

Art-370 Abrogation Was Not Executive Decision: Centre To SC Says Entire Parliament Was Taken Into Confidence

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The decision to abrogate provisions of Article 370 that accorded "special status" to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir was not made by the political executive alone and Indian Parliament was taken into confidence, the Supreme Court was told on Friday.

As the long-winded debate on the issue continued, the five-judge bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud was also told by senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for intervenor Ashwini Upadhyay, that the word 'recommendation' in Article 370 meant that the assent of the constituent assembly of Jammu and Kashmir was not necessary for abrogation.

"The abrogation of the provision was not an executive decision and that the entirety of Parliament which included Members of Parliament (MPs)



of Jammu and Kashmir had been taken into confidence," the senior lawyer said.

While framing the Constitution for Jammu and Kashmir, its constituent assembly did not enjoy the same freedom which the constituent assembly of India did, he said, while attempting to draw

a distinction between the two constituent assemblies.

Referring to Article 370(3), Dwivedi said, "The word 'recommendation' under Article 370(3) means that the assent of the Constituent Assembly was not necessary to abrogate Article 370."

"Article 370 (3) says

THE ABROGATION OF THE PROVISION was not an executive decision and that the entirety of Parliament which included Members of Parliament (MPs) of Jammu and Kashmir had been taken into confidence."

notwithstanding anything in the foregoing provisions of this article, the President may, by public notification, declare that this article shall cease to be operative or shall be operative only with such exceptions and modifications and from such date as he may specify: Provided that the recommendation of

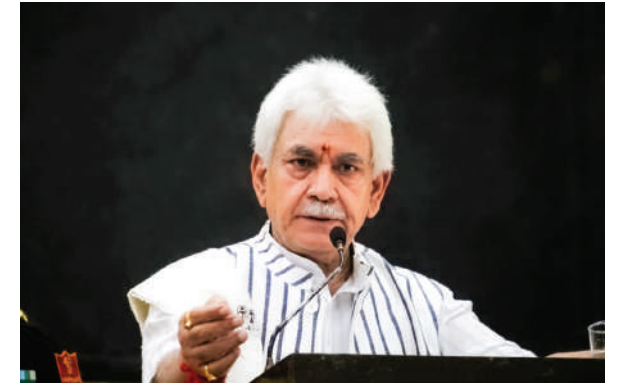
the Constituent Assembly of the State referred to in clause (2) shall be necessary before the President issues such a notification.

The bench, also comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gava and Surya Kant, which was hearing arguments on the 14th day of hearing on a batch of petitions challenging the Centre's August 5, 2019 decision to abrogate the provision, was told by Dwivedi that "the Jammu and Kashmir Constituent Assembly was bound by various things including various dictats of Indian constitution."

"It had to ensure justice, liberty, fraternity. It was also bound by Article 1. It could not declare that we're not the federal unit of India. They couldn't say that any part of their territory could not be part of India," he submitted.

Dwivedi, who defended the abrogation, said **More On P10**

Rare Manuscripts Connecting Youngsters With History: LG



Observer News Service

Ghaziabad: The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Friday that the digitization of rare Manuscripts is connecting the young generation with the history and cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir and the country.

Addressing the 25th anniversary celebration of Harishchandra Tyagi Public Library here on Friday, Sinha also shared the efforts of his administration to provide the people of J&K access to libraries.

"We have made dedicated efforts to establish libraries in Districts like Anantnag, Pulwama, Shopian and small towns of the UT and develop our libraries as e-learning and counseling centres. Today, 3.5 crore e-books have been

made available to our youth through these centres," he said.

He also gave reference of Bandipora's Aragam village that has been transformed into first book village in the country.

"Recently, a cultural center with a museum and a library was also dedicated to the Dard-Shin tribal community living along the LoC in Gurez," he said.

Earlier, the LG congratulated the people associated with the Harishchandra Tyagi Public Library on the occasion. He said the library has been a source of education and intellectual inspiration for the local community, serving all age groups, especially youth.

Speaking on the emergence of digital technology and Artificial Intelligence, Sinha said the libraries will always **More On P10**

INDIA Bloc Resolve To Contest LS Polls Together

Press Trust Of India

Mumbai- The INDIA bloc on Friday resolved to contest the 2024 Lok Sabha polls together "as far as possible", asserting that seat-sharing arrangements in states will be concluded at the earliest in a spirit of "give and take".

Amid speculation of early polls and the formation of a panel to explore the possibility of 'one nation, one election', Opposition bloc leaders took crucial decisions, including setting up of a 14-member co-ordination committee that will act as the top decision-making body of the alliance and start work on seat-sharing.

In a resolution passed at the meeting here, the INDIA bloc said it resolves to contest the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections together "as far as possible".

Seat-sharing arrangements in different states will be initiated immediately and concluded at the earliest in a collaborative spirit of give and take, it said.

"We, the INDIA parties, hereby resolve to organize public rallies at the earliest in different parts of the country on issues of public concern and importance," the resolution said.

The INDIA parties also resolved to coordinate their respective communications and media strategies and campaigns with the theme 'Judega Bharat, Jeetega India' in different languages.

Seat-sharing will be finalised by September 30, the sources said.

In the backdrop of the government forming the panel to explore the possibility of "one nation, one election", Kharge, in a post on X, said no matter how many "diversions and distractions" **More On P10**



SHIV TEMPLE CONSTRUCTED IN 1915 during Maharaja Hari Singh's rule is a major attraction for tourists in the picturesque meadow of Gulmarg in Baramulla: KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Prez Appoints 3 CAT Members For Srinagar, Jammu Benches

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The president of India has appointed advocates Mir Syed Latif and Rajinder Singh Dogra as well as Sanjeev Gupta, District Judge, as Judicial Members of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) Srinagar and Jammu Benches respectively.

According to an order by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, M

S Latif has been appointed for a period of 04 years from the date of assumption of charge of the post, or till attaining the age of 67 years, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

"The conditions of service of Shri Mir Syed Latif as Judicial Member in the Central Administrative Tribunal shall be governed by the provisions of the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021 and Rules framed thereunder, as amended from time

to time," the order reads, adding, "Mir Syed Latif is advised to join CAT, Srinagar Bench within 30 days from the date of issue of this order failing which the appointment shall be treated as cancelled."

The President also appointed Sanjeev Gupta, District Judge as Judicial Member in CAT. He, according to the government, has been advised to join CAT, Jammu Bench within 30 days. Meanwhile, **More On P10**

Army Commander Reviews LoC Situation

Agencies

Poonch: Army's Northern Commander Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi Friday visited Surankote sector to review operational preparedness, security situation as well as to oversee augmentation of operational capability.

Army said that Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi, Army Commander Northern Command, visited forward areas of Surankote sector where he reviewed **More On P10**

CHEQUE BOUNCE CASE

2-Year Jail For Man, Fined Double Of Cheque Amount

M Ahmad

Srinagar: A court in Srinagar has awarded 2-years imprisonment to a man from Theed Harwara here in a 'cheque bounce' case.

The court—Special Mobile Magistrate PT&E Srinagar, Fariqa Nazir—also directed him to pay Rs. 9,56,000, which is double the number of cheque amount, as compensation to

the complainant.

"It is crystal clear that the ingredients of Section 138 of under section 138 Negotiable Instruments Act have been established before the court by the complainant," the court said and sentenced the accused, Mohammad Ashraf Ahangar of Harwan to undergo a simple imprisonment for a period of two years.

"A fine of **More On P10**

Woman Among 4 Held For Running Fake Marriage Racket

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Police on Friday claimed to have busted inter-district fraud marriage racket by arresting four of its members in Kunzer area of North Kashmir's Baramulla district.

The accused were operating as middlemen during marriage functions, a police spokesperson said Friday.

He further said that the accused used WhatsApp to send photos of various young women, falsely claiming they

were ready for marriage.

"These individuals convinced the victims on the other side to agree to marriage proposals, fix the Mehar money and make payments. However, despite financial transactions no marriages were conducted and the money was not returned," the spokesperson said.

Giving more details, he said, it has been revealed that this group of fraudsters manipulated their victims by selecting targets through carefully chosen photographs of young women. "They managed **More On P10**

SHORT TAKES

Man Falls From Walnut Tree, Dies

A man died on Friday after falling off a walnut tree in the Sonawari area of North Kashmir's Bandipora district. 35-year-old Ali Mohammad Waloo had climbed a walnut tree in his native Nowgam village of Sonawari on Friday when he lost balance and fell down on the ground, reports said. Waloo, sustained serious injuries due to the fall. He was removed to the Community Health Centre (CHC) Sumbal for treatment. However, the doctors there declared him dead. Meanwhile, Police have taken cognizance of the incident.

Train Mows Down Woman In Jammu

An unidentified woman died on Friday after being hit by a train in the winter capital of Jammu and Kashmir. According to reports, the 35-year-old woman was hit by a train in Bajalta area of Jammu on Friday. She sustained serious injuries in the accident. The woman, reports said, succumbed to grave injuries before she could be taken to the hospital for treatment. Meanwhile, her body was shifted to the Government Medical College Hospital (GMCH), Jammu for post-mortem and identification. **More On P10**

Court Convicts Terrorist Associate

A court has convicted a terrorist associate from Bijbehara area of Anantnag district and awarded a fine to the tune of Rs 1 lakh. "On 31-08-2023, the Hon'ble designate Court after completion of trial in case FIR No. 33/2019 under section 18, 20, 38, 39 UA(P) Act of Police Station Srigufwara convicted a terrorist associate and awarded a fine to the tune of Rs 01 lakh," a police spokesman said in a statement. He identified him as Shahid Fayaz Tarray of Shalagam Bijbehara. Tarray has been convicted under Section 39 **More On P10**

Minor Earthquake Hits Doda

An earthquake measuring 2.9 on the Richter scale hit Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, reports said. The earthquake was felt at 03:48 pm on Friday and it was located in the Bhalassa region of Doda district. Pertinently, an earthquake measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale hit the Valley on October 8, 2005, claiming the lives of over 80,000 people in both parts of Kashmir. According to the official data, J&K and Ladakh experienced 60 earthquakes last year 2022. Two years earlier in 2017, Kashmir Valley reported 19 **More On P10**

Teen Injured In Bike Accident Succumbs

A teenager hailing from Bonpora Saderkote Bala village of Bandipora, has succumbed to injuries on Friday morning at a hospital in Srinagar. An official said that Mubashir Ahmad Rather son of Ghulam Rasool Rather, was one of two individuals injured in a bike accident on the Ajas-Sadunara Road on the 26 of August. "Despite the best efforts of medical professionals at SKIMS Soura, Mubashir's condition deteriorated rapidly, leading to the unfortunate outcome. His leg was severely injured in the **More On P10**

Man Dies Of Electrocutation

A 38-year-old man died of electrocution in Shelipora area of Achabal in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, officials said. They said Sabzar Ahmad Sofi, son of Ghulam Mohammad Ganaie, of Shelipora Achabal received a high voltage shock, when he came in contact with a HT electric wire. **More On P10**





Srinagar Admin holds Awareness Prog On Prevention Of Drug Abuse

Speakers Highlight Role Of Parents To Curb Menace

Observer News Service

Srinagar: On the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad an awareness program on Drug Abuse and prevention was held here at Tyndale Biscoe School to generate awareness among the parents of the younger generation who are the future responsible citizens of the society.

The awareness program was conducted by Social Welfare Department Srinagar under the initiative of District Administration Srinagar to reach out to the parents of the students enrolled in different schools of the District.

participants, particularly the parents, were also sensitized about the means to prevent the spread of drugs in the District to save the precious lives and families from destruction.

The Role of Parents in handling Substance Abuse was also highlighted in detail.

On the occasion, SP Headquarters, Arif Shah, Ex. Director J&K Rehabilitation Council Mr. Ishfaq Ahmad, District Social Welfare Officer, Srinagar, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, Secretary DLSA Srinagar Mr Jahangir Ahmad Bakhshi, Consultant Psychiatry from IMHANS Dr Fazal, Psychologist from Youth Development and Rehabilitation Centre, Iram Wani and other experts shared their expertise and professional knowledge and proceeded on early identification and signs of drug abuse, impact of substance use disorders of families and children.



A boatman ferries a girl (hiding her face behind headscarf) to her home in the interiors of Dal Lake on Friday. KO Photo Abid Bhat

Old City To Get First Pedestrian Bridge Alike Zero-Bridge

Old Habba Kadal To Be Redesigned Under SSCL

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a bid to preserve the old heritage and to create a public place in the congested old City area, the Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) has taken up a project to redesign the old Habba Kadal Bridge at the cost of Rs 1.8 crore.

The old Habba Kadal Bridge is being redesigned under the Smart City project.

Pertinently, the locals from time to time had urged the government to take necessary measures as the bridge was being used for the parking purpose, leaving less space for the people to travel or walk.

Chief Engineer, SSCL, Iftikhar Kakroo when contacted said that the bridge is being redesigned and will be constructed similar to the Zero bridge here where a huge rush of people could be seen visiting on a regular basis.

"We have taken up the project worth Rs 1.8 crore to redesign the old Habba Kadal Bridge here, which was currently not in use. Almost 50 per cent work on the project has been completed and it would take further two months to complete the project," Kakroo said.

The project has been taken up in order to create a public space and also preserve the old heritage in Shehr-e-Khaas, adding that it is very difficult to find a spot where public space can be created; luckily the spot was identified as the bridge was not in use at present and the work has been started in this regard.

The illumination and other works are still pending and the bridge will be completely redesigned in the next two months, he said.

The old Habba Kadal Bridge, which is being redesigned similar to Zero bridge, will have a lot of sitting spaces, Gazebos and kiosks

on it after its completion.

The officials have made it clear that the bridge will be exclusively for pedestrian use only as the vehicles will not be allowed to ply on it.

SSCL, CEO, Athar Aamir Khan in a tweet had also stated that the citizens in the old city will be enjoying their evenings on Habba Kadal Foot Bridge very soon.

"Zero Bridge at Rajbagh has become one of the most visited public spaces in Srinagar city. On similar lines now our Old #HabbaKadal Bridge is being redesigned as a pedestrian bridge cum public space under #SrinagarSmartCity. The #HabbaKadal Foot-bridge will have a lot of sitting spaces, Gazebos and kiosks on it. No cars on it, only people! Very soon our citizens in the old city will be enjoying their evenings on the Habba Kadal Foot bridge!," CEO SSCL tweeted.

Munshi Abrar Takes Oath as Chairman and Imdad Saqi as General Secretary of Idara Falah e Aaam

Observer News Service

Srinagar - Newly elected chairman and general secretary besides other office bearers took oath at the head office of "Idara Falah e Aaam" located at Main Chowk Alamgari Bazar, Srinagar on Friday.

Munshi Abrar Hussain and Molvi Imdad Saqi were sworn in

as Chairman & General Secretary by Hakim Riyaz Hussain, chief patron. Seven elected trustees: Raja Anees Ali, Mohammad Maqbool Wani, Syed Javaid Moosvi, Nazar Mohammad Khan, Ab. Rashid Muglo, and Muzaffar Sadiq Wani also took oath on the occasion.

Mirza Majeed & Dr. Kounser Jabeen were also present on the occasion. Hakim Riyaz Hussain, in

his address, emphasized the principles of inclusivity and unity that Idara Falah e Aaam stands for.

Outgoing Chairman, Syed Kifayat Hussain Rizvi assured the newly elected body of his unwavering support. He emphasized that every necessary support would be provided to ensure the success of Idara Falah e Aaam's initiatives.

