

New Travel Experience For Srinagar Residents In Smart E-Buses Air-conditioned Buses To Run Every 20 Minutes On Designated Routes: CEO Smart City

Majid Nabi

Srinagar- The newly introduced Smart e-buses in Srinagar have arrived with a much needed relief for city dwellers who were otherwise forced to push and shove in crammed old TATA minibuses and Sumos for decades as the successive regimes had failed to provide a proper public transport system for the city. The Smart-e-buses equipped with state-of-the-art

features like ultra high definition dash cam, stop push button and smart boarding and deboarding facilities for the individuals with disabilities, are about to provide the people of Srinagar a whole new travel experience.

The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha this week unveiled a fleet of 75 electric buses in Srinagar, and another 25 buses would be added in the next few days, officials say. The zero-emission



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

eco-friendly buses, according to Athar Amir Khan, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Srinagar Smart City Ltd, would initially operate on 15 designated routes in Srinagar and

become a regular feature after their formal introduction.

The commuters, he claimed, will be enjoying a whole new travel experience since the first of its kind electric buses, launched under the Electric Bus Project in Kashmir.

Fitted with stop push button and UHD dash cam, in addition to the smart boarding and deboarding facilities for the persons with disabilities, these buses will only stop on the designated bus stops.

Besides, a commuter with the help of a tracker app will be able to see the location of the bus and the estimated time of arrival on his handset. Commuters, officials said, could reserve their seats using the tracker app.

The smart electric buses, CEO SSCL said would thereafter be stationed in the districts of Anantnag and Baramulla. He said the buses will run on the designated bus stops in Srinagar. **More on P6**

3 Dead After Mini Bus Falls Into Gorge

LG Manoj Sinha Condoles Loss Of Lives **Press Trust Of India**

Jammu: Three passengers were killed and 15 others injured on Monday when a mini bus skidded off the road and plunged into a 300-foot gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, officials said.

The accident took place around 11 am at Kainchi Morh when the driver of the mini bus on its way to Rajouri from Kotranka lost control while negotiating a blind curve, the officials said.

They said a rescue operation was launched immediately and 18 people were evacuated from the scene to the Government Medical College (GMC) associated hospital Rajouri, where three of them were declared dead. Medical **More on P6**

Amarnath Cave Shrine Gets Motorable Road



Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: In a first, vehicles have reached the Amarnath cave as the Border Roads Organisation has expanded road connectivity up to the cave shrine in South Kashmir Himalayas, Press Trust Of India quoting officials reported on Monday.

The widening of the road from Dumail to the Amarnath cave via Baltal base camp in Ganderbal district of central Kashmir has been completed, the officials said.

They said the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) personnel completed the formidable task and created history by expanding road connectivity up to the Amarnath cave shrine.

The first set of vehicles has also reached the shrine, the officials added.

The BRO was entrusted with

the responsibility of maintaining the twin tracks leading to the cave shrine last year.

The BRO's Project Beacon' is involved in the restoration and improvement of Amarnath Yatra tracks.

Earlier, the J&K government's Public Works Department (PWD) was maintaining the Baltal route in the Ganderbal district and the Pahalgam Development Authority (PDA) maintained the Pahalgam route in the Anantnag district.

The UT administration in September last year handed over the tracks to the BRO for maintenance and upgradation.

The BRO undertook the road widening project to ease the difficulties faced by the pilgrims who traditionally had to travel to the cave shrine on foot.

With the motorable road reaching the **More on P6**

2024 LOK SABHA POLLS

J&K Appoints 12 Nodal Officers For Smooth Electoral Exercise After ECI Directive

Agencies

Srinagar: In a significant development, the administration of Jammu & Kashmir has appointed Union Territory level nodal officers for smooth conduct of Lok Sabha elections scheduled to be held next year.

The Union Territory administration on Monday appointed 12 nodal officers to look into different areas/ issues for smooth conduct of the Lok Sabha polls. The appointments have been made after directives of Election Commission of India (ECI) on the matter.

The officer appointed as nodal officers include administrative secretary, Jal Shakti department (water and sanitation issues), administrative secretary, Housing & Urban Development department (local bodies), administrative secretary, Power Development Department (power), administrative secretary, Public Works Department (public works),



KO File Photo | Abid Bhat

administrative secretary, School Education department (education), administrative secretary, Social Welfare department (social welfare) Commissioner, Sales Tax (sales tax), Managing Director, J&K Regional

Transport Corporation (transport), Commissioner, Excise Department (excise), Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (migrants), Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, J&K Bank Limited (banks and financial institutions) and

chairman and chief executive officer, J&K Bank Limited (SLBC convener).

The Lok Sabha elections are likely to take place in April – May 2024. In the last Lok Sabha polls, NC and BJP won three seats each in J&K—(KNO)

No Hesitation In Self Correction: DGP Tells Officers

Calls For Enhancing Working Capabilities For Better Delivery

Observer News Service

Jammu: Asking the offices of his force not to hesitate in self correction, the newly appointed Director General of Police R.R. Swain on Monday advised for developing competence of police personnel in dealing with public, crime, law & order, and generating human intelligence.

He made these remarks while chairing a meeting of all senior police officers of different wings in which he reviewed the Police functioning at Zonal; Range & District levels, besides of other wings of the organization, a police spokesperson said. Outstation officers in the Kashmir Valley



and remote districts of Jammu province too participated in the meeting.

During the meeting, he said,

the discussions were held in an informal environment to identify the challenges, the work environment **More on P6**

J&K Likely To Host Miss-World Pageant: Secy Tourism

Says 150 Major International Events Held Post G20 Meet

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Asserting Jammu and Kashmir hosted almost 150 major international events following the successful G20 tourism track delegates meeting this year, Secretary Tourism, Syed Abid Rashid Shah said on Monday that the Union Territory would probably host many more such events including that of the 'Miss-World Pageant' in the time to come.

The Tourism Secretary also said that Jammu and Kashmir witnessed greater influx of tourists than its population, following the successful G20 meeting held in Srinagar in May this year.

Given the number of tourists to J&K UT has reached an all-time high; Shah hoped that J&K will probably surpass the 2 crore mark before the end of the year.

"J&K is prepared to host a number of significant international

events in the near future, including global competitions like the Miss-World Pageant. Kashmir has everything a beautiful and an economically vibrant place could have. We have resources, infrastructure, wherewithal, grandiosity and what not. No other place on earth is as beautiful and stunning as Kashmir is," Secretary Tourism told reporters on the sidelines of an event here.

It may be in place to mention that Srinagar played host to the Miss-World pre-event, which brought together a number of beauty queens, including Miss-World Karolina Bielawska and Miss-World India Sini Shetty.

Miss-World pre-event was the first significant international event of its kind to be staged in Jammu and Kashmir. Speculations were rife regarding the possibility of a Miss World-2023 Pageant being staged in Kashmir later this year, following successful G20 meeting.

The Miss-World pageant is one of the most prestigious beauty pageants in the world being held annually, featuring contestants from over 100 countries. **More on P6**

'LAND GOTALA'

Ex-Minister Lal Singh Appears Before ED

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Former Jammu and Kashmir minister Choudhary Lal Singh appeared before the Enforcement Directorate on Monday for questioning in connection with a case against an educational trust run by his wife and former legislator Kanta Andotra, official sources said.

