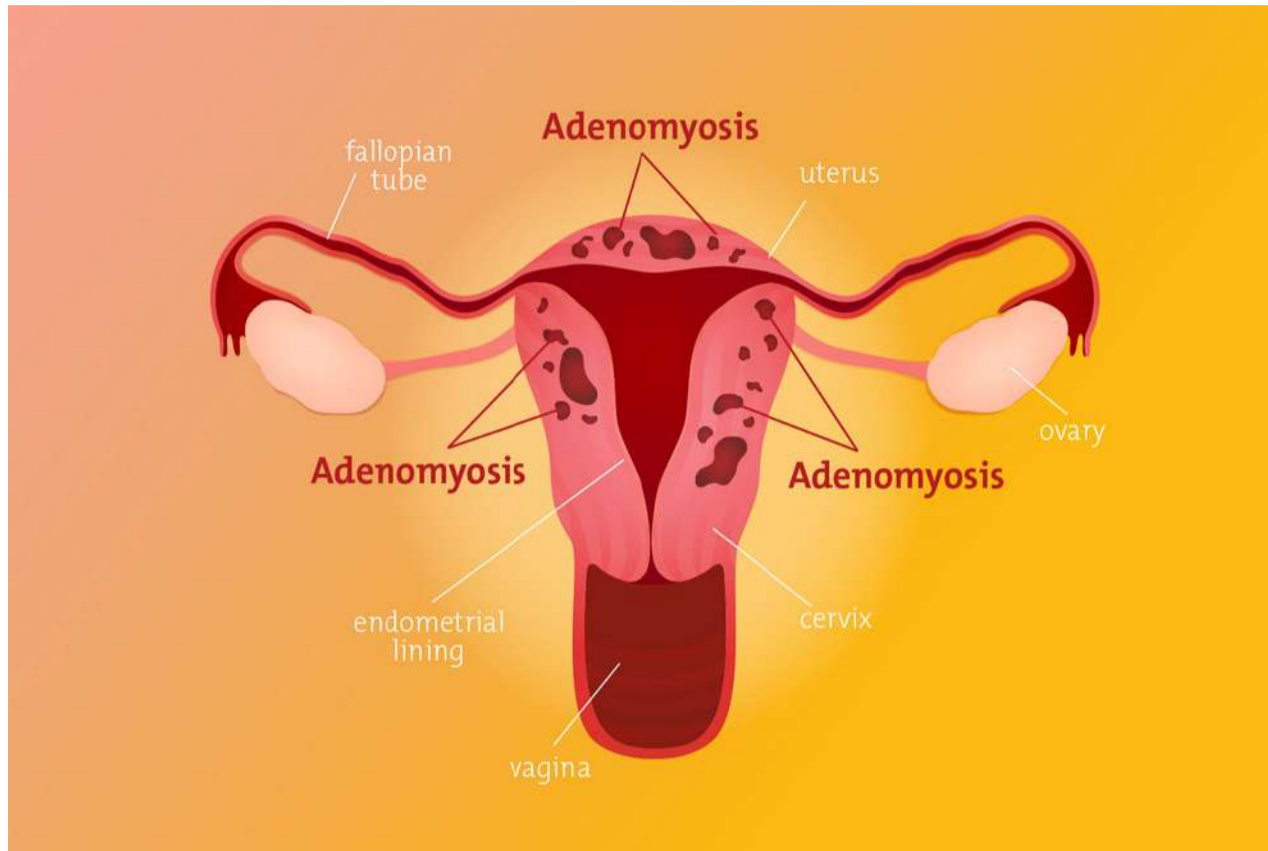
Causes & associated ailments

Adenomyosis poses unique challenges to women's health, impacting their overall well-being and reproductive capabilities. The exact cause of adenomyosis remains unclear, but hormonal imbalances, inflammation, and genetic factors are believed to contribute to its development. The condition often presents with symptoms such as heavy menstrual bleeding, severe pelvic pain, and discomfort during intercourse. These symptoms not only affect a woman's quality of life but can also lead to long-term complications if left untreated.

Traditionally, the management of adenomyosis has involved hormonal therapies, pain medications, and, in severe cases, surgical interventions like hysterectomy. However, with advancements in medical technology, non-surgical alternatives have emerged as effective options for addressing adenomyosis, with Uterine Artery Embolization standing out as a promising solution.

Advanced non-surgical procedure - Uterine Artery Embolization

Uterine Artery Embolization is a minimally invasive procedure that involves blocking the blood vessels supplying the uterus with tiny particles. This process restricts blood flow to the abnormal tissue, causing it to shrink and alleviating symptoms associated



with adenomyosis. Unlike conventional surgical approaches, UAE preserves the uterus, offering women an option to retain their reproductive capabilities.

One of the key advantages of Uterine Artery Embolization is its minimal invasiveness, reducing the need for major surgery and the associated risks. Patients typically experience a quicker recovery with shorter hospital stays compared to traditional surgical interventions. Moreover, UAE offers a fertility-preserving alternative, making it an attractive option for women who wish to conceive in the future.

UAE vs Conventional treatment

Compared to other conservative treatments such as hormonal therapies, Uterine Artery Embolization directly addresses the abnormal tissue growth within the uterine walls. Hormonal treatments may provide temporary relief, but they often come with side

effects and may not be suitable for all women, especially those seeking fertility preservation. UAE, on the other hand, offers a targeted approach with lasting results.

Furthermore, Uterine Artery Embolization has proven effective in managing adenomyosis-related symptoms, including heavy menstrual bleeding and pelvic pain. Studies have shown that the majority of women who undergo UAE experience significant improvement in their quality of life, with a reduction in pain and an enhancement in overall well-being.

It is crucial to highlight that Uterine Artery Embolization is not a one-size-fits-all solution. Patient selection is key, and a thorough evaluation by a qualified healthcare professional is essential to determine the suitability of UAE for an individual case. The procedure is generally well-tolerated, but like any medical

intervention, it carries potential risks and complications that should be discussed with the treating physician.

The rising incidences of adenomyosis among Indian women underscore the importance of exploring advanced and effective treatment options. Uterine Artery Embolization emerges as a game-changer in managing adenomyosis, offering a non-surgical alternative with minimal invasiveness, shorter recovery times, and fertility preservation. As we continue to advance in the field of women's health, it is imperative that both healthcare providers and patients are informed about innovative solutions like UAE that can significantly improve the lives of those affected by adenomyosis.

Author is Consultant - Interventional Radiology, Fortis Hospital Vasant Kunj, New Delhi

Ramadan Blessings

The holy month of Ramadan is here. Ramadan is a month of blessings. It is a month in which all able-bodied Muslims are required to observe fast from pre-dawn to sunset. Ramadan has more to do with spiritual rejuvenation, good deeds, charity, and social work. The concept of Ramadan is to give food and clothes to the poor, have mercy on the people doing manual labor, helping each other, speaking truth, working with honesty, showing honesty in all business transactions, weighing things properly, and maintaining good hygiene. The holy month of Ramadan entails waking up during pre-dawn hours necessitating power supply during those hours. In the decades of 90s when Ramadan fell in core winter months most of the times during Sehri there would be no power supply. The situation has improved somewhat but still we see that in a lot of areas there is little to no power supply during the pre-dawn Sehri hours. The same holds true during Taraweeh hours. There have been frequent power cuts during these hours as well. The government is duty bound to ensure proper power supply during these hours. Ramadan is a month of piety, charity, and justice. We must do introspection around us and see how many unskilled, unemployed youth we have around us and try to empower them with the requisite skills so that they can find a foothold for their career. For those already earning enough we must ensure that they are able to get married. There still are thousands of unmarried girls who have reached the age of marriage but cannot afford to get married due to the circumstances. This is a month when we have to care as much for others as we do for ourselves.

There still are countries in the world where peace is elusive. We must pray for peace all around the world. All disputes must be settled through peace. We must also be a little sympathetic to those people who have exerted a lot physically to earn their living. Let this month give us a new hope.

PMGKAY: A Giant Hug From PM Modi



PROF. JASIM MOHAMMAD

When the world was battling a big, scary monster COVID-19,

Prime Minister Narendra Modi stepped forward with a vision to protect his people, decided to do something special for its people. Just as a gardener tends to every plant, making sure they all flourish, PM Modi showed the world how leadership can be both strong and kind. With a heart as big as the ocean, he decided to weave a net of safety and care around every single person in need. Imagine him standing at the helm, guiding India with a steady hand and a compassionate heart, determined to ensure that not a single soul would be left to battle the storm of hunger alone.

Imagine a giant umbrella, strong enough to shelter over 80 crore people from a rain of hunger. This umbrella is called the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), a magical initiative by the Indian government that was like a warm hug to those who needed it the most. This scheme was initially meant to be a temporary relief measure during the Covid-19 pandemic, but it has been extended several times and is now expected to continue till 2028. The scheme is estimated to cost Rs 2 lakh crore annually in subsidies, making it the largest food security programme in the world.

