



Govt. of Haryana



“ मुझे विश्वास है कि विकसित भारत के संकल्प में हरियाणा की भूमिका और महत्वपूर्ण होने जा रही है। ”
- नरेन्द्र मोदी

In the August Presence of
Sh. Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Oath-Taking Ceremony

You are cordially invited

Date: October 17, 2024 | Time: 11 am
Venue: Dussehra Ground, Sector-5, Panchkula

**फिर एक बार,
डबल इंजन सरकार**

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Rising Fire Incidents In J&K Authorities Warn of Greater Risk In Coming Winter Months

Observer News Service

Srinagar: As Jammu and Kashmir grapples with a troubling increase in fire incidents this dry season, the Fire and Emergency Department is sounding the alarm. With winter on the horizon, officials are urging residents to take immediate precautions to prevent devastating fire outbreaks. Several fire incidents have been reported across Jammu and Kashmir in this month, raising concerns about public safety, especially in rural and remote areas where homes are often constructed with fire-vulnerable materials such as wood. The dry weather conditions from October onward

significantly increase the risk of fires, making vigilance and preparedness essential. "It's up to individuals to ensure they follow the safety measures," Aqib Ahmad, Deputy Director of Fire and Emergency services for Srinagar and Ganderbal said. "As the dry season begins, it becomes crucial to follow the do's and don'ts to prevent fire incidents. Structures in this region are particularly vulnerable because of the widespread use of wood in construction, which is highly susceptible to catching fire." Aqib further explained that fire protection measures are often overlooked during the design and construction phases in

Kashmir. "We recommend that people avoid using flammable materials like wood, or at least integrate fire-safety designs into their homes. The lack of such measures often results in widespread damage when fires occur. Having basic fire extinguishers and other safety equipment can make a significant difference in controlling small fires before they become unmanageable." He also highlighted the common causes of fire during these months, including LPG leaks and electrical short circuits, both of which are prevalent due to the increased use of heating devices as winter approaches. "As people rely more on heating gadgets during winter, they need to ensure proper usage and maintenance. Faulty gadgets and overloaded circuits are major contributors to fire incidents," Aqib noted. The department's advisory also included a list of do's and don'ts, stressing simple but effective preventive measures. These include avoiding the overloading of electrical circuits, ensuring regular maintenance of LPG connections, keeping fire extinguishers or sand buckets handy, and being cautious with heating appliances. The dry weather and low moisture content in forests during these months also elevate the risk of forest fires, which can quickly spread and cause extensive damage to both property and life. Residents living in forest-adjacent areas were urged to exercise particular caution. "Forest fires are | More on P10

that some animals have been affected by the fire. As per reports Indian Air Force has deployed a helicopter to assist with rescue and relief operations in the area. District officials, including Deputy Commissioner Doda, are closely monitoring the situation, ensuring that those affected receive immediate aid. Speaking on the incident, a | More on P10

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ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS 2024 First Incident-Free Polls In 32 Years

Agencies

Srinagar: The recently concluded assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir were conducted without any incidents of violence, terrorist attacks, or shelling from across the border. The Election Commission has confirmed that not a single terror-related incident occurred throughout the electoral process in the erstwhile state otherwise known for its troubled electoral past. Defence experts attribute the peaceful elections to two key factors: meticulous strategic planning by authorities and the unexpected participation of former disruptors in the electoral process. Separatists and individuals previously linked with organizations such as the Hurriyat Conference and Jamaat-e-Islami contested the elections this time, defusing tensions that typically mar elections in the region. This is the first time in 32 years that elections in Jammu and Kashmir have been conducted without violence. The elections from 1996 to 2014 were particularly turbulent. 1996: Numerous attacks left many dead, with several political workers targeted. 2002: Violence claimed around 700 lives, including 80 political workers and several candidates. 2008: Terrorist attacks at the homes and rallies of candidates from the NC, PDP, BSP, and Congress resulted in multiple casualties. 2014: Dozens of attacks took place, and Pakistani forces violated the ceasefire 300 times along the Jammu border during the election period. Observers say, a key reason for the absence of violence this time was the participation of former separatists and individuals linked to groups such as the Hurriyat | More on P10

Marwah Fire: LG Admin Mobilizes Relief Efforts

A massive fire broke out in Marwah of Kishtwar district, ravaging nearly 70 residential houses and around 30 cow sheds. The devastating blaze, which started around 2 PM on Monday, spread rapidly through the village, leaving widespread destruction in its wake. Fortunately, no human casualties have been reported, though there are indications

that some animals have been affected by the fire. As per reports Indian Air Force has deployed a helicopter to assist with rescue and relief operations in the area. District officials, including Deputy Commissioner Doda, are closely monitoring the situation, ensuring that those affected receive immediate aid. Speaking on the incident, a | More on P10

Omar To Be Sworn In As J&K CM Today

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Stage is set for Omar Abdullah to take oath as the first chief minister of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir following the victory of his National Conference in the maiden assembly election after the abrogation of Article 370. Preparations have been put in place for the oath ceremony of the chief minister and his council of ministers at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) on Wednesday, officials said. The chief minister and his

ministers will be administered the oath of office and secrecy by J-K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at 11:30 am. Security has been tightened around the venue of the swearing-in ceremony, the officials said. "The security has been beefed up especially as a lot of VVIPs will be attending the event. We will ensure the smooth conduct of the event," the officials added. Invitations to attend the oath ceremony have been sent to the constituents of the INDIA bloc. National Conference (NC) Kashmir provincial president Nasir Aslam Wani | More on P10



Devotees gather at Shrine of Sheikh Syed Abdul Qadir Jeelani (RA) to have a glimpse of the holy relic. KO Photo by Abid Bhat.

Diplomatic Handshakes Amid Tensions EAM Jaishankar on Historic Visit to Pakistan

Agencies

Islamabad: In significant diplomatic move, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar made a historic visit to Pakistan, marking the first in nearly a decade. This visit, coinciding with the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, has drawn significant attention due to the ongoing tensions between the two neighboring countries. Jaishankar was greeted with flowers at the Nur Khan airbase on the outskirts of Islamabad. The exchange of pleasantries

with Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, however, has not translated into scheduled bilateral talks, as both sides have ruled out any formal discussions during the summit. They warmly shook hands and held a very brief interaction. The Pakistan prime minister greeted all the leaders of the delegations of the SCO member nations. This is the first high-level visit from India in years amid continuing strain in ties between the two neighbours. It is the first time in nearly



nine years that India's foreign minister travelled to Islamabad, the last foreign minister being Sushma Swaraj who had

travelled to Islamabad in December 2015 to attend a conference. The visit is taking place despite the ties between the two neighbours remaining frosty over the Kashmir issue and cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan. Jaishankar also posted pictures of his arrival at Islamabad's Nur Khan Airbase on social media with a caption: "Landed in Islamabad to take part in SCO Council of Heads of Government Meeting". It is learnt that Jaishankar will stay in Pakistan for less than 24 hours. | More on P10

6 8 MINISTERS, INCLUDING Sakina Itoo and Justice (Rtd) Hasnain Masoodi also expected to take oath."

Sonia, Rahul Among Invites

With the stage set for the swearing-in ceremony tomorrow at SKICC on the banks of Dal Lake, the National Conference has invited almost 50 dignitaries. The oath ceremony will take place on Wednesday at 11:30 am. The invitees include Congress leader | More on P10

New CM To Chair First Official Meeting

The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has scheduled an important meeting tomorrow under the leadership of the newly sworn-in Chief Minister. According to a notice issued by the General Administration | More on P10



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India-Canada Ties Hit New Low
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G A Mir Is New CLP Leader Of J&K

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A day ahead of the formation of the National Conference-Congress coalition government, Congress on Tuesday appointed Gulam Ahmad Mir as its Legislature Party leader in Jammu and Kashmir. In a letter to J&K Congress chief Tariq Hamid Karra, AICC General Secretary K C Venugopal said party president Mallikarjun Kharge has appointed Mir -- who won the Dooru assembly seat with a record margin -- the leader of the legislature party. The Jammu and Kashmir Congress Legislature Party (CLP) met in Srinagar on October 11 and left the decision of nominating the CLP to the Congress central leadership | More on P10

HC Sets Aside Budgam Court Ruling 2 Brothers To Face Murder Trial After 13 Years

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has overturned a Budgam court's order passed thirteen years ago by virtue of which two brothers were discharged of murder charges in connection with a case of death of a person allegedly during scuffle between two groups of a religious organisation. The police had registered the case--FIR (51 of 2011) following a report received by SHO concerned that on 29 April 2011 that two factions of a religious organisation attacked each other. One Mohammad Ismail was seriously injured, who was referred to hospital. Initially the case was registered for commission of offences under

section 120-B, 148, 149, 342, 307, 295-A, 353, 510, 323 RPC (now repealed) with police station Nowgam. However while the investigation was continuing, the injured person succumbed to his injuries. After recording statements of the witnesses, the Investigation Officer filed a charge sheet against two dozen persons under RPC sections of 120-B, 148, 149, 307, 342, 295- A, 153-A, 353,323. However, against two brothers-- Abdul Majeed Ganai and Mohammad Ayoub Ganie, the offence under section 302 RPC (murder) was established besides offences with which

other accused were booked, according to the prosecution. Subsequently, a trial court in Budgam on 12 December 2011 discharged the brothers in respect of allegations of commission of offence under section 302 RPC and instead charged them under section 304 part-II RPC (culpable homicide not amounting to murder). However, the then state of J&K through Additional Advocate General challenged the order before the High Court in 2012. "Perusal of the order makes it abundantly clear that trial court has appreciated the statements of the witnesses made during investigation, as

if the learned trial court was passing the final judgment after conclusion of the trial," a bench of Justice Rajnesh Oswal said, adding, "It appears that the learned trial court was swayed by the fact that the deceased was hit by the accused only once and there was free fight between the two parties." Whether the accused had an intention to cause the death of the deceased or not, the court said, can be ascertained only after the full-fledged trial. "While considering the issue of charge/discharge, the evidence cannot be meticulously and critically appreciated by the court, as has been resorted to by the learned trial court," the Bench said and set aside the order | More on P10

Er Rashid's Bail Extended Till Oct 28

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Tuesday extended the interim bail of Jammu and Kashmir MP Sheikh Abdul Rashid, also known as Engineer Rashid, in a terror-funding case till October 28. Additional Sessions Judge Chander Jit Singh passed the order on the ground of the health condition of Rashid's father, after the National Investigation Agency (NIA) said it had verified the documents and was



not opposing the application. The judge also deferred the order on Rashid's regular bail plea in the case till October 28. The counsel for | More on P10

Have Same Rules For All: Sajad Lone Reacts

After a Delhi court extended the interim bail of Er Rashid, Member of Parliament for the North Kashmir Lok Sabha seat, until October 28, People's Conference (PC) Chief and MLA from Handwara, Sajad Lone, called | More on P10

Hezbollah Leader Sheikh Naim Qassem

'Only Solution Is Ceasefire Because We Won't Be Defeated'

Trans Asia News

Berut: Hezbollah deputy secretary general Sheikh Naim Qassem said on Tuesday his group has adopted "a new calculation" to inflict pain on Israel, even as he called for a ceasefire.

In his speech, the third televised address since the assassination of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, Hezbollah's deputy leader, reflected more confidence in the collective leadership of Hezbollah.

His message was that the group had already turned the page of the assassination of its leader Sayyed Hasan Nasrallah and pager attacks.

Hezbollah has capabilities to hit the whole map of Israel and Qassem said that the group has been adopting a new strategy - which is inflicting pain on Israel.

He also said that Hezbollah has now moved from a supporting role to directly "confronting" Israel after the September 17 pager attacks and September 27 assassination of Sayyed Nasrallah.

He reinforced Hezbollah's belief in the legitimacy of their resistance against Israel, stating that "Lebanon cannot be separated from Palestine."

He stressed that Hezbollah was facing Israel's "expansionist" ambitions in the region, adding the US was supporting Israel in attempting to cre-



ate a new Middle East.

Referring to the Israeli expansionist ideology of "Greater Israel," Sheikh Qassem stated, "Lebanon is included in Israel's expansionist project."

"Israel is an usurper regime and does not limit its occupation to Palestine; it seeks to expand its control, as Palestine alone is insufficient for its ambitions. Israel also aims to dominate the territories of Arab and Muslim states," he said.

"America, the biggest devil, wants a new Middle East. Netanyahu shares the same vision. This means the US and Israel are deliberately carrying out this genocide."

Sheikh Qassem said Hezbollah would not be defeated in its longstanding conflict with the Israeli regime.

"The resistance will never be defeated because they're the ones that own the land. They will fight and die in dignity. Victory will come with patience," he stressed.

"We view our resistance as legitimate, focused on rejecting occupation and liberating the land. This is not an Iranian agenda; rather, it is a Palestinian cause supported by Iran," Qassem said, highlighting that Hezbollah "fights honorably and targets the Israeli military, while Israel's army targets children and medics."

He further noted that Hezbollah fighters have been making progress along the border, signaling ongoing clashes in the region.

"Our missiles reach Haifa and beyond," Qassem said, highlighting the group's potential to strike deep within Israeli territory.

Talking about the return of residents of northern Israel, he said, "The residents of northern Israel cannot return except with a ceasefire."

"The solution is a ceasefire, we are not speaking from a position of weakness," Qassem said. "If the Israelis do not want that, we will continue," he added.

He threatened that more Israelis will be displaced if the war continues, saying that "the number of uninhabited settlements will increase, and hundreds of thousands, even more than two million, will be in danger at any time, at any hour, on any day".

He added that since Israel has attacked all over Lebanon, Hezbollah has the right to attack anywhere in Israel.

On Sunday a Hezbollah drone attack on the barracks of the Golani Brigade south of Haifa killed four soldiers and wounded 61.

Israeli strikes have killed at least 2,309 people in Lebanon over the last year, mainly in the last few weeks. According to the Lebanese government most of them are civilians. More than 1.2 million Lebanese have been displaced.

Violence-hit Pakistan locks down the capital for an Asian security meeting

Agencies

ISLAMABAD: Shaken by multiple militant attacks, Pakistani authorities have locked down the capital in a major security move as senior officials from several nations arrive for an Asian security group meeting.

A three-day holiday started Monday in normally bustling Islamabad and the nearby garrison city of Rawalpindi. The government deployed troops and blocked key roads, making it difficult even for ambulances to pass through. Some doctors asked police to remove barricades so they could go to hospitals but were instead asked to take longer routes.