Scores of Singh's supporters led by his wife Andotra assembled outside the agency office and staged a protest against the ED summons to their leader, claiming that he is spotless

and is being deliberately harassed at the behest of the BJP.

Singh, the chairman of the Dogra Swabhiman Sangathan Party, reached the agency office in Narwal at 10 am for questioning for a second time in three days, sources said. ED sleuths had questioned him earlier on Saturday.

Last week, the Enforcement Directorate had conducted searches in Jammu and its adjoining areas as part of a money laundering probe against the educational trust of Andotra **More on P6**

Visits Injured Police Inspector At SKIMS

Director General of Police J&K, R R Swain on Monday visited SK institute of medical sciences (SKIMS) here to enquire about the wellbeing of Police Inspector Masroor Wani, who was attacked by a pistol-borne terrorist when he was playing cricket with other members of the local community last week. The DGP was accompanied by ADGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar, SSP Srinagar Ashish Mishra and other jurisdictional officers. **More on P6**

S H O R T T A K E S

BSF Defuses Mortar Shell In Arnia

The Border Security Force on Monday detected and defused a mortar shell in an agriculture field along the International Border in Jammu's Arnia, officials said. Acting on the information of locals, BSF troops rushed to the Arnia sector, recovered the mortar shell and later successfully defused it in the fields, they said. With this, they averted a major tragedy in the area, officials said, adding that the shell was fired by Pakistan rangers **More on P6**

4 Cops Hurt As Van Skids Off Road

At least four cops were injured after a vehicle they were travelling in skidded off the road in Mohipora area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Monday, officials said. Quoting an official, news agency KNO reported that soon after the incident the injured cops were rushed to district hospital Kulgam. He said the condition of all the injured is stable.

Matric, Class 12th Exams From Mar-2024

The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) Monday said that it will conduct annual regular exams of 10th to 12th standard from the first week of March-2024 for soft zones. It also said that it will conduct the annual regular exams of hard zones of 10th to 12th standard from the second week of April-2024. Director Academics of JKBOSE in a communique has said that annual regular exams of 10th standard will be conducted from the second week of March-2024 in soft zones. Similarly, the annual **More on P6**

NSD's Srinagar Theatre Festival Begins

The five-day Srinagar Theatre Festival, organised by the National School of Drama (NSD), began here on Monday. The festival is being organised in collaboration with the J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages. The NSD Repertory Company is performing its play for the first time in Srinagar. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, was the guest of honour at the inaugural ceremony. "Laila Majnun", a play written by Ismail Chunarua and **More on P6**

Delhi's Air Quality 'Severe'

Delhi's air quality showed a marginal improvement on Monday, while the maximum temperature was recorded at 31.5 degrees Celsius, a notch above the season's average. The minimum temperature was recorded at 13.5 degrees Celsius, a notch below the season's average. Delhi recorded air pollution levels seven to eight times above safe standards on Monday with the city government announcing the return of its odd-even vehicle rationing scheme after four years anticipating **More on P6**

FCS&CA Dept Warns About Phone Scammers

The Department of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs in Kashmir has cautioned the public regarding fraudulent telephone calls targeting ration card holders during the ongoing e-KYC verification drive. "It has come to the notice of Department that taking undue advantage of ongoing drive undertaken by the Department, as per the instructions of Department of Food and Public distribution, GoI, to capture e-KYC **More on P6**



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GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR Jammu And Kashmir Services Selection Board

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ANSWER KEY NOTICE

Subject: Written Examination for the Matric Level Posts, held on 05-11-2023 - Provisional Answer Key regarding. The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) conducted the Written Examination for the following Matric Level Posts on 05th November, 2023:

Table with columns: S.No., Notification No., Item No., Name of the Post, Department. Lists various matric level posts and departments.

The Provisional Answer Key of the question papers (Series A, B, C, D) for the above said examination is provided at Annexure "A" to this notice for the information of the candidates.

Any candidate having objection(s) to the answer key, may submit his/her objection(s) in respect of such objection(s) on prescribed format/performa annexed herewith as Annexure "B" along with the documentary proof/evidence substantiating the claim (hard copies only) and a fee of Rs. 200/- (in the form of demand draft) per question (refundable in case of genuine/correct representation/objection) in favour of the Accounts Officer, J&K Services Selection Board.

In case, the objection is found correct, the Answer Key will be revised accordingly in respect of all candidates. No candidate will be informed about the acceptance/non-acceptance of his/her objection individually.

The objections/representations can be submitted in offline mode only, in the office of J&K Services Selection Board, CPO Chowk, Panjirthi, Jammu/ J&K Services Selection Board, Zamzam Building, Rambagh, Srinagar on three working days starting from 06-11-2023, during office hours only. The Board shall not entertain any such representations/objections after the expiry of the stipulated period or any other mode.

Abdul Baseer Ahmad (JKAS) Deputy Controller of Examinations J&K Services Selection Board

No.: JKSSB-COEEXAM(UT)/88/2023-03 (7314392) Dated: 05.11.2023

ANNEXURE - A

Provisional Answer Key of the Written Examination for the Matric Level Posts conducted on 05-11-2023.

Table with columns: Text Booklet Question No., Series A, Series B, Series C, Series D. Contains answer keys for questions Q1 to Q28.

Table with columns: Question No., Series A, Series B, Series C, Series D. Contains answer keys for questions Q29 to Q62.

Table with columns: Question No., Answer A, Answer B, Answer C, Answer D. Contains answer keys for questions Q63 to Q96.

Table with columns: Question No., Answer A, Answer B, Answer C, Answer D. Contains answer keys for questions Q97 to Q120.

DIPK-11658/23 dated: 06-11-2023

Abdul Baseer Ahmad (JKAS) Deputy Controller of Examinations J&K Services Selection Board

ANNEXURE - B

Representation regarding objection(s) to Answer key pertaining to Written Examination for the Matric Level Posts held on 05-11-2023.

(NOTE: USE SEPARATE FORMS FOR SEPARATE QUESTIONS)

Form for representation regarding objection(s) to answer key. Includes fields for Name of the Applicant, Exam Name, Advertisement No(s), Application No(s), Roll No., Date of Exam, Exam Centre Division, Correspondence Address, Contact /Mobile No., Demand Draft No. date, and Candidates Account No. (16 digit) & IFSC Code.

Table with columns: Question No. & Series, Details of the Objection, Resource Material (copy to be enclosed), Remarks. For recording objections.

Correct Answer/Option as per candidate:

Date of Application: -11-2023

Signature of the Candidate

Note: Application for each question/answer shall be made on separate page in the given format, otherwise the first question entered in the format shall only be considered.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-Tender Notice. Sr.DEE/G/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders www.iresp.gov.in against below titled Tenders Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My DOB has been wrongly written in my Aadhaar Card 24-12-2017 while my correct DOB as per School Records is 04-01-2017 which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Block Development Officer Sheerabad Khore within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Syed Iqbal Hussain S/o Syed Mohammad Akbar R/o Hassanabad Rainawari declare that my son Syed Mohammad Akbar is student on rolls of City Centre School Khanyar. The name of father in school record of my son has wrongly been recorded as Syed Iqbal Hussain where as it should read as Syed Iqbal Hussain as per Srinagar municipality records.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my passport as Ghulam Mohi din while my correct name is Gulam Mohi din Dar which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file the same in the office of the Regional Passport Officer Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My DOB has been wrongly written in my Aadhaar Card as27-09-2015 while my correct DOB as per School Records is 05-03-2015 which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Block Development Officer Sheerabad Khore within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name & Parentage has been wrongly spelled in my service records as Nazir Ahmad Bath S/o Gh Qadir while the correct spelling is Nazir Ahmad Bhat S/o Gh Qadir which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the SDO Magam Or SSP Office Budgam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

NOTICE

I want to correct the name of my daughter in her passport records from Mariya Mudasir to Mariya Mudasir wani as per Adhaar Card. If anybody have any objection regarding this, may contact to the passport office Srinagar within seven days of the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

In The Court Of City Judge Srinagar

In Case of: Nisar Ahmad Sultan VS Amit Goyal Complaint under Section 138 of Negotiable Instrument Act.

