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BOOK APPOINTMENT

Snowfall Breaks Dry Spell In Valley



Children enjoy sledding in Tangmarg, Baramulla, as Kashmir plains receive season's first snowfall. PTI Photo

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Many areas in the plains of Kashmir received the season's first snowfall on Thursday breaking a long dry spell, even as the minimum temperature improved at most places in the valley, officials said. However, snowfall in the higher reaches, which began on Wednesday, continued

at several places. The plains of Shopian, Pulwama, and Baramulla, as well as the upper areas of Anantnag, Budgam, and Bandipora received light snowfall. However, there was no snowfall in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir. The higher reaches of the valley, including the tourist resorts of Gulmarg, Sonamarg, Tangmarg, Gurez and the [More on P10](#)

Cold, Dry Weather For Next 5 Days: MeT

The Meteorological department (MeT) has predicted no wet spell till December 20. Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that on December 16 & 17, the weather would remain generally while from December 18-20th, the cloudy weather is expected in Jammu and Kashmir. Moreover, the MeT in its advisory [More on P10](#)

'Transferring Case To MP/MLA Court' Er Rashid's Bail Hearing Deferred Again

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: A Delhi court is likely to decide on December 19 whether to transfer the terror-funding case against Jammu and Kashmir MP Engineer Rashid to a special court designated to try lawmakers. The hearing in the case, which was scheduled to be taken up on Thursday, was adjourned because the judge hearing the

matter was on leave. The NIA had on November 27 informed Principal District and Sessions Judge Vimal Kumar Yadav that it was likely to move the Delhi High Court seeking grant of special powers to a court currently hearing the terror-funding case against Rashid, to enable it to hear the case. The District Court was hearing the matter recommended by a special

Enhance Visibility Of J&K Govt On Digital Platforms: CM

» 'Ensure Fairness In Advertisement Issuance To Newspapers' » Reviews Functioning Of Information Department

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday stressed the importance of social media, and called for enhanced visibility of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir on digital platforms through targeted advertisements and campaigns.

Omar chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the Information Department at the Civil Secretariat here.

The meeting assessed the department's performance and deliberated on matters



requiring improvement to enhance efficiency and outreach of the Information department.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani,

Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Secretary Information Rehana Batul, Director Information Jatin Kishore, senior officers from the administrative department,

- » Film Shooting Permissions
- » Advertisement Policy
- » Digital Visibility
- » Accreditation Process
- » Staff Shortages
- » Procurement of Equipment
- » Public Perception
- » Recent Initiatives
- » Budget Review

all Joint Directors, Deputy Directors, and other concerned officials. During the meeting, the Chief Minister inquired about the functioning of the single-window portal for [More on P10](#)

'Direct Rail Link To Boost Floriculture Sector'

With rail connectivity from Kanyakumari to Kashmir likely to complete next month, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said the link provides an opportunity to give a big boost to the floriculture sector of Jammu and Kashmir. Chairing a meeting of the

department of floriculture, parks and gardens at the Civil Secretariat here to review its functioning and discuss strategies to enhance the sector's potential, he emphasized the need to leverage the rail link to market Kashmir's flowers across India and globally. [More on P10](#)

Cabinet Gives Nod To 'One Nation One Election' Bill

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The ruling BJP on Thursday took a major step to implement its key plank of "one nation, one election" as the Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the constitutional amendment bill to roll out the concept of simultaneous Lok Sabha and state assembly polls, sources said.

Two draft legislations, including one simple bill to amend provisions in laws dealing with three Union territories with legislative assemblies to align them with the Constitution amendment bill, were given the nod by the Cabinet.

While a high-level committee led by former president



Ram Nath Kovind on simultaneous polls had also proposed holding the municipality and panchayat elections along with the national and state elections in a phased manner, the Cabinet has decided to stay away, "as of now", from the manner in which local

body elections are conducted, the sources said.

A source said the prime minister put a strong emphasis on the need for simultaneous polls for further boosting development initiatives and overall growth, points he has often made [More on P10](#)

'NC Remained Silent On Simultaneous Polls'

The National Conference didn't spell out its stance on holding Lok Sabha and Assembly polls simultaneously before a high-level committee headed by former

president Ram Nath Kovind set-up by the Centre last year. According to the report of the panel, the National Conference didn't respond to the panel's communique(s) [More on P10](#)

Infra Development Accelerated Manifold In Past 5 Yrs: LG Says Committed To Ensure Equality, Social Justice For All

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government is committed to ensure equality and social justice for all, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Thursday, asserting that the speed of infrastructure development has accelerated manifold in the Union Territory over the last five years.

Addressing an event to mark the martyrdom day of military strategist General Zorawar Singh, the LG spoke of the Dogra-era warrior's campaigns in Ladakh, Baltistan and Tibet, highlighting his immense contributions to the expansion of the Dogra empire.

"The life and work of great persons always inspire others. General Zorawar Singh's leadership inspired millions to unite for the cause of an equitable path of growth. His vision and values guide us to work for those sections of the society which have got left behind,"



Sinha said. The LG also shared the efforts of the J&K government under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to honour the contributions of great personalities like General Singh.

Talking about the transformation that took place in J&K over the past few years, Sinha reiterated that equality and social justice are top priorities for the government.

"Public welfare is my 'dharma' (religion) and 'kartavya' (duty). It is being ensured that the benefits of [More on P10](#)

ILLEGAL RIVERBED MINING IN PULWAMA J&K Govt, Officials Face NGT Scrutiny

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) in a fresh case has issued notice to Chief Secretary J&K Govt, Inspector General of Police Kashmir zone, Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Director Geology & Mining, Member Secretary JK Pollution Control Committee and Contractor Ranbir Singh for continuous illegal riverbed mining in Sasara stream (nallah) in Pulwama around Chatripora-Bandzoo villages.

The NGT bench of Justice Arun Kumar Tyagi (Judicial Member) and Dr A Senthil Veil (Expert Member) on December 5th issued notices to J&K Govt through Chief Secretary and other officers mentioned above and asked them to file a response one week before the next date of [More on P10](#)

Kargil's Boundary Dispute With Ganderbal' HC Grants Govt 4 Weeks For Response To PIL

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has granted government four weeks time for its response to a Public Interest litigation (PIL), seeking to save Ladakh's environment, ecology and land from encroachers as well as resolve the "boundary" dispute between District Kargil in Ladakh and District Ganderbal in Kashmir.

As the PIL came up for hearing before a bench of Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan and Justice Rajesh Sekhri, Government Advocate Faheem Nissar Shah sought and was granted four weeks' further time to file response.

"In order to assist the Court, Mr. M.L. Qadri, learned Senior Advocate, is hereby appointed as amicus curiae," the court said and directed the Registry to provide a complete paper



book to Amicus Curiae during the course of the week.

In July this year, the High Court treated a letter addressed by one Abdul Wahid in his capacity as Councillor, 2-Bhimbet Constituency, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Kargil as the PIL.

The letter dated 1 July 2024 under the subject "Save Ladakh's Environment, Ecology and Land from Encroachers and Resolve the Boundary Dispute between

District Kargil Of UT Ladakh and District Ganderbal of J&K" had been addressed to the Chief Justice Abdul Wahid and same was placed before the Chief Justice who directed it to be treated as PIL.

In the letter, "deep" concern had been expressed over the safety of the environment and ecology of Ladakh. It was averred in the letter that the residents of District Ganderbal have encroached upon the land of Ladakh under the garb that the Border Roads Organization (BRO) has divided the snow area land into equal proportions and this action on part of the inhabitants of Ganderbal has endangered the flora and fauna of the Ladakh region which being a threat to the environment and ecology of the said region.

Further it had been pleaded that the traffic [More on P10](#)

Reservation Is A Sensitive Issue: Itoo

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir's Education Minister, Sakina Masood Itoo, Thursday said that it would be inappropriate to discuss the reservation policy issue, as it is currently under judicial consideration.

"Reservation is a sensitive issue, and a sub-committee was formed to address it. At this point, the matter is sub-judice, and we should not discuss it while it is in court," Sakina Itoo told reporters.

She also dismissed any claims suggesting issues with the functioning of the government. "There is no problem in the government's functioning. Some people are trying to create an impression, but the government is working under the leadership of Omar Abdullah, and in the past two



months, we have been focusing on the betterment of the people," she added.

The Minister also addressed concerns regarding the difficulties faced by the youth in Jammu and Kashmir over the last two decades, particularly in dealing with mental health issues like depression.

"The youth of Jammu and Kashmir have suffered greatly in the past [More on P10](#)

'UNUSUAL DEATHS IN RAJOURI' Govt To Depute Probe Team

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Directorate of Health Services (DHS) Jammu is dispatching a team of medical experts to investigate a series of unusual deaths reported in District Rajouri.

Reportedly, the team is scheduled to visit the site tomorrow, to conduct an epidemiological investigation.

The team comprises Dr. Prem Lata, Medical Officer of Epidemiology at DHS Jammu, Dr. Simran Nag, State Epidemiologist for the Jammu Division, and Ajay, State Microbiologist of the IDSP Jammu Division. Additionally, Vishal Patil, a Senior Pharmacist from the DHS Jammu, will accompany the team.

The investigation comes in response to [More on P10](#)



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Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan Executive Magistrate 1st Class Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth Public Notice The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Lolpora) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Sania Sabaat D/o Irshad Ahmad Parry R/o Sheerabad Khore Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 01-09-2020 occurred at SDH Pattan In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained. Executive Magistrate 1st Class Naib Tehsildar Pattan fko

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan Executive Magistrate 1st Class Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Death Public Notice The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Lolpora) has submitted a case file pertaining to Death of Saja Begum W/o Ghulam Mohi-u-Din Lone R/o Nehalpora Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (Death) as 31-10-2020 occurred at SDH Pattan In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained. Executive Magistrate 1st Class Naib Tehsildar Pattan fko

PUBLIC NOTICE I have changed the name of my daughter from Huda Aadil D/o Aadil Bashir Bhat to Aiza Adil D/o Adil Bashir. In future she will be known as Aiza Adil D/o Adil Bashir. If anybody has any objection in the regard he/she may file in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained. Adil Bashir F/o Aiza Adil Address bilatabad kralpora budgam rskt

PUBLIC NOTICE The mother's of my ward in their school records has been wrongly written as S. Name Father's Name Mothers Name Correct Mother's Name Residence 1. Shahzeeb Mehraj ud Din Mohi Noor Rukhsana Mirak Abad, Shalimar 2. Talha Mehraj ud Din Mohi Noor Rukhsana Akhtar 3. Mehraj Bhat Akhtar

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Office of the Executive Magistrate 1st Class Narbal Budgam Tele Fax 01951-260-276 Pin Code 193401 Notice For General Public I tis hereby notified that the applicant namely Rohiee Banoo Wd/o Tanveer Ashiq Khan R/o Kawoosa Khalisa District BUD-GAM had applied for the issuance of Birth Certificate of his Daughter namely Suriy Tanveer D/o Late Tanveer Ashiq . The applicant intends to register the DOB of his Daughter as per school record/vaccination card School Record 18-09-2010 In this connection, if anybody having any objection regarding the same he/she may contact office of the undersigned within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained. Executive Magistrate 1st Class Narbal bmg Dated: 12-12-2024

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan Executive Magistrate 1st Class Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth Public Notice The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Lolpora) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Naveed Ahmad Lone S/o Mohd Yousuf Lone R/o Nehalpora Sopore Tehsil Sopore District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 17-12-2019 occurred at SDH Pattan In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained. Executive Magistrate 1st Class Naib Tehsildar Pattan fko

OFFICE OF THE ZONAL EDUCATION OFFICER BIJBEHARA Phone: 01931-356349 zonebijbehara@gmail.com NOTIFICATION Subject: Tentative selection list of candidates recommended for selection of Helpers/AAYAs by school level selection committee published for inviting objections thereof. 1. Whereas, Directorate of Samagra Shiksha, Jammu & Kashmir UT vide communication No: Edu/PD/SmS/ECCE/Helpers/1861-1905/2023-24 Dated: 06-06-2023 duly endorsed by Chief Education officer Anantnag vide No. CEO/A/SmS/ 21030-4523 Dated: 08/06/2023 issued orders for hiring/engagement of Helpers AAYAs under ECCE in 54 approved schools of this zone for the year 2023-24 purely on terminus basis in terms of Govt. order Na: 07 OF CHIRAG-2023 Dated: 09/01/2023 read with order No: 150-CHIRAG OF 2023 Dated: 21-09-2023 and amendments issued from time to time. 2. Whereas, this office vide notice No: ZEO/B/2023-24/2083 Dt. 20-11-23 floated advertisement notification for engagement/hiring of Helpers/AAYAs under ECCE in 53 approved schools for the year 2023-24 purely on terminus basis for participation in selection process from eligible candidates 3. Whereas, the said advertisement notification was displayed on the notice board of this office, notice boards of concerned schools/Panchayat Ghars and local places of worship. Besides, the said advertisement was published in leading dailies of Kashmir Division. 4. Whereas, as per the detailed guidelines/norms to be followed, the Selection of Helper/AAYA has to be restricted to Village/Ward in respect of Rural/Urban areas respectively, where approved schools are located. The candidate must possess minimum qualification: 8th Class Passed. The applicants must belong to the BPL or lower Category. Preference shall be given to the candidates in the below mentioned order of Priority; i. Widow ii. Divorced iii. Orphan In case of tie-up the selection of candidate for helper/AAYA, the preference shall be given to the elder candidate i.e candidate older in age shall be considered. In case no candidate has applied for engagement of AAYA from the ward, where school is presently located preference given to candidate residing in close proximity to the school premises. 5. Whereas, in response to the advertisement notification floated by this office vide above referred reference, 259 (Two Hundred and fifty nine) number of application forms were received by this office within stipulated time. 6. Whereas, this office vide communication No. ZEO/B/3231/SmS/2023-24 Dated: 12/01/2024 constituted School Level Screening Committees headed by Head of Institution concerned for verification of documents submitted by the candidates for engagement/hiring of helpers/AAYAs under ECCE. The School Level Committee was mandated to draw-up the panel of all eligible candidates in order of merit/preference in sequel to the detailed guidelines of Director Samagra Shiksha J&K UT in consultation with concerned PRIs. 7. Whereas, the constituted School Level Committees in consultation with PRIS/VEC/SMCs have prepared /drawn the panel of all eligible candidates strictly in order of merit/preference as per the detailed guidelines of Samagra Shiksha. 8. Whereas, 48 Candidates for 48 approved schools already cleared by the screening committee and were engaged. 9. Whereas, 01 approved school was pending which were cleared now by the committee. Now, therefore, in view of the above and on the basis of the panels drawn-up by the School Level Screening Committees duly cross-checked by the Office & principles of Merit the tentative selection list for hiring of helpers/AAYAs under ECCE in 01 remaining approved schools for the Year 2023-24 is hereby notified as Annexure to this notification. In case any candidate(s) is/are aggrieved with this tentative selection list, he/she may represent in this office and submit the objection with documentary proof within Seven days from the date of publication of this notification in local dailies. It is further notified that: 1. Mere figuring in the tentative selection list shall not entitle a candidate to figure in the final selection list/engagement as AAYA/Helper and shall be further subject to the document verification from issuing authorities. 2. The Tentative selection list shall be subject to the outcome/writ petition(s), if any, pending in any court of law of the competent jurisdiction. 3. The Tentative Selection List shall also be subject to the outcome of enquiry, if any, involving candidates, figuring in the tentative selection list. No:-ZEO/BIJ/SmS/2024-25/ 12-12-2024 Zonal Education Officer BIJBEHARA Annexure "A" to this office Notification No:- ZEO/BIJ/ SmS/2024-25/ Dated:- S.No FILE.No Name of the Candidate Parentage Address As Per DOMICILE CERTIFICATE School where applied Qualification D.O.B Whether BPL Whether Married Whether Widower Whether Divorcee Whether Orphan Remarks 66 144 NUSRAT JAN W/O IRFAM AHMAD SHEIKH GANIE MOHAL LAH BIJBEHARA MS BIJBEHARA 12TH 04-06-1995 YES MARRIED No No No Residing in close proximity to the school premises DIPK-9449/24 dated: 12-12-2024 Zonal Education Officer BIJBEHARA

PUBLIC NOTICE I want to change my name and address from Altaf Hussain Shah R/o Gulzarpora Pulwama TO Altaf Hussain Shah R/o Gousia Colony Lane 2nd Lal Nagar Chanapora Srinagar. Pincode: 190015.. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Regional Passport Office Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained. Altaf Hussain Shah. S/O: Late Najam Ud Din Shah. R/o Gousia Colony Lane 2nd Lal Nagar Chanapora Srinagar fko

From Office of the Advocate Adv M.A Sofi In the case of 1. Shabir Ahmad Malla 2. Mehraj-ud-Din Malla 3. Ishfaq Ahmad Malla 4. Bashir Ahmad Malla 5. Nissar Ahmad Malla 6. Zahida Sons and daughters of Late Ghulam Ahmad Malla 7. Aisha Begum W/o Late Ghulam Ahmad Malla All residents of Pattan Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla V/s public at Large (Caveator) In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A The caveators have reason to believe that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition, Ap- peal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may seed in obtaining some relief/order at their back/in ex parte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put in irrepa- rable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order. fko Sd/advocate

PUBLIC NOTICE I, Mohammad Abass Ganie F/O Shayaa Riza R/O Mulashulla Tehsil Beerwah District Budgam have applied for the cancellation of DOB certificate which issued in favour of my son Shayaa Riza. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may contact the concerned office within 7 days. After that no objection shall be entertained. BMG

