



To place an advertisement

CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my driving license bearing dl no: JK-19990016292 as Syed Mohammad Rezvi S/o Syed Murtaza Rezvi R/o Magam Gulmarg while my correct name as per aadhar is Syed Mohammad Razvi S/o Syed Murtaza Razvi R/o Magam Budgam which needs to be corrected.

Syed Mohammad Razvi
S/o Syed Murtaza Razvi
R/o Magam Budgam

bmj

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) Shuguftra Rasool to (new name) Shuguftra Showkat. In future I will be known as Shuguftra Showkat. If anybody is having any objection he / she may contact the Passport Office Srinagar within 07 days. After 07 days no objection will be accepted.

mdl

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY SRINAGAR

Dated: 29.10.2024
Present: Ms. Nusrat Ali Hakak

In the case of:

J&K Bank Ltd B/u: Qammarwari Srinagar through Attorney Holder Jaweed Ahmad Shera V/S

- 1. M/S Ganie & Sons Prop. Mohammad Altaf Ganie S/o: Ghulam Mohammad Ganie R/o: Mustafa Abad HMT Srinagar
2. Imtiyaz Ahmad Sheikh S/o: Ghulam Mohideen Sheikh R/o: Rambagh Bala Srinagar
3. Abdul Majeed Sheikh S/o Late Mohammad Sultan Sheikh R/o: Khan Colony Chanapora Srinagar
4. Mehraj ud Din Sheikh S/o: Ghulam Hassan Sheikh R/o: Rozbal Khanyar Srinagar
5. Hafeeza Bano W/o: Fayaz Ahmad R/o: Chinkral Mohalla Srinagar

In the matter of Substitute service through Publication / Advertisement

Whereas, applicant Bank has filed application before this authority in terms of Section 12-A of Act and Commercial Courts. Whereas, number of notices were issued against non-applicants on many occasions but services could not be effective due to insufficient/incomplete address.

Whereas, it has been shown to the satisfaction of the undersigned that service of non-applicants could not be effective in ordinary mode.

Therefore, the non-applicants through the medium of this notice are directed to appear in person or their attorney by or before the next date of hearing i.e. 02.12.2024

Sd/-

Secretary (Sub Judge) District Legal Services Authority Srinagar

ab

PUBLIC NOTICE

To the General Public: I, Hoshing Mansoor Ansari, Son of Mansoor Mustafa Ansari, resident of Boni Bagh Lal Bazar Srinagar hereby notify that my full name is reflected on all documents except my passport, where only my first and second names are registered. I intend to correct my passport name to reflect my full name.

Hoshing Mansoor Ansari
S/O: Mansoor Mustafa Ansari
R/O: Boni Bagh Lal Bazar Srinagar.

jm

NOTICE

I, Nawaf Nisar Wani S/o- Nisar Ahmad Wani R/o-Malla Bagh Srinagar want to transfer my Electricity Connection with Consumer no.0204020013815 to Falak Altaf Zargar daughter of Mohammad Altaf Zargar R/o of Salfia Lane Malla Bagh Srinagar, if any body having any objection in this regard may contact the AEE Rainawari Srinagar within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice after the stipulated period, no objection shall be entertained.

MEDIA LINE AD

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY SRINAGAR

Dated: 04.11.2024
Present: Ms. Nusrat Ali Hakak

In the case of:

J&K Bank Ltd B/u: Anchar Srinagar through Attorney Holder Jaweed Ahmad Shera V/S

- 1. M/S Trendz Boutique Through its Proprietor Razia Rashid Mir W/o: Rayees Ahmad Bhat R/o:90 Feet Ellahibagh Srinagar

In the matter of Substitute service through Publication / Advertisement

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Sd/- Secretary (Sub Judge) District Legal Services Authority Srinagar

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY SRINAGAR

Dated: 31.10.2024
Present: Ms. Nusrat Ali Hakak

In the case of:

J&K Bank Ltd B/u: Anchar Srinagar through Attorney Holder Jaweed Ahmad Shera V/S

- 1. Rubena W/o: Tanveer Ahmad Bhat R/o: Rangpora Ellahi Bagh Srinagar

In the matter of Substitute service through Publication / Advertisement

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Sd/- Secretary (Sub Judge) District Legal Services Authority Srinagar

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY SRINAGAR

Dated: 31.10.2024
Present: Ms. Nusrat Ali Hakak

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- 1. Rubena W/o: Tanveer Ahmad Bhat R/o: Rangpora Ellahi Bagh Srinagar

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Therefore, the non-applicants through the medium of this notice are directed to appear in person or their attorney by or before the next date of hearing i.e. 04.12.2024

Sd/- Secretary (Sub Judge) District Legal Services Authority Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate in favour of my daughter Itrat Zehra born on 01-04-2017. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Municipal Committee Magam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Manzoor Ahmad Mir
F/o Itrat Zehra
R/o Magam Yagipora

bmj

PUBLIC NOTICE

In my HDFC Life Policy Bearing life policy no 16125387 my name is wrongly entered as Mohd Ishaq Khan instead of Mohd of Mohd Ishaq Khanday which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection he/ she may contact HDFC Main Office Jahangir Chowk Srinagar within 7 days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohd Ishaq Khanday
S/o Gh Nabi Khanday
R/o Shamsipora Shopian

fko

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION SHOPIAN

Fax No/ Tell No: 01933-260226 Email: rmbdivisonshopian@gmail.com

EXTENSION NOTICE

It is notified for the information of all concerned that due to zero tender response for the works advertised vide this office NIT No:- 46/5268-77/SPN/RnB/e-tender of 2024-25 Dated:- 25-10-2024, figuring at S.No. 01,02,03,04,05,06,07,08 & 09 the critical dates for the works are hereby :

Extended as

Table with 3 columns: S.No, Description, Schedule. Row 1: 1, Bid Submission End Date, 16-11-2024 up to 2:00 PM. Row 2: 2, Date & time of opening of Bids (Online), 18-11-2024 at 10:00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian.

Instead of

Table with 3 columns: S.No, Description, Schedule. Row 1: 1, Bid Submission End Date, 13-11-2024 up to 2:00 PM. Row 2: 2, Date & time of opening of Bids (Online), 14-11-2024 at 10:00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian.

No: NIT/5790-95 DPK-8009/24 Dt: 14-11-2024

Sd/- Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIVISION ANANTNAG

NOTICE INVITING Fresh TENDERS

Notice Inviting E-Tenders-NIT No.14of2024-25

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K U.T, e-tenders on percentage basis are invited in Single cover system from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K U.T Govt. for the following works:-

Table with 8 columns: S. NO., NAME OF WORK, Estt Cost (Rs in lacs), Earnest Money (EMD) Rs, Time for completion, Class of Contract, Cost of Tender document (Rs), Major Head of Account, Tender opening authority. Row 1: 1, Construction of lining wall from RD 94m to RD 114m of Grakhun Branch of Mosh Khul near land of late Gh. HussanNajarKralpora, Matan, 0.95, 2850/-, 10 days, DEE, 300/-, District Capex (Minor Irrigation), Ex. Engineer.

The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (BOQ) set to terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website: www.jktenders.gov.in from :-

Table with 3 columns: S.No, Description, Date. Row 1: 1, Publishing date, 13.11.2024, 06.00PM. Row 2: 2, Download Date Starts, 13.11.2024, 06.00PM. Row 3: 3, BID Submission Date Starts, 13.11.2024, 06.00PM. Row 4: 4, BID Submission Date Ends, 19.11.2024, 06.00 PM. Row 5: 5, Date of opening of tenders, 20.11.2024, 10:00 AM

The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website www.jktenders.gov.in and The bids uploaded shall be opened online on above mentioned date by the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Anantnag in presence of the bidders who may wish to be present. In case of holiday or office happening to be closed on the basis of opening of the bid, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

26. Other terms & conditions shall be the same as laid down in the PWD Form-25. Remittance Head:- 0702 Position of AAA: Accorded Vide Order No. 205-DDCA of 2024 Dated 14-10-2024, issued under endorsement DDCA/CA-PEX/2024-25/4520-23 dated 14-10-2024

Position of TS.- Accorded vide order No. 04-08 of 2024-25 issued vide IDA/4857 dated 21-10-2024

Position of Funds:- Budgetary Provision 2024-25 No.IDA/5621-43 DPK-8010/24 Dated: 14-11-2024

Sd/- Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Anantnag

Fax/Phone: 01955-252159 | email: xenifcdkupwara@ifkashmir.com Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (IRRIGATION & F C), DIVISION Kupwara -193222

Notice inviting e-Tender

e-NIT No: 03 of 2024-25 Date: 13/11/2024

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders (in Single Cover System) on item rate basis are invited from approved and eligible Registered Dealers of various Petroleum Companies for supply of 176 No's of 19 Kg's Commercial Gas Cylinders (which may increase or decrease as per our requirement) for heating purpose during winter season, commencing from 15th November 2024 to 15th March 2025. The interested parties shall quote the rate of rebate, to be offered by them, on the rates being fixed by the Ministry of Petroleum from time to time: - works to be opened by the Executive Engineer Irrigation & F C Division Kupwara at 11.00 Hrs.

Table with 5 columns: S.No, Description, Earnest Money (Rs), Tender Document Fee, Major Head of Account, Class of Contract. Row 1: 01, Supply of 176 No's of 19 Kg's Commercial Gas Cylinders (which may increase or decrease as per our requirement) for heating purpose during winter season, commencing from 15th November 2024 to 15th March 2025, 10000/-, 200/-, 2711-M&R 2702: M&R/Contingencies of various projects/works, Approved Registered Dealers/Agencies of various Petroleum Companies

Position of AAA : Under process
Position of T.S. : Under process
Position of funds : Assured.

- 1. The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, set of terms and conditions and other details can be seen/ downloaded on e-procurement Portal www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

Table with 3 columns: S.No, Description, Schedule. Row 1: 1, Date of issue of Tender Notice, 13.11.2024. Row 2: 2, Date of start of downloading, 13.11.2024 from 17.00 Hrs. Row 3: 3, Bid submission start Date Technical/ Financial, 13.11.2024 from 17.30 Hrs. Row 4: 4, Bid Submission end date, 20.11.2024 up to 16.30 Hrs. Row 5: 5, Date & Time of opening of Tenders (online), 21.11.2024 at 11:00 Hrs.

Bid Security/ Earnest Money and Cost of Tender Document

- 2.01 Bids must be accompanied with Earnest money and cost of tender document (Non-Refundable/Non- transferrable) to be deposited under MH: 0702-Rev. Misc. in shape of Treasury Challan/ receipt or e-Challan (mentioning therein NIT No. S No of work and Adv. Cost of work) and to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department (Irrigation & F C) Division Kupwara & date on the instruments must not be prior to date of issuance of this tender Notice.
2.02 Bid Security/ Earnest Money of successful bidder (L-1) shall be released only after completion of work.
3. Bidders must ensure to upload all the documents clearly and no clarification shall be asked for later- on. However, the documents shall be received only from 1st lowest tenderer (L-1) at the time of fixation of contract.
4. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of Price bids.
5. Instructions to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
5.01 Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual form the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in accounts bid submission process.
5.02 To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per information Technology Act- 2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.
5.03 The bidder has to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.
5.04 Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in above at S. No. 1.
6. The Bid Security/ Earnest Money shall be forfeited if;
6.01 Any bidder / tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
6.02 Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required Performance Security within the specified time limit of seven days from the date of notification of same to the bidder by the tender opening authority.
6.03 Failure to produce the original documents necessary for verification on declaration of the lowest bidder (L-1) on which bidder was qualified by or before 07 days of the opening of Price Bid / generation of comparative statement.

No.1&FCD/Kup/CS/1552-63 Dated: 14-11-2024 Executive Engineer Irrigation & F C Division Kupwara

Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION BUDGAM

Engineering Complex Budgam PIN No.191111

E-mail:- xenrmbdivbud@gmail.com, Phone-FAX:- 01951-255208

TENDER NOTICE

E-tendering NIT No:-70-MDB of 2024-25/8362-77 DATED:-14- 11-2024

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Union Territory of J&K, e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

Table with 9 columns: S.No, Name of Work, Advt. Cost, Cost of TENDERS, Earnest money CDR/FDR/BG, Time of Completion (days), Class of Contract, Major Head of account, Project Authority. Row 1: 1, Development/Improvements of road at Dar Mohalla near House of Mohd Sultan Dar BWO Edge wall, GSB, abd G-I at Dharmma, Rs.10.00 lacs, Rs.600/-, Rs.20000/-, 30 days, DEE/CEE, UT Sector (4899), Chief Engineer R&B Central Kashmir. Row 2: 2, Construction of Crate structure, Bag Embankment and W.H.T at Waterhall Budgam, Rs.6.41 lacs, Rs.300/-, Rs.12820/-, 20 days, DEE/CEE, UT Capex, Joint Director Soil & Water conservation Dppt Kashmir. Row 3: 3, Construction of Crate, Bag Embankment at Jawalpora Budgam, Rs.2.425 lacs, Rs.200/-, Rs.4850/-, 15 days, DEE, UT Capex, Joint Director Soil & Water conservation Dppt Kashmir. Row 4: 4, Construction of Retaining wall on Dangepora Wadwan road, Rs.5.27 lacs, Rs.300/-, Rs.10540/-, 20 days, DEE/CEE, 3054-AR, Chief Engineer R&B Central Kashmir. Row 5: 5, Construction of Naibat Office at Kachwari Budgam, Rs.15.00 lacs, Rs.600/-, Rs.30000/-, 40 days, DEE/CEE/BEE, UT capex Budget 2024-25 (Regular Budget), District Dev. Commissioner R&B Central Kashmir. Row 6: 6, Construction of Naibat Office at Soibugh Budgam, Rs.15.00 lacs, Rs.600/-, Rs.30000/-, 40 days, DEE/CEE/BEE, UT capex Budget 2024-25 (Regular Budget), District Dev. Commissioner Budgam.

Position of AAA = Accorded Project Authority: Position of TS = Accorded Position of funds:- = Available/Committed.

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

Table with 3 columns: S.No, Description, Date. Row 1: 1, Date of Issue of Tender Notice, 14/11/2024. Row 2: 2, Period of downloading of bidding documents, 14/11/2024. Row 3: 3, Bid submission Start Date, 14/11/2024. Row 4: 4, Bid Submission End Date, 21/11/2024 upto 4.00 P.M. Row 5: 5, Date & time of opening of Bids, 22/11/2024 at 11.00A.M in the office of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Budgam. Row 6: 6, Submission of Performance Security (PS), Within 7days of receipt of LOI. (The bidder has to provide 5% of allotted Cost as Performance Security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG which shall subsequently release 2% CDR

No: EE/MDB/NIT/ 8362-77 DATED:- 14- 11-2024

Sd/- Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Budgam, DPK-8066/24 dated: 14-11-2024

Fire Damages Upper Floor Of Muslim Public School, Rajbagh



Agencies

SRINAGAR: A fire broke out on the upper floor of the Muslim Public School in Srinagar, causing significant damage, but all students and teachers were safely evacuated in time. Division Fire Officer Zorawar Singh informed the media on Thursday that the fire department received a call about the incident at 12:31 PM. Upon arrival, the fire had spread across the top floor of the building.

"We immediately began evacuation procedures for all students and staff, while a search was conducted to ensure no one was trapped. Once confirmed, we pro-

ceeded with our firefighting operations," said Officer Singh.

The blaze has since been extinguished, though the cooling process will take some time. The fire was contained to the top floor, preventing it from spreading further. The exact cause of the fire is still under investigation, according to the fire department.

The incident took place in the Kursoo Rajbagh area of Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir. Fire trucks quickly arrived on the scene to control the flames, and no injuries or casualties have been reported. The cause of the fire remains unknown at this time. (KINS)

Commissioner SMC Reviews Arrangements For Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Birthday Celebrations



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Dr. Owais Ahmed, IAS Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), conducted an extensive review of the preparations underway for Guru Nanak Dev Ji's birthday celebrations at the historic Chatti Padshahi Shrine at Rainawari Srinagar.

During the visit, Dr. Owais inspected key arrangements, including round-the-clock drinking water supply, adequate lighting, and sanitation services to ensure that all devotees and visitors enjoy a safe and spiri-

tually fulfilling experience. The Commissioner emphasized that providing a clean, welcoming environment for devotees reflects SMC's dedication to community service and respect for religious and cultural values.

"The well-being of our visitors is of utmost importance," stated Dr. Owais. "We are committed to facilitating a memorable and comfortable celebration for all."

With full support from the SMC, the preparations aim to honor the significance of this occasion and enhance the experience for those gathering to pay homage.

Paramount Polyclinic Observers World Diabetes Day

Syed Mohammad Burhan

SRINAGAR: The Center of Excellence for the Management of Diabetes & Obesity at Paramount Polyclinic, Hawal Srinagar, observed World Diabetes Day with a free medical camp, emphasizing prevention and management of diabetes.

The event was aimed at educating the public on adopting healthy lifestyles and food choices to prevent diabetes and its complications. Expert healthcare professionals provided complimentary check-ups, consultations, and screenings.

Educational pamphlets highlighting the importance of healthy habits, balanced

diets, and regular exercise were distributed among participants. The camp witnessed an overwhelming response from the community.

Dr. Syed Riyaz Ahmed practicing Diabetes & Obesity Medicine at Paramount Polyclinic & Diagnostic Center said, "Our objective is to raise awareness about diabetes prevention and management. We encourage everyone to prioritize their health and take proactive steps towards a healthier lifestyle."

Dr. Riyaz further said that the Center of Excellence remains committed to providing comprehensive care and support for diabetes management.

MSME Organizes Entrepreneurship Awareness Program On Metallurgy & Materials



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Branch MSME Development and Facilitation Office (DFO) Srinagar, under the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India, organized an Entrepreneurship Awareness Program (EAP) on the theme "Metallurgy and Ma-

terials - Forging the Future of Innovation and Entrepreneurship" at Sanat Nagar, Srinagar.

The event brought together key stakeholders from various sectors to discuss the potential of the manufacturing industries in the Kashmir region and their role in fostering innovation and entrepreneurship.

Two Students Dead, One Critically Injured In Tengpora Accident

Syed Mohammad Burhan

SRINAGAR: Two persons died and another one was critically injured in a head-on collision between two vehicles near Tengpora area in Srinagar on Thursday.

