

Vindicating Truth Purpose Of Courts: HC

Dismisses Govt's Plea Against Acquittal Of Accused In Cop's Killing In 2006

M Ahmad

Srinagar: Discovery, vindication and establishment of truth are the main purposes underlying the existence of Courts of justice, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Wednesday observed as it dismissed a plea challenging acquittal of accused persons in a case involving killing of a policeman at Hazratbal here in 2006.

"It is trite that discovery, vindication and establishment of truth are the main purposes underlying the existence of Courts of justice, right from the time the justice delivery system and judicial set up were put in place," a bench of Justices Sanjeev Kumar and Rajesh Sekhri.

The Courts, the bench said, are obliged to adopt a proactive role in the trial and to monitor the proceedings in aid of justice.

"They cannot" **More On P10**

Lok Sabha Passes Women's Reservation Bill

454 Parliament Members Vote In Favour, Two Against

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed a bill granting reservation to women on one-third seats in Lok Sabha and state assemblies with near unanimity amid demands from the opposition to extend similar benefits to Other Backward Classes and immediate implementation of the measure before the elections next year.

After a spirited eight-hour debate in which 60 members participated, the Lok Sabha passed the Constitution (128th Amendment) Bill, with 454 members voting in favour and two against it.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was present during the voting on the bill.

The bill was passed as per



the provisions of Article 368 (2) of the Constitution relating to the passage of constitutional amendment bills which

requires support of the majority of the total membership of the House and a majority of not less than two-thirds of the

members present and voting. A few amendments moved by the government relating to the numbering of the

Constitution amendment bill were also cleared by the House. When the proposed legislation goes to Rajya Sabha for its consideration, it will be called the Constitution (106th Amendment) Bill, officials said.

Setting the tone of the debate, former Congress president Sonia Gandhi made a strong pitch for bringing OBC women in the ambit of the proposed law and asserting that any delay in bringing the reservation into effect would be "gross injustice" to women.

Intervening in the debate, Home Minister Amit Shah brushed aside apprehensions of a delay in the implementation of the proposed law and asserted that the next government will conduct a census and delimitation exercise soon after the elections. **More On P10**

CAPD Mulls Smart Ration Cards For 2.5 M Consumers

Aujib Javeed

Srinagar: The consumer affairs and public distribution (CAPD) department is likely to introduce smart ration cards for over 25 lakh consumers across Jammu and Kashmir through the public distribution system (SMART-PDS), as part of the Union Territory administration's digital governance initiative.

The motive behind the move, a CAPD official said, was to reduce human intervention and promote automation in the existing processes. Besides, he said, the introduction of smart ration cards will also prevent pilferage of food grains and increase the efficiency of the distribution chain.

The official, who insisted not to be named, told Kashmir Observer that the SMART-PDS is a system through which smart ration cards are issued to beneficiaries of public distribution systems.

"Ration is given through fair price shops on production of the smart ration card by any member of the" **More On P10**

CS for 100% Segregation of Waste at Source by October

Asks For Employing Scientific Techniques To Save Water Bodies From Pollution

ONS

Srinagar: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta Wednesday impressed upon the Local bodies including the Municipalities to segregate 100% waste at source for its scientific treatment and overall cleanliness of the areas coming under jurisdiction.

Dr Mehta made these remarks while chairing a meeting to take stock of the proposed action plan formulated to save our water bodies in compliance with the recommendations of the National Green Tribunal (NGT).

The meeting was attended by ACS, Jal Shakti Department; Principal Secretary, H&UDD; Commissioner Secretary, RDD; Commissioner, JMC/SMC; Chief Engineer, I&FC besides others concerned.

Dr Mehta took note of the measures taken so far to stop the untreated sewage flowing into our water bodies to prevent their pollution. He directed

the H&UDD to ensure that the waste collected by local bodies is segregated at source so that optimal recycling can be undertaken.

He maintained that ample awareness should be created among the public so that they are able to segregate the waste and handover it to the collection agencies separately. He also asked the department to enhance its capacity in terms of treating such waste in a proper scientific manner.

Dr Mehta observed that the landfill sites should be made attractive and odour free. He also underscored the need of incentivizing its establishment for the locals so that they do not feel any kind of reluctance. He advised them to identify the sites from the chunks of government land recently retrieved by the Revenue Department.

He also made out that no waterbody of J&K should be polluted. He stated that these bodies are our" **More On P10**

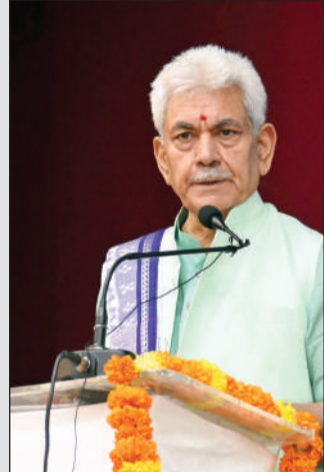
Sanskrit Vacant Posts Will Be Filled Within 1 Year: LG

Calls For Preparing Feasible, Viable Roadmap For Sharda University In J&K

Observer News Service

Jammu: Asserting that Sanskrit is the source of ideals and values of India's great civilization, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said Wednesday that the ancient Indian language has the potential to provide solutions to modern-day challenges, such as Atharvaveda's teaching on ecological balance, protecting the environment, living in harmony with nature.

Addressing the foundation day of J&K Shri Kashi Vidwat Parishad here on Wednesday, Sinha called" **More On P10**



'70% People In J&K Dependent On Agri, Allied Sectors'

Stating that 70 per cent of Jammu and Kashmir is dependent on agriculture and allied sectors, the Union Territory Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said Wednesday that his administration's dedicated focus on training, access to extension services, financing and marketing institutions" **More On P10**

G20 NEW DELHI LEADERS' DECLARATION has made it clear that climate-resilient crops, accelerated innovations and investment to increase productivity, reducing waste will be the top priority for food security and bringing transformation in the lives of farmers."

INDIA-PAK TALKS

Onus On Pak To Create Conducive Atmosphere: Omar

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said the onus lies with Pakistan for creating a conducive atmosphere in Jammu and Kashmir for the resumption of dialogue with India.

He expressed concern over Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations of a "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of a Khalistani separatist leader in Canada in June and said "this runs the risk of damaging a very strong bilateral relationship" between the two countries.

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said it will not be possible for his party to unilaterally support the women's reservation bill tabled by the BJP-led government in Parliament, given the major flaws in it including the timeline for its implementation.

"We have always supported dialogue between India and Pakistan but a conducive



atmosphere is needed for the resumption of the talks between them. It is not only the responsibility of India but the onus is on Pakistan to make that atmosphere conducive for dialogue," Abdullah told reporters at his party headquarters here.

Referring to the killing of army and police officers in recent encounters, he said the incidents in Rajouri, Kokernag and Srinagar cannot help in creating the conducive atmosphere needed for the dialogue.

He said he has not seen any step from the neighbouring country so far which would help in creating the conducive atmosphere" **More On P10**

LD Hospital Shocker!

Fake Doctor Treats Patients Inside Labour Room For 3 Days

Aujib Javeed

Srinagar: In a serious administrative lapse, a person claiming to be a doctor attended patients in the labour room of Lal Ded maternity hospital in Srinagar for three days, raising serious questions about the hospital's security protocols and the safety of its patients.

The hospital authorities have initiated an investigation to determine how the impostor gained unauthorized access to the hospital. The individual in question was apprehended by



the Jammu and Kashmir police on Tuesday.

Medical Superintendent Lal Ded Maternity Hospital Dr Muzaffer Sherwani told

Kashmir Observer that they are investigating the matter and have sought explanation from the security incharge.

The person, Dr Sherwani added, was in the hospital's labour room and the concerned officials including the Chief Medical Officer found him doing rounds and checking the patients in the wards.

"After becoming suspicious, we questioned the credibility of the person and asked him for the details," Dr. Sherwani said, adding that the person identified himself as" **More On P10**



Thousands of devotees on Wednesday offered congregational prayers called "Khoja Digar" at the Naqshband Sahib (R.A) Shrine in Khawaja Bazar area of downtown Srinagar. KO Photo: Abid Bhat

SHORT TAKES

Youth Hangs Self To Death

A youth on Wednesday allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself in Pattan area of North Kashmir's Baramulla district. 20-year-old (name withheld) was found hanging inside his room by his family in their native Nihalpora village of Pattan in the wee hours of Wednesday, reports said. The youth was immediately rushed by his family members to a nearby hospital for treatment. However, the doctors there declared him dead. **More On P10**

IPS Officer Birdi Repatriated To AGMUT

The Centre has ordered premature repatriation of Inspector General of CRPF Vidhi Kumar Birdi to his parent cadre of AGMUT. In an order, the Ministry of Home Affairs has ordered premature repatriation of Birdi to his parent cadre of AGMUT. Birdi, an officer of the erstwhile J&K cadre, was presently on deputation as IG CRPF. The Centre has asked DG CRPF to intimate the date of relieving of the officer.

First C-295 Aircraft Lands In Vadodara

The first C-295 medium tactical transport aircraft landed in Vadodara on Wednesday, days after it was handed over to the Indian Air Force (IAF) in the southern Spanish city of Seville. The aircraft would be formally inducted into the IAF at a ceremony in Hindon near Delhi on September 25. Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari on September 13 received the first of the 56 C295 transport aircraft two years after India sealed a" **More On P10**

2 Inter-State Drug Smugglers Arrested

Two alleged inter-state narcotic smugglers were arrested and heroin was recovered from them in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district on Tuesday, officials said. They were arrested in the Samba area during a routine check, they said. A case has been registered against the accused -- Israr Talib and Kannav Magotra alias Kannu, they said. The two men were allegedly involved in illicit heroin smuggling from Samba to" **More On P10**

LS To Discuss Chandrayaan-3 Mission Today

Lok Sabha will on Thursday hold a discussion on the success of the Chandrayaan-3 mission. Just before he adjourned the House for the day after the passage of the women's reservation bill, Speaker Om Birla informed the members that Lok Sabha will take up a discussion on the success of the latest moon mission and India's glorious space journey. Rajya Sabha discussed the subject on Wednesday.

3-Day Trekking Expedition To Gurez Flagged-Off

In order to promote a sense of adventure and exploration among youth, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad Wednesday flagged-off a three day trekking expedition from Mini Secretariat Bandipora to Gurez Valley. The expedition comprising boys contingent of different age groups is being organised by Youth Services and Sports department Bandipora. The flag-off ceremony was attended by ADC Bandipora, Umar Shafi Pandit, DYSSO Bandipora" **More On P10**

DC Srinagar Holds Public Grievance Redressal Camp At Fakir Gujri

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Ajaz Asad today undertook an extensive tour of remote/hilly area of Fakir Gujri in Harwan Panchayat Block of District and presided over a Public Grievance Redressal Camp under weekly Block Diwas.

Besides members of local people, DDC and PRI members, the Grievance Redressal Camp was attended by General Manager DIC, Chief Planning Officer, Chief Education Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development, Tehsilidar North, BDO Harwan, Executive Engineer PDD, District Lead Manager and other sectoral/zonal officers of the District.

On the occasion, PRI representatives, Public delegations and scores of individuals projected various issues and demands before the DC including upgradation of PHC & Middle School, augmentation of Tulpathri water supply, timely sanction of PMAY cases, macad-

amization of Fakir Gujri-Nagbal Road, upgradation of Astanmarg Road of insurance claims of local farmers and other issues.

After giving patient hearing to the grievances and demands of the public, the Deputy Commissioner sought on the spot response from the concerned District Officers present during the Grievance Redressal Camp and assured the people of Fakir Gujri and other areas of Harwan Block that all genuine demands and issues projected by them will be addressed on priority. He also gave on the spot directions to the concerned officers for time bound redressal of the public issues.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner urged the local youth to avail benefit from schemes of Agriculture, Horticulture and Government self-employment schemes to earn a dignified livelihood for themselves and their family. He also stressed the people to join their hands with the District Administration in eradication of drug abuse.



Thousands of devotees from across Kashmir offered traditional Khwaja-Digar (Asar Prayers) at Naqshband Sahab (R.a) shrine in Srinagar on Wednesday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Old Delhi's Iconic 'Karim's' Opens Franchise at Boulevard, Srinagar

Farooq Ashai

Srinagar: Guests, mostly food enthusiasts, queued up at Karim's newly opened outlet at Ghat No-1 on Boulevard to relish famous Mughlai delicacies from Old Delhi's iconic restaurant.

Karim's opened its another Srinagar franchise at Boulevard near Dalgate on Wednesday.

The franchise owner Hakeem Parvez had to manage the crowd and accommodate all in the refurbished restaurant which has a traditional mark of Karim's of Jamia Masjid Delhi.

Parvez, a food lover, has invested everything in this business to bring in the real taste of Mughlai Food to Srinagar which is witnessing mushroom growth of restaurants.

"For me establishing Karim's at the Boulevard was a dream project and it's quality which is vital for us as a franchisee to maintain highest standards in terms of cleanliness, food material, ambience and decorum of it all," affirms Parvez, who has been working out on the franchisee for years with Karim's.

According to Parvez, Karim's are known for credibility and authenticity as could be gauged from



the fact that all ingredients, including spices are being provided by them or procured under their strict supervision.

"Karim's team is working with us for strict quality control and there is not an iota of compromise on materials used in the kitchen," reveals Parvez, who was joined by Shoaib-ur-Rehman, Karim's Operations Manager who had flown in from Delhi for the inauguration.

Shoaib explained the legacy of Karim's for maintaining quality since 1913 when the founder Haji Karimuddin established the first outlet near Jamia Masjid in Delhi.

Karimuddin's family were traditional chefs of the last Mughal

emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar.

After the fall of the last Mughal ruler, Karimuddin's family struggled to sustain livelihood and it was this stage of penury which forced them to sell the Mughal cuisine to commoners who relished it for it was from the kitchens of Mughals that they had this opportunity to taste the food of rulers.

"We at Karim's carry on the legacy of taking royal food of Mughal kitchens to commoners and make them relish the food of kings," quips Shoaib who is here to oversee the inauguration and smooth functioning of Karim's at the Boulevard.

Shoaib dispels the notion that Mughal will be in competition with Wazwan and explains that Karim's menu is different and diversified whereas food lovers in Kashmir would now have varied tastes of real Mughlai delicacies.

"Karim's cuisine is totally different from Wazwan or other dishes in Kashmir. We bank on real Mughal kitchen preparations which we got to know from our forefathers who were chefs in royal palaces," argues Shoaib, who also ensures that franchisee at Ghat No 1 maintains the highest traditions of Karim's that is cleanliness and authenticity.

