27th year OF PUBLICATION

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Don't Spare Those Aiding Terrorism: LG

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday chaired a high-level meeting on the security situation and also reviewed the progress of various development projects of Kashmir Division.

The LG directed the civil and police administration to work in close coordination with the security agencies to neutralise the terror ecosystem.

He said those who are aiding and abetting terrorists and their ecosystem should not be spared.

During the meeting, the LG sought the action taken report from the DCs and SSPs to curb the menace of drug abuse in their respective districts.

The meeting also discussed the preparations made by the districts and police administration ahead of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, Yoga Diwas and Eid-ul-Adha celebrations.

The meeting discussed important matters related to yatra including security and traffic management, upgradation of roads; earmarking of areas for tents, langar services; RFID Cards and 100% implementation of pre-paid services of ponies and pithoos.

The LG also reviewed the progress of various development projects, delivery of public services and implementation of Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and other government-run schemes and programmes.

The LG also congratulated the DCs and SSPs for the successful and peaceful conduct of Parliamentary elections and Mata Kheer Bhawani Mela.

The meeting was attended by Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Chandraker Bharti, Principal | More on P10

Don't Raise False Flags: DGP Urges Public

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The recent terror incidents were a desperate attempt by the handlers, based across the border, to keep their shops running after massive setback to terror infrastructure in Kashmir, Director General of Police R R Swain said on Saturday, asserting that the enemy forces will be defeated.

He requested the people not to raise "false flags" and cross-check the information about the movement of terrorists before sharing it with the security agencies so that "we should be there where we ought to be".

The terrorists struck at four places including | More on P10

Reasi Attack: 10 Injured Discharged

Six life-saving surgeries were performed on the most critically injured patients of the terror attack on a bus carrying pilgrims in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir, doctors said. "Our priority was | More on P10

2 Key Doda Roads Reopen After 3-days

Two inter-state roads connecting Doda district in Jammu region with Punjab and Himachal Pradesh were reopened on Saturday after a three-day closure owing to a terror attack, officials said. The development has brought a major respite to | More on P10

HM To Review J&K Situation Today

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah will take stock of the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday in the wake of the recent terror attacks there and is expected to give broad guidelines to intensify counter-terror operations, sources said.

The home minister will also review the preparation for the annual Amarnath pilgrimage set to start on June 29.

Shah will chair the high-level meeting three days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a similar | More on P10

NEUTRAL EXPERTS' VISIT TO J&K

25 Liaison Officers Appointed

Agencies

Srinagar: The Government on Saturday appointed 25 liaison officers in view of a visit of Neutral Experts alongwith "delegations from India and Pakistan" to the Jammu & Kashmir from June 17-28.

An order copy in this regard reads, "In view of the visit of Neutral Experts along with delegations from India and Pakistan to the Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir, with effect from 17.6.2024 to 28.6.2024, following JKAS officers are hereby appointed as Liaison Officers." According to a government | More on P10

MONEY LAUNDERING CASE

Delhi Court Grants Statutory Bail To Shabir Shah

Agencies

Srinagar: New Delhi, Jun 15 (PTI) A Delhi court has granted bail to Kashmiri separatist leader Shabir Ahmad Shah in a money laundering case related to alleged terror funding in Jammu and Kashmir.

The court noted that Shah was in custody for six years and 10 months in the case in which the maximum punishment was seven years.

Additional Sessions Judge Dheeraj Mor, while granting statutory bail to Shah in an order passed on June 7, observed that the other cases in which the separatist leader was in custody were very serious in nature.

"However, that cannot be a sufficient ground for declining him statutory bail, when he has not been convicted in any of the offences," the judge said.

"Even if he is granted bail in this case, he is not likely to be released from jail in the other said offences before July 24, 2024 -- the date on which the maximum punishment of seven years in the present case expires for him as an under-trial prisoner," the judge said.

Shah had sought bail on the grounds that he had already suffered more than half of the period of | More on P10

Will Raise Issue of Jailed Kashmiris: Ruhulla

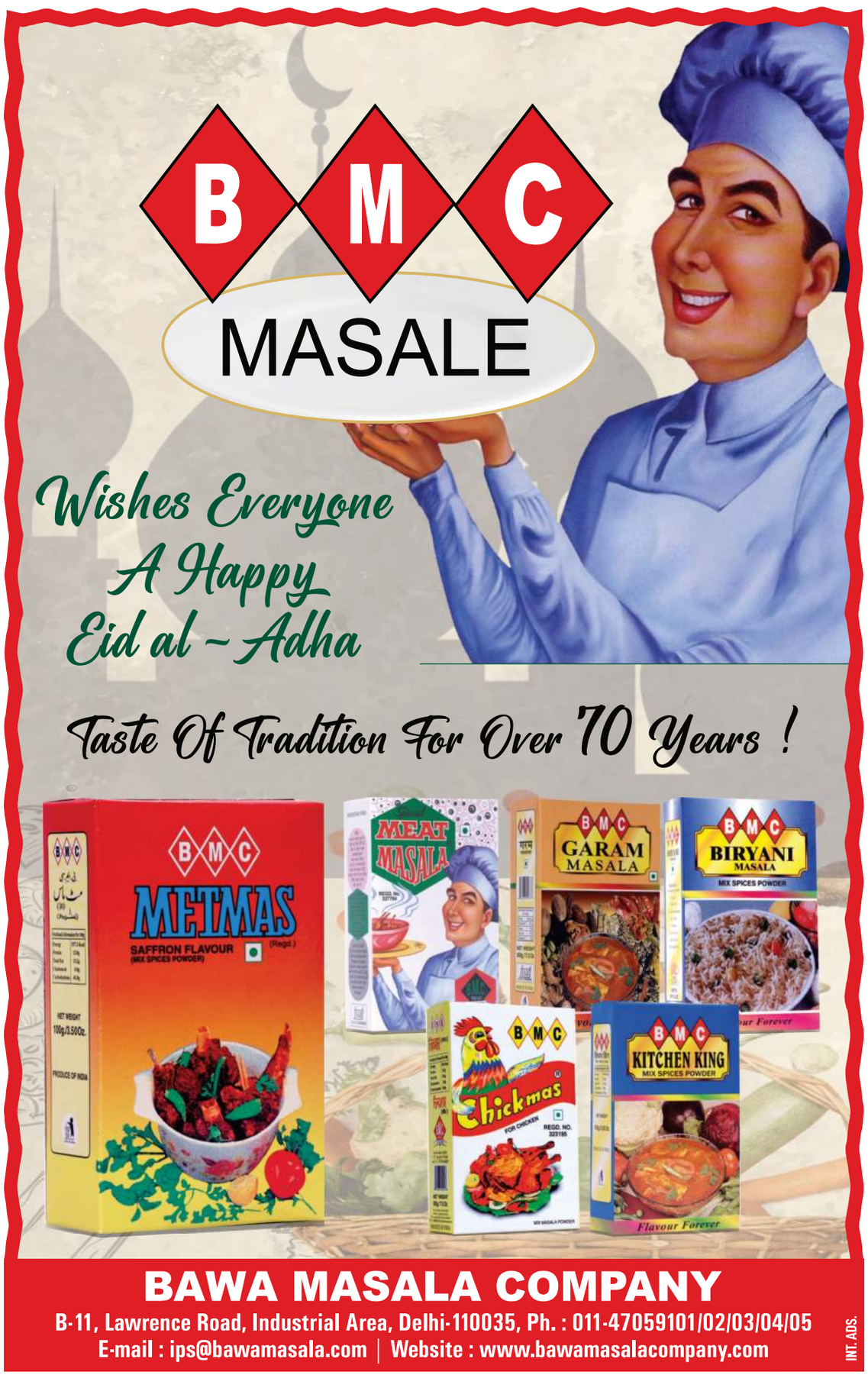
Observer News Service

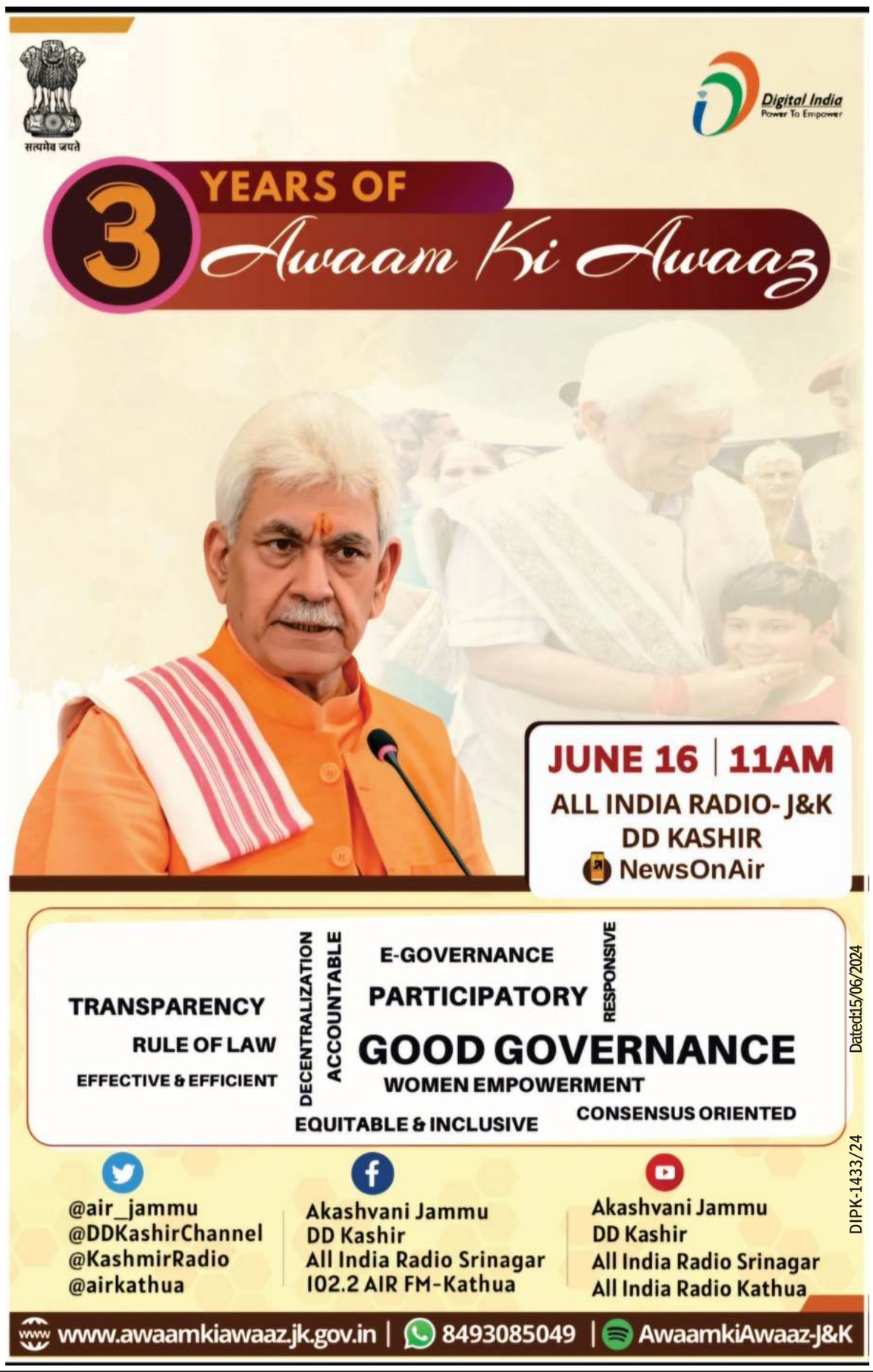
Srinagar: National Conference's Srinagar MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi on Saturday vowed to raise in Parliament and outside the issue of Kashmiri prisoners lodged in jails outside the valley and asked the party leaders to provide a list of such persons.

Mehdi | More on P10

Asks NTA To Reschedule UGC NET Exam

National Conference's Srinagar MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi on Saturday asked the National Testing Agency (NTA) to postpone the UGC-NET June 2024 exams as the dates | More on P10





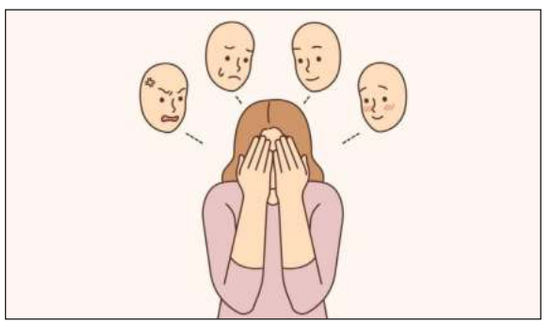
Mood Shifts Heighten Pleasure Responses In People With Bipolar Disorder: Study

Press Trust Of India

Mood changes, even momentary ones, could profoundly heighten the brain's response to pleasure in people having bipolar disorder, according to a research.

People having this mental condition, marked by extreme shifts in moods and energy levels, are more prone to this 'mood bias' – the term researchers used for when one's good mood tends to make them view everything more favourably and hence "gain momentum" in mood.

"Imagine going to a new restaurant for the first time. If you happen to be in a fantastic mood, you're likely to perceive the experience as being even better than it actually is," said Liam Mason,



University College London's Psychology and Language Sciences, co-lead author of the study published in the journal Biological Psychiatry Global Open Science.

The findings could help understand why people with bipolar disorder get stuck in a "vicious cycle" in which their mood escalates, sometimes making them take bigger risks than usual, the researchers said.

For the study, the researchers scanned the brains of participants while playing a computerised version of the Roulette game – 21 of them with bipolar disorder and 21 without. Playing the game involves making a gamble as to which compartment of a revolving wheel a small ball will come to rest in.

Festive offer

Using the functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI) brain scanning technique, the researchers tracked the brain responses of the participants while winning and losing. They measured how the 'reward signals' in the brains were being influenced by mood changes in a matter of seconds, using computer models. The team found intense activity in the brain's anterior insula – involved in changing moods – in both the groups of participants during the game.

However, only the participants having bipolar disorder showed a heightened influence of 'mood bias' on their perception of wins and losses. In the brain scans, the researchers observed intense activity in the participants' striatum – the region responding to pleasurable experiences.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my wallet containg DL License bearing DL No: 639044K , Aadhaar Car, AMT Card Golden Card & e shram card . If anybody has found the same he is requestd to return back . Otherwise I have to apply for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in concerned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohammad Abdullah Wani
S/o Ghulam Ahmad Wanl
R/o Khag Budgam
Cell: 8082703140

bmg

ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.
Tele: 01933-247954/247955. Website: www.iust.ac.in

Extension Notice

for the submission of Quotations for Gold Medals

The last date for the submission of Quotations for the procurement of 27 Gold Medals published vide notice No: IUST/Reg/P&S/Conv./24/045. Dated:-07-06-2024 is hereby extended up to **19-06-2024.**

The detailed information of the specifications of Gold Medals and other terms and conditions can be had from Office of the Procurement & Stores, Islamic University of Science & Technology, Awantipora or can be downloaded from the University website www.iust.ac.in

No: IUST/Reg/P&S/Ext/24/047 **Sd/-**
Dated 12-06-2024 **Assistant Registrar, Procurement and Stores**

DIPK-NB-460/24
dated: 15-06-2024

ازنیابت پلہالن

عنوان:۔ اجرائی OBC سرٹفیکیٹ بحق انیس نذیر پسر نذیر احمد حجام ساکنہ موضع پلہالن تحصیل پٹن

اشتہار ہر خاص وعام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض OBC سرٹفیکیٹ بذمرہ حجام پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل واقعی حجام ذات سے تعلق رکھتا ہے اور سائل پہالن تحصیل پٹن میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے سائل مذکور OBC سرٹفیکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواں ہے اور کنبہ کی مہوارہ آمدنی 7400 روپے تک ہے ۔سرٹفیکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کہ اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عزر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد مشتہر اخبار سات دن کے اندر اندر آپنے عذر یا اعتراض ودالت ھذا کو دفتری اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میعاد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, I Mr. Mir Sharik Mehraj S/o Mr. Mir Mehraj ud Din R/O Naseemabad Kanitar, Kashmir intends to apply in the Department of Tourism for Registration of my proposed Travel Unit under the name and style Hikmah Travels situated at Jamalatta Srinagar, Kashmir under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas, I will submit State Subject/Domicile Certificate, Qualification Certificate, Pan Card, Experience Certificate (Minimum 05 Years), Character Certificate (Police Department), Bank Statement (Minimum Balance 10000), Site Head/Visiting Card), Photograph of the Unit (Indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport size photographs to the Department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist prior to Registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency/Travel Agency.

Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12, before my case is processed for registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/Financial Institutions/Bank/Organization, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration (e-mail Id:- ddtreg123@gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/newspapers of the valley. No objections beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained.

inf

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Qumail Abas S/O Mohd Akbar Dar R/O Magam had applied for birth certificate in MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE MAGAM under DOB 01-06-1999, And same has been issued on the basis of documents i produced on 22-02-2012. Now my original DOB as per my school records is 02-12-1999 and i want to get DOB certificate from MCM MAGAM for the original DOB which is 02-12-1999.In this connection any objection regarding the same may be submitted to MCM MAGAM within one week from the publication of this notice falling which no claim or objection will be accepted or entertained.

nko

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office Of The Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Bandipora

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

e-NIT No: 16 of 2024-25 Dated: 14-06-2024

For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tenders are being invited on an percentage age basis (as applicable) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with the J&K Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments for the following works. The Contractors should mandatorily be registered on JKPWDOMS for making online payment to the agency as per Govt. Order No.: 186-PW(R&B) of 2023 dated 08-05-2023.

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rs)	EMD (In Rs)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1.	Upgradation of Gund Dachina Jamia Masjid Link by way of P/L 75mm thick wet mix macadam, 50mm thick bituminous macadam and 25 mm thick-semi dense with 6mm thick seal coat (Machine mix laid with paver)	23.34 lacs including C/O Bitumen) Incld Cost of GST 18%	800.00	46680.00	40 Days	C&T 2024-25	BEE/CEE Civil Having MOU with Registration HMPO
2	Upgradation of road from culvert to Nehri Zaingeer, PMGSY road to Kha Mohalla by way of P/L 75mm thick wet mix macadam, 50mm thick bituminous macadam and 25 mm thick-semi dense with 6mm thick seal coat (Machine mix laid with	31.12 lacs including C/O Bitumen) (Incld. Cost of GST @18%	1100.00	62240.00	40 Days	C&T 2024-25	AAY with HMPO/AAY/ BEE Civil Having MOU with Registration HMPO
3	Upgradation of Turkpora Inner links by way of P/L 75mm thick wet mix macadam, 50mm thick bituminous macadam and 25 mm thick-semi dense with 6mm thick seal coat (Machine mix laid with paver)	22.39 lacs including C/O Bitumen) (Incld. Cost of GST @18%	800.00	44780.00	40 Days	C&T 2024-25	BEE/CEE Civil Having MOU with Registration HMPO
4	Upgradation of road from Sheikh Mohalla to Girls Middle School Quil Muqam by way of P/L 75mm thick wet mix macadam, 50mm thick bituminous macadam and 25 mm thick-semi dense with 6mm thick seal coat (Machine mix laid with paver)	22.39 lacs including C/O Bitumen) (Incld. Cost of GST @18%	800.00	44780.00	40 Days	C&T 2024-25	BEE/CEE Civil Having MOU with Registration HMPO
5	Upgradation of Braripora inner link by way of P/L 75mm thick wet mix macadam, 50mm thick bituminous macadam and 25 mm thick-semi dense with 6mm thick seal coat (Machine mix laid with paver)	17.51 lacs including C/O Bitumen) (Incld. Cost of GST @18%	800.00	35020.00	40 Days	C&T 2024-25	BEE/CEE Civil Having MOU with Registration HMPO
6	Upgradation of Watapora inner links by way of P/L 75mm thick wet mix macadam, 50mm thick bituminous macadam and 25 mm thick-semi dense with 6mm thick seal coat (Machine mix laid with paver)	43.69 lacs including C/O Bitumen) (Incld. Cost of GST @18%	1100.00	87380.00	40 Days	C&T 2024-25	AAY with HMPO/AAY/ BEE Civil Having MOU with Registration HMPO
7	Upgradation of Chopan Mohalla Quil road by way of P/L 75mm thick wet mix macadam, 50mm thick bituminous macadam and 25 mm thick-semi dense with 6mm thick seal coat (Machine mix laid with paver)	12.15 lacs including C/O Bitumen) (Incld. Cost of GST @18%	600.00	24300.00	40 Days	C&T 2024-25	CEE/DEE Civil Having MOU with Registration HMPO
8	Construction of Link road from PMGSY road to Malik Mohalla Right side at Aloosa by way of P/L 75mm thick wet mix macadam, 50mm thick bituminous macadam and 25 mm thick-semi dense with 6mm thick seal coat (Machine mix laid with paver)	4.36 lacs including C/O Bitumen) (Incld. Cost of GST @18%	200.00	8720.00	40 Days	C&T 2024-25	DEE Civil Having MOU with Registration HMPO.

