



Modi sarkar ki Guarantee

Modernization of Indian Railways



A Gift of 6000 Railway Projects Worth more than ₹85 Thousand Crore

Laying of Foundation Stone/ Dedication to the Nation

- 50 Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras
- 222 Railway Goods-sheds
- 51 Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminals
- 2646 Digital Controlling of Stations
- 35 Railway Workshops, Loco Sheds, Pit Lines / Coaching Depots
- Doubling / Multi Tracking and Gauge Conversion of 1500 km of Railway Lines
- Automatic Block Signalling of 80 Rail Line Sections of 1045 km
- 35 Rail Coach Restaurants
- More than 1500 'One Station One Product' stalls
- 975 Solar Powered Stations / Service Buildings
- Electrification of 2135 km Rail Line Sections
- 401 km of New Khurja - Santhwal Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor Section
- 244 km of New Makarpura - New Gholvad Western Dedicated Freight Corridor Section
- Operation Control Centre, Ahmedabad
- Phaltan - Baramati New Rail Line
- 9 Electric Traction System Upgradation Work

Flagging off of Vande Bharat & other Trains

- Mysuru - Chennai
- Lucknow- Dehradun
- Kalaburagi - Bengaluru (Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal)
- Ranchi - Varanasi
- Delhi (Nizamuddin) - Khajuraho
- Secunderabad- Visakhapatnam
- New Jalpaiguri - Patna
- Patna - Lucknow
- Ahmedabad- Mumbai Central
- Puri - Visakhapatnam
- and other train services

Benefits of the projects

- Ultra-modern facilities equivalent to an aircraft travel
- Fast, trouble free and comfortable travel experience
- Reduction in logistics cost and promotion of regional economy
- Ahmedabad Operation Control Centre is equipped with most modern techniques equivalent to world's biggest control centres.
- Ensuring minimum 75% low cost and good quality generic medicines under Pradhan Mantri Janaushadhi Kendra project for every individual.
- Rail Interior Theme based restaurants to provide special meal experience.

by

Narendra Modi

Prime Minister

In the August Presence of

Acharya Devvrat
Governor, Gujarat

Bhupendra Bhai Patel
Chief Minister, Gujarat

Ashwini Vaishnaw
Union Minister of Railways, Communications and Electronics & Information Technology

Raosaheb Patil Danve
Union Minister of State for Railways, Coal and Mines

Darshana Jardosh
Union Minister of State for Railways & Textiles

Tuesday, 12 March, 2024, 08:00 AM

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KASHMIR OBSERVER

Srinagar | Tuesday | 12-03-2024

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PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate in favour of my Daughter Arwah Jan who was born on 17-08-2017. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my passport as Tanveer Hussain Malla S/o Ghulam Hassan Malla while my correct name is Tanveer Hussain Malla S/o Ghulam Hussain Malla R/o Iskander Pora Beerwah which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Regional passport Office Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Before The Hon'ble Court Of J & K And Ladakh At Srinagar

In Caveat No./2023 Application No./2023 IN THE CASE OF: Dheeraj Dewan and another V/s Public at Large -Caveators ...Non-Caveators

Before the Hon'ble Court of Civil Judge (Jr. Division) Munisiff At Pampore

In the case of: 1. Mst. Naseema 2. Mst. Zareena Daughters of late Mohd Rajab Loah Residents Wuyang Pampore Public at Large -Caveators

Before The Hon'ble High Court Of Jammu And Kashmir & Ladakh At Srinagar

IN THE CASE OF:- 1. Abrar Ahmad Mughal aged 53 years S/o Bashir Ahmad Mughal R/o Kishtwar Jammu. 2. Mohammad Younis Mir aged 52 years S/o Ghulam Ahmad Mir R/o Qayoom Colony Rawalpore Srinagar Kashmir.

Office Of The Zonal Education Officer, Keegam

PUBLIC NOTICES

In pursuance to the approval accorded by the Administrative Department, School Education, J&K vide Communication No. Edu-PSOCS/75/2021-01-SED (97253) dated 04-01-2023 and Project Director SAMAGRA Shiksha, J&K vide Order No. 07 of CHIRAG-2023 dated 09-01-2023 & letter No. Edu/PD/Sms/ECCE/Helpers/1861-1905/2023-24 Dated: 06-06-2023 and revised FAQs vide No. Edu/PD/Sms/Quality/Library/1975/2023-24 dated 08-06-2023 and Chief Education Officer Shopian communication vide No.CEO/Spr/Sms/ECCE/23/191-197 Dated 13-06-2023, an advertisement notification was issued by this office vide No. No: ZEO/K /23/ Estt/1436 Dated: 18/07/2023 through Newspapers with opening date of receipt of application Forms as 18-07-2023 and closing date as 31-07-2023 for engagement/ Hiring of AAY's/ Helpers on contractual basis for 75 Schools on revenue Village basis in case of Rural Areas and Ward Basis in case of Urban Areas.

(Annexure-A)

Table with 5 columns: S.No, Name of Candidate, Parentage, Residence, D.OB, Category. Lists candidates for school positions.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Mukhtar Ahmad Ganaie S/o Abdul Gani Ganaie R/o Arigam Tehsil and District Budgam have lost my 9th class school discharge certificate vide Registration No. 07NKM206458, long time ago, and in case anyone has any objection regarding the same should reach with in the 7 days from the publication of this notice in some leading local newspaper of the valley. No objection shall be entertained beyond the period of 7 days.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) toiba chesti to (new) Taila Quwnian Chesti. In future I will be known as (new name) Taila Quwnian Chesti if anybody is having any objection he/she may contact principle of DPS BUSGAM within 7days. After that no objection will be accepted.

OBITUARY



Each year of witnessing this world without you, Of not hearing anything from you, Of not getting a glimpse of you, And realising, yet there's a lifetime without you!

Your deep-rooted teachings, your courageous stand to all lows, your strength, your principles, your tremendous dynamism and most importantly, with Allah's amplified love for us in disguise! We have now come to realise why He had chosen you for that long, tough battle. For you had always been amongst His favourites and that clearly reflected in how you firmly accepted His decrees and fought like a true slave, inspiring us all along.

O Allah, forgive [name of the person] and elevate his station among those who are guided. Send him along the path of those who came before, and forgive us and him, O Lord of the worlds. Enlarge for him his grave and shed light upon him in it.

Before The Hon'ble Court Of Principal District And Sessions Judge At Srinagar

Caveat Petition No.....2024 IN THE CASE OF: 1/ SHOWKAT AHMAD BHAT S/o: Gh Nabi Bhat R/o: Athwajan Lasjan Srinagar 2/ SHAHNAWAZ RESHI S/o: Abdul Qayoom Reshi R/o: Bagandar Lasjan Srinagar 3/ SHAHEEM MAGRAY S/o: Abdul Hameed Magray R/o: Galibabad Shalteng Srinagar

Before The Hon'ble High Court Of Jammu & Kashmir And Ladakh Srinagar

In the case of: 1/ SHOWKAT AHMAD BHAT S/o: Gh Nabi Bhat R/o: Athwajan Lasjan Srinagar 2/ SHAHNAWAZ RESHI S/o: Abdul Qayoom Reshi R/o: Bagandar Lasjan Srinagar 3/ SHAHEEM MAGRAY S/o: Abdul Hameed Magray R/o: Galibabad Shalteng Srinagar

Before The Hon'ble Court Of Principal District And Sessions Judge At Pulwama

Caveat Petition No.....2024 IN THE CASE OF: 1/ SHOWKAT AHMAD BHAT S/o: Gh Nabi Bhat R/o: Athwajan Lasjan Srinagar 2/ SHAHNAWAZ RESHI S/o: Abdul Qayoom Reshi R/o: Bagandar Lasjan Srinagar 3/ SHAHEEM MAGRAY S/o: Abdul Hameed Magray R/o: Galibabad Shalteng Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate in favour of my son Mohammad Saalim who was born on 08-04-2022. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the name on electricity bill bearing Consumer ID No: 020605003092 from Qazi Gh Qadir Dar S/o Son Dar R/o Wadwan Budgam to Qazi Gh Qadir Dar R/o Wadwan Budgam if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the PDD Sub Division Narbal within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

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:- Year & Session: Annual 2023 Registration: 02B3M10176 Name: Mir Aadil Rasool

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my school records as Usman Bin Rafi while my correct name is Mohammad Usman Bhat which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Kashmir Cambridge School Tukroo Shopian within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار کبری ا کلکتر با اجلاس نائب تحصیلدار کبری ا کلکتر درخواست منجانب سید نقیل احمد سید مدثر احمد شاہ اولادان سید محمد شریف شاہ ساکن کتبہ یوسف شاہ بمراہ وصول RBA سرٹیفکٹ

Table with 2 columns: Name, Age. Lists names and ages of individuals.

از نیابت گوم احمد پورہ درخواست از جانب غلام حسن ڈارسا کنہماران پورہ کلکتر احمد تحصیل چن بارمول بمراہ حصول D.O.B سرٹیفکٹ بنجین رضاند بانو

از نیابت گوم احمد پورہ معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدقہ مندرجہ سائل دفتر پڑاشیز بیکارو روٹی ہے اس نسبت پوٹاری حلقے سے پورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ اوقات ریٹارڈ پورٹ کے جسے جس سے ہوتا ہے اس کے ساتھ ساتھ موقع کتبہ یوسف شاہ میں رہائش پزیر ہے۔ بذیل افراد پوٹیشن ہے

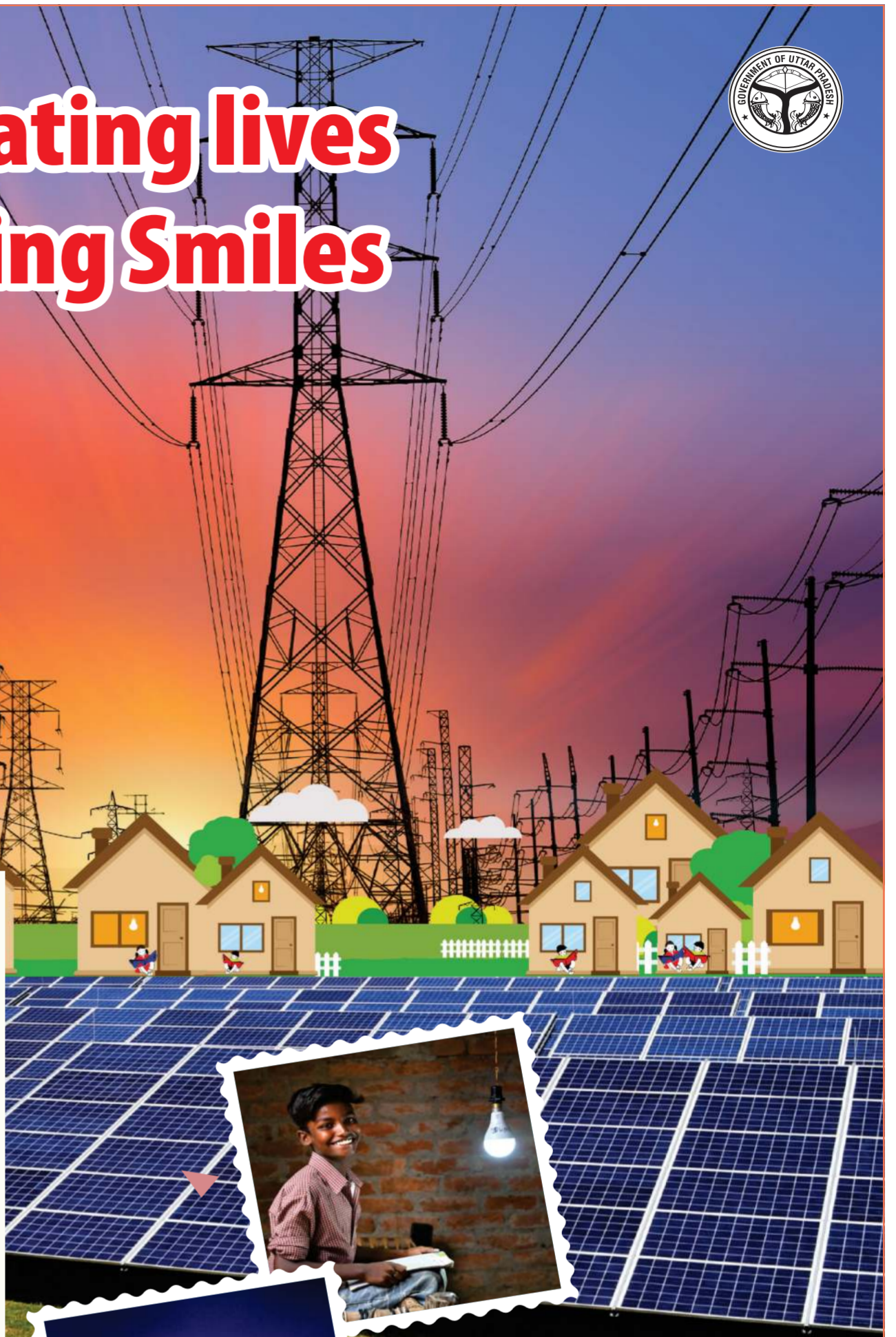


Illuminating lives Spreading Smiles



1.65 Crore Electricity Connections issued Since 2017

- Electrification of 1,21,324 villages (Majras)
- Activation of 176 transmission substations and power lines with an investment of ₹21,000 crore
- Installation of 2,600 MW solar power projects
- 18 to 20 hours power supply in rural areas, 21 to 22 hours at tehsil headquarters, and 24 hours at district headquarters
- Establishment of 740 new power substations of 33/11 KV and capacity enhancement of 1,589 power substations
- The total capacity of the transmission system increased from 16,348 MW to 28,900 MW
- Promotion of compressed biogas plant, bio coal, biodiesel/ bioethanol
- Establishment of a compressed biogas plant in Gorakhpur
- Development of Bundelkhand Expressway as the 'Solar Expressway'
- Installation of a 328 MW solar rooftop plant
- Transformation of Ayodhya and Varanasi into model solar cities
- 10 km long road in Ayodhya is now adorned with solar-powered smart streetlights, setting a new world record
- Solar energy in Bundelkhand under the Green Energy Corridor-2 project
- Development of 4000 MW capacity solar park planned for production
- Implementation of a revamped distribution sector scheme for smart metering and modernization of power system
- Removal of restrictions on private tube well connections in dark zones, more than 1 lakh farmers benefitted
- 100% discount on electricity bills of private tube wells and ensuring the replacement of faulty transformers within 24 hours



Uninterrupted Electricity

Double Engine Ki Sarkar



Israel securing Cyprus port in fear of war with Hezbollah

Agencies

Jerusalem: Israel is seeking to establish a port in the Mediterranean island country of Cyprus in case the port of Haifa is closed in a war with Hezbollah, Israel Hayom reported on 11 March.

The Ministry of Transport has set a goal to establish another port for Israel in Larnaca within 60 days. The establishment of the port is meant to coincide with US plans to establish a floating port off the coast of Gaza, allegedly to deliver aid to millions of besieged and famine-stricken Palestinians.