Government of Jammu & Kashmir GULMARG DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY Tele/Fax No:01954254625 e-mail: gulmarggda@gmail.com E-Bid Document (Auction ID:) Out-sourcing of Space for Igloo near Ice Skating Rink at Gulmarg through GeM Portal for a period of 03 -Season. No:GDA/2024/1790-94 Dated 29/11/2024 For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K Union Territory, E- Auction is invited through GeM Portal for Outsourcing the "Space for Igloo Near Ice Skating Rink at Gulmarg", for a period of 03-years. (Three Seasons) The details are as under: S.No Particulars Date / Amount Remarks 1 PQ(Pre-Qualification Submission Start Date 09.12.2024=10:00-AM Nil 2 PQ(Pre-Qualification) Submission End Date 19.12.2024 =04:00-PM Nil 3 PQ(Pre-Qualification) Assessment Date & Time 21.12.2024 =04:00-PM Nil 4 EMD Start Date 24.12.2024 =10:00-AM Nil 5 EMD End Date 28.12.2024 =04:00-PM Nil 6 EMD(BidSecurity)Amount Rs.10000/- (Ten Thousand Only) To be pledged in favour of Accounts officer Gulmarg Dev. Authority 7 BidSubmission/AuctionStart Date 29.12.2024=12:00-PM Nil 8 BidSubmission/AuctionEndDate&Time 30.12.2024 =01:00-PM Nil 9 Reserve Bid Amount Rs.50000/- (Fifty Thousand Only) Per year with 10% escalation for each successive year. The e-auction has been finalized by the Outsourcing Committee under the Chairmanship of Director Tourism, Kashmir. Reliable/resourceful and experienced agencies/ persons, who fulfill the ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA (PRE QUALIFICATION) detailed as under shall only be eligible to participate in the E - Auction process. PRE -QUALIFICATION (PQ) CRITERIA (TO BE UPLOADED ON GeM-PORTAL) 1. The bidder shall have to upload Certificate of Registration for Hotel or Restaurant if any duly issued by the Tourism Department under J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act and/or Relevant qualification (Degree/Diploma/Certificate Course) in the Hospitality sector and/or having experience in the Hospitality sector with documentary Proof be uploaded. 2. The bidder shall have to upload a Character Certificate from the concerned Additional Dy. Commissioner (ADC) or Police Station. The validity of character certificates shall have to be Six months from the date of issuance. 3. The bidder shall have to upload Self-attested PAN Card & Aadhar Card. 4. The bidder shall have to upload self-attested GST Registration Certification on the name and title of bid. Specific Condition: 1. The minimum bid on account of hire charges for use of land, measuring 44'-6" dia& 37'-6"ht till conclusion of snow igloo up to ending March 2023 9De- pending on weather conditions) shall not be less than Rs.50000/= (Minimum bid value) 2. The agency has to utilize his own resources, expert man power, for construction of 1 No of beautiful igloo of above mentioned size at spots of GDA land at his own cost, identified by the GDA Outsourcing Committee, with the nearby snow/Ice available at nearby site. 3. Time duration will depend upon the feasible climatic conditions. 4. The Kashmiri traditional samawarkhewa 9Zafran) be served along with Tandoori bakery bread, like sheermal, Kulcha, Girda and Lawasact should be made available for the visitors against cash payment at reasonable rates set/ fixed by the GDA. 5. In addition to prime kahwa service, he may serve other refreshment like Tea, Coffee and snacks etc. as per the demand of visitors. The charges of the refreshments shall be claimed as per approved rates by GDA. 6. The agency can charge up to a maximum of Rs.20 per person as entry fee for adults and Rs. 10 for children. 7. The surrounding must be kept clean and eco-friendly. 8. Provision of dustbin at site is mandatory. 9. The minimum bid amount shall be Rs.50000/-Fifty thousand per year for a period of 02 years in the first instance and extendable up to further One year's subject to satisfactory performance by the outsource with 10% compound escalation for each successive year. 10. The bidder participating in the e- bid process must apply in his name or the firm duly registered in his name. There is no scope whatsoever of executing any partnership deed. 11. The interested parties should compulsorily visit & inspect the asset before participating in the e-bidding process and the physical position of the asset. As such, no claim of any deficiency in the asset would be entertained during/after bidding process. 12. Eligible persons shall be allowed to participate in the e- bidding process only after uploading of relevant documents mentioned in the Eligibility Criteria and EMD in the shape of CDR, amounting to Rs.10000/- (Ten Thousand) pledged in favour of Accounts Officer Gulmarg Development Authority. 13. The successful bidder shall have to deposit 100% of the approved bid amount for the 1st year within a period of Seven days after the culmination of bidding process otherwise the claim shall get forfeited. 14. The bidder who intentionally/unintentionally posts a financial bid which is absurdly on higher side, the same will be rejected during the bidding process and contact to this number immediately within 5 five minutes 8803993001. 15. That the successful bidder shall have to pay all the taxes i.e GST & SGST Labourcess Income Tax and other taxes in vogue at his own. The bid amount received by the department is excluding the taxes mentioned above. 16. Overstay period of 1st 10 days will be charges @10000/-per day and thereafter @20000/-per day for a period of further 10 days thereafter legal action will be initiated against the occupant. 17. In case the successful bidder fails to complete the term of contract, or leaves the contract half way or the contract is cancelled due to any disqualifications/ nonpayment of advance rent, the CDR shall be forfeited. 18. The safety, security and upkeep of the asset shall be sole responsibility of outsource during the period of contract. 19. The out-sourcing committee reserves the right to reject any or all the e- bids without assigning any reason therefor. 20. The successful bidder shall have to charge rates for various allotted services as per approval of the Department from time to time. 21. The electric/water consumption charges shall be payable by the outsource. 22. The bidder should not be employee of any Govt. Deptt. Or a Public Sector undertaking. 23. The successful bidder shall have to execute an agreement along with undertaking a positively within seven days with the department nonon- Judicial Stamp Paper regarding adherence to the instruction/terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Department during the course of the contract period. 24. The bidder shall have to bear all the costs and expenses for executing the agreement/ undertaking. 25. The successful bidder shall have to provide the catering facilities for the full period of lease and not on seasonal basis only. No:GDA/F-78/2024-25/ DIPK-NB-2751/24 Dated: 12/12-2024 Chief Executive Officer Gulmarg Dev. Authority

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT KHANSAHIB (MEMBER SECRETARY BLOCK LEVEL COMMITTEE) PUBLIC NOTICE Subject: Publication of Ward wise Merit cum Eligibility list of female candidates for engagement as Sahayikas (AWH) 1st phase 2024 objections thereof. 1. Whereas 05 No. of vacancies of Sahiyikas identified in ICDS project Khansahib in light of HR Policy issued by the Govt, vide No. 222-JK (SWD) of 2022 Dated: 31-10-2022 in different wards. 2. Whereas these 05 were advertised in leading local dailies vide advertisement No. 02 of 2024 dated 26-06-2024, which includes Subah Kashmir to invite application from desirous candidates as per eligibility. 3. Whereas only 03 application forms have been received by this office till lock date from 05 electoral wards advertised and from other 02 wards i.e. Kalshi pora Wards 02 and Gurwait Ward 08 no application form was received . Hence the said wards will be re-advertised separately. 4. Whereas tentative merit/ Eligibility List was framed in consonance with ward and qualification certificate with other requisite documents. 5. Whereas the said merit-cum-eligibility list was presented to the designated block level committee comprising of BDO concerned , ZEO concerned as members and CDPO as member secretary . and after scrutiny of the documents the list has been approved by the committee members and 03 eligible candidates of 03 wards have tentatively selected as Aanganwadi helpers (Sahiyikas) being matriculate and resident of same ward where AWC is located purely on merit basis. Now in view of the above the said list is hereby published in local dailies and also shall be displayed in concerned wards for information of all concerned and if anybody has any objection in respect of enclosed merit list, the same shall be submitted I the office of the child development project office Khansahib within a period of 05 days from the date of publication / displaying of this notice and after expiry of the given time line, no objection shall be entertained and said list shall be treated as final selection list. No.CDPO/POSHAN/KSB/24/1442-46 Dated:12-12-2024 Yours faithfully Child Development Project Officer Poshan Khansahib Subject: Tentative selection list of Sahayikas (Aanganwadi Helpers) Location: SHAMSABAD WARD 03 SNo Index No. Name of the candidate Parentage Residence DOB Qualification Max Marks Marks Obtained Any relation with retired AWW/ Awh Add 02 points as per policy Total %Age Remarks 1 1 Shafiya Fayaz D/o Fayaz Ahmad Bhat Shamsabad 01-02-2004 10th 500 343 no no 68.6 2 1 Batoola Akhter D/o Ali Mohd Mir Hardu- Panzoo 10-02-2005 10th 500 224 no no 48.9 3 1 Shahnaza Akhter D.o Gh Mohd Thokar Lanoora 22-02-1998 10th 500 213 no no 42.6 sd BDO Khansahib Member BLC SD /- ZEO Khansahib Member BLC Child Development Project Officer Poshan Khansahib Member Secretary BLC DIPK-9484/24 dated: 12-12-2024



DC Conducts Extensive Tour Of Khonmoh; Holds Public Darbar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat Thursday conducted an extensive tour of Khonmoh area of the District and took spot visits to various developmental sites including Medi-City at Sempora.

He also inspected the Industrial Estate Khonmoh and major Mineral Mining Site at Khyber Khonmoh.

During the visit, the DC also held a Public Darbar at Khonmoh to listen to the issues of the local habitants.

The Public Darbar was attended by a large gathering of locals, who projected their grievances and issues before the DC.

After giving patient hearing to the grievances and demands of the people, the DC sought on the spot response from the concerned District Officers present during the Grievance Redressal Camp. He assured the people of Khonmoh Block that all genuine demands and issues projected by them will be looked into on priority.

The DC also gave on the spot directions to the concerned Officers for time bound redressal of the public issues.

Earlier, the DC visited Medi-City at Sempora and took stock of progress of the works on the construction of Kashmir Medical College and Super-Speciality Hospital being developed by Milli Trust, Delhi.

On the occasion, the DC stressed the concerned executing agency to pace up the progress of works and ensure utmost coordination to expedite time bound completion of the projects.

The DC also visited Khonmoh Industrial Estate and inspected several manufacturing units. He also interacted with the Unit holders and the concerned Officers and assured full support from the District Administration.

Later, the DC visited a major Mineral Mining site at Khyber Khonmoh. On the occasion, the DC was apprised about the operationalization of the mining site through a PowerPoint presentation.

The DC was accompanied by General Manager DIC, Chief Planning Officer, GM SIDCO, Deputy Director Health Services, CMO, District Mineral Officer, Manager Estates Khonmoh, Tehsildar Pantha Chowk and others during the tour.

Sakeena Itoo Inaugurates KU's Annual Youth Festival 'Sonzal'



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo stressed on the need for preserving Kashmiri culture and language, adding that we need to promote our mother tongue for our bright future.

The Minister made these remarks after inaugurating the Kashmir University's Annual Youth Festival 'Sonzal' at the Convocation Complex of Varsity here today.

The seven day festival is being organised by Division of Youth Affairs, Department of Students Welfare, University of Kashmir.

Addressing the massive gathering of Professors, Deans, HoDs, Research scholars and students, Sakeena Itoo advocated for safeguarding Kashmiri language and traditions, in the face of modern influences. "Our Kashmiri culture and language is very unique, we all need to be very proud of our culture and heritage and celebrate it to its maximum extent", Sakeena said.

"Language is the foundation of our culture. Without it, we lose touch with the narratives, stories and customs that have defined us for centuries. I urge the professors and students here to not only cherish the beauty of our Kashmiri language and culture but also ensure that it thrives beyond academic spaces", she added.

She called upon the student community that it is your responsibility to protect and promote our cul-

ture, while also using the power of knowledge to address the issues that affect us today. "Kashmir University has provided you the knowledge and wisdom, now it's up to you to create a future where both our heritage and our progress walk hand in hand", Sakeena Itoo said.

Highlighting on the contribution of Kashmir University, the Minister remarked that the Varsity is the 'beacon of knowledge and social progress' of Kashmir, highlighting that the University has produced professors, scholars, researchers who are significantly impacting various sectors like education, governance, technology as well as for preservation of our cultural heritage.

"Kashmir University is not only a place of academic learning but a hub of social change and intellectual growth. It has produced individuals who have contributed immensely to the development of our society and preservation of our cultural heritage across the globe", Sakeena Itoo maintained.

Commending the University for organising this Youth Festival, the Minister said that the 'Sonzal' is a very unique platform to promote and preserve the Kashmiri language which is an integral part of our cultural heritage. "Cultural outreach initiatives, like 'Sonzal', demonstrate University's commitment to nurturing creativity, preserving traditions and empowering the youth," Sakeena Itoo remarked.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan

highlighted the significance of the festival in fostering creativity, unity and curiosity among young minds.

"Our university is committed to providing platforms like Sonzal to nurture the talent and potential of our students in various ways," she said.

Prof. Khan also outlined the University's breakthroughs and achievements, including the implementation of the NEP 2020 framework at UG level.

Dean Academic Affairs KU, Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada, emphasised the University's holistic approach to education while as Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal, described the event as a celebration of cultural talent.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Dean Students Welfare KU, Prof. Shamim Ahmad Shah, stated that the festival is aimed at promoting social cohesion, cultural understanding, and artistic exchange.

The inaugural ceremony featured the live performance of the University Tarana by the DSW cultural group, release of the annual student magazine 'Gulala', and mesmerizing live cultural performances by student cultural groups.

The festival, running from December 12-20, brings together students from various colleges and universities across Kashmir to showcase their talents in a wide range of competitions like quiz, debate, elocution, collage making, poster-making, painting, cartoon-making, clay-modelling and other categories during next seven days.

Laborer Dies After Water Tank Falls On Him

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A laborer died on Wednesday after a water tank fell on him in the Wababal Nowgam area of Srinagar, officials said.

An official said that the laborer sustained critical injuries after a 1000-litre water tank fell on him in the Nowgam area.

He said the water tank was being shifted when it fell and the man came under it, sus-

taining critical injuries. He said the injured was shifted to the nearest hospital, where doctors declared him dead on arrival. His body has been shifted to SMHS Hospital for medico-legal formalities.

He has been identified as Mohd Jamal Mir son of Ab Samad of Handwara, who was reportedly working at the site when the incident occurred. Police have taken cognisance of the incident.

CRPF Concludes Human Resource Development Training

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The 79th Battalion of the CRPF, Sonwar, Srinagar, successfully organized the closing ceremony of its Human Resource Development activities under the Civic Action Program (SRESE) on December 12, 2024.

The event marked the successful completion of skill development training courses in Make-up Artist and Front Office Associate disciplines.

As per a statement issued, the ceremony took place at the Government Girls' Higher Secondary School, Sonwar, Srinagar, in the presence of Kishore Kumar, Commandant-79BN. "A total of 60 students completed the training—30 in the Make-up Artist course and 30 in the Front Office Associate course," reads the statement. Also, addressing the gathering, Kishore Kumar stressed the initia-



tive aimed to empower youth by enhancing their skills for a brighter and self-reliant future. He underlined the Ministry of Home Affairs' commitment to such projects and reaffirmed the CRPF's role in addressing social responsibilities through programs like these. The statement further reads, Kishore

Kumar extended his gratitude to Abdul Hamid Fani, Director of School Education Kashmir, and Nikhat Mir, Principal of the Government Girls' Higher Secondary School, for their support. He also commended the dedication of all teachers and trainers involved in the training for their efforts to nurture the aspirations of young minds.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (MECHANICAL), PW (R&B), CENTRAL KASHMIR ENGINEERING COMPLEX (PMGSY BUILDING), RAJBAGH SRINAGAR KASHMIR-190008
E-Mail: xenmechcentralkmr@gmail.com
Establishment Mail: mdsestb2023@gmail.com

CORRIGENDUM
Reference:- eNIT No. 02 of R&B/MDCK/NIT/02. Dated:- 08.11.2024
In order to ensure wider participation for the work " Replacement of worn out/damaged children playing equipments and gym equipments and addition of new one at Eidgah Park" following changes have been made in the above e-NIT:
1. **Class of Contractor/Bidder also includes " Registered Class C or Class D civil contractors"**
No. XENMC/Sgr/984-88 Sd/-
Dated:- 12.12.2024 Executive Engineer
DIPK-9454-24 PW(R&B) Mechanical Division
DT: 12/12/2024 Central Kashmir

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, TRANSMISSION LINE MAINTT. DIVISION-VIII, SRINAGAR
JAMMU & KASHMIR POWER DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION J & K SRINAGAR.
Tele Fax 0194-2491342 | E-mail: tlmd8jktcl@gmail.com

TIME EXTENSION NOTICE-III
(e-NIT No. TLM-D-VIII/TS/13 of 2024 Dated: 02-11-2024.)
No-TLMD-VIII/TS/4419-23 Dated: 10-12-2024

In view of poor response, the Critical Dates in respect of e-NIT No. TLM-D-VIII/TS/13 of 2024 Dated: 02-11-2024 issued by this Division under endorsement No. TLM-D-VIII/TS/3648-52 Dated: 02-11-2024 for "Laying of Tower Foundations for Multi Circuit Towers & Normal Towers (QBC-1No., QDC-1No. & DD-1No.) Supply & Erection of Galvanized Towers, (As Per Approved Design Available With JKPTCL), Supply of 0.4ACSR (ZEBRA) Conductor and it's Laying & Stringing with Allied Line Material for Termination of Existing 220KV D/C Wagoora-Sharifabad Transmission Line & Under Construction 220KV D/C Wagoora-Budgam-Zainakote Transmission Line through a Single Corridor at Village Dangerpura, District Budgam in Kashmir Valley" are further extended as under.

S.#	Description	Date/Time Extension
1.	Online e-Bid Submission End Date (Submission of e-Tender, Tender Fee, EMD & Other qualification / Supporting Documents in PDF Form.	20-12-2024 (4.00PM)
2.	Online Techno Commercial e-Bid Opening Date	21-12-2024 (4.00PM)

All other Terms & Conditions as detailed in the e-NIT/SBD shall remain unchanged.

Sd./-
Executive Engineer
TLM-D-VIII/Srinagar.