Position of AAA: Accorded
Position of TS Accorded

1. The bidding documents, which would include qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications/drawings, a bill of quantities (B.O.Q), a set of contract terms and conditions, and other details, can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in on the dates listed below: -

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	14-06-2024.
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	14-06-2024 from 11:00 PM
3	Bid submission Start Date.	14-06-2024 from 1:00 PM
4	Bid Submission End Date.	21-06-2024 up to 04.00 P.M
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	22-06-2024 at 10:30 AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Bandipora.

2. Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Bandipora(tender inviting authority) as cost of the tender document.
3.At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Bandipora. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.
4. The date and time of bid opening shall be notified on the Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and automatically communicated to bidders via an e-mail message sent to their e-mail address. Responsive bidders' bids will be opened online on the same Web Site in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B DivisionBandipora (tender receiving authority).
5. Bids for the work shall be valid for 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
6. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
6.1 Bidders are advised to download the bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as the "Bidders Manual Kit" option on the website www.jktenders.gov to familiarize themselves with the bid submission process.
6.2 In order to participate in the bidding process, bidders must obtain a 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' under the Information Technology Act of 2000. Any approved Vendor can provide bidders with a digital certificate.
6.3 Bidders must submit their bids in electronic format with a digital signature online. No physical bids will be accepted.
6.4 Bids will be opened online in accordance with the time schedule specified in Para-1.
6.5 Bidders must upload online scanned copy of all required documents (within the document upload limits) with their technical bid.
Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
7 The department will not be held responsible for any delays in online submission due to unanticipated circumstances.
8 The original Treasury Challan (Cost of tender document) and other Uploaded bid documents shall have to be produced on demand by the successful bidder at the time of contract signing, and in the case of unsuccessful bidders, 2 percent EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Bandipora, will be released only after production of Original Treasury Challan of uploaded Scanned copy (Cost of tender document).
9 Bidders are advised not to change the contents of the BOQ (Bill of Quantities). They should never attempt to create similar BOQ manually.
10 Bidders should be fully cognizant that if the documents uploaded/submitted on the basis of which the contract was awarded are later discovered to be fake/not genuine, the contract will be cancelled and the Contractor/bidder will be blacklisted from participating in this Division/ Department for a period of three years, in addition to the performance security deposited for the said work being forfeited.
11 Price escalation and Taxes: -The bidder's percentage shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes up to the completion of the work. Taxes shall be deducted from the contractor's bills on the gross amount of the bill at the time of recovery at the rates in effect at the time of recovery.
12 Bidders are advised to use the "My Documents" area in their R&B e-Tendering portal user account to store any required documents.
13 All bidders must UPLOAD the following information and documents with their bids, in addition to the qualification criteria / qualification information, (All documents pertaining to the bid must be in English):
- All bidders must submit copies of original documents defining their constitution/legal status, place of registration, and principal place of business, as well as their cell phone number and e-mail address.
- A valid Contractor/Firm Registration Certificate issued by a competent authority in accordance with the Contractor Registration Act.
- Treasury Challan/Earnest money
- Valid GSTIN Registration & PAN Card
- A Civil Contractor who does not own HMP and is bidding for Bitumen Macadam Works is required to upload an MoU with HMPO, from whom the material/ machinery for the subject work will be procured. The Memorandum of Understanding must be registered and duly executed in the Hon'ble Court of 1st Class Magistrate, specifying clearly that failure on the part of the HMPO shall be deemed failure on the part of the bidder, and vice versa
- Scanned copy of GSTIN registration and most recent clearance certificate FORM GSTR-3B from the previous quarter or month, whichever is applicable, preceding Month or Latest Qtr.
- Contractors should mandatorily be registered on JKPWDOMS for making online payments, which is mandatory to upload with BID, non submission of the same shall be rendered the Bid non responsive.

14 Bidder shall upload a Self-Certified Performance declaration (Annexed format) in support of performance in respect of Bitumen Macadam Works executed by the agency during the year 2023-24.
15 Bidders are expected to submit technical bids along with scanned copies of all required documents. No document (s) that have not been uploaded will be accepted in hard copy for evaluation consideration. However, if need arises, Hard copies of any specific supporting documents, on the other hand, may be required on demand in support of documents posted online for clarification during technical evaluation.
16 The bidder should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submitting a bid, and no claim based on constrained site conditions will be entertained after the bid is accepted.

DIPK-1395/24
dated: 15-06-2024
No: EE/R&B/Bpr/1069-75

Sd/=
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Bandipora

Office Of The Principal.

Government Medical College, Handwara. Department Of Health And Medical Education Ut Of J&K.

prinicipalgmchandwara@gmail.com. www.gmchandwara.co.in

Sub: Advertisement for Engagement of Senior Residents /Registrars /Tutors /Demonstrators on Academic Arrangement Basis Under S.O. 364 of 2020 dated 27-11-2020 in various departments of Government Medical College Handwara

Advertisement Notice No. 03 of 2024
Dated: -06-2024

Applications, on the prescribed format are invited from eligible candidates, for the posts of Senior Residents /Registrars /Tutors /Demonstrators in the following departments of Govt. Medical College Handwara purely on Academic Arrangementbasis under S.O 364 dated 27-11-2020 initially for a period of (01) one-year extendable up to a maximum of 03 years on the basis of their work conduct/performance as reported by the concerned head of the department. Application forms from in-service eligible candidates (PSC) shall be entertained after fulfilment of all pre-requisites, in accordance with relevant rules, as envisaged in the J&K Civil Service rules 1979 and production of NOC from the parent department.

S. No	Name of the Disciplines	S. No	Name of the Disciplines
1.	Anatomy	12.	Ophthalmology
2.	Physiology	13.	Obstetrics and Gynaecology
3.	Microbiology	14.	Radio-diagnosis
4.	Pathology	15.	Radiotherapy
5.	Pharmacology	16.	Anaesthesiology
6.	Forensic Medicine	17.	Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
7.	Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases	18.	General Surgery
8.	Community Medicine	19.	Orthopaedics
9.	General Medicine	20.	Oto-Rhino-Laryngology (ENT)
10.	Dermatology,Venereology and Leprosy	21.	Paediatrics
11.	Hospital Administration		

Application forms will be available on the official website of Govt Medical College Handwara @ www.gmchandwara.co.in.
The application form duly filled along with all the requisite documents anda Demand Draft of Rs. 500 (Rupees Five Hundred) only from JK BANK pledged to Principal Govt. Medical College Handwara should be submitted in the office of Registrar Academics Govt. Medical College, Handwara.
- Last date for submission of application forms: 26-06-2024 (up to 3:00 pm)

The selection of the candidates for the advertised posts shall be made as per Govt. Order No. 672-JK(HME) of 2022 Dated 19-09-2022andstrictly as per the criteria laid down in G.O. No. 282-JK(HME) of 2023 Dated:04-04-2023 and read with corrigendumdated 06-04-2023 and (Available on https://hme.jk.gov.in/)or in case of any other rules of selection which may be notified by the Government from time to time.
The application forms shall be accompanied with the self-attested copies of the following documents/testimonials.

1. MBBS Degree and State/NMC Registration Certificate
2. MD/MS/DNB degree with additional Qualification Registration Certificate (State/NMC)
3. Marks Certificate of the respective degree especially Marks sheets certificates of each year of MBBS.
4. Higher Qualification Certificate (Super specialities) (DM/MCH/DNB).
5. Any other additional qualifying certificate relevant for eligibility to any particular advertised post.
6. Proof of following Academic Honours
a. Overall 1st, 2nd or 3rd position in university examination Professional examination.
b. Distinction in any Subject
c. 1st, 2nd and 3rd position in any subject.
d. Paper presentation in National/International conferences.
e. Poster presentation in National/International conferences.
f. Best Paper Award.
g. Best Poster Award.
h. Best Video Presentation.
7. Date of Birth Certificate.
8. Domicile certificate.
9. Affidavit from 1st class magistrate that he/she is not on the rolls of any other medical college/institution of the country as required by NMC.
10. The candidates who have already completed or left the Senior Resident ship midway need not to apply.
11. Service certificate issued by the Director, Health service, J&K in case of in-service candidates.
12. NOC/Prior Permission from Administrative department as per circular no 02-JK (HME) of 2020 dated: 20-01-2020 read with G.O No. 03 HME of 2019 dated: 27-05-2019 in case of in-service candidates to be allowed for selection process. In case selected, they will be allowed to join only after getting relived from Administrative Department.
13. Others as deemed necessary by the competent authority.

Terms and Conditions:
1. The engages shall not be entitled to private practice or undertake simultaneous part time / full time job anywhere else. He / She shall work on Full time basis.
2. The selected candidates shall have to execute an agreement that he/she shall not leave the department before completion of his/her sanctioned tenure failing which the security deposit shall be forfeited and no experience certificate shall be issued.
3. The first salary shall be kept as security deposit by the accounts department and shall be paid only on successful completion 01 year.
4. Maximum age for eligibility to apply shall be 50 years as on cutoff date.
5. Candidates with higher qualification shall be preferred.
6. The Competent Authority reserves the right of any amendment, cancellation and changes to this advertisement as a whole or in part without assigning any reason or giving notice.
7. Mere submitting of the documents/certificates shall not be considered as final, candidature of any candidate is provisional and is subject to cancellation if found ineligible by any means at any stage of recruitment process / selection.
8. The decision of the competent authority regarding selection of candidates will be final and no representation will be entertained in this regard.
9. There shall be a waiting list which shall remain in force for a period of 06 (six) months from the date of issue of the selection list.
10. Candidates shall not claim any experience certificate in case they abandon the tenure position prior to completion of first year.

Prof (Dr.) Khurshid Ahmad Wani
Principal
Govt. Medical College Handwara

No: GMC/Hand/2024/Acad/
DIPK-1362/24
Dated: 15-06-2024

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E-Rickshaw Stunt Video Goes Viral, Sparks Outrage Among Netizens

Syed Mohammad Burhan

SRINAGAR: A video of an E-Rickshaw driver performing stunts on the 90 Feet Road in the Ahmed Nagar locality in Srinagar outskirts has taken social media by storm, drawing widespread condemnation from netizens and authorities alike.

The footage, which quickly went viral, shows the driver doing stunts. This reckless behavior has alarmed the public, with many expressing their anger and concern over the potential danger posed to other commuters.

"This is not just irresponsible; it's criminal. The driver is endangering lives," commented one user on X.

Others have called for stricter enforcement of traffic laws and more rigorous monitoring of public transport vehicles to prevent such incidents in the future. "We need stricter traffic regulations and enforcement to ensure the safety of everyone on the road," another user posted.

Speaking to Kashmir Observer, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Srinagar, Muzaffar Ahmad Shah assured the public that the police are actively working to identify the E-Rickshaw driver involved in the incident. "We are in the process of identifying the erring driver and action will be initiated against him," SSP Shah stated.

GGHS Batamalloo Shines In Matriculation Exams

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Govt. Girls High School Batamaloo Srinagar has performed exemplary with all five of its students that appeared in matriculation exams, 2024 securing distinctions.

These students namely Tabia Bilal has scored 440/500 (88%), Soliha Mushtaq has got 429/500 (85.8%), Somiya Aashiq 408/500 (81.6%), Anamta Irshad 399/500 (79.8%) and Hafsa Qayoom 387/500 (77.4%).

The Head of the institution and all the teaching fraternity of the school have expressed their gratitude for the brilliant success of these students and wished them a bright future.

Oxygen Plant Imperative For Patient Care: B&J Hospital Admin

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Authorities at Bone & Joint Hospital Barzulla today clarified that the Oxygen Plant in question by some residents for generating noise was installed following the COVID-19 pandemic and has been operational for over two years now.

As per an official communiqué, the hospital administration promptly addressed the issue with the Engineering Department, requesting immediate action to mitigate the noise while ensuring patient care remains unaffected.

Following which the Engineering Department initiated measures of installing noise-reducing tools at the plant, providing relief to nearby residents.

The Oxygen Plant is crucial for patient care, and every effort will be made to minimize any inconvenience, read the statement.

Regarding vehicle parking in the vicinity, it should be noted that the area houses multiple departments, and the vehicles parked there likely belong to employees from these various departments.

Our hospital has secured a parking area behind the hospital, where all our employees park their vehicles during working days. Any violations are being addressed by the traffic department, which regularly visits the area, tows away improperly parked vehicles, and imposes fines. Thus, the issue of improper parking is being effectively managed by the relevant authorities, read the statement.

Painting Exhibition Begins At Govt. Arts Emporium

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: An art exhibition titled 'Capturing Serenity' was today inaugurated at the Government Arts Emporium, Srinagar by the Director of Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir, Mahmood Ahmad Shah.

True to its name, the exhibition highlights a state of tranquility and quality.

This showcase, which shall be open for general public till 16th afternoon, features the artistic endeavors of Mareehah Saleem, a 17-year-old student who has poured her heart into the curated selections, presenting a dynamic blend of creativity.

The Department of Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir has been proactive in organizing such exhibitions since Srinagar joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN), celebrating the rich heritage of artistic expression.

Speaking at the event, Director of Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir described the exhibition as a testament to the diverse voices and visions shaping the contemporary art scene.

"Exhibitions like today's underscore the synergies between various artistic practices, integrating traditional and contemporary approaches. Having a 17-year-old artist participate in such events helps young artists hone their skills, which can also be useful in their daily academic projects," he remarked.

Beaming with pride at her debut exhibition, Mareehah thanked the department for providing her this incredible opportunity to highlight her art. The thoughtful comments about my work truly mean the world to me, she shared with visitors who stopped by to chat.

It is worth mentioning here that the departmental initiative 'Know Your Artisan' has provided numerous artisans with a platform to cultivate essential skills in branding, networking and raising public awareness. These exhibitions are crucial for fostering cultural exchange, encouraging dialogue and nurturing an investor appreciation for art. They present a unique opportunity to engage with creativity and explore innovative perspectives

Double-Storey Sanitary Complex Thrown Open For Devotees At Hazratbal

Majid Nabi

SRINAGAR: The much-anticipated two-story sanitary complex was thrown open to pilgrims at Dargah Hazratbal shrine, two months before the deadline on Saturday.

Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi, the chairperson of the Muslim Waqf Board for Jammu & Kashmir, officially inaugurated the facility. Andrabi on the occasion praised the executing agency's efforts to complete the project ahead of schedule and promised that pilgrims would never again experience any difficulty.

"As soon as I took over as Waqf chairperson, the pilgrims began to demand that a sanitary facility be built at the site. We completed the job two months ahead of schedule, and for that I am thankful to Allah," Andrabi told the media.

> **"DURING THE PAST 1.5 YEARS, WE HAVE DONE EVERYTHING WE COULD.** We continue to be dissatisfied. Considering that progress will cease whenever we are pleased," the Waqf chairperson added.

The pilgrims at the major Muslim shrine in the valley, housing the holy relic of Prophet Muhammad (SAW), she claimed, were having difficulties due to a shortage of sanitary complex facilities.

"We'll make sure these amenities are constructed at every shrine so there won't be any issues for the hordes of pilgrims who visit them from across the valley. We are making every effort to meet the expectations of pilgrims, and will keep up this good work in the future," she added.

She said Waqf will not stop working to improve the shrines and mosques under its supervision and it won't stop until the problems pilgrims encounter are resolved.

"During the past 1.5 years, we have done everything we could. We continue to be dissatisfied. Considering that progress will cease whenever we are pleased," the Waqf chairperson added.

EID-UL-AZHA

Shoppers Throng Markets To Buy Bakeries, Sacrificial Animals

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Ahead of Eid Ul Azha, Srinagar wore a festive look amid rush of shoppers hitting the streets and Eidgahs to purchase sacrificial animals.

As per the details gathered by the news agency—KNO, with Eid Ul Azha falling on Monday, shops are decorated with colorful lights and stalls are overflowing with festive goods and bakeries.

From traditional clothing to sweets and other delicacies, there is a palpable excitement in the air as people complete their holiday preparations.

In both civil lines and as well as historic downtown Srinagar, roads were clogged with vehicles moving at a snail's pace due to the massive influx of shoppers. The main commercial areas including Lal Chowk, Nowhatta and Residency Road saw heavy traffic jams.

Speaking to news agency KNO, a local resident Sajad Ahmad expressed his excitement, saying Eid Ul Azha is a special occasion for Muslims. "It's wonderful to see the city so vibrant and alive. Despite the traffic, the joy of preparing for the festival makes it all worthwhile," he said.

Similarly, another shopper Tariq Ahmed shared his thoughts while buying a sacrificial goat. "This festival is about sacrifice and sharing with those in need. Every year, we look forward to this time when we can come together as a community and celebrate," he added.

As already reported by KNO, in anticipation of increased traffic volumes ahead of Eid-Ul-Azha, the Srinagar Traffic Police have proposed the deployment of additional personnel at major market points across the City.

Eid Ul Azha commemorates the willingness of Prophet Ibrahim (AS) to sacrifice his son as an act of obedience to Allah before He provided a ram to sacrifice instead.

Mehandi Craze Grips Valley Ahead Of Eid-ul-Azha

SRINAGAR: Ahead of the Eid-ul-Adha, a fervent wave of Hinna (Mehandi) craze has swept across the Kashmir Valley.

Women and girls, along with others eager to celebrate, have flocked to markets in preparation for the festive occasion, which falls on Monday.

The markets in Srinagar and other parts of the Valley were bustling with activity as women sought out the best Henna artists to adorn their hands with intricate designs.

"Every year, Hinna is a significant part of our Eid celebrations," said Ayesha Khan, a resident of Srinagar. The designs are more than just decorations; they symbolize joy and festivity. It's a tradition that connects us to our cultural roots, she said.

Moreover, market vendors have also noticed a surge in the sale of Henna cones and related products. "This is the busiest time of the year for us," said a Hinna vendor in Lal Chowk. "The excitement and anticipation for Eid Ul Adha are palpable, and the rush for Hinna is a clear sign of that," he said.

Pertinently, the festive fervor is expected to continue, with markets anticipated to remain crowded with female shoppers on the eve of Eid.