A delegation from the Israeli Ministry of Transportation and Road Safety, led by the chairman of the Israel Ports Company, Uzi Itzhaki, left for Cyprus on Monday. The port is expected to cost hundreds of millions of shekels, and efforts to establish it will be carried out immediately. The delegation seeks to establish the port in response to security scenarios provided by the ministry's head, Miri Regev.

Establishing a port in Larnaca is an urgent need for Israel to avoid a wartime situation where it is cut off from commercial and military supplies.

Specifically, Israel fears a situation where the Haifa port in northern Israel is closed due to a full-scale war with Hezbollah.

The Lebanese resistance movement has some 150,000 rockets and missiles, including those capable of hitting Haifa and even Tel Aviv.

“The Lebanese resistance movement has some 150,000 rockets and missiles, including those capable of hitting Haifa and even Tel Aviv.”

Israel and Hezbollah have been at war since 8 October, but the fighting has been limited mainly to missile, drone, and artillery strikes from both sides near the Israeli-Lebanese border areas.

The Ashdod port was closed following the Hamas-led 7 October attack, forcing Israel to redirect shipping to Eilat. The port in Eilat was then targeted by Ansarallah-Yemeni forces.

Contrary to news reports, the main goal in establishing the Cyprus port is not to transfer aid to Gaza.

A source familiar with the matter told Israel Hayom that Israel also intends the Larnaca port to be part of an alternative transportation axis to connect Europe and India through Israel. Israel hopes to establish such a route within the framework of a future normalization of relations with Saudi Arabia.



Palestinians in Gaza Begin Ramazan with Worsening Hunger

Agencies

Jerusalem: Palestinians began fasting for Ramadan on Monday as the Muslim holy month arrived with cease-fire talks at a standstill, hunger worsening across the Gaza Strip and no end in sight to the five-month-old war between Israel and Hamas.

Prayers were held outside amid the rubble of demolished buildings late Sunday. Some people hung fairy lights and decorations in packed tent camps, and a video from a UN-school-turned-shelter showed children dancing and spraying foam as a man sang into a loudspeaker.

But there was little to celebrate after five months of war that has killed over 30,000 Palestinians and left much of Gaza in ruins. Families would ordinarily break the daily fast with holiday feasts, but even where food is available, there is little beyond canned goods and the prices are too high for many.

“You don't see anyone with joy in their eyes,” said Sabah al-Hendi, who was shopping for food on Sunday in the southernmost city of Rafah. “Every family is sad. Every family has a martyr.”

The United States, Qatar and Egypt had hoped to broker a cease-fire ahead of

the normally joyous month of dawn-to-dusk fasting that would include the release of dozens of Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners, and the entry of a large amount of humanitarian aid, but the talks stalled last week.

Hamas is demanding guarantees that any such agreement will lead to an end to the war, while Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to continue the offensive until “total victory” against the militant group and the release of all the remaining hostages.

The war began when Hamas-led militants stormed into southern Israel on October 7, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking around 250 hostages. Hamas is still believed to be holding around 100 captives and the remains of 30 others following an exchange last year.

The war has driven around 80 per cent of Gaza's population of 2.3 million people from their homes and pushed hundreds of thousands to the brink of famine. Health officials say at least 20 people, mostly children, have died from malnutrition and dehydration in northern Gaza.

Israeli forces have large-

ly sealed off the north since October, and aid groups say Israeli restrictions, ongoing hostilities and the breakdown of law and order have made it nearly impossible to safely deliver desperately needed food in much of the territory.

Israel has meanwhile vowed to expand its offensive to the southern city of Rafah, where half of Gaza's population has sought refuge, without saying where civilians would go to escape the onslaught.

President Joe Biden has said an attack on Rafah would be a “red line” for him, but that the United States would continue to provide military aid to Israel.

Biden acknowledged in his annual Ramadan message that the holy month comes “at a moment of intense pain.”

“As Muslims gather around the world over the coming days and weeks to break their fast, the suffering of the Palestinian people will be front of mind for many. It is front of mind for me,” he said.

The United States and other countries have begun airdropping aid in recent days, but humanitarian groups say such efforts are costly and insufficient.

Iranian, Russian, Chinese forces to start joint naval exercise in northern Indian Ocean

Agencies

Tehran: Naval forces from the Islamic Republic of Iran, Russia and China will start a combined naval exercise in the northern tip of the Indian Ocean, where various divisions of their militaries will conduct large-scale maritime maneuvers.

The main stage of the naval war game, dubbed Maritime Security Belt 2024, will kick off on Tuesday.

The naval and airborne units of the Islamic Republic of Iran Navy, together with their Chinese and Russian counterparts, will participate in the joint naval drills. Naval del-

tended to strengthen the security of international maritime trade, combat piracy and maritime terrorism, and provide an opportunity for the exchange of information in the field of maritime rescue as well as operational and tactical experiences.

The Iranian naval forces and their Chinese and Russian counterparts have held several military drills in recent years to enhance the security and stability of international maritime trade.

The commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran Navy says the naval forces from Iran, Russia and China are set



egations from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Oman, Pakistan and South Africa have taken part as observers in the exercises.

The Maritime Security Belt 2024 naval drills are meant to beef up security and its fundamentals in the region, enhance multilateral cooperation among the participating countries, and to demonstrate the goodwill and ability of the participants to jointly safeguard global peace and maritime security.

The exercises are also in-

to hold a joint maritime drill in the coming weeks.

They have also been involved in joint efforts aimed at countering piracy and maritime terrorism, exchanging information in naval rescue and relief operations as well as sharing operational and tactical experience.

In March 2023, the Iranian, Chinese and Russian naval forces staged the 2023 Marine Security Belt war game in the northern parts of the Indian Ocean, which was the fourth joint exercise in recent years.

China Protests PM Modi's Visit to Arunachal Pradesh

Press Trust Of India

China on Monday said it lodged a diplomatic protest with India over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Arunachal Pradesh last week, reiterating its claim over the area by saying India's moves will “only complicate” the boundary question.

Prime Minister Modi on Saturday dedicated to the nation the Sela Tunnel built at an altitude of 13,000 feet in Arunachal Pradesh that will provide all-weather connectivity to strategically located Tawang and is expected to ensure better movement of troops along the frontier region.

The Rs 825 crore tunnel, constructed on the road connecting Assam's Tezpur to West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh, is being billed as the longest bi-lane road tunnel in the world at such an altitude.

The Sela Tunnel will provide for better movement of troops and weaponry to various forward locations along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China, according to military officials.

China, which claims Arunachal Pradesh as South

Tibet, routinely objects to Indian leaders' visits to the state to highlight its claims. Beijing has also named the area as Zangnan.

India has repeatedly rejected China's territorial claims over Arunachal Pradesh, asserting that the state is an integral part of the country. New Delhi has also dismissed Beijing's move to assign “invented” names to the area, saying it did not alter the reality.

Asked by the official media about Modi's visit to Arunachal Pradesh at a media briefing here on Monday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said “Zangnan area is Chinese territory”.

“China never recognised the so-called Arunachal Pradesh illegally set up by India and firmly opposes it,” he said.

The China-India boundary question has yet to be resolved. India has no right to arbitrarily develop the area of Zangnan in China, he said.

“Relevant moves by India only complicate the boundary question. China is strongly dissatisfied with and firmly opposed to the leader's visit to the eastern section of the China-India boundary,” he said.

Security Tightened In Parts Of Delhi As Centre Notifies Citizenship Law CAA

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Security has been beefed up in northeast Delhi, Shaheen Bagh, Jamia and other sensitive areas across the national capital following the notification of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (CAA) on Monday, officials said.

Police personnel and paramilitary forces have also been deployed in some parts, with flag march being conducted in parts of northeast and southeast Delhi, they said.

Delhi witnessed communal riots in 2020 over the CAA and NRC (National Register of Citizens).

“Safety of every single common man of Delhi's northeast district is our responsibility,” DCP northeast Joy Tirkey told PTI.

He further said that intensive patrolling and checking is being carried out by northeast district police personnel and paramilitary forces for the safety of citizens in sensitive areas. Everyone is requested to follow the safety instructions, the officer said.

“We have intensified night vigil along with paramilitary forces. No one will be allowed to breach the law and order situation. We took out flag marches for the safety of every single common,”

the DCP said.

The rules for implementation of the contentious Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 were notified on Monday, paving the way for granting of citizenship to undocumented non-Muslim migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

With the CAA rules being issued, the Modi government will now start granting Indian nationality to persecuted non-Muslim migrants from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan who came to India till December 31, 2014. These include Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis and Christians.

50 Injured As "Technical Event" Causes Turbulence On Sydney-Auckland Flight

Agencies

Wellington: Thirteen passengers have been hospitalised after a LATAM flight from Sydney to Auckland experienced a “technical event” that caused serious turbulence Monday, the airline and first responders told AFP.

Chile-based LATAM Airlines said flight LA800 “had a technical event during the flight which caused a strong movement. The plane landed at Auckland Airport as scheduled”.

Gerard Campbell of St John Ambulance New Zealand said medics were alerted to an incident at the airport and 13 patients had been taken to a local hospital by ambulance.

“We were notified at 3.58 pm and responded with five ambulances,” he said.

“Our ambulance crews assessed and treated approximately 50 patients, with one patient in a serious condition and the remainder in a moderate to minor condition,” Campbell said.

The airline said LATAM “deeply regrets any inconvenience and discomfort this situation may have caused”.

“Our ambulance crews assessed and treated approximately 50 patients, with one patient in a serious condition and the remainder in a moderate to minor condition”

Will Serve "To Best Of My Ability": King Charles After Cancer Diagnosis

King Charles III said on Monday that he would continue to serve “to the best of my ability” after his cancer diagnosis, saying he had been “deeply touched” by people's wishes for his health.

The 75-year-old monarch, who became king in September 2022 after the death of his mother Elizabeth II, was admitted for surgery for a benign prostate condition in January but was subsequently diagnosed with an unrelated cancer.

He has postponed all public-facing duties while he undergoes treatment, but is continuing with behind-the-scenes work and has been holding some in-person meetings.

“In recent weeks, I have been most deeply touched by your wonderfully kind and thoughtful good wishes for my health,” he said in a pre-recorded speech to



mark the 75th anniversary of the Commonwealth. “In return, can only continue to serve you, to the best of my ability, throughout the Commonwealth.”

King Charles's wife, Queen Camilla, 76, and son Prince William, 41, have taken on most of the royal family's du-

ties in his absence.

Prince William's wife, Princess Kate, 42, has also been absent from public life since undergoing abdominal surgery in January.

In his speech, King Charles praised the diversity of Commonwealth and urged member nations to work together to overcome climate and economic challenges facing the world.

“Whilst we may not all have a shared history, we have common ambitions for a better future – working together to build resilience and respond to global challenges,” the monarch said in a speech recorded at Windsor Castle in February.

“Our diversity means that these challenges affect us all differently and that we experience their impacts in different ways,” he said.

High Court Denies Bail To AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan In Money Laundering Case

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Monday refused to grant anticipatory bail to AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan in a money laundering case related to alleged irregularities in staff recruitment and leasing of assets by the Delhi Waqf Board during his chairmanship.

“No ground for anticipatory bail is made out at this stage,” said Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma.

A detailed copy of the order is awaited.

The Okhla MLA had approached the high court after his application for pre-arrest bail in the case, which is being investigated by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), was rejected by a trial court here on March 1.

'Pak President Asif Zardari's Daughter To Become First Lady'

Islamabad: Pakistan President Asif Zardari will announce the formal recognition of his daughter, Aseefa Bhutto, as the First Lady of the country, ARY News reported, citing sources.

Notably, this will be the first time that a Pakistani President has announced his daughter for the position of First Lady, as normally the title is given to the President's wife.

This landmark move elevates Aseefa Bhutto to the prestigious position of First Lady, marking a significant chapter in the nation's political history.

Sources claimed that President Zardari would declare Aseefa Bhutto to the First Lady of Pakistan.

After the official declaration, Aseefa Bhutto Zardari will be given the protocol and privileges befitting the First Lady, ARY News reported. This decision is particularly



noteworthy as Aseefa Bhutto is set to become the first daughter of a president to hold the title of First Lady.

On Sunday, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Zardari was sworn in as the 14th President of Pakistan, officially taking over as the head of the state for a historic second time, Dawn reported.

NEWS MAKERS

Will Serve "To Best Of My Ability": King Charles After Cancer Diagnosis

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Ramazan In Kashmir Starts From Today Dates, Watermelons Flood Markets

Srinagar: The holy month of Ramazan begins today in J&K as the Crescent moon was sighted yesterday night.

"The first day of the fasting month of Ramazan will be on Tuesday in J&K. The Crescent moon has been sighted and there is enough evidence," Grand Mufti Nasir-ul Islam announced on Monday.

Notably, dates and watermelons have flooded the markets of Kashmir as the month-long dawn-to-dusk fasts of Ramazan starts.

Shops and handcart vendors have prominently displayed the dates and watermelons as their sales are expected to pick up with the start of holy month.

For Kashmiris, dates and watermelons have been the preferred food to break the fast with. However, the dealers are surprised that there is not much demand for these products yet.

"Usually, people would start buying dates at least one week before the fasting month begins but this year the sales are not that good," Abdul Rashid, a wholesale supplier of dates, said.

The sale of watermelon has also been on the | [More on P11](#)

| More on

P11

4 Yrs After Passage, Citizenship Law Becomes Reality

Opposition Accuses Govt Of Polarising Electorate Ahead Of LS polls

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Centre on Monday implemented the contentious Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, a move that comes four years after the contentious law was passed and paves the way for citizenship to undocumented non-Muslim migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan who came to India before December 31, 2014.

The rules were notified days ahead of the expected announcement of the Lok Sabha elections. With this, the Modi government will now start granting Indian nationality to persecuted non-Muslim



migrants -- Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis and Christians -- from the three countries. Union Minister Amit Shah said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has delivered on another

commitment and realised the promise of the makers of the Constitution.

"These rules, called the Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024 will enable the persons eligible under CAA-2019 to apply for the grant of Indian citizenship," a Home Ministry spokesperson said.

"The applications will be submitted in a completely online mode for which a web portal has been provided," the spokesperson added.

The CAA was passed in December 2019 and subsequently got the president's assent but there were protests in several parts of the country against it, with many

opposition parties speaking out against the law calling it "discriminatory". The law could not come into effect as rules had not been notified till now.

"These rules will now enable minorities persecuted on religious grounds in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan to acquire citizenship in our nation."

"With this notification, PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji has delivered on another commitment and realised the promise of the makers of our Constitution to the Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians living in those countries," Shah said on X.

The Congress and other opposition parties | [More on P11](#)

'No Citizenship Revocation Regardless Of Religion'

| [More on P11](#)

The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, that seeks to grant Indian nationality to refugees who had sought shelter in India before December 31, 2014 due to religious persecution in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, will not take away citizenship of any Indian irrespective of their religion, sources said. The citizenship rights will protect their cultural, linguistic, and social identity and it will also ensure economic, commercial, free movement, and property purchase rights. The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, seeks to grant Indian citizenship to refugees who had sought shelter in India before December 31, 2014, due to religious persecution in three neighbouring countries -- Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. The six persecuted communities are Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, | [More on P11](#)



Gulmarg Receives Fresh Snowfall

Wet Weather Likely Till Mar 14: MeT

Agencies

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

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

However, rains lashed Srinagar and other areas this evening.