Present. Ms. Fozia Poul

Proclamation for appearance of Accused in terms of Section 87 Cr.P.C. Whereas, complaint titled above has been presented and is pending disposal before me wherein it is stated that accused namely Amit Goyal S/o R.C Goyal R/o Sainik Colony, Jammu is alleged to have committed an offence punishable u/s 138 of Negotiable Instrument Act against the complainant named above.

I Henceforth, this Proclamation is hereby made against the accused named above and you are as such required to appear before this Court at Srinagar before me to answer the said complaint against you by or before 25/11/2023. Issued today on 18/10/2023.

From The Principal District Judge, Srinagar

In the case of: 1. Rahla Jjan W/o Late Manzoor Ahmad Gujree R/o Chattabal Srinagar A/P Shah Mohalla Nawa Bazar Srinagar

2. Ahmad Bin Manzoor (Minor) S/o Late Manzoor Ahamd Gujree R/o Chattabal Srinagar Through Rahila Jan (Mother) W/o Late Manzoor Ahmad Gujree R/o Chattabal Srinagar

3. Mst Sundri W/o Late Mohammad Shaban R/o Patlipora Bala Chattabal, Srinagar

V/S Public at Large Respondents

In the matter of Application for issuance of Succession certificate in favour of the petitioner(s) Notice to public at Large

1. Where the petitioner(s) FILED ABOVE TITLED PETITION BEFORE THIS COURT OF ISSUANCE OF SUCCESSION certificate in favour of Petitioner(s) in respect of Rs 11,37,151 as debits and securities in name of Deceased Namely: Late Manzoor Ahamd Gujree S/o Late Mohammad Shaban R/o Chattabal, Srinagar who died on 31-03-2019. The petition is pending disposal before this court and the next date of hearing is fixed on 23-11-2023

Public Notice is hereby issued, informing all and sundry through the drom of this proclamation that at any anyone has any objection for issuance of succession certificate, he/she / they shall appear before this court either personally or through counsel or any authorized agent and file objections on or before 23-11-2023. Failing which the petition will be taken up and appropriate orders will be passed in the same

In case, the date fixed is declared as holiday the matter shall be taken on the next working day. Given under my hand and seal of this court on

Jawad Ahmad Principal District Judge, Srinagar

From The Principal District Judge, Srinagar

In the case of: 1. Shubhat Mushtaq Shah S/o Lt. Mushtaq Ahmad Shah R/o Ishber Nishat, Srinagar.

2. Dr. Shabana Mushtaq D/o Lt. Mushtaq Ahmad Shah W/o Jahangir Hussain Shah R/o New Colony Naseem Bagh, Naygeen, Srinagar through her attorney holder (brother) name y Shubhat Mushtaq Shah.

V/S Public at Large Respondents

1. Union Bank Of India Branch Office Srinagar

In the matter of Application for issuance of Succession certificate in favour of the petitioner(s) Notice to public at Large

1. Where the petitioner(s) Filed Above Titled Petition Before This Court Of Issuance Of Succession certificate in favour of Petitioner(s) being only only successors /legal heirs aforementioned in respect of an Golden Ornaments in the locker Bearing Locker No 46 lying in the Union Bank Of India Branch Srinagar, left behind by the deceased Mushtaq Ahmad Shah S/o Late Mohammad Amin Shah R/o Ishber Nishat, Srinagar who died on 25-12-2015. The petition is pending disposal before this court and the next date of hearing is fixed on 20-11-2023

Public Notice is hereby issued, informing all and sundry through the drom of this proclamation that at any anyone has any objection for issuance of succession certificate, he/she / they shall appear before this court either personally or through counsel or any authorized agent and file objections on or before 20-11-2023. Failing which the petition will be taken up and appropriate orders will be passed in the same

In case, the date fixed is declared as holiday the matter shall be taken on the next working day. Given under my hand and seal of this court on

Jawad Ahmad Principal District Judge, Srinagar

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Tuesday | 07-11-2023

Battling Air Pollution

Recent reports on air quality in the twin cities of Srinagar and Jammu, as well as the alarming situation in New Delhi, the most polluted city in the world, should be a cause for serious health worry. In Srinagar and Jammu, the Air Quality Index (AQI) level was at 70 and 91 respectively. In Bandipora, the AQI was around 84, while Udhampur recorded a level of 70. While these levels may be considered moderate, they underline the need for consistent monitoring and action to prevent air quality deterioration.

Another source of concern are the measurements of particulate matter PM2.5 and PM10 in the twin cities. In Srinagar, PM2.5 and PM10 were 22 and 60, respectively, and in Jammu, they were 31 and 62. In Bandipora, the levels were 28 and 24. These numbers indicate the presence of fine particulate matter, which can have adverse effects on respiratory health.

The situation in New Delhi, on the other hand, has been far more dire. The metropolis has been enveloped in a toxic haze, with the AQI reaching the "severe" category. With an AQI of 640, New Delhi was labeled the most polluted city globally. This drastic pollution increase was attributed to a combination of lower temperatures, stagnant wind conditions, and crop stubble burning in nearby agricultural areas.

Air pollution at such levels poses serious health risks. Residents have reported eye irritation, respiratory issues, and discomfort. The harmful effects are not limited to humans; even pets have experienced restlessness and respiratory problems due to poor air quality. The situation is so serious that junior schools were ordered to close temporarily, and children had to wear masks during their commute.

It's important to recognize that air pollution is not an isolated issue; it's related to weather patterns, agricultural practices, and regional factors. The rise in car ownership in both the cities has also contributed to the growing problem of traffic congestion and air pollution. The chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Board (PCB), Vasu Yadav, has rightly pointed out that air quality can worsen due to various factors, including local issues related to burning crop stubble and leaves. The PCB has encouraged people not to burn crop stubble but to compost it instead. This is a step in the right direction. Promoting green transportation made possible with the introduction of electric buses, and raising public awareness about the importance of clean air are also crucial. The situation is going to get worse as the winter progresses, hence the need for people to follow the PCB guidelines and for the administration to implement them.

OTHER OPINION

Revenue rebound: On GST collections

Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenues hit their second highest monthly tally in October at a little over 1.72 lakh crore, breaking a few long- and short-term trends. To start with, they reflect a 13.4% uptick over last year's kitty, the highest so far in 2023. Moreover, it reverses a persistent deceleration in revenue growth seen through the second quarter of this financial year. From an average growth of 11.5% between April and June, the rise in GST revenues had slowed to 10.6% between July and September, with the last month seeing a 27-month low uptick of 10.2%. The Finance Ministry shall hope that this growth rate pick-up sustains so that its 2023-24 fiscal math gets some buffer from any possible spending or subsidy shocks, whether they arise from external risks such as fuel or urea prices or internal ones such as pre-election goodies like extending the free foodgrains programme. Seen over a broader timeframe, last month's mid-year indirect tax collections bely a pattern that the highest revenues are received in April as businesses close their books of accounts for the financial year. Year-end compliances had propped up this April's kitty to a record 1.87 lakh crore.