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
PDD: 0194-2450213
FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
CAPD: 18001807011
SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

- RAILWAYS SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
BIJBERA: 01932-228243
PAMPORE: 01933-294132
PATTAN: 01954-293507
QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)
Mughal Road - (Open)
Srinagar-Leh - (Open)

PRAYERS FAJR 4:38 ZUHR 12:32 ASR 5:07 Magrib 7:01 ISHA 8:25
HIJRI CALENDAR 15 Safar 1445

This Day In History

- 1649 - The Italian city of Castro is completely destroyed by the forces of Pope Innocent X, ending the Wars of Castro.
1686 - Habsburg armies take Buda from Turks
1752 - Last Julian calendar day in Great Britain and British colonies including America. To sync to the Gregorian calendar, 11 days are skipped and the next date is Sep 14.
1807- The Royal Navy bombards Copenhagen with fire bombs and phosphorus rockets to prevent Denmark from surrendering its fleet to Napoleon.
1870 - Napoleon III surrenders to Prussian armies at the Battle of Sedan
1898 - Machine gun 1st used in battle
1900 - A large demonstration by Nationalists in Dublin's Phoenix Park demand that Ireland be free of British rule
1900- Telegraph use between Germany & US begins
1919- Italy agrees to general voting rights and proportional representation
1926- Italy signs treaty with Yemen
1929 - Unilever forms by merger of Margarine Union & Lever Bros
1930- 1st non-stop airplane flight from Europe to US (37 hrs)
1944- US leaders meet in Belgium
1945- Ho Chi Minh declares Vietnam independent from France (National Day)
1945 V-J Day, formal surrender of Japan aboard USS Missouri marks the end of World War II (Japanese date, 1st September in US)
1945 - V-J Day, formal surrender of Japan signed aboard USS Missouri marks the end of World War II (US date, 3rd September in Japan)
1946- Jawaharlal Nehru forms government in India
1949- Fire in riverfront area kills 1,700 (Chungking China)
1951 - Australia, NZ & US sign ANZUS-pact
1956- Collapse of a rail bridge under a train kills 120 (India)
1957- US performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site
1958- Great Britain performs atmospheric nuclear test at Christmas Island
1958 - Hendrik Verwoerd appointed Prime Minister of South Africa
1960 - The first election of the Parliament of the Central Tibetan Administration, in history of Tibet. The Tibetan community observes this date as the Democracy Day.
1964 - Indonesian paratroopers lands in Malaysia
Yankees at \$65,000 a season, then the biggest salary in MLB
1969 - The first automatic teller machine in the United States is installed in Rockville Center, New York.
1971 - There are further Irish Republican Army bombs set off across the region, including one in Belfast which wrecked the headquarters of the Ulster Unionist Party
1972 - East German sprinter Renate Stecher sets world record 11.07 to beat Raelene Boyle of Australia for the women's 100m gold medal at the Munich Olympics
1974 US President Gerald Ford signs Employee Retirement Income Security Act.
1980 - Australian cricket batsman Kim Hughes becomes 3rd player to bat on all 5 days of a Test match as the rain affected Centenary Test peters out to a draw at Lord's; BBC's John Arlott calls his final match
1981 - USSR performs underground nuclear test
1987 - Trial begins in Moscow for West German pilot Mathias Rust, who flew a private plane from Finland to Moscow, USSR.
1991 - US officially recognizes independence of Estonia, Latvia & Lithuania.
1996 - Soyuz TM-24, lands
1996 - A peace agreement is signed between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Moro National Liberation Front in Malacañang Palace.
1998 - Swissair Flight 111 crashes near Peggys Cove, Nova Scotia. All 229 people on board are killed.
1998 - The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda finds Jean-Paul Akayesu, the former mayor of a small town in Rwanda, guilty of nine counts of genocide
2012 - 15 people are killed by a car bomb attack at a refugee camp in Sbeineh, Palestine
2012 - A decades-long ban on veiled female news presenters is lifted from State television in Egypt

Batwara Residents Complain Of Contaminated Water Supply

Observer News Service

Srinagar, Sep 01 (KNO): The residents of Batwara area of Srinagar on Wednesday accused the Jal Shakti Department of supplying contaminated water to the area, demanding authorities to take corrective measures in this regard.

The aggrieved residents said, they have

been receiving contaminated water supply for the past one month, which has caused serious health issues to them.

"We are being forced to consume contaminated water, which is causing severe health issues. We feel helpless. The water supply we receive is contaminated and emanates foul-smell," said Mohammad Amin Dar.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Aijaz Ahmad Sofi S/o: Abdul Salam Sofi R/o: New Colony Brane Nishat Srinagar, have purchased a shop at Main Road Dalgate from Mirza Sameer Ahmad S/o: Mirza Mohiuddin R/o: Lal Bazar Srinagar. Now, I Aijaz Ahmad Sofi (buyer of the said shop) intend to transfer the electricity connection (Commercial) vide Consumer I'd: 0201020004552, Installation No. 38131-R2 of the said shop, to my name. If anyone is having any objection in this regard may kindly convey the same to Power Development Department, Division-1 Basant Bagh, Sub-Division Dalgate, within 7 days from the date of publication of this public notice.

inf

IN THE COURT JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS PAMPORE

Case No. 29/ 2023 Date of Institution: 14.07.2023
Mohammad Sadeeq S/o: Mohammad Rafi Khatana Through his father namely Mohammad Rafi Khatana (Applicant)
Versus Registrar Births & Deaths Block Development Officer Pampore (Non Applicant)
In the matter of: Application for Registration of Date of Birth of applicant and issuing the certificate thereof under Section 13 of the Registration of Birth and Death Act, 1969

NOTICE TO GENERAL PUBLIC

Whereas, the above titled petition has been filed by the applicant through his father namely Mohammad Rafi Khatana in this court seeking direction to the non applicant for registration of Date of Birth. Whereas through the medium of this notice, the public at large is informed that in case any one has any objection in issuance of direction with respect to the registration of Date of Birth of Applicant (who has been born on 19.06.2018 at Mandakpal, Pampore) to the non-applicant he/she/ they shall file the same before this court in person or through counsel within 7(seven) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objection will be entertained and matter will be taken up for disposal in accordance with law.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court today on 29.08.2023 (Mr. Touseef Ahmad Magray) U.I.D No. JK02058 Munsiff / JMJC Pampore

No. Co/ JMJC- Pampore Dated: 29.08.2023

JK BANK B/U: KHAYAM CHOWK Haseena Begum Rs:1,12,011.43/=
Haseena Begum W/o: Abdul Rashid Haroon R/o: Nowpora Sgr
مقدمہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ کی قبول کرنے کی یہاں درخواست کی گئی۔
الا تو یہ چند پر مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ دستیاب ہوئے اور تہی ہڈر یسٹن قبول لانی گئی۔ بدین وجہ حسب استنادی مدعا علیہ جو ہڈر یسٹن ہڈر مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ آپ کے خلاف مقدمہ بعنوان بالا اجراء بغرض وصولی رقم مبلغ Rs:1,12,011.43/=
لہذا آپ کو ہڈر یسٹن ہڈر مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ آپ بغرض ہڈر یسٹن ہڈر اجراء ہڈر بعنوان بالا مورخہ 03.09.2023 اصاتا یا وکالت بروقت چیری کی حاضر آ کر مقدمہ ہڈر کی ہڈر وی کریں۔ بصورت عدم حاضری حسب ضابطہ کاروائی عمل لانی جائے گی۔
ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج، بنگہ مقدمات سرتیگر

Office of the Executive Engineer, (Jal Shakti) PHE, Mechanical Rural Division, Sgr.
GIST of Short term e-Tender. Short Term E-N.I.T. No:- PHE/MRD/TS/ 66 of 09/2023
For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Short term e-tenders are invited in two cover system from approved and eligible Contractors having GST registration/registered with J&K Govt., Railways and other State/Central Government Organizations for the following work:-
Sr. Nature of Work Location Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs) Cost of Tender Doc. Time of Completion Programme
A Electrical and mechanical works to be carried out at various WSSs Sub-Division Peripheral 1.91 100/= 05 days M&R
Critical Dates/Information.
1. Publishing Date 01-09-2023 (5:00 PM)
2. Period of Downloading of Bids 01-09-2023 (5:00 PM) to 07-09-2023 (11:00 AM)
3. Period of Submission of bids 01-09-2023 (5:00 PM) to 07-09-2023 (11:00 AM)
4. Date of opening of Tender/Timing 07-09-2023 at (11:45 A.M)
5. Tender Receiving Authority: Executive Engineer , (Jal Shakti) PHE Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar
6. Document Cost : Non-Refundable in the shape of Treasury Challan/receipt shall be deposited to Account Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar (The firm shall specify the e-NIT No. & name of work for which applied)
7. Bid Validity Period: 90 Days
8. The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on www. Jktenders.gov.in
9. Instead of EMD the firm has to furnish "Bid Security Declaration", format of the declaration is enclosed in the Bid Document
Note:- The tenderer who is declared as L1 after opening of price bid will deposit 5% of the Estimated cost of the work in shape of CDR/FDR Before allotment is issued in his favour.
No:-PHE/MRD /TS/2441-45 D1PK-8111/23 DT:- 01-09-2023
Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar.



All Indians Are Hindus, India A "Hindu Rashtra": RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat

Press Trust of India

NAGPUR: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat has said that India is a "Hindu Rashtra", all Indians are Hindus and Hindu represents all Indians, referring to what he called people's expectations that the Sangh should be concerned about all.

The RSS chief was speaking here at the inauguration of 'Madhukar Bhavan', the new building of Shri Narke-sari Prakashan Ltd., which runs the newspaper 'Dainik Tarun Bharat'.

"Hindustan (India) is a 'Hindu Rashtra' and this is a fact. Ideologically, all Bharatiyas (Indians) are Hindus and Hindus mean all Bharatiyas. All those who are in Bharat (India) today are related to Hindu culture, Hindu ancestors and Hindu land, nothing other than these," he said.

"Some people have under-

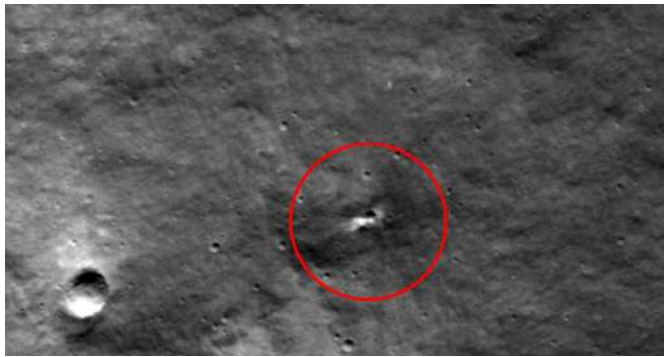
stood this, while some are not implementing it even after understanding because of their habits and selfishness. Also, some people have either not understood yet or forgotten it," he said.

Addressing the gathering at the office of the newspaper, he said reporting should cover everyone and be done fairly and based on facts while "keeping our own ideology intact".

Mr Bhagwat said "our ideology" is much sought-after the world over. In fact, there is no alternative to this ideology, he said. "Everybody has understood this. Some acknowledge it, some do not," he said, adding that it is natural that the global responsibility in this regard will come on the country and society and those media that disseminate the "ideology".

Mr Bhagwat also stressed the need to care for the environment and focus on "Swadeshi", family values and discipline.

Russia's Luna-25 Probe Left 10-Metre Wide Crater On Moon After Crash: NASA



Press Trust of India

MOSCOW: Russia's failed Luna-25 mission left a 10-metre wide crater on the moon when it crashed last month after a problem preparing for a soft landing on the south pole, according to images released by NASA.

Luna-25, Russia's first moon mission in 47 years, failed on Aug. 19 when it spun out of control and crashed into the moon, underscoring the post-Soviet decline of a once mighty space programme.

The U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) spacecraft imaged a new crater on the surface of the moon that it concluded was the likely the impact site of Russia's Luna 25 mission.

"The new crater is about 10 meters in diameter," NASA said. "Since this new crater is close to the Luna-25 estimated impact point, the LRO team concludes it is likely to be from that mission, rather than a natural impactor."

After the crash, Moscow said a special inter-departmental commission had been formed to investigate the reasons behind the loss of the Luna-25 craft.

Though many moon missions fail, the crash underscored the decline of Russia's space power since the glory days of Cold War competition when Moscow was the first to launch a satellite to orbit the Earth - Sputnik 1 in 1957 - and Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first man to travel into space in 1961.

130,000 Security Personnel, Anti-Drone Systems To Defend Delhi During G20

Agencies

NEW DELHI: About 130,000 security officers will be deployed as India hosts the world's most powerful leaders at a G20 summit in New Delhi this month, a showcase for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the country's growing presence on the world stage.

The two-day summit, starting September 9, will have the most high-profile guest list India has ever welcomed, from U.S. President Joe Biden to British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Saudi Arabia's Mohammed Bin Salman.

Leaders from Japan, Australia, France and Germany are also among those expected to attend, although Russian President Vladimir Putin, who is facing criticism from the West for the war in Ukraine, has said he will be represented by Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

The heads of the United Nations, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, World Trade Organisation and World Health Organisation will also be present.

The event will take place in the sprawling, refurbished Pragati Maidan, a convention-cum-exhibition centre in the middle of one of the most populous cities in the world. "This is a historic and mo-



mentous moment," said Dendendra Pathak, a special commissioner of the Delhi Police who is in charge of security arrangements in the city. Thousands of personnel from other government security services including the home guards and the para-military Border Security Force will be brought in to maintain law and order, he said.

"To contain protests and gatherings, we will have adequate and robust police presence."

While Pathak is in charge of security in the city, the main venue will be guarded by a team under another Delhi Police special commissioner, Ranvir Singh Krishna.

Although the capital is relatively peaceful, as recently as last month, communal tensions flared up in the neighbouring industrial township

of Gurugram in which at least seven people were killed.

During the weekend summit, New Delhi's borders will be closely guarded and access to the city will be regulated, officials said.

Within the city of 20 million, the government is planning a partial shutdown during the summit with schools, government departments and businesses being asked to remain closed for three days.

DEFENCE IN THE SKIES
The city will be guarded by nearly 130,000 security personnel, including the 80,000-strong Delhi Police, officials said.

A spokesperson for the Indian Air Force told Reuters that it will "deploy comprehensive measures for integrated aerospace defence in the Delhi and close-by areas."

Govt Forms Panel To Study 'One Nation, One Election'; Former President To Head Committee

Press Trust of India

The government has constituted a committee headed by former president Ram Nath Kovind to explore the feasibility of "one nation, one election", opening the possibility of Lok Sabha polls being advanced so that they could be held with a string of state assembly contests.

Sources said on Friday that Kovind will explore the feasibility of the exercise and the mechanism to see as to how the country can go back to having simultaneous Lok Sabha and state assembly polls, as was the case till 1967. He is expected to speak to experts and may also consult leaders of different political parties, they said.

The government's decision comes a day after it decided to call a special session of Parliament between September 18 and 22, the agenda for which is under wraps.

Since coming to power in 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been a strong votary for the idea of simultaneous polls, which include those at local bodies, citing financial burden caused by almost continuous election cycle



and jolt to development work during the polling period.

Kovind too had echoed Modi's view and expressed his support to the idea after becoming President in 2017.

Addressing Parliament, he had said in 2018, "Frequent elections not only impose a huge burden on human resources but also impede the development process due to the promulgation of the model code of conduct."

Like Modi, he had called for a sustained debate and expressed hope that all political parties arrive at a consensus on this issue.

With the Modi government approaching end of its second term, there is a view in its top

echelon that it can no longer let the issue drag on and needs to move decisively to underscore its purposefulness after debating on the topic for years.

With the ruling BJP under Modi always animated by grander themes and big ticket ideas to rally popular support, the issue will also suit the party politically and catch the opposition off-guard, leaders in the party believe. Assembly polls are due in five states- Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Rajasthan- in November-December and they are scheduled to be followed by the Lok Sabha elections in May-June next year.

Iran Foils 'Biggest' Sabotage Plot Against Its Defense Industry

Agencies

Iranian intelligence forces have thwarted a complicated sabotage plot against the country's defense industry.

The "biggest" sabotage plot against the missile and aerospace industry of the Defense Ministry was neutralized through the vigilance of the ministry's Intelligence Organization, the national TV reported on Thursday.

It added that the Israeli regime's spy services and its global vassals were behind the plot, aimed at harming Iran's defense power.

An official in the Defense Ministry's Intelligence Organization said that due to the effectiveness of Iran's missile power in creating deterrence against enemy threats, its missile industry has always been among the targets of enemy spy services.

The source explained that in recent years, multi-layer intelligence and security projects have been designed and implemented under the cover



of buying parts to deceive the enemy's spy services.

The Iranian intelligence forces managed to bust a professional network that had plotted to introduce "faulty and equipped parts" to be used in the production of advanced missiles in the Defense Ministry, the source added.

"Under direct orders from Mossad, this network, by selling the equipped parts, intended to convert the produced missiles into explosive devices to harm industrial lines and employees working in this field."

The source further stated that the Israeli regime is frustrated over the huge blow it received with the dismantling of its sabotage network in Iran.

Major Changes In Visa, Consular Services To Counter Predatory Pricing

Agencies

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of External Affairs, in a move to mitigate predatory pricing, has tightened the rules for the selection of partner visas and consular service to the Indian diaspora and foreign visitors.

The MEA is committed to serving Indians migrating and foreigners visiting India with an overarching vision to strengthen India's image and reputation, to make the service more robust, seamless and reliable.

Notably, the Indian Missions of the MEA are the first touch points for any international traveller coming into India - the Indian Citizen or Person of Indian Origin (PIO) and Foreigners (travelling to India) residing overseas.

Jyoti Mayal, President, of the Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) stated, "The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has embarked on a transformational program to reform and strengthen its tendering and evaluation process in a holistic manner to select the right outsourced service providers. While the focus lies on L1 pricing, there is a strong emphasis on the four pillars of Quality Services, Sustainable and Viable Price, Data Protection and Security, and Ethical Practices and Integrity."

She said that since the first impression of any individual travelling to India, the MEA must focus on offering superior, efficient, and cost-effective services.

Commenting on the endeavour she also added, "It is important that the first impression of any individual travelling to India or having to work with any Indian Mission anywhere in the world needs to be impeccable, as the government is determined to work towards delivering the promise of New India. Therefore, the MEA and its Missions as true representatives of the Indian government to the world must focus on offering superior, efficient, and cost-effective services as perhaps the first step in that direction."

The president concluded by stating that India is positioning itself as a global leader in several sectors such as trade, cross-border services, citizen services, etc.