NOTICE

I have changed my Name from (Old Name) **Mubashir Hussain Dar to (New Name) Mubashir Hussain**. In future it will be known as **Mubashir Hussain**. If anybody having any objection, he or she may contact Passport office Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

Tender Notice No. 183-2023-24-ADEN-I-ASR, 221 & 222-2023-24-ADEN-JUC, 223 & 224-2023-24-ADEN-II-ASR Date: 20.09.2023

Sr.DEN-III/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date 12.10.2023 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information login to www.ireps.gov.in

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Single Bid System
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
19.09.2023 20.09.2023	28.09.2023 28.09.2023	12.10.2023/ 15.00 Hrs 12.10.2023/ 15.00 Hrs

S. No. 1, Tender No : 183-2023-24-ADEN-I-ASR, Details of Tender : Under ground crossing of 700 mm internal dia Sewer/ Water Supply carrier Pipe Line passing through 1100 mm MS encasing pipe and 1400 mm internal dia M.S. Heavy Duty casing pipe under the Railway Track at Km (EP) 6/10-10 on ASR-VKA section under ADEN-I/ASR. **Advertised Value (Rs.) :** 92,09,402.26/-, **Earnest money :** 1,84,200/-, **Validity of Offer :** 60 Days, **Period of Completion :** 06 Months, **Similar nature of work :** Construction of bridge with pipe & box pushing technique/crossing of under ground cable/pipe line etc."

S. No. 2, Tender No : 221-2023-24-ADEN-JUC, Details of Tender : Construction of service buildings in c/w Provision of Elec. Interlocking in place of panel interlocking at SRX & HMR stations on JUC-ASR section. **Advertised Value (Rs.) :** 1,50,74,301.37/-, **Earnest money :** 2,25,400/-, **Validity of Offer :** 60 Days, **Period of Completion :** 08 Months, **Similar nature of work :** Construction of Building/quarters."

S. No. 3, Tender No : 222-2023-24-ADEN-JUC, Details of Tender : Misc. P-Way Works for the track maintenance in the section of SSE/P-Way/JUC under ADEN-JUC. **Advertised Value (Rs.) :** 38,10,286.43/-, **Earnest money :** 76,200/-, **Validity of Offer :** 60 Days, **Period of Completion :** 09 Months, **Similar nature of work :** Nil."

S. No. 4, Tender No : 223-2023-24-ADEN-II/ASR, Details of Tender : Repair & Maintenance of level crossings in the section under ADEN-II/ASR and ADEN-II/ASR. **Advertised Value (Rs.) :** 54,59,390.22/-, **Earnest money :** 1,09,200/-, **Validity of Offer :** 60 Days, **Period of Completion :** 09 Months, **Similar nature of work :** Any Civil work other than track work."

S. No. 5, Tender No : 224-2023-24-ADEN-II/ASR, Details of Tender : Under ground crossing of 1100 mm internal dia Sewer/ Water Supply carrier Pipe Line passing through 1400 mm MS encasing pipe and 1600 mm internal dia M.S. Heavy Duty casing pipe under the Railway Track at Km (EP) 6/20-22 on ASR-KEMK section. **Advertised Value (Rs.) :** 90,65,590.65/-, **Earnest money :** 1,81,300/-, **Validity of Offer :** 60 Days, **Period of Completion :** 06 Months, **Similar nature of work :** Construction of bridge with pipe & box pushing technique/crossing of under ground cable/pipe line etc."

Note : 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender. 2. If there is any mistake in Hindi then English will be accepted.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2932/23

Jammu and Kashmir Bank

Technology & Development
Ground Floor, Air India Building
Residency Road, Srinagar 190001

Online Request for Proposal (e-RFP)

for
Supply, installation and maintenance of High Throughput Satellite (HTS) VSAT for J&K Bank

RFP Notice along with Complete RFP document outlining the minimum requirements can be downloaded from and BIDs can be submitted on the Banks' e-Tendering Portal <https://jkbank.abcpocure.com> w.e.f. September 21, 2023, 16.00 Hrs. Tender Document can also be downloaded from Bank's Official Website www.jkbank.com. Last date for submission of Bids is **October 12, 2023, 17.00 Hrs.**

e-RFP Ref No. JKB/CHO/T&D/VSAT-JK/2023-805
Dated: 19-09-2023

Registered office: Corporate Headquarters, M.A. Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India
CIN: L6510JK1985SCC00048; T: +91 (0)194 2481 930-35; F: +91 (0)194 248 1928; E: info@jkbank.com; W: www.jkbank.com

DIPK-NB-3297/23
dated: 20-09-2023

Office Of The Superintendent Special Jail (Correctional Home) Pulwama

e-TENDER NOTICE FOR SUPPLY OF FRESH VEGETABLE ITEMS AND OF DIETARY/PULSES/CEREALS/SPECIES/TOILETRY, CLOTHING AND MISC ITEMS FOR SPECIAL JAIL (CORRECTIONAL HOME)

PULWAMA e-Nit No.19 of 2023
Dated 19/9_2023

- For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of J&K, e-tender(s) through online mode are invited from eligible vendors/firms possession valid FSSAI License for execution of Rate Contract (Valid for 2023-21) for supplies of items as mentioned in Annexure A, B & C, Annexure-D, Annexure-E, Annexure-F & Annexure-G of this bid document.
- Bidding documents consisting of eligibility criteria, specifications of items, quantities, set of terms and conditions of contract and other relevant details can be seen/downloaded from the website www.iktenders.gov.in

Schedule of Tender:-

a	Date of issue of Tender Notice	19/09/2023
b	Period of downloading of bidding documents	21/09/2023
c	Bid submission Start Date & Time	22/09/2023
d	Bid Submission End Date & Time	13/10/2023
e	Date and time of opening of Technical Bids in online mode	14/10/2023 upto 1300 Hrs

3. Tender Fee (Cost of tender documents):
An amount of RS. 500/= towards cost of tender fee has to be deposited by the bidder in the following bank account:

Name of Account Holder	Superintendent Special Jail (Correctional Home) Pulwama
Account Number	0054040510000016
Name of the Bank	Jammu & Kashmir Bank
Branch	J&K Bank Main Pulwama
IFCS	JAKAOGOLDEN

Scanned Copy of the receipt towards deposit of amount of tender fee has to be necessarily uploaded along with the bid documents.

I) The bidder has to submit Earnest Money of RS. 1.50 Lakh (Rupees—One—Lac—Fifty thousand Only) for Annexure A B & C, Rs. 15000/=—(Rupees fifteen thousand only) for Annexure-D, RS. 1.00000/= (One Lakh Only) For Annexure-E, RS. 20,000/= (Rupees Twenty thousand Only) for Annexure-F & RS. 20,000/= (Rupees Twenty thousand Only) for Annexure-G in the form of CDR/FDR issued by a scheduled bank, drawn and pledged in favour of Superintendent Special Jail (Correctional Home) Pulwama and payable. The bidder has to upload the scanned copy of the CDP/FDIL along with other documents during submission of bid within the above mentioned date and time of bid submission.

II) The department shall not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason.

iii) The tender shall be in two bid cover system (Technical Bid & Financial Bid). Superintendent

No: Accts/SJP/2023/1213-21
DIPK-9174/23 Dated: 20-09-2023

Special Jail
(Correctional Home) Pulwama

TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
PCR: 0194-2452092, 2455883
PDD: 0194-2450213
FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488, 245222, 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
- BIBHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

PRAYERS

HIJRI CALENDAR
04 Rabi-ul-Awwal
1445

FAJR	4:54
ZUHR	12:24
ASR	4:47
Magrib	6:34
ISHA	8:54

This Day In History

- 1913 - Turkey and Bulgaria sign peace treaty in Constantinople
- 1922 - US President Warren G. Harding signs a joint resolution of approval to establish a Jewish homeland in Palestine
- 1938 - Winston Churchill condemns Hitler's annexation of Czechoslovakia
- 1943 - Soviet 13th/61st Army reconquer Chyernigov
- 1955 - Last allied occupying troops leave Austria
- 1964 - Malta becomes independent from the United Kingdom.
- 1970 - Soviet space probe Luna 16 leaves the Moon
- 1979 - Stephen Jay Gould and Richard Lewontin publish influential paper (cited more than 4,000 times) "The Spandrels of San Marco and the panglossian paradigm", introducing idea of "spandrels" into evolutionary biology
- 1982 - STS-5 vehicle moves to launch pad
- 1983 - US performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site
- 1984 - NASA launches Galaxy-C
- 1990 - Reports that US refinery problems will lead to a loss in capacity and aggressive remarks by Saddam Hussein send crude prices to new highs
- 1991 - Armenia votes on whether to remain in Soviet Union
- 2003 - Galileo mission terminated by sending the probe into Jupiter's atmosphere, where it is crushed by the pressure at the lower altitudes
- 2004 - The Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) People's War and the Maoist Communist Centre of India merge to form the Communist Party of India (Maoist).

From KO Archives

Examiner Faces Threat To Life, Returns Answer Papers

Observer News Service

Srinagar: One of the examiners feeling threat to his life after conducting the viva voce of the students of private colleges has returned the answer papers to the Director Technical Education without marking them.

The examiner, Shujia Hussain, who conducted examination of students of some of the private polytechnic colleges in Government Women's Polytechnic Bernina last month could not be lured by the administration of the concerned college for the favours to their students. Hussain in a letter to the Director Technical Education on August 30, has expressed his apprehensions that the authorities of the college are trying to "harass" him by one way or other.

In order to avoid the harassment and the mental agony he has returned the whole lot of answer papers which he was urged to evaluate - to the Director Technical Education with a note that the performance of the most of the students was dismal and could not be promoted.

His observation during the examination was that the students lacked the basic concept of the subject. "Performance of the students in the exams was very poor. The students could not answer most of the questions during the viva voce. The students gave wrong answers to most of the questions saying that same had been taught to them by their teachers."

His further observations were that some of the students of the KITE Polytechnic had reportedly worked hard on their internal portfolio but unfortunately the schemes were not as per the norms, while as the evaluating authority had misled them by giving them good remarks.

Hussain did not promote them as he felt that promoting such students could spoil their future and was against the norms of the examination. It has been observed that there is mushroom growth of the private colleges and performance of most of them is dismal. Most of these lack the requisite infrastructure and the teachers are not qualified to the satisfaction of the students.

It has been reliably learnt that most of them are using the illegal means to maintain the reputation of their colleges. Sources said that most of these private colleges are buying the question papers from the authorities of the Technical education and the University to supply them to the students in advance for better results. Even the examiners are paid hefty sums for the favours they render to the students of these colleges, alleged the sources.

People in general feel that these colleges who have been recognised by the Government should be made accountable so that they could not deceive the students.
(Kashmir Observer, September 21, 1998)

Will Revisit Judgment On Lawmakers' Immunity Regarding Bribes: SC

Agencies

The Supreme Court on Wednesday agreed to revisit its 1998 judgment granting immunity to lawmakers from criminal prosecution for accepting bribes to make a speech, or vote in Parliament or state legislatures.

A five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and comprising justices AS Bopanna, MM Sundresh, JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said the objective of constitutional provisions guaranteeing free speech to MPs and MLAs, prima facie, does not appear to be immunity from the launch of criminal proceedings for violation of criminal law which may arise independently of the exercise of rights and duties as a member of legislature.

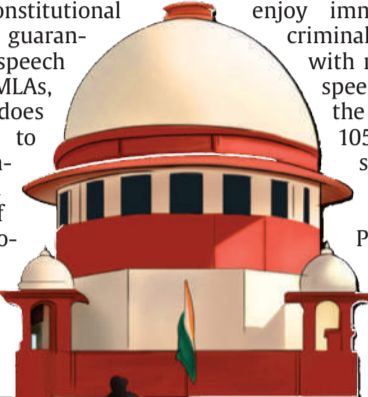
"The purpose of Article 105(2) and Article 194(2) is to ensure that members of Parliament and of state legislatures are able to discharge duties in an atmosphere of freedom without fear of the consequences which may follow for the matter in which they speak or exercise their right to vote on floor of house," it said.

It added that the object of these provisions is clearly not to set apart the members of the legislature as persons who wield higher privileges in terms of immunity from the application of the general criminal law of the land which citizens of the land do not possess.

In its 1998 judgment in P.V. Narasimha Rao versus CBI case, the top court had ruled that the parliamentarians, against the backdrop of Article 105 of the Constitution, enjoy immunity against criminal prosecution with regards to their speech and votes in the House. Article 105 of the Constitution grants immunity to a member of Parliament "in respect of anything said or any vote given by him in Parliament or any committee thereof".

Similar immunity is conferred by Article 194(2) on Members of the State Legislatures.

In 2014, Sita Soren, a member of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) approached the Supreme Court seeking nullification of criminal charges instituted against her for allegedly accepting a bribe to vote in favour of a particular candidate in the Rajya Sabha elections of 2012.



'Exercise Caution': MEA's Advisory To Indians In Canada Amid Growing Tensions Between Both Nations



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: India on Wednesday advised its nationals in Canada and those contemplating to travel there to exercise utmost caution in view of anti-India activities in some parts of that country.

The advisory came amid further deterioration of diplomatic relations between the two countries following Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations of "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of

Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in June.

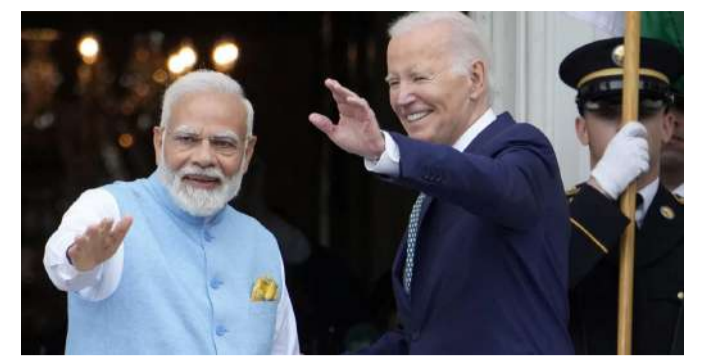
"In view of growing anti-India activities and politically-connived hate crimes and criminal violence in Canada, all Indian nationals there and those contemplating travel are urged to exercise utmost caution," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in the advisory.

It said, "Recently, threats have particularly targeted Indian diplomats and sections of the Indian community who oppose the anti-India agenda." "Indian nationals are there-

fore advised to avoid travelling to regions and potential venues in Canada that have seen such incidents," it said.

The MEA said the Indian High Commission and consulates general will continue to be in contact with the Canadian authorities to ensure the safety and well-being of the Indian community in Canada.

"Given the deteriorating security environment in Canada, Indian students in particular are advised to exercise extreme caution and remain vigilant," it said in the advisory.