The entire bump up in October's revenues, stemming from transactions undertaken in September, may not be ascribed to a consumption spike at the onset of the festive season. Experts believe the Revenue Department's continuing crackdown on the non-compliant, and a September 30 deadline for settling any disputes that may have arisen since the GST regime's launch in 2017-18, also played a role. However, there is some indication of a recovery in domestic demand. While revenues from domestic transactions and services imports grew 13%, the revenue growth from imports that the Finance Ministry did not explicitly disclose, was sharper at 13.94%. This is not only the fastest uptick in at least nine months but also marks only the third time in seven months that goods import revenues have grown. Some of this must reflect a rebound in discretionary demand, even if this may be largely for premium or high-end goods rather than a broad-based bump. If this sustains through the festive season, revenues could hold up even if companies are reporting some weakening of demand growth in October in consumer goods, especially in rural areas. A new amnesty scheme to settle a limited set of GST demands, unveiled last week for taxpayers who failed to appeal them in time, may also bolster the kitty as it mandates firms to deposit an additional amount of the disputed levy for consideration. Anyone tracking the trajectory of GST as a high-frequency indicator to assess the economy's growth prospects must not lose sight of such factors.

The Hindu

Customizing Rehabilitation Schemes for Women with Special Needs

Zia Darakshan

Women's empowerment is a much debated issue and the government has been prioritising its support to empower women in a most effective way. Be it entrepreneurial activity, political platform, corporate management affairs or any other sector which has remained male dominant, the government in the last nine years has been tailoring initiatives to bring women at the centre stage of the country's progress.

Basically the governments around the world have turned heads towards women's empowerment as they have realized this gender's role in the development of nations. Various programmes and schemes are being continuously tailored to help women obtain empowerment.

In the context of Kashmir, there is a need to consider the empowerment of women in Kashmir, with the backdrop of the armed insurgency that began here in 1988 and posed challenges for pioneers of women's emancipation as it unfolded.

It was revealed by the team head of a study group of reliable institution that while conducting the study on "the socio economic status & mental health status of a particular cult of women" they came to know about a lady from south Kashmir living in a pathetic condition along with her four daughters. She had been abandoned by the local communities because of the alleged unsavoury behaviour, she and her daughter were accused of. While deciding upon visiting her, the team was asked to abandon the idea on the pretext of the alleged tarnished reputation of the particular family. However, the team ignored the advisory and decided to visit the family. The team head enquired from the lady about the negative image it had in the local community, expecting a denial and a counter statement. To their astonishment, the lady confessed about whatever she was alleged of. According to her account of her ordeal, it was not less than a nightmare. The young lady had lost both, her husband and her son, the only breadwinners of the family, in the conflict. Her eminence was initially placed in the highest of books by the separatist leaders, and everyone showed his sympathy towards her and saluted her for the bravery she had shown and the family had shown through. Despite the fact that she needed more than just words, she also required practical assistance. It included the supplies that she needed to run her kitchen and the means to pay for her daughter's education while keeping the business running. Having been left by herself unable to provide for her daughters, the woman was forced to tread the unsavoury path in order to feed her daughters. As a result, the daughters were also forced to follow the footsteps of their mother, thus continuing their lives as they had been.

One of the horrendous things

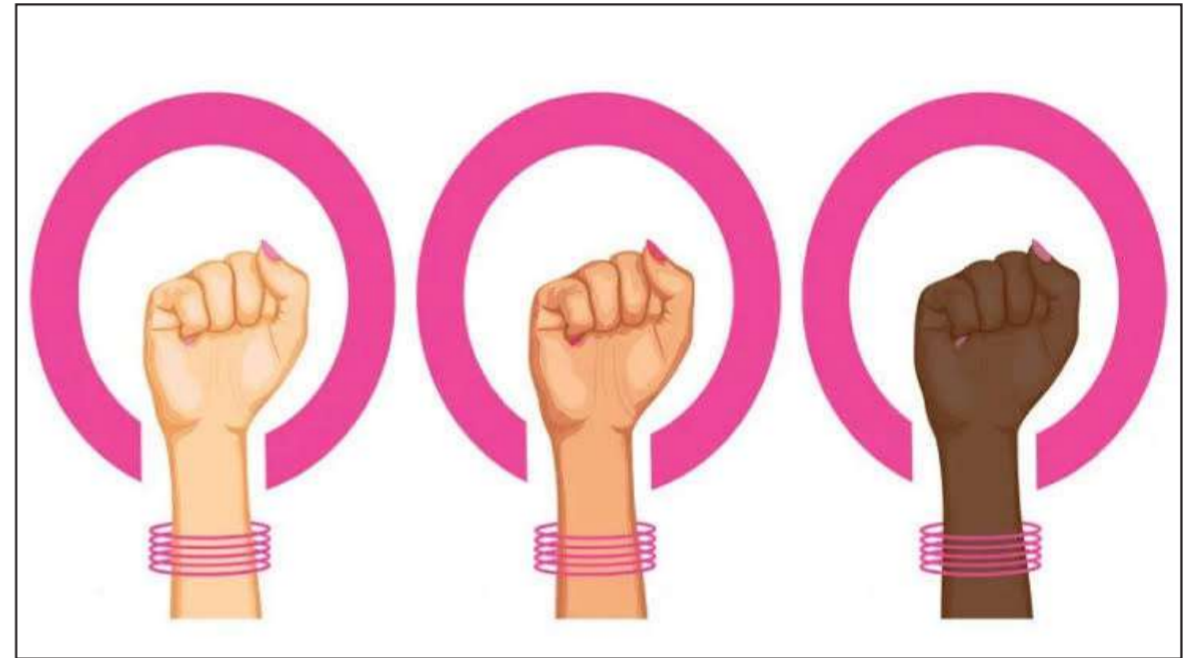
that have happened to women in Kashmir is that it is not the only instance that has transpired, there is a multitude of similar cases, where women have been victimized by conflict in the past, and its those scenes that will give one goosebump in the face of the ordeals endured by those who have suffered under conflict.

There is no doubt that women are the victims of conflict most severely, some of these women are widows, some lost their breadwinners, others have been disowned,

have been traumatized every time a family member has been killed or disappeared, but they are also often the primary caregivers. A sustained climate of violence and fear leaves them with little choice but to mourn their losses and provide emotional support to their loved ones. There have been instances in which they were forced to assume headship, but were left with the burden of the families they led mostly orphanages. Women have been suffering from stress related disorders, which have been taking

come under the ambit and get benefitted. However, a lot can be done to rehabilitate such women where self help groups, banks and other NGOs can intervene and restore their plight.

Pertinently, the J&K administration has started a mass movement for socio-economic upliftment of women across the UT. The three new initiatives of Digi-Pay, Krishi Sakhi and Pashu Sakhi besides several other programs of women empowerment such as Hausla, Tejaswini, UMEED, Rise Together



“ Women here are always the ones to suffer the brunt of disasters, whether they be natural, social, or political. To endure the worst while maintaining the integrity of their homes is no easy task. Today, what Kashmiri women need is to be empowered. When we talk about empowerment, we need to segment them based on their profile and design solutions accordingly

and even half widows are the most vulnerable because they do not fall under any government policies and they are not eligible to inherit anything.