"As India marches towards a high momentum growth period, it will be critical to plan for factors that can impede progress and mitigate reputational and image risks for the Indian Government. Hence it became imperative for the government to focus on the quality, reliability, and credibility of the service providers it engages with, to ensure services are delivered effectively, efficiently, and in line with established standards, else failure in service levels can erode confidence and trust in the government's capabilities, leading to public dissatisfaction. The focus on quality also indicates that public resources are utilised wisely and that citizens receive the best possible value for money," she added.

NEWS MAKERS

Cop Sacked For Playing Piano As Protesters Broke Into Sri Lanka President's House

Agencies

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's police force said Friday it had sacked an officer who entertained protesters with an impromptu piano performance after they entered the island nation's presidential compound last year.

Constable R. M. D. Dayaratne was deployed to help protect the colonial-era residence on the day it was taken over by protesters who forced then-president Gotabaya Rajapaksa to flee the country.

Instead, he sat at a grand piano in the compound and played a song to the crowd streaming through its rooms.

"Dayaratne was on social media playing the piano while the building was being vandalised," a senior officer, speaking on condition of anonymity, told AFP.

"He was our Nero," the officer added, referring to the ancient Roman emperor said to have played the fiddle while the city burned in a weeklong fire.

Police authorities concluded that the constable had breached discipline after a lengthy investigation.

Before the compound was entered



in July 2022, protesters had been camped outside Rajapaksa's office for months demanding he step down over the island nation's unprecedented economic crisis.

Protesters seized the residence and were later seen frolicking in the presidential pool and jumping on Rajapaksa's four-poster bed.

Rajapaksa was accused of precipitating corruption and mismanage-

ment that triggered the downturn, which led to severe shortages of food, fuel and medicines.

He was forced to seek temporary exile in Singapore, from where he issued his resignation, though he has since returned to Sri Lanka.

His successor, Ranil Wickremesinghe, has offered an amnesty to those returning historic artefacts stolen from the building.

Man Dupes People Posing As Home Ministry, Probe Agency Official, Arrested

Agencies

NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested a person under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) for duping people by posing as an ED and a Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) officer.

The accused has been identified as Omveer Singh, the investigating agency said on Thursday.

He was arrested on Wednesday and has been sent into the custody of ED till September 2 by PMLA Court, Ahmedabad.

ED investigation was initiated on the basis of FIRs registered by Ahmedabad Police and Surat Police against Omveer Singh for the commission of offences of impersonation and cheating.

According to ED, Omveer Singh, fraudulently identifying himself as a senior official of the ED, duped one Coal trader to the tune of ₹1.50 Crore on the pretext of getting his tender work done through his highly placed contact persons.

"In another instance, he defrauded a Surat-based energy sector company for more than ₹2 Crore by imperson-



ating the Financial Advisor and Auditor at the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India," ED said.

ED investigation revealed that Omveer Singh had meagre sources of income till 2019 from his employment as a construction site supervisor. After that, he started to impersonate senior government officers working in different departments and started to allure various gullible persons on the pretext of getting their work

done and thus, defrauded them with crores of rupees.

"His modus operandi involves duping certain persons in a city and later changing his residence and identity to defraud a new set of people. The proceeds of crime acquired from impersonation and cheating were spent on the enjoyment of a lavish lifestyle," the federal probe agency said.

Further investigation into the matter is under progress.

Will Review Entire Higher Education System In J&K: MPs Panel

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Standing Committee of Parliament on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports who are on a two day visit to Kashmir Friday said that it will review the entire higher education system of Jammu and Kashmir.

One of the members of the standing committee and a Member of Rajya Sabha Vivek Thakur said, "We will review the entire higher education system of Jammu and Kashmir including the central university and state universities." Thakur said, "During our visit, we also had a detailed discussion on development of sports infrastructure here."

The MP told reporters, "I must tell you one thing with confidence about the beautiful work that is happening in Kashmir, especially in the education and

sports sector." "It is one of the best in the country and I can say that with the assurance that kind of infrastructure that has been created in the remotest areas of Kashmir was not imaginable a few years back," Thakur said.

He said that on Friday the standing committee completed a meeting in Srinagar and tomorrow another meeting was scheduled in Gulmarg.

"The members of parliament are here to appreciate the handcraft artisans and we have given a small token of appreciation to the workers because we are happy to see the skilled craftsmen of Kashmir," Thakur said.

He said, "We want the artisans to feel encouraged and carry on the legacy I have visited two years back too. I feel the people of Jammu and Kashmir are very happy."—(KNO)

SED To Formulate National Digital Library Of India Clubs

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In order to make e-learning and education accessible to all students, School Education Department is likely to formulate National Digital Library of India (NDLI) clubs in all government institutions of Kashmir division.

NDLI is a National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) Project, developed by the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur (IIT KGP), under the aegis of the Ministry of Education (MoE), Government of India (GoI).

Director of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) has said, "NDLI Club is an initiative to promote the culture of reading and learning using NDLI's vast resources."

"It is a single window platform providing, learning, resources that make e-Learning and Education accessible to all, bringing to users of all demographics, digital repositories from India

and the world," DSEK said.

NDLI is an online platform for conducting learning-oriented activities, where students can enhance their core competence, sharpen their skills & hone their personality traits.

The director in a communication to Chief Education Officers (CEOs) of the region said with regard to NDLI, "DSEK also want to inform you that number of Institutes from all over India are already a part of NDLI and NDLI Club and using these portal, their students are getting aware of it, so that they can be benefited out of it."

"Once an institute gets registered in the NDLI-Club and makes its students members of the NDLI-Club, the institute gets a registration number which will be visible in the NDLI-Club portal," DSEK said.

It further said that once the institute conducts events, it gets institutional registration certificates and students get event participation certificates.—(KNO)

RTO Kashmir Takes Stock Of Transport Services In Shopian

Says, Transfer Of Land For Modern Driving Test Centre In Offing, Shall Benefit Sector Greatly

Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: The Regional Transport Officer (RTO) Kashmir, Syed Shah-awaz Bukhari who is on visit to District Shopian since Thursday, visited Shopian town on Friday to review the working of the department and take stock of the transport services and traffic management in the district.

The RTO conducted the district with a view to take first hand appraisal of the services and issues of the department and resolve the same in consultation with the District Administration.

The RTO early morning visited

Shopian town and took a review of the traffic management.

Later, he discussed issues of land availability for establishment of modern Transport and Driving Test Centre with the Deputy Commissioner, Shopian. The RTO Kashmir for promptly identifying the land for the Centre aimed to provide better services to the people of the district.

It is to be mentioned here that yesterday Deputy Commissioner, Fazlul Haseeb, RTO Kashmir inaugurated a Pollution Checking Centre at Shopian and dedicated the same for the service of the people.



STUDENTS PERFORMING TRADITIONAL dance during the inauguration of India's International Movement to Unite Nations (IIMUN) conference at Kashmir University on Friday..
KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

Transporters Chakka Jam Partially Hits Normal Life In Jammu

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Normal life was partially affected here Friday due to a 'chakka jam' called by the All Jammu and Kashmir Transport Welfare Association (AJKTWA) to press its demand for the removal of a toll plaza along the Jammu-Pathankot highway in Samba district.

Public and private transport was off the roads, hitting the movement of the people in the city. Lack of transport facilities also affected attendance in educational institutions.

However, shops and business establishments remained opened.

Led by AJKTWA Chairman Ajit Singh, hundreds of people from various associations assembled in the Bhagwatinagar area, and held protest demonstrations against the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) over bad condition of the highway. They demanded abolition of the newly set up Sarore toll plaza.

Raising slogans against the NHAI, they took out a protest



rally to the toll plaza. Hundreds of vehicles remained lined up in one tube of the highway during the protest rally.

"We are protesting against the NHAI in view of the bad condition, damaged bridge and toll plaza issue. We are taking a rally to Sarore toll plaza to support the demand," Singh told reporters here.

He said that despite protests for months by various organisations, the "NHAI is yet to

wake up and resolve the issue".

The hunger strike by Dogra Aketa Front organised at Samba continued for 9th consecutive day on Friday.

A day-long bandh was observed on the issue last Saturday on a call given by the Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industries (JCCI) and was supported by several political parties in Jammu and Kashmir, including the Congress, the National Conference and the Peoples Democratic Party.

Have Some Reservations: NC On 'One Nation, One Election'

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The National Conference (NC) on Friday said the party has some reservations about the 'one nation, one election' proposal, but would give a detailed response only after the newly formed committee headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind submits its report.

"As a party, the NC has some reservations about this proposal. There are many things in it on which we want to react, but, as of now, the Kovind

committee has been mandated to submit a report on it, so, it is better to wait for some time. But, once this report comes, the NC will give its detailed response then," NC state spokesman Imran Nabi Dar told PTI here.

He however, said the proposal was not new and there have been four committees already which have studied it and submitted their reports.

"What was in those reports, what were their recommendations, and what was the need to frame another committee,

we should wait for that to come out, then we will give our detailed response," Dar added.

Former president Ram Nath Kovind has been tasked with the responsibility of heading a committee to explore the feasibility of "one nation, one election".

Kovind will explore the feasibility and the mechanism to see as to how the country can go back to having simultaneous Lok Sabha and state assembly polls, as was the case till 1967.

HC Rejects Kupwara Man's Plea For Quashing Rape Case

M Ahmad

SRINAGAR: Observing that inherent powers under section 482 CrPC are to be exercised sparingly, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh has declined a petition by a Kupwara resident, challenging a case filed against him for alleged rape and recording of nude videos of a woman who had sought help from him to get her brother released from jail.

"A bare perusal of the complaint whereunder the impugned FIR has originatedwould reveal that the complainantin unequivocal and explicit terms has alleged the commission of offence of rape besides the offence of cheating and criminal intimidation against the petitioner herein (accused)," a bench of Justice Javed Iqbal Wani said.

"Whether the allegations in the FIR make out a cognizable offence or not whether the said allegations are genuine or unfounded is not to be looked into by this court at this stage as the veracity or otherwise of the said allegations and counter allegations leveled by the accused petitioner herein ought to be looked and inquired into by the investigating agency vested with the power thereof," the court said, add-

ing, "A plain reading of the FIR would prima facie disclose the commission of a cognizable offence under sections 376, 420 and 506 IPC alleged by the (woman)."

Consequently the court declined to exercise its inherent powers under section 482 Cr.PC to quash the FIR and dismissed the petition.

According to police, the case (FIR 97/2023) was registered on 9 May 2023 with police station Kupwara for commission of offences under section 376, 420 and 506 IPC based on a complaint by the woman.

She had alleged that her brother was lodged in a jail outside J&K and she being an uneducated lady approached the accused, Irshad Ahmad Ganie, being known to her, for extending help in getting her brother bailed out. The woman also alleged that she paid Rs. 3 lakhs to the Ganie, and that he several times molested her and committed rape on her without her consent. Besides she alleged that the accused recorded her nude videos and photographs and threatened her that in case she discloses the same to anyone, he will upload the videos and pictures on social media besides showing them to her in-laws and her husband.

Change, Peace In Kashmir For First Time: BJP MP

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Kashmiris are experiencing change and peace, and are starting to think about their future positively, which they could not do till a few years ago, BJP Rajya Sabha Member Vivek Thakur said here on Friday.

Thakur, who is on a two-day

visit to Jammu and Kashmir as the chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports, hailed the ongoing work in education and sports sectors in the Union territory.

"Overall, the attitude of everybody towards Kashmir is so positive. People of Kashmir are experiencing change and peace and they are thinking progressively which they could not do till a few years ago," Thakur told reporters here.

The Rajya Sabha MP said Kashmiris were feeling happy because of the ongoing work in the Union territory.

"Shikara wala is happy that tourists are coming. When you feel happy, it has an effect on the overall atmosphere. People across the world, Kashmiris themselves, are saying there is development in Kashmir," he said.

"Today, we reviewed the entire higher education of J-K, including central and state universities. We had a very detailed discussion on the de-

velopment of sports infrastructure in J-K. I must tell you one thing with confidence. The beautiful work that is happening in Kashmir in the education and sports sector, it is one of the best in the country," the BJP leader said.

"The kind of infrastructure that has been created in the remotest areas of Kashmir,

which was not imaginable a few years back be it in Sopore or Shopian the kind of peoples' involvement that has come up in sports, that is a marvellous thing," Thakur said.

Singh said the parliamentary committee has asked the Jammu and Kashmir administration to go for talent scouting at the grassroots level.

Singh said committee members are duty-bound to help Kashmir's crafts prosper and offered a token of appreciation to some local artisans.

Asked about the recent violence in Manipur, Thakur said it does not fall into the mandate of the committee.

"The committee's job is to look at its chapter on education, women and child, and youth affairs. What you are asking is not the committee's chapter," he said.

To a question on the One Nation, One Election' proposal announced on Friday, Singh said he can speak on the matter once he gets more details on it.

FREE ACCESS TO HMVs

11616 Trucks Traverse NH-44 During Past 3 Days

Truckers advised by the Deptt to strictly avoid overloading & check fitness of their vehicles before undertaking journey on the highway

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: What else can be more tiring than waiting and waiting for hours together doing nothing. It is no assumption or imagination but was the plight of truckers only a week back on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway. These goods carriers were halted by the traffic authorities both during their up or down movement for hours or sometimes days together as a measure to manage the traffic better on this mountainous road.

Then what could be termed as a greatest relief measure for all the truckers traversing the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway on routine basis than to allow them ply freely with no more halts in-between the two capitals. These drivers can't be more happy than to use this road without any undue interruptions. They are fortunate to see the end of that tiring waiting period which they were made to do on the name of traffic management.

All this happened when recently a team led by the Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Meh-



ta took a holistic review of this road in-person upto Ramban from Srinagar and directed the concerned not to enforce any manual halts on this highway for HMVs. This resulted in issuance of fresh advisory by the traffic department ordering no hindrance on the movement of HMVs of less than 4-axle on the road and offering them smooth access to their destinations.

The fresh advisory was issued ahead of the fruit season during which several thousand additional vehicles laden with fresh produce traverse this road on daily basis. It also encouraged the field personnel to ensure that the HMVs laden with es-

sential items like fruits, vegetables and poultry to be given priority access on this road as these items are perishable in nature.

To ensure that there are no uncalled breakdown of any vehicle enroute the department advised the truckers to strictly adhere to the norms of carrying the load and do away with the overloading of their vehicles. It also asked them to allow only trucks that are fit in all respects to ply smoothly on this mountainous highway. It even told them to resort to an optimum speed that do not create hindrance for other categories of vehicles on this road thereby ensuring that each of them

reaches to its destination in a duration of 8-10 hours only.

During that visit the team had taken note of the progress of several under-construction infrastructure projects like tunnels, viaducts and flyovers. Further it had directed the NHAI to keep the men and machinery in readiness in the difficult stretches at Dalwas, Mehad, Cafeteria Morh and other areas prone to landslides so that the minimum carriage way for two side movement of HMVs is maintained all the time.

Earlier on the directions of the Chief Secretary during his visit these new advisories were issued regarding giving of unhindered access to the vehicles having 4-axle and below. This immediately resulted in having no halting of such vehicles on the highway especially near Qazigund (Anantnag) or Jakhani (Udhampur). It even fructified into having the highway cleared-off of the hundreds of HMVs that used to be halted earlier at these places for hours together before allowing to proceed ahead.

Now if we have a fresh look

of the data of the vehicles that have plied on this road from the last few days the story is different. It shows that 11616 HMVs including fruit, vegetable and poultry trucks were given free access on this highway from 28th to 30th of August.

While chiseling it further it details out that on 30th of August around 5386 HMVs traversed this highway from both sides including 3281 Trucks, 1138 Oil Tankers, 141 Gas Tankers, 654 fruit trucks, 69 vegetable laden trucks, 85 Poultry, 181 Food grain (FCI) trucks and 26 Sheep trucks.

It is also noteworthy to mention here that it also entails from this data that from the last 3 days 7427 goods trucks, 1041 fruit trucks, 277 vegetable trucks, 181 Food grain (FCI) trucks, 85 Poultry and 26 Sheep trucks including 255 buses crossed this highway from both sides. It further came out that these vehicles reached their destinations in the set time-frame of 8-10 hours facing least disruptions enroute during their travel on this treacherous road.

**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
TRANS.LINE MAINTT.
DIVISION-VIII SRINAGAR**

**JAMMU AND KASHMIR POWER
TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD.**

Tele Fax:- 0194-2491342 e-mail:- tlm8.jkptcl@gmail.com

Due to some Technical Reasons & Certain Ambiguities observed during preliminary Technical Evaluation, e-NIT No. TLMD-VIII/TS/ 23 of 2022 Dated: 28-12-2022 endorsed vide No.TLMD-VIII/TS/ 3695-98 Dated:28- 12- 2022 for "Re-Conducting of Existing 220kV D/C New Wanpoh – Mirbazar Transmission Line by HTLS Conductor for Augmentation of Power Carrying Capacity (Districts Anantnag and Kulgam)" is hereby cancelled with immediate effect.

Fresh e-NIT for the subject work will be issued soon.

No. TLMD-VIII/TS/2232-36
Dated:31 : 08 : 2023

Sd./
Executive Engineer
TLMD-VIII Srinagar.