Every month, the scheme gives out 5 kg of free food grains to those who find it hard to afford enough food in addition to the subsidized

**PRADHAN MANTRI
GARIB KALYAN PACKAGE**

PM Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana

Farmers, Women Jan Dhan Account Holders, MGNREGA workers, Women SHGs, Old Age / Widow / Disabled pensioners, private employees to benefit

ration provided under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) to families covered under the Public Distribution System (PDS). It's like a friend who brings extra snacks to share, making sure no one goes hungry during a picnic. This isn't just any food; it's extra help on top of what some people already get at lower prices. The government picks out families who really need this help, kind of like choosing teammates in a game, making sure the ones who need a boost get it first.

The Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, kind of like the captain of a big ship, praised this big umbrella as a gift of kindness. It's like the ship is sailing through stormy seas, and this umbrella is making sure everyone stays dry and safe. But, just like in any story, there are folks who worry. They think this big umbrella

might be too expensive, or that people might get too used to staying under it, even when the sun comes back out. Some even worry that making such a big umbrella could be really hard or might not be the best for our planet.

But if we zoom out and look at the bigger picture, what we see is pretty amazing. This umbrella isn't just about the food or the money; it's about making sure everyone feels safe and cared for. It's about not letting anyone feel left out because they don't have enough to eat. Sure, there are challenges, but at the heart of it all is a simple, beautiful idea: everyone deserves to have enough food to eat.

The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) is like a fairy tale come to life. Imagine a vast garden where every flower, regardless of its colour or size, gets an equal share of

sunlight and water. This initiative is the gardener, making sure that no flower wilts under the harsh sun of hardship.

Let's imagine for a moment a kingdom where every festival, every celebration, isn't shadowed by the specter of hunger. Where the poorest villager has the same sparkle in their eye as the wealthiest, because in the realm of basic needs, they are equals. This is the kingdom the PMGKAY envisions, a place where the warmth of generosity melts away the cold fear of scarcity.

And in this narrative of care and community, it's important to remember the power of simple acts. Just as a single lamp can light up a dark room, the act of ensuring no one goes to bed hungry illuminates the collective soul of the nation. So, the magic doesn't come from mythical creatures or enchanted

objects, but from the power of empathy, from the belief that in a world of plenty, no one should have to know the pain of hunger. Helping each other, especially those who need it most, is what makes us strong. It's about coming together, like a big family, making sure everyone has a place at the table. And while we work out the best way to hold up this big umbrella, let's not forget the smiles it brings to faces, the hope it lights up in hearts, and the strength it builds in our community. After all, the true measure of how great we are is how we take care of each other, and with efforts like the PMGKAY, India is showing the world just how big its heart is.

Author is Professor and the Chairman Centre for Narendra Modi Studies (CNMS), Bharat. He can be mailed at profjasimmd@gmail.com

IDEAS, OPINIONS AND VIEWS EXPRESSED IN ARTICLES PUBLISHED ARE WRITERS' OWN AND MAY NOT BE FOUND IN ACCORD WITH THOSE OF GOOD MORNING KASHMIR

Good Morning Kashmir

Printer, Publisher, Owner, Editor in Chief:
Javed Ashraf Shah

Associate Editor:
Mir Suhail

Bureau Chief Jammu:
Harbans Nagokay

Manager:
Peer Sajad

R.N.I No: JKENG/2010/36998
Regd No: 109555

Office No: 0194-3593724

Email:
goodmorningkashmir@gmail.com

Office Address:
B-11, Budshah Flats, Jehangir Chowk, Srinagar-190001

Printed at:
Khidmat Offset Printing Press, The Bund, Srinagar

Published From:
Main Bus Stand, Near Masjid Rehmat, Lal Bazar, Srinagar - 190023

Layout Designer
Aijaz Ahmad Dar

'Not Natural Disasters'

Manmade Barriers Block Access To TB Care



SHOBHA SHUKLA / BOBBY RAMAKANT

It is not natural disasters (like hurricanes or storms) which block access to TB care services most times, but manmade barriers that fuel injustices, inequities, greed, and risk factors that put people at risk of TB disease and death.

Since these are manmade barriers, it is we who have to unmake them if we are to walk the talk on the promise to end TB and deliver on sustainable development 'where no one is left behind'. There is no other choice because it is a human rights imperative to end TB and deliver on #HealthForAll and #SDGs. And there is no excuse for inaction as clock is ticking: Only 21 months left to end TB in India, and 81 months left to end TB globally (by 2030).

Like justice, health is never given, it is won

"Like justice, health is never given, it is won," said a media release by United Nations joint programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) on International Women's Day.

But if justice and equality can become centre-stage in our world – from the point-of-view of the least served, least represented and least visible communities – and if they are served first with respect and equity, then perhaps we can avert a social uprising to get a just access to health and development for everyone. But then this is a big 'but'!

"We have allowed inequities to mar the TB response," said Dr Lucica Ditiu, Executive Director of Stop TB Partnership. Old TB guidelines of the past years will show how drug-resistant TB, or TB in children were on the blindspot in the Global South. Even data of TB in children for example has started coming forward from high TB burden nations only since the past decade. But richer nations of the Global North were diagnosing and treating drug-resistant TB, TB in children or extrapulmonary TB (TB of body parts other than lungs). "We cannot have double standards," rightly said Dr Lucica Ditiu, who was speaking at the 2024 World Social Forum (WSF 2024) in Nepal. Since Dr Ditiu has taken charge of the global Stop TB Partnership in Geneva in 2011, TB guidelines are uniform for rich and poor nations alike.

Listen to the ones we serve

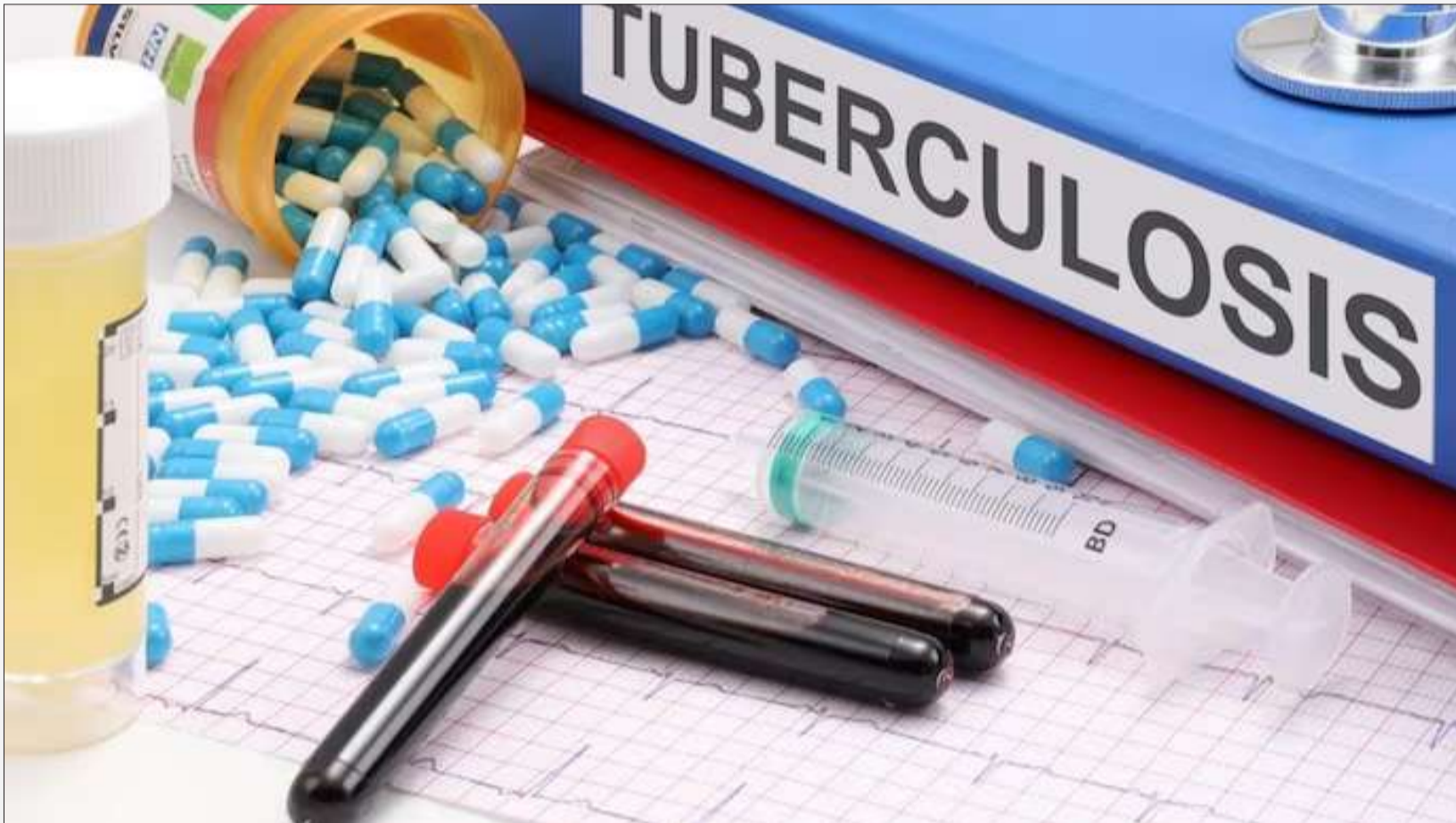
But are we finding TB, treating TB and preventing TB everywhere with the best of tools science has gifted us? Why is 140+ years old microscopy still being used in high TB burden nations to screen and diagnose TB? Why are older, longer, less effective, more toxic treatment regimens still being used? Why is TB prevention on the backseat?