Kashmiri women continue to silently carry the brunt of violence both directly and indirectly while living through the dark days of the conflict. The Kashmiri women

a toll on them while they endured the brunt of the turmoil. The number of patients visiting doctors for psychiatric diseases is exceeding 5000 every year, with the majority of them women. Moreover, the worst part is that most of these patients do not have enough financial resources to pay for treatment.

This case is a sad tale of violence and conflict that was perpetrated primarily by separatist factions who, as the main stakeholders in this case, never actually took action to help the distressed women who suffered at the hands of the conflict. To empower such women, it involves more than just lip service; it involves putting in place a system that also ensures their livelihood or makes them productive.

Women here are always the ones to suffer the brunt of disasters, whether they be natural, social, or political. To endure the worst while maintaining the integrity of their homes is no easy task. Today, what Kashmiri women need is to be empowered. When we talk about empowerment, we need to segment them based on their profile and design solutions accordingly.

The government has created policies specifically geared towards such women, which is a boon in itself, since it not only makes a woman self-sufficient and reliant but also facilitates her to make her own way and take care of her family entirely. Although we don't have specific govt policies towards conflict ridden women where they can

will further supplement the efforts of J&K government in empowering women and making them a key partner in UT's development journey.

Another, SWADHAR Greh, one of the Government schemes for women's empowerment in India, aims to provide shelter, food, clothing, social, economic and health security. This scheme provides legal assistance to women and helps them take initiative for readjusting in societies. This scheme can be worked out for women who have been rendered widows or half widows as a result of turmoil and are struggling financially to maintain their household and run their domestic affairs.

Besides, enhanced access to quality and free education for the girl child, free career and employment counselling are just a few things that can go a long way in boosting her self-confidence, as well as helping her regain her self-sufficiency that had been undermined by years-long turmoil and can be regained with little effort.

Succinctly, it could be summarized that we should identify, rehabilitate, and provide all the amenities of life to the women who have been wrecked by the circumstances created during all these years of turmoil.

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 Srinagar based columnist



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

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email: editpage.ko@gmail.com

Concerns Over Increasing Power Outages in Kashmir

I write to express my deep concern about the alarming trend of power outages in the beautiful region of Kashmir. The frequent disruptions in electricity supply have not only inconvenienced the residents but have also had severe consequences on their daily lives and the local economy. With the onset of winter approaching, these issues are likely to worsen, necessitating immediate attention from the authorities.

Kashmir, has been grappling with an escalating issue of power shortages. The prolonged and frequent power cuts have disrupted daily routines, hampering education, healthcare, and the livelihoods of the local population.

Students in the region face significant challenges in continuing their education due to power outages that affect online learning and study conditions.

As winter approaches, the already challenging task of studying in cold and dark environments will become even more daunting for them. Healthcare facilities are also adversely affected as hospitals and clinics struggle to provide essential services, especially during emergencies. The harsh winter conditions can lead to an increase in health issues, and the lack of reliable power supply only exacerbates the situation.

The economic impact cannot be ignored either. Industries, busi-

nesses, and tourism, which are vital for the region's growth, are suffering due to unreliable power supply. As winter tourism is a significant source of income for the region, the looming power crisis threatens to disrupt this sector, leading to further economic hardships.

It is imperative for the government and relevant authorities to address this issue urgently, especially considering the approaching winter season. Investments in infrastructure and the development of a reliable and sustainable power grid are crucial to ensure uninterrupted power supply.

Additionally, promoting renew-

able energy sources can contribute to a more stable and resilient energy infrastructure in the long term. Moreover, transparency and accountability in the distribution of electricity should be ensured to prevent any mismanagement or corruption that might exacerbate the problem. The people of Kashmir deserve access to basic amenities like electricity without disruption. I urge the authorities to take immediate action to rectify this issue, particularly in light of the impending winter, and improve the quality of life for the residents of Kashmir.

Saqib Dar

The Paradox Of Ignorance And The Quest For Knowledge

Aubaid Ahmad Akhoo

Ignorance, often deemed bliss, is a sentiment we've all encountered in our lives. The idea that being unaware of certain truths can provide a sense of contentment and happiness is intriguing. However, as the veil of ignorance lifts and reality dawns, we may grapple with profound regret for the pleasures derived from ignorance.

THE PLEASURES OF IGNORANCE

In the embrace of ignorance, we often find comfort. It shields us from the harshness of reality, the weight of responsibility, and the burden of knowledge. Ignorance becomes a sanctuary where we indulge in simple pleasures, free from the complexities of the world. This blissful state allows us to live in the moment, without dwelling on the past or worrying about the future.

THE PAINFUL AWAKENING

However, reality cannot be ignored forever. The awakening can be triggered by various life events – the stark truth about a relationship, a profound realization about one's health, or a sudden understanding of societal injustices. This awakening can be a rude shock, shattering the comforting cocoon of ignorance.

THE REGRET OF LOST BLISS

As reality dawns, the initial pleasure of ignorance can turn into deep regret. Regret for not having acted sooner, for not making better choices, and for squandering precious time in blissful ignorance. It's a regret that can linger, casting a shadow over our lives.

THE POWER OF KNOWLEDGE

Yet, it's important to acknowledge that ignorance is not a sustainable or healthy way to live. Knowledge, even when painful, empowers us to make informed decisions and inspires change. While awakening may bring regret, it also brings the opportunity for growth, meaning, and purpose in our lives.

ISLAM AND THE PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE



In Islamic thought, the pursuit of knowledge is highly valued. The first word revealed to the Holy Prophet as a revelation of the Holy Qur'an was "Iqra," which translates to "read in the name of the Lord." This was a call to the believers, the Muslims, to seek knowledge and remove darkness from their lives and the lives of others. Yet, as history has shown, not all Muslims responded positively to this call.

Hairat hain ki taileem wa tarakee mai hain peechay, jis kaum ka agaz he iqra se huwa tha "Alama Iqbal"

"Allama Iqbal, the famous revolutionary poet, used his poetry to inspire Muslims towards education. In one of his poems, he expressed surprise at the lack of progress in education and civilization among the Muslim community, despite the fact that their journey towards knowledge and enlightenment began with the word 'Iqra' (Read!). He was trying to encourage Muslims to redis-



THE PARADOX OF IGNORANCE AND KNOWLEDGE IS A COMPLEX FACET OF THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE. It underscores the value of knowledge and the importance of living intentionally, even if it means confronting uncomfortable truths

cover their love for learning and to strive towards greater educational and cultural achievements."

Instead, some chose to ignore the message and remain in the dark, listening to the "Kathas" and "Dastans" of others, including anti-Islam non-Muslim propagandists, ignorant Muslim preachers, politicians, writers, and culturalists.

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF LAYPERSONS

For those who are not scholars, seeking knowledge is encouraged. When faced with complex questions related to Islam, it's essential to consult reputable scholars. The Quran instructs believers to "ask the people of knowledge if you do not know" (Surah Al-Anbiya: vs. 7). Some research is required to ensure the credibility of the scholar you consult.