DIPK-NB-2975-23
DT: 01/09/2023

Suicide: The Silent Epidemic

Rush Guha

“The picture is even worse than it appears because, for every suicide, there are many more people who attempt suicide. Suicide is not just restricted to high-income countries, it is a global phenomenon. In fact, about 80% of global suicides occur in low and middle-income countries

A curious engineer was immersed in a tough math problem at his college library, sacrificing sleep to solve it. Despite numerous failed attempts, his perseverance paid off with a breakthrough. Excitedly, he went to his supervisor to share the news and asked for more time. Sadly, the request was denied, putting his college enrollment at risk for not meeting the project deadline. Disheartened, he returned to his room, weighed down by his dreams. Tragically, the next morning, he was found lifeless—depicted as Joy Lowbo in "3 Idiots," a young engineer overwhelmed by despair.

This scene depicted in the film resonates with the present scenario of two pivotal cases of suicide which have come up - the first one at Kolkata's Jadavpur University due to ragging in the university campus and the second one in Chennai, due to failure in the NEET examination. In this context, the classical sociologist Emile Durkheim's study of Suicide (1897) remains a stalwart. Durkheim's study was based on secondary data collected from the local police. In his study, the functionalist bestowed four major observations which hold relevance even in the contemporary globalized world. He used integration and regulation as two parameters to present four types of suicides, namely altruistic, egoistic, anomic, and fatalistic suicide. He used four variables for his theory, marital status (bachelor/married), locality (developed/underdeveloped country), religious orientation (protestant/catholic), and sex (male/female).

Durkheim's study revealed that the rates of suicide were higher among bachelors and males than among married and females. It also revealed that suicide rates are less in underdeveloped countries in comparison with developed countries. According to the thesis, people with high suicidal thoughts are less integrated into society. In contemporary society, egoistic and anomic suicides are common. There are suicides that result from low integration of one in society and low regulation of individuals by society, as seen in the case of Joy Lowbo. Apart from this, family problems, marriage, and love-related problems, and illness account for two-thirds of cases in India.

According to a 2018 report from the World Health Organization



Illustration by Thomson Reuters Foundation/Tereza Astilean (Reuters)

(WHO), suicide is one of the leading causes of death in the world with about 8,00,000 people committing suicide every year. Of these, about one-third occur among the youth. Suicide is one of the leading causes of death among 15-29-year-olds. The picture is even worse than it appears because, for every suicide, there are many more people who attempt suicide. Suicide is not just restricted to high-income countries, it is a global phenomenon. In fact, about 80% of global suicides occur in low and middle-income countries. Thus in this context of locality, Durkheim's theory has lost its relevance. Now let's analyze the same in the Indian context.

As outlined in the 2022 report by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the somber reality remains that our nation witnesses a staggering annual toll of over 1,50,000 lives lost to suicide. The distressing trajectory from 2019 to 2022 unveils a disconcerting rise in the suicide rate, ascending from 10.2 to 11.3 per 1,00,000 individuals in the population. Notably, India's global share of suicides has undergone a marked shift, surging from 25.3% in 1990 to a notable 36.6% in 2016 concerning women, and from 18.7% to 24.3% concerning men. Reflecting a stark imbalance, the ratio of suicides between genders stands at 70:30, underscoring the urgency of addressing this multifaceted challenge, a silent epidemic.

From a data-driven vantage point, it becomes apparent that Durkheim's enduring theory retains its relevance, particularly in the realms of sex and marital status. However, when scrutinizing the variable of locality, the evidence suggests a departure from this pattern.

Acknowledging the grave issue of suicide, the Indian government has taken a decisive stance. In a proactive move, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has unveiled the inaugural National Strategy for Suicide Prevention, signifying a significant milestone. With a resolute objective, this pioneering strategy endeavors to curtail the nation's suicide mortality rate by a notable 10% within the span of a decade, setting its sights on the year 2030. Drawing inspiration from the well-established directives outlined by the World Health Organization (WHO) for Suicide Prevention in the South East Asian region, the structure of this national strategy closely aligns with these esteemed international guidelines.

The approach not only mirrors the guidelines set forth by the WHO but also intricately weaves them into India's unique socio-cultural context and its present social infrastructure. The core of this approach revolves around establishing robust surveillance mechanisms for monitoring suicides within a concise three-year timeframe. Fur-

thermore, a comprehensive plan is in motion to institute psychiatric outpatient departments as integral components of the District Mental Health Programme, ensuring the availability of vital suicide prevention services across all districts within a commendable five-year span. Actively encased within the framework of the Mental Health Act, this strategy serves as its prominent outer layer.

A pivotal aspect of this strategy lies in its meticulous consideration of the pervasive stigma enveloping mental disorders and suicidal tendencies. An exhaustive brainstorming process has yielded pragmatic guidelines, aimed at fostering responsible and sensitive media coverage of suicide incidents. Simultaneously, an innovative mental well-being curriculum is being conceived for integration into educational institutions. This pioneering endeavor holds profound significance, acting as a catalyst for elevating community awareness and dismantling long-standing taboos. It epitomizes the progressive essence of Indian society, poised to set a compelling example on the global stage.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The author is a Research intern at UN and IUCN

Giving Employment A Boost: It Can't Be Treated Merely As An Outcome Of Growth

R Gopalan and MC Singhi

It is necessary to pursue employment as an independent objective and not have it as an outcome of growth. More than ten million people entering the employment market every year cannot otherwise find jobs.

From 1972-73 to 1993-94, for every 1% of GDP growth, employment grew by 0.48%. During 1993-94 to 1999-2000, GDP grew 6.8% and employment grew by 1% annually. The period between 2004-05 to 2009-10 showed jobless growth with annual GDP growing at 8.7% and employment growing at 0.1% annually. During 2011-12 to 2021-22 (the latest period for which the employment data is available), average GDP growth was at 5.4%, with an average employment growth of 1.4%. We had demonetisation in 2016, introduction of the GST in 2017, and the pandemic in 2019-20. The changes up to the pandemic moderated both growth in income and jobs. Post the pandemic, with expansionary fiscal and monetary measures, there is a return to normalcy with growth averaging 7.5% in the last 10 quarters and employment showing signs of revival.

The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) was introduced in 2017-18. Prior to that, employment data gathering was a five yearly exercise. The last such data is from 2011-12. The Labour Bureau came out with an annual survey during 2011-12 to 2016-17, but there were issues of consistency and comparability, including the NSSO quality guarantee.

The PLFS 2017-18 indicated that overall employment has declined from 472 million in 2011-12 to 457 million in 2017-18. There was a decline of 25 million in the female workforce during this period. Job creation post 2017-18 improved, and in the four years since then, 86 million incremental jobs were created, while an additional 80 million were seeking jobs.

The accompanying graphic provides overall employment, compound average annual employment growth, growth of gross value added in the sectors and employment elasticity for two periods (period I being 1999-2000 to 2011-12, and period II being 2011-12 to 2021-22).

The elasticity of employment was negative in agriculture in period I and positive in period II. Agriculture can't retain a large labour force. Adoption of sustainable technologies, freeing internal and external trade in agri-commodities, with government intervention only at critical times, and transfer of manpower to secondary and tertiary sectors through labour intensive manufacturing and higher growth in services are critical for a sustained growth of persons engaged in agriculture. Post pandemic, reverse migration has contributed to the positive employment elasticity in agriculture.

The performance of manufacturing in period II was dismal. Notwithstanding available manufacturing centric policies, employment elasticity was just 0.1. This sector employs only 62 million people. Perhaps, manufacturing strategy needs a paradigm shift, and we are yet to understand the core issues that will enable manufacturing to reach 25% of



GVA. Manufacturing has been helped by a booming construction sector, including real estate and public infrastructure.

Spread of labour-intensive manufacturing in areas where labour is available by implementing policies favorable to positioning such industries will require sustained effort by both the Centre and the states. A collateral benefit in doing so will be increased consumption and exports of labour-intensive products in the country.

Construction has indeed been a sunrise sector. This relatively low-technology and labour-intensive sector had an employment growth of 9% in period I and 3% in period II, with a near unity in employment elasticity. This underscores the importance of MGN-REGA and infrastructure development and perhaps an easy shift of labour

from agriculture.

Trade, hotels, transport, and communication services has been the second-largest sector in absorbing labour. These entities are mostly in the household sector. They face challenges from organised retail, digital, and home deliveries. Increased digitisation and incorporation into the e-commerce ecosystem will help them. Enhanced technology usage in transport and communication along with reducing costs in regulation will further help them. Focus on skill development is bound to enhance employment. Financial and professional services will continue to perform well because of increased need for intermediation and consultancy. But these are upscale market jobs and not the point of first jump from unorganised to skilled.

Other services are a heterogeneous

mix of public administration and defence, education, health, art and recreation, and other services. Public administration and defence account for nearly 20% of these services. With faceless delivery of public services, growth of employment in public administration is unlikely. Skill development, use of appropriate technology, and regulation and quality upgradation in health and education will make them more accessible and affordable.

Policies to increase female labour force participation ratio from the current 24% will help. This was 33% in 1993-94. To increase female participation, we need cultural acceptance, emphasis on female education, creation of auxiliary facilities for working women, and their skill upgradation. But an increase in labour force participation to even 45% would increase the number of new job seekers by 110 million by 2029-30, or an average 13 million persons per year. With agriculture looking for a net reduction in work force, the new job seekers need to get accommodated in industry and services raising the required rate of growth of employment even higher. As gig workers will contribute to substantial employment in this period, legally enforceable social security measures, as appropriate, must be put in place.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by Financial Express

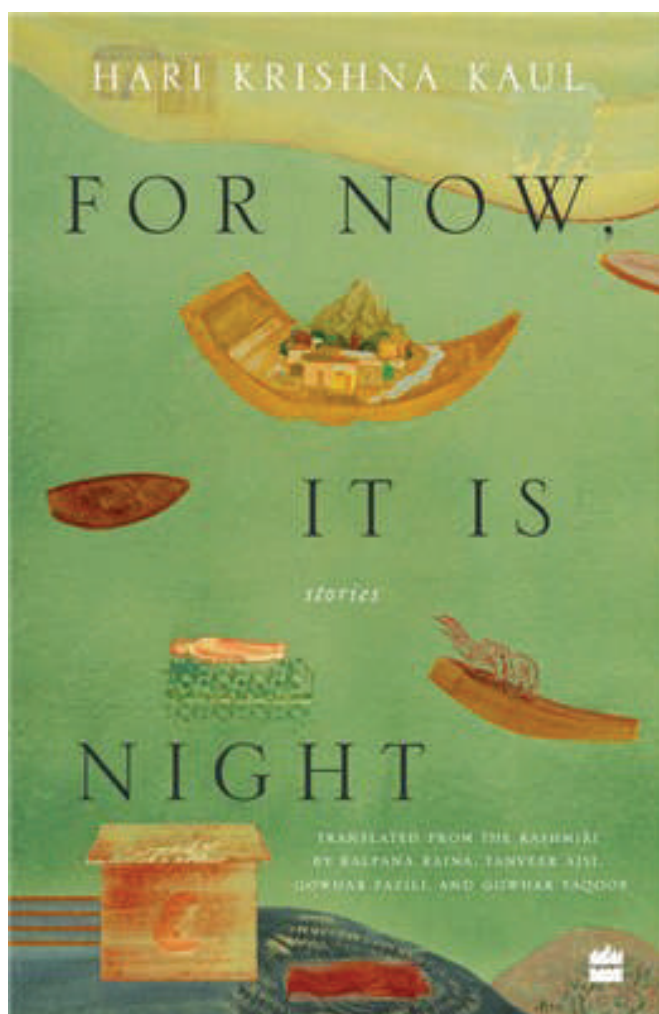
NEW BOOK RELEASES

September Picks

KO Web Desk

September is looking promising with publishers set with unputdownable releases. We've hand picked a list that we found intriguing from the titles released and to-be-released this September by publishing houses like HarperCollins, Aleph Books and Rupa Publications.

HARPER COLLINS



For Now, It is Night by Hari Krishna Kaul translated by Kalpana Raina, Tanveer Ajsi, Gowhar Fazili & Gowhar Yaqoob releasing 24 September 2023 | Fiction/Translation (216 pp | Rs 399)

Hari Krishna Kaul, one of the very best modern Kashmiri writers, published most of his work between 1972 and 2000. His short stories, shaped by the social crisis and political instability in Kashmir, explore – with an impressive eye for detail, biting wit, and deep empathy – themes of isolation, individual and collective alienation, corruption, and the social mores of a community that experienced a loss of homeland, culture, and language.

In these pages, we will find: friends stuck forever in the same class at school while the world changes around them; travelers forced to seek shelter in a battered, windy hostel after a landslide; parents struggling to deal with displacement as they move away from Kashmir with their children, or loneliness as their children leave in search of better prospects; the cabin fever of living through a curfew...

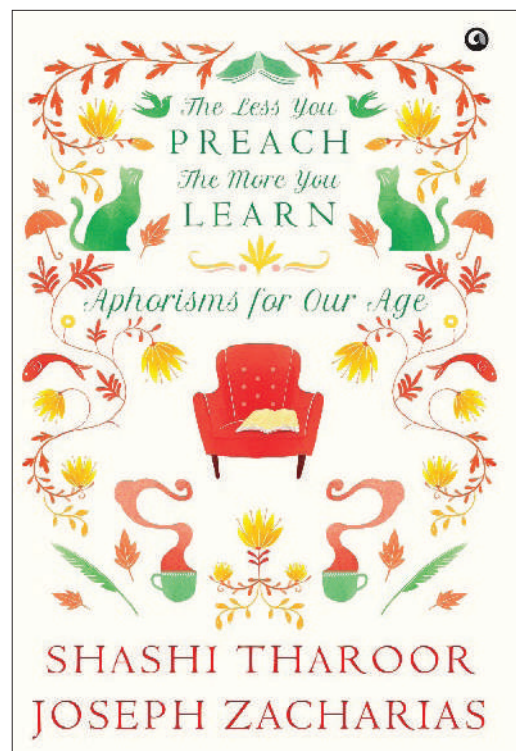
Brilliantly translated in a unique collaborative project, *For Now, It is Night* brings a comprehensive selection of Kaul's stories to English readers for the very first time.

According to Sanjay Kak the book is, 'A valuable introduction to one of contemporary Kashmir's most distinguished, if unsung, literary voices ... This volume makes itself indispensable to the ways in which we seek to understand the vexed recent past of Kashmir.'

Similarly, Neerja Matto is also all-praises for the book. She says it is, 'Masterful ... The frustrations and disappointments of the people, both Muslims and Pandits, are sensitively felt and fearlessly depicted.'

Authors like Mirza Waheed and Farah Bashir have called Kaul's work "visionary" as the "conjecture a lost time"

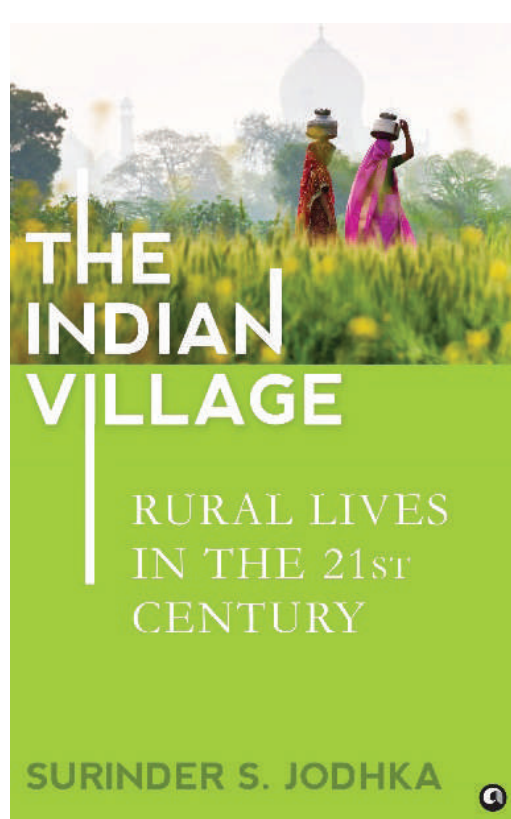
ALEPH BOOK COMPANY



The Less You Preach, the More You Learn: Aphorisms for Our Age by Shashi Tharoor and Joseph Zacharias (INR-499, PP-200)

The aphorism is one of the oldest forms of literary expression and has been around for thousands of years. It is a concise statement or observation that expresses a general truth, principle, or nugget of wisdom, ideally in a memorable or witty manner. Some of the most famous intellectuals and writers in history have expressed themselves memorably in aphorisms including Seneca, François de La Rochefoucauld, Friedrich Nietzsche, and Oscar Wilde. In this book, Shashi Tharoor and Joseph Zacharias have coined over 200 aphorisms on practically every aspect of modern life. Wise, witty, and memorable, the aphorisms in *The Less You Preach, The More You Learn* provoke, stimulate, and entertain.