Preventing people with latent TB from progressing to active TB disease is possible with the best of available treatments and complemented with nutrition, along with ending tobacco and alcohol, and preventing diabetes, other non-communicable diseases, hunger, poverty, HIV, and a range of other TB risk factors. Are governments not committed to deliver on addressing these TB risk factors, alongside ending TB by 2030 (as they have promised)?

"We must secure the same equitable access to TB care services for everybody. We cannot do this equitably and justly unless we create the processes and systems to embrace everybody by listening to the ones we serve," said Dr Lucica Ditiu at WSF 2024.

Why is A missing in development?

Is it not high time to set (A) accountability if even one TB death is a death too many? Despite having highly accurate tests to diagnose TB early (such as molecular tests recommended by the World Health Organization – WHO), shorter and more effective treatments (1 month regimen for latent TB, 4 months for drug-sensitive TB, and 6 months for drug-resistant TB), and scientific evidence-backed know-how to prevent TB, who is responsible for at least 10.6 million people who suffered from TB disease globally in 2022, out of which



1.3 million died?

Science has gifted us tools to test, treat and prevent TB but are we using them?

"Science has never been at fault, but implementation has been lacking," said Professor (Dr) Rajendra Prasad, Dr BC Roy National Awardee who has made a seminal contribution towards shaping India's TB response in various capacities since 1976 onwards. He was speaking in the End TB Dialogues hosted by CNS at the 78th National Conference of Tuberculosis and Chest Diseases (NATCON), in Thrissur, Kerala.

Richer nations, like Australia for example, were able to deploy age-old tools in 1960s-1970s to screen everyone and find all TB, treat all TB and prevent all TB. The rate of TB in some of the richer nations is already at the much sought-after elimination levels. Then why was it not replicated to fight TB in the rest of the world?

Sumit Mitra, President of Molbio

global health challenges in the Global South are so predominant and deadly that they are thwarting health security and sustainable development.

The Deadly Divide in 2024

WHO's highest level initiative Find.Treat.All - backed by Stop TB Partnership and others (first launched in 2018), calls upon all countries to replace a TB test (microscopy which underperforms in diagnosing TB) 100% with WHO-recommended highly accurate molecular tests by 2027. But only 47% of those with TB disease got a molecular test diagnosis in 2022 as per the WHO Global TB Report 2023. If we use a bad test that underperforms in diagnosing TB (like microscopy) we will miss TB even among those who take that test. These people who are not accurately and timely diagnosed suffer unnecessarily due to TB, as well as the infection keeps spreading from one person to another. Making upfront molecular test diagnosis is an essential cog in

with a test called drug susceptibility test (DST). Those who get upfront molecular test for TB also can know if they are resistant to one (or few) of the medicines. Not doing upfront DST before initiating the treatment is clinical malpractice, had said Dr Mario Raviglione over 10 years ago to CNS. He was the Director of the WHO Global Tuberculosis Programme for almost 1.5 decades. Now, Dr Raviglione is a Professor of Global Health at the University of Milan, Italy, and founding director of the Centre for Multidisciplinary Research on Health Science. He is also an honorary professor in Queen Mary University London.

Dr Raviglione commented on a LinkedIn post recently: "Indeed, if it [not doing upfront DST] were malpractice 10 years ago in the first years of the era of rapid molecular testing for TB and drug resistance, today it is a crime. Who would ever treat any life-threatening infectious disease

that can make it happen if they just speak louder and keep acting!", said Dr Raviglione.

Why are 1/4/6 regimens not a reality for everyone in need?

Today we have the best of treatment regimens that can treat latent TB in 1 month, drug-sensitive TB in 4 months, and drug-resistant TB in 6 months. All of these are all-oral treatment regimens, and they are also far more effective and less toxic than the earlier ones. And yet, ALL people in high TB burden nations are not able to access them.

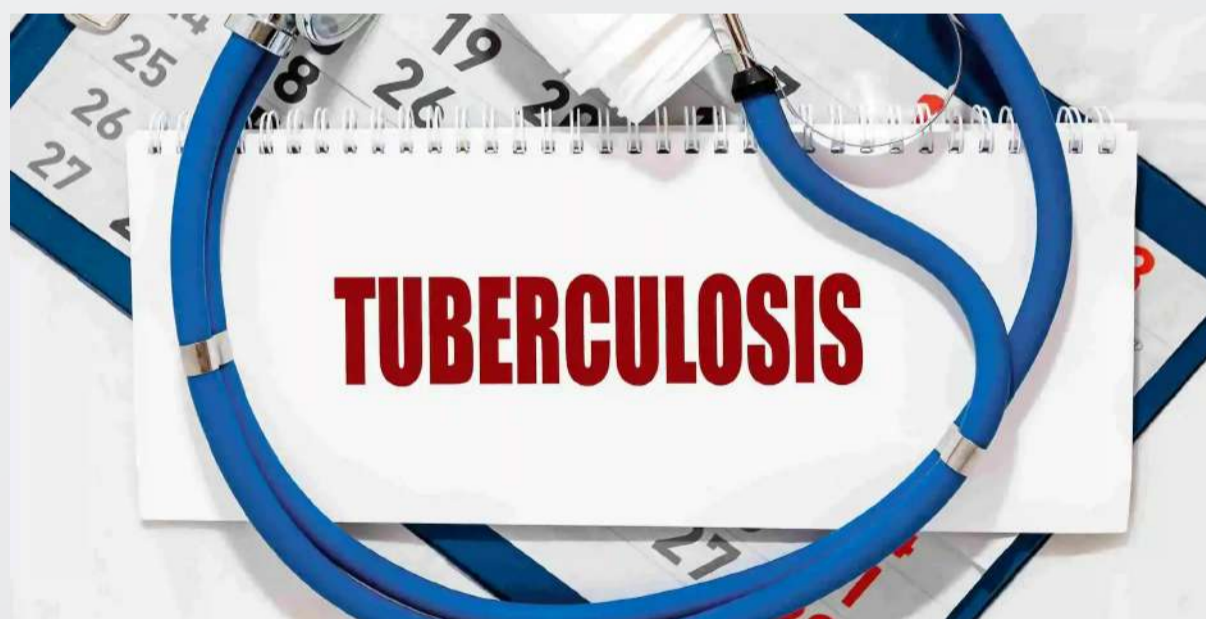
"My dream is to have one treatment to treat all forms of TB – be it drug-sensitive or drug-resistant," says Professor (Dr) Rajendra Prasad who has served the TB response for over 50 years.

End the deadly divide between

But richer nations of the Global North were diagnosing and treating drug-resistant TB, TB in children or extrapulmonary TB (TB of body parts other than lungs). "We cannot have double standards," rightly said Dr Lucica Ditiu, who was speaking at the 2024 World Social Forum (WSF 2024) in Nepal.

'what we know' and 'what we do'
Science has told us what works best to find all TB, treat all TB and prevent all TB. But the reality on the ground is very different at times than 'what we know is best to do'. We need to end this gap and find all TB, treat all TB and stop the spread of infection – at the earliest.

Shobha Shukla and Bobby Ramakant co-lead the editorial of CNS (Citizen News Service) and on the governing board of Global Antimicrobial Resistance Media Alliance (GAMA) and Asia Pacific Media Alliance for Health and Development (APCAT Media). Follow them on Twitter @shobhaishukla and @bobbyramakant



Diagnostics and a thought leader on point-of-care and point-of-need diagnostics, spoke in the recently concluded World Social Forum 2024 (WSF 2024). He wondered that when less than a quarter of the world's population lives in the Global North (richer nations) then why do those in the Global North have decision-making powers when it comes to global health – especially when health challenges are way more profound in the Global South?

What works really well in the Global North may not work well in the South. Health technologies conceived, designed, and manufactured in the Global North, and funded mostly by the Global North, are being rolled out in the Global South in a way those sitting in the North decide, said Mitra.

"I have every right to demand the best possible diagnosis and treatment. Just because someone is born in the Global North, her/ his/ their right to a healthy life is not in any way higher than mine," added Mitra.

There are inequities and injustices within richer nations too. However

the wheel to finding all TB - and entry gate to TB care pathway.

Addressing human-made inequities that jeopardise access to TB care services remains a critical bottleneck. We are failing to 'reach the unreachable' – at least one-third of the estimated people with TB globally are not notified to TB programmes (we do not know how, if at all, they get a TB test or treatment or any other care or support). Walking the talk on what Mitra and Dr Ditiu have said - to end inequities in global health – is key. Let us take the best of existing TB services equitably to the communities (and closer to the people) in high TB burden settings with dignity and respect.

Linking all those diagnosed with effective and best of WHO recommended treatments is vital.

Antimicrobial resistance is among top-10 global health threats

When it comes to treatment, we have to ensure that a person is being treated with a regimen of medicines to which her/ his/ their TB bacteria is not resistant to. This is possible

without DST in 2024?"