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met Tuesday with leaders and officials attending the Shanghai Cooperation Organization meeting.

The main event of the meeting is on Wednesday, when leaders and officials discuss how to boost security cooperation and economic ties. The group was founded in 2001 by China and Russia to counter Western alliances. Other members include Iran, India, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Militants in recent weeks have killed dozens of people in multiple attacks in restive northwestern and southwestern Pakistan bordering Afghanistan. Security experts say militants have limited capacity to strike in Islamabad.

Pakistan often blames the outlawed Pakistani Taliban, who have sanctuaries in neighboring Afghanistan, for the violence. Afghanistan's Taliban government says it does not allow anyone to use its soil for attacks against any country.

Two Chinese engineers were killed on Oct. 6 in a suicide bombing outside the airport in Karachi, the capital of southern Sindh province. A separatist group claimed responsibility for the attack.

In the past, Pakistanis used to line up along the main roads to welcome any dignitaries visiting the country, but authorities said they had to take harsh security measures this time because of fears of militant attacks. Only state media are allowed to cover the meetings.

Among those attending are Chinese Premier Li Qiang, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanya Jaishankar, Iranian First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref and the prime ministers of Kyrgyzstan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Mongolia.

Although Jaishankar is visiting the country for the first time in more than a decade, he is not expected to hold separate bilateral meetings with Pakistani officials.

India-Canada Ties Hit New Low: Timeline Of How Relations Soured

Agencies

New Delhi: India and Canada have been dealing with an unprecedented diplomatic crisis after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau alleged that Indian government agents were involved in the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada. India has rejected Canada's allegations, terming it "absurd" and "politically motivated."

On Monday, Canada expelled six Indian diplomats and consular officials in connection with a probe of the killing of Nijjar in British Columbia in 2023.

India has also announced its decision to expel six Canadian diplomats, which include Canada's Acting High Commissioner in India, Steward Ross Wheeler, Deputy High Commissioner in India Patrick Hebert and First Secretary Marie Catherine Joly.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police Commissioner, Mike Duheme on Monday (local time) claimed that they have information on certain criminal activity carried out by agents of the Indian government.

He said, "In the past few years and more recently,

law enforcement agencies in Canada have successfully investigated and charged a significant number of individuals for their direct involvement in homicides, extortions and other criminal acts of violence. In addition, there have been well over a dozen credible imminent threats to life which have led to the conduct of duty to warn, by law enforcement with members of South Asian community and specifically, members of the pro-Khalistan movement."

In a statement on Monday, India "strongly" rejected a diplomatic communication from Canada suggesting that the Indian High Commissioner and other diplomats were "persons of interest" in an investigation and termed it as "preposterous imputations" and part of the political agenda of the Justin Trudeau government.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's hostility to India has long been in evidence and his government has consciously provided space to violent extremists and terrorists "to harass, threaten and intimidate Indian diplomats and community leaders in Canada."

Maharashtra Polls To Test Chemistry Among Allies Post Shiv Sena, NCP Split

Press Trust Of India

Mumbai: With half a dozen key players post splits in the Shiv Sena and NCP, a fragmented polity, Maratha quota stir and a spirited opposition, Maharashtra will see a riveting contest in the assembly polls amid dramatic changes since the last elections.

Elections to the 288-member assembly, the second largest after Uttar Pradesh (403), will be held on November 20 in a single phase and the counting of votes will be on November 23, the Election Commission announced on Tuesday.

The Nanded Lok Sabha by-poll, necessitated due to the death of Congress MP Vasant Chavan, will also be held on November 20.

The Mahayuti government led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde is banking on its flagship scheme, Ladki Bahin Yojana, under which poor women get a monthly stipend of 1,500, to sway voters after the ruling bloc's poor show in the Lok Sabha polls.

The 46,000-crore a-year welfare scheme is being widely seen as a "game changer" for the ruling bloc which comprises the BJP, Shinde's Shiv Sena and the NCP led by Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, who joined the govern-



ment just over a year ago after parting ways with his uncle Sharad Pawar.

The government's target is to cover 2.5 crore beneficiaries under the scheme. There are about 4.5 crore women voters in Maharashtra.

The Mahayuti (grand alliance) is in a direct fight with the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) in a state where splits within major parties and realignments in the last few years have led to a tectonic shift in political dynamics.

The MVA consists of the Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) faction led by veteran politician Sharad Pawar.

Both the MVA and the Mahayuti are yet to announce their seat-sharing deals. The ensuing assembly

polls, the first since the splits in the Shiv Sena in 2022 and the NCP a year later, will be a test of strength for the two major alliances and will also indicate the ability of their individual constituents to transfer votes to each other.

Even though the Lok Sabha elections saw the ruling alliance (which won 17 of 48 seats) suffering a jolt and the opposition MVA (30 seats) performing well, the assembly polls are going to be a different political ball game as state and local-level issues will dominate campaigning.

Maharashtra's political climate has never been more fragmented, with six main parties vying for influence: BJP, Shiv Sena, NCP, Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT), and NCP (SP).

Taliban Introduces Law Banning Media Publishing Images Of Living Things

Agencies

Kabul: Afghanistan's Taliban morality ministry pledged Monday to implement a law banning news media from publishing images of all living things, with journalists told the rule will be gradually enforced.

It comes after the Taliban government recently announced legislation formalising their strict interpretations of Islamic law that have been imposed since they swept to power in 2021.

"The law applies to all Afghanistan... and it will be implemented gradually," the spokesman for the Ministry for the Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice (PVPV) Saiful Islam Khyber told AFP, adding that officials would work to persuade people that images of living things are against Islamic law.

"Coercion has no place in the implementation of the law," he said.

"It's only advice, and convincing people these things are really contrary to sharia (law) and must be avoided."

The new law detailed several rules for news media, including banning the publication of images of all living things and ordering outlets not to mock or humiliate Islam, or contradict Islamic law.

Aspects of the new law have not yet been strictly enforced.

Taliban officials continue to regularly post photos of people on social media.

"Until now, regarding the articles of the law related to media, there are ongoing efforts in many provinces to implement it but that has not started in all provinces," Khyber said.

He added "work has started" in the southern



Taliban stronghold of Kandahar and the neighbouring Helmand province, as well as northern Takhar.

Journalists Summoned

Journalists in Kandahar told AFP on Monday they had not received any statement from the ministry or been stopped by morality police for taking photos and videos.

In central Ghazni provin-

ince on Sunday, PVPV officials summoned local journalists and told them the morality police would start gradually implementing the law.

They advised visual journalists to take photos from further away and film fewer events "to get in the habit", a journalist who did not want to give his name for fear of reprisal told AFP.

Reporters in Maidan

Wardak province were also told the rules would be implemented gradually in a similar meeting.

Television and pictures of living things were banned across the country under the previous Taliban rule from 1996 to 2001, but a similar edict has so far not been broadly imposed since their return to power.

When the Taliban authorities seized control of the country after a two-decade-long insurgency against foreign-backed governments, Afghanistan had 8,400 media employees.

Only 5,100 remain in the profession, including 560 women, according to media industry sources.

Afghanistan has also slipped from 122nd place to 178th out of 180 countries in a press freedom ranking compiled by Reporters Without Borders (RSF).

Arab American PAC Rejects Both Trump And Harris Over Their Support For Israel

Agencies

WASHINGTON: The Arab American Political Action Committee said on Monday it will not endorse Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris or Republican former President Donald Trump citing what it called their "blind support" for Israel in wars in Gaza and Lebanon.

The Nov. 5 US elections will mark the first time AAPAC has chosen not to endorse a candidate since the group's 1998 inception. It usually endorses Democrats. Polls show the race between Harris and Trump as tight. Arab and Muslim Americans overwhelmingly backed President Joe Biden in 2020 but have been vocal opponents of US support for Israel, which has eroded their backing of Democrats.

Trump has historically had low approval from that

community due to past statements and his policy of a travel ban targeting Muslim-majority nations when he was in office. Like Harris and Biden, Trump has also been a vocal supporter of Israel.

Analysts said Harris' chances could be hurt if Arab and Muslim Americans did not vote or voted for a third party. Many from those communities have lost relatives in Gaza and Lebanon and have urged supporters to not vote for Trump or Harris. Some like advocacy group Engage Action have backed Harris, citing Trump as a bigger threat. "Both candidates have endorsed genocide in Gaza and war in Lebanon," AAPAC said in a statement. "We simply cannot give our votes to either Democrat Kamala Harris or Republican Donald Trump, who blindly support the criminal Israeli government."

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Notice Inviting Tender

Sr.DEE/TRD/FZR acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the works as under. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date 08.11.2024 at 15:00 Hrs. only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall not be considered.

S.N. 1. : Tender No. : 613-TRD-FZR-2024-25
Name of work : Comprehensive Maintenance Contract for various types of 04-Wheeler and 8-Wheeler Tower Wagons over Firozpur division for a period of Three years.
App. Cost (Rs.) : 5,24,96,843.65
Cost of Tender form (Rs.) : NIL
Date & time for submission of tender : Upto 08.11.2024, 15:00 Hrs.
Earnest Money # (Rs.) : 4,12,500/-
Completion Period : Thirty Six (36) Months
Opening of tender : 08.11.2024 after 15:00 Hrs.
Website Particulars : www.ireps.gov.in
Similar Nature of Work : OEM and their authorized dealers. OR Manufacturer of Towers Wagons OR Five Years Experience in Repair / Overhauling of Engines & Transmission of same capacity and above. (Ref: S.No.2.4 of Pr. CEE/NR's Letter No. 14-Elect/Plg/Similar Nature of Work, dated 24.09.2012).
S.N. 2. : Tender No. : 614-TRD-FZR-2024-25
Name of work : Outsourcing of maintenance activities for PSI & OHE assets of TRD depots at Firozpur (FZR), Fazilka (FKA) and Kolkapur (KKP) in the jurisdiction of DEE/TRD/FZR over Firozpur division for 02 years.
App. Cost (Rs.) : 2,22,92,189.00
Cost of Tender form (Rs.) : NIL
Date & time for submission of tender : Upto 08.11.2024, 15:00 Hrs.
Earnest Money # (Rs.) : 2,61,500/-
Completion Period : Twenty Four (24) Months
Opening of tender : 08.11.2024 after 15:00 Hrs.
Website Particulars : www.ireps.gov.in
Similar Nature of Work : Maintenance / Repairs / Rehabilitation / Design, supply, erection, testing & commissioning of 50HZ, single phase 25KV AC OHE. OR Maintenance / Repairs / Rehabilitation / Design, supply, erection, testing & commissioning of 50 HZ, single phase 25KV AC Traction Sub-stations / Switching Sub-stations. OR Repairs / Maintenance / Design, supply, erection, testing & commissioning of Sub-station of 132KV or higher voltage. (Ref: PSI Works S.No.2.2 of Pr. CEE/NR's Letter No. 181-Elect/TRD/189/Pr. II, dated 29.07.2021).
Note : Tenderer(s) may please note that offers received without Bid Security either in cash through e-payment gateway or as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents (as per Annexure-21) valid for a period of 90 days beyond the bid validity period, will be considered as incomplete & invalid offer and for which contractor shall have no claim on Railway.
No. : 613 & 614-TRD-FZR-2024-25 Dated: 15.10.2024
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3188/2024

Doon School Srinagar Organizes 'Gulzar Event' On Annual Day



Majid Nabi

SRINAGAR: The Doon School Srinagar organized Annual Day-2024 'Gulzar' to commemorate ten years of excellence on Tuesday. The event featured a big theatrical opera 'Assi Aeis Te Assi Aasav', portraying culture and heritage of Kashmir.

Besides students and a considerable number of parents, the event on the Parimpora school campus drew eminent figures from the entertainment business, politics, and education sectors.

Among the dignitaries were Dr. Farooq Abdullah, the former J&K chief minister and NC president, veteran Bollywood actor Shakti Kapoor, Dr. Tasaduq Hussain, Director School Education, and the recently elected MLA from the Khanshabad constituency in the central Budgam district, Saifudin Bhat.

Established in the year 2014 under the auspices of the Akbar Education Trust, Doon School Srinagar has quickly become a well-known educational institution in India, offering top-notch facilities for students.

Doon School Srinagar has accomplished a great deal, including becoming the first school in India to have a partnership with the esteemed Wilmot Foundation, an international organization that promotes excellence in the education sector.

Speaking on the occasion, Showkat Hussain Khan, the chairman of Doon School Srinagar, discussed his quest to build an internationally renowned school in Kashmir as well as the challenges he had to face.

The 'Gulzar' event showcased a stunning theme of Kashmiri culture, marking ten years of excellence.

Khan, a physics postgraduate, dedicated the event to his mother, citing her as his steadfast inspiration in his quest to establish a school of interna-

tional reputation in Srinagar. "Following our partnership with Doon International School Dehradun, we were granted the opportunity of being the Wilmot Foundation Netherlands' franchise, and the school has continued to develop steadily ever since," Khan said.

Emphasizing the value of the Kashmiri language—which he called as one of the ancient and saccharine languages—Khan said that the students of Doon School speak only in their native tongue when they speak.

"It doesn't really matter if you speak English; what matters is that you preserve and appreciate your mother tongue. At Doon School, we value the Kashmiri language and encourage children to communicate in Kashmiri only," he said, adding, a number of students in the US and institutions of Europe were able to get scholarships, allowing them to continue their education at no expense.

The Doon School partnered with the MS Dhoni Cricket Academy to provide instruction to cricket fans, and an Australian veteran cricketer visits the school annually to coach the children.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Farooq Abdullah congratulated the administration and students of Doon School Srinagar for accomplishing a significant milestone in such a short span.

Not bricks and metal, schools are built by people to benefit society in particular and the country as a whole, according to Dr. Farooq.

"At Biscoe School, which I attended, every instructor was a Hindu, and one of them was affiliated with the RSS. He did not, however, allow his status as an RSS man to negatively affect the kids because he was a teacher first and then an affiliate of RSS," Dr Abdullah said.



Abid Bhat/KO

Thousands Throng Dastgeer Sahab Shrines In Srinagar On Annual Urs

Majid Nabi

SRINAGAR: The annual Urs of Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jeelani (r.a) an 11th-century Sufi saint drew thousands of devotees from across the valley to the Dastgeer Sahab shrines at Khanyar and Sarai Payeen in Srinagar on Tuesday.

