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Kashmir Valley To Welcome First Direct Train From Jammu In January

Udhampur-Baramulla Rail Link Project Aims To Reduce Travel Time To 3.5 Hours Between Srinagar & Jammu

Auqib Javeed

ways is all set to achieve a remarkable feat by connecting Kashmir Valley with the rest of the country, as the work on the ambitious Udhampur-Baramulla rail link project is nearing completion, paving way for the first ever to train to chug between the two regions

of the Union Territory. officials,

Dense Fog

far. Once completed, the direct train service will bring much sought relief to the commuters by reducing the travel time to 3.5 hours from six hours be-

ed to boost the economy as



the goods will be delivered through the train. It will be

easier to transport horticul-

IS GOING ON **ACCORDING** TO THE DEADLINE. If everything goes fine, we will inaugurate the project on the set schedule."

other agricultural products

The alignment of the USBRL necessitates the construction of numerous tunnels and bridges across extremely challenging and mountainous terrain, characterized by intricate and demanding Himalayan geological conditions.

Vinod Kumar, Relations Officer (PRO) of the Northern Railways told Kashmir Observer that the project will be completed on the scheduled | More on P10

UGC Set To Revise NET Syllabus

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The University Grants Commission (UGC) is set to revise the syllabus for the National Eligibility Test (NET) and will form an expert panel for the exercise, its chairman Jagadesh Kumar said on Tuesday.

National Agency (NTA) conducts the UGC-National Eligibility Test (UGC-NET) for Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) and as an eligibility test for the appointment of assistant professors in the subjects of Humanities and Social Sciences, including Indian and some foreign languages, as well as in certain science subjects

The UGC-NET is held twice every year, usually in June and December, in 83 subjects.

The UGC last initiated the process to update the syllabi of UGC-NET subjects in 2017.

"However, after | More on P10

India Slams Pak For Raking Kashmir

United Nations: India has dismissed an "unwarranted and habitual" reference to Kashmir made by Pakistan during a Security Council meeting here.

India's retort came at the UN Security Council open debate on Maintenance of International Peace and Security: Promoting Sustaining Peace through Common Development'.

The debate was held under China's Presidency after Pakistan's UN envoy Munir Akram made a reference to Kashmir in his remarks at the debate.

"I will take not more than a few seconds to dismiss the unwarranted | More on P10

the work on the 272-kilometer Udhampur-Srinagar-Srinagar: The Indian rail-Baramulla rail link project (USBRL is in advanced stage and over 95 percent of the work has been completed so

Disrupts Flight Ops In Srinagar

tween Srinagar and Jammu. The project is also expect-

Observer News Service

New Delhi: Continuing his efforts to bring in more investments into the Union Territory, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday invited country's industry leaders to invest in Jammu and Kashmir, asserting that the erstwhile state is offering investors endless possibilities and a partnership in a strong profitable growth.

"I invite the industry captains to experience the urban transformation happening in our cities like Jammu and Srinagar and invest in the UT of I&K. This will also be your contribution to strengthen the nation's unity. I assure every support and assistance from the



LG Invites Country's Industry Leaders To Invest In I&K

'If You Are Looking At The Big Picture And Ready To Capture New

Segment, Then Jammu Kashmir Is Your New Destination'

Engineering Export Promotion Council of India (EEPC India) National Export Awards function here on Tuesday. He also felicitated the recipients of the prestigious Awards for fiscal

years 2019-20 and 2020-21. "Now, we have a favorable environment, connectivity, young talent, an improved security scenario and all the infrastructure for industrial growth," he said.

At the award ceremony, the

LG shared the efforts of his administration to optimize the immense potential of the business and Industry sector in Jammu Kashmir.

"Jammu Kashmir is offering the investors endless possibility and a | More on P10

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Cold wave intensified in Kashmir as the minimum temperature dipped below freezing point even as dense fog disrupted flight operations at the Srinagar international airport early Tuesday.

Shopian in south Kashmir was the coldest recorded place in the

valley as the minimum settled at minus 3.9 degrees Celsius, while Srinagar city recorded a low of minus 1.2 degrees Celsius on Monday night, an official of the Meteorological Department said.

It was the coldest night at most places in the valley, including Srinagar city, the official said.

Qazigund, recorded a low of minus 0.8 degrees | More on P10

India Donates \$2.5 Mn For Palestinian Refugees

Press Trust Of India

Jerusalem: India has donated USD 2.5 million to the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, prompting the UNRWA on Tuesday to welcome the generous contribution at a "difficult time" narticularly in Gaza

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency Nations Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA), functional since 1950, carries out direct relief and work programmes for registered Palestine refugees. It is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions from UN



Member States. India on Monday gave UNRWA USD 2.5 million as part

of its annual contribution of

USD 5 million for the year 2023-24 to support the agency's core programmes and services, including education, | More on P10

Youth Held In Drone Dropping Arms Case

Press Trust Of India

National The Investigation Agency has arrested an accused in a Pakistanbacked terrorism case involvthrough drones to militants active in Jammu and Kashmir, an official said on Tuesday.

Zakir Hussain (22), a resident of Kathua district in the Jammu region, is the eighth accused to be arrested in the case, a spokesperson of the federal probe agency said.

The case was taken over by the federal agency on July 30 last year.

The local police registered the case on May 29 last year following the interception of a drone and seizure of eral rounds of Under Barrel Grenade Launcher along with magnetic bombs near the Dhalli area in Kathua.

The spokesperson said Hussain was arrested by an NIA team in Jammu on Monday. He was allegedly involved in collecting, | More on P10

Weatherman Advises Unligren To Wear Face Masks Majid Nabi

s the cold wave intensified in Kashmir with minimum temperatures falling below freezing point amid dry and afoggy conditions, the weatherman on Tuesday cautioned children and elderly people against stepping outside without face masks especially during the morning and evening hours. The night temperatures plunged further in | More on P10



THE FOG HAS DELAYED MORNING FLIGHTS on Monday and Tuesday. The visibility remains poor in the early hours."

J&K Facing 'Lot Of Problems' Of Drug Trafficking: Court

Rejects Bail Plea Of Two Drug Peddlers

M Ahmad

Srinagar: Observing that J&K is facing problems of trafficking in illicit drugs, causing a lot of problems of addiction particularly among youth, a court here on Tuesday rejected bail application of two persons arrested by police earlier this month with heroin-like substance near Narbal in outskirts of Srinagar.

"No doubt that this court has jurisdiction with regard to grant of bail for small quantity of Contraband (heroin) for personal consumption, which provides for lesser punishment. However, in recent years, our Union Territory has been facing problems of trafficking in illicit

drugs which has caused a lot of problems of addiction particu-larly among youth," Ms. Fozia Paul, City Magistrate Srinagar said and rejected bail applica-tion filed by the two persons— Mohammad Rafiq Malik (25) of Sumbal Bandipora at present Khawaja Bagh Srinagar and Mohammad Iqbal Khanday (26) of Maloora HMT Srinagar.

The court said that in the instant FIR, the accused persons have been booked under section 8/21 of NDPS Act as well as under section 29 of NDPS Act. "Perusal of the police report reveals that contraband (heroin) like substance weighing 04 grams was seized from the accused persons," the court | More on P10





WhatsApp Rolls Out Campaign **To Raise User Safety Awareness, Fight Misinformation**



Press Trust Of India

hatsApp has launched a 'Check the Facts' safety campaign to drive user awareness around its safety features and curb the spread of misinformation on the platform.

The month-long campaign highlights the Meta-owned messaging platform's in-built product features, safety tools like block and report, and forward labels that equip users to spot misinformation and prevent its circulation.

It encourages people to verify information that sounds suspicious or inaccurate via fact-checking organisations on WhatsApp Channels, according to a statement.

"WhatsApp has launched an in- curate information.

tegrated safety campaign 'Check the Facts' in an effort to drive user awareness around WhatsApp's safety features and promote digital best practices that help prevent the spread of misinformation on the platform and empower people to take control of their messaging experience," it said.

While there is no single action that can help prevent the spread of misinformation and fake news online, WhatsApp's 'Check the Facts' campaign serves as a simple safety guide to fight misinformation.

The campaign touches upon aspects like understanding when a message is forwarded, blocking and reporting suspicious accounts, and following fact-checking organisations on WhatsApp Channels to receive ac-

BEFORE THE HON'BLE

- Common High Court of J&K and Ladakh at Srinagar. 2. Principal District Judge srinagar
- 3. Jk Special Tribunal Samandar bagh Srinagar

No: M&HDS/TS/7472-77.

- 1) Irfan Bilal Dar S/o Ab-Ahad Dar
- 2) Abdul Razzak Dar S/O Ghulam Ahmad Dar Residents of Bonpora, Batmaloo Srinagar

...Caveator

Public at large.

The caveators has reason to believe/apprehension that non caveators may file an suit /writ petition/revision or any other proceeding before this honble court on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked up story, therefore may succeed in obtaining some relief/order at their back/ex parte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators may suffer an irreparable loss and injury which can't be compensated by any means later on therefore it would be proper to put caveators on notice so that an opportunity of being head is given to the caveators counsel Advocate Mohammad Younus bhat & Umar bhat Advocate mobile no :- 6006673466, 9682546477 before passing any such relief/order.hence this caveat application.

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

Office Of The Execuive Engineer R&B Division Uri

DATED: 21-11-2023

Expression of interest (EOI)

eNIT No.89 of 2023-24/5252-64/R&B Uri e-tendering

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT of J&K, EOI/e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited for empanelment as DPR consultants for Preparation of DPR's along with Structural-design and drawings and complete soil investigation with third party vetting from NIT or DIQC for construction of buildings within the jurisdiction of this division from reputed RegisteredArchitect/Structuralconsultant firms.

l	Sr.	Name of Work	Earnest	Class of	Cost of
	No.		Money		Tender Docu ment
		Preparation of Detailed Project Report, with BOQ Detailed Estimates Detailed Drawings both architectural /structural/Plumbing/Sanitary/ Electric/Landscaping and detailed soil investigation vetted by NIT/DIQC for construction of G, G+1, G+2 & G+3storied buildings with Roof Truss in, R&B Division Uri (On Percentage Rate Basis)Samagra Shiksha works 2023-24.		Architecture I/Structural Consultancy	

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

1.	Date of Issue of EOI Notice.	21.11.2023
2.	Period of Downloading of Bidding Documents.	From 21-11.202311:00 AM
		To28-11-20232:00 P.M
3.	Bid Submission Start Date.	21.11.2023From 11:00 A.M.
4.	Bid Submission End Date.	28-11-2023 2:00 P.M
5.	Date and Time of Opening of Bids (Online).	28-11-2023 03:00 P.M in the Office of the
		Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri.

 Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt (Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri [Tender Inviting Authority] (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and the bidders residing Outside UT of J&K can submit DD of any nationalized bank in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ur the cost of tender document fee is non refundable.

 If MSE firm is registered with NSIC (National Small Industries Corporation) agencies for tendered item then they are exempted for submission of EMD & Tender Cost. If MSE's who are interested in availing these benefits will have to enclosed with their offer the proof of their beings MSE's registered with any of the above mentioned

3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 3% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 3% of the Allotted cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

The date and time of opening of Bid shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Uri.

The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of Opening of Technical bids.

Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

a. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process. b. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors. c. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form. d. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above

e. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid. Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

7. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons. 8. Scanned copy of Bid Security Declaration Form and cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt/DD for outsider UT of J&K bidders in favour of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Uri(The Date of Treasury Challan/DD should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The Original Treasury Challan (Cost of Tender Document) and other relevant bid documents including Bid Security Declaration Form shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract. 9. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt

to create similar BOO manually. 10. Price escalation and taxes: The rate quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees, shall be deemed toinclude price escalation and all taxes up tocompletion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the Bidder on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

11. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents

12. In case of CRF and other specified project, the relevant guideline/ standard bidding document shall be followed.

All Bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualifying criteria/qualification in-

a. All bidders shall upload Copies of Original Documents defining constitution/Legal status, place of registration and principal place of Business with Cell No. and Correspondence Address. b. All Bidders shall upload Treasury Chal-

c. All Bidders shall upload completely filled Bid Security Declaration Form.

7. d. All Bidders shall upload Valid Registration with renewal Side (Latest), Valid GSTIN No. & PAN No.

14. All Bidders shall upload Scanned Copy of GSTIN Registration and latest clearance certificate/Acknowledge Re-

ceipt of GST Return Copy "FORM GSTR-3B" Latest Quarter/Latest Month. 15. The bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings

16. All the documents relating to the bid shall be in English language.

17. Bidder must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including tender documents fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid. No document(s) which has/have not been uploaded shall be entertained in the form of hard copy. However, in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.

Year & Session: Annual (Pvt) (Bi-Annual) 2020-21 Registration: N18460470167

be treated as "CANCELLED")

Mother's Name: Mehmooda Begum
Date of Birth:- 08-06-2005, Residenc:- Bagh Bandipora

Name: Mehjabeen Manzoor, Father's Name: Mazoor Ahmad Khan

The Jammu and Kashmir State Board Of School Education

New Campus Bemina Srinagar

Notice for General Public

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost her qualification certificate/s issued under as per below mentioned details:-Roll No: 12611405 Class: 10th

According the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification /Marks Certificate/s, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate

under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the

period of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice.

(Besides the above referred "Qualification / Marks Certificate/s" bearing No: 21APBI-7011682

No.2023-24/5252-64

DIPK-12537/23 Dated:-21-11-2023.

Subject:- Grant Of Registration of the Proposed Travel unit under the name & Style "M/S Hyacinth Tour And Travels" Situated at N.F.R DOJI MOHALLA NEAR JANNAT FLOWERS

Public Notice

Whereas I, Mr. Saiqa Nisar D/o Nisar Ahmad Doji R/o N.F.R DOJI MOHALLA NEAR JANNAT FLOWERS SRINAGAR KASHMIR intend to apply in the Department of Tourism for registration of my proposed travel unit under the name & style of "M/S Hyacinth Tour And Travels" Situated at N.F.R DOJI MOHALLA NEAR JANNAT FLOWERS SRINAGAR under tourist trade act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas I will submit state subject / Domicile certificate , Qualification Certificate, pan cardr \ Experience Certificate(Minimum 5years). Police character certificate, Bank statement (minimum balance 10000), site plan, Affidavit, Rent deed duly attested by sub Registrar, printing material (Latter head / Visiting card) Photograph of the unit (indoor and outdoor) and Two passport size photographs to the department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist I Prior to Registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency.

Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12) befre my case is processed for my registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/Financial institutions/Bank/ Organisation, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration(email id; ddtregl23@gmail.com) within a period of 7days from the publication of this notice in a leading newspaper/newspa of the valley. No objection beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the name mentioned on my Passport to HU-MAIRA YASIN KHAN instead of HUMARIA YASMEEN. In this regard if anybody is having any kind of objection, He/She may approach Regional Passport Office Srinagar within the period of 7 (Seven) days from the date of issue of this notice in newspaper after which No Objection whatsoever will be entertained.

Humaira Yasin Khan

Subject:- Grant Of Registration of the Proposed Travel unit under the name & Style "M/S Travel the Town Tours & Travels" Situated at Pinjoora Kwarhama Tangmarg

Public Notice

Whereas I, Mr. Mohd Arif Dar S/o Mohd Ramzan Dar R/o Pinjoora Kwarhama Tangmarg KASHMIR intend to apply in the Department of Tourism for registration of my proposed travel unit under the name & style of "M/S Travel the Town Tours & Travels" Situated at Pinjoora Kwarhama Tangmarg under tourist trade act 1978/82/2011-12. Whereas I will submit state subject / Domicile certificate , Qualification

Certificate, pan cardr \ Experience Certificate(Minimum 5years). Police character certificate, Bank statement (minimum balance 10000), site plan Affidavit, Rent deed duly attested by sub Registrar, printing material (Latter head / Visiting card) Photograph of the unit (indoor and outdoor) and Two passport size photographs to the department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist I Prior to Registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency.

Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12) befre my case is processed for my registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/ Financial institutions/Bank/ Organisation, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration(email id; ddtregl23@gmail.com) within a period of 7days from the publication of this notice in a leading newspaper/newspapers of the valley. No objection beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

e-Auction Notice

The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and o behalf of President of India invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders fo the following works over Firozpur Division

Auction Catalogue No.: EAFZR-MA23-14 Auction Start: 06.12.23 11:00 AM.

Name of work: Allotment of Commercial Publicity rights through Vinyl wrapping on exterior of coaches of Train No. Group rake link 12422, 12492, 22462, 12414, 12408, 14612, 14610, 14646, 14634, 14624 & DMU Trains in Kashmir Valley. Auction Catalogue No. : EAFZR-OH23-24

Auction Start: 07.12.23 11:00 AM.

Name of work: 1) Contract for Commercial Advertisement rights on exterio of Overhead of Water Tanks at Pathankot, Jalandhar City, Jai Brahmna, Sujanpur, Sahnewal & Amritsar Railway Station. 2) Contract for Commercial publicity rights through static media at Railway Station

Amritsar and Level crossings adjoining to Chhina, Verka, Jaintipura, Batala, Bhagtawala & Patti Railway Station. 3) Contract for Commercial publicity rights through static media and overhead of water tank at Makhu & Nakodar Railway Station.

For other details and registration, please visit Railway

3642/2023 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

From the office of Advocate Musharraff W. Baba

Bilalah Banoo wife of Nisar Ahmad Bhat R/o Shalla Kadal Srinagar S/A Habba Kadal Stone Masjid Lane Shele Tang Srinagar

PUBLIC AT LARGE

In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A

The caveators have reason to believe that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition, Ap-peal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may seed in obtaining some relief/order at their back/in exparte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put in irrepa-rable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.