A Mahindra Thar collided head-on with a tipper which was parked on the roadside in Tengpora on Thursday afternoon, resulting in on spot death to two persons and injuries to another one.

All the travellers in the car were identified as students of a particular school. The dead students have been identified as Hammad, of Lal Bazar, and Azeem Sanat Nagar. Injured has been identified as Mohammad Eissa Ganie of Nowsheera.

Police have taken cognizance of the incident. Speaking to Kashmir Observer SSP Traffic Srinagar Muzaffar Ahmad Shah termed the incident unfortunate. He called on parents not to give their vehicles to minor



children.

"It is sad that we have lost two young boys in the incident. The onus lies on the parents who let their minor children drive cars and scooters when they are not allowed to do it as per law" Shah said.

Shah further said that the school and tuition centers should stop minor children from coming to schools

and tuition on their own vehicles.

"School children are minors and it is sad that school authorities do not stop children from driving their vehicles. We have time and again held interactions and programmes to educate children in schools, it is high time school authorities initiate action against these students." He said.

SKIMS Observes World Diabetes Day

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: On world diabetes day, the department of Endocrinology SKIMS organised a daylong event at SKIMS Auditorium where the outcomes/ results of the world's largest ICMR INDIAB Study of Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh on communicable disease (NCD) was presented.

The session was chaired by Director SKIMS/ EOSG & Principal Investigator of the study Prof. Mohd. Ashraf Ganie & Dean Medical Faculty SKIMS Prof. Shariq Masoodi.

Director SKIMS / EOSG Prof. Ashraf Ganie had a detailed interaction with the media about the study outcomes. Prof. Ashraf stressed that the pandemic of Noncommunicable diseases is preventable through healthy lifestyle choices. He said health care setups, administration, govt. and social organizations need to work collectively and need to work on social & cultural practices and there is an urgent need to make people aware about the serious repercussions of these diseases which are mainly due to unhealthy lifestyle practices. He urged the media to play a constructive role in creating wide awareness among the general masses.

The study showed that non-communicable disease (NCD) rates are rapidly increasing in India with wide regional variations. The study aimed to quantify the prevalence of metabolic NCDs in India and analyze interstate and inter-regional variations. The Indian Council of Medical Research-India Diabetes (ICMR-INDIAB) study, a cross-sectional population-based survey, assessed a representative sample of individuals aged 20 years and older drawn from urban and rural areas of 31 states, union territories, and the National Capital Territory of India. The study was conducted in multiple phases with a stratified multistage sampling design, using three-level stratification based on geography, population size, and socioeconomic status of each state. Diabetes and prediabetes were diagnosed using the WHO



criteria, hypertension using the Eighth Joint National Committee guidelines, obesity (generalized and abdominal) using the WHO Asia Pacific guidelines, and dyslipidaemia using the National Cholesterol Education Program-Adult Treatment Panel III guidelines.

The Kashmir & Ladakh Report (July, 2023- January, 2024) of ICMR INDIAB study conducted under the leadership of Prof. M. Ashraf Ganie, reports on the prevalence of diabetes, prediabetes, obesity, hypertension and dyslipidemia in a representative sample of adults in both urban and rural areas of union territory, and attempts to identify region-wise and state-wise differences in the status of these NCDs in the country using robust sampling and diagnostic methods and therefore helps in assessing the present status of

the epidemic of NCDs and their likely future trajectory. Kashmir & Ladakh prevalence- Known Diabetes- 5.4 percent, Prediabetes- 10.5 percent, Hypertension- 30 percent and Obesity- 57.6 percent.

The findings from the ICMR-INDIAB study are expected to have far-reaching implications for public health policies and initiatives in India. State governments, which bear primary responsibility for healthcare delivery, will benefit from the study's granular data in planning region-specific programs to prevent and manage NCDs. The comprehensive dataset from ICMR-INDIAB will help policymakers allocate resources more effectively, focusing on preventive healthcare, early diagnosis, and management of NCDs.

In future discourse ICMR plans to use insights from the ICMR-INDIAB study to foster collaboration with local governments, healthcare providers, and community leaders. This multi-level collaboration aims to implement targeted interventions, promote healthy lifestyle modifications, and improve access to diagnostic and treatment services, particularly in underserved areas.

JAMMU & KASHMIR SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED (SICOP)

(A J&K Government Undertaking)

2ND FLOOR, SANAT GHAR BUILDING BEMINA SRINAGAR

Email: sicoproject@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-TENDER NOTICE No:ENIT No: 17-PEK of 2024-25 dated:11-11-2024

For and on behalf of the Managing Director of Jammu & Kashmir Small Scale Industries Cooperation Limited, online tenders are invited from reputed contractors who are registered with CPWD/MES/PWD of appropriate class in India.

Name of work	Adv. Cost. In lacs	Earnest money	Class of contract	Cost of tender document	Time of completion	Position of AA
Construction/installation of main gate at Industrial Estate Zainakote.	₹7.72 lacs	Rs. 0.1544 lacs	"C" & "D" Class civil	1000.00	01 months	Accorded

Terms and Conditions:

- The tender documents for the above job can be seen on the website www.jktenders.gov.in from 11-11-2024 (1200Hrs)
- The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website from 11-11-2024 (1200Hrs) onwards.
- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on website www.jktenders.gov.in from 11-11-2024 1200Hrs upto 02-12-2024 (1630Hrs) only.
- The uploaded Pre-Qualification bids in the first instance on the website will be opened on 03-12-2024(1200Hrs). In case of holiday on the date of opening of bid, bids will be opened on the next working day. The financial bids of only those firms shall be opened who qualify in pre-qualification bid, intimation in respect of opening of financial bids shall be notified separately.
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Bank Receipt with seal and signature of bank official in favor of Project Engineer (K) SICOP Srinagar Kashmir in Account No CC-0148020100001980, IFSC Code JAKA0KARRAN, J&K Bank Branch Karan Nagar Srinagar (tender inviting authority) (The Date of bank receipt should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Project Engineer (K) SICOP Srinagar Kashmir. (tender receiving authority) and EMD 2% of advertised cost in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Project Engineer, SICOP Kashmir.
- The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Project Engineer, SICOP Kashmir) within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period(DLP) of the work.
- The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape CDR/FDR of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance security @5% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released after successful completion of Defect liability period (DLP) of the work.
- The advertised cost shown above is inclusive of 6.5% SICOP service charges/contingencies and other taxes as admissible.
- Complete bidding process will be online (price bid not to be submitted in physical form).

DIPK-NB-2366-24
DT: 14/11/2024

Project Engineer
SICOP Kashmir

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI CALENDAR

14 Jumada al-Awwal
1446

PRAYERS	
FAJR	5:38
ZUHR	12:14
ASR	3:50
Magrib	5:31
ISHA	6:55

This Day In History

- 655 - Battle of the Winwaed: Penda of Mercia is defeated by Oswiu of Bernicia.
- 1315 - Battle of Morgarten: Swiss beat duke Leopold I of Austria
- 1527 - Treaty of Schoonhoven: Henry of the Palatinate, Bishop of Utrecht, cedes lands to the Habsburgs in return for security help against resistant citizens
- 1533 - Spanish expedition led by Francisco Pizarro captures the Inca capital of Cusco after defeating an Inca army led by general Quisquis
- 1715 - Barrier Treaty, Austria cedes area to Netherlands
- 1720 - Pirates Anne Bonny, Mary Read and Calico Jack are captured by Capt. Jonathan Barnett and brought to the Spanish Town of Jamaica, for trial
- 1813 - Allied troops occupies Groningen
- 1837 - Isaac Pitman introduces his shorthand system of writing, Pitman shorthand
- 1854 - In Egypt, the Suez Canal, linking the Mediterranean Sea with the Red Sea, is given the necessary royal concession.
- 1869 - Free postal delivery formally inaugurated
- 1904 - King C. Gillette patents the Gillette razor blade
- 1914 - Italian socialist Benito Mussolini founds newspaper Il Popolo d'Italia
- 1920 - League of Nations holds first meeting in Geneva
- 1932 - Walt Disney Art School created
- 1934 - Nobel for chemistry awarded to Harold C Urey (deuterium)
- 1936 - Nazi-Germany & Japan sign Anti-Komintern pact
- 1954 - 1st regularly scheduled commercial flights over North Pole begins
- 1955 - Poland & Yugoslavia sign trade agreement
- 1969 - An estimated 2 million people take part in the Vietnam War Moratorium demonstration across the United States
- 1971 - Intel advertises 4004-processor
- 1972 - Small Astronomy Satellite Explorer 48 launched to study gamma rays
- 1973 - Egypt & Israel exchange prisoners of war
- 1974 - International Energy Agency formed in Paris within OECD framework in the wake of the 1973 oil crisis
- 1976 - Syrian army conquers Beirut
- 1979 - ABC-TV announces it would broadcast nightly specials on Iran hostage
- 1979 - Iran cancels all contracts with U.S. oil companies
- 1980 - 30th NASCAR Sprint Cup: Dale Earnhardt wins
- 1982 - Funeral service held in Moscow's Red Square for Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev
- 1983 - Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus proclaimed
- 1988 - Soviet space shuttle makes unmanned maiden flight (2 orbits)
- 1990 - US President George H. W. Bush signs Clear Air Act of 1990
- 1995 - Space shuttle Atlantis docks with orbiting Russian space station Mir
- 2000 - A chartered Antonov AN-24 crashes after takeoff from Luanda, Angola killing more than 40 people
- 2000 - New state of Jharkhand comes into existence in India
- 2002 - Hu Jintao becomes the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China
- 2003 - First day of the Istanbul Bombings takes place, followed by additional bombings on November 20th
- 2005 - Boeing formally launches the stretched Boeing 747-8 variant with orders from Cargolux and Nippon Cargo Airlines
- 2007 - A devastating Cyclone named Sidr hit Bangladesh, killing an estimated 5000 people and destroyed the world's largest mangrove forest, Sundarbans.
- 2012 - At least 95 people are killed in Syrian conflicts
- 2013 - Sony launches the Playstation Four, selling one million units on the first day
- 2014 - Vladimir Putin's press secretary says media reports that the Russian president plans to leave the G20 Summit in Brisbane early are nonsense Vladimir Putin
- 2014 - World leaders gather in Brisbane for G20 Summit, which will focus on economic growth
- 2014 - The parents of 43 Mexican students who disappeared start a nationwide bus tour in protest at the government's handling of the case
- 2014 - A 7.3 magnitude earthquake strikes under the Molucca Sea in eastern Indonesia, triggering a tsunami warning
- 2015 - France launches air strikes on Isis stronghold Raqqa in Syria in wake of terror attack on Paris

Trump Taps Rubio, Gaetz, Gabbard For Key Cabinet Positions

Sheri Walsh
UPI

Washington: President-elect Donald Trump filled more key positions in his Cabinet on Wednesday as he tapped Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., to serve as secretary of state; Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla., as U.S. attorney general and former Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard for director of national intelligence.

After meeting with President Joe Biden for two hours at the White House in Washington, Trump revealed his latest nominations.

"It is my great honor to announce that Sen. Marco Rubio, of Florida, is hereby nominated to be the U.S. secretary of state. Marco is a highly respected leader and a very powerful Voice for Freedom," Trump said in a statement Wednesday.

"He will be a strong advocate for our nation, a true friend to our allies and a fearless warrior who will never back down to our adversaries."

Rubio, a Cuban American, would become the first Latino person to serve as secretary of state, if confirmed. A three-term senator, Rubio is the top Republican on the Senate Intelligence Committee and serves on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Last year, Rubio voted against additional aid for Ukraine's fight against Russia's invasion and has said the war in Ukraine will end with a "negotiated settlement," which Trump also supports.

Rubio also backs Israel's right to defend itself in its war with Hamas and favors maintaining U.S. alliances, including NATO. The senator also backs Trump's depor-

It is my great honor to announce that Sen. Marco Rubio, of Florida, is hereby nominated to be the U.S. secretary of state. Marco is a highly respected leader and a very powerful Voice for Freedom

tation program for undocumented immigrants.

While Rubio's appointment is subject to confirmation by a majority of the Senate, Republicans now hold a 53-seat majority.

After Wednesday's announcement, Rubio vowed to "earn the support of my colleagues in the U.S. Senate so the president has his national security and foreign policy team in place when he takes office on Jan. 20."

"Leading the U.S. Department of State is a tremendous responsibility and I am honored by the trust President Trump has placed in me," Rubio said in a statement Wednesday.

"As secretary of state, I will work every day to carry out his foreign policy agenda," Rubio added. "Under the leadership of President Trump we will deliver peace through strength and always put the interest of Americans and



UN Resolutions Back Palestinian Sovereignty, Compensation For Lebanon, Syria

Agencies

LONDON: The UN Economic and Financial Committee has approved resolutions calling on Israel to compensate Lebanon and Syria for an oil slick, and to hand sovereignty to the Palestinians over their natural resources.

The US, Argentina, Canada, Israel, Micronesia, Nauru and Palau voted against both resolutions.

The slick occurred after the Israeli Air Force struck storage tanks near the Jiyah electric power plant in 2006, covering two-thirds of Lebanon's coastline with oil.

The draft resolution was introduced by Uganda's representative, who highlighted the disastrous impact the slick has had on biodiversity and the local economy.

It reiterated the UN General Assembly's "deep concern" over the negative impact the incident has had on Lebanon's long-term sustainable development, and reaffirmed a UN report that damage to the country caused by the slick amounted to \$856.4 million in 2014.

The resolution was passed by 161 votes in favor to seven against, with nine abstentions. It called for

"prompt and adequate compensation" from Israel to Lebanon and Syria, which was also affected by the slick.

Lebanon's representative thanked his country's supporters at the UN, the World Bank and elsewhere.

He said the slick had hindered Lebanon's ability to implement the UN's Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, and Israel's use of chemical and toxic substances in its ongoing military campaign could cause long-term agricultural, economic and biodiversity damage.

He called for an investigation into Israeli war crimes in Lebanon and for further compensation.

The Ugandan representative also introduced a draft resolution calling on Israel to "cease the exploitation, damage, cause of loss or depletion and endangerment of the natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan."

The draft also recognizes the right of the Palestinian people to seek compensation for any illegal activity by Israel or Israeli settlers that exploits or damages their nat-

ural resources.

It cited an International Court of Justice advisory opinion from July 19, and reaffirmed "the principle of the permanent sovereignty of the peoples under foreign occupation over their natural resources and the applicability of the Geneva Convention on the protection of civilians in time of war."

The committee passed the resolution with 159 states in favor. Seven countries opposed the motion, with 11 abstentions.

The Palestinian representative said Israel must be held accountable for crimes committed against her people and on their territory, saying it has "for over a year" violated the UN Charter with its "incomprehensible" acts in Gaza.

She added that Israel has been allowed to act as a state "above the law with brazen impunity, classifying all Palestinians as terrorists to justify its acts."

The Syrian delegate said genocide, destruction and displacement committed by Israel "have also threatened to set fire to the entire region and beyond." He blamed the US for preventing the UN Security Council from taking firm action.

Dutch Reflect On Amsterdam Violence One Week On

Agencies

THE HAGUE: The Netherlands is still dealing with the social and political fallout of violence a week ago in the streets of Amsterdam between supporters of Maccabi Tel Aviv and men on scooters.

The attacks have put Amsterdam, famous for its tolerance and diverse community, on edge, with police and authorities ramping up security measures.

Supporters of the Maccabi Tel Aviv club were chased by men on scooters and beaten after a Europa League match against Ajax in Amsterdam on November 7.

Dutch authorities also report-

During a parliamentary debate late on Wednesday, Dutch Justice Minister David van Weel said the investigation was "racing ahead" and that police so far were targeting 29 suspects, based on images taken on the night.

Van Weel said investigations were hampered by perpetrators wearing hoodies and that the incidents happened at night.

At the same debate, far-right MP Geert Wilders, leader of the biggest party in the coalition government, claimed the perpetrators of the violence against Maccabi Tel Aviv football fans were "all Muslims" and "for the most part Moroccans."

The anti-Islam Wilders called



A man carries a Palestinian flag at the Dam Square in Amsterdam on Nov. 14, 2024, where the emergency ordinance was imposed after the violence following the UEFA Europa League match between Maccabi and Ajax on Nov. 7. (AFP)

ed Maccabi fans setting fire to a Palestinian flag before the match, chanting anti-Arab slurs and vandalising a taxi.

The violence took place against the backdrop of an increasingly polarized Europe, with heightened tensions following a rise in anti-Semitic, anti-Israeli and Islamophobic attacks since the start of the war in Gaza.

Police, prosecutors and other law authorities have launched a massive probe into the incidents surrounding the Maccabi-Ajax match, making eight arrests so far.

for the attackers to be prosecuted "for terrorism, lose their passports and kicked out of the country."

But opposition parties condemned Wilders' statements, saying he was "pouring oil on the fire, abusing the genuine fear and pain of one group to stoke hate against another."

Many opposition politicians and commentators said although anti-Semitism was abhorrent, the violence was not one-sided, pointing out Maccabi supporters had chanted anti-Arab slurs, vandalized a taxi and burned a Palestinian flag.

1 Million Migrants In US that Trump Could Target

Agencies

Washington: Maribel Hidalgo fled her native Venezuela a year ago with a 1-year-old son, trudging for days through Panama's Darien Gap, then riding the rails across Mexico to the United States.

claims that Haitians who live and work legally in Springfield, Ohio, as TPS holders were eating their neighbors' pets. Trump also amplified disputed claims made by the mayor of Aurora, Colorado, about Venezuelan gangs taking over an apartment complex.



They were living in the US when the Biden administration announced Venezuelans would be offered Temporary Protected Status, which allows people already in the United States to stay and work legally if their homelands are deemed unsafe. People from 17 countries, including Haiti, Afghanistan, Sudan and recently Lebanon, are currently receiving such relief.

But President-elect Donald Trump and his running mate, JD Vance, have promised mass deportations and suggested they would scale back the use of TPS that covers more than 1 million immigrants. They have highlighted unfounded

"What Donald Trump has proposed doing is we're going to stop doing mass parole," Vance said at an Arizona rally in October, mentioning a separate immigration status called humanitarian parole that is also at risk. "We're going to stop doing mass grants of Temporary Protected Status."

Hidalgo wept as she discussed her plight with a reporter as her son, now 2, slept in a stroller outside the New York migrant hotel where they live. At least 7.7 million people have fled political violence and economic turmoil in Venezuela in one of the biggest displacements worldwide.