The paradox of ignorance and knowledge is a complex facet of the human experience. It underscores the value of knowledge and the importance of living intentionally, even if it means confronting uncomfortable truths. While the transition from blissful ignorance to the reality of life can be painful, it can also be transformative and ultimately lead to a more fulfilling existence. In the end, wisdom often outweighs the fleeting pleasures of ignorance.

EMBRACING KNOWLEDGE

Embracing knowledge is a fundamental aspect of personal growth, intellectual development, and our ability to navigate the complexities of the world. Here are some key points to consider:

EMPOWERMENT: Knowledge empowers individuals to make informed decisions and take control of their lives.

CRITICAL THINKING: Knowledge fosters critical thinking, enabling the evaluation of information and the avoidance of bias.

PERSONAL GROWTH: Learning leads to personal growth and a sense of accomplishment.

ADAPTATION: Knowledge allows for adaptability in a rapidly changing world.

PROBLEM SOLVING: Knowledge equips individuals with problem-solving skills.

INFORMED DECISION-MAKING: Informed choices are crucial in health, finances, and relationships.

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS: Knowledge enhances the ability to connect with others and fosters empathy.

INSPIRATION: Learning from the achievements of others can spark creativity and motivation.

LIFELONG LEARNING: Commitment to lifelong learning keeps individuals engaged and curious.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY: Informed individuals are more likely to engage in civic life and contribute to society's betterment.

In summary, embracing knowledge is not just about accumulating facts and information but adopting a mindset that values learning, curiosity, and the pursuit of wisdom. It leads to personal fulfillment, improved decision-making, and a more enriched, purposeful life. So, the next time someone asks a challenging question related to Islam, strive to consult reputable scholars, or if you don't know, don't hesitate to say, "I don't know."

The author is a Columnist and Associate Editor of the Weekly Publication 'Education Quill.'

Is Hoarding a Disorder?

Jessica Grisham

Keong Yap

Melissa Norberg

Hoarding disorder is an under-recognized serious mental illness that worsens with age. It affects 2.5% of the working-age population and 7% of older adults. That's about 715,000 Australians.

People who hoard and their families often feel ashamed and don't get the support they need. Clutter can make it hard to do things most of us take for granted, such as eating at the table or sleeping in bed.

In the gravest cases, homes are completely unsanitary, either because it has become impossible to clean or because the person saves garbage. The strain on the family can be extreme – couples get divorced, and children grow up feeling unloved.

So why do people with hoarding disorder hoard? And how can we help?

WHAT CAUSES HOARDING DISORDER?

Saving millions of objects, many worthless by objective standards, often makes little sense to those unfamiliar with the condition.

However, most of us become attached to at least a few possessions. Perhaps we love the way they look, or they trigger fond memories.

Hoarding involves this same type of object attachment, as well over-reliance on possessions and difficulty being away from them.

Research has shown genetic factors play a role but there is no one single gene that causes hoarding disorder. Instead, a range of psychological, neurobiological, and social factors can be at play.

Although some who hoard report being deprived of material things in childhood, emotional deprivation may play a stronger role.

People with hoarding problems often report excessively cold parenting, difficulty connecting with others, and more traumatic experiences.

They may end up believing people



are unreliable and untrustworthy, and that it's better to rely on objects for comfort and safety.

People with hoarding disorder are often as attached to or perhaps more attached to possessions than to the people in their life.

Their experiences have taught them their self-identity is tangled up in what they own; that if they part with their possessions, they will lose themselves.

Research shows interpersonal problems, such as loneliness, are linked to greater attachment to objects.

Hoarding disorder is also associated with high rates of attention

deficit and hyperactivity disorder. Difficulties with decision-making, planning, attention and categorising can make it hard to organise and discard possessions.

The person ends up avoiding these tasks, which leads to unmanageable levels of clutter.

NOT EVERYONE TAKES THE SAME PATH TO HOARDING

Most people with hoarding disorder also have strong beliefs about their possessions. For example, they are more likely to see beauty or usefulness in things and believe objects possess human-like qualities such as intentions, emotions, or free will.

Many also feel responsible for objects and for the environment. While others may not think twice about discarding broken or disposable things, people with hoarding disorder can anguish over their fate.

This need to control, rescue, and protect objects is often at odds with the beliefs of friends and family, which can lead to conflict and social isolation.

Not everyone with hoarding disorder describes the same pathway to overwhelming clutter.

Some report more cognitive difficulties while others may have experienced more emotional deprivation. So it's important to take an individu-

alised approach to treatment.

HOW CAN WE TREAT HOARDING DISORDER?

There is specialised cognitive-behavioural therapy (CBT) tailored for hoarding disorder. Different strategies are used to address the different factors contributing to a person's hoarding.

Cognitive-behavioural therapy can also help people understand and gradually challenge their beliefs about possessions.

They may begin to consider how to remember, connect, feel safe, or express their identity in ways other via inanimate objects.

Treatment can also help people learn the skills needed to organise, plan, and discard.

Regardless of their path to hoarding, most people with hoarding disorder will benefit from a degree of exposure therapy.

This helps people gradually learn to let go of possessions and resist acquiring more.

Exposure to triggering situations (such as visiting shopping centres, op-shops or mounds of clutter without collecting new items) can help people learn to tolerate their urges and distress.

Treatment can happen in an individual or group setting, and/or via telehealth.

Research is underway on ways to improve the treatment options further through, for example, learning different emotional regulation strategies.

SOMETIMES, A HARM-AVOIDANCE APPROACH IS BEST

Addressing the emotional and behavioural drivers of hoarding through cognitive behavioural therapy is crucial.

But hoarding is different to most other psychological disorders. Complex cases may require lots of different agencies to work together.

For example, health-care workers may work with fire and housing officers to ensure the person can live safely at home.

When people have severe hoarding problems but are reluctant to engage in treatment, a harm-avoidance approach may be best. This means working with the person with hoarding disorder to identify the most pressing safety hazards and come up with a practical plan to address them.

We must continue to improve our understanding and treatment of this complex disorder and address barriers to accessing help.

This will ultimately help reduce the devastating impact of hoarding disorder on individuals, their families, and the community.

By arrangements with The Conversation

16.5 Lac Houses To Have Functional Tap Connection By Dec End: Chief Secy

Reviews Progress Of Implementation Of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Monday took a detailed review of progress under the Jal Jeevan Mission in the UT of J&K. The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, Shaleen Kabra along with Mission Director, JJM, Chief Engineers of Jal Shakti Jammu/Kashmir besides other senior officers of the department.

of the ongoing works. During the subsequent meeting, the Jal Shakti Department made a detailed presentation regarding the status of progress under the Jal Jeevan Mission. It was informed that 99% of the works in Kashmir division and 95% of works in Jammu division out of the total 6623 works in the UT stand allotted; and that by December end, 91% of the functional household tap connections shall be made functional. It was also highlighted that the pace of the providing of household tap connections have increased from the average rate of 3200 per month previously to 37400 per month during the current year with 41000 tap connections provided in the month of October this year. It was also appraised that

at the current pace of work, J&K was expected to enter into the above 75% - High Achiever Category (4 star) by November end. On the district front, the it was informed that 09 districts have entered the 4 star category (more than 75%), 07 districts have entered the 3 star category (more than 50%) in this current year with 02 district- Srinagar and Ganderbal having achieved the 100% target already. Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Jeevan Mission apprised that J&K stands at the top among UTs and 3rd overall in the country with respect to Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance with 1.7 lakh test conducted through a network of 98 water testing labs and 32000 women having being trained for use of Field

Test Kits for water quality testing so far. He also stated that a total of Rs. 2100 crores stand spent on Jal Jeevan Mission in the current financial year with transparency, accountability being fostered through disclosure of real-time status of physical and financial progress available on the JJM-IMIS portal of Gol, disclosure of details of release of UT funds available on the Janbhagidari Portal and disclosure of details of allotments of works under various scheme under JJM available on the departmental website of respective Chief Engineers besides various robust interventions like monitoring through District level Project Management Units (DPMUs), Consultants and Third Party Inspection Agencies (TPIAs).