Sd/advocate

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office Of The Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Srinagar

---Telefax:- 0194-2496089. Email ID:- xenmhchdk@vahoo.in--

Gist of e-tender e-NIT No: M&HDS/TS /2023-24/139/e-tendering Dated: 21.11.2023 (Short Term)

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited from registered/reputed/experienced firms with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work:-

1	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In	AAA	Technical Sanction No.	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Position Of Funds
1. 1 year Comprehensive Maintenance Con-	1.46	rupees) 200		M&HDS/TS/100	2.900/-	Available with
tract (CMC) of 20 Passenger (G+4) OTIS Lift in new Building at Govt. Lalla Ded Hospital Srinagar			19-MCS of 2023, Dated:- 23-06-2023	Dated 11/23		intending Depart- ment (Principal Government
	1.00	100		M&HDS/TS/101 Dated 11/23	1 '	Medical College Srinagar)
3. Comprehensive Maintenance Contract (CMC) for one No. 15 Passenger (G+1) OTIS Make Lift installed inside Govt. Bone & Joint Hospital Sringgar	0.90	100		SD-1/TS/71 Dat- ed11/23 1,800/-		

Downloading of Bids:- The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.O). Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from 21.11.2023 (14.00 hrs) and can be downloaded from 21.11.2023 (14.00 hrs)

Uploading: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site 21.11.2023 (14.00 hrs)to

DIPK-12572/23

Dated: 21-11-2023

28.11.2023(12:00hrs) in two (02) covers. Opening of Bids: - The bids received upto due date and time shall be opened on 28.11.2023 at 14.00(hrs)

> Sd/ Executive Engineer. M&HD. Srinagai

Office of the Chief Horticulture Officer Budgam Tele-Fax: - 01951-255278

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Assistant Secretary

Certificates, KD.

Sd/=

Executive Engineer,

E-Mail:- horticulturechiefbudgam2016@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Applications are invited from Land Holders of District Budgam for the "APPLICATION FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF ROOT STOCK BANK" (Minimum 08 Kanal) under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) Scheme during the year 2023-24. Application forms need to be submitted through Online Kisan Sathi Portal (https://hadp.jk.gov.in/).

S. No.	Component	Target (Hectares)	Eligibility
01	APPLICATION FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF ROOT STOCK BANK (08 Kanal)	08 Kanal (Single Unit)	All Land Holders of District Budgam having minimum land area of 08 Kanal

The Applications shall be submitted by or before 30.11.2023 up to 04:00pm. The beneficiaries among the eligible applicants shall be selected, as per the feasibility report of the Field Level Officer's and merit obtained as per the "Criteria for Rootstock Bank and Nursery development".

Terms and conditions:-The applicant should be permanent resident of UT of Jammu and Kashmir having Land Area in Budgam District & must enclose identity proof.

2. All other operational/monitoring regulations/guidelines as well as other formalities as specified in the Scheme shall be applicable. DIPK-12538/23 (Dr. M Iqbal Baba) dated: 21-11-2023 **Chief Horticulture Officer Budgam**

DISCLAIMER: KASHMIR OBSERVER MAKES EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THATTHE INFORMATION CARRIED IN DISPLAY/CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS, APPEARING IN THE NEWSPAPER IS CORRECT. HOWEVER THE NEWSPAPER TAKES NO RESPONSIBILITY NOR DOES IT NECESSARILY ENDORSE THE CONTENTS OF THESE ADVERTS. THE READERS ARE THEREFORE REQUESTED TO VERIFY THE CONTENTS BEFORE ACTING THEREUPON, MANAGEMENT

Major Fire Breaks Out In Wazir Bagh, F&ES On Job

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: A guest house and a restaurant were damaged in a massive blaze at Wazir Bagh locality in Srinagar's Civil Lines this evening, officials said.

Fire, officials said, broke out in a guest house situated opposite the Lal Ded Maternity Hospital, that quickly engulfed a restaurant next to it.

A team of fire and emergency service was immediately rushed to the spot to douse the flames as soon as the information about the tragic fire incident was received.

Firefighting operation, officials said, was on while senior's officers of the district administration also rushed to the spot. They said the cause of the fire may be ascertained as soon as the fire is brought under control.

"A team of the F & ES department is busy dousing the flames at the moment, the fire has yet not been brought under control and engulfed a nearby restaurant as well," an F&ES official told Kashmir Observer

Srinagar: Peoples Demo-

cratic Party (PDP) Presi-

dent, Mehbooba Mufti to-

day visited the residence

of Abdul Rehman Rah to

condole the demise of his

wife and maternal aunt of

party's Additional Spokes-

panied by Abdul Qayoom

Bhat, Waheed parra, Arif

Laigroo, Aman Zargar,

Fayaz Reshi and others.

Mehbooba was accom-

The PDP president ex-

person Abdul Rouf Bhat.

Fire Guts Departmental Store In Srinagar's Gojwara

rinagar: A departmental store was damaged in a fire incident in Gojwara area in the old city here this morning, officials said.

An official said the fire broke out in the departmental store "Pick N Save" this morning, resulting in massive damage to it.

However, no report of any injury or loss of life in the incident was reported. "The cause of the fire is under investigation. The store was completely gutted while some adjacent shops also suffered partial damage," the official

The firefighting operation was on when the reports last came in.



Man pushing vegetables laden handcart in city center Lal Chowk on a cold, foggy Tuesday morning. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

KU Convocation Complex Staff Transferred For Defacing Auditorium

Observer News Service

the faculty.

officials concerned and ordered im-

mediate transfer of the PRO for der-

"The staff was initially ordered

The VC took serious note of

posted at the Convocation Complex including Deputy Chief Proctor, Riyaz Qureshi and Placement Officer, Mohammad Ayoub, to oversee arrangements for the talenthunt event being organized by an outside-University agency/department for next 10 days.

Complex. Here, an outside agency was allowed to do it, which has

It may be noted that KU has a events at Convocation Complex, which is frequented by LG and oth-

'This is a public property and cannot be allowed to be vandalized in this manner, that too when full time officials are tasked with overseeing its arrangements." the insiders said, demanding strict action in

TRAFFIC POLICE: 9419993745, 01998-266686 PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883 PDD: 0194-2450213

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES: 2479488,2452222,2452155 CAPD: 18001807011

SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081 Ambulance: Kashmer EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS



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



PRAYERS FAJR 5:41 **ZUHR** 12:14 **ASR** 3:50 Magrib 5:30 **ISHA** 6:50

This Day In History

- 498 St Symmachus begins his reign as Pope replacing Anastasius II
- 845 First King of all Brittany, Nominoe defeats Frankish King Charles the Bald at the Battle of Ballon, near Redon
- 1220 Frederick II crowned Holy Roman Emperor in Rome by Pope Honorius III
- 1346 Street fights in Utrecht, Hollandsgezinde **Gunterlingen statements**
- 1497 Portuguese navigator Vasco da Gama rounds Cape of Good Hope on way to first voyage from Europe to reach India
- 1683 Purcell's "Welcome to All the Pleasures" premieres in London
- 1699 Treaty of Preobrasjensku Denmark, Russia, Saksen and Poland divide Sweden
- 1707 Prince Johan Willem Friso sworn in as viceroy of Friesland
- 1714 King Karel XII leaves Turkish captivity to return to Sweden
- Strasbourg Alsace-Lorraine, prohibits circumcision and wearing of beards 1809 - Peregrine Williamson of Baltimore patents
- a steel pen
- 1830 Charles Grey, 2nd Earl Grey, becomes Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
- **Charles Grey** 1864 - American Civil War Battle at Griswoldville,
- Georgia, ends after 650 casualties
- 1864 Union General O Howard orders plunderers be shot to death
- 1872 Franz Grillparzer's "Die Judin von Toledo" premieres in Prague
- 1884 T Thomas Fortune starts NY Freeman (NY Age) newspaper
- 1886 Victoria Street Cable Tram route begins in
- Melbourne, Australia 1899 - Battle at Willow Grange, Natal (British vs
- Boer army)

From KO Archives

Pir Baba Makes Hostile Soldiers Freeze Their Enmity

Observer News Service

Srinagar- The inhabitants of Tangdhar and the adjoining villages heave a sigh of relief as the booming guns have all of a sudden fallen silent. Call it cherisma of the Pir Baba whose shrine falls just across the Line of Control or sanity that prevailed over the minds of the ever hostile soldiers facing each other on this Line, that the hapless people of the area have got a breather.

The soldiers on both the sides have entered in to a truce to facilitate locals to celebrate the Urs of Pir baba. The Shrine of the revered Pir Baba Sai Mitha, is located in the Pakistani controlled part of Kashmir and the devotees from this side of the line have been deprived to pay a visit to the shrine eversince the turmoil began in Kashmir.

The Pir Baba is held in high esteem by one and all irrespective of the religious beliefs. Locals believe that all incurable diseases like deafness, dumbness, paralysis and contagious diseases like leprosy get cured by the blessing of the Pir, but consequent to the outbreak of turmoil in Kashmir people have been craving for a visit.

The army in Tangdar started organising the Urs in its own side last year. Seeing enthusiasm and response of the local populace it was decided to proceed in a big way to celebrate the event this year. There was tremendous response noticed from the local population from the very first day, wherein close to 600 devotees from all villages of Tangdhar turned up to offer their prayers. People were seen walking from distant villages and offering prayers to fulfillment of their wishes.

(Kashmir Observer, 22 November, 1998)

Of Party Leader's Aunt pressed sympathies with **Observer News Service** the bereaved family and

Mehbooba Condoles Demise

parted soul. Mehbooba in her condolence message said the deceased was a noble human being, polite and has always helped the commu-

prayed for peace to the de-

nity and society in general. Mufti prayed that may Almighty Allah grant solace and peace to the departed soul and give patience to the members of the bereaved family to bear the loss.

Srinagar: The Kashmir University Vice-Chancellor Professor Neelofer Khan on Tuesday ordered the transfer of staff at the Convocation Complex after photos and videos of defacement of the auditorium went viral, triggering an outrage among

PRO of the Convocation Complex, Lubna Bhat according to an order was transferred along with Supervisor Convocation Complex after the VC took a serious note of defacement of the auditorium.

During a surprise inspection of the state-of-the-art auditorium, the VC observed massive defacement of the main hall under the nose of eliction of duty.

to be suspended but action was put on hold pending inquiry into the whole issue," sources said.

the matter saying the Convocation Complex was recently renovated at a huge cost for the annual Convocation function held on October 11. Two special officials have been

"KU department is not al-

caused loss to the University's exchequer," the sources said, adding that a committee is being constituted by the VC to inquire into the whole issue and fix the responsibility for the lapses

strict policy for permission to hold er VVIPs for national and international events.

J&K Labor Dep't Rescues 8 Juveniles | Two Days CBPP Oilseeds Promotion In Srinagar Since Monday

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The J&K labor department under child rescue drive has rescued at least eight juveniles in two days from several parts of Srinagar.

An official from the labor department said the child rescue drive was planned by the department in Lal Chowk and adjacent areas of Srinagar in order to check child labor in Srinagar City.

Assistant Labor Commissioner Srinagar, Arshid Qadir said that a team of labor department officials raided various shops in Lal Chowk in the past two days and found the two juveniles

working at Shakti Sweet Shop at Residency Road.

'The officials immediately rescued the juveniles and asked the shop owner to submit age proof within two failing which they would face legal consequences,

Qadir said that a total of eight children have been rescued since yesterday (Monday).

Qadir said as per the honorable Supreme Court, an Aadhar Card is not a valid age proof and that a school certificate or a medical report will be considered as valid age proof.

child labor "The needs to be properly checked whether the in-

E-Tender Notice Tender Notice No. 315,316-2023-24-JAT-DRM-FZR

dividual is working with family on his own, or with someone else. The drive will continue till December," Qadir said, adding they are focusing on the drive in conce trated areas.

He also sought people's cooperation in the fight against the child labor menace in Srinagar.

Asked about beggars in Srinagar, Qadir said that they first have to investigate the matter.

"There is a need for a full-fledged team from the Labor department and anti-trafficking unit to nail the child begging nexus. We are working on a plan to check the child-begging menace also," he said.

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Date: 18.11.2023

Program Inaugurated At Harwan Director Agriculture asked the

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal today inaugurated two days Capacity Building Program (CBP) on promotion of Oilseeds crops at Harwan S

In his address to the participants, Director Agriculture highlighted the importance of Oilseed (mustard) crops in the rural economy of the region. He said that from the last few years the department is working on a comprehensive plan to bring newer areas under the cultivation of oilseed (Mustard). He said that under the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) a special project has been approved for the promotion of Oilseeds (Mustard).

farmers to adopt an organic way of cultivation for more and more Agriculture crops. He impressed upon the concerned officers to increase awareness among the farmers regarding the adverse impact of chemical fertilizers on the soil health.

labal underscored the importance of the Skilled farming community and said that in coming times the skilled farming community would play a pivotal role in the success story of the agriculture sector. He reiterated the department's commitment to the Capacity building of the farmers. He said that it is a continuous process and will go on.

Besides a large number of participants, Chief Agriculture Officer Srinagar, senior officers of the department were present on the occasion.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to be informed to the general public that my Car Alto VXI(Granite Grey) under bearing No: JK01AS-6096, engine number FBDN6767472, chassis number MA3EUA61S00L29224 model 2022, has been stolen from Aram Pora, Chatabal, Srinagar on 17 March 2023. The owner of the said vehicle is Tariq Ahmad Dar S/o: Haji Ali Mohammad Dar R/o:- Ganderpora Eidgah Srinagar. Any information regarding the said vehicle they can contact at 9906681257 or to any nearest police station.

nj

www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manua payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to www.ireps.gov.in **Tendering Section** Works Open Single Bid System Date of Uploading Tenders Bid Starting Date Bid Closing Date/Time 11.12.2023/ 15.00 Hrs S.N Tender No **Details of Tender** Replacement of existing RPF barrack accomodation complex with 50 bedded barrack for RPF with the facilities of Large kitchen with 315-2023-24-Dining Hall & store, Entertainment Hall, gymn AT-DRM-FZR office for Barrack with attached Bathroom/Toilets, Parking area for cooter/Motorcycle and Bathroom & Toilet facilities for male/fe separately at Jammu Tawi under ADEN/JAT. Advertised Value | Earnest Money | Validity of Offer | Period of Completion 2,46,97,092.94/- 2,73,500/- 60 Days Similar nature of work:- "Any civil work other than track work" TRR(P) 25.712 Tkm on BHRL-JAT section i.e. 22.495 Tkm at Kn 38.817 to 42.8 DN, 46.8 to 52.934 DN KM 32.112 to 33.879 UP 316-2023-24-JAT-DRM-FZR to 21.133 DN, KM 37.522 to 38.817 DN and KM 21.033 to 22.00 UP under ADEN/JAT on BHRL-JAT section in jurisdiction of Si DEN-II/FZR
 Advertised Value
 Earnest Money
 Validity of Offer
 Period of Completion

 3,77,66,010.11/ 3,38,800/ 60 Days
 10 Months
 nilar nature of work:- "CTR/TRR/TFR/TTR including raising of track/ screenin listressing of track/pre & post works for track maintenance machine like temping

nachine/ballast screening/regulating machines & TTR by T-28".

Note 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against te

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Sr. DEN-II/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 11.12.2023 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit thei 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 tende document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available or

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR Jammu and Kashmir Power Transmission Corporation Ltd

Office of the Executive Engineer Transmission Line Maintenance Division-I (TLMD-I), Bemina, Srinagar Ph. No. 0194-2492427, 9419181913 E-mail: tlmd1tech@gmail.com

Tender Extension Notice-I

Subject: Tender Extension Notice for e-NIT mentioned below

e-NIT No	Tender Ref ID	Work Description
20/JKPTCL/TLMD- I/SGR/2023-24; Dated: 30.10.2023	2023_PDD_235230_1	Upgradation of Staff Quarters including Supply, Fabrication, Erection of Main Gate with Pillars at Grid Substation Habbak

Due to poor response, the last dates for submission of e-bid and opening of Techno Commercial bids for e-NIT No: 20/JKPTCL/TLMD-I/SGR/2023-24; Dated: 30.10.2023 are hereby extended as under

	,		
Ī	1.	Last date for submission of e-Bid	30.11.2023 (02:00 PM)
	2.	Last date for submission of Hard Copy of e-Bid in the office of the Executive Engineer TLMD-I, Bemina, Srinagar	01.12.2023 (04:00 PM)
ĺ	3.	Date for online opening of Techno-Commercial e-Bid	02.12.2023 (02:00 PM)

All other terms and conditions remain same

No.: TLMD-I/TS/20A/23-24/2506-10 DIPK-NB-4343/23 dated: 21-11-2023

Sd/-**Executive Engineer,** TLMD-1st Bemina Sgr Transmission (Kashmir), JKPTCL, Bemina

Israeli Strike Kills Three **Journalists Near Lebanon Border**



An Israeli bombardment of southern Lebanon has killed three journalists, according to Lebanese media, as hostilities grow along Israel's northern border

Lebanon's state-run National News Agency reported on Tuesday that an "enemy bombing" killed three people in the Tayr Harfa area, about 1.6km (1 mile) from the Israeli frontier.

Lebanese channel Al Mayadeen TV said two of its staff were among the victims. The third person killed was said to be a local journalist and "contributor" to the channel.

"Correspondent Farah Omar and cameraman Rabih Me'mari were killed by an Israeli attack," Al Mayadeen said in a statement.

"It was a direct attack, it was not by chance," Al Mayadeen director Ghassan bin Jiddo said, noting it came after an Israeli government decision this month to block access to the channel's website.

"Another attack has targeted journalists in southern Lebanon, killing a reporter and a cameraman who worked for the pan-Arabic channel Al Mayadeen ... A third person, who was with them, was also killed," said Al Jazeera's Zeina Khodr, reporting from southern Lebanon

'The feeling here is that the Israeli army wants to silence the media and punish journalists," our correspondent said.

Israel blacklisted Al Mayadeen TV last week, accusing it of "wartime efforts to harm [Israel's] security interests and to serve the enemy's goals".

Israel's Minister of Communications Shlomo Karhi said on October 13 he had begun work to block Al Mayadeen's websites and programming and shut down its local offices.

The Lebanese information minister has asked the army to open an investigation into [the attack on Tuesday]," Khodr said, adding that this was the third attack against journalists in southern Lebanon since October 13.

The Israeli military said it was "looking into the details" of the incident, the AFP news agency reported

The latest killings add to at least 50 reporters and media workers who have been killed amid Israel's 46-day war in Gaza, according to press freedoms group, the Committee to Protect Journalists.

The vast majority of the killed journalists are Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip. Since October 7, when Israel waged its war in Gaza following Hamas's attack on Israeli territory, there have been repeated confrontations between the Israeli army and Hezbollah

on the Israel-Lebanon border. So far, the fighting has killed 70 Hezbollah fighters, 13 Lebanese civilians, seven Israeli troops and three Israeli civilians, in what is the worst escalation since 2006.

