



**P3 CITY**

### 3.11 LAKH VISITORS THROGLED TULIP GARDEN IN 19 DAYS

Over three lakh visitors have visited the famous Tulip garden in Srinagar from March 23 to April 10 and the most of the guests were domestic tourists and locals.

**P5 ARE OUR MADARIS DOING ENOUGH?**

The word 'Madrasa' is an Arabic word for any educational institution whether secular or religious and whether a school, college, university. This concept is inherited from the Seljuk Turks. The Ottomans constructed



**P7 STATE**

### JAMMU RECORDS HOTTEST DAY OF SEASON AT 39.6 DEG CELSIUS

The mercury maintained an upward trend across Jammu and Kashmir with winter capital Jammu recording the season's hottest day on Monday at



**10<sup>TH</sup> RAMZAN**

Iftar TODAY	Sehri TOMMOROW
FIQAH HANAFIYA 7:02	4:38
FIQAH JAFARIYA 7:10	4:37

**Widom Quote!**

A good decision is based on knowledge and not on numbers

- Plato

**NEWS DIGEST**

**3 Hybrid Militants Held In Sopore: Police**  
SRINAGAR: Police on Monday claimed to have arrested three hybrid militants of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) in Sopore town of north Kashmir. Based on a specific information regarding movement of 3 suspected individuals from Wadoora Bala to Sonarwain **More on P6**

**ACB Arrests Patwari, Aide In Bribe Case**  
SRINAGAR: The anti-corruption bureau (ACB) on Monday arrested a revenue official and a former Patwari for demanding and accepting a bribe from a man for issuing revenue extracts. According to the spokesperson of the anti-graft **More on P6**

**PDD Worker Dies Of Electric Shock**  
SRINAGAR: A Power Development Department (PDD) employee died on Monday after receiving an electric shock in Pattan area of Baramulla district. 35-year-old Ghulam Rasool Wani was repairing a live wire on an electric pole in Khenpeth village of Singhpora in **More on P6**

**Youth Killed In Stone Quarry Accident**  
SRINAGAR: A 25-year-old labourer was killed and another injured when a portion of a stone quarry caved in at Kohistan Colony Safapora in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Monday. Official sources said that a portion of the stone quarry collapsed this afternoon, leading to on the spot death of labourer Khurshed Ahmad Larwal (25) son of Ghulam **More on P6**

**PAGE 1 ANCHOR**

## Employment Rate In J&K Dips To Five Year Low

Zaid Bin Shabir

Fresh Figures reveal that the Jammu and Kashmir's unemployment rate for the month of April this year was the worst in the past five years.

As per the data available, the unemployment rate (UR) in J&K has hit a new record with 25 percent unemployment in the first quarter of 2022. The latest UR has astronomically risen since last year and has touched

its worst value in 2022, when compared to the past five years.

Pertinently, the unemployment rate seems to be going towards poverty in J&K despite Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman's repeated assurances of a falling unemployment rate in J&K.

The CMIE, a private economic think-tank in India, in its latest monthly report for the month of April 2022 has estimated the unemployment rate for J&K at 25 percent,



which as per CMIE data, is the highest since 2016 when the unemployment rate was recorded at its worst—29.9 percent.

and 29.9 percent in November.

As per CMIE, since the start of this year, there has been an increase of 11.8 percent in the Unemployment rate. In the month of January, the data notes, J&K's UR stood at 15 percent. Though in the month of February it dipped down to 13.2 percent but in March the rate took an ugly turn and jumped to a grueling 25 percent.

However, the data has come at a time **More on P6**

## LG Launches Portal To Help 10000 Youth With Jobs

Observer News Service

The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Monday launched a portal that aims to provide over 10,000 job opportunities to the youth in the Union Territory in 2022. The dedicated portal of Mission Youth in collaboration with Vision India, to connect the

youth of J&K with the industry, was launched on Monday here, an official spokesperson said. The dedicated portal - AVSAR-Connect to Opportunities Initiative- has been provisioned to facilitate our youth with real-time information flow notifying students about pre-placement activities & job opportunities. All ITIs & other technical institutions in **More on P6**

**...KULGAM ENCOUNTER**

## 2 Militants Killed, 2 Cops Injured In Firefight

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two militants, including a Pakistani national on Monday were killed while two policemen injured in an encounter in south Kashmir's Kulgam district, police said Monday.

The encounter, according to officials, broke out on Monday evening when police, army and CRPF launched a joint cordon and search operation in Khurbatpora village of the district.

The militants hiding in the village, officials said, opened fire upon the search team when they made advances towards the suspected spot. The joint team, they said, returned the fire setting off an encounter. In the exchange of fire, the officials said, a Pakistani national and a

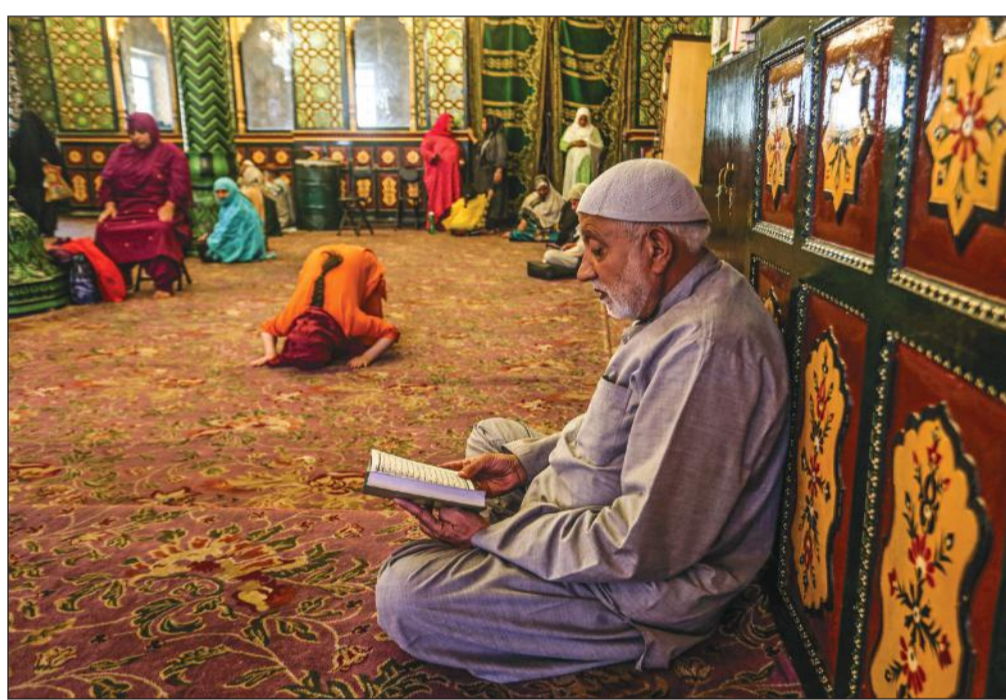
Hybrid militant were killed.

"#KulgamEncounterUpdate: One #Pakistani #terrorist (code name Chacha) & one #hybrid terrorist killed. 02 Police Personnel also injured. They are being evacuated to hospital. #Encounter going on," police posted on its official Twitter handle while quoting IGP Kashmir, Vijay Kumar.

A local news agency GNS quoted IGP as saying that the killed militant was the same group which had managed to escape last week following a brief firefight in the ChakiSamad area.

Three Pakistani militants have been killed in last two days, IGP added.

The killing of two militants in Kulgam comes **More on P6**



An elderly man reads the holy Quran inside the shrine of 11th century Sufi saint, Sheikh Syed Abdul Qadir Jeelani (RA), known as Dastgeer Sahib, on the ninth day of Ramazan in Srinagar on Monday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

## J&K Becomes Corona Free After 2 Years

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: For the first time in the last two years, Jammu and Kashmir registered no new cases or fatalities due to Coronavirus on Monday.

According to officials, no fresh cases of Covid-19 were detected in any of the 20 districts spread across the Union Territory. While the Valley reported 30 new cases on Sunday, the Jammu division remained Covid-19 free for the sixth straight day on Monday.

The Union Territory has only 79 active positive cases of Coronavirus— one in Jammu and 78 in the Kashmir Valley.

"Moreover, 13 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and **More on P6**

**Amarnath Yatra**

## Centre, J&K Expects Record Pilgrims This Year

Radio Frequency Identification Tags To Be Used To Track Yatris

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A senior Indian government official on Monday said that about eight lakh pilgrims are expected to attend annual Amarnath Yatra this year, and called for highlighting the achievements of the Centre and the Union Territory administration with respect to developmental work done in Jammu and Kashmir.

"There is a need to highlight



the various achievements of the Centre and UT Administration with respect to developmental work done in J&K. We need to amplify such positive stories about the region throughout the country," Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Apurva Chandra said here Monday. He made **More on P6**

## Registration For Annual Yatra Begins

The registration for the annual pilgrimage to the cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir commenced across the country on Monday with enthusiastic pilgrims making a beeline for designated bank branches to secure a permit for undertaking the journey. The 43-day yatra is scheduled to start on June 30 after the coronavirus pandemic enforced break of two years. The journey will **More on P6**

## 'We're Paying 40% Extra': Inflation Hits Ramazan Fervour In Kashmir

Zaid Bin Shabir

Azhar Malik would get busy preparing food kits for the needy families with the start of Ramazan in Kashmir, but the rising inflation this time around is giving him a hard time.

Along with his team members at Hyemath—the NGO he founded during Pandemic—this young Samaritan from Srinagar finds it hard to manage and distribute ration kits and iftar essentials among the underprivileged families.

"One can clearly see distress in Kashmir during this Ramazan," Azhar says. "The soaring food prices are only making it worse. A food kit worth Rs. 2300 last year now costs us Rs 3200."

The prices of daily use commodities including fuel, fruits, milk, meat, vegetables, cooking oil and dairy products have been rising dramatically since the start of the 30-day-long fasting period in the Muslim-majority region.