The rains and snow has occurred under the influence of Western Disturbance that affected J&K today, the officials in the MeT said, adding that one more WD is affecting J&K in the next few days. Director Meteorological | [More on P11](#)

Fully Prepared To Ensure Peaceful Polls: DGP

Says Will Provide Safe, Secure Environment To Voters

Agencies

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

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

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

Replying to another query about links between



narco-terrorism and terrorism, the DGP said that earlier, they had a doubt whether these two are really linked. "As and when investigations progressed, concrete evidence came to fore that narco-trade and terrorism are deeply not only linked but interconnected. Terrorist outfits like Al-Badr, Jaish-e-Muhammad, Lashkar-e-Toiba are behind this trade," he said. The J&K police chief said that the value | [More on P11](#)

J&K Readies For LS Polls With 86.39 Lakh Voters

- » 2.31 lakh new voters
- » Total 11,629 polling stations
- » New 629 polling centers
- » Postal Voting for Elderly, Disabled
- » Inclusive Booth Setup
- » Dedicated Personnel
- » Logistical Efficiency
- » Comprehensive Training
- » Infrastructure Enhancements

Agencies

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



or other limitations. Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) PK Pole said in a meeting held here | [More on P11](#)

CEC Arrives In J&K To Review Preparations

| [More on P11](#)

Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar arrived here on Monday on a three-day visit to review preparations for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls in Jammu and Kashmir. The general elections are likely to be held in April-May. No formal engagements are scheduled for the | [More on P11](#)

BANK FRAUD CASE

ED Attaches Properties Worth 4.81 Cr

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday attached properties worth Rs 4.81 crore belonging to accused persons in a bank fraud case here.

The federal agency said the properties belonged to Ishaq Ahmad Zargar of M/s Nikha Ornaments (12.5 marlas), Khalil Ahmad Mughal of M/s JK Gold Jewellery (14.80 kanals), Mohammad Ashraf Dev of M/s Raf Raf Tours and Travel (1.60 kanals) and Mohammad Sayed Kausar Niyazi of M/s Sayed Tours and Travels (17 marlas).

"Directorate of Enforcement, Srinagar Zonal office, has provisionally attached immovable properties worth Rs 4.81 crore in the form of 18 kanals of land and a building in a fraud case

in a Canara Bank branch," the agency said.

An FIR was registered at Maisuma police station in 2014 after several loan accounts turned "bad" with non-existent properties shown as mortgage by the borrowers.

The ED initiated investigation on the basis of the FIR against the accused persons and others for causing loss to the tune of Rs 5.59 crore to Canara Bank, Budshah Chowk branch here.

The police are yet to file a charge sheet before the court in this case.

"The investigation has revealed that during 2014 the accused borrowers, along with 26 other borrowers, in connivance of M N Doley, the then branch manager of Canara Bank, availed | [More on P11](#)

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

Says Govt Committed To Develop Supportive Ecosystem For Young

Observer News Service

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday inaugurated the two-day training programme of Police and other stakeholders on 'Strengthening of Child Protection Systems'.

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



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

Lt Governor said. He said, under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the administration is working with full | [More on P11](#)

LG Greets People On Ramazan

| [More on P11](#)

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has extended his hearty greetings to the people on the beginning of the holy month of Ramazan.

In a message, the Lt Governor said: "Heartiest greetings and good wishes to all on the beginning of the sacred month of Ramazan. May this holy month bring peace, prosperity and joy for everyone" | [More on P11](#)

Unfair If Assembly Elections Not Held Along With LS Polls: Omar

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah on Monday said his party will raise the demand for holding simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the legislative assembly in Jammu and Kashmir with the Election Commission of India (ECI) team, stating it would be an injustice to people if the assembly elections are postponed.

The former chief minister also took a dig at the Congress over the seat-sharing issue,



saying they are free to give any of the seats to the PDP, but it would be difficult for the regional party to secure a victory.

"We have only one demand to raise with them (ECI team): the assembly polls should be held along with | [More on P11](#)

'Azad Was In Rajya Sabha For 12 Yrs Because Of Us'

| [More on P11](#)

Democratic Progressive

Azad Party chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad has been elected to the Rajya Sabha twice with National Conference's help and the difference in the "ferocity" of his attacks towards the NC and the BJP showed the leader's "agenda", former Jammu and Kashmir chief | [More on P11](#)



A shopkeeper in Srinagar sorts dates, as Ramazan in Kashmir starts from today. KO Pix :Abid Bhat

HC Disapproves Appointment By Transfer

Says It Is Executive's Domain To Decide On Filling Up Posts

M Ahmad

Srinagar: Observing that it is primarily in the domain of the executive to see in what capacity or manner a particular post is to be filled up or utilized, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh has disapproved appointment by transfer.

A division bench of Chief Justice N. Kotiswar Singh and Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal made the observations while dealing with a "peculiar problem" in an appeal filed by the government of J&K against

order by the court's single bench in 2015.

"A peculiar problem has arisen in this appeal as we are dealing with the appointment that was accorded in December, 1999 in respect of respondent no. 3 before the Writ Court, who is respondent no. 2 herein (namely P Kor), as an Assistant Housekeeper in Hospitality and Protocol Department, to which the writ petitioner, herein (namely N A Ganie), was also an aspirant," the Division Bench said. | [More on P11](#)

Electoral Bonds: SBI Faces Searching Questions

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The State Bank of India, which unsuccessfully sought extension of time till June 30 to disclose the details of electoral bonds, on Monday faced searching questions from the Supreme Court which wanted to know about the steps taken to comply with the directions it had issued while scrapping the controversial scheme of anonymous political funding on February 15.

In a landmark verdict, a five-judge constitution bench had done away with the scheme, calling it "unconstitutional", and ordered disclosure by the Election Commission of donors, the amount donated by them

and the recipients by March 13.

Ordering the closure of the scheme, the top court had directed the SBI, the authorised financial institution under the scheme, to submit by March 6 the details of the electoral bonds purchased since April 12, 2019 till date to the EC.

On Monday, the apex court dismissed SBI's plea seeking an extension of time and ordered it to disclose the details of electoral bonds to the Election Commission by close of business hours on March 12.

During the hearing on SBI's application seeking extension of time, the five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud told senior | [More on P11](#)

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Prolonged Political Void

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs' briefing to the Election Commission of India (ECI) regarding the security situation for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections brings attention to the broader democratic process in the region. As the ECI contemplates the possibility of simultaneous Assembly and parliament polls in J&K, it becomes evident that restoring elected representation is crucial for the political stability and democratic well-being of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Supreme Court's directive to conduct Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir by September 30 adds urgency to the situation. The region has been without an elected government since June 19, 2018, creating a prolonged political vacuum. The absence of elected representatives in Jammu and Kashmir has implications for effective governance and representation of the diverse interests of the region.

The visit of EC officials to assess the security situation and election preparedness is a step in the right direction. The request for 3.4 lakh Central Armed Police Force personnel and the deployment of 635 paramilitary companies signal the challenges posed by the security situation.

Former Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad's call for holding Assembly elections soon after the Lok Sabha polls echoes the sentiment of many people who have been eagerly awaiting a return to democratic governance. Azad's assertion that the people of Jammu and Kashmir cannot wait any longer reflects the frustration caused by the prolonged absence of democracy in the region.

The region's political dynamics have seen changes, with the delimitation exercise completed in May 2023, leading to the creation of a new Assembly with redrawn constituencies. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Srinagar ahead of the Lok Sabha elections went a long way to shore up a degree of hope in Kashmir about the near future. And holding of Assembly elections in J&K is one such step. While the PM inaugurated development projects worth over Rs 6,000 crore, the focus on political stability through Assembly elections cannot be overstated. The political parties in the region, including the BJP, are eyeing a change in the political future of Kashmir, and holding Assembly elections is a crucial step towards achieving that goal.

The urgency for Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir is undeniable. These elections are an important step towards political stability, and giving the people of the region a voice in shaping their future.

India's East Asian Outreach

Asad Mirza

In its latest outreach exercise, India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar travelled to South Korea and Japan from March 5 to 8. S Jaishankar travelled to South Korea, first, from March 5-6 where he co-chaired the 10th India-Republic of Korea Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) with his counterpart Cho Tae-yul.

At the JCM, S Jaishankar expressed India's desire to expand its strategic partnership with South Korea into new areas such as critical and emerging technologies, semiconductors, and green hydrogen.

The JCM covered a wide range of topics, including cooperation in defence, science and technology, trade, people-to-people exchange, and cultural cooperation. The two sides also discussed advancing trilateral cooperation and exchanged views on developments in the Indo-Pacific region, as well as regional and global issues of mutual interest.

Stressing expanding cooperation between India and South Korea to new sectors, Mr Jaishankar said that though we have to keep up the momentum in the traditional areas of cooperation, we would be very much interested now in expanding it to new areas to make our ties more contemporary. This statement summarised the new vision, which India has for increasing its bilateral ties with South Korea

India-S Korea Bilateral Trade

The EAM further called for a quick conclusion to the review of India's trade agreement with South Korea, adding that the two countries must work together to find more 'meeting points' and increase their engagement to realise their potential.

Pointing to the long-pending review of CEPA (Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement) between India and South Korea, the EAM urged for its up gradation to embrace new and emerging sectors, for which he urged to identify more intersections and meeting points that work for both.

The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, or CEPA, between India and South Korea came into force in 2010. However, India has said the pact should be more balanced and equitable. Reports say India wants greater access to the South Korean market for certain goods such as steel, rice, and shrimp while Korea is said to want greater access to India in sectors such as auto components and chemicals. India's bilateral trade with South Korea grew 9 percent in 2022-23 to \$27.88 billion, with India having a significant trade deficit.

Expanding Comprehensive Cooperation

There were fruitful discussions between the two sides on comprehensive cooperation in the fields of defence, science and technology and trade. It is believed that this bonhomie between India and South Korea will cause great tension to N Korea's Kim Jong Un.

In his address at the Korea National Diplomatic Academy Jaishankar also said that trade apart, India and South Korea must recognise the strengths they both brought to the table.

Responding to a question related to India's production-linked



incentive scheme for semiconductor manufacturing, Jaishankar said it is part of increasing domestic capabilities. While this is in India's interests, Jaishankar said it is also part of de-risking the world economy.

He said that both countries have seen increasing similarity of views on international forums. He said, "It is important to focus on the Indo-Pacific region." The reference here was obviously to India's increasing role in Quad.

Jaishankar, in this regard, highlighted the Fusion Centre, hosted by India and built as a result of a number of White Shipping agreements with different partners with a common operative picture across the entire Indian Ocean.

Cultural Ties

During his visit to Seoul, Indian External Affairs minister also met with Gimhae City Mayor Hong Tae-yong and discussed greater cultural and educational cooperation with Gimhae City. He highlighted the Gimhae-Ayodhya connect as a testament to the shared cultural heritage and longstanding people-to-people relations between the two nations, referring to the legendary story of Queen Heo Hwang-ok (Princess Suriratna) from Ayodhya who married King Kim Suro in Korea some 2,000 years ago.

Overall, given the areas highlighted by the EAM during his visit, it seems that India is trying to revive the previous effort to set up an India-Japan-South Korea trilateral. However, in the current scenario around IOR countries, this trilateral forum, apart from boosting ties between the three nations, will also aim to synergise with the Quad's focus areas in the region, ostensibly defence will be paramount in this effort.

India-Japan Bilateral Ties

On the second leg of his East Asian tour, EAM Jaishankar travelled to Japan. Besides focussing on the bilateral ties, the visit was also aimed at further enhancing Indo-Jap cooperation in emerging fields like green technology, and digital transformation and also review the security dialogue between the two countries, besides discussing measures to counter the common adversary i.e. China.

On March 7, addressing the first Raisina Roundtable in Tokyo, S Jaishankar, citing the turbulence in India's relationship with China amid the continuing border stand-off, said that it is a cause of concern if a country doesn't observe written agreements with its neighbours and also raises a question on the said country's intentions.

EAM also said that when big power shifts take place in the Indo-

India's East Asian outreach comes at a time when the Indo-Pacific region is facing increasing Chinese belligerence in the region. India wants to hedge its bets with two leading players in East Asia, i.e. S Korea and Japan through defence ties but paramount to it is ensuring access to the semiconductor industry and other key strategic areas

Pacific region, there are accompanying and strategic consequences, although countries intend to keep relationships stable despite changing dynamics but that has not been the case with China.

Indo-Japan Defence Ties

Promoting India's recent accomplishments and advances in various fields, Jaishankar said that India is increasingly turning to like-minded partners who gather together for a particular purpose.

The minister also called for Japanese cooperation concerning the development assistance in the Global South. He added that as a leading voice of the Global South, and being "particularly conscious of this responsibility", India's development efforts today span 78 nations across different continents.

Japan's Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi said there was "an increasing need" for India and Japan to step-up security cooperation as the two countries held talks to further strengthen military ties amid growing tension from China and Russia in the region. She also said they agreed to look for possibilities to extend their cooperation to new areas of space and cyber security.

Defence Ties

The meetings between the Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi and Defence Minister Yasukazu Hamada with their Indian counterparts, S Jaishankar and Rajnath Singh, in Tokyo, comes at

a sensitive time as Russia holds a major multinational military exercise in its far east, with China and India part

Stating that the world is now more volatile, uncertain, unpredictable, and open-ended, Jaishankar said that it is a "prospect that India and Japan have to confront, both from the national perspectives as well as from the point of view of their own relationship".

Hamada, who held defence talks with Indian MoD Rajnath Singh on March 7, said that bilateral and multinational joint exercises and other defence cooperation have expanded in recent years and will be raised to 'new highs'. He said their first joint fighter jet training is being planned.

Japan hopes to expand military equipment transfers to back up its feeble defence industry as the country tries to bolster its military capability and spending as deterrence against growing threats from China, Russia and North Korea.

QUAD's Direction

Japan and India, both members of the Quad grouping that also includes the United States and Australia, have rapidly intensified bilateral ties amid shared concern about China's increasingly assertive economic and military activities in the region.

Japan also wants to reaffirm India's support in promoting a "free and open Indo-Pacific vision" that Japan promotes with the United States as part of the Quad framework that also includes Australia as a counter to China's assertiveness in the region, Japanese foreign ministry officials said.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on March 8, speaking at Nikkei Forum on the India-Japan Special Strategic Partnership, said that solutions for India and Japan nationally, as well as regionally and globally, lie there. He further emphasised that India-Japan ties will both draw strength from larger activities together, especially from the Quad.

The two ministers welcomed expanding joint military exercises. Jaishankar said their countries would work together to enhance economic security and supply chain resilience, and discussed cooperation in areas such as semiconductor, green technology, and digital transformation.