The largest gathering on the occasion took place at the Dastgeer Sahab Shrine in Khanyar, where a considerable number of devotees participated in congregational prayers following night-long prayers (Shah Khawani).

A similar gathering was held at Sarai Payeen Dastgeer Sahab Shrine, where hundreds of devotees, including men, women, and children, paid reverence to the 11th century Sufi saint and took part in congregational prayers.

The eleven day of Urs Hazrat Sheikh Syed Abdul Qadir Jeelani began on October 3 with elaborate arrangements put in place by the administration for the devotees.

The annual Urs of Hazrat Sheikh Syed Abdul Qadir Jeelani begins on 1st day of Rabi Al Thani during which special prayers are held every day till 11th day of Rabi Al Thani.

Asar Sharif Anchar Soura Srinagar, Baramulla, and Bandipora in north Kashmir also hosted congregational prayers on the Urs of Peer Dastgeer Sahab (R.A).

Devotees from length and breadth of the valley thronged Khanyar to have a glimpse of the holy relic locally known as Mouja Pak, widely believed to be the hair strand of Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qa-

Shops, Vendors In Khanyar See Increase In Sales

SRINAGAR: As thousands of devotees flocked to Khanyar for the annual Urs of Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jeelani (RA), the local stall vendors and shops in Khanyar area saw a major boost in sales, benefiting from the large crowds gathered for the religious occasion.

Streets leading to the shrine were packed with devotees, creating an opportunity for local businesses to thrive.

Vendors selling food items, prayer mats, breads, and religious books, traditional Kashmiri garments experienced a significant increase in the sales throughout the day.

Mushtaq Ahmad, a vendor selling religious books near the shrine, said this is the time of year that he looks forward to. "Our sales have witnessed a significant increase during these days. It's a blessing not just spiritually, but economically as

well," he said.

The food stalls set up along the routes leading to the shrine also saw an increase in business, with vendors selling local delicacies reporting a constant flow of customers throughout the day.

Bashir Ahmad, who runs a tea stall near the shrine, said he has been serving tea to the devotees since morning, and he hasn't had a moment to rest. "The atmosphere is filled with devotion, and it brings good fortune for us as well. I sold out twice today and had to restock," he said.

Another shopkeeper outside the shrine said the Urs Mubarak is a time when his shop is flooded with customers. "People come here to pray, but they also buy religious items to take back home. This event always helps us make good earnings," he said.

tees especially women crying on having the glimpse of holy relic.

Chairperson of Waqf Board Jammu and Kashmir Darakhshan Andrabi visited the holy shrine of Dastgeer Sahab at Khanyar day before yesterday and paid obeisance and took stock of the arrangements placed for the visiting devotees.

Judicial Officers Felicitate Justice Tashi For Elevation To CJ

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Judicial Officers of District Srinagar under the guidance of Jaffer Hussain Beg, Pr. District & Sessions Judge, Srinagar today paid a visit to the Justice Tashi Rabstan to felicitate him for elevation to the coveted and prestigious post of Hon'ble the Chief Justice of High Court of J&K and Ladakh.

The Judicial Officers congratulated Justice Tashi Rabstan for assuming the charge of the highest seat of justice in the UT's of J&K and Ladakh and praised his leadership, exceptional services and unwavering dedication to the cause of Justice.

Justice Tashi Rabstan welcomed Pr. District & Sessions Judge, Srinagar and other Judicial Officers whole heartedly and gave patient and compassionate hearing to them. He assured every support to the Judicial Officers to raise the bar of the District Judiciary in meeting the expectations of the general public.

At the end Pr. District & Sessions Judge Srinagar along with all other Judicial Officers extended their best wishes to Justice Tashi Rabstan for success for this vital role and look forward to the positive impact of his leadership on the judiciary and the judicial fraternity.

Director, Principal SKIMS Welcomes New Batch of Medical Students

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Director SKIMS & Principal SKIMS MC welcomed fresh medical graduates of academic year 2024-25 today in an impressive function organised by SKIMS Medical College.

A batch of 125 students joined 2024-25 academic year of the prestigious Medical College after quali-

fying rigorous competitive exam at the national level.

Director SKIMS / Principal SKIMS MC Prof. M Ashraf Ganie in his address expressed his compassionate speech warmly welcomed the students. Prof. Ashraf congratulated all the students for facing competitive examination and being chosen ones for the noble profession.

He asked the students to keep up the reputation of this Institute and advised them to work hard and learn best medical practices and uphold ethical practices of the SKIMS MC. He said SKIMS MC being one of the top most Medical Schools in the Country has an immense contribution in the health sector and is a great source of human resources.

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HIGHWAY STATUS

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



PRAYERS

FAJR	5:13
ZUHR	12:16
ASR	4:18
Magrib	6:00
ISHA	7:19

This Day In History

- 1710 - British troops occupy Port Royal, Nova Scotia
- 1757 - Austrian troops occupy Berlin
- 1793 - Battle of Wattignies: French defeat Allied forces and lift siege of Maubeuge.
- 1900 - Great Britain and Germany sign the Anglo-German Treaty, agreeing to maintain territorial integrity of China and support 'open door' policy called for by US Secretary of State
- 1901 - Baron Hayashi of Japan begins negotiations in London to make an alliance with the British and strengthen Japan's position against Russians
- 1913 - Booth Theater opens at 222 W 44th St NYC
- 1915 Great Britain declares war on Bulgaria
- 1926 - Mohammed Nadir Khan begins coup in Afghanistan, 1200 killed
- 1926 - Troop ship sinks in Yangtze River, killing 1,200
- 1934 - Mao Zedong & 25,000 troops begin 6,000 mile Long March
- 1943 - US 1st Army establishes headquarter in Bristol
- 1944 - Hungary: Horthy government falls/nazi count Szalasi becomes premier
- 1945 - UN's Food & Agriculture Organization comes into existence
- 1951 - The first Prime Minister of Pakistan, Liaquat Ali Khan, is assassinated in Rawalpindi.
- 1952 - Pakistan's 1st Test starts, v India at Delhi
- 1953 - Fidel Castro sentenced to 15 years (Havana)
- 1957 - USAF sends 2 aluminium bullets into space
- 1962 - Cuban missile crisis begins as JFK is shown photos confirming the presence of Soviet missiles in Cuba
- 1964 - China becomes world's 5th nuclear power
- 1968 - China reports removal of president Li Jiao-tji
- 1968 - Czechoslovakia & Russian "accord" rules allies Soviet forces
- Sports Awards Black Power Salute.
- 1969 - Soyuz 6 returns to Earth
- 1970 - Pierre Trudeau invokes the War Measures Act as a response to the October Crisis, the only peacetime use of the War Measures Act in Canadian history.
- 1973 - Israeli tanks under Gen Sharon move through Suez Canal
- 1976 - Soyuz 23 returns to Earth
- 1978 - Nobel Prize in Economics awarded to Herbert A Simon
- 1982 - Shultz warns US will withdraw from UN if they vote to exclude Israel.

From KO Archives

MoU Contained Some Deficiencies

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a candid admission, the chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, today said the Centre had taken him for a ride when the former union energy Minister P K Kumaramanglam, obtained his signatures on the memorandum of understanding (MoU) whose contents later turned out to be detrimental to the state's interests

According to a CNS report Dr Abdullah told the state assembly during an obituary reference to the late Kumaramanglam that a MoU had been signed between him and union minister. However, when the documents were prepared the union energy minister allegedly with malafide intentions, obtained his signatures on such papers which, on closer scrutiny later revealed that these were against the interests of the state.

However an official handout issued today said the chief minister had said "the MoU signed by him with the then union energy minister had been signed in good faith to benefit the State." However the handout said "Later on the state officials pointed out some deficiencies." He said he immediately up the matter with Kumaramanglam who "readily agreed". But before correction could be effected, the union Minister passed away. "These clauses have to be modified to protest the interests of the State" Dr Abdullah added.

When contacted the principal secretary power development department Ajit Kumar told Observer News Service, the 'deficiencies pertained to the state's claim for reimbursement of the expenditure it had already incurred on the power projects. The MoU did not mention this. However, Kumar said the Centre had agreed to reimburse the expenditure and necessary modifications would be incorporated in the MoU shortly.

(Kashmir Observer, October 16, 2000)

NORTHERN RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM
In reference to the e-Auction notice published by the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur in the newspapers on 02.10.2024 following changes have been made:
1. Catalogue No. EAFZR-SLR-57 may be read as EAFZR-SLR24-60.
2. It is informed regarding Catalogue No. EAFZR-PRKG24-6 with auction start date 16.10.2024 that it has been published by mistake and no e-auction will be conducted under this catalogue number.
Other terms and conditions will remain the same.
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3169/24

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-Auction Notice
The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/FS, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division.

Catalogue No.	Auction Start	Name of Work
EAFZR-SLR24-63	29/10/24 at 11:00 Hrs.	Allotment of contract for leasing of parcel space in Train No./SLR compartment: 19108/F1, 14662/F2, 22432/F1, 12550/F1, 14662/R1, 14610/F1, 20986/F1, 22402/F1, 22942/F1, 19614/F1, 14662/F1, 19226/F1, 19226/R1, 16788/F1, 11906/F1, 14616/F1 & 14606/F1.
EAFZR-SLR24-64	30/10/24 at 11:00 Hrs.	Allotment of contract for leasing of parcel space in Train No./SLR compartment: 12426/F1, 12414/F1, 12470/F1, 12752/F1, 11450/F1, 19612/F1, 14633/F1, 12588/F1, 12476/F1, 14654/R1, 12478/F1, 14632/F1, 14632/R1, 19028/F1 & 12422/F1.
FZRCLOAK ROOM24	30/10/24 at 11:00 Hrs.	Allotment of contract for cloak room facility at Jalandhar City & Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra railway station.

For other details and registration, please visit Railway website www.ireps.gov.in
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3193/24

Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir
GOVT. UNANI MEDICAL COLLEGE & ASSOCIATED HOSPITAL
GANDERBAL KASHMIR
DASTI QUOTATION

Dasti quotations are invited from authorized service providers for repairing of photo state machine Xerox (Model No. Xeros B1025, in the Administrative Block of Govt Unani Medical College Ganderbal, Kashmir. Service providers can inspect the machine during any working day upto last day of submission of quotations.

The quotations in this regard should reach the office of the Accounts Officer, Govt Unani Medical College, Nawabagh, Ganderbal, Kashmir within 07 days, from the publication of this notice.

Terms & Conditions

- The quotations must be submitted in properly sealed envelope.
- The rates shall be quoted inclusive all taxes, duties, freight.
- The rates quoted should be written legible without any cuttings over writings, interpolations, and erasures and in case any of these is found the quotation shall not be entertained.

No:- GUMC/Admn/54/2024
Dated:- 14.10.2024

(Gh. Qadir Wani)
Accounts Officer
Govt. Unani Medical College

DIPK-6041-24
DT: 15/10/2024

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KO VIEW

A New Beginning

As Omar Abdullah prepares to take oath as the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir today, it is a momentous event in the erstwhile state's political journey. The formation of the National Conference (NC)-Congress alliance government, following the peaceful conclusion of long-awaited Assembly elections, held after a gap of a decade, is a significant development. People have waited too long for an elected government. Yet, the new government inherits a series of complex challenges, both political and administrative, which must be addressed with urgency and tact.

With the BJP controlling the Union government and the LG wielding considerable authority in the Union Territory, the Omar-led coalition will have a tough time asserting its power, if any. The NC-Congress combine has over 50 seats between them which makes for a secure majority. The BJP which was hoping to form a government by roping in the smaller parties and the independents from Kashmir Valley doesn't have many options. And for now, the party could settle for a role in the opposition but it would be there to make the most of every opportunity.

The NC-Congress government is also likely to renege the demand for statehood and it remains to be seen how centre will respond to it. There will, however, be enormous pressure on Omar to make the restoration of statehood a central issue of his government, as the people would want him to assert himself and deliver on his promises. This is why this election saw a voter turnout of 63.88 percent, with people in the Valley too voting in large numbers, which was the first such sign of their democratic engagement in the last three decades. The Valley has placed its faith in the electoral process, hoping for tangible improvements in their daily lives. But the limitations of the new assembly must not be ignored. It will be difficult for Omar and his team to meet these expectations considering the constraints imposed by the current political framework.

Lastly, the promise of restoring Article 370 and 35A, though ambitious, remains an emotional and political touchstone for many in the region. While any movement on these fronts will require negotiations with the central government, the NC-Congress alliance must tread strategically, balancing local sentiments with practical governance.

This new beginning is not without its difficulties. At the same time, nothing comes easy. Here's hoping that this government, despite its lack of authority, will rise to the occasion and fulfill the expectations of the people.



Did you know?

Emotional Investing: A Cautionary Tale

Irshad Mushtaq

In the business world, we typically invest in machinery, buildings, and our time, expecting financial returns. However, when it comes to financial investments, many approach it without the same diligence. Instead of understanding how investments work, people often follow social media tips or advice from unverified sources, basing decisions more on emotion than on facts or strategy.

This is a risky approach. Imagine running a business where decisions are made based on rumors rather than research. Without the groundwork, expecting returns is unrealistic. Emotional investing is similar—acting on impulse rather than informed strategies usually results in poor outcomes.

Successful investing requires guidance from experienced and knowledgeable individuals. An investor's returns often reflect the skill and vision of their advisor. Trusting in their expertise, and spending time to understand the fundamentals, enhances your investment outcomes. At least, initial knowledge is crucial.

While full-service support, information, and technology are available, clarity of vision remains key. Instead of panicking during market fluctuations, a mature investor sees opportunities and relies on their understanding and advisories.

Investing without hard work might seem enticing, but effective portfolio management is essential. Transparency and strategic patience are crucial for optimizing long-term returns. Always aim to understand investments and make informed, strategic decisions.

Conclusion

Emotional investing can lead to poor financial decisions! Instead of relying on social media tips and impulse reactions, take the time to research and understand your investments. Just like in business, informed strategies yield better returns. Trust experienced advisors, stay patient, and see market fluctuations as opportunities for growth!

Learn from the insights of @IrshadMushtaq, Writer, Investor, Entrepreneur & Founder of M I Securities! Connect for valuable financial advice at miscurities@bp.sharekhan.com

Navigating New Challenges Governance in Jammu and Kashmir

Showkat Ali

The recent assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir have stirred a mix of hope and skepticism among the populace. The National Conference and Congress parties, having emerged victorious, heralding the return of democratic governance in a region marked by political unrest and a turbulent past. Yet, the optimism surrounding these electoral outcomes is tempered by the realities imposed by the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act of 2019, which has redefined the political landscape in ways that significantly limit the authority of newly elected officials.