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
09 Zil-Hajj
1445

PRAYERS

FAJR	3:34
ZUHR	12:31
ASR	5:31
Magrib	7:46
ISHA	9:28

This Day In History

- 1487 - Battle of Stoke, Nottinghamshire: Henry VII beats John de la Pole & Lord Lovell
- 1745 British fleet occupies Cape Breton on St Lawrence River
- 1746- Battle at Piacenza: Austria & Sardinia beat Spanish and French army
- 1779 - Spain declares war on Great Britain in support of the US, and the siege of Gibraltar begins
- 1815 - Battle at Ligny: French army under Napoleon beats Prussia
- 1815 - Battle at Quatre-Bras: allies strike French
- 1832 - Battle of Kellogg's Grove, Illinois
- 1891 - John Abbott becomes Canada's third prime minister
- 1898 - China's emperor De Zong (Guang Xu) receives Kang Youwei
- 1903 - Roald Amundsen commences the first east-west navigation of the Northwest Passage by leaving Oslo, Norway
- 1903 - Reichstag elections with gains for the Social Democratic Party of Germany
- 1907 - Tsar Nicolas II of Russia dissolves the Second Duma (parliament) and issues an edict that will increase representation of propertied classes while reducing that of peasants, workers and national minorities
- 1930 - Sovnarkom establishes decree time in the USSR
- 1931 - Austrian government of Ender falls
- 1932 - Germany forbids SA/SS-gang fights
- 1940 - Communist government installed in Lithuania
- 1957 - French offensive in Algeria
- 1958- Government troops land on North-Celebes Indonesia
- 1961- Reconnaissance satellite Discoverer 25 launched from the US
- 1963- Soviet space mission Vostok 6 is launched with Valentina Tereshkova onboard, who becomes the 1st woman in space
- 1963- Levi Eshkol replaces David Ben-Gurion as Israeli Prime Minister
- 1972- The largest single-site hydro-electric power project in Canada starts at Churchill Falls, Labrador
- 1980- US Supreme Court rules that live, human-made micro-organisms created in labs could be patentable, in Diamond v. Chakrabarty
- 1982- Britain makes request to Argentina to arrange for return of prisoners
- 1983- European Space Agency launches European Comm Satellite 1, Oscar 10
- 1983- General Secretary Yuri Andropov appointed President of the Soviet Union
- 1999- Thabo Mbeki is elected 2nd President of a democratic South Africa
- 2000 - Israel complies with UN Security Council Resolution 425 after 22 years, which calls on Israel to completely withdraw from Lebanon. Israel withdraws from all of Lebanon, except the disputed Sheba Farms
- 2012 - 32 people are killed by a car bomb in Baghdad
- 2012- Coca-Cola begins business in Myanmar after 60 years
- 2012- 30 people are killed and 15 injured after a bus falls into a gorge in Osmanabad, India
- 2013- 20 people are killed by a series of car bombings across Iraq
- 2015- TV personality and real estate mogul Donald Trump launches his campaign for the Republican nomination for US President at Trump Towers
- 2017- Amazon announces it is buying Whole Foods for $13.7 billion
- 2017- US President Donald Trump reinstates Cuban travel and business restrictions after they were loosened by President Obama
- 2018- Two suicide bombers attack Damboa in Borno state, Nigeria, killing at least 31 people
- 2019- India imposes retaliatory tariffs on 28 US goods
- 2019 Massive unprecedented power cut affects all of Argentina, Uruguay and parts of Paraguay
- 2019- Three suicide bomb attacks kill 30 people in Konduga, north east Nigeria
- 2020- At least 20 Indian soldiers killed in 1st deadly clash on the Chinese Indian border in 45 years in the Galwan Valley, Himalayas
- 2021- Summit between US President Joe Biden and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Geneva, Switzerland, over issues including cyberattacks and human rights
- 2023- Attack on Mpondwe Lhubiriha Secondary School in Mpondwe, Uganda by Islamic State-linked militants leaves about 40 pupils dead
- 2023- Scientific teams in the UK and Israel claim to have grown synthetic human embryos equivalent to that of 14-day-old natural embryos sparking controversy

Rare 'Flesh-Eating Bacteria' That Can Kill In 2 Days Spreading In Japan

Agencies

A disease caused by a rare "flesh-eating bacteria" that can kill people within 48 hours is spreading in Japan after the country relaxed Covid-era restrictions.

Cases of streptococcal toxic shock syndrome (STSS) reached 977 this year by June 2, higher than the record 941 cases reported for all of last year, according to the National Institute of Infectious Diseases, which has been tracking incidences of the disease since 1999.

Group A Streptococcus (GAS) typically causes swelling and sore throat in children known as "strep throat," but some types of the bacteria can lead to symptoms developing rapidly, including limb pain and swelling, fever, low blood pressure, that can be followed by necrosis, breathing problems, organ failure and death. People over 50 are more prone to the disease.

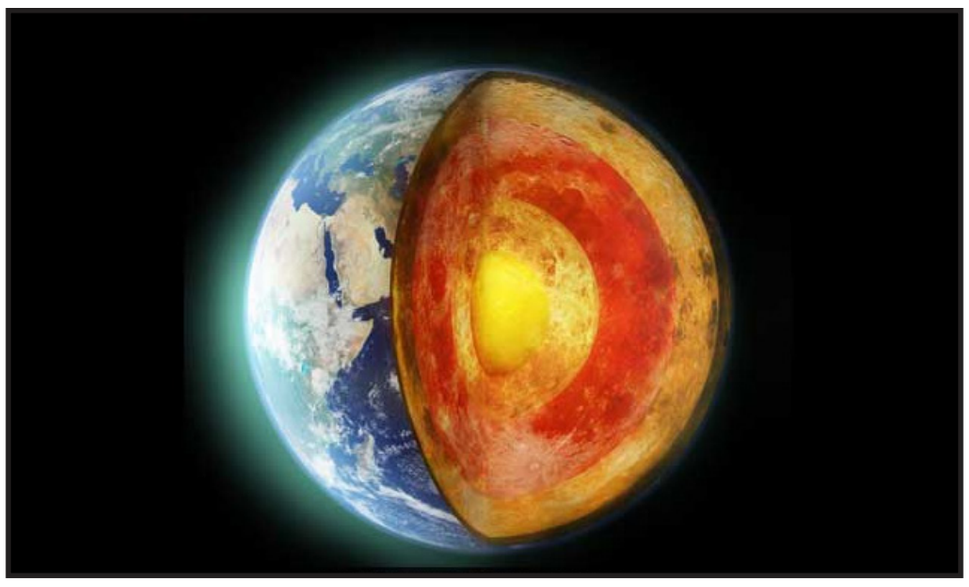
"Most of the deaths happen within 48 hours," said Ken Kikuchi, a professor in infectious diseases at Tokyo Women's Medical University. "As soon as a patient notices swelling in the foot in the morning, it can expand to the knee by noon, and they can die within 48 hours."

> **As soon** as a patient notices swelling in the foot in the morning, it can expand to the knee by noon, and they can die within 48 hours

Other countries have experienced recent outbreaks. In late 2022 at least five European nations reported to the World Health Organization an increase in cases of invasive group A streptococcus (iGAS) disease, which includes STSS. The WHO said the rise in cases followed the end of Covid restrictions.

At the current rate of infections, the number of cases in Japan could reach 2,500 this year, with a "terrifying" mortality rate of 30%, Kikuchi said.

Kikuchi urged people to maintain hand hygiene and to treat any open wounds. He said patients may carry GAS in their intestines, which could contaminate hands through faeces.



'Length Of A Day Might Change As Earth's Inner Core Slowing Since 2010'

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: A new study has provided "unambiguous evidence" that the Earth's inner core began to slow down its rotation since 2010, compared to the planet's surface.

Researchers said that the slowing down could change the length of one day on the Earth by fractions of a second.

The Earth's inner core, a solid sphere made of iron and nickel, is suspended within the liquid outer core (made of molten metals) and anchored in its place by gravity. Together, the inner and the outer core, form one of the planet's three layers -- the other two being mantle and crust.

Being physically inaccessible, researchers usually study the core by analysing the recordings of waves sent out by earthquakes -- seismograms.

"When I first saw the seismograms that hinted at this change, I was stumped," said John Vidale, a professor of Earth Sciences at the University of Southern California, US.

"But when we found two dozen more observations signalling the same pattern, the result was inescapable. The inner core had slowed down for the first time in many decades," said Vidale, also the corresponding author of the study published in the journal Nature.

The slowing down of the inner core is hotly debated in the scientific community, with some studies even suggesting that it rotates faster than the Earth's surface.

It is known that the spin of the inner core is influenced by the magnetic field generated in the outer core and the gravitational effects within Earth's mantle.

However, it is considered that the inner core is reversing and backtracking relative to the surface, because of rotating slower than the mantle for the first time in about 40 years.

"Other scientists have recently argued for similar and different models, but our latest study provides the most convincing resolution," Vidale said.

A study published earlier this year, in the journal Nature, had found that climate change-driven melting of ice in Greenland and Antarctica was affecting global timekeeping by slowing down Earth's rotation.

The author, Duncan Agnew, a geophysicist at the University of California San Diego, showed that the Earth's liquid core was slowing down in its rotation. To counter the effects of this, the solid Earth was rotating faster, said Agnew.

However, this has resulted in fewer 'leap seconds' being needed to be added to the Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) in recent decades, according to Agnew.

Since 1972, once every few years, a 'leap second' has been required to be added, owing to irregularities in the UTC arising out of the fact that the Earth doesn't always rotate at the same speed.

For the latest study, the researchers looked at seismic data recorded from 121 repeating earthquakes - multiple quakes occurring in the same location - between 1991 and 2023 in the South Sandwich Islands, a remote archipelago in the South Atlantic Ocean. The islands are prone to violent earthquakes.

Data from twin Soviet nuclear tests between 1971 and 1974, along with multiple French and American nuclear tests from other studies of the inner core, were also included in the analysis.

Modern Warfare 'No Longer Solely Physical Domain': Air Force Chief

Press Trust Of India

Hyderabad: Modern warfare is no longer a solely physical domain, but a dynamic and ever-evolving landscape increasingly influenced by complex data networks and advanced cyber technologies, Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari said on Saturday.

Addressing the Combined Graduation Parade of the 213 Officers' Course at the Air Force Academy (AFA) in Dundigal near here, VR Chaudhari also said tomorrow's conflicts cannot be fought with yesterday's mindset.

"Modern warfare is a dynamic and ever evolving landscape. It is no longer solely a physical domain. It is increasingly influenced by complex data networks and advanced cyber technologies. As leaders you all need to adapt, innovate and leverage technology effectively for proving decisive in winning wars," the Air Chief Marshal said.

He further said that professionalism, aggressiveness and initiative are three most admired qualities of a leader and at the same time leaders who are thinkers are also needed.

"As you embark on this extraordinary journey, let the core

values of Indian Air Force-mission, integrity and excellence be your guiding beacon," he advised the cadets.

The ceremony included a presentation of 'Wings' to the Flight Cadets, officers of the Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, and officers from friendly foreign countries who successfully completed their flying training.

Will Those Having Multiple SIM Cards Be Charged? Telecom Regulator Responds

Agencies

New Delhi: The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India or TRAI has said that the claims of charging customers for holding multiple SIM cards or numbering resources are completely false and baseless and serve only to mislead the public.

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT), being the sole custodian of telecommunication identifiers (TI) resources, had approached the TRAI through its reference dated September 29, 2022, seeking its recommendations on the revised National Numbering Plan for undertaking efficient management and judicious utilisation of numbering resources in the country.

Accordingly, this Consultation Paper (CP) of TRAI on the revision of the National Numbering Plan (NNP) was issued to assess all factors currently affecting the allocation and utilisation of TI resources.

"TRAI has consistently been advocative of minimum regulatory intervention promoting forbearance and the self-regulation of market forces," said the telecom regulator.

"We unequivocally repudiate and emphatically condemn any spurious conjectures that perpetuate the circulation of such misleading information concerning the consultation paper at hand," it added.

The TRAI also urged all stakeholders and the general public to refer to the official press release and consultation paper issued by it through its website for accurate information.

8 Israeli Soldiers Killed in Deadliest Gaza Attack

Agencies

Jerusalem: Israel's military said on Saturday that eight soldiers were killed in southern Gaza in the deadliest attack on Israeli forces in months.

Only one of the dead troops was identified by the army. No further information was immediately available.

The deaths will likely fuel calls for a cease-fire and heighten Israeli public anger over ultra-Orthodox exemptions from the military.

In January, 21 Israeli troops were killed in a single attack by Palestinian militants in Gaza.

Months of cease-fire negotiations have failed to find common ground between Israeli and Hamas. On Wednesday, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that Hamas proposed changes to a US-backed plan, some of which he said were "workable" and some not, without elaborating. Israel's bombardment and ground offensives in Gaza have killed more than 37,000 Palestinians, according to Palestinian health officials, who don't give the breakdown of civilians and fighters. The war has also driven about 80 per cent of the population of 2.3 million from their homes, and Israeli restrictions and ongoing fighting have hindered efforts to bring in humanitarian aid, fuelling widespread hunger.

Israel launched its campaign after Hamas and other militants stormed into Israel on October 7, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking around 250 hostage. Over 100 hostages were released during a week-long cease-fire last year in exchange for Palestinians imprisoned by Israel. Hamas is believed to be holding around 80 hostages and the remains of another 40.

"Truth Will Prevail"

BS Yediyurappa's Son On Sex Assault Case Against Father

Press Trust Of India

Bengaluru: State BJP President B Y Vijayendra on Friday reacted to the Karnataka High Court restraining the CID from arresting his father and former chief minister B S Yediyurappa in a POCSO case, and said that the truth will prevail in the "temple of justice".

Earlier in the day, the high court restrained the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) from arresting the veteran BJP leader in the case filed against him under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

It also directed Mr Yediyurappa to appear before the CID which is probing the case, on June 17.

In a post on social media platform X, Mr Vijayendra said, "...blessings of people of Karnataka and their prayers has paid off in the temple of justice. Political conspiracies have always followed Yediyurappa. Without losing heart, he will gain victory over these conspiracies by following the path of justice." He further said that Yediyurappa's respect for the law of the land has been proved by the high court's decision today to grant him interim bail the case. "Yediyurappa is not one to turn his back on investigations," he said.

"It is our firm belief that the truth will prevail in the temple of justice in the coming days," he added in his post.

A Bengaluru court on Thursday issued a non-bailable arrest warrant against Mr Yediyurappa in the POCSO case registered on March 14 this year.

The Special Investigation Team of the CID had moved the First Fast Track Court seeking an arrest warrant against him since he failed to appear for questioning on Wednesday.

Mr Yediyurappa had sought time to join the probe.

According to the police, Mr Yediyurappa has been booked under the POCSO Act and Section 354 A (Sexual harassment) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) based on a complaint by the mother of a 17-year-old girl who alleged that he molested her daughter during a meeting on February 2 this year, at his residence in Dollars Colony here.

Mr Yediyurappa, who has denied the charge and said he would fight the case legally, had filed two separate petitions in the high court, seeking anticipatory bail and quashing of the FIR.

N E W S M A K E R S

Ex-UP MLC's Assets Worth Rs 4,440 Crore Attached In Money Laundering Case

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate on Friday said it has attached the building and land of a university in Saharanpur worth 4,440 crore as part of a money laundering probe against "absconding" former Uttar Pradesh BSP MLC Mohammed Iqbal and his family.

Land measuring 121 acres and the building of Glocal University has been frozen after a provisional attachment order was issued by the federal probe agency under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

These properties are registered in the name of Abdul Waheed Educational and Charitable Trust which is "controlled, managed and run" by Mohammed Iqbal and his family members, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) said in a statement.

It said the action against Mr Iqbal, the trust and his family members pertains to an illegal mining case. According to the ED, the former MLC is "absconding" and is believed to be in Dubai.

His four sons and brother are lodged in jail in multiple cases registered against them, the ED said.

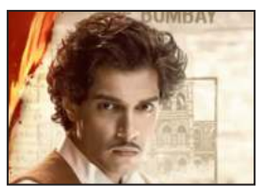
The money laundering case stems from a CBI FIR filed in Delhi to probe the alleged illegal renewal of sand mining leases in the Saharanpur district of Uttar Pradesh and against a number of mining lease holders, some government officials and unknown persons.

"All the mining firms were owned and operated by Mohd Iqbal group. These firms were involved in rampant illegal mining at Saharanpur and adjacent areas." "In spite of the meagre earnings shown in the ITRs (income tax returns), high-value transactions to the tune of crores of rupees have been found between the mining firms and group companies of Mohd Iqbal without having any business relations," the ED said.

Makers Of Aamir Khan's Son's Debut Film 'Maharaj' To Challenge Court Stay

Ahmedabad: The makers of Aamir Khan's son Junaid Khan's debut film 'Maharaj' are now set to challenge the Gujarat High Court's stay order that has paused the release of the movie till June 18.

The movie was set to premiere on Netflix on June 14. 'Maharaj' landed in legal trouble after an urgent petition was filed in the Gujarat High Court regarding controversial comments about the Vaishnava sect and the contention of matters that hurt the sentiments



of Hindus.

After the preliminary hearing of the petition, the High Court granted an interim injunction against the release of the film 'Maharaj'.

Shailesh Patwari filed a petition in the High Court on June 13 regarding the film 'Maharaj'.

He told ANI, "This film is portraying Hindu Gods and Shlokas in the wrong way and is trying to increase the gap between Hindus and Muslims. This should not happen. I have told this to the High Court and made an appeal and asked to ban this film."

He added, "The film producer and the rest of the team chose the OTT platform so that the film is released in the public domain all over the world and this would have caused a lot of damage to Hindu society and Vaishnav society. The Gujarat High Court has given a temporary stay on the film till June 18."

The producer and others filed a petition with the Court against the interim injunction. The High Court decided to hear all the petitions on June 18. The moratorium will continue at this stage.

An application was filed in the High Court by the devotees of Lord Shri Krishna and the followers of Vallabhacharyaji with allegation made by the Pushtimarga sect that the film 'Maharaj' is based on the Maharaj defamation case of 1862 and that it contains words and comments that hurt the faith and sentiments of the Vaishnava-Pushtimarga sect and Hinduism.

NC, PDP Criticise Prosecution Of Arundhati Roy And Former Professor Under UAPA

PDP chief and former chief minister of the erstwhile state of J-K, Mehbooba Mufti, termed the sanction "shocking".

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The National Conference and Peoples Democratic Party have expressed their disapproval of the prosecution sanction against author Arundhati Roy and a former professor in Kashmir under the stringent UAPA for allegedly making provocative speeches at an event in Delhi in 2010.

According to officials, the FIR against Roy and former Central University of Kashmir professor Sheikh Showkat Hussain was registered following the orders of the Court of Metropolitan Magistrate, New Delhi.

Expressing disapproval of the move, the National Conference (NC) stressed the need to uphold the fundamental right of every citizen to free speech as guaranteed by Article 19 of the Constitution.

"The NC expresses its strong disapproval of the prosecution of author Arundhati Roy and Dr Sheikh Showkat Hussain under the UAPA (Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act). The use of anti-terror laws to suppress dissent and criminalize speech is deeply concerning," it said in a post on 'X'.

"It is also imperative to note that this permission has been granted 14 long years after the alleged speech took place. In the intervening years the speech has been all but forgotten and didn't vitiate the atmosphere in J&K," it said.

The NC said this prosecution would serve no purpose except perhaps to show that the "hardline stance of the BJP/Union Government won't change despite the electoral setback they recently faced".

Delhi Lt Governor V K Saxena on Friday accorded sanction to prosecute author Arundhati Roy and a former professor in Kashmir under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for allegedly making provocative speeches at an event here in 2010.

PDP chief and former chief minister of the erstwhile state of J-K, Mehbooba Mufti, termed the sanction "shocking".

"Shocking that Arundhati Roy, world-renowned author and a brave woman who has emerged as a powerful voice against fascism, has been booked under the draconian UAPA," she said on 'X'.

The PDP chief said the Centre continues its "rampage violating fundamental rights with impunity".

"Booking a former law professor from Kashmir is also an act of frustration," Mehbooba Mufti added.

Her daughter and media adviser Iltija Mufti said Roy will be prosecuted under UAPA for being an "audacious voice who refuses to bend the knee".

"Equally worrying that it also includes Dr Sheikh Shoukat a former Professor of Law from Kashmir. What is becoming of India? Might as well turn this country into an open-air prison," she said on X.

Roy and Hussain had allegedly made provocative speeches at a conference organised under the banner of 'Azadi - The Only Way' on October 21, 2010, at LTG Auditorium in New Delhi.

The FIR in the matter was registered on a complaint made by Sushil Pandit, a social activist from Kashmir, on October 28, 2010.