India's East Asian outreach comes at a time when the Indo-Pacific region is facing increasing Chinese belligerence in the region. India wants to hedge its bets with two leading players in East Asia, i.e. S Korea and Japan through defence ties but paramount to it is ensuring access to the semiconductor industry and other key strategic areas, all of which were highlighted by the EAM in both the countries. Further with Japan, India needs to be seen as an equal partner in Quad, to gain the American confidence, as so far it has not been able to achieve the goals, for which it had joined the Quad.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer
Asad Mirza is a Delhi-based senior political and international affairs commentator



Did You Know?

2 min read by Irshad Mushtaq

The decision to build a house instead of renting has often been considered a sound investment. However, when we take into account the skyrocketing land rates and the high returns of other asset classes, it becomes evident that renting a house may actually be the cheaper option. Let's consider an example to illustrate this point.

In 2003, the value of land was Rs 5 lakh per kanal, and the cost of constructing a house was Rs 25 lakhs, making the total value cost at that time Rs 30 lakhs. Fast forward to today, the selling value of the house with 1 kanal of land is approximately Rs 3.5 crore, which translates to a 13% compounding annual return over the past 20 years. On the other hand, the value of the land shot up to a staggering 45 times, bringing the total value to Rs13.50 crore, equating to a 20.97% compounding annually over 20 years.

Comparing these figures, it becomes clear that the decision to build a house instead of renting has resulted in a significant loss. Over a span of 20 years, the loss incurred by building the house amounts to a staggering 10 crore rupees. This highlights the financial implications of the decision to build a house instead of opting for rental accommodation.

Unfortunately, many individuals have made the same mistake, realizing too late the financial drawbacks of owning a house. This has led to a situation where a large number of Kashmiri people are forced to live in rental accommodations, creating a social trap.

In conclusion, the example provided clearly demonstrates the financial implications of the decision to build a house instead of renting. It is imperative that we learn from these mistakes and start to think strategically about our housing decisions. We must prioritize the future of our society and focus on skill development to ensure a better standard of living for the generations to come. It is time to break free from traditional social pressures and create better living decisions for our society.

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Flying Woes

In the last two years, every one in two flyers in India had experienced either their luggages having got lost or damaged as per survey conducted by Local-Circles, India's leading community social media platform. Not only in India, but throughout the world air-passengers getting separated from their luggages has become a routine affair, which is a nightmarish experience.

Mishandling during transfer is one of the major reasons why luggage may be delayed or lost. This can occur when handlers do not have adequate time to transfer bags between flights. Other human errors, such as incorrect tagging or loading can also result in loss of luggages. Passengers lose control over what happens to their luggage once they check in at the airport. While it al-

most always arrives on the conveyor belt at the other end, we can never be totally sure until it actually arrives. It is all the more painful that lost baggage claims take a long time to be processed, particularly at times when airlines have more to deal with than normal. In the vast expanse of the Indian aviation landscape, passengers can no longer be treated as mere travellers, but as individuals

whose rights must be protected by aviation regulations, including those laid out by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). Improved professionalism can elevate business aviation's reputation by earning the confidence, trust and support of the passengers.

Ranganathan Sivakumar

Here's How You Can Have a Productive Ramazan

Sarah Koul



Ramazan is the most precious month in the Islamic calendar. The gates of hell are shut and gates of heaven are thrown open and every believer is showered with a multitude of blessings for each of their good deeds. At the core, it is the opportunity for each Muslim to connect to their spiritual sense by giving up all scripturally forbidden and restricted desires of the world.

When we fast, we do not only refrain from eating but from all forms of materialistic consumption, and what is spirituality if not the lack of desire for worldly ease? We may give up feeding our bodies but we start feeding our soul which relies and thrives upon the remembrance of our creator. This month of barakah which satiates the quench of our soul, must be lived exceptionally by drowning oneself in Ibadah and engaging in good deeds to benefit in this world and the hereafter.

It is the month of spiritual cleansing and purification for us. We should try to increase our worship, good deeds and acts of charity so that we are able to benefit from the immense blessings of Ramazan and seek salvation. Here are some ways you can make your Ramazan more productive and engage more with your deen than duniya.

JOURNALING

Make a journal consisting of goals and aims you want to achieve on a daily basis. For example, list out a few duas you want to repeat throughout the day, or set a goal of how many pages of the Quran you ought to complete. You can list your tasks you want to perform throughout the day and keep a check on your progress through your journal.

MEAL PREP IN ADVANCE

Women mostly have to spend more of their time in the kitchen preparing meals for iftaar and suhoor. You should help or prepare the meals in advance during the morning hours so that you can spend the rest of your day engaged in worship.

COMPLETING THE QURAN WITH TRANSLATION

The main purpose of the Quran is to guide us through every aspect of life. It is not just a book meant to be recited on a daily basis, it preaches us about almost everything encompassing life and hereafter. The Quran

is meant to teach how we ought to spend our lives preparing for the hereafter, it is filled with guidance and knowledge and must not only be recited but also understood.

POUNDERING OVER HADITH AND MEMORISING

Hadiths are the valuable sayings of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) which teach us the noble way of life. They are a major source of religious law and moral guidance, second only to the authority of the Quran, the holy book of Islam. You can spare a few minutes of your time remembering hadiths that shape our lives.

START READING SEERAH OF PROPHET (PEACE BE UPON HIM)

The biography of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) which contains the history, events, wars, prayers and sayings of the last messenger of Allah and the struggle he has endured to spread Islam across the globe and to our households. The Prophet (PBUH)'s character is an excellent example for us to follow, and we can learn this example by studying the seerah. Mohammed (PBUH) was a perfect model as a human being in each and every aspect of his life. Loving the Prophet (pbuh) is a necessity for every Muslim. Learning and reflecting upon his life will definitely increase your love for him. Love of the Prophet is what differentiates the believers in the perfection of belief. You can read about resources available on Prophet's Seerah on Kashmir Observer's article, "Indulge in Milad Spirit"

TAJWEED COURSES

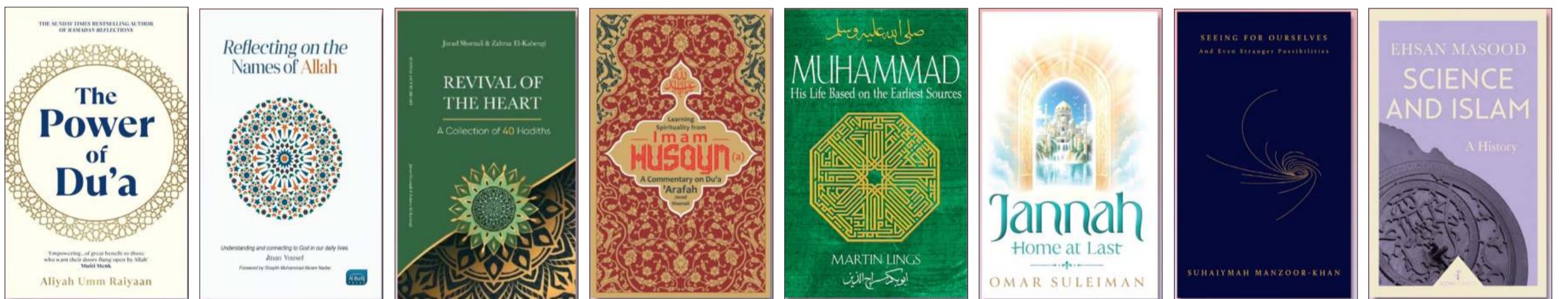
Get enrolled in a tajweed program - so that you inculcate a better understanding of the Arabic language and read the Quran flawlessly without any doubts.

CONNECT AT TAHAJJUD

Pray tahajjud everyday - Praying tahajjud provides us with inner strength and mental peace. "Be vigilant in standing up [in prayer] at night, for it was the practice of the pious before you. It is a means of gaining proximity to Allah Ta'ala, expiation for transgressions and a barrier from sins." (Tirmidhi) Ramazan is the most convenient time to offer your tahajjud prayers, you can wake up minutes prior to suhoor to pray and beg to Allah for this part of the night guarantees almighty's mercy and blessings upon you.



8 Books To Read In Ramadan



AMALIAH TEAM

As the blessed month of Ramadan approaches, we are all looking for ways to deepen our connection with Allah SWT and our understanding of the deen. While we abstain from nourishing our physical bodies, there's a timeless tradition of Ramadan that stands out — nourishing our minds and souls through reading.

We asked the Amaliah community and they have given us eight interesting resources that promise to offer poignant and deeply inspiring guidance as a way to light up our Ramadan days and nights.

1. THE POWER OF DUA BY ALIYAH UMM RAIYAAN

In *The Power of Du'a*, Sunday Times bestselling author and revert, Aliyah Umm Raiyaan takes us on a journey that shows how faith and practising du'a can transform your life. Filled with heartwarming reflections and practical advice for incorporating du'a into daily

life, this book is a comforting guide to revive and develop a close relationship with Al-Mujeeb – The One Who Responds. A beautiful exploration of the transformative power of du'a, you will find yourself returning to its pages year after year.

2. REFLECTING IN THE NAMES OF ALLAH BY JINAN YOUSEF

Jinan Yousef's work invites readers to contemplate the meanings of the divine names of Allah. The author provides a comprehensive explanation for Allah's names and attributes, giving clear and beautiful explanations for each name so you can apply each name of Allah SWT to your life and use them in duas. The book is a must-read for those looking to deepen their understanding of their Rabb this Ramadan.

3. REVIVAL OF THE HEART: COLLECTION OF 40 HADITHS

This collection of forty hadiths curated by various scholars serves as a spiritual guide for helping us navigate life's vari-

ous challenges with wisdom and grace. Each hadith is a gem on its own, offering timeless teachings filled with wisdom that will resonate deeply within your heart. In addition to the translation, each hadith comes with a practical example, making the learning easy to implement in our lives.

4. LEARNING SPIRITUALITY FROM IMAM HUSAYN (RA): A COMMENTARY ON DU'A 'ARAFAH BY JAVED SHOMALI

Du'a 'Arafah of Imam Husayn is an invaluable treasure trove of spirituality that draws inspiration from the dua that Imam Hussain (RA) made. This book provides profound commentary on du'a and the essence of spirituality and devotion. The poignant reflections on the realities of Tawheed make it a powerful companion for the sacred month of Ramadan.

5. MUHAMMAD BY MARTIN LINGS

Martin Lings' biography of Muhammad (ﷺ) is an internationally acclaimed account of

the Prophet's (ﷺ) life, drawing from ancient Arabic sources. This masterpiece offers a captivating portrayal of the life of the Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ), providing readers with profound insights into his (ﷺ) character, teachings, and legacy. The biography is chronological, while the writing style is easy to read and immerse oneself into. It is hailed as a definitive biography, enriching our understanding of our beloved Prophet (ﷺ) with depth and authenticity.

6. JANNAH: HOME AT LAST BY OMAR SULEIMAN

Using authentic narrations and an engaging storytelling style, this book is bound to keep you hooked as Imam Omar Suleiman attempts to describe the immense beauty and majestic stature of Jannah. We all know that this world and all its struggles are temporary, but do we truly understand it? Why not focus on our eternal abode with this beautiful book that will surely soothe our broken and

weary hearts this Ramadan. This is also available as a series by Yaqeen Institute on their YouTube channel by the same name. The 10-15 minute episodes provide a quick guide on Jannah, a place built by our deeds and decorated by our du'a's. Where every second of discomfort and pain will be repaid with sights and rewards unimaginable and the company of the Most High.

7. SEEING FOR OURSELVES AND EVEN STRANGER POSSIBILITIES BY SUHAIYMAH MANZOOR-KHAN

"Why do we yearn to be seen when we are already far too visible? How do we want to be perceived, and how are we exposed? Could we ever really see for ourselves?"

In memoir, vignettes, poetry and essays, Suhaiymah Manzoor-Khan shares her observations on the complexities of being visible and invisible simultaneously. She reflects on the hypocrisy of society, its power to judge, the open-air arenas of family, friendship and

grief, public image and revelation of the self in solitude.

Suhaiymah encourages the readers to consider the strangest, most exciting possibilities that occur when we surrender to another kind of sight. Submitting to the gaze of the Unseen and the All-Seeing, Manzoor-Khan invites us to close our eyes and discover what it would mean to look with our souls instead. A great book for self-reflection and turning our eyes inwards and towards the relationship between our souls and the One Who created them.

8. SCIENCE AND ISLAM: A HISTORY BY EHSAN MASOOD (ON THE ISLAMIC GOLDEN AGE)

If educational knowledge and Islamic History are what you're looking for, then Ehsan Masood's exploration of the Islamic Golden Age will be perfect for you. Between the 8th and 15th centuries, scholars and researchers working from Samarkand in modern-day Uzbekistan to Cordoba in

Spain advanced our knowledge of astronomy, chemistry, engineering, mathematics, medicine and philosophy to new heights. These scientists were part of a sophisticated culture and civilization that was based on belief in one God – a picture which helps to debunk the myth of the "Dark Ages" in which scientific advance faltered.

Ehsan Masood weaves the story of these and other scientists into a compelling narrative, making this non-fiction book an easy read for all.

We hope these books can offer you guidance in moments of reflection, solace and comfort in moments of despair, inspiration when most needed, an illuminated path to follow the Sunnah and a way to deepen your bond with Allah SWT. May this Ramadan be a time of reflection, growth, and spiritual renewal for us all. Happy reading and Ramadan Mubarak!

The article was originally published by Amaliah

Tulip Garden To Open On March 23 With 1.7M Blooms & 73 Varieties

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Asia's largest Tulip garden is all set to open for visitors from March 23 and will feature nearly 1.7 million tulips with 73 varieties, officials said on Monday.

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

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

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

"This year we have added five new varieties bringing the total number of tulip varieties to 73. These new varieties will give an enchanting experience to the visitors making the splendid garden extremely beautiful," he maintained.

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

Sheikh Fayaz said that Tulip Garden, recently included in the World Book of Records, is a pride for the Floriculture de-

partment and has greatly enhanced the tourism sector in Jammu and Kashmir. We are anticipating a big increase in the arrival of tourists to the Tulip Garden this year as compared to last year and preparations are in full swing in this regard.

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

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

It was also revealed during the meeting that the Floriculture department has installed multi activity children equipment in 7 more parks bringing the total number of parks with children equipment to 14. Director Floriculture Kashmir, Farooq Ahmad Rather, said that it is a conscious endeavor of the department to ensure that children have fun time in the parks.

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



MARKETS IN SRINAGAR were crowded with customers, most of whom were purchasing dates, a day before the commencement of the holy month of Ramadan. KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

Institute Of Hotel Management Host State Level 'India Skills' Competition

Observer News Service

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

The candidates from J&K participated in the state level competition, which will lead to being

selected to participate in Pre-National competitions and National level competitions and finally the winner will participate in World Skills Competitions scheduled in Lyon, France later this year.