"The acceleration of doing upfront DST we thought would happen when the new End TB strategy was endorsed by the World Health Assembly in 2014. But it did not become a reality due to many factors, including, but not limited to, COVID-19. Even before it, there was no acceleration in decline of TB incidence and death despite high-level political events. Evidently, we need much more on commitment, persistence and research investments. We are all simply not doing enough to address TB-specific challenges, broader health service and system weaknesses, and social determinants of diseases of poverty. At this pace, TB elimination will remain a dream of a few visionary people, while 'the youth grow pale and spectre-thin and die.' In the end it comes down to political will at the highest level. Where this will be present results were quick: think about the dozen antiretroviral medicines (ARVs) and rapid HIV diagnostics available and the COVID-19 vaccine. In TB we need exactly the same approach. Citizens are the ones

Post-Workout Meal: Avoid These Foods For Better Overall Health

Certain foods may not be ideal choices for post-workout meals due to factors such as slow digestion, high fat content, or potential to cause digestive discomfort. Continue reading as we share a list of foods you should avoid post-workout and suggestions for foods you should consume instead.

10 Foods to avoid as post-workout meals:

1. Fried foods
High in unhealthy fats and can be hard to digest, slowing down the absorption of nutrients. Instead try grilled or baked lean protein sources like chicken or fish.
2. Sugary cereals
Sugary cereals have high sugar content that can lead to an energy crash after an initial spike in blood sugar. Whole-grain cereal with added protein (such as Greek yogurt or milk)

for sustained energy may be a better alternative.

3. High-fat foods
High-fat foods slow down digestion which may cause discomfort during exercise, and fats can slow down the absorption of nutrients. Opt for moderate amounts of healthy fats, such as avocados or nuts, consumed a few hours before the workout.
4. Soda or sugary drinks
These drinks have high sugar content and empty calories without providing essential nutrients. Water, coconut water, or a protein shake with water or low-fat milk are encouraged instead.
5. Spicy foods
Spicy foods may cause digestive discomfort and heartburn during physical activity. Choose milder seasonings and spices for post-workout meals.
6. High-fibre foods
High-fibre foods that have too much fibre can cause bloat-



ing and gas during exercise. Opt for moderate amounts of easily digestible fibre, such as from fruits or whole grains.

7. Raw vegetables

Raw vegetables are high in fibre and can potentially cause bloating. Cooking can make them easier to digest. Include cooked or steamed vegetables

for easier digestion.

8. Processed or fast food
These foods are high in unhealthy fats, sodium, and low in essential nutrients. Whole,

minimally processed foods like grilled chicken, whole grains, and vegetables may be better for your health.

9. Dairy (for some individuals):
Some people may experience digestive issues due to lactose intolerance. If tolerated, low-fat or lactose-free dairy options like yogurt can provide protein and calcium.
10. Alcohol
Alcohol can be dehydrating and can impair muscle recovery. Instead consume water, herbal tea, or electrolyte-rich beverages to rehydrate.

For an optimal post-workout meal, focus on a combination of protein and carbohydrates to replenish glycogen stores and support muscle recovery.

Here are some healthier post-workout food options:

Grilled chicken or turkey breast as lean proteins help in muscle repair

Salmon or tuna as they are rich in omega-3 fatty acids for anti-inflammatory benefits

Quinoa or brown rice are complex carbohydrates that can replenish glycogen stores

Sweet potatoes as they are a good source of complex carbohydrates and vitamins

Greek yogurt is high in protein and can provide a good source of probiotics

Fruits are abundant in natural sugars and antioxidants for energy and recovery

Smoothies with protein powder are a convenient way to get a mix of protein and carbohydrates

Remember, individual dietary needs vary, and it's essential to listen to your body. Consult with a nutritionist or healthcare professional for personalised advice based on your specific goals and dietary requirements.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

CEC Arrives In Srinagar

to hold Assembly polls in Jammu & Kashmir by September 30, 2024. Jammu & Kashmir is without an elected government since June 19, 2018 when BJP withdrew support to Mehbooba Mufti-led government, citing "deteriorating security situation" in the erstwhile state of J&K—(KNO)

'Don't Touch Innocent,

said the endeavour of the Government of India and the UT Administration on the theme 'Leave No Child Behind' is a reflection of our commitment to develop a sensitive, supportive ecosystem for young generation.

"Every child deserves a caring home. We are strengthening the mechanism of adoption to secure a happy childhood for each and every child in J&K," the Lt Governor said.

He said, under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, the administration is working with full sensitivity to connect children in need with institutional and non-institutional systems and empower them to contribute to nation building.

Children in institutional care are being provided support to facilitate their re-integration into mainstream after attaining 18 years of age, the Lt Governor added.

The Lt Governor asked the Police and security forces to take preemptive measures to ensure that no innocent child falls victim to adversary's nefarious design.

Those elements responsible for terrorism in J&K are making malicious attempts to lure young boys and girls into unlawful activities. Our Police and Security forces must remain vigilant. 'Don't Touch the Innocent and Don't Spare the Culprit' is our policy, he said.

He also highlighted the important role of stakeholders, volunteers and youth clubs in rehabilitation of the children in conflict with law.

Addressing the inaugural session, the Lt Governor shared the key initiatives taken by the administration towards developing a conducive environment for the care and protection of children in the Union Territory.

Juvenile Justice is an integral part of the nation's development. Juvenile Justice Rules 2021 were issued and the rules were notified under the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act. Further, the Juvenile Justice Board was reorganized and the rehabilitation policy for children living in street situations was notified, the Lt Governor said.

Speaking on the reforms introduced in the last few years, the Lt Governor said that before 2019, there was no established mechanism for adoption of children in Jammu Kashmir. We have established UT Level Adoption Resource Agency and today 12 Specialized Adoption Agencies, Cradle Baby Reception are operational all over the Union Territory, he added.

He congratulated all the stakeholders on achievements registered in various fields like child care and adoption, and streamlining of legal adoption process.

Since 2022-23, a total of 34 children have got homes. Also, 47 childcare institutions - 'Palash' and 'Parisha' for boys and girls have been established, he said.

Under the guidance of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, the policy of adopting elder children has been simplified. In January 2023, Foster Care Fund was approved under the Juvenile Justice Act, the Lt Governor further added.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor called upon every section of the society to discharge their responsibility to provide support to children in need and to those who lost their parents during the Covid pandemic.

Dedicated efforts at the Panchayat level should be made for the holistic development of children under Mission Vatsalya, he added.

Sh Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Sh Sanjeev Kumar Chadha, Additional Secretary, Mission Vatsalya; Ms. Preeti Pant, Joint Secretary, Mission Vatsalya; Ms. Rachna Sharma, Secretary in the Social Welfare Department, senior officials of Government of India, UT and Police administration, prominent citizens and various stakeholders were present.

Centre Notifies

Bangladesh, and Afghanistan, who

moved to India before 2015.

The CAA, passed on December 11, 2019 by Parliament, seeks to amend the Citizenship Act of 1955.

The CAA facilitates expedited pathways to Indian citizenship for migrants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan, specifically those belonging to Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Parsi, Buddhist, and Christian communities.

Eligibility extends to people, who entered India on or before December 31, 2014, fleeing religious persecution in their countries of origin. The amendment also relaxed the residence requirement for the naturalization of these migrants from eleven years to five.

The Union Home Minister Amit Shah in 2019 said that the grant of citizenship would be from the date and year of entry into India and all the cases and legal proceedings against them would be closed, besides protecting their business and trade interests on an equal footing.

President Ram Nath Kovind on December 13, 2019, gave his assent, officially constituting it as the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA).

Muslim community members held widespread protests in December 2019 across the country following the misunderstanding about the CAA.

The protests started in Assam on December 4, 2019, after the bill was introduced in parliament. Protestors stated that the move would cause a loss of their "political rights, culture, and land rights" and motivate further migration from Bangladesh.

On December 15, 2019, major protests took place near Jamia Millia Islamia in New Delhi and protesters gathered at the Shaheen Bagh road and sat on a dharna blocking the traffic movement.

An FIR was registered by the Delhi Police on December 16, naming seven students as instigators including Asif Iqbal Tanha and Sharjeel Imam.

A petition was filed in the Delhi High Court in January 2020 by social activist-advocate Amit Sahni seeking directions to the Delhi Police chief and area DCPs to withdraw the closure of the stretch and the Okhla underpass.

A plea was filed in the Supreme Court on February 3, 2020, seeking the removal of Shaheen Bagh protestors, saying they are causing hardship to people by blocking arterial roads connecting Delhi to Noida.

Acknowledging that people have a fundamental right to protest, the Supreme Court on February 18, 2020, appointed two senior advocates Sanjay Hedge and Sadhana Ramchandran as interlocutors with the mandate to persuade anti-CAA protesters at Shaheen Bagh in Delhi to end their blockade of a public road. The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns suppressed the protests and discussions around the CAA.

During COVID-19, the Delhi government on March 16, 2020, announced that any gathering - religious, family, social, political or cultural - of over 50 people will not be allowed. Home Minister Amit Shah on December 27, 2023, asserted that no one can stop the implementation of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act as it is the law of the land and accused West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of misleading people. Among the many opponents of CAA, one is Trinamool Congress (TMC) supreme Mamata Banerjee.