DIPK-NB-2750-24
DT: 12/12/2024

IN THE FORUM OF THE AUTHORIZED OFFICER, J.V FOREST DIVISION, BARAMULLA

Extract of order passed by the Authorised Officer—Cum- Divisional Forest Officer, J.V Forest Division Vide No. DFO/J.V/A.O./2024/391-95 Dated 11-12-202 in connection with case No. 208-13/A.O./J.V/BLA of Doabgah Forest Range

"Therefore, I am of the opinion that justice will be done by confiscating the seized vehicle along with the timber. I therefore issue order under sub sec 3 of sec 52 of IFA 2020 that the seized Auto Load Carrier bearing Regd No. JK05A/2267 (Engine No: NA, Chaises No: 374435BU22400358) along with the Deodar timber 18 No equal to 71.85 efts is confiscated to the UT. The confiscated vehicle is lying with Range Officer Half Wrought Factory Baramulla as custodian of the concerned confiscated assets. The Range Officer concerned will report compliance of order to this forum latest by 20/01/2025. The timber be handed over to FDC Baramulla. The copy of this order be communicated to the Conservator of Forest, North Circle Sopore. The copy of this order be also communicated to accused person/persons. The copy of this order be published in two leading newspapers having wide circulation in the Union Territory. The file be consigned to records after its due completion"

(Satyendra Maurya) IFS
Authorized Officer-Cum- Divisional Forest Officer
Jehlum Valley Forest Division,
Baramulla

DIPK-9401-24
DT: 12/12/2024

• TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
• PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
• PDD: 0194-2450213
• FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
• CAPD: 18001807011
• SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
• Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS
SHIEKH 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 - (Closed)
• Srinagar-Leh- (Closed)

PRAYERS

FAJR 5:54
ZUHR 12:22
ASR 3:45
Magrib 5:25
ISHA 6:50

HIJRI CALENDAR
10 Jumada al-Sani
1446

This Day In History

- 1266- Rebels holed up inside Kenilworth Castle surrender after 172 days to Henry III, ending one of the longest sieges in medieval English history
- 1294 - Saint Celestine V abdicates the papacy after only five months; Celestine hoped to return to his previous life as an ascetic hermit.
- 1545 - Council of Trent (19th ecumenical council) opened by Pope Paul III
- 1570 - Sweden and Denmark signs Peace of Stettin
- 1572 - Spanish army beats Geuzen fleet (confederacy of Calvinist Dutch nobles) under admiral Lumey
- 1577 - Sir Francis Drake sets sail from England on a circumnavigation of the world
- 1643 - English Civil War: The Battle of Alton takes place in Hampshire.
- 1668 - Jean Racine's "Britannicus" premieres in Paris.
- 1734 - Britain & Russia sign trade agreement
- 1861 - Battle of Allegheny Summit, WV
- 1862 - Battle of Fredericksburg, VA (Marye's Heights)
- 1864 - Battle of Ft McAllister, GA
- 1916 - Avalanche kills 10,000 Austrian & Italian troops in 24 hrs in Tyrol.
- 1918 - US army of occupation crosses Rhine, enters Germany.
- 1920 - League of nations establishes International Court of Justice in The Hague.
- 1920 - Netherland breaks contact with Kingdom of Serbia, Croatia & Slavia forbid National Front & Netherland Union.
- 1941 - Lavine battlers destroy Haaraz, Peru; about 3,000 die.
- 1962 - Relay I communication satellite launched.
- 1966 - 1st US bombing of Hanoi part of Operation Rolling Thunder during the Vietnam War.
- 1966 - 1st battle for Bijlmer flats Amsterdam.
- 1974 - Malta becomes a republic.
- 1982 - Earthquake hits Northern Yemen; 2,000 die.
- 1988 - Arafat addresses UN in Geneva.
- 1993 - Space shuttle STS-61 (Endeavour 5), lands President.
- 2001 - The Indian Parliament Sansad is attacked by terrorists. 15 people are killed, including all the terrorists.
- 2002 - Enlargement of the European Union: The European Union announces that Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia will become members from May 1, 2004.
- 2003 - Former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is captured near his home town of Tikrit, during Operation Red Dawn by US forces.
- 2014 - The British Government announces it will send hundreds of troops to Iraq, to train Iraqi and Kurdish forces in the conflict with Islamic State.
- 2015 - COP21 climate change summit in Paris reaches a deal between nearly 200 countries to attempt to tackle rising global temperatures.
- 2016 - UN claims 82 civilians have been summary executed in Aleppo by pro-government forces
- 2017 - Online dictionary Merriam-Webster's most searched word of the year is Feminism
- 2017 - Prehistoric bones of a penguin as tall as a human (1.77m) found on Otago beach, New Zealand, reported in "Nature Communications"
- 2017 - Prime Minister Theresa May's UK Conservative government loses key vote in Parliament for an amendment to allow MPs to vote on Brexit
- 2017 - Scientists begin checking interstellar asteroid Oumuamua for signs of alien technology through radio signals (later studies conclude it a piece of sliced off planet)
- 2018 - Apple announces new \$1 billion campus in Austin, Texas and expansion in other US cities
- 2018 - Cease-fire in port city of Hudaydah, Yemen, by Houthis rebels and Saudi-led coalition announced by the UN
- 2018 - US Senate passes non-binding "war powers resolution" against long-term ally Saudi Arabia
- 2020 - Germany announces a strict lockdown till Jan 10 after looser restrictions failed to prevent COVID-19 numbers surging
- 2021 - Elon Musk, CEO of SpaceX and Tesla, named Time's Person of the Year
- 2021 - First COVID-19 Omicron death in the UK reported by PM Boris Johnson

Jalaluddin Haqqani's Brother Killed In Kabul Suicide Blast

Agencies

Kabul: The Afghan Taliban's acting minister for refugees, Khalil Rahman Haqqani — the brother of Jalaluddin Haqqani, the founder of insurgent group Haqqani network — and six other people were killed in an explosion in the capital Kabul on Wednesday, his nephew said.

A Taliban spokesperson



said that Khalil Haqqani had been killed by the Islamic State militant group, who did not immediately claim responsibility for the attack.

The suicide bombing occurred inside the ministry, killing Khalil Haqqani, officials said. His last official photo showed him at a meeting chaired by the deputy prime minister, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, earlier Wednesday. Khalil Haqqani is the uncle of Sirajuddin Haqqani, the acting interior minister who leads a powerful network within the Taliban. Haqqani was the most high-profile casualty

of a bombing in Afghanistan since the Taliban returned to power and the first Cabinet member to be killed since the takeover. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blast.

The government's chief spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, said in a post on X that Haqqani's death was a great loss and described him as a tireless holy warrior who spent his life defending Islam.

Haqqani's killing may be the biggest blow to the Taliban since their return to power given his stature and influence, according to Michael Kugelman, director of the Wilson Centre's South Asia Institute. It also comes at a time when the Taliban have staked their legitimacy on restoring peace after decades of war, he added.

"The killing of a top Haqqani leader inside one of its own ministries undercuts that core narrative," he said.

Former President Hamid Karzai and Haqqani's nephew, Anas, also paid tribute to the minister. Taliban security personnel blocked the road leading to the blast site and barred filming and photography.

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar condemned the killing as a "terrorist attack."

"Pakistan unequivocally condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations," Dar said, adding his govern-



Israel Destroys 80% Of Syria's Military Capabilities

Agencies

Jerusalem: The Israeli army told journalists on Tuesday that it had completed the main part of its aggressive military campaign against Syria since the fall of the Bashar Al-Assad regime, targeting the military capabilities of the Syrian state. The occupation army claimed that it had destroyed between 70 and 80 per cent of these capabilities.

The campaign in Syria is called Operation Bashan Arrow by the occupation regime. This is a reference to a Biblical kingdom which was part of the land of Canaan, and is believed to have been located in southern Syria and eastern Jordan. The word "Bashan" in Hebrew means "flat or paved land".

The area was named after Mount Bashan, known today as Jabal Al-Arab or Jabal Al-Druze in southern Syria. That's where Israeli vehicles infiltrated and occupied the buffer zone demilitarised under the 1974 disengagement

“The campaign in Syria is called Operation Bashan Arrow by the occupation regime. This is a reference to a Biblical kingdom which was part of the land of Canaan, and is believed to have been located in southern Syria and eastern Jordan

agreement with Syria.

According to the Israeli occupation army, over the past few days it has attacked more than 320 targets in Syria with 350 fighter jets flying 359 sorties against "strategic military capabilities". It claims that this aims to "prevent the access to strategic weapons for hostile parties."

Chief of Staff Herzi Halavi approved the operational plans last Saturday during his visit to the occupied Syr-

ian Golan Heights. On the same night, the Israeli Air Force began launching raids targeting various parts of Syria, from Damascus to Tartus. The targets destroyed included dozens of combat aircraft and helicopters, in addition to radar systems, anti-aircraft missile batteries, ships, surface-to-surface missile systems, rockets, naval missiles and weapons production facilities.

The Israeli attacks also targeted weapons and ammunition depots in Syria, Scud missiles, guided cruise missiles, naval ballistic missiles, drone warehouses and other military capabilities of the Syrian state.

The occupation army revealed that the operation on the ground is continuing, as ground forces are in the buffer zones to secure control of the area, destroy weapons and dismantle Syrian military infrastructure in the area, under the pretext of "ensuring that they do not reach unwanted parties"

There Are 21 Judges Per 10 Lakh People In India: Govt

Agencies

New Delhi: The judge-population ratio in the country works out to be approximately 21 judges per 10 lakh population, based on the Census 2011 data, the Parliament was informed on Thursday.

Minister of state (Independent Charge) for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal told Rajya Sabha, in a written reply, that there are 368 vacancies in High Courts, with the maximum of 79 being in the Allahabad High Court.

There are 5,262 vacant positions of judicial officers in District and Subordinate courts as on December 9, 2024, with a maximum of 996 vacancies in

9, 2024, MoS Meghwal said in response to a question by Harris Beeran of the Indian Union Muslim League.

"Based on the population as per Census 2011 which was 1210.19 million and as per available information regarding sanctioned strength of Judges in Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts in the year 2024, the judge-population ratio in the country works out to be approximately 21 Judges per million population," the MoS said.

He said that due to consistent efforts, there has been a marked increase in the judges' strength with the sanctioned strength of Judges of the Supreme Court being increased from 31 in 2014 to 34 Judges (in-



Uttar Pradesh, he said.

The MoS said that in the case of District and Subordinate courts, the need for an appropriate number of judges and the consequent requirement for filling up the vacancies lies in the domain of respective High Courts and the state governments.

The District Judiciary's sanctioned strength has increased from 19,518 judicial officers in 2014 to 25,741 judicial officers, as on December

cluding Chief Justice of India).

The status of sanctioned strength, working strength and vacancies of judges in the Supreme Court, as on December 9, 2024, are 34, 33 and 1, respectively, the MoS said.

In the case of High Courts, the sanctioned strength of Judges has increased from 906 in 2014 to 1,122, as on December 9, 2024, with a total of 216 new posts of High Court Judges being created since 2014, he said.

Lebanon Deploys Troops In Border Town After Israeli Forces Withdraw

Agencies

Beirut: The Lebanese army says it has sent troops to the town of Khiam near the border with the occupied territories following the withdrawal of Israeli forces under a recent ceasefire deal.

In a statement released on Wednesday, the Lebanese army announced that its units had been "deployed in five positions" around Khiam in coordination with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), adding that the move is "the first phase of deployment in the area, at the same time as the Israeli enemy withdrawal."

"The deployment will be completed in the next phase, while specialized units" will survey the town to "remove unexploded ordnance," it said.

Meanwhile, Lebanon's Prime Minister Najib Mikati said that the stationing of troops in Khiam "represents a fundamental step towards strengthening the army's deployment in the south, in implementation of the ceasefire decision."

"We salute the army's efforts" toward establishing "stability in the south," he wrote in an X post.

Israel was forced to accept the truce with the Hezbollah resistance movement after suffering heavy losses following almost 14 months of fighting

and failing to achieve its goals in its aggression on Lebanon.

The ceasefire agreement, which took effect on November 27, gave Israel until late January to withdraw from all areas of southern Lebanon.

Thousands of Lebanese refugees return to the country's south following implementation of a ceasefire deal between the Israeli regime and Hezbollah.

Also on Wednesday, the Israeli military confirmed that it had withdrawn its troops from Khiam in accordance with the truce with Hezbollah.

It, however, noted that the occupation troops still remain deployed in other areas of southern Lebanon.

Furthermore, the United States Central Command (CENTCOM) said in an X post that its leader General Erik Kurilla visited Beirut on Wednesday to monitor the replacement of Israeli soldiers by Lebanese forces in Khiam.

"This is an important first step in the implementation of a lasting cessation of hostilities and lays the foundation for continued progress," said Kurilla, who also met with Lebanon's Armed Forces Commander General Joseph Aoun.

Israel's war on Lebanon killed almost 4,000 people and injured more than 16,000 others, according to the county's health ministry.

Israeli Airstrikes Kill 38 Across Gaza Strip



Reuters

Jerusalem: Israeli air attacks across the Gaza Strip killed at least 38 Palestinians on Wednesday, most of them in a strike on a house in Beit Lahya on the northern edge of the enclave, medics said.

The Beit Lahya strike killed at least 22 people, including women and children, health officials said. Relatives listed the names of the dead on social media. More than 30 people were living in the multi-storey building before it was struck, and sever-

al family members remained missing as rescue operations continued through the morning, the Palestinian Wafa news agency said.

The Israeli military told Reuters it had carried out a strike targeting Hamas militants near the Kamal Adwan Hospital, which is located between Beit Lahya and Jabalia, towns on the northern fringe of Gaza under Israeli siege for two months.

It said it was continuing to examine the incident but described the number of fatalities reported by Palestinian medics and media as "inaccurate" and at odds with the army's information.

In nearby Beit Hanoun, also part of the area under siege, medics said an Israeli airstrike killed and wounded several people, without giving an exact toll. Rescue workers said several people were trapped under rubble.

Gold Worth Over Rs 17 Lakh Concealed In Toffee Wrappers Seized At Delhi Airport



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Customs officials have seized more than Rs 17 lakh-worth of gold, which was concealed in toffee wrappers, at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport here, according to an official statement issued on Thursday.

A 22-year-old Indian male passenger from Rajasthan, travelling from Doha to Delhi, on Wednesday tried to outsmart

the customs officials by hiding 240 grams of gold chains in toffee wrappers, it said.

"Sharp-eyed officers spotted suspicious images during baggage X-rays, leading to the sweet discovery! Life may be like a box of chocolates, but customs always takes the last pick!" the customs department said in a post on X.

The gold seized is valued at Rs 17.47 lakh.

Sharp-eyed officers spotted suspicious images during baggage X-rays, leading to the sweet discovery! Life may be like a box of chocolates, but customs always takes the last pick

Pope Meets Palestinian Leader Abbas At The Vatican

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis, who has recently intensified criticism of the Israeli offensive in Gaza, on Thursday received Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas, with whom he discussed the "serious" humanitarian situation.

The pair, who have previously met several times, discussed peace efforts during a private half-hour audience according to the Vatican, which released images of them smiling together.

Abbas then met the Holy See's Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin and the Vatican's equivalent of a foreign minister, Paul Richard Gallagher.

The discussions focused on the Church's assistance in "the very serious humanitarian situation in Gaza," the hoped-for ceasefire, release of all hostages, and "achieving the two-state solution only through dialogue and diplomacy," a Vatican statement said.

The meeting comes a few days after the



release of a photo showing Pope Francis praying in front of a nativity scene at the Vatican, where the baby Jesus's manger is covered with a black and white keffiyeh scarf, the symbol of Palestinian resistance.

The photo prompted a protest from the Israeli embassy to the Holy See, which asked for the keffiyeh to be removed, diplomatic and Vatican sources told AFP.

Francis has called for peace since Hamas's unprecedented attack against Israel on October 7, 2023, and the Israeli retaliatory campaign in Gaza.

Eleven-Year-Old From Sierra Leone Survives Three Days At Sea

An 11-year-old girl from Sierra Leone was rescued overnight after three days at sea as the sole survivor of a shipwreck off Italy's Lampedusa island, a rescue charity said on Wednesday.

Germany's CompassCollective said, crew on its vessel were on route to another emergency when they heard shouting from the water and picked up the girl around 3 a.m. She was wearing a life jacket and hanging on to a

pair of tyre tubes.

She told them she had set off from the Tunisian city of Sfax in a metal boat carrying 45 people that sank in a storm.

Advertisement

Charity crew took care of the girl and took her to Lampedusa which is closer to North Africa than the rest of Italy and is often a first landing point for migrants.

After medical assistance, the girl was moved to a migrant holding centre where

Italian Red Cross staff and volunteers were looking after her, CompassCollective added in a statement.

"In this festive period, in which the majority of us is lucky to be with their loved ones, my thoughts go out to the girl from Sierra Leone," said Nicola Dell'Arciprete, head of U.N. children's agency UNICEF in Italy.

"Yet another tragedy that increases the number of dead and missing in the Central Mediterranean."

The sea migration route between Tunisia, Libya, Italy and Malta is one of the most dangerous in the world, with more than 24,300 disappeared or dying since 2014, according to the International Organization for Migration.

Italy says its headline approach on immigration is contributing to a fall in sea arrivals. In the year to date, it has recorded around 64,000 migrant landings, compared to more than 153,000 in the same period of 2023.

“In this festive period, in which the majority of us is lucky to be with their loved ones, my thoughts go out to the girl from Sierra Leone

Traders, Civil Society Members Demand Restoration Of Darbar Move

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Traders and civil society members across Jammu and Kashmir have voiced strong support for the restoration of the 149-year-old tradition of the Darbar Move's suspension.

"Business activity, especially during the winter months when government offices used to operate from Jammu, has dwindled drastically," a local traders' association representative said.

Khalid Hussain, a civil society member from Jammu, said the suspension has crippled sectors such as hospitality and retail. "Restoring the Darbar Move would revive Jammu's economy and restore historical connections between the two regions," he added.

The decision to discontinue the Darbar Move has faced staunch opposition from various quarters, including political parties, civil society groups and the business community. Many argue that the practice was about promoting unity and mutual dependence between Jammu and Srinagar.

The National Conference, in its election manifesto, has pledged to reinstate the Darbar Move if voted to power. It had cited widespread public support for the practice. Recently, former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and members of his cabinet hinted that steps to restore the tradition are already under consideration—(KNO)

strongly support its immediate restoration," Wani said.

Jammu traders, particularly those operating in areas such as Raghunath Bazaar, said they suffered economic losses since the Darbar Move's suspension.

"Business activity, especially during the winter months when government offices used to operate from Jammu, has dwindled drastically," a local traders' association representative said.

Khalid Hussain, a civil society member from Jammu, said the suspension has crippled sectors such as hospitality and retail. "Restoring the Darbar Move would revive Jammu's economy and restore historical connections between the two regions," he added.

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Twin J&K Smart Cities Undertake Projects Worth Rs 6,603.39 Cr

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The twin smart cities including Jammu and Srinagar are executing developmental projects worth Rs 6,603.39 crore under the Smart Cities Mission, the government data revealed here on Thursday.

According to the data accessed, Jammu Smart City accounts for 127 projects costing Rs 2,969.07 crore, of which 117 projects worth Rs 2,773.31 crore have been completed, while 10 projects involving Rs 195.76 crore are ongoing.

Srinagar Smart City has taken up 164 projects with a total cost of Rs 3,634.32 crore, completing 144 projects worth Rs 3,311.79 crore, while 20 projects involving Rs 322.53 crore remain under implementation.

The government said that the efforts are focused on improving urban infrastructure and citizen services in both cities.

The Government of India's



urban development strategy aligns with constitutional provisions, with urban planning being the responsibility of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and State authorities. While urbanization is viewed as an opportunity for economic growth, challenges in implementing Smart Cities Mission (SCM) projects include legal hurdles, land acquisition issues, delays in clearances, and resource availability, especially in smaller cities.

To address these, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) monitors progress through multi-level review mechanisms involving state and national committees, field visits, and regular interactions with stakeholders. The SCM has completed over 7,000 projects, creating replicable models and documenting learnings to guide other cities—(KNO)

Govt Constructs 1,363 Kms Of NHs In J&K, Ladakh Over 5 Years

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh together have witnessed the construction of 1,363 kilometers of National Highways between 2019 and till November this year, according to official data.

This includes 1,245 kilometers in Jammu & Kashmir and 118 kilometers in Ladakh. In 2024-25 (till November 2024), 128 kilometers of highways were constructed in Jammu & Kashmir, while Ladakh witnessed a completion of 50 kilometers.

In 2023-24, 243 kilometers were constructed in Jammu & Kashmir and 81 kilometers in Ladakh. The previous year, 2022-23, saw 217 kilometers in Jammu & Kashmir and 51 kilometers in Ladakh.

In 2021-22, Jammu & Kashmir recorded 263 kilometers of highway construction. The year 2020-21 saw 234 kilometers built in Jammu & Kashmir and 7 kilometers in Ladakh.