The Indian Village: Rural Lives in the 21st Century by Surinder S. Jodhka (INR-799, PP-296)



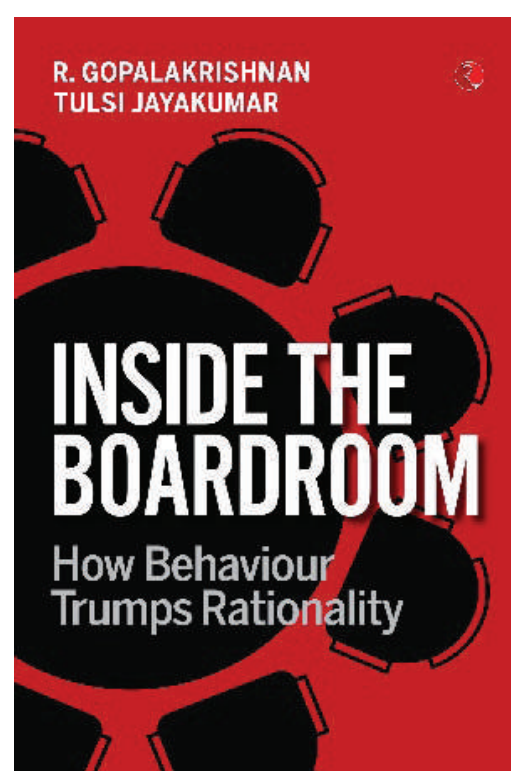
'India lives in its villages'.

This statement popularized by Mahatma Gandhi is often referred to in discussions about the country, its past, and its possible future. But what exactly is the Indian village? In the most basic sense, the 'village' is a kind of human settlement, always standing in contrast to the 'town' or 'city'. Yet, it is also an idea, one which has undergone myriad shifts over the course of our nation's history.

In *The Indian Village: Rural Lives in the 21st Century*, award-winning sociologist Surinder S. Jodhka critically examines the changing nature of the village in India, both as an idea and as a lived reality. Reflecting on the colonial construction of India as a land of village republics, a representation that was turned on its head in different ways by Indian nationalists in the early twentieth century, and the post-liberalization nation, this book provides a detailed account of how rural lives have been transformed in India through the decades. The book also looks at India's modern villages to showcase the current diversity within agrarian and rural realities with specific focus on the processes of development and democracy in rural areas.

The Indian village, the author suggests, is not a relic of the past. It has always been a dynamic reality and it lives on in an active relationship with the wider world. Besides its many other aspects and processes, it enables the city to prosper, just as the city keeps the village going. Radical, innovative, and grounded in impeccable scholarship, *The Indian Village* is a seminal study of rural India.

RUPA PUBLICATIONS



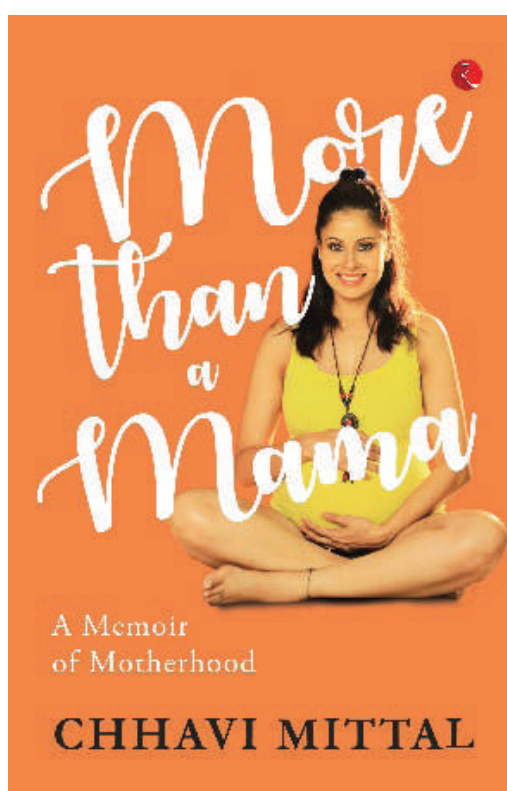
INSIDE THE BOARDROOM How Behaviour Trumps Rationality by R. Gopalakrishnan and Tulsi Jayakumar (INR-595, PP-224)

The largest private airline in India went bankrupt, as did the bank that could not say no to its borrowers who defaulted on huge loans. Could these disasters have been foreseen, if not averted? Would it have helped if the directors on the board had spoken up before the corporate failure?

Inside the Boardroom explores the downfall of these companies and many more in the light of directors' behaviour and its impact on corporate governance. R. Gopalakrishnan and Tulsi Jayakumar believe that corporate success goes beyond having significant knowledge of accounting rules and governance regulations. They boldly assert that directors' behaviour in the boardroom is less rational than may be widely believed! Being human, directors' decisions are naturally subjective and prone to behavioural bias, especially when confronted with manifestations of power, passion and authority in the boardroom, or even a secret desire to be accepted by others. Hence, successful directors and boards need to be deep observers of human behaviour and boardroom dynamics because behavioural and cultural nuances are significant aspects in most incidents of mismanagement leading to governance failure.

Lucidly described with a plethora of real events and insightful instances, *Inside the Boardroom* showcases the authors' experience with governance and boardroom behaviour. It brings to light misbehaviours in the boardroom, early warning signs of failing governance in companies and some magical mantras for CEOs and independent directors to prevent failures.

More than a Mama: A Memoir on Motherhood by Chhavi Mittal (INR-184, PP-295)



'Before you continue on this beautiful journey, ask yourself: what is the thing that defines you? Not as a mother, not as a wife, but as you.'

More than a Mama is a heartfelt, unrelentingly honest memoir that portrays the life-changing wonders of motherhood. From pregnancy to postpartum, the author traces her journey as she filters expectations from reality and busts common myths. She creates a world that prioritizes her needs as an individual and a mother and provides valuable insights on diet, fitness and mental health during pregnancy as well as postpartum.

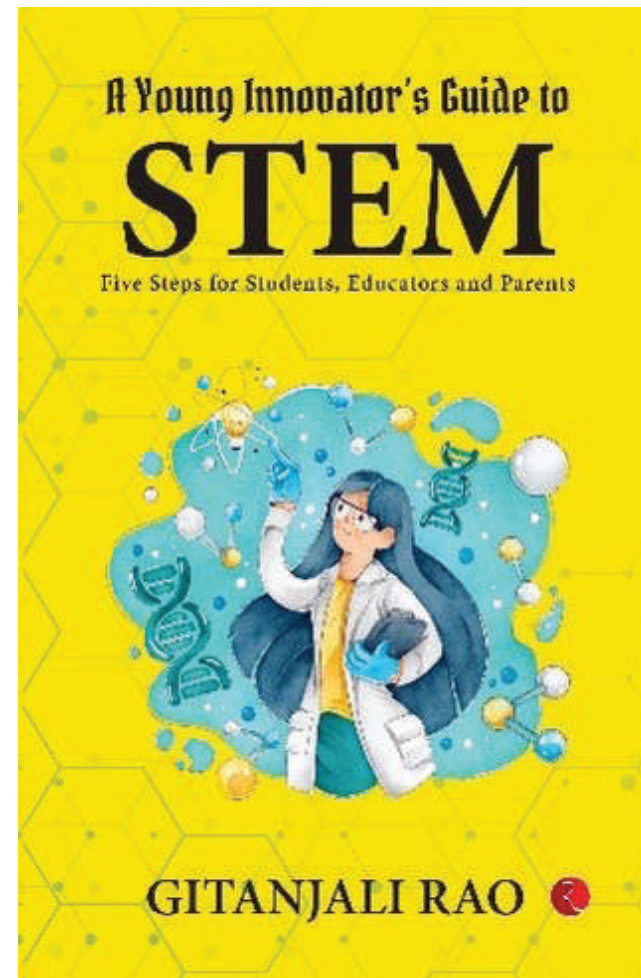
Candid, light and effervescent, the book explores various themes such as how to read the signs of your body, how to develop a covetous mind-body connection, how to eat what is right for you, how to customize your own workout and diet plan and, above all, how to boost your confidence as a mother. Followed and loved by millions worldwide as an actor and content creator, Chhavi Mittal opens herself up through her writing and shares her secrets of how, slowly but surely, she learned to do it all.

A Young Innovator's Guide to STEM Five Steps for Students, Educators and Parents by Gitanjali Rao (INR-295, PP-200)

'How do we do well in school and try to innovate?'
'How do you know which challenge helps learn which skill sets?'
'How do we learn technology in-depth, which we have never been taught in school?'
'How do we know which solution will work?'

The bright, young minds of today are grappling with a new world that has unique problems. This, in turn, has made traditional approaches and tools inadequate. More than ever, there is a need to develop innovative solutions for different problems using resources, tools and tips unique to each individual.

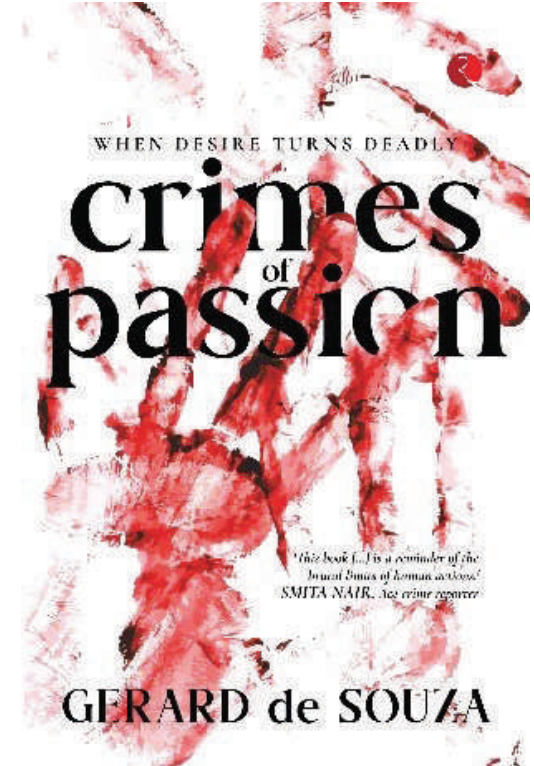
Through her accessible book, innovator and America's Top Young Scientist Gitanjali Rao puts



spotlight on the innovation journey, introducing readers to what it takes to turn ideas into reality. Innovation is within reach for anyone with a creative idea, and through her own experiences, the author demonstrates that the journey is possible. Recognized by ABC, NBC, CBS, NPR, The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon and Marvel's Hero Project, the gifted author uses exciting yet practical examples as well as necessary tools and discussion questions in her pursuit to equip young, inquisitive minds looking to develop innovative solutions.

A Young Innovator's Guide to STEM strives to enable students, teachers and educators to prepare for the unknown future and help infuse innovative practices at home and in classrooms. This is an inspiring book with a compelling message: innovation is necessary and possible for a brighter future.

Crimes of Passion by Gerard de Souza (INR-295, PP-208)



What drove Emile Jerome to take a late-night flight all the way from Cochin to Mumbai, only to throw his fledgling Indian Navy career away with each thrust of the knife into the hapless TV executive Neeraj Grover?

Did Goan bartender Samson D'Souza really murder British teenager Scarlett Keeling on the sands of Anjuna beach?

Why did Santosh Singh brutally murder the young, hip and attractive Priyadarshini Mattoo, for whom he declared his undying love?

Did Pitchai Rajagopal have Prince Santhakumar killed to win over his young wife?

What was the real reason for the killing of investigative journalist Shivani Bhatnagar?

In *Crimes of Passion: When Desire Turns Deadly*, journalist Gerard de Souza looks at 11 tales of love, loss and violence through a detailed analysis of court documents and newspaper reports. The stories explore the people and their background as well as the various forces that determined the outcome, along with the frequent failures and occasional successes of our legal system. Read on to learn about the darkest crimes of passion in India.

Google's AI-Powered Search Soon For India In Hindi And English

IAN S

Google on Thursday expanded its generative AI search experience in India and Japan, the first countries outside the US.

The new AI-powered search feature, dubbed SGE (Search Generative Experience), will be available through Google's Search Labs in these markets and will introduce a new feature aimed at making it easier to find information in its AI-powered overviews.

"This week, we launched Search Labs in the first countries outside the US - India and Japan - enabling people to opt into SGE to help them better understand topics faster, uncover new viewpoints



and insights and get things done more easily," Google said in a blogpost.

SGE, which was first announced at this year's Google I/O Developer conference in May, adds a conversational mode to Google Search, allowing you to ask Google questions about a topic and have it respond with answers, simi-

lar to an AI chatbot.

Similar to the US, people in India and Japan will be able to use generative AI capabilities in their local languages, either by typing a query or using voice input.

In India, users will also find a language toggle to help multilingual speakers easily switch back and forth

between English and Hindi, and they can also listen to the responses, which is a popular preference. In both countries, Search ads will continue to appear in dedicated ad slots throughout the page, the tech giant said.

Along with these updates, SGE is introducing a new feature that will make it easier for people to discover and visit the web pages that support the information provided by AI.

"Starting today, when you see an arrow icon next to information in an AI-powered overview, you can click to see relevant web pages, and easily learn more by visiting the sites," Google said.

The feature is launching first in the US and will roll out to Japan and India over the coming weeks.

Gene Therapy For Brain Tumour Shows Promise In Early Results: Lancet Study

Press Trust Of India

survived up to five years, they said.

With current standard-of-care, the life expectancy for a tumour of this kind of just over 14 months.

The study found that this treatment wasn't toxic to the patients, suggesting that the highest dose used in this trial could be used in future trials.

Though the adenoviral gene therapy vectors were supposed to be active for up to a month, the researchers discovered that activity from the adenoviral vector expressing the HSV1-TK was active for up to 17 months.

A therapy combining cell-killing and immune-stimulating drugs are safe and effective in extending survival for patients with gliomas, a highly aggressive form of brain cancer, according to a study published in The Lancet Oncology journal.

Given gliomas' poor prognosis and limited response to treatments like chemotherapy and radiation, the team looked to using the protein Flt3L to recruit immune cells, typically absent from the brain.

These immune cells are required to kick start a more effective cancer immune response.

"Being able to move a novel therapy from bench to bedside in such a streamlined fashion is exciting, and represents a tour-de-force in translational medicine," said Oren Sagher, a professor of neurosurgery at the University of Michigan (U-M), US.

The study focused on two types of genetic therapies in high-grade gliomas. The first was a combination of HSV-1-TK, a protein, and Valtrex, a drug used to treat viral infections like cold sores and chickenpox.

HSV-1-TK turns Valtrex into a cytotoxic compound that kills actively dividing cancer cells. The second was Flt3L, a protein that recruits essential immune cells to the brain.

When used in combination, these therapies showed exciting early results, including improved survival, the researchers said.

Of the 18 patients enrolled in the trial, six survived more than two years, three survived more than three years, and one patient, who is still alive at the time of publication,



This discovery changes expectations of adenoviral gene therapy in the brain and extends the potential time during which the combination HSV1-TK and Valtrex might be harnessed to combat tumour recurrence, the researchers said.

"This originated from a theoretical idea based on evolutionary hypotheses and was first tested in experimental models of the disease," said Pedro Lowenstein, a professor at U-M.

"Finally, after many years, we're thrilled to report the results of testing this approach in human patients, obtaining results that will lead to better treatments for this group of brain tumor patients," said Maria Castro, a professor at U-M.

Blood Clotting Proteins Could Help Predict Post-Covid Cognitive Deficits

Press Trust Of India

Two blood proteins, known to contribute to clotting, could help predict cognitive deficits 6 and 12 months after hospitalisation due to Covid, new research published in the journal Nature Medicine has found.

"Brain fog", or the inability to focus and pay attention, is one of the commonly reported post-Covid cognitive effects. Other such cognitive deficits include loss in executive function, memory, and learning.

The blood proteins, identified as fibrinogen and d-dimer, were highly correlated with post-acute COVID-19 cognitive deficits, the study from the University of Oxford, UK, found.

In this study, the researchers collected blood samples of 1,837 patients hospitalised for COVID-19 in the UK between January 29, 2020 and November 20, 2021.

They also got clinician-acquired and patient-reported data about the patients' cognition 6 and 12 months after hospital admission.

The clinician-acquired data was used in determining the Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA) score, which measured the patients' objective cognitive deficits.

The patient-reported data was obtained through Patient Symptom Questionnaire (C-PSQ) and helped measure their subjective cognitive deficits.

Individuals with high levels of fibrinogen at the time of hospital admission relative to C-reactive protein (CRP), which is formed as a consequence of inflammation, showed significantly higher C-PSQ (subjective deficits) and lower MoCA score (objective deficits) at 6 and 12 months after Covid, the researchers found.

In other words, they wrote, high levels of fibrinogen compared to CRP were

linked to signs of both objective and subjective cognitive deficits at 6 and 12 months after Covid.

The researchers also found that raised levels of d-dimer compared to CRP translated into significantly higher C-PSQ, but not lower MoCA, along with occupational outcomes at 6 and 12 months after Covid.

Thus, elevated levels of d-dimer compared to CRP were linked with subjective cognitive deficits, as well as signs of occupational impact such as an impaired ability to work or an occupational change, at 6 and 12 months, they wrote.

The researchers think that fibrinogen, indicative of inflammation, may directly affect the brain through brain cell damage and eventually, binding of amyloid-beta, suggesting dementia.

Previous studies have associated raised fibrinogen levels with cognitive deficit and subsequent dementia.