"Cooking oil has been priced at Rs.1200 from last year's Rs.900. Dates which used to cost us Rs.300 last year, have been priced at Rs. 600-800 this year. With such soaring prices, it's beyond imagination that a middle class family can purchase these essentials."

Azhar isn't alone feeling the heat of the inflation. Homemaker Shabnum is equally bearing the brunt of the blistering bazar.

"Inflation has dulled the usual Ramazan fervour in Kashmir this time around," Shabnum, a resident of Srinagar, said.

"Government should have at least stepped up in this holy month to check the market menace, but it seems hardly anyone cares about the public

welfare in Kashmir these days."

In the backdrop of the ire over inflation, Kashmir Observer did a quick market survey and found out that one dozen bananas, one kilogram melon, one kilogram of grapes are being sold from Rs.100-Rs.220, which many say are beyond a commoner's pocket strength.

Besides this, meat is being sold at Rs. 700 per kg at many places, while chicken has already touched Rs. 200 per kilogram.

"One kilogram of chili was Rs. 250 last year, but now the same costs us Rs. 320," says Saheem Ashraf Bhat, Co-founder Covid Resource, an NGO that has provided leads to distressed patients for oxygen cylinders in the second wave of Covid.



"There has been an approximate increase of Rs. 400 on essential items in this Ramazan." With the prices on essential items increasing unceasingly, many locals including Saheem

**GOVERNMENT SHOULD HAVE** at least stepped up in this holy month to check the market menace, but it seems hardly anyone cares about the public welfare in Kashmir these days."

salt-rice in Suhoor," claims Saheem with a distressed tone.

With the same dejected tone, Sameer Ahmed, a resident of Rajbagh, says that the price spike has made his monthly budget difficult. "Why isn't the government curbing these exorbitant hikes in the price of daily essentials," Sameer wonders.

"There has been a 50 percent increase in the price of cooking oil. Oil is the basic necessity but the way its price is soaring it looks as we've to stop consuming oil." Abdul Majeed, a retired teacher from Sopore, says that

the administration has failed to curb prices and act against the violators.

"We're paying 40% extra amount on essential items this year," he says. "And government is doing absolutely nothing about it."

However, admitting that an unruly inflation has dampened the spirit of Ramazan in Kashmir this year, Dr. Abdul Salam Mir, Director, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, told Kashmir Observer that the department has already started its drive against violators.

"The items that come from outside Kashmir like chili have a fixed rate, but when it comes to items like fruits, vegetables, chicken, and meat, **More on P6**

**SINCE THE PRICE HIKE,** many families in Kashmir are breaking fast with only a glass of water and eat salt-rice in Suhoor."



# Can Cancer Blood Tests Live Up To Promise Of Saving Lives?

Associated Press

Joyce Ares had just turned 74 and was feeling fine when she agreed to give a blood sample for research. So she was surprised when the screening test came back positive for signs of cancer.



After a repeat blood test, a PET scan and a needle biopsy, she was diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma.

I cried, the retired real estate broker said. Just a couple of tears and thought, OK, now what do we do? The Canby, Oregon, resident had volunteered to take a blood test that is being billed as a new frontier in cancer screening for healthy people. It looks for cancer by checking for DNA fragments shed by tumor cells.

Such blood tests, called liquid biopsies, are already used in patients with cancer to tailor their treatment and check to see if tumors come back.

Now, one company is promoting its blood test to people with no signs of cancer as a way to detect tumors in the pancreas, ovaries and other sites that have no recommended screening method.

It's an open question whether such cancer blood tests if added to routine care could improve Americans' health or help meet the White House's goal of cutting the cancer death rate in half over the next 25 years.

With advances in DNA sequencing and data science making the blood tests possible, California-based Grail and other companies are racing to commercialize them.

And U.S. government researchers are planning a large experiment possibly lasting seven years and with 200,000 participants to see if the blood tests can live up to the promise of catching more cancers earlier and saving lives.

They sound wonderful, but we don't have enough information, said Dr. Lori Minasian of the National Cancer Institute, who is involved in planning the research. We don't have definitive data that shows that they will reduce the risk of dying from cancer.

Grail is far ahead of other companies with 2,000 doctors willing to prescribe the \$949 test. Most insurance plans don't cover the cost. The tests are being marketed without endorsements from medical groups or a recommendation from U.S. health authorities.

Review by the Food and Drug Administration isn't required for this

type of test. For a drug, the FDA demands that there is a substantial high likelihood that the benefits not only are proven, but they outweigh the harms. That's not the case for devices like blood tests, said Dr. Barry Kramer of the Lisa Schwartz Foundation for Truth in Medicine.

Grail plans to seek approval from the FDA, but is marketing its test as it submits data to the agency. The history of cancer screening has taught caution. In 2004, Japan halted mass screening of infants for a childhood cancer after studies found it didn't save lives.

Last year, a 16-year study in 200,000 women in the United Kingdom found regular screening for ovarian cancer didn't make any difference in deaths.

Cases like these have uncovered some surprises: Screening finds some cancers that don't need to be cured. The flip side? Many dan-

gerous cancers grow so fast they elude screening and prove deadly anyway.

And screening can do more harm than good. Anxiety from false positives. Unnecessary costs. And serious side effects from cancer care: PSA tests for men can lead to treatment complications such as incontinence or impotence, even when some slow-growing prostate cancers would never have caused trouble.

The evidence is strongest for screening tests for cancers of the breast, cervix and colon. For some smokers, lung cancer screening is recommended.

The recommended tests mammography, PAP tests, colonoscopy look for one cancer at a time. The new blood tests look for many cancers at once. That's an advantage, according to Grail executive Dr. Joshua Ofman.

We screen for four or five cancers in this country, but (many) cancer deaths are coming from cancers that we're not looking for at all, Ofman said.

Dr. Tomasz Beer of Oregon Health & Science University in Portland led the company-sponsored study that Joyce Ares joined in 2020.

After a miserable winter of chemotherapy and radiation, doctors told her the treatment was a success.

Her case isn't an outlier, "but it is the sort of hoped-for ideal outcome, and not everyone is going to have that, Beer said. While there were other early cancers detected among study par-

ticipants, some had less clear-cut experiences. For some, blood tests led to scans that never located a cancer, which could mean the result was a false positive, or it could mean there's a mystery cancer that will show up later. For others, blood tests detected cancer that turned out to be advanced and aggressive, Beer said. One older participant with a bad case declined treatment.

Grail continues to update its test as it learns from these studies, and is sponsoring a trial with Britain's National Health Service in 140,000 people to see if the blood test can reduce the number of cancers caught in late stages.

Although Ares feels lucky, it's impossible to know whether her test added healthy years to her life or made no real difference, said Kramer, former director of the National Cancer Institute's Division of Cancer Prevention.

I sincerely hope that Joyce benefited from having this test, Kramer said when told of her experience. But unfortunately, we can't know, at the individual Joyce level, whether that's the case."

Cancer treatments can have long-term side effects, he said, "and we don't know how fast the tumor would have grown. Treatment for Hodgkin lymphoma is so effective that delaying therapy until she felt symptoms might have achieved the same happy outcome.

For now, health experts stress the Grail blood test is not a cancer diagnosis; a positive result triggers further scans and biopsies.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my driving license bearing DL No: JK0320110021463 As Manzoor Ahmad Bhat S/o Ghulam Rasool Bhat While my correct name is Manzoor Ahmad Bhat Son in Law of Ghulam Rasool Sheikh which need to be rectified. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Anantnag within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

Manzoor Ahmad Bhat Son in Law of Ghulam Rasool Sheikh  
R/o Badagam Boru Anantnag rna

## بجلی کنکشن کی تبدیلی

بجلی کنکشن زیر کٹز یومر آئی ڈی نمبر 0202020015057 اور زیوریشن نمبر 1493-R-1 جو کہ میرے بیٹے فیاض احمد ڈار ولد غلام محمد ڈار ساکنہ مومن آباد بڈہ مالوسرینگر کے نام پر درج ہے کو اپنے نام پر درج کرانا چاہتا ہوں۔ اس سلسلے میں اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذریا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات یوم کے اندر اندر اپنے اعتراضات منجملہ پی ڈی ڈی کے سب ڈویژن حضوری باغ کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ معیار گذرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی عذر قابل غور نہ ہوگا۔

غلام محمد ڈار ولد مرحوم غلام قادر ڈار

ساکنہ مومن آباد بڈہ مالوسرینگر inf

## Public Notice

My name has been wrongly written in school records as Faizan Hameed instead of Faizan Hamid which needs to be rectified. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Islamia Model School Ganastan within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Faizan Hamid  
S/O Abdul Hamid Magray bmg  
R/O Ganastan Sumbal Sonawari Bandipora

## The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

### BRANCH OFFICE MAGAM

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10th under Below mentioned particulars  
Name : Javid Ahmad Malla  
S/o Gh Mohammad Malla  
R/o Hardu Malapora



**Details of Marks Certificate lost**  
Secondary School Examination (class 10th )  
Roll No : 2421484 Session /Year 2020

Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is treated as cancelled.

Sd/ Assistant Secretary  
Sub Office Magam bmg

## The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

### BRANCH OFFICE MAGAM

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10th under Below mentioned particulars  
Name : Sayima Akther  
Parentage Ghulam Moh Din Malla  
R/o Uchlipora



**Details of Marks Certificate lost**  
Secondary School Examination (class 10th )  
Roll No : 2422428 Session /Year Annual / Pvt. 2019-2020

Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is treated as cancelled.

Sd/ Assistant Secretary  
Sub Office Magam bmg

## CLOTHING & HOME APPLIANCES

### YARDIMCI MULTI-VENTURE

Deals with clothing and home appliances at whole sale rates.