PM Modi Invites Joe Biden As Chief Guest For 2024 Republic Day Parade

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi invited US President Joe Biden to be the Chief Guest for the Republic Day celebrations on January 26 during their bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the G20 summit, US Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti said on Wednesday.

Asked whether the Quad summit is being planned in India around the same time, Mr Garcetti indicated that he was not aware of it. The Quad comprises India, the US, Japan and Australia. It is India's turn to host the annual Quad summit next year.

The US ambassador was asked at an event about the reports that India is considering inviting leaders of the Quad nations to grace the Republic Day celebrations.

US President Biden was invited to the Republic Day celebrations by Prime Minister Modi during the bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the G20 summit, Mr Garcetti said.

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi was the chief guest at this year's Republic Day celebrations.

Every year, India invites world leaders to attend its Republic Day celebrations. There was no Republic Day Chief guest in 2021 and 2022 in view

of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, the then Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro was the chief guest.

In 2019, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa was the chief guest at the parade, while in 2018, leaders of all 10 ASEAN countries attended the celebrations.

In 2017, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan was the chief guest at celebrations, while the then French President Francois Hollande graced the occasion in 2016.

In 2015, the then US President Barack Obama watched the parade.

In 2014, the then Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was the chief guest at the celebrations, while Bhutan king Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck attended the parade in 2013.

Other heads of state and government who have attended the Republic Day celebrations include Nicolas Sarkozy, Vladimir Putin, Nelson Mandela, John Major, Mohammed Khatami and Jacques Chirac.

The then British Prime Minister John Major had attended the celebrations in 1993, Nelson Mandela participated as then South African President in 1995 while South Korean President Lee Myung Bak witnessed the parade in 2010.

NIA Intensifies Crackdown On Khalistani Terrorists, Announces Cash Rewards On Five BKI Operatives

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Stepping up its crackdown on Khalistani terrorists, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday announced cash rewards for information leading to the arrest of five Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) operatives, including Harwinder Singh Sandhu alias "Rinda" and Lakhbir Singh Sandhu alias "Landa".

The federal agency announced a cash reward of Rs 10 lakh each for Rinda and Landa and Rs 5 lakh each for Parminder Singh Kaira alias "Pattu", Satnam Singh alias "Satbir Singh" alias "Satta" and Yadvinder Singh alias "Yadda".

A spokesperson of the NIA said these five terrorists are wanted in a case registered early this year related to the BKI's terrorist activities aimed at disturbing India's peace and communal harmony and spreading terror in the state of Punjab.

"The wanted terrorists are accused of commission of terror acts and activities, besides raising funds for the BKI, a banned terror outfit, through smuggling of terrorist hardware and narcotics into Punjab and also through extensive extortion from businessmen and other prominent individuals.

"They are also wanted in cases relating to commissioning of targeted killings as well as targeting of law enforcement agencies in order to create an environment of terror in the state of Punjab," the spokesperson said.

The official said investigations have shown that the five



terrorists have been engaged in recruiting new members of the BKI by promising them monetary benefits.

"They have also established a network of operatives in various countries to further their terror activities in different parts of India," the official said.

Rinda, originally a resident of Maharashtra, is a Pakistan-based "listed individual terrorist" and member of the BKI, while Landa, Khaira, Satnam and Yadvinder are residents of Punjab.

"Any specific information leading to the arrest of the five wanted terrorists can be shared with the NIA headquarters in New Delhi or the NIA Branch Office in Chandigarh," the spokesperson said, sharing the telephone and WhatsApp numbers.

Meanwhile, the NIA released two lists of 54 individuals with their photographs who are wanted in the investigation of two cases, registered last year, to dismantle terror-gangster networks in the country.

The lists, one naming 11 persons and the other 43 persons, were shared by the NIA on its official account on X, formerly known as Twitter.

The list included several wanted gangsters, including Goldy Brar, Lawrence Bishnoi, Anmol Bishnoi and Arshdeep Singh Gill.

Allies Divided Over Support For Canada's Allegations Against India Over Killing Of Sikh Separatist Leader

Press Trust of India

TORONTO: A day after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau alleged India's involvement in the killing of a prominent Sikh separatist leader, the Canadian media reported that Ottawa's Five Eyes allies were not keen on taking sides though they have said that the claims should be thoroughly probed.

Hardeep Singh Nijjar, 45, the chief of the banned Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF) and one of India's most-wanted terrorists who carried a cash reward of Rs 10 lakh on his head, was shot dead by two unidentified gunmen outside a gurdwara in Surrey in the western Canadian province of British Columbia on June 18.

Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau told the House of Commons on Monday that he waited until he was able to raise the issue with allies and with India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the G20 summit in New Delhi earlier this month before telling the public about the possible link.

India has dismissed Trudeau's allegation as "absurd and baseless." "We wanted to make sure that we had a solid grounding in understanding what was going on in analysis and indeed in facts. We wanted to make sure we were taking the time to talk with our allies, to share what we knew," The Canadian Press news agency quoted Trudeau on Tuesday.

Canada is part of a 'Five Eyes' network which is an intelligence alliance consisting



of the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

Trudeau has also said he does not want to make things worse for relations with India.

"We are not looking to provoke or escalate. We are simply laying out the facts as we understand them, and we want to work with the government of India to lay everything clear." According to a report by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), Canada's other Five Eyes allies "showed little inclination Tuesday to wade into an escalating row between Ottawa and New Delhi over allegations." Most opted to treat the allegation as a matter still to be investigated — in spite of the fact that the Trudeau government feels it has enough information to make an accusation in Parliament and expel a diplomat, it noted.

The United States, United Kingdom and Australia have all issued statements calling for the allegations to be thoroughly probed.

Terming the US National Security Council spokesperson Adm Joh Kirby as "perhaps the most supportive of Canada," the CBC report quoted him saying on Tuesday: "They are certainly serious allegations

and we believe in order to determine how credible they are, there needs to be a thorough investigation." The CBC report also said that Kirby "urged India to participate and cooperate in that investigation" as "it is important to find out exactly what happened."

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese refused to comment on the matter at all even as Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong told a press conference in the UN Headquarters on Tuesday that "these are concerning reports, and I note that investigations are still underway" and that "We are monitoring these developments closely with our partners, and we'll continue to do so."

Another of the allies, UK made no official announcement but its Foreign Secretary James Cleverly put out a tweet on platform X without any mention of India, the CBC report said. "All countries should respect sovereignty and the rule of law. We are in regular contact with our Canadian partners about serious allegations raised in the Canadian Parliament. Important that Canada's investigation runs its course and the perpetrators brought to justice," read Cleverly's tweet.

Court Acquits Ex-Congress MP Sajjan Kumar In Anti-Sikh Riots Case



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court Wednesday acquitted former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar in a case related to the killing of a person during the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, giving him the "benefit of doubt".

Special Judge Geetanjli Goel also acquitted two other accused -- Ved Prakash Pial and Brahmanand Gupta -- holding that the prosecution failed to prove the case of murder and rioting against them. A Sikh man Surjit Singh was killed during the incident in Sultanpuri.

"The accused Sajjan Kumar is given benefit of doubt and

acquitted for the offence" the judge said.

Mr Kumar was accused of various offences punishable under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) including promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race etc. (Section 153A), abetment of any offence (Section 109), murder (Section 302) and rioting (147).

The riots had broken out after the assassination of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by her Sikh bodyguards on October 31, 1984.

Mr Kumar is currently lodged in Tihar jail after conviction in another case related to the riots.

NEWS MAKERS

PM Modi's WhatsApp Channel Crosses 1 Million Followers In A Day

Agencies

NEW DELHI: Besides making record-setting followers on social media platforms-- X, Facebook and Instagram-- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday achieved yet another milestone when his WhatsApp channel crossed a million subscribers only in one day.

Prime Minister Modi is the most followed Indian on X with over 91 million followers.

Meanwhile, on Facebook, PM Modi has 48 million followers while on Instagram, he has over 78 million.

Days after WhatsApp introduced the Channels feature, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday joined the WhatsApp Channels.



"Thrilled to join the WhatsApp community! It is yet another step closer in our journey of continued interactions. Let's stay connected here! Here's a picture from the new Parli-

ment building..." he said in his first post on WhatsApp Channels.

Meta on September 13 launched WhatsApp Channels in India and over 150 countries to deliver a private way to receive updates.

WhatsApp Channels are a one-way broadcast tool and deliver a private way to receive updates from people and organizations that matter to you, right within WhatsApp.

With Channels, WhatsApp's goal is to build the most private broadcast service available. Channels are separate from chats, and who you choose to follow is not visible to other followers.

Channels can be found in a new tab called 'Updates' - where you'll find the Status and channels you choose to follow.

China's Ex-Foreign Minister Qin Gang Ousted Due To Extramarital Affair In United States

Agencies

China's former foreign minister Qin Gang, who was ousted from his position in July, had an extramarital affair while he was ambassador to the US, the Wall Street Journal reported on Tuesday, citing people familiar with a briefing.

The report said Qin was cooperating with the investigation, which was now focused on whether the affair or Qin's conduct had compromised China's national security.

Senior Chinese officials were told that an internal Communist Party investigation found Qin engaged in the affair throughout his tenure as China's ambassador to the US, the report said. Two sources told the

newspaper the affair had resulted in the birth of a child in the US.

During a regular press briefing on Tuesday, China's foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning was asked about the article and said: "on the appointment and removal of the Chinese foreign minister, the Chinese side has released information before and I am not aware of the other information you mentioned."

Qin was replaced by veteran diplomat Wang Yi in July as the foreign minister after a mysterious one-month absence from duties barely half a year into the job.



He was China's top envoy in Washington from July 2021 until January this year.

Representatives of the foreign ministry have struggled to respond when pressed by reporters, repeatedly saying that they had no information to provide.

After China replaced him, nearly all references to Qin were scrubbed from the ministry's website, an unusual erasure that has only deepened the intrigue. On Thursday, asked by a reporter if China had been transparent about Qin's ousting, a spokeswoman lashed out at what she called "malicious hype".

ADG PIB Presides Over IMPCC Meeting In Jammu

Coordination And Cooperation Among e Media Units Is Need Of The Hour For Effective Communication And Publicity Of Gov Policies And Programs: Rajinder Chaudhary

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Additional Director General (Region) PIB and CBC J&K and Ladakh, Rajinder Chaudhary said on Wednesday that coordination & cooperation among the Media Units of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting based in J&K, J&K DIPR, DPR Defence and Cen-

able resources. He also stressed that the Central Government Departments can use their exhibits during the Multimedia Exhibitions organized by Central Bureau of Communication for their promotion and for informing people about the programs and policies of their respective departments.

Chaudhary also said, the am-



tral Government Departments is the need of the hour for effective communication and publicity of the Government of India initiatives, policies and programs.

Chaudhary said this while chairing a meeting of the Inter-Media Publicity Coordination Committee (IMPCC) organised by Press Information Bureau, Jammu.

In his address, Rajinder Chaudhary said, better media integration and synergy among the units is significant in achieving the better media coverage. Sh. Chaudhary emphasized, the publicity should not be seen as an event based activity but has to be a sustained ongoing process and the ideas must be shared, to be converted into concrete stories in collaboration with media units.

Chaudhary further emphasized that the activities of the Media Units and Central Government Departments must be shared well in advance so that a good coverage is given to the events through proper planning using the best avail-

plification of the events through respective social media handles is important as social media is emerging as the most powerful medium for effective communication and for promotion of the government initiatives, policies and programs.

Chaudhary also asked the participating departments to utilize social media platforms for quick, fast and accurate delivery of the information and achievements in a professional manner.

Chaudhary appreciated the efforts of the media units of MIB based in J&K and J&K DIPR for giving best coverage to G20, PM Vishwakarma, Meri Maati Mera Desh and other events of national importance.

Deputy Director, Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Ms. Ayushi Puri provided an overview about main activities of CBC in J&K. She emphasized, the cooperation is inevitable between the departments in giving meaningful information so as to develop good developmental stories.

SKUAST-K Young Scientist Wins Rs 60L BIRAC Grant

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir has been awarded BIRAC grant of Rs 60 lakh under the category Innovation Clean Technology-Scale Up by Govt's Department of Biotechnology Technology (DBT).

The grant is another milestone in pursuit of SKUAST-K's mission to transform itself as a leading innovation-led farm university of the country.

SKUAST-K's young scientist Dr M Muzammil (assistant professor of agricultural engineering) won the Rs 60 lakh grant on his novel technological concept "Design and development of smart vermicomposting chamber for rapid transformation of organic waste into fortified vermicompost in temperate region of Kashmir" under Innovation Clean Technology-Scale Up - 2023 category.

With this award, SKUAST-K has emerged as the No. 1 State Agriculture University in the Country and any university in Jammu and Kashmir to have earned the highest number of

BIRAC grants, nine, covering almost all major funding schemes of BIRAC like BIG BIRAC, BIG PACE and BIRAC Scale Up.

This winning streak is result of an effective ecosystem for innovators & startups created in SKUAST K by SKUAST-K Innovation, Incubation & Entrepreneurship Centre.

Over a short period of a few years, SKUAST-K's vibrant ecosystem for innovators & incubates has yielded significant results. These include 20 registered Startups of Students and Faculty and 10 patents, a number of commercialised technologies.

Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, while Dr M Muzammil for receiving the grant, impressed upon him to take advantage of the support system of the university at its Incubation Centre (SKIIEC) for commercialization of the technologies. Vice Chancellor also complimented Prof Haroon R Naik, Director Planning & Monitoring, SKUAST-K and Naveed Hamid, Chief Executive Officer (SKIIEC) for their significant contribution in creating a vibrant ecosystem for innovation and startups.

SUMMER FESTIVAL 2023

Massive Public Participation Witnessed At Ladu Ladoora

Initiatives being taken to promote Eco-tourism, opening up new Economic avenues through Tourism in B'la: asserts Dr Syed Sehrish

Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: In a bid to explore and promote tourism in hitherto unexplored tourist destinations, a grand day long summer festival was celebrated on Wednesday in Ladu Ladoora Rafiabad of Baramulla district organized by the District Administration Baramulla.

The event witnessed a huge gathering of people with enthusiastic participation of students and other stakeholders from across the district.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar paid inspection of stalls installed by various departments to showcase varied information and services for the general people.

During the festival, a colorful and spectacular cultural performances were showcased

mesmerizing the participants. The festival evoked tremendous response from not only the locals of the area but from adventure lovers as well.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Sehrish said that Ladu Ladoora is emerging as one of the known tourist destinations in Baramulla besides asserted that initiatives will be taken to promote Ladu Ladoora as famous tourist destinations so as to create opportunities of employment for local youth. Having huge potential to attract tourists, the DC assured that the necessary infrastructure will be developed in Ladu Ladoora to boost the eco tourism in the region.