At the heart of the Reorganization Act lies a centralization of power that places the Lieutenant Governor (LG) in a position of considerable authority. This legislation bifurcated the former state into two Union Territories—Jammu and Kashmir, which possesses a legislative assembly, and Ladakh, which does not. While this division was intended to enhance administrative efficiency, it has simultaneously curtailed the autonomy of locally elected representatives. The LG now wields extensive executive powers over critical areas such as law enforcement, public order, and land management, effectively sidelining the assembly and relegating its role to that of a mere advisory body.

The framework established by the Reorganization Act has left the assembly with a limited capacity to influence significant governance issues. Although it is tasked with debating and voting on various matters, its legislative powers are severely constrained. Any financial legislation must receive the LG's recommendation before being introduced, placing budgetary decisions firmly in the hands of the LG. This arrangement means that elected representatives may struggle to shape fiscal policy in ways that reflect the needs of their constituents.

Furthermore, the LG possesses the authority to withhold assent to bills passed by the assembly or reserve them for consideration by the President of India. Such provisions undermine the essence of representative democracy, rendering the legislative process subject to the whims of an appointed official rather than the electorate's will. Elected officials may find their ambitions stifled as they navigate a political landscape where their capacity to enact meaningful change is curtailed.

Adding to the complexity, the Council of Ministers—meant to assist the Chief Minister in governance—operates within significant constraints. Its size is capped at a mere 10% of the total assembly membership, limiting the diversity of perspectives and expertise available for addressing the region's multifaceted challenges. Ministers serve at the pleasure of the LG, which raises concerns about accountability and representation. In a system where their positions can be precarious, elected ministers may hesitate to advocate vigorously for the needs of their constituents, resulting in governance that is less responsive to the people.

While the electoral process has returned, it appears to be an illusion of democracy rather than a genuine revival of local governance. The hope for a transformative leadership, capable of addressing the longstanding issues facing Jammu and Kashmir, is tempered by the overarching authority held by the LG. De-



Pic-AP

“The electoral victories signal a step toward re-establishing democratic norms, yet without significant changes to the current governance structure, these achievements risk becoming mere tokens of progress

isions about public welfare, law enforcement, and development projects ultimately rest with an unelected official, leaving elected leaders in a difficult position. They may find themselves advocating for policies that are not only politically palatable but also approved by the LG, leading to a governance model that lacks the robust engagement expected in a democracy.

The longstanding conflict in the region has fostered a deep yearning for representation and self-determination among the people. The recent electoral victories evoke optimism for renewed local leadership, yet this potential is jeopardized by the centralizing tendencies of the Reorganization Act. The gap between the aspirations of the electorate and the realities of governance creates a scenario where local leaders may become more symbolic than substantive.

To navigate these challenges effectively, it is crucial to reassess the governance structure established by the Reorganization Act. Engaging in meaningful dialogue that includes a broad spectrum of stakeholders—political leaders, civil society, and the electorate—is essential for advocating reforms that empower elected representatives and enhance local autonomy. The voices of the people must be amplified, ensuring that their needs and aspirations are not only heard but actively addressed.

Grassroots movements and community organizations can play a pivotal role in this process, mobilizing support for reforms that prioritize local governance. By fostering civic engagement and encouraging public

discourse, the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir can push for a political environment where elected officials are held accountable and empowered to act in the best interests of their constituents.

As Jammu and Kashmir moves forward, it stands at a critical juncture. The electoral victories signal a step toward re-establishing democratic norms, yet without significant changes to the current governance structure, these achievements risk becoming mere tokens of progress. The challenge lies in transforming the promise of democracy into a reality that allows for genuine representation and accountability.

In conclusion, the path forward for Jammu and Kashmir must prioritize empowering local governance and ensuring that elected officials are equipped to address the concerns of their constituents. The recent elections should serve as a catalyst for meaningful change, enabling a governance model that truly reflects the aspirations of the people. Only through comprehensive reforms can the spirit of democracy be revitalized in a manner that resonates with the lived experiences of the citizens, paving the way for a more equitable and responsive governance structure.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer
The author can be reached at showkatali.sa@gmail.com



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

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Forcing Your Children to Marry Unwillingly is Un-Islamic

It is important first to understand how forced marriage differs from arranged marriage. In the latter, the families of both spouses take a leading role in arranging the marriage but the choice of whether or not to accept the arrangement remains with the young people. In forced marriage, one or both spouses do not consent to the marriage and some element of duress is involved. The force may include threats of actual physical or sexual violence, financial abuse (e.g., the taking away of someone's wages) and/or the individual being made to feel they are bringing 'shame' on the family by refusing to marry. Sometimes the victim is unable to explain that no one was physically forcing him to do it but it was clear he had no choice? The pressure to accept was overwhelming. It is important to note that forced marriage is not sanctioned within any culture or by any religion.

Islam and Forced Marriage

Despite numerous contentions to the contrary, forced marriage is not an Islamic tradition; it is a jahiliyya custom (pre-Islamic era), rooted in indigenous cultures, that has persisted in some Muslim communities.

Islam does not sanction or advocate any form of forced marriage. Unlike secular law, marriage within the ambit of Islam is not only a civil contract but a religious and spiritual contract between two people – which must be entered into freely and with mutual consent. According to Islamic custom, parents and guardians have specific rights in this matter; to arrange the marriage ceremony and conduct it as a respectful family event; give their advice and recommendation for a life partner for their children. These rights are encapsulated within the philosophy of 'willayah'. However, Islam does not allow parents, guardians or other relatives to enforce their will or choice on a boy or a girl since it is they who are the real parties to that contract. The right to exercise free will and consent in choosing a spouse is a God given right.

There are a myriad of reasons for forced marriage. In Muslim communities, misguided religious teachings and perverted interpretations of Islam lead families to believe that they are complying with Islamic ruling. Other factors may include the notion of protecting children; upholding cultural traditions; preserving family honor; social status; and building stronger families. Forced marriage

also is used to prevent so-called "unsuitable" relationships outside regional & ethnic groups.

This is also clearly evident from important commandments given by the Holy Prophet (PBUH) in numerous Hadith, which lay down the foundational principles of formulating a marriage contract.

In the Sahih Al-Bukhari, for example, a chapter in the book of marriage has been given the heading: "No father or mother or any close relation can force his/her children to marry anyone against their free will and consent".

Within this chapter Abu Hurairah transmits from the Holy Prophet (PBUH) who said: "No female whether a widow or divorcee will be forced to marry anyone unless her express and categorical consent has been freely taken and in the same way a woman not previously married can never be forced to marry anyone unless her free consent and permission is taken".

Imam Bukhari has set another chapter heading within the book of marriage: "If parents force their daughter to marry someone against her wish then the marriage will be void".

Under this chapter Imam Bukhari reports a Hadith of the Holy Prophet

(PBUH) from Khansa Bint e Hizam Al Ansariyah. She states that her father married her off to someone forcefully whom she did not like. She took her case to the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and upon listening to her; the Holy Prophet (PBUH) rejected the marriage and declared the marriage as void".

In another Hadith in the Sahih of Imam Bukhari it is narrated by Abdullah Ibn Abbas (r.a.d) that the Holy Prophet (PBUH) said that if a woman wants to marry and is already a divorcee or widow, her right of free consent and free choice is superior then the right of her guardian. If she is not previously married and this is her first marriage even then her parents or other guardians cannot enforce their choice on her. They are not allowed to force her to marry anyone against her free choice and free consent.

It is thus clearly apparent that forced marriages are totally unacceptable in Islam. Islamic commandments as mentioned above are very categorical in nature. Those who invoke Islam in order to justify their actions do so for ulterior motives. There is a need to educate all and sundry on these issues.

Abid Hussain

The Smell of an e-Book

Firdous Ahmad Mala

Some time ago, I authored an article "In Defence of e-books" in which I outlined the advantages of digital books, namely their cost and accessibility. Nonetheless, a few of my readers or acquaintances have mentioned that they prefer physical books for their aroma, which is a major factor in their preference. I am writing this article with these viewpoints in mind.

Very few factors capture our



WE ARE AT A CROSSROADS AS WE TRAVERSE THE DIGITAL WORLD: SHOULD WE VALUE THE ACCESSIBILITY and convenience that e-books provide more than the rich, multisensory experiences that physical books offer? This conflict speaks to more general concerns about what it means to be human in the digital age

transition from one thing to another more aptly than the emergence of e-books. Many readers are fascinated by the tangibility of printed books, such as their weight, the feel of the pages,

and—perhaps most nostalgically—their scent. However, the emergence of e-books presents a unique sensory conundrum: how can we balance the emotional and mental presence of books with their material absence? In particular, what does it mean to think about the "smell" of e-books in a time when both technological effectiveness and human nostalgia are valued more and more?

It is important to consider why the fragrance of physical books is so alluring before exploring the abstract concept of the "smell" of e-books. Paper, glue, ink, and occasionally leather or other binding materials emit a complex mixture of chemicals that give books their unique aroma. The slow decomposition of cellulose in paper produces a characteristic musty smell that many readers find soothing, especially in

older books. The scent of books has indeed become so recognizable that it is practically a synonym for academic settings and intellectual endeavours. For example, libraries conjure pictures of antique bookshelves, aisles of books, and a distinct smell that is itself a sign of knowledge.

The smell of a book generates memories, nostalgia, and a strong sense of connection to the past for many readers, and it transcends basic scent. Reading a musty book can take a reader back to their early school days or their time spent studying textbooks in college. One of the main reasons why some readers oppose the move to digital formats is the strong emotional connection that exists between the smell of books and the reading experience.

Enter the e-book, a technical wonder that lacks the tactile

and aromatic aspects of printed books but offers efficiency, portability, and rapid access. With their sleek technology and weightless design, e-books turn pages with a finger swipe instead of the rustle of paper. The physicality that can firmly establish a reading experience in the senses is absent from them. E-books can feel like a loss, a sterile or distant experience in contrast to physical books for readers accustomed to the tactile and olfactory delights of books.

Perhaps the biggest sensory deficiency in e-books is the lack of a fragrance. An e-book is nothing more than digital code that is seen on a screen, as opposed to physical books that deteriorate and smell of their materials. There is no ink to deteriorate or paper to age. The question of how significant the sensory experience of reading is to our

overall perception of books is brought up by this lack of smell and this missing sensory layer.

The e-book business has come up with inventive techniques to evoke the nostalgia of physical books in spite of this sensory gap. For example, some e-readers include skeuomorphic designs, which simulate the turning of a paper page using screen motions. For digital users, there are even apps and devices that mimic the scent of ancient books, such as candles that smell like old paper. The strong human need to preserve some aspect of the material past in a quickly changing future is reflected in these efforts to close the gap between the physical and digital worlds.

However, despite their cleverness, these solutions fall short in resolving the e-book sensory conundrum. After all, they are imitations—suggestions of a scent

rather than the actual thing. The aroma of an old book is a process that develops over time and is a symbol of the book's history and many hands. It is not merely a product that can be made or put in a bottle.

E-books are becoming increasingly popular, and the digital world is very likely to have a lasting prominence. Additional developments aimed at bridging the sensory gap between printed and digital texts might emerge as technology develops. For example, virtual reality could eventually produce completely immersive reading experiences that digitally mimic touch, sound, and smell. However, these improvements simply highlight the irony of our predicament: we find ourselves longing for the sensory richness of an older, slower technology in our efforts to make reading more comfortable.

In the end, the "smell" of e-books could be a moving reminder of how our relationship with reading has evolved over the years. We are at a crossroads as we traverse the digital world: should we value the accessibility and convenience that e-books provide more than the rich, multisensory experiences that physical books offer? This conflict speaks to more general concerns about what it means to be human in the digital age. While e-books are likely to continue gaining popularity, they force us to rethink what reading means. Perhaps the true challenge in this discussion between the old and the new is not whether people like certain scents or textures, but rather how we can create a reading experience that respects both the innovations.

The author is Assistant professor Amar Singh College, Cluster University Srinagar firdousmala@gmail.com

The Beauty of Inconvenience in an Age of AI

John Nosta

In our obsessive quest for efficiency, convenience has become the holy grail. From the Industrial Revolution to the dawn of the digital age, each era has brought us technologies designed to save us time and energy, theoretically making life easier. Today, with the rise of cognitive facilitators—large language models (LLMs) that think, decide, and even create alongside us—we stand at a new threshold, or perhaps a precipice, where technology offers not only practical aid but also intellectual and emotional companionship.

Yet as we increasingly rely on these perfect, seamless helpers, it might be time for a "cognitive wakeup call" that startles us into asking what happens to the beauty of human imperfection. And perhaps most importantly, what becomes of the small inconveniences that quietly define our humanity?

The Magic of the Mundane

Consider the small tasks that fill our daily lives: gardening, driving to work, or cooking a meal from scratch. These moments, mundane as some of them may seem, offer spaces for our minds to wander. They are often when our best ideas strike—not because the tasks are difficult, but precisely because they require just enough effort or focus to allow for daydreaming and subconscious processing. The inconvenience holds a subtle magic—a friction that gives rise to creativity, introspection, and sometimes even a quiet sense of satisfaction.

In some ways, technology is poised to optimize these moments out of existence. AI that folds our laundry, drives our car, or suggests the perfect recipe based on the contents of our fridge may save us time, but it also removes those reflective pauses. We trade the inconvenience of mundane labor for efficiency, and in doing so, we lose the mental space where cre-

ativity often blooms. It's here, in the gap between efficiency and reflection, that we find a dimension of humanity that cannot be easily replicated by machines.

The Paradox of Ease

Technology's allure has always been rooted in convenience. We are drawn to smart devices that promise fewer steps, quicker answers, and minimized effort. But as we offload more responsibilities—and even decision-making—to technology, we risk a subtle erosion of autonomy.

Activities, even the repetitive and laborious ones, connect us to our environment and root us in the physicality of existence. In embracing technological convenience, we risk drifting away from this active engagement, becoming passive recipients of our environment rather than active participants.