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G-mail- yardimciunique92@gmail.com  
I.G: yardimci\_multi\_venture  
F.B: yardimci multiVenture

## ELECTRONICS

### 10X MOBILE STORE

All types of Mobile and Mobile Accessories

Main Market Sannat Nagar Srinagar  
Contact:-7889657769

## TECH WORLD

All Mobile and Electronic Accessories Xerox also available.



Sannat Nagar Srinagar

Contact:-9149965005/ 9682370979

## Sad Demise



We are deeply saddened to inform that Haji Firdous Ahmad Khan S/O Late Haji Abdul Aziz Khan R/O Khanda Bhawan, Nawakadal, Srinagar left for heavenly abode during the intervening night of 10th-11th April 2022 after a brief illness. In this regard, the Rasm-e-Chahrum will be held on 14th April 2022 at 10 AM Insha Allah at their ancestral graveyard at Mulla Mohammad Hafiz Basri, Khanda Bhawan, Nawakadal, Srinagar.

Bereaved Khan Family  
9419518606 ikm

## THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION BRANCH OFFICE DORU

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The candidate whose photograph is published in the daily newspaper is claiming to have lost his original marks card of class 10th issued by board of school education with the following particulars.

NAME:- SHABIR AHMAD KHATANA  
PARANTAGE:- ABDUL GANI KHATANA  
MOTHERS NAME :- SAYIRA BEGUM  
R/O:- PACHGAM KUND  
ROLL NO :- 1174477  
SESSION BI ANNUAL YEAR 2019-2020



Now the candidate has applied for its duplicate Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before the office of the undersigned within seven days (07) from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card of the candidates is treated as cancelled.

Sd/= Officer Incharge  
Branch Office Doru rna

## THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION BRANCH OFFICE DORU

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The candidate whose photograph is published in the daily newspaper is claiming to have lost his original marks card of class 10th issued by board of school education with the following particulars.

NAME:- MANZOOR AHMAD KHATANA  
PARANTAGE:- ABDUL GANI KHATANA  
MOTHERS NAME :- SAYIRA BEGUM  
R/O:- PACHGAM KUND  
ROLL NO :- 11746449  
SESSION BI ANNUAL YEAR 2020-2021



Now the candidate has applied for its duplicate Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before the office of the undersigned within seven days (07) from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card of the candidates is treated as cancelled.

Sd/= Officer Incharge  
Branch Office Doru rna

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI WATER SUPPLY MASTER PLAN DIVISION.

### TENDER NOTICE

Short E- NIT No.02/WSMP of 04-2021, dated 09/04/2022

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, J&K Union Territory e-tenders (In Single Cover System) are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Union Territory Govt. for the following Works.

S. No	Name of Work	Ceiling (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc (In Rupees)	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account
01	RESTORATION OF VARIOUS LEAKAGES IN 100MM,200MM AND 80MM DIA G.J PIPELINES AT VARIOUS SPOTS OF BEMINA HAMDANIYA COLONY AND SHALTENG (UNDER M AND R).	Rs. 2.08 Lacs	Rs.100.00	DEE	2215 Under M&R
02	SHIFTING OF WATER SUPPLY PIPE BY WAY OF PROVIDING, LAYING AND FITTING OF 50MM PIPELINE AT MOONINABAD AT LANE NO.14. (UNDER DEPOSIT CONTRIBUTION HEAD)	Rs.2.27 Lacs	Rs.150.00	DEE	8443 Deposit contribution

S.No.	Description	Date	Time
1	Publishing date of NIT	DD 09 MM 04 YYYY 2022	1000 Hrs.
2	Download start date	09 04 2022	1000 Hrs.
3	Bid submission start date	09 04 2022	1000 Hrs.
4	Bid submission end date	15 04 2022	1600 Hrs.
5	Bid opening date	16 04 2022	1400 Hrs.

Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "download bids 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 (ktenders.gov.in) to acquaint vendors. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital signature. The cost of tender document shall be deposited in the Treasury under MHO215PHE in favour of EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, JAL Shakti WSMP Division Srinagar. (Name of work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt). All Bidders has to submit Bid Security Declaration form instead of Earnest money as per the circular of Finance Department vide No. A/ Misc(2018)-III-895/J dated 22-12-2020 (Bid Security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below) The 1st Lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG within 02 Days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work. Besides above the bidder should also upload the following documents from "My Document" area required under "Other Important Documents" (OID)

- Scanned copy of Valid Registration Card.
  - Scanned copy of GST Registration/PAN.
  - Scanned copy of Latest GST Return.
  - Scanned copy of Bid Declaration Form with seal and signature.
- Any other information can be obtained from the office of the undersigned on any working day during office hours.
  - All other terms and conditions will remain same as laid down in PWD form No.25-double.
  - The Restoration of damage has to be carried after seeking proper permission from Executive Engineer on the endorsement of damage report submitted by the concerned AEE.
  - The photograph of damaged spot has to be submitted clicked with camera showing proper geographical position of the damaged spot. The photographic evidence shall be of prior restoration / during restoration and after restoration no additional amount shall be paid on account of photography

NO: WSMP/CC/190-223  
Dated:- 09-04-2022

DIPK-358/22

Sd/- Executive Engineer,  
Jal Shakti WSMP Division Srinagar.

## Union MoS Social Justice Visits CRC, Distributes Aid

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Abbaiah Narayanaswamy, on Monday visited Composite Regional Centre (CRC), Bemina, Srinagar to take stock of services being provided to persons with disabilities.

On the occasion, MoS distributed hearing aids, crutches, wheel chairs, smart canes and other equipment among the beneficiaries.

During the visit, he inspected various departments and blocks including physiotherapy, psychology, prosthetics, orthotics, speech and hearing blocks. He interacted with the patients and beneficiaries to enquire about services being provided to them at the Centre.

MoS also reviewed overall functioning of the Centre and emphasized successful implementation of ADIP scheme and other rehabilitation schemes in the Valley. He directed the officers to ensure job oriented courses for the students.

Stressing on rehabilitation and empowerment of persons with disabilities, MoS said that the objective of the government is to build an inclusive society in which equal opportunities are provided for growth and development of Persons with Disabilities so that they can lead productive and dignified lives.

Abbaiah Narayanaswamy further said that the government has taken many initiatives to empower Persons with Disabilities to create an enabling environment that provides such persons with equal opportunities.

MoS assured that the Union Government shall provide all possible support and facilities to ensure better services are made available to the beneficiaries at CRC Bemina.

DG Social Welfare Kashmir, Shabnam Kamili, Director Deendayal Upadhyaya National Institute for Persons with Physical Disabilities, New Delhi, Dr Himangshu Das, Director CRC Bemina, Dr Zafar Iqbal and others were present on the occasion.

## Mass Covid Testing Held At NIT, No Positive Case Detected

Agencies

Srinagar: The National Institute of Technology Srinagar in collaboration with the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK) Monday organized a mass testing drive for all employees and students to contain further spread of infection on the campus.

In-charge Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. MF Wani, and Registrar Prof. Syed Kaiser Bukhari inspected the testing site.

Prof. Wani said in view of Covid19 cases reported, a special testing drive was held for students and employees in the Institute.

"We ensure that all COVID19 precautionary measures should be adhered to, so that there will be no risk of spreading infection at the campus," he said.

Institute's Registrar Prof. Bukhari appreciated the joint efforts put by DHSK, District administration, local Police, and volunteers for their timely support and coordination.

"During the testing drive, no positive case was reported by the joint health teams on the campus, while students who were recently infected have been isolated till their RT-PCR test results would arrive," he said.

Prof. Bukhari said as they will ensure that all COVID19 SoPs would be adhered to, so that there will be no risk of further spread of infection.

As a precautionary measure, wearing disposable masks is mandatory for all persons entering the NIT campus," he added.



## 3.11 Lakh Visitors Thronged Tulip Garden In 19 Days

Agencies

Srinagar: Over three lakh visitors have visited the famous Tulip garden in Srinagar from March 23 to April 10 and the most of the guests were domestic tourists and locals.

The number of foreign visitors was miniscule as only 92 foreign tourists showed up in the famed garden where 1.5 million Tulips and Daffodils were on a display to mesmerize the visitors.

Tulip garden in-charge Sofi Inam-ur-Rehman said that from March 23 to April 10, 3.11 lakh tourists and locals visited the garden. "Among the guests were 92 foreigners also," he said.

He said that this time around, 1.5 million flowers including Tulips and Daffodils besides other varieties were in full bloom in the garden giving a breathtaking view to every visitor. Asked how long the garden would remain open, Rehman

said that it depends on the temperature. "Let see how temperature behaves and accordingly the call will be taken," Rehman said. The sprawling garden spread over 30 acres of land is Asia's largest Tulip garden in the world.

The garden was inaugurated in 2004 after which it gradually became a major tourist attraction for the tourists, both domestic as well as foreigners. However, due to the pandemic, the

garden saw less arrivals of guests in 2020 and 2021. As per the officials, this year, 80,000 more people, especially tourists have visited Tulip garden compared to previous year.

This year, the tourism department had put on display the famous Kashmiri cuisine including Wazwan and Kehwa along with various varieties of Kashmiri bread. Various cultural shows were also organized in the garden. (KNO)

## DAY 3 Cleanliness Drive To De-Weed Dal Lake In Full Swing

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The cleanliness drive Dal Lake continued for the third day on Monday under the name 'Athwaas'. The drive was kicked-off by Lt. Governor on 9th April, 2022.

The drive was started by Vice Chancellor (V.C) SKUAST, Nazir Ahmad Ganai by removing the weed from the Dal Lake.

Students from SP College and ex-servicemen from Defence forces also took part in the drive.

The VC on the occasion appreciated the students and also appraised the work-



ing of LCMA. He said that 60 students from their university on a daily basis will participate in the drive. He also said that students from all the universities of Kashmir should come forward for the said purpose so that we all can make it possible to restore the glory of Dal Lake.