Meanwhile, the locals including prominent PRIs were jubilant and lauded the District Administration for organizing a first of its kind summer festival in Ladu Ladoora Rafiabad.



A YOUNG GIRL SMILES AS DEVOTEES offer congregational prayers called "Khoja Digar" at the shrine of Naqshband Sahib (R.A) in Khawaja Bazar area of downtown Srinagar on Wednesday.

KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

Div Com Kashmir Reviews Milad, Following Friday Arrangements

Directs Officers To Ensure Better Facilities For Devotees At Shrines, Mosques

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri Wednesday convened a meeting of Officers to review arrangements for the forthcoming religious occasions of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (S.A.W) and Friday following in Kashmir Division.

Addressing the meeting, Div Com directed all the officers to ensure better quality facilities at the major Shrines including Aasar-i-Sharief Hazratbal, Jenab Sahib Saura, Aasar-i-Sharief Kalashpora, Aham-i- Sharief Bandipora, Kabamarg Anantnag and Peth Makhama Beerwah Budgam besides other prominent places.

He directed the Officers to make all the necessary arrangements for essential services much to the convenience of the general public, especially devotees visiting shrines.

He specifically laid focus on the smooth arrangements at shrines espe-



cially at Hazratbal shrine Srinagar with respect to sanitation, establishment of Health Camp, repairation of roads, availability of drinking water tankers, uninterrupted power supply, smooth transportation of devotees by SRTC buses, parking places, security arrangements and other facilities.

The Deputy Commissioners and other officers also briefed the meeting about the arrangements put in place for the celebration of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (S.A.W) in their respective districts.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners of Anantnag, Bandipora, Budgam, ADC Srinagar, Officers of Traffic Police, Transport, Power, Health, PHE, SMC, Food & Civil Supplies and others.

CB Files Chargesheet Against Man For Duping Job Seekers

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir crime branch on Wednesday filed a charge sheet against a person from Kathua for duping youth for lakhs of rupees on the pretext of arranging government jobs for them, an official said.

The charge sheet against Sher Ali, from Marheen tehsil, was filed in the court of law for cheating the complainant and other unemployed youth of Rs 5.50 lakhs, a crime branch spokesperson said.

A 104-page charge sheet was produced in the court for judicial determination, he said.

A case was registered against Ali on a written complaint lodged by Manzoor Ahmed. It was alleged that

Ali lured him and other unemployed youths by posing as an influential man and would get all of them employed in MES (Military Engineering Services), Railway or banks, he said.

On this pretext, the accused collected huge amounts from the complainant and other victims and later cheated them, the spokesperson said. A preliminary verification was initiated and the allegations were prima facie established and subsequently, a case was registered for in-depth investigation, the spokesperson said.

The relevant record was seized, statement of witnesses recorded and other material evidence was gathered and offences of cheating against the accused for luring the complainant and other unemployed youths have been established, he said.

IAF's Surya Kiran To Perform Air Show In Jammu On Sep 22

Agencies

JAMMU: The residents of Jammu city will have an opportunity to witness the aerobic performance of Surya Kiran team of the Indian Air Force (IAF) on September 22.

Speaking to media on Wednesday on the proposed show, Lt. Colonel, Suneel Bartwal PRO (Defence) informed that Directorate of Tourism Jammu and Surya Kiran Aerobatics Team (SKAT) team of the Indian Air Force to perform aerobic and maneuvering during a grand Air Show and awareness camp being to be held at Air Force Station Jammu on September 22. The informed that event promises to be an exuberant celebration of thrills and adventure that you absolutely cannot afford to miss.

It was informed that the Directorate of Tourism Jammu will set up an informative publicity stall at the venue, providing an opportunity for attendees to gather insights about upcoming tourism activities, enticing destinations, and promising opportunities.

Vivekanand Rai, Director of Tourism Jammu, extended a personal invitation to the public, promising that this event will be nothing short of spectacular. He informed that the Air show and awareness camp is a joint collaboration of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir and Air Force Station Jammu, wherein the LG J&K, Manoj Sinha, will be the chief guest of the event. He also adds a friendly reminder that carry bags and other eatables are not allowed within the event premises.

Sunaina Sharma Mehta, Joint Director of Tourism, informed that the live streaming will take place on September 22, on all social media handle of tourism department via-viz : @Facebook: @jammutourismofficial, Instagram/Twitter @jammutourism, YouTube: @jammutourismofficial273. She further informed that public access to the event on September 22 will be through the Peer Baba gate.

Speaking at the press conference, Wing Commander Kartik, Squadron Leader Himanshu Singh, Squadron Leader Allen George, and Flight Lieutenant Kanwal Sandu from the Surya Kiran Aerobatics Team (SKAT) shared captivating insights.

They revealed that this remarkable nine-aircraft team, unique in Asia, has executed an astounding 600 displays. Additionally, they emphasized that the event will feature the Akash Ganga skydiving team, the Air Warrior Drill Team, the Mi-17 1V helicopter operations, and the outstanding SKAT team operations. The Suryakiran Aerobatics team, popularly known as SKAT, inherits the motto "Sadhaiva Sarvottam" with ease, aptly describing the adage "Always the Best". This spectacular showcase aims to raise awareness about aviation. This event is not just a showcase of extraordinary talent but also an opportunity for the public to witness the dedication and excellence of the Indian Air Force. It's an invitation to be inspired and to consider a future in the defense and air force sectors for the youth—(KNO)

Our Doors Open for Jamaat, Hurriyat: Bukhari

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Former minister and Apni Party president, Syed Altaf Bukhari on Wednesday said that his doors are always open for anyone, who believes in Indian constitution and is not involved in drug abuse & terrorism.

"The doors of our party are always for anyone, be it Jamaat-e-Islami, Hurriyat or anyone, who believes in Indian constitution, don't believe in communal politics and is not involved in drug abuse and terrorism," Bukhari said.

Reacting to the statement



of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, he said that democracy allows the people to elect their representatives. "The Lt Governor has the right to speak anything, but the fact is democracy exists because of the people only," he said.

Showcause Notice Issued To Absent Doctors In Jammu

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Deputy Commissioner Sachin Kumar Vaishya on Wednesday issued show cause notices to doctors who were found absent from duty at a premier hospital in Jammu city and ordered a probe into the matter, officials said.

The deputy commissioner conducted an unannounced inspection of the government hospital at Gandhi Nagar on Wednesday, assessing patient care facilities and staff attendance, officials said.

During the surprise visit, it came to light that some doc-

tors were not present on duty, they said.

The deputy commissioner promptly ordered an official inquiry and simultaneously issued show cause notices to the doctors, they said.

Addressing the hospital staff, the deputy commissioner reaffirmed his strong commitment towards promoting punctuality, efficiency and the seamless functioning of the hospital.

He emphasised the importance of upholding the highest standards of duty in serving the public and vowed to root out any form of negligence or corruption.

Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE BLOCK MEDICAL OFFICER LANGATE

BLOCK PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT UNIT (NHM)

NO/BMOV/NHM/712 Dated:-20-09-2023

Subject:-Tender Notice for offering of Discount on the Drugs and Consumables under AYUSHMAN Bharat (PM-JAY Scheme) for the year 2023-24

The office of undersigned has to provide the Drugs, Diagnostics and consumables free of Cost to the patients admitted at CHC Langate and CHC Kralgund under AYUSHMAN Bharat PM-JAY Scheme. In this context this is to inform all the Registered/authorized Pharmaceutical retailers and Diagnostic Centres of Langate Town and Kralgund market to offer their discount percentage against the Drugs, Diagnostics and consumables prescribed to the patient by the concerned Doctor on duty. The Medical Shops situated in the Langate jurisdiction can offer their discount percentage only for CHC Langate while as the Medical Shops situated in Kralgund Market can only offer their discount percentage for CHC Kralgund.

The Registered/authorized Pharmaceutical retailers and Diagnostic Centres with highest percentage of discount shall be approved for the supply of required Drugs, Diagnostics and consumables for a period of one year initially subject to the below mentioned Conditions.

- The successful bidder will have to provide the medicines of reputed company.
- No Substitute will be accepted for any medicine.
- Successful bidder will have to provide his services 24x7 for the admitted patients under PMJAY
- The Discount Offered Letter should reach to the office of the undersigned within Seven days up to 4:00 pm. after the publication of this notice in daily news Papers
- The Discount Offered Letters will be opened on any working day as may be convenient to the purchasing committee of the hospital which will be communicated to the tenderer (s) accordingly.
- The purchasing committee reserved the right to accept or reject any Discount Offer Letter without assigning any reason thereof.
- The bidders shall deposit Rs. 2,000/- (Rs. Two Thousand Only) as EMD by Demand Draft/Pay Order in favour of Block Medical Officer Langate payable. The earnest money of the successful bidder will be retained as interest free security deposit. The earnest money of the unsuccessful bidders shall be refunded without any interest after award of work to the successful bidder.
- The sealed tenders, complete in all respect, numbered, signed with stamp of the firm on each page, should be handed-over to Block Programme Management Unit Langate by the stipulated date and time. Tender submitted or received after the closing date and time will not be considered. Late Bids i.e. bids received after the specified date and time of receipt, will not be considered. Telegraphic/ Telex/Fax/E-mail/ conditional/ incomplete Tenders will not be entertained and shall be rejected.
- The rates should be valid for a minimum period of one (1) Year from the date of opening of Tenders. The tenderer after submitting his tender, shall not rescind his offer or modify the terms and conditions thereof in any manner, else the EMD shall be forfeited and the tenderer shall be blacklisted.
- The Successful Bidder has to supply the items strictly as per the supply order.
- The Rate Quoted shall be included of all Taxes and all other Charges.

For contesting the tender the tenderer shall have the below mentioned documents.

- ✓ GST Registration Certificate.
- ✓ GST Return/Clearance Certificate.
- ✓ Valid full Bank Account Number
- ✓ PAN Card
- ✓ AADHAR Card
- ✓ Valid Drug License Certificate.

DIPK-9176-23
DT: 20/09/2023

Block Medical Officer
Langate

KASHMIR OBSERVER™

Thursday | 21-09-2023

Addressing Kashmir's Trauma

In a welcome effort toward prioritizing mental health, Jammu and Kashmir has announced the setting up of a dedicated mental health authority. The primary objective of this authority is to oversee and regulate all mental health facilities within the region, ensuring they are properly registered and conform to established guidelines.

By integrating mental health into the broader health-care system and ensuring oversight and accountability, this initiative has the potential to transform the lives of countless individuals in the region. It is true that Kashmir faces a mental health crisis and it has largely gone begging for attention. Earlier this year, the Lancet in a report on the National Tele Mental Health Programme (NTMHP) in Kashmir revealed the dire state of mental health in the region. Up until the Lancet report, the NTMHP had received 4000 calls from people suffering from mental illness and anxiety-related issues since the programme's launch on November 4, 2022.

Kashmir has faced decades of conflict and political unrest, which has left a deep impact on the mental well-being of its population. The impact of conflict, trauma, displacement, and economic instability has exacerbated the prevalence of mental health issues in the region. According to a study carried out by the Doctors Without Borders in 2016, nearly 1.8 million people in the region suffered from mental health disorders. But it is clear that the number has since only further risen - albeit, we need to have a proper study to get an estimate of how many are afflicted by the disease now.

The COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbated the situation, with lockdowns, fear, and uncertainty leading to an increase in anxiety and depression. In Kashmir, the pandemic followed soon after the seven month long security and communication blockade in the wake of the revocation of Article 370 in August, 2019. Compounding the growing mental health burden in the UT is the lack of adequate mental health services in the valley, creating a significant treatment gap. The launch of the NTMH has thus been a step towards addressing the problem and providing much-needed support to the population.

However, more needs to be done to address the mental health crisis in Kashmir. The program needs to be further promoted to reach a larger audience, especially in rural areas. There needs to be greater investment in mental health services, including training mental health professionals and increasing the number of psychiatric training institutes. This is where the mental health authority will come in handy. It will go a long way to not only institutionalize but also deepen the penetration of the treatment of the mental health patients in the region.

OTHER OPINION

Serious allegations

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's startling allegation, tying the killing of Canadian Khalistani leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar in June, to "agents of the Government of India", marks a new low in their unravelling ties. Mr. Trudeau's accusation — he said evidence had been shared with India and also raised in a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi last weekend — has set off a chain of events. After Canada expelled a senior Indian diplomat, India summoned the Canadian High Commissioner and expelled Canada's Station chief for intelligence on Tuesday. The United States and Australia, partners with Canada in the "Five Eyes" intelligence sharing agreement, have expressed "deep concerns" over the issue. The External Affairs Ministry has also accused Canadian diplomats of "anti-India" activities, indicating that more diplomats may be under scrutiny, while the Canadian government has spoken about the violation of the international rule of law, and of Canadian "sovereignty", which could invoke other areas of confrontation. Given the support Mr. Trudeau received from his political rivals in Parliament, remarks critical of India by leaders such as Pierre Poilievre and Jagmeet Singh, it is also likely that the chill will outlast this government, if voted out in elections due in 2025. Unlike with Pakistan, where such allegations, name-calling and public confrontation have become routine, it is worth remembering that Canada is a part of the western NATO alliance, and home to Indians and Indian-origin Canadians, and the impact of the rupture will be felt wider.

The first step at such a fraught moment has to be some cold reflection over the next steps. For Mr. Trudeau, the priority must be to publicly prove his very serious allegations, or admit he is unable to. India's assertions over Canadian safe havens for anti-India, separatist violent Khalistani groups have already been proven by many incidents, beginning from the early 1980s to more recent targeting of Indian diplomats and Indian community centres. That Nijjar, chief of the "Khalistan Tiger Force" — he was wanted in India, accused of being behind terror operations in Punjab in the 1990s, and had an Interpol red corner notice — was a Canadian citizen speaks for itself. New Delhi must also consider how it wishes to proceed on its ties with Canada. The government had hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Canada in 2015, the first bilateral visit by an Indian PM since 1973, with the assumption that decades of mistrust over the Khalistan issue could be brushed aside. Earlier this year, India and Canada attempted another reset, with visits by Canadian Foreign Minister Melanie Joly, and fast-tracking free trade talks.

The Hindu

Should Housewives be Compensated for Housework?

Haneen Farid

“To begin with, it is challenging in some cases to distinguish between work and leisure activities. For instance, if we say that a woman is playing with her child, would she be considered to be enjoying or working?”



1 6.4 billion hours per day are spent in performing unpaid care labour, as per data from the International Labour Organisation which is based on two-thirds of the world's working age population.