6 Soldiers Killed During Combat In Lebanon, Says Israeli Army

Agencies

Jerusalem: Israel suffered one of its deadliest days of its ground offensive against Hezbollah in Lebanon on Wednesday when six of its soldiers were killed in combat near the border.

The soldiers "fell during combat in southern Lebanon", the army said in a statement. Their deaths mean 47 Israeli troops have been killed in combat with Hezbollah since September 30, when Israel sent ground forces into Lebanon.

The army's announcement came after Israel's new Defence Minister Israel Katz said there would be no easing-up in the war against Hezbollah.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on X shared an image of the "Golani" Brigade symbol - the unit the soldiers killed belonged to - a green olive tree against a yellow background, with a broken heart emoji.

Since September 23, Israel has stepped up its bombing campaign in Lebanon, mainly targeting Hez-



bollah strongholds in south Beirut and in the east and south of the country. On September 30, it sent in ground troops.

It came after nearly a year of cross-border exchanges of fire, launched by Hezbollah in support of its Palestinian ally Hamas following their October 7, 2023 attack on Israel that triggered the Gaza war.

Earlier on Wednesday, an Israeli strike hit Aramoun, a densely-packed area south of Bei-

rut which is located outside Hezbollah's traditional strongholds, which the health ministry said killed eight people.

Lebanese state media on the same day reported a third wave of Israeli raids on Hezbollah's south Beirut bastion in 24 hours.

The Israeli army meanwhile said it had intercepted some of the "five projectiles" that had crossed from Lebanon into Israeli territory.

Delhi Sees Dense Fog, Lowest Minimum Temp. Of Season

Air Quality 'Severe'

Press Trust Of India

New DELHI: A blanket of fog covered parts of Delhi for the second consecutive day on Thursday with the air quality index remaining in the 'severe' category, an official said.

The city recorded its lowest minimum temperature of the season so far at 16.1 degrees Celsius, three notches above the normal, according to the weather department.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi's Air Quality Index at 9 am was 428, which falls in the 'severe' category.

"Of 39 monitoring stations in Delhi, 32 recorded air quality in the 'severe' category, with readings above 400. These stations include Anand Vihar, Ashok Vihar, IGI Airport, ITO, Mandir Marg, North Campus, Patparganj, Punjabi Bagh, and Pusa among others," an official said.

The air quality in Delhi on Wednesday was reported as the worst in the country, plunging into the 'severe' category for the first time this season.

The city's 24-hour AQI, recorded at 4 pm every day, stood at 418 on Wednesday, up from 334 the previous day.

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", 101 and 200 "moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", 401 and 450 "severe" and above 450 "severe plus".

A thick veil of fog blanketed the city on Wednesday morning, reducing visibility to zero and affecting flight operations. The situation improved slightly on Thursday as the visibility at the Delhi Airport at 8.30 am was 400 metres.

The weather department said the maximum temperature is expected to settle at around 29 degrees Celsius.

NEWS MAKERS

Iran Hangs Man 'For Second Time': Report

Paris: Iran hanged a 26-year-old man for a second time Wednesday months after a previous execution was halted half a minute in, an NGO said.

Ahmad Alizadeh was arrested in October 2018 on a murder charge, which he denied, and was sentenced to death, Norway-based Iran Human Rights (IHR), which tracks executions in Iran, said in a statement.

His death sentence was carried out on April 27 in Ghezel Hesar prison in Karaj outside Tehran. But just 28 seconds into the hanging he was brought down from the gallows when the victim's family suddenly shouted

"forgiveness". His "lifeless" body was successfully resuscitated and the execution was halted, IHR said.

Under Iran's sharia law, a victim's family can ask for blood money to spare the life of the perpetrator or also decide to forgive. However, in many cases, the family of the condemned person cannot afford the sum set and the execution goes ahead, according to activists.

Alizadeh remained under the threat of the death penalty in the absence of any deal with the victim's family for blood money.

He was executed again in the Ghezel Hesar prison on Wednesday morning, IHR said.

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In the week since the United States presidential election, Elon Musk has used X, the social media platform he owns, to reiterate his support for President-elect Donald Trump.

Some of the platform's users have decided that they would rather post elsewhere.

Among the largest beneficiaries of that desire is Bluesky, a rival service that has gained more than 1 million new users in the week since the election, a company spokesperson, Emily Liu, said Tuesday. The majority of the new users live in the United States, Canada and Britain, she added.

"We're seeing increased activity levels across all different forms of engagement," she said in an email. Bluesky, which began in 2019 as a project by Twitter founder Jack Dorsey, is among several challengers that have each experienced bursts of momentum since Musk's acquisition of Twitter in 2022 and subsequent rebranding of it.

Bluesky Emerges as X Alternative

Callie Holtermann | Telegraph Inida

The accounts created on Bluesky this week, many of which are left-leaning, shared cat videos alongside their hopes that the platform might offer a reprieve from the misinformation and hateful speech that have swirled on X since Musk's takeover.

New or freshly active users on the platform include celebrities (rapper Flavor Flav, author John Green), Democratic political figures (Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y.; Chasten Buttigieg, husband of Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg) and media personalities (Mehdi Hasan, Molly Jong-Fast). "Hello Less Hateful World,"



Mark Cuban, a billionaire and Kamala Harris surrogate, posted Tuesday. Bluesky gained its first wave of high-profile users last spring, and switched from being invitation-only to open to the public in February. It now has 14.7 million users, the company said.

That is still far fewer than Threads, Meta's competitor to X,

which this month reported that it had reached 275 million monthly active users. (A Meta spokesperson declined to share whether that number had changed postelection.)

There has been a "feeling of momentum" on Bluesky since the election, said Shannon McGregor, an associate professor at the Hussman School of Journalism and Media at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Many of the people leaving X are disappointed by the outcome of the election, she said, and now associate the platform with Musk's support of Trump.

Others are frustrated by the type of content that seems to be rising to the top of their feeds. "You were getting this awful timeline of far-right, white supremacist, conspiracy theory posts - which the great majority of people don't want to interact with on a daily basis," said McGregor, whose research focuses on the intersection of social media and politics.

'Nearly Half Of Those With Diabetes Unaware Of Their Condition'

Agencies

SRINAGAR: On the occasion of World Diabetes Day, healthcare experts in Kashmir said there is an increasing prevalence of diabetes in the region and that many people are unaware of their condition. They called for early diagnosis, lifestyle modification and regular physical activity to combat this growing health issue.

Dr Mashkoo, a prominent doctor from Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag said that diabetes is a chronic condition that occurs when the pancreas either does not produce enough insulin or when the body cannot effectively use the insulin it produces.

He said there are three main types of diabetes: Type 1, Type 2, and gestational diabetes (developing during pregnancy).

"In all cases, sugar builds up in the bloodstream because the pancreas fails to produce enough insulin. Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes may arise due to a combination of genetic and environmental factors," the doctor said.

Dr Mashkoo said while diabetes was previously thought to be more common in urban areas, it is now being reported in both rural and urban populations. However, many remain unaware of their condition because symptoms can be subtle and often go unnoticed, he added.

Common symptoms of diabetes include increased thirst, frequent urination, unexplained weight loss, fatigue, irritability, blurry vision and slow-healing sores, the doctor

said, adding that while these symptoms may not always be obvious, those with a family history of diabetes or other risk factors should be especially vigilant.

He warned that uncontrolled diabetes can lead to serious long-term complications. "The longer you have diabetes and uncontrolled blood sugar levels, the higher your risk of developing complications," he said.

Doctors said that lifestyle modifications play a crucial role in preventing and managing diabetes.

Dr Shah Nawaz Ahmad, an endocrinologist, said that nearly half of people with diabetes are unaware of their condition. He urged those with a family history of diabetes or those with lifestyle-related risk factors (such as obesity or hypertension) to undergo regular screenings.

"If you are over 35 years old and have risk factors like obesity, hypertension or a family history of diabetes, you should get your blood sugar tested at least once a year," Dr Shah Nawaz advised. He recommended a 45-minute brisk walk daily to help maintain a healthy weight and reduce the risk of diabetes. Dr Rafaqat, another endocrinologist, termed diabetes a "silent killer" and called for weight reduction, dietary control and exercise to prevent the disease. "Diabetes education is just as important as treatment. People with diabetes should avoid self-medication or visiting quacks, as these can lead to further complications," he said.

Govt Unveils 'Procurement Preference Policy—2024' To Boost Local MSEs

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In a significant step to empower the local economy, the Jammu and Kashmir government has unveiled the Draft Procurement Preference Policy for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) for 2024.

The groundbreaking initiative is designed to channel 30 per cent of the government procurement to registered local MSEs, offering them greater access to public sector contracts and fostering economic growth across the region.

The policy drafted by the Department of Industries and Commerce (I&C) aims to create an inclusive and supportive business environment for local enterprises.

It includes several key provisions aimed at providing MSEs with a competitive edge, such as a 25% price preference over non-registered suppliers. Additionally, local businesses will enjoy reserved procurement quotas and a simplified process for participating in government tenders.

To further reduce financial barriers, the policy offers local MSEs a waiver on Earnest Money Deposits (EMDs) and application fees, encouraging more businesses to compete for government contracts. Special provisions have also been made to support women-owned and SC/ST-owned businesses by reserving a portion of procure-

ment for these groups, fostering diversity and inclusivity in the business landscape.

The Directorate of Industries & Commerce will act as the nodal agency for implementing the policy, assisting businesses in meeting quality standards through mandatory certifications and training.

The government has partnered with organizations like the Quality Council of India and IIT Jammu to provide vendor development programs, helping local MSEs improve product quality and qualify for the prestigious ZED (Zero Defect, Zero Effect) certification.

A key feature of the policy is the introduction of a digital dashboard that will enable real-time tracking and monitoring of MSE procurement. This platform will provide transparency, allowing businesses to access data on government purchasing trends and offer feedback. It will also serve as a tool for government departments to ensure compliance with the new policy.

To oversee the implementation, a UT-level review committee, led by the Principal Secretary of the Industries and Commerce Department, will be established. The committee will address grievances and track progress toward achieving the procurement targets, ensuring the policy's effective execution.

J&K Parties Mobilize Ahead Of Panchayat Polls

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Political momentum is building in Jammu and Kashmir with parties gearing up for the much-anticipated Panchayat elections.

Following the recent Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, BJP, National Conference (NC), and Congress are all mobilizing efforts to maximize their influence at the grassroots level.

The BJP, aiming to expand its voter base, claims to have added approximately 1.5 lakh new members in a recent drive.

Aseem Gupta, BJP's public relations campaign in-charge, stated that the party is enrolling around 10,000 new members daily.

To further this outreach, the BJP is set to launch the Maha Atal Sampark Abhiyan, a door-to-door campaign scheduled for November 17 and 24, and December 1.

Party MPs, MLAs, and top cadres will meet with voters across the region. Notably, BJP achieved the highest vote

share in the recent assembly elections, and leaders hope to consolidate their base further in the upcoming local polls.

Within the ruling NC, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder

Kumar Chaudhary and cabinet member Satish Sharma are focusing their outreach in the Jammu division.

Chaudhary has made multiple visits to Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan, the party headquarters in Jammu, where he reassured residents and party workers of his commitment to defending Jammu's interests.

He emphasized that government offices will be accessible to address the public's con-

cerns and vowed continued advocacy for local land and employment rights.

Congress, too, is poised to intensify its activity. Recently appointed state president Tariq Hameed Karra held a strategy meeting with senior party members at the Jammu headquarters to discuss the organizational shakeup and the Panchayat election campaign.

Despite securing only six seats in the latest assembly elections, Congress is aiming to leverage this upcoming election to revitalize its presence in the region.

The Panchayat voter registration process for 2025 is also underway, with a finalized voter list expected by January 6, 2025.

Special registration camps are scheduled at polling stations across the region on November 16, 17, 23, 24, and December 1, where officials will assist voters with forms and provide information. OBC reservation details are also being reviewed in the lead-up to these elections—(KNO)



Mother Helpage JK Organizes Free Medical Camp In Dadoo Village

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: Mother Helpage JK, in partnership with the Department of AYUSH, organized a free medical camp on Thursday at Dadoo Village. The medical camp was aimed at bringing essential healthcare services to the doorstep of hundreds of rural residents. The camp witnessed a remarkable turnout, with over 450 villagers benefitting from the initiative.

The camp offered a range of services, including free medical consultations, diagnostic tests, medication, prescriptions, and health education. A team of experienced doctors and medical staff from the Department of AYUSH ensured



high-quality healthcare for the attendees, addressing various health issues in Dadoo village.

Mother Helpage JK said that the initiative was part of a broader effort to bridge the healthcare access gap in rural areas and promote preventive and alternative healthcare

practices. "Through free consultations and health awareness, the event aimed to enhance community health literacy and empower residents with knowledge on holistic health practices," Mother Helpage said in a statement.

Dr. Jitendra Singh To Inaugurate CSIR HealthCare Theme Conclave

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Dr. Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy, and Space, Vice President of CSIR, and Chief Guest of the function, will inaugurate the CSIR HealthCare Theme Conclave at Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), Srinagar, tomorrow. The inaugural function of this two-day conclave from 16-17 November, 2024, will be held from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm on 15-November-2024. Sh. Satish Sharma, Hon'ble Cabinet Minister, J&K Govt. Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science & Technology, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports and ARI & Trainings Departments and Jb. Javid Ahmad Dar Hon'ble



Cabinet Minister, J&K Govt Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development, Panchayat Raj, Cooperative & Election Departments, will be present as Guests of Honour. Dr. N. Kalaiselvi Director General, CSIR & Secretary DSIR would also grace the function along with Sh. G.N. Singh, Advisor to Hon'ble Chief Minister, UP & Ex Drug Controller General, Dr. Vinay K. Nandicoori, Director, CSIR-CCMB, Dr. D. Srinivasa Reddy, Director, CSIR-IIT and Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM.

The conclave is being organised under the One Week One Theme (OWOT) Campaign, with the prime focus on fostering innovation and startup ecosystem in the HealthCare Sector. Thirty six startups and eight CSIR institutes will be displaying their innovations, technologies and products, ranging from areas such as Herbal Food Supplements, Functional Foods for Cancer and Women Health, Biostimulants and Biopesticides, Natural Cosmetics, Agri-products such as Pheranone traps, etc.

PC To Challenge Police Verification System In Supreme Court

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Buoyed by the Supreme Court's judgment on "bulldozer justice," Peoples Conference on Thursday announced that it would challenge the existing police verification system in the Supreme Court.

A day after the Supreme Court observed that the demolition of a house solely because the person residing there is either an accused or convicted in a criminal case will amount to inflicting "collective punishment" on the entire family, Peoples Conference today announced that it would approach the apex court against the police verification system in Jammu & Kashmir, which it termed as a more chronic and serious case of collective punishment against the family.

"Encouraged by the bulldozer judgment where the Supreme Court clearly ruled that it is a collective punishment against the family, the JKPC will approach the Supreme Court with a plea that the system of police verification in Jammu and Kashmir is a more chronic and serious case of collective punishment against the fam-

ily," the party said in a post on X, formerly Twitter.

In a post on X, PC president Sajad Gani Lone said that an adverse police verification certificate in Kashmir is a collective punishment against the family. "In the highlighted para, the Supreme Court calls it collective punishment against the family. An adverse police verification certificate because a relative has an adverse police record is also a collective punishment against the family. Kashmir-specific Stone Age justice," Lone said.

In its election manifesto for the 2024 assembly polls, PC had promised to put an end to the "practice of Kashmiris being blacklisted by security agencies, which bars them from getting jobs, passports, and government contracts."

In the recent assembly session, Lone said the police verification is a sword over the youth. "In the whole country, an individual is verified, but here the whole family and even extended family is verified," he said, adding that police verification should be brought at par with other parts of the country—(KNO)

BLAZE IN SOPORE FACTORY

Industrialists Demand Fire Safety Measures After Devastating Fire

Agencies

SOPORE: Industrialists in Kashmir demand a standby fire and emergency vehicle for every estate in the valley following a devastating fire at a prominent furniture manufacturing unit in the Baba Raza Industrial Estate Sopore, which left the entire factory in ruins on Wednesday evening.

The factory, known as Habib

the unit.

Javid Bhat, president of the Sopore Industrial Estates, expressed sympathy with the factory owner and called for enhanced safety measures. "There must be a dedicated fire and emergency vehicle stationed in the estate, covering both the industrial and peripheral areas. This tragedy could have been contained if we had such resources," he said.



Enterprises, was established in 1980 and employed around 150 workers, including non-local staff residing with their families in the area.

The incident has led to an estimated loss of materials worth around 4 crores, impacting the livelihoods of numerous workers and their families. The cause of the fire is said to be the short circuit.

The owner of the factory, Ishfaq Ahmed, expressed sorrow over the destruction, saying they had overcome several challenges, including the Kashmir turmoil, to keep the business running since its inception.

"We have produced around 300,000 beds and one million sofa sets, delivering quality products to our loyal customers. Our 150 workers are part of this journey, and now we face a tragedy together," he said. He urged authorities to consider the loss as collective and to support the rehabilitation of

Bhat acknowledged the efforts of firefighters, administration and the police who managed to prevent further damage within the estate, which houses 56 active industrial units.

The local administration, including the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) of Sopore, S A Raina, and the General Manager of the District Industries Centre (DIC) Baramulla, Nighat, visited the site to assess the damage.

Raina visited the estates and assured all kinds of help from the administration for a fresh establishment of the unit. "This is not an individual loss but a collective one," Raina said, pledging support for the factory's revival.

Other industrialists called for improved fire safety infrastructure across all industrial estates in Kashmir. The fire has not only impacted the factory owner but also shaken the locals, as the factory was a symbol of resilience and success in the region, they said—(KNO)

Sakeena Masood Addresses Children's Day Celebrations At SKUAST-K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health & Medical Education, Social Welfare, and Education, Sakeena Masood addressed the colourful Children's Day celebrations at the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) Kashmir here.

The celebrations, organised by Directorate of School Education Kashmir in collaboration with Bharti Airtel Foundation and Pj Jam Foundation, saw an overwhelming participation of students from different higher educational institutions.

Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Gania; CEO Bharti Airtel Foundation, CEO Pj Jam Foundation, Director School Education Kashmir, Principals, Chief Education Officers, Lecturers and teachers from across the valley were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister emphasized on the critical role that education plays in shaping the future of children. "Children are the flowers of our garden and the future of our Jammu and Kashmir is dependent on them", Sakeena Masood said.

She urged the gathering, especially teachers to foster creativity and critical thinking in children, preparing them for the challenges of tomorrow. "Children are not just the leaders of tomorrow, but also the visionaries and innovators who will shape the futuristic society," Sakeena Masood stated. "It is essential that we provide them with tools, opportunities and encouragement to dream big and pursue their passions".

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL
GOVT. GIRLS HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL KUPWARA
No: GHSSK/024/201 Dated:11/11/2024

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are invited for publishing School annual magazine "Lael-i-Jowher" for the year 2023*2024 affixed with Rs.5/- revenue stamp with a CDR of Rs. 2000/- from the registered publishers/suppliers within five (5) days of the publication of tender notice. The specifications of the magazine are as under:-

- No. of copies to be published = 300.
- No. of black and white printed pages =104.
- Black and white printed page paper = 80 GSM.
- No. of photomulticolour art paper = 08.
- Photomulticolour pages art paper = 130 GSM.
- No. of multicoloured thermal lamination Art paper title pages =02.
- Multicoloured thermal title cover lamination art paper = 300 GSM.
- Size of the magazine = 18/24 cm.
- Time of completion after supply of order =20 days.
- The rates should include per black and white/coloured page and per copy.
- No changing of rate after approval will be allowed.
- Lowest quotation will be given order for publication.
- The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject the quotation in the interest of the institution.

DIPK-8061-24
DT: 14/11/2024

Principal
GHSS Kupwara

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PUBLIC WORKS (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA
Email:rbdivisionawantipora@gmail.com

NO: T-1/EEA/6538-43 Dated: 13/11/2024

EXTENSION CORRIGENDUM

Subject:-

- Restoration of road surface under the jurisdiction of PW (RnB) Sub-Division Pampore on emergency basis by way of Snow clearance (Stage contract-10) for the year 2024-25

Reference: 1. Fresh-88/EEA/RNB/of 2024-25/6172-82 Dated: 06/11/2024

It is notified for the information of all concerned that single bidder has participated for above said NIT. Hence the above mentioned works/Tenders is hereby extended/modified and fixed as under:

1	Bid Submission End Date	18-11-2024 up to 1.00 P.M
2	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	18-11-2024 at 3.00 PM

All other terms & Conditions shall remain same as per above mentioned NITs

Sd/- Tech. Officer DIPK-8026-24 DT: 14/11/2024

Sd/- Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora

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Mindful Fridays

Chasing Clout

How Idolizing YouTubers and TikTokers Skews Youth's Idea of Success



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With the growing popularity of digital platforms such as YouTube and TikTok, especially among youth, social media influencers are becoming more important figures in the lives of young people, thus directly or indirectly acting as their main role models. Influenced by these social media influencers, many young viewers now aspire to get the same level of fame, fortune and lifestyle as these young people feel having such things in life is being successful. Though following influencers can inspire the younger generation to be creative and might also help in community building, however, taking YouTubers and TikTokers as success models could harm more than help the next generation in understanding the real meaning of success. In this article, we will explore why idolizing YouTubers and TikTokers is dangerous, especially keeping in view how their influence shapes the ways it affects values, one's views of oneself, and how one interprets career success.

set the wrong notion in the minds of youth that social media is the best way to succeed if one wants to see results quickly and when using the same approach, they try to find a job outside the social media, they may find the reality hitting them hard and they may get disappointed.

appearance, financial affluence, or fame holds more value than inner qualities, skills, and accomplishments that contribute to authentic self-worth.

Values Rooted in Instant Gratification

How young people approach their goals and aspirations may get highly affected by the values rooted in quick success and immediate rewards promoted by the influencer culture. Influencers overshadow the value of hard work, patience and resilience as they frequently become famous in a very short period of time. Youth may feel easily frustrated when they do not see immediate results of their efforts in contrast to the success portrayed by the social media influencers and this may discourage them to pursue long-term goals. Pursuit of overnight success can reduce the value of patience and persistence, two essential qualities that are needed in both personal and professional development.

The Dangers of Following Trends and Fads

Since young people are keen to follow the trends set by the influencers, they may emulate fashion and lifestyle

established for them by the influencers. Among such fads are those that can promote superficiality and discourage originality. In this way the youth may miss the opportunity to explore their own interests and values required for genuine self exploration and growth.

Risky Behaviors and Lack of Accountability

Few if not all influencers promote behaviors that may be dangerous, unrealistic or even harmful such as severe dieting, excessive spending, or a lack of concern for mental health. Young people who adopt such behaviors risk assuming unrealistic and unnatural lifestyle patterns without giving it a proper thought. The situation gets further complicated as the content uploaded by the influencers remains accessible to all in the public domain despite having detrimental impact on the followers.

The author is a licensed clinical psychologist (alumni of Govt. Medical College Srinagar) and works as a Child, Adolescent and Family therapist at Centre for Mental Health Services (CMHS) at Rambagh Srinagar. He can be reached at 8825067196

Wasim Kakroo

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Though following influencers can inspire the younger generation to be creative and might also help in community building, however, taking YouTubers and TikTokers as success models could harm more than help the next generation in understanding the real meaning of success

Unrealistic Expectations of Success

Young viewers, those who follow such YouTubers and TikTokers who frequently display wealth, celebrity, and an unending number of followers, may develop an impractical and unrealistic vision of success. Many young followers of such influencers might start believing that all it takes to get fame and fortune is to go viral or have a huge fan following online. However, young followers may not be able to understand that a lot of success of these influencers usually comes as a result of good luck, heavy financial investment, and algorithmic factors and that these factors are usually out of individual's control.

Youth who get influenced by the unrealistic idea of getting fame and fortune after following YouTubers and TikTokers, may disregard the more traditional and realistic paths to success in terms of career and employment. This approach might

Distorted Self-Perception and Self-Worth

Influencers, in order to look attractive and perfect, and hence gain fame, often showcase the idealized version of themselves online. Social media followers of these influencers especially among the youth, when constantly exposed to these perfect images, can develop a distorted image of who they are and also may have a reduced sense of self worth. This impact of social media influencers on youth can force them to compare themselves with the influencers and this can trigger or exacerbate body dissatisfaction, race for material pursuits, and a fear of missing out (FOMO). Feeling that they fall short of the unrealistic standards set by the social media influencers, the young people may develop a poor sense of self esteem and self worth. This can lead the youth to believe that external

KO VIEW

Crucial State Battles

Upcoming elections in Maharashtra and Jharkhand are crucial for the ruling BJP and the opposition parties, particularly for the Congress. After a surprise victory in Haryana, the BJP has got wind back in its sails. And the Congress, on the other hand, looks once again adrift after a reasonably good showing in the general elections. So, does the larger opposition. Maharashtra and Jharkhand, therefore, assume a critical significance for the future political direction of the country - albeit, the BJP, despite some setback in the national polls is still way ahead in popularity over the opposition parties.

The polls in Maharashtra are drawing more media and political attention. The BJP is leaving no stone unturned to ensure a win for itself. So do the Congress, NCP and the Uddhav Thackeray led Shiv Sena. Prime minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and other senior BJP leaders are addressing rallies in the two states and their speeches seem to be appealing to the people.

PM Modi's central role in the BJP's campaign, leveraging India's rising global status and emphasizing Hindu nationalist credentials, are expected to help the party over the finish line. Earlier in the national polls, voters prioritized local livelihood issues over the BJP's Hindutva agenda, which failed to resonate in areas with strong regional identities. The party's economic messaging, focused on India's growth as the world's fastest-growing major economy, fell flat against the backdrop of high inequality and youth unemployment. While the general election outcome was undoubtedly a setback for the brand Modi, the PM has since proved that it was premature to count him out. Haryana and even J&K poll results have brought the BJP back in the reckoning. The PM's ability to adapt and reinvent himself politically is well-documented, and the BJP remains a formidable force in Indian politics, even as it navigates coalition dynamics.

Should the BJP win one or both the states, it would once again make the BJP an all-encompassing party that it has been over the past decade, and the general elections would only appear a blip in its track record. But if the opposition triumphs in either or both the states, it would be back in the reckoning. A see-saw battle between political parties is good for a democracy. Going by the election campaigns of the BJP and the opposition, it could be anybody's game. In Maharashtra, the BJP is part of the ruling coalition and may be expected to face anti-incumbency. However, the saffron party has generally bucked the anti-incumbency trend and could be expected to repeat this in Maharashtra as it did earlier in Haryana. However, for now, we can only wait and watch.



Did you know?

Understanding Market Fluctuations: A Guide for Everyday Investors

Irshad Mushtaq

The stock market can feel intimidating, especially when major indices like the Nifty drop nearly 10% from their all-time highs. It's normal to worry about our investments—whether they're in equities, mutual funds, or ETFs. New investors feel this stress even more acutely, as they may see early losses from recent entries. However, let's take a step back and try to understand the broader picture. Consider owning gold: if the value drops by 10%, do we really "lose" money if we haven't sold it? Not really, because we haven't realized those losses. The same goes for stocks and mutual funds. Their value can fluctuate, just like the seasons change. Investments naturally have periods of ups and downs. Another example is land ownership. We may not receive any returns from it for months, but that doesn't mean we've lost money. In other words, just because your investments don't show immediate gains doesn't mean they're bad or that you've suffered losses. Real losses occur when you sell your assets at a lower value than you purchased them. Otherwise, any losses are merely on paper. If you're invested in quality companies and funds, have faith in the people steering them. Even if their shares decline temporarily, they typically don't panic. Neither should a wise investor. Investing requires patience, courage, and discipline. It's essential to focus on the long term and not be swayed by short-term volatility. Don't stress over temporary declines. Instead, think about the bigger picture and the inherent value in the assets you own. Rome wasn't built in a day, and neither is wealth. In conclusion, remember, the stock market has its cycles. Sometimes it's up, sometimes down. But informed, patient investors can navigate these cycles successfully. Always focus on quality investments, understand their intrinsic value, and trust in seasoned promoters. Stay calm, and remember the long-term benefits of investing in the stock market. Investing wisely involves understanding that market fluctuations are normal. Just because indices like Nifty drop by 10% doesn't mean your investments have failed. Think of owning gold or land—their value can vary, but only selling at a loss makes it real. Hold onto quality stocks and funds, trusting in management. Patient, disciplined, and courageous investors look beyond short-term downturns, focusing on the overall, long-term value.

Learn from the insights of @Irshad Mushtaq, Writer, Investor, Entrepreneur & Founder of M I Securities' Connect for valuable financial advice at misecurities@bp.sharekhan.com



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Need For Community Engagement Events

In an era where the world seems to grow increasingly interconnected yet distant, community-focused programs play a crucial role in fostering a sense of belonging and unity among residents. These programs serve as avenues for individuals to come together, share experiences, and collaborate for the betterment of their localities. By focusing on the unique needs and aspirations of a community, such initiatives contribute to creating safer, more vibrant, and tightly-knit neighborhoods.

One of the most remarkable benefits of community-focused programs is their ability to address specific challenges faced by residents. Whether it's improving educational

opportunities for children, providing healthcare services for underserved populations, or enhancing access to job training and employment resources, these programs can make a significant difference where it matters most. By tailoring their efforts to local needs, they empower communities to overcome obstacles and unlock their full potential.

Moreover, community-focused programs promote social interaction and bridge gaps that might otherwise exist between diverse groups. Through shared activities, events, and collaborative projects, people from various backgrounds can interact, learn from one another, and develop mutual understanding. This

not only promotes social cohesion but also enriches the fabric of our society by celebrating diversity and promoting inclusion.

The ripple effect of community-focused programs extends beyond immediate beneficiaries. As neighborhoods thrive, there is often a positive impact on the overall economy, property values, and local businesses. A vibrant community attracts new residents and fosters a sense of pride that encourages people to invest in their surroundings. This virtuous cycle of growth reinforces the importance of sustaining and expanding such programs.

I urge readers to support and participate in community-focused programs, whether through volun-

teering, donations, or simply spreading awareness. By doing so, we can contribute to the growth of neighborhoods that prioritize the well-being of their residents and work together to create a brighter future for all.

In conclusion, community-focused programs are not just about addressing local needs; they are about nurturing connections, encouraging growth, and building a better society from the ground up. As responsible citizens, let us recognize and celebrate the invaluable contributions of these programs in shaping our communities for the better.

Faizan Muneer

Autumn's Glory: Magnificent Chinar trees in Kashmir

Mohammad Hanief

Chinar, a tree of antiquity and magnificence is an integral part of the landscape of Kashmir and holds a unique place in its cultural traditions. The tale of changing seasons in Kashmir often finds expression in the distinct appearances of Chinar.

Chinar is pride of Kashmir and represents the aspirations of its people. It is a magnificent and vibrant tree which predominantly grows on the entire landscape of Kashmir. Being an enormous tree, it houses significant biodiversity of birds and burrowing animals. Its large foliage is a source of life-giving oxygen and significantly mitigates air and noise pollution.

Numerically, Chinar trees have seen a decline over the past decades, due to plant diseases, pests, as well as impact of urbanization. Government is taking proactive steps for the conservation of mighty Chinars, and has embarked on, zealously, for planting Chinar trees on various locations like educational institutions, office complexes, parks, gardens, and other open areas.

The number of mighty Chinar trees once reported to be around 40,000 in Kashmir are now on decline. Hence, conservation of existing trees and planting of more Chinars is being carried out. Chinars are generally planted in parks and gardens by Department of Floriculture, who also maintain these trees.

Chinar, the state tree, is a living heritage of the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. This majestic tree is an integral part of rich culture of Kashmir and has a very special place in every Kashmiri's heart. The tree is known for its elegance and exuberance and is a very special attraction for the tourists who visit Jammu and Kashmir.

The name Chinar is derived from a Persian word which means, "What a Fire"; it reflects impressive orange red colour of Chinar in Autumn. Its leaves acquire varied hues from blood red to mauve, amber and yellow depicting various seasons of Kashmir. Being a deciduous tree, it is leafless in winters and stands out magnificently during the period of snowfall.

With renewed focus on Chinar, the concern departments are taking up several measures to conserve and promote its plantation at suitable locations across Jammu and Kashmir. Plantation of Chinar in spa-



rious complexes of educational and other institutions, office complexes, public premises is being promoted. As the number of mighty chinars is on decline, a fresh census and geo-tagging with modern tools for their conservation & monitoring is also planned. This will help in their future monitoring and care.

It was during the Mughals, when someone saw its leaves turned into yellow radiant red which signified autumn, and he thought it was fire, made him shout out the words "Che-Naar Ast?" which means "What flame it is?" in Persian. It is from this question that the royal tree got its name, CHINAR, and is believed to be given by Mughal emperor Jahangir.

The tree is an inextinguishable part of Kashmir's history, religion, literature, politics, and romance and its motif finds expression in Kashmiri art and craft particularly Papier-mâché, pottery, shawl embroidery,

silverware and carpet making.

Throughout history, as entire civilizations have withered and mankind has continued to move at a breathless pace, the trees have remained. For some, these trees harbour the secrets to longevity, for others, they provide clear evidence of our journey across lifetimes and the path that awaits us in centuries to come.

Kashmir is always visualized as a big garden, scented with fresh blossoms and fruits and more importantly lined with magnificent Chinar trees. Chinar is synonymous to Kashmir valley. The golden Chinar leaf is a symbol of Kashmir. Every village here has at least one Chinar tree, if not more. Poets and writers have written literature focused on Kashmir's age-old association with Chinar and Chinar scape of Kashmir. They have been an important part of Kashmiri tradition.

The Chinar, the Oriental (Eastern) Plane

tree, *Platanus orientalis*, or Buen and Booyin in Kashmiri language, is a living heritage of Kashmir. Chinar trees characteristically grow in Eastern Himalayas. Chinar being a long-living tree has survived for ages. It spreads wide across a region of cool climate with sufficient water.

It takes around 30 to 50 years for the trees to reach their mature height and around 150 years for them to grow to their full size. The tree has several properties - leaves and bark are used as medicine, the wood, known as lace wood is used for delicate interior furniture and the twigs & roots are used for making dyes.

The shape of the chinar leaf is a popular motif in Kashmiri craft and artwork, particularly in Kashmir's world-famous papier-mâché work. The leaves decorate many shawls, women's apparel, and woodwork, such as the popular wood-carved chinar leaf souvenir.

Monarchs like the Mughals, Pathans and Maharajas treated the Chinar as an integral part of Kashmiri's soul and existence. The Mughals even declared the Buen as the Royal tree. Mughal emperor Akbar planted more than 1100 Chinar trees at place called Naseem bagh beside Dal Lake at Hazratbal. Over the

years many Chinar trees were removed to make space for infrastructure expansion, many trees got infected with disease-causing pests & pathogens to reduce number from over 1100 to present population of less than 700.

Even though the tree is believed to have existed in the valley even before the Mughal annexation, not only the credit of giving such a beautiful name but also the credit of adding it to the landscape as an attractive shade bearer goes to Mughals. References to the tree can be seen in both Akbar Nama as well as Tuzk-i-Jehangiri, both stating that the King took shelter in the hollow trunk of the tree with its soldiers.

Islamic preachers who travelled to Kashmir four centuries ago from Central Asia and Persia also revered the tree. It is said that the oldest Chinar tree in Kashmir, around 700 years old, was planted by the Sufi Saint Syed Qasim Shah in Chattergam, in central Kashmir's Budgam district. The tree grew to be 14.78 metres tall with a bisal growth of about 19m.

The Chinar has always enjoyed the high favours and patronage of the Mughals as they had recognized and valued its aesthetic and spiritual essence. The world famous Mughal Gardens have stood out as the centres of global attraction for their enticing and charismatic beauty springing from their systematically-planted Chinars.

Chinar - The King Tree is a reminder of the importance of rekindling our respect and love for nature. It is seen as a symbol for the region, and a part of its soul. The Valley of Kashmir is acknowledged as paradise on earth for its diverse rationale and is known for its rich natural environmental heritage. Nature has bestowed our region with a variety of trees like Deodar, Kail, Fir, Chilgoza pine, Taxus, Juniper, and Cypress etc but without "Chinar" the paradise is incomplete.

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Being the Village: 5 Ways to Support the Mothers in Your Circle

Hannah Alkadi

"It takes a village to raise a child."