12TH RESULT FALLOUT

DSEJ Attaches Hr Sec School Principal To CEO For Zero Pass Percentage

Agencies

SRINAGAR: School Education Department has attached a principal of Higher Secondary School to CEO office for poor performance in the recently announced results of 12th standard.

The Directorate of School Education Jammu (DSEJ) in an order had said that no students in that Higher Secondary School has qualified the exams.

DSEJ said that it had asked all the CEOs of the division to furnish the result report for class 12th to the directorate.

"The CEO Rajouri has reported that zero percent result has been shown by the HSS Behrote Thannamandi wherein a total number of 13 students had appeared-13 in the exams and none of them had cleared it," DSEJ said.

The directorate said that it has been observed that the "Head of the Institute has not performed his legitimate duty with regard to the academics and the authorities have viewed it very seriously." "In view of the issue, the Principal of HSS Behrote Thannamandi Rajouri is hereby attached in the office of CEO Poonch till further order," it reads—(KNO)

Narco-Terror Module Busted In Kupwara's Karnah, 3 Arrested: Police

KO News Service

KUPWARA: Jammu and Kashmir police claimed to have busted a narco-terror module in Karnah area of Kupwara district by arrested three persons and subsequently recovering heroin along with arms and ammunition.

In a statement, issued to Kashmir Observer, a spokesperson said that following an input that an individual was trying to find purchasers for heroin, a trap was laid by the police and Army in Karnah and 2 persons were apprehended with 500g heroin.

The arrested persons have been identified as Shafeeq Ahmad Sheikh son of Late Mohd Shafi Sheikh of Khawarpara Karnah and Tariq Ahmad Malik son of Gh Ahmad Malik of Baghballa.

The statement reads that further investigation revealed presence of 3 pistols with one Parvez Ahmed Pathan of Sadhpura. It added that Parvez was apprehended in a joint raid by the police and Army and 3 pistols, 76 pistol rounds, 6 pistol magazines and 5kg suspected explosive was recovered from his possession.

Minor Boy, Woman Injured After Gas Explosion In Anantnag School

Agencies

SRINAGAR: An elderly woman and a minor boy were injured in a gas cylinder explosion in middle school Jafarpora locality of Anantnag district on Saturday, officials said, adding that both have been hospitalised with burn injuries.

An official said that a 50-year-old woman, working as a cook at the school, and a 4-year-old boy got injured after a gas cylinder exploded apparently to leakage.

He said that following the incident both were shifted to SDH Bijbehara where they were referred to SMHS hospital Srinagar for advanced treatment.

"The woman has received 30 percent burn injuries, while the boy has received 60 percent burn injuries," he said, adding that the fire caused by the explosion has been put off. The woman has been identified as Hajira wife of Abdul Ganie and minor boy as Zian son of Mohammad Ashraf—(KNO)

Eid-ul-Azha 2024

Experts Urge Public To Scientifically Dispose Hides, Other Animal Waste

FILE PHOTO

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Ahead of Eid-ul-Azha, the experts here have urged the public to scientifically dispose of the hides and other animal waste as improper disposal of animal skin and waste is a significant environmental and public health concern.

They said that indiscriminate disposal poses a major risk of disease transmission; municipal committees, civic bodies and religious bodies must come forward for scientific disposal of the waste.

Dr Mohammad Salim Khan, Head of Department Community Medicine at GMC Srinagar said that as amidst the summer season, the slaughter and post-slaughter processes shall be carried out diligently, taking care of the animal wastes including offal and hides.

"The blood and other body fluids, discards are rich sources for infection growth and can cause public-health and environmental concerns," he said, adding that the indiscriminate disposal of offal and hides in open areas, drains and water bodies possess a bigger risk of disease transmission and they not only invite animals to devour them but can contaminate the drinking water sources, both open and ground water, thus causing water borne infections and diseases.

"These unpleasant sites invite flies, mosquitoes and other germs to thrive and spread various diseases," he said.

He said that the local civic bodies, municipalities as well as various social and religious organisations and groups shall come forward in collecting hides for further use or scientific disposal.

"The Muslim Ummah shall imbibe the spirit of sacrifice while performing slaughtering of sacrificial animals and consider the noble act of Qurbani beneficial to the community and humanity at large," he said.

He added that the post-slaughter processes shall include intense cleaning and disinfection of areas wherever the slaughtering is performed and shall not make these areas vulnerable to animal intrusions and public-health risks.

Dr Suhaib A. Bandh, Assistant Professor, Environmental Science at S P College Srinagar said that the improper disposal of animal skin and waste during Eid ul Azha is a significant environmental and public health concern, contributing to pollution, disease spread, and unpleasant odors.

"To mitigate these issues, it is essential to establish and enforce strict waste management protocols. Municipal authorities should provide designated disposal sites and increase waste collection services during the festival," he said.

"Public awareness campaigns are crucial to educate the community on the importance of proper disposal," he added.

"Additionally, investing in biodegradable disposal bags and encouraging community participation in cleanup efforts can help maintain hygiene, protect ecosystems, and ensure the well-being of the population," Dr Suhaib said.

Firdous Ahmad, an Executive Engineer in Jal Shakti department said that people must show civic sense by not throwing animal waste along the roadsides or in water bodies.

He said that they can properly dispose of it by digging a pit and hiding all the waste in it. He said that people can collect all the waste at a single spot in a village or Mohalla and the government must keep their machinery ready to collect them and treat them scientifically at the treatment plants available at district level so that there won't be its bad impact on the environment in general and water bodies in particular—(KNO)

Meet Kashmir's Master Calligraphy Artist, Who Holds Sessions To Train Youth

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In the serene valleys of Kashmir, where art and culture thrive amidst natural beauty, Mohammad Afzal stands out as a master calligraphy artist whose work is characterized by intricate designs and profound elegance that earned him recognition both locally and internationally.

Mohammad Afzal (40), a resident of Zadibal area of Srinagar, has been constantly becoming part of workshops so as to train youth in calligraphy work.

Mohammad Afzal said that he has been associated with calligraphy since his childhood. "In the beginning, we were writing on slate and that was the beginning of my calligraphy and later at home my father used to tell me to write verses and later at a religious seminary I wrote the whole holy Quran," he said.

He said that later he joined an academy of art, culture and languages to further get trained and learn all the intricacies of this art.

Mohammad Afzal, said that he later worked in the academy, then started teaching students, religious seminaries to train youth.

"Currently, I am training interested youth every Friday at Baitul Meeras Ali Kadal and participating in workshops conducted by schools, colleges and universities where he is teaching interested youth the basics of calligraphy," he said.

He said that it is difficult to manage family on calligraphy work but he is working on different things like writing Quranic verses, bloodline, nikah nama and many other things.

He said that he is currently working on a project where he is writing 99 Names of Allah (Al Asma Ul Husna) and then these items are being kept in shrines and mosques along with 99 names of Hazrat Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him).

He said that there comes different orders and demands to write a Naat, verses, poetry and other things that are being used as decoration at home, adding that he has been working on his own to conduct workshops to train students at different levels and there is a need for promotion from the government side.

"There are calligraphers now in every nook and corner these days but at individual level everyone is right but there is a need for a teacher, guide and guru for everyone to learn the intricacies of this art after which they can do their work in a better way," he said.

He said that he himself learned from a well known calligrapher Kousar from Ishber area and there are many other master calligraphers in the Shalimar area, adding that there is a need government must take steps to promote the handmade calligraphy so that youth interested in it can take up this work forward.

Mohammad Afzal's contributions to calligraphy are not just an artistic achievement but also a cultural preservation effort. His work serves as a testament to the rich artistic heritage of Kashmir and the enduring power of creativity in the face of adversity—(KNO)

Court Declares Terror Handler Proclaimed Offender In Bla

KO News Service

SRINAGAR: The Court of 1st Addl. Sessions Judge Baramulla declared a terror handler namely Gh Hassan Reshi son of Assadullah Reshi resident of Baderkoot proclaimed offender on the application submitted by Baramulla Police.

The said terror handler is involved in case FIR No. 04/2008 under section 2/3 EMICO Act, 12OB, 121 of Police Station Tangmarg. The terror handler is presently at PoJK/ Pakistan and is working with a terrorist outfit, a statement issued reads.

Proclamation orders under section 87 CrPC have been obtained from Hon'ble Court against the terror handler which had been pasted at his residence, public places with the directions of the Hon'ble Court that he will present himself before the Court of Law within one month failing which process for attachment of property under section 88 CrPC shall be initiated against him, the statement said.

Areas Around Vaishno Devi Shrine Safe, No Need To Panic, Says J&K Police

KO News Service

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir police have cleared that areas around Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine (SMVDS) are safe and there is no movement of any suspicious people.

The people and pilgrims have been advised not to panic as security forces have conducted searches in approaches and villages around the shrine.

In a statement issued, the J&K police spokesman said, "Attention is invited to a voice message of SP Reasi Mohita wherein she is passing instructions to police and alerting sister security agencies to respond to a report received yesterday in the afternoon about suspicious movements in a peripheral village of Mata's shrine."

"Police with the help of army, paramilitary and security agencies have searched all the approach tracks to and slopes behind the shrine multiple times and have closed the operation after declaring it clear. There's absolutely no reason to panic," the police added.

Since the June 9 terror attack on a bus carrying pilgrims back from Shiv Khori shrine in Reasi district followed by terror incidents in Hiranagar in Kathua district and Chattergala and Gundoh area of district Doda, rumour mongering is at its peak and security forces have been kept on the tenterhooks by these rumours. But the security forces are not taking risks and have been responding to any kind of alert which reaches to them in any part of Jammu region—(KNO)

Khanqah-e-Hydari Holds Cleanliness Drive In Pahalgam

KO News Service

SRINAGAR: In a bid to promote environmental cleanliness and civic responsibility, Khanqa Hydari collaborated with the Pahalgam Development Authority to conduct a cleanliness drive across Pahalgam. The initiative, led by Dr. Muhammad Sameer Siddiqui, the patron of Khanqa Hydari and Tariq Hussain CEO of Pahalgam, aimed to instill a sense of collective duty among residents and visitors alike.

On the occasion, Dr. Sameer emphasized the significance of cleanliness not merely as a public obligation but as a personal responsibility deeply rooted in religious teachings.

"Cleanliness is not just about keeping our surroundings tidy; it is an integral part of our faith .In Islam, safeguarding our environment is a sacred duty." he said.

Members of Khanqa Hydari, expressed their commitment to fostering sustainable practices. "We have previously organized plantation drives and are dedicated to ongoing efforts for environmental preservation," said Umair Ali, a member of the organization.

Local residents also voiced their support for the initiative, emphasizing the critical role of public awareness in combating environmental degradation. "As responsible citizens, it is our duty to keep our surroundings clean," Aijaz Ali, said, highlighting the need for sustained community engagement in environmental protection.

Noted environmentalist, social activist and member of Khanqah e Hyderi Shabir Ahmed kanue said that the scenic splendor of our valley is an important component of our Kashmiri identity and we must preserve it for posterity.

Tariq Hussain, CEO Pahalgam said that maintaining cleanliness is essential for preserving the natural beauty of the valley, especially during the tourism season. "As a native of Kashmir valley, it is our shared duty to ensure our environment remains clean" he said.

Hussain urged visitors and tourists to use designated dustbins and avoid littering.

The event concluded with pledges from participants to uphold cleanliness standards and promote environmental stewardship throughout Pahalgam.

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Srinagar 190 001 J&K.

Online Request for Proposal (e-RFP) For Cybersecurity Services: Anti-Phishing, Anti-Malware, Anti-Rogue, Website Defacement, Anti-Pharming, and Darknet Monitoring for J&K Bank

RFP Notice along with Complete RFP document outlining the minimum requirements can be downloaded from and BIDs can be submitted on the Banks' e-Tendering Portal **https://jkbank.abcprocure.com w.e.f. June 15, 2024, 16.00 Hrs.** RFP Document can also be downloaded from Bank's Official Website **www.jkbank.com.** Last date for submission of Bids is **July 06, 2024, 17.00 Hrs.**

e-RFP Ref. No. JKB/CHQ/ISD/CyberSecurity-Services/2024-1102
Dated: 13-06-2024

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What If 2024 Had Happened in 2019?

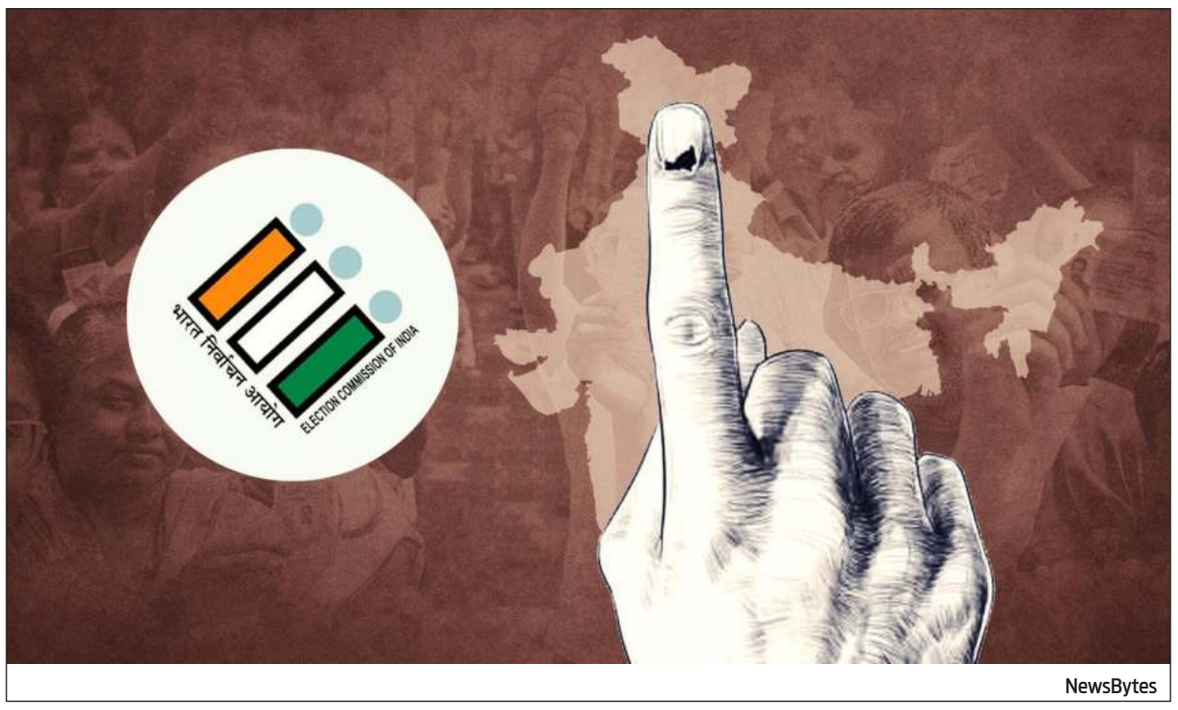
While this is a counterfactual reading of the history, as a Kashmiri, one can't help but wonder how the situation might have unfolded differently in the Valley

RIYAZ WANI

> **What-if history** can be fascinating. It hides within it the possibilities of different worlds, in some cases better and in others the worst. World history can be replete with counterfactual scenarios

As Narendra Modi starts his innings as India's prime minister for the third straight term, joining Jawahar Lal Nehru in achieving this feat, the rollercoaster ride of this election cannot be overlooked. It began with the BJP's ambitious slogan of '400 par,' which seemed credible under the circumstances, but concluded with a disappointing shortfall, as the party failed to secure even a majority. This has made PM Modi, for once, dependent on Chandra Babu Naidu led Telugu Desam Party and Nitish Kumar-led JD(U) and the other smaller allies to stay in power. Though the coalition is comfortably placed with a tally of 293, it remains inherently fragile and could easily become a victim of the differences among its partners - albeit, chances of this happening appear remote right now. But the fact that such a prospect will loom for the coalition will deny the BJP the carte blanche it enjoyed over the governance of the country during the previous two terms. And this realization is more telling for us in Kashmir which was the site of the previous NDA government's one of the biggest decisions: the abrogation of Article 370 which granted J&K its semi-autonomous status within the Indian Union.

What if the BJP hadn't got an absolute majority in the 2019 election? While this is a counterfactual reading of the political circumstances that led to the removal of Article 370, as a Kashmiri, one can't help but wonder how history might have unfolded differently in the Valley. More so, when in the beginning of 2019, the BJP didn't seem to be the favourite to win the parliamentary polls held in May of that year. In the run up to the general elections then, Congress had put up a stiff resistance to the BJP. The party had won Assembly elections in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. As a result, the saffron party didn't appear to be the leading contender in the general election. Most optimistic prediction was that the BJP would return with a reduced tally, forcing it to stitch together a weak coalition government, a throwback to the one run by Atal Bihari Vajpayee.from 2002-2007.



NewsBytes

But the Pulwama bombing on February 14, 2019 that killed 40 CRPF personnel changed everything. The subsequent military strike on Balakot by the Indian airforce followed by the dog-fight between India and Pakistan hurtled the BJP back to the centre stage. The party swept to victory in the general election that followed soon after.

Now, what if Pulwama hadn't happened? Would the BJP have still gone past 300 seats which it eventually did? Very unlikely. Unlike in the beginning of 2024, when the saffron party seemed destined for a landslide majority, it seemed set to lose at the start of 2019. At best, the party might have formed a weak coalition government. And imagine, what would have happened? Article 370 would not have been revoked. There would be no Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) or National Register of Citizens (NRC). The BJP would also have struggled to construct Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. It would be just another government, much like the previous NDA government led by Vajpayee from 1998 to 2003.

And what would J&K be like? With Article 370 unchanged, the former state would have held Assembly polls by the end of 2019 and probably a coalition government led by the National Conference - which then seemed to enjoy some popular support - would have taken over.

What-if history can be fascinating. It hides within it the possibilities of different worlds, in some cases better and in others the worst. World history can be replete with counterfactual scenarios. Had Archduke Franz Ferdinand not been assassinated in Sarajevo, World War I may not have happened? Similarly, had two successive world wars not weakened Britain, India and much of the global south under the thrall of the British may not have become free? If Congress hadn't backed out of the Cabinet Mission Plan a day after backing it, India may not have been partitioned along religious lines. The possibilities could be endless. But the past cannot be rewritten. What happens, happens for good. Future can certainly change, modify, reform, improve, undo or build upon what happened in the past but that is in the future. In the process, the world transforms, and life evolves.

Once the past is made, it becomes indestructible, and takes on a deterministic quality. One can endlessly wonder as to why only a particular action followed and not the others. In 2019, the BJP appeared either headed for a loss or a reduced seat count but because of Pulwama went on to achieve a decisive majority. Conversely in 2024, the party appeared on track to secure '400 par' but ended up 32 seats short of majority. Such is the irony of history. The irony in this case is especially relevant to Kashmir as it has altered the course of history in the union territory.

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

The author is the Political Editor at Kashmir Observer

G7: The Old Boy's Club

Syed Zubair Ahmed

English poet Alfred Tennyson, in one of his famous poems, captures the mighty but mortally wounded King Arthur acknowledging in his dying moments the universal truth that "the old order changeth, yielding place to new, and God fulfils Himself in many ways, lest one good custom should corrupt the world".

Tennyson believed that change is the law of nature and that the domination of one power, one culture, and one custom is harmful to the world. This idea is highly relevant in today's political landscape, dominated by the US and Western powers. As the leaders of the Group of Seven (G7) met in Italy for their annual summit on Thursday and Friday, it underscored the need for global governance to adapt and embrace emerging nations' voices, ensuring a dynamic and equitable international order.

The G7 Summit And Global Issues

Unsurprisingly, the summit was dominated by the security of Ukraine. The first day was focused on the US proposal to loan Ukraine 50 billion dollars from the frozen assets of Russia, which was against international law. Much of the second day was spent finding ways to curb China's exports. There was little time devoted to Israel's brutal war in Gaza.