There is a paradox at the heart

Perhaps it is time to reclaim inconvenience as an act of resistance—a deliberate choice to engage with the world in a way that is sometimes inefficient but inherently meaningful. To choose to drive without GPS, to make a meal without the perfect AI-suggested recipe, to fold the laundry not because we must, but because we can

of this ease. The very things we seek to eliminate—errors, inconveniences, the need for effort—are also what make life deeply engaging and fulfilling. It's in the struggle of learning to drive, or in the trial and error of cooking a new dish, that we experience growth, autonomy, and even joy. By embracing the "frictionless" life that AI offers, we may inadvertently be flattening our emotional landscape—sacrificing the highs and lows of human experience for a steady, but ultimately hollow, path.

The Beauty of Imperfection

Human creativity often emerges in the face of imperfections. Think of the artist whose brush slips, only to lead to an unplanned stroke that brings the painting to life. The beauty of creation, whether it is in art, relationships, or personal achievements, is often in the imperfec-

tions and deviations from the intended path. Our newly found cognitive companions, with their precision and efficiency, cannot replicate the errant genius that is born from error. They are built for optimal solutions, not beautiful mistakes.

Our pursuit of a life without inconvenience risks stripping away the very qualities that make us vibrantly human. Mistakes, detours, and imperfections are not flaws to be eliminated but are instead the essence of authenticity and originality. To create is to wander, to take wrong turns, to experience failure and the exhilaration of finding one's way again. In a world where AI ensures everything is "just right," where is the space for the unexpected spark that leads to something profoundly original?

The Quandary of Autonomy

As AI becomes more integrated

into our daily lives, a fundamental question arises: What happens to human autonomy when AI takes on roles that shape our thoughts and experiences?

We often frame autonomy in terms of freedom—freedom from mundane tasks, freedom from tedious chores. But true autonomy is not simply about removing burdens; it's about our ability to make choices, even when those choices come with challenges. Cognitive autonomy—the capacity for deep thought and reflection—depends on the richness of experiences we encounter, and many of those experiences are born from struggle.

There is a deeper kind of freedom in embracing the inconvenient—the freedom to learn through trial, to make mistakes, and to own the outcomes. When cognitive companions anticipate our needs, guide our thoughts, and eliminate the struggles of daily life, they also dilute our autonomy. They give us cognitive comfort, but in doing so, they may weaken the muscles of self-determination that make us truly human.

Reclaiming Inconvenience

Perhaps it is time to reclaim inconvenience as an act of resistance—a deliberate choice to engage with the world in a way that is sometimes inefficient but inherently meaningful. To choose to drive without GPS, to make a meal without the perfect AI-suggested recipe, to fold the laundry not because we must, but because we can. In these moments of deliberate inconvenience, we are reminded of our active participation in life, our capacity for creativity, and the value of effort.

In a world increasingly optimized for ease, let's remember that the beauty of being human lies in the friction, the messiness, the inconvenience. It is in these imperfect moments that we find not only our creativity and our autonomy but also our deepest connection to ourselves.

The article was originally published by Psychology Today

SC Community Concerned For Having No Representation In New J&K Govt

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Ahead of the swearing-in ceremony for new government formation in Jammu & Kashmir, the Schedule Caste (SC) community expressed concern over its representations and hoped that the NC-Congress alliance would adjust the community in the government or send its members to Rajya Sabha.

For the first time in recent years, the Chief Minister and cabinet in Jammu and Kashmir took oath without any representative from Schedule Caste community as all seven SC-reserved seats of Jammu and Kashmir clinched by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in recently concluded assembly polls that won 29 seats out of 43 from Jammu province.

As per new delimitation of assembly segments, all seven SC reserved seats namely Akhnoor, Bishnah, Kathua, Marh, Ramghar, Ramnagar and Suchetgarh of J&K falls in Jammu, Kathua, Samba and Udhampur districts of Jammu province where BJP clean swept the polls and won 22 out of 24 assembly segments.

Sham Lal Basson, State President, All J&K Dalit Chetan Manch said that it's very disturbing for the entire SC community that none of its members are eligible to be inducted as ministers in the new government. He said all seven

reserved seats went in the kitty of BJP, which is likely to sit in opposition.

Basson said that earlier the community got ministry and membership on advisory boards. He hoped that the NC-Congress coalition government work-out some mechanism to accommodate SC members.

Another member of Schedule Caste, Saryara community, Romesh Lal Saryara, said that the government should think over inclusivity and suitable representation for all sections of society including Schedule Caste.

He said that the NC should think over sending a member of SC community to Rajya Sabha from Jammu, which would not only give them representations but also expand the footprints of the government in Jammu.

Earlier, in Jammu and Kashmir SC ministers reached to the top offices which included Congress party's Tara Chand, who represented the SC community and held important offices including the chair of deputy chief minister, education minister and speaker.

Mula Ram and Suman Lata Bhagat (Congress), Bali Bhagat and Dr Devinder Kumar Manyal (BJP), Babu Ram Paul (National Conference), Yash Pal Kundal (JKNPP) remain ministers in J&K government since 2002—(KNO)

'Families Play Crucial Role In Recognising Mental Health Warning Signs'

Agencies

SRINAGAR: "Families can play a vital role in recognising warning signs of mental health issues as strong support is essential for those facing these challenges," mental health experts said.

Mental health specialists said that family members are uniquely positioned to observe changes in behaviour, mood or functioning in their loved ones. They said early identification of these signs can significantly influence the outcomes for those experiencing mental health challenges.

Dr Mansoor, head of the psychiatry department at GMC Anantnag, said, "In today's fast-paced world, where we feel constant pressure to meet obligations and achieve success, fostering a home environment that prioritizes mental well-being is crucial. Families can provide critical

support during crises, ensuring that individuals receive appropriate care." He said it is important to create emotional stability, understanding and a sense of belonging within the family unit.

Dr Mansoor further suggested that workshops and seminars could educate community members about mental health issues, helping to reduce stigma and promote a holistic sense of wellness. "Trained volunteers can offer one-on-one support to help individuals navigate their mental health challenges," he said. "Mental health is not a destination but a continuous journey. Valuing good mental health as a core asset is essential."

Dr Afshan, another psychiatrist, highlighted signs families can notice, such as changes in sleep patterns, withdrawal from social interactions, dramatic mood swings, altered eating habits,

difficulties in concentrating and feelings of hopelessness. She advised families to engage in open communication, encourage loved ones to consult mental health professionals and help structure daily routines that include regular exercise, sufficient sleep and balanced nutrition.

According to experts, individuals with strong support systems tend to recover faster and manage their conditions more effectively. They said family support can also help reduce the stigma surrounding mental health issues and encourage individuals to seek treatment without fear of judgment.

By recognising warning signs early and providing consistent support, families can assist their loved ones in navigating challenging mental health conditions, ultimately contributing to their overall well-being and resilience, they added—(KNO)

J&K Bank Organizes Capacity Building Workshop For Farmer Producer Organizations



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Continuing its efforts to strengthen the agricultural sector and empower Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), J&K Bank on Tuesday conducted a second workshop in Jammu to educate farmers on the various credit schemes available with the banks. The workshop also focused on the process of creating credit linkages for FPOs to ensure better access to financial services.

Representatives from more than Sixty FPOs from Jammu Division participated in the event, which was aimed at enhancing their financial literacy and facilitating greater access to credit.

MD & CEO Baldev Prakash chaired the workshop in presence of General Manager (NABARD) Vikas Mittal, Director Horticulture C L Sharma, MD JKRLM Shubhra Sharma, Bank's General Manager (Credit) Ashutosh Sareen, General Manager & Divisional Head (Jammu) Sunit Kumar, Deputy General Manager Rakesh Magotra, LDMS, DDM's NABARD, and other senior officers of the Bank & Agriculture department.

Speaking on the occasion, MD & CEO Baldev Prakash said, "The Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of doubling farmers' income laid the foundation for a transformative shift in Indian agriculture, focusing on improving productivity, reducing input costs and enhancing market access. This visionary goal has not only driven innovations in farming practices but also expanded the scope of agri-business, with a strong emphasis on value addition, infrastructure development and financial inclusion."

He added, "I think now is the best time for the agriculture sector with proactive support from the Government of Jammu & Kashmir under schemes like the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and support for Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs),

there is a golden opportunity for farmers to thrive. The convergence of modern technology, enhanced credit accessibility and robust government initiatives makes this the ideal time to engage in scaling up of agriculture and horticulture-related activities. The focus on creating a sustainable, growth-oriented agricultural ecosystem in Jammu & Kashmir is ensuring that farmers are well-equipped to capitalize on emerging opportunities, paving the way for a prosperous future in this sector."

J&K Bank, he said, is here to ensure that your efforts are recognized, while challenges are addressed and potential is fully realized. "Together, we can achieve the vision of a thriving, sustainable agricultural economy where our farmers stand empowered and resilient", he added.

In his remarks, GM NABARD highlighted the importance of FPOs in enhancing agricultural productivity and ensuring that farmers can collectively access financial services. "Our partnership with J&K Bank is aimed at empowering FPOs with the knowledge and tools they need to succeed. By deepening financial inclusion and creating effective credit linkages, we can ensure that farmers receive the necessary support to improve their livelihoods."

"In collaboration with NABARD and other stakeholders, we aim to ensure that no farmer or FPO is left behind due to a lack of financial resources", he said. Earlier Bank's Divisional Head Sunit Kumar delivered the welcome address and Bank's Deputy General Manager Rakesh Magotra delivered a detailed presentation on functioning of the FPOs and various credit products of the Bank for development of agriculture segment.

MD JKRLM Shubhra Sharma, Director Horticulture C L Sharma and Joint Director Agriculture Satish Sharma also spoke during the workshop and ap-

Prof Jawaid Iqbal Is New VC BGSB University

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha Tuesday appointed Prof Jawaid Iqbal as new Vice Chancellor of BGSB University Rajouri and Prof K.S. Chandrasekar was VC for Cluster University of Jammu for a period of three years.

One of the official orders read that, "In exercise of powers vested in me under clause 2 (1) of the statutes forming the schedule of the Jammu and University Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University Act, 2002, I, Manoj Sinha, Chancellor of the

university appoints Prof Jawaid Iqbal as VC of BGSB for a period of three years."

In a different order of appointment for VC to Cluster University of Jammu, Sinha said, "In exercise of powers vested in me, under Section 12(1) of The Srinagar and Jammu Cluster Universities Act, 2016, I, Manoj Sinha, Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu hereby appoints Prof. K.S. Chandrasekar, Senior Professor, Institute of Management in Kerala as VC for Cluster University of Jammu for a period of three years with effect from the date on which he takes over charge."

Global Handwashing Day: Clean Hands Key To Disease-Free Life, Say Doctors

Agencies

SRINAGAR: On Global Handwashing Day, doctors highlighted the vital role of clean hands in promoting health and preventing disease.

Several physicians said that proper handwashing reduces the spread of infectious diseases.

Dr Haroon, a general physician at DHSK, said that this year's theme, "Clean Hands, Healthier Lives", underscores the importance of hand hygiene in achieving better health outcomes. He said the day aims to encourage individuals, communities, and organisations to adopt good handwashing habits and incorporate them into daily routines.

"Handwashing is a powerful tool in preventing a range of illnesses, including infections," Dr Haroon said, adding that effective handwashing can mitigate the spread of diseases like COVID-19, cholera and diarrhoea, which contribute significantly to global morbidity and mortality.

Dr Mushtaq, another physician at DHSK, said handwashing is especially crucial at critical moments, such as before meals, after using the rest-

room, and after coughing or sneezing. "Children who regularly wash their hands with soap are less likely to experience illnesses like diarrhoea and respiratory infections, resulting in fewer missed school days and a healthier learning environment," he said.

To promote proper handwashing techniques, doctors said that awareness campaigns, educational workshops and community engagement activities are being organised. They said that by making handwashing a daily habit and ensuring access to necessary resources, we can work towards a healthier and more resilient world.

The doctors called for collaboration among government, NGOs and community leaders to advocate for improved access to clean water, sanitation, and handwashing facilities—(KNO)



Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL & HOSPITALS DIVISION BARAMULLA

e-mail, id, xennhdhla@gmail.com

Tender Notice Inviting e-Tender

NIT No:	M&HDB/TS/2024-25/37/1540-45
Date:	14-10-2024

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla, invites online e-bids in Two Cover system on percentage wise basis from Authorized service providers of OEMs / Registered / Listed Contractors for the below mentioned Supply: -

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit	Time of Completion	Administrative Approval	Technical Sanction
01.	Supply of Hydraulic pressure hose fittings required to various snow cats pertaining to Mech. & Hospital Sub Division 1 st Baramulla	0.235	200.00	470/-	10 days	M/HED/K/ Acctt /211 of 2024-25 of 2024-25 Dated: - Dt: 03-10-2024	AEE/M&HSD-1 st /06 of 2024-25 Dated: - 24-09-2024

- Downloading of Bids: The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Qs), Set of Terms & Conditions of Contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov in from 14-10-2024 (06:15PM)
- Submission of Bids: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above website from 14-10-2024 (06:30 PM) to 21-10-2024 (06:55 PM) in two covers.
- Opening of Bids: The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on 22-10-2024 (13:00 Hrs) in the Office of the Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla.
- The bidders are required to submit their offers in two (02) covers.

Cover-I shall contain: Scanned copies of following documents:

01. Tender Fee	Rs. 200.00 (Rupees Two hundred only) in shape of e-Challan / e-receipt / online Bank transfer acknowledgement including m-Pay Delight+, to be uploaded with each online bid pledged to Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla. Tender ID to be written also on the voucher. Bank: J&K Bank. Branch: T.P Baramulla. IFSC Code: JAKAOTESHIL Account No.: 0213010200000051.
02. EMD	Scanned copy of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the shape of CDR/FDR equivalent to 2% of value of the advertised cost pledged to Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla. EMD of successful bidder shall be released on receipt of 5% Performance Guarantee from (L1) and execution of agreement with the Department. EMD of unsuccessful bidders shall be also released as per rules provided in J&K PWD Engineering Manual 2020.
03. Terms & Conditions	Scanned copy of the Annexure- "A", "B" & "C" duly accepted by the bidder.
04. Tax Clearance	Registration Certificate of Sales Tax Department quoting GST Number.
05. GST	Scanned copies of PAN Card / GST Registration / Latest GST clearance certificate or acknowledgement of latest returns.
06. Undertaking	Undertaking as per format at Annexure "C" that the bidder has not been blacklisted or debarred by any Govt./Semi Govt. Department.

Note: Successful Bidder (L1) needs to furnish original EMD and Fee Receipt to this Division / Department for obtaining Letter of Acceptance / L.O.I from this Division / Department.

Cover II shall contain the price bid as per BOQ which shall be inclusive of all taxes under GST. The price bid is to be uploaded only.