Meanwhile, a special demolition drive was launched by the Lake Conservation & Management Authority through its Enforcement Wing today under the supervision of Enforcement Officers in the areas of Rakh-i-Arth Bemina.

### Public Notice

I have lost my passport bearing No: S1168840. Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the Passport office Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.



Ali Mohammad kaboo

mtz ko

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For and on behalf of Vice Chancellor, Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora, J&K State, E-Tenders (in Two cover system) are invited on percentage basis, from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt. / CPWD / Railways or other State / Central Govt. Departments for the following work.

Name of the work	ENIT No & Date	Advertised Cost of Construction	Class of Contract
Construction of Aluminium Partition work in various buildings at IUST Campus.	E-NIT No: - IUST/EW/22/TEND/AP/06A Dated: - 08-04-2022	Rs. 30,15,849.00/=	Class "B"
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Construction of Toe Wall, Earth Filling, Drainage, Security Hut and Gate at Hostel Block Chrar-i-Sherief.	E-NIT No: - IUST/EW/22/TEND/WHC/07 A Dated: - 08-04-2022	Rs. 35,73,981.00/=	Class "B"
Shifting of 630KVA Substation along with Control Room and all allied material to the Receiving Station IUST.	E-NIT No: - IUST/EW/ELE/22/TEND/SS/0 1-A. Dated:08-04-2022	Rs. 12,56,000.00/=	Class "A"

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

Document Download Start Date	09-04-2022
Bid submission Start Date	09-04-2022
Bid submission End Date	16-04-2022 Up to 6:00 Pm
Date of Submission of DD (Hard Copy)	18-04-2022 From 10:00 Am Up to 4:00 Pm

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### HIGHWAY STATUS

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

## HIJRI CALENDAR

10 Ramazan  
1443

PRAYERS	
FAJR	4: 38
ZUHR	12:32
ASR	5:09
Magrib	7:02
ISHA	8: 27

### This Day In History

- 1648 - University of Harderwijk Neth solemn opens
- 1654 - Ordinance of Union between England and Scotland passed by the Council of State
- 1713 - Dutch State-Gen signs peace with France: Netherlands loses Orange Princedom
- 1770 - British parliament repeals the Townshend Revenue Acts, which had fueled opposition to British rule in colonial America
- 1776 - Halifax resolution for independence adopted by North Carolina/1787 - Philadelphia's Free African Society forms
- 1783 - Tipu Sahib drives out British from Bednore, India
- 1869 - Hudson Bay Company cedes its territory to Canada
- 1811 - 1st US colonists on Pacific coast arrive at Cape Disappointment, Washington
- 1820 - Alexander Ypsilantis is declared leader of Filiki Eteria, a secret organization to overthrow Ottoman rule over Greece.
- 1826 - Weber's opera "Oberon" premieres in London
- 1844 - Texan envoys sign Treaty of Annexation with the United States
- 1857 - Gustave Flaubert's "Madame Bovary" published
- 1858 - 1st US billiards championship, Michael J Phelan wins in Detroit
- 1859 - Hibernia Savings & Loan Society of San Francisco incorporates
- 1861 - Fort Sumter in South Carolina is attacked by the Confederacy, beginning the American Civil War
- 1862 - James Andrews steals Confederate train (General) at Kennesaw, Georgia
- 1862 - Union troops occupy Fort Pulaski, Georgia
- 1863 -14] Gunboat battle at Bayou Teche, Louisiana
- 1928 - Turkey passes separation of church & state
- 1940 - Germany invades Norway & Denmark during WW II (Denmark surrenders).
- 1942 - Battle of Bataan; US-Filipino forces overwhelmed by Japanese at Bataan.
- 1945 - World War II: The Battle of Königsberg, East Prussia, ends.
- 1949 - UN Intl Court of Justice held Albania responsible for incidents in Corfu Channel & awards Britain damages
- 1957 - Suez Canal cleared for all shipping
- 1959 - NASA names 1st 7 astronauts for Project Mercury.
- 1963 - Winston Churchill becomes 1st honorary US citizen
- 1967 - The first Boeing 737 (a 100 series) makes its maiden flight.
- 1972 - USSR & Iraq sign friendship treaty
- 1973 - Netherlands recognizes North Vietnam
- 1975 - 24 OECD members sign an agreement to establish a \$25 billion lending facility to provide assistance to industrial nations hurt by high oil prices
- 1976 - US & Russia agreed on size of nuclear tests for peaceful use

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inf

### From KO Archives

## 'I lived Like Fish Without Water For 57 Years'

*Kashmiri's Wait To Visit Father's Grave Ends*

LAWASI (MUZAFFARABAD) - Raja Naseeruddin was just three years when his father died in a traffic accident. On Friday, 59 years later, he saw his father's grave for the first time.

Naseeruddin was one of 19 Indian Kashmiris who travelled to Pakistan-controlled Kashmir by bus on Thursday, the first to run across the heavily fortified military line dividing Kashmir in nearly 60 years.

"How can I express myself? I simply don't know how," said a tearful Naseer after offering prayers at his father's simple grave in the mountain village of Lawasi.

"I don't remember my father, I was too young when he died," he said. "Now, at least I feel relief to have visited his grave. I want to come here again."

Naseer's family, like so many others, was split apart by the Line of Control drawn across the scenic valleys of Kashmir.

After his father was killed in 1946 near Muzaffarabad his mother took him to live with relatives near Srinagar.

A year later, with the armies of newly independent Pakistan and India were battling over Kashmir, Naseer was unable to return to his home Village — and so it was until this week.

"Returning to my land, I feel like a fish being thrown back into water," he said.

(Kashmir Observer, 12 April, 2005)

KASHMIR  
OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

## Wait for polls

This year Kashmir is expected to go to the polls. That is if the delimitation commission completes its exercise within the next few weeks as it is expected to do. The Delimitation Commission will be submitting its report on May 6 after which summary revision of Electoral Rolls will be taken up by the Election Commission while all aspects of the situation including security will be reviewed before taking a call on the conduct of Assembly elections in the union territory.

Headed by Retired Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai and comprising Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sushil Chandra and State Election Commissioner (SEC) KK Sharma, the Commission was established on March 6, 2020 with a one-year term which was extended by another year. While the term was due to expire on March 6, 2022, it was granted two months extension. The Commission is unlikely to get another extension.

And if the elections are held later this year or early next year and a UT government is formed, the focus will shift to the restoration of statehood. One takeaway from the recent victory of the BJP in four out of five state elections in the country is that there will be a policy continuity in Kashmir. More so, the victory for the BJP in Uttar Pradesh which has almost ensured that the party is here to stay and is set to win in the 2024 general elections. So people in Kashmir don't see any material change in the centre's policy towards the union territory.

Kashmir has been without an elected government since June 2018. And after the revocation of Article 370 in August 2019, the state turned union territory came under the rule of the Lieutenant Governor. Two and a half years on, there is little indication that an elected government would be in place any time soon.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah had recently stated that Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir will be held within six to eight months after the completion of the delimitation exercise. However, Prime Minister Narendra Modi led government is prioritizing the achievement of its broader objectives in Kashmir before restoring the statehood. And to this objective, it will ideally want a government that doesn't differ starkly from the BJP's policy on the troubled state.

An ideal arrangement from the centre's point of view would be a government dominated by the BJP, whose chances following the delimitation of seats look brighter. Or, at least, a government of the party or parties which have reconciled to the loss of the autonomy as a fait accompli. And such a scenario looks very much possible. But Jammu and Kashmir has always been very unpredictable place. As of now, people would want elections to be held soon so that a local government is in place and they have access to their representatives.

O T H E R O P I N I O N

## Look north: US-Nepal pact

Ever since India imposed the blockade on Nepal in 2015 to support the Madhesi groups' claim to ratify the then Constitution to give them equal representation in Parliament, successive governments in Nepal have been miffed at India. This grievance prompted Nepal to enter China's Belt and Road Initiative and increase economic and political ties with Beijing. That the Chinese ambassador in Nepal had to try and intervene to resolve the intra-party feud among the communists in 2020 bears proof of Beijing's deepening influence in Nepal. Nepal's ties with India have simultaneously deteriorated to the point that Kathmandu is contesting India's sovereignty by arguing that three districts in Uttarakhand are Nepalese territory. The political protests spearheaded by Nepal's communist-Leninist parties have covert Chinese support. Nepal's government had signed the treaty despite opposition from Beijing. Therefore, the China factor in these 'popular sentiments' cannot be underestimated.

The protests need to be examined through the prism of Indo-Nepal ties as well. India has high stakes in Nepal not only from the strategic point of view but also the civilizational perspective. Despite the present friction, New Delhi has a relationship with Kathmandu along a porous border.

India must not underestimate China's influence in Nepal. Beijing's robust geopolitical position is facilitating a diplomatic and ideological indoctrination of Nepal's political and financial elites. Notwithstanding its deep cultural and ethnic ties with the Nepalese people, the scale of India's economic involvement cannot be compared to that of China's. If India is to bolster its influence in the Himalayan country, then it must emphasize on increasing its economic footprint in Nepal, especially in infrastructure, renewable energy and information technology.

The age of empires is long over. New Delhi must not take its neighbours for granted — the reason why India has seen its influence wane in the South Asian neighbourhood. New Delhi must remember that its economic and military hegemony in South Asia does not mean it is the primus inter pares of the region. India must therefore treat its neighbours as equal and sovereign partners.

The course of events in Nepal points to the Great Game between Washington and Beijing but it has deeper implications for New Delhi. India must follow the events carefully while maintaining a calculated diplomatic posture.