America's leadership style and its position as the number one power in the world are often questioned due to its alleged two-faced foreign policy. With the emergence of right-wing forces across the Western hemisphere, one wonders if the liberal, democratic West-dominated world order would crumble from within.

A Changed World Since 1975

Leaders, academics, and political commentators alike tend to overlook the ground reality that we live in an entirely changed world from the time the world's most industrialized nations formed the G7 in 1975. The founding members - France, West Germany, the US, the UK, Italy, and Japan - were truly global economic powers. Canada joined them a year later, and Russia was inducted in 1998 but excluded in 2014 after its invasion of Crimea. To complete the dominance of the West, the European Union became the unofficial eighth member of this exclusive club.

At that time, India and China, the two ancient civilisations, lived in relative obscurity and had no global voice. But the world has undergone profound transformations since then. The rise of India and China has shifted the global economic balance. Technological advancements, particularly in digital and communication fields, have revolutionised industries and daily lives in these two countries.

India's Emergence

India today is ahead of Italy, the host of this year's summit, in terms of economic, political, and military might. The same is perhaps true of Canada. On their own and without the might of the US, these two countries cannot exercise much power on the global stage. Japan, the odd man out in the old boys' club, is content being a passive partner. The United Kingdom, once a global force, draws its power mainly from being America's footman now. The world's second and fifth largest economies, which are home to a third of humanity, have little or no say in the global world order dominated by the Western powers.

With the fall of the Soviet Union, the US acquired the keys to global governance and assumed the role of a solo global leader. The G7 has faced increasing criticism over the years for being an exclusive club that predominantly represents the interests of wealthy Western nations. Critics often label the G7 as an "old boys' club" or a grouping of the "White Western world", suggesting it is out of touch with the global realities of the 21st century.

Critics from the Global South, with India as a leading force, argue that the G7 perpetuates a neocolonial economic system that prioritises its members' interests over those of less developed nations. This is evident in the G7's trade policies, often seen as protectionist and detrimental to developing countries. Additionally, the G7's approach to global issues such as climate change and health is sometimes criticised for imposing Western values and solutions without adequately considering local contexts and needs.

India's Rightful Place

The concerns of the West are not whether the world order should be more inclusive. Its chief worry is that the existing world order faces existential threats. Consider French President Emmanuel Macron's address at the annual conference of French ambassadors last year, where he lamented that "attempts to change the existing world order threaten to weaken the West and especially Europe". He also warned against the weakening of Western influence on key global institutions, such as the UN Security Council, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the World Bank.

Reforming the G7 is sorely needed. Indians might ask, why not make India a member and call it the G8? One can understand that the West doesn't want to include a non-democratic China and an expansionist Russia in this group. But countries like India, Brazil, and South Africa must form part of a new, reformed world order.

India has the right credentials. With a vast population, the fastest-growing major economy, and a strategic geopolitical position, India presents a strong case for inclusion in the G7. Integrating India into the G7 would enhance the group's legitimacy and representativeness while bolstering global efforts to tackle pressing issues such as climate change, international security, and economic inequality.

As a responsible global actor, India has demonstrated its commitment to multilateralism and international cooperation. India's active participation in organisations such as the United Nations, BRICS, and the G20 highlights its willingness to engage constructively on global issues. Its inclusion in the G7 would enhance the group's democratic credentials and strengthen the global coalition of democratic nations working to uphold international norms and human rights.

The US and the West have fought several wars and perpetuated invasions of independent nations. Their track record is replete with wars and violence. India must be given a chance in the new world order because it is capable of fighting for peace. Once again, to quote Alfred Tennyson, "ring out the thousand wars of old, ring in the thousand years of peace".

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

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My Vegetable Seller Student

Thwarted by an unsupportive educational system, a teenage girl's future hangs in the balance

Farooq Shah

A few months ago, while I was passing through a market, I noticed a familiar face behind a makeshift vegetable stall. To my utter shock, I saw Ishrat, a 9th class student, weighing some vegetables and putting them into a bag for an elderly man. As her teacher, I was surprised to see a 15-year-old girl selling vegetables during the day instead of focusing on her studies.

When our eyes met, she almost fainted, but I maintained my composure and walked up to her. "Pack me a kilo of tomatoes, and remember, this is the last thing you're selling to anyone," I made her promise.

She had tears in her eyes but promised me she would never sell vegetables again. That evening, she even completed an assignment and sent it to me on WhatsApp around midnight. I was happy and satisfied, realizing that with a little care and guidance, she could improve and make progress if given a chance.

Ishrat comes from a social background where education is given very little importance. With both her parents being completely uneducated, it is highly unlikely that she receives any support at home for her studies. Amid this mix-up of poverty and lack of support, Ishrat recently received a shock of her life: Accompanied by her mother to seek the status, Ishrat and her parents have been informed that her performance is below standard and she will not be promoted to the next grade.

There is, however, a dark aspect to this situation. The school's lack of concern for her academic performance stems from the fact that authorities hold school heads responsible for poor academic results, especially in grade-10 exams, forcing them to expel students considered unlikely to succeed. The fear of potential consequences from the government, such as negative evaluations in their Annual Performance Reports (APRs) or the withholding of annual increments, motivates them to take punitive measures against "underperforming" students as a precautionary step.

While school administrators may have dodged immediate repercussions, it prompts reflection: Are we, as educators and administrators, unintentionally adding hurdles to our students' journeys? While the government strives to increase enrollment in government schools, measures like detention inadvertently hinder continuous academic progress.

This invariably marks the end of her academic journey as she already feels discouraged by her school. "How can I sit in class with younger students while my peers have advanced to a higher grade?" says a disheartened Ishrat. "This is incredibly embarrassing for me."

Not only does this unjustly deprive Ishrat of her only chance to enjoy her childhood with her peers, but it also ensures she will harbour a lifelong resentment towards the educational system in this part of the world. She may not excel academically, but losing a year in this way will have profound repercussions on her future.

I recall my father recounting how teachers would force a "delinquent" student to mount another boy's back, exposing his buttocks for a beating with a thin pomegranate stick. This form of corporal punishment was common in schools in the past. Unable to sit on the jute matting for days, he eventually dropped out of school. My father prayed fervently for divine retribution against the cruel teacher whose actions drove him away from education.

Years later, my elder brother experienced a similar fate when he was detained in class 6. Seizing the opportunity, my father, pressured by poverty, apprenticed him to a carpet manufacturing unit, sacrificing his education to economic hardship and flawed school practices. Today, my brother is a financial and emotional wreck; had he been allowed to continue his studies without restriction, his life would have been much better. Ishrat is facing a similar predicament, particularly at a time when initiatives like *"Beti Padhao, Beti Bachao"* are being heavily promoted.

The slogan "*Beti Padhao, Beti Bachao*" (Educate the Daughter, Save the Daughter) resonates loudly across India, but its impact is undermined by an education system that fails to support the very girls it aims to uplift. While the government promotes this initiative to encourage the education and empowerment of girls, the reality within schools often contradicts these noble intentions. Policies like arbitrary detentions and punitive measures disproportionately affect female students, particularly those from marginalized backgrounds. Instead of promoting an inclusive and supportive learning environment, these practices discourage continuous education, forcing many girls to drop out prematurely.

Consequently, the promise of "*Beti Padhao, Beti Bachao*" remains unfulfilled, as systemic barriers within the educational framework prevent meaningful progress in the empowerment and advancement of women in India.

Pertinently, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 emphasizes a holistic and flexible approach to education. Regarding the detention policy, the NEP 2020 advocates for a shift away from the practice of detaining students solely based on their performance in exams. Instead, it recommends providing students with multiple opportunities to demonstrate their learning and progress through formative and summative assessments. The policy encourages schools to adopt a continuous and comprehensive evaluation system that focuses on overall development rather than just academic achievement.

NEP-2020 challenges the traditional hardline approach adopted by many schools staying clear off the rigid structures and strict assessment methods. It promotes a balanced approach that caters to the diverse needs and talents of every student. This shift away from a one-size-fits-all approach marks a significant stride towards nurturing creativity, critical thinking, and innovation among learners, paving the way for a brighter and more dynamic future.

Meanwhile, girls like Ishrat will continue to suffer from these harsh practices until authorities make schooling more flexible and enjoyable, especially for girls. There's no denying that government-run schools often lack the proper infrastructure for effective education, even supplied with teachers who are not well-versed in their subjects. Given an imbalanced teacher-student ratio, with some schools excessively staffed while others severely lacking, the situation greatly disadvantages students, affecting their learning in ways more than one.

While girls like Ishrat may struggle academically, part of the blame lies with the government and the teaching community. In the meantime, Ishrat, while out of school, might be forced to take up some vocation or, in the worst-case scenario, break her promise and return to selling vegetables.

The girl's name in the story has been changed to maintain her anonymity. The author, an academic, can be contacted atmfshah@gmail.com. Kashmir Observer doesn't necessarily subscribe with the author's opinion

Covid-19 Continues to Harm the Diabetic

Jamie Hartmann-Boyce

At the start of the pandemic, many people living with diabetes were wondering what COVID-19 meant for them. Diabetes was already known to put people at higher risks from other infectious diseases, including flu. Would it be the same with COVID-19? At the time, all scientists could do was make educated guesses.

In 2024, things look very different. A great deal more research is available, as well as effective vaccines, and life has in many ways returned to something like normal.

COVID-19 hasn't disappeared, however, and for the more than 400 million people living with diabetes worldwide, very real risks and impacts from the pandemic remain.

I specialize in drawing on and combining existing evidence to inform health policy across a range of areas. I've been studying COVID-19 and diabetes since the start of the pandemic and have experienced firsthand some of the many ways in which COVID-19 has affected people with diabetes. I've lived with Type 1 diabetes for the past 30 years. And at the start of the pandemic, I had a lot of questions about what COVID-19 meant for me.

Diabetes types defined

Diabetes is characterized by having higher than normal blood sugars. Different types of diabetes create this condition in varying ways.

Type 1 diabetes occurs when your body attacks the cells that produce insulin.

Insulin is the hormone that converts sugar into energy – without it, sugar remains in the blood, and the body is deprived of the energy it needs. Type 1 diabetes can be treated only by injecting insulin and is irreversible. If left untreated, Type 1 diabetes is fatal. There is no cure. No one knows for sure why some people

get Type 1 diabetes and others don't.

By contrast, in Type 2 diabetes – by far the most common type – your body is still producing insulin but is less able to use it. People are more likely to get Type 2 diabetes if they are living with obesity. But people who aren't obese can also get Type 2 diabetes, and many people living with obesity never get diabetes.

Type 2 diabetes often runs in families. It can be treated in a range of ways. This includes weight loss for people living with obesity, changes to diet and exercise, and medications. In some cases, Type 2 diabetes can be reversed.

Type 1 diabetes is most likely to start in childhood or adolescence, and Type 2 diabetes is most likely to start later in life. However, older people can develop Type 1 diabetes, and children can develop Type 2.

There are other types of diabetes, too. Gestational diabetes develops in pregnancy and goes away after giving birth. As with Type 2 diabetes, the body is still making insulin but is less able to use it.

In general, diabetes is on the rise, with most of this being driven by Type 2. By 2050, it's estimated that 1.3 billion people will be living with diabetes worldwide.

Diabetes can damage many parts of your body, including your eyes, heart, blood vessels, nervous system, feet and kidneys. Blood sugar management and regular checkups can help reduce these risks.

Diabetes and COVID-19

In a 2023 study, my colleagues and I reviewed a wide body of literature to examine the extent to which people with diabetes were at increased risk from COVID-19, and whether some people with diabetes were at greater risk than others.

Overall, we found that people with diabetes were about twice as likely to get seriously sick with COVID-19 than people without diabetes. Evidence also consistently showed that people with diabetes were more likely to die from COVID-19 than people without diabetes.

Some people with diabetes appeared to be at greater risk than others. The higher people's blood sugar levels were before or during COVID-19 infection, the worse their outcomes were likely to be. In addition, risks generally seemed higher for people with Type 1 diabetes and people who used insulin.

There are several potential explanations. We know that having higher blood sugar levels makes it harder for people's bodies to fight infections. On average, blood sugar levels are higher in people with Type 1 than Type 2 diabetes. Infection can make blood sugar levels harder to manage.

People with Type 1 diabetes also tend to have lived with diabetes longer than people with Type 2 diabetes, and that might mean their bodies are less able to fight COVID-19 because of diabetes complications – for example, damage to their heart and kidneys.

Pandemic disruptions

The pandemic triggered wide-scale disruptions for people living with diabetes. Many found it harder to make appointments with their health care providers. Some found it harder to access their medications. For many people, diet and physical activity were disrupted, too.

We did a wide-ranging, systematic review of 139 studies in more than a million people to examine the impact of pandemic disruptions on people with diabetes. Evidence showed that people were more likely to die from diabetes during the pandemic than before it and were more likely to lose sight because of diabetes during the pandemic than before. People with diabetes need regular eye checkups to help protect their sight; these checkups often didn't happen during the pandemic, and people's vision suffered as a result.

We also found that young people with diabetes fared particularly badly. Children and adolescents with Type 1 diabetes were more likely to be admitted to the hospital with a life-threatening condition called diabetic ketoacidosis, which is when your blood turns toxic because you don't have enough insulin in your body.

Admissions to pediatric intensive care units for diabetes were higher during the pandemic than prior. It might be that people delayed seeking care, or were unable to access care, because of pandemic disruptions. That could mean that by the time young people with diabetes made it to a hospital, they were already really, really sick.

Looking forward

There is still plenty of reason for optimism, though. COVID-19 vaccines have markedly decreased the chances of dying or getting really sick from COVID-19, and in many countries, people living with diabetes have been prioritized for vaccines.

There are also developments in diabetes care. Improved diabetes management, whether it be through technologies such as insulin pumps or continuous glucose monitors, behavior changes or medications, can help reduce risk from COVID-19 and other infections.

Weight loss drugs may also play a role in diabetes prevention, but it's still too early to say for sure.

Time will tell what the long-lasting impacts of the pandemic will be. Diabetes complications can often develop many years down the line, so researchers like me may see more people suffering complications from diabetes five to 10 years from now as a result of challenges with diabetes management during the pandemic.

Regular monitoring, particularly of the groups most affected by the pandemic, is likely to help. Caught early, many diabetes complications can be successfully treated.

My team found that among people living with diabetes, women, young people and people from racial and ethnic minority groups were most likely to suffer ill effects from the pandemic. These are groups who may be more likely to struggle to access care, with insulin prices and access remaining a particularly critical issue.

Efforts to make insulin and health care more accessible can help improve diabetes outcomes before, during and after pandemics.

By arrangements with The Conversation

Newer Form Of Psychotherapy Found To Relieve Chronic Pain Among Older Adults

Press Trust Of India

Chronic pain among older adults could be better addressed through emotional awareness and expression therapy (EAET), a fairly new form of psychotherapy, according to a new research.

EAET, the initial clinical trials of which took place in the 2000s, targets the past trauma and stress experienced by people having chronic pain conditions, but can worsen their symptoms.

Some of these conditions include fibromyalgia, in which one feels fatigue and muscle pain all over the body, and arthritis (joint pain).

Researchers, led by those at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), US, compared the recovery of two groups of people suffering from chronic pain conditions - one receiving EAET and the other receiving cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT).

CBT does not focus on helping people resolve past trauma or adversities, even as it is known to help them develop coping strategies in order to deal with personal problems by altering thoughts, attitudes and behaviours.

Over 120 veterans, mostly men and aged 60-95 years, with at least three months of musculoskeletal pain

were included in the study, the findings of which are published in The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Network Open.

The researchers found that 63 per cent of the older adults receiving EAET experienced at least a 30 per cent reduction in pain.

Only 17 per cent of the participants undergoing CBT were found to experience a similar reduction in pain.

Further, the reduced pain was found to sustain in over 40 per cent of the older adults six months after receiving EAET treatment, compared to 14 per cent of the participants receiving CBT.

The older adults receiving EAET treatment also reported more benefits in terms of addressing psychiatric conditions, including anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Of the study group, more than two-thirds of participants had a psychiatric diagnosis, with about one-third having PTSD.

"If there is a hurt or stressor people have a series of normal, natural emotional reactions.

There might be anger, guilt and sadness. Because these feelings are painful, people often avoid them, but EAET helps people face difficult feelings with honesty and self-compassion," said lead author Brandon Yarns, an assistant professor at UCLA Health's Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences.

"In therapy, they can release anger, pain and guilt that they've been carrying and are left with self-compassion in the end," said Yarns.

Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir.

Scholarship Name 1: FAEA Scholarship 2024-25

Description: FAEA Scholarship 2024-25 is an opportunity offered by the Foundation for Academic Excellence and Access (FAEA) to Class 12 passed or first-year undergraduate students pursuing degrees in Arts, Commerce, Science, Engineering, or other technical and professional fields at any Indian institution.

Eligibility: Open for Class 12 students or first-year undergraduate students enrolled in a program offered by a recognized university, institution, or college in India, in fields including Arts, Commerce, Science, Medical, Engineering, or other technical or professional disciplines. Applicants must belong to a socially and economically disadvantaged community, categorised as SC, ST, OBC, or BPL.

- Prizes & Rewards: Tuition fees, maintenance allowance or hostel/mess charges and other allowances
- Last Date to Apply: 30-06-2024
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/FAEA2

Scholarship Name 2: Eternal University's Fully-Funded BCA Program for Aspiring Young Women 2024-27

Description: Eternal University in collaboration with NavGrurkul and Sri Badrika Ashram, invites applications for its BCA program from Class 12 passed female students domiciled in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, and neighbouring states.

Eligibility: Open for female Indian nationals between the ages of 16 and 28 years. Applicants must be domiciled in Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, or neighbouring areas, and have passed Class 12 from a recognised institution. Students must be willing to pursue a BCA program at the university and have an annual family income of not more than 6 lakhs.

- Prizes & Rewards: A waiver of 3.25 lakhs towards tuition fees, accommodation, food, and a laptop for the course duration
- Last Date to Apply: 30-06-2024
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/BCAY1

Scholarship Name 3: NextGen Edu Scholarship 2024-25

Description: Buddy4Study in collaboration with EY Global Delivery Services is inviting applications through NextGen Edu Scholarship 2024-25- a social impact initiative. Class 11 students enrolled in private or government schools across India are eligible to receive financial support for their studies.

Eligibility: Students studying in Class 11 at any private/government school across India are eligible to apply. Applicants must have secured a minimum of 60% in their Class 10. They must have an annual family income up to INR 3 lakh from all sources.

- Prizes & Rewards: Scholarship of INR 15,000
- Last Date to Apply: 26-06-2024
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/EYGDS1

'Hot Weather Linked To Increased Headaches For People With Migraines'

IANS

Scientists have found a link between increased headaches and hot temperatures for individuals with migraines, saying that as temperatures rise, so do chances for migraine attacks.

Weather change is one of the most common trigger factors for migraine, said Vincent Martin, director of Headache and Facial Pain Centre at the US-based University of Cincinnati.

The study looked at the use of Fremanezumab drug and whether it could prevent headaches caused by high temperatures.

Fremanezumab is administered by injection under the skin and is part of a set of monoclonal antibodies that have hit the market in the past six years to treat migraine in patients.

Researchers cross-referenced 71,030 daily diary records of 660 migraine patients with regional weather data and found that for every temperature increase of 0.12 degrees Celsius, there was a 6 per cent increase in the occurrence of any headache.

However, during the periods of Fremanezumab treatment, the association completely disappeared.

"This study is the first to suggest that migraine-specific therapies that block Calcitonin Gene-Related Peptide (CGRP) may treat weather-associated headaches," said Fred Cohen, a study co-author and assistant professor of medicine at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York.

If the results are confirmed in future studies, the drug therapy has the potential to help many people with weather-triggered migraine.

Hippocrates, the father of medicine, believed that weather and medicine were intimately linked.

PUBLIC NOTICE

WE WANT TO REGISTER OUR ASSOCIATION NAMELY ASSOCIATION OF INTEGRATED TEXTILE & HANDICRAFTS PARK, ZAKURA AS A NON POLITICAL & NON - PROFIT ORGANISATION UNDER THE SOCIETY REGISTRATION ACT 1860.