In 2019-20, Jammu & Kashmir completed 46 kilometers of highway, while Ladakh saw 4 kilometers built.

The government remains committed to enhancing road infrastructure in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, as part of its broader development efforts for these regions.

"With a focus on improving connectivity and supporting economic growth, the government has been consistently investing in road construction projects, aiming to build modern and durable road networks," the government said.

It said that the government is focused on creating a sustainable road network that will contribute to the long-term development of these regions.

3 Houses Guttled In Kulgam Blaze, One Injured

Observer News Service

KULGAM: At least three houses were gutted in a fire incident in the Poniwah village of South Kashmir's Kulgam district on Thursday night, leaving one house owner injured and hospitalized.

Officials said that the fire, which broke out at midnight, spread rapidly to adjacent houses.

Fire tenders were rushed to the spot immediately after the incident was reported. Despite their efforts, the fire destroyed three houses, including valuables such as cash and gold. "One of the house owners also sustained injuries during the incident and was provided medical attention," officials said.

"We have lost everything today: our home, our belongings, and our sense of security. Our families are left with no shelter, and our only hope now rests with the government," said a member of one of the affected families.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, visited Poniwah village to provide immediate relief to the fire-affected families.

This was the second fire incident in the district within two days.

On Tuesday night, in the remote Cheki Wangam village of Dambhal Hajipora in Kulgam district, four families were rendered homeless after their residential houses were reduced to ashes in a similar fire incident.

RRF, DSEJ, JKST&IC & UNICEF Organizes Consultation On Strengthening Career Guidance Ecosystem



Observer News Service

JAMMU: In order to deliberate upon the strategy and roadmap for strengthening the career guidance ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir, the Reform and Rehabilitation Foundation, organized 22 Consultations on Career Guidance across J&K including a day-long Divisional Level Consultation in Jammu on 10th December 2024.

The event was held in collaboration with UNICEF India, Director of School Education Jammu, GIF, NIT Srinagar, JKST&IC, DST supported by Divisional Administration Jammu.

The program was conducted under Global Youth Outreach and Employability Program which is a flagship program of Reform and Rehabilitation Foundation. GYOEP empowers the youth of J&K through comprehensive support in 5 key areas—Education, Employment, Entrepreneurship, Ecosystem/Environment and Rehabilitation.

Experts and speakers at the consultation explored how existing career guidance tools can be scaled to reach more students, identified available resources, and brainstormed innovative ideas to enhance career development in the region.

The RRF have organized the Divisional and District Level Consultations on the same theme across 20 Districts of J&K. More than 400 officials of the Department of School Education were being consulted for their inputs and feedback in order to make career guidance accessible to each and every student of J&K. They were also being sensitized regarding various career guidance and counselling tools.

Saurabh Bhagat, IAS, Commissioner Secretary, Department of Science & Technology, who was the Chief Guest for the occasion, emphasized the need for seamless intercon-

nection between various departments that a child navigates from schooling to recruitment. He underscored the importance of strengthening the education ecosystem, "By fostering a robust and interconnected framework, we can empower our youth to carve out sustainable careers and ensure they have the means to earn a decent living."

Danish Aziz, Education Specialist, UNICEF India, underscored the developments made so far in the career guidance ecosystem and emphasized the importance of an integrated approach in education, as envisioned by NEP-2020.

Sheikh Inayat Ullah, CEO, Reform & Rehabilitation Foundation, discussed the Govt. initiatives and free counselling tools developed by the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India supported by UNICEF. He also highlighted the skill-intensive nature of the economy, stating, "Equipping students with relevant skills through career guidance is crucial for their success in today's competitive world."

Dr. Nasir Shah, Additional Director JKST&IC, DST J&K who was the Guest of Honour on the occasion, highlighted the importance of updating the syllabus and curriculum design to meet the growing demands of industry 4.0 emphasizing the need for visually appealing and engaging content to foster a spark and deeper interest in learning among students.

Dr. Subah Mehta, Joint Director, School Education Jammu emphasized the critical importance of career guidance in shaping the future of students. She highlighted the need to address the specific requirements at government institutions to ensure equitable opportunities for all. "Career guidance plays a pivotal role in helping students make informed career choices, empowering them to explore their potential and pursue meaningful paths," she stated.

Porcupines Pose Threat To Saffron Crop, Say Growers

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Farmers in south Kashmir's Pulwama district are worried over porcupines, saying these night rodents are wreaking havoc on saffron beds, digging up and destroying the precious saffron crops that are vital to the crop's production.

Locals from Pampore, Lethpora and surrounding areas said that the damage is leaving them distressed. "Every morning, we find saffron corms uprooted and destroyed by porcupines," said Ashiq Ahmad, a saffron grower. "This could severely impact saffron yields and jeopardise the livelihoods of cultivators."

Saffron production in Kashmir has already been in decline over the last decade, with climate change, irrigation issues and soil degradation taking their toll. The damage caused by porcupines has raised concerns among the growers that the crop might become unsustainable.

Growers like Waheed Ah-

mad are resorting to makeshift measures such as using lights and loud horns at night to scare away the animals, but these methods are neither practical nor effective long-term solutions. "We can't guard our fields all night, every night," Ahmad said. "If this continues unchecked, there will be no saffron corms left in the fields within a few years."

The rodent, according to the cultivators, becomes more active between December and March, devouring large quantities of the planted corm that are impacting the production.

The issue is further complicated by the fact that porcupines are protected under Schedule IV of the Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, which makes their killing a punishable offence. Last year, the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) distributed a repellent spray, but farmers say it only provided temporary relief.—(KNO)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DIVISION, AWANTIPORA
e-mail : phedivisionawantipora@gmail.com / Ph : 01933-247152

E-Nit No:30/PHA of 2024-25 Dated: 10-12-2024

For & on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir (UT) e-tenders in Double Cover system are invited on Percentage Basis from Registered PWD Contractors whose registration cards are valid in terms of standing rules & are active for the following works:-

S. No	Name of work	Estimated Cost (in lacs)	Cost of TD (in Rs)	EMD	Time for completion	Class of Contract
1	Construction of 02 no. Pump house cum Operator Quarter at AIIMS for WSS AIIMS Awantipora(Phaselst.)Under UT CAPEX	32.169	1100/-	2% of the estimated cost	45 Days	AYY & BEE

Major Head of Account: Capex Budget (UT)AAA:CE/PHE/DB/116 of 17-09-2019

The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (BOQ), terms and conditions of contract can be seen/downloaded from the departmental web site (jktenders.gov.in) as per the dates shown below:-

S. No.	Description	Date			Time
		DD	MM	YYYY	
1	Publishing date of NIT	10	12	2024	04:30 PM
2	Download start date	10	12	2024	04:30 PM
3	Bid submission start date	10	12	2024	04:30 PM
4	Bid submission end date	21	12	2024	03:00 PM
5	Bid opening date	23	12	2024	03:00 PM

- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "download bid submission".
- To participate in bidding process bidders, must get digital signature certificate (DSC) as per information technology-2000 bidders can get digital certificate from approved option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website (jktenders.gov.in) to acquaint vendors.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital signature.
- Bids must be accompanied by 2% earnest money of advertised cost in the shape of CDR/FDR & cost of tender document as specified in column (4) and column (5) respectively of the above table and the cost of tender document shall be deposited in the Treasury under MH 0215 PHE in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Division Awantipora(Name of work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt)
- Bid performance security will be in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, PHE Division Awantipora
- Bidders must ensure to upload their bids in DOUBLE COVER containing documents as under:-

i) Bid must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of e-Challan or Treasury Challan / Government Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer, PHE Division Awantipora (Tender Inviting Authority)

ii) Scanned copy of CDR/FDR of 2% value of tender cost.

iii) Scanned copy of Valid Registration Card.

iv) Scanned copy of Valid GST Registration.

v) Scanned copy of PAN Card.

vi) Percentage rate submitted by the bidders in the BOQ.

14- All other terms and conditions will remain same as laid down in PWD form No.25-double.

A.A.E Awantipora A.A.O Executive Engineer
No. PHA/AWP/3261-73 DDK-9377-24 Jal Shakti Department
Dated:-10-12-2024 DT: 12/12/2024 PHE Division Awantipora

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir,
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL ENGINEERING WING SRINAGAR
RETENDER *NOTICE E INVITING TENDERS*****
E-NIT No:53/2024-25 DATED:10-12-2024 SINGLE COVER SYSTEM

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

S. No	Name of Work	Block/Pyt Halqa	Adv. Cost (In Lac)	Tender Fee (In Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	EMD	Major Head	TYPE OF TENDER
1	Construction of path from Link road juma phamda via shabir phamda and others at magdoo mohalla FG A	Harwan/ Fagir Gujri A	2.32	200/-	30Days	DEE/OTHER	3% of Adv. cost	DDC	OPEN
2	Construction of CSC near Tile factory Charlipora Nowgam.	Srinagar/ Nowgam B	3.00	300/-	30Days	DEE	3% of Adv. cost	SBM (G) Ph-11	OPEN
3	Construction of community Compost pit at Rajpora Theed A	Block:Harwan Pyt Halqa:Theed A	0.692	200/-	30Days	DEE	3% of Adv. cost	SBM (G) Ph-11	OPEN
4	Construction of CSC near Sumo stand Theed A	Block:Harwan Pyt Halqa:Theed A	3.00	300/-	30Days	DEE	3% of Adv. cost	SBM (G) Ph-11	OPEN
5	Construction of 01 no. Community Compost pit at Sangri Khonmoh C	Khonmoh/ Khonmoh C	0.745	200/-	30Days	DEE	3% of Adv. cost	SBM(G)	OPEN

Position of AAA :-Accorded Position of T/S: ACCORDED Position of Funds: BUDGETED

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, 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 dates given below:-

01.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	11-12-2024
02.	Online Bid submission start date	11-12-2024 from 12:30 PM
03.	Online Bid submission end date	16-12-2024 upto 06:00PM
04.	Date & time of opening of Online Bids	17-12-2024 at 11:00 AM or any convenient day in the Office of the Executive Engineer REW Srinagar

NOTE: Lowest Qualified bidder shall deposit hard copy of original Tender documents, Fee Receipt, EMD and other documents within 05 Days after the financial bid is opened. Failed to produce the documents shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarment of the contractor be forwarded to higher authorities for the period of 1 year.

SPECIAL CONDITION: Only the eligible contractors of respective Panchayat Halqa shall take part in the tendering process for works under District Capex with Advertised Cost 3.0 Lacs or below as per Govt. Order No.238-F OF 2021 Dated 07.09.2021. Bidders must upload self attested halqa level certificate as per annexure attached, as residence proof that he/she is residing in respective Panchayat halqa.

Conditions for bidders:

- Any Bidder who will go down more than 15% of Advertised Cost shall upload the Additional Security online in shape of CDR/FDR/BG during tendering process as per Unbalance Bid Table mentioned below. (Non-uploading of Additional Security will lead to the rejection of the tender).

S.No	Percentage of Unbalanced Bid viz: Advertised cost on account of low rates	Additional security advertised Value of work as percentage of work advertised
1	Upto and including below 15%	NIL
2	Greater than 15% and up to 20% below	5%
3	Greater than 20% and up to 25% below	10%
4	Greater than 25% and up to 30% below	15%
5	Greater than 30%	20%

- All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD @ 3% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer REW Division Srinagar. Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.
- The EMD in shape of CDR/FDR/BG @ 3% of Advertised Cost of 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder shall be released after expiry of DLP/actual completion of work and additional performance security after 80% of work is completed.
- The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) shall submit all the self attested hard copies of uploaded documents within 05 Days before fixation of Contract Failure to produce the documents shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarment of the Contractor be forwarded to higher authorities for the period of 1 year.
- The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer REW Division Srinagar (tender receiving authority).
- The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD @ 3% of Advertised Cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the unsuccessful Bidder shall be released within 07 days after opening the Tender on production of Treasury Challan.
- The Tender Inviting Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders or any part of any tender without assigning reasons there of.
- The bids for the works shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical bids.

Sd/-
NO:-xen/rew/sgr/ 7270-79 DDK-9413-24 Executive Engineer
Dated:-12-12-2024 DT: 12/12/2024 REW Srinagar

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KO VIEW

Defending Places of Worship Act

In a welcome development, the Supreme Court's decision to bar civil courts from registering fresh suits or issuing interim or final orders in cases challenging the ownership and title of places of worship until the next hearing is a timely intervention. According to the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991, the status quo of religious places has to stay as it existed on August 15, 1947, except for the Ayodhya dispute, which was already under litigation at the time. The Act that was enacted during the turbulent years of the Ram temple movement, was aimed at preventing communal tensions by preempting a flood of litigation over claims to religious sites. So, it stands as a bulwark against the politicization of faith and the exploitation of religious differences for divisive ends.

The Supreme Court's interim order prevents civil courts from acting on existing or new suits. This halts proceedings that could otherwise lead to surveys, claims, or counterclaims over contentious sites such as the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi and the Krishna Janmabhoomi temple in Mathura. Recently, a local court in Ajmer issued notices in a civil suit which claims that a Shiva temple existed at the dargah of sufi saint Moinuddin Chishti. The SC's intervention comes against the backdrop of at least 10 pending suits across the country and amid a growing chorus of petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the Act itself.

Critics of the Act argue that it curtails judicial review and violates the basic structure of the Constitution. However, such arguments ignore the larger context. The Act's goal is to deter the exploitation of religious identities and the reopening of historical wounds that could disturb the country's social harmony. And this has already happened. Last month, four people were killed in the unrest that broke out a day before during a court-ordered survey of a Mughal-era mosque at Sambhal in Uttar Pradesh. Such incidents highlight the potential for legal proceedings to be weaponized, resulting in social fragmentation and public disorder. The SC has, therefore, sought to prevent the judiciary from inadvertently becoming a venue for escalating communal tensions.

All eyes will now be on what decision the court takes. There is every hope that the SC will re-establish the writ of the Places of Worship Act and freeze the status of religious places as it existed on the Independence Day. The alternative is not just perpetual court cases over rival claims to religious places but an endless social and political strife with chances of attendant violence.



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Whither Universal Health Coverage In India?



Ali Mehdi

“
UHC is based on the core principles of quality and equality. India's UHC policy should focus on the reduction of inequalities in core health outcomes”

December 12 is Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Day. According to World Health Organization (WHO), UHC means that “all people have access to the full range of quality health services they need, when and where they need them, without financial hardship” (bit.ly/3ZkKMJC).

Quality, defined as “the degree to which health services for individuals and populations increase the likelihood of desired health outcomes”, is a core dimension of UHC. “Access without quality can be considered an empty universal health coverage promise” since “even if the world achieved essential health coverage and financial protection, health outcomes would still be poor if services were low-quality and unsafe”, argues a WHO, OECD, and World Bank report (bit.ly/3OFZJ4c).

India's journey towards UHC started around Britain's social security reforms. William Beveridge, born in India in 1879, presented a report on Social Insurance and Allied Services to the British government in 1942, which became the basis for its National Health Service (NHS) Act of 1946. In India, BP Adarkar, who Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel referred to as ‘Chhota Beveridge’, was appointed in 1943 to develop a plan for industrial workers. Beveridge was also approached for the same, but refused—he felt the focus should be on ‘the greater part of the Indian population’ and not industrial workers alone (bit.ly/4ipgrT5).

Adarkar presented an integrated plan of health, maternity and employment injuries insurance to the Indian government on August 15, 1944, which became the basis for the Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Act of 1948. It offered multidimensional social security for industrial workers. The ESI Scheme (ESIS) was inaugurated on February 24, 1952. Two years later came the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS), followed by the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) in 2003,

the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in 2005, Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) in 2008, and Ayushman Bharat in 2018.

How has India done in its 70-year journey (1948-2018) towards UHC?

1) During 2019-21, only 41% Indian households had a health member covered by a health insurance / financing scheme, ranging from 1.8% in Andaman & Nicobar Islands to 87.8% in Rajasthan (National Family Health Survey [NFHS] 2019-21).

2) Half of Indian households do not generally use a government health facility—48% of them due to poor quality of care. The latter figure varies from 17% in Mizoram to 62% in Bihar (NFHS).

“
India's total fertility rate (TFR) declined from 5.7 to 2.0 during 1950-2023 (World Population Prospects: The 2024 Revision / WPP). It ranged from 1.1 in Sikkim to 3.0 in Bihar (NFHS)”

3) 60% of Indian women had at least one problem in accessing health care when sick (NFHS).

4) 32% of Indian women (15-49 years) had contact with a government health worker over the past three months. This figure ranged from 11% in Chandigarh to 54% in Karnataka (NFHS).

5) 49% of the households that sought OPD care and / or hospitalisation faced catastrophic health expenditure (HE) and 15% fell below the poverty line due to out-of-pocket HE. HE pushes 32-39 million Indians below the poverty line every year (bit.ly/3ZzSpx7).

The situation is equally worrisome as far as the quality of health services is concerned vis-à-vis ‘desired health outcomes’.

1) India's total fertility rate (TFR) declined from 5.7 to 2.0 during 1950-2023 (World Population Prospects: The 2024 Revision / WPP). It ranged from 1.1 in Sikkim to 3.0 in Bihar (NFHS).

2) India's infant mortality rate (IMR) came down from 176 to 23 during 1950-2023, but it was still the world's largest contributor to infant deaths in 2023 (5.25 lakh) (WPP). IMR, according to the NFHS, was 35 in India during 2019-21 and ranged from 3 in Puducherry to 50 in Uttar Pradesh.

3) India's healthy life expectancy (HALE) went up by 9 years over a period of 29 years (1990-2019), coming down by 2 years over the two Covid-19 years. Its HALE was 61 years in 2019, with a variation of 10 years between its states (67 years in Goa and 57 in Uttar Pradesh).

UHC is based on the core principles of quality and equality. India's UHC policy should focus on the reduction of

inequalities in core health outcomes. The TFR target should be 2.1 (replacement level fertility), while the IMR target should be zero for all states and socioeconomic groups. Inequality should be measured and policy priority assigned vis-à-vis the distance from these. As far as HALE is concerned, we should aspire for the highest in the world—76 years in Singapore—as well as the reduction of inter-state and inter-group differentials to ensure aggregate as well as distributive growth. If our economic aspiration is to be the world's third largest economy, our social aspiration should be to be the healthiest country.

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



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Pink Ball Cricket

Pink ball cricket has made charming and delectable inroads in Tests ever since Australia and New Zealand met each other in a day-night Test at Adelaide in November 2015, embracing this novel concept.