This statistic can also be understood as 2 billion individuals working 8 hours every day without pay. In fact, if these services were to be monetised, it would contribute to 9% of the world's GDP or US \$11 trillion (purchasing power parity in 2011).

Whilst the economy of unpaid care work has remained largely invisible for hundreds of years, the demand for its recognition has roots in the 19th Century. During the first wave of the women's rights movements in the US, Britain, and Europe, the main issue was that the burden of housework completely restricted women to the household. Further, there was a "second-shift" problem, whereby working women had to manage not only labour outside the household but also within the household.

In the second wave movement, the focus was not so much on the restrictions or burdens that came with housework, but the fact that it was unpaid and thereby perceived as a tool of oppression. As Silvia Federici argues in Wages Against Housework, the unpaid element that is intrinsic to housework is a 'powerful weapon' in reinforcing the notion that such work is not "actual work". Additionally, this prevents women from protesting against it, except in household kitchens or as part of bedroom quarrels, which have even become a matter of ridicule in society over time.

We spoke with Dr Roshan Ara, Assistant Professor at the University of Kashmir's Center for Women's Studies & Research. She highlights a major argument that is made for the movement for wages for housework:

"This [care work] is the pillar of the economy...if housewives do not work for one day, the whole world will be stagnant...there will be confusion and chaos...Who is preparing this human resource? It is the mother. Therefore, I think this whole economy, wholly and solely, it is being supported by

women', says Dr Ara.

Similarly, a certain section of marxist feminists view women's housework as a part of the social reproduction process, whereby housewives essentially enable men to perform their labour.

If we suppose it is universally decided that housewives must be compensated for household work, a crucial hurdle we would have to address is how their wages are to be computed. The United Nations System of National Accounts in 2008 listed 'difficulty of making economically meaningful estimates of their values' as one of the reasons for not including unpaid care work in labour statistics.

To begin with, it is challenging in some cases to distinguish between work and leisure activities. For instance, if we say that a woman is playing with her child, would she be considered to be enjoying or working?

If such child-rearing is considered to be a leisure activity, exploitation is out of question. However, if this is work, then we can take the number of hours that child-rearing is performed and compare it with the working hours that the husband performs to ensure that the productive and non-productive working hours of both partners are equal and neither is exploited.

Now, if we suppose that child-rearing is both a productive and non-productive activity, it would be categorised as work only to the extent that it contributes to the psychological growth of the child. And since there is no clear standard by which we can separate work from non-work, norms of fairness are tricky to apply when it comes to the separation of work between men and women.

But in such cases, women can be asked to decide for themselves what type of work constitutes leisure and labour. Although, as the "second-shift" concerns in the second wave movement suggest, there may be a possibility that women see household work as largely cumbersome. Still, such perceptions can shift overtime and the say of women is essential.

Regardless, one formula of calculating wages would be to take into consideration all the household work that can be outsourced

to nannies, gardeners, cooks, domestic help, etc. and use it as a maxim to calculate the cost of the work that housewives would do in their place. This is the input evaluation method.

Another solution can be based on the notion that all the work performed by women within the household is aimed towards the betterment of her family members, who are public goods. Hence, these women should be compensated accordingly. This is the output evaluation method, whereby the market value of a task is calculated on the basis of the good that it produces.

Whilst care work has its intricacies in terms of monetisation, there is one aspect of this debate which is imperative to address, and that is the impact it has on the status of women.

Dr Ara explains, 'when it comes to monetary power, when it comes to bargaining power within the household, who has the bargaining power? The bargaining power is in the hands of the person who has the cash in hand, who has resources in hand. And this "resource-lessness" has degraded women, it has derated their status as they have no bargaining power and no decision-making power. For example, in any family, whatever bold decision has to be made, usually some men assume that a woman's decision does not matter because they are not earning.'

'I am of the firm opinion that if we cannot [remunerate women], it is not necessary men have to pay for this. But at least men should get this realisation that whatever they are doing outside the home, it is all because women are giving them their time. She can also earn, but she is playing such a great role, she is preparing a human resource for the economy, she is feeding the members of the family...we need to value this work.'

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 student at King's College London and is an intern at Kashmir Observer



OBSERVER
MAIL

All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, space and accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

P.O. Box # 337, GPO, Srinagar-190 001
email: editpage.ko@gmail.com

Women's Quota Bill

It is a welcome decision but we should only be truly happy when we see this getting implemented in an election and that seems at least a few years away as of now. Because many challenging modalities need to be worked out, first census and then delimitation exercise and

then it will be women's reservation to see the light of the day. Both these are massive exercises and have a political angle to it. And then we are already seeing the demand of reservation within the reservation, so what kind of final shape it takes will be keenly watched. But the most critical

thing is that this reservation should not turn out to be a proxy for women candidates for political husbands or fathers and sadly these women representatives turn out to be mere rubber stamps and it leads to the increase in dynastic politics. We see that happening at local panchayat and village

pradhan elections. So whenever this is implemented it should be done to really empower women and give them true wings to fly and allow them to make a significant difference to society.

Bal Govind

Addressing Rude and Unhelpful Behaviour in Public Offices

Abid Hussain Rather

In a democratic society, government offices are meant to be a haven of public service, a place where citizens can seek assistance, resolve issues, and access essential services. In the intricate tapestry of governance, the role of government employees in public offices is paramount. These individuals are entrusted with the responsibility of serving the citizens, facilitating the smooth functioning of bureaucratic processes, and upholding the principles of accountability and professionalism. However, a disconcerting trend has emerged, where some government employees display rude and unhelpful behaviour towards common people who visit these offices. When citizens step into government offices seeking assistance, they expect a certain level of professionalism, courtesy, and efficiency. Unfortunately, many individuals have experienced quite the opposite – encountering rude and unhelpful behaviour from government employees. This behavior not only tarnishes the image of public service but also erodes trust in government institutions. This concerning trend not only undermines public trust in the system but also hampers the very purpose of these offices: to serve the people. The experience of encountering a rude government employee can be frustrating and demoralizing for individuals seeking assistance. The dismissive attitude, curt responses, and lack of empathy shown by some staff members can leave citizens feeling unheard and undervalued. This kind of behaviour not only obstructs the purpose of public offices but also hampers the potential for constructive dialogue and cooperation between the government and its constituents.

At the heart of the matter lies a complex interplay of factors. One possible cause of such behaviour is the overburdened nature of many government offices. Understaffing, excessive workload, and limited



resources can lead to stress and burn-out among employees, causing their behaviour to become curt or indifferent. Cumbersome bureaucratic procedures and labyrinthine regulations can frustrate both employees and citizens, leading to tense interactions. Employees who grapple with these complexities might inadvertently manifest their frustration through impolite conduct. Communication breakdowns also play a pivotal role in perpetuating this behaviour. A lack of clear and concise communication channels, coupled with a dearth of training in customer service, can result in employees inadvertently conveying an air of indifference. Additionally, inadequate training and lack of customer service orientation can contribute to the problem, leaving employees ill-equipped to handle the diverse needs and emotions of the people they serve.

But this issue is not without potential solutions. Addressing this issue requires a multi-pronged approach. Government bodies can take

several steps to address and rectify the problem:

- **Training and Professional Development:** Comprehensive training in customer service and interpersonal communication should be an integral part of government employees' orientation and ongoing professional development. Such training can equip them with the skills needed to interact respectfully, empathetically, and effectively with citizens.
- **Performance Recognition:** Introducing performance-based incentives can inject a sense of purpose and motivation into government offices. Recognizing and rewarding employees for their helpfulness and positive interactions with citizens can foster a culture of service excellence.
- **Accountability Measures:** Instituting mechanisms for

citizens to provide feedback on their experiences is crucial. Anonymous feedback forms or digital platforms can allow individuals to report instances of rude behaviour without fear of reprisal. This feedback can be used to identify problematic areas and take corrective action.

- **Transparency and Simplification:** Simplifying bureaucratic processes and enhancing transparency can go a long way in minimizing frustration. When citizens understand the steps and requirements involved, they are less likely to feel the brunt of employees' indifference.
- **Leadership Role Modelling:** Leaders within government organizations should set an example of respectful and helpful behaviour. By practicing what they preach, they can influence the behaviour of their subordinates and foster a culture of courtesy

and cooperation.

- **Ombudsman Offices:** Establishing independent ombudsman offices to address citizens' grievances can provide an external avenue for resolving conflicts and hold government employees accountable for their behaviour.

- **Citizens' Role :** As citizens, we can also play a crucial role in improving the situation. Reporting instances of rude behaviour and appreciating courteous service can reinforce the importance of respectful interactions in government offices. By engaging constructively and advocating for change, we contribute to the transformation of public service. Government agencies should launch campaigns that educate both citizens and employees about the significance of respectful interactions. This can foster a mutual understanding of the challenges faced on both sides.

In conclusion, the issue of rude and unhelpful behaviour among government employees in public offices is a serious concern that requires immediate attention. By addressing the root causes through training, incentives, accountability measures, and cultural shifts, government bodies can transform their interactions with citizens. Furthermore, focusing on employee well-being, and a culture of professionalism, we can reclaim the essence of public service and restore the faith of citizens in their government institutions. In doing so, they can re-instate trust in the system and uphold the fundamental purpose of serving the people. After all, a government's efficacy is measured not only by its policies but also by the manner in which its employees treat those they serve.

The author can be mailed at rather1294@gmail.com

Navigating Social Media Gracefully

Hazra Khatoon

As I engage with the world of social media, I can't help but acknowledge the significant role it plays in the lives of Muslim women like myself. It has become a powerful platform that allows avenues for self-expression, community-building, gaining knowledge, and spreading positivity. However, amidst the vast opportunities it offers, social media also has hurdles that test our faith.

To reinforce our discussion, I reflected on the words of our beloved Prophet Muhammad , who said:

"Verily, Allah is beautiful and He loves beauty." (Muslim)

This hadith highlights the essence of beauty and aesthetics in Islam.

As Muslim women, it is important to embody this beauty, both inwardly and outwardly, extending even to our online interactions. Let's discover how to chart our own path on social media that aligns with our beliefs, upholds our goodness, and allows us to be a source of positive change.

Challenges faced by Muslim women on social media

Now that we've established the significance of managing integrity and faith on social media, let's delve deeper into the difficulties we often face. When we understand them, we can better equip ourselves to overcome them and navigate the digital landscape with grace and strength.

1. Stereotypes and misconceptions

Chances are, both you and I have personally faced the stereotypes and misconceptions that exist about Muslim women on social media. We're often subjected to unfair generalisations, portraying us as oppressed or backward.

However, these stereotypes are far from the truth. In reality, Muslim women are succeeding in all fields like business, science, art, and sports. We have the power to choose their education, jobs, and relationships, just like any other woman.

In the Quran, Allah says, "Indeed, the noblest of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you." (Surah Al-Hujurat 49:13)

This verse directs us toward the



understanding that genuine nobility is rooted in piety and righteousness, rather than adhering to societal expectations or stereotypes.

2. Pressure to validate societal expectations

As Muslim women, we often find ourselves under immense pressure to conform to societal norms and expectations. We may feel compelled to present ourselves in a certain way or engage in activities that contradict our values. This pressure can be especially heightened on social media, where the pursuit of likes, followers, and popularity can cloud one's judgement.

In the Quran, Allah reminds us, "And be not like those who forgot Allah, so He made them forget themselves." (Surah-Al-Hashr 59:19)

We must remember that our purpose on social media is not to seek validation of societal expectations, but rather to seek the pleasure of Allah and stay true to ourselves.

3. Keeping modesty and hijab online

In a world where immodesty is often celebrated and encouraged, manoeuvring the digital space while maintaining modesty holistically can be challenging.

The Quran tells us, "Say to the believing women that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty. That is purer for them." (Surah-An-Nur 24:30)

The Prophet Muhammad said, "Modesty is a branch of faith" (Sahih Muslim)

Islam guides us to prioritise the value of modesty in all our interactions. When it comes to social media, let us be mindful of the content we share, the way we present ourselves, and the impact our actions may have on others.

4. Upholding Islamic values

In an ever-changing digital world, it is highly probable that we will encounter content that goes against our beliefs or be tempted to engage in discussions that go against the teachings of Islam. It is in these moments that we must rely on our faith and the guidance of Allah and His

Messenger

What does the Quran say about it?

Allah advises us, "And whoever holds firmly to Allah has [indeed] been guided to a straight path." (Surah Ali 'Imran 3:101)

By holding firmly to Allah and His teachings, we can navigate social media with wisdom, compassion, and virtue. Helpful ways to maintain integrity and faith on social media

I think it is safe to say that challenges will always be there. So how can we sustain integrity and faith in the light of the Quran and Hadith?

1. Set personal boundaries and guidelines

I have found that setting guidelines is meaningful for nurturing probity and staying true to my faith. I ask myself, "What are my values and beliefs, and how do I want to reflect them online?" By defining these boundaries, I establish a clear framework for my interactions on social media.

Islam teaches us why we need moderation and balance in all aspects of life.

The Quran states, "And We have made you a just community so that you will be witnesses over the people and the Messenger will be a witness over you." (Surah al-Baqarah 2:143)

This verse reminds me that as a Muslim, I should strive to be a witness, even in my online presence. Setting boundaries helps maintain a sense of balance and can ensure that actions align with intentions.

2. Select appropriate content and connections

Being mindful of the content I consume and the connections I make on social media is another essential strategy. I choose to follow accounts that align with my values, inspire me, and provide beneficial knowledge. Surrounding myself with positive influences creates an uplifting digital environment. Fortunately, numerous fellow Muslims are doing fantastic work in order to provide an elevated social media experience for the community.

The Prophet Muhammad advised us to, "Choose your companions wisely, for

you are upon the religion of your companions" (Sunan Abi Dawood).

This hadith serves as a reminder to be selective in the company we keep, even in the virtual world.

3. Be mindful of the online impact

Each post and comment we share on social media carries the power to influence others. Hence, we must exercise caution and mindfulness in selecting our words and actions, both in our physical lives and in the virtual world. Asking ourselves, "Is this post or comment valuable? Does it foster positivity in the discussion? Does it align with the values of Islam?" can guide our online presence responsibly.

Islam places great emphasis on the power of speech and advises us to use our words wisely.

The Prophet Muhammad said, "Whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day, let him speak good or remain silent." (Sahih Bukhari)

It is imperative to remember that when we interact with others on social media, we must do so with respect, gentleness, and the intention to build bridges rather than create divisions.

4. Utilise privacy settings

Utilising privacy settings and implementing security measures, can help safeguard our personal information and create a safer online experience.

The Messenger of Allah said, "Be discreet in order to achieve what you want, for everyone who is blessed is envied." (Saheeh al-Jaami)

This is a clear suggestion of being mindful of the potential consequences of oversharing or exposing ourselves to unnecessary risks.