Israel-Hamas Hostage Deal Talks In 'Final Phase' - Qatar

Agencies

Talks on a truce in the Gaza Strip in exchange for the release of hostages taken by Hamas accelerated on Tues-

"The movement [Hamas] has delivered its response to the brothers of Qatar and mediators. We are approaching the conclusion of a truce agreement," Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh said on Tuesday in a brief message sent by his office to AFP.

According to sources within Hamas and Islamic Jihad, the second largest Palestinian militant group, both have accepted an agreement, the details of which are set to be announced by Qatar and other mediators.

The Israeli government did not immediately respond to these statements.

Qatar, Egypt and the United States are working on a deal to free hostages kidnapped in Israel by Hamas in exchange for a truce in the Gaza Strip.

"We have never been closer to an agreement," said Qatari Foreign Ministry spokesperson Majed Al-Ansari on Tuesday, adding that negotiations were in their "final phase".

"We are very optimistic and hopeful," he told reporters at a press briefing in Doha. "We also hope that this mediation will result in a humanitarian

Earlier US National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby said a deal had "never been closer".



But he warned: "There is still work. Nothing is done until everything is done.'

Two sources close to the matter told AFP, a French press agency, on Tuesday that discussions were focused on releasing "50 to 100" hostages in exchange for 300 Palestinian prisoners in Israel, including children and women.

The transfer would take place in stages at the rate of 'ten" Israeli hostages against "thirty" Palestinian prisoners per day and would include the entry of food, medical aid and fuel into Gaza and above all a "renewable five-day humanitarian truce"

But Israel insists on "family reunification" - which means if a civilian was released, their partner would also be, even if they were a soldier. Opposed to the release of Israeli troops, this is something Hamas refuses at the moment, according to the two sources cited by AFP.

Relatives of hostages met Monday evening with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his "war cabinet". under pressure to bring the approximately 240 hostages back to Israel.

"Recovering our hostages is a sacred and supreme task and I am committed to it," declared Netanyahu.

"We will not stop the fighting until we bring our hostages home, destroy Hamas and ensure that there are no more threats from Gaza," he added.

Bringing the hostages home is one objective of the ongoing Israeli operation in the Gaza Strip, which was launched after Hamas' bloody attack on October 7.

The Palestinian movement claims several hostages have been killed in Israeli airstrikes on Gaza. So far, mediation efforts have led to the release of four. The fate of the rest is unknown.

In Israel, 1,200 people, mostly civilians, were killed in Hamas's shock assault, according to the authorities. It was the deadliest episode in Israel's history.

Consulate Expansion, Direct Flights, University Campus: Many Firsts In India-Australia Ties

Agencies

NEW DELHI: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday announced a series of initiatives, underscoring a "real momentum" between India and Australia, which include new consulates on both sides, direct flight connections, advancements in the education field, and many others.

The announcements were made by the EAM while addressing a press briefing on the India-Australia Foreign Ministers' Framework Dialogue. Jaishankar highlighted the key aspects of the burgeoning relationship, saying there was "a real momentum in the India-Australia comprehensive strategic partnership."

Listing the key takeaways of the dialogue, the EAM said, "We saw new Consulates General on both sides, the Australians in Bengaluru, and we are opening ours in Brisbane. More direct flight connections. The opening of the first Australian university campuses in India. An agreement on mutual recognition of educational qualifications. Migration and mobility arrangement."

"Every facet of this relationship is actually on the move today," the EAM added.

EAM Jaishankar met his Australian counterpart, Penny Wong, in the national capital for the Foreign Ministers' Framework Dialogue on Tuesday morning. The two leaders held discussions on advancing the strategic partnership between the two countries.

We have just concluded the 14th Foreign Minister's Framework Dialogue. We had a very discussion...Essentially, on the bilateral side, we took stock of where our ties are. We reviewed the progress made on different initiatives, especially the follow up to the first annual summit which took place between our Prime Ministers this year in May," said S Jaishankar at the briefing.

The External Affairs Minister also reminisced about the recent visits of the Prime Ministers of India and Australia to each other's countries.

"Our Prime Ministers actually exchanged visits this year. Prime Minister Albanese was in India again in September for the G20. And I would like to thank for Wong, for Australia's strong and consistent support given to us in the context of our G20 Presidency," The EAM also

The EAM further went on to detail "many firsts" in India-Australia relations.

"Yesterday, Raksha Mantriji (Rajnath Singh) and I held the 2nd India-Australia 2 2 Foreign and Defence Ministers Dialogue along with Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles and Foreign Minister Penny Wong. It is reflective of the growing and deepening engagement between our two countries. It was a very productive 22. Where India and Australia are concerned, I can say that there have really been many firsts in our relationship," the EAM added.

ED Attaches Assets Worth Rs 751.9 Crore In Money Laundering Probe Against Congress's National Herald



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate Tuesday said it has attached assets worth Rs 751.9 crore as part of its money laundering investigation against the Congress party-promoted Young Indian that owns the

National Herald newspaper. A provisional order has been issued under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) against the newspaper's publisher Associated Journals Ltd. and its holding company Young Indian, the central probe agency said in a statement.

"Investigation revealed that Asociated Journals Ltd. (AJL) is in possession of proceeds of crime in the form of immovable properties spread across many cities of India such as Delhi, Mumbai and Lucknow to the tune of Rs 661.69 crore and Young Indian (YI) is in possession of proceeds of crime to the tune of Rs 90.21 crore in the form of investment in equity shares of AJL," it said in a statement.

The ED had questioned and recorded the statements of Congress' first family Sonia Gandhi, her son Rahul Gandhi and that of president Mallikarjun Kharge in this case.

Yemen Release Dramatic Footage of Israeli Ship Seized in Red Sea **Agencies**

DUBAI: The helicopter-borne Houthi attack on an Israellinked ship in the Red Sea highlights the danger now lurking in one of the world's key shipping routes as the Israel-Hamas war rages, as well as the rebels' tactics mirroring those of its chief sponsor, Iran.

While Tehran has denied aiding the Yemen rebel group in launching their attack Sunday, the targeted ship before the assault passed by an American-sanctioned Iranian cargo vessel suspected as serving as a forward spying base in the Red Sea. The reb els, dressed commando-style in bulletproof vests carrying assault rifles, covered each other and moved in military formation before quickly seizing control of the bridge of the Galaxy Leader.

While their body-camera footage serves as a propaganda coup to bolster their own position in Yemen amid some protests against their rule. it also signals a new maritime front has opened in a region long focused on the Persian Gulf and its narrow mouth at



the Strait of Hormuz. It also puts new pressure on commercial shippers traveling through those waters, threatincrease insurance costs that will get passed onto consumers and likely further stretches the U.S. Navy as it tries to serve as the region's security guarantor.

"This has all the signs these people were trained by a professional military, which could clearly be Iran," an American defense official told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss intelligence matters. "This looks like something we haven't seen

It's not just the U.S. and Isra-

el suspecting Iranian involvement, however.

The risk intelligence firm RANE referred to the tactics employed by the Houthis as reminiscent of those used by Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard when seizing vessels in the past over years of tensions regarding Tehran's collapsed nuclear deal with world powers. Ambrey, a private intelligence firm, similarly referred to the operation as an "Iranian-style vessel seizure" that "provides the Houthis with a negotiation lever" in much the same way Hamas' taking of some 240 hostages in their Oct. 7 attack on Israel did.

New York-Bound Air India Flight Returns To Mumbai **Due To Technical Issue**

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: An Air India plane en route to New York returned to Mumbai on Tuesday morning due to a technical issue, accord-

back safely at the Mumbai air-

interest of the safety of passengers and crew," the airline said in a statement.

Details about the number of passengers could not be immediately ascertained.

Air India said it is making ev-The Boeing 777 aircraft landed ery effort to assist and support passengers of the flight at the



port for precautionary checks. "AI119 from Mumbai to New York (JFK) air-returned due to a minor technical issue and landed safely back at Mumbai for precautionary checks in the

Imran Khan 'Ruined My Happily Married

Mumbai airport.

"They are being offered hotel accommodation, alternative flight options, or rescheduling of dates while refreshments are being served to them," it added.

"I Am Fine Maa, Please Eat On Time": Trapped **Worker's Message From Tunnel**

Agencies

UTTARKASHI, UTTARAKHAND: The workers trapped in the Silkyara tunnel at Uttarkashi received some amount of relief as some of the workers spoke to their relatives for the first time after being stuck in the tunnel for 10 days.

In a major breakthrough in the ongoing Silkyara tunnel collapse rescue team officials successfully developed communication with the trapped workers through the 6-inch pipeline on Tuesday morning.

One of the trapped workers, Jaidev, while speaking to the supervisor at the tunnel collapse site, said in Bangla, "Please record, I will tell something to my maa. Maa, tension koroni aami thik achi. Time a kheye nebe. Babakeo time a kheye nite bolbe (Mother, do not worry about me, I am fine. Please you and father eat your meals on time)."

The supervisor could be heard asking those trapped inside the tunnel to not worry and that they would be evacu-

The supervisor asked the worker whether he wanted to



tell anything to his parents as the voice recording would be relayed to his parents back home.

Some of the other trapped workers also established contact with their relatives, and despite being trapped in the tunnel for 10 days now, they displayed an unexceptional level of patience and courage as they asked their relatives to not worry about them.

Bajrang Dal Meanwhile, (Jammu and Kashmir), during the day, organized Havan Yagya for the safety of the 41 trapped workers.

Earlier, International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association president Arnold Dix who is currently overseeing the ongoing rescue efforts at the Uttarkashi tunnel collapse site said that works were being done to get the 6-inch pipeline fully functional. Arnold Dix said, "The lifeline

6-inch pipeline has been inserted and works are being done to make it fully functional. Works are being done for the auguring of the evacuation tunnel which is being drilled as well. Works are also in progress to create safe places within the tunnel. This is an extremely dangerous environment. We are making it safe for the rescuers there as well. Auguring requires very

precise engineering." He further said that the American augur machines were not working at the moment and it was in preparation.

Earlier today, rescuers managed to insert an endoscopy camera into the tunnel and the first visuals captured showed the 41 workers had ample space inside the tunnel for them to move about.

The rescue team was seen clearly talking to the workers trapped in the tunnel through the pipeline. The rescue team requested the workers to come in front of the endoscopic flexi camera which was inserted through the pipeline. A worker took out the camera from the pipeline and held it inside the confined space so that everyone could be identified.

All the 41 trapped workers assembled near the camera and the rescue team asked them to clean the screen of the camera. The rescue team informed them that the pipeline would be cleaned with water and a blower so they asked them to keep back the camera and get away from the pipeline and the compressor.

Life', Says Bushra Bibi's Ex-Husband **Agencies** ISLAMABAD: The former hus-

band of Bushra Bibi, the third and incumbent wife of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan, has alleged that the latter forcefully ended his 28-year-long marriage. In a TV interview, Khawar

Farid Maneka has leveled serious allegations against Imran Khan, accusing him for manipulating the divorce process to expedite his marriage to Bushra Bibi. Bushra Bibi, who had been

married to Maneka for 28-years and had at least five children, became a "peer" or spiritual healer after becoming part of the Maneka family, well-known for having a religious and spiritual background.

Bushra, aka Pinki Peerni, later was connected to Imran Khan through her sister in Dubai with an intent to heal the former Prime Minister from the depression and trauma he was facing after his divorce with Reham Khan.

Later, the connection between Pinki and Khan led to her separation and divorce with Maneka and marriage to



the latter. "Imran

Khan ruined 28-years-long marriage with Bushra. We were happily married. Imran Khan would come to my house in my absence and sit there for hours with Bushra. They would talk for hours on mobile during the night. All of this was happening without my permission. And whenever I questioned Bushra, she would say that it is a matter related to spiritual healing," said Khawar Maneka.

"One time, I called my servant and asked him of why Bushra's phone is not being received. He told me that Imran Khan is here. So I told him to go in the room while I stayed on the call. I scolded Bushra and Imran Khan and told khan to leave my house. I told my servant to make sure he leaves im-

mediately," he added. Khawar Farid Maneka also revealed that Bushra had left his house at least six months prior to their divorce, relocating to her residence in Pakpattan city

in Puniab.

Till that time, it was a separation and was not a divorce and Maneka had tried to reconcile with Bushra asking her to return home.

"My mother asked me to bring Bushra back home because she had serious doubts over Imran Khan's character," he said.

Talking about his alleged forced divorce, Khawar Farid Maneka said that Bushra's friend Farhat Shahzadi aka Farah Gogi, called him and told him that Bushra is not going to come back home, stressing that he should divorce her.

"After Farah Gogi's call, I went to Bushra and asked her of what is going on. She did not respond to my questions and kept her head down. Farah and some other people to divorce Bushra again called me. On November 14, 2017, I got frustrated and gave a written divorce, sent it to Gogi and told her to give it to Bushra."

Smog Formed Due To Temperature Inversion: PCB Scientist

'Fog, Mist More Common In Mountainous Regions Or Valleys In Winters'

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Temperature inversion is leading to formation of smog in Kashmir in the last few days, PCB scientist said on Tuesday.

PCB scientist Dr Senior Bilquees Ara said that temperature inversion, that is the deviation from typical meteorological phenomenon, leads to the formation of smog.

"The standard rule of meteorology is that air gets cooler with an increase in altitude. But temperature inversions change it. As a result, you will see weather phenomena like fog, smog, mist, and hazy horizons. Generally, it's more common in mountainous regions or valleys or during winter when a cold night breeze from the mountains swoops to the ground," she said.

According to her, temperature inversion usually happens during the night when the ground temperature drops because it's no longer heated by the sun.

"As cold air close to the ground gets trapped by the layer of warm air due to which air becomes stagnant and pollution becomes trapped close to the ground due to which people are exposed to this pollution and this inversion process often leads to the formation of smog," she said.

'Smog is the formation of smoke, fog and sulphur dioxide which is emitted by different sources," she said, adding that sulphur dioxide is a pollutant and sulphates are detrimental to human health besides damaging plantations and creating other problems.

Dr Bilquees said photochemical smog is a type of smog produced when UV light originating from the sun interacts with the oxides of nitrogen present in the atmosphere and it also contains aldehydes, nitric acid and various poisonous substances that also harm human health.

"The government has fixed responsibilities to various departments to control Pollution level who have been working on it and there comes responsibility on the public to contribute to decreasing pollution as well," she said.

The main sources of pollutions, she said are vehicles, open burning of biomass, plastic waste, horticulture waste, municipal solid waste, fossil fuel burning resulting in emitting out of poisonous gases in atmosphere be it like carbon monoxide, methane, sulphur dioxide, oxides of nitrogen, aromatic hydrocarbons etc

She said PCB has been given responsibility of controlling industrial pollution and that is being done as it is being ensured that industries are working under proper norms and guidelines issued by central pollution board.

"Industries are being regularly monitored and proper vigil is being kept to check emission norms besides that online monitoring systems have been installed on cement plants that shows real time data whether emission is under control or not," she added.

Don't De-Club The Clubbed Schools On Your Own, CEOs Told

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Authorities on Tuesday asked Chief Education Officers of (CEOs) of Jammu and Kashmir not to de-club the clubbed schools by their own.

Project Director, Samagra Shiksha J&K, Deep Raj in a communique said this while issuing the instructions for de-clubbing the clubbed institutions in the respective districts of the CEOs as per the feasibility and norms governing the field.

"It is to mention here that the Chief Education officers of some of the districts of UT have grant them permission for declubbing the clubbed institutions shown in UDISE+ 2023-24 in their respective area of their jurisdictions," Raj said.

The Project Director also said that the clubbing of the schools has been done as per the lists furnished by their offices after seeking necessary approval from the Administrative Department.

"All the Chief Education Officers are therefore enjoined upon not to make any de-clubbing of the clubbed schools at their own level which may invite action against such defaulting officers," it reads.

The communique however said that in any such request of extreme exigency with full justification and background thereof may kindly be routed through Director School Education Jammu and Kashmir, so, that same is placed before Administrative Department for a decision on the matter as per merit of the case.

In the previous year, the School Education Department has said that it will merge nearly 800 government schools with low student enrollment.

It has also said that the merging of such schools is to be done in the backdrop of the disproportionate Teacher Pupil Ratio (TPR).

The government had also said that the students of those schools that will be merged and will fall out of the catchment area would be given transportation charges of Rs 500 each month.

Pertinently, the School Education Department in the previous fiscal has said that it had identified more than 1200 such government schools that were having low enrollment of stu-

Kashmir's Power Crisis Surges **Demand For Solar Panels, Inverters**

SRINAGAR: The demand for solar panels and inverters has significantly increased in Kashmir Vallev amidst the ongoing electricity crisis, much to the discomfort of

the people Kashmir, for more than a month, is witnessing a severe power crisis, which has hit both domestic as well as commercial consumers. As such the demand for alternative sources, which include solar panel-driven inverters, has shot up by more than 40 percent.

Imtiyaz Ahmad Khan, a dealer of inverters and solar panel brands, said that the demand for these alternative power sources has gone up for the last two

"This year power crisis has escalated, which has forced people to buy and use alternative sources of electricity. We have witnessed a good demand for the last two months and on an average daily we sell more than 60 solar paneldriven invertors" he said.

Khan said that various types of solar panels are available in the market, which help people to get a smooth flow of electricity during peak hours.

There are monocrystalline so-

lar panels available in the market. which use solar energy even during cloudy or foggy weather. The demand for this particular solar panel is very much," he said.

Another deal Basharat Ahmad Sofi said other solar energydriven equipment including solar water heaters and cookers are in good demand in Kashmir.

"Solar lanterns, heaters and cookers also sell in good numbers. Winter in Kashmir is extreme and solar energy-driven equipment is best suited when there are no or fewer hours of electricity," he said.

Earlier this year, the government announced 65 percent government subsidy on rooftop solar panels and 80 percent subsidy on solar-powered pumps.

Officials at the Jammu and Kashmir Energy Development Agency said they have installed 8.5 MW rooftop solar power plants so far.

"A solar rooftop generates 25-30 units of energy daily. So, we have been promoting the installation and use of solar rooftop in Jammu and Kashmir because we have an immense potential to tap this source of energy," said Muzaffar Ahmad Malik Deputy Chief Executive Office JAKEDA—(KNO)



A WOMAN COVERS HER school going child with a shawl on a cold and foggy Tuesday morning in Srinagar, where night temperature was recorded minus 1.2 Deg Celsius..