Youth Cong Launches Campaign To Engage With New Voters In J&K

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Youth Congress on Monday launched a campaign to spread awareness among new voters about the party's ideology. Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Youth Congress Aakash Bharat announced the launch of the "Mera pehla vote for India" poster campaign with the goal of empowering young people and encouraging their active participation in the electoral process. "The poster campaign aims to engage with first-time voters and align them with the values and principles of the Indian National Congress," he told reporters. With the Lok Sabha elections scheduled for early next year, Bharat emphasised the urgency of motivating and guiding new voters to select a political party committed to a brighter future. The Jammu and Kashmir Youth Congress is dedicated to building a brighter and more promising future for India through the active involvement of its youth, he said.

SC Observations On Governors Applies To All Holding Post: Omar

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The Supreme Court's observation that a little bit of soul-searching by governors is needed and they must know they are not elected representatives of people applies to all occupants of Raj Bhavans, National Conference leader Omar Abdullah said on Monday. "Applies to all occupants of Raj Bhavans/Niwās regardless of the claims of 80% & 90% popularity," Abdullah said in a post on X. The Supreme Court observations came while hearing the Punjab government's plea against governor's delay in giving nod to bills. "Governors must act even before the matter comes to the Supreme Court. This has to come

to an end when governors act only when matters reach the Supreme Court...A little bit of soul-searching is needed by governors and they must know that they are not elected representatives of people," the apex court said. Earlier, in September, Abdullah, the vice president of the NC, had accused Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha of "inventing" surveys to justify his "unwillingness" to conduct assembly elections in the union territory and remain its "uncrowned ruler". The former chief minister of J-K had reacted to Sinha's reporting remarks that if a survey was conducted in J-K, 80 per cent of people would vote in favour of the current system Central rule.

Candles, Diyas Made By Prisoners To Light Up Homes In Jammu This Diwali

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Candles and earthen lamps of various designs and colours made by jail inmates will light up the homes of hundreds of families this Diwali in Jammu. As part of skill training and rehabilitation of inmates, the authorities in the district jail in Amphalla here are encouraging prisoners to make candles and diyas at a manufacturing unit set up within the premises. "The prisoners are mak-

ing diyas and candles of various designs and colours for Diwali. We will put up stalls outside the jail and other places for their sale," Harihars Kotwal, Superintendent at District Jail Amphalla, told reporters here. He said people should know that prisoners are part of their society and they, too, are trying to contribute to the community through such initiatives. "This is a part of inmates' rehabilitation and skill training initiative. They are skilled and can earn a living for their families once they

are out of jail. They can set up small-scale units", he said. Shakti Kumar, who is serving lifetime imprisonment at the district jail, is part of this skill training initiative. "We get wax from outside. The material comes from two companies. We boil it and then put it out in a machine for turning it into candles and diyas of various colours. We make candles of several designs," Kumar, who has been in this jail for the past ten years, said.

He said he and his companions feel happy when the candles made by them are used by the people to light up their homes. Kumar also said that he was grateful to the jail authorities for introducing various initiatives to impart skill training to the jail inmates on various trades. The jail authorities are selling the candles and diyas at a shop outside Amphalla jail and are also putting them up on sale at shopping marts organised ahead of Diwali.

FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2023

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during Deepawali and Chhath Puja Festivals, Northern Railway, in association with other zonal railway, has planned to run the following Festival Special Trains as per schedule given below:-

Table with 7 columns: Spl. Train No., Station From, Dept. Time, Station to, Arr. Time, Frequency / Day, Period. It lists various special trains like 03255 Patna Jn, 02391 Patna Jn, 02392 Anand Vihar Terminal, etc., with their respective schedules.

LIST OF FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS PASSING THROUGH NORTHERN RAILWAY NETWORK

Table with 7 columns: Train No., Station From, Dept. Time, Station to, Arr. Time, Frequency / Day, Period. It lists trains passing through the network like 09075 Mumbai Central, 09076 Kathgodam, 07651 Jalna, etc.

DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES, KASHMIR. Sub: Abbreviated notice inviting e-tenders for supply of commercial LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas) at DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES KASHMIR on annual rate contract basis. Includes details on bidding process and critical dates.

NORTHERN RAILWAY. For any kind of information such as arrival/departure timings and stoppages enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTEs App. SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE.

Australia Play Afghanistan, Can Seal Semis Spot



Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: With seats filling up fast for World Cup semi-finals, Australia will look to banish middle-order woes and secure a final four spot against a fearless Afghanistan here on Tuesday.

Only two places remain up for the taking with rampant India slated to finish atop the World Cup points table. South Africa have also

qualified. With no other team directly threatening Australia's progression into the semifinals, Pat Cummins' men would like to finish the job at the first given opportunity here at the Wankhede Stadium — a venue that has been a paradise for batting but also supports the bowlers adequately if they are good enough to exploit the conditions.

The battle promises to be

an enticing watch given Afghanistan's battery of spinners and resolute batting itching to deliver a strong show against Australia, for whom leg-spinner Adam Zampa's 19 wickets in seven matches are the most for any bowler in this World Cup.

Australia need only one win from their remaining two contests — against Afghanistan and Bangladesh — to become the third semi-

finalists and more importantly stay clear from the pack that is about to engage in a dogfight in the middle of the points table for the final spot.

But the five-time champions are also in a way, a bit far from their best even though they come into Tuesday's contest riding high on confidence of five consecutive wins, given that their middle-order is yet to come to the party.

Sri Lanka's Angelo Mathews 1st Cricketer To Be Timed Out

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Sri Lanka all-rounder Angelo Mathews on Monday became the first international cricketer to be 'timed out' after not being ready to face the ball within two minutes of the fall of a wicket against Bangladesh in a World Cup match here.

The incident happened in the 25th over when the 36-year-old walked out to bat after the dismissal of Sadeera Samarawickrama but found that the helmet strap was broken and immediately signalled for a replacement instead of facing the bowler Shakib Al Hasan.

This prompted Bangladesh to appeal for a 'time out'. Mathews was seen having an animated discussion with umpire Marais Erasmus and Richard Illingworth, explaining that he had some issue with the helmet strap. He also approached Shakib, who didn't withdraw his appeal and the Sri Lanka cricketer was forced to leave the field.

A furious Mathews, who made a late entry into the World Cup as a replacement player, walked back to the dug out, smashing his helmet outside the boundary rope in disgust.

Mathews' wicket, which was not credited to any bowler as per the rule, left Sri Lanka reeling at 135 for 5 in 24.2 overs. The Islanders, however, man-



aged a competitive 279 all out in 49.3 overs riding on Charith Asalanka's century. Though it has never happened in international cricket, there have been six such instances in domestic cricket, including one in the match between Tripura and Orissa at Cuttack in 1997 when Hemulal Yadav was at the receiving end.