Telegraph India

# The Queen on Deathbed

Hokersar wetland is constantly encroached. District Adm Budgam hasn't acted on NGT's advise to utilize funds under Rural Waste Management programme

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

Once known as the Queen of Wetlands, due to its great ecological value, Hokersar is on the deathbed. This wetland, spread around large parts of Srinagar and Budgam districts, continues to be encroached and choked with solid and liquid waste. Hokersar, also called Hokera under Ramsar Convention has been an important refuge for many kinds of shorebirds, waterfowls and trans-Himalayan species during winters. It has been one of the major flood basins of Kashmir. However, due to constant human intervention and urbanisation, Hokersar is being pushed towards destruction.

Some years back, a study carried out by the Department of Earth Sciences, Kashmir University revealed that Hokersar was being destroyed by people for their own benefits and Govt's apathy was also responsible for its continuous degradation.

The wetland, according to various authentic reports, was spread over an area of 18.75 Square Kilometres in 1969. This has shrunk to 12 square kilometres as on date. In addition to illegal encroachment, Hokersar continues to be used as a garbage dump site by the local population from Hajibagh to Soibugh and areas around HMT Zainakot. Mounds of waste can be seen scattered around this wetland and other wetlands especially the Wular lake. Infact, Wular lake has been used as a garbage dumping site by several municipal institutions for many years and even now this practice continues in many areas of Bandipora and Hajin.

### NGT's April 2019 Order

NGT, in its April 2019 order, had directed for the constitution of a joint committee of J&K Pollution Control Board (PCB), Wildlife Department and Deputy Commissioners of Budgam, Bandipora and Pulwama to look into illegal encroachments and dumping of municipal solid waste in Wullar, Hokersar and Kreentchu Chandhara wetlands in Pampore.

The NGT's three member Principal bench headed by Justice A K Goel issued the notice after this author moved a petition through my counsel Advocate Rahul Chowdhary who prayed before the NGT that authorities be commanded to stop illegal encroachment and unscientific waste dumping in Hokersar, Wullar and Kreentchu Chandhara wetlands.

Advocate Rahul Chowdhary argued before the three member NGT bench that some municipal authorities, local residents and Govt institutions were dumping municipal solid waste in Wullar and Hokersar wetlands respectively. In addition, a full bench of NGT was apprised that Kreentchu Chandhara wetland in Pampore was being earth filled at many places on National Highway at Gallander (NH 44) where an irrigation canal was converted into a road.

The Municipal Committee Bandipora had been dumping municipal solid waste in Wullar lake at Nussu Zalwan area for many years. The Wullar Conservation and Management Authority (WUCMA) was a mute spectator to this illegal activity in spite of providing 1.30 crore rupees to the municipality for scientific waste disposal several years back.

In Hokersar, solid waste is being lifted from HMT and Parimpore fruit mandi and dumped in Hokersar around Haji Bagh area on Soibugh road in Budgam. NGT's principal bench sought a report from PCB, Wildlife department and Deputy Commissioners of Budgam.

### NGT's August 2020 order

After more than a year, yet another order was passed by NGT to utilize the money available under Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin (SBM-G) to undertake waste management in rural areas of Budgam which are located around Hokersar. I had suggested this to NGT as the Wildlife Conservation Department had no funds available for waste management.

The NGT directed Divisional Commissioner Kashmir to consider my suggestions regarding utilisation of funds available under Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin (SBM-Gramin) so that solid waste management could be taken up in Kashmir's wetlands on a regular basis. NGT's principal bench's order dated 27th August 2020 further said that suggestions be duly considered and acted upon to the extent found viable.

Even as there are enough funds available under Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin (SBM G) for waste management under ODF-Plus programme, the money is not being utilized. The information provided under RTI Act 2005 by District Panchayat Officer Budgam last year revealed that



NGT, in its April 2019 order, had directed for the constitution of a joint committee of J&K Pollution Control Board (PCB), Wildlife Department and Deputy Commissioners of Budgam, Bandipora and Pulwama to look into illegal encroachments and dumping of municipal solid waste in Wullar, Hokersar and Kreentchu Chandhara wetlands in Pampore.

not a single penny was utilised in Budgam district on Rural Waste management while the Govt of India had provided more than 100 Crores to Directorate of Rural Sanitation which is the nodal agency under SBM Gramin in J&K.

### NGT's August 27th 2020 order reads:

"Let further action be taken by the joint Committee headed by the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir. The above suggestions be duly considered and acted upon, to the extent found viable. We also direct that the National Wetlands Committee may compile data of status of compliance of environmental norms in respect of all significant wetlands in the country to ensure remedial action. The State PCBs/ PCCs and State/UT Wetland Authorities in India may give the status of management of wetlands in their respective States to the Secretary, MoEF&CC within three months. On that basis a joint Committee of the Secretary and Chairman CPCB may give a consolidated report to this Tribunal before the next date by e-mail at judicialngt@gov.in preferably in the form of searchable PDF/ OCR Support PDF and not in the form of Image PDF"

Again, the Government, especially District Administration Budgam failed to utilize these funds in Soibug block where several villages dump their waste near Hokersar wetland area.

### Personal Appearance of CS

Taking non-compliance of NGT's order seriously, the tribunal in July 2021 directed the Chief Secretary to appear personally before the Tribunal during the next date of hearing. On Nov 28th 2021, the Chief Secretary J&K, Dr A K Mehta appeared before the NGT Panel. The tribunal directed the Chief Secretary to consider my suggestion that local preachers, NGOs, theatre groups and religious leaders be involved in creating awareness on the conservation of wetlands.

Advocate Saurabh Sharma who had appeared on my behalf told the NGT that Govt of J&K had not acted upon the previous orders and advisories of the tribunal as only paperwork was being done and wetlands like Wullar, Hokersar, in particular, were being encroached and polluted by solid/liquid waste dumping.

During the hearing, several suggestions were put forward before the NGT principal bench by my counsel Saurabh Sharma which included the holding of monthly meetings on Waste Management in Wetland areas by Regional Wildlife Warden Kashmir Wildlife Department, Mission Director SBM Gramin (Rural Sanitation Deptt)

J&K and Director ULB (Urban Local Bodies). It was also suggested that Chairpersons of District Development Councils (DDCs) Budgam, Bandipora & Pulwama and Principal Secretary Rural Development J&K Govt be taken on board while executing Solid and Liquid Waste Management Programmes in Wetland villages/areas.

"As regards the suggestions of the applicant, the same may be duly considered by the Chief Secretary, J&K, to the extent not already considered," the bench said.

### Conclusion

In spite of the personal appearance of the Chief Secretary and multiple assurances given to NGT by J&K Government that encroachments would be stopped and waste management programmes will be undertaken by local District Administration, the deliverables from the end of the District Administration Budgam, have been disappointing to say the least.

It was only after the Chief Secretary visited Budgam a few months back and expressed his displeasure over unscientific waste disposal in the town and surrounding area that Deputy Commissioner Budgam ordered the cleaning of all villages.

Ironically, the Rural Development Department, instead of collecting the waste in rural areas is burying the same under soil and muck. The District Development Council members of Chairpersons have not been taken onboard by Govt to manage waste in rural areas. The District Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin committees are yet to be constituted. On this Sunday, I along with noted NGT Lawyers Ritwick Dutta and Rahul Chowdhary who are the recipients of Right Livelihood Award 2021 visited Hokersar. The wetland continues to be polluted and encroached and no action is being taken to remove the illegal encroachments by administration. The local bird watchers Reyan Sofi and group whom we met are feeling suffocated. The Wildlife Department is trying its bit but they need more Govt support. Illegal encroachment and earth filling around Abanshah, Haji Bagh and Soibugh continues which needs immediate action.

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

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is a Srinagar based activist and columnist. He is an Anant Fellow for Climate Action



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## A Reader's Editor

For years, media organizations in India have come under increasing criticism for not being transparent and accountable even though they demand these qualities from the Legislature, Executive and Judiciary – the Separation of Powers that govern the Union government.

Such a criticism directed towards print media outlets, especially the

newspapers, is justified, given the fact that most of the Indian dailies function without the role of a Readers' Editor, who is potentially important and an effective element in a larger framework of self-regulation. As an ombudsman, the role of a Reader's Editor adds a new layer of transparency to the editorial functioning of a newspaper, since he/she plays a subtle link between the readers and

the editorial team. When a news organization commits to an independent public editor, it makes a strong statement about its commitment to trustworthy journalism. Print media is the main vehicle through which citizens can exercise their constitutional rights to receive truthful information. And this is where the role of a Readers' Editor assumes greater significance, which helps to improve

the quality of news and information. A thriving democracy requires an informed public. And the need of a Readers' Editor for a newspaper was born out of this sense of social responsibility. Hence, news organizations should not only restore the position of Ombudsman, but also broaden it.