Throughout its history, cricket has gone through numerous transformations and innovations that have made the game more intriguing and

exciting. The advent of the T20 format and the newer T10 leagues have only boosted the growth of the game across cricket playing nations. However, amid the pomp and glitz of the slam-bang version of the game, Test cricket still retains its charm and excitement, undergoing innovations. And one such innovation that has capitalized on the popularity of the Test format is pink ball cricket matches. As

the sun sets, the luminous pink orb takes center stage, transforming the game into a mesmerizing spectacle under floodlights. Pink ball cricket seems to have a bright future due to its broad adoption by cricket-playing nations. Day-night Tests' future and position will be shaped by continued advancements in ball technology, addressing concerns, and finding a balance between tradition and inno-

vation. However, purists of the game feel that the pink ball cricket may overshadow the significance of the conventional red ball cricket, which has a long history and significance. To maintain the general integrity of the longest format, therefore, the ICC must find a compromise between the two versions of the format.

Ranganathan Sivakumar

When Time Twists

The Clash Between the “Instant”
and the “Infinite”

Umair Ashraf

As society evolves, so too do the mindsets and behaviors of different generations. This shift is not simply a matter of differing opinions; it's a fundamental change in how life, success, and happiness are perceived. Older generations, raised in a time of hard work, gradual success, and close-knit family values, tend to view life through a lens of patience and perseverance. Their psychological framework is shaped by decades of real-world experience and traditional social structures. However, the younger generation is growing up in a hyper-connected, fast-paced world where success seems just a click away. This shift in perception often leads to misunderstandings and emotional distance between parents and children. Older generations may struggle to understand the desires for instant gratification, while younger people may feel frustrated by their parents' slower, more methodical approach. Neuroscientifically, these different mindsets stem from how the brain processes time, reward, and expectation. While older individuals have honed patience through their experiences, younger minds, still developing in areas like impulse control and decision-making, are more influenced by immediate gratification, creating a cognitive gap that is hard to bridge.

Echoes of a Distant Past: Wisdom VS the Illusion of Instant Gratification

The wisdom that older generations possess is a valuable resource, shaped over years of experience and trials. However, in today's fast-paced world, that wisdom can seem out of place. Children and younger adults, influenced by the flashy success stories on social media or the rapid pace of technological advancement, may find patience and slow, deliberate decision-making outdated. The psychological disconnect here is not just a matter of differing opinions, but a clash of worldviews—one shaped by decades of real-world struggle and the other by the allure of quick rewards and instant success. Younger generations, accustomed to a world of immediate feedback and constant dopamine hits from social media likes and viral content, often perceive the older generation's wisdom as a hindrance rather than a guiding light. In the brain's reward system, the immediate rewards associated with social media engagement stimulate the release of dopamine, reinforcing impulsive behavior. In contrast, the delayed gratification that older generations experienced activates different neural pathways associated with patience, control, and long-term planning, often leading to frustration when the two approaches meet.



The Mirror Shatters: How Digital Realities Distort Family Bonds

In today's world, the family dynamic is being reshaped by the constant presence of digital media, which offers a curated and sometimes artificial view of success and happiness. This digital environment, where success is often presented in the form of flashy images and glamorous lifestyles, can distort the family's perception of itself. Children, exposed to the hyper-idealized lives of influencers and celebrities, may begin to question their own family's values, feeling disconnected from their parents' slower, more grounded approach to life. The distorted portrayal of reality on social media—where success is often immediate, glamorous, and highly visible—fosters unrealistic expectations. Neurologically, these constant exposures to idealized lifestyles can hijack the brain's reward system, leading younger generations to seek quick successes in the hopes of experiencing similar rewards. However, the pursuit of such goals often disregards the critical developmental stages of their lives, leaving them with a hollow sense of achievement that does not match the deep emotional fulfillment achieved through genuine connection, hard work, and patience. This gap can lead to disconnection within families, as parents see their children's frustration, and children feel misunderstood.

Perception vs. Reality: The Psychological Weight of Unspoken Expectations

The psychological weight of unspoken expectations often goes unnoticed, but it exerts a powerful influence on familial relationships. Parents carry a lifetime of experiences and wisdom, which they try to impart to their children. However, these well-intentioned pieces of advice can be misunderstood or rejected, as younger generations struggle to

concile them with the instant success they see in the media. The resulting disconnect creates a heavy emotional toll on both parents and children. Parents, raised in a different world, may feel that their children are not appreciating the sacrifices they've made, while children may feel pressured by expectations that feel irrelevant in their digitalized, fast-paced world. This emotional burden often manifests as stress, anxiety, and resentment on both sides, leading to conflicts. From a psychological perspective, these unspoken expectations can affect self-esteem and emotional regulation. For parents, cognitive dissonance may arise when their children don't adhere to the advice they consider essential, while for children, the stress of failing to meet their parents' expectations can lead to feelings of inadequacy and depression.

Cracks in the Foundation: The Psychological Costs of Ignoring Emotional Connection

The emotional foundation of a family is built on shared experiences, understanding, and connection. When this foundation starts to crack—due to the pressures of modern life, the influence of social media, or the generational divide—the psychological effects can be profound. Children, exposed to constant stimuli from their devices and influenced by the pursuit of success on their terms, may not value the slower, more personal connections that older generations prioritize. Parents, on the other hand, may feel increasingly isolated as they struggle to understand their children's desires and priorities. This disconnection often goes unnoticed, but it erodes the sense of security and emotional support that families need to thrive. Neurologically, this emotional void can lead to changes in the brain's stress response system, contributing to feelings of anxiety, depression, and even a sense of loneliness, as both generations experience

emotional strain without fully understanding one another. The longer these cracks go unaddressed, the deeper the emotional wounds become, potentially leading to long-term psychological harm for both parents and children.

Fragmented Minds: Social Media's Role in Disrupting Family Dynamics

In the digital age, the constant exposure to social media is reshaping the way individuals view themselves and their families. Social media platforms, designed to attract attention and engagement, often depict lives that are far removed from the messy, complicated realities of family life. This distorted representation creates a sense of fragmentation—where families, once cohesive units of shared experiences, begin to feel divided by the growing influence of digital content. The younger generation, conditioned by the instant gratification and constant dopamine feedback of social media, may begin to view family life as dull, uninspiring, or even a hindrance to their success. This perspective disregards the psychological importance of long-term relationships and emotional support, replacing them with a drive for short-term validation. The brain, in its search for constant reward, becomes accustomed to this new form of gratification, making it harder for young people to connect with the more subtle, long-term rewards of familial bonds. This cognitive shift not only affects emotional connection but also creates deeper divisions between parents and children.

The Illusion of Control: When Reality Doesn't Match Expectations

The younger generation, constantly exposed to the polished lives of social media influencers and celebrities, has developed an illusion of control over their lives. Success, fame, and wealth are presented as attainable with the right tools, and instant results seem just within reach. However, this illusion is often shattered when the reality of life—hard work, failure, and the slow grind—doesn't align with their expectations. The psychological effects of this disconnect are far-reaching, as children may begin to internalize a sense of failure when their path doesn't match the picture-perfect narratives they see online. Parents, too, may struggle to understand why their children aren't achieving success the way they expect, leading to feelings of disappointment and frustration. This disconnect, when left unaddressed, can lead to depression, anxiety, and a sense of loss. Neurologically, the brain's reward system becomes hijacked by the desire for quick fixes, leaving little room for the deeper sense of accomplishment that comes with sustained effort

and personal growth.

The Cognitive Disconnect: How Aging Minds and Young Ambitions Clash

As individuals age, cognitive processes like memory, processing speed, and decision-making begin to change. Older generations, shaped by years of experience, approach problems with a different mindset, often valuing caution, reflection, and long-term planning. Meanwhile, younger generations, fueled by ambition and the influence of fast-paced media, seek instant results and often overlook the value of patience. This cognitive disconnect between the two groups can lead to frustration and emotional distance. Parents may see their children as impatient or unrealistic, while children may perceive their parents as outdated or out of touch. This gap is not just emotional—it's neurological. Research shows that as we age, the brain's prefrontal cortex, responsible for decision-making and impulse control, undergoes changes that make quick, snap decisions less appealing. In contrast, younger people, whose brains are still developing, are more driven by the pursuit of immediate rewards, leading to a conflict in priorities and emotional misunderstanding.

The Unseen Battle: Bridging the Generational Gap with Empathy and Understanding

As the gap between generations widens, the path to resolution lies in empathy and open dialogue. Understanding that each generation's perspective is shaped by its unique experiences, whether influenced by technological advancements or societal shifts, is crucial in bridging these divides. While older generations possess valuable wisdom born of real-world experience, younger generations bring fresh perspectives and the drive to reshape the world. The challenge lies in finding common ground—where patience meets ambition, and where wisdom and youthful energy can coexist. This journey requires not just understanding each other's viewpoints, but also acknowledging the deeper psychological and emotional needs that drive their behaviors. By embracing this empathy, we can create more harmonious connections, ensuring that the wisdom of the past is passed on, while the energy and innovation of youth are nurtured. This balance, built on respect and mutual understanding, will allow families and societies to grow stronger, fostering deeper bonds that transcend generational gaps.

The author is a Master's student in Clinical Psychology with a dedicated focus on neural networks, brain chemistry, and their broader societal implications. He can be reached at Umairvani07@gmail.com

Exploring Immense Potential
Of Oceans To Slow Climate Change

Towseef Hassan

The ocean, rightly called “the blue lung of the planet”, is central to reducing greenhouse gases (GHGs) and moderating the planet's climate. The fifth assessment report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2013 revealed that it has thus far absorbed 93% of the excess heat generated by greenhouse gases (GHGs) and 25% of anthropogenic carbon dioxide emissions. Also, the ocean holds 50 times more carbon than the atmosphere. These supporting services in the ocean have largely preserved the humankind from the catastrophic impacts of climate change. The oceans actually put the brakes on how fast the planet is warming by absorbing excess amounts of heat.

While acting as a buffer against the worsening effects of climate change, many threats and disruptions to the ocean health have occurred: changes in water temperature, ocean acidification, disrupted biogeochemical cycles, rising sea levels, alarming damage to coastal and marine ecosystems. Ocean acidification, for example, inhibits the ability of marine organisms like corals, shellfish, and plankton, to build their shells and skeletal structures. These disruptions exacerbate the services the oceans provide—from fisheries to carbon sequestration.

As the world is set to embark on an ambitious journey to achieve a NET ZERO EMISSION limiting global warming to 1.5°C (2.7°F) by 2050, there are accelerating advances in the deployment of clean energy, electric vehicles, and decarbonization. Land-based efforts involve using our land resources to help reduce the harmful effects of climate change. These strate-



gies involve planting trees and protecting forests, wildlife corridors and biodiversity conservation, replacing fossil fuels with BECCS (bioenergy with carbon capture and storage) and biochar, the latter technique is more feasible in wealthier countries because it requires robust technology and climate financing. Despite all our efforts to invest heavily on land, studies reveal that the land is saturated and can no longer support efficient carbon capture.

Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal (mCDR) is one such potentially efficient and powerful new technologies to help emission reductions and removing carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere or in the upper ocean. Given the enormous surface area and unique chemistry of the ocean,

makes it a focusing and tempting venue for addressing this lingering issue by using careful engineering.

Oceans and other deep-water bodies are good at sequestering excess carbon from the atmosphere transporting the carbon into its depths where it mixes with minerals. Marine carbon capture techniques have been classified into two categories: Biotic methods utilize living organisms like mangroves, seagrasses, algae, and microorganisms to capture and store carbon dioxide. It also involves Phytoplankton Fertilization (phytoplankton absorbs CO2 through photosynthesis and deposit at the ocean bed when they die, sequestering carbon). While Biotic methods are natural and in harmony with biodiversity conserva-

tion and well established, their capability of carbon capture is limited and moderate. Abiotic methods, on the other hand, harness the physical or chemical properties, or geological processes for carbon sequestration. Abiotic method offers greater potential of carbon capture and permanence than Biotic technique. For example, biomass burial at sea can capture 7 to 22 billion tonnes of CO2 per year. Ocean Alkalinity Enhancement (OAE), enhances carbon dioxide absorption by increasing the water's pH and reducing the acidic nature of the oceans. In this technique, alkaline materials (crushed limestone) are added to sea water to neutralize its carbon dioxide content, locking the carbon for thousands of years, effectively sequestering carbon

dioxide.

To put all this in perspective, if we promise to avoid the worst climate impacts, global greenhouse gas emissions need to be slashed in half by 2030 and reach NET-ZERO around mid-century. A number of countries have already committed to reach NET-ZERO by 2050. Abiotic methods implemented to potentially enhance the oceans' ability to sequester more carbon content are shrouded with the blanket of scepticism, and other challenges in terms of investing huge climate financing.

Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal (mCDR) techniques, while promising in combating climate change, comes with uncertainties and several potential negative effects and risks. For example, stimulating Phytoplankton growth to capture carbon dioxide, can disrupt other ecosystems, harming marine life. Also, OAE technique has concerns for changing local water chemistry, harming marine biodiversity and sensitive species like corals and shellfish. Biotic techniques are preferred due to their lower environmental risks and greater promise of biodiversity restoration.

Regarding mCDR, fundamental issues remain unanswered about the environmental impacts of different interventions, their cost and safety, and the durability of carbon sequestration. Currently, Global carbon dioxide emissions are approximately 40 billion metric tonnes per year (as of 2023), mCDR methods would need to scale up drastically to offset this level of emissions. Success hinges on continued scientific research, and public trust, and vigorous governance.

The author works as a lecturer with the School Education Department

Blood Tests Are Currently One-Size-Fits-All - Machine Learning Can Pinpoint What's Truly 'Normal' For Each Patient

The Conversation

If you've ever had a doctor order a blood test for you, chances are that they ran a complete blood count, or CBC. One of the most common blood tests in the world, CBC tests are run billions of times each year to diagnose conditions and monitor patients' health.

But despite the test's ubiquity, the way clinicians interpret and use it in the clinic is often less precise than ideal. Currently, blood test readings are based on one-size-fits-all reference intervals that don't account for individual differences.

Brody H. Foy and his team, at the University of Washington, studies ways to use computational tools to improve clinical blood testing. To develop better ways to capture individual patient definitions of "normal" lab values, Foy and his colleagues in the Higgins Lab at Harvard Medical School examined 20 years of blood count tests from tens of thousands of patients from both the East and West coasts.

In their newly published research, they used machine learning to identify healthy blood count ranges for individual patients and predict their risk of future disease.

Clinical tests and complete blood counts

Many people commonly think of clinical tests as purely diagnostic. For example, a COVID-19 or a pregnancy test comes back as either positive or negative, telling you whether you have a particular condition. However, most tests don't work this way. Instead, they measure a biological trait that your body continuously regulates up and down to stay within certain bounds.

Your complete blood count is also a continuum. The CBC test creates a detailed profile of your blood cells – such as how many red blood cells, platelets and white blood cells are in your blood. These markers are used every day in nearly all areas



of medicine.

For example, hemoglobin is an iron-containing protein that allows your red blood cells to carry oxygen. If your hemoglobin levels are low, it might mean you are iron deficient.

Platelets are cells that help form blood clots and stop bleeding. If your platelet count is low, it may mean you have some internal bleeding and your body is using platelets to help form blood clots to plug the wound.

White blood cells are part of your immune system. If your white cell count is high, it might mean you have an infection and your body is producing more of these cells to fight it off.

Normal ranges and reference intervals

But this all raises the question: What

actually counts as too high or too low on a blood test?

Traditionally, clinicians determine what are called reference intervals by measuring a blood test in a range of healthy people. They usually take the middle 95% of these healthy values and call that "normal," with anything above or below being too low or high. These normal ranges are used nearly everywhere in medicine.

But reference intervals face a big challenge: What's normal for you may not be normal for someone else.

Nearly all blood count markers are heritable, meaning your genetics and environment determine much of what the healthy value for each marker would be for you.

At the population level, for example, a normal platelet count is approximately be-

“Your complete blood count is also a continuum. The CBC test creates a detailed profile of your blood cells – such as how many red blood cells, platelets and white blood cells are in your blood. These markers are used every day in nearly all areas of medicine.”

tween 150 and 400 billion cells per liter of blood. But your body may want to maintain a platelet count of 200 – a value called your set point. This means your normal range might only be 150 to 250.

Differences between a patient's true normal range and the population-based reference interval can create problems for doctors. They may be less likely to diagnose a disease if your set point is far from a cutoff. Conversely, they may run unnecessary tests if your set point is too close to a cutoff.

Defining what's normal for you

Luckily, many patients get blood counts each year as part of routine checkups. Using machine learning models, Foy and his team were able to estimate blood count set points for over 50,000 patients based on their history of visits to the clinic. This allowed them to study how the body regulates these set points and to test whether they can build better ways of personalizing lab test readings.

Over multiple decades, they found that individual normal ranges were about three times smaller than at the population level. For example, while the "normal" range for the white blood cell count is around 4.0 to 11.0 billion cells per liter of blood, they found that most people's individual ranges were much narrower, more like 4.5 to 7, or 7.5 to 10.

When Foy and his team used these set points to interpret new test results, these results helped improve diagnosis of diseases such as iron deficiency, chronic kidney disease and hypothyroidism. They could note when someone's result was outside their smaller personal range, potentially indicating an issue, even if the result was within the normal range for the population overall.

The set points themselves were strong indicators for future risk of developing a disease. For example, patients with high white blood cell set points were more likely to develop Type 2 diabetes in the future. These patients were also nearly twice as likely to die of any cause compared with similar patients with low white cell counts. Other blood count markers were also strong predictors of future disease and mortality risk.

In the future, doctors could potentially use set points to improve disease screening and how they interpret new test results. This is an exciting avenue for personalized medicine: to use your own medical history to define what exactly healthy means for you.

IIT Madras Creates World's First High-Resolution 3D Fetal Brain Images

Press Trust Of India

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has made history by becoming the first research organisation in the world to release the most detailed 3D high-resolution images of the fetal brain, announced Director V Kamakoti on Tuesday.

This groundbreaking achievement, led by the Sudha Gopalakrishnan Brain Centre at IIT Madras, marks a significant advancement in brain mapping technology and positions India at the forefront of global brain mapping science. The high-resolution fetal brain images offer promising applications in enhancing current fetal imaging techniques, poten-

tially enabling earlier diagnosis and treatment of developmental disorders.

According to researchers, understanding brain development from the fetal stage through childhood and adolescence is crucial for addressing developmental disorders such as learning disabilities and autism. For the first time globally, 5,132 brain sections were digitally captured using the Brain Mapping Technology developed by Sudha Gopalakrishnan Brain Centre. This achievement could advance the field of neuroscience and contribute to the development of treatments for various brain-related health conditions.

This pioneering research represents the first time such advanced human neuroscience data has been produced in India. Re-

markably, the project was completed at less than one-tenth of the cost typically incurred in Western countries. The research was conducted by a multidisciplinary team at IIT Madras, with contributions from researchers in India, Australia, the US, Romania and South Africa. It also involved medical collaborations with Chennai-based Mediscan Systems and Saveetha Medical College Hospital.

The findings have been accepted for publication in a special issue of the 'Journal of Comparative Neurology', a prestigious peer-reviewed journal in systems neuroscience. The data set, named 'DHARANI,' is now the largest publicly accessible digital dataset of the human fetal brain and is freely available to researchers worldwide.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COUNCIL SHOPIAN.