Such initiatives are necessary for the youth to showcase their skills for exploring better employment opportunities in the advanced relevant fields, said Chief Yasin who was as jury for competition. Dr. Safiq ur Rehman, another Jury Member said that our skilled youth must make maximum use of such opportunities. JKSDM will continue to organize such initiatives and give opportunities to youth of J&K. State Level Competitions in 18 skill sets are being conducted at various venues across the UT wherein more than 250 candidates will compete to represent J&K in Pre National and National Level Competitions, Leena Padha, Mission Director, JKSDM said.

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

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJBERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-29413
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
01 Ramadan
1445

PRAYERS	
FAJR	5:24
ZUHR	12:41
ASR	4:55
Magrib	6:38
ISHA	8:59

This Day In History

- 1917 - Stalin, Kamenev & Muranov arrives in Petrograd/St Petersburg
- 1917 - A German submarine sinks an unarmoured US merchant ship, the 'Algonquin' on the same day that US President Woodrow Wilson gives executive order to arm US merchant ships
- 1925 - British government of Stanley Baldwin refuses to ratify Geneva agreement.
- 1928 - In California, the St. Francis Dam fails, killing over 600 people.
- 1930 - Mohandas Gandhi begins 200m (300km) march protesting British salt tax
- 1935 - Britain establishes 30 MPH speed limit for towns & villages
- 1938 - Nazi Germany invades Austria (Anschluss)
- 1941 - German occupiers confiscate AVRO studios in Netherlands
- 1942 - British troops vacate the Andaman Islands in Gulf of Bengal
- 1943 - Soviet troops liberate Wjasma
- 1945 - Italy's Communist Party (CPI) calls for armed uprising in Italy
- 1945 - USSR returns Transylvania to Romania
- 1947 - US President Harry Truman introduces Truman doctrine to fight communism
- 1951 - Communist troops driven out of Seoul
- 1957 - German DR accepts 22 Russian divisions

From KO Archives

Mufti Stages A Come Back In Kashmir Politics

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Former union home minister and senior Congress leader Mufti Mohammad Syed turned tables on ruling National Conference, when he defeated the party nominee, Mohammed Yusuf Taing, with a convincing margin of over 48,000 votes. Mufti who succeeded in establishing lead over his rival, from the very beginning of the vote count, on Monday afternoon, maintained the same till he was officially declared elected in the wee hours of Tuesday morning.

Mufti polled 1,17,152 of 2,12,337 total valid votes polled, while Taing could manage just 68,447 votes. Union state minister for home affairs, Mohammad Maqbool Dar, a Janata Dal candidate finished a poor third by securing 11,063 votes while BJP, which admitted political front of surrendered militant group JK Ikhwan into its fold, on poll eve, got 6861 votes. All the 13 candidates in the fray, excepting Taing of the National Conference, lost their security deposits.

Mufti's victory is seen as his comeback in Kashmir politics, after remaining out of it for quite a long time. In the wake of 1987 Rajiv-Farooq accord, Mufti was relieved as state Congress chief by Rajiv Gandhi and in turn inducted into union council of ministers with a cabinet rank. From that day, Mufti virtually remained aloof from Kashmir politics, especially after he joined Janata Dal and rose to become the chief of party's central parliamentary board, besides holding sensitive portfolio of home affairs. It was only in mid-1996, when Mufti left Janata Dal to join back the Congress, that he started taking keen interest in Kashmir affairs again. He played an important role in finalising the list of party candidates for 1996 assembly elections. Though Congress performed very badly in those elections, it was more because of factionalism within the party with a section of Congress owing allegiance to Gulam Nabi Azad, openly canvassing for National Conference candidates.

Now with having won the Anantnag Lok Sabha seat with a comfortable margin, Mufti is all set to give sleepless nights to his political opponents especially National Conference, which left no stone unturned to stop him from marching to Delhi.

(Kashmir Observer, 12 March, 1998)

OBITUARY

With profound grief, we inform the demise of Mrs. Fatima bint Zavaar Ghulam Mohammad W/o late Mohammad Jaffar Bhat (pathwari) of Arabal, Shalimar Srinagar.

She breathed last at 7:50 pm on Saturday 09/03/2024.

A cherished mother, grand mother & sister, she spent her life spreading joy and kindness to everyone she met. She was a beacon of warmth and is survived by her loving children, grand children, siblings, who will continue to honor her memory by living with the same grace and compassion she displayed every day of her life.

Congratinal FATEHA KHWANI SHALL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13th March 2024 at 7:15 am at graveyard AliAbad Arabal Shalimar followed by masjid-e-tazyiat that shall continue throughout the day at the residence.

Bereaved Family:
MUSHTAQ AH. DAR
FIRDOUS AH. BHAT
JAMSHEED HUSSAIN
ZAHOOR AHMAD BHAT
ph: 9419436577

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR (U.T.)

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER GOVERNMENT PRESS SRINAGAR

Tender Notice No. 04 of 2024 dated 09-03-2024
(Rate Contract for Lifting/Removing of Waste Paper Material)

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, e-bid is invited for the finalization of the Rate Contract for lifting of mixed waste cutting paper including wrappers, board etc. detailed in Annexure - A to this e-tender notice with specifications in the schedule forming pan of terms and conditions of this e-NIT. The e-tender Notice can be downloaded/accessed on www.jktenders.gov.in

S.No.	Specification	Quantity	Earnest Money
1.	Mixed waste cutting paper including wrappers, board etc.	As per Actual	Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees ten thousand only)

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

01	Date of issue of tender of bidding documents	09-03-2024
02	Date of downloading of bidding documents	11-03-2024(11:00 A.M.)
03	Bid submission start date	11-03-2024(1:00 P.M.)
04	Bid submission end date	18-03-2024(5:00 P.M.)
05	Date & time of opening technical bids	19-03-2024(12:00 Noon)
06	Date & time of opening financial bids	To be notified after Technical Evaluation.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir

No. GPS/PA/997-1001
Dated: 09-03-2024

DIPK-17700-23
DT: 11/03/2024
(A.A. Akhoo)
General Manager

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION LOLAB

CORRIGENDUM

Tenders invited vide this office FRESH NIT No. 28-Lolab/ EEL/ 1537-45 of 2023-24 e-tendering DATED: 29-02-2024
Item No 01, to Item No 14.

Date Extension	
Bid Submission End Date	05/04/2024(6:00PM)
Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	06/04/2024(11:00AM)

All the other conditions in the ENIT shall remain the same.

No: - EEL-1465-69
Dated: 03-09-2024

-SD/-
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division Lolab

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, SONAMARG

Email:-sdaofficial@yahoo.com

E-Bid Document (Auction ID:)

Outsourcing of one no. (01) Mobile Kiosk (meals on Wheels) for installation and operation in the area between SDA office to Sonamarg Bridge at Sonamarg for a period of 05-years, through GeM Portal.

No: CEO/SDA/2024/3979-86; dated:06/03/2024.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K Union Territory, e-bids are invited online through GeM Portal for Outsourcing of one no. Mobile Kiosks (meals on Wheels) for installation and operation in the area between SDA office to Sonamarg Bridge at Sonamarg for a period of 05-years. The details are as under:

S.No	Particulars	Date/Time	Remarks
1	PQ (Pre-Qualification) Submission Start Date	07/03/2024 at 10.00 AM	-NIL-
2	PQ (Pre-Qualification) Submission End Date	13/03/2024 at 04.00 PM	-NIL-
3	PQ (Pre-Qualification) Assessment End Date &	14/03/2024 at 4.00 PM	-NIL-
4	EMD Start Date	15/03/2024 at 10.00 AM	-NIL-
5	EMD End Date	16/03/2024 at 4.00 PM	-NIL-
6	EMD (Bid Security) Amount in shape of CDR/ FDR/DD	Rs.10000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only)	To be pledged in favour of Accounts Officer, Sonamarg Development Authority
7	Bid Submission/Auction Start Date	18/03/2024 at 10.00 AM	-NIL-
8	Bid Submission/Auction End Date & Time	19/03/2024 at 4.00 PM	-NIL-
9	Reserve bid amount	Rs. 0.70 lacs (Rupees Seventy thousand only)	-NIL-

PRE-QUALIFICATION (PQ) CRITERIA (TO BE UPLOADED ON GeM PORTAL)

- The bidder shall have to upload a Character Certificate from the concerned Police Station or alternatively copy of a valid Passport.
- The bidder shall have to upload self-attested PAN Card & Aadhar Card.

Terms and Conditions:

- The interested parties should compulsorily visit & inspect the asset before participating in the e-bidding process and the physical position of the asset shall stand on "as is where is" basis. As such, no claim of any deficiency, addition, alteration, rectification in the asset would be entertained during/after bidding process.
- The bidder participating in the e-bid process must apply in his name or the firm name duly registered in his name. There is no scope whatsoever of executing any partnership deed in the outsourcing deed.
- Eligible persons shall be allowed to participate in the e-bidding process only after uploading of relevant documents mentioned in the Eligibility Criteria and EMD (after qualifying Pre Qualification) in the shape of CDR, amounting to Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only) pledged in favour of Accounts Officer, Sonamarg Development Authority. The minimum reserve bid has been fixed at Rs. 0.70 Lacs (Rupees Seventy Thousand Only) per year with escalation of 15% for each successive year thereafter to be deposited before the start of every year plus insurance amount of the asset.
- The bid offers should be above the minimum reserve bid viz. 0.70 Lacs (Rupees Seventy Thousand Only) fixed for the job.
- The successful bidder shall have to deposit 100% of the offered bid for the 1st year within a period of seven days after the culmination of bidding process.
- The licensee has to insure the property through any Nationalized Insurance Company in the name of the CEO, Sonamarg Development Authority for which a letter of authority shall be issued by this office. The premium on this account shall be borne by the licensee.
- The period of outsourcing shall be on license basis for a period of 05-years which will commence from the date of issuance of the formal allotment letter.
- The contract shall be awarded for one year in the first instance and renewal of the same shall be subject to depositing of rentals for the each successive year in advance including 15% escalation of the maximum bid before the expiry of the 1st year contract.
- The successful bidder has to take prior permission before start of the operation regarding the type of business he/she intends to undertake in the asset. Without the explicit permission of CEO Sonamarg Development Authority, the successful bidder will not be issued allotment order.
- The successful bidder shall have to use the asset only in the area as designated in the auction notice. Violation in this regard may invite cancellation of the contract.
- In case the successful bidder fails to fulfill the term of contract, or leaves the contract half way or the contract is cancelled due to any disqualifications/non-payment of advance rent, the CDR shall be forfeited.
- The safety, security and upkeep and watch & ward of the asset shall be sole responsibility of outsourcee during the period of contract. The successful bidder shall ensure all safety measures like firefighting equipments, first aid kit etc. Sonamarg Development Authority shall not be responsible for any loss of life and property within the asset during the period of the contract.
- The successful bidder shall have to charge rates for various allotted services as per approval of the SDA from time to time.
- The electric/water consumption charges shall be payable by the outsourcee.

No. CEO/SDA/2024/3979-86.
Dated: 06. 03.2024.

DIPK-NB-5976-23
DT: 11/03/2024
Chief Executive Officer
Sonamarg Development Authority

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPTT.

GROUND WATER DIVISION SRINAGAR
BAGHI-ALI-MARDAN, NOWSHARA SRINAGAR.
E-mail:-pheidgd@yahoo.com, Tel./FaxNo:-0194-2411285

EXTENSION NOTICE 15th

Sub:- Construction of 01 No.125mm machine drilled tube well at Khanpora Near Chinar Orphanage District Budgam

Due to "Poor /No Response" for the above mentioned work advertised vide e-NIT No.32/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2023-24, issued under No: - JS- PHE/GWDS/Corrs./5855-68, Dated: 25-10-2023.

Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 09-03-2024 (02.00PM) are extended as per the details given below:-

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Period of submission of bids	14-03-2024 up-to 02.00PM
2.	Date of opening of tenders	15-03-2024 11.00AM

NOTE:-
All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e- NIT.

No: - JS-PHE/GWDS/Corrs.11205-15
Dated:- 09-03-2024
DIPK-17707-23
DT: 11/03/2024

-SD/-
Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division
Srinagar.

Health Expert Warns Against Prematurely Ripened Fruit Due to Risks

Agencies

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

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

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

Dr Shah said every pesticide,



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

ening," he said. Fruits arriving early in the market are either the result of chemical use or the injection of chemicals after the fruit is set to be transported, which is very unhealthy, the doctor said, adding that forced rip-

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

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

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

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

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

Notably, the department of Food Safety, Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday appealed people not to panic amid reports of influx of artificially ripened fruits into the market. —(KNO)

Will Try To Fix Cracks Appearing In PAGD: Tarigami

Agencies

SRINAGAR: CPM leader M Y Tarigami on Monday said he will try to mend the cracks that have emerged among PAGD constituents -- the National Conference and the PDP -- over seat sharing for the Lok Sabha polls in Kashmir.

The PAGD -- an amalgam of seven parties, including the NC and the PDP -- was formed in the wake of the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution by the Centre in August 2019.

"The emergence of PAGD was due to a crisis which still exists. There have been differences between the constituents recently which are out in public. I will still try to mend the gaps that have emerged," Tarigami, who is the spokesperson of the PAGD, told reporters here.

The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) had a seat-sharing arrangement for the District Development Council (DDC) polls held in 2020.

The National Conference has refused to give up any of the three Lok Sabha seats of Kash-



mir because it had won these in the 2019 general elections.

The PDP has taken offence over the NC taking a unilateral decision without consulting the PAGD on the matter.

Tarigami said the PAGD was not an electoral alliance but an amalgam formed for a bigger cause.

"It (PAGD) is being reduced into an electoral alliance. It is not. We did not have unanimity even in the DDC elections," he added.

The leader said while he was not the one to fix responsibility for the instability of the PAGD, the issues for which the alliance was formed have not been addressed yet.

"I am not here to fix responsibility on who is wrong. In

my view, it is more important that the issues for which this platform was formed have not been addressed yet," he said.

On Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Kashmir last week, Tarigami said it came as a disappointment for many while alleging that people were "forced" to attend his rally.

"The PM came here after a long time, especially after Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh suffered a setback. This was an unprecedented setback and there is no example of it in history.

"We did not have much hope (from PM's visit), but some sections were hopeful that there will be relief and some of the things snatched from us will be returned. However, that did not happen," he said.

In his speech, the prime minister only repeated what he has been saying for the last several years, Tarigami said.

"There was nothing new in the speech but for the first time, the administration was active in organising a rally of a political party. Had the PM come for a (official) function, we could understand," he said.

CBC Hosts Seminar on New Education Policy 2020 in Ganderbal



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

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

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

ACB Files Disproportionate Assets Case Against NIT Professor

Observer News Service

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

In a statement, ACB said it registered a case against Manzoor Ahmad Tantray S/o Abdul Khaliq Tantray of Ganderbal presently posted as Professor in NIT Srinagar.

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

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

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

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

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

Shehgun Play Showcased By Tulkul Arts Group In Budgam



KO NEWS SERVICE

BUDGAM: The Tulkul Arts and Media Collective, in collaboration with Model Govt Degree College Chari Sharief, showcased an enthralling theatre play titled Shehgun in connection with International Women's Day celebrations at Govt Model Degree College Chararsharief Budgam

The play shed light on the life and struggle of women folk in a male dominated society. The play was a poignant exploration of the various facets of womanhood, approved by the Ministry of Culture Govt of India.