RANGANATHAN SIVAKUMAR  
siva19kumar@gmail.com

# Quality Over Quantity: Re-Learning the Meaning of My Ramadan

“ Even after doing all this, I still didn't understand the meaning of the words of Allah nor did I feel the spiritual uplifting or mental peace which comes with Ramadan. In the midst of this race, I had lost the true meaning of Ramadan



MARIUM ABID

I was twelve years old when I apparently committed a sin during Ramadan; I prayed eight rakaats of Taraweeh instead of twenty. Young and eager to resume eating and relaxing after fasting, I prayed the shorter version followed by the witr prayer. Proud of my cheeky shortcut, I quietly folded my prayer mat and tried to sneak out of the room. My aunt who had seen the whole spectacle called from behind, “What do you think you are doing and

how did you finish your Taraweeh so quickly?” As you can already imagine, what followed was a bout of scolding about how I won't be getting any rewards for the prayers because I cut them short to enjoy food and how I'm disrespecting the gift of Ramadan. At this point, I was of course crying from embarrassment of being scolded in front of everyone instead of being ashamed for not praying all the twenty rakaats of Taraweeh. To this day, I'm still scared to pray only eight rakaats. Even when I pray eight

rakaats in a congregation, I feel like I have cheated somehow and would make up for it by doing other forms of ibadaah. That one episode of not praying enough rakaats has stayed with me for a long time and for years, I would be in this race; pray all the nafls, do all the dhikr, pray all the taraweeh, finish two Qurans and so on. Although, I would be able to successfully tick most of these off at the end of every Ramadan, I would never, however, come out of Ramadan feeling content. The meaning of the Quran and the Ibadah I was do-

ing would still be a stranger to me even after spending a month engrossed in the ibadah. What I learnt then was to invest my time on the quality of my ibadah rather than the quantity. It is a very common behaviour embedded in us since early childhood to focus on the quantity of the worship as opposed to its quality. We are always in a race, in all aspects of life. Who posts the most on social media, who has the most likes, who has the biggest house etc and in Ramadan, this

race intensifies. Who finishes the highest number of Quran, who does the most charity, who sends out the most iftars, how many dishes are you making for an iftar and oh boy, if you have made only one dish then you're already out of the race. I was in this race as well; making sure I was doing everything according to the list curated by my society. Preparing samosas beforehand, preparing a feast everyday, hastily reciting the 20 rakaats of Taraweeh, praying all nafls, listening to Quranic lectures and doing all the dhikr. Everything was going well until I burnt out last year as I was juggling all this with my 3-months old. This is when I decided to pause and rethink. I thought about what was I getting out of this month besides exhaustion and social pressure of being a jack-of-all-trades. Even after doing all this, I still didn't understand the meaning of the words of Allah nor did I feel the spiritual uplifting or mental peace which comes with Ramadan. In the midst of this race, I had lost the true meaning of Ramadan. On the surface, I was doing everything. However, what was lost was my connection to Allah which is supposed to strengthen in this month. This year, therefore, I have decided to take things slow. This month is my time to increase my taqwa and restore my relation with Allah which becomes secondary sometimes in the hustle bustle of our lives. This Ramadan, I aim to focus and understand the book of Allah and learn from the teachings of Prophet SAW and to improve my akhirah. This Ramadan, I don't want to be in a race instead I want to take a breather from this world which has soaked us in its glamour so much that sometimes, even in Ramadan, we feel difficult to come out of it. As we have successfully finished some fasts by now, we should all be getting in the routine of Ramadan. If something is not working for you, don't feel pressured to do it. Alternatively, if something is working for you then make a mindset to continue doing it after Ramadan. Make the actions of this Ramadan a permanent part of your everyday life. Don't do so much that by the end of it, you're so exhausted that you don't have energy to continue. And whatever you do, do it for the love of Allah because your actions during this month are between you and Allah alone. Amaliah

## Elon's Twitter

Hamza Mudassir

The world's richest man, Elon Musk, is now Twitter's largest shareholder after acquiring a 9.2% stake in the social media platform for just under US\$3 billion (£2.3 billion). The announcement drove Twitter's share price up 27%, and it continued to grow in after-hours trading. This investor enthusiasm is not surprising. Social media platforms have been suffering lately thanks to newly developed pressures in their ecosystems. For example, Twitter, and also Meta, have been on the receiving end of Apple's anti user-tracking system. This is costing them billions of dollars in lost revenues, causing both companies' stock to languish for the past few months. Musk's arrival as Twitter's largest shareholder will probably not make a difference to that issue, but it does address two other recent investor concerns. Firstly, Musk had been threatening to create a competing social media network where “freedom of speech” ideals would be adhered to. The threat of a new popular entrant being created by a visionary tech leader now goes away. It also shows that Musk is coming in with a vision to drive change in the ecosystem, which is something not to be taken lightly. Secondly, Musk's presence has the potential to accelerate innovation and competitiveness at Twitter, which the company has not been able to do well enough in the past. With Jack Dorsey, the ex-CEO and co-founder of Twitter announcing his resignation a few months ago, there is enough breathing room at the top to make bold moves that could help the platform to grow beyond the foundation it resides on today. So, we know that Twitter investors are happy – but over the long run, will users be?



“ This inherent conflict between social and financial goals distorts who is heard and how frequently. This is exacerbated by the financial pressures for this town square to grow every financial quarter, which creates a pressure to constantly optimise the algorithms to attract as many clicks as possible

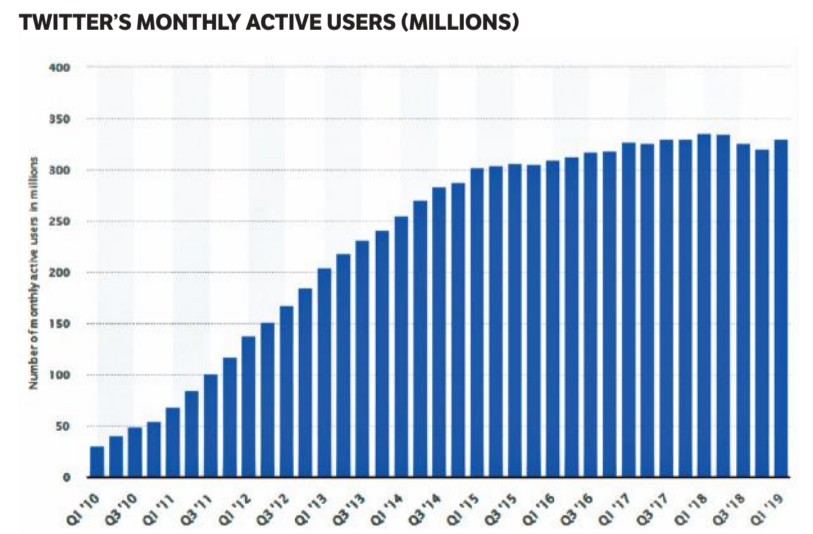
opinions can air their thoughts. Yet unlike a traditional town square, the voices that we hear are determined by underlying, machine-learning algorithms. These are geared towards maximising exposure and clicks, which drives advertising revenues.

They are not geared towards enriching our lives with the most thoughtful, interesting points of view. This inherent conflict between social and financial goals distorts who is heard and how frequently. This is exacerbated by the financial

pressures for this town square to grow every financial quarter, which creates a pressure to constantly optimise the algorithms to attract as many clicks as possible. It also makes these algorithms a proprietary secret sauce, which creates an air of distrust and even mysticism around how such services operate. Musk, who is famously a heavy Twitter user himself, has been vocal about making social media algorithms more open source. We'll have to see what he does in practice, but it's a promising starting point that could become a boon for Twitter. Open-source algorithms would eventually enable users to choose not just what they see and don't see on the platform, but how that happens. In such a future, one user might choose a right-leaning algorithm while the other chooses a left-leaning one. The platform would not make the choice on these users' behalf. Such an approach could boost Twitter's traction, which has been flat for some time. Time would tell how this might affect the company's revenues, but such a bold move might put pressure on Facebook and others to follow suit, potentially making social media better for everyone. DEFENDING TESLA Tesla spends next to nothing on advertising. While the brand's popularity is more than just Musk, the tech billionaire's real-life antics, including his tweets, are an organic marketing machine worth billions of dollars for the automotive company. But Musk still has to follow the rules on Twitter like everyone else and this includes being kicked out if he goes far enough. In the past few years, he has had the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) step in over numerous tweets, issuing penalties on occasions. Over one particularly ugly episode in 2018, where Musk threatened via Twitter to take Tesla private at a price much higher than the share price at the time, he ended up stepping down as

Tesla chairman and agreeing that the company's lawyers would oversee what he said on the platform. Being Twitter's largest owner won't protect him from the SEC – and indeed there have been reports that he was late to notify the SEC about his latest move and submitted the wrong form (before later submitting the right one). There are also questions about whether his threats to launch an alternative platform ahead of buying the Twitter stake amount to market manipulation. With the SEC currently investigating him over tweets in November asking his followers whether he should sell his Tesla stake, he may now attract further ire from the regulator. But whatever happens on that front, Musk will certainly be able to weigh if his removal from Twitter is ever on the cards. That is a huge defensive advantage for Tesla from losing such a significant source of marketing. So while Musk can say he is focused on freedom of speech by buying this stake in Twitter, let's not forget that he has the most to gain from the deal. DECENTRALISING THE INTERNET Most of the internet and its users

are now controlled by a handful of companies including Alibaba, Microsoft, Meta, Amazon, Google and to a lesser extent Twitter. This has created a power hierarchy where many startups and investors actively avoid areas where these ever-growing ecosystems have extended their reach. Musk and Tesla have so far been sheltered from this phenomena by focusing on disrupting the largely unconnected automotive industry, to much success. By buying into Twitter, Musk now has a small, but well established, beachhead from where he can take on these entrenched players. His infamous penchant for having a long-term view and unconventional strategic choices is likely to mean that he will shake things up, even if it is not clear today how he will do so. Certainly it can be said, with a sense of surety, that Twitter is now a far more interesting company than what it was a few days ago. The author is Lecturer in Strategy, Cambridge Judge Business School. The article is being reproduced by arrangements with The Conversation





## Govt Empowers More Officers To Evict Occupants From Migrant Land

ADCs/ACRs, SDMs, Tehsildars Designated As Competent Authority

### Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** In a significant move, the administration of J&K Union Territory has empowered more officers to undertake the process of eviction of unauthorized occupants from migrant land.

In a notification, the Department of Revenue has designated Additional Deputy Commissioners/ Assistant Commissioners of DCs/ ACRs in the areas where SDMs are not posted/designated, Sub-Divisional Magistrates and Tehsildars as the competent authority to issue requisite orders/notices for eviction of migrant land, within their respective jurisdictions.

The powers have been delegated to them under clause (b) of section 2 of The Jammu and Kashmir Migrant Immovable Property (Preservation, Protection and Restraint

on Distress Sales) Act, 1997.

Under the provision, the competent Authority "means the District Magistrate of the area and includes such other officers of the area as the Government may appoint for an area.

So far, the powers to carry out the eviction process were only vested with DMs only.

The law enacted in 1997 empowers the competent authority to prepare the details of immovable property of migrants and take appropriate action to evict unauthorised occupant of such migrant property.

"The competent authority may take or cause to be taken such steps and use or cause to be used such force as may be, in its opinion necessary for eviction from or delivery of possession of immovable property under this Act," reads the law—(KNO)

## BJP Betrayed Maharaja's Legacy Of Land, Job Safeguard Of People: NC

### Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Senior National Conference leader Ajay Kumar Sadhota on Monday assailed the BJP for trampling and betraying the visionary legacy of last Dogra ruler Maharaja Hari Singh by revoking the exclusive rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir on their land and jobs.

The BJP-led central government revoked special status under Article 370 to Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcated it into union territories of J-K and Ladakh in August 2019.

Instead of indulging in rhetoric, the BJP must realise the damage caused to the rights of the people by scrapping the constitutional provision based on the 1927 enactment of the permanent resident law by the great Maharaja. Sadhota said interacting with prominent people at Raipur in Balwal on the outskirts of Jammu.

He said the BJP was trampling and betraying the visionary legacy Maharaja Hari Singh.

The former minister said the insult to the injury of the J-K people is that while Ladakh has succeeded in securing safeguard to jobs and land, a double yardstick is being applied to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

This has already resulted in terms of land allotted to outsiders and attempts being made

to open up jobs to the non-state subjects at the cost of the bonafide permanent residents here, he said.

Jammu is going to suffer the most because of its proximity to other parts of the country and conduciveness in terms of security scenario, culture, topography and terrain.

Sadhota hoped that the people, irrespective of region or religion, will rise above myopic political considerations to seek documented guarantee in respect of safeguard to lands and jobs.

He took on the BJP for its alleged failures in every sector and causing unrest among the people over administrative and developmental inertia.

The unprecedented inflation has subjected the people to miseries with housewives braving the brunt in particular as the prices of essentials have touched skies, primarily due to hike in the fuel prices. The people have been forced to take to the streets during the scorching summers, the NC leader said.

The administrative credibility is all-time low, given the deliverance and performance in various sectors of development. The power and water supply continues to be erratic while the roads are pock marked by ditches. The accountability seems to be the last priority which is disgusting, he added.

## IUST hosts Eco-Entrepreneurship Sensitisation Program



### Observer News Service

**AWANTIPORA:** Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) hosted One Day sensitization program on Eco-Entrepreneurship organised by the Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIED) IUST.

During the program, students were sensitized about entrepreneurship, sustainable development and its potential in coming years.

While delivering the keynote address on the occasion, Founder of Sagg Ecological Entrepreneurship NGO, Fayaz Ahmed highlighted the importance of Eco-Entrepreneurship which not only provides new opportunities for the first movers who identify and exploit such opportunities, but also has the

potential to be a major force in the overall transition to a more sustainable business paradigm.

Speaking on the occasion, Director CIED, Dr Parvez Ahmed Mir conducted an interesting session on entrepreneurship as a career option. He highlighted the importance of entrepreneurship as it not only promotes innovation to find new solutions to existing and emerging demands, but also provides greater opportunities for wealth creation for self and society than anything else.

"Entrepreneurship creates an opportunity to make a definite contribution to society by raising people in and around the enterprise. The constant enthusiasm to innovate helps to touch people's heads and hearts on a large scale", he added.

## Jammu Records Hottest Day Of Season At 39.6 Deg Celsius



### Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** The mercury maintained an upward trend across Jammu and Kashmir with winter capital Jammu recording the season's hottest day on Monday at 39.6 degrees Celsius -- 7.5 notches above normal.

Jammu city also recorded the

hottest night at 22.9 degrees Celsius which was also 3.7 degrees above average during this part of the season, an official of the meteorological department said.

Katra, the base camp for the pilgrims visiting Vishno Devi shrine, recorded a maximum of 35.6 degrees Celsius and a min-

imum of 21.9 degrees Celsius.

The summer capital Srinagar recorded a high of 28.9 degrees Celsius and a low of 9.9 degrees Celsius. The day temperature in the city was 8.8 notches above average, while the night temperature was also 2.3 degrees above normal, the official said.

## LG Asks J&K Universities To Complement Govt Efforts

### Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Monday that the Universities across Jammu and Kashmir must complement the efforts of government in transforming the economic landscape of the Union Territory by producing result-oriented research.

He made these remarks while chairing the 2nd University Council meeting of Cluster University of Jammu, here at Raj Bhavan, an official spokesperson said.

The Council led by the Lt Governor discussed the important role that education has to play in the development process and transformation towards being a modern knowledge society.

The Lt Governor, who is the Chancellor of the University, sought a detailed report on the academic and allied activities, besides various measures taken for strengthening the academic and research environment in the University.

Laying special emphasis on capacity building, job oriented and skill development courses for the students, the Lt Governor directed for concerted efforts to foster skilling of youth as per job market requirements and greater interaction be-



tween academia and industry.

He further said that assessment of existing courses must be carried out to create atmosphere of intellectual inquiry, innovation and inventiveness.

The Lt Governor said that Universities across Jammu Kashmir must complement the efforts of government in transforming the economic landscape of UT by producing result-oriented research.

He also called for promoting excellence in teaching and extension activities, strengthening technical education, optimum utilization of University's resources, and implementing NEP-2020 and provisions of the UGC Act and the Cluster Universities Act in the letter and spirit.

Speaking on the NEP-2020, the Lt Governor said that the National Education Policy-2020 would enable our children to become proficient in modern education

as well as the values of our ancient traditions and culture.

The Lt Governor also laid stress on the need to regularly identify new courses and carrying impact assessment of the on-going courses.

Among other decisions, the council approved the proposal for construction of Controller of Examinations Building (G+5) worth Rs 39 crore.

Earlier, Prof. Bechan Lal, Vice Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu, gave a detailed glimpse of various activities undertaken by the constituent colleges, programs offered, digital initiatives, extracurricular activities for students and faculty besides, informing the chair about events organised under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahostav and achievements of students in academic, co-curriculum and sports activities.

## Elements Misusing Festivals To Create Unnecessary Dispute Are Anti-National: Jitendra Singh

### Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Elements misusing festivals to create an unnecessary dispute are anti-national, Union minister Jitendra Singh said on Monday, asserting all festivals should be observed like festivals only.

He also expressed satisfaction over the arrangements being made for the upcoming annual Amarnath Yatra in south Kashmir Himalayas and said J-K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha is personally supervising the steps for its success.

Interacting with media persons at Palli Panchayat in Samba district, the minister, while responding to a question about attempts by certain elements to disturb peace on the occasion of Ram Navami festival on Sunday, said the home ministry is taking care of the law and order situation and will deal with it.

However, he said, As an ordinary citizen, we should observe any festival like a festival only instead of making it an issue of dispute some elements misusing a festival to create a dispute are anti-national.

On the 43-day Amarnath Yatra which is scheduled to commence on June 30, the minister expressed hope that it will be a success.

The Lt Governor is making



all arrangements seriously and under his leadership, the yatra will be completed successfully, Singh said.

Earlier, the minister, accompanied by a high-level central team, inspected the ongoing work on the 500-KV solar plant being installed on a total area of 6,408 square meters at Palli Panchayat to turn it into the first carbon-free solar village.

We are hopeful that the Rs 2.75 crore project will be completed in a record time of 20 days by April 18 and will provide clean electricity to all the 340 households. The Prime Minister is also scheduled to visit the village and will deliver virtual address to nearly 700 panchayats across the country

on April 24, he said.

Singh, the minister of state in the Prime Minister's Office, said the village would become a role model for others.

It is a big step in Jammu and Kashmir towards carbon-free energy. The people will adopt it in a big way in coming times as there is lack of awareness among the people, he said, adding the money spent on the project will be recovered fully within four or five years.

The minister said there are people in many places who have installed solar panels on their own and we want this new trend to gain momentum as it provides clean, cost-effective energy and is a long-term source.

## Man Gets 10 Years Imprisonment For Raping Minor

### Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** A court here on Monday awarded 10 years rigorous imprisonment to a man for raping a 15-year-old girl in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district about five years ago.

Principal Sessions Judge, Udhampur, Y P Bourney, also slapped a fine of Rs 25,000 on Mangal Kumar, a resident of Chattrari-Majalta village.

He was found guilty of raping the girl during the intervening night of May 7 and 8, 2017, a police official said.

Kumar had abducted the girl while she was sleeping at the veranda of her house along with her younger sister, the official said.

After hearing public prosecutor Koshal Kotwal and Kumar's counsel, the judge said that the prosecution has successfully proved the charges against the accused beyond any doubt.

"Rape is not just a physical condition but a crime which completely demolishes or destroys the victim and her family the convict is a school dropout having discontinuing his studies

at the 7th standard and belongs to the poor strata of society, who is in his early 20s and he had just passed the age of majority at the time of occurrence," Judge Bourney observed.

He said the convict is also a first offender having no past criminal record and has shown remorse for whatever happened.

"The convict shall undergo 10 years rigorous imprisonment and pay a fine of Rs 25,000 for the commission of offence under section 376 (rape) Ranbir Penal Code. He shall further undergo rigorous imprisonment for three years and pay a fine of Rs 10,000 for the commission of offence under section 363 (abduction) RPC," he said.

"Both the sentences shall run concurrently. Out of the fine amount, if realised 25,000 shall be paid to the victim as compensation. In default of payment of fine, the convict shall further undergo rigorous imprisonment for one year. The period of detention already undergone during trial shall be set off from the sentences awarded to the convict," the judge said.

## CAG Pulls Up J&K Govt For Blocking Utilisation Of Rs 21 Crore In Education Sector

### Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The Comptroller and Auditor General of India has pulled up the J&K Government for blocking utilisation of Rs 21.48 crore in the School Education department, saying this happened due to lack of planning, monitoring and coordination.

According to CAG report, which was tabled in the Parliament on April 06, the Project Approval Board (PAB) of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), in its 231st meeting held in February 2016, approved the Annual Works Plan and Budget (AWP&B) 2016-17 for the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

Subsequently, on March 31, 2017, the State Project Director (SPD), SSA J&K released Rs 21.48 crore in favour of Director School Education Jammu (Rs 9.76 crore) and DSE Kashmir (Rs 11.72 crore) with the direction not to utilise these funds till further detailed instructions were issued.

Audit scrutiny of records of Director School Education Jammu in July 2020 revealed that no further instructions for utilisation of these funds were received from SPD, SSA J&K. "The amount of Rs 9.76 crore was held in the official saving bank account and invested (March 2018) in Fixed Deposit Receipts (FDRs) for a period of six months. Interest of Rs 3.13 crore accrued in the saving and fixed deposits was transferred to the Project Director, Samagra Shiksha," reads the report.

According to the auditor, Rs 11.72 crore released to Director School Education Kashmir also remained unutilized in the savings bank account due to non-receipt of any directions for their utilization.

On being pointed out in the audit, DSE Jammu and DSE Kashmir stated the funds remained unutilised as they had not raised any demand under the civil works SSA Plan 2016-17 for release of these funds, besides the instructions for utilisation of the funds released were also not received from the SPD.

The Project Director, Samagra Shiksha, according to the report, stated that as the works under different components were being finalised, the DSEs Jammu and Kashmir were instructed not to utilise the funds till further orders.

According to the report, the School Education Department in March 2017 issued directions to the SPD, SSA/ RMSA that the funds available under these schemes are released to the implementing agencies so as to ensure nil balance at the end of year in order to avoid any future cuts on account of unspent balance by the Government of India.

"Thus lack of planning, monitoring and coordination between the offices of SPD, Samagra Shiksha, DSE Jammu and DSE Kashmir resulted in blocking of Rs 21.48 crore for the nearly four years," the report states—(KNO)

## PAK REGIME CHANGE

## Stability In Neighbourhood Is Good For Us: Mehbooba

### Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** Democracy is gaining roots in Pakistan and political stability in the neighbourhood "is good for us", PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti said here on Monday.

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said Pakistan should decide whether it wants a new government or to hold fresh elections so that democracy flourishes there.

(Former Pakistan prime minister Zulfikar Ali) Bhutto used to say that India is alive because of the hustle-bustle of its democracy. Today, we are also seeing the hustle-bustle of democracy in Pakistan and the democracy in that country is gaining roots, she told reporters outside her party office here.

It is our neighbour and we want it to be a stable country. They should take a decision soon whether have a new government or fresh elections, whatever they want -- so that the democracy flourishes there in the same way as it is in our country. Stability in our neighbourhood is good for us, she said.

Asked about the seizing of properties of those charged with harbouring militants, Me-



hbooba Mufti said that it was wrong.

She also called for dialogue and reconciliation with the people of Kashmir.

They (police) are punishing the whole population. If your fight is against a militant, you arrest him, fight him, but what have common people done? A Kashmiri Pandit brother was attacked (in Shopian) and they have arrested 100-150 youths. They also arrested several for the Jamia Masjid (sloganeering) incident," she said.

Democracy is a battle of ideas. You can jail a person, but not his thoughts. Till there is no reconciliation and dialogue with the people and the youths here, nothing will be achieved by this policy of arresting people. Rather, the people of J-K will be further alienated," the PDP chief said.

## Battered CSK Look To Get Their Confidence Back Against RCB



Press Trust of India

**NAVI MUMBAI:** Defending champions Chennai Super Kings would need to lift themselves after a nightmarish start to the season and play a "complete" game when they take on a high-flying Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL here on Tuesday.

In words of head coach Stephen Fleming, the team's self-belief is shaken after four losses in a row.

The four-time champions haven't played the cricket they are known for under skipper Ravindra Jadeja, who has not been able to lead from the front.

The seniors in the team including Thala Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Robin Uthappa, Ambati Rayudu and Dwayne Bravo need to step up in this crisis situation.

CSK have only posted one 200 plus score so far while scoring sub-par totals in the other three games.

The CSK batters will have to face a potent RCB bowling attack including the likes of spinner Wanindu Hasaranga, David Willey and Mohammed Siraj.

Young Ruturaj Gaikwad, who has had a miserable season so far,

will need to step up and deliver and also all-rounders Moeen Ali and Shivam Dube will have to take more responsibility.

Fleming admitted that the side is facing two-fold problems -- unavailability of Deepak Chahar due to injury and a below-par show in all departments.

A buoyant RCB, however, are ticking all the boxes.

Opener Anuj Rawat, who hit his maiden IPL fifty, came to the party against Mumbai Indians, while Virat Kohli also got much needed runs.

Skipper Faf Du Plessis can take any attack to cleaners and the top-three too are in good form.

Dinesh Karthik is the firing finisher for RCB and engineer-turned cricketer Shabbaz Ahmed has also impressed with his batting so far.

Apart from veteran Dwayne Bravo, CSK bowlers have been way off the mark.

They need to get the bowling combination right having tried many options.

Another key weak-link is Mukeesh Choudhary, who has been leaking runs. Unless CSK find the right combination, RCB would be expected to run away with the game.

## Ashwin's 'Retired Out' Was A Team Decision: RR Skipper Samson



Press Trust of India

**MUMBAI:** Rajasthan Royals skipper Sanju Samson said the decision to withdraw Ravichandran Ashwin 'retired out' in the slog overs was a call made by the team management, taking into consideration the match situation.

RR became the first team in IPL history to employ the 'retired out' tactic as Ashwin went back to the dug out despite being 28 not out during their match against Lucknow Super Giants here on Sunday.

Ashwin (28 off 23 balls) played a crucial role in rebuilding the RR innings along with Shimron Hetmyer (59 not out off 36 balls) as the duo shared a 68-run stand for the fifth wicket before the off-spinner retiring out with just two overs to go for the innings.

"It's about being Rajasthan Royals (Ashwin's retired-out). We keep trying different things. Have been talking about it before the season," Samson said during the post-match presentation after RR beat LSG by three runs in an IPL thriller.

"We thought that if some situation occurs, we can use it. It was a team decision."

Ashwin retired out in 18.2 overs, allowing Rian Parag to come to the crease.

"I had no idea about it (Ashwin retiring out). He was also a bit tired. It was a good decision as the kid (Parag) hit a six for us," Hetmyer told official broadcaster, Star Sports after the match.

Young Kuldeep Sen impressed on his IPL debut as he took one for 31 and defended 15 runs in the last over to help RR notch up a win.

Samson said he had faith in Sen's ability as he had seen him practise the wide yorkers.

"Depends on how he has bowled his first three overs. Got the feel that he has done well and he is confident (talking about Kuldeep Sen) to go and execute his wide yorker which he has been working in the off season. "Saw him in Syed Mushtaq and he was nailing his wide yorkers," he said.

Defending 166, Trent Boult (2/30) struck twice in a sensational opening over, while Yuzvendra Chahal (4/41) picked up four wickets to achieve the feat of claiming 150 IPL victims.

Lavishing praise on the duo, Samson said: "Boult came to me before first ball, told me 'Sanju change of plan, I'm going to go around the wicket, and going straight in his legs and hit that bowler'."

"Funny to be around and his skills are commendable."

## Charleston Open 2022: Sania Mirza-Lucie Hradecka Pair Loses In Final



Agencies

**SOUTH CAROLINA:** Veteran Indian tennis player Sania Mirza and her Czech partner Lucie Hradecka's splendid run at the Charleston Open ended after they lost the title clash to Andreja Klepac and Magda Linette.

The unseeded Mirza and Hradecka went down 2-6, 6-4, 7-10 in one hour 24 minutes to the fourth seed Polish-Slovenian duo on Sunday.

Mirza and Hradecka had a stunning run at the WTA 500 event, reaching the women's

doubles final after pulling off a major upset by stunning top seeds Zhang Shuai and Caroline Dolehide in the semifinals.

In the quarterfinals, they got the better of third seeds Alexa Guarachi and Jessica Pegula. Mirza and Hradecka had also reached the semifinal of the Dubai Tennis Championships in February.

The 35-year-old Mirza, who is India's most accomplished woman tennis player having won six Grand Slam titles, including three mixed doubles trophies, had earlier announced that 2022 would be her last season. (AP)

## S. Africa Makes 'COVID Substitutions', First Time In International Cricket

Replaces 2 COVID-19 infected players in 2nd test against Bangla

Press Trust of India

**QOBERHA:** In a first instance of COVID-19 substitution in international cricket, South Africa's Sarel Erwee and Wiaan Mulder were replaced by Khaya Zondo and Glenton Stuurman in the playing eleven of the second Test against Bangladesh after testing positive for the virus on Monday.

Erwee and Mulder were tested on Monday morning, the fourth day of the Test, and returned positive results.

"Khaya Zondo will make his Test debut on Day 4 of the 2nd #BetwayTest against Bangladesh after Sarel Erwee and Wiaan Mulder tested positive for Covid-19," a Cricket South Africa tweet said.

"The pair replaced with Zondo and Glenton Stuurman."

South Africa won the second Test by 332 runs on the fourth day itself to clinch the two-match series 2-0.

"This is an unfortunate situation, but not unexpected after the decision was made to have this tour under the Managed Event Environment (MEE) protocol, rather than the strict Bio-safe Environment (BSE) Protocol as was previously the case," CSA chief medical officer Dr Shuaib Manjra said.



"This is in line with the country's policy in revoking the Disaster Management Act with reference to the pandemic, as well as the huge mental strain that a bubble environment induces."

The series is being played in a managed environment, not in a bio-bubble. Players are not limited to their hotel rooms and are allowed to go out -- with the advice that they should stick to open air restaurants and the outdoors -- and mingle with other people.

This is the first instance of the COVID substitution protocol being used in international cricket.

COVID replacement incidents had happened earlier in the Plunket Shield and County Championship but not in international cricket.