Phone: 01933293585
MC Shopian

Public Notice for Caveat Purpose

Municipal Council Shopian has initiated the process of execution of project namely "Construction of Car Parking at Town Shopian" adjacent to Town Hall through R&B Div. Shopian for public purpose/welfare, duly approved by the elected council in the year 2022 and administrative approval accorded in this regard vide order No. MC/SPN/Works/42 of 2023 dated 14.08.2023. During the course of execution it has been felt that there is an apprehension that some miscreants may challenge this process before the Hon'ble High Court J&K and Ladakh as well as Sub Ordinate Courts of District Shopian. This is for the information of general public of Town Shopian for caveat purpose.

NA MC/SPN/2024/GEN/3058
DIPK-NB-2749/24
DATED: 12-12-2024

Chief Executive Officer,
Municipal Council Shopian

Office Address: Langate, Near Boys Higher Secondary - 193302 Email id: Exenlangate11@gmail.com
Government of (UT) Jammu & Kashmir

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

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

e-NIT No: - 36/3240-49/2024-25/RnB/Langate Dated 12/12/2024

Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Langate on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K, e-Tenders are invited (In Single Cover System) on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors Registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments on JKPWDOMS for each of the following works;

S.No	Name of the Work	Est. Cost (in Rs.)	Earnest money. (In Rs.)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rs.)	Time of Completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account
01.	Construction of Road from BSNL Tower to New Basti at Ward No 11 Pandithpora Block Qaziabad	Rs. 14.35 Lacs	28700/-	600/-	20 Days	"B, C & D"	SSY Grants
02.	Construction of Concrete Drain at Hajin	Rs. 1.97 Lacs	3940/-	200/-	15 Days	"D"	District Capex - Regular

Position of AAA: - Accorded

Position of TS: - Sanctioned

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	12-12-2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 12-12-2024 to 18-12-2024
3	Bid submission Start date	12-12-2024
4	Bid Submission End Date	18-12-2024 (upto 4:00 PM)
5	Date and time of Opening of Bids (Online)	19-12-2024 (11:00 AM) (in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Langate)

2. Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 mentioning there in the name of work/e-NIT No. in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Langate (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.

3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Langate. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the value of contract, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

4. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site at the Office of the Executive Engineer, R&B Division Langate.

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

6. The bidder shall be debarred for tendering process if:-

a) 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.

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

c) Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

7. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).

No: - EE/RnB/L/3240-49
DIPK-9462/24 Dated: - 12/12/2024

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Langate

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Construction Division, Srinagar.

Gist of Notice Inviting e-Tender

e-NIT Nos. MICD/55, MICD/56 and MICD/57 of 2024-25 all dated: 11-12-2024.

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of UT of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited in two cover reputed Mechanical/Electrical SSI unit holders/contractors/fabricators/firms for following works respectively. The bidding process shall be completed online in two covers viz. Cover '1st' - Tender fee and Earnest Money details, Deposit, fulfillment of prequalification criteria, technical specifications and acceptance to terms and conditions of the tender. Cover '2nd' - Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

e/NIT No.	Name/ Particulars of the work	Name of Division	Quantity.	Cost of document/ tender fee (In Rs.)	Earnest money (In Rs.)	Validity of Rates
MICD/55 of 2024-25 Dated: 11/12/24	Repairs to water purifier and other allied works at Directorate Office I&FC Department Srinagar	Mechanical Irrigation Construction Division, Srinagar	4	Rs. 100/-	Rs. 900/-	90 days
MICD/56 of 2024-25 Dated: 11/12/24	Repairs to main Aluminium shutters and other necessary works at Directorate office of Kashmir Irrigation and flood control Department Srinagar		As per requirement	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 1100/-	
MICD/57 of 2024-25 Dated: 11/12/24	Providing, fitting Testing and commissioning Submersible pumping unit at tube well irrigation scheme Chichlora Tangmarg			Rs. 200/-	Rs. 2900/-	

Position of funds: Demanded under ARD.

AAA Accorded vide Superintending Engineer Mechanical Circle I & FC Department Srinagar's

No: - 47-MCO of 2023-24 dated: - 30.03.2024.

Key/critical Dates:

Date of Hosting in Website/ Publish date		11/12/2024 (1600Hrs)	
Document download/sale start date	11/12/2024 (1600 Hrs).	Bid submission end date	23/12/2024 (1500 Hrs)
Bid submission start date	11/12/2024. (1600Hrs)		
Bid opening date	24/12/2024 (1500 Hrs)		

Each tender should be accompanied with an Bid declaration Form/Cost of tender document in the form of as detailed above, pledged to the Executive Engineer MICD Srinagar In absence of Bid declaration form, the Tenders shall be rejected out rightly. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website http://jktenders.gov.in. Any information regarding the tenders can be had from this office on all working days.

DIPK-9426/24 DATED: 12-12-2024

Executive Engineer,
Mech. Irri. Const. Division, Srinagar.

Vaccination Under FMD-Control Programme Of NADCP-V Launched

Vaccination Commences Simultaneously In All The Districts



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Vaccination under FMD-Control Programme of NADCP-V was launched Thursday by Director Animal Husbandry Kashmir, Dr Parvinder Singh Sudan in a function held at Disease Investigation Laboratory Srinagar.

The program was attended by Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Srinagar, Deputy Director (Poultry) and other officers of the district Srinagar.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Animal Husbandry Department urged all the field functionaries involved in the vaccination program for timely completion of vaccination and not leaving even a single eligible animal unvaccinated with 100% uploading on the National Digital Livestock Mission (NDLM) Portal on daily basis.

The Director shared technical insight amongst the field workers about the right vaccination technique, and insisted all the functionaries to ensure maintenance of the cold chain at all levels right from lab to the farm.

He emphasised upon dedication regarding implementation of WHO guidelines under one health concept.

The teams meant for vaccination in Srinagar district were flagged-off in a ceremonial manner by the Director. The

vaccination has simultaneously commenced in all the districts of the valley today and shall be conducted in a campaign mode.

Prevention of Animal Disease via vaccination has taken new dimensions in view of the large number of Zoonotic disease transmissible to Humans and emergence of new variants of pathogens.

The Department of Animal Husbandry Jammu also officially launched the fifth phase of National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP) for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) today here at village Hakkal, Jammu which was presided over by Director Animal Husbandry Jammu, Dr. Waheeda Parveen.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director said that NADCP is a flagship scheme launched by Prime Minister in September, 2019 for control and eventual eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease and Brucellosis by vaccinating 100 percent susceptible livestock population.

"FMD is highly contagious viral disease of cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats and pigs etc. which leads to reduction in milk yield, infertility, reduced working capacity in bullocks, creates problems in international trade of livestock products, thus, causing huge economic losses to our farmers every year", she added.

Retail Inflation In Nov Eases To 5.48% As Food Prices Moderate, Creates Headroom For Rate Cut

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Retail inflation declined in November to 5.48 per cent and came within the Reserve Bank's comfort zone mainly due to easing food prices, creating headroom for a rate cut at the central bank's rate-setting panel meeting under new Governor Sanjay Malhotra in February.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based headline inflation was at 6.21 per cent in October and 5.55 per cent in November 2023.

"During the month of November, 2024 significant decline in inflation is observed in vegetables, pulses and products, sugar and confectionary, fruits, eggs, milk and products, spices, transport and communication and personal care and effects subgroups," National Statistics Office (NSO) said in a statement.

According to the CPI data released by the NSO on Thursday, inflation in the food basket reduced to 9.04 per cent in November. It was 10.87 per cent in October and 8.70 per cent in November 2023.

The data revealed that the top five items showing highest year-on-year inflation in November 2024 were garlic (85.14), potato (66.65), cauliflower (47.7), cabbage (43.58) and coconut oil (42.13).

The key items having lowest year-on-year inflation were jeera (-35.04), ginger (-16.96), LPG excluding conveyance (-10.24) and dry chillies (-9.73).

The government has tasked the RBI to ensure that the headline inflation remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side. The RBI has maintained a short-term lending rate (repo) at 6.5 per cent since February 2023.

Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, ICRA said led by food inflation, the CPI inflation expectedly eased to 5.5 per cent in November 2024 from 6.2



The key items having lowest year-on-year inflation were jeera (-35.04), ginger (-16.96), LPG excluding conveyance (-10.24) and dry chillies (-9.73).

per cent in October 2024, falling back within the medium-term target range and offering a dose of relief.

She further said that the cumulative sowing of rabi crops exceeded the year-ago levels by 1.5 per cent that year-on-year by December 9, 2024, led by pulses, rice, wheat and coarse cereals, whereas the rabi sowing for oilseeds contracted by 4.3 per cent annually.

"In our view, if the headline CPI inflation eases to 5.0 per cent or lower by December 2024, the likelihood of a rate cut by the MPC in its February 2025 meeting would be very high. We maintain our

baseline expectation of two rate cuts of 25 bps each in the awaited rate cutting cycle," Nayar said.

Last week, the RBI Governor headed Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) had left the repo unchanged at 6.5 per cent citing concern on the inflation front.

Sanjay Malhotra took over as RBI Governor on Wednesday after Shaktikanta Das demitted office after completing a six-year tenure.

The Reserve Bank raised the inflation projection for the current fiscal to 4.8 per cent from 4.5 per cent. It also said that the lingering food price pressures are likely to keep headline inflation elevated in the December quarter.

CPI-based headline inflation increased from an average of 3.6 per cent during July-August to 5.5 per cent in September and further to 6.2 per cent in October 2024.

The NSO data also revealed that the CPI inflation rate for rural and urban areas were 5.95 per cent and 4.83 per cent, respectively, in November.

Among states, the highest inflation was recorded in Chhattisgarh (8.39 per cent) and lowest in Delhi (2.65 per cent).

It can be observed that after December 2023, inflation rate for both CPI (General) and CPI were declining, reaching their lowest point in July 2024, it said.

ADB Lowers India's GDP Forecast To 6.5%, Cites Low Private Investment

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has lowered India's economic growth forecast to 6.5 per cent for the current financial year from its earlier estimate of 7 per cent due to lower-than-expected growth in private investment and housing demand.

The multilateral development bank has also lowered India's growth forecast for 2025-26 financial year.

Changes in US trade, fiscal and immigration policies could dent growth and add to inflation in developing Asia and the Pacific, according to the latest edition of Asian Development Outlook (ADO).

The report also said Asia and the Pacific's economies are projected to grow 4.9 per cent in 2024, slightly below ADB's September forecast of 5 per cent.

"India's outlook is adjusted downward from 7 per cent to 6.5 per cent for this year, and



from 7.2 per cent to 7 per cent next year, due to lower-than-expected growth in private investment and housing demand," ADB said.

Last week, the Reserve Bank also significantly lowered the growth projection for current fiscal year to 6.6 per cent from 7.2 per cent earlier and hiked the inflation forecast to 4.8 per cent in view of slowdown in economic activity as well as stubborn food prices.

India's GDP growth fell to a 7-quarter low of 5.4 per cent in July-September period of current financial year 2024-25 as against RBI's own projection of 7 per cent.

JKEDI Organizes Entrepreneurship Orientation Program For Students Of IUST

Students Interact With Star Entrepreneurs, Gain Real Time Exposure



Observer News Service

PULWAMA: Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) Thursday organized a one-day Entrepreneurship Awareness program cum interaction for the students of Department of Economics, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST).

The interaction program focused on providing the exposure related to J&K Startup Policy 2024-27 and the development of the startup ecosystem in the U.T of Jammu and Kashmir.

During their visit, the students interacted with the faculty members and experts at JKEDI who briefed the students about the evolving startup scenario, business plan modeling, DPR formulation, capacity building and providing financial and market linkage including handholding and mentorship support to the aspiring entrepreneurs.

The students were briefed about various verticals of JKEDI and their functions. The role of entrepreneurship as a career

choice was also discussed during the visit.

The students interacted with two star entrepreneurs of Jammu and Kashmir, Ishaq Ahmad Wani and Mir Faizan who shared their entrepreneurial journey and the challenges faced by them before achieving success.

Later, the students participated in the question answer session and put forth their understanding of various topics related to startups and entrepreneurship.

The students were accompanied by Prof. S.M Shafi (Head, Department of Economics), Dr. Shumila Cheshiti (Assistant Professor, Economics and Departmental Industry Connect Coordinator), Dr. Javid Ahmad Khan (Assistant Professor, Economics), Dr. Irfan Ahmad Sofi (Assistant Professor, Economics) and Dr. Abdul Hamid Mir (Assistant Professor, Economics).

The program was organized by the Centre for New Enterprise Creation (CNEC) and Centre for Business Development (CBD), a program vertical of JKEDI.

2 Reefer Trucks Handed-Over To Beneficiaries Under HADP At Shopian



Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: The Department of Horticulture Planning and Marketing, Shopian today organised a distribution function at Aglar Shopian in order to hand over the keys of 2 Reefer Trucks to beneficiaries of the district under the Holistic Area Development Programme (HADP).

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar presided over the function and handed over the keys of trucks procured by beneficiaries with substantial financial support of the government.

Each Reefer Truck has a capacity of 26 MTs, and is a recent intervention in post harvesting management initiatives capable of transporting fruits and vegetables long distances with inbuilt controlled atmosphere.

The services of these CA trucks are increasing in demand for the local Cold Chain Industry for long distance transport keeping in view they enhance the shelf life and profitability of the fruit.

Under HADP, the government provides 75% subsidy on each unit costing 25 lac under the component 'Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing-Project 4' for providing logistics support to the fruit industry.

The DC on the occasion appreciated the department for the feat and appealed to others, especially unemployed youth to take the benefits of livelihood and employment generation schemes for their economic upliftment.

The event was also attended by AMO, HP&M and DIO Shopian along with other officials of the department and beneficiaries.

J&K Bank Opens New Branch At Raika Morh In Samba

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Going ahead with its mission to extend banking access across the UT, J&K Bank Thursday inaugurated a new branch at Raika Morh in District Samba.

Falling in the Bank's Kathua Zone, the branch was inaugurated by MLA (Ramgarh) Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal in the presence of Bank's DGM & Zonal Head (Kathua) Sanjeev Kumar, Cluster Head (Samba) Sanjay Belowo, DDC Chairman Keshav Sharma and other prominent citizens amid a gathering of valuable customers and staff members.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal expressed his gratitude to the Bank for addressing a long-standing demand of the local population.

"The opening of this branch brings modern banking services closer to the people of this area. I congratulate the residents for getting this facility that will cater to their daily banking requirements and boost economic activities in



the catchment area."

"I commend J&K Bank for always playing the lead role in strengthening the economy while keeping its focus on serving the people living across the UT including those in the remote areas," he commented.

While highlighting the Bank's commitment to customer-centric growth, Zonal Head extended his heartfelt thanks to the gathering for their unwavering trust in J&K Bank. He said, "This branch is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities to deliver world-class banking services tai-

lored to the needs of the local community. And we remain steadfast in our mission to uplift the social and economic well-being of the people by providing comprehensive financial support through various products and schemes that also facilitate employment generation."

Following the inauguration, the dignitaries interacted with the attendees. The residents expressed their gratitude to the Bank for fulfilling their long-cherished demand for a local branch, promising their full support and cooperation.

IIP Growth Slows To 3.5% In Oct: Govt Data

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India's industrial production (IIP) growth slowed to 3.5 per cent year-on-year in October 2024, mainly due to poor performance of mining, power and manufacturing, as per official data released on Thursday.

The IIP recorded a growth of 11.9 per cent in October 2023, according to a statement by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation.

However, on a sequential basis, the factory output in October 2024 rose to 3.5 per cent from 3.1 per cent in September and a contraction of 0.1 per cent in August this year.

The growth in the factory output, measured in terms of the IIP, in April-October worked out to be 4 per cent against 7 per cent in the year-ago period, the data showed.

As per the data, the mining output growth decelerated to 0.9 per cent in October from 13.1 per cent expansion in the year-ago month.

The manufacturing sector's growth decelerated to 4.1 per cent in October from 10.6 per cent a year ago.

Similarly, in power generation, the output growth slowed sharply to 2 per cent from a 20.4 per cent growth a year ago.

As per use-based classification, the capital goods segment growth decelerated to 3.1 per cent in October 2024 from 21.7 per cent in the year-ago period.

In October this year, consumer non-durables output growth slowed to 2.7 per cent compared to a 9.3 per cent growth in October 2023.

Consumer durable goods production grew by 5.9 per cent during the reporting month against a 15.9 per cent expansion in October 2023.

Gold Rises Rs 500 Per 10 Gm; Silver At Rs 97,000 Per Kg

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Gold prices climbed Rs 500 to Rs 80,900 per 10 grams in the national capital on Thursday due to persistent buying by retailers and jewellers, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity finished at Rs 80,400 per 10 grams in the previous trading session.

The yellow metal has jumped nearly Rs 2,000 in the past three sessions.

Silver also rallied Rs 700 to Rs 97,000 per kg on Thursday. The white metal settled at Rs 96,300 per kg in the previous session.

The price of gold of 99.5 per cent purity also surged Rs 500 to Rs 80,500 per 10 grams. It ended at Rs 80,000 per 10 grams on Wednesday.

According to traders, persistent buying by jewellers and a firm trend

in the international markets were among the factors that aided the rally in gold prices.

Meanwhile, in futures trade on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold contracts for February delivery dipped Rs 114 or 0.14 per cent to Rs 78,888 per 10 grams.

"Gold traded within a volatile range and experienced minor profit booking at higher levels, with Comex prices facing resistance near USD 2,720-2,725 and MCX encountering a hurdle around Rs 79,000," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst of Commodity and Currency at LKP Securities, said.

However, silver contracts for March delivery climbed Rs 420 or 0.44 per cent to Rs 96,222 per kg.

Globally, Comex gold futures fell USD 9.70 per ounce or 0.35 per cent to USD 2,747 per ounce.

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
EAZR-SLR24-83	26.12.2024 at 11:00 Hrs.	Allotment of contract for leasing of parcel space in Train No./SLR compartment: 19108/F1, 22432/F1, 14630/R1, 12414/R1 14630/F1, 20986/F1, 19226/R1, 15212/F1, 14674/F1, 22424/F1, 19226/F1 & 14616/F1
EAZR-SLR24-84	27.12.2024 at 11:00 Hrs.	Allotment of contract for leasing of parcel space in Train No./SLR compartment: 12238/F2, 19804/F1, 12478/F1, 12238/R1, 12476/F1, 22462/F1, 12460/F1, 14036/R1, 14036/F1, 14036/F2, 22942/F1 & 22402/F1
For other details and registration, please visit Railway website www.ireps.gov.in		
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Phone No: 01954-295614

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
DEPARTMENT OF URBAN LOCAL
BODIES KASHMIR SRINAGAR
OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE KUNZER
EXTENSION OF TENDER NOTICE**

The Tender Notice issued by this office vide No. MC/KZ/G/2024-25/1080-83 dated 13/11/2024, the last date of which was scheduled to be on 06/12/2024 is hereby extended upto 17/12/2024 upto 2.PM due to zero response.