The play was written by the talented script writer Showkat Shehri and directed by Rayees Wathori.

Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Kashmir

Estates Wing, Main Campus Shalimar – 190 025

Notice Inviting e-Tender

E-NIT No. (117) of 2023-24 Dated:07.03.2024

For and on behalf of Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir, e-tenders (Single-cover system) are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Electric contractors whose cards are valid up to 31-12-2024 registered with State PWD, CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Govt. departments for the following work:-

S. No	Name of the work	Estimated Cost (in lacs)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender document	Time of completion
1.	External & Internal electrification work including Earthing for Existing Lab under Promotion of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants Cultivation on Commercial Basis In The UT Of J&K for Lab Cum Lecture/ Classroom & Examination Block at Faculty of Forestry, Benihama Ganderbal SKUAST-Kashmir(HADP)	7.91	15,820	A class	500/-	12 days

- a) Position of AAA: Accorded
b) Position of T.S: Sanctioned
c) Position of funds: Available

1. The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, set of terms and conditions and other details can be downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per following schedule:-

1.	Date of publication of Tender Notice	08.03.2024
2.	Date of start of downloading	08.03.2024
3.	Pre-bid meeting date	NA
4.	Bid submission start date	08.03.2024
5.	Bid submission end date	13.03.2024 (6.00 PM)
6.	Date of opening of Technical bid of the bidders (online)	14.03.2024 (11.30AM)
7.	Date of opening Financial bid of qualifying bidders (online)	15.03.2024

Further information can be had from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
SKUAST-Kashmir

No. Au/Estates/e-NIT(117)/1382
DIPK-NB-5989/23 Dated: 11.03.2024

Office Of The Principal Govt Higher Secondary School Keller

No:-HSSK/24/

Dated:-

Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are invited from registered publishing houses for publication of school magazine "Nagwan". The tender forms can be obtained from the school office, along with the sample copy by or before 18/03/2024 against a CDR of Rs. 2000 (Rupees two thousand only) favoring Principal Government Higher Secondary School. The tenders will be opened on 20/03/2024 at School premises in front of the tenderers or their authorized representatives. The contents of the magazine are already compiled in MS Word. The school reserves the right to cancel any of the tenders without assigning any reasons thereof.

Specifications:

- Quantity = 500 / 1000
- Size = 23x36/8
- Paper = 128 GSM
- Title = 300 GSM
- Rate per page (Coloured with designing)
- Rate per page (Black and white with designing)
- Pages = 120 (approximately)

For queries contact:
7006125010

DIPK-17664/23
dated: 11-03-2024

Sd/-
Principal
Govt. Higher Secondary School
Keller Shopian

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

Address: Regal Lane, Lal Chowk Srinagar
email: eerrwdsnc@gmail.com

E- TENDER NOTICE No. 56 of 2023-2024

Dated: 09-03-2024

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT, e-tenders are invited on Percentage basis (in Double Cover System) read with the bid document uploaded on the website www.jktenders.gov.in from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD/ Railways and other state / Central Government for the below mentioned works.

S. No	Name of the Work	Adv. cost lacs	in Cost of T/Doc. in Rs	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Mon-Time of Completion	Head of Account	Class of contractor
1.	Development of composting area at Landfill site Achan	484.00	Rs. 5500/-	968000/-	8 months	N A T I O N A L	LAAY/Firm CLEAN AIR

Position of AAA: Accorded (Order No. 1398 of 2023 dated: 30.10.2023)
Technical Sanction: Accorded (Order No. 07 of 2024 dated: 16.02.2024)

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

S.No.	Particulars	Date from to
1.	Date of issuance/ Publication of NIT on e-portal	11.03.2024
2.	Date of Downloading of bid documents for said NIT	11.03.2024 from 01:00 PM
3.	Date of uploading of bid document / bid submission starts	11.03.2024 from 02:00 PM
4.	Date of Pre-bid meeting	20.03.2024 at 02:00 PM in the office of Joint Commissioner (Works), SMC at Karan Nagar Srinagar
5.	Date of uploading of bid document/ bid submission Ends	09.04.2024 at 06:00 PM
6.	Date of receiving of hard copy of documents including DD/Bid Security	10.04.2024 upto 04:00 PM
7.	Date of Technical Bid opening	11.04.2024 at 11:00 AM in the office of the joint Commissioner (Works) SMC at Karan Nagar Srinagar
8.	Date of Financial Bid opening	Date shall be communicated after Technical Bid Evaluation

- The intending tenders should attach a call deposit receipt in the shape of CDR/FDR equivalent to 2% of the total cost of the work shown against work pledged to the Joint Commissioner (Works), 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. 021601020000007 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 earnest Money Deposit/bid security should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date).
- The Bid document consisting of Information to Bidders (ITB), Bid Data Sheet (BDS), Information and Documents to be furnished along with the Bid, General & Special Conditions of Contract, Contract Data, Scope, Specifications and Drawings, Schedule of Quantities and set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents will be uploaded on the website: www.jktenders.gov.in. The Bidders can take part in the bidding process as per below tabulated schedule given above.
- Bids shall be received "on line" on or before the scheduled date. The bidder must possess a Compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and proper used ID.
- If any date specified herein is a holiday, then the next working day will be considered for the activity and the time will remain the same.
- The Schedule indicated above is tentative and the Employer may change any or the entire schedule with prior intimation to all bidders.
- Interested and eligible bidders may submit their complete proposal as prescribed in the Bid Document along with the receipt of requisite Bid Document Cost.
- The Cost of Bid Document is non-refundable and can be also paid through online mode via NEFT/RTGS in favour of F.A./Chief Accounts officer, Srinagar Municipal Corporation with Bank Account details as under:
Name of Bank: Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.
Branch: Balgarden, Srinagar
Bank Account Number: 021601020000007
IFSC Code: JAKADGARDEN
MICR Code: 190051008
- The bidder is required to quote in the prescribed format provided on the e-procurement portal and the selection will be done on a least cost basis.
- Right to revise or amend this notice and / or the Bid Document, fully or partially, prior to the last date notified for submission of offers or on any subsequent date is reserved by the Employer.
- The Employer will not be responsible for any delay in submission of bid due to any reason.
- The Employer reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, cancel the bidding process, at any time prior to the award of contract, without assigning any reason therefore and thereby assumes no responsibility of incurring any liability to the affected applicants.
- Any information regarding the IFB and / or Bid Document can be had from the office of undersigned during office hours.
- In favour of a successful bidder, the EMD of 2% Adv. Cost shall be released after submission of performance security.
- In case of any ambiguity in the standard bid document, the same shall be rectified/ resolved as per General Financial Rules (GFR) 2017, Manual for procurement of Works 2022.
- All requisite documents as envisaged in NIT/ SBD have to be uploaded by the bidder along with bid submission.

Read with the Standard Bid document uploaded on www.jktenders.gov.in

No: SMC/EERRWD/3101-02
DIPK-NB-5990/23
Dated:11-03-2024

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

'Exposed' England Will Improve After India Drubbing: McCullum

Agencies

LONDON: England head coach Brendon McCullum said they will have to do some deep thinking about their approach after being "exposed" in the final four matches in India but is convinced their first series defeat under his watch will make them a better side.

The five-test series was billed as the biggest test of England's swash-buckling approach to test cricket, which is built around an aggressive, fearless brand of batting.

Their bid to hand Rohit Sharma's side their first test series defeat on home soil since 2012 got off to the perfect start with a thrilling win in Hyderabad, where Ollie Pope played arguably the best knock by a touring batter in India. But that was as good as it got for the tourists as India won the next four to prevail 4-1 and deflate the 'Bazball' hype.

"Sometimes you can get away



with things, but when you're exposed in the way we have been in the back end of this series in particular, it does require some pretty deep thinking and some adjustment to make sure

we're staying true to what we believe in," McCullum told BBC Sport. "If anything we got more timid as the series went on and that was because of the pressure that was applied to us by

the Indian line-up."

England's batting was a major disappointment and they sorely missed Harry Brook, who withdrew from the series due to personal reasons. McCullum said

England would be a better side when they host West Indies for a three-test series in July, followed by another home series against Sri Lanka.

"A lot of good will come out of this tour. I'm 100% positive about that," he added. "We will be a better cricket team for the experience, although it hurts a lot at the moment."

Tom Hartley and Shoaib Bashir were England's top wicket-takers and both impressed in their debut series, which could put Jack Leach under pressure as the team's preferred spinner. "Jack will understand that himself," McCullum said of the left-arm spinner, who missed the last four tests against India with a knee injury.

"It's a good place to be when you've got depth and different types of options. We've got to embrace that and there will be some challenging selections throughout the summer."

Carey, Cummins Help Australia Sweep NZ Test Series



Agencies

CHRISTCHURCH: Outstanding batting performances from batters Alex Carey and Mitchell Marsh helped Australia in clean-sweeping the two-match Test series against New Zealand at Hagley Oval on Monday.

Australia resumed the fourth day of the second Test from 77/4 with Travis Head (17*) and Mitchell Marsh (27*) unbeaten on the crease.

Both the batters were able to add only three runs to the team's total as they lost the fifth wicket of Head after scoring just 18 runs when the team score was 80 runs. As half of the side went back to the pavilion, everyone thought that the Baggy

Greens would lose the match from here on. But then came a match-winning partnership between Marsh and Carey.

They put on a partnership of 140 runs before the former was dismissed after playing a brilliant knock of 80 runs which was laced with 10 fours and a six in his innings.

Carey played an unbeaten knock of 98 runs from 123 balls with the help of 15 boundaries. The wicket-keeper-batter was awarded the Player of the Match for playing a marvellous innings. In the end, the visitors skipper Pat Cummins also scored crucial 32* runs which included four boundaries in his innings.

The highest wicket-taker for the Blackcaps was Ben

Sears who snapped four wickets in his spell of 17 overs where he conceded 90 runs. Two wickets were grabbed by Matt Henry in his spell of 19 overs where he conceded 94 runs and a wicket was bagged by Tim Southee.

Australia were set 279 runs to win but started on a shabby note as Matt Henry trapped Steve Smith leg-before-wicket for just nine runs, continuing his horrid run as an opener.

Brief Score: Australia 256 & 281/7 in 65 overs (Alex Carey 98*, Mitchell Marsh 80, Ben Sears 4/90) vs New Zealand 162 & 372 in 108.2 overs (Rachin Ravindra 82, Tom Latham 73, Pat Cummins 4/62). (ANI)

Pulwama Athletes Win 3 Medals In Soft Tennis Championship



Agencies

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

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

Their coach, Shakir Ashraf, informed KNO that the 7th J&K UT Soft Tennis Championship, organised in collaboration with the J&K Sports Council for all categories, took place at the Amar Singh Club in Sonwar, Srinagar, on March 9 and 10.

"Despite limited exposure to

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

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

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

Short TAKES

Rishabh Pant To Play For India In T20 World Cup 2024?

BCCI secretary Jay Shah gave an update on Rishabh Pant, who is set to make his much-awaited comeback in the IPL. Pant has been out of action since a horrific car accident in December 2022.

"He is batting well, he is keeping well. We will declare him fit very soon. If he can play the T20 World Cup for us, that will be a big thing for us. He is a big asset for us. "If he can keep, he can play the World Cup. Let's see how he does in the IPL," said Shah.

Ranji Final: Rahane, Musheer Put Mumbai In Command

Skipper Ajinkya Rahane bucked the trend of poor scores with a timely unbeaten 58 as Mumbai took a 260-run lead against Vidarbha at close on day two of the Ranji Trophy final at the Wankhede stadium, Mumbai on Monday.

While young Musheer Khan reined in his aggression to make a gritty 51 not out, Rahane negotiated the Vidarbha bowling attack with utmost patience and precision to put Mumbai, who are aiming for a record 42nd Ranji title, in pole position.

Vinesh Wins 50kg Bout After Holding Up Proceedings

Star wrestler Vinesh Phogat did not let the selection trials start in the women's 50kg and 53kg categories and demanded a written assurance from the authorities that a final trial will be held in the 53kg weight class before the Olympics.

Following the ad-hoc committee for wrestling acceding to her demand, Vinesh, the Jakarta Asian Games gold medalist, defeated Shivani 11-6 in the 50kg weight category to book a place in the Paris Olympics Qualification tournament in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan next month.

PCB Fine Naseem Shah For Kicking Stumps In PSL Game

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Monday fined Islamabad United pacer Naseem Shah 10% of his match fee after he breached Pakistan Super League's (PSL) code of conduct during a match against Multan Sultans at the Pindi Cricket Stadium. Naseem who features for Islamabad United on Sunday kicked the stumps after the final ball of Multan Sultans' innings.

PCB released a statement to confirm that Naseem was charged with violating Article 2.2 which deals with abuse of cricket equipment or clothing, ground equipment or fixtures and fittings.

Lecce Sack Manager D'Aversa Over Headbutting Incident

Lecce have fired manager Roberto D'Aversa after he headbutted an opposing player at the end of their loss to Hellas Verona at the weekend, the Serie A club said on Monday. D'Aversa headbutted Verona striker Thomas Henry in the aftermath of their 1-0 home defeat on Sunday, and the club released a statement later that day condemning the incident, and have now dismissed the 48-year-old.

D'Aversa was shown the red card along with Henry, and afterwards the manager apologised while saying his players had been continually provoked.

NOTICE

I Fiza Shamim D/O Shamim Ahmed Azad R/O Sagrawat, Teh. Darhal, Rajouri has changed my Name from Fiza Shamim to Fiza Shamim Malik. I do hereby assume from this date the name/surname Fiza Shamim Malik. If any body having any objection in this regard He/She may contact concerned authorities within a period of 7 days from the publishing of this notice.

Talking Points From The Weekend Matches In European Football

Agencies

Talking points from the weekend in European soccer leagues:

FRANCE NICE IN A RUT

Nice's promising start to the season feels like a distant memory as they extended their winless streak to six league matches with a 2-1 loss to Montpellier on Friday.

Manager Francesco Farioli admitted it was a difficult time for the club, which seemed unstoppable just four months ago. "The efforts the players put in to keep the team at the top of the table for six months required a lot of physical and mental energy," he said.

With Nice in sixth place and 16 points behind runaway leaders Paris St Germain, the dreams of a Ligue 1 title are all but lost.

"Everything we had managed to do at the beginning of the season, has been lost in recent weeks," Farioli added. Their next match is a clash against PSG in the French Cup quarter-final.

GERMANY



BAYERN TURNAROUND?

Bayern Munich look to have turned a corner this week after qualifying for the Champions League last night and Saturday's 8-1 demolition of Mainz 05 in the Bundesliga, with coach Thomas Tuchel earning praise.

Tuchel, who will leave at the end of the season a year before the end of his contract following an earlier bad run by Bayern, now looks to be making all the right moves with the Bavarians and is still in with a shot of silverware.