Decks Cleared For Expansion Of Jammu Airport

Land Issues Resolved, Div Com Directs Airport Authority To Initiate Work

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Marking a significant breakthrough, all land issues pertaining to the expansion of Jammu Airport have been successfully resolved.

Divisional Commissioner, Ramesh Kumar, chaired a meeting o Tuesday, directing the Airport Authority Jammu to initiate the long-awaited project.

During the meeting, it was revealed that the majority of the required land has already been provided to the Airport Authority. Land with few structures of Animal Husbandry at Belicharna was pending. The Director of Animal Husbandry reported that the remaining structures on the pending land are now vacant, paving the way for the smooth execution of work.

To ensure a seamless execution of the prestigious project, the Divisional Commissioner instructed the Director of Animal Husbandry to formally



hand over the remaining land to the Airport Authority.

The meeting was attended Deputy Commissioner Jammu Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Director Animal Husbandry Shubhra Sharma and Director Airport S K Garg and other concerned officers

Earlier, the Divisional Commissioner chaired a meeting Deputy Commissioners through video conferencing to review the stamp duty rates

revision.

He directed Deputy Commissioners to hold meetings of District Level Committees and send proposals to Divisional level committee for finalization of revised stamp duty rates of immovable property.

VC JDA, DC Stamps, Director Agriculture, Chief Engineer Irrigation besides officers of Forest, Revenue and other concerned officers attended the

Bridge Built 4 Yrs Ago Remains Inaccessible To Border Residents In Arnia

Press Trust Of India

o connect a population of ten thousand residing in the border belt of Jammu district's Arnia sector is yet to get an approach road, turning the initiative futile.

The villagers also held a pro-

test over the issue. The work on the prestressed concrete bridge over Aik Nallah at Sai-Phagla close to the International Border (IB) was completed four years ago, but remains inaccessible for the residents owing to the lack of an approach road.

ARNIA: Built four years ago, a had demanded for the bridge. over a decade that we don't 250-metre-long prestressed Bridge was completed but have connectivity to our the approach road connection is not there. What is fun about the construction of this bridge?" Surinder Singh, a border resident, said.

He said that during recent Pakistani firing, men, women and children had to cross the river in absence of the approach road. "We urged the government to ensure road connectivity to this bridge so that it becomes useful to the passage of border residents,"

Another Sai villager, Ra-

"We live on Zero-line of the mesh Lal said that they have International Border (IB). We been facing a problem for border villages. the bridge after repeated requests to MP and others but failed to provide an approach road to connect with the bridge", he said.

government should The build 500 metres from the left side of the bridge and a similar approach road on the right side for connecting four border villages, they said.

"We demand road connectivity to the area. Lieutenant governor should address our issue," a villager said.



Jambu Zoo Roars To Life With Arrival Of Lions, Tigers

CS Advocates For Enhanced Visitor Experience, Conservation & Awareness Among People

Observer News Service

JAMMU: In a momentous event, Chief Secretary Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta paid a visit to Jambu Zoo Nagrota on Tuesday, witnessing the grand arrival of majestic big cats.

The zoo proudly welcomed Tiger and Tigress from Chennai, Tamil Nadu and Lion and Lioness from Gujarat, which would add a new dimension to diverse wildlife population.

During his comprehensive tour of the facility, Dr Mehta actively inquired about the care and facilities provided for the animals, underlining the importance of ensuring their well-being. Expressing optimism, he stated, "I hope that Jambu Zoo will soon be recognized among the best zoos in the country.'

Jammu, experiencing significant on-ground changes and rapid development, sees Jambu Zoo as a key attraction, Dr Mehta said.

He, while assessing the situation, identified the opportunity to boost visitor numbers. He emphasized the need to increase awareness among school children and nature enthusiasts about the unique features and behavior of the zoo's diverse inhabitants.

The Chief Secretary said that Jambu Zoo looks forward to a future where it not only will stand as a symbol of wildlife conservation but also captivate the hearts of visitors through its uniqueness.

Dr. Mehta highlighted the distinct features and prime location of the zoo. The visitors coming to the Jammu city and Katra will play a pivotal role in increasing footfall.

During his visit, he was accompanied by Principal Secretary Forest, Ecology and Environment, Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Chief Wild Life Warden, Zoo Manager, and other relevant departmental officers.

WORLD HERITAGE WEEK

Exhibitions On Rare Manuscripts, Artifacts Held In Jammu



Observer News Service

JAMMU: The World Heritage Week is being observed globally from 19th to 25th November every year. The event marks the celebration and spread of awareness about Art, Culture and Heritage of a place. The Department of Archives, Archaeology & Museums which is the vanguard of Art and Culture of Dogra Pride is also celebrating the World Heritage Week with vigour and enthusiasm.

To mark the occasion, a special exhibition on rare Manuscripts, Royal Albums and Historical Records has been organized in Archives Repository, Jammu. Similarly, an exhibition of Ar-

tefacts, Manuscripts, Paintings, and Numismatics etc has also been organized in Dogra Art Museum, Jammu.

A number of students from schools and colleges of Jammu have been invited to come to the Department for familiarization and awareness about Dogra Art and Culture. A number of

schools have visited the Museum where they show keen interest in Manuscripts, Royal Albums and Historical Record, objects and artefacts put on display. The children of various schools were taken for a guided tour of different galleries of the Museum and Archives Repository where they were made aware of history and significance of various Art objects by well-trained guides. The event is being closely monitored and supervised by Dr. Sangeeta Sharma, Assistant Director Archives, Archaeology and Museum, Jammu & Sh. Mukul Magotra Curator, Dogra Art Museum, Jammu.

Pardeep Kumar, Director Archives, Archaeology and Museum, J&K is very keen and particular about spreading the awareness of Art and Culture to every nook and corner of the UT of I&K. To give fillip to this objective, instructions have been imparted from the Director to make the event a grand success by inviting more and more people and institutions for the occasion so that a comprehensive awareness about Art and Culture is generated.

DIPR Participates In 54th IFFI, 17th NFDC Film Bazaar At Goa

Showcases Main Facets Of J&K Film Policy At The Event

Observer News Service

GOA: Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), J&K is participating in prestigious 54th Annual International Film Festival India (IFFI) and 17th edition of NFDC Film Bazaar being held at Goa from November 20th to 28.

The festival is being attended by international film stakeholders from multiple countries like Russia, Canada, UK, South Africa, among others. Jammu & Kashmir, Maharashtra, MP, Gujrat, Bihar, Uttrakhand, and Chhattisgarh are also participating in this grand event.

On the second day of the event, DIPR team led by Nodal Officer, I&K Film Policy, actively participated in 17th edition of NFDC Film Bazaar, an essential marketplace for film professionals, creating opportunities for collaboration and distribution. The team actively engaged with reputed international filmmakers from countries like United Kingdom, Russia, South Korea and others as well as the renowned



stall of Film Bazaar providing a space for networking and the exploration of new cinematic ventures across Jammu and Kashmir.

The DIPR team during the interaction highlighted the main facets of J&K Film Policy with the visitors and addressed their queries diligently.

Jammu and Kashmir is one of the focus film destinations with 23rd November being focus day for J&K. The DIPR will be pitching the new J&K Film Policy and film Tourism destinations on this day and the

activities will include panel discussions, presentations and screening of videos about the film policy and films being shot in J&K.

The team is represented by Joint Director, DIPR, Vivek Puri; Nodal Officer, J&K, Film Policy, Afaq Gadda; AO, DIPR, Hitesh Choudhary, Tourist Officer, Hyderabad, Mohammad Sajid Kirmaniand Film Librarian, Abid Hussain.

Pertinently, the multi-venue festival is being hosted by Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and was inaugurated by Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Anuragh Thakur. The festival features film makers and artists from across countries and abroad.

Div Com Jammu Reviews Annual Jhiri Mela Arrangements

Observer News Service

IAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar today chaired a meeting to review the arrangements being put in place by different departments for annual Ihiri Mela 2023.

The arrangements discussed in the meeting mainly included sanitation, uninterrupted electricity, ensuring of regular and safe drinking water, security arrangements, adequate stocks of ration, provision of health facilities, mobile toilets, accommodation for the devotees, deployment of fire tenders at the venue.

Shakti Department was asked to ensure uninterrupted water supply with provision for additional water tanks at Langer sites.

The Div Com also directed the line departments to install their departmental stalls to disseminate awareness about Government schemes especially among the farmers.

Inquiring about the cultural programmes, the Div Com directed Secretary JKAACL and Director Tourism to make all necessary arrangements for the same.

The Div Com also reviewed in detail traffic arrangement and instructed concerned officers



maintaining cleanliness and hygiene in and around the vicinity during Jhiri Mela and directed the concerned departments to place dustbins in and around the temple.

The R&B department was asked to complete the blacktopping and up-gradation work of approach roads to Jhiri well before commencing of the Mela. Jal

The Div Com emphasized on to formulate a traffic management plan well before the Mela for smooth flow of traffic.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Jammu Sachin Kumar Vaishya; Director Tourism, Vivekanand Rai: SSP Jammu, SSP Traffic besides HoDs of RDD, Jal Shakti, and senior officers of PWD, Health, JPDCL, SDM Marh.

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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Surge In Tourism

ike last year, tourism in Jammu and Kashmir has continued to flourish this year. According to the government data, there has been a massive 350% increase in foreign tourists following the G20 meeting held earlier this year. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha earlier revealed that 1.70 crore tourists visited the union territory by September this year. This speaks volumes about the turnaround in the situation. This follows last year's record-breaking 1.88 crore tourist footfall. This also means that the number of tourist arrivals this year will go past the previous year by far.

The G20 meeting hosted in Srinagar, particularly the third tourism working group meeting, seems to have acted as a catalyst, increasing foreign tourist interest in the region. The growing tourism has gone a long way to shore up the Kashmir economy and bring back employment lost to the successive security and Covid-19 lockdown in recent years. The boom in tourism, which forms 6.8 percent of Kashmir's GDP and employs over two million people, is also having a positive spillover effect on other sectors.

As we head deeper into winter, the tourist inflow is only going to further increase. The Valley's upper reaches have already received snowfall. Affarwat in Gulmarg and Pir Panjal range of mountains have been draped in white blanket of snow for some time now. Snowfall in the Valley has traditionally been a great attraction for the people in mainland India, since it is a novelty for most of them.

That said, the UT administration has done everything to bring more tourists to the region over the last two years. Once the successive Covid lockdowns were over, the administration did everything to facilitate tourism. And ever since, there has been a steady increase in the flow of visitors to the Valley. The government this year earmarked another 75 tourist destinations to enhance religious tourism in the region. The tourism department has actively participated in International Trade Marts to engage international tourists. The homestay facilities have attracted tourists to far-off areas once considered a no-go zone due to security concerns. The facility was introduced by the government last year, and it has boosted border and rural tourism.

The thriving tourism has brought back jobs lost during the pandemic. Going forward, the situation looks optimistic on this front. With peace holding, tourism can once again emerge as the mainstay of the local economy.

OTHER OPINON

End of a dream run: On the World Cup final

wo decades apart, India again ran into Australia in a World Cup final and the result was the same. In the 2003 edition's climax at Johannesburg, Ricky Ponting's men were an overwhelming opposition. The latest summit clash at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium proved no different as Pat Cummins and his men remained equally indomitable. In both championships, the force seemed to be with India until the final hurdle. Sourav Ganguly then, Rohit Sharma now, are the anguished captains. The Men in Blue were in terrific form all through this World Cup, the batters and bowlers had this aura of invincibility, 10 matches were won on the trot and even Australia was vanquished in the early part of the campaign. To defeat all rivals in a roundrobin league phase reflected India's consistency but as Australia showed yet again, finals of multi-team ICC events throw up unique challenges. The men from Down Under have now won six World Cups and Cummins, their current skipper, has grown in stature. Sunday's final on a sluggish pitch with dry spots affected India's free-flowing batters. Even if Rohit, Virat Kohli and K.L. Rahul scored, the others found their timings going awry. A total of 240 was not enough to test the Australians later at night especially with the dew kicking in.

Reducing Australia to 47 for three, India had a window of opportunity but Travis Head shut that door, with one of the finest tons in the history of World Cup finals. The southpaw's 137 will be spoken about for long. But perhaps the game's turning point was when he took a diving catch to end Rohit's belligerent knock: India froze. Australia's great win leaned heavily on its incredible fielding. When Allan Border lifted the World Cup at Kolkata's Eden Gardens in 1987, it signalled a new phase of Australian dominance. With Cummins doing the same, it just reiterated his nation's leading position in cricket. Meanwhile, Kohli found no consolation in winning the Player of the Tournament award and coach Rahul Dravid spoke about emotions running high in the Indian dressing room. Playing that 2003 final, and having now observed how his wards ran into the Aussies all over again, Dravid was full of empathy. This World Cup could be the last for a golden generation of Indian stars as Rohit, Kohli, Ravindra Jadeja, R. Ashwin and a few others are unlikely to be around for the 2027 edition at South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia. India's ICC title drought since 2013 continues but there was no shame in the latest defeat as the better team won.

The Hindu

The Notes of Woe

The Shame Due to Childhood Sexual Abuse

Aamina Hamid

ne increasing trend in registered POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) cases in Jammu and Kashmir, as reported by the NCRB (National Crime Records Bureau), is both sad and alarming. The numbers have risen significantly over the years, with 32 cases in 2018, 109 in 2019, 200 in 2020, and a concerning 295 cases in 2021. This trend highlights the urgent need for measures to protect children from sexual offences and to address the underlying issues contributing to this rise

As survivors come forth with their stories, we realise how Childhood Sexual Abuse (CSA) is a profound mental health challenge that continues to haunt them throughout their lives, manifesting in various forms. CSA has been linked to numerous mental health issues, including higher levels of depression, guilt, shame, self-blame, eating disorders, somatic concerns, anxiety, dissociative patterns, repression, denial, sexual problems, and relationship problems. Among these, depression stands out as one of the most prevalent long-term symptoms experienced by survivors. There has been a significant surge in psychiatric morbidity, particularly depression, with a prevalence rate of 55.72%. The highest prevalence is observed in the 15 to 25 years age group at 66.67%, followed closely by the 26 to 35 years age group at 65.33%

Depression in CSA survivors od Kashmir often presents as persistent feelings of sadness, frequent thoughts of suicide, disrupted sleep patterns, and disordered eating habits. Feelings of guilt, shame, and selfreproach which are common among them are really difficult to deal with. They tend to place blame on themselves for the abuse they endured. This self-blame can be particularly challenging to overcome, especially when the perpetrator is a trusted adult figure.

Mental well-being can be affected by displacement due to armed conflict, family stress, and economic hardship, with many people in Kashmir experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder. The situation in Kashmir can be summarized as a "low-intensity conflict," marked by a cycle of events involving torture, disappearances, displacement, killings, and ballistic trauma, alongside a prevailing state of emotional distress characterized by grief, insecurity, oppression, poverty, and uncertainties in career and relationships. The stress experienced by parents in these tumultuous situations can sometimes lead to child abuse in various forms, as noted by Dar and Deb (2020a, 2020b). A pioneering study conducted in Kashmir, the first of its kind in the region, examines the prevalence of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) at the community level, based on young adults' childhood experiences across all ten Kashmir districts. On average, young adults reported 4.72 adverse events during childhood (5.28 for males and 3.56 for females) in Kashmir. The study by Dar and Deb found that 19.5 % of the respondents experienced sexual abuse. These results could be because of high social contact in males compared to females. For instance, males tend to socialize more with peers from an early age, making them more susceptible to contact sexual abuse compared to females, who typically stay within their homes. Additionally, females often choose to keep instances of abuse, especially sexual abuse, hidden, as it can tarnish their reputation and hinder their prospects of marriage in the future. The lower disclosure rate of sexual abuse in females may be due to the taboo and honour of females in Kashmiri societies, where the expression of such experiences is considered immoral. There is a hush-hush culture in Kashmir regarding sex and even more so, sexual abuse. Due to this, the figures we get to see on paper are just the tip of the iceberg.

Sexually abused Kashmiri women may face an elevated risk of experiencing loneliness and are less inclined to seek assistance from their

social support networks, aligning with reports that suggest survivors of sexual abuse often withdraw from social interactions. Through an inquisitive enquiry and research into the accounts of survivors, we have been able to see that the survivors of CSA often face significant hurdles in forming and maintaining interpersonal relationships. Due to this, many victims are unable to stay in healthy marriages or even get married in the first place. The psychological, as well as the physio-sexual implications of CSA trauma can be seen as one of the main reasons for the increasing divorce rate in Kashmir. Successful marital relationships hinge on proficient communication and conflict resolution abilities. Regrettably, the absence of these competencies significantly contributes to the deterioration of relationships within the Kashmiri context. The incapacity to articulate one's needs, persistent unresolved disputes, and an overall breakdown in communication channels progressively erode the fundamental pillars of trust and comprehension,

Was It Me?

These factors collectively erode their self-worth and can even push them toward self-destructive or suicidal tendencies. In my understanding, it's very crucial to recognize the nuanced differences between shame and guilt. Guilt typically emerges when we violate our values or behaviours, leading us to feel remorseful about something we've done or failed to do. On the other hand, shame goes deeper, making us feel inherently bad about who we are. Guilt-prone individuals often fear punishment for their actions, while those grappling with shame tend to fear abandonment. Individuals bound by shame tend to internalize it, resulting in a cycle of constant self-criticism, self-blame, and heightened sensitivity to criticism from others.After experiencing childhood abuse, survivors often grapple with trauma-bound shame. This form of shame can hinder healing and recovery, keeping them frozen and unable to forgive themselves or acknowledge their role in the abuse.

with their experiences. It's about consciously being aware and simply observing the current experiences without attempting to change or control them. It fosters a less reactive relationship with our inner experiences. Importantly, acceptance in this context isn't synonymous with resignation or powerlessness; rather, it's a deliberate choice to embrace our sensations, feelings, and thoughts as they are. This practice of acceptance opens the door to natural change, without trying to manipulate or evade our experiences and helps survivors steer clear of becoming ensnared in hopes, fears, or regrets about what's already transpired or what lies ahead. When combined, mindfulness and self-compassion can be transformative, altering the relationship with the painful thoughts and emotions stemming from abuse. Instead of fighting or evading these feelings, survivors can courageously "lean in" to them with open eyes and a compassionate heart. This approach can help us confront these emotions and reshape our connection with them, ultimately fostering healing and growth.