List Of Managing/Govering Body

S. No.	Name	Designation	Present Residence Address	Occupation
1	Mr. Syed Afaq Qadri	President	Riyazat Tang, Khanyar, Srinagar	Business
2	Mr. Yasir Shamas	Vice President	Hazratbal Nigeen, Near NIT, Srinagar 190006	Business
3	Mr. Akhtar Aman	General Secretary	H-24 Opposite Govt. Water Store, Gulshan Colony Bachi Darwaza, Makdoom Sahib Srinagar- 190003	Business
4	Mr. Issrar Qayoom	Secretary	L.No.1 Jeelanabad Sahani Bagh Batpora Srinagar-190006	Business
5	Mr. Muzaffer Bafanda	Joint Secretary	H.No. 17, Lane No. 1, Syed Colony Zakura Hazratbal Sgr.- 190006	Business
6	Mr. Faheem Ahmad Nato	Secretary Finance	90 Ft. Road Shadab Colony Ahmad Nagar Srinagar-190006	Business
7	Mr. Ashaq Ahmad Purra	Secretary Publicity	Sir Syed Colony Ahmad Nagar Near Zehra Tower Srinagar-190006	Business

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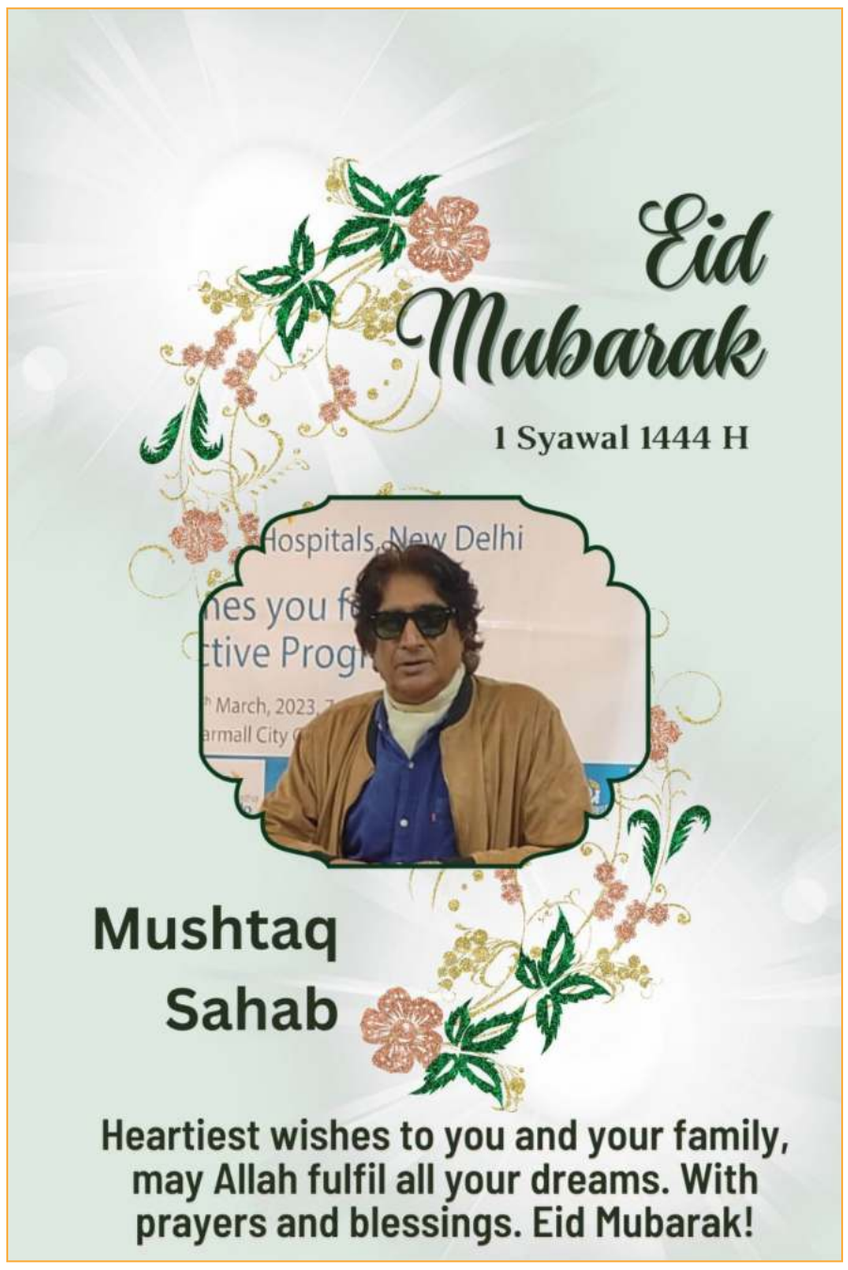

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Applications are invited from interested and motivated candidates for the post of Junior Research Fellow (JRF) in a time bound research project for a temporary period, purely on contract basis as per the following details.

Position	Junior Research Fellow (JRF)
Number of Vacancy	01
Project Title	Synthesis Of Carbon Quantum Dots From Apricot Shell For Decoration Applications
Department	Post-graduate Department of Physics
Project Tenure	03 Years
Job description	To work on synthesis of carbon quantum dots for decoration applications.
Essential Qualification	M.Sc. (Physics/Nanotechnology/Material Science) / B.E./B.Tech. (Nanotechnology/ Materials Science) or equivalent degree, with 55% marks and passing of NET/GATE test.
Age Limit	28 Yrs
Age Relaxation	The upper age limit is relax-able up-to 5 years in case of candidates belonging to schedule castes/tribes/OBC, women and physically handicapped candidates
Fellowship	Rs. 37,000/- pm+16% HRA (as per institute norms) in Ist & 2nd years Rs. 42000/- pm +16% HRA (as per institute norms) in 3rd year upon up-gradation.
Funding agency	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research-Human Resource Development Group (CSIR-HRDG), CSIR Complex, Pusa, New Delhi-12.

The eligible candidates should apply by filling the Google form. Applications along with attested copies of all certificates/documents indicating qualification, percentage of marks in qualifying examination, age, and details of any research or other experience, if any, should also be send to the principal investigator via email: **drkhursheda@gmail.com** as a single PDF file within one week from the date of publication of this advertisement notice.

The date of interview will be communicated via email to the eligible candidates. No TA/DA will be paid for attending the interview.

Sd/- **Prof. (Dr.) Gh. Jeelani Qureshi** (Principal)

Sd/- **Dr. Khurshed Ahmad Shah** (Principal Investigator)

DIPK-1407/24
dated: 15-06-2024

J&K Bank Crosses Important Milestone, Commissions 1001st Branch In Mumbai

Inaugurates 2 ATMs in Jammu and Kashmir

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Crossing a significant milestone of 1000 branches across the nation, J&K Bank has commissioned a state-of-the-art branch in Malad, Mumbai – the commercial capital of the country.

In a momentous occasion, MD & CEO Baldev Prakash Saturday inaugurated the Bank's 1001st branch in Malad, Mumbai in presence of General Manager (Treasury Operations) Rakesh Koul and Zonal Head (Mumbai) Irfan Anjum. The inauguration ceremony witnessed a vibrant gathering that included eminent personalities from the area, enthusiastic local residents, businessmen, Branch Managers and other officials of the Bank.

During an inaugural ceremony held in Malad, Mumbai, MD & CEO Baldev Prakash expressed his pleasure about the Bank's expansion and commitment to providing best and most convenient banking services across India.

He said, "While being testament to our dedication and hard-work, establishing a new branch in Malad is part of our plan to expand our presence across the rest of India especially in the commercial hubs of the country. Malad is our 15th branch in the state of Maharashtra." adding, "While increasing our brick-and-mortar presence, we are also rolling out best digital offerings with highly personalized touch across the country, and our growing network here is a reflection of the trust our customers place in us in the commercial capital."

He further said, "We continue to prioritize customer satisfaction through our extensive network of branches and ATMs, offering a range of banking services that cater to diverse financial needs. With a plan to have robust presence across India, the bank remains committed to its mission of financial empowerment of people thereby fostering economic growth and development."

Meanwhile, in Jammu and Kashmir, the Bank has pressed two new ATMs into public service thereby enhancing its access and convenience further for the customers. The ATM at Matador Stand Sunjwan in Jammu was inaugurated by the Member Parliament Ghulam Ali Khatana today in presence of DGM (Law) Vinod Kumar Sharma, Cluster Head (Jammu-II) Chandrika Parihar amid a gathering of prominent citizens, valuable customers and other bank officials.

Online Shopping, Possible Recession Impact Trade In Kashmir Ahead Of Eid: Traders

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Markets in Srinagar and elsewhere in the Kashmir valley lacked the usual hustle and bustle ahead of Eid-ul-Zuha as the sales remained sluggish in view of subdued shopping.

The markets in and around the Lal Chowk city centre here witnessed dull sales, and with just two days to Eid, the excitement associated with Eid shopping is missing, traders said.

The markets, especially the shops dealing with bakeries, confectioneries, readymade garments and crockery stores, which used to witness a heavy rush of customers before Eid, experienced sluggish sales.

The market is about 80 per cent down from what it used to be before the Eid festivals, vice president of the Lal Chowk traders association, Suhail Shah, told PTI. He said the footfall of the customers is just like normal days.

"In fact, the sales are about 60 per cent down compared to Eid-ul-Fitr earlier this year when the markets witnessed a huge rush," he added.

Shah said there were several reasons for the dip in the sales.

"Online shopping is one reason. Another is that it seems we are going through recession. Also, I think we are going through the impact of COVID now," the trade leader said.

The city centre and the adjoining areas also witnessed traffic jams even as more traffic police personnel had been deployed to manage the traffic.

Markets in downtown --" the interior areas of Srinagar --" also witnessed sluggish sales due to the ongoing construction works under the Srinagar Smart City Project.

The traders there alleged that many roads have either been dug up or blocked, rendering them unmotorable for the customers, which has hit their business ahead of Eid.

Srinagar's largest sacrificial animal market in the Eidgah area of the city and other places also witnessed low-key business activity, even as a variety of elite non-local sheep breeds have flooded the valley.

There are several non-local breeds like Kajuwala, Jaisalmeri and Marwari, which have been imported to the valley from other states of the country. Other animals like camels and buffaloes are also there, but there has been a slump in their sales too, the traders said.

MoU Signed For Digital Payment Aggregation Services By Integration Of SBIePay, eMigrate: MEA

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of External Affairs and the SBI have signed an MoU to provide an additional digital payment service of the bank through its payment gateway SBIePay to users of the eMigrate portal, including Indian migrant workers and recruiting agents, officials said on Saturday.

This agreement would "further facilitate and enhance the ambit of safe and legal migration of Indian migrant workers", according to a statement issued by the ministry.

Since its launch in 2014, the eMigrate project has been assisting Indian workers going to emigration check required countries for employment by making the emigration process online and transparent, and to bring foreign employers, registered recruiting agents and insurance companies issuing the Pravasi Bhartiya Bima Yojna on one common platform to facilitate seamless, safe and legal migration, it said.

The portal also has a mechanism for voluntary registration of emigrants holding ECNR category passports proceeding for overseas employment, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) statement said.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by Bramha Kumar, Joint Secretary (OE & PGE) on behalf of the

ministry and Neelesh Dwivedi, General Manager (NW-I), from the SBI's side at the Sushma Swaraj Bhawan here.

The MoU seeks to "provide an additional digital payment services of the SBI through payment gateway called SBIePay to Indian migrant workers, recruiting agents and other users of the eMigrate portal (https://emigrate.gov.in)", it said.

It will be operational soon after successful integration of the SBIePay with the eMigrate portal, the officials said.

"Through implementation of this MoU, payment of various emigration related fee would be possible with NIL transaction charges for payment through UPI, credit/debit cards and NEFT through net banking of all Indian banks. Signing of this MoU would further facilitate and enhance the ambit of safe and legal migration of Indian migrant workers," the statement said.

SAC Meeting Of KVK Bandipora, Gurez Held

Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: The 18th Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Bandipora-1 and the 3rd SAC Meeting of KVK Bandipora-2 (Gurez) was Saturday conducted at KVK Campus Potushai, Bandipora.

The meeting was presided over by Vice Chancellor SKUAST Kashmir, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai and was attended by Director Extension SKUAST-K, Prof. Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi, ADC Bandipora Umar Shafi Pandith, AD Sheep Husbandry Dr. Maroof Ahmad Shah, CAO Javaid Iqbal Samoon, CHO Farooq Ahmad Tantry, CAHO Dr. G.A. Lone, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Bandipora, DSHO Dr. Irshad Ahmad, officers from Floriculture, Fisheries, Sericulture and other concerned.

Dr. Tariq Sultan, Programme Coordinator KVK Bandipora-1, and Dr. Bilal Ahmad Bhat, Programme Coordinator KVK Bandipora-2 (Gurez), presented the Annual Progress Reports for the year 2023-24 through PowerPoint presentations.

During the meeting, the Chief Agriculture Officer Bandipora highlighted the collaborative efforts of the Department of Agriculture and KVKs in disseminating proven technologies and building the capacity of rural youth.

The Chief Horticulture Officer emphasized the need for growers to transition from traditional to high-density orchards, which are more remunerative.

The Chief Animal Husbandry Officer noted that Bandipora district is self-sufficient in milk production and suggested that the fodder scarcity issue could be addressed through hydroponic fodder production, which yields high biomass in less time and space.

The Assistant Director Sheep Husbandry mentioned ongoing efforts to support sheep breeders and provide quality mutton to consumers.

Director Extension, Prof. Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi, expressed satisfaction with the performance of the KVKs in Bandipora and stressed the importance of their impact being felt across the district.

PM To Release Rs 20,000 Cr For Farmers, Felicitate 'Krishi Sakhis' On Jun 18

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit his parliamentary constituency Varanasi on June 18 for the first time after assuming office for a third consecutive term, during which he will release the 17th installment of PM-KISAN scheme amounting to over Rs 20,000 crore for 9.26 crore beneficiary farmers across the country. Modi will also confer certificates to more than 30,000 members of Self Help Groups (SHGs) who have been trained as 'Krishi Sakhis' to work as para-extension workers, supporting fellow farmers with agricultural practices.

Briefing the media, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan highlighted the government's commitment to the agriculture sector.

"Agriculture has always been a priority for the PM in his last two tenures. He took several key decisions in the interest of farmers. After taking oath as PM, Modi ji first signed a file related to the release of the 17th installment of the PM-KISAN scheme," Chouhan said.

Launched in 2019, PM-KISAN is a direct benefit transfer (DBT) initiative under which beneficiary farmers receive an annual sum of Rs 6,000 in three equal installments to supplement their financial needs.

Chouhan noted that the Centre has disbursed over Rs 3.04 lakh crore to more than 11 crore farmers across the country since the scheme's inception.

Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and various state ministers are expected to attend the event in Varanasi.

The agriculture minister also shed light on the Krishi Sakhi scheme, a collaborative effort with the rural development ministry.

Probe Agency Raids Kerala-Based Ponzi Company That Duped Depositors Of ₹ 1,500 Cr

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate Friday said it raided multiple locations in various states as part of a money laundering investigation against a Kerala-based company that allegedly duped depositors to the tune of ₹1,500 crore through a ponzi scheme.

The searches were launched on June 11 on the premises of the promoters of HighRich Online Group in Kerala, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh.

The money laundering case stems from multiple FIRs filed by the Kerala Police.

The searches have led to the freezing of around ₹32 crore of proceeds of crime in various bank accounts of the company, promoters and their family members, seizure of about ₹70 lakh in cash, jewellery and four four-wheeled vehicles, the central agency said in a statement.

"The search also led to tracing of immovable properties worth ₹15 crore with promoters and various leaders of HighRich Online group which have been acquired out of the proceeds of crime." "Searches have also revealed that the company and its promoters and leaders were involved in trading in cryptocurrency on few exchanges and sold their own so-called crypto coin

named HR Crypto Coin," it said.

The crypto coin, the agency claimed, was sold in exchange for Indian rupee and USDT (a type of crypto currency) and it was also a part of ponzi scheme where people were lured to invest their money for which they got 15 per cent interest per year.

When the customer introduced a new customer, they got 30 per cent direct referral income, it said.

The agency said the company was selling the memberships in the form of digital IDs which consisted of the user credentials (user name and password) of the individual investors to access the website-- www.highrich.net.

"The members would further sell the memberships/digital ids to other people to earn commission," the ED said.

It was found that the company would give incentives to these individuals when they refer new members to join the marketing scheme which is nothing but sharing of the commission received on joining of new members, the agency said.

There is no real underlying business of sale of goods and this is the typical modus operandi of a Ponzi scheme, it said.

"The total amount collected from people at large in this Ponzi type MLM (multi-level marketing) scheme is approximately ₹1,500 crore, " the ED said.

The collected money was partly redistributed as rewards to the members of the scheme at the top of the pyramid and the profit of around ₹250 Crore was siphoned off by the promoters of the company like K D Prathapan, Sreena Prathapan through their family members and various entities, the agency said.

JKEDI Trains 22 Women Under Tejaswini Scheme At Ramban

Observer News Service

JAMMU: 10-day Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) under Tejaswini Scheme concluded at Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), District Centre, Ramban on Saturday.

The EDP was organized by JKEDI under the overall supervision of Director JKEDI, Rajinder Kumar Sharma, for the aspiring female entrepreneurs of district Ramban under Tejaswini scheme of J&K Mission Youth. Thirty (30) candidates had registered for the EDP out of which 22 candidates successfully completed their training.

During the 10-day EDP, the candidates were apprised and trained about basic business concepts like business plan formulation, marketing plans, accounts management, record keeping, customer management, and other topics of relevance. The program was coordinated by JKEDI District Centre, Ramban

while the training was imparted by a team of trainers including Irshad Ahmad Naqshbandi, Assistant Manager Trainings, and Sajad Ahmad Lone, Assistant Faculty.

Officials from the J&K Bank, District Employment and Counselling Centre (DECC), Ramban, Labour Department, Ramban, among others, were also invited as guest faculty to brief the trainees about different aspects of the self-employment scheme - Tejaswani. The training program was modelled for retail and services sector activities. The aspirants were trained for establishment of small business ventures like retail outlets of footwear, readymade, pesticides, electrical goods, cosmetics, DTP centres, boutiques in different areas of district Ramban.

At the valedictory ceremony, District Nodal Officer, Ramban, Nauman Bedar, highlighted the scope of entrepreneurship and self-employment and its contribution towards the economic development of J&K. Assistant Director, DECC Ramban, Amit Kumar congratulated the aspiring female entrepreneurs for taking a timely decision by choosing entrepreneurship as their career choice. He also distributed prizes among the trainees.

Windfall Tax On Crude Petroleum Slashed To Rs 3,250/Tonne

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The government has reduced windfall tax on domestically-produced crude oil to Rs 3,250 per tonne from Rs 5,200, with effect from Saturday.

The tax is levied in the form of Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED). SAED on export of diesel, petrol and jet fuel or ATF, has been retained at 'nil'.

The new rates are effective from June 15, an official notification said.

India first imposed windfall profit taxes on July 1, 2022, joining a host of nations that tax supernormal profits of energy companies.

The tax rates are reviewed every fortnight based on average oil prices in the previous two weeks.

Exports Up 9% at USD 38.13 Bn In May

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India's merchandise exports rose by 9.1 per cent to USD 38.13 billion in May even as the trade deficit widened to a seven-month high of USD 23.78 billion during the month, according to government data.

Healthy growth in sectors, such as engineering, electronics, pharmaceuticals, textiles and plastics helped register growth in exports despite global economic uncertainties.

Imports also increased by 7.7 per cent to USD 61.91 billion in the month under review from USD 57.48 billion in May 2023 due to an increase in crude oil imports.

Oil imports rose by 28 per cent to USD 20 billion in May. It was up by 24.4 per cent during April-May 2024-25 to USD 36.4 billion.