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

Office Of The Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri

Expression Of Interest (Eoi) Fresh To Nit No.46

eNIT No.50 of 2023-24/3016-25/R&B Uri e-tendering DATED: 01-09-2023

For and on behalf of the Expression of Interest (EOI) are invited from approved and eligible Bidders as per Instruction to Bidder (ITB) and Terms of Reference at Annexure-I. The Bidder (Firm/Consultant/Agency/Company) should have the eligibility as per Annexure-II under Eligibility Criteria for each of the following works:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In lacs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Class of Contract	Cost of Tender Document (In Rupees)
1.	Providing Consultancy services for Architectural structural, Mechanical design/ drawings of (Sub-Structure/ Super Structure) & Geo Technical investigation for providing the conceptual design for approval & final detailed project report with drawings as required in 7 set in colour A3 size complete in accordance with the standing instructions of the architectural council of India. For Construction of 1x15mtr. Span Foot Bridge over Nallah Gohallan at Jabla Sukhdar.	0.63	1260/-	Architecture / Structural Consultancy	200/=
2.	Providing Consultancy services for Architectural structural, Mechanical design/ drawings of (Sub-Structure) & Geo Technical investigation for providing the conceptual design for approval & final detailed project report with drawings as required in 7 set in colour A3 size complete in accordance with the standing instructions of the architectural council of India. For Construction of crossing on Nallah at Salamabad Uri for connectivity upto Mir Mohalla Lower Nowpora from link road salamabad near high school.	0.56	1120/-	Architecture / Structural Consultancy	200/=

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

1.	Date of Issue of EOI Notice.	01.09.2023
2.	Period of Downloading of Bidding Documents.	From 01.09.2023 12:00 P.M To 06-09-2023:00 P.M
3.	Bid Submission Start Date.	01.09.2023 From 12:00 P.M.
4.	Bid Submission End Date.	06-09-2023 2:00 P.M.
5.	Date and Time of Opening of Bids (Online).	06-09-2023 3:00 P.M. in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt (Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri [Tender Inviting Authority] (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and the bidders residing Outside UT of J&K can submit DD of any nationalized bank in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri the cost of tender document fee is non refundable.
- If MSE firm is registered with NSIC (National Small Industries Corporation) agencies for tendered item then they are exempted for submission of EMD & Tender Cost. If MSE's who are interested in availing these benefits will have to enclosed with their offer the proof of their being MSE's registered with any of the above mentioned agencies.
- 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 Uri. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 3% 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 3% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.
- The date and time of opening of Bid shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Uri.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of Opening of Technical bids.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- a. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process. b. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors. c. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid. Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons. B. Scanned copy of Bid Security Declaration Form and cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt/DD for outsider UT of J&K bidders in favour of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Uri (The Date of Treasury Challan/DD should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The Original Treasury Challan (Cost of Tender Document) and other relevant bid documents including Bid Security Declaration Form shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.
- Price escalation and taxes: The rate quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees, shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes up to completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the Bidder on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
- Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
- In case of CRF and other specified project, the relevant guideline/ standard bidding document shall be followed.
- Instruction to bidder (ITB)
- All Bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualifying criteria/qualification information with the bids.
 - All Bidders shall upload Copies of Original Documents defining constitution/Legal status, place of registration and principal place of Business with Cell No. and Correspondence Address. b. All Bidders shall upload Treasury Challan.
 - All Bidders shall upload completely filled Bid Security Declaration Form.
 - d. All Bidders shall upload Valid Registration with renewal Side (Latest), Valid GSTIN No. & PAN No.
 4. All Bidders shall upload Scanned Copy of GSTIN Registration and latest clearance certificate/Acknowledge Receipt of GST Return Copy "FORM GSTR-3B" Latest Quarter/ Latest Month.
- The bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submission of bid.
- All the documents relating to the bid shall be in English language.
- Bidder must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including tender documents fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid. No document(s) which has/have not been uploaded shall be entertained in the form of hard copy. However, in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.

No. 2023-24/3016-25
DIPK-8123/23 Dated: 01-09-2023.

Sd/=
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division, Uri.

GOVERNMENT OF UT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) QC&PD HMT Srinagar

TENDER DOCUMENT

e-NIT No: - JSD/PHE/QCPD/e-tender /2023-24/37 Dated: 31-08-2023.

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, E-tenders are invited on item rate basis in two cover system from Govt. registered/GEM approved OEM's (ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS ONLY) for Supply of ISI marked Centrifugally Cast (Spun) Ductile Iron Pipes conforming to IS: 8329/2000, read with up-to date amendments for Water Application in assorted sizes & Classes & have supplied such items in India and possess Satisfactory Performance and excellent track record in the said field, with documentary evidence from respective Govt. /Semi Govt. Departments/PSU/Corporations/State or National level undertakings for the subject item.

SUBJECT OF Supply: -
Supply of ISI marked Centrifugally Cast (Spun) Ductile Iron Pipes conforming to IS: 8329/2000, read with up-to date amendments for assorted sizes ranging from 80mm NB up-to and including 600mm NB in class K7 & assorted sizes ranging from 150mm NB, up-to & Including 300mm NB, in Class K9, suitable for push-on-joint (Rubber Gasket-D jointing) with cement mortar lining inside the pipes with outside zinc coating and Bituminous finish coat conforming to IS:8329/2000 read with amendment No.1 & with EPDM rubber gaskets conforming to IS: 5382 of 1985 (second revision and all up-to date amendments), from Govt. registered/ GEM approved OEM holding valid CML certification for the manufacture of said NB's & class of D. I. Pipes as required for the execution of various Water Supply Schemes to be under taken under Jal Jeevan Mission and various programmes of Jal Shakti PHE in Kashmir province of UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

GENERAL INFORMATION

General	
Client Name	Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt. Kashmir.
IFB No.	Tender Notice No. JS/PHE/QC&PD/37 of 2023-24 Dated: 31-08-2023
Bidding Type	Open Tender
Amount Details	
Bid Document Fee (Non-Refundable)	Rs.5000/= (Rupees five thousand only) in the shape of treasury Challan -MH-0215/ e-transfer to J&K Bank A/ C 0005010100005110.IFSC JAKAOCCHINAR
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	The tenders shall be accompanied with an earnest money for an amount of Rs.20.00 Lacs (Rupees Twenty Lacs) in the shape of CDR /FDR/BG, from a scheduled Bank having its branch in Kashmir. The EMD shall be valid for a period of 45 days beyond the final bid validity period.
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) pledged to:	Chief Accounts Officer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department, Kashmir.
Tender Dates	
Bid Document Downloading Start Date.	31-08-2023 03:00 PM
Bid Document Downloading End Date.	21-09-2023 02:00PM
Query submission Start Date	31-08-2023 03:00 PM
Query submission End Date	15-09-2023 03:00 PM
Pre-Bid Meeting (through VC)	16-09-2023 02:00 PM
Pre-Bid meeting Venue:	Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department Rajbagh Srinagar Kashmir.
On Line Bid Submission Start Date	31-08-2023 03:30 PM
Bid Submission End Date	21-09-2023 02:30PM
Date of opening of Cover 1st.	22-09-2023 02:00PM
Date of opening of Cover 2nd.	To be notified separately.
Bid Validity Period	180 days from the date of opening of the Cover 1st/ Technical Bid
Officer Inviting Bid	Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE Deptt. Kashmir.
Bid opening Authority	Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE Deptt. Kashmir.
Address	Engineering Complex, Raj Bagh (Near Govt. Silk Factory Show Room) Srinagar, Kashmir.

The complete tender document consisting of qualification / eligibility criteria, General and Commercial terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the e-procurement portal of J&K Govt. i.e. www.jktenders.gov.in. The bids shall be submitted in electronic format on the e-procurement portal; www.jktenders.gov.in. The bids uploaded on the portal up to due date and time, shall be opened on the date and time (given in the table above / General information), in the office of the Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE Deptt. Kashmir, in presence of the bidders who choose to be present. In case office happens to be closed due to a holiday, or any other reason, on the scheduled date of opening - the bids will be opened on the next working day at the scheduled time and venue or on any day convenient/feasible to the tender opening committee/authority of the Department during the tender Period which shall be validly informed to the bidders.

The bid shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of the Cover 1st/ Technical Bid

No.: JS/PHE/QC&PD/2355-62
DIPK-8136/23 Dated: - 01-09-2023

Sd/= Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti (PHE) QC&PD HMT,
Srinagar.

RBI Says 93% Of Rs 2000 Notes Returned To Banks

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank on Friday said that as much as 93 per cent of Rs 2000 currency notes that were in circulation on May 19 -- the day when the currency was withdrawn from circulation -- have been returned to banks.



According to the data received from the banks, the total value of Rs 2000 banknotes received back from circulation is Rs 3.32 lakh crore up to August 31, 2023, it said in a statement. "Consequently, Rs 2000 banknotes in circulation as at the close of business on August 31, 2023 stood at Rs 0.24 lakh crore. Thus, 93 per cent of the Rs 2000 banknotes in circulation as on May 19, 2023, have since been returned," it said.

Data collected from major banks indicates that out of the total banknotes in Rs 2000 denomination received back from circulation, about 87 per cent is in the form of deposits and the

remaining around 13 per cent has been exchanged into other denomination banknotes.

The Reserve Bank of India had announced the withdrawal of Rs 2000 banknotes from circulation on May 19, 2023.

The total value of Rs 2000 banknotes in circulation, which amounted to Rs 3.62 lakh crore on March 31, 2023, had declined to Rs 3.56 lakh crore as at the close of business on May 19, 2023.

RBI requested the members of the public holding the high-value banknote to utilise the remaining period until September 30, 2023, to deposit and/or exchange them.

Festive Demand, Strong SUV Offtake Propel Domestic Passenger Vehicle Sales To Record High In August



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Domestic passenger vehicle sales hit a record in August led by highest-ever monthly dispatches from Maruti Suzuki on the back of festive demand and the continued strong offtake of SUVs.

Hyundai Motor India, Mahindra & Mahindra and Toyota Kirloskar Motor also reported strong dispatches to dealers last month.

Tata Motors, however, saw a dip in domestic passenger vehicle sales in August.

"The month of August was a very good month for the industry. Passenger vehicle sales in August stood at 3,60,897 units. This is the highest ever monthly sales in any month in any year in the industry," Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) Senior Executive Officer (Marketing & Sales) Shashank Srivastava said.

The previous highest for the industry was 3,55,400 units reported in September 2022, he added.

The industry wholesales last month grew by 9.7 per cent to 3,60,897 units as compared with 3,26,980 units in August 2022, Srivastava said.

In the April-August period, the industry sales crossed the 17 lakh units mark which is a growth of 8 per cent over the same period of the previous fiscal, he added.

Srivastava noted that the SUV

segment continued to perform well and accounted for 48.6 per cent of the overall passenger vehicle industry in August.

The SUV contribution to the domestic passenger vehicle industry stood at 43 per cent in FY23.

The festive season which started with Onam in Kerala has led to a very positive retail growth of 25 per cent in Kerala, Srivastava said.

MSI reported its highest-ever monthly wholesales at 1,89,082 units in August on the back of robust sales in the SUV segment. The country's largest carmaker became the leading player in the domestic SUV segment in the April-August period on the back of models like Grand Vitara, Brezza and Jimny.

The auto major's overall dispatches to dealers last month were 14 per cent higher as compared to 1,65,173 units in August 2022. The company previously reported its record monthly sales of 1,82,448 units in October 2020.

Total domestic passenger vehicle sales were at 1,56,114 units as against 1,34,166 units in the year-ago month, a growth of 16 per cent.

Utility vehicles, consisting of Brezza, Grand Vitara, Jimny, Ertiga and XL6, clocked sales of 58,746 units last month, over two-fold increase as compared to 26,932 units in August last year.

GST Collection Rises 11% To Rs 1.59 Lakh Cr In Aug On Improved Compliance, Lower Evasion

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: GST collections grew by 11 per cent to over Rs 1.59 lakh crore in August on the back of improved compliance and reduced evasion, with experts forecasting higher mop-up to continue in the upcoming festive season.

The gross GST revenue collected in August 2023 is Rs 1,59,069 crore of which Central GST is Rs 28,328 crore, State GST is Rs 35,794 crore, Integrated GST is Rs 83,251 crore (including Rs 43,550 crore collected on import of goods) and cess is Rs 11,695 crore (including Rs 1,016 crore collected on import of goods).

"The revenues for the month of August 2023 are 11 per cent higher than the GST revenues in the same month last year. During the month, revenue from import of goods was 3 per cent higher and the revenues from domestic transactions (including import of services) are 14 per cent higher than the revenues from these sources during the same month last year," the Finance Ministry said in a statement.

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection was over Rs 1.43 lakh crore in August 2022.

Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra said GST collections have grown more than the nominal GDP growth rate in the April-June quarter despite no increase in tax rates.

"This is because of better compliance and improved tax collection efficiency," Malhotra said, adding tax evasion and avoidance too have been low.

Separately, the government also launched the 'Mera Bill Mera Adhikaar' app to incen-



tivise customers to seek bills while making purchases. The Centre and states have together set aside a Rs 30 crore corpus for the remaining months of this fiscal for the reward scheme.

The scheme would help increase compliance behaviour among customers and help cut down on evasion as once an electronic bill is generated, the sales and the GST collected on such bills will be captured in the backend system of GST Network.

The scheme was launched on a pilot basis on Friday in 6 states and UTs -- Assam, Gujarat & Haryana and UTs of Puducherry, Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu.

"Going forward we'll implement this scheme across India on the basis of the outcomes and learnings from this pilot scheme," Malhotra said.

Under the scheme every month there will be 810 lucky draws. The draws include 800 lucky draws of GST invoices of prize value of Rs 10,000 and 10 draws with a prize of Rs 10 lakh each.

Besides, there will be 2 bumper lucky draws of Rs 1 crore each in a quarter.

In a statement, the Finance Ministry said there were more

than 1.51 lakh downloads of Mera Bill Mera Adhikaar app with the active participation of consumers in the pilot scheme on the first launch of launch.

Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala said, "A corpus of Rs 30 crore has been made available towards the fund under this initiative on an annual basis".

KPMG Partner and National Head Indirect Taxes Abhishek Jain said with the approaching festive season GST collections are expected to be better in the coming months.

Deloitte India Partner M S Mani said these GST collections, coming in the backdrop of the good GDP growth in the first quarter heralds the onset of the festive season where consumption increases occur. The increase in the collections arising from domestic transactions being 14 per cent higher than last year also supports the other economic data.

"All the key manufacturing and consuming states have shown an increase ranging from 10 to 23 per cent indicating that the overall increase in domestic consumption is fairly widespread across states," Mani added.

After India's Driest August In Over 100 Years, More Grain Export Curbs Likely

Bloomberg

NEW DELHI: India received the lowest August rains since at least 1901, raising concerns about weaker crop output and the potential for more export restrictions following the nation's curbs on rice.

The country received 162.7 millimeters of rainfall this month, 36% lower than normal, according to the India Meteorological Department. Total rainfall during June-August was 10% below average, the figures show.

Monsoon rains irrigate about half of India's farmland and are crucial for crops such as sugar and soybeans. Erratic weather has hurt some harvests since last year, forcing the nation to restrict exports of wheat and rice to cool domestic retail inflation that surged to a 15-month high in July. The government has



also imposed stockpile limits on some crops.

September rains will be crucial to make up the shortfall as the monsoon nears its end, especially given the onset of El Nino, which can bring drier conditions. Some main rice-growing regions in the east have had poor rainfall, hurting prospects of the biggest monsoon-sown food grain crop in the area, according to the weather office. The cane areas in the western and southern parts have also seen lower rainfall, it said.

Although precipitation

in September is forecast to be normal, the four-month monsoon season may end up being below-average, Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, director general of the meteorological department, said at a briefing on Thursday.

Any decline in production of wheat, rice and sugar in the world's second-biggest grower could put more stress on global food supplies and boost prices of major commodities. Rice prices in Asia are hovering near a 15-year high and sugar prices in New York are up more than 25% this year.



J&K Bank Renews MoU With J&K Police

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Bank Friday renewed its Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with J&K Police Department, by virtue of which J&K Bank will continue to be the preferred Banker for the department in its exclusive dealings regarding all banking related services, while as, employees of the Police department will continue to enjoy the most favoured client status from the Bank.

Also, as a mark of paying homage to the martyrs of J&K Police, the Bank today signed another MoU with the police department and granted favoured client status to the wards/next of kin of martyrs of J&K Police Department.

MD & CEO Baldev Prakash and Director General Police Dilbag Singh put in their signatures on both the renewed as well as new agreement at the Police Headquarters in presence of Special DGP (Crime) A K Choudhary, ADGP (Hqtrs) Manish Kumar Sinha, ADGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar, Bank's Executive Director Sudhir Gupta, General Managers Ashutosh Sareen, Narjaya Gupta, Syed Rais Maqbool and Syed Shafat Hussain Rufai besides IGP, DIGs, SSPs and other senior officers of the Bank and police department. ADGP (Jammu) Mukesh Singh also joined the function via video conferencing along with other senior police officials from Jammu.

After paying rich tributes to the martyrs of J&K Police, MD & CEO Baldev Prakash said, "I

feel very happy to state that J&K Police and J&K Bank are two significant institutions that have been relentless in pursuit of achieving two vital pre-requisites of development in Jammu and Kashmir i.e. peace and progress. Better law and order situation is evident in overall improvement in the UT's economy."