In Kashmir, cultural aspects likely contribute to the positive association between social support and mental health. Additionally, participants with hopefulness showed better mental health, suggesting it helps them cope with stress and pursue personal growth. This positivity in Kashmiri youth may stem from personal resources and a community environment that encourages optimism.

To improve the mental health of Kashmiri youth exposed to childhood and conflict trauma, enhancing social support and nurturing hope are crucial. Community and institution-based programs can bolster protective factors and reduce the impact of risk factors in this challenging environment. ACEs and conflict exposure were identified as mental health risk factors, while social support and hope emerged as protective factors, highlighting the importance of these elements in mental health promotion and disorder prevention. Mental health professionals can use this knowledge to provide resources, knowledge, and skills to promote mental well-being among Kashmiri youth.

Survivors of all kinds of abuse, including CSA can cope better through unapologetic self-expression like that achieved from writing poems, whether figurative(indirect) or literal (direct) about the otherwise hushed experiences. Even reading poems that feel relatable and representaive of the clusters of negative feelings that come with CSA, can be helpful as victims won't feel different isolated. The use of poetry in the treatment of sexually abused children has gained attention in literature lately. Research by Mazza, Magaz, and Scaturro (1987) suggests that poetry can be a valuable tool in both individual and group therapy for abused children. Their findings indicate that using poetry in therapy shows promise as an ego-supportive technique that enables self-expression and promotes feelings of validation and control. In group therapy settings, poetry can contribute to cohesion among participants, create a sense of universality in their experiences, and facilitate self-expression. Poetry serves as a unique window into the world of the abused child, allowing therapists to track their recovery progress. Moreover, it empowers abused children to find their voice, transforming their world and enabling them to express their experiences in a meaningful way through their poetry. This creative outlet allows children to describe certain aspects of child abuse and neglect, providing a means of catharsis and healing.

A poem titled 'Memories' by Brynn Rose gives us an inside view into the existence of a CSA victim, striving to become a survivor. The path is strewn with obstacles but there is so much hope and will to expend, for us all to keep walking with our heads held high.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer



Regrettably, the absence of these competencies significantly contributes to the deterioration of relationships within the Kashmiri context. The incapacity to articulate one's needs, persistent unresolved disputes, and an overall breakdown in communication channels progressively erode the fundamental pillars of trust and comprehension, thereby rendering reconciliation a formidable challenge. The symptoms associated with CSA, such as trust issues, fear of intimacy, concerns about being perceived as different or abnormal, and difficulties in establishing personal boundaries, can hinder the development of healthy connections The trauma thus, finds its way into the personal lives of CSA victims, and their happiness, without any of it being their fault

thereby rendering reconciliation a formidable challenge. The symptoms associated with CSA, such as trust issues, fear of intimacy, concerns about being perceived as different or abnormal, and difficulties in establishing personal boundaries, can hinder the development of healthy connections The trauma thus, finds its way into the personal lives of CSA victims, and their happiness, without any of it being their fault. It's actually disturbing to see the obvious significant connection between CSA in women and subsequent victimization in adulthood. Kashmiri women encounter heightened challenges in coping and dealing with CSA due to the complex sociocultural dynamics of the region, which often stigmatize survivors and inhibit open discourse about such sensitive issues. The limited access to mental health resources and support exacerbates their difficulties in seeking help and recovery. To make it even more difficult, the protracted conflict in Kashmir further compounds these challenges by contributing to an environment of heightened stress and insecurity.

The emotional struggle is compounded by feelings of humiliation, powerlessness, shame, self-blame and guilt, often leading to cruelty, violence, destructive relationships, and addiction. A study done on CSA indicates that it is significantly associated with mood, substance use, and anxiety disorders in both genders. CSAwas linked to a heightened likelihood of becoming a heavy polysubstance user among girls, even after accounting for various factors like age, race/ethnicity, parental substance use, peer influence, psychopathology, and other forms of childhood maltreatment, including physical abuse and neglect. These findings underscore the elevated risk of multiple-substance use in adolescence for female CSA survivors engaged with public service systems.

Unfortunately, this shame complicates the psychological and spiritual healing process, alters their relationship with a higher power, and may deter them from seeking help due to the fear of exposure. Overcoming the debilitating grip of shame is pivotal in healing from childhood abuse. It can provide the necessary motivation, strength, and energy needed to confront other challenges along the path to recovery.

All is Not Lost

Shame, like a poison, has an antidote—compassion. Compassion is the remedy for shame, as all abuse is seen as a failure of compassion for oneself and others. It enables a survivor to understand their past behaviour and forgive themselves for any negative actions stemming from the abuse, whether it be substance abuse, self-harm, harming others, or breaking the law. When liberated from shame, the world becomes clearer. Instead of feeling isolated and inferior, survivors feel connected and equal as life seems to embrace them. The essence of self-compassion lies in treating ourselves with the same love, kindness, and support that we would expect from the most compassionate person in our lives. This approach to self-compassion has been extensively studied, revealing its positive impact on resilience. It can reduce post-traumatic symptoms such as self-criticism, depression, thought suppression, anxiety, and rumination. Self-compassion provides the vital nurturance, understanding, and validation necessary for victims to feel deserving of care. Without it, individuals tend to subject themselves to harsh self-judgment and acknowledging the pain of past abuse becomes even more challenging, hindering the healing process.

Another powerful tool for healing is mindfulness, which encourages individuals to grieve and cope

NEP's Multidisciplinary Approach to Education

Rajkumar Singh

Multidisciplinary education is an academic approach that integrates content and teaching methods from multiple disciplines or fields of study. In a multidisciplinary education program, students are exposed to knowledge, perspectives, and methodologies from various subject areas rather than focusing on a single discipline. The key features of multidisciplinary education include:

a. Integration of Disciplines: Multidisciplinary programs bring together knowledge from different academic disciplines to provide a more comprehensive understanding of a topic or problem.

b. Interconnected Learning: Students engage with diverse perspectives and methodologies, fostering a more holistic and interconnected view of the subject matter.

c. Collaborative Learning: Multidisciplinary education often encourages collaboration among students and faculty from different disciplines. This collaborative environment promotes the exchange of ideas and the development of a broader skill set.

d. Real-world Problem Solving: By drawing on insights from various disciplines, multidisciplinary education aims to equip students with the skills to tackle complex, real-world problems that may require a multifaceted approach.

e. Flexibility: Multidisciplinary programs are often flexible, allowing students to tailor their education to their interests and career goals by selecting courses from different disciplines.

Examples of multidisciplinary fields of study include environmental science, bioinformatics, and neuroscience, where knowledge from biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, and other disciplines are integrated to address complex issues. This approach is contrasted with interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary education. In interdisciplinary education, different disciplines are brought together, but they may retain their distinct methodologies and perspectives. Transdisciplinary education goes a step further by creating a unified framework that transcends traditional disciplinary boundaries.

Aims and objects

The aims and objectives of multidisciplinary education encompass a broad range of goals designed to provide students with a comprehensive and well-rounded learning experience. Its key aims and objectives include:

a. Problem-Solving Skills: To cultivate effective problem-solving skills by exposing students to diverse approaches and methods, preparing them to tackle real-world



challenges that often require multifaceted

b. Communication and Collaboration: To enhance communication and collaboration skills by providing opportunities for students to work in multidisciplinary teams, fostering effective interaction with individuals from various backgrounds. c. Personalized Learning Paths: To offer students the flexibility to tailor their education to their individual interests and career goals, allowing for a more personalized and meaningful learning experience.

d. Innovation and Creativity: To stimulate innovation and creativity by exposing students to a diversity of ideas and perspectives, encouraging them to think creatively and contribute to advancements in their chosen fields. d. Preparation for Emerging Fields: To prepare students for careers in emerging and interdisciplinary fields where a combination of knowledge and skills from different disciplines is increasingly valuable.

e. Global Perspectives: To develop a global perspective by integrating cultural, social, and economic considerations from various parts of the world, fostering an understanding of the interconnectedness of global is-

f. Ethical Awareness: To promote ethical awareness and responsible decision-making by considering the ethical implications of knowledge and actions from different disciplinary perspectives.

Benefits of multidisciplinary education

Multidisciplinary education offers several benefits to students, educators, and the broader academic community:

a. Communication and Collaboration: Students in multidisciplinary programs often work in teams with individuals from various backgrounds. This fosters effective communication and collaboration skills, preparing them for a professional environment where interdisciplinary teamwork is common.

b. Interdisciplinary Thinking: Exposure to diverse disciplines encourages interdisciplinary thinking, enabling students to bridge gaps between fields and apply insights from one area to another. This skill is valuable in addressing complex, multifaceted issues.

c. Preparation for Emerging Fields: Many contemporary challenges and emerging fields require a combination of knowledge from different disciplines. Multidisciplinary education equips students with the interdisciplinary skills needed in fields such as data science, environmental sustainability, and biotechnology.

d. Increased Engagement: Learning experiences that integrate multiple perspectives and methodologies can enhance student engagement. The variety and richness of multidisciplinary content can make the educational experience more interesting and relevant to students.

e. Personalized Learning Paths: Multidisciplinary programs often offer flexibility, allowing students to tailor their education to their interests and career goals. This personalized approach can lead to greater satisfaction and motivation.

f. Innovation and Creativity: Exposure to diverse disciplines fosters a culture of innovation and creativity. By bringing together ideas from different fields, students may be more likely to generate novel solutions and contribute to advancements in various areas. In conclusion, multidisciplinary education provides a well-rounded learning experience that prepares students for the complexities of the modern world and en-

courages them to become adaptable, critical thinkers and problem solvers.

Multidisciplinary education and NEP-2020

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in India is a comprehensive document that outlines the vision and goals for the country's education system. It emphasizes several principles, including flexibility, multidisciplinary, and a holistic approach to learning. Regarding multidisciplinary education, the NEP 2020 encourages a shift away from rigid subject boundaries and promotes a more flexible and integrated approach to learning. Some key points related to multidisciplinary in the NEP 2020 include:

a. Multidisciplinary Education: The policy advocates for multidisciplinary education at both the school and higher education levels. It encourages the integration of subjects and the adoption of a more holistic and well-rounded curriculum.

b. Flexible Undergraduate Education: The NEP 2020 proposes a flexible undergraduate education structure, allowing students to choose a major and minor from different academic domains. This flexibility is intended to promote a multidisciplinary approach to higher education.

c. Interdisciplinary Research: The policy emphasizes the importance of promoting interdisciplinary research and collaboration across disciplines to address complex challenges and contribute to knowledge creation.

d. Vocational Education: The NEP 2020 recognizes the importance of integrating vocational education into mainstream education. This includes providing students with opportunities to acquire skills from various disciplines, enhancing their employability in diverse fields.

e. Critical Thinking and Inquiry-Based Learning: The policy emphasizes the development of critical thinking and analytical skills, encouraging an inquiry-based approach to learning. This aligns with the multidisciplinary approach, as students learn to analyse problems from various perspectives. It's important to implement strategies related to multidisciplinary education in India. The successful implementation of the NEP 2020 depends on various factors, including the commitment of educational institutions, the training of teachers, and the allocation of resources.

Dr. Rajkumar Singh is a Youth Motivator, presently Professor of Political Science along with Dean, Student's Welfare (DSW), at B.N. Mandal University, Madhepura (Bihar), India. His 25 books published in addition to about 1000 articles in national and international journals and daily newspapers from 25 foreign countries

Anxiety and the Enduring Self

Samir Chopra

In my last post, I had promised to "examine how our fundamental conceptions of ourselves—our granting to ourselves the possession of an enduring self—contribute to our anxiety." The time has come to make good on that promise.

The first, and indeed, the primary, concept to unpack above is that of an "enduring self." What are we speaking of here? It is what we refer to when we point to a photograph of a smiling child and say something like, "Wow, I used to be such a cute kid." The "I " being referred to here is the enduring self. Something has endured in the passage of time; it has remained identical with itself. Even though, as we would acknowledge, everything else has changed.

After all, while we do resemble that child in some ways, we have changed in shape, in form, in physical constitution, and in psychological disposition. We don't look, act, or behave like that smiling child; we aren't even made up of the same stuff. But these, according to our ways and manner of speaking, are attributes or properties of some underlying unity or identity: the "I," the "self," the "ego," or the "soul."

Something bears these external attributes; while these attributes may change, the underlying self does not. It remains the same; it endures through time and maintains its identity as the entity to which these attributes may be assigned. Our manner of speaking reflects our commitment to the existence of this entity. After all, I did refer to myself above in the opening sentence of this post, did I not? And you, the reader, are you not similarly committed?

Are you and I not committed to the



existence of this entity when we speak of our fortunes, our fame, our losses, our pains, our possessions, and, ultimately, our birth, growth, illness, and death? And so are our social and political systems, our systems of morals, our notions of responsibility and guilt. Our notions of personal identity and responsibility are dependent on the coherence of this concept: a young, slender, beardless man commits a heinous crime at the tender age of 19; 65 years later, we track down an old, grizzled, feeble man confined to a nursing home in a distant land and bring "him," the "person who committed that crime more than six decades ago," to justice.

Everything, as in my example above, has changed. But it is the same person, the same self, so we act and dispense justice accordingly. (Even though, naggingly, we find little to connect the personalities of the younger and older versions of this person.) In acting thus, we

claim to have solved the problem of the reidentification of persons—what makes this person at time t1 the same person at time t2?—by deploying the notion of a self that endures through time.

It should be immediately apparent that our commitment to this notion of the enduring self brings anxiety in its wake. When I am anxious, I am anxious about my fortunes, my mistakes, my loss of love, my regrets, and my guilt, whether in the past or the future. As I note in my forthcoming book on anxiety:

We are anxious because we are worried about the fate of a particular thing or object, our self, the precious "I" (the one to whom our body belongs when we say "my body"). It is this self's losses, its misfortunes, its apprehension of the nothingness that ensues after death that causes our anxiety; it is this self's fortunes, its gains and fame, that we seek and strive for.

Glibly, if there was no such self, why would we worry about our futures? They will happen to someone or rather something else!

Anxiety is future-directed; as Kierkegaard (with whom we will spend some time in future posts) memorably claimed, "Anxiety is the next day." But we can only be worried or anxious about our future fortunes if, at some fundamental level, we believe they will happen to us, the same self as we are today. Realizing this was a key component of the Buddha's eventual journey to enlightenment; he considered it to be among the most important of the lessons he sought to impart. It was an illusion, an enduring and persistent one (as my language in this post and its title shows), but one we had to free ourselves from if we were to break loose of the suffering that was otherwise our inevitable lot during this short existence.

How could we do so? By following the

Eight-Fold Path that the Buddha taught, which includes practices geared toward improving our conduct toward ourselves and others, and by attaining the right kinds of knowledge that dispel our ignorance about what we are. The Eight-Fold Path deserves detailed study (and rigorous adherence) in its own right; for now, I will briefly make a note of two notions that are related to it and which we may commence thinking about and acting on.

First, as the Buddha recommended, we must engage in mindfulness and meditation, in a first-person study of our consciousness, to come to understand how our mind works and how it creates the illusion of an enduring self. The higher-order relationship we attain with our thoughts in this fashion turns us into managers of our emotions and not their hostages. Among them, of course, is anxiety.

Second, we must engage in practices of unselfing: this terminology is due to Iris Murdoch in her The Sovereignty of Good, where she says, "The self, the place where we live, is a place of illusion," and urges us to turn our selfish and self-directed gaze away from ourselves toward the contemplation of, and engagement with, nature, works of art, and, I would argue, to the care of others. As we pay attention to other things and beings, we pay less attention to ourselves, finding in this outward-bound attention deliverance from our anxiety.

Most fundamentally, then, to deliver ourselves from "selfish anxiety," we engage in practices that either help us understand ourselves and our natures or that direct our attention outwards, away from ourselves.

The article was originally published by Psychology Today

Researchers Develop Ultrasound Patch To Measure How Full Bladder Is

ANI

researchers have developed a patch-like ultrasound monitor that can inspect organs within the body without the necessity of an ultrasound operator or the application of the gel.

In a new study, the researchers revealed that their patch can precisely scan the bladder and determine how full it is. According to the researchers, this could make it easier for those suffering from bladder or kidney disorders to evaluate whether their organs are working properly.

This method might also be used to monitor different organs within the body by relocating the ultrasonic array and adjusting the frequency of the signal. Such gadgets may be able to detect tumours that originate deep within the body, such as ovarian cancer, early.

"This technology is versatile and can be used not only on the bladder but any deep tissue of the body. It's a novel platform that can do identification and characterization of many of the diseases that we carry in our body," says Canan Dagdeviren, an associate professor

in MIT's Media Lab and the senior author of the study.

Lin Zhang, an MIT research scientist; Colin Marcus, an MIT graduate student in electrical engineering and computer science; and Dabin Lin, a professor at Xi'an Technological University, are the lead authors of a paper describing the work, which appears today in Nature Electronics.

Dagdeviren's lab, which specializes in designing flexible, wearable electronic devices, recently developed an ultrasound monitor that can be incorporated into a bra and used to screen for breast cancer. In the new study, the team used a similar approach to develop a wearable patch that can adhere to the skin and take ultrasound images of organs located within the body.

For their first demonstration, the researchers decided to focus on the bladder, partly inspired by Dagdeviren's younger brother, who was diagnosed with kidney cancer a few years ago. After having one of his kidneys surgically removed. he had difficulty fully emptying his bladder. Dagdeviren wondered if an ultrasound monitor that reveals how full the bladder is might help patients similar to her brother, or people with other types of bladder or kidney problems.



"Millions of people are suffering from bladder dysfunction and related diseases, and not surprisingly, bladder volume monitoring is an effective way to assess your kidney health and wellness," she said.

Currently, the only way to measure bladder volume is using a traditional, bulky ultrasound probe, which requires going to a medical facility. Dagdeviren and her colleagues wanted to develop a wearable alternative that patients could use at home.

To achieve that, they created a flexible patch made of silicone rubber, embedded with five ultrasound arrays made from a new piezoelectric material that the researchers developed for this device. The arrays are positioned in the shape of a cross, which allows the patch to image the entire bladder, which is about 12 by 8 centimetres when full.

The polymer that makes up the patch is naturally sticky and adheres gently to the skin, making it easy to attach and detach. Once placed on the skin, underwear or leggings can help hold it in place.

In a study performed with collaborators at the Center for Ultrasound Research and Translation and Department of Radiology at Massachusetts General Hospital, the researchers showed that the new patch could capture images comparable to those taken with a traditional ultrasound probe, and these images could be used to track changes in bladder volume.