On January 3, 2024, reports emerged suggesting that rules for the CAA are prepared by the Central government and will be notified "much before" the announcement of the Lok Sabha elections in 2024.

Union Minister Shantanu Thakur on January 28, 2024, said at a public rally that the CAA will be implemented across all states. The government aims to modernize the citizenship-granting process by making it online, allowing applicants to apply even from their mobile phones. Rules for the CAA's implementation are expected to be issued before the announcement of the Lok Sabha elections, raising expectations for a clearer pathway towards the law's application.

Army, BSF Install

Particularly in the Rajori-Poonch sector, the army has reported significant success in thwarting two major infiltration attempts by Pakistan this year alone. Additionally, successful operations have been conducted along the border to neutralize drone threats.

Sources reveal that the anti-drone sys-

tems deployed by the Army cover extensive areas along the LoC in Rajori-Poonch districts, enabling real-time monitoring of suspicious activities originating from across the border. "Recent incidents on February 12 and 29 in Mendhar, Poonch, where drones were intercepted and engaged by the army, underscore the efficacy of these systems in detecting and neutralizing threats promptly," reports informed.

Highlighting the comprehensive surveillance coverage, a senior officer emphasized that nearly the entire stretch of the LoC is now under the vigilant watch of anti-drone systems. "This proactive approach has significantly enhanced the security posture along the LoC, minimizing the risk of unauthorized aerial intrusions," said the Officer.

In addition to the efforts by the Indian Army, the BSF has also installed anti-drone systems along the International Border (IB) to fortify defenses against potential threats. These systems, developed in collaboration with various technical companies, provide coverage of 2 to 3 kilometers around the border area, ensuring a robust defense mechanism.

Furthermore, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Jammu has made significant strides in developing indigenous anti-drone technology, with ongoing discussions between the Army and IIT for potential deployment—(KNO)

ACB Raids Five

Srinagar. The statement reads that he is in possession of huge assets both immovable/movable and cash deposits in his own name as well as in the name of his family members.

"The assets were found disproportionate to his known source of income during the verification. The omissions and commissions on the part of the above named public servant constitute offences punishable U/S 5(1)(e) r/w 5(2) J&K PC Act. Svt. 2006. Accordingly a case FIR No. 04/2024 is registered in P/S ACB Srinagar and further investigation taken up," it reads.

It added that after obtaining search warrant from the court, searches were carried at the 05 separate locations viz residential house at Duderhama, shopping complex near district hospital Ganderbal, rest house at Kangan, official quarter and office at NIT Srinagar, and flat in Jammu simultaneously.

"During the search incriminating material including Revenue papers, finance/bank documents and hard cash of 386650 were recovered and seized as evidence in the instant case. Further investigation of the case is going on," it added—(KNO)

Fully Prepared

narco-terror and terrorism, the DGP said that earlier, they had a doubt whether these two are really linked. "As and when investigations progressed, concrete evidence came to fore that narco-trade and terrorism are deeply not only linked but interconnected. Terrorist outfits like Al-Badr, Jaish-e-Muhammad, Lashkar-e-Toiba are behind this trade," he said.

The J&K police chief said that the value of Rs 15 lakh consignment of narcotics reaches upto Rs 1 Crore while travelling from Kashmir to Delhi and other parts of the country.

"We have a robust mechanism to curb and crack this trade. It is not so easy but we are doing and the police force is cable to do it," he said. The DGP said that police will seek capital punishment for drug peddlers to set an example. "You need to go tough to stop something very bad," he said—(KNO)

'Tulip Garden To Feature 5

splendid garden extremely beautiful," he maintained.

He added that 1.7 million tulips are set to bloom this year in the upcoming season, the ground work of which has been completed. He said that the department has also added another four kanal of land for the parking lot at the tulip garden to ensure a smooth experience for the visitors.

Sheikh Fayaz said that Tulip Garden, recently included in the World Book of Records, is a pride for the Floriculture department and has greatly enhanced the tourism sector in Jammu and Kashmir. We are anticipating a big increase in arrival of tourists to the Tulip Garden this year as

compared to the last year and preparations are in full swing in this regard.

He took note of various civil works in the garden like face lifting, toilet points, soakage pits, lightning system, illumination among other works and asked the concerned to complete the leftover works. He asked the DFOs to ensure parks are well maintained in all the districts and all the facilities for the visitors are in place. He said that all parks should have a washroom facility for ease of the visitors.

Sheikh Fayaz directed the officers to complete all the ongoing works in the shortest possible timeframe. He asked the Director Floriculture to personally monitor the execution of works to ensure their timely completion.

It was also revealed during the meeting that the Floriculture department has installed multi activity children equipment in 7 more parks bringing the total number of parks with children equipment to 14.

Director Floriculture Kashmir, Farooq Ahmad Rather, said that it is a conscious endeavour of the department to ensure that children have fun time in the parks.

He also passed strict directions to the concerned officers to keep a close watch on the equipments in the parks to avoid any untoward incident. He said that any damaged equipment should be immediately replaced to ensure complete safety of the children.

Gulmarg Receives

the officials in the MeT said, adding that one more WD is affecting J&K in the next few days.

Director Meteorological department, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that the weather would remain partly to generally cloudy tomorrow on March 12 while on March 13, there is a possibility of light to moderate rain and snow at many places with thunder and lightning accompanied by gusty winds.

On March 14, the weather is expected to remain partly to generally cloudy with possibility of light rain and snow at few places.

Nonetheless, he said that from March 15 to March 20, the weather would remain generally dry.

The weatherman has also issued an advisory in view of the forecast, saying that the public over hilly areas are advised not to venture in avalanche prone areas & sloppy areas, appealing them to follow avalanche warnings & advisories.

Moreover, the farmers have been advised to resume farm operations—(KNO)

J&K Will Have 86.39

put in place to address any technical contingencies.

Furthermore, the possibility of installing GPS devices on election vehicles is being explored, enabling real-time tracking and monitoring of their movements. "This initiative aims to enhance logistical efficiency and ensure the timely transportation of essential election equipment, including EVM machines," Officials said—(KNO)

RAHI ADVERTISERS



+91-7006034174

SARAI DANGERPORA, SUMBAL. 193501

TDP, BJP, Jana Sena begin talks on seat sharing for Andhra Assembly, LS polls

IAN S

AMARAVATI: Leaders of the TDP, BJP and Jana Sena Party began crucial talks here on Monday to finalise their seat sharing arrangement for the forthcoming Assembly and Lok Sabha elections in Andhra Pradesh.

Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and BJP National Vice-President, Bajajant Jay Panda were holding talks with TDP chief, N Chandrababu Naidu and Jana Sena Party leader Pawan Kalyan at Naidu's residence at Undavalli here.

Jana Sena Party's Political Affairs Committee Chairman, Nadendla Manohar, the TDP's Andhra Pradesh unit President, K Atchannaidu and others were also participating in the meeting.

The talks began days after the three parties agreed to have an electoral alliance. Following two rounds of talks with Union Home Minister Amit Shah



in New Delhi last week, the TDP also decided to re-join the NDA at the invitation of the BJP.

The TDP and Jana Sena Party had declared their seat adjustment plan on February 24.

Chandrababu Naidu had agreed to leave 24 out of 175 Assembly seats and three out of 25 Lok Sabha seats for Pawan Kalyan's party. The same day

Naidu announced TDP candidates for 94 Assembly seats while Pawan Kalyan released the first list of five candidates of the Jana Sena Party for the Assembly polls.

A couple of hours before the talks began among the leaders of the three parties on Monday, the Jana Sena Party announced the sixth candidate, Kandula Durgesh

for the Nidadavole Assembly constituency.

After the BJP decided to join the TDP and Jana Sena Party in the alliance, Naidu reportedly agreed to leave 30 Assembly and eight Lok Sabha seats for both the partners.

A final announcement about the number of seats each partner will contest is likely to be made in a day or two.

Heteropolar world, rise of China, new Cold War mark changing world order today: Ram Madhav

IAN S

NEW DELHI: A heteropolar world, rise of China, and a new cold war marks the changing world order today and the decline of international institutions like the UN, falling international dollar, human displacement due to climate change and influence of global technology corporations will mark the new global order in this century," said Dr Ram Madhav, President India Foundation at Capital Talks, A Thought Leadership Series which began with the lecture titled India & The World - A perspective of Bharat, organised by O.P. Jindal Global University.

"Today, we notice that there is a perceptible decline in the influence of the Western powers. The West will remain a very powerful bloc, especially countries like America will remain technological leaders, economic leaders in the world, but in the entire world which is now shaping up, you will probably not see any unipolarity. Then there is the rise of China. A perceptible rise of China despite certain contemporary challenges it is facing in terms of its eco-

nomics stagnation etc., etc. is an important development in this century. It has become almost as big an economy than America today in terms of GDP figures.

"Today, there are a growing number of flashpoints in the world indicating a new cold war like situation which countries don't admit for tactical reasons. Leaders of smaller countries feel this pressure to take sides, that itself indicates that there is a growing cold war like situation in the world through multiple flash points that are occurring right now.