While exploring social media as Muslim women, we may deal with tests and trials. With patience, kindness, wisdom, and seeking support, we can hold our ethics and belief in the digital world. It helps to remember that Allah is always with us, guiding and protecting us as we handle the complexities of our world, real or virtual.

The article was originally published by Amaliah

What Helps Students Cope With Academic Setbacks?

The Conversation

Academic challenges and difficulties are inevitable parts of school this is how students learn. So researchers have long been interested in the ways students navigate these challenges and how to help them cope better.

Recent research has focused on the concept of academic buoyancy or everyday resilience at school. This is about students' capacity to handle everyday setbacks and challenges. This could include negative feedback on an assessment or facing competing study deadlines and schoolwork demands.

Research has found resilient students tend to have more positive academic outcomes. These include making greater effort with their work, having better study skills and enjoying school more than students who are less resilient.

Research has also shown resilience is underpinned by personal attributes such as confidence. But we need more understanding about what school-related factors are involved in students' resilience and what schools can do to build their students' resilience.

Our study surveyed high school students in schools around New South Wales to look at what other factors impact students' resilience.

Our research

The study was based on responses from 71,861 high school students in 292 NSW government schools who completed the annual 'Tell Them From Me' student survey organised by the state's Department of Education.



Students' responses were collected at two points one year apart: once at the beginning of the 2018 school year when students were in Years 7 to 11 and then a year later in 2019 when they were in Years 8 to 12. Schools were in metropolitan, rural and regional areas.

One of our main aims was to find out if students' perceptions of different types of support in their school would influence their resilience one year later.

This included academic and emotional support from teachers, students' sense of school belonging and behavioural expectations in the classroom.

We looked at the role of support factors in two ways. First, we looked

at how support for individual students was associated with students' resilience. For example, does a student who perceives greater academic support from their teacher, regardless of the school they are in, report greater resilience one year later?

Second, we investigated the relationship between support at the whole-school level and whole-school resilience.

Our findings

In our study, students' sense of school belonging stood out as the most notable factor of resilience. In fact, the role of school belonging was important at the individual student level and also at the whole-school level. That is, when individual stu-

dents felt a greater sense of belonging to their school, they tended to also report greater resilience one year later.

When a school had a higher proportion of students reporting a sense of belonging, it demonstrated higher school-average resilience one year later.

There was also evidence of a reciprocal relationship between students' sense of belonging and their resilience that is, increases in school belonging were associated with greater resilience one year later and vice versa.

Notably, these findings were largely similar across contexts, including schools of different sizes, in different locations, with different

Students' responses were collected at two points one year apart: once at the beginning of the 2018 school year when students were in Years 7 to 11 and then a year later in 2019 when they were in Years 8 to 12. Schools were in metropolitan, rural and regional areas.

longing could have long-lasting effects on students' resilience as they positively feed into each other over time.

How can we boost belonging?

Helping students to feel safe and included in their school is one way to promote a greater sense of belonging for students. This could include:

1. offering a range of extracurricular activities that help students to get involved and feel part of their school community

2. anti-bullying or wellbeing programs to help students to feel safer and more comfortable in their schools

3. helping students build and feel confident in their personal identities at school.

Teaching students to be aware of their emotions

There are also strategies for targeting students' resilience directly. For example, providing students with specific reasoning behind a poor assessment mark and then time (in class or one-on-one) to help them understand and constructively respond to the challenging feedback.

Students might also be taught to be aware of the thoughts, behaviours and emotions they have when they receive a disappointing result and how they can respond constructively. For example, re-framing the event as a learning opportunity or a time to seek out further information from a teacher is one way to focus on self-improvement rather than the disappointing result.

Amid ongoing concerns about young people's mental health and wellbeing, academic resilience is an important attribute that helps students to navigate their school careers.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Executive Engineer Rural Engineering Wing Srinagar
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
NIT No: 60 of 2023-24 DATED: - 20-09-2023
SINGLE COVER SYSTEM

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

S no	Name of work	Adv Cost Rs in Lacs	Cost of tender Documents	Earnest Money	Time of completion	Class of contractor	Head of Account	Treasury challan account head
1	Widening Lane/ Construction of R/wall from L/O Ali Mohd Bhat to H/O Mohd Rajab Bhat via L/O Ab Razak Bhat Graveyard at Muftibagh	2.456	2.00	4912.00	30 Days	DEE	PRI	0515
2	Construction of R/wall from Mavas Canal to L/O Mohd Maqbool Ganie to others near Masjid Sharief at Ganepora khimber.	2.96	2.00	5920.00	30 Days	DEE	PRI	0515
3	Construction of Link road BWO Earth Cutting/ Pipes and P-Bund from Main Road to Water Tanky at Brandkani Faqir Gujri-A.	2.94	2.00	5880.00	30 Days	DEE	DDC	0515
4	Construction of Road Widening near H/O Ghulam Hassan to H/O Ali Mohammad Rather at Barji Payeen Gandtal.	2.945	2.00	5890.00	30 Days	DEE	DDC	0515
5	Construction of Drain near H/O Ab Majeed Khan to H/O Mushtaq Ahmad Mir Iddgah Colony Darbagh Syedpora.	1.47	2.00	2940.00	30 Days	DEE	DDC	0515
6	Upgradation of Drain from Jamia Masjid Sharief to Ghulam Hassan Bhat and others at Dara-A	1.47	2.00	2940.00	30 Days	DEE	DDC	0515
7	Installation of Iron Mesh on Drain from H/O Ali Mohd Qasimi upto Jaffar Mir at Balhama-B.	2.45	2.00	4900.00	30 Days	DEE	BDC	0515

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

A	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	20.09.2023
B	Period of downloading of bidding documents	20.09.2023
C	Bid submission Start Date	20.09.2023
D	Bid Submission End Date	26.09.2023 4.00PM
E	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	27.09.2023 at 11 A.M in the Office of Executive Engineer Rural Engineering wing Srinagar

Documents of Valid GST with latest GST clearance (Proceeding monthly or quarterly) certificate viz GSTR-3B, Adhar Card, PAN Card needs to upload with the bid. An undertaking /Affidavit needs to be uploaded with the bid regarding that the submitted documents are correct and there is no liability of Income Tax Department. Bidders quoted rates below more than 15% needs to upload Additional Security Deposit with the bid in the shape of FDR/CDR and this condition is also applicable for those bidders who are having MSME registration as per following break-up:

S.No	Percentage of unbalanced bid viz., advertised cost on account of Low rates	Additional Performance Security
1	Up to and including 15% Below	Nil
2	>15% upto and including 20% Below	5% of advertised cost
3	>20% upto and including 25% Below	10% of advertised cost
4	>25% upto and including 30% Below	15% of advertised cost
5	> 30% Below	20% of advertised cost

3 The date and time of opening of Bids Will be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders will be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer Rural Engineering Wing Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

4 The bids for the work will remain valid for a period of 100 days from the date of opening of Technical bids

5 The work will be put to fresh tenders in case of:

a. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 07 days after fixation of contract.

7. Instructions to Bidder (ITB)

15.1 All bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualification criteria/qualification information with their bids:-
a) Copies of original documents defining constitution/Legal status, place or registration and principal place of Business with Cell and Correspondence address.
b) Treasury Challan.
c) Valid GST No. with latest return, and PAN Card.
d) Card verification issued by the card issuing Authority

15.2. The bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submission of bid.

15. The tender / bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.
The works are approved under District Capex Budget -2022-23
All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form)

Sd/
Executive Engineer (REW)
SRINAGAR

No. Xen/REW/SGR/4046-62
DIPK-9213/23
Dated: -20-09-2023

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
Office Of The Chief Engineer Srinagar Smart City Ltd
(A J&K Government Undertaking)
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
E-N.I.TNO:-26/SSCLOF09/2023-24DT:-20/09/2023

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Tenders are invited through e-tendering mode from authorized Tour/Taxi Operators/Companies/Firms/Agencies for hiring of office vehicles for use of Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL).
The Employer, Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL), intends to hire 05 No. Air-conditioned vehicles of SUV type (Scorpio/Bolero) having manufacturing year not earlier than 2019 on monthly hire charge basis including consumables like lubricants, tyres, battery, salary and other expenses of the drivers, any repairs, maintenance, periodic servicing, GST, other taxes, insurances etc. for a period of Two (02) Years (Extendible as per the requirement, subjected to satisfactory performance).
The details areas under:

S.No.	Name of Work	Name of Organization	Cost of Tender Document	Earnest Money Deposit	Period Of Contract
1	Hiring of Office Vehicles on Monthly Rental Basis	Srinagar Smart City Ltd. (SSCL)	Rs. 1000/-	Rs. 25,000/-	Two(02) Years

1. The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website: <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 20-09-2023 at 16:00 Hrs. onwards.
2. The Bids can be deposited in electronic format (uploaded) on the website : www.jktenders.gov.in from 20-09-2023 to 30-09-2023 up to 14:00 Hrs.
3. The bids received will be opened on 30-09-2023 at 16:00 Hrs. online, in the office of Chief Engineer, Srinagar Smart City Limited, Srinagar. In case this date happens to be a holiday, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time. Bids received after the final stipulated date and time of submission will not be entertained
4. The complete bidding process will be online only under two cover system. The Tender document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, terms and conditions and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in.
5. To participate in online bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with Digital Signature. The bids can not be uploaded without Digital Signature. No Proposal will be accepted in physical form.
6. The Bid must be accompanied with a non-refundable tender document cost of Rs. 1000/- (Rupees One Thousand) only. The Cost of tender document has to be paid in favour of Srinagar Smart City Limited with Bank Account details as under:
Name of Bank: ICICI Bank Ltd.
Branch: Karan Nagar, Srinagar.
Bank Account Number: 252705001239
IFSC Code: ICIC0002527
MICR Code: 190229002

7. The original copy of Cost of Tender Document shall reach to the Office of Chief Engineer, Srinagar Smart City Limited at the address: 1st Floor, Budshah Building, Lal Chowk, Srinagar, 190001, J&K, before the last date of online opening of technical bids.
8. The Earnest Money Deposit (Bid Security) may be paid through CDR/FDR in favour of Chief Executive Officer Srinagar Smart City Limited with Bank Account details as stated.
9. The bids shall remain valid for a period of 90 days. To this effect, the bidders are required to submit the Bid Security Declaration Form as provided in the Tender Document at Annexure-1, along with their tender.
10. Before submission of online bids, bidders must ensure that scanned copy of all the necessary documents have been attached with bid. Details of Document required to be submitted is available along with download able tender document on www.jktenders.gov.in.
11. The bidding will be under two (02) cover system as detailed here under:
i) Cover 1 (Technical Cover): Self attested scanned copies of below mentioned documents have to be attached and uploaded by the bidder for Technical Qualifications:
a) Letter of submission on Letter-head of the bidder
b) Payment instrument against Cost of Tender Document.
c) Payment instrument against Earnest Money Deposit.
d) Bid Security Declaration Form as per Annexure-1 of Tender Document.
e) Credentials and/or Experience of the bidder (Last 2 Years)
f) GST Registration Certificate
g) R.C Book of the Vehicle
h) Pollution Certificate
i) Insurance Policy
j) Permanent Account Number (PAN) Card
k) Statement of Vehicles to be deployed by the bidder as per Annexure-2 of Tender Document.
ii) Cover 2 (Financial Cover): In Cover2, the Bidder has to quote the monthly hiring charges per vehicle as stipulated in the relevant Financial Proposal (BOQ) provided online on the website: www.jktenders.gov.in.
The bidders are instructed to read carefully the online BOQ. The rate is to be entered in the column with heading "BASICRATE in figures to be entered by the Bidder".
The quoted rate shall be exclusive of fuel charges but inclusive of cost of consumables like lubricants, tyres, battery, salary and other expenses of the driver, wear and tear, any repairs, maintenance, periodic servicing, GST, other taxes, insurances etc.
12. The contract will be awarded on least cost basis as accepted by the Employer (SSCL). In case two or more bidders have quoted the same rate, the contract will be awarded to the bidder having higher credentials and / or experience.
13. The bidders shall not be entitled to reimbursement of any cost, charge or expenses incurred by them, incidental or in connection with the preparation and/or submission of the tender.
14. The Employer (SSCL) will not be responsible any delay in submission of bid due to any reason.
15. Right to revise or amend this Tender Notice and / or the Tender Document, fully or partially, prior to the last date notified for submission of offers or on any subsequent date is reserved by the Employer (SSCL).
16. The Employer (SSCL) reserves the right to accept/ reject any or all the Bids in whole without assigning any reason thereof.
17. Any information regarding the NIT or the Tender Document can be had from the office of undersigned during office hours.
No: SSC/CEO/23-24/5093-96
DIPK-NB-3303/23 Dt: 20/09/2023

Sd/- Chief Engineer
Srinagar Smart City Limited

GSTN Enables Geocoding For 'Additional Place Of Business' Address

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: GST Network has enabled geocoding functionality for the 'additional place of business' address of GST-registered businesses across all states and union territories.

The move is aimed at curbing fraudulent registrations under Goods and Services Tax (GST) by giving bogus addresses for the purpose of claiming Input Tax Credit (ITC).

"GSTN is pleased to inform that the geocoding functionality for the 'Additional Place of Business' address is now active across all States and Union Territories. This builds upon the geocoding functionality earlier implemented for the principal place of business, operational since February 2023," GST Network said in an advisory to taxpayers.

To date, over 2.05 crore addresses have been geocoded for both principal and additional places of business by GSTN.

Since March 2022, all new business addresses are geocoded at the point of registration, ensuring consistent accuracy



and standardisation from the beginning, it added.

AMRG & Associates Senior Partner Rajat Mohan said the integration of geocoding functionality assumes a pivotal role in detecting instances of tax evasion by furnishing tax authorities with precise geographical location data.

"Using tools such as heat maps and spatial analysis, tax authorities can uncover tax irregularities clusters, enabling enforcement agencies to allocate their resources more strategically. By harnessing the power of geocoding, tax authorities can elevate the effectiveness of their audit and enforcement endeavours, ultimately contributing to a more equitable and streamlined tax collection process," Mohan added.

Meta Expands WhatsApp Payments Service In India, Adds New Tools To Turbocharge Businesses



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: WhatsApp on Wednesday announced the expansion of its payments service in India to make it easier for people transacting with businesses to pay for purchases directly in the chat, with a choice of UPI apps, including rival digital payment options, as well as credit and debit cards.

Meta founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg asserted that India is leading the world in people and businesses embracing messaging.

WhatsApp said it is working with partners Razorpay and PayU "to make paying for something as simple as sending a message", as the Meta-owned platform unveiled a host of new features to woo businesses in India's booming commerce market.