In the past few years, mothers and their circles, have reclaimed this passive advice into an active answer: "I am the village."

While this whispered mantra may empower a struggling mother, it has morphed into a rallying cry for the rest of us. We might have seen the mother in our circle juggle doctor's appointments and diaper changes, feedings and finances, sleepless nights and long days. We might quietly mourn that she wasn't allowed extensive parental leave, family and friends weren't nearby to help her, or that her motherhood is entirely without a partner. She could be balancing a marriage, widowhood, divorce, a career, school, and more, not to mention, her own well-being. "How am I going to do this?" she might ask herself.

And we've responded wholeheartedly. Organising MealTrains, sending along care packages, or even writing a gift card are just small ways that we've given without expectation. But while these actions are appreciated, they are only sustainable for the short-term of motherhood.

So what of the long-term? I spoke with single mothers, first-time mothers, and mothers of more than one who shared how we, as aunts, sisters, neighbours, classmates, coworkers, and friends can be the village.

1. Being "The Village" can mean just being there

One of the most daunting things about motherhood is that a child, especially a young one, requires constant attention. Tasks like grocery shopping, tidying up, and cooking are now joint acts. A baby has to be put in a high chair, or a car seat, or monitored fully by someone else.

Anse, a childless woman, uses this method, "How can I be an extra set of hands, eyes, or just a body?"

There are many answers, especially when



there's also more than one child. If a mother has to go to the store or an appointment, she has to bring her children as well. Dropping other children off at school or at extracurricular events becomes so much more time-consuming. Going out to eat or to see a movie can also be difficult.

By being the mother's extension of herself, Anse has stayed with the child at home or in the car while the mother went inside. Running errands on the mother's behalf is also something that she recommends.

"The next time you're out shopping, you can give the mother a call or text (which-ever is more preferable), and say, 'Hey, I'm at [Store Name], do you need anything?'" Baby supplies run out quickly, not to mention other household items.

"Beyond safety reasons, young children can also be entertained or socialised with," Anse writes. By playing with the children, the mother can also get work done around the house, or focus on her other guests if she's hosting a party. Even something as uneventful as taking a child to the bathroom or changing their diaper will give a mother cause for celebration.

2. Supporting a mother goes beyond supporting the child

Motherhood changes a woman in many ways—including the relationships she already has. Making plans or even going out at certain times can be difficult and isolating. But your friendship or sisterhood shouldn't have to suffer. Think of activities the two of you did together before the baby, and see how you can adjust after.

My friend and I loved going out for coffee and treats before she was a mother. After her daughter was born, despite how busy she was, I offered her the same opportunity with her tiny plus one. Only a few things changed after that; her husband strapped their daughter in my car's backseat, she and I met at a time that worked well for her child's sleeping schedule, and I would hold the little one as my friend got a minute to breathe.

Even when a mother might be raising a girl, she shouldn't have to deprive herself of girl dates! The mother in your circle likely misses the things she used to be able to do before she got busy with motherhood. Perhaps, even more than you do. And sometimes, gatherings between the two of you can be more simple. When I had another friend stay over for a wedding in town, she brought her infant with her. Dining in with

takeout was just as fun as going out, and we didn't have to overstimulate the baby for our own comfort.

Mothers also struggle with "cabin fever" and may just want to talk to another adult. A call, with video or audio, can also help her stave away any isolation she might feel. This also gives you some time to see the baby in a controlled and quiet setting, rather than her or you making a separate visit.

"What I needed with each of my children was help for me," Hajar told me. "People often forgot that my older children also needed care, as well as my household, while I was trying to take care of the baby." She would've welcomed visitors to take her other children playing, or take care of her living space. The first few years of childhood are the most formative, and she ached for more quality time to spend with her newborn.

3. Giving grace is just as important as giving gifts

The new mother in your life is often running in circles. She might forget something you told her lately, or be late to a meetup that the two of you agreed on. Her body and mind are going through a large amount of changes in a short amount of time. In many cases, mothers may also be having a difficult postpartum period without a strong circle. Due to societal or family pressure, she may not be honest about potential postpartum depression, which can last for months after birth.

It's important to foster sympathy and be understanding when a mother is late, or if she seems a bit distracted while speaking to you. If you can, do a bulk of the research about a place you'd like to meet at. Consider the times of day that the restaurant is busy and crowded, if they have changing stations or high chairs available, and potential allergens in the food.

Check in often. Sometimes all she needs is an ear to listen to her. Enquire if a voice note is convenient for her as she's running around her living area, or if it's something

that might wake her baby up. Similarly, a text might mean that she has to stop everything that she's doing to read what you're saying—or it could be something that she can happily read in peace and quiet.

Moreover, recognise that she's still learning about this process everyday. Breastfeeding, exhaustion, and loneliness are just a few of the daily struggles that she endures.

Advise with experience and empathy. Advice, although well-intentioned, may not always be welcomed. For example, not every household is able to afford living on a single income. A mother who has had to return to work and place her child in day-care is not sinful. She may be doing so for a variety of reasons besides economical—like socialising and educating her child, finding purpose outside of motherhood, and stimulating her own mental capacities. Approach her with the mindset that she is doing her very best, and that a person's very best looks different for everyone.

Sharing stories of your own experience with motherhood, or even the birthing process, can be overwhelming for a new mother. While visiting the new baby can be exciting, in many cases, a woman in postpartum is still using this period to recover. Internalise that you are there to help, not to have her host.

Know your own capabilities and talents given by Allah

Sometimes we may not be able to act on the promises we made to a mother. Higher studies may become too time-consuming, finances may not be as expected, and your health may take a turn for the worse. In addition to this, a mother's needs may change over time. Preparing food may no longer be an issue, however, she might wish that she had someone to eat the food with.

While sometimes the simplest acts can be the most helpful in this life and most rewarded in the next, some of us want to give more meaningfully and intentionally.

The article was originally published by Amaliah

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY SRINAGARDated: 29.10.2024
Present: Ms. Nusrat Ali Hakak

In the case of:

J&K Bank Ltd B/u: Qammarwari Srinagar
Through Attorney Holder Jaweed Ahmad Shera
V/S

- Muneeb Ahmad Dar S/o: Abdul Rashid Dar
R/o: Qammarwari near Masjid Ibrahim Sgr
- Adil Ahmad Wani S/o: Abdul Hameed Wani
R/o: Qamarwari Srinagar
- Arshid Ahmad Bhat S/o: Khazir Mohammad Bhat
R/o: Arampora Qamarwari Srinagar

In the matter of Substitute service through Publication / Advertisement

Whereas, applicant Bank has filed application before this authority in terms of Section 12-A of Act and Commercial Courts.

Whereas, number of notices were issued against non-applicants on many occasions but services could not be effective due to insufficient/incomplete address.

Whereas, it has been shown to the satisfaction of the undersigned that service of non-applicants could not be effective in ordinary mode.

Therefore, the non-applicants through the medium of this notice are directed to appear in person or their attorney by or before the next date of hearing i.e. 02.12.2024

Sd/-

Secretary (Sub Judge)
District Legal Services Authority
Srinagar

ab

**MINISTRY OF POWER'S ADVERTISEMENT
NO.3/7/2024-T&R
CENTRAL POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE (CPRI)**(An Autonomous Society under Govt. of India,
Ministry of Power)

Applications are invited from Indian citizens in the prescribed format for the post of Director General, CPRI, a premier research organization in electrical power engineering with Head Office at Bangalore. The post carries a scale of pay in Level 15 of 7th CPC (Rs. 182200-Rs. 224100) in the Pay Matrix with usual allowances as per Central Government Rules. The post is to be filled by direct recruitment/deputation. The post is falling vacant on 01.07.2025.

**QUALIFICATION/EXPERIENCE
For Direct Recruitment:**

Essential:

Masters Degree in Science (Physics/Chemistry/Material Science) or Bachelors Degree in Engineering/Technology from a recognized University/Institute or equivalent with at least 15 years of experience in any of the following fields:

- Design and/or Construction and/or Operation and Maintenance of generating stations.
- Design and/or Construction and/or Operation and Maintenance of transmission and/or supply of electricity.
- Applied Research in the field of electricity.

Desirable:

Ph.D in Science (Physics/Chemistry/Material Science) or Masters Degree in Engineering/Technology (Electrical/Mechanical/Energy Studies/ Material Science) from a recognized University/Institute. The candidate should have excellent academic record and possess administrative capabilities and demonstrated aptitude for R&D.

For Deputation:

Officers under the Central/State Govt./Electricity Boards/Universities /Public Sector Undertakings/Statutory/Semi-Govt, or Autonomous Organisations:

- holding analogous posts on regular basis or
- with three years minimum service in the Level 14 (Rs. 144200-Rs. 218200) in the Pay Matrix or equivalent and
- possessing the educational qualification and experience prescribed for direct recruitment as above.

Age Limit:

Not exceeding 58 years, as on the closing date for receipt of applications, for both direct recruitment and deputation.

Applications complete in all respects in the prescribed format should reach the Joint Director, T&R Division, Ministry of Power, 'F' Wing, 2nd Floor, Gate No.2, Nirmanbhawan, Maulana Azad Road, New Delhi-110011 within 30 days from the date of publication of advertisement in Employment News. Candidates working in Central/ StateGovts./ Electricity Boards/ Universities/ Public Sector Undertakings/ Statutory/ Semi-Govt, or Autonomous Organisations should forward their applications through proper channel with Part (B) of the format duly completed. Advance copies shall not be entertained. Incomplete applications or the ones received after the prescribed date shall not be considered. Canvassing in any form will make the applicant liable for disqualification.

For more comprehensive details and the format of applications please visit the website of Ministry of Power (<http://powermin.gov.in>) or CPRI (<http://www.cpri.res.in>)
cbc 341084/12/0008/2425

IISc Scientists Develop Enzyme-Based Solution To Break Antibiotic-Resistant Biofilms

Press Trust Of India

A team of scientists at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has developed a method to break down biofilm barriers, which protect bacteria from antibiotics and contribute to drug resistance.

The breakthrough involves using an enzyme from the cow's digestive tract, according to a press statement, issued by IISc on Tuesday.

Klebsiella pneumoniae, an opportunistic bacterium, infects hospital patients and causes conditions like pneumonia, urinary tract infections, and meningitis, said

Dipshikha Chakravorty, professor at the department of Microbiology and Cell Biology (MCB) and a corresponding author of the study.

In individuals with diabetes, it infects wounds that heal slowly, sometimes leading to complications requiring limb amputation, she added.

The bacterium secretes a tough biofilm matrix composed of sugars, fats, proteins, and DNA. Polysaccharides, formed by strings of sugar molecules in this matrix, play a crucial role in strengthening the biofilm, Chakravorty explained.

To address this, the IISc team sought a biocompatible

strategy to disrupt the biofilm by targeting polysaccharides. "We realised that polysaccharide-degrading enzymes could serve the purpose, and a cow's gut was the ideal place to look for them," said Debasis Das, assistant professor in the department of Inorganic and Physical Chemistry (IPC) and another corresponding author of the study.

The team identified glycoside hydrolases (GH) enzymes from the rumen, the largest compartment in a cow's stomach, and synthesized a specific enzyme, GH-B2, in the lab. Testing GH-B2 on four strains of Klebsiella pneumoniae isolated from hospital patients

revealed it effectively broke down biofilms in all strains.

The enzyme was tested in lab mice with wounds infected by Klebsiella pneumoniae. A combination of GH-B2 and meropenem successfully cleared the biofilms.

"The chances of bacteria gaining resistance are minimal because our enzyme targets the biofilm matrix, not the bacteria directly," said Reshma Ramakrishnan, PhD student in Das's lab and the study's first author. She noted the "potential for combinatorial therapy using the enzyme and antibiotics to treat biofilm-associated infections."

The researchers plan to

incorporate the enzyme into wearable wound dressings. "For local infections, especially in diabetic individuals, this is very promising," said Chakravorty. Das also suggested the enzyme could be used as a coating on medical devices to prevent biofilm formation.

"It is vital to develop innovative strategies to disrupt bacterial lifestyles," stated Chakravorty, adding, "We must continuously identify potent enzymes to combat infectious diseases, which remain a significant threat."

The findings were published in Nature's 'NPJ Biofilms and Microbiomes'.

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY SRINAGARDated: 25.10.2024
Present: Ms. Nusrat Ali Hakak

In the case of:

J&K Bank Ltd B/u: Maloora Srinagar
Through Attorney Holder Jaweed Ahmad Shera
V/S

- M/S Shahzada Enterprises through Proprietor Shahzada
W/o: Manzoor Ahmad Khanday
R/o: New Colony Maloora Srinagar

In the matter of Substitute service through Publication / Advertisement

Whereas, applicant Bank has filed application before this authority in terms of Section 12-A of Act and Commercial Courts.

Whereas, number of notices were issued against non-applicants on many occasions but services could not be effective due to insufficient/incomplete address.

Whereas, it has been shown to the satisfaction of the undersigned that service of non-applicants could not be effective in ordinary mode.

Therefore, the non-applicants through the medium of this notice are directed to appear in person or their attorney by or before the next date of hearing i.e. 27.11.2024

Sd/-

Secretary (Sub Judge)
District Legal Services Authority
Srinagar

ab

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 Date/Time	Name of work
EAFZR-SLR24-72	27.11.2024 at 11:00 Hrs.	Allotment of contract for leasing of parcel space in Train No./SLR compartment: 14601/F1, 12030/F1, 12412/F1, 12032/F1, 14601/F2, 14601/R1, 12014/F1, 14604/F1, 12242/F1, 14505/F1, 14650/F1, 14618/F1, 14624/F1, 19326/F1 & 14028/F2.
EAFZR-SLR24-73	28.11.2024 at 11:00 Hrs.	Allotment of contract for leasing of parcel space in Train No./SLR compartment: 14634/F2, 14633/R1, 14634/F1, 14508/R1, 14634/R1, 14614/R1, 14614/F1, 12474/F1, 14034/F1 & 12266/F1.
EAFZR-SLR24-74	29.11.2024 at 11:00 Hrs.	Allotment of contract for leasing of parcel space in Train No./SLR compartment: 22430/F1, 14508/F2, 14633/F2, 14654/F2, 14508/F1, 14654/F1 & 22486/F1.

For other details and registration, please visit Railway website www.ireps.gov.in

3532/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SUB TRANSMISSION DIVISION SOPORE
KASHMIR POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED**

Fax No: - 01954-222626 email: -xenstdsopore@gmail.com

Extension of E-NIT

Subject: Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Spares for 33/11 KV Receiving Stations to meet Eventuality during Peak winters under Capex 2024-25.

Reference: This office e-NIT No. STDS/12 of 2024-25 dated 23/10/2024.

Due to poor response, the last date for submission of tenders invited vide E-NIT referred above is hereby extended upto 20-11-2024 (2.00 pm). The bids shall be opened on 21-11-2024 (3.00 pm)

No.STDS/Ts/914-16
Dated:- 13-11-2024

DIPK-NB-2353/24 dated: 14-11-2024

Sd/
Executive Engineer
Sub Transmission Division
Sopore**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SUB TRANSMISSION DIVISION SOPORE
KASHMIR POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED**

Fax No: - 01954-222626 email: -xenstdsopore@gmail.com

Extension of E-NIT

Subject: Renovation & Modernization of various Receiving Stations of District Baramulla & Kupwara pertaining to STD Sopore under Capex 2024-25

Reference: This office e-NIT No. STDS/11 of 2024-25 dated 23/10/2024.

Due to poor response, the last date for submission of tenders invited vide E-NIT referred above is hereby extended upto 20-11-2024 (2.00 pm). The bids shall be opened on 21-11-2024 (3.00 pm)

No.STDS/Ts/911-13
Dated:- 13-11-2024

DIPK-NB-2352/24 dated: 14-11-2024

Sd/
Executive Engineer
Sub Transmission Division
Sopore**Jammu & Kashmir Small Scale Industries Development Corporation Limited (SICOP)**

(A J&K Government Undertaking)

2nd floor, Sanat Ghar building Bemina Srinagar

Email: sicoproject@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-TENDER NOTICE No: 15-PEK of 2024-25 dated:09-11-2024

For and on behalf of the Managing Director of Jammu & Kashmir Small Scale Industries Cooperation Limited, online tenders are invited from reputed contractors who are registered with CPWD/MES/PWD of appropriate class in India.

Name of work	Adv. Cost. In lacs	Earnest money	Class of contract	Cost of tender document	Time of completion	Position of AA
Construction of U-shaped drain at newly carved plots at HMT Zainakote	₹17.43 lacs	Rs. 0.3486 lacs	"B" & "C" Class civil	1000.00	01 months	Accorded

Terms and Conditions:

- The tender documents for the above job can be seen on the website www.ktenders.gov.in from 09-11-2024 (1200Hrs)
- The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website from 09-11-2024 (1200Hrs) onwards.
- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on website www.ktenders.gov.in from 09-11-2024 (1200Hrs) upto 29-11-2024 (1630Hrs) only.
- The uploaded Pre-Qualification bids in the first instance on the website will be opened on 30-11-2024(1200Hrs). In case of holiday on the date of opening of bid, bids will be opened on the next working day. The financial bids of only those firms shall be opened who qualify in pre-qualification bid, intimation in respect of opening of financial bids shall be notified separately.
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Bank Receipt with seal and signature of bank official in favor of Project Engineer (K) SICOP Srinagar Kashmir in Account No CC-0148020100001980 /JFSC Code JAKAOKARRAN , J&K Bank Branch Karan Nagar Srinagar (tender inviting authority) (The Date of bank receipt should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Project Engineer (K) SICOP Srinagar Kashmir. (tender receiving authority) and EMD 2% of advertised cost in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Project Engineer, SICOP Kashmir.
- The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Project Engineer, SICOP Kashmir) within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work.
- The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance security @5% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released after successful completion of Defect liability period (DLP) of the work.
- The advertised cost shown above is inclusive of 9.5% SICOP service charges/contingencies and other taxes as admissible.
- Complete bidding process will be online (price bid not to be submitted in physical form).

DIPK-NB-2379/24
dated: 14-11-2024Project Engineer
SICOP Kashmir**NORTHERN RAILWAY****E-TENDER NOTICE**Sr. DEE/G/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders (www.ireps.gov.in) against below titled Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only.