The Terms and Conditions shall remain same as has been mentioned in the previous Quotation notice issued vide above referred No. by this office.

No. MC/KZ/ G/2024-25/ 1220-22 Executive Officer
Dated: 12-12-2024 DIPK-NB-2779-24 Municipal Committee
DT: 12/12/2024 Kunzer

7th edition of SIH2024 grand finale concludes at NIT Srinagar

Director NIT praises 6 winning teams

Srinagar, December 12, 2024: The Grand Finale of the 7th edition of the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2024 concluded on Thursday at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, with five teams emerging as top performers at the nodal center.

The valedictory session was presided over by Chief Guest Mr. Sushil Kumar, Chief General Manager of GAIL, and Guest of Honor Mr. Saheel Yaqoob, Assistant Director Branch MSME Srinagar.

The event was organized under the aegis of Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanujiya, and saw the presence

of several dignitaries including Deans, HOD's, HoCs and other dignitaries from various departments.

Prof. Roohie Naaz (Incharge Director NIT Srinagar), Prof. G.A. Harmain (Chairman Core Committee for SIH 2024), Registrar Atikur Rehman, Dr. Pratap Sanap (Nodal Head 1 for SIH), Ms. Happy Debnath (Nodal Head 1 for SIH), SPOS- SIH-2024 Dr. H.S. Pali, and other coordinators were also present at the event.

Hosting the Grand Finale for the first time, NIT Srinagar was one of 51 nodal centers across the country. The two-day event commenced on Wednesday and witnessed innovative ideas and solutions from young minds.

In his message, Director NIT Srinagar Prof. Kanujiya



congratulated the winning teams for their exceptional performance and innovative solutions, applauding their dedication and hard work throughout the event.

He also extended his encouragement to the other participating teams, emphasizing that their efforts and ideas were

equally valuable and demonstrated great potential.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Guest Mr. Sushil Kumar said that over the past two days, we have witnessed extraordinary talent, collaboration, and problem-solving skills that truly embody the spirit of the Smart

India Hackathon.

"GAIL plays a significant role in fostering innovation and sustainable solutions through initiatives like Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2024. We are committed to encourage young minds to contribute to the nation's growth while addressing pressing challenges," he said.

Guest of Honor Assistant Director MSME Saheel Yaqoob highlighted the importance of platforms like SIH in fostering innovation and entrepreneurship among the youth.

"Events like SIH 2024 not only provide young innovators with opportunities to solve real-world problems but also inspire them to think beyond conventional boundaries, he added.

Prof. Roohie Naaz, Incharge Nodal Head of NIT Srinagar,

presented a detailed summary of the event during her valedictory address.

She said that Hackathon has always been about pushing boundaries and fostering a culture of ingenuity and teamwork. This year was no exception. Our participants have tackled real-world problems with cutting-edge solutions, demonstrating that the future of technology and innovation is in capable hands, she added.

Dr. Pratap Sanap announced the winning teams, while Ms. Happy Debnath delivered a vote of thanks on behalf of AICTE, expressing gratitude to NIT Srinagar for hosting the event smoothly.

Yesterday, on December 11, Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with young

innovators participating in the 7th edition of SIH 2024, including the team at NIT Srinagar, via video conferencing.

This year's edition of SIH marked a remarkable 240% growth in internal hackathons, increasing from 900 in 2023 to over 2,247 in 2024, making it the largest edition to date. Over 86,000 teams participated at the institute level, with approximately 49,000 advancing to the national-level rounds.

The hackathon addressed 250 problem statements submitted by 54 ministries, departments, state governments, PSUs, and industries. These challenges covered 17 sectors of national importance, including healthcare, sustainability, smart technologies, education, disaster management, and agriculture.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Snowfall Breaks

Zojila Pass, saw light to moderate snowfall. Due to accumulation of snow along the Zojila Pass, the Srinagar-Leh highway was closed for traffic, while the Bandipora-Gurez road and Mughal Road were also shut, officials said.

Authorities have deployed men and machinery to clear the snow and restore road traffic, they added.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast an improvement in weather conditions from Thursday afternoon. Mainly dry conditions expected to prevail until December 20.

Meanwhile, night temperatures rose across Kashmir valley, including Srinagar, due to cloud cover.

Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of minus 0.5 degrees Celsius, up from minus 3 degrees Celsius the previous night. Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 5.2 degrees Celsius, while Pahalgam, which serves as the base camp for the annual Amarnath Yatra, saw a minimum of minus 4.6 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund, the gateway town to Kashmir, recorded a low of 0.2 degrees Celsius, while Kupwara in northern Kashmir registered a minimum of 0.5 degrees Celsius, and Kokernag in southern Kashmir recorded minus 1 degree Celsius.

Cold, Dry Weather

has stated that the cold & dry weather will generally prevail over many stations during the next 5 days. "In view of fresh snowfall, sub-freezing temperature & icy conditions over roads of important passes and higher reaches, the tourists, travelers and transporters are advised to follow administration and traffic advisory," the advisory reads.

As per the data provided by MeT, till December 11, the deficit precipitation has gone further up to 75 per cent across Jammu and Kashmir from October 01, 2024 to December 11, 2024.

The highest deficit has been recorded in Shopian with 96 per cent followed by Poonch with 95 per cent and Gulgam and Budgam with 94 per cent and 92 per cent.

Srinagar has recorded a deficit rainfall of 85 per cent. However, Samba is the only place across J&K where above normal rainfall has been recorded as against the normal precipitation of 20.7 mm, the station has recorded a precipitation of 47 mm during the period.

In Kupwara, the lowest deficit rainfall of only 38 per cent during the period, the data reads.

Enhance Visibility

granting film shooting permissions. He emphasized the need to streamline and expedite the process, ensuring that filmmakers receive approvals without unnecessary delays.

A detailed discussion was held on the advertisement policy for newspapers and media houses.

The Chief Minister directed the department to ensure fairness and transparency in issuing advertisements based on circulation.

He urged the department to avoid any impression of bias and to study Bureau of Outreach, Government of India (DAVP) criteria of advertisement rates and assessing newspaper circulation to evolve a robust mechanism for the purpose.

Reviewing the accreditation process for journalists, the Chief Minister directed the department to revisit rejected applications.

He instructed the concerned officials to communicate discrepancies to applicants, enabling them to rectify errors and secure accreditation.

Highlighting the pressing issue of staff shortages, the Chief Minister urged the department to expedite the recruitment process for vacant positions.

He stressed that adequate manpower is crucial for the department's efficiency.

The Chief Minister impressed upon the need to procure latest equipment and gadgets to improve coverage of official functions and events.

The Chief Minister emphasized the department's crucial role in shaping public perception and ensuring effective communication of government initiatives.

He urged the officials to address challenges with urgency and commitment.

Earlier, Secretary Information Rehana Batul gave a detailed presentation on the department's overview and functioning.

The presentation covered aspects such as human resource management, roles and responsibilities of staff, advertisement expenditure, empanelled newspapers, and the accreditation process for journalists.

The meeting was informed about several initiatives undertaken by the department, including Beats of J&K, Inspire Gen-Z, Youth Conclave, Successful hosting of J&K Film Conclave-2024 and implementation of J&K Film Policy-2024

The department's media campaign for coverage of the G-20 Summit in Kashmir was also highlighted.

Discussions were held on the department's budget and expenditure under REVEX and CAPEX heads, along with the proposed CAPEX for the financial year 2024-25.

'Direct Rail'

The chief minister highlighted the immense opportunities in the floriculture sector, especially with Kashmir soon to be connected with the rest of the country through the railways. "We must engage progressive growers and other stakeholders to fully realize the sector's potential," Omar said.

He directed the department to plant tulips along the airport road to enhance the aesthetic appeal and launch ad campaigns to attract more tourists to Srinagar's iconic Tulip Garden.

Earlier, Commissioner Secretary Sheikh Fayaz Ahmad gave a detailed presentation on the department's functioning, highlighting achievements and ongoing projects.

Key milestones and initiatives discussed included Tulip Show 2024 in which a record 1.7 million tulips of 72 varieties were planted, attracting 4.46 lakh tourists in March 2024.

The meeting also discussed significant developments in the floriculture sector, including the establishment of ornamental cherry tree gardens (Sakura) and the creation of a Tulip Garden in Sanasar.

The establishment of peony and rose gardens at Pahalgam was also highlighted, alongside progress in the process of enlisting six historic Mughal Gardens as UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Discussions further focused on various ongoing and upcoming projects aimed at the modernization and enhancement of the region's parks and gardens.

These included the upgradation of Bagh-e-Bahu Garden and the establishment of Bour Camp Garden in Jammu.

Other projects discussed were the development of chrysanthemum plantations at Udhampur, the upgradation of Badamwari, and the establishment of the Dara Shikoh Garden.

The creation of theme gardens at Gulmarg, the development of floriculture nurseries, and the establishment of a model flower center in Jammu were also deliberated.

Additionally, plans for an amphitheater and beautification projects at Bagh-e-Bahu were reviewed.

The Chief Minister emphasized the importance of modernizing and mechanizing garden maintenance to enhance efficiency while optimizing resources and generating revenue. He urged the department to prioritize initiatives that boost the tourism potential of Jammu and Kashmir while preserving the region's rich natural heritage.

The Chief Minister emphasized the need for modernization and mechanization of garden maintenance, resource optimization, and revenue generation.

He urged the department to focus on projects that enhance the tourism potential of Jammu and Kashmir while preserving its natural heritage.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani, ACS to CM Dheeraj Gupta, Commissioner Secretary Floriculture, Parks & Gardens, Sheikh Fayaz Ahmad, Directors of Floriculture Kashmir/Jammu and other concerned.

J&K Sees Over

National Highways, State Highways, and critical junctions in cities with over one million population or those covered under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).

For new highway projects on high-density and high-speed corridors, the installation of an Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) is typically included as part of the project, with ATMS also implemented on existing major corridors as standalone projects.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways promotes road safety through advocacy campaigns, social media, and the annual National Road Safety Month. Additionally, the Government has engaged with the Ministry of Education to incorporate road safety education into school curricula through NCERT textbooks. (KNO)

Cabinet Gives Nod

since he first made an energetic pitch for the concept in December 2016.

The proposed bill will require a simple majority for passage in both the Houses. The government is keen on holding wider consultations on the bills and may send them to a parliamentary committee.

The BJP's manifesto for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls had included its commitment to the idea.

Though BJP's allies such as the TDP, Janata

Dal (United), and Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), all of whom are represented in the Union Cabinet, are supporting the concept, the National Democratic Alliance will need backing from some of the members of the opposition INDIA alliance besides fence-sitters to ensure the passage of the constitutional amendment bill requiring support from two-thirds of the members in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

The NDA's current strength in Lok Sabha, which currently has 542 members and one vacancy, is around 293 against the two-third mark of 361. The INDIA bloc enjoys support of nearly 235 MPs.

In Rajya Sabha, the ruling alliance has nearly 122 members, a tally which is set to rise after the ongoing process to fill vacancies are over. The Upper House' sanctioned strength is 243. LJP leader and Union Minister Chirag Paswan told reporters that the process to implement simultaneous polls has formally begun, a nod to its approval by the Cabinet, asserting that this is in the interest of the country's development.

Frequent polls are a hindrance to development works, he added.

Union minister and BJP leader Ashwini Vaishnaw said at a media event that it is a "very positive thought" and very good for the country. However, he made no reference to the Cabinet's approval of the bill.

As of now, the Cabinet has given its nod to draft legislations to hold simultaneous polls to the Lok Sabha and legislative assemblies only, the sources said.

The Constitution bill proposed by the Kovind panel was aimed at creating provisions to hold simultaneous elections to municipalities and panchayats, along with the elections to the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies, by inserting a new Article 324A.

It would have required ratification by half of the state assemblies. But the Union Cabinet has kept the local body polls out as of now.

The second bill, a necessary formality to go with the main draft legislation, will be an ordinary one to amend provisions in three laws dealing with Union territories that have legislative assemblies -- Puducherry, Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir.

The statutes it proposes to amend are the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act-1991, the Government of Union Territories Act-1963 and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act-2019.

The sources said the government also wants to consult the speakers of various state legislative assemblies through the committee.

The government is likely to introduce the bills early next week in Lok Sabha, and the draft legislation for constitution amendment could be named as "The Constitution 129 (Amendment) Bill", the sources said.

Home Minister Amit Shah also spoke on the bill, which was not part of the listed agenda, during the Cabinet meeting.

Since a single electoral roll is used by the Election Commission to hold Lok Sabha and assembly polls, the proposed bill does not refer to a common electoral roll.

A common electoral roll was proposed by the Kovind panel to hold Lok Sabha, assembly and local body polls together.

Since the Cabinet decided not to bring a bill to hold local body polls with parliamentary and assembly polls, there is no need to amend the constitution at this stage to go for a common voters' list, they noted.

The BJP ally JD(U) had earlier demanded to not include local body polls as part of the simultaneous elections.

Moving ahead with its "one nation, one election" plan, the government in September had accepted the recommendations of the high-level committee for holding simultaneous polls for the Lok Sabha, state assemblies and local bodies in a phased manner.

In its report submitted to the government in March, just before the general election was announced, the panel recommended implementing "one nation, one election" in two phases.

While the ruling BJP and its allies are pushing for simultaneous polls, several opposition parties have opposed the idea.

The government is of the view that simultaneous polls will reduce expenditure in the long run and different parts of the country will not be under the Model Code of Conduct throughout the year due to various polls.

Simultaneous polls were held in the country between 1951 and 1967. The concept of simultaneous elections has featured in many reports and studies since 1983, essentially implying a return to the previous practice of conducting polls concurrently.

'NC Remained

on its suggestions about holding simultaneous polls.

The panel, according to the report, had

sought responses from 62 political parties, which had at least one representative in Lok Sabha.

NC had 3 MPs in Lok Sabha when the panel asked it to submit suggestions.

According to the report, 15 political parties including NC didn't respond to the panel's communiques to give them suggestions despite reminders.

In total, 32 political parties agreed with the proposal of simultaneous polls while 15 opposed.

Interestingly, Democratic Progressive Azad Political Party (DPAP) supported the idea of simultaneous polls, saying that frequent holding of elections adversely affects growth and development of the country due to the imposition of the Model Code of Conduct.

Ghulam Nabi Azad, who was also a member of HLC on simultaneous polls, heads DPAP. The party didn't win any seat in the 2024 polls.

The DPAP, which is not a recognized political party, was not asked by the panel to submit its suggestions on the proposal but it did so in response to the public notice issued by the panel.

Infra Development

development reach all sections of society without any discrimination," Sinha said.

Stating that the progressive and citizen-centric policies of the government have strengthened the common man's faith in the governance system, Sinha claimed the speed of infrastructure development has accelerated manifold in the last five years with the fast-tracking of hundreds of projects that were stalled for decades.

The ideals of democracy and the values enshrined in the Constitution have become an integral part of the governance process, he said.

Calling upon the youth to selflessly serve the society and contribute towards nation building, Sinha said, "I have full faith that together we will realise the resolve of a developed India."

J&K Govt, Officials

hearing. The case is now listed for another hearing on 28th March 2025.

Details available reveal that the petitioner Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat through his counsel Advocate Saurabh Sharma urged the NGT that Riverbed Mining (RBM) was being done in Sasara nallah at Bandzoo Bridge downstream between Bandzoo and Chatripora villages in Pulwama District by one Ranbir Singh who has been granted an Environmental Clearance (EC) dated 05.04.2022.

"As per the Specific Condition No. 53 of the said EC no Heavy Machinery/JCB can be used for River Bed Mining but the said Mr. Ranbir Singh has been using Heavy Machinery/JCB in the said Sasara nallah which is a violation of the specific condition of the said EC. The use of the Heavy Machinery/JCB was being done and we have GPS photos to prove that and the same were submitted before the NGT who took cognizance of the issue. I had brought the matter into notice of the Chief Secretary and IGP Kashmir through emailed complaints also but no action was taken, prompting me to seek intervention of NGT," said Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat, the petitioner in the case.

Sasara nallah is a tributary of Rambiara which originates from Pir Panjal mountains between Shopian and Poonch Districts. The Deep mining was being done in violation of J&K Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2016. "This is impacting local agricultural fields and apple orchards as the water supply in irrigation channels is halted and springs are drying up," said Fayaz Ahmad, a local resident of Bandzoo Pulwama.

"Prima facie, the averments made in the application raise substantial questions relating to the environment arising out of the implementation of the enactments specified in Schedule I to the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010. 4. Let notice of application along-with copies of documents attached with the same be issued to the respondents requiring them to file their responses thereto at least one week before the date of hearing hereby fixed" reads the order issued by National Green Tribunal (NGT) on December 5, 2024.

HC Grants Govt

movement and allied rules governing the subject were being applied to impede only Ladakh people who were made to suffer from various aspects whereas the tourist vehicles as well as heavy vehicles without any restrictions were being allowed to move throughout the year.

Reservation Is

20 years, and they have faced many challenges, including depression. We want to help them overcome this, and we are organizing programs to support them in this regard," she

said. The Education Minister expressed her concern about the decline in the use of Kashmiri language among children, calling it a matter of great importance. "It is concerning that many children are unable to speak their mother language, Kashmiri. As Education Minister, it is my responsibility to ensure we work towards preserving and promoting the Kashmiri language so that our children can learn and speak it," Itoo added. (KINS)

Govt To Depute

alarming reports of unusual deaths in the district, and the health authorities are committed to determining the cause and preventing further incidents.

A seven-year-old girl died and her two elder brothers fell sick due to a suspected case of food poisoning in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district on Thursday, reports said.

The officials said three siblings were brought to Kotranka civil hospital from Badhal village of Khawas this morning, where the minor girl breathed her last, while her elder brothers, aged 9 and 11, were referred to Government Medical College (GMC) hospital for specialised treatment.

This was the second such case in the past five days in the district. The first incident occurred last week when five members of a single family in Badhaal fell sick with severe vomiting after consuming a meal at their home. Tragically, all five succumbed.

Five persons who died were identified as Fazl Hussain, 38; Rabiya Kousar, 15; Rukhsar Ahmad, 13; Irfana Kousar, 9; na dRafar Ahmad, who was barely 4 years of age. They were all residents of JN Khawas (Budhaal).

Other family members, who are undergoing treatment at the Government Medical College (GMC) in Jammu, remain in critical condition. They were identified as Shamima Akhter and Ishfaq.

A second similar incident has deepened concerns.

The Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Budhal, Choudhary Javed Iqbal has taken up the matter for investigation and relief with the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

The Chief Minister has assured immediate intervention in the matter.

Earlier in the day, MLA Choudhary Javed also met with Home Secretary Chandrakar Bharti requesting his personal intervention and monitoring of forensic examination of food samples collected from sites of incidents.

Choudhary Javed told Home Secretary Chandrakar Bharti that since incidents have happened at significant distance from each other, the matter needs thorough investigation.