"While J&K Police Department works day and night to make the lives of people safe and secure through maintenance of law & order and to prevent crime & disorder, J&K Bank continues to act as the trusted custodian of public deposits, enabling the common people secure their livelihoods by providing easy, accessible & affordable financing besides providing wealth management solutions", he added.

He further said, "Moving an extra-mile to honour our martyrs, today we have signed another MoU to give most favoured client status to wards of martyrs of J&K Police so as to provide them with customized banking schemes/services. Under the agreement, J&K Bank will extend attractive benefits/concessions/relaxations to the wards/next of kin of Martyrs of J&K Police."

Regarding the renewal of 2017 MoU, he said, "We would love to deepen the mutually beneficial bond further by renewing the MoU signed in 2017 with enhanced benefits and concessions for the police personnel. And I believe the renewed agreement will take our relationship to a visibly higher level."

After Domestic LPG Price Reduction, Commercial LPG Prices Cut By ₹158

ANI

NEW DELHI: In a major relief to LPG consumers, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have slashed the price of 19 KG commercial LPG gas cylinders by ₹158, according to the sources.

The new prices will be effective from today and Delhi's retail sales price of 19kg commercial LPG cylinder will be ₹1,522.

Earlier, on the eve of Raksha Bandhan, the price of Domestic LPG was reduced by ₹200 by the central government as a gift to women of the country.

Monthly revisions for both commercial and domestic LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) cylinders occur on the first day of each month, with the new rates becoming effective from September 1. Earlier in August, the prices of commercial LPG cylinders were slashed by ₹99.75 by the OMCs.



In July, the prices of commercial LPG gas cylinders were increased by ₹7 each.

Before this hike, there had been two consecutive price cuts for commercial LPG cylinders which were in May and June this year. While in May OMCs reduced the price of a commercial LPG cylinder by ₹172, in June it was reduced by ₹83.

In April, too, their prices were reduced by ₹91.50 per unit.

Petroleum and oil marketing companies had on March 1 this year hiked the prices of commercial LPG cylinders by ₹350.50 per unit and domestic LPG cylinders by ₹50 per unit.

Air India Onboarded 650 Pilots Since April This Year: CEO

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Air India group airlines have recruited and onboarded as many as 650 pilots since April this year, according to Air India CEO Campbell Wilson.

Besides, Air India's widebody Boeing 777 fleet will have two more B777s by the first week of this month, with one of them already added to the fleet, which will help the airline enhance services to the US and upgrade capacity, he said.

Air India group comprises full service Air India and its two wholly-owned subsidiaries -- Air India Express and AIX Connect (erstwhile AirAsia India).

Last year, Air India announced its plans to induct on lease 11 B777s -- six B777-300ER and five B777-200-LR, primarily to operate its flights on North American routes.

He also said that two of the three long-gouted Boeing 787s have also returned to service.

Significantly all this comes amid the aviation safety regulator DGCA temporarily suspending all training at Air India's Mumbai and Hyderabad facilities after it found certain "lapses" during a

spot check.

The Mumbai facility imparts training to Boeing fleet pilots and the Hyderabad facility is used for training of operating the narrowbody Airbus A320 family fleet.

"The Group Hiring Cell (GHC) has successfully recruited and onboarded more than 650 pilots since April 1," Wilson said in his weekly message to Air India employees.

GHC is the airline's first integrated, cross-AOC (air operator certificate) and cross-functional teams.

Executives from the three airlines came together to recruit pilots en masse, he said, adding that recruitment is (still) going on.

Moreover, "the first week of September and this week saw the addition of not one but two new Boeing 777 aircraft to our fleet -- the fifth and sixth of the year so far," Campbell said.

Of these two, one is 777-200LR which will be deployed on North American routes, allowing Air India to upgrade more San Francisco and New York frequencies with a premium economy class as well, according to him.

CBDT Signs 95 APAs In FY'23, Highest Ever Since Launch

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Income Tax department has signed 95 advance pricing agreements (APA) in 2022-23 -- the highest ever in any financial year since its launch in 2012.

"In FY 2022-23, CBDT recorded the highest ever APA signings in any financial year since the launch of the APA programme, signing a total of 95 APAs," the income tax department said in a statement.

The APA programme of CBDT is one of its foremost initiatives for promoting an investor-friendly and non-adversarial tax regime in India. Since its commencement in July 2012, the Indian APA programme has contributed significantly to the Government of India's mission of promoting ease of doing business, it added.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), which is the apex decision-making body in direct taxes, also signed 32 Bilateral Advance Pricing Agreements (BAPAs) in 2022-23 being the maximum number of BAPAs in any financial year till date.

The BAPAs were signed as a consequence of entering into mutual agreements with India's treaty partners--Finland, the UK, the US, Denmark, Singapore, and Japan.

Bilateral APAs help reduce the transfer pricing disputes that arise in respect of international transactions between related companies located in the two countries.

Sensex, Nifty Rally Around 1% On Strong Macro Data, Global Cues

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Equity benchmark Sensex on Friday rallied around 556 points, logging its best single day in two months, while Nifty closed above the 19,400 level on value-buying in power, metal and oil stocks following strong domestic macro data and global cues.

The BSE barometer closed higher by 555.75 points or 0.86 per cent at 65,387.16 with 26 of its constituents ending in the green.

The index opened higher and later touched a high of 19,435.30 in day trading. It touched a low of 64,818.37.

The broader Nifty spurted by 181.50 points or 0.94 per cent to close at 19,435.30. As many as 44 Nifty stocks advanced while six declined.

NTPC was the lead gainer among Sensex stocks, rising by 4.84 per cent.

JSW Steel (3.37 per cent),

Tata Steel (3.33 per cent), Maruti (3.24 per cent), Power Grid (3.07 per cent), IndusInd Bank (2.95 per cent), Bajaj Finance (2.12 per cent) and Tech Mahindra (2.22 per cent) were among major gainers.

On the other hand, Ultratech Cement, Sun Pharma, Nestle and L&T were the losers.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services said, "Domestic markets made significant gains, buoyed by favourable global cues, a higher-than-expected domestic manufacturing PMI, and positive GDP growth data."

This robust economic outlook propelled key manufacturing sectors to lead the rally, while strong sales figures generated increased interest in auto stocks, Nair added.

Official data released on Thursday showed that the Indian economy grew 7.8 per cent in the June quarter, mainly on the back of double-

digit expansion in the services sector, and retained its position as the world's fastest-growing major economy.

In Europe, Britain's FTSE 100 rose 0.5 per cent, France's CAC 40 edged up nearly 0.1 per cent while Germany's DAX was little changed. Gains in US futures supported the positive sentiment. Dow futures was up 0.3 per cent and S&P 500 futures rose 0.2 per cent.

Among Asian markets, Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 rose 0.3 per cent, South Korea's Kospi added 0.3 per cent and the Shanghai Composite added 0.4 per cent.

Global oil price benchmark Brent Crude futures surged 1.26 per cent to USD 87.92 per barrel.

On Thursday, Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers of domestic equities as they offloaded shares worth Rs 2,973.10 crore, as per exchange data.

Death toll from Johannesburg fire rises to 76 as city turns to tough job of identifying victims

Agenceis

Johannesburg: Search teams finished checking a derelict Johannesburg apartment building a day after one of South Africa's deadliest fires broke out there as pathologists faced the grisly task Friday of identifying charred bodies and body parts that were transported in large trucks to mortuaries across the city.

The death toll rose from Thursday's pre-dawn blaze to 76 after two people died in a hospital overnight, Health Minister Joe Phaahla told reporters. At least 12 of the victims were children, authorities said.

Homeless South Africans, poor foreign migrants and others who found themselves marginalized in a city often referred to as Africa's richest but which has deep social problems inhabited the downtown building.

The number of injured people hospitalised from the fire also increased to 88, according to a provincial health official.

After conducting three searches through each of the building's five stories, emergency services personnel believed that all human remains were recovered from the site, Johannesburg Emergency

Services spokesperson Nana Radebe said.

Police and forensic investigators took over the scene for their own examinations, Radebe said.

The remains of some of the victims were taken to a mortuary in the township of Soweto, in the southwestern outskirts of South Africa's economic hub, where people began to gather as authorities called for family members to help identify the dead.

Motalalate Modiba, a Gauteng province health department spokesperson, said 62 of the bodies were so badly burned as to make them unidentifiable and the city's pathology department faced using painstaking DNA analysis to officially identify the majority of victims.

"Even if the family were to come, there is no way of them being able to identify that body," Modiba said.

Thembaletu Mphahla, the CEO of Gauteng's Forensic Pathology Services, said at a Thursday evening news conference that numerous unidentified body parts were found in the remnants of the building and his investigators needed to establish if they were from people already counted as dead

or came from additional fire victims.

Many of the dead were believed to be foreign nationals and possibly in South Africa illegally, making it more difficult to identify them, city officials said.

Local media reports, quoting residents of the building, said at least 20 of the dead were from the southern African nation of Malawi. At least five were Tanzanian nationals, the Tanzanian High Commission in South Africa said.

The fire ravaged a city-owned building that had effectively been abandoned by authorities and had become home to poor people desperately seeking some form of accommodation in the rundown Johannesburg central business district. The building was believed to be home to around 200 families.

Senior city officials conceded they had been aware of problems at the building since at least 2019.

Many witnesses said in the immediate aftermath of the fire that they were separated from family members in the chaos of escaping the inferno. Some said there were children walking around alone outside the building, with no idea if their parents

or siblings had survived.

Non-governmental organizations stepped in to help survivors with temporary accommodation, while religious leaders held prayer services outside the burned-out building.

Attention in South Africa also turned to who would be held responsible for the tragedy. Emergency workers and witnesses painted a picture of a building full of shacks and other temporary structures, and where multiple families were crammed into rooms. Some people stayed in the basement parking garage.

Local government officials said that people were trapped inside the building because security gates were locked and there were no proper fire escapes. Many bodies were reportedly found on top of each other near one locked gate where they became trapped. Others jumped out windows and died in the fall, witnesses and officials said.

At the building, twisted sheets and blankets still hung like ropes out of windows a day after, showing how desperately some had tried to flee the flames and smoke.

The police have opened a criminal case, although it was

unclear who might face any charges over the deaths as no official authority ran the building. South Africa's Parliament has called for a wider investigation.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, who visited the scene on Thursday, said the tragedy was partly caused by "criminal elements" who had taken over the building and charged people to live there.

"The lesson for us is that we've got to address this problem," Ramaphosa said.

Ramaphosa's call was repeated by many figures from national and local government, who said it was time to resolve Johannesburg's housing crisis. People living in broken-down structures known as "hijacked buildings" is common in Johannesburg.

The focus on the issue only after so many people were killed angered some in the city.

"We have seen the president calling this incident tragic," said Herman Mashaba, a former mayor of Johannesburg and now the leader of an opposition political party. "What do you mean tragic? You've been aware of this. We have seen the decay of this city over 25 years. It's not something that just happened overnight." (AP)

ICICI Prudential Life Insurance registers 158% surge in sale of products



Agenceis

Srinagar: ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has registered 158% growth in its guaranteed savings products segment from FY2020 to FY2023.

Customer preference has shifted towards products giving guaranteed benefits due to increased volatility in stock markets. Guaranteed benefit products provide the safety of capital and offer steady returns.

Vinod H, Senior Executive Vice President, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, "We have noticed a lot of consumers are looking to build an alternate source of income. Some of our customer-friendly products

such as ICICI Pru Guaranteed Income for Tomorrow, ICICI Pru Gold and ICICI Pru Sukh Samrudhi enable customers to plan for their long-term financial goals. A few of our products also provide customers the option to build an alternative income stream, as early as from the second policy year onwards."

"To ensure easy availability of insurance to various customer segments, the Company has put in place a 4D framework. The framework includes Data Analytics, Diversified Propositions, Digitalisation, and Depth in partnerships. The goal is to sell the right product to the right customer based on their needs."

Double murder case: SC says ex-Bihar MP Prabhunath Singh to be sentenced for life

Agenceis

New Delhi: The Supreme Court said on Friday it will award life sentence to former Lok Sabha MP from Bihar Prabhunath Singh for killing two people on the day of polling for assembly elections in Bihar's Saran district in 1995.

"Life sentence, 10 lakhs each for both the deceased and five lakhs for the injured, both by the respondent two (Singh) and by the state separately," a bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul said orally in the court while hearing arguments on the quantum of sentence to be awarded to Singh, adding, "We have already announced that, the orders you will get".

However, the order uploaded later in the day by the apex court said, "Arguments concluded. Judgment/order reserved".

The bench, also comprising Justices A S Oka and Vikram Nath had said, before the judgement was uploaded, that Singh

and the state of Bihar will have to pay Rs 10 lakh compensation each, separately, to the families of the two deceased, and Rs 5 lakh to an injured victim in the case.

"Never seen a case like this before," the bench observed without elaborating.

On August 18, the apex court had convicted Singh while overturning the orders of the trial court and the Patna High Court acquitting him in the case.

On Friday, the matter was fixed for hearing arguments on the quantum of sentence to be awarded to the convict.

At the outset, the bench observed, "There are two options only, there is no third option available. Life (sentence) or death, these are the only two options".

The counsel representing Singh said it is not a case where the court may consider granting death sentence.

"Do you seriously feel that we



are considering death penalty?" the bench asked.

"Life sentence, 10 lakhs each for both the deceased and five lakhs for the injured, both by the respondent number two (Singh) and by the state separately," the bench said, adding, "We have already announced that, the

orders you will get".

On the apex court's query about Singh's age, one of the advocates said he is 70-year-old.

While convicting Singh, the apex court had observed that it was dealing with a case which was an "exceptionally painful episode of our criminal justice

system".

The top court had observed there was not even an iota of doubt that Singh was instrumental in making all possible efforts to "wipe out" the evidence against him.

It had said the prosecution machinery, as also the presiding

officer of the trial court, were used as a tool of his "high handedness".

The top court had observed the three main stakeholders in a criminal trial -- the investigating officer, the public prosecutor and the judiciary -- have "utterly failed" to discharge the duties and responsibilities cast upon them.

The bench had convicted Singh, also a former MLA, for the murders of Daroga Rai and Rajendra Rai and for attempting to kill a woman.

It had noted that an FIR was registered on March 25, 1995 at Chapra on the statement of Rajendra Rai, who said that he along with eight-nine other villagers was returning after pulling their votes when a car pulled

into custody and recoveries were made from him," the spokesperson added.

The FIR alleged when Rai answered that they had cast their votes in favour of another political party, Singh opened fire from his rifle and injured three people.

The offence of murder under section 302 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) was added later as two out of the three injured, including Rajendra Rai, died during treatment.

The top court had delivered its August 18 verdict on an appeal challenging the December 2021 judgement of the Patna High Court which had dismissed a revision petition and confirmed the trial court order acquitting the accused in the case.

The apex court had not disturbed the acquittal of other accused in the case, saying their names were not reflected either in the dying declaration of Rajendra Rai or in the statement of his mother, who was a court witness.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Art-370 Abrogation

Article 370 was always considered to be a temporary provision and the speeches of Dr. BR Ambedkar, N.G. Ayyangar (in Constituent Assembly), Jawaharlal Nehru, and Gulzarilal Nanda (in Parliament) clearly indicate that complete assimilation of the State of Jammu and Kashmir at par with other States, in due course, was envisaged from the very beginning.

Therefore, Article 370 was mentioned in the Constitution of India as a temporary and transitional, he submitted.

"The framers were conscious that the constituent assembly would be dissolved after framing of the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir, yet they did not provide that upon dissolution of J-K Constituent Assembly, the power of the President would cease or become defunct. They also did not declare Article 370 as a permanent provision," Dwivedi said.

The senior lawyer said this was done for a good reason as the power to repeal Art 370 was vested by the main part in the President of India, who is the head of the State, and is advised by the council of ministers, which is responsible to Parliament.

"The fact that the President has over the years issued several Constitution Orders and has brought about fuller assimilation of J&K and parity with the other States of India shows that the trust was rightly reposed in the President. The constitutional practice shows all relevant actors understood the power of the President as continuing despite cessation of Jammu and Kashmir constituent assembly," he added.

Senior advocate V Giri, appearing for intervenor 'All India Kashmiri Samaj' submitted that Article 370 of the Constitution, as is textually explicit, was intended by the framers of the Constitution as a temporary provision.

"The cessation of operation of Article 370 has always been considered as dependent on a Presidential Order. Once Article 370 is abrogated, then the entirety of the constitutional provisions, including those providing for distribution of legislative power, exercise of executive authority, separation of powers among different organs of the state and provisions providing for a federal structure, would ipso facto apply," he said.

The hearing remained inconclusive and would continue on September 4.

Several petitions challenging the abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 and the

Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, which split the erstwhile state into two union territories - Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh - were referred to a Constitution bench in 2019.

Rare Manuscripts

remain a great source of knowledge. "Public libraries will stay relevant and continue to grow in digital age because it is not only repository of knowledge, research, new ideas and perspectives but also fosters a sense of community and promotes inclusiveness," he said.