Tender No.	Name of Work	App. Cost (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in ₹)	Completion Period	Opening of Tender	Website Particulars
251-Elect-T-44-2024-25	Electrical work in c/w Provision of Automatic block Signaling on LDH-JUC Section of Firozpur division.	Rs. 59,49,819.70	Rs. 1,19,000.00	06 Months	04.12.2024 after 17:00 Hrs.	www.ireps.gov.in

No.: 251-Elect/T.Notice No. 37-Elect/2024-25, Dated: 13.11.2024

3530/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE



Unleashing Values

आईआरईएल (इंडिया) लिमिटेड IREL (India) Limited
Formerly Indian Rare Earths Limited.
भारत सरकार का उपकरण
(A Government of India Undertaking)
CIN : U15100MH1959GOI008187 Website : www.irel.co.in
ISO 9001: 2015, ISO 14001: 2015 & ISO 45001 : 2018 Company



आज़ादी का अमृत महोत्सव

Date: 15.11.2024

Ref: ADVT.No. 24-25/11
IREL, OSCOM invites request for proposal for the following items / job descriptions.

Bid No.	Job / Item Description
GEM/2024/B/5580045	Refurbishing and Relocating of SMP-II (150 tph) from South Sector to North Sector through EPC Mode
GEM/2024/B/5608967	Hiring of Vehicle at OSCOM
2024_IREL_214667_1	Construction of Barricade near Gate no. 08, at OSCOM

Bidder may download tender document from <http://irel.co.in>, <http://gem.gov.in>, <https://tenders.gov.in> or <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>. Any corrigendum / Extension to above tenders shall be hosted in above websites only.

Sd/-
GM & HEAD, MMD, OSCOM

cbc-48146/12/0012/2425

Exports Jump 17.25% In Oct, Highest In Over 2 Years; Trade Deficit Widens



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- India's merchandise exports in October rose by an impressive 17.25 per cent year-on-year, highest in over two years, to USD 39.2 billion, while the trade deficit widened to USD 27.14 billion on a sequential basis.

According to the government data released on Thursday, imports increased by 3.9 per cent to USD 66.34 billion in October compared to USD 63.86 billion in the year-ago period, mainly due to a 13.34 per cent rise in crude oil imports.

The trade deficit (gap between imports and exports) narrowed as compared to USD 30.42 billion recorded in October last year. However, it was widened from USD 20.78 billion recorded in September this year.

The country's merchandise exports have recorded the previous high growth of 30.12 per cent in June 2022.

During April-October this fiscal, exports increased by 3.18 per cent to USD 252.28 billion, and imports by 5.77 per cent to USD 416.93 billion.

The deficit during the latest seven-month period was USD 164.65 billion as compared to USD 149.67 billion during

April-October 2023.

The data showed that the estimated value of service exports during April-October 2024 increased to USD 215.98 billion from USD 191.97 billion in the same period last year. Imports during that period at USD 114.57 billion was also higher from USD 102.32 billion in April-October 2023.

Crude oil imports in October rose to USD 18.2 billion from USD 16.1 billion in the same month last year.

Gold and Silver imports, on the other hand, slightly dipped to USD 7.13 billion and USD 0.33 billion, respectively, during the month under review from the two comparable figures of USD 7.23 billion and USD 1.31 billion recorded in October 2023.

Commenting on the data, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said, "This has been an extremely good month for exports...If we continue in this manner, we will cross USD 800 billion of exports (goods and services together) this (fiscal) year."

He said that the government's strategy to focus on six sectors -- engineering, electronics, pharma, chemicals, plastics and agriculture -- as well as 20 countries is yielding positive result.

WPI Inflation Rises To 4-Month High Of 2.36% In Oct; Food Prices Spike

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Wholesale price inflation rose to a 4-month high of 2.36 per cent in October as prices of food items, especially vegetables, and manufactured goods turned dearer, showed the government data released on Thursday.

The wholesale price index (WPI) based inflation was 1.84 per cent in September 2024. It was (-) 0.26 per cent in October last year.

As per the data, inflation in food items shot up to 13.54 per cent in October, as against 11.53 per cent in September. This was led by 63.04 per cent inflation in vegetables, as against 48.73 per cent in September.

Inflation in potato and onion remained high at 78.73 per cent and 39.25 per cent, respectively, in October.

Fuel and power category witnessed deflation of 5.79 per cent in October, against a deflation of 4.05 per cent in September. In manufactured items, inflation was 1.50 per cent in October, as against 1 per cent in the previous month.

The month of October witnessed the second consecutive month of rise in WPI inflation print. WPI higher than October's level was recorded last in June 2024, when it was 3.43 per cent.

"Inflation in October 2024



is primarily due to increase in prices of food articles, manufacture of food products, other manufacturing, manufacture of machinery & equipment, manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers & semi-trailers, etc." the Ministry of Commerce & Industry said in a statement.

Barclays Regional Economist Shreya Sodhani said perishable food prices, particularly vegetables, are driving both retail and wholesale prices. Manufactured products WPI rose moderately, reflecting the rise in prices of metals in the month.

"The surprise to our estimate was due to a higher-than-expected acceleration in food prices," Sodhani said.

ICRA Senior Economist Rahul Agrawal said food inflation alone pushed up the headline WPI print by as much as 63 ba-

sis points between September and October 2024.

On a year-on-year (YoY) basis, the core WPI print rose to 0.3 per cent in October 2024 from 0.1 per cent in September 2024, while remaining muted.

"Owing to the expected softening in food inflation, ICRA estimates the WPI inflation to ease to approximately 2 per cent in November 2024," Agrawal said.

Looking ahead, the robust increase in kharif output for most food items and the healthy outlook for rabi crops amid elevated reservoir levels augurs well for the WPI food inflation prints in the near term, even as fertiliser stocks are a monitorable.

However, the outlook for the headline WPI inflation remains vulnerable to movements in global commodity and crude oil prices, Agrawal said.

Rupee Falls To All-Time Low Of 84.46 Against US dollar

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- The rupee depreciated by 7 paise to close at an all-time low of 84.46 against the US dollar on Thursday, weighed down by unabated foreign fund outflows and strong dollar demand from investors.

Forex traders said the downward pressure on the USD/INR pair is largely driven by persistent inflation and significant foreign fund outflows.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 84.40 against the US dollar. During the session, the local currency touched a high of 84.39 and a low of 84.47. It finally settled at its fresh all-time low of 84.46 against the greenback, 7 paise lower than its previous close.

On Wednesday, the rupee moved in a narrow range and settled flat at 84.39 against the US dollar.

"The US dollar index has hit a fresh cycle high of 106.76 as it approaches the stiff resistance at 107.50," said Praveen Singh - Associate VP, Fundamental Currencies and Commodities, Sharekhan by BNP Paribas.

"There was no respite on the



US inflation front as the data released yesterday showed that the US core consumer price index increased 0.3 per cent for a third month. It was up 3.3 per cent on a year-on-year basis," Singh said.

Anil Kumar Bhansali, head of Treasury and executive director Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP, said the rupee's fall was held by the RBI which continued to sell dollars.

"The rupee is expected to remain weak but protected by RBI between 84.30 to 84.60 during the next week and is expected to weaken towards 85.00 by possibly December as Trump trades continue to ensure sell off of assets," he added.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading higher by 0.30 per cent at 106.80.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, rose 0.03 per cent to USD 72.30 per barrel in fu-

tures trade.

Forex traders said the USD-INR pair may touch Rs 85 level in near-term, though the intervention by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) may slow the pace.

On the global front, China's recent 1.4 trillion yuan stimulus, coupled with expectations of more fiscal support, has strengthened Chinese markets and added downward pressure on Indian assets, traders said.

Moreover, India's inflation surge is putting additional pressure on the currency.

Wholesale price inflation rose to a 4-month high of 2.36 per cent in October as prices of food items, especially vegetables, and manufactured goods turned dearer, according to government data released on Thursday.

Retail inflation breached the RBI's upper tolerance level, soaring to a 14-month high of 6.21 per cent in October mainly on account of rising food prices.

In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex fell 110.64 points, or 0.14 per cent, to close at 77,580.31 points, while Nifty fell 26.35 points, or 0.11 per cent, to settle at 23,532.70 points.

Indian Economy Sailing Smoothly Amid Global Headwinds: RBI Guv Das

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Thursday said the Indian economy has been sailing "smoothly" amid the global headwinds.

Speaking at an event organised by CNBC-TV18 here, Das declined to comment on a suggestion by Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal for a rate cut, maintaining that the rate-setting panel will take an appropriate call on it at its next meeting in December.

In comments made days after headline inflation shot up beyond the 6 per cent tolerance band of RBI for October, Das said inflation is "expected to moderate despite periodic humps".

The Governor said the domestic economy has sailed very well through the prolonged period of turbulence in the recent past exhibiting resilience, but added that there are a slew of headwinds prevailing in the global economy right now like rising bond yields, commodity prices showing a divergence and a contradiction of financial markets showing resilience despite rising geopolitical risks.

"The Indian economy is sailing smoothly, powered by buffers like strong macroeconomic fundamentals, a stable financial system and a resilient external sector," said the bureaucrat-turned-central banker, who will be completing six



years at the helm at RBI soon.

With the rupee hitting new lows, Das said India's external sector has exhibited "strength and stability" in the recent period as seen in the current account deficit remaining at a manageable level, merchandise exports starting to grow, and service exports growth being strong.

He reminded that the country has the fourth largest forex reserves in the world. The forex reserves, which stood at USD 682 billion as of October 31, are sufficient to cover the entire external debt and a year's import payments, he added.

The Governor also made it clear that the RBI does not target a rate for the rupee, and the fore interventions are for ensuring orderly movement and curbing volatility in the currency.

"If the Indian rupee has remained relatively stable despite severe external shocks, including the largest and the steepest tightening by the US Fed in 2022 and 2023, it speaks volumes about the sea change in our macro fundamentals from the days of the taper tantrum," Das said.

'AI-Vistara Ready For Coming Aviation Revolution; Will Fulfil Sky High Expectations'

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran on Thursday said the best qualities of Vistara are being brought to Air India, which was in decline for a number of systemic reasons when Tatas took over the airline two years back, and fulfil the "sky high expectations".

"We are fully aware that expectations for the new Air India are sky high. We expect nothing less, and we expect to deliver nothing less," he said and asserted that the merged entity will be ready for the country's coming aviation revolution.

Nearly two years after announcing the merger, the integration of Vistara with Air India was completed on November 12 and Singapore Airlines now has a 25.1 per cent in the enlarged Air India.

Vistara was jointly owned by Tatas and Singapore Airlines.

"Given our ambitions, this merger should be seen as part of a journey. Different parts of the business were at different points of maturity when the merger commenced, so they will take time to fully align," Chandrasekaran said in a LinkedIn post.

While acknowledging that there is still more work to do



and it is bringing Vistara's best qualities to the merger, Chandrasekaran said he is optimistic about the future of Air India.

Vistara was a well-regarded full service carrier.

Amid concerns in certain quarters on whether Vistara passengers will continue to get the same services as now since Air India, which is in the transformation phase, has been facing various service issues, it has been repeatedly emphasised that "Vistara in-flight experience is not going away" post-merger.

He said the merger is an important milestone in the commitment to transform Air India into a world-class global airline with an Indian heart.

According to him, mergers take time to play out and that the group has moved quickly, completing the process in two years while "keeping our eye on the ultimate goal: to realise AI's potential and turn it into a world-class global airline".

J&K MSES Allotted Stalls In Indian International Trade Fair 2024

Observer News Service

JAMMU- Field Office of Union Ministry has approved 6 applications from Jammu & Kashmir for participating in the Indian International Trade Fair being organized at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi from Nov 14, 2024 to Nov 27, 2024, to promote marketing avenues including Business to Business and Business to Consumer.

Two applicants have also been selected from Ladakh. They are selected out of the total 150 application received online and allotted free stalls at the exhibition.

Participation in the exhibition make the units improve their sales volume, understand the current trends in the market and prepare them to be champions in their field. This has been made possible as per the direction of G. Velladurai, Joint Director, IEDS, through PMS section of MSME-DFO

Jammu handled by D.K. Tyagi IEDS, Assistant Director.

MSME-DFO Jammu, Field Office of Union Ministry of MSME implements various schemes and activities for the benefit of MSE's of Jammu & Kashmir.

Procurement and Marketing Support scheme is one of them. As per the scheme guidelines the MSE's are eligible to claim reimbursement of 80 to 100 % stall charges, publicity expenditures, and travelling expenditure for participation in about 250 exhibition or trade fairs approved by Union Ministry of MSME. The lists of approved exhibitions are available in https://my.msme.gov.in/MyMsme/Reg/COM_View-Event.aspx

All the applications are received online only without any manual intervention and processed online. It is also to mention here that maximum 60 units can participate in any of the approved exhibitions.

EU Slaps Meta With Nearly 800 Million Euro Fine

Associated Press

LONDON- European Union regulators hit Facebook parent Meta with a fine of nearly 800 million euros on Thursday for what they call "abusive practices" involving its Marketplace online classified ads business.

The European Commission, the 27-nation bloc's executive branch and top antitrust enforcer, issued the 797.72 million euro (\$841 million) penalty after its long-running investigation found that the company abused its dominant position and engaged in anti-competitive behaviour.

Brussels had accused Meta of distorting competition by tying its online classified ad business to its social network, automatically exposing Facebook users to Marketplace "whether they want it or not" and shutting out competitors.

It was also concerned that Meta was imposing unfair trading conditions with a terms of service that authorised the company to use ad-related data - generated from competitors who advertise on Facebook or Instagram - to benefit Marketplace.

Meta said in a statement that the decision fails to prove any "competitive harm" to rivals or consumers and "ignores the realities of the thriving European market for online classified listing services." The company vowed to appeal.

Gold Slide Continues; Tanks Rs 700 To Rs 77,050 Per 10 Grams

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Gold prices saw yet another steep fall on Thursday, with the precious metal declining Rs 700 to Rs 77,050 per 10 grams in the national capital amid subdued demand trend in the global markets, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity closed at Rs 77,750 per 10 grams in the previous session, a day after falling marginally by Rs 50 on Wednesday. Silver also plummeted Rs 2,310 to Rs 90,190 per kg against the previous close of Rs 92,500 per kg.

Extending the losses for the fourth straight session, the price of gold of 99.5 per cent purity fell Rs 700 to Rs 76,650 per 10 grams. It had ended at Rs 77,350 per 10 grams on Wednesday.

In futures trade on the MCX, gold contracts for December delivery plunged Rs 804 or 1.08 per cent to trade at Rs 73,678 per 10 grams. During the day, the precious metal declined Rs 1,182 or 1.59 per cent to Rs 73,300 per 10 grams.

"Gold's weakness persisted with price falling near Rs 73,500 in MCX as the dollar climbed. The US CPI data, which came in higher at 2.6 per cent compared to the expected 2.4 per cent, fuelled the dollar's strength.

"While the Fed has been continuing with rate cuts as inflation approached its 2 per cent target, the CPI data raised concerns that further cuts may be paused," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities, said.

This development added pressure on gold prices, which reacted negatively to the stronger dollar and the potential shift in Fed policy, Trivedi added.

Silver contracts for December delivery plummeted Rs 2,067, or 2.32 per cent, to Rs 87,130 per kg.

Globally, Comex gold futures fell USD 29.10 per ounce, or 1.13 per cent, to hit a two-month low of USD 2,557.40 per ounce.

"Gold extended its fall during Thursday's European session, hitting its lowest level since September 19.

"The US Dollar's (USD) post-election rally persisted, reaching a fresh year-high which continues to put pressure on gold prices," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

The US Dollar buying remains unabated by traders in the wake of optimism over the expected expansionary policies by US President-elect Donald Trump. This, in turn, is seen as a key factor dragging the commodity lower for the fifth successive day, traders said.

Sensex Drops 110 Pts, Nifty Slides For 6th Day On FII Selling

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- Benchmark Sensex declined by 110 points in a saw-saw trade on Thursday, marking its third straight session of losses amid continued FII selling, disappointing quarterly results and soaring inflation.

The 30-share Sensex dropped 110.64 points or 0.14 per cent to settle at 77,580.31 in a lacklustre trade. The index started on a positive note but lost momentum later due to increased selling. During the day, it dropped 266.14 points or 0.34 per cent to 77,424.81.

Broader NSE Nifty dropped by 26.35 points or 0.11 per cent to close at 23,532.70, extending its losing streak to the sixth day.

From the 30-share Sensex pack, Hindustan Unilever, NTPC, Nestle, IndusInd Bank, Power Grid, Adani Ports, Tata Motors and Bajaj Finserv were the major laggards.

Reliance Industries, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Tech Mahindra, Mahindra & Mahindra and HDFC Bank were among the gainers.

Foreign Institutional Investors

(FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 2,502.58 crore on Wednesday, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) bought shares worth Rs 6,145.24 crore, according to exchange data.

The domestic market experienced a lacklustre trading, but some stability was observed throughout the day, from the low. The sustainability of this trend remains uncertain as FIIs continue to be on the selling side. But on a positive note the degree of selling is reducing," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services said.

After a brief positive start driven by gains in HDFC Bank, Reliance, and major IT stocks, both Sensex and Nifty reversed the course as global pressures and persistent foreign investor selling weighed on sentiment, Vikram Kasat, Head - Advisory, PL Capital - Prabhudas Lilladher, said.

Wholesale price inflation rose to a four-month high of 2.36 per cent in October as prices of food items, especially vegetables, and manufactured goods turned dearer, showed the government

data released on Thursday.

Retail inflation breached the Reserve Bank's upper tolerance level, soaring to a 14-month high of 6.21 per cent in October mainly on account of rising food prices.

"Markets witnessed a range-bound session with a negative bias as selective selling in FMCG, oil & gas and power stocks weighed on the sentiment. Despite the lacklustre trend, selective buying in realty, auto, banking and telecom stocks kept the losses under check," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

The BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.83 per cent and midcap index went up by 0.41 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, utilities declined 0.88 per cent, oil & gas (0.48 per cent), power (0.37 per cent), services (0.09 per cent), metal (0.07 per cent) and consumer durables (0.05 per cent).

Realty jumped 1.11 per cent, BSE consumer discretionary (0.81 per cent), telecommunication (0.64 per cent), auto (0.60 per cent) and commodities (0.33 per cent).