He also spoke with the Director Forensic Laboratory to check the status of the sample examination.

Earlier this morning, Choudhary Javed spoke to Health Secretary Syed Abid Rasheed Shah for rushing in medical teams. The Health Secretary assured the MLA of best medical care for the sick victims under his personal monitoring.

Later in the day, the MLA visited some of the victims undergoing treatment at GMC Jammu. Principal GMC Jammu who accompanied the MLA during his visit to the patients informed that examination of virology and toxicology is also underway at different labs within and outside Jammu and Kashmir.

Choudhary Javed said that he is in regular touch with Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma for coordinated monitoring of the situation.

Er Rashid's Bail

judge over the transfer of the terror-funding case to a court designated to try lawmakers after observing that Rashid was now a member of Parliament.

Previously, the counsel for Rashid and the NIA jointly sought the matter to remain in the court hearing it.

Apart from the case lodged by the NIA, the special judge had also recommended transferring a related money laundering case and the regular bail application of Rashid to the special court for lawmakers.

Rashid was elected from the Baramulla constituency in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and has been lodged in Tihar Jail since 2019 after the NIA arrested him under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in the 2017 terror-funding case.

Both the cases filed by the NIA and the ED also involve Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba chief and 26/11 Mumbai attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed, Hizbul Mujahideen leader Syed Salahuddin and others.

The ED filed a money laundering case against the accused persons on the basis of the NIA's FIR, which accused them of "conspiring to wage war against the government" and fomenting trouble in the Kashmir Valley.

Momentum With Australia After Win At Adelaide: Sunil Gavaskar

Press Trust of India

BRISBANE: The legendary Sunil Gavaskar feels Australia will have the momentum in the third Test against India starting on Saturday thanks to their victory in the Pink Ball Test at Adelaide last week.

Australia levelled the five-match Border-Gavaskar Trophy 1-1 with a 10-wicket win in the day-night Test after losing the first Test at Perth by 295 runs.

"The momentum that the Indian team got in Perth was lost during the 10-day gap. Now, the momentum is with Australia because they have won this Test match," Gavaskar told Star Sports.

"After the Adelaide Test, a few days later, you are playing at The Gabba. So, the momentum is now with the Australian team," he added.

Speaking to the same channel, former spinner Harbhajan



Singh said India should try to play their best cricket to register a win at the 'Gabba' before travelling to more favourable venues

in Sydney and Melbourne. "Their best chances will be, I think, in Sydney and Melbourne. Anyway, if you play

your best cricket at The Gabba and win there, then you will definitely win one match out of Melbourne or Sydney,"

Harbhajan said.

He said India have the ability to make a comeback into the series despite the heavy loss in Adelaide.

"The equality of the first two Tests shows that both teams have the ability to come back. Australia has come back; now maybe it's India's turn to turn the tables," he said.

The owner of 711 international wickets too agreed that the long interval between the first and second Test resulted in India losing the momentum.

"This series is tough because both teams have had losses. What happened with Australia in Perth, maybe they didn't expect it. And what happened with India in Adelaide, maybe India also didn't expect it.

"Although there was a very long gap in the middle between the two Tests, sometimes such a gap spoils the momentum, and it happened here," he said.

Short TAKES

Amid Slump, Kohli Addresses Team In Training

He used to be the cynosure of all eyes at training sessions during his captaincy days and Virat Kohli was once again the centre of attention as he addressed his teammates here on Thursday.

After the demoralising 10-wicket defeat in the Adelaide day/night game, the visitors needed a bit of inspiration going into the crucial third Test of the series, and the youngsters in the side couldn't have got a better mentor than 'King' Kohli himself to guide them with his words of wisdom.

The team huddles before the start of the training session has been a constant feature for years now and Kohli used to do a lot of talking during his days in charge.

He did take a back seat once he left captaincy but with skipper Rohit also under immense pressure after four straight defeats, the senior-most player (in terms of Test debut) had to take the initiative ahead of the match starting here on Saturday.

With vice-captain Jasprit Bumrah by his side, Kohli was seen speaking animatedly to the group and everyone, including Rohit, listened to him with rapt attention.

'Rohit Must Open To Throw The First Punch'

Former India head coach Ravi Shastri, who knows a thing or two about winning Test rubbers in Australia, on Thursday asked India skipper Rohit Sharma to return to the opening slot "if he has to throw the first punch" on an opponent brimming with confidence.

Shastri was serving as team director when India won their maiden Test series in Australia in 2017-18 and was the head coach when the side rallied brilliantly to stun the hosts in the last tour in 2020-21.

The move to slot Rohit at number six did not yield the desired results for India and they were hammered by 10 wickets in the second Test at Adelaide, leaving the five-match clash locked at 1-1 and with everything to play for in what Shastri believes could decide the fate of the series.

"That's where he's (Rohit) been at his best over the last eight or nine years," Shastri was quoted as saying by 'The Age'.

"It's not that he's going to set the world on fire - he could - but that's the place that's best for him...if he has to do damage, if he has to throw the first punch, that's the best place from where he can do it."

Mbappe Likely To Be Sidelined By Real Madrid

Kylian Mbappe has injured his left thigh and will likely be sidelined for an undetermined period of time, Real Madrid said on Thursday.



The club did not specify the nature of the injury nor how long Mbappe will be out, saying "his progress will be monitored."

Madrid crosses the Spanish capital to play at Rayo Vallecano on Sunday, trailing La Liga leader Barcelona by two points.

It then travels to Qatar to play the Intercontinental Cup final on Dec. 18. Sevilla follows on Dec. 22 then a short winter break until playing at Valencia on Jan. 3.

The France captain was injured on Tuesday after scoring the opening goal in Madrid's 3-2 win at Atalanta in the Champions League. He left the game in the first half.

Mbappe has 12 goals in 22 games since joining Madrid from Paris Saint-Germain in the offseason, but he has delivered disappointing performances against major rivals.

4th J&K Level Field Archery Championship Concludes In Srinagar



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The two-day 4th J&K UT Level Field Archery Championship 2024 concluded at Government Higher Secondary School Zadiibal, Srinagar, on Thursday, with more

than 200 participants from various private and government institutions across the districts taking part.

Ayesha Ali Academy, District Kulgam, emerged as the leader in the medal tally, followed closely by Birla Open Minds

International School, Pampore, District Pulwama, G.D. Goenka School, District Anantnag, R.P. School, Lawaypora, District Srinagar, and R. P. School Nagbal, District Ganderbal.

The event was graced by the Principal of GHSS Zadiibal, Srinagar, as the chief guest while as Peer Zahoor Ahmad (JKPS) (SSP - Security), Mukhtar Rasool (General Secretary, Field Archery Association of J&K), and Manzoor Ahmad (Activity Incharge, GHSS Zadiibal) were present as Guest of Honours.

Secretary of the Field Archery Association of J&K, while delivering the vote of thanks, announced that archers who showcased exceptional performance in the championship are now eligible to represent J&K at the 15th National Indoor Field Archery Championship 2025, which is scheduled to be held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

J&K Senior Women Crush Mizoram By 223 Runs



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K senior women's team captain Jasia Akhtar slammed a thunderous century, while explosive Rubia Syed and solid Chitra Singh Jamwal scored power-packed big fifties as the trio butchered rival bowlers with power, punch and utmost timing as J&K crushed minnows Mizoram by a big margin of 223 runs in the ongoing Senior Women's One-Day Trophy at 22 Yards, Salt Lake, Kolkata, on Thursday.

Earlier, batting first, J&K scored a massive total of 353 runs in the stipulated 50 overs, losing 6 wickets in the process.

Jasia showed stellar grit and tenacity to notch up a cracking century. She scored 165 runs off just 111 balls, studded with 20 fours and 8 massive sixes, while Chitra scored 75 off 114 balls with 7 boundaries and Rubia contributed unbeaten 71 runs off just 29 balls with 2 fours and 8 sixes. In form openers Rudrakshi Chib (12) and

Bawandeep Kaur fell cheaply.

Tara G Jha was the most successful bowler for Mizoram, taking 4 wickets by conceding 50 runs in her 10 overs, while Mamta Rai claimed one wicket.

In reply, Mizoram bundled out for paltry 130 runs to lose the match by a huge margin of 223 runs.

Felfel Pautu top scored with 48 runs off 75 balls studded with 8 delectable boundaries, while Anita Lodhi contributed 27 runs off 45 balls with 4 fours.

For J&K, Mariya Noorain, Sandhya Sayal and Rudrakshi Chib claimed 3 wickets each, while Ananaya Sharma claimed one wicket.

For her superb batting display Jasia Akhtar was adjudged as the player of the match.

Member-Administration JKCA Anil Gupta and Members Cricket Operations and Development JKCA Mithun Manhas congratulated the team for this big victory and stepping forward for sealing berth in knockout stage.

Refresher Course For Physical Education Staff Begins In Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The third phase of the Orientation-cum-Refresher Course for in-service physical education staff officially began on Wednesday at the Sher-i-Kashmir Indoor Sports Complex and Bakshi Stadium, here.

The program, organized by the District Youth Services and Sports Office, Srinagar,

aims to enhance the skills and expertise of physical education professionals across a wide range of disciplines, including Wushu, Taekwondo, Judo, Karate, Weightlifting, Pencak Silat, Boxing, and Thang Ta.

The training, scheduled from December 12 to December 23, is engaging 75 officials from the Youth Services and Sports (YSS) Department.

District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO) Srinagar, Ghulam Hassan Lone, after inaugurating the courses highlighted the importance of updating skills and techniques in various sports and games to meet modern standards.

The training took place across multiple venues, including the Sher-i-Kashmir Indoor Sports Complex, Gindun Ground, and Bakshi Stadium.

India Hails Gukesh's Historic World Chess Championship Title

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: India ran out of superlatives in hailing history-maker D Gukesh after he became the first teenager world champion in chess on Thursday, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi describing him as an inspiration for "millions of young minds".

The 18-year-old Gukesh's triumph was celebrated far and wide across the country with the PM and President Droupadi Murmu joining the sports fraternity and others in lauding his incredible achievement.

He won after prevailing in a tense 14th and last game of the title showdown against holder Ding Liren of China in Singapore.

"Historic and exemplary! Congratulations to Gukesh D on his remarkable accomplishment. This is the result of his unparalleled talent, hard work and unwavering determination," PM Modi wrote on 'X'.

"His triumph has not only etched his name in the annals of chess history but has also inspired millions of young minds to dream big and pursue excellence. My best wishes for his future endeavours," he added.

President Murmu said India is "immensely proud" of Gukesh's achievement.

"Heartiest congratulations to Gukesh for becoming the youngest player to win the World Chess Championship. He has done India immensely proud. His victory stamps the authority of India as a chess powerhouse. Well done Gukesh! On behalf of every Indian, I wish you sustained glory in the future," said the country's President in a post on X.

The legendary Viswanathan Anand, who won the title an unprecedented five times, praised Gukesh for winning something of this magnitude at such a young age.

"It's a great feat. To become the world champion at the age of 18 is no small feat. It was a great sight to see him celebrating after the win. Hopefully, this will inspire a lot of aspiring players," Anand said.

Gukesh beat Garry Kasparov's record of 22 years, six months and 27 days when he had won the title in 1985.

Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya called him a chess prodigy.

"Extending my warm wishes to @DGukesh for clinching the prestigious World Chess Championship title and becoming the youngest World Champion in the history of #Chess. Your hard work & dedication has made the entire nation proud!"

Champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, the country first and



only track and field Olympic gold medalist, wrote on 'X'. "Congratulations, Gukesh! The best in the world and the youngest to ever do it. India is proud."

Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar said with his win, Gukesh has "opened a world of endless possibilities".

"In a game of 64 squares, you've opened a world of endless possibilities. Congratulations, @DGukesh, on becoming the 18th World Champion at just 18! Following in Vishy's footsteps, you're now guiding the next wave of Indian chess prodigies," Tendulkar posted on X. Like PM Modi, India's first indi-

vidual Olympic gold medalist Abhinav Bindra said Gukesh has inspired a generation to "dream big" with his stunning achievement.

"Congratulations, Gukesh, on becoming the World Chess Champion! Your brilliance, determination, and grace under pressure have made the entire nation proud.

You've not just won a title but inspired a generation to dream big.

"Wishing you even greater success ahead!" Bindra tweeted.

Former star cricketer Virender Sehwag said, "Wow, you beauty Gukesh. At just 18, Gukesh Dommaraju becomes the youngest World Chess Champion ever. A great moment for us all and you are an inspiration, Gukesh."

The global chess fraternity was also not left behind in hailing the Indian genius.

International Chess Federation (FIDE) tweeted, "We have a new world champion! Congratulations Gukesh D."

American Grandmaster Hikaru Nakamura wrote on his social media handle, "Huge congrats to @DGukesh and all of India and Indians everywhere. What a stellar accomplishment!"

Nakamura also congratulated Anand for his contribution.

"@vishy64theking I had forgotten to wish you a Happy Birthday but I have a feeling your feet won't be touching the ground for a month. What you have done is without precedent."

Anand's birthday was on Wednesday.

It caps off a stunning year for Gukesh, who also won the Candidates 2024 tournament and the Chess Olympiad.

Japan adopts 4-day work week to combat declining birth rate

Agenceis

In a bold move to tackle its record-low fertility rate and improve work-life balance, Japan will introduce a nationwide four-day work week starting in April next year.

This policy aims to address the country's population crisis and reduce the strain of its demanding work culture.

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare reported that only 727,277 babies were born last year, with the fertility rate plummeting to 1.2 - far below the 2.1 rate needed to sustain a stable population. If this trend continues, Japan's population, which stood at 128 million in 2008, is projected to decline to 86.7 million by 2060.

Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike emphasized the urgency of this issue during a recent policy address. "Now is the time for Tokyo to take the initiative to protect and enhance the lives, livelihoods, and economy of our people during these challenging times for the nation," she said.

Japan's demanding work culture, exemplified by the term "karoshi" - which refers to death caused by overwork - is cited as a major factor behind the declining birth rate. The government's new four-day work week is designed to alleviate occupational stress and give families more time to focus on personal lives, including raising children.

Additionally, a separate policy will allow parents of elementary school-aged children to reduce their work hours with proportionate salary adjustments, offering further support for working families.

Japan's gender gap in workforce participation remains a significant barrier. According to a World Bank report, only 55% of women participate in the labour force compared to 72% of men. Many women are forced to choose between advancing their careers or starting a family, contributing to the nation's demographic challenges.

Studies have shown that a four-day work week enhances productivity and employee well-being, making the initiative a potential model for other nations. Nonprofit organisation 4 Day Week Global has conducted international trials with overwhelmingly positive outcomes, sparking interest in Western countries.

Japan is not alone in its struggle to address low fertility rates. Singapore has implemented flexible work guidelines to support families, while South Korea grapples with its own demographic crisis exacerbated by gender divides. In South Korea, the 48 movement - a pledge by women to avoid marriage, childbirth, and relationships with men - has highlighted the societal challenges contributing to declining birth rates.

US colleges warn foreign students to get to campus before Donald Trump takes office

Agenceis

With students at many colleges wrapping up final exams this week and preparing for their winter break, a number of schools, including Harvard University, University of Southern California and Cornell University, are advising their international students to return to campus before President-elect Donald Trump is inaugurated on Jan. 20.

During his last administration, Trump imposed restrictions on entry to the United States from seven majority-Muslim countries, a policy that stranded thousands of students who were abroad at the time. Later in his term, Trump added more countries to the restricted travel list. And he has spoken of wanting to reimpose those restrictions once he is back in the White House.

"A travel ban is likely to go into effect soon after inauguration," Cornell's Office of Global Learning warned students on its website late last month, advising them to be back in the United States before the start of spring-semester classes on Jan. 21. "The ban is likely to include citizens of the countries targeted in the first Trump administration: Kyrgyzstan, Nigeria, Myanmar, Sudan, Tanzania, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Syria, Venezuela, Yemen, and Somalia. New countries could be added to this list, particularly China and India."

Colleges are also warning all students to prepare for possible delays at the border and in the processing of paperwork.

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"Budget time ahead of the semester start, prior to the January Martin Luther King holiday," Harvard advised on its website for international students who have concerns.

The University of Massachusetts Amherst, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of Pennsylvania and Wesleyan University have issued comparable advisories and guidance. The advice is precautionary in nature, since the policies of the new administration remain uncertain.

Trump has said that he wanted to bring back or strengthen

some of the travel restrictions he imposed in his first term.

At an event in September with a Republican donor, Miriam Adelson, Trump said he would "seal our border and bring back the travel ban," apparently referring to his restrictions on travel from some majority-Muslim countries. He also said that he would "ban refugee resettlement from terror-infested areas like the Gaza Strip."

More than 1.1 million students from outside the United States were enrolled in American colleges and universities in the 2023-24 academic year, according to Open Doors, a data project partially funded by the U.S. State Department.

India was the most common place of origin for international students last year, followed by China; together, they accounted for more than half of all international students in the country. South Korea ranked third.

MIT bans magazine over Palestine essay; suspends student who wrote it

Agenceis

MIT recently suspended an Indian-origin research scholar for allegedly writing a pro-Palestine piece for a student journal in October, prompting an open letter by a group of the university's teachers with a call to "immediately reinstate Prahlad Iyengar's access to campus, with full rights".

According to sources, Prahlad Iyengar, a PhD candidate at MIT's Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, was prohibited from the college in November until January 2026.

Written Revolution, the publication that published Iyengar's essay, has also been banned by MIT. According to the sources, Iyengar held a five-year National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Indian Express reported. His suspension resulted from an essay titled "On Pacifism" that appeared in the student journal's October issue. On November 1, Iyengar was charged with policy infractions and banned from campus. Iyengar's lawyer, Eric Lee, released the PhD scholar's statement on X.

Iyengar said in his statement, "In the sanction letter sent by MIT's Division of Student Life on November 1, the administration accuses me of supporting "terrorism" because the edition of Written Revolution in which my article appeared includes images of posters from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). The letter reads: "The inclusion of symbolism from a U.S. designated terrorist organization containing violent imagery in a publication by an MIT-recognized student group is deeply concerning." The letter also says that my article "makes several troubling statements" about the history of violence and non-violence, including in anti-colonial movements of the mid 20th century. Referring to anonymous complaints filed by Zionist students, the letter says, "the reports MIT received indicated that these statements could be interpreted as a call for more violent or destructive forms of protest at MIT".

According to Iyengar's statement, MIT's Dean of Student Life, David Randall, also informed the editor of Written Revolution via email that "our publication is now officially banned and censored".

Meanwhile, in an open letter in the varsity's newsletter, the MIT Chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) endorsed Iyengar and asked for the institution to "immediately reinstate" his "access to campus, with full rights" "... and for his case to be heard in a fair, rules-based disciplinary process that is based on credible evidence and facts, and that is protected by principles of freedom of speech, expression, and due process," Sally Haslanger, President, MIT AAUP Chapter, and Erica James, Vice-President, said in the letter.

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