For the study, the researchers recruited 20 patients with a range of body mass indexes. Subjects were first imaged with a full bladder, then with a partially empty bladder, and then with a completely empty bladder. The images obtained from the new patch were similar in quality to those taken with traditional ultrasound, and the ultrasound arrays worked on all subjects regardless of their body mass index.

Using this patch, no ultrasound gel is needed, and no pressure needs to be applied, as with a regular ultrasound probe, because the field of view is large enough to encompass the entire bladder.

To see the images, the researchers connected their ultrasound arrays to the same kind of ultrasound machine used in medical imaging centers. However, the MIT team is now working on a portable device, about the size of a smartphone, that could be used to view the images.

"In this work, we have further developed a path toward clinical translation of conformable ultrasonic biosensors that yield valuable information about vital physiologic parameters. Our group hopes to build on this and develop a suite of devices that will ultimately bridge the information gap between clinicians and patients," said Anthony E. Samir, director of the MGH Center for Ultrasound Research and Translation and Associate Chair of Imaging Sciences at MGH Radiology, who is also an author of the study.

The MIT team also hopes to develop ultrasound devices that could be used to image other organs within the body, such as the pancreas, liver, or ovaries. Based on the location and depth of each organ, the researchers need to alter the frequency of the ultrasound signal, which requires designing new piezoelectric materials. For some of these organs, located deep within the body, the device may work better as an implant rather than a wearable patch.

New Glaucoma Treatment Strategy To

IANS

esearchers have identified a promising new strategy for glaucoma cell replacement therapy.

ing causes of blindness worldwide, and vision loss, due to the loss of retinal ganglion cells (RGCs), cannot currently be reversed with any treatment.

glion cells that were capable of

migrating and surviving into the eve's retina.

One limitation that prevents the success of current stem cell transplantation strategies in retina studies is that the majority of donor cells remain at the site of injection and do not migrate where

To identify an improved soluguide these new neurons to their correct positions within the retina.

The research team utilised a 'big data" approach and examined hundreds of such molecules and receptors to find 12 unique to RGCs. They found stromal derived factor 1 was the best performing molecule for both migration and transplantation.

"This method of using chemokines to guide donor cell movement and integration represents a promising approach to restoring vision in glaucoma patients," said Petr Baranov, from Mass Eve and Ear, who is also an assistant professor of Ophthalmology at Har-

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS).

Srinagar Municipal Corporation Office Of The Executive Engineer Right River Works Division

Regal lane Lal Chowk Srinagar Email:-eerrwdsmc@gmail.com

Dated: 17.11.2023

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER No. 32of 2023-2024

For and on behalf of the Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Commissioner, e-tenders are invited on a percentage basis (as per the J&K PWD Engineering Manual 2020) from approved registered eligible Civil Contractors/ Self Help Groups for the below mentioned

S.	Name of the Work	Adv. cost in	Cost of T/	Earnest	Time of	Head of	Class of	AA order	T.S. Order No.
No.		lacs	Doc. in Rs.	Money (In	Comple-	Account	contractor	No	dated
				Rs.)	tion				
1.	Paving , plantation and	196.38	2600	392760	12 months	NCAP (AAY	1080 of	Order No. 30 of
	installation of fountains					National		2023	2023-24 dated:
	on road side from sonwar					Clean Air		dated:	11.11.2023 (CE
	to shivnora					programme		29 08 2023	LIFFD)

Position of AAA: Accorded, Technical Sanction: Accorded

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

S. No.	Particulars	Date from to
1.		17.11.2023
2.	Date of Downloading of bid documents for said NIeT	17.11.2023from 03:00 PM
3.		17.11.2023from 04:00 PM
4.	Date of uploading of bid document/ bid submission Ends	30.11.2023 at 06:00 PM
5.	Date of Bid opening	01.12.2023 at 11:00 AM
6.	Date of Submission of Uploaded documents (Hard Copies) by Successful Bidder including	02.12.2023 up to 04:00 PM
	Bid Security (CDR/FDR), Tender document fee.	

Note: - (The Date of EMD/Challan must be from the date of start of bid upto Bid Submission End date,

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The intending tenders should attach a call deposit receipt equivalent to 2% of the advertised cost / total cost of the work shown against each work pledged to the Executive Engineer Right River Works Division, SMC, drawn from any scheduled Bank without which no tender will be entertained.

Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in the shape of Bank Receipt / challan as a tender fee paid in the Municipal Account No. 0216010200000007 payable at J&K Bank Branch Dood Ganga Balgarden, Srinagar payable at Srinagar (with NIT No and Serial No of work mentioned) and Earnest Money/bid security in the shape of CDR/FDR (The date of Bank Receipt/ Challan and earned money/bid security should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date). The tender fees is non-refundable and can also be paid through online mode via NEFT/RTGS in favour of F./A/Chief Accounts officer, Srinagar Municipal Corporation with Bank Details as given below:-

Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd. Name of the Bank: -Balgarden, Srinagar Branch: -Bank Account No: -0216010200000007 IFSC code: -ΙΔΚΔΩGΔRDEN

For one particular work, only one bank Receipt / challan (not more than one) of the exact amount of tender fees (neither lesser nor greater) as shown against that particular work must be paid and uploaded with the tenders. The same tender fees paid and uploaded for a particular work should not be again used/uploaded for any other work in the NIeT (i.e. one Bank Receipt / Bank Challan for one work only)

Tender Fee and other relevant documents including Bid security (CDR/FDR) duly filled up, if found uploaded, with any ambiguity or un-attested correction/over writing for any work such tender /bid shall be considered as invalid bid and shall be out rightly rejected and action under rules shall be

Further use of pencil in writing (NIT No and S. No) on tender fees and EMD must be avoided The participating agencies/ contractors are advised in their own interest not to resort to any cheating while submitting and uploading the

The bidders are requested to uploadfollowing documents:

EMD in the shape of CDR and FDR.

Registration card and its latest renewal. Verification of Registration Card from competent Authority

PAN Card.

No: SMC/EERRWD/1857-65

DIPK-NB-4350/23 Dated: -21/11/2023.

Correspondence Address of the Agency with active Mobile No. Bank Account details (16-digit Bank Account No, Branch office, IFSC code)

Any other document required to be uploaded as per the NIeT.

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 email address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on the same website in the office of the Executive Engineer Right River Works Division, SMC (Regal Lane, Lal Chowk, Srinagar) or in the office of the Informatics officer, SMC (Karan Nagar Srinagar). In case of holidays/ offices happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids, or there is any Net problem the same will be opened on the next working day at the same

The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical bids.

The lowest successful bidder has to furnish 5% of the contract value/ allotted cost cost as performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR. The performance security required as per NIT conditions shall be released after DLP is successfully over. Earnest money in the shape of CDR/FDR shall be released after performance security is received. The earnest money in favour of the unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of Bank

Receipts/challans. The earnest money shall be forfeited, if: -

Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any Modifications to the terms and conditions of the

a) bid. b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

c) Failure of successful bidder to execute the Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

Sd/-**Executive Engineer** Right River Works Division **Srinagar Municipal Corporation**

Guide Stem Cells To Retina

Glaucoma is one of the lead-

In the new study researchers at the Schepens Eye Research Institute of Mass Eye and Ear changed the micro-environment in the eye in a way that enabled them to take stem cells from blood and turn them into retinal ganThey conducted their study

on the adult mouse retina, but the work's implications could one day be applied to human retina.

tion, the researchers created RGCs out of stem cells, then tested the ability of various signaling molecules known as chemokines to

they are most needed.

vard Medical School. The research was published in







WHY TO USE CRITICAL CARE AMBULANCE

Early Intervention

Critical care ambulances are equipped with advanced medical equipment and trained medical professionals who can provide early intervention to patients during transit. This early intervention can help to stabilize patients and prevent their condition from deteriorating, thereby reducing the risk of mortality and morbidity.

Timely Transportation

Critical care ambulances can transport patients to hospitals more quickly and safely than private transport, reducing the time between the onset of the medical emergency and the start of treatment. This can be critical in cases of heart attacks, strokes, or traumatic injuries, where every minute counts.

Reduced Complications

· Patients who receive critical care ambulance services are less likely to experience complications during transit or upon arrival at the hospital. This can result in shorter hospital stays, reduced healthcare costs, and improved patient outcomes.

Better Coordination

 Critical care ambulance services often work closely with local hospitals and emergency medical services (EMS) to ensure that patients receive the appropriate care and treatment. This coordination can help to reduce the risk of medical errors and ensure that patients receive the best possible care.

Improved Accessibility:

Critical care ambulance services can help to improve the accessibility of healthcare services in remote or underserved areas. This can help to reduce health disparities and improve the overall health of the population.



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Income-Tax Cases Under Rs 50 Lakh Cannot Be Opened After 3 Years: Delhi HC

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court has clarified that the time limit for reopening assessment in cases where alleged escape income is less than Rs 50 lakh is three years and only in "serious tax evasion cases" with evidence of concealment of income of Rs 50 lakh or more, the period was extended to 10 years.

The high court said that according to the memorandum explaining the provisions of Finance Bill 2021, in "normal cases", no notice was intended to be issued if three years had elapsed from the end of the relevant assessment year.

Notice, beyond the prescribed three years from the end of the relevant assessment year, could be issued only in a few specific cases, it said.

"As would be evident from the extracts set forth above, both from the Finance Minister's speech and the memorandum, the time limit for reopening under the new regime was reduced from six years to three years and only in respect of 'serious tax evasion cases' that too, where evidence of concealment of income of Rs 50 lakh or more in a given period was found, the period for reopening the assessment was extended to ten years," a bench of justices Rajiv Shakdher and Girish Kathpalia said in a judgment passed on November 10 and made available recently.

The court said to ensure that utmost care was taken before invoking the extended period of limitation, the proposal was that approval should be obtained from the Principal Chief



Commissioner of Income Tax, at the highest hierarchical level of the department.

The high court's judgment came on a batch of petitions concerning assessment years 2016-17 and 2017-18 in which the petitioner assessees contended that in cases where the alleged escaped income is below the prescribed monetary threshold of Rs 50 lakh, the period of limitation, that is, three years from the end of the relevant assessment year would be applicable.

The pleas said one of the conditions prescribed for invoking the extended period of limitation of 10 years is that the income chargeable to tax, which has escaped assessment, amounts to or is likely to amount to Rs 50 lakh or more.

The high court noted that concededly, in these matters, the income chargeable to tax which is alleged to have escaped assessment is below Rs 50 lakh.

The high court said the memorandum emphasised that the new regime was forged with the hope that it would result in less litigation and would provide ease of doing business to taxpayers as there was a reduction in the time limit by which notice for assessment, reassessment and re-computation could be issued.

Domestic Air Traffic Again Touch A Record High; Airlines Carried 4,59,526 Passengers On Nov 20

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: For the third straight day, the country's domestic air traffic touched a new peak on Monday as airlines carried 4,59,526 passengers.

With the traffic numbers touching a fresh single-day record on Monday (November 20), the civil aviation ministry said that post-Covid, India's domestic aviation turnaround story has not just been overwhelming but inspiring as well."Positive attitude, progressive policies, and deep trust among passengers are taking it to new heights with every flight, every day," the ministry said in a post on X.

On November 20 (Monday), there were 4,59,526 passengers and the total flight movements stood at 5,958, as per the latest official data.

The count of domestic air passengers was at 3,94,07 and the number of flight movements was 5,468 on November 20, 2022. Sharing a graphic of the figures, the ministry said, "India's domestic aviation to the state of the state o

touching new skies, daily". Civil aviation minister Jy-



otiraditya Scindia on Tuesday said, "Another day, another record!".

In a post on X, he also said it is a hat trick as domestic air passenger traffic breaks the record three times in a row.

While the traffic was at a fresh high of 4,56,748 on November 18 (Saturday), it reached a new peak of 4,56,910 on November 19 (Sunday). It again touched a record of 4,59,526 on November 20 (Monday).

India is one of the fastestgrowing civil aviation markets in the world and domestic air passenger traffic registered an annual growth of nearly 11 per cent to 1.26 crore in October.

Only Govt Should Do Food Certification, Not NGOs: Sitharaman On UP's Ban On Halal-Certified Products

Press Trust Of India

HYDERABAD: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said food certification should be done only by governmental agencies, and not by non-governmental organisations.

In a press conference, replying to a query on the Uttar Pradesh government banning the production, storage, distribution and sale of food products with halal certification, she said it is not right for any organisation other than the government ones to give certification.

"Food quality and food testing are essentially a government job. Government should do it. We have our Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)," she said, adding it is the government agencies that should ascertain whether there are chemical additives, artificial or harmful colours and so on.

"They (government bodies) will have to be the authority to certify which is quality



food for people to consume. Non-Governmental Organisations doing it is not right," she

The Uttar Pradesh government on November 18 banned the production, storage, distribution and sale of food products with halal certification, with immediate effect, while exempting products manufactured for export. In a statement, the state

In a statement, the state government alleged that there have been "malicious attempts" to discourage the use of products lacking a halal certificate, in the pursuit of "unfair financial benefits", and claimed that it also forms part of a "pre-planned strategy to sow class hatred, create divisions in society, and weaken the country" by "antinational elements".

Sitharaman was in the city to participate in poll rallies for BJP candidates in the run up to the November 30 assembly elections.

'Unemployment Rate In J&K Reduced To Around 4%'



Observer News Service

JAMMU- Secretary, Labour & Employment, Rehana Batul Tuesday held threadbare discussions with all the stakeholders for further bringing down the unemployment rate of the UT at par with the National Average.

The meeting was attended

by Director, Employment, Nisar Ahmad; Mission Director, NRLM, Indu Kanwal Chib; Director Animal Husbandry, Jammu; Representatives from Agriculture, Industries & Commerce, Handicrafts, KVIB, KVIC, Mission Youth,

J&K Bank besides other con-

cerned officers.

In the onset of the meeting the Secretary impressed upon the stakeholders to work in close coordination with each other and in an altruistic mindset. She made out that more than a dozen of departments are working for

employment generation here

and implements many more

schemes in this pursuit.
Rehana Batul maintained that all the departments

should learn from each others best practices for replicating them in the implementation of their schemes. She advised each of them to go through each other's schemes and the method of implementing them by the concerned so that there is coherence and creation of domino effect by the same.

She stated that our sole motive should be to contribute towards providing ample opportunities to the aspiring youth. She asked them to be ready to sit with the financial institutions for ironing out any differences for meeting our targets smoothly.

The Secretary also applauded the role of NRLM and KVIB in doing a commendable job towards creation of employment opportunities for rural youth. She called upon others to learn from their expertise. She enquired from them about the targets they have been able to meet till now and their expectations till end of the financial year. She called on them to make it a motive to further bring the unemployment rate down at

par with the National average in the year ahead.

The MD, NRLM shared a document with the stake-holders defining the method of assistance and mentoring their organization is providing to the SHGs. She gave out that the document will decipher to them the strategy to cut out on NPA rate besides being pivotal in enhancing their approval rates from the concerned bank branches too.

Earlier on the Director Employment, Nisar Ahmad gave overview of the employment scenario of J&K. He made out that in the recent survey of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), the unemployment rate in the UT has taken a dip and reduced to around 4% from earlier 5.2% (2021.23)

from earlier 5.2% (2021-22). It was given out that the employment department is going to facilitate all those implementing employment generation schemes here so that the rate of unemployment is brought to just 3%, which is at par with the National Average in the country.

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J&K Fisheries Deptt Ranks Top Among Best Performing Districts Across Country

PMMSY, HADP, FIDF envisages doubling trout production in next five years

Observer News Service

AHMEDABAD: Receiving high recognition and appreciation at the national level, the Department of Fisheries ranked top among the best performing districts across all Union Territories of the Country for vigorous development of fish and fisheries in the Jammu and Kashmir.

Anantnag district, which has been privileged with this outstanding achievement, was presented a trophy and a certificate of merit. The felicitation was conferred on the occasion of World Fisheries Day celebrated at National level in Gujarat Science City, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

The event was inaugurated and presided over by Purshotam Rupala, Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

The function was attended by the fisheries fraternity of National and International repute. On the occasion, Union Minister recognized and appreciated efforts of the department for development of Fisheries particularly Cold water in the UT of J&K. He emphasized that Government of India has launched a number of schemes for promotion of fish marketing, branding and export under PMMSY. He exhorted upon the youth to take the benefit of such schemes for development of market linkage in the form

of cold chain to get remunerative prices for their produce.

Pertinently, Kashmir region of J&K is epicenter for the development of Cold water Fisheries and under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha and guidance of Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Shailendra Kumar various steps are being taken by the UT governmtn for enhancing the productivity as well as income of Fishers. Special subsidy component has been kept for the UT to attract more farmers for adopting this profitable venture.

Director Fisheries, Mohammad Farooq Dar, said that the focus of the department is to make farmers more resourceful through implementation of various schemes for marketing of trout and also for export to other States.

Anantnag is in the forefront of Trout Production and a hub of Trout production among all the districts of the country. Besides, the district is traversed by different trout streams being angled by the esteemed anglers both local and foreigner and thus an explicit boost to the ecotourism. Effective implementation of the schemes like PMMSY, HADP, FIDF etc envisages the trout production to be doubled during the next five years creating gainful employment opportunities for educated unemployed youth.

H&H Dept Inaugurates 10-Day 'Craft Exhibition' At Gulmarg

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A 10 days 'Craft Exhibition' organized by the Department of H&H Kashmir was Tuesday inaugurated in Gulmarg wherein an exhibition-cum-sale of handicraft products is in progress.

The exhibition will showcase the finest crafts from Kashmir. 20 Stalls displaying artifacts of various Handicrafts and Handloom Sector have been set up at the exhibition with the objective to provide market linkage to the artisans and to help boost the handicraft sector at the grassroots level. The department is encouraging the people to come forward and avail various schemes and facilities extended by the department.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Director Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir, Mahmood Ahmad Shah. He said that the exhibition would give artisans a suitable marketing platform to sell their products directly to the buyers and will



further give the tourists an opportunity to get a glimpse of the rich art and craft of Kashmir.

The Director H&H inspected the Stalls and interacted with the grassroots level artisans who have been provided rentfree space by the Department of Handicrafts & Handloom Kashmir to sell their products directly to the buyers at this prestigious spot. The Department is currently organising Exhibitions at Boulevard and Pahalgam. The events will continue in the current winter season within and outside the UT.