"Then we see the rise of a few middle powers. Multiple independent powers at the middle level are growing. When I say middle powers, I'm not just talking about countries alone. There are a number of mini laterals emerging. They're strong groups. What we see include Shanghai Cooperation Organization, EU or ASEAN. These small groups of countries are trying to emerge as important power blocks in the world," he said.

Welcoming Dr Ram Madhav to the inaugural lecture under the Capital Talk Series organized by



JGU, The Founding Vice Chancellor of O.P. Jindal Global University spoke about the phenomenal growth of JGU in a span of 15 years and introduced the renowned politician to the discerning audience: "Widely regarded for his contributions in the field of strategic thinking, political philosophy and India's foreign policy, Dr Madhav has been the curator of major annual global and national multilateral initiatives like the Indian Ocean Conference, the Dharma-Dharma Conference, ASEAN-India Youth Summit and Counter Terrorism Conference. Most recently, Dr Madhav has been instrumental in ideating the Religion-20 Forum (R20) as part of G20 and his most recent book 'Partitioned Freedom' explores the untold history

of India's partition in 1947 and the birth of Pakistan."

Dr Ram Madhav further elucidated that today, there is a decline of global multilateral institutions, which were created after the Second World War. The United Nations is far less influential. And from India's point of view, we have made it very clear that unless important reforms are effected to the institutions, they will continue to become less important in the world. On the other hand, big tech corporations are emerging as major power players in the world.

"An Elon Musk can decide many things in this world beyond sovereignty of nations. Google or Facebook and Apple can play an important role in shaping many things in the world. So beyond sovereign powers of the nations, these multinational tech poles are also rising. Global NGOs like Rockefeller Foundation are very powerful. We now have multinational terrorist organizations who are dictating terms of how you run a fight. So many such forces that are emerging are important," Dr Madhav said.

SC dismisses SBI's application, orders bank to disclose data on electoral bonds

IAN S

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed the application filed by the State Bank of India (SBI) seeking an extension of time, until June 30, for making details of the encashed Electoral Bonds public.

Rejecting the application, a Constitution Bench, headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, ordered the SBI to disclose the information by the close of business hours on Tuesday, March 12.

"As regards, the Election Commission of India, we direct that the ECI shall compile the information and publish the details on its official website no later than by 5 pm on 15 March, 2024," ordered the 5-judge Bench, also comprising Justices Sanjiv Khanna, B.R. Gavai, J.B. Padiwala and Manoj Misra.

In its order, the Constitution Bench noted that the Electoral Bonds Scheme -- which had been held unconstitutional on February 15 -- itself mandated SBI to disclose information when demanded by a court.

In an application filed on March 4, the SBI said that "decoding" of the Electoral Bonds and the matching of the donor to the donations is a complex and time-consuming exercise and the timeline of three weeks would not be sufficient for the entire exercise to be completed.

In a verdict delivered on February 15, the Supreme Court struck down the Electoral Bonds Scheme, 2018 as unconstitutional and ordered the SBI to forthwith stop their issuance. It had asked the SBI to submit details of the Electoral Bonds purchased since April 2019 to the Election Commission of India by March 6 for publication on the official website of the poll body.

"SBI must disclose details of each Electoral Bond encashed by political parties which shall include the date of encashment and the denomination of the Electoral Bond. SBI shall submit the above information to the ECI within three weeks from the date of this judgment, that is, by March 6, 2024," it had said.

Stop releasing water to TN, respond to crisis in Bengaluru: BJP's Ashoka

IAN S

BENGALURU: Senior BJP leader and Karnataka Leader of Opposition R. Ashoka on Monday slammed the Congress government for releasing water to Tamil Nadu at a time when state capital Bengaluru is facing crisis.

Speaking to the media here, Ashoka demanded the Congress government to stop releasing water to Tamil Nadu immediately and respond to the woes of people. "Mr. DyCM D.K. Shivakumar, you patted your own back by claiming that your government delivered on its promises. You stand exposed in matters of releasing Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu. The Congress government also stands exposed," he said.

Ashoka asked leaders of the Congress government to quit if they did not have the capacity to provide drinking water to the people of the state. "If you have any capacity, provide drinking water to people. The water is ours, but the right over the water rests with Tamil Nadu during the Congress government. "If you do not have

the capacity to provide drought relief to the people, you (Congress government) step down. You are in power, BJP is not ruling Karnataka. When BJP was ruling the state, the government did not wait for the Centre to provide compensation to people during floods and drought time. We have released money from the state government.

"The problem is you don't have money. Yours is a pauper government. You don't even have money for providing drinking water," he slammed. The leader of Opposition also said that the protest at the Freedom Park has been postponed in the backdrop of preparations for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Karnataka. "The protest would be staged in a day or two," he said.

The BJP has alleged that the Congress government was releasing water to Tamil Nadu from the KRS Dam in Mandya district from where drinking water is supplied to the state capital Bengaluru even as the IT city is facing a water crisis.

BENGALURU CAFE BLAST CASE

Bomber tracked, identity being ascertained, says K'taka Minister

IAN S

BENGALURU: Karnataka Home Minister Dr. G. Parameashwara said on Monday that the agencies have almost tracked the suspected bomber in the Bengaluru cafe blast case.

Speaking to reporters here, Parameashwara said, "The identity of the bomber has been almost tracked. The special wing CCB and the National Investigation Agency (NIA) sleuths are further ascertaining it."

The NIA on March 9 released photos and videos of the suspected bomber and declared Rs 10 lakh reward for any clues and information leading to the arrest of the suspected bomber.

The CCB has formed seven to eight teams to track and nab the accused.

The incident took place on March 1 at the Rameshwaram Cafe located in

Brookfield on the International Technology Park Limited (ITPL) Road in Bengaluru.

Reacting to a statement of BJP MP Ananth Kumar Hegde proposing to change the Indian Constitution, he stated that PM Modi has appreciated the Constitution. He has even stated that if not for the Constitution, he would not have become the PM. "Mere distancing from the statements is not enough for the BJP, action must be initiated against MP Hegde," Parameashwara urged.

Talking about the finalization of tickets to the Lok Sabha polls, he said that the list of Congress candidates is going to be finalised by the evening. "The process will have to be expedited. The list of 21 candidates will get a nod and by evening a clear picture will be there," said Parameashwara.

PM Modi helped avert 'potential nuclear attack' in Ukraine: Report

IAN S

NEW DELHI: An intervention by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other top leaders helped to prevent a 'potential Russian nuclear attack', CNN reported.

As the Russia-Ukraine war, which broke out in 2022, intensified, the report said, citing two senior officials, that the US started "preparing rigorously" for a potential nuclear strike by Moscow against Kiev.

The Joe Biden administration was "specifically concerned" that Russia might use a tactical or battlefield nuclear weapon, leading to the first nuclear attack since the US dropped bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, officials said.

It was then that the US sought to enlist the help of India and China to discourage Russia from such an attack.

"US officials say that outreach and public state-

ments from Chinese leader Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi helped avert a crisis," the CNN report stated.

"One of the things we did was not only message them directly but strongly urge, press, encourage other countries, to whom they might be more attentive, to do the same thing," a senior administration official said.

"I think we believe showing the international community concern about this, particularly the concern from key countries for Russia and the Global South, was also a helpful, persuasive factor and showed them what the cost of all this could be," the report said, quoting the official.

Meeting Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Uzbekistan in 2022, PM Modi called for a peaceful solution to the conflict and told the Russian leader that "this is not an era of war".

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT ITI, BANDIPORA.

email-id:- iti.bandipora@rediffmail.com

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE FOR EMPANELLING OF TRAINERS FOR PM VISHWKARMA SCHEME

Subject:- Empanelling of trainers for implementation of training component at ITI Bandipora under PM-Vishwakarma Scheme.

Applications are invited from interested candidates for empanelling of trainers for undergoing training and certification through NSDC/SSC PM-Vishwakarma Training of Trainer (TOT) program and utilizing their services for training of Vishwakarmas identified under the scheme in the following trade(s) based on prescribed qualifications mentioned against the trade. The TOT certified trainer shall be utilized as per requirements of the institute. Interested candidates will submit their applications to this office through google form available on www.itihaj.in

S.No	PM Vishwakarma Trade	Qualification
1.	Traditional Basket Maker'	Candidate must fulfill below specified criteria : • Candidate must possess prescribed Qualification as per(NQR) National Qualification register of Gol available on https://www.nqr.gov.in/vishwakarma Qualifications • Working knowledge of computer; digital literacy is desired for handling SID portal. • NCVT/SCVT ITI certificate holder/equivalent from relevant trade from recognized institute shall also be considered.
2.	Fishing Net Maker «	
3.	Potter	
4.	Assistant Barber - Salon Services	
5.	Tailor (Darzi)	
6.	Basic Sculptor and Stone Artist (Moortikar)	
7.	Armourer	
8.	Shoemsmith	
9.	Locksmith	

Google Link:
Help desk for registration of interested candidates has been set up in this institution for further process of registration. Candidates are requested to visit the campus between 10AM to 4PM on all working days with the copies of following documents:

1. Aadhaar Card.
2. Academic/Technical Qualification Certificate/ Marks Certificate.
3. Experience certificate, if any.

Rules and regulations for empanellment:

- The utilization of shortlisted TOT certified trainer shall be as per requirements of the institute purely on temporary basis.
- The remuneration shall be paid as per norms in vogue and funds under the scheme in this regard.
- The criteria of empanelled trainers shall be observed in the same way as is followed for short listing Guest Instructor.
- The assignment of resource person shall be discontinued without any prior notice whenever the undersigned desires or due to non-performance by the resource person or if the vishwkarmas are not available for the training. The undersigned reserves the right to reject any application/ candidature or advertisement without assigning any reasons thereof.
- The trainer shall have to maintain proper discipline and punctuality and shall have to work to the entire satisfaction of the Vishwakarmas as well as the Head of Institute.
- Mere submission of application or eligibility of ToT certification shall not entitle any candidate for this assignment.