"India (is) a country that's at the forefront of a lot of what we're going to talk about today. You're (India is) leading the world in terms of how people and businesses have embraced messaging as the better way to get things done," Zuckerberg said during a virtual address at the business messaging conference 'Conversations' in Mumbai.

A series of new tools have been announced for turbocharging businesses, including WhatsApp Flows and Meta verified badge, to "speed up how to get things done with businesses in a WhatsApp chat".

"Expanding our payments service in India to all Indian businesses using the WhatsApp Business Platform... People will be able to add items to a cart and send a payment using the payment method of their choice - either WhatsApp or other payment methods, including all UPI

apps, debit and credit cards, and more - all without having to go to a website, open another app or pay in person," according to a factsheet by the company.

This means payments through rival services like Google Pay and Paytm can be facilitated directly within the app and not redirected away from the app to a site.

The feature is already live in Singapore and Brazil (for small businesses). Zuckerberg said Meta has continued to innovate with messaging formats, group chats and broadcast channels.

"And it's the same focus that we're bringing to how we support businesses, creating simple to use and easy to scale tools so they can connect with their customers in meaningful ways," he said.

WhatsApp Flows is a new feature for businesses to create richer in-chat experiences for their customers like booking a reservation, ordering delivery or checking in for a flight, directly on WhatsApp. Businesses will be able to choose from a series of flexible, pre-made building blocks so they can easily design rich, customisable experiences for their customers.

Zuckerberg said WhatsApp Flows gives businesses the ability to create customised experiences within chat threads.

Citing some examples of how this would work, he said that with 'WhatsApp Flows', a bank can build a way for customers to book an appointment to open a new account, a food delivery service can build a way to place an order from any of their partner restaurants or an airline can build a way to check in for a flight and pick up a seat. All this without having to leave the chat thread.

Kashmir Hosts Maiden India Cold Chain Conclave

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The Kashmir Valley on Wednesday hosted its maiden India Cold Chain Conclave for fruit growers, farmers and controlled atmosphere store owners.

The India Cold Chain Conclave -- Himalayan chapter -- was organised by the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industries (PHDCCI) in collaboration with National Centre for Cold Chain Development at Kashmir International Convention Centre here.

The conclave aims to provide an overview of advancements in refrigeration, their impact on various industries, the logistics sector and their role in addressing climate challenges.

"This is the first time we are conducting an event of such magnitude in Kashmir which is a game changer. It is to facilitate fruit growers, farmers



and controlled atmosphere store owners and everyone connected to the farming sector agriculture, horticulture all of them are here," PHDCCI Chairman, Kashmir region, Vicky Shaw, told PTI.

A survey was conducted in January of this year revealed that 5 lakh metric tonnes of controlled atmosphere stores are required now while the current availability is of 2.5 lakh metric tonnes. To fill

that gap, the government has come up with various initiatives, such as the MIDH scheme run by the Centre, officials said.

Fruit growers in the valley welcomed the initiative.

"The controlled atmosphere storage policy is a great step from the government. This helps farmers in a long run and will help them gain profit," Mohammad Sultan Bhat, a fruit grower, said.

J&K Emerging As Sunrise Region For Investments, Establishing New Businesses: Advisor Bhatnagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar Wednesday remarked that Jammu and Kashmir is on accelerated trajectory of Peace, Growth, Stability, Development and is emerging as sunrise region for investments as well as establishing new business establishments.

The Advisor made these remarks while addressing the India Cold Chain Conclave-Himalayan Chapter at Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) here.

The conclave, a first of its kind, was organised by Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) in collaboration with the National Centre for Cold Chain Development (NCCD) as the Knowledge Partner and Think Tank.

Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta; Joint Secretary (Horticulture), Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Gol, Priya Ranjan Verma; Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K,



Prof. Nazeer Ahmad Ganai; Director Horticulture Kashmir, Ghulam Rasool; COO, NCCD, Chairman PHDCCI-Kashmir and other concerned officers were present on the occasion.

The representatives of J&K Fruit & Vegetable Processing and Integrated Cold Chain Association (JKIPCCA), cold storage associations, agriculture experts and scientists, fruit growers, entrepreneurs and agripreneurs also participated in the conclave.

Addressing the conclave, Advisor Bhatnagar highlighted that this conclave will create an enabling platform for local entrepreneurs in Jammu and Kashmir to delve into, invest in, and thrive within the Cold Chain industry. He added that this platform is a unique opportunity for J&K's entre-

preneurs to engage with and access the latest cold chain technologies and infrastructure, all within their regional vicinity.

The Advisor underscored that this conclave will add lot of value to Cold chain industry and add to growth of horticulture, agriculture and other related sectors.

Speaking on ongoing development in Jammu and Kashmir, Advisor Bhatnagar said that the 'Ease of Doing Business' has remarkably improved in J&K as accountability and transparency has increased manifold by way of innovative digital means. He added that around 15 products have been GI tagged in Jammu and Kashmir which will add lot of value addition to the products and increase their reach across the globe.

United States Gross National Debt Tops \$33 Trillion Amid Threat Of Govt Shutdown

Agencies

WASHINGTON: America's gross national debt exceeded \$33 trillion for the first time on Monday, providing a stark reminder of the country's shaky fiscal trajectory at a moment when Washington faces the prospect of a government shutdown this month amid another fight over spending.

The treasury department noted the milestone in its daily report detailing the nation's balance sheet. It came as Congress appeared to be faltering in its efforts to fund the government before a September 30 deadline. Unless Congress can pass a dozen appropriations bills or agree to a short-term extension of federal funding at existing levels, the US will face its first government shutdown since 2019.

Over the weekend, House Republicans considered a short-term proposal that would slash spending for most federal agencies and resurrect tough Trump-era border initiatives to extend funding till end of October. But the plan had little hope of breaking the impasse on Capitol Hill, with Republicans still divided on their demands and Democrats unlikely to support whatever compromise they reach.

IUST Empowers Aspiring Women Entrepreneurs at Awareness Camp

Observer News Service

AWANTIPORA: The Women Entrepreneurship Development Cell, Centre of Entrepreneurship and Innovation Cell (CIED) at Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) Wednesday organized a Women Entrepreneurship Awareness and Sensitization Camp for students of Government Degree College, Awantipora with the aim to foster a culture of entrepreneurial spirit among aspiring women leaders.

Dr. Parvez Ahmed Mir, Director CIED, exposed the



participants to the global entrepreneurship culture, and entrepreneurship opportunities available. He shared inspiring success

stories of ventures supported by CIED, IUST. Dr. Rumaan Bashir, Coordinator of WEDC CIED, emphasized the criticality of skill de-

velopment. She also talked about initiatives taken by the Kalaam Academy of Skill Development at IUST. Dr. Ruheela Hassan (Member WEDC) said start-up culture is a reality and imbuing innovative spirit among the students is the need of the hour. She said that acquiring skills alongside formal education opens new vistas of opportunity.

During the visit, the students explored university facilities including DIC, DIT, and Rumi Library. The event was a part of the WEDC's campaign towards nurturing women entrepreneurs in the region.



One Indian Hotel Ranks Among World's Top 50

Bloomberg

NEW DELHI: The founders of the World's 50 Best Restaurants and Bars lists have crowned the world's best hotel for the first time—and it's Lake Como's Passetalacqua.

The tiny, 24-room hotel only just opened in June 2022 after a years-long restoration to its 18th century building—which has played host to guests as illustrious as Napoleon Bonaparte, Winston Churchill, and Vincenzo Bellini who made it his home in the 1800s. The hotel's instant, meteoric rise in popularity among the jet set has come largely on the heels of charismatic owners Paolo, Antonella and Valentina De Santis who have made the hotel a true labor of love, and who had a built-in following as owners of the beloved Grand Hotel Tremezzo, also in Lake Como. (Rates at Passetalacqua start at around \$1,800 per night for next summer's season.)

"If you can dream it, you can do it! Here we are!" said Valentina De Santis, visibly moved as she received the top award. "We don't have big shoulders behind us, and we still arrived here."

Following closely behind Passetalacqua were a series of iconic Asian stays. Rounding out the top five were Rosewood Hong Kong; Four Seasons Chao Praya River, Bangkok; The Upper House, Hong Kong; and Aman Tokyo. La Mamounia, in Marrakesh, came next—a triumph for a city still reeling from the devastating earthquake on Sept. 8.

Despite the Asia-heavy top 10, the list skewed heavily European—prompting viewers on the live stream to wonder if it was in fact Europe's 50 Best hotels—with properties on that continent taking up 21 of the 50 slots. Outside of two New York City entries, the Aman and Equinox, no other hotels in the US made the cut. Also notable, independent hotels far outdid branded entities; Marriott and Hilton claimed zero entries between them, though Aman and Four Seasons each took home four nods. Maybourne Hotel Group

and Oetker Collection each took home three—both lesser-known brands, but beloved by luxury consumers.

The pronouncement, which took place under the dramatic Medieval arches of London's Guildhall, marks the first hotels-focused list from the team at 50 Best, which is known for its global and regional restaurant and bar lists—all compiled by UK-based company William Reed Business Media. In its 21 years, the World's 50 Best Restaurants list has anointed new global destinations like Copenhagen or Lima—turning them from secondary cities to bucket-list-topping culinary destinations.

"There are multiple facets to what makes a list like this successful," explains William Reed, director of content at William Reed, adding that the hotels list has been nearly a decade in the making. "How it drives business to the hotels is important, and on a slightly less empirical level, how it encourages discovery—cultural discovery—encouraging travel to new parts of the world that you might not have done otherwise." (The headline sponsor for the inaugural World's 50 Best Hotels list is SevenRooms, a back-end technology platform for restaurants and hotels.)

This is particularly true when it comes to the 50 Best Restaurants. But when it came to this year's list of hotels, the potential to chart new destinations went vastly unrealized.

In addition to La Mamounia (No. 6), Marrakesh notched one other entry, Royal Mansour (No. 23); it would be a wonderful boon to the city if the accolades helped give travelers confidence in their ability to travel to the Red City, which was largely spared the earthquake's damage and relies heavily on its tourism economy. Sri Lanka, similarly, may stand to benefit; at No. 38, Amangalla may have less prominent positioning on the list, but it would deservedly cast a spotlight on a country where tourism has had difficulty taking root, despite a vast richness of hospitality, cuisine, and cultural appeal.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION Ganderbal

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
CIVIL WORKS
SINGLE COVER SYSTEM (upto Rs.2.50 Crores)
EE/R&B/Divn/Gbl/e-Tender NIT No.105 of 2023-24 issued under endorsement No. 9680-85
Dated: 20.09.2023

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

S.No	Name of the Work	Adv. Cost (Rs.In Lacs)	Cost of T./Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class Of Contractor
2		3	4	5	6		8
1.	Construction of Balance Work of grill fencing at Manasbal under Capex Budget 2023-24.	Rs.48.00 Lacs	Rs.1100/=	Rs.96,000/=	30-Days	Capex Budget 2023-24	BEE/AA

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

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	20-09-2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	20-09-2023 from 4:00PM.
3	Bid submission Start Date	20-09-2023 from 4:00 PM.
4	Bid Submission End Date	25/09/2023 upto 4.00PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids(Online)	26/09/2023 at 10:05AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal

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

Note:-
The Date of Treasury Challan and CDR must be between the date of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive. The Bidders shall upload earnest money equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the shape of CDR/FDR at the time of tendering pledged in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal and 5% of the allotted cost as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG by the successful bidder pledged in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal. The Performance Security i.e.5% shall be released after successful completion of the Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. The EMD of 2% of successful bidders shall be released after receipt of 5% Performance Security/after award of the contract for the work is issued.

- Note:-All bidders shall submit the uploaded Treasury Challan in Original before issuance allotment.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on WebSite www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division(tender receiving authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical
- The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-
a) Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified timeline.
c) Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

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

- 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.
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature.No bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid. Besides, original photocopies of documents related to the bid be submitted physically by registered post, through courier before the dates specified in Para-1.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including tender documents fee in terms of soft copies and all other documents required as per NIT with technical bid. No document (s) which has/have not been uploaded shall be entertained for technical evaluation in the form of hard copy. However in case of any clarification the bidders all have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.

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

- Bidders should note that if the documents uploaded/submitted on the basis of which the contract has been awarded are forged/fake/not genuine at any time, the contract shall be cancelled and the contractor/bidder shall be recommended for blacklisting and debarred from taking part in tendering which the PWD/Other Departments for a period of one year in the first instance, besides the performance security deposited for the said work shall be forfeited.
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
- For item rate method the unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
- The %age rate method requires the bidder to quote a percentage above/below/at par at the bottom of the BOQ percentage template for the work. The percentage quoted by the bidder shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
- 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.

No.9680-85
Dated:20-09-2023

DIPK-9209-23
DT: 20/09/2023

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Ganderbal

Siraj Back To No. 1 In ICC ODI Bowling Rankings

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Indian pacer Mohammad Siraj has regained his number one spot in the men's ICC ODI bowling rankings after his six-wicket haul in the final of the recently-concluded Asia Cup.

Siraj, who first grabbed the top position in January before being displaced by Josh Hazlewood in March, has surged eight spots after his memorable performance that helped dismiss Sri Lanka for just 50 runs and enabled India to complete a 10-wicket victory in the summit clash.

Left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav has moved down three places to ninth. Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah climbed up two places to 27th while Hardik Pandya rose eight spots to 50th. Among batters, openers Shubman Gill and Rohit Sharma have retained their second and 10th spots respectively while star batter Virat Kohli moved up a rung to eighth.

Pandya is the only all-rounder in the top 20, climbing up a spot to the sixth place.



New York, Dallas, Florida US Venues For T20 WC 2024: ICC



Press Trust of India

DUBAI: The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Wednesday confirmed New York, Dallas and Florida as the three venues for the USA-leg of the ICC Men's World Cup 2024.

Broward County (Florida), Grand Prairie (Dallas) and Eisenhower Park (New York) will be the three stadiums hosting the matches in the US.

This is the first time the tournament will be played in the USA, and they will co-host it with the West Indies.

The ICC had awarded the event to the USA in 2021. Geoff Allardice, the Chief Executive of the governing body, said, these venues have been zeroed in after an extensive evaluation process.

Allardice said the existing venues at Florida and Dallas will be expanded to accommodate more fans, media and premium hospitality areas using the modular stadium solutions.

He said the same technology will be used to build a 34,000-seat modular stadium at Nassau County, New York,

and he hoped to acquire the required permit from local officials by next month.

A number of other venues around the USA, including George Mason University in Washington, the new home of MLC team Washington Freedom, have also been identified as potential venues for pre-event matches and training.