Vittal Urges Customers To Consider Adopting E-Sims

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Bharti Airtel ("Airtel"), one of India's leading telecommunications service provider, today, in a customer letter emphasized the advancements in mobile technology with embedded SIMs (e-SIMs) and encouraged Airtel users to make the switch to an e-SIM. Bharti Airtel has streamlined the e-SIM upgrade process through the Airtel Thanks App, simplifying the transition from a physical SIM to an e-SIM.

physical sinv to an e-sinv.

An e-SIM is an online extension of one's regular SIM card, eliminating the need to physically access SIM card on one's phone. In today's digital first lifestyle and with increasing penetration of newer models of smart wearables, smartphones, etc being e-SIM enabled, the shift from physical SIM can provide seamless connectivity between multiple devices.

In the customer letter, Gopal Vittal, MD and CEO, Bharti Airtel cited a few examples where an e-SIM comes in handy for users. Like when going for a morning jog, now Airtel e-SIM users can just wear their smartwatch and be connected to their phone without

having to physically carry it. e-SIMs also help against theft as it makes it more difficult for the criminals to disconnect the e-SIM from the stolen device as compared to physical SIMs; also making a lost phone easily traceable. e-SIMs let customers use multiple mobile phone numbers on single SIM and device and makes shifting from a device to the other easy and seamless.

Airtel has tried to make the switch

Airtel has tried to make the switch to an e-SIM as seamless as possible for customers. Airtel CEO highlighted that all devices supporting the e-SIM feature are compatible with Airtel e-SIM. Customers can easily convert a physical SIM into an e-SIM through the Airtel Thanks App, available for download on both the Google Play Store and Apple iOS App Stores.

For more information on e-SIM for smartphones or smartwatches and a step-by-step conversion process, Airtel customers can visit www.airtel.in/esim. Airtel ensures efficient connectivity by activating the e-SIM profile as soon as it's downloaded and enabled. Further details and Airtel e-SIM Card FAQs can be found on the provided URL.

Except For Extreme Northern Parts, All Other Destinations Open For Tourists: Sikkim Govt

Press Trust Of India

GANGTOK: The Sikkim government has said that all popular destinations in the Himalayan state are open for tourists, except for extreme parts of North Sikkim. Sikkim government's Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, Additional Secretary, Bandana Chettri

Department, Additional Secretary, Bandana Chettri said that all the regions of the state under different districts, namely Gangtok, Namchi, Soreng, Pakyong and Gyalshing are safe to visit and the weather conditions in these areas are very soothing in this festive season.

"Except for the extreme Northern part of Sikkim which is not accessible, all other destinations of the state are open for tourists and there is no untoward situation as the impact of flood in Teesta has since normalised," said an advisory on Monday.

She urged tourists to visit the Himalayan state,

which is known for its pristine natural beauty.

The Himalayan state was hit by a flash flood in the Teesta river, triggered by a cloudburst in the early hours of October 4 in which 40 people were killed.

Over a million tourists visit Sikkim every year with

tourism industry being the core economic activity. The National Geographic channel has featured Sikkim in the list of coolest destinations to visit in 2024.

Equity Markets Recover After Two-Day Decline

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Benchmark stock indices rebounded on Tuesday after two days of decline following buying in metal, banking and energy shares and a bullish trend in the US markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 275.62 points or 0.42 per cent to settle at 65,930.77. During the day, it jumped 427.21 points or 0.65 per cent to 66,082.36.

The broader Nifty went up by 89.40 points or 0.45 per cent to 19,783.40.

Among the Sensex firms, JSW Steel, Titan, Tata Steel, Sun Pharma, Reliance Industries, Bharti Airtel, Tata Motors and HDFC Bank were the biggest gainers.

NTPC, Tech Mahindra, g Maruti, State Bank of India r and Larsen & Toubro were i among the laggards.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services said, "Today, the



market exhibited positive momentum, with attention centred on the minutes of the latest Fed meeting. The declining inflation and the recent cooling job data in the US provide foundation for a dovish comment from the Fed."

The drop in bond yields and the dollar index suggests mounting speculation regarding the potential peak in the interest rate cycle.

"This will attract funds to emerging markets. The gain in the broad market was led by consumer durables and realty, thanks to a strong rebound in festive demand," Nair added. The US dollar index eased

by 0.10 per cent to 103.33 ahead of the release of the Fed minutes later in the day. In Asian markets, Seoul settled with gains while Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong

Kong ended lower.
European markets were trading on a mixed note. The US markets ended in positive territory on Monday as bond yields eased as well

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.61 per cent to \$81.82 a barrel. Foreign Institutional In-

the dollar weakened.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 645.72 crore on Monday, according to exchange data.

The BSE benchmark declined 139.58 points or 0.21 per cent to settle at 65,655.15 on Monday. The Nifty slipped 37.80 points or 0.19 per cent to 19,694.

Delhiites will soon be able to 'book' a bus as govt notifies premium aggregator scheme

New Delhi: The Delhi residents will soon be able to book seats in an AC bus as the government gives its go-ahead to the premium bus aggregator scheme.

um bus aggregator scheme.

The Delhi government has notified the Delhi Motor Vehicles Licensing of Aggregator (Premium Buses) Scheme, 2023, marking a historic milestone in India's transportation sector, the government said in an official statement Tuesday.

The scheme introduces the nation's first-ever aggregator scheme exclusively tailored for premium buses, it said.

The scheme calls for a modal shift in public transportation for intra-city bus journeys. The buses that will come to be a part of the initiative will have exceptional quality, comfort, and reliability, and will lead to a reduction in congestion and air pollution, the government said.

The scheme defines a "Premium Bus" as any full-AC luxury public bus having a seating capacity of no less than nine passengers, pre-reserved reclining seats, and equipped with Wifi, GPS, and CCTV, the statement said.

Under the scheme to be eligible for a bus licence, applicants must have a minimum of three years of experience in operating and managing vehicles in public or shared transportation. They are required to maintain a fleet



of a minimum of 100 passenger buses annually, or 1,000 passenger cars annually, or a mixed fleet comprising a minimum of 100 buses with 10 cars equivalent to one bus.

According to the government, the licence applicants must adhere to all conditions on the use of passenger vehicles, similar to what is applicable in cases of contract carriage buses.

The scheme stipulates that the 'onboarded' bus must not be more than three years old, in case the bus is CNG, and the buses joining the service after January 1, 2025, must be electric. The scheme requires that the applicants must have a corporate or branch office located in the National Capital Region.

The aggregator licences will be granted upon the payment of Rs 5 lakh and will be valid for a five-year period. Renewals for another five years can be acquired before the expiry by paying Rs 2,500. No licence fee will be levied on electric buses.

The licence holders are required to operate and maintain

a fleet of at least 25 premium buses of mini, midi, or standard sizes, to be made operational within 90 days from the date of licence grant, the statement said.

Under the scheme, licence holders will be permitted to determine bus routes provided fares are dynamic and no lower than the peak fare of Delhi Transport Corporation AC buses.

Only pre-booked digital ticketing will be permissible in these buses, with no physical tickets issued. All charges from

passengers are to be collected exclusively through electronic or digital payment modes, it said.

In a Hindi post on X on Tuesday, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said, "I hope this service will bring a big change in the public transport system of Delhi. People will leave their cars and scooters and start travelling in buses. We worked hard in the last four years to make it true."

Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot said the notification of the scheme marks a historic moment for the national capital.

"These premium buses are a testament to our commitment to providing world-class, comfortable, and sustainable travel options to the people of Delhi. With the introduction of this scheme, we are not just connecting destinations. We are paving the way to a greener and smarter future. Our focus is clear: offer the best quality service while safeguarding the environment," he said.

Delhi currently has a fleet size of 7,135 buses with 4,088 buses under the Delhi Transport Corporation and 3,047 under DIMTS (Delhi Integrated Multi-Modal Transit System), according to official data, though it has often been said that there should be at least 11,000 buses plying on Delhi's roads.

General Manager Reviews Performance Of Northern Railway

'Focus On Safety, Maintenance Of Railway Assets; Emphasis On Punctuality Of Trains'

Observer News Service

New Delhi: Shobhan Chaudhuri, General Manager Northern Railway held a performance review meeting with the departmental heads of Northern Railway & DRMs.

The GM emphasized that Safety is the main concern over Railways, for which all out efforts should be directed towards maintaining the tracks, rolling stock, signaling and electric overhead wires are working in top order.

During the review he concerned about the safety of passengers and directed the official to keep tab on illegally transportation of the inflammable articles in trains to stop the fire incidents.

He advised the departments to regularly conduct training and refresher courses for the staff to keep them motivated and informed of the working of the system to minimize human error.

He advised all divisions to take all necessary remedial actions to proper & efficient working of signaling system. He shows his concern on rail fractures and instructed that monitoring of signals, rail



fractures and rail welds should be done extensively and no error should be left.

Chaudhuri instructed to expedite approvals for tree cutting wherever needed from the Forest Department so that these do not pose a threat to the tracks or OHE wires.

e also emphasized on focusing on electrical safety on tracks as well as safety in relay and panel rooms for error free movement of trains. He stressed upon the minimizing the human failure in train operation. He also instructed the department heads and DRMs, to maintain the punctuality at keep pace for freight loading with safety as priority.

Northern Railway is committed to provide safe, smooth and efficient services to its customers.

Digvijaya, Cong MLA booked for poll code violation after protest over party worker's death

Chhatarpur: Congress leader Digvijaya Singh, party MLA Vikram Singh Nati Raja and others were booked on Tuesday for alleged violation of the model code of conduct after they staged a sit-in without permission seeking the arrest of a BJP candidate over the death of a worker in Madhya Pradesh's Chhatarpur district, an official said.

A Congressman, identified as Salman Khan, had died during a clash between BJP and Congress workers in the Rajnagar constituency of Chhatarpur district on November 17 when the assembly elections were held in

the state. Following the incident, Digvijaya Singh and Nati Raja, along with their supporters had staged a protest by putting up a tent outside the Khajuraho Police Station on November 18-19 demanding the arrest of BJP candidate from Rajnagar Arvind Pateria.

Congress leaders have accused Pateria of orchestrating the killing of Khan, a charge denied by the former. Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Vikram Singh said on the basis of a report submitted by the Chhatarpur additional collector, an FIR was registered on Tuesday under Indian Penal Code (IPC)

section 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant) for violation of the model code of conduct, which is in force for the assembly elections.

The FIR (first information report) has named Digvijaya Singh, Nati Raja — sitting MLA and the Congress candidate from Rajnagar — and 60-70 other people.

BJP's Chhatarpur district president Malkhan Singh had earlier submitted a memorandum to the district administration, pointing out that Digvijaya Singh and other Congress leaders staged the sit-in without taking permission from authorities, thus violating the poll code.
According to the FIR, acting on the memorandum, the additional collector sent a report to

the police stating no permission was granted by the local administration for the protest by opposition party leaders and their supporters.

After the death of Salman Khan, the police had registered

After the death of Salman Khan, the police had registered a case on November 17 against Pateria and 20 BJP workers on charges of murder. After this, the ruling party had accused the police of adopting a biased attitude against the BJP under the Congress influence.

On November 19, the police, acting on a BJP complaint, registered a separate case against Congress nominee Nati Raja on charges of attempt to murder, rioting and under other relevant IPC sections. It was alleged Nati Raja had attacked Pateria with sticks and guns during the clash in which Congress worker Khan died. According to the police, Khan died after he was run over by a vehicle.

The BJP has accused Nati Raja of orchestrating the killing of Khan to gain in elections. On the other hand, the Congress candidate has alleged Pateria was responsible for Khan's death.

Congress approaches EC against BRS advertisement against it

New Delhi: The Congress on Tuesday accused the Bharat Rashtra Samithi of spreading "falsehood" in an ad it published against it and misleading the people of Telangana ahead of the state assembly election in violation of the model code of conduct. It urged the Election

It urged the Election Commission to take immediate action in the matter. Addressing a press conference here, Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi said the advertisement under the heading "Scamgress" was a "spread of patent falsehood" in the midst of the election process in Telangana and shows a clear link between the BRS and the BJP. He

claimed that the advertisement did not even have the approval of the poll body as is required under the law. He said the move was a reflection of a "bewildered BRS" staring at a defeat.

"When a political regime is at its weakest it begins to engage in questionable and often embarrassing political tactics. Staring at an imminent defeat in the upcoming elections, the BRS has lost all semblance of political restraint and composure. It has issued a print advertisement which demonstrates the desperation to try and diminish the Congress wave that is sweeping the state of Telangana," he told reporters here.

CONTD. FROM **FRONT PAGE**

Kashmir Valley

date- December 2023 or January 2024.

"The work is going on according to the deadline. If everything goes fine, we will inaugurate the project on the set schedule," he said.

Significantly, the government intends to launch the highly anticipated Vande Bharat Metro train service between Jammu and Srinagar.

Earlier, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said it has been decided to set up a Vande Bharat Express train maintenance facility at Central Kashmir's Budgam district in the first go Vande Bharat Metro will be run between Jammu and Srinagar once the rail network gets completed. An official told Kashmir Observer that the USBRL project

involves 38 tunnels with a combined length of 119 km. T-49, he said, is the longest tunnel with a length of 12.75 km, and is also the country's longest transportation tunnel.

Besides it, he said, there are 927 bridges with a combined length of 13 km. These bridges include the iconic Chenab

Bridge which soars 359 metres above the bed of the Chenab River, and is considered to be the world's highest steel arch rail bridge.

To enhance connectivity and extend its reach, the Indian Railways has also announced plans to introduce three addi-

tional state-of-the-art Vande Bharat Express trains during FY 2023-24, designated for J&K.

The exact launch date of these trains remains unspecified, but they are anticipated to commence operations once

fied, but they are anticipated to commence operations once the railway lines in both regions are electrified.

Kumar told Kashmir Observer that the existing stations

Kumar told Kashmir Observer that the existing stations will be used as of now and if the situation demands, more stations will be established.

Currently there are over 36 railway stations in Jammu and Kashmir, including Baramulla, Sopore, Hamre, Pattan, Nowgam, Kakpora, Awantipora, Pampore, Panzgom, Sadura, Anantnag, Qazigund and Banihal while the rest are in Jammu region.

UGC Set To Revise

launching the National Education Policy (NEP) in 2020, there have been considerable developments in higher education to impart multidisciplinary curricula and holistic education." Kumar said.

"Therefore, in its meeting earlier this month, the commission decided that an exercise to update the syllabi of the subjects of UGC-NET may be undertaken. UGC will form an expert committee and undertake this exercise," he said.

Kumar said that candidates will be given sufficient time before this new syllabus is introduced in UGC-NET so that the changeover happens smoothly.

India Slams

and habitual remarks made by a Permanent Representative earlier against my country and I will not dignify them with a response here," Counsellor in India's

Permanent Mission to the UN R. Madhu Sudan said Monday.
Pakistan consistently rakes up the issue of Jammu and
Kashmir at various UN platforms, irrespective of the agenda
and topic of discussion at the meetings and fails to garner

any traction.

Tensions between India and Pakistan have spiked since New Delhi abrogated Article 370 of the Constitution to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, 2019. India's decision evoked strong reactions from Pakistan, which downgraded diplomatic ties and expelled the Indian envoy.

India has categorically told the international community that the scrapping of Article 370 was an internal matter. It also advised Pakistan to accept the reality and stop all anti-

India has told Pakistan that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Islamabad in an environment free of terror, hostility and violence.

Dense Fog

Celsius while Gulmarg ski resort recorded a minimum temperature of minus 0.6 degrees Celsius, he said.

Pahalgam, the base camp for annual Amarnath yatra, recorded a low of minus 2.9 degrees Celsius while Pulwama recorded minus 2.7 degrees Celsius, the official said.

The substantial drop in minimum temperature has resulted in calls for closure of schools up to primary classes. In a statement, the Private Schools Association of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday asked the administration to announce winter vacations for lower classes.

A dense fog cover engulfed most parts of Kashmir, affecting traffic in the early hours.

"The fog has delayed morning flights on Monday and Tuesday. The visibility remains poor in the early hours," an official of the Airport Authority of India said.

Weatherman Advises

Kashmir valley on Tuesday with Srinagar and Pahalgam, according to the meteorological department, recording the coldest night of the season so far.

Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, Director Meteorological Department said the weather is expected to remain dry till November 27 in Kashmir while a weak weather disturbance may hit the valley on November 23rd and then again around 27th, 28th and 29th of this month with chances of minor snow spell at a few places.

The weather is expected to remain dry for the next few days with no major shift in the prevailing cold conditions; nevertheless, there may be a minor precipitation in the hilly regions around November 23rd, Dr Mukhtar told Kashmir Observer.

He also said that the minimum temperature in Jammu and Kashmir particularly in Kashmir is expected to drop further with a minor improvement from November 23rd.

"In Kashmir, the weather has been consistently dry for the past one week, and nothing is likely to change till November 27. The dry and foggy conditions will continue through this period with chances of minor precipitation at a few hilly areas," he added.

The Director Meteorological Department also said the mornings and evenings are expected to remain cold in Kashmir and advised the school going children and elderly not to move out without face masks till the weather improves.

"Since children and elderly are prone to flu and other seasonal illnesses, I urge the parents to avoid sending their children to school without face masks, while elderly people are also advised to adhere to the advisory," he said.

J&K Facing 'Lot

said, adding, "The accused have been allegedly involved under sections 8/21 & 29 of NDPS Act. The punishment for the same (Section 29 NDPS) is rigorous imprisonment of 10 years which may extend to 20 years and a fine of one lakh rupees which may extend to two lakh rupees."

According to police, the duo was arrested during a naka checking at Dumail Narbal Crossing and one polythene

bag containing contraband like substance (heroin) was found was recovered from the vehicle they were travelling on November 14. Subsequently, a case for the commission of offence under section 8/21, 29 NDPS Act was registered against them.

India Donates

healthcare, relief, and social services provided to Palestinian refugees, the Representative Office of India at Ramallah said. The contribution was handed over by the Representative of India (ROI) to Palestine, Renu Yadav, to the Director of Partnerships, Department of External Relations of UNRWA,

Karim Amer.

The ROI underlined India's continued support for the agency's activities in the region and the services it provides to Palestinian refugees during the handover ceremony at UNRWA's field office in Jerusalem, an official press release

said.