No:ITIBpr/Trgs/029
Dated: 11/03/2024

DIPK-17729-23
DT: 11/03/2024

Superintendent ITI, Bandipora.
Bandipora.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

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

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

NIT No:140/EEA/RNB of 2023-24/6575-85 Dated:09/03/2024

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

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	EMD in shape of CDR/ FDR/ BG	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor	AAA No:
1.	Balance work for completion of DIET Building at Pampore	50.55 Incl. C/o Bitumen and GST	1600/-	2% of Adv cost	75 (Working Days)	UT Capex Budget 2023-24 (Education).	AAY	173-DESK of 2023 Dated: 17.07.2023

Position of AAA: Accorded
Position of funds: Available.
Position of TS: Accorded

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	09/03/2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	10/03/2024 from 10.00 AM.
3	Bid submission Start Date	10/03/2024 from 11.00 AM.
4	Bid Submission End Date	29/03/2024 upto 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	30/03/2024 at 11:00 AM in the office of ExecutiveEngineer R&B Division Awantipora

2. Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.
3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/ FDR/ BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora. The successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/ bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the allotted cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period. The date and time of bid opening shall be notified on the Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and automatically communicated to bidders via an e-mail message sent to their e-mail address. Responsive bidders' bids will be opened online on the same Web Site in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora (tender receiving authority).
4. The date and time of bid opening shall be notified on the Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and automatically communicated to bidders via an e-mail message sent to their e-mail address. Responsive bidders' bids will be opened online on the same Web Site in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora (tender receiving authority).
5. Bids for the work shall be valid for 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
6. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
1. All Bidders shall to quote the rates in BOQ including GST. GST @ 18% or as admissible will be added separately at the time of issuance of Allotment by the allotting authority.

Sd/- Head Draftsman DIPK-17671-23 DT: 11/03/2024 sd/- Technical Officer sd/- Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora

CS favours ecosystem to generate 50,000 success stories in entrepreneurship

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: In his special address on the first day of 2-day conference of experts on the theme of 'Accelerating Employment avenues through Entrepreneurship in J&K', Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Monday contemplated to create a feasible and enabling ecosystem for giving rise to over 50,000 success stories of entrepreneurship in the next 5 years here.

The conference organized jointly by the Labour & Employment, Skill Development Departments and Mission Youth is a platform for subject experts from different sectors including the local administration, academic institutions, financial organizations and other concerned stakeholders, who had made mark in their areas of operation.

In his address the Chief Secretary talked at length about the performance of the UT in raising the necessary infrastructure and formulation of policies for attracting investments to create employment opportunities for the local youth.

He mentioned several mega infrastructure projects like highways and tunnel projects costing around Rs 60,000 Cr,

Udhampur-Baramulla Rail line costing about Rs 40,000 Cr, Hydro power projects of Rs 20,000 Cr, Jal Jeevan Mission of Rs 13,000 Cr to provide drinking water to all besides 2 AIIMS, IIT, IIM and other infrastructure projects in medical and education sectors.

He made out that coming up of these projects had created many job opportunities for our youth. He remarked that in addition to these the second set of opportunities included giving push to key drivers of our economy like Tourism, Agriculture and Handicrafts.

Dulloo maintained that the arrival of more than 2 crore tourists in 2023, initiation of Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) aiming at providing job opportunities to about 3 lakh people and creating 19000 enterprises besides making substantial increase in productivity and farmers income are other focus areas of administration.

The Chief Secretary referred to the New Central Sector Scheme (NCSS) for industrial development and doubling of exports in handicrafts sectors as other propellers in creation of employments here.

He further added that to saturate the employment require-



ment of the UT and to fulfil the evolving aspirations of our youth, the UT needs to generate as many success stories of gainful enterprises as possible by enabling a suitable ecosystem here that smoothens and hastens the progress of establishing enterprises all over J&K.

He called on all the stakeholders including the administration, credit lending institutions and other organizations to

simplify their processes and be readily available to the aspiring entrepreneurs for their hand-holding and capacity building. He called on devising a strategy out of this conference that is particular to our UT and usher in an environment that is favourable for making entrepreneurship of their choice by our talented youth.

In his keynote address the former Bureaucrat and Advi-

sor to PM, Amarjeet Sinha highlighted the importance of professional knowledge that upgrades micro enterprises into small ones and small enterprises into medium business establishments. He discouraged laying focus on concessions like subsidies instead of prioritizing providing of end-to-end solutions for development of enterprises.

He made out that by making

quality interventions in development of professional human resources J&K can develop a successful base of first generation entrepreneurs. He advised for giving more encouragement to entrepreneurial activities in the fields of green products and certified organic farming.

He termed J&K a treasure which could be turned into entrepreneurship hub of high-end products. He said that the handicrafts, dry and fresh fruit value addition can accommodate many more entrepreneurs in its fold. He called for adopting the models like 'Buddha fellows' by credit organizations and establishment of producer companies in different sectors promoting the enterprises of rural women here.

In his address the former IAS Officer, DK Singh emphasises upon turning young, motivated job seekers into entrepreneurs by providing them support in establishing backward, forward linkages besides access to timely, low cost and adequate credit. He suggested for availing the services over Udyam portal for accessing a platform for making success in MSME sector.

In his speech the Principal Secretary, Finance, Santosh D Vaidya asked for replicating our stellar examples in the areas of

sports, Agriculture and Horticulture that have impressed none other than Hon'ble PM recently. He called for making such examples in service sector and other areas of our strength here.

He asked for making equitable development by resorting to sustainable growth by addressing the challenges faced in terms of availing technology (automation), trade frictions and growth in economy. He termed that generation of livelihoods that sustain families is a challenge world over and can be addressed by equitable development of economy only.

The technical session also witnessed presentations by the Secretary Labour in which he gave a model on development of nearly 4 lakh jobs and channelizing Rs 10,000 Cr credit investment across sectors.

The other presentations included those on the development of Agricultural sector and creation of successful enterprises there. The day also gave glimpses to participants about possibility of growth in Tourism, Handicrafts, Industries by their respective Administrative Secretaries throwing light on their plans to create thousands of new jobs through entrepreneurship and self employment here in the UT.

JU set to host 3-day workshop on "Capacity Building And Leadership Development"

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: In a significant stride towards transforming India's educational landscape, the University of Jammu, in collaboration with the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, is set to host a three-day workshop centered on "Capacity Building in Leadership Development of Academic Administrators and Principals for NEP-2020 Implementation." This workshop, with a special focus on internationalizing higher education, represents a significant leap towards aligning Indian higher education with global benchmarks.

University of Jammu has been selected as the nodal university for the familiarization, Sensitization and Capacity building of academicians, administrators and other stakeholders for the effective implementation of the NEP 2020.

During a curtain-raiser press conference, Prof. Dinesh Singh, Vice Chairperson Higher Education Council, Govt. of JK UT and Chancellor, Kumara Mangalam University spoke at length about how NEP is going to create a Knowledge Economy that is indispensable for sustained high economic performance of any country. He further spoke of the need to connect the students with NEP and enable them to enjoy the freedom that it offers.

Vice-Chancellor, University of Jammu, Prof Umesh Rai while speaking

on the occasion, stressed the critical importance of revisiting curriculum design in light of NEP-2020. He proudly announced that the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, led by the University of Jammu, is at the forefront of NEP-2020 implementation, showcasing the region's unwavering dedication to delivering quality education. The workshop will delve into policy implementation, especially in universities where youth enrollment is at its peak.

Prof. Rai emphasized the shift towards offering maximum courses online, providing students with flexibility in choosing courses or subjects not available in their colleges.

Dean Academic Affairs and Convener of the three day workshop, Prof. Anju Bhasin gave a detailed overview of the workshop sharing that around 250 participants have registered and there would be 35 speakers in ten sessions spread over 3 days.

As India proudly holds the world's second-largest education system, witnessing a remarkable 27 percent surge in higher education participation, the emphasis is now on more than just reform - it's about a comprehensive overhaul. The commitment is to reshape higher education, offering students top-tier curricula and institutions that can compete on a global stage. The National Education Policy 2020 (NEP-2020) serves as the guiding light in this transformative journey. The JKUT was the first

among all the Union Territories that implemented NEP in the undergraduate course.