However, gold imports dipped marginally to USD 3.33 billion in May this year from USD 3.69 billion in the same month of FY24.

The previous high in the deficit was recorded in October 2023 at USD 31.46 billion.

In April 2024, the outbound shipments dipped to USD 41.68 billion from USD 41.96 billion a year ago.

Cumulatively, exports during April-May this fiscal rose by 5.1 per cent to USD 73.12 billion and imports rose by 8.89 per cent to USD 116 billion.

Briefing media on the data, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said May has been an excellent month in terms of exports and "I hope that this trend will continue".

He said that inflation in advanced economies is slowing and it would help further push purchasing power that will raise demand for imports.

"I feel that this positive trend will continue. Things are looking better and optimistic for the trade sector," Barthwal said.

Asked whether he is concerned about the widening trade deficit, the secretary said as India is registering higher economic growth than the world, it will lead to an increase in domestic demand for imports and a dip in exportable surplus.

"Trade deficit per se I do not consider it as bad as long as you have FDI flowing in, foreign exchange coming in and if you are balancing it through other means. And secondly, we should also look at the growing services exports... then we should not unnecessarily be worried about the trade deficit in merchandise," Barthwal added.

No question of taking back rebels, say Uddhav, Sharad Pawar

Agenceis

Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray and NCP (SP) supremo Sharad Pawar on Saturday stated categorically that there was no question of taking back those who sided with the rebel factions. The two leaders were speaking at a joint press conference of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) of the Sena (UBT), NCP(SP) and Congress, first after the Opposition alliance outperformed the ruling coalition in the Lok Sabha elections in Maharashtra.

An MLA of the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena, however, pooh-poohed the assertion, stating that nobody was interested in going back.

During the press conference here, both Thackeray and Sharad Pawar said "there is no question of taking rebel leaders back".

Reacting to the statement, Sanjay Shirsat, an MLA of the Shiv Sena led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, said Thackeray should first take care of his own flock.

"Who is going, in the first place? It is not that anybody from our side went to `Matoshree' (Thackeray's residence) and was thrown out. We have no interest in going back there. They should take care of their people," he said.

The Shiv Sena split in June 2022 after Eknath Shinde rebelled along with 39 MLAs and toppled the Thackeray-led MVA government. Shinde then became chief minister by joining hands with the BJP. One year later, the Nationalist Congress Party also broke into two factions as Ajit Pawar joined the government along with eight MLAs.

But after the MVA won 30 out of 48 Lok Sabha seats in Maharashtra in the recent general elections, there was speculation that some leaders may return to the parties led by Uddhav Thackeray and Sharad Pawar, respectively.

Notably, Parner MLA Nilesh Lanke left the Ajit Pawar-led NCP just before the Lok Sabha elections. Lanke contested from Ahmednagar seat on the NCP (SP) ticket and defeated sitting BJP MP Sujay Vikhe Patil. Bajrang Sonawane also left the Ajit Pawar-led NCP and contested the Lok Sabha polls from Beed on NCP (SP) ticket. He defeated former state minister and BJP candidate Pankaja Munde.

J&K Cong Passes Resolution

Appeals Rahul Gandhi to Become LoP in Lok Sabha

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir unit of Congress on Saturday passed a resolution here, appealing former party president Rahul Gandhi to take the role of Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

The resolution was passed at a one-day convention of the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) chaired by J-K unit president Vikar Rasool Wani and attended by almost all senior leaders and workers, a party spokesman said.

"Rahul Gandhi taking over as the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha is the need of the hour. This is the demand of general workers and the people of this country who desire a strong opposition to raise the issues faced by the common people," the spokesman said, quoting the resolution.

The convention, first after the recently concluded Lok Sabha polls which saw the BJP retaining both seats of Jammu region for the third term, also congratulated Sonia Gandhi on being elected chairperson of Congress Parliamentary Party, lauding her leadership and dedication towards the party throughout her political career.

The Congress also expressed serious concern over the deteriorating security situation in Jammu region and asked the government to take concrete action against terrorism and create a conducive atmosphere for holding Assembly elections by September 30 as has been directed by the Supreme Court.

Hitting out at the Centre and the J&K administration for alleged failure to control terrorism in the Union Territory, Wani accused the Modi government of "playing politics" claiming normalcy in J&K and "misleading" the entire nation regarding the ground situation.

He asked the government to ensure an atmosphere of safety and security and create situations conducive to holding assembly elections under the deadline given by the Supreme Court.

The Congress leader said the party and the INDIA bloc performed very well in the Lok Sabha polls, and appreciated the efforts and dedication of the party workers for managing to bring down the victory margin of the BJP in Jammu and Udhampur seats.

The convention began with two minutes of silence to mourn the death of nine persons including seven pilgrims returning from Shiv Khori temple, and CRPF jawan in recent terror attacks with participants praying for speedy recovery of those injured in the incidents.

The spokesman said the convention also passed a resolution on the prevailing security situation in J-K and condemned the recent terror attacks. The resolution asked the centre to take concrete action to eliminate the menace, and tell Pakistan in strongest terms to stop sponsoring terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

The JKPCC stands together with the government and the brave forces in dealing with the current situation and seeks restoration of an atmosphere of safety and security, the resolution said.

"We strongly urge the Central government and the UT administration to ensure incident-free Amarnath Yatra, scheduled to commence on June 29, at all costs," the spokesman said.

The party also passed a resolution on political affairs and the road ahead, urging the government to create a conducive atmosphere for holding the assembly elections immediately.

It said the Congress is fully geared up for the assembly elections and the Election Commissioner and the government are urged to ensure level-playing field in the matter of security to party leaders and prominent functionaries of the opposition parties in view of the deteriorating situation.

Uttarakhand: 10 killed as van slips into gorge in Rudraprayag, 13 injured

Agenceis

As many as 10 people were killed and 13 persons suffered injuries after a van slipped into a gorge near Badrinath highway in Rudraprayag on Saturday. According to officials, rescue operations are underway and the health condition of a few of them rescued is critical.

Police and State Disaster Rescue Force personnel are involved in rescue operations. Rudraprayag SP Vishakha Ashok Bhadanesaid, "We have received information that there were 23 people in the Tempo Traveller. Around 15 injured people have been sent to hospital for treatment. Rescue operation is underway."

Rudraprayag District Magistrate said, "A tempo traveller crashed after falling into a ditch from the highway near Rantoli in Rudraprayag. Rescue work is being carried out jointly by the district administration, police, SDRF, fire service, district disaster management, water police and local people."

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami condoled the incident and said authorities have been advised to ensure better treatment for the injured. "Very sad news was received about a tempo traveller accident in Rudraprayag district. The local administration and SDRF teams are engaged in relief and rescue operations. The injured have been sent to the nearest medical centre for treatment." Dhami added that the district magistrate has been ordered to investigate the incident.

Union Minister Amit Shah also condoled the incident and tweeted, "My condolences are with the families of those who lost their lives in this accident. The local administration and SDRF teams are engaged in relief and rescue work and all possible help is being provided to the injured."

According to reports, seven of the injured persons have been shifted to AIIMS Rishikesh for treatment.

CONTD. FROM **FRONT PAGE**

Don't Spare

Secretary Home Department; Vijay Kumar, ADGP Law & Order; Nitish Kumar, ADGP CID; Vidhi Kumar Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to LG; Vijay Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, DIGs, Deputy Commissioners, SSPs and other senior officials.

Don't Raise

a pilgrim bus in Reasi, Kathua and Doda districts from June 9 to 12, killing nine persons and a CRPF jawan and leaving scores of others injured. Two suspected Pakistani terrorists were also killed in one of the encounters in Kathua.

"When you are talking about a threat or challenge, you see how serious or big it is. The challenge is coming from across the border and they (terror handlers) have taken a decision that they will keep the pot boiling.

"They have noticed that the days of terrorism (in Jammu and Kashmir) are numbered, given the major setback inflicted on the terror infrastructure in Kashmir. How can those, whose bread and better runs on this, give it up so easily?

"The contractors (handlers) are sitting across the border and to keep their shops running, they send them (foreign mercenaries) here," the police chief said.

He was talking to reporters on the sidelines of his visit to Saida Sukhal village in Hiranagar sector of Kathua district where the two suspected Pakistani terrorists and a CRPF jawan were killed in an over 15-hour long operation on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Swain, accompanied by Additional Director General of Police, Jammu zone, Anand Jain, interacted with the police personnel deployed in the village for an ongoing search operation. The DGP also visited Hiranagar police station and addressed the policemen, lauding their role in the recent gunfight.

"As we see, they (terrorists) are not in huge numbers. They are like rats but they exist. They have guns and they are using these on innocent people," he said, assuring the people that all of them will be eliminated.

"The way the information flow (about movement of terrorists) is there, we have Village Defence Guards, police forces, CRPF and the Army. How long will they hold their ground facing them?

"In the past, they made an attempt to spread anarchy (in Jammu region for eight to 10 years) but they failed. They will meet the same fate again," he said.

He said the central government has given instructions for further strengthening the manpower and equipment including weapons, night vision devices, training skill, vehicles and "we will neutralize them".

The DGP said use of drones by Pakistan to drop weapons and narcotics continued to be a challenge. He said a handful of people are supporting terrorism and stern action against them will be initiated to make them an example for others so that no one else ever thinks of supporting them.

"We should accept that this is a war which was thrust upon us. In any war, the enemy makes an attempt to cause more harm to the opposite side. We will adopt such tactics and strategy not only to eliminate them but also ensure minimum harm to us," he said.

He requested people to continue with the flow of information but cross-check it.

"Don't raise false flags. We should be there where we ought to be," he said, adding that the police have responded to every input so far.

Reasi Attack:

stabilising patients and saving lives," recounts director of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi (SMVD) Narayana Superspeciality Hospital.

Fifteen critically injured patients were admitted to SMVD Narayana Hospital at Katra. Ten of them have already been discharged, and five are still under observation and are responding well to treatment, the hospital said.

Nine persons, including seven pilgrims from Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi, were killed and 41 injured in the attack when the terrorists opened fire on the bus carrying pilgrims returning from Shiv Khori shrine near Teryath village in the Pouni area.

The 53-seater bus veered off the road and fell into a deep gorge following the gunfire.

Hospital director Dr Mathavan said Code Orange, which refers to external disasters, was activated for the victims of the terror attack.

A dedicated emergency team led by Dr Sonia Dogra (emergency medicine), Dr Suhail Khuroo (GI surgery), and Dr Vikas Padha (orthopaedics) was immediately mobilised.

The team of doctors performed six life-saving surgeries on the most critical patients, including Luxmi Devi (35) who had complex abdominal injuries and Rikshona (29) who had a severe spleen injury, Mathavan said.

Dr Khuroo successfully stabilised Luxmi's condition and performed a lifesaving splenectomy on Rikshona.

"The entire team worked tirelessly using our advanced facilities and expertise to deliver the best possible care. We activated Code Orange and roughly 150 staff responded swiftly. Both medical staff and patients displayed inspiring resilience," he said.

Usha Pandey (43), who sustained shrapnel injuries in the attack, said "I was terrified, but the doctors and nurses treated me with kindness and care. They not only healed my wounds but also gave me the strength to believe I could recover. I owe them my life."

Bunty Gupta (30), who had sustained a gunshot wound, said "When I arrived, I was critical. The staff treated me like family. Their dedication and compassion have been extraordinary, and I am forever grateful."

The team's coordinated efforts were crucial, said Chief Executive Officer of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Anshul Garg. "Every second counts".

"Having a well-equipped facility allowed us to provide immediate and compassionate care. Seeing our patients recover is the greatest reward. The Shrine Board will unconditionally bear the entire treatment cost," he said.

2 Key Doda Roads

tourists and locals.

Terrorists struck a joint security post in 12,000-feet-high Chattergalla, the highest point on the Bhaderwah-Pathankot and Bhaderwah-Chamba inter-state roads Tuesday night, causing injuries to five soldiers and a Special Police Officer.

A massive search operation was launched to track down the terrorists while traffic on the two busy inter-state roads was suspended to avoid any untoward incident.

Restrictions were also imposed on all high-altitude picnic spots including Guldanda, Chattergalla Paas, Padri and Jaie Ghati following the terrorist attack.

Officials said though efforts are on to neutralise the terrorists, the two vital roads have been made secure with the deployment of additional forces.

Chief Executive Officer of Bhaderwah Development Authority Bal Krishan said all restrictions on the movement of locals and visitors have been lifted and tourists should not pay heed to rumours as "we assure the safety of all visitors in all high-altitude spots."

Locals and visitors thanked the administration for lifting the restrictions and said they have full faith in the security forces.

HM To Review

meeting where he directed officials to deploy the "full spectrum of counter-terror capabilities" after a spate of terror incidents, including an attack on a bus carrying pilgrims.

National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha, Army Chief General Manoj Pande, Army Chief-designate Lt. General Upendra Dwivedi, Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla, Director of Intelligence Bureau Tapan Deka, Director General of CRPF Anish Dayal Singh, Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police R R Swain and other top security officials are expected to attend the meeting.

Shah is likely to be apprised about the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir, the deployment of forces along the International Border and Line of Control, infiltration attempts, the status of ongoing anti-terror operations and the strength of terrorists operating in the Union Territory, sources said.

He is expected to give broad guidelines about the immediate action to be taken by the security agencies in line with the prime minister's directive, they said.

Terrorists struck at four places in Reasi, Kathua and Doda districts of Jammu and Kashmir in four days, killing nine pilgrims and a CRPF jawan and leaving seven security personnel and several others injured.

Two suspected Pakistani terrorists were also killed in an encounter with security forces in Kathua district and a huge quantity of arms and ammunition were recovered from them.

The incidents come ahead of the annual pilgrimage to the cave shrine of Amarnath in the south Kashmir Himalayas, which is set to begin on June 29 and will continue till August 19.

The Amarnath pilgrims travel through two routes -- Baltal and Pahalgam -- in Jammu and Kashmir. Sources said last year, over 4.28 lakh people visited the cave shrine and the figure could go up to five lakh this time.

All pilgrims are expected to be given RFID cards so that their real-time location can be traced and everyone will be given Rs 5 lakh insurance cover. There will also be an insurance cover of Rs 50,000 for each animal carrying the pilgrims.

Shah is expected to stress on providing smooth arrangements on the route from the airport and railway station to the pilgrimage base camp and proper security of all pilgrims.

Last year, Shah had directed officials to ensure adequate stock of oxygen cylinders and their refilling and asked for the availability of additional teams of doctors. He had ordered adequate medical beds and deployment of ambulances and helicopters to meet any medical emergency.

Following Shah's order, a better communication system on the pilgrimage routes was ensured and machines were deployed to immediately open routes in case of a landslide.

On Friday, the home minister was briefed by the officials of the ministry, Intelligence Bureau and other security agencies about the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and the steps taken following the terror incidents, sources said.

On June 13, PM Modi spoke to Shah and discussed the deployment of security forces and counter-terror operations. The prime minister also spoke to Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and took stock of the situation there.

Sinha briefed him on the efforts being undertaken by the local administration.

In the meeting, the prime minister was given a full overview of the security-related situation in the region and was apprised of the counter-terror efforts being undertaken.

A search operation is underway in Jammu and Kashmir to track down and neutralise terrorists after the June 9 attack on the bus carrying pilgrims, officials said.

25 Liaison Officers

order, the officers, all JKAS, have been asked to report to the office of Managing Director, Jammu & Kashmir, Power Development Corporation, Jammu/Srinagar, respectively, for briefing about the duties and responsibilities during the visit. Sources said that the visit pertains under the provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty.

Delhi Court Grants

the maximum punishment prescribed in the offence of money laundering in the case.

The application claimed that Shah had been in custody in the case since July 26, 2017, and he would complete his entire seven years of maximum imprisonment as an undertrial prisoner on July 25.

He also said that co-accused Mohd. Aslam Wani was acquitted of all the charges except the offence punishable under Section 25 Arms Act.

"After his acquittal in the scheduled offences (based on which the ED filed the present case), the allegations of the prosecution of generating proceeds of crime as a result of criminal activity relating to the scheduled offence did not survive," the application claimed.

The ED had opposed the application, saying the allegations against Shah were grave and serious in nature which entailed severe punishment.

It alleged that Shah was involved in the commission of serious crimes and the generation of huge amounts of proceeds from crime from various countries, including Pakistan, to carry out unrest in Kashmir and was also found involved in terror financing activities.

The Enforcement Directorate said if released on bail, Shah may again indulge in similar criminal activities.

Will Raise

addressed a congratulatory meeting of the NC functionaries at the party's district headquarters Mujahid Manzil in the Pulwama district of south Kashmir.

He defeated PDP's Waheed Ur Rehman Para by a margin of about 1.88 lakh votes in the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections.

The newly elected MP requested the party leaders to provide a list of individuals who have been imprisoned and promised to raise the issue of the prisoners, vowing to fight for their release.

"I will raise the issue of prisoners both inside and outside Parliament. The Pulwama district president and his associates should prepare a list of such youth hailing from Pulwama, who are languishing in jails and share it with me," he said.

Mehdi said he will spare no effort to raise their issue at every forum, with every ministry and at every gathering.

Expressing gratitude to the party functionaries for his victory, Mehdi said it is now his responsibility to take the voice of the people to Parliament.

"A big thank you to the people of Srinagar, Pulwama, Ganderbal, Shopian, and Budgam for this mandate and faith in me. I am humbled and I am aware of the responsibility that this mandate brings with it.

"From here on, it is my responsibility to take your voice to Parliament. Rest assured, I will represent your sentiments and struggle for the return of our dignity and rights with complete sincerity," he said

Asks NTA To

of the same clash with Eid ul Adha, stating that students of any faith and religion should not be forced into choosing between their religious duties and caree.

"Despite repeated requests from the students to reschedule these exams/tests, the NTA is unmoved. I hope it is not deliberately done to make Muslim students choose between faith and career. Students of any faith and religion should not be forced into choosing between their religious duties and career. These exams can well be rescheduled for anytime after Eid. I hope the NTA understands this simple fact and reschedules the tests," Ruhullah said.

The National Testing Agency (NTA) has so far remained unmoved despite widespread pleas from Muslim students regarding the clash of the UGC NET exams scheduled for June 18, 2024, with the celebration of Eid ul-Adha. Despite numerous appeals for a date change, the NTA has yet to take any action or provide a response.

The scheduling conflict has created significant distress among the student community. Many aspirants have expressed their concerns about the practical difficulties they face due to the unavailability of public transport and the cultural importance of the festival.

"Eid ul-Adha is one of the most important festivals for us. It's a time for family and religious observance. The lack of public transport on this day makes it nearly impossible for many of us to reach the exam centers. On Eid, most public transport services are either suspended or very limited. It will be extremely difficult to travel to the exam center, and many of us do not have alternative means of transportation," the aspirants said.

The situation has sparked widespread concern and anxiety among students. Amir Fayaz, an aspirant, highlighted the broader impact: "It's not just about missing the festival; it's about the practical difficulties of reaching the exam center. We are ready to take the exam, but the timing is very problematic."

Despite these concerns, the NTA has remained silent. Efforts by the new agency to contact the agency for comments on the scheduling conflict have gone unanswered, with no response to emails or texts.

Despite Washout v Canada, India Wind Up T20 WC Group Stage Positively

Press Trust of India

LAUDERHILL: Inclement weather hindered India's hopes of reinforcing their preparation for Super Eight through a match against Canada here on Saturday, but they will travel to the Caribbean as a confident unit after a robust T20 World Cup group stage campaign.

India's final Group A league match against Canada was abandoned without a ball being bowled due to a wet outfield.

Both teams shared one point each, as India advanced as Group A toppers with seven points. USA (five points) were the second team to qualify from the Group. Canada finished third with three points.

India's confidence primarily stems from the pacers' effort in three group matches. Lead quick Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, Hardik Pandya and Mohammed Siraj combined to bag 20 wickets among them.