"Confirming that UNRWA received a very generous contribution from India yesterday (Monday), which is most welcome during these difficult times and in the face of huge needs across the region, particularly in Gaza," a spokespercen for UNRWA Transa Alrifa; told PTI.

son for UNRWA, Tamara Alrifai, told PTI.

The UNRWA has been struggling to provide basic services to hundreds of thousands of Palestinians since the October 7 Israel-Hamas conflict which has prompted more than two-thirds of the Gaza population of approximately 2.3

million to flee their homes.

Earlier on November 19, India had delivered 32 tonnes of "humanitarian assistance to the people of Palestine" via the El-Arish Airport in Egypt. Since 2018, India has given USD

27.5 million to UNRWA.

During an Extraordinary Virtual Ministerial Pledging Conference for UNRWA held on June 23, 2020, India announced that it would contribute USD 10 million to UNRWA

over the next two years.

Prior to the war in Gaza, UNRWA was already facing an increased demand for services resulting from a growth in the number of registered Palestine refugees, the extent of their vulnerability, and their deepening poverty. The agency is mandated to provide assistance and protection to some 5.6 million Palestine refugees registered with it across

its five fields of operation.

Its mission is to help Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, West Bank, including East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip achieve their full human development potential, pending a just and lasting solution to their plight. UNRWA services encompass education, health care, relief and social services, camp infrastructure and improvement, protection, and microfinance among Palestinian refugees.

During the first-ever Indian Prime Minister's visit to Palestine in February 2018, India increased its annual financial contribution fourfold to the UNRWA core budget, from USD 1.25 million to USD 5 million.

India has also made a strong appeal to other traditional donors of UNRWA to consider enhancing their contributions as well as to non-donor member states to consider contributing to the agency in solidarity with the Palestine refugees.

Youth Held

receiving and transporting the weapons dropped from across the international border to militants active in Kashmir, the officials said.

One of the seven accused arrested earlier had died due to cardiac arrest while in judicial custody in August last year,

while two Pakistan-based terror operatives are absconding, the spokesperson said.

The seven arrested accused and the two absconders were earlier chargesheeted by NIA on January 12 under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, the Arms Act, the Explosive Substances Act and the Indian Penal Code.

Officials said the accused were working on the direction of their Pakistani handler identified as Sajjad Gul.

"The NIA is continuing with its investigations in the matter to unravel the bigger conspiracy of Pakistan-backed terrorist groups to carry out acts of terror and violence in Kashmir and across India," the spokesperson said.

LG Invites Country's

partnership in strong profitable growth. If you are looking at the big picture and ready to capture a new segment, then Jammu Kashmir is your new destination," he said.

The LG said that the industry department of Jammu and Kashmir at present has business proposals worth over Rs 86,000 crore and work is underway to bring them on the ground.

He also informed that the UAE-based Emaar Group has announced plans to develop a shopping mall and an IT tower in Srinagar.

"I request you to come and invest. Huge opportunities are there in different sectors. We are providing better incentives than other states to set up industry," Sinha said. The incentives include cheap power tariffs, capital in-

vestment incentives and interest subvention, he added. He also said that tourist inflow has increased and it is expected to reach over 2.25 crore this year, as against 1.88 crore last year.

"Jammu and Kashmir offers you endless opportunities," the LG said, adding the number of trains and flights connecting the Union Territory are also increasing.

Sinha called upon the industry leaders, EEPC India and other stakeholders for creating new opportunities for businesses in engineering goods and services.

"Our inclusive vicion will not only bring prosperity but it

"Our inclusive vision will not only bring prosperity but it will also ensure that new technology and innovations contribute to efficiency and productivity and also focus on equitable and sustainable growth for 'Viksit Bharat'" he said, adding that he was fully confident about the ability of the engineering sector to translate India's dreams into reality.

Earlier, the LG congratulated the award winners of the 52nd and 53rd EEPC India National Export Awards and hoped that their achievements would inspire others for sustained excellence in engineering goods export in the years

"India is a global bright spot under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and today we are not only contributing to global growth but also accelerating our own

economic progress," he said.

He said the emergence of 'Engineering Goods' as one of the major contributors to export growth and its 7.2 percent growth in comparison to previous year, shows the relentless efforts of our dynamic entrepreneurs and EEPC India with an aim to promote 'Make in India' and to establish our care will be a seen the global.

capability across the globe.

Arun Kumar Garodia, Chairman EEPC India; Pankaj Chadha, Vice Chairman, EEPC India; Pradeep Kumar Aggarwal, Regional Chairman, Northern Region, EEPC India; Suranjan Gupta, Executive Director and other members of EEPC India, industry leaders and exporters were present on this occasion.

ICC Introduces Stop Clock In ODI & T20Is

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Bowling teams in men's ODI and T20Is will be imposed a five-run penalty if the bowler exceeds the 60 second limit of bowling the next over for the third time in an innings, the sport's governing body ICC said on Tuesday.

It will be used on a trial basis initially.

The decision was taken at the International Cricket Council (ICC) Board meeting here.

"The CEC agreed to introduce a stop clock on a trial basis in men's ODI and T20I cricket from December 2023 to April 2024. The clock will be used to regulate the amount of time taken between overs."

"If the bowling team is not ready to bowl the next over within 60 seconds of the previous over being completed, a 5-run penalty will be imposed the third time it happens in an innings," said the ICC in a statement

The ICC also made a change to its process of banning a pitch from international cricket.



"Changes to the pitch and outfield monitoring regulations were also approved, including a simplification of the criteria against which a pitch is assessed and increasing the threshold for when a venue could have its international status removed from five demerit points to six demerit points over a five-year period," the ICC added.

TRANSGENDER PLAYERS BANNED FROM INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CRICKET BY ICC

In a major policy decision, the ICC on Tuesday barred cricketers, who have been through any form of male puberty, from competing in international women's game regardless of whether or not

they have undergone surgery or gender reassignment treatment.

The ICC said it was taking the decision to protect the integrity of international women's game and the safety of players.

In a statement, the ICC said, "The ICC Board approved new gender eligibility regulations for the international game following a nine-month consultation process with the sport's stakehold-

"The new policy is based on the following principles (in order of priority), protection of the integrity of the women's game, safety, fairness and inclusion, and this means any Male to Female participants who have been through any form of male puberty will not be eligible to participate in the international women's game regardless of any surgery or gender reassignment treatment they may have undertaken." Gender reassignment and treatment have been a hotly-debated topic in world athletics for years.

ICC arrived at the decision at its Board meeting in Ahmedabad on Tuesday.

Record 1.25 Million Fans Attended ODI World Cup In India: ICC



Agencies

NEW DELHI: A record 1.25 million fans attended matches during the 13th edition of the World Cup, which concluded on Sunday with Australia beating hosts India for their sixth title, global body the International Cricket Council (ICC) said on Tuesday. A total of 1,250,307 fans watched the Oct. 5-Nov. 19 showpiece event from the stands, surpassing the previous mark of 1.016 million set at the 2015 edition in Australia and New Zealand

and New Zealand.

While the early matches not involving runners-up

India had plenty of empty seats in venues, overall spectator figures had already surpassed the one million mark with six games to go. ICC Head of Events Chris Tet-

been a "great success."

"The staggering attendance demonstrates the enduring appeal of cricket and excitement the ODI format continues to offer, Tetley said in a statement, adding that the tournament also broke multiple broadcast and digital viewership records. "It has been

an event that has not only

entertained but also united

ley said the one-day interna-

tional (ODI) tournament had

cricket fans globally in a celebration of the sport."

The India attendance figures surpass the earlier marks of the 2015 World Cup held in Australia and New Zealand, which attracted 10,16,420 spectators and the 2019 edition in England and Wales, which had 7,52,000 fans.

The 10-team tournament in India saw each team play the others once to advance to the semi-finals. There were 48 matches played overall for a total average attendance of about 26,000.

It was the 13th edition of the World Cup, with the first being held in 1975.

Provincial Level Fencing Host Anantnag Wins 5 Of 6 Events



Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The Department Of Youth Services & Sports and District Youth Services & Sports Office Anantnag on Tuesday hosted Provincial Level Fencing Tournament for Boys under the age group of 14 and 17 years at Indoor Sports Stadium Bhijbehra.

The championship was inaugurated by District Youth Services & Sports Officer Anantnag along with Senior Officials of the Department. While interacting with the participating

students DYSS Officer congratulated the students for being the part of this sports event and also assured them all support from the department.

During the competitions in the age group of U-17 Boys, in the Epee event, Anantnag defeated Pulwama, in Foil Event, Anantnag defeated Srinagar, while as Ganderbal won Sabre event by defeating Pulwama, In the age group of U-14 Boys, host Anantnag lifted Epee, Foil and Sabre events by defeating Ganderbal and Pulwama in thrilling bouts.

Winners Of 3rd National Judo League Felicitated

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chairperson Jammu & Kashmir Waqf Board, Syed Darakhshan Andrabi, on Tuesday awarded the winners of 3rd Khelo India National Judo League for Northern Zone held under Khelo India at SK Indoor Sports Stadium here.

Teams of three different age categories from nine Northern States and Union Territories of the country participated in the event. The league was held by the Sports Authority of India under Khelo India

Sports Authority of India also graced the occasion.

Dr Andrabi felicitated the winners and runners up teams and individual players in different categories with medals and certificates.

Dr Darakhshan said that Modiji's Khelo India mission has revolutionized the sports sector in India and now like other important sectors of life, India is fast becoming a global sports power.

Chairperson Waqf Board said that this League was held in J&K



initiative of the Union Ministry of Sports.

Technical Director of League, Deepak Gupta besides Sushma Avasthi and Yogesh K from the after a gap of 42 years. She hailed the LG administration for creating a remarkable sports infrastructure and sports environment in J&K during the past few years.

Country Stands With Indian Team Today & Always: PM Modi



Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded the Indian men's cricket team for their 10 consecutive wins in the World Cup and asked them to motivate each other as he met them after their loss to Australia in the final.

"India stands with them today and always," the prime minister said, sharing a brief video on social media on Tuesday of his meeting with the squad soon after the final at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium.

"You reached here after winning 10 matches. These things happen," the prime minister is seen telling captain Rohit Sharma and champion batter Virat Kohli, holding their hands, in the video.

"Smile, the country is watching you," he said.

Modi hugged Mohammed

Shami, India's most impressive bowler in the tournament, and said he performed very well.

He also interacted with other players and the team's coach Rahul Dravid. He invited them to meet him whenever they come to Delhi.

Seen as the favourite to win the World Cup after they brushed aside all their rivals, including Australia, in the league matches without much difficulty, India lost in the final to the Pat Cummins-led side on Sunday by six wickets.

BJP leaders lauded Modi's gesture while the Congress derided him as "master of drama".

"This is what leadership is all about... Standing with the team when the chips are down. The warmth and assurance must have been uplifting for the team, which had just lost the final despite winning every game in the run up. There is so much to learn from Prime Minister Modi," BJP's IT department head Amit Malviya said.

"A true leader is one who stands by you not during the best of the times but the most difficult of situations. Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets Team India in their dressing room after the ICC World Cup Finals," BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla said.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the youth of India will not be fooled by such "desperate tactics".

"The video of the self-imposed, choreographed consolation by the 'Master Of Drama in India' has completely exposed the insincerity behind the photographs released yesterday. The face-saving exercise has backfired. The youth of India will not be fooled by these desperate antics," Ramesh said in a post on X.

What Is The Future Of ODI Despite Most Watched WC?

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: World Cup winning skipper Pat Cummins, by his own admission, has fallen in love with 50-over cricket all over again but the jury remains out on the future of the ODI format, whose relevance in modern-day cricket is being debated for some time now.

India is the heartbeat of world cricket and near-packed stadiums for majority of World Cup games over the course of 45-day long event was expected at the spiritual home of the game. It was not a surprise that India has delivered the most attended ODI World Cup ever.

More than a record 1.25 million people thronged the stadiums but the same buzz and fanfare will most likely be missing when there is a bilateral series happening anywhere in the world including India.

The players and the purists love Test cricket while T20 is the format that enjoys unmatched popularity and is being used as a tool to spread

the game globally.

The attention spans are shorter than ever in the digital age and not all have the time and zeal to spend eight hours for an ODI game.



The ICC event in India has shown that the format has plenty of takers if it is a world event but the bilateral ODIs don't inspire the same confidence going ahead.

That begs the question: Should ODIs only be played in a World Cup year? If not, then should the format be tweaked on the advice of legends like Wasim Akram and Sachin Tendulkar.

The format is not high on priority for most teams with India featuring only in six ODIs next year and Pakistan don't have any match scheduled till November 2024 even though they host the Champions Trophy the following year.

During the World Cup, Akram opined that the format should be reduced to a 40 overs a side while

Tendulkar wants to break the ODIs to four innings of 25 overs each to break the "monotony".

"I have a problem with ODI cricket right now. Very rarely do you see nowadays in One-day cricket something interesting happen in those (middle) 30 overs. Just go to 40 overs, you'll have more action during that period."

"I don't know if it's going to happen, but I think 40 overs would be more interesting, especially for bilateral series. Nowadays the audience, we do know their (attention) span is lesser than the nineties, because of T20 format and because of social media. We have to adapt," Akram told Fox Sports.

His menacing bowling partner Waqar Younis also expressed his views on the subject in the middle of the World Cup he was commentating on.

"ODI cricket is too friendly for batters. Suggestion @ICC 2 new balls to start, take away 1 ball after 30 overs, continue with the other. At the end that ball will only be 35 overs old. We'll see some reverse at the end. Save the art of #ReverseSwing," he posted on social media.

However, the comments of Cummins after the World Cup triumph on Sunday night were a good advert for the ODI format. Unlike the slam bang T20 format, ODI cricket is played in gears and does challenge the cricketers more.

the cricketers more.

It is a challenge Cummins and his team enjoyed in a global event but the same can't be said about a bilateral contest.

PCB Appoints Gul, Ajmal As Bowling Coaches



Agencies

Former Pakistan bowlers, Umar Gul and Saeed Ajmal have been appointed as the fast bowling and spin bowling coaches of the national squad for the upcoming tour of Australia and New Zealand.

Umar, a member of the 2009 World T20 winning squad, has worked before with the Pakistan team as bowling coach, while this is the first time Saeed has been given an assignment with the national side.

The Pakistan cricket board said that initial assignments for both former stalwarts would include the Test series against Australia scheduled from 14 December 14 to January 7 and the T20I series against New Zealand from January 12 to 21 next year.

The board has already named Muhammad Hafeez as the Director and head coach of the Pakistan squad and fast bowler Wahab Riaz as the new chief selector in a spate of changes after the national team's poor World Cup campaign. The induction of Umar and Saeed and Hafeez's assignment basically means that the foreign coaches, including Mickey Arthur, Grant Bradburn will no longer be working with the national side.

Parliamentary Panel Approves Hindi Names For Proposed Criminal Laws

Agencies

New Delhi: A parliamentary panel has held that the Hindi names given to the three proposed criminal laws is not unconstitutional, dismissing criticism against the move by some political parties and their leaders. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs headed by BJP MP Brijlal has taken note of the wording of Article 348 of the Constitution, which says that the language to be used in the Supreme Court and in the high courts, as well as for Acts, Bills and other legal documents shall be in English

language. 'The committee finds that as the text of the Sanhita is in English, it does not violate the provisions of Article 348 of the Constitution. The committee is satisfied with the response of the Ministry of Home Affairs and holds that the name given to the proposed legislation is not in violation of Article 348 of the than Hindi. Constitution of India," the panel said in its report submitted to

Rajya Sabha. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS-2023), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS-2023) and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA-2023) were introduced in the Lok Sabha on August 11.

The proposed laws will replace the Indian Penal Code, 1860, Criminal Procedure Act, 1898, and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 respectively. Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram had questioned the rationale behind the central government giving Hindi names to the bills.

"I am not saying Hindi names must not be given (to bills). When English is used, it can be given an English name. If Hindi is used, it can be given a Hindi name. When laws are drafted, it is done in English and later it is translated to Hindi. But they have drafted the laws and provisions of the bill in English and given it a Hindi name. It is difficult to even pronounce,"

he had said. Tamil Nadu's ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) had also voiced strong objections against the use of Hindi names for

the proposed criminal laws.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin had said the Centre's move "reeks of linguistic imperialism" and that it was an attempt to carry out "recolonisation in the name of decolonisation".

The Madras Bar Association has dubbed the Centre's move to name the three bills in Hindi as against the Constitution. The association has also passed a resolution in this connection.

DMK Dayanidhi Maran had sent a letter to the chairpanel man Brijlal, objecting to the Hindi titles of the bills, saying they violate the unitary nature of the country where the citizens speak a variety of languages other

However, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan had termed Mr Stalin's statement as "petty politics"

Mr Pradhan said such "petty politics" serve the Tamil Nadu chief minister's political ambitions well but "it weakens the spirit of In-

During the course of the panel's deliberations, Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla had also tried to address the objections of some Opposition including DMK's N R Elango, Dayanidhi Maran and

Found No Proof Of Covid Vaccine Causing Sudden Death, Says Top Medical Body

Agencies

the Hindi titles of the bills. Mr Bhalla had reportedly maintained there is no violation of any constitutional provision since the bills and their texts are written in English.

He conveyed to the MPs that as Article 348 provided for the use of English language in the texts of all bills, acts and ordinances, there was no breach if the bills were written in English.

Congress's Digvijaya Singh, against

SRINAGAR | WEDNESDAY | 22.11.2023

New Delhi: Indian researchers found no evidence that CO-VID-19 vaccination was behind "unexplained sudden deaths", a medical organisation said on Tuesday, instead pointing to the disease itself, binge drinking and

intense exercise as risk factors. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) conducted a study following what it called "anecdotal



reports about sudden unexplained deaths among apparently healthy adults" aged 18 to 45 between October 2021 and March 2023.

"We found no evidence of a positive association of COVID-19 sudden death among young adults," the research group said in a study published in the In-

dian Journal of Medical Research. "At the same time, family history of sudden death, hospitalisation for COVID-19 and lifestyle behaviours such as recent binge drinking and vigorous-intensity physical activity were risk factors

for unexplained sudden death." ICMR researchers identified 29,171 sudden deaths and scrutinised the records of 729 of the cases as well as 2,916 "control" subjects as part of their investigation, the group said.

Government data shows India suffered 45 million COVID infections and 533,295 related deaths but experts say the actual numbers are several times higher. Many hospitals ran out of beds during the peak of the COVID crisis and many people died at home.





