NIT Srinagar to host Grand Finale of SIH-2024

Expert team from MOE's review arrangements for the mega scheduled in Dec

Srinagar, Nov 14: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar is set to host the grand finale of the prestigious Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2024 in December, for which expert team from Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell conducted a review on Thursday to assess the preparedness for the mega event.

SIH is the country's largest innovation challenge; the event will bring together top young minds from across India to develop innovative solutions to real-world problems. This marks a major milestone for NIT Srinagar, which will serve as one of the key nodal centers for the sixth edition of SIH, a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Education.

All preparations have been co-ordinated under the leadership of Director NIT Srinagar Prof. Binod Kumar Kanojija. Officiating Director Prof. Roohi Naz chaired



the meeting and took the follow up all preparations.

To finalize the arrangements, a two member expert team held a review meeting at the Committee Room of the Institute, was presided over by Sarim Moin, Innovation Officer, and Nitin Kumar, Startup Officer from the MOE.

The meeting was also attended by Institute Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman, Dean of Students Welfare Prof. Abdul Liman, and other key faculty

and administrative members, including Prof. Najeeb-Ud-Din, DR Admin Faisal Irshad Ganai, DR Accounts Nazia Nazir, AR Admin Mohammad Iqbal Dar, and Nodal Officer SIH-2024 Dr. H. S. Pali, alongside several other prominent academic figures.

The chair discussed the significance of SIH 2024, which builds on the legacy of the Smart India Hackathon, a flagship program that has run successfully for the past seven years.

Over 1,000 winners from previous editions are now involved in start-ups, government roles, and multinational corporations, reflecting the impact of this innovation platform.

The categories and themes for this year's edition are aligned with the Prime Minister's vision for Hackathons, Innovation Challenges, and Start-ups in building a "New India." SIH-2024 will be hosted across 50 nodal centers nationwide.

The expert team reviewed various arrangements, including the hosting hall setup, seating arrangements, work tables, PCs, printers, dustbins, breakout zones, and essential facilities like projectors, speakers, video-conferencing tools, power backup, medical kits, and fire extinguishers. Accommodation and travel facilities for judges, IT requirements, food arrangements,

and student registration processes were also discussed to ensure a smooth event.

On the occasion, Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman assured the expert team that all necessary preparations for the mega event will be completed on time. He said every detail would be carefully managed to ensure a smooth and successful grand finale of SIH-2024 at NIT Srinagar.

Nodal Officer SIH-2024 Dr. H. S. Pali said that the two-day grand finale in December is expected to be a significant milestone in fostering innovation and entrepreneurship among students.

"The SIH represents a nationwide initiative aimed at providing students with a platform to address the real-life issues that impact our daily lives. It seeks to instill a culture of product innovation and a problem-solving mindset among students," he added.

IUST holds Panel Discussion on 'Yuva Scheme and Development of Nano-Entrepreneurship in J&K'

Awantipora: The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) organised a panel discussion on "Project Yuva Scheme and Development of Nano-Entrepreneurship in Jammu and Kashmir". Chaired by Prof. Ashok Aima, former Vice-Chancellor Central University of Jammu, and moderated by Prof. Parvez A. Mir, Director Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (CIED), the session brought together experts, industry consultants to examine the prospects and challenges of Project Yuva, a government initiative aimed at fostering youth-led nano-entrepreneurship in the region.

The discussion delved into the region's unique entrepreneurial landscape, with a focus on the need for self-sustaining micro-businesses that cater to local communities. Prof. Ashok Aima emphasized on the importance

of building local competencies for sustainable growth. He stated, that unless we develop local competencies, we are living in the fallacy of growth. His insights underscored the need for region-specific strategies that empower young entrepreneurs to contribute effectively to the economic landscape of Jammu and Kashmir.

Varun Kashyap, co-founder of LetsEndorse, spoke passionately about fostering a mass micro-entrepreneurship movement in India. He stressed that educational institutions play a crucial role in orienting the youth toward entrepreneurship and promoting participatory models of business. Kashyap highlighted the importance of creating a culture that encourages risk-taking and supports young entrepreneurs in overcoming the initial challenges of establishing small-scale enterprises.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

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working, we'd take responsibility. But presenting this situation like this is an insult," he added.

During the protest, the medical staff demanded an official apology from the Deputy Commissioner (DC) for the harm and humiliation caused by the erroneous data.

"The list is not only inaccurate, but it also insults those of us who are committed to serving our patients," said one of the protesting doctors. "We work with honesty and integrity, and to be publicly marked as absent when we are working day and night is an affront."

The protestors also highlighted the damaging impact the list had on public perception and the fragile trust between healthcare providers and the community. "Our families are being insulted and questioned because of this mistake. The DC's office must take responsibility for this error and issue an apology," another protestor added.

According to the staff, the list inaccurately included the names of individuals who had passed away, such as Dr. Shahid, a paramedic who died recently, and Dr. Bilal, a doctor who had been terminated. The protestors expressed concern over the fact that the list was shared publicly without verification, accusing the authorities of neglecting proper data filtering before releasing such sensitive information.

"They should have conducted a proper inspection and ensured that the staff's attendance was accurately recorded," one doctor stated. "Instead, we were publicly humiliated, which only creates further mistrust."

The protestors also pointed out the lack of accountability for the flawed list, emphasizing that the DC and other administrative offices should have ensured better management and verification of the data before posting it. They called for an apology not only for the administrative mistakes but also for the emotional distress it caused to the healthcare workers and their families.

"We are ready to work under any conditions, but we cannot tolerate this kind of disrespect," said a paramedic during the protest. "We demand a public apology from the DC, and we want to ensure that this does not happen again."

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar said that the inspection was part of a broader effort to ensure discipline and accountability in government institutions.

"We received complaints about negligence from staff in various departments, which is why the ADC visited the District Hospital for a surprise check," the DC said.

He added that both biometric attendance and hard copy registers were thoroughly reviewed. "We are in the process of verifying all data. If there is a technical issue, we will look into it," the DC said.

"The MS (Medical Superintendent) has been instructed to provide an explanation within two days regarding the discrepancies noted."

The DC further emphasized that this inspection was not limited to the District Hospital. "We will conduct surprise inspections across all institutions, not just in the mornings but throughout the day, to ensure accountability," he added. He expressed support for employees who work diligently. "We stand with those who are honest and dedicated in their work. Our priority is to ensure that the system functions properly, and that everyone is accountable for their responsibilities," he said.

Man-animal Conflict

in or near forested areas contribute to the increasing man-animal conflict. "Wild animals have their own families and populations, but humans continue to encroach upon their habitats. Buffer zones are necessary, and we often rescue wild animals from unexpected

places, like urban areas in Kashmir," the official explained. (KINS)

LG, CM Extend

the occasion of Gurburab of Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

Chief Minister said that Guru Nanak Dev ji's teachings of compassion, unity, and selfless service continue to inspire people across all communities.

In his message, the Chief Minister stated that we should continue to build a society based on mutual harmony, respect and inclusivity.

The Chief Minister conveyed his best wishes to all celebrating on this occasion and expressed hope that the spirit of Guru Nanak Dev ji's teachings should continue to foster unity, peace, and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir.

Cong, Allies Plotting

"Kashmir is an integral part of India. Every Indian wants that there should be only Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar's Constitution in Kashmir," Modi said.

"The Congress used to say that reservations were against the country. It considered reservations were against merit. The mentality and agenda of the Congress remains unchanged. Therefore, they can't come to terms with the fact that someone from OBC has been the PM of the country for the last 10 years," he said.

"The Prince of Congress, while he is abroad, openly claims that his party will scrap reservations. To further their agenda, Congress and Maha Vikas Aghadi are conspiring to divide SCs, STs and OBCs into small castes," he said.

Modi also said the BJP-led Mahayuti government renamed Aurangabad as Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, and fulfilled the wish of Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray.

"The whole of Maharashtra knows that the demand to rename this city as Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar was raised by Balasaheb Thackeray," he said. The Congress party went to the court to overturn this decision, he added.

The Maha Vikas Aghadi government was in power for two-and-a-half years but did not have the courage to rename the city under pressure from the Congress, he said.

"This election in Maharashtra is not just an election to elect a new government. In this election, on one side there are patriots who believe in Sambhaji Maharaj and on the other side there are people who praise Aurangzeb," Modi said.

"BJP-Mahayuti ahe, tar gati ahe, Maharashtrachi pragati ahe (If there is Mahayuti there is progress in Maharashtra)," Modi said.

The people of Maharashtra and Marathwada had been demanding for decades to give classical language status to Marathi, Modi said. This work related to Marathi pride was completed by the BJP, he added.

"Maharashtra has attracted the maximum FDI after the formation of the Mahayuti government. The people have benefited due to the investment," he said.

Who Said Art 370

He accused the BJP of keeping the Article 370 issue alive merely to create divisions in society.

Addressing a press conference in Pune, Kharge accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of abusing the Congress and its senior leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.

"Amit Shah, in his poll rallies, accuses the Congress of spreading lies. (But) He (himself) is saying the Congress wants to bring back Article 370 (in J&K). Tell me, who said that and when? You are raking up an issue. If it (resolution to repeal Article 370) had been already passed in Parliament, why are you raking up the issue again? It means you want to keep the issue alive to divide. If you want to say this, go to Kashmir and say it. Elections are over in Kashmir," Kharge noted.

Article 370 of the Constitution, which provided special status to Jammu & Kashmir, was nullified by the

BJP-led central government in August 2019.

The Congress is aligned with the National Conference, which heads the government in J&K. Last week, the Jammu and Kashmir assembly passed a resolution asking the Centre to hold talks with elected representatives for restoration of the erstwhile state's special status.

Referring to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the Congress president said one of the BJP leaders is saying 'batenge toh katenge' (we will perish if we are divided) and questioned the rationale behind coining such a slogan.

"Why (give such a slogan)? The country is united. The Congress worked to keep the country united. (To keep the country united) Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi sacrificed their lives. Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated. The Congress did this (sacrifices), but you neither fought for the country's unity, nor its independence or the poor," Kharge opined, hitting out at the BJP.

He pointed out that it was the Congress which made provision for reservation in the Constitution as first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar worked to approve the quota for SCs/STs in jobs and education.

"But they (BJP) are still raking up the (reservation) issue," Kharge remarked. He claimed the BJP is pitting the country's towering political figures like Nehru, Ambedkar, Vallabhbhai Patel and Subhas Chandra Bose against each other.

"They (BJP) now say Babasaheb wanted to do this, but Jawaharlal Nehru did this. Vallabhbhai Patel said this and Bose said that. When they were alive, you were against the Constitution. You did not even keep the Indian flag in your office."

"You were not ready to accept the Ashok Chakra (centred in middle of the tricolour) and you wanted to have a Constitution on the basis of Manu (Manusmriti, an ancient religious text) and now you remember the Constitution," he insisted.

The AICC president asserted the Congress wants to keep the country united and was ready to make any sacrifice for it.

Just 5 per cent people in the country hold 62 per cent wealth and 50 per cent people have only 3 per cent wealth, he said.

"Instead of reducing this disparity, Modiji is encouraging his friends by selling public sector units. The maximum drug supply is taking place at the port given to Adani. In October, 400 kg cocaine was seized. In February, 4,000 kg charas was seized. Illegal things are being brought in which are destroying (youths in) Pune, Bengaluru, Punjab," Kharge averred.

Asked how the Congress and opposition MVA will mobilise finances to fund populist schemes promised in their manifestos if they come to power in Maharashtra, he said, "Give us power, we will give you a budget. We work as per the budget."

"We do not believe in 'khole' (boxes of money), but 'doko' (brain). We have brains and they have khole," the Congress leader remarked.

Congress governments have successfully implemented pre-polls guarantees in Himachal Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka, Kharge asserted.

CM Omar Launches

and outreach cell aimed at listening to and addressing the issues of the people.

The cell is being established at G-1, near his residence in the Gupkar locality of the city here.

The cell will have a dedicated team of officers from the CM's secretariat. It will coordinate with different departments to address the people's issues.

Mudasir Shahmiri, who is the ruling National Conference (NC) vice president's political secretary, will also be present in the cell.

"It was Omar's desire to strengthen

the relationship between his office and the people and have a place where they (people) can come conveniently and raise their issues. This place is very convenient and will be open for the public from Monday," Nasir Aslam Wani, adviser to the chief minister, told PTI.

He said the cell will have full-fledged officers from the CM's secretariat and his political secretary will be available so that there is a dedicated place for the people to voice their issues and grievances.

Wani said in his previous tenure, the chief minister used to have a CM's grievance cell. The new cell will be a revamped one, he added.

"We have revamped the previous cell so that it is not limited to flagging the grievances only, but there is actual redressal of the issues of the people. This will work as the CM's public relations-cum-outreach cell so that the problems faced by the people are heard and addressed," he said.

Wani said the cell will be open for suggestions and advice as well, he said.

"People can come to interact and give their suggestions and advice for governance as this is their own government," he added.

"This will bring the government closer to the public," the CM's adviser said.

He said the cell will be functional during office hours on a regular basis.

"The officers will remain available and the chief minister will also meet the public delegations himself and his availability will be notified for the public. We will also be here and a roster in this regard will be made public soon," he said.

Omar Meets

of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Shri Omar Abdullah called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan," shared the official account of the President of India.

This visit marks a significant step in Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's official engagements since taking office as the Chief Minister of the Jammu and Kashmir Government last month.

In recent weeks, he has held discussions with top leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Union Minister of Roads, Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari. Yesterday, he also met Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar.

The Chief Minister is scheduled to meet Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday.

Also, on November 12, Chief Minister Abdullah attended the Conference of Power Ministers of States and UTs, chaired by Union Minister for Power Manohar Lal Khattar, where he voiced Jammu and Kashmir's priorities and challenges in the energy sector.

'Congratulate SC Order

(NC) president Farooq Abdullah on Thursday commended the Supreme Court for its decision that a bulldozer cannot be used without prior notice explaining why this action is being taken.

Abdullah backed Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's demand for a review of the Indus Water Treaty, arguing that it restricts JK's access to its own resources, with the Chenab, Indus and Jhelum rivers benefiting Pakistan.

"I congratulate the Supreme Court for its rightful decision that a bulldozer cannot be used without prior notice explaining why this action is being taken," Abdullah told reporters during a visit to Ramban district on Thursday.

The former chief minister, who visited Sangaldan, Ramban and Batote areas of the district and interacted with people, said, "Bulldozers were specifically used against one community, targeting their religious places, madrasas and work places. I congratulate the Supreme Court for taking notice of this."

He also congratulated the apex

court for recognising Aligarh Muslim University as a minority institution that needs protection.

Abdullah reiterated the call for a review of the Indus Water Treaty, asserting that it restricts Jammu and Kashmir's access to its own resources, with the Chenab, Indus and Jhelum rivers benefiting Pakistan.

"Omar Sahab recently raised this issue in a meeting of power ministers. He brought up the matter of the Indus Water Treaty, which Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, as Prime Minister of India, signed."

"Through this treaty, three rivers from Jammu and Kashmir — the Chenab, Indus and Jhelum — were handed over to Pakistan. In return, India retained the Ravi, Beas and Sutlej," he said.

Supporting a strong review, he added, "Today, we cannot even take a single drop or a glass of water from these rivers for ourselves. We want its review."

He further pointed out that Jammu has grown substantially and recalled that during his tenure as chief minister, the government prepared a Rs 200-crore plan to lift water from the Chenab for Jammu but it could not be completed due to the Indus Water Treaty.

"If we want to save people, we need a solution for water. Look at the current administration under the Lt Governor — we don't have electricity but our own power is being given to Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, while we remain deprived."

"What kind of situation is this?" he questioned.

Expressing concerns about the funds meant for providing safe drinking water to people, he questioned the fate of the Rs 3,000 crore reportedly allocated for safe drinking water but allegedly mismanaged.

He demanded an investigation into the role of officials involved, calling for accountability.

"We want to review what happened to the 3,000 crore rupees allocated for providing safe drinking water to the people. We will investigate this," he said.

Abdullah said it has to be investigated.

"That officer is still alive. He is not in the government now, but we will call him to account for this issue."

"Where did those 3,000 crore rupees go? Why was no action taken by the Lt Governor and chief secretary of that time?" he said.

He called for a review of all such decisions.

"We want a review of the treaty provisions that the Lt Governor implemented, giving power to Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. We want everything reviewed," he said.

Abdullah reiterated the pressing need for restoration of statehood to JK and said, "Omar Sahab met with the prime minister and the home minister in the first week. He has now met with the vice president, and he is meeting with the president of India."

The NC chief further mentioned that the chief minister has also attended a conference of power ministers because of a severe power shortage in the region.

"He will also meet with the finance minister to address our financial situation. We are trying from every angle to improve the state's condition, but this will only happen when we all work together."

"This responsibility cannot just be left to the government. We, too, must monitor the work being done as the government cannot be everywhere. Everyone needs to keep an eye on things," he urged.

Abdullah also emphasised the importance of stopping the use of outside contractors.

"Are our people so incapable that they can't handle these contracts? All the contractors are from outside and the labourers are from outside."

"Can't our own labourers work here? What have they achieved in

these 10 years that people can say we are progressing?" he asked.

Abdullah stressed the importance of restoring the Upper House of the state Assembly to give representation to the marginalised regions and communities.

"I am hopeful that when statehood is restored, the number of ministers will increase. When statehood returns, we will restart the Upper House as well because there are many regions and communities that currently have no representation but they should be represented," he said.

The former chief minister said during his time, the government provided representation to the regions where no one was advocating for their issues, either in the Assembly or in the government.

"We want this restoration to happen as soon as possible so that these people and groups receive representation, work can be done for them and their problems can be resolved," he said.

Abdullah voiced deep concerns over the deteriorating infrastructure and lack of basic services in JK. Speaking on the state's healthcare, schools and access to clean drinking water, he highlighted the challenges plaguing the region, particularly mentioning a village in Kulgam where residents lack safe drinking water.

"The government has so much to do that they should not be able to sleep or rest until they bring the state out of these difficulties," Abdullah urged, calling for immediate action. (PTI)

Parra Appointed

meeting in Srinagar today, where key appointments were made to strengthen the party's communication and legislative wings," the PDP said in a post on X.

Accordingly, Mehboob Beg has been nominated as the chief PDP spokesperson, Rafiq Naik has been named deputy leader of the party, while Mir Fayaz has been made the chief whip, the PDP said in the

The PDP has only three MLAs in the newly-elected J-K Assembly.