Of course, they had a spiteful, double-paced drop-in pitch for assistance at the Nassau County stadium in those matches, and they will have traditional surfaces to play on in the West Indies for the rest of the ICC showpiece.

But if their outings in New York can be taken as an indication, then the opposition will have a lot to worry.

Pitch certainly played its part, but the Indian pacers also showed the technical nous and understanding of conditions to exploit what was on offer to them.

None displayed it better than Arshdeep. The left-arm quick made the ball curve back from over the wicket into Shayan Jahangir to trap the USA batter plumb in front.

A few balls later, the ultra-aggressive Andries Gous could not negate a short-pitched ball that skidded on to him at a fair clip. Those two deliveries would have potentially fetched him wickets on any kind of pitch.

The runs from skipper Rohit Sharma, Rishabh Pant and Suryakumar Yadav is another positive sign but for different reasons.

Both Rohit and Suryakumar had an underwhelming IPL 2024, and here they showed some sparks that they would like to ignite further in the Super Eight.

In contrast, Pant had some fruitful outings in the IPL while leading Delhi Capitals, but a lot of people would have been keen to know his readiness for the rigours of top-of-the-draw cricket.

PCB To Enforce 2-NOC Policy After T20 WC Flop Show

Press Trust of India

KARACHI: Pakistan Cricket Board will enforce its two-NOC policy for T20 leagues strictly following the national team's embarrassing performance and first-round exit in the T20 World Cup in Americas.

Pakistan's elimination was confirmed on Friday when USA joined arch-rivals India as the second team from Group A in the Super Eight round, following a washout at Lauderhill in Florida.

All players, who sign central and domestic contracts in Pakistan cricket, have to adhere to a clause which states that a player can only be issued a NOC for a maximum of two overseas leagues besides playing in the Pakistan Super League in a year.

The board has yet not issued any NOCs to youngsters Azam Khan and Saim Ayub to play in the Caribbean Premier League even though both were retained by their respective teams for this season.

Both Azam and Saim are part of Pakistan's World Cup squad.

"The other players have also been given a clear message that the two NOC's rule applies to both centrally and domestic contracted players and the board also reserves the right to turn down any NOC request from any player," an official source in the board said.

The board also holds the right to refuse any NOC if it feels the player's workload and fitness is at stake and he is required to play at home.

The source said that recently in the case of Pakistan leg-spinner Usama Mir, who signed a contract for the Vitality Blast and The Hundred in England, was told he has already played his quota of two leagues this year.

"Mir took the argument that since he was free of any international commitments and there was no domestic event he should be allowed to play in England, he was told in clear terms this is not for him but for the board to decide," the source said.

The board has also recently made it clear to all other cricket boards and their franchises organising their T20 leagues that until a player (s) is able to produce a PCB-issued NOC, they would be signing him at their own risk.

New Zealand Ace Trent Boult Confirms 2024 T20 WC Will Be His Last

Press Trust of India

TAROUBA: Veteran pacer Trent Boult has confirmed the ongoing T20 World Cup will be his final appearance for New Zealand in the marquee-tournament.

Since his debut in 2011, Boult has been a key member of the Black Caps' golden generation, participating in multiple finals across all three formats for New Zealand. Additionally, the left-arm pacer has featured in four editions of the T20 World Cup since 2014.

"Speaking on behalf of myself, this will be my last T20 World Cup. That's all I have to say," Boult said at the press conference after New Zealand's nine-wicket win over Uganda.

Whether Boult will continue to play for New Zealand in any capacity remains uncertain as he had opted out of a central contract in 2022, choosing to play T20 franchise cricket around the world instead.

Despite the huge win against Uganda and a game left in hand, New Zealand have already been eliminated from the race to Super Eight with Afghanistan and West Indies clinching the two spots from Group C.

Effectively, New Zealand's last group game against Papua New Guinea will be the 34-year-old's last T20 World Cup outing.

"Definitely (it was) not the start we wanted in the tournament. A hard one to take. Just gutted we're not going any further. But any time you get to represent the country, it's a proud moment.

"New Zealand have been a picture of consistency, having qualified made the semifinals of the showpiece every time since 2014.

"There's a lot of pride in the dressing room and in playing for the country, we've had some great records across however many years. Unfortunately we've been off the ball the last couple of weeks and that's what it takes to not qualify.

"It's unfortunate, but there's still some tremendous talent inside that dressing room and coming through the ranks in New Zealand cricket, so we're a proud nation and we'll continue to go that way," he said.

Meanwhile, bowlers have had a successful run in the tournament at the expense of batters' misery on tough wickets in the T20 World Cup, which has had just one 200 plus score thus far. Boult has made the call for restoration of the balance.

"Yeah, it's been a challenge, there's no doubt about it. There's been some very low scores. I've played cricket all around the world recently and you come up with a lot of different conditions.

"It's always a challenge in adapting to conditions, but I think the balance has been far too much on the bowler's side, but they just haven't been very good wickets. It's been a good challenge for bat and ball but it's interesting to see in a world tournament."

Short TAKES

GDC Ajas Organises Annual College Road Race

Government Degree College (GDC) Ajas on Saturday organised its Annual College Road Race (Boys), which commenced from petrol pump Saderkoot and culminated at GDC Ajas.

Umar Farooq emerged as the winner, securing the first position, while Mumtaz Ahmed closely followed taking the second spot and Suhail Ahmed Pinchoo finished third.

The event concluded with an award, certificate and prize distribution ceremony.

Dr. Ashaq Hussain Parray, the convenor of sports, delivered speech expressing gratitude to several key figures and departments, including Principal Prof. (Dr.) Parveen Kousar and Dr. Mudasir (PTI).

Australia Faces Scotland in T20 WC's Pivotal Group B Showdown

Australia and Scotland lock horns in a decisive Group B encounter of the T20 World Cup, with Super Eight qualification hanging in the balance. Australia, already assured of their place, could disrupt Scotland's chances, who need to win or rely on the weather gods to progress.

England, on the other hand, must triumph over Namibia and then hope Australia's might prevails against Scotland to brighten their own prospects. A washout in the England-Namibia match would see Scotland advance.

T20 World Cup: Pakistan Take On Ireland In Dead Rubber

Babar Azam's Pakistan will look to restore some pride when they take on a under-firing Ireland in their final Group A match at Lauderhill in Florida on Sunday.

With arch-rivals India and USA sealing the two spots for the Super Eight stage from Group A, Pakistan have been confined to some introspection and relook at their T20 game.

But before all that, Babar's side will have to first thwart the Irish challenge.

Brighton Name Huerzeler As Coach, Youngest Ever In PL

Brighton & Hove Albion have appointed 31-year-old Fabian Huerzeler as coach on a contract until 2027, the club said on Saturday, making him the youngest manager in Premier League history. Huerzeler replaced Roberto De Zerbi who left at the end of the league season having helped them qualify for Europe.

The American-born coach guided St Pauli to the top of the second-tier in Germany, earning promotion to the Bundesliga as champions.

Embolo Scores On Comeback As Switzerland Beat Hungary 3-1

Breel Embolo ran, arms spread wide in celebration, after his goal that meant a win for Switzerland and a triumphant personal comeback.

Embolo had not played for Switzerland in 18 months as a succession of injuries — worst of all a cruciate ligament tear — left him an observer of his club Monaco and of his national team. They robbed the momentum of a player who scored two goals in four games at the last World Cup.

Mbappe Wants To Erase Bad Memory Of Penalty Miss, Leave Euro 2024 As Champion

Associated Press

PARIS: The last time Kylian Mbappé kicked a ball at the European Championship, it sent France out of the competition.

He was the only player to miss in a penalty shoot-out against Switzerland, and France was eliminated from Euro 2020 in the round of 16 in a game where they led 3-1.

Mbappé, who received hateful abuse online following the miss, is desperate to make amends at Euro 2024 in Germany.

"It was a slap in the face when we failed at the Euro," the 25-year-old striker said earlier this month. "It's a big stain on my CV in the national team. I'm in a vengeful mood." France is in Group D, where it faces Austria on Monday, followed by the Netherlands on Friday and Poland on June 25.

Mbappé, the team captain, was missing from practice at France's team based in Germany on Thursday but was back training with his teammates the following days.

"He took some rest but he's not going to lose his physical condition just because he missed one or two training sessions," France veteran Olivier Giroud said Friday. "He still has the same legs that we all know and the determination to achieve a great competition. So don't worry he's going to be ready for the first match."

Mbappé was too young to play for France when it reached the final at Euro 2016, bursting onto the scene as a teenager with Monaco the following season. At 19 he won the World Cup with France in 2018, scoring in the final. In Qatar four years later, he became only the second player after Brazil great Pelé to score a hat trick in a World Cup final, though France still lost the match on penalties to Lionel Messi's Argentina.

"I've always wanted to shine for Les Bleus," the 25-year-old

Mbappé said on June 4 before a friendly against Luxembourg. "I've always felt this pride, this ambition to leave my mark on French soccer."

With 47 international goals, he is third on the all-time scoring list behind Giroud (57) and Thierry Henry (51). If Mbappé remains injury free he could well pass 100 goals, a tally reached by just three men in soccer history — Messi, Ali Daei and 130-goal record holder Cristiano Ronaldo.

At club level, Mbappé recently left Paris Saint-Germain as its all-time leading scorer with 256 goals. He won the French league title six times with PSG and once with Monaco. Although he's never won the Champions League, or the men's Ballon d'Or, those dreams could well be fulfilled at his new club Real Madrid over the next five seasons.

"What awaits me will be fantastic," said Mbappé, who grew up in the Parisian suburb of Bondy. "I'm happy to have left my mark on the PSG's history. Now there's the Euro."

His red-hot burning ambition with Les Bleus is to raise the European Championship trophy high above his head in Berlin in the Euro 2024 final on July 14 — France's national day.

If Mbappé leaves Germany with a winners' medal, he will emulate France greats Michel Platini and Zinedine Zidane.

Platini scored nine goals in five games from midfield when France won the European Championship in 1984. Zidane followed up his triumph at the 1998 World Cup with even better performances for champions Les Bleus at Euro 2000.

"We haven't won it for a long time, 24 years is a lot for a nation like ours," Mbappé said. "The Euro is a difficult competition, more than a World Cup. All the teams know each other and the style of soccer is similar. Group stages are difficult."

Now, rare flesh-eating bacteria that can kill humans in 48 hours spreading in Japan

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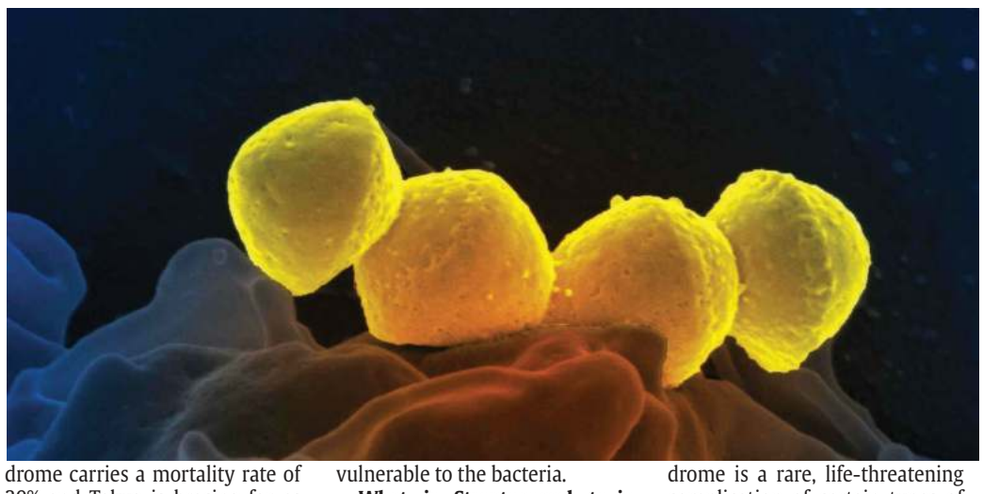

Did you know about the existence of a rare bacteria that feeds on flesh that can claim a human life in under 48 hours? According to the latest reports coming from Tokyo, Japan is battling the disease caused by the said bacteria.

Cases of Streptococcal Toxic Shock Syndrome (STSS), the disease caused by a rare "flesh-eating bacteria", is on the rise in Japan, a report by Bloomberg claimed. While as many as 941 cases of STSS were reported in the country in 2023, the number of cases till June 2 stands at a record 941 this year, the report claimed. The data was attributed to the National Institute of Infectious Diseases, which has been reportedly tracking incidences of the disease since the turn of the century.

Streptococcal toxic shock syndrome carries a mortality rate of 30% and Tokyo is bracing for as many as 2,500 cases by year-end, the report added. According to health professionals, it is people aged over 50 years who are most vulnerable to the bacteria.

What is Streptococcal toxic shock syndrome?

According to the website of Mayo Clinic, Toxic shock syndrome is a rare, life-threatening complication of certain types of bacterial infections. Often toxic shock syndrome results from toxins produced by Staphylococcus aureus (staph) bacteria, but the condition may also be caused by toxins produced by group A streptococcus (strep) bacteria.

A sudden high fever, rashes resembling a sunburn, particularly on your palms and soles, low blood pressure, vomiting or diarrhea, swellings and muscle aches are among the symptoms of the disease.

A Japanese medical source reportedly told Bloomberg that if a patient notices swelling in the foot in the morning, it can expand to the knee by noon. He/she can expire within 48 hours.

In late 2022 at least five European nations reported to the World Health Organization (WHO) an increase in cases of invasive group A streptococcus (iGAS) disease, which includes STSS. The WHO said the rise in cases followed the end of Covid restrictions, the report said.

Prisoner exchange: Sweden releases convicted former Iranian official Hamid Noury

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During the prisoner exchange carried out on Saturday, Sweden freed an Iranian official convicted for his role in a mass execution in the 1980s in a breakthrough deal. Hamid Noury was convicted for his involvement in a mass execution of political prisoners in Iran in 1988.

Meanwhile, Iran had released two Swedes, Johan Floderus and Saeed Azizi being held there.

According to a foreign ministry statement, Oman had mediated the prisoner swaps. "Omani efforts resulted in the two sides agreeing on a mutual release, as those released were transferred from Tehran and Stockholm," it said.

IRNA, Iran's official news agency, published the footage of Noury arriving at Tehran's Mehrabad airport where he was welcomed by his family.

In a statement, Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson said that Swedish citizens Floderus and Azizi were on a plane back to Sweden. "Iran used them both as pawns in a cynical negotiations game with the purpose of getting the Iranian citizen Hamid Noury released from prison in Sweden. He is convicted of serious crimes committed in Iran in the 1980s," Kristersson said.

"As prime minister, I have a special responsibility for Swedish citizens' safety. The government has therefore worked intensively on the issue, together with the Swedish security services which have negotiated with Iran," he added.

Noury, 63, was arrested in 2019 at a Stockholm airport and later sentenced to life in prison for war crimes, mass execution and torture of political prisoners at the Gohardasht prison in Karaj, Iran, in 1988. However, he had denied the charges against him.

'Hello from team Melodi' says Italy's Giorgia Meloni in selfie video; PM Modi reacts

Agenceis

A selfie video shared by Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni with Indian PM Narendra Modi during the G7 summit in Italy's Apulia had gone viral in social media.

"Hello from the Melodi team," said Meloni in the video, where both the leaders are seen sharing a laugh.

PM Modi had arrived in Italy to participate in the G7 Outreach summit on Meloni's invitation. Reacting to the video, PM Modi wrote on X, 'Long live India-Italy friendship!". He had commented on the video by re-sharing it.

Modi thanked the Italian PM for the invitation. This was Modi's first foreign visit after assuming charge as the PM in a historic third term.

During the bilateral talks, both leaders discussed strategic partnerships and agreed on the early implementation of a migration and mobility agreement.

As the G7 summit concluded on Saturday, PM Modi wrote on X, "Had a very good meeting with PM @GiorgiaMeloni."

"We discussed ways to further cement India-Italy relations in areas like commerce, energy, defence, telecom and more. Our nations will work together in futuristic areas like biofuels, food processing and critical minerals," he said after the meeting.

On the sidelines of the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) in Dubai, the two leaders met in December last year and clicked a selfie as well.

Modi also held bilateral talks with French President Emmanuel Macron, the UK's Rishi Sunak and Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy on the sidelines of the summit.

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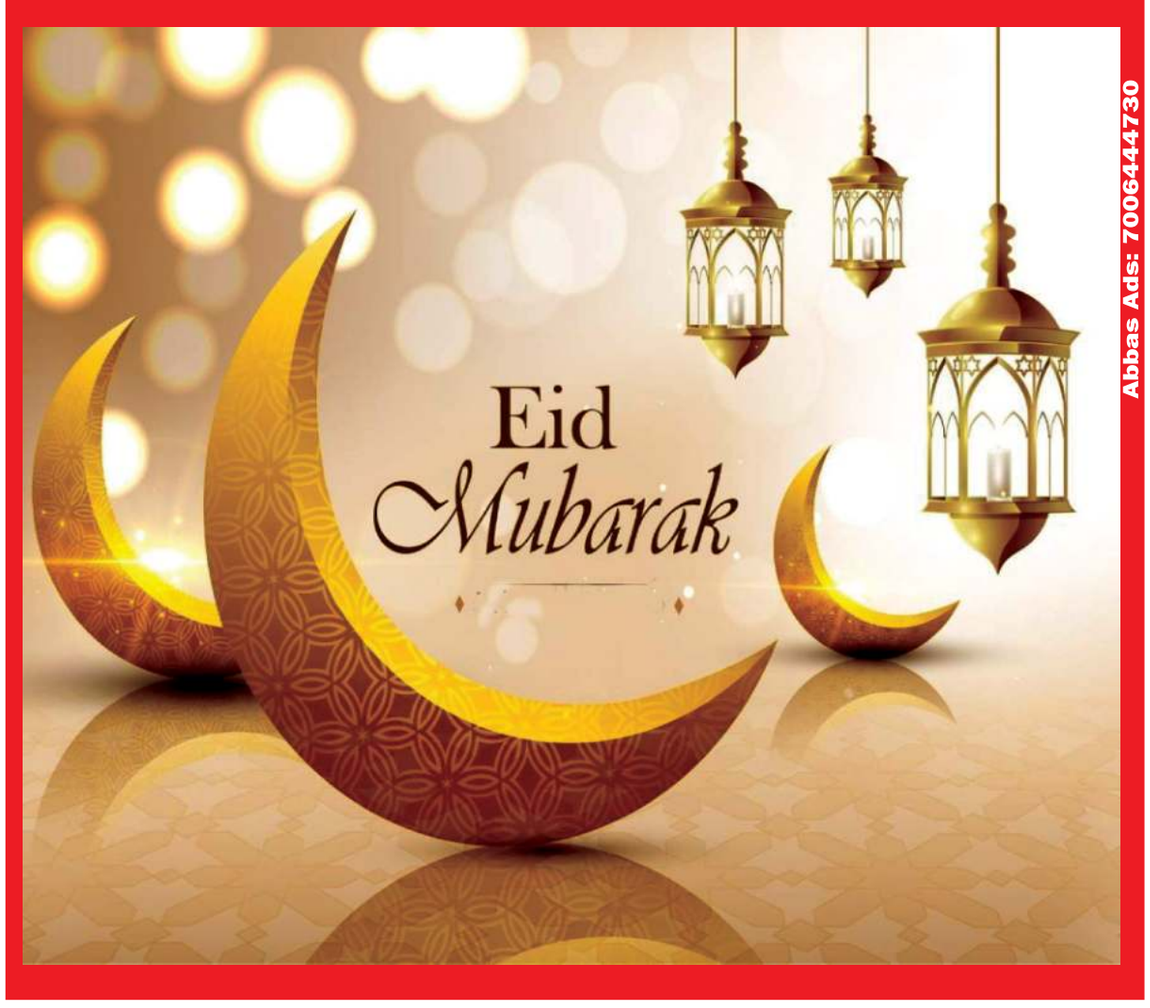

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