The ICC's announcement has also allayed all concerns over USA hosting the T20 WC 2024 because of the doubts surrounding the readiness of the stadiums.

JKFA Announce Probables For J&K Santosh Trophy Team



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Football Association on Wednesday announced 36 probables for the J&K team set to compete in the upcoming edition of the prestigious Santosh Trophy.

The selected candidates are from both divisions of J&K and have been taking part in the trials at Synthetic

Turf TRC here.

These 36 footballers will now compete in the final selection to make it to the 22-member J&K team.

Goalkeepers: Safiz Riyaz, Umaid Hussain, Nirdosh Sagotra, Majid, Rajveer Singh, Syed Ali

Defenders: Urfan, Farhan Ganaie, Zubair Ankhoo, Arun Nagihal, Momin Bashir, Sahil Bandy, Liyaqat Gul, Rishab Dogra, Faisal

Thakur,

Midfielders: Adnan Ayoub, Kamran, Shahmeer Tariq, Talib Ahmad, Mehran Hilal, Uneeb, Imad-Ud-Din, Furqan Zargar

Forwards: Hayat Bashir, Akif Reshi, Ayushman, Dimple Bhagat, Mehraj-Ud-Din, Moomin Bhat, Raja Musaraf, Dushant Sharma, Waris Amin, Ujjwal, Sarmad, Aniket Singh, Abhinav Sharma.

Teams Arrive In Anantnag For Provincial Cricket Tourney

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: Teams from 10 districts of Kashmir Valley reached Anantnag on Wednesday to compete in the Provincial Level Cricket Tournament organised by the Department of Youth Services & Sports.

The competitions will be held for boys of all age groups.

The matches begin today, September 21. The tournament will be played at four venues across Anantnag, with most of them being turf wickets.

DYSS Anantnag has made ad-



equate arrangements including boarding and lodging for all students-athletes and officials. The

department's officials received the teams at the Railway Station and at the Lodging Centres.

55 Bandipora Students On Trekking Expedition To Gurez

Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmad, on Wednesday flagged-off a three-day trekking expedition from Mini Secretariat here to Gurez Valley.

The expedition comprising boys contingent of different age groups is being organised by Youth Services and Sports department Bandipora.

The flag-off ceremony was attended by ADC Bandipora, Umar Shafi Pandit, DYSSO Bandipora Nazir Ahmad besides officials from district youth services and sports department.

The DC was informed that the adventure initiative, organized under the banner of 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' brings together 55 young male students from all five educational zones of Bandipora. He was further informed that the students are going on a journey of discovery and camaraderie, as they would be trekking through the landscapes of Gurez.

Dr Owais on the occasion wished best of luck to the participants.

Ronaldinho To Visit Kolkata During Durga Puja



Press Trust of India

KOLKATA: Retired Brazilian legend Ronaldinho is set to visit Kolkata during the auspicious occasion of Durga Puja next month.

An official privy to the development said that Ronaldinho is likely to visit the city between October 15-19 but the final date will be ascertained following the confirmation date of Barca Legends match at Congo.

According to the official, Ronaldinho, who will be visiting Kolkata for the first time, is expected to feature in a short charity match, besides visiting a football clinic and a Durga Puja pandal. He will

also inaugurate a statue of Argentine FIFA World Cup winner Lionel Messi.

A two-time Ballon d'Or winner, Ronaldinho is also expected to attend some sponsor meet and greet events and visit the nearby town of Rishra.

The official involved has played a key role in bringing football legends to the city in the past, including Maradona, Pele and Cafu.

He also played a role in bringing current Argentinian World Cup-winning goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez this July to the city.

Notably, Ronaldinho also has his football academy in the city, the R10 Academy, in Rajarhat.

Barca, Man City & PSG Start Champions League With Wins

The Associated Press

BERLIN: Barcelona's João Félix, Manchester City's Julián Álvarez and Paris Saint Germain's Kylian Mbappé all scored Tuesday as their teams made winning starts in the Champions League.

But the wildest celebrations of the night came in Rome, where Lazio goalkeeper Ivan Provedel headed in the team's equalizer in the fifth minute of injury time to earn a 1-1 draw with Atlético Madrid. It was the last action of the game.

As the group stage began without either Lionel Messi or Cristiano Ronaldo for the first time since 2002-03, a 16-year-old almost scored on his competition debut for Barcelona.

Lamine Yamal struck the side netting, then saw an effort saved by Antwerp goalkeeper Jean Butez after coming on as a substitute in Barcelona's 5-0 win over the Belgian team.

Celtic finished with nine players in a 2-0 loss at Feyenoord that stretched the Scottish champion's winless streak in the group stages to 11 games.

Here's a closer look at Tuesday's games:

CITY HAS TO COME FROM BEHIND

Manchester City started its title defense by coming from behind to beat Red Star Belgrade 3-1 at home.

City had 22 shots on goal in the first half yet found itself 1-0 down at the break after Mirko Ivanić played Ghana winger Osman Bukari through to score in first-half injury time.

The linesman raised his flag, but a VAR check confirmed Bukari was onside, setting off celebrations among the 3,000 traveling supporters.

Álvarez equalized right after the break, finishing from a narrow angle after going past the goalkeeper, and it seemed only a matter of time before the second goal arrived as the home team pushed for more.

The otherwise outstanding goalkeeper Omri Glazer was at fault when it came on the hour mark, missing the ball as he went to punch away a free kick from Álvarez that sailed inside the far post.

Spanish midfielder Rodrigo sealed the win in the 73rd. Leipzig defeated Swiss team



Young Boys 3-1 away in the other Group G game.

BARCELONA FLYING

Antwerp endured a chastening evening in Barcelona, where Jelle Bataille's own goal in the

22nd minute came after João Félix had already scored and set up Robert Lewandowski for another.

There was no respite for the visitors, with Gavi adding another in the second half before

Félix grabbed his second.

Porto defeated Ukrainian champion Shakhtar Donetsk 3-1 away in the other Group H game. Shakhtar is playing its home games in Hamburg, Germany because of the Russian

invasion of its country.

PSG OFF THE MARK

Mbappé scored a penalty to break the deadlock as Paris Saint-Germain earned a 2-0 win over Borussia Dortmund. Achraf Hakimi scored against his former team to seal what was a deserved win.

Dortmund midfielders Marcel Sabitzer and Marius Wolf both left the field with injuries.

AC Milan was held to 0-0 draw by Newcastle in the other Group F game.

GOALKEEPER HAS LAST WORD

Atlético coach Diego Simeone was booked for protesting on his return to the Stadio Olimpico and Lazio, the club he won four trophies with as a player.

Young Atlético midfielder Pablo Barrios put the visitors ahead in what was a heated game, but the biggest drama came at the end, when Provedel left his area to add support in attack and managed to score with a header to Luis Alberto's cross.

Provedel didn't know where to run as the stadium erupted around him.

FOOTBALL



Health Ministry Reduces NEET PG 2023 Cut-Off To Zero Across All Categories

Agenceis
New Delhi: The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) on Wednesday reduced the qualifying percentile for NEET PG 2023 to be eligible for counselling to zero across all categories.

Candidates who appeared for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test Postgraduate (NEET PG) 2023 exam will now be eligible to participate in the counselling process.

"It is for the information to candidates that the qualifying percentile for PG Courses (Medical/Dental) for NEET PG counselling 2023 has been reduced to 'zero' across all categories by MoHFW," said a notice issued by Medical Counselling Committee (MCC), Directorate of Health Services, Government of India.

A fresh registration and choice filling for round-3 of PG counselling will be reopened for the candidates who have become eligible after the reduction of percentile. These candidates can register and participate in round-3 of counselling. The candidates who are already registered need not register again. However, they will be allowed to edit their choices, the notice said.

A fresh schedule for round-3 onwards for PG counselling will

be put up on the MCC website soon, it said.

Recently, the Federation of Resident Doctors' Association (FORDA) made an appeal to the Union Health Ministry to consider lowering the cut-off score for the NEET-PG 2023 exam.

"Over the past years, we have witnessed a persistent challenge in the form of vacant seats in medical institutions across the nation, even after multiple rounds of counselling for NEET-PG. This is a matter of great concern not only for the healthcare system but also for aspiring medical professionals who are eager to contribute to our nation's healthcare infrastructure," FORDA said in its letter.

In light of this issue, "we humbly request your kind attention to consider the possibility of decreasing the cut-off score for the NEET-PG 2023 examination," it said. By lowering the cut-off, FORDA said, it can ensure that a "larger number of eligible candidates are given the opportunity to fill these vacant seats".

Recently, the Indian Medical Association had written to Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya demanding a reduction in the NEET-PG 2023 cut-off percentile by up to 30 per cent so that most of the seats can be filled in both clinical and non-clinical branches.

WOMEN'S BILL

Countries With Highest Proportion Of Women MPs Have Reservation Within Parties

NEW DELHI: As Parliament debates a bill providing reservation to women in Houses of People, a think tank study shows several countries having a high proportion of women representatives do not have laws mandating a quota but there is reservation within the political parties.

According to an analysis by PRS Legislative Research, countries like Sweden, where 46 per cent of the public representatives are women, Norway (46 per cent), South Africa (45 per cent), Australia (38 per cent), France (35 per cent) and Germany (35 per cent) do not have any law reserving seats for women but some political parties provide reservation.

Bangladesh, which has 21 per cent women MPs, has a law providing reservations to women. Out of the 300 seats in the Bangladesh Parliament, 50 are reserved for women.

The study also claimed that reserving seats for women in Parliament would restrict the choice of voters.

According to the think tank, experts suggest reservation within political



parties as an alternative or a system of having dual-member constituencies.

Around 15 per cent of the total members of the 17th Lok Sabha are women, while in the state legislative assemblies of the country, women on average constitute just nine per cent of the total members. Around 13 per cent of Rajya Sabha MPs are women.

When political parties are considered, 42 per cent of BJP MPs and 39 per cent of TMC MPs are women. The BJP has 14 per cent women MPs and Congress 12 per cent. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the TMC and the BJD fielded the highest proportion of women candidates.

Across parties with 10 or

more MPs in the Lok Sabha, women were as likely to win as men, the PRS report said.

The Lok Sabha on Wednesday took up the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2023, also called the Narishakti Vandan Adhiniyam, for consideration and passing. The bill seeks to provide one-third reservation to women in Lok Sabha and state assemblies.

The reservation will be effective after the next delimitation, and the reservation will be provided for a period of 15 years. However, it shall continue till such date as determined by a law made by Parliament. Seats reserved for women will be rotated after each delimitation.

Pakistani Baby Girl With Rare Osteopetrosis Finds Cure At Bengaluru Hospital

Agenceis

Bengaluru: A five-month-old girl from Pakistan, who was diagnosed with the rare and life-threatening condition infantile osteopetrosis, is going back home with a new lease of life after doctors here at a private hospital treated her with an innovative bone marrow transplant technique.

Infantile osteopetrosis, often referred to as "marble bone disease", poses severe challenges, including bone stiffness, progressive loss of vision and hearing, and bone marrow complications, ultimately leading to a shortened life expectancy.

Baby Samawiyah was born to a Karachi-based couple after a decade of waiting. She was just two months old when her parents took her to a hospital in Pakistan due to feeding difficulties, where they discovered that she was suffering from a genetic condition.

Her condition impacted her eyes, ears, and even her brain, necessitating a series of intricate procedures, for which her parents reached out to doctors at Narayana Health City in Bengaluru.

Upon her evaluation in March, this year, Samawiyah displayed mild visual impairment, prompting an urgent

cranial decompression procedure to safeguard her eyesight. Subsequently, she underwent a meticulous pre-transplant preparation and received a half-match donor transplant using her father's stem cells on May 16.

A bone marrow transplant offers hope for a cure, but with significant risks of rejection and complications. Thus, the doctors used the innovative TCR Alpha Beta and CD 45 RA depletion technique. The cutting-edge method, tailored for patients without full match donors, has shown remarkable success.

"Infantile osteopetrosis is a rare genetic disease leading to dense bones, vision impairment and blindness, hearing impairment, bone marrow failure, etc. It is fatal within a few years of life. Only curative option is bone marrow transplant which is technically very challenging and hence prognosis remains grim," Sunil Bhat, Vice Chairman of Oncology and Director and Head of Paediatric Hematology Oncology and BMT at Narayana Health City, told IANS.

"After over four months post-transplantation, Samawiyah is declared free from infantile osteopetrosis, with 100 per cent donor cells in her blood," said the doctors in a statement.

Passenger tries to open emergency exit door cover onboard IndiGo's Delhi-Chennai flight

Agenceis

A male passenger onboard an IndiGo flight from the national capital to Chennai tried to open the cover of the emergency exit door prior to take-off on Tuesday night.

In a statement on Wednesday, the airline said that as per the standard operating procedure, the passenger was declared unruly by the crew and handed over to the local authorities on arrival at Chennai. The incident happened onboard flight 6E 6341 from Delhi to Chennai. The passenger tried to open



the emergency exit door cover prior to take-off. At no point was the safety of the flight

compromised, the statement said. Further details could not be immediately ascertained.

Army Tank Stolen From Military Base In Israel Found In Scrapyard

Agenceis

A tank that was stolen from a military base in northern Israel has been found in a scrapyard, police have said.

The Israeli Ministry of Defence had reported the theft of a tank from an army training base near Eliakim Interchange north of Israel, the police said in a statement on Wednesday.

The tank was later found 20km (12 miles) south of the coastal city of Haifa in a scrapyard.

"From a preliminary investigation of the circumstances of the case, it is suspected that the tank is not active and was stolen from the scene for reasons that are being investigated at this



stage," a police statement said.

"Upon locating the stolen tank, a notification was sent to the Ministry of Defence and the police opened a joint investigation with the Ministry of Defence," it said.

A military statement said the tank was just the chassis of a

Merka Mk II that was decommissioned many years ago.

"It has no means of armament, and its systems do not function," the statement said. "The tank was stationed in a firing area, that's open to any passersby, and was used as a stationary vehicle for soldiers' exercises." The statement said the tank "was returned to the security system".

"The investigation of the incident continues, and a command investigation will also take place," it added.

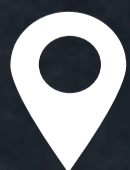
Two suspects have been arrested in relation to the theft, according to The Jerusalem Post. Last February, two veteran army soldiers stole a tank from the Golan Heights to protest against the government's plans to overhaul the country's judiciary.

Israel has been in political turmoil in recent months over a government plan to introduce judicial reforms seen by the opposition as a power grab in favour of the executive authority.

Bun Maska



Famous
Irani Chai of
Bombay
now in Srinagar



JK Bank Lawns,
Opp Ghat 6 Boulevard,
Srinagar