- The complete bidding process shall be online.
- The Financial bid of only qualifying bidders shall be opened online in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla after evaluation of the technical bid.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) content. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the item rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
- The cost of tender document is non-refundable and the tender shall in no case be accepted if submitted by any firm other than the purchaser.
- Any tender found to have been submitted by the firm by furnishing false information to the Department shall be cancelled and the firm shall be penalized as and when it comes to the notice of the Department even during the currency of the contract. The tenders should be addressed to the Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla.
- The Department shall not be responsible for delay in submission of bids due to any reasons, whatsoever.
- The Department reserves the right to reject or accept any or all bids in part or in full without assigning any reason thereof.

No: - M&HDB/TS/e-tender-37/1540-45
Dated: - 14-10-2024
DIPK-6046-24
DT: 15/10/2024

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical & Hospitals Division
Baramulla

THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

Academic Division, Rehari Colony, Jammu Tawi / New campus, Bemina, Srinagar (J&K)
Email- directoracad@jkbose.co.in | Ph: 0191-2952817, 01942494522

NOTIFICATION

SUBJECT: Release of Board facilities i.e. Inter School Migration/Eligibility/RR as one time Exemption for Academic Session 2024-25 In light of School Education Department Circular No. 06-JK (Edu) of 2024 dated 19-09-2024

Whereas, the J&K Government by virtue of the powers conferred under Section-29 of the School Education Act-2002, issued an amendment to the Jammu and Kashmir School Education Rules, 2010 enacted vide S.O. 177, dated. 15 04-2022 mandating the Private Academic Institutions to furnish:

- No Objection Certificate regarding land use issued by the Revenue Department,
- Documents relating to possession of the land required for building playground etc., in case the applicant is the owner or a lease deed with minimum validity of (10) years, in case the private School is proposed to be run in a rented land/building.
- Documents as mentioned in clause (i) and (ii) in case of a private School already established shall be produced within a period, as may be prescribed by the Government.

Whereas, in terms of the above-quoted rule position, the managements of many academic institutions failed to furnish the requisite documents viz. NOC - Land from the concerned Department (Tehsildar). In addition to the requisite Lease Deed.

Whereas, in order to safeguard the academic career of on-roll students of these institutions having the title of land other than proprietary (State Land/Kachharie/Shamilat), the students of these private academic institutions were tagged with the nearby Government Schools, so as to facilitate their appearance in the Annual Regular Examinations 2024 and all the Board related facilities for the previous academic session viz. 2023-2024, were stopped in their case.

Whereas, aggrieved of S.O. 177, coupled with the follow-up action of tagging, the managements of many such academic institutions located on Kachharie/State/Shamilat filed various Writ Petitions before the Hon'ble High Court of Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh at Srinagar and Jammu.

Whereas, the Hon'ble Court of Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh disposed the writ petitions (Clubbed) and passed the judgment on 08-08-2024, the operative part of which reads as under:-

".....Where the schools being run on Kachharie/ State/ Shamilat etc. land are concerned, the petitioners therein can either acquire the proprietary land and/or approach the respondent authority (Principal Secretary to Government), Department of School Education, U.T of J&K/ J&K Board of School Education with their plea as is made by them in their respective writ petitions for consideration which can also include the exchange of Proprietary Land in lieu of Kachharie/ State/ Shamilat etc. as may be available under and in terms of the land Revenue Act or any other applicable law(s). All these applications shall be made by the petitioners within four weeks from today. Principal Secretary to Government, Department of School Education, U.T of J&K/ J&K Board of School Education, on receipt of such application(s), shall decide the same either himself/itself or by constituting a Committee, comprising of senior officers of the School Education Department/Board of School Education, Revenue Department or any other department(s) as may be thought appropriate by him/it, and get such applications decided within four months. While doing so, the petitioner(s) shall also be heard."

"It is made clear here that in the event any of the writ petitioners makes the same proposal as has been made by the petitioner in WPC/ No3250/2023, such a case will be governed and regulated by the directions passed here in above in WPC/ No. 3250/2023, Till then petitioner(s) be permitted to run the school(s) provided they are able to do so having regard to change in circumstances during pendency of instant matter as the students studying in those schools have been shifted to other schools."

"With regard to the writ petitions/cases, where kachharie/ state/ shamilat land etc is not involved, they (writ petitioners) can also approach Principal Secretary to Government, School Education Department, U.T of J&K/ J&K Board of School Education, with their request/plea within four weeks from today. On receipt of such application(s), he/it shall either himself/itself decide or get such application(s) decided through the Committee, to be constituted by him/it, within a period of four months and while doing so, petitioner(s) shall also be heard. Till then petitioner(s) be permitted to run the school(s) provided they are able to do so having regard to change of circumstances during pendency of the instant matter as the students studying in those schools have been shifted to other schools."

Whereas, School Education Department vide Circular No. 06-JK(Edu) of 2024 dated 19-09-2024 has notified that JKBOSE shall grant Provisional affiliation, as a one-time exemption, to all such schools which are without a valid affiliation, both for the earlier academic session 2023-24 (when they were tagged with the nearby government school) and current academic session 2024-25, for non-conformity to provisions of S.O 177, Further, JKBOSE shall extend all Board related facilities viz, Registration Returns (RR) forms, eligibility, migration and examination to such schools for sessions 2023-24 and 2024-25 for classes 9th to 12th.

Now, therefore, it is notified for information of all the stakeholders that provisional affiliation is hereby granted to all such schools which are currently without valid affiliation, as one-time exemption, both for the academic sessions 2023-24 & 2024-25 for the classes 9th to 12th. These schools may now apply for all JKBOSE related facilities viz. Registration Returns (RR) forms, eligibility, migration and examination (as the case may be), as and when notified.

It is clarified that this exemption/provisional affiliation/release of BOSE facilities is subject to

- The decision of the Committee to be constituted as directed by the Hon'ble High Court. The provisional affiliation/BOSE facilities may be rescinded if the said committee arrives at a contrary decision,
- This exemption applies only to such schools which have not been granted affiliation due to non conformity to the provisions of S.O.177 and not for any other reason/s

The schools/institutions falling in the above-cited criteria shall apply (in offline mode) for Registration of 9th class students of session 2023-24 currently studying in class 10th and Eligibility and Migration of the students of class 10th to 12th as applicable for the session 2024-25 with effect from 15.10.2024 (Tuesday) to 25.10.2024 (Friday) with the following fee:

1. Eligibility RR Fee (from other Boards):	Rs. 1280/- per student
2. Inter School Migration Fee:	Rs. 410/-per student
3. R.R fee of class 9th:	Rs. 640/-per student

BY ORDER

No. F(Acad-C)/SM/Eligibility/RR/E-File-7589077/2024
Dated.14.10.2024

DIPK-NB-1719-24
DT: 15/10/2024
SD /-
DIRECTOR ACADEMICS

Ruhullah Seeks Apology From Kejriwal For His Role In 'Decisions Hurting J&K'



Agencies

Srinagar: Member of Parliament from Srinagar and JKNC leader Aga Ruhullah Mehdi Tuesday asked the former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal to apologise to the people of J&K for his stand in 2019 when the centre stripped J-K of its special status and reorganised the state into two different union territories.

Ruhullah's reaction came after the AAP chief suggested CM-designate Omar Abdullah to consult him if he finds any difficulty to run what he called a 'half-state'.

"He is a part of INDIA bloc, I don't want to say much, but I want to remind him that J&K is suffering. So before reminding us how to work, he should also introspect and apologise in some ways to the people of J&K, we will give respect to his partnership in the alliance," he said.

The MP hoped that Kejriwal has introspected and realised how grave mistake it was, referring to the decisions of August 2019. He further said that he expected Kejriwal to remain a partner in rebuilding the nation while also empowering the people of J&K.

Mega Talent Hunt Show Fankar-e-Kashmir On 26 Oct At SKICC

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In an exciting development for the region's cultural landscape, the inaugural edition of Fankar-e-Kashmir is scheduled to take place on October 26, 2024, at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Center (SKICC) in Srinagar.

According to organizers, this event aims to celebrate and invest in the preservation of Kashmiri art and culture.

Fankar-E-Kashmir is proudly sponsored and supported by Bingo Tedhe Medhe, Voltas Boko, and the Jammu Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages.

The event aims to raise awareness about sustainable practices in the arts, enabling creators to grow both their individual careers and the broader creative economy of the state. With plans for Fankar-E-Kashmir to become an annual event, the organizers are committed to expanding opportunities and exposure for the talented youth of Kashmir, fostering a vibrant artistic community in the region.

According to organisers, the vibrant cultural landscape of Kashmir will be on full display at the upcoming Kashmir Youth Music Festival. The event aims to empower local artists while celebrating the region's rich intangible cultural heritage. The festival will kick off with a series of workshops led by prestigious IPRS and Dolby, commencing at 10 AM. These sessions are designed to help artists understand how to protect and monetise their creative work, as well as enhance their recordings through advanced sound



technology.

A highlight of the day will be a live talent hunt music contest, running from 4 PM to 7 PM, featuring a jury of esteemed artists and music experts. Participants will have the chance to showcase their skills, with winners receiving not only awards but also valuable opportunities to further their careers.

Interspersed throughout the day will be live performances by celebrated local artists, including Begum Jaan (Gajri Music), Masrat Naz (Pahari Music), and Dr Shazia Hamid (Kashmiri Music).

The grand finale will feature a performance by a renowned artist, promising to cap off the day in style and inspire the next generation of musicians.

This event reflects a commitment to promoting the youth of Kashmir and ensuring

the preservation of its unique musical heritage.

Bingo!, the renowned snacks brand, has stepped in as the title sponsor for Fankar-E-Kashmir, an event dedicated to celebrating and promoting the rich musical traditions of the region. This partnership underscores Bingo!'s commitment to supporting Kashmiri culture and empowering the youth.

In a statement, Mr. Suresh Chand, Vice-President and Head of Marketing for Snacks, Noodles, and Pasta at ITC Ltd., expressed pride in the company's involvement. "ITC has a long and rich tradition of supporting our nation's musical heritage through initiatives like the ITC Sangeet Research Academy. We are excited to develop engaging regional musical content for our brands, including Bingo!

Tedhe Medhe and Bingo! Mad Angles. This event not only honors Kashmir's musical legacy but also provides a platform for the region's young talent to shine."

The event will feature a distinguished jury composed of Kashmiri music legends, including Ustad Abdul Rashid Hafiz, Ustad Gulzar Ganaie, popular Rabab player and singer, Noor Muhammad, famous Gul Gulshan Gulfam fame composer, Kishen Langoo, adding to the prestige of the occasion.

Fankar-e-Kashmir is being curated and organized by ShowCase Events, The Eagle, and Kashmir Rabab Academy, all of which are committed to preserving and promoting India's folk music traditions.

Nanni Singh, Chief Executive of ShowCase Events, shared her passion for folk music, stating, "Folk music is very close to my heart, and I want to do whatever I can to help keep it alive."

Senior journalist and artist, Nazir Ganaie, who is also founder of Kashmir Rabab Academy, said, "As a Kashmiri and a musician, I feel a deep connection to our art. I am dedicated to conserving it for future generations."

Angelina Fernandes, Founder of The Eagle, highlighted her experience working with award-winning artists and her enthusiasm for Kashmiri talent, saying, "My curiosity for Kashmiri talent has driven my passionate involvement with Fankar-E-Kashmir."

Fankar-E-Kashmir 2024 will take place on October 26th at SKICC in Srinagar, promising an unforgettable celebration of Kashmiri music and culture.

POWERGRID Builds India's First Substation Inspection Robot In Collaboration With IIT Kanpur



Observer News Service

Gurugram: Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a Maharatna CPSE of Ministry of Power, Government of India, in collaboration with IIT Kanpur has developed a unique first of its kind all terrain robot for inspection of substations' equipment healthiness. It has been developed at SMSS Lab, IIT Kanpur and field tested at 400 KV Kanpur substation of POWERGRID.

This cutting-edge technology revolutionizes the way

substations equipment inspections are conducted, ensuring safer operations and avoiding repetitive routine maintenance manually. Designed to navigate through a complex environment with precision and agility, the robot boasts advanced sensors and imaging capabilities. The Robot is equipped with an array of sensors such as highdefinition visual, infrared thermal and stereo cameras and LiDAR etc. that can automatically detect anomalies and potential faults in equipment.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Authorities Warn

a real threat in these months due to the low moisture content. One small spark can quickly lead to large-scale destruction, so it is vital to take all necessary precautions," he emphasized.

A massive fire broke out in Malwarwan village of Kishtwar district yesterday afternoon, ravaging nearly 70 residential houses and around 30 cow sheds. Police personnel and local volunteers worked together to control the fast-spreading blaze. Kishtwar Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan announced an ex-gratia of 5 lakh rupees for affected families under the Red Cross relief.

The advisory comes as a crucial reminder for the public to remain vigilant and prepared as winter nears. "We can't take fire safety for granted," Aqib concluded. "By taking simple precautions and following safety guidelines, many of these incidents can be avoided."

The department has also assured the public that they are on high alert and ready to respond to any emergencies. However, it remains imperative for individuals to do their part in minimizing risks.

Arif Ahmad, In-charge Deputy Director of Bandipora, who also holds additional responsibilities for Baramulla and Kupwara, has advised the public to use electrical appliances with caution.

He emphasized the importance of not leaving these appliances unattended and urged residents to purchase high-quality electrical items.

He said that people should follow the guidelines issued by relevant authorities to ensure safety.

Key Fire Safety Tips: Avoid using faulty or outdated heating gadgets. Ensure LPG cylinders and connections are well-maintained and free of leaks. Install basic fire extinguishers in homes and public buildings. Avoid overloading electrical circuits, particularly with high-power devices. Be cautious with open flames, especially near wooden structures. Ensure proper ventilation when using heating devices indoors.

Notably, over the last few months, fires have caused extensive damage to houses, shops, and other buildings around the city. The increasing frequency of events has raised numerous concerns about safety, readiness, and infrastructure. Over 200 fire incidents have been registered in Srinagar since the beginning of the year. (inputs from KINS)

Marwah Fire: LG

senior official said, "The fire spread quickly, leaving little time for residents to save their belongings. We are working to ensure that everyone affected receives prompt assistance."

The Lieutenant Governor's administration has directed all concerned agencies to be on the ground to provide help and relief to the villagers.