The meeting, which was attended by senior PDP leaders Abdul Rehman Veeiri, Mohd Sartaj Madni, Ghulam Nabi Lone Hanjura, Asiya Naqash, Abdul Haq Khan, Basharat Bukhari and Mohd Khurshid Alam, held detailed discussions on the current political situation in J-K and party affairs, officials said.

Mirza Waheed

Waheed informed through a write-up in website Literary Hub.

"I cannot allow my work to be associated with a platform whose purpose is to whitewash Israeli apartheid and undermine Palestinian rights," Waheed said.

Waheed said that he is disturbed that his name may be associated, even tangentially, with any Israeli cultural organization, institution, or event linked to or complicit in the dispossession and disempowerment of Palestinians.

"There's something fundamentally wrong about screening a film in an Israeli settlement in the middle of a genocide," he said, citing his firsthand experience of the apartheid system during a visit to Palestine.

Notably, Mulberry Films, a production house from the US, has joined hands with Metro Productions from Georgia to bring the acclaimed author's narrative set against Kashmir's tumultuous political backdrop in the 1990s, to life on the silver screen. "As war rages in India's volatile border region of Kashmir, a young boy is recruited by an Indian army officer to perform a grim task, to go into the valley where Kashmiri rebels have been killed and retrieve their weapons and ID cards," reads the description of the film on IMDb.com.

"It is not in my power to determine what the producers choose to do with their film, but it is wholly in my power to choose what I do in this matter," Waheed said.

Shami Could Be Flown To Australia After 4-Wicket Haul On Ranji Comeback

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The beleaguered Indian team could get the Mohammed Shami boost during the challenging Australia tour after the pace-bowling stalwart made an impressive comeback from injury by grabbing four wickets in a Ranji Trophy match on Thursday.

Playing his first red-ball game in more than a year, Shami, who represents Bengal, bowled four spells across 57 overs in Madhya Pradesh's first innings and returned with figures of 19-4-54-4.

His victims included MP skipper Shubham Sharma, all-rounder Saransh Jain and two tail-enders, with three of the four batters being bowled while one edged to keeper Wriddhiman Saha.

While this is great news for the Indian team, it is understood that the national selection committee will look at how his body holds up in the second innings as well and whether there



is any swelling or pain at the end of the contest, being played at the Holkar Stadium in Indore.

If he ticks all the boxes, it is almost assured that he will join forces with pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah before the second Test, which will be a day/night affair.

The Ranji Trophy match ends on November 16 and he could join the squad before the first Test, beginning in Perth on November 22, but that could be cutting it too fine. In case Shami goes, he will get to play a two-day day/night practice game

against Prime Minister's XI.

More than the wickets he took on Thursday, the team management and national selection committee along with the BCCI's Sports Science & Medical Team want to check how his body holds up.

Shami, who has not played a competitive game after the ODI World Cup final on November 19 last year, had undergone an ankle surgery. Just when he was about to return for the three-Test series against New Zealand, the senior fast bowler developed a swelling in his knee delaying his comeback.

It is understood that despite naming an 18-member squad for Australia, the Ajit Agarkar-led selection committee and the team management would include Shami the moment the BCCI's head of Medical and Sports Science team, Dr Nitin Patel, declares him fit.

A Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) source told PTI that national selection committee member Ajay Ratra had specifically come along with NCA medical team head Patel to watch Shami bowl. Their feedback will be sent to chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar, captain Rohit Sharma and head coach Gautam Gambhir before a final call is taken.

Short TAKES

Sports Minister Visits Khelo India Soft Tennis Centre In Jammu



Minister for Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, visited Khelo India Soft Tennis Centre at M A Stadium in Jammu on Thursday, and had an interactive session with the players there.

The Minister also congratulated Sidhani Singh, Soham Bhat and Shrimai Bhat, who recently participated in the Junior Soft Tennis World Championship held at Jingshang, China. He also commended the dedication of international coach and mentor, Indu Bhushan.

Satish Sharma, while elaborating various initiatives aiming sports promotion in J&K, said that the Omar Abdullah-led government is keenly exploring all possibilities to encourage the talented athletes in the potential sports.

Soft Tennis launched in 2004 in India. This unique game, similar to Lawn Tennis, is being played in the Asian Games where India has won medals as well.

The players requested the Minister to intervene in the matter of including Soft Tennis among the sports disciplines in the job SRO, besides establishment of Soft Tennis Courts in the state land available at Bhagwati Nagar.

Rubia Syed Selected For India 'A' In Women's T20 Challengers Trophy



Agencies

ANANTNAG: Rubia Syed, a skilled and ambitious batter from Anantnag in Jammu and Kashmir, has been named in the India 'A' team for the prestigious Women's T20 Challengers Trophy, scheduled to start on November 17 in Ranchi, Jharkhand.

Rubia's impressive performances in the recent Senior Women's T20 Trophy paved the way for her selection, marking a proud moment for the entire Jammu and Kashmir region.

In an interview with KNS, Rubia shared her excitement over the opportunity and her determination to give her best on the national stage. She described the moment she received the news, which came while she was returning from a training camp with the Mumbai Indians.

"When I saw my name in the India A group, I was thrilled and immediately informed my association. The support and congratulations from everyone were overwhelming," Rubia said. She added that her family's joy strengthened her resolve to make the most of this chance.

Reflecting on the challenges she has faced as a female cricketer from a rural area, Rubia stressed the importance of

hard work and resilience. "It takes a lot of effort, especially coming from a rural background, but it's crucial to stay hopeful and keep moving forward despite obstacles," she explained.

Rubia also shared insights from her time with the Mumbai Indians, where she trained alongside top players like Shafali Verma and Devika Vaidya. The experience boosted her confidence, and she received encouraging feedback from both her coaches and peers.

The young cricketer, who admires MS Dhoni for his calmness under pressure, credited her journey to the unwavering support from the J&K Cricket Association. Their guidance and encouragement have been instrumental in her success, she noted.

Now a role model for young players, Rubia emphasized the value of humility, saying she aims to stay grounded despite her achievements. "I don't want to be a celebrity; I just want to be a player. If I can inspire other youngsters, it's an honor for me," she said.

With her sights firmly set on further success, Rubia hopes to impress national selectors in the upcoming matches, and dreams that this opportunity may lead to an international call-up in the future. (KNS)

King Is Back In His Territory: Shastri Warns Australia



Press Trust of India

Former India cricket coach Ravi Shastri believes Virat Kohli has the potential to turn around his poor form and prosper during the upcoming five-Test Border-Gavaskar series in Australia.

Kohli has been going through a rough run across all formats over the last few months. The 36-year-old star batter has scored just one half-century and averaged only 21.33 across five Test matches against Bangladesh and New Zealand since the start of the year.

But Shastri has warned Australia and said Kohli is back in the country where he loves to bat and score runs. "Well, the King is back in his territory. That's all I will tell them," Shastri said on The ICC Review.

"When you've earned that title after your exploits in Australia, it will be on your (opponent's) mind when you go out to bat."

Shastri was referring to Kohli's phenomenal performances in Australia, which include a fighting century in Adelaide in his first-ever Test tour in 2011/12, a staggering 692 runs from four Tests during the 2014 tour, and an exceptional 123 in Perth during the 2018/19 series when he captained the side.

Shastri, however, cautioned Kohli to be mindful during the initial phase of the tour.

"Your juices are flowing, you're charged up. It's again a case with Virat. You want to see calmness because, at times, you are overeager to get out there

and throw the first punch," the former India all-rounder said.

"But, I think that calmness in the first half an hour where he gets out to bat or in the first three innings of the series will be extremely important. If he can be calm and play the game at his own pace rather than being in a hurry, I think he'll be fine."

Fans Climb Trees To See Kohli Practice
Virat Kohli's arrival in Perth has sent Australian cricket fans into a frenzy.

Despite tight security measures, dedicated supporters climbed trees and brought ladders to catch a glimpse of the star batter during his practice session.

According to The West Australian, some fans even climbed trees and brought ladders to peer over the boundary and watch Kohli practice.

The Indian team management has decided to open up their centre-wicket training sessions to the public from Friday to Sunday, allowing fans to witness match simulations and a warm-up game against India A.

This move contrasts with earlier reports suggesting closed-door practice.

Despite initial efforts to maintain privacy, Kohli's presence attracted significant attention.

Black tarps were used to shield the practice area from public view, and restrictions were imposed on ground staff. However, the determined fans' ingenuity proved to be a challenge.

Maxwell, Australia Pace Flatten Pakistan In Rain-Shortened 1st T20

Agencies

BRISBANE: Glenn Maxwell's robust 43 off 19 balls helped Australia thump Pakistan by 29 runs in a rain-shortened first Twenty20 on Thursday.

After a nearly three-hour delay due to lightning and rain, the match was shortened to seven overs per side.

Maxwell powered Australia to 93-4 and Pakistan reached only 64-9 after slumping to 16-5 inside the first 15 balls.

Nathan Ellis (3-9) and Xavier Bartlett (3-13) ran through the top order before No. 8 batter Abbas Afridi (2-9) unbeaten 20.

"Certainly had a lot of fun out there," Maxwell said. "We thought we had enough on the board ... the bowlers did a great job. There was a few of us who had packed our bags expecting the game to be called off, so it was a mad rush to get ready."



Maxwell followed scores of 0, 16, 0 in the preceding one-day international series won by Pakistan 2-1 by smacking three sixes and five boundaries. He played some extravagant lap shots to third man against the pace of Haris Rauf (1-21) and Naseem Shah (1-37).

Maxwell fell in the penultimate over when he hooked Abbas Afridi (2-9) to backward square leg but Marcus Stoinis provided a final flourish with an unbeaten 21 off seven balls.

Stoinis smashed 20 runs in Shah's last over with two fours and six.

None of the top six Pakistan batters reached double figures.

Sahibzada Farhan hit Spencer Johnson for two successive boundaries off the first two balls he faced before mistiming a pull shot off the fourth ball and holing out at midwicket.

Mohammad Rizwan, in his first match as the Pakistan skipper, fell to the first ball when he top-edged

Bartlett to point. Usman Khan was caught at third man in the same over.

Ellis struck twice in his first over when Babar Azam was caught in the deep and Jake Fraser-McGurk snapped his third catch as Irfan Khan also offered a tame catch at deep midwicket.

Pakistan was 24-6 in the fourth over when Salman Ali Agha scored only 4 in his debut T20, guiding a sharp, short Bartlett delivery to Australia first-time captain Josh Inglis on the run.

Leg-spinner Adam Zampa clean-bowled Shaheen Shah Afridi and Naseem Shah off successive balls in the last over to complete the rout.

"It was difficult to keep things normal in a seven-over game," Rizwan said. "Got to give credit to Maxy, his style worked really well."

The second T20 is in Sydney on Saturday, and the last in Hobart on Monday.

Focus On Rinku's Form As India Aim Series Win Against South Africa

Press Trust of India

JOHANNESBURG: Rinku Singh's batting slot and circus-spect approach must be a cause of concern for the India team going into the deciding fourth T20I against South Africa as the side aims for another bilateral series victory here Friday.

Centuries by Sanju Samson and Tilak Varma on either side of an inept batting performance has kept India's nose ahead in the series and team would want a more collective batting effort to clinch it 3-1.

The Wanderers' 'Bull Ring' has always been a happy hunting ground for India, where they won the 2007 T20 World Cup final against Pakistan.

Even during the previous T20I series a year back, skipper Suryakumar Yadav's last international hundred till date came at this very stadium and that too in a winning cause.

The Indian captain, who



enjoys a staggering victory percentage of 81.25, having come up trumps in 13 out of the 16 matches, would like to do one better compared to the last series in the Rainbow Nation which had ended in a 1-1 draw with one game being washed out.

Curious case of Rinku Singh

Rinku, one of the finest exponents of T20 cricket has suddenly gone off the boil in the past few months, rea-

sons of which aren't exactly clear and it wouldn't be lost on the skipper and interim head coach VVS Laxman.

On the face of it, it seems that his batting position and use as a floater at number six and seven isn't helping the Aligarh man's cause.

The next T20 World Cup in India is still some distance away in 2026 and Surya, as a skipper, has enough time to dissect and put things back on track for the man, who is too precious to be lost due to lack

of clarity. In the current series, Rinku came in at number six in two games and number seven in another and has managed just 28 runs.

The scores 11, 9 and 8 shouldn't be taken in isolation looking at where he is coming in to bat but when the number of balls (34) he has taken to the score runs is taken into consideration, it becomes worrisome.

Even during the last IPL Rinku got to play a total of 113 balls in 15 games for KKR: roughly 7.5 deliveries per game.

Most of Rinku's better efforts have come when he has batted at number five but in a line-up where Sanju Samson is settling as an opener and Tilak Varma has staked claim as a No. 3, it might be difficult for Rinku to be promoted ahead of Hardik Pandya. It is an issue that team think-tank would do better to solve at earliest.

Match Starts: 8:30 pm.

Pakistan bans weddings, shuts schools as 15K taken ill in a day after AQI reaches 604 in Lahore

Agenceis

The toxic smog, which continues to grip Lahore and other parts of Pakistan, has worsened, with the city reporting over 15,000 cases of respiratory and viral infections in just 24 hours, Ary News reported.

According to Ary News, Lahore's hospitals are overwhelmed with patients suffering from dry cough, breathing difficulties, pneumonia, and chest infections.

The majority of cases were reported at major government hospitals, including Mayo Hospital (4,000+ patients), Jinnah Hospital (3,500 patients), Gangaram Hospital (3,000 patients), and Children's Hospital (2,000+ patients).

As per Ary News, medical experts in Pakistan have warned that children and patients with pre-existing conditions, such as asthma and heart disease, are particularly vulnerable to the smog's effects.

"Special children are severely affected," said Ashraf Zia.

The smog has led to an increase in various viral diseases, including pneumonia, chest infections, and skin diseases. "Over 10 viral diseases are currently prevalent in Lahore," he said.

These include the imposition of a three-month ban on weddings to the release of new guidelines by the transport department in response to the situation of smog in most parts of the province. Other measures include the Pakistan Punjab government closing schools and colleges in the state.

The severe smog, which now engulfs northern Pakistan was also reported by NASA's Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS).

"A thick blanket of sky-soiling smog hung over northern Pakistan in early November 2024, causing air quality to plummet, schools to close, and sending hundreds of people to the hospital", NASA MODIS said.

It also made note of the plummeting levels of AQI in the country. "According to several news reports, the Air Quality Index in parts of the Punjab region of Pakistan spiked to more than 1,900 on November 10".

It reported Pakistani media sources who announced that Pak-



istan's Punjab Provincial Disaster Management Authority had declared smog a "calamity" and instituted emergency measures.

"On November 12, the Punjab government website advised that the AQI for the province over last 24 hours had averaged 604--well into the Hazardous range", NASA MODIS said.

Speaking on the thick layer of pollution, NASA MODIS reported, "The tan haze is so thick that it completely obscures the landscape of Pakistan from view. Irregular patches of a lighter color indicate that fog hugs the ground underneath the haze. The city of Lahore, Pakistan--which has ranked as the most polluted city in the world in recent days--is located near the northeastern edge of the fog"

6G technology and intelligent receivers will ease way for army intelligence operations: IIT official



Agenceis

As the country is moving towards introducing 6G technology, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indore is developing intelligent receivers that will prove to be a big help in the field of military communication, an official said on Thursday.

IIT Indore is developing intelligent receivers that can automatically detect and decode key communication methods, such as modulation, channel coding and interleaving, which help transmit data accurately even in challenging conditions with noise or interference, the IIT official said.

As the world moves towards 6G, communication systems will need to handle ultra-fast mobile internet and vast networks of devices, such as Internet of Things (IoT). Traditionally, different receivers were required for different scenarios, making systems complicated and expensive. IIT Indore's technology aims to create a single receiver that can adapt to any situation, eliminating the need

for multiple systems," he said. The receiver is being developed under the leadership of Dr Swaminathan R, Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering of IIT Indore.

"This technology is vital for future 6G networks and military communications. It enables receivers to decode signals in difficult environments, like when military transmissions are intercepted. By automatically identifying these methods, it ensures that important data can be gathered from unclear or noisy signals, making it crucial for intelligence operations," IIT Indore's Director Professor Suhaj Joshi said.

Currently, the testing of these models in real-time and expanding them to cover a wide range of communication standards from 3G to 6G is being done, he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while addressing the 'India Mobile Congress 2024' last month, said India has become the world's second largest market for 5G telecom technology and is now working fast on 6G.

British writer wins Booker for space story Orbital

Agenceis

Britain's Samantha Harvey has won the 2024 Booker Prize for her novel Orbital, a story about a single day aboard the International Space Station, which she wrote during COVID-19 lockdowns.

The novel, Harvey's fifth, was the top selling book on the shortlist of six finalists and has sold more copies than the past three Booker Prize winners combined, as readers lapped up her depiction of earth's beauty as seen from space.

Judges of the prize, now in its 55th year, praised her writing for the "intensity of attention to the precious and precarious world". Past winners of the prestigious Booker, which is open to works



of fiction written in English, include Margaret Atwood, Salman Rushdie and Yann Martel. Harvey said she wrote the novel while stuck at home during the pandemic watching footage of the earth in low orbit on her screen.

EU slaps Meta with nearly 800 million euro fine for engaging in 'abusive' Marketplace practices

Agenceis

European Union regulators have slapped Facebook's parent company, Meta, with a fine of nearly 800 million euros for what they have described as "abusive practices" related to its Marketplace online classified ads business.

The European Commission, the EU's executive arm and chief antitrust watchdog, imposed a penalty of 797.72 million euros (approximately \$841 million) following a long-running investigation. The Commission found that Meta had abused its dominant market position and engaged in anti-competitive behavior.

Brussels accused Meta of distorting competition by linking its Marketplace service to its social media platform, Facebook, automatically exposing users to Marketplace "whether they want it or not" while blocking competitors from reaching Facebook's user base.

The Commission also raised



concerns about Meta's terms of service, which, they argued, allowed the company to use ad-related data from its rivals--advertisers on Facebook and Instagram--to benefit its Marketplace business unfairly.

In response, Meta issued a statement rejecting the ruling, arguing that the decision fails to demonstrate any "competitive harm" to rivals or consumers. The company also claimed that the decision overlooks the "thriving European market for online classified listing services" and vowed to appeal the fine.

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