With Harry Kane scoring seemingly at will and the defence that had been leaking goals all season

showing signs of stability, the team looks to be finding form after February's announcement of Tuchel's departure.

While the league title looks to have slipped away with the team 10 points behind leaders Bayer Leverkusen with nine games left, they still have the Champions League to look forward to.

SPAIN REAL MADRID CEMENT TOP SPOT

Real Madrid maintained their seven-point lead over second-placed Girona by crushing Celta Vigo 4-0 on Sunday and Carlo Ancelotti's squad are beginning to

look like the title is theirs to lose.

Despite the absence of midfielder Jude Bellingham due to a two-match suspension, Real were dominant against Celta with 19-year-old Arda Gulcer scoring his first goal for the Spanish side, and Vinicius Jr netting his 10th of the season.

"We have done well, this is an important moment of the season, every match can be a trap because you can slip but we are motivated and focused," Ancelotti said.

However, Girona still have hope of challenging for the title after rekindling their campaign with a 2-0

win over Osasuna to put them one point ahead of third-placed Barcelona.

ENGLAND GUARDIOLA SHOWS RUTHLESS TOUCH

When Manchester City's Kevin De Bruyne was substituted after 69 minutes of a rip-roaring contest at Anfield with the game locked at 1-1 and top spot up for grabs there was widespread surprise, not least from the Belgian playmaker. De Bruyne, a key component of five Premier League title triumphs, was not impressed and made his feelings known to manager Pep Guardiola who sent on the more defensively-minded Mateo Kovacic.

City hung on for the draw in the face of a Liverpool onslaught, vindicating Guardiola's decision -- as if anyone would ever doubt the wisdom of the Spanish serial winner. It showed the high standards Guardiola sets and that no player, not even De Bruyne, is bigger than the collective.

"He will have a chance in the next game to prove how wrong I was, so next time he'll have it. It's fine," Guardiola said.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI
(PHE) DEPARTMENT DIVISION QAZIGUND
Email: qazigundphedivision@gmail.com | (Phone No./Fax No. 01931-295040)

CORRIGENDUM
The e- No:- 40-PHEQ of 2023-24 Dated:04-03 -2024 issued under No: PHEQ/CC/6125-45 Dated:04-03 -2024 advertised/Uploaded on Jktenders.gov.in in the conditions No: 08, i.e Scanned copy of list of ongoing works (works in hand) to be completed along with the details of Allotment/work order with date of start of work and current physical status duly self-attested by the authorized signatory of firm is hereby deleted.
All other terms and conditions as laid down in the said NIT Shall remain unchanged.
NO/PHEQ/CC/6264-84
DATED : 09.03.2024

DIPK-17710-23
DT: 11/03/2024

Executive Engineer,
J.S PHE Division Qazigund

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION
Office of the District Information Officer, Budgam

Phone No: 01951350151
No: INF/DIC/BUD/300/2024

Email-id: dicbudgam@gmail.com
Dated: 11-March-2024

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
Interested videography agencies are invited through this EO notice for the providing of services of 17 videographers on March 17 and 30 videographers on March 31, 2024 on the approved rates, Rs 1500 per cameraperson per day for the recording of video footages like opening of question booklets, OMR based sheets and at the start of examination and packing back of the used OMR based sheets and other examination-based activities during the SSB Examinations. The agency has to provide services of videographers for the full day during the examinations. The video recorded shall be in the MP4 format with HD quality. Also, the agency has to provide the compiled video footage in a 1 TB hard disk for each examination for further submission to concerned authorities.
The interested agencies shall reach the office of the undersigned by or before 15th of March 2024 up to 12 noon.

Terms & Conditions
1. The price quoted above can't be changed in any condition.
2. If the office of undersigned shall receive more than one EO1, then the selection shall be made on the draw of lots.
More information can be obtained from the Office of District Information Officer, Budgam during office hours.
DIPK-17717-23
DT: 11/03/2024

DIPK-17710-23
DT: 11/03/2024

District Information Officer
Budgam

GM Northern Railway Holds Press Conference On Projects To Be Inaugurated By PM

KO WEB DESK

New Delhi: Indian Railway is the national railway transport system in India and is an integral part of India's transportation infrastructure. Significant transportation is on the horizon for the country's railway landscape as rail projects worth more than Rs. 85000 crores will be launched on March 12 to revolutionize Indian Railways.

General Manager Northern Railway, Shri Shobhan Choudhuri held a Press Conference in Baroda House New Delhi today and briefed the media persons about the various projects of Northern Railway which will be dedicated to Nation/ foundation stone will be laid/ inaugurated by PM on March 12. Shobhan Choudhuri apprised the media persons that Northern Railway Zone is set to benefit from several new projects viz:

Delhi Division - PM Narendra Modi will dedicate 2 Good Sheds, Jan Ausadhi Kendras, a Rail Coach Restaurant, the Anand Vihar-Tilak Bridge 3rd and 4th

Rail Line, 48 One Station One Product outlets, 17 DFC (Cargo Handling Points), and lay the foundation stone for the Upgradation of maintenance facilities, including the provision of covered sheds on Washing Cum Pit-lines at Anand Vihar, the Upgradation/Development of Maintenance Infrastructure as VBE Maint. Depot Incl. provision for M&P and Training Facilities, etc., at Bijwasan, and the Setting up of a Trainset Depot for Maintenance of Vande-Bharat Sleeper Trains at Anand Vihar.

Lucknow Division - New projects to be inaugurated include 10 Good Sheds, Gatishakti Cargo Terminals, 22 One Station One Product projects, 2 Rail Coach Restaurants, the Doubling of Akbarpur-Barabanki Rail Section, the Doubling of Jaunpur-Akbarpur Rail Section, and the Annupur Katni 3rd Rail Line. PM Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone for building the Universal Coaching Maintenance Facility and flag off the New Vande Bharat Express between Lucknow and Patna.

Ramazan In

lower side as some doctors have warned against consuming the fruit that has been artificially ripened to meet the Ramazan demand.

"This is not the season for watermelons. People should avoid this fruit as growth hormones and ripening agents are used indiscriminately for faster growth. These chemicals can cause cancer among humans," Dr Mudassir Ahmad said. PTI

4 Yrs After

slammed the government's step, alleging it is designed to polarise the coming Lok Sabha elections, especially in West Bengal and Assam.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh also alleged that the announcement is yet another attempt to "manage the headlines" after the Supreme Court's strictures on the electoral bonds issue.

"After seeking nine extensions for the notification of the rules, the timing right before the elections is evidently designed to polarise the elections, especially in West Bengal and Assam," the Congress leader said.

Kerala CM Pinaray Vijayan described CAA as a communally divisive law and asserted that it will not be implemented in the state.

According to the Manual on Parliamentary Work, the rules for any legislation should be framed within six months of presidential assent or the government has to seek an extension from the Committees on Subordinate Legislation in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

Since 2020, the Home Ministry has been taking extensions at regular intervals from the parliamentary committee for framing the rules.

No document will be sought from the applicants, an official said.

Pakistani Hindu refugees, who have been living a life of uncertainty, welcomed the government's step.

Dharamveer Solanki, a leader of Pakistani Hindu refugee families in Delhi, told PTI that around 5000 from the community will receive citizenship now.

"I and my family have been waiting for this for over a decade now. We are extremely happy that we will be finally called Indian citizens. I am glad I decided to return to my homeland in 2013," Solanki said.

Over 100 people lost their lives during the anti-CAA protests or police action. On Monday, security was stepped up in Shaheen Bagh, Jamia and other areas of the national capital as well as in various states where anti-CAA protests were held in the past.

On December 27, 2023, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that no one can stop the implementation of the CAA as it is the law of the land and accused West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of misleading people on the issue.

Addressing a party meeting in Kolkata, Shah said it is the BJP's commitment to implement the CAA.

The TMC, led by Mamata Banerjee, has been opposing the CAA since the beginning.

The promise of implementing the controversial CAA was a major plank of the BJP in the last Lok Sabha and Assembly polls in West Bengal. The saffron party's leaders consider it a plausible factor that led to the rise of the BJP in Bengal.

In the last two years, over 30 district magistrates and home secretaries in nine states have been given powers to grant citizenship to Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians coming from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan under the Citizenship Act, 1955.

According to the annual report of the Ministry of Home Affairs for 2021-22, from April 1, 2021, to December 31, 2021, a total of 1,414 foreigners belonging to these non-Muslim minority communities from the three countries were given Indian citizenship by registration or naturalisation under the Citizenship Act, 1955.

The nine states where Indian citizenship by registration or naturalisation is given under the Citizenship Act, 1955 to non-Muslim minorities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan are Gujarat, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Maharashtra.

Authorities of none of the districts of

Cases have been registered against people accused of providing shelter to the foreign immigrants in Satwari, Trikuta Nagar, Bagh-e-Bahu, Channi Himmat, Nowabad, Domana and Nagrota police stations.

During these searches, which were conducted in the presence of the magistrates, the police seized illegally-acquired Indian documents like PAN and Aadhaar cards and bank documents.

Gulmarg Receives

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

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

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

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

Moreover, the farmers have been advised to resume farm operations.

'No Citizenship

Parsis and Christians, he law will remove legal barriers to rehabilitation, and according citizenship will give a dignified life to the refugees who have suffered for decades, the sources said.

Many misconceptions have been spread regarding the Citizenship Amendment Act, they said.

This is a law to give citizenship and not take away citizenship of any Indian irrespective of their religion, the official said, adding the act is only for those who have suffered persecution for years and have no other shelter in the world except India.

The Constitution of India grants the government the right to provide citizenship from a humanitarian perspective to refugees who faced religious persecution in their countries.

The officials clarified that the implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act was delayed due to the Covid pandemic.

The ruling BJP had said in its 2019 Lok Sabha election manifesto that the party is committed to enacting the Citizenship Amendment Bill for the protection of persecuted religious minorities from neighbouring countries.

Today, the Modi government has fulfilled this promise within the spirit of the Constitution, the sources said.

Fully Prepared

of Rs 15 lakh consignment of narcotics reaches upto Rs 1 Crore while travelling from Kashmir to Delhi and other parts of the country.

"We have a robust mechanism to curb and crack this trade. It is not so easy but we are doing it and the police force is able to do it," he said.

J&K Readies

that efforts have been made to establish pink booths dedicated to women, booths tailored for disabled individuals, and separate booths designated for youth in every district.

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

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

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

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

CEC Arrives In J&K

Election Commission team consisting of Kumar and nine other EC officials for Monday, officials said.

The team will hold detailed meetings with civil administration and police officials on Tuesday as part of the review process, they added.

ED Attaches

cash credit loans totalling Rs 30 crore in the names of non-existent proprietorship entities on the basis of forged and fake documents. The borrowers later siphoned off the same after routing the

loan proceeds through various bank accounts of other entities/persons ultimately utilising the funds for personal benefits contrary to its project purpose of business," the ED said.

It said all the loans granted by Dole turned into non-performing assets since 2016 and caused huge loss to the public sector lender Canara Bank.

The agency said further investigation is under progress.

'Don't Touch Innocent

sensitivity to connect children in need with institutional and non-institutional systems and empower them to contribute to nation building.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Unfair If Assembly

the Lok Sabha elections," he told reporters here in reply to a question about whether the National Conference (NC) will meet the Election Commission of India team, scheduled to visit Jammu and Kashmir.

Abdullah said that his party leaders would meet the team and raise this demand.

"I won't meet them (ECI team). Our party leaders will meet them. The provincial presidents of Jammu and Kashmir regions, along with the leaders, will meet the ECI team in Jammu and Srinagar, respectively," Abdullah said.

The former chief minister said if the Lok Sabha elections can be held in Jammu and Kashmir then why can't the assembly elections be held simultaneously.

"It will be unfair to people if the elections to the assembly are not held along with the Lok Sabha polls to save the BJP. If the situation is conducive to holding the Lok Sabha polls and getting employees to take part in the PM's rally in Srinagar then assembly elections are also possible," he said.

Replying to a question about the Congress leaders' remarks that they wanted to give one seat to the PDP, the NC leader hit out at them and said, "Who is the Congress to give away seats. If the Congress is interested in giving a seat to the PDP, they better their seats. They have three seats. They have Jammu, Udhampur and Ladakh seats. Who is stopping them? Let them give."

He further said the NC is open to seat-sharing on three seats but blamed for rigidity.

"It is fifty per cent. Show me any state in which seat sharing has a 50 per cent ratio," he said.

Abdullah said there is very little scope for the PDP to win on three seats in

Jammu, Udhampur and Ladakh.

Replying to another question on the INDIA bloc and the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) difference, he said, "The PAGD was never an electoral alliance. It was an alliance based on ideology. Those parties who think that PAGD should benefit only from seat-sharing are blaming PAGD for the wrong reasons."

The former chief minister said that neither PAGD nor the INDIA bloc was just about seats for them.

"It was about ideas - it was about a goal. We stand by that goal. Those who feel that the INDIA alliance and the PAGD should only be about seats, this question is for them to answer, not for us," he said.

Abdullah said that his party is committed to the idea of INDIA bloc and the PAGD.

"We have already given three seats to the INDIA alliance. What more do you want from us? Who is saying that we are not in the alliance? We don't have space to give them more seats. We have never broken an alliance. Out of six seats, three seats are already given in alliance," he added.

The former chief minister stated they have never said that they are not part of an alliance or breaking away from the alliance.

"We are always saying that make the INDIA alliance successful in the parliamentary elections and doors are open for the assembly elections," he added.

Reacting to PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti's remarks on seat-sharing, Abdullah said, "The PDP had committed to it. Mehbooba Mufti categorically said in the Mumbai conclave of the INDIA alliance that whatever decision Farooq Abdullah takes with regard to seat distribution for the Parliament in Jammu and Kashmir is acceptable to the PDP. We were all there."

Terming Mufti's remarks to contest against him as unfortunate, he said that the INDIA bloc was never about personalities.

"It is okay if she wants to damage herself and the alliance. What can I say? First, she does not know whether I am contesting the elections or not. I don't know where I am contesting. If it is decided by my party that I have to contest then whoever wants to contest can do so. Who am I to stop anyone from contesting? Let anyone come and contest the elections, it is democracy," he said.

The NC leader said that he has never taken any election for granted.

"It won't be easy or difficult for me in case Mehbooba Mufti contests. It won't make any difference for me," he added.

'Azad Was In Rajya

minister Omar Abdullah said on Monday.

Abdullah, responding to the recent attacks by Azad on the National Conference (NC), asked if the DPAP leader had forgotten all previous "help" provided by the NC.

"I would like the same party (Azad's DPAP) to attack BJP with half the ferocity they attack us. It tells you their agenda. Everyone knows what it means to them when Azad praises the prime minister and criticises Farooq Abdullah sahib.

"Instead, Farooq Abdullah sent him twice to the Rajya Sabha when his own party was not interested in sending him to the Rajya Sabha", Omar told reporters here in response to Azad's remarks on the NC and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) during his election rallies.