The dismissal, the first instance in international cricket across all formats, including women's cricket, thus added another chapter in the bitter rivalry between the two teams.

It also triggered a debate with Asalanka saying, "My point is that Mathews' dismissal was not

good for the spirit of cricket." Pakistan pace great Waqar Yousif also called it against the spirit of cricket, while former India opener Gautam Gambhir tweeted: "Absolutely pathetic what happened in Delhi today!" Australian batter Usman Khawaja questioned how could Mathews' be given 'timed out' when his helmet strap broke while he was at the crease.

"Angelo made his crease then his helmet strap broke. How is that timed out? I'm all for timed out if he doesn't make his crease but this is ridiculous. No different then a batsman getting to the crease then taking 3 minutes to face up," Khawaja wrote on 'X'.

Virat Kohli Is 'Absolute Best' Batter In World: Ponting

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Virat Kohli is the "absolute best" batter in the world on the basis of his overall record and he did not need to equal legendary Sachin Tendulkar's record number of ODI hundreds to earn that tag, feels former Australia captain Ricky Ponting.

Kohli equalled Tendulkar's record of 49 ODI centuries with a brilliant 101 not out against South Africa on his 35th birthday in a World Cup match on Sunday. The century only further strengthened Kohli's case of being one of the greatest players of modern times.

"There is no doubt he is the absolute best and I have said that for a long time," Ponting said on the ICC website.

"He didn't need to equal Sa-

chin's record, he doesn't need to break the record.

"If you look at his overall batting record it is incredible," said Ponting, himself a legendary batter.

The century against South Africa was Kohli's second of the tournament and fourth overall in all 50-over World Cups. The 35-year-old now has a total of 543 runs at an imposing average of 108.60.

Ponting eluded to the fact that Kohli reached the feat of 49th ODI ton in 175 innings less than Tendulkar.

"To think that he (Kohli) got 49 ODI hundreds and equalled Sachin and in 175 less innings is unbelievable."

Ponting predicted a more dangerous Kohli in the remainder of the World Cup as he can play with more freedom now that he has drawn level with Tendulkar.



CHAMPIONS J&K UNDER-19 TEAM poses with the team's coaches and Real Kashmir FC coach Ishfaq Ahmad. J&K lifted its maiden football title at the 67th National School Games after Saturday night's 1-0 win over CISE at Synthetic Turf TRC

IMAGE VIA DYSS

PM Modi Praises Women Hockey Team's Asian Title Win

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday congratulated the Indian women hockey team on its Asian championship win, saying their outstanding display of skill, unwavering passion and relentless determination has indeed filled our hearts with pride.

"India's Nari Shakti excels yet again," he said on X. Playing exhilarating hockey from the word go, an aggressive Indian women's team crushed title holders Japan 4-0 on Sunday to lift its second Asian Champions Trophy title.

Modi said, "Congratulations to our stellar hockey team for clinching the prestigious Gold at the Asian

Champions Trophy 2023! Their outstanding display of skill, unwavering passion and relentless determination has indeed filled our hearts with pride." He added, "Well done to the champions for elevating the nation's glory on the international stage!"

Sangita Kumari (17), Neha (46'), Lalremsiami (57'), and Vandana Katariya (60') netted a goal each for India. In recognition of their exceptional performance, marked by an undefeated streak throughout the tournament and their title victory, Hockey India declared a reward of Rs 3.00 lakh for each member of the Indian Women's Hockey Team and Rs 1.50 lakh for each member of the support staff.

Sri Lanka Board Sacked After Heavy Defeat To India



Press Trust of India

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka cricket board was on Monday sacked by the government in the aftermath of the national team's heavy defeat to hosts India in the ongoing World Cup.

The action followed a public outcry and calls by Sports Minister Roshan Ranasinghe to Shami Silva-led SLC to resign after Sri Lanka's 302-run loss to India in Mumbai on November 2.

Since the defeat, several demonstrations were organised opposite the SLC premises, demanding the resignation of the Silva administration.

The riot police were placed to protect the building. Ranasinghe appointed an interim seven-member committee headed by former World

Cup-winning captain Arjuna Ranatunga.

A release from the Ministry of Sports said the committee had been appointed by Ranasinghe under the powers of Sports Law No. 25 of 1973.

The committee also has three retired judges, two of them female, and former SLC chair Upali Dharmadasa.

This marked the return of Ranatunga, who also headed a similar interim committee in 2008, at the helm of affairs of Sri Lankan cricket.

Ranatunga, who headed the National Sports Council appointed by Ranasinghe, has been questioning the Silva administration.

Silva was elected as SLC chief in May for his third successive term which was to run until 2025.

Haaland A Doubt As Man City Seek CL's Last 16 Spot



Agencies

MANCHESTER: Holders Manchester City will qualify for the Champions League knockout rounds with two games to spare with victory over Young Boys on Tuesday but they may have to do it without Erling Haaland.

The Norwegian goal machine twisted his ankle during the 6-1 hammering of Bournemouth in the Premier League and is a doubt for the clash with the Swiss club in Group G.

A draw would also likely be enough for City to guarantee a top-two spot but Guardiola is

unlikely to tinker too much with his team until top spot is also guaranteed.

He could opt to spare Haaland though, especially with a trip to Chelsea in the Premier League on Sunday.

"He trains this afternoon so I don't know. We'll speak with the doctors," Guardiola told reporters. "Yesterday he told me he feels much better, but I don't know."

"I will listen to him, if he says I am ready and I don't have pain I will consider to let him play. Tuesday to Sunday, there are a lot of games to come."

"Right now, if Erling isn't ready, Julian (Alvarez) will play there."

Should City avoid a slip-up against Young Boys, who they beat 3-1 away last month, it will mean Guardiola has gone 17 matches unbeaten in the Champions League, breaking his streak at Barcelona between 2011 and 2012.

Only Manchester United have ever had a longer run without defeat among English teams in European Cup/Champions League history when they went 25 unbeaten in from 2007 to 2009.

J&K Police: An Appeal to General Public

JKP announces a reward of INR 1000000 (ten lacs) each for credible information about below mentioned terror crimes.

- 1.) Date 29 October 2023, Place of incident: Eidgah in Srinagar FIR No.146/2023: u/s 307 IPC, 7/27 Arms Act, 13,16,18,20,38,39 UAP Act Police Station Safakadal Name of Victim: Insp Masroor Ali Wani
- 2.) Date of Incident: 30th October 2023 Place of incident: Trumchi Nowpora FIR 293/2023 U/S 307 IPC 7/27 I A Act , 16, 18, 20, 39 UA(P)A act Name of victim : Mukesh Kumar S/O Ganga Prasad R/O Bhatpuna, Samadha, UP
- 3.) Date of incident - 31st October 2023. Place of incident- Wailoo kralpora Baramulla FIR no- 364/2023 u/s 302 IPC, 7/27 Arms act, 16, 20 UA(P)A Police station - Pattan Victim- Head Constable Gh Mohd information about attacker or his associates or helpers or harbourers of attacker can be shared with any police officer you trust including: SSP Baramulla 7051000999 SSP Srinagar 9419096599 SSP Pulwama 9419046660 Or email it directly to DGP Sh R R Swain at : rrrswainips@jkpolice.gov.in Identification of persons providing credible information shall be kept fully confidential and he or she shall be provided legal and security cover.

DIPK-1648/23
Dt: 06/11/2023