Embedded within it is the shift towards offering maximum courses online, to ensure ease of access even in the most remote parts of the region, access to knowledge beyond the geographical boundaries, and providing students with flexibility in choosing courses or subjects not available in their colleges.

The University of Jammu, being a substantial multi-disciplinary institution and a regional hub for higher education, is uniquely positioned to spearhead discussions on multidisciplinary education, curricular reforms, and research-oriented undergraduate training. The institution's innovative "Design your Degree" framework, deeply imbibed curricular reforms, serves as the foundation for global academic exchanges.

Themed "Internationalization of Higher Education," the workshop brings together key stakeholders - university leaders, administrators, and academics - to deliberate on aligning university systems with the vision of NEP-2020. Distinguished participants include Ambassadors of the Indian government, renowned resource persons, university Vice-Chancellors, Deans, College Principals, and academics, collectively assessing NEP-2020 implementation.

The program objectives encompass implementing NEP-2020 recommenda-

tions at the institutional level, reflecting on internationalization strategies, developing and implementing institutional development plans, promoting multidisciplinary education, ensuring holistic development, embracing blended learning, and initiating skill-based education.

Participants will delve into themes such as multidisciplinary and holistic education, internationalization of higher education, institutional development plans, digital initiatives in education, collaborative tools, teacher education, school quality issues, social responsibility, community engagement, organizing internships, research promotion, and industry-institution linkages.

The workshop not only equips participants with knowledge but also empowers them to apply their competencies for the enhancement of their respective institutions. The sessions, featuring presentations, discussions, group work, and case study overviews, offer abundant opportunities for communication and knowledge sharing.

Those present on the occasion included Prof. Meena Sharma, Dean Planning and Development, Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies, Prof. Sandeep Pandita, Director MMTTC and Co-convener of the workshop, Prof. Manisha Priyam, Dept. of Education Policy, NIEPA, New Delhi.

DC B'pora declares Wular Lake, other destinations 'polythene-free'

WARIS FAYAZ

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora Shakeel Ul Rehman on Monday declared the famous Wular Lake and other destinations as 'polythene-free', saying strict measures are being put in place to discourage the use of polythene materials.

The move, the DC said, aims to preserve the natural beauty of tourist destinations and promote eco-friendly practices among visitors across the north Kashmir district.

Around 65 kilometres from the capital city, Srinagar, Wular Lake - a Ramsar site situated on the foothills of Harmukh Mountain is considered Asia's one of the larg-



est freshwater lakes. It lies between the towns of Sopore and Bandipora. Speaking at a function at Zurimanz Watlab, the Deputy Commissioner emphasised the urgency to protect the pristine beauty of Wular and other tourist destinations to promote responsible tourism with long-term ecological status of the scenic spots.

"Wular, one of the largest freshwater lakes, holds an ecological significance. The polythene-free initiative is expected to contribute to preserving its rich biodiversity," he said, adding that besides Wular, other tourist spots will follow the "polythene-free" instructions. Rehman said the event hostings not only give a

push to water sports and tourism but also serve as a strategic effort to divert youth from anti-social activities, especially drug abuse.

"We aim to create a sense of shared responsibility and channelise our youths' energy into a positive direction by involving them in various sports activities," the DC added.

Earlier, the authorities at the Wular Lake installed CCTV cameras around key locations to ensure 24-hour surveillance of the lake to curb illegal activities, especially bird poaching. The lake also serves as a winter home for thousands of birds who visit from Europe and other countries—(KNO)

Pulwama athletes clinch medals in State-Level Soft Tennis Championship

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: Several athletes from south Kashmir's Pulwama district have excelled in the state-level soft tennis championship by clinching medals in various categories.

According to details obtained, three athletes from the Star Sports Academy in Rakh Pulwama secured three medals. The medal-winning athletes are Snober Gulzar, Imtiyaz Ahmad, and Anzar Javid, all hailing from the Pulwama district.

Their coach, Shakir Ashraf, informed KNO that the 7th J&K UT Soft Tennis Championship, organised in collaboration with the J&K Sports Council for all categories, took place at the Amar Singh Club in Sonwar, Srinagar, on March 09 and 10. "Despite limited exposure

to the game, several players from Pulwama showcased their talent exceptionally well. Snober secured a silver medal, while Imtiyaz and Anzar bagged bronze medals," Ashraf said.

Expressing their joy over their achievements in the soft tennis championship, the athletes vowed to continue striving for excellence in upcoming events. They credited their families for their unwavering support and highlighted their commitment to balancing academics and sports.

The athletes stressed the importance of engaging youth in sports activities to steer them away from drug addiction and other social ills. They said Kashmiri youth have immense talent and only need proper platforms and exposure to excel in various fields—(KNO)

"Akanandun" by G.R Hasarat Gadda released by JKAACL

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, in collaboration with Funkar Cultural Organisation and Nagrad Abdi Sangam, Jammu, organised a function to release book titled "Akanandun", edited by Veteran Writer G.R. Hasrat Gadda.

The book was released in the presence of Khalid Hussain, Sahitya Akademi Awardee writer, who presided over the function, Avtar Bhat, senior writer and Sohail Kazmi, senior Journalist, as Guests of Honour, Bharat Singh, Secretary, JKAACL and S. Popinder Singh Paras, Editor Punjabi, JKAACL in the K.L Saigal Hall, Jammu.

The function was attended by the esteemed guests, literary enthusiasts, artists etc. In the beginning, Bharat

Singh, Secretary, JKAACL said that JKAACL is regularly organising literary and interactive events in Jammu as well as in Kashmir regions. He added that the interaction between writers and public have proved to be beneficial for both of them.

Prof. Rattan Talashi presented an impressive paper on the book highlighting the qualitative content of the book and literary contribution of Hasrat Gadda. In his presidential address, Khalid Hussain appreciated the writer for his contribution towards the field of literature and arts.

Avtar Bhat and Sohail Kazmi also expressed their views about the author and his contribution in the field of Culture and literature.

The proceedings of the event were ably conducted by Avtar Hugami. A.K.Naaz presented the vote of thanks.

3 Kashmiri artists craft Taj Mahal-shaped igloo to boost tourism in Sonamarg

RAJA SYED RATHER

GANDERBAL: To further boost tourism in Sonamarg, three Kashmiri artists have crafted a breathtaking Taj Mahal-shaped igloo out of snow, following their successful creation of an ice-horse cart last month.

The opening ceremony received praise from Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Shaymbir, who lauded the initiative for its significant contribution to the region's tourism sector.

The collaboration between the Tourism Department, Sonamarg Development Authority, and Ganderbal District Administration resulted in the creation of this impressive ice



sculpture, which will attract more visitors to the tourist destination, an official said. Zubair Ahmed, one of the artists, highlighted the igloo's uniqueness, claiming it to be the world's first where visitors can "actually sit inside". It has insulation features to ensure a comfortable experience for tourists despite the cold temperatures, he said.

Deputy Commissioner Shaymbir expressed optimism about the igloo's impact on Sonamarg's tourism, citing the remarkable turnout witnessed during the winter season. "The unveiling of this snow masterpiece marks another milestone in Sonamarg's journey to becoming a prominent tourist destination in the region," he said.

9-year-old mauled to death by leopard in Budgam

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: A nine-year-old girl was mauled to death by a leopard in central Kashmir's Budgam district on Monday evening.

Reports said that a leopard attacked one Rabiya Nisar (9), near his residence at Samsan area of Khansahib. They said that the minor girl was immediately shifted to a nearby hospital where she was declared dead on arrival.

The officials of wildlife and other concerned departments have taken cognizance of the incident and a man hunt will be launched to trace the leopard.

Pertinently, the big cats have been frequently spotted in the area. (KDC)

Shaleen Kabra visits Pattan, inaugurates Water Supply Schemes

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PATTAN: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Jal Shakti Department, Shaleen Kabra, Monday visited Pattan and inaugurated Water Supply Schemes.

Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, Mission Director Jal Jeevan Mission, Dr. G. N Itoo, Chief Engineer Jal Shakti Department, Vivek Kohli and other officers of Jal Shakti Department were present on the occasion.

During the visit, the Shaleen Kabra inaugurated Tantrapora-Goom-Ahmadpora Water Supply Scheme, a crucial project executed under JJM with a cost of Rs. 9.55 crore. This scheme will provide clean drinking water to 9760 souls across various villages including Ahmadpora, Goom Ahmadpora, Malbuchan, Tunjihera, Malmoh, Tantrapora and Mahrajpora in Pattan Sub-Division.

The residents of the region expressed gratitude to the

government for fulfilling their long pending.

ACS also unveiled the Jeelpora-Bonichakal, Pattan Water Supply Scheme, constructed under the Jal Jeevan Mission. This project, built with a cost of Rs 5.54 crore, will address the drinking water requirements of over 1317 households in the neighboring villages.

Hailing the efforts of the Lieutenant Governor's administration and concerned department, the residents

of Jeelpora and Bonichakal regions expressed their heartfelt appreciation for successfully completing the project within the stipulated time.

Speaking during the visit, Shaleen Kabra reiterated the unwavering commitment of the Government towards ensuring access to tap water connections for every household, underscoring the vital importance of providing clean and accessible drinking water to all citizens as a fundamental right.