"The administration is doing everything possible to assist those impacted by this unfortunate incident. Our priority is to make sure people are safe, and their immediate needs are taken care of," an official from the LG's office stated.

With no casualties reported, the focus now shifts to rehabilitating the displaced families

and assessing the damage to livestock and property in this remote village.

First Incident-

Conference. In previous elections, these groups had called for boycotts and orchestrated attacks to disrupt the democratic process. "Their involvement as candidates transformed the electoral landscape, significantly reducing tensions. We have seen how the boycott parties in the past would campaign asking people to desist from voting. That also used to be a signal to the violent elements and this would usually cause fear-psychosis among the people who actually wanted to exercise their franchise during the polls. Now, this time when the same people jumped into the electoral fray, that fear vanished in thin air," says a senior journalist based in Kashmir wishing not to be named.

Analysts believe this shift is unprecedented. "The participation of these elements in elections removed the traditional triggers for violence. It is a turning point for democracy in the region," said a senior defense expert. (KNO)

Omar To Be

said it was not clear yet who all will be attending the ceremony.

"We will get to know about the VVIP attendees later this evening after receiving their confirmation," Wani said.

Sinha on Monday invited the NC vice president to take oath as the J&K chief minister.

The invitation came a day after the Centre revoked the President's rule in the Union Territory.

In a letter to Abdullah, Sinha said, "I have received a letter of 11th October, 2024 from Dr. Farooq Abdullah, President, Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, wherein it has been informed that you have been unanimously elected as Leader of the Legislature Party."

He said he has also received a letter from Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief Tariq Hameed Karra, CPI(M) secretary G N Malik, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national secretary Pankaj Kumar Gupta and Independent MLAs-elect Payare Lal Sharma, Satish Sharma, Mohammad Akram, Rameshwar Singh and Muzafar Iqbal Khan extending their support to the NC.

"I am pleased to invite you to form and lead the Government of Jammu and Kashmir. As separately settled, I shall administer Oath of Office and Secrecy to you, and to those recommended by you for induction as members of your Council of Ministers, at SKICC, Srinagar on 16th October, 2024 at 11:30 a.m.," Sinha said in his letter.

The LG's emissary had handed over the letter to Abdullah and informed him about the date and time of the swearing-in ceremony.

There is a possibility that eight to nine ministers will also be administered the oath by the J&K's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

Reliable sources said that while Omar will take oath as the first CM of the UT, those who would be sworn in as the ministers include Sakina Itoo, the woman face of NC, Justice (Rtd) Hasnain Masoodi, Abdur Rahim Rather, Ali Muhammad Sagar while as Jammu region will be given representation in the form of Javid Rana, Surinder Choudhary and Satish Sharma. Sources said from the Congress which is the alliance partner of NC, J&K PCC chief

Tariq Hameed Karra may be included in the council of ministers as well. This way, there will be eight ministers in the Omar led cabinet. Abdullah was unanimously elected the leader of the NC Legislature Party on Thursday, setting the stage for his second term as chief minister. His first term, from 2009 to 2014 when Jammu and Kashmir was a full-fledged state, was also under an NC-Congress coalition government.

The NC won 42 out of the 90 seats which went to poll in the recent elections, while the Congress won six. Together, the two pre-poll allies hold a majority in the 95-member assembly -- five members are to be nominated by the LG.

Their strength is further bolstered by the support from five Independent MLAs-elect and a lone AAP MLA-elect.

Security Beefed Up In & Around SKICC. All arrangements have been put in place with security being tightened in and around the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) in Srinagar ahead of tomorrow's swearing-in ceremony of Omar Abdullah as the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir.

A senior security official said that given the high-profile nature of the event and the presence of the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, comprehensive security protocols are being put in place to ensure the smooth functioning of the ceremony.

The last time an assembly election was held in the erstwhile state was in 2014, leading to a People's Democratic Party (PDP)-Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) coalition government. However, that government collapsed in June 2018, and Jammu and Kashmir was placed under President's rule. In 2019, the region was bifurcated into two Union Territories—Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh—after the abrogation of Article 370, stripping the region of its special status.

Today's oath-taking ceremony will be a symbolic event as Jammu and Kashmir transitions from nearly six years of central rule to an elected government, with Omar Abdullah at the helm as Chief Minister.

Sonia, Rahul

and Leader of Opposition in Parliament Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi, AICC Chief Mallikarjun Kharge, Party General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamta Banerji, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief Arvind Kejriwal and others.

A senior NC leader, wishing not to be named, said that almost 50 VVIPs have been invited for the oath-taking ceremony in J&K tomorrow. Jammu and Kashmir will have its first elected government after a gap of ten years and the first elected government of the Union Territory.

"Prominent among those invited are Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge, Priyanka Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi, West Bengal CM Mamta Banerji, MK Stalin, Udhav Thackeray, Sharad Pawar, Lalu Prasad Yadav, Arvind Kejriwal and D Raja," he said.

He said other prominent faces would be part of the oath ceremony. Chief Minister designate Omar Abdullah will take oath as the CM of J&K. He will become the first CM of the J&K as a UT. The oath will also be administered to the council of ministers. There will be nine ministers in the Cabinet led by Omar. NC sources said the scope to increase the number of cabinets

was only possible when Statehood would be restored.

Meanwhile, all arrangements have been put in place including security at the SKICC. On Friday, Omar presented the letters of support from 42 NC MLAs, four independents, CPI(M) and six Congress MLAs to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and also staked claim on formation of government. On Sunday, the President of India, Droupadi Murmu issued a notification to lift the presidents' rule in Jammu and Kashmir.

On Monday, LG Sinha extended the invitation to Omar to form the government on October 16. (News Vibes of India)

New CM To Chair

Department (GAD), the meeting will take place on October 16, 2024 (Wednesday) at 3 PM in the Meeting Hall, located on the 3rd floor of the Civil Secretariat in Srinagar.

This will be the first official gathering after the Chief Minister's oath-taking ceremony, where all Administrative Secretaries are expected to attend. The purpose of the meeting is to outline the government's immediate priorities and set administrative objectives for the coming months.

The notice, signed by Rohit Sharma, Additional Secretary to the Government, has been circulated to all relevant administrative officials, including the Chief Secretary and the Commissioner/Secretary of the General Administration Department.

This meeting will likely mark the beginning of a new phase of governance in Jammu and Kashmir, with a focus on development initiatives, public welfare, and key policy decisions. All eyes will be on the new Chief Minister as they lay out their vision for the Union Territory.

EAM Jaishankar

In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs on Tuesday said, "The 23rd Meeting of SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) will be held on 16 October 2024 in Islamabad under the chairmanship of Pakistan. The SCO CHG meeting is held annually and focuses on the trade and economic agenda of the Organization."

"External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar will represent India at the meeting. India remains actively engaged in the SCO format, including various mechanisms and initiatives within the SCO framework," the statement read.

Meanwhile, both India and Pakistan have already ruled out any bilateral talks between Jaishankar and his Pakistan counterpart Ishaq Dar on the sidelines of the SCO heads of government summit.

G A Mir Is New

in New Delhi.

The Congress secured six seats, while its alliance partner, the National Conference, won 42 in the latest election in the union territory held after a gap of 10 years.

The BJP won 29, the JKPPD three, and the People's Conference, CPI(M), and AAP won one seat each. Seven seats were won by Independents.

"...Congress President has appointed Mir as the new CLP Leader of Jammu & Kashmir," AICC General Secretary Venugopal said.

Chief Minister-designate Omar Abdullah will

be taking oath of office here on Wednesday with INDIA bloc bigwigs including Kharge, Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi, senior CPI(M) leader Prakash Karat, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and AAP leader Sanjay Singh expected to be present at the ceremony.

HC Sets Aside

dated 12 December 2011.

"Needless to say that this court has not expressed any opinion on the merits of the claims of the parties. The trial court shall proceed in the matter without being influenced by any observation, if any, made by this court while deciding the controversy involved in this petition," the court added.

Er Rashid's Bail

the accused told the court that this was the last time that his client was seeking an extension.

No violation of any of the conditions by his client was alleged by the NIA, the lawyer said.

Rashid has been lodged in Tihar jail since 2019 after he was arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in a 2017 terror funding case.

Rashi was granted interim bail on September 10 and he walked out of the Tihar Jail on September 11.

On July 5, the court had granted Rashid custody parole to take the oath as a member of the Lok Sabha.

Rashid's name cropped up in the case during the investigation of Kashmiri businessman Zahoor Watali, who was arrested by the NIA for allegedly funding terrorist groups and separatists in the Kashmir valley.

The NIA had filed a charge sheet against several people, including JKLF leader Muhammad Yasin Malik, Pakistan based Lashkar-e-Taiba founder Hafiz Saeed and Hizbul Mujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin, in the case.

Rashid campaigned in the Jammu and Kashmir assembly elections. Elections to the 90-member J&K Assembly were held in three phases from September 18 to October 1. The results were declared on October 8 in which the National Conference-Congress alliance attained a clear majority with 48 seats.

Have Same

for equal treatment in all bail cases.

Taking to social media platform X, Lone appealed to the Delhi court to demonstrate the same "magnanimity" in other cases, particularly those involving older and ailing individuals, as it did in Rashid's case.

"My hand-folded request to the court in Delhi: Please can you show the same magnanimity in extending bail or giving bail as you are showing in the case of a VIP accused, a serving MP," Lone wrote. He referred to past instances where two individuals died in custody in similar or related cases without being granted bail, underscoring the need for fairness.

Lone highlighted the plight of many accused individuals who, despite suffering from various health conditions and facing domestic issues, have not been granted bail. "Most of the other accused are old, have multiple diseases. And they too need some relief. They have families too. They are humans too," he added.

"Let there be no two sets of rules. Let the same rules apply to all," he said.

Srinagar To Host 2024 Legends League Cricket Final Today



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The final match of the 2024 Legends League Cricket is set to take place today, Wednesday, October 16, at Bakshi Stadium here. Konark Suryas Odisha, captained by Irfan Pathan, go head-to-head in the finale against Southern Super Stars, led by Kedar Jadhav, with

the game starting at 7:00 PM. Both squads will be looking to take the LLC trophy this year. The Super Stars have former internationals like Dinesh Karthik, Hamilton Masakadza, Martin Gupthill, Elton Chigumbura, Parthiv Patel, Jeevan Mendis and others. Meanwhile, Konark also has a strong roster of erstwhile stars, including Ross Taylor, wicket

keeper Richard Levi, Dilshan Munaweera, Kevin O'Brien, Yusuf Pathan, Ben Laughlin, Kevon Cooper, Fidel Edwards, Ambati Rayudu and others. Konark Suryas heroically edged out Toyam Hyderabad by one run to enter the final bout, whereas the Super Stars beat Konark Suryas by 7 wickets to confirm their spot in the final.

Ahead of Wednesday's final, the two team captains met the media at Radisson Collection Hotel in Raj Bagh on Tuesday. Also present on the occasion were Legends League Cricket Founder and Chairman Vivek Khushalani and Co-Founder Raman Raheja. "Legends League Cricket is instrumental in inspiring young

people in Kashmir as they get to witness international stars like Chris Gayle, Shikhar Dhawan and Yusuf Pathan play cricket," Irfan Pathan said. "This lets young cricketers dream that they too one day can become the next big thing in cricket. The final is going to be very exciting for the people of Srinagar and the fans will get to watch a

great match tomorrow." "Southern Superstars has played extremely well throughout the league stages and the playoffs and the entire team is gearing to go," Kedar Jadhav said. "Playing the finals in front of packed stadiums in Srinagar has been very special and it has been very inspiring for the next generation of cricketers. Leg-

ends League Cricket has brought cricket back to Kashmir and the support by the fans has been extremely overwhelming." Southern Superstars topped the table at the end of the league, winning five of seven matches. Konark Suryas Odisha came second on the league table after winning three of their seven matches.



Abid Bhat/KO

Bangladesh Coach Fired For Slapping Player



Press Trust of India

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has suspended men's team head coach Chandika Hathurusingha due to inappropriate conduct by him during last year's ODI World Cup in India. Hathurusingha, the former Sri Lanka all-rounder under whom Bangladesh recently endured a forgettable tour of India where they were whitewashed in both the Test and T20I series, will be sacked and replaced by former West Indies player Phil Simmons.

According to ESPNcricinfo, Simmons, who was also an all-rounder and opened the batting for the West Indies in the early and mid 1990s, will be in charge of the Bangladesh team until next year's ICC Champions Trophy. "Bangladesh head coach Chandika Hathurusingha has been suspended following allegations he slapped a player at last year's ODI World Cup. His contract will be terminated after 48 hours of suspension, with Phil Simmons to take over until next year's Champions Trophy," the website said. The BCB investigated an allegation from a player that the coach had slapped him during the World Cup last year. The contract of the 56-year-old Hathurusingha, who re-joined the Bangladesh team in February last year for a second stint with the Asian side, was to expire after the 2025 Champions Trophy.

Latham's NZ Hope To Win 1st Test Against India Since 1988

Agencies

BENGALURU: New Zealand's new captain Tom Latham said on Tuesday he expected pace bowlers to play a crucial role in what was likely to be a rain-interrupted opening match of the three-Test India series. Heavy rain hampered the final preparations for both teams on the eve of the contest and more showers are predicted throughout the week in which the Black Caps will aim to stop a rampant India from continuing their winning run at home. "I certainly wasn't expecting the weather that we've had over the last couple of days since arriving here. Looking at the forecast, it obviously ... looks similar to what we've got today," Latham told reporters as rain poured down. "Obviously the wicket being under the covers for a longer duration and it not necessarily being as hot as what we would usually expect here, I guess that potentially brings the fast bowlers into play. "We had a look at the previous game that was played here a month ago (in the domestic league) and I think the seamers took a lot of wickets. Again, it's hard to say, because we haven't really had a look at the wicket in terms of a team we play." Latham took over as per-



manent Test captain from Tim Southee this month following a 2-0 defeat in Sri Lanka and is looking to help the team win their first match against India since 1988. The hosts have not lost a series on home soil since 2012, adding to the difficult challenge in front of Latham and his team, but the skipper said they were raring to go. "Every game that we come out to play, we want to win. The World Test Championship has produced cricket where teams are looking for results in terms of where they sit on the ladder," said Latham, whose side sit sixth. "We'll certainly be no different. We'll be looking to win as much as we can. The situation will dictate the way we play and we're going to try to win."