On the occasion, the LG inaugurated a book bank established in Harishchandra Tyagi Public Library. It will provide free of cost books on various subjects to students throughout the session.

A Souvenir publication depicting the 25-year journey of the Library was also released.

2-Year Jail For

Rs.9,56,000 (nine lakhs fifty-six thousand) which is double the cheque amount is also imposed upon the accused," the court said.

The fine of Rs.9,56,000, the court said, shall include the interim compensation (ninety-five thousand six hundred) awarded to the complainant by this court. The fine so imposed shall be paid as compensation to the complainant, the court added.

The complaint was filed by one Malik Mujtaba of Brein Nishat in May 2021, after the accused failed to return Rs 4 lakhs which he had paid as debt to the accused in cash for the business of manufacturing iron works etc. the accused had issued cheques which got dishonoured and he accordingly filed the case.

Woman Among

to accumulate a significant sum of Rs 7,38,000 from unsuspecting victims under the pretense of Mehar payments and commission," he added.

The police identified them as Laal Hussain and Irshada Begum of Rajouri, Ab Rahman Rather and Ab Khaliq Dar, both residents of Budgam.

The spokesperson said that a case has been registered under sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

"Investigation was initiated immediately, leading to unearthing of the entire fraudulent operation. As of now, four individuals have been apprehended in connection with this case," he added.

INDIA Bloc

the ruling regime throws at the people, they shall not be betrayed anymore.

He asserted the countdown of this "autocratic government's exit has begun".

The government has constituted a committee headed by former president Ram Nath Kovind to explore the feasibility of "one nation, one election", opening the possibility of Lok Sabha polls being advanced so that they could be held with a string of state assembly contests.

Addressing the opposition meeting here, Kharge said the strength of the opposition alliance is making the government "nervous" and INDIA bloc partners should be prepared for "vendetta politics" as there will be more "misuse" of agencies against them.

Kharge launched a frontal attack on the government alleging the "communal poison" that the BJP and RSS have allegedly spread over the last nine years is now manifested in hate crimes against innocent train passengers and schoolchildren.

His apparent reference was to the incidents of a railway police constable fatally shooting people on board a train last month, and a teacher at a Muzaffarnagar school asking students to slap their Muslim classmate for not completing his homework.

In his opening remarks, Kharge said the success of both the previous meetings—in Patna and Bengaluru—can be measured by the fact that the prime minister in his subsequent speeches has not just attacked INDIA but has also "compared the name of our beloved country with a terrorist organisation and a symbol of slavery".

"We should be prepared for more attacks in the coming months, more raids and arrests due to this government's vendetta politics. The more ground our alliance gains the more the BJP government will misuse agencies against our leaders," he said.

Kharge, former Congress chiefs Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, NCP chief Sharad Pawar, Shiv Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray, West Bengal Chief Minister Banerjee, AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal, RJD supreme Lalu Prasad, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, among others, are participating in the discussions.

National Conference's Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti, CPI(M)'s Sitaram Yechury, CPI's D Raja, CPI (ML) leader Dipankar Bhattacharya, Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav, former Uttar Pradesh chief minister and SP president Akhilesh Yadav, Independent Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal and RLD's Jayant Chaudhary, are

also among those present at the talks.

Before the meeting, all the INDIA bloc leaders posed for a group photograph.

Opposition alliance leaders also passed a resolution hailing ISRO's successful launch of Chandrayaan-3 mission, and asserted that it took six decades to build, expand and deepen the space agency's capacities and capabilities.

Prez Appoints

the President also appointed Rajinder Singh Dogra, Advocate as Judicial Member in CAT in the similar pay scale and other conditions.

"Shri Rajinder Singh Dogra is advised to join CAT, Jammu Bench within 30 days from the date of issue of this order failing which the above appointment shall be treated as cancelled," the order added.

Army Commander

the overall security situation in the sub division.

"The Army Commander was briefed on operational preparedness, security situation and augmentation of operational capability," Army said.

He exhorted troops to maintain highest state of readiness to meet all contingencies—(KNO)

Train Mows Down

The inquest proceedings have been initiated at the GRP Bajalta, an official told a local news agency Kashmir Scroll.

Court Convicts

of UA(P) Act.

"It is pertinent to mention here that on 23/07/2019 an information was received by Police Station Srigufwara that some unknown hard core terrorist associates of proscribed terrorist outfit JeM are facilitating the terrorists to carry out terrorist acts, motivating youth to join terror ranks and are organising terror module to pay every possible help to strengthen the terror web within the jurisdiction of Police Station Srigufwara etc. On receiving this information, a case FIR No. 33/2019 under section 18, 20, 38, 39 UA(P) Act was registered and investigation was taken up," the spokesperson said.

During the course of investigation, he said, some suspected hard core terrorist associates were zeroed and were questioned.

"Subsequently on 06/08/2020, a checkpoint was established at Darigund Srigufwara during which Shahid Fayaz Tarray son of Fayaz Ahmad Tarray resident of Shalagam Bijbehara was apprehended and was immediately taken

into custody and recoveries were made from him," the spokesperson added.

Minor Earthquake

earthquakes compared to nine a year earlier in 2016.

Similarly, in 2015, 27 tremors were witnessed, including the 7.5 magnitude earthquake on October 26. In 2014, when Kashmir witnessed one of the worst floods, nineteen earthquakes hit the erstwhile state. In 2013, 2012, and 2011, the region recorded 25, 11 and 7 tremors, respectively. The year 2010 and 2009 witnessed 6 and 9 earthquakes, respectively.

J&K has witnessed at least 14 earthquakes powerful earthquakes since the year 1123. The most devastating earthquake, with its epicentre in north Kashmir's Baramulla occurred in 1885 and left 3,600 people dead.

Between 2008 and 2020, J&K has witnessed 164 earthquakes, but most of them have been of magnitude less than 5 on the Richter Scale, according to the data revealed by the National Center for Seismology (NCS).

Most parts of Kashmir come under Seismic Zone V and are prone to earthquakes. Experts give varied reasons for earthquakes in J&K including various faults run through Kashmir and exploding of gases. Kashmir valley is vulnerable to disasters. At least 13 districts out of 100 districts in India have been identified as 'multi hazard districts'.

According to the Indian Meteorological Department, most parts of Kashmir covering the districts of Srinagar, Ganderbal, Baramulla, Kupwara, Bandipora, Budgam, Anantnag and parts of Jammu region, Doda, Ramban, Kishtwar come under Seismic Zone V and are prone to earthquakes. While the rest of the Union Territory comes under Seismic Zone IV.

Teen Injured

accident, and despite undergoing treatment, his health worsened, ultimately resulting in his untimely demise," he said.

Meanwhile, a pall of gloom descended on Saderkot village soon after the news about the death of young broke spread in the area. (GNS)

Man Dies Of

The person, they said, was removed to a nearby hospital, where he was declared as brought dead on arrival.

When contacted, a police official told a local news agency GNS that they are ascertaining the details into the matter.

IND v PAK

Both Captains Bank On Experience As India Take On Pakistan Today

Have Experience Of These Conditions: Babar Azam

Press Trust of India

PALLEKELE: Pakistan captain Babar Azam on Friday played down the talks of pressure on his side and said they were banking on their experience in Sri Lankan conditions to do well against India in their Asia Cup match.

Pakistan had played a two-match Test series in Sri Lanka in July and then several players, including Babar, stayed back for the Lanka Premier League (LPL).

After the LPL, Pakistan took on Afghanistan in a three-match ODI series, which they won 3-0. Babar said the whole trip would stand the side in good stead.

"We have been here since July. We have played Test matches, some league (LPL) matches and then the ODIs (against Afghanistan). We are hoping that this will help us to do well against India tomorrow," said Babar during the pre-match press-conference.

Babar shot down talks of pressure



surrounding an Indo-Pak match, and said they were just concentrating on the game and not on outside noises.

"There is no extra pressure. Yes, the India vs Pakistan match is always one of high intensity, but we have experienced players and we just need to concentrate on our strengths and do well," he added.

The Virat Kohli vs Babar Azam theme has dominated the cricket

talks for a while now, but Babar said he has nothing but respect for the former Indian captain.

"I have only respect for Virat Kohli. He is elder to me and I always respected him. When I started playing, I talked to him, and I got a lot of help from him. I don't know what people from outside are talking about and leave those talks to them," said Babar.

Have To Use Experience Against Shaheen & Co: Rohit Sharma

Press Trust of India

PALLEKELE: India skipper Rohit Sharma on Friday said his batters will have to rely on their rich experience to counter Pakistan's potent pace trio in the much awaited Asia Cup clash here on Saturday.

A mouth watering contest awaits when the likes of Rohit and Virat Kohli face the highly skilled Shaheen Afridi, Naseem Shah and Haris Rauf at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium.

"We don't have Shaheen, Naseem and Rauf in our nets. We practice with the bowlers we have. They are all quality bowlers. We just have to use our experience to play them tomorrow," Rohit said on the eve of the game when asked about his team's plans against the highly skilled pace attack.

With a few key players entering the Asia Cup after their recent recovery from injuries, Rohit as-



serted that the tournament is not a fitness test and the team will

have to put its game face on.

India's Group A match against Pakistan will see pacers Jasprit Bumrah, Prasidh Krishna and middle-order batsman Shreyas Iyer returning to the ODI set-up after a considerable time.

"By no means this (Asia Cup 2023) is a fitness test. This tournament is played between the top six Asian teams. So, it's a very big tournament.

"The fitness test, fitness camp... all that was done in Bangalore. Now, we have to go ahead and get our game face on and see what we can achieve in this (tournament)," said Rohit here during the pre-match press conference.

After a considerable time, India will enter a tournament with a near-full squad, barring injured KL Rahul and Rishabh Pant.

Rohit said it's good to have several players to choose from an important tournament.

Senior National Men's Handball Championship Begins At Srinagar



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Secretary, Youth Services and Sports (YSS), Sarmad Hafeez kick started 52nd Senior National Men's Handball championship, organised by J&K Handball Association in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council (JKSC) on Friday at Bhakshi Stadium here.

Secretary JKSC, Secretary General South Asian Handball Federation, Executive Director Handball Association of India, officers of YSS and JKSC, office bearers of Handball Association of India and other concerned were also present on the occasion.

Sarmad Hafeez expressed his happiness at the overwhelming participation of 32 teams from all over the country in the championship.

Secretary JKSC, while interacting with the participants assured them of all the support from the Sports Council.

Organising Secretary and Executive Member Handball Association of India, while speaking on the occasion, thanked the participating teams for encouraging the youth towards sports activities.

Pertinent to mention, around 32 teams from UT's and States of India are participating in the championship.

Srinagar Premier League: ARCO FC In Action Today

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: ARCO FC will take on Kashmir Maharaja FC in 2023 Srinagar Premier League at Synthetic Turf TRC today, Saturday, September 2. The match will kick off at 7 p.m.

The Round 12 matchup will be the only game of the day. However, two games are on schedule for Sunday. AG's Office XI play SCFA Srinagar at 4 p.m. in the first game of the day. The main event of Sunday will witness footballing powerhouse J&K Bank lock horns with J&K Police FC. The match kicks off at 7 p.m.

FC1, Downtown Heroes, and, surprise package J&K Bank Academy, are the top three clubs in the league standings thus far.

Netball Tournament Concludes At Anantnag

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The Department of Youth Services & Sports Anantnag on Friday concluded its District Level Netball Tournament for Under-14 girls at Govt. Higher Secondary School Wanpoh. A total of 85 students participated in the event.

During this whole event Mtr.Zahida Gull Nasti displayed a lot of cooperation for the successful completion of this tournament organized by the District Youth Ser-



VICES & Sports Officer Anantnag. Speaking on this occasion Principal Zahida Gull Nasti highlighted the benefits of such sports activities and encouraged the participating students with her valuable words

& motivational approach.

In the final game, Zone Qazigund took on Anantnag for the winning slot, with Zone Anantnag clinching the title. Seven zones took part in this Girls Netball Tournament.

Green Warriors Beat Tameel Irshad By 8 Wickets

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a friendly cricket match, Green Warriors defeated Tameel Irshad by 8 wickets on Friday at SP College ground.

Batting first, Tameel Irshad made 136 for the loss of 8 wickets in the allotted 20 overs. Sabzar scored 37 (25), the highest for the team. For Green Warriors, Mudasir took 3 wickets.

In reply, Shoaib scored a commanding not-out innings of 60* (50) to lead Green Warriors to an emphatic eight wicket victory. Waseem made a not out



41* (33) to help the team reach the target in 19.2 overs. Shoaib

was awarded man of the match for his match-winning knock.



IUST Hosts Burn Hall School Athletes At Athletic Track

Observer News Service

Awantipora: Student-athletes of Burn Hall School Srinagar visited IUST and held trials at the university's athletic

ground. The students were welcomed by Assistant Director Dr Hilal Ahmad Rather, who informed them about the sports facilities at IUST. The visiting students held trials and thanked the IUST authorities for their support in organizing the event.

Chairman Sports Committee and FO IUST, addressed the players and encouraged them to participate in sports. He said that Sports inculcate team spirit, good temperament and constructive approach towards.

FOOTBALL



Manchester City Signs Matheus Nunes From Wolverhampton

Agencies

MANCHESTER: Manchester City completed the signing of midfielder Matheus Nunes on Friday after agreeing to pay Wolverhampton a reported transfer fee of 53 million pounds (\$67 million).

The Brazil-born Portugal international had been refusing to train with Wolves in an effort to force a move to City, which had a lower bid rejected last week. He signed a five-year contract, City said.

City manager Pep Guardiola was looking for help in the midfield. The injured Kevin De Bruyne could be out until the new year.

City also lost Ilkay Gundogan, who joined Barcelona after his contract expired, and signed central midfielder Mateo Kovacic as a replacement. However, that's not a like-for-like replacement, with Kovacic operating in deeper areas than Gundogan, who often played as an attacking midfielder just off



Erling Haaland.

The 25-year-old Nunes typically plays further forward than Kovacic so would offer something different to the Premier League and European champions.

"The opportunity to work under Pep Guardiola, one of the greatest managers ever, and alongside some of the best players in the world was some-

thing I couldn't turn down," Nunes said.

Just over a year ago, Wolverhampton broke the club's transfer record by signing Nunes from Sporting Lisbon for an initial 45 million euros (\$49 million).

Nunes is the fourth signing for City, following Kovacic, Josko Gvardiol and winger Jeremy Doku. (AP)

Manchester United Striker Rasmus Hojlund Set For Debut

Agencies

MANCHESTER: Manchester United's expensive new striker, Rasmus Hojlund, is set to make his debut this weekend against Arsenal, manager Erik ten Hag said on Friday.

The 20-year-old Denmark international, seen as the English Premier League club's replacement for Cristiano Ronaldo, cost United an initial \$82 million. His debut has been delayed by a tissue injury sustained with his former club Atalanta.

"He's ready to start," Ten Hag said when asked if Hojlund would be coming off the bench at Emirates Stadium on Sunday.

"He had a good training week. Tomorrow we will have a final training but he's doing well, he's responding well."

United's fee could go up by a further \$10 million dependent on Hojlund's success. He signed a five-year contract with an option to extend by 12 months.



Though highly rated, Hojlund is relatively untested. He scored 10 goals in 34 appearances in his one season with the Serie A club.

Hojlund is stepping into one of the most prestigious jobs in soccer as United's striker. It is also one of the most de-

manding, having been held by some of the sport's greats such as Wayne Rooney, Robin van Persie and Ronaldo.

"For every player there's a big spotlight," Ten Hag said. "At United, you have to perform, every position and every player." (AP)



Caringly yours



Make your existing health policy more comprehensive by adding



HEALTH PRIME RIDER



Preventive Health Check-up

(45+ Test Parameters at Network Centres)



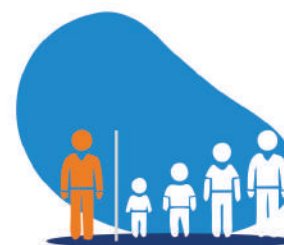
24x7 Unlimited Tele-Consultation

Individual and family members



90,000+ Doctors

(35+ Specialisations for Tele-Consultation)



Rider for both Individual & Family Floater Basis*

*Based on the variant opted in your health plan

Health Prime Rider can be opted only with Bajaj Allianz Health and PA products

To know more:

Contact your nearest J&K Bank Branch

Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Co. Ltd., Bajaj Allianz House, Airport Road, Yerawada, Pune - 411006. IRDAI Reg No.: 113. | CIN: U66010PN2000PLC015329 | Health Prime (Rider) UIN: BAIHLIA22169V012122 | Health Prime Rider (Group) BAIHLGA22166V012122
 For more details, log on to: www.bajajallianz.com or call at: Sales - 1800 209 0144 / Service - 1800 209 5858 (Toll Free No.) | For more details on risk factors and Terms and Conditions, please read the sales brochure before concluding a sale. | BIAZ-O-JK-0016/25-May-22

J&K Bank Ltd. is a licensed Corporate Agent [bearing License No.: CA0029] of Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company Ltd. [IRDA registration No. 113]. The benefits/features of products are indicative and for more details on risk factors and Terms and Conditions, please read the sales brochure before concluding a sale.

*T&C apply