Taking another dig at him, Omar questioned Azad whether he had forgotten the time when he used to call to remove PDP's Mufti Mohammad Sayeed in 2005. Azad enjoyed power with us, the NC vice president said.

"He reached the Rajya Sabha because of our members. How his wife Shameema Ji wept while calling Dr Farooq Abdullah sahib that you gave a new lease of life in politics to Azad sahib. Has he forgotten everything? Time has changed. He has also changed," he said.

Omar said that Azad should not forget that he was in the Rajya Sabha for 12 years due to the NC. "He is enjoying the house in which he lives today because of us," the NC leader said.

On the central government's plans to implement the Citizenship Amendment Act before the general elections, Omar asked, "Why have they not brought it till now. What are they waiting for? Why don't they come out with the notification on the reservation of Paharis too? We want to know how you are going to implement it. Who are you including in Paharis? What you are saying in terms of reservation won't benefit Paharis. It is to deceive them before elections to get their votes."

He made the remarks shortly before the Union Home Ministry notified rules for the CAA on Monday.

To a question on the electoral bonds issue, the former chief minister said those who have "control" over the SBI are being "protected".

"Who has taken the highest electoral bonds? Who is to be saved? They will not protect those who have taken the lowest bonds. They don't want to inform people how many bonds have been taken by a particular party. Who has control over SBI. I and the INDIA alliance do not have that control," he said.

"The good thing is that the Supreme Court has rejected their argument. They have told them to submit information by March 12. We will also come to know who has got what. We got very little. We have not even come on the list of ECI," he said.

When asked about resumption of dialogue with Pakistan, Omar said it was "not just up to India but also on the other side" to start talks.

"Let us see how the situation develops. BJP will find itself in its own trap. If J&K is normal, why can't you talk to Pakistan. If you don't talk to Pakistan, it means things aren't normal," he said.

HC Disapproves

The court's Single bench in the order dated 9 October 2015 took into account that the appointment of P Kor had been continued undisturbed for almost 16 years. Consequently, the Single Judge declined to interfere with her appointment at the instance of N A Ganie.

The Single Judge, also considering that N A Ganie was also seeking appointment to the post, had directed his appointment by way of transfer to the Hospitality and Protocol Department in the post for which he possesses the requisite qualifications. It was this order which had been challenged before the Division Bench in this appeal by the Union Territory of J&K.

"While we can understand the invocation of principle of equity to protect the services of a person who has served for a significant long period of time, even if the initial appointment may not be valid in terms of the statutory rules, we however, are unable to accept the second direction issued by the learned Single Judge to appoint the respondent No. 1 (N A Ganie) by way of transfer," the court said, adding, "The learned Single Judge directed the present appellants (government)...to appoint the petitioner (N A Ganie) by way of transfer in the Hospitality and Protocol Department on the post for which he possesses the requisite qualification."

Such direction for appointment by way of transfer may not be in conformity with the rules, inasmuch as, if there is any post in the Hospitality and Protocol Department, it should typically be filled in terms of the prescribed rules, the court said.

Unless there is a provision in the service rules for appointment to such post by way of transfer, the court said, the Writ Court (Single Bench) could not have issued any such direction.

"Under the circumstance, we modify the order dated 09.10.2015 passed by the learned Single Judge only to the extent qua the present respondent No. 1 (N A Ganie) that as and when there is any vacant post in the Hospitality and Protocol Department to which the petitioner is also eligible to be appointed, the Government can consider his appointment to such a post through transfer/deputation, provided the rules permit, if the respondent No. 1 makes such an application," the Division Bench said, adding, "We have modified this order keeping in mind that it is primarily in the domain of the executive to see in what capacity or manner the post is to be filled up or utilized and if any such direction by the Writ Court deforms the rules, the same may not be permissible in law."

Electoral Bonds

advocate Harish Salve, who was representing the bank, that the plea was "absolutely silent" about the steps taken to comply with its directions.

"Mr Salve, our judgement is dated February 15, 2024. We are now on the 11th of March. In the last 26 days, what extent of matching has been done by you? What steps have you taken in the last 26 days? The application is absolutely silent on that," the CJJ said.

Salve told the bench, also comprising Justices Sanjiv Khanna, B R Gavai, J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, that the bank can file a detailed affidavit on this aspect.

"It should have been disclosed in the affidavit," the bench said.

Justice Khanna observed that the SBI is the number one bank of the country and the court expects that it will be able to handle the issue.

During the hearing, the CJJ observed that an assistant general manager of the bank has filed an affidavit in support of the application moved in the top court for modification of an order of a constitution bench.

"It is serious matter when you ask for modification of an order of the constitution bench," Justice Chandrachud said.

When Salve argued the SBI's "big concern" was that it cannot make a mistake in this as it may get sued by the donors, Justice Gavai told him, "Whatever you are doing, you are doing under the directions of the highest court of the country. Where is the question of you being sued?"

The senior advocate said if the bank makes a mistake in a hurry to give the numbers, it might create havoc.

Salve told the bench that as per the apex court's February 15 direction, the SBI has stopped issuance of electoral bonds.

"Even your FAQs (frequently asked question), which were shown to us during the hearing, indicate that for every purchase, you have to have a separate KYC (know your customer)," the bench said, adding, "Therefore, it is very clear that every time somebody made a purchase, a KYC was mandated."

Salve said the bank has full details of who purchased the bonds and this detail is put in one silo of information.

He said the SBI has complete details of which political parties tendered how many electoral bonds and who has been paid how much.

While asking the SBI to disclose the details of electoral bonds to the EC on March 12, the bench directed the poll panel to publish the details shared by the bank on its official website by 5 pm on March 15.

It also put the SBI on notice that the top court may be inclined to proceed against it for "wilful disobedience" of its February 15 verdict if the bank failed to comply

Oscars 2024: Here's the complete list of winners at 96th Academy Awards

NEW DELHI: R-rated biographical drama "Oppenheimer" dominated the 96th edition of the Oscars, winning seven awards out of 13 nominations including top honours of best picture and director for Christopher Nolan, his first.

It was also a night of firsts for other members of the "Oppenheimer" team with Cillian Murphy (best actor), Robert Downey Jr (best supporting actor), Hoyte van Hoytema (best cinematography), and Jennifer Lame (best film editing) bagging their maiden Oscars.

The Academy Award for best actress went to Emma Stone for "Poor Things" as she bested frontrunner Lily Gladstone of "Killers of the Flower Moon". This is Stone's second best actress Oscar after her 2017 win for "La La Land".

Here's the complete list of winners:

Best Picture: "Oppenheimer" Emma Thomas, Charles Roven and Christopher Nolan

Best Director: Christopher Nolan, "Oppenheimer"

Best Actor: Cillian Murphy, "Oppenheimer"

Best Actress: Emma Stone, "Poor Things"

Best Supporting Actor: Robert Downey Jr., "Oppenheimer"

Best Supporting Actress: Da'Vine Joy Randolph, "The Holdovers"

Best International Feature

Film: "The Zone of Interest" (United Kingdom)

Best Original Screenplay: "Anatomy of a Fall", Justine Triet and Arthur Harari

Best Adapted Screenplay: "American Fiction", Cord Jefferson

Best Documentary Short Film: "The Last Repair Shop"

Best Documentary Feature: "20 Days in Mariupol"

Best Cinematography: Hoyte Van Hoytema, "Oppenheimer"

Best Live Action Short Film: "The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar"

Best Animated Short Film: "WAR IS OVER! Inspired by the Music of John & Yoko"

Best Animated Film: "The Boy and the Heron" Best Makeup and Hairstyling: "Poor Things", Nadia Stacey, Mark Coulier and Josh Weston

Best Production Design: "Poor Things", James Price, Shona Heath and Zsuzsa Mihalek

Best Costume Design: "Poor Things", Holly Waddington

Best Visual Effects: "Godzilla Minus One"

Best Film Editing: "Oppenheimer", Jennifer Lame

Best Sound: "The Zone of Interest", Tarn Willers, Johnnie Burn

Best Original Score: Ludwig Goransson, "Oppenheimer"

Best Original Song: "What Was I Made For?" from "Barbie"

On Oscars carpet, red pins worn to call for cease-fire in Gaza Strip

Agenceis

Singer Billie Eilish and actor Mark Ruffalo were among the attendees of the Academy Awards on Sunday night who wore red pins calling for a cease-fire in the Israel-Hamas war, a notable exception to an awards season in which many Hollywood stars have been reluctant to draw attention to the conflict.

The pins were provided by Artists4Ceasefire, a group of celebrities and members of the entertainment industry who signed an open letter urging President Joe Biden to call for a cease-fire. The nearly 400 signatories include Bradley Cooper and America Ferrera, who were Oscar nominees this year, as well as Cate Blanchett, Drake and Jennifer Lopez.

"The pin symbolizes collective support for an immediate and permanent cease-fire, the release of all of the hostages and for the urgent delivery of humanitarian aid to civilians in Gaza," Artists4Ceasefire said in a news release. "Compassion must prevail."

A handful of entertainers wore the pins Sunday, including director Ava DuVernay, actor Mahershala Ali, comedian Ramy Youssef, and model and actor Quannah Chasinghorse. Eilish and Ruffalo were nominated for televised awards, so their pins were clearly visible during the broadcast.

Each Artists4Ceasefire pin resembles a glossy red quarter, with an image of a hand surrounding a small black heart.

Youssef, a presenter at the ceremony who starred in one of its most-nominated films, "Poor Things," wore his red pin on the lapel of a black Zegna tuxedo jacket. "There's a part of you that hopes it doesn't have to get to pins," he said in an interview Sunday. "There's a part of us that hoped we would already be at a cease-fire, and we're not."

Youssef said he had been surprised by how few questions he had been asked about the war on red carpets earlier in the season. At the Golden Globe Awards in January, he pivoted a question about Jeremy Allen White's



steamy Calvin Klein ad into an opportunity to call for a cease-fire.

"This isn't about political strategy, this isn't about going tit-for-tat," he said Sunday. "It's about something really simple, which is just: Hey, let's stop killing kids."

The Israel-Hamas war has been a relatively minor presence on red carpets since the Golden Globe Awards in January, when stars including "Succession" actress J. Smith-Cameron wore yellow ribbons to signal solidarity with hostages being held by Hamas.

The Artists4Ceasefire pins have made intermittent appearances at events leading up to the Oscars.

Members of indie rock trio boygenius attached the pins to the lapels of their white Thom Browne suits at the Grammy Awards last month, and actors Tony Shalhoub and Ebon Moss-Bachrach wore the pins on the red carpet at the Screen Actors Guild Awards soon after.

Ruffalo, who was nominated for the Oscar for best supporting actor for his role as a slick suitor in "Poor Things," also wore one of the red pins to the Directors Guild of America Awards in February.

"We're not going to bomb our way to peace, and all we're saying is, what's wrong with giving a cease-fire a chance?" Ruffalo told Deadline on the DGA red carpet.

More than 30,000 people have been killed in the Gaza Strip in the war, according to Gaza officials, and about 1,200 people

were killed in Israel in the Hamas attack on Oct 7.

Award show red carpets have offered ample opportunities for stars to draw attention to issues of their choosing, although those gestures have sometimes been criticized as hollow. Blue ribbons were the accessory of choice at the 2023 Oscars to voice support for refugees. Women in Hollywood wore black to the Golden Globes in 2018 in solidarity with victims of sexual harassment, and Natalie Portman wore a cape embroidered with the names of female directors to the 2020 Oscars.

As Hollywood stars have become increasingly vocal about political leaders, abortion rights and racial inequality on award show stages, many have remained comparatively quiet regarding the war in the Middle East. That changed slightly at the Grammy Awards last month, where Annie Lennox shouted a call for a cease-fire at the end of her musical tribute to singer Sinead O'Connor.

The Los Angeles Police Department said it was anticipating possible protests related to the Israel-Hamas war on the day of the Oscars, and that it would ramp up security around the Dolby Theater, where the award show is held.

Youssef said that artists played a special role in encouraging viewers to engage with humanitarian issues. "There's that term 'talking heads' - I think artists are talking hearts," he said. "We're appealing on an emotional level."

Iran's Hamadan designated as Asian Capital of Tourism in 2024

Agenceis

Asian Mayors Forum has designated the Iranian western city of Hamadan as the Asian Capital of Tourism in 2024.

The significant announcement, marking Hamadan as the nucleus of tourism in Asia, was made on Wednesday by the Asian Mayors Forum (AMF), which is an international non-governmental organization that seeks to expand and exalt the relations and cooperation between mayors and city managers in Asia.

Separately on Wednesday, Hamadan's Mayor Masoud Hosseini, while announcing the news at a press conference, hailed the efforts made by the Hamadan City Council to introduce the city's tourism potential to the world.

He also praised activities undertaken by the city's Municipal

Tourism Headquarters in urban tourism, saying that the center has so far taken significant steps toward introducing the city's tourism potential.

Hosseini also expressed hope that with the close cooperation of Hamadan's municipality and the AMF, the city can introduce its tourism capacities more than before.

Believed to be among the oldest Iranian cities, Hamadan (or Hamedan) is the capital city of an eponymous province in western Iran, offering an enormous wealth of tourist attractions, including Ali-Sadr Cave, Tomb of Abu Ali Sina, Ganjnameh Ancient Inscriptions, and Alaviyan Dome, which guarantee a rewarding visit.

In its announcement on Wednesday, the AMF also designated the Iranian southern city of Shiraz as the Asian Capital of Environment in 2024.

Muslims gather to pray in NY's Times Square as Ramadan begins

Agenceis

NEW YORK: Dozens of Muslim worshippers gathered in New York's Times Square Sunday to mark the start of the holy month of Ramadan, with some displaying Palestinian flags in solidarity with people in Gaza.

They performed Taraweeh, special Ramadan night prayers, against the backdrop of the bright LED advertising billboards that illuminate the Manhattan landmark.

"It's good to come here as Muslims. I saw Muslims from everywhere - I was surprised, it's my first time here. I wanted to come and see the community," said one of the worshippers, Salman Al-Hanafy, 20, a forklift operator from Cairo who wore a pristine white thobe.

More than 100 faithful gathered for the prayer meeting despite cold, windy conditions, with a vocalist chanting Nasheeds, and children reciting from the Qur'an, copies of which were offered to both Muslims and curious passersby. "A lot of people are interested in the Qur'an, we have almost

run out of French ones. It explains the importance of fasting during Ramadan," said Ahmad Yasar, 20, an IT student in New York as a mound of donuts were delivered to him and his team handing out the holy books.

Observant Muslims refrain from eating and drinking from dawn to dusk during Ramadan and gather with family and friends to break the fast in the evening.

It is also a month of prayers during which Muslims traditionally converge in large numbers at mosques, especially at night.

Organizers projected prayers from the Qur'an onto a white sheet that was buffeted by the wind as giant ads for Broadway musicals and candy glowed overhead.

Yasar said that communal prayer meetings were important to "raise awareness and show people what's going around the world" - including in Gaza.

Nearby a speaker had the red, white, green and black colors of the Palestinian flag emblazoned on his hat, while a young boy in an electric wheelchair flew the banner.





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