The presence of a host of experienced batters and bowlers, Latham said, makes India a formidable opponent. "You obviously look at the spinners when you come over these conditions. But they've got an equally good seam attack in Bumrah, Siraj, Akash Deep, who's played the last couple of Tests against Bangladesh. So just a well-rounded side," Latham said in the pre-match press meet here on Tuesday. "From a batting point of view. You have a lot of match winners who can take a game away from you pretty quickly. "We're looking forward to the challenge. Hopefully, we can lean back on the experiences that we've had here the last couple of times that we've toured," he added.

Short TAKES Don't Want To Take Undercooked Shami To Australia: Rohit



Press Trust of India

India skipper Rohit Sharma has virtually ruled out Mohammed Shami from the upcoming Test tour of Australia, saying that the pacer's recovery from an ankle surgery has been hampered by swelling in knees and it would not be right to take an "undercooked" version of him for the marquee showdown. Shami last played for India during the ODI World Cup final last year and has been recuperating from an ankle surgery after that. "To be honest, right now, it's pretty difficult for us to make a call on him, whether he'll be fit for this series or Australia series. He recently had swelling on his knee, which was quite unusual," Rohit told reporters here on the eve of the first Test against New Zealand. "He was in the process of getting fit, getting close to 100 per cent, he had swelling in his knee, that put him back a little bit in his recovery. So, he had to start again. Right now, he's at NCA, he's working with the physios and the doctors at NCA," he added. "We are keeping our fingers crossed, we want him to be 100 per cent fit. We don't want to bring an undercooked Shami to Australia, that is not going to be the right decision for us." "It is quite tough for a fast bowler, having missed so much of cricket, and then suddenly to come out and be at his best, it is not ideal," he noted.

Babar's Replacement Ghulam Scores Ton Against England



Press Trust of India

MULTAN: Pakistan batter Kamran Ghulam, who on Tuesday scored a resolute century on Test debut, said there was immense pressure on him to perform after taking Babar Azam's place in the team, adding that his perseverance in domestic cricket for the last four years had finally paid off. Ghulam's ton came on a tricky recycled wicket in Multan as Pakistan scored 259 for 5 at stumps on Day 1 of the second Test against England. Replacing Babar at No. 4, Ghulam made a patient 118 off 224 balls and became the 13th Pakistan batsman to score a century

on Test debut and the first to do so against England. "It has been frustrating waiting for nearly four years to finally get a chance to play for Pakistan. I had so much passion and wanted to do well when I got the chance," Kamran told the media. Ghulam admitted that it was not easy to replace a player of Babar's stature. "Yes the pressure was there playing in his (Babar) place but I think the desire I had to succeed overrode that pressure." Ghulam finally got a chance after he hit two centuries in the recent Champions Cup ODI event organised by the board in Faisalabad.

India Has Shown No Growth In Last 3 Years: Mithali



Press Trust of India

Former India captain Mithali Raj on Tuesday attributed the national team's underwhelming performance in the Women's T20 World Cup to lack of growth across departments over the past three years. It was the first time under Harmanpreet Kaur's long captaincy tenure that India failed to qualify for the knockouts of the ICC showpiece, extending the team's title-less run in world events and putting serious question marks over her future as skipper. Speaking to PTI from Dubai, Mithali said the team's downfall was a result of not getting used to the conditions in the UAE quick enough, lack of role clarity in the batting department, untested bench strength, and below-par fielding. "I feel that in the last two, three years, I've not really seen any growth in this team, in the sense like, I mean, beating the best side is what you always prepare for but it seems like we are saturated in the sense we are beating other teams and we are pretty happy in that," Raj said. "Every other team has shown growth despite limited depth, a case in point being South Africa. We have not."

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PMGSY DIVISION KUPWARA
FRESH NIT
NIT No. EE/PMGSY/KUP/2024-25/12 Dated:- 10-10-2024

POST DEFECT LIABILITY PERIOD MAINTENANCE
Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Kupwara, on behalf of J.K. State Rural Road Development Authority invites online percentage rate tenders on e-procurement portal <http://pmgsytendersik.gov.in> from the Contractors registered in appropriate class/category with J.K. P.W.D. or Contractors of equivalent categories registered with other States/ Central Government, Departments, Institutions, Undertakings and Authorities on standard schedule of rate given below for the packages shown in the column 2 of table, for repair / maintenance of the Rural Roads/CDs for five years, constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and other scheme.

• SSR Applicable; - SSR issued by J.K. State Rural Road Development Authority effective from July 2022
• Table-1:
Name of Works:- Post Defect liability period Repair and Maintenance of Packages mentioned in Column-2 below:

S. No.	Road Name & Package No.	Name of District	Total length of Roads (in Kms.)	PAC (in Lacs.)				Total (in Lacs)	Completion Period of I.R (in Days)	Cost of Tender Document (in Rs.)	Tender call	Class of Contractor
				Initial Rehabilitation works		Renewal of Bituminous Surface	Emergency Works					
				Part-I	Part-II							
1	2	3	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	Hayan-Check Road Package No. JK0807-A	Kupwara	2.51	18.16	12.76	37.64	0	68.56	90	1600	2 nd	AA1
2	Tangdar-I to Tangdar-II road, Package No. JK08130	Kupwara	2.75	27.31	13.98	41.18	0	82.47	90	1600	2 nd	AA1

CRITICAL DATES

S.No.	Stages	Date & Time
1	Publishing Date	10-10-2024
2	Document Download/ Sale Start Date	11-10-2024 from 10:00 am
3	Bid Submission Start Date	11-10-2024 from 10:00 am
4	Bid Submission Closing Date	18-10-2024 till 4:00 pm
5	Bid Opening Date (Technical)	19-10-2024 at 11:00 am

1(a) The amount of Bid Security is 2% of PAC. The bidders are required to pay cost of Bid Document (Tender Fee), Bid Security online as appearing on e-procurement portal plus service charges through Debit/Credit Card, Internet Banking, or System generated Bank Challan for NEFT/RTGS before submission of Bid. Bid Security of disqualified/unsuccessful bidders will be refunded online in the Bank A/c notified by the bidders on the portal at the time of submission of Bids. To avoid last day rush/breakdown in system contractors are advised to ensure payment of Bid Security at least one day in advance before the end date of Bid Submission. Department will not be responsible if contractor fails to pay Bid Security due to Server/Power failure or any other reason.

1. (b) The bidders are required to submit affidavit strictly on prescribed form (Annexure 'A' of this NIT) affirming correctness of information furnished with the bid. This affidavit in the form of scanned copy is to be uploaded with the technical bid online. If online affidavit is not submitted or is not on prescribed form bidder will be disqualified at Technical evaluation stage.

2. (c) Bidders are also required to submit Tender Conditions Acceptance Letter in the form given as Annexure-C to this NIT.

3. (d) Bid documents consisting of qualification information and eligibility criterion of bidders, plans, specifications, drawings, the schedule of quantities of the various classes of work to be done and these terms & conditions of contract to be complied with by the Contractor can be seen online on the website <http://pmgsytendersik.gov.in>.

(ii) Last date for submission of bid and other Critical Dates may be seen in the schedule of Critical Dates given above. Technical bid will be opened online at Executive Engineer's Office Kupwara in the presence of the bidders who may like to be present. Financial bid shall be opened online at Executive Engineer's Office Kupwara as per time schedule which will be notified online. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, e bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

13. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents (Repair & Maintenance of Rural Roads) amended upto date.

No. EE/PMGSY/KUP/ 1082-86
Dated: 10-10-2024

DIPK-5999-24
DT: 15/10/2024

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PMGSY Division Kupwara

China to build lunar space station, explore habitable planets under new plan



Agenceis

China on Tuesday announced plans to launch a manned lunar mission, construct a lunar space station and explore habitable planets and extra-terrestrial life to expand its space programme in the next few decades.

China's top space bodies unveiled a national mid- and long-term development programme for space science, which will guide the country's planning of space science missions and space research from 2024 to 2050.

An established space power, China in recent years built its own space station which is currently in operation besides launching several space missions, including a lunar probe that collected samples for the first time from the far side of the Moon and brought them back to Earth for scientific studies.

The programme released by the China Academy of Sciences (CAS), China National Space Administration and the China Manned Space Agency to the media here outlined the goals of China's space science, including 17 priority areas under five key scientific themes, and a three-phase roadmap.

The international lunar research station initiated by China will be constructed during the second phase from 2028 to 2035, Ding Chibiao, vice president of the CAS, told the media here.

The programme also outlines a roadmap for the development of space science in China

through 2050.

In the first phase, leading up to 2027, China will focus on the space station operation, implementing the manned lunar exploration project, the fourth phase of its lunar exploration programme and the planetary exploration project.

Under the new plan, scientists will also explore the habitability of celestial bodies in the solar system and exoplanets and search for extraterrestrial life, he said.

Key areas of space development in the coming years will be the origin and evolution of the solar system, characterisation of planetary atmospheres, the search for extraterrestrial life, and exoplanet detection, Ding said.

The theme of the extreme universe focuses on exploring the origin and evolution of the universe, revealing the physical laws under extreme cosmic conditions, dark matter and the universe's origin and evolution, as well as the detection of cosmic baryonic matter, according to the programme.

Studies will be conducted on detecting medium to low-frequency gravitational waves and primordial gravitational waves, with the goal of uncovering the nature of gravity and space-time, and the exploration of the Sun and the Earth.

Priority areas include Earth's cycle systems, comprehensive observations of the Earth-Moon, space weather observation, three-dimensional solar exploration, and heliosphere exploration, according to the programme.

Four planes get bomb threats via X posts day after New York-bound flight diverted

Agenceis

Four planes, including one bound for the United States, received bomb-threat messages through a social media handle on Tuesday, prompting security agencies to undertake specific counter-terrorist drills at various airports, official sources said.

The threats via microblogging platform X came a day after three international flights originating from Mumbai received bomb threats, causing trouble to hundreds of passengers and airline crew. The messages posted on Monday were declared hoax.

The sources said an X handle issued threats on Tuesday to four planes -- an Air

India Express aircraft from Jaipur to Bengaluru via Ayodhya (IX765), a Spicejet plane from Darbhanga to Mumbai (SG116), an Akasa Airplane from Siliguri to Bengaluru (QP 1373) and an Air India plane from Delhi to Chicago (AI 127).

The Air India Express aircraft underwent a security check at the Ayodhya airport. The Spicejet and Akasa Air planes have landed, according to flight-tracking websites. The AI flight from Delhi to Chicago has been diverted to Canada for security checks.

Precautionary measures are being taken in all the cases, aviation security sources told PTI.

The X handle tagged the airline and police

handles, claiming that bombs were placed on these planes, the sources said.

Four different X handles had issued a similar threat to three international flights originating from Mumbai on Monday.

All the messages on Monday were declared hoaxes after security and intelligence agencies as well as airlines and airport operators carried out stipulated anti-terrorist security drills that are activated in case of bomb or hijack threats, the sources said.

Officials said the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) has sought the help of Indian cyber-security agencies and police to trace the person or people behind these threats.



Indian Jailed In Singapore For Not Returning Money Mistakenly Sent To Him

Agenceis

A 47-year-old Indian national has been sentenced to nine weeks' jail by a Singapore court after he failed to return SGD 25,000 (Rs 16 lakh approximately) mistakenly transferred to his bank account, despite knowing the money did not belong to him.

On October 14, Periyasamy Mathiyazhagan pleaded guilty to misappropriating the money and told the court that he had used the money to pay off his debts and remitted some of it to his family in India.

Periyasamy worked for a plumbing and engineering firm

from 2021 to 2022.

His legal problems started on April 6, 2023, when an administrator at the firm transferred the SGD 25,000 to his bank account, which she had thought was the company's account.

Court documents referred to her (unnamed) as the complainant in the case. State Prosecuting Officer (SPO) Lim Yeow Leong told the court the woman had taken a personal loan from the company and wanted to pay it off.

"After making the erroneous transfer, the complainant was informed by (a director at the firm) on the same day that the account

did not belong to the company, and the company did not receive the cash." The Straits Times quoted the SPO as saying.

The woman then told Periyasamy's bank about the erroneous transfer and sought its help to recover the money.

On April 10, 2023, the bank sent a letter addressed to him, stating that the woman had made a request for the cash to be returned.

But the letter was sent to the company instead as it was identified as Periyasamy's last known address in the bank's records.

On May 9 that year, it informed her by another letter that her re-

"Kind Of Miracle": Russian Man Survives 2 Months Adrift At Sea



Agenceis

A Russian man was found alive after drifting for two months on an inflatable boat while another man and a teenage boy died, prosecutors said Tuesday. The two men and a 15-year-old set off to the Island of Sakhalin from the far eastern Khabarovsk region on August 9, transport prosecutors said.

"After a time, communication with them was lost, their boat's location remained unknown," they said.

"On October 14 around 10:00 pm, the boat was discovered as it passed a fishing boat... Two people died, one remained alive, he is receiving medical help," prosecutors said. The dinghy was found in the Sea of Okhotsk, around 1,000 kilometres (670 miles) from its starting point.

Prosecutors published a video showing the bearded survivor in a life jacket shouting at the fishermen: "I don't have much strength" but managing to catch a rope.

The survivor was named by RIA Novosti news agency as Mikhail

Pichugin, while his brother Sergei, 49, and nephew Ilya, 15, died. Their bodies were on the boat.

Russian rescuers had mounted a search using helicopters and a plane for the men a few days after they disappeared, suspecting the boat had been carried by currents towards Kamchatka.

Alexei Arykov, the owner of the fishing boat that found the survivor said he was "in a serious condition, thin, but conscious," RIA Novosti reported. The boat docked around 0830 GMT in the far eastern city of Magadan and the survivor was carried off on a stretcher, the news agency reported.

The survivor's wife Yekaterina told RIA Novosti: "It's a kind of miracle", adding that the men had taken enough food and water to last only two weeks.

She said her husband's weight could have helped save him, as "he weighed around 100 kilograms" (220 pounds). Russian television reported he lost 50 kilograms. The brothers were from Ulan-Ude in Siberia but Mikhail Pichugin was working on Sakhalin as a driver.

letter addressed to Periyasamy had been sent to the firm instead.

The firm's director called him to the firm, handed him the letter, and asked him to return the SGD 25,000. Periyasamy replied that he had used up the amount to pay off his debts.

In a police interview in November 2023, he told officers that he had also remitted a portion of the money to his family in India. He requested for more time to return the cash to the woman and proposed a monthly repayment of SGD 1,500.

To date, the money has not been recovered, and he has made no restitution, according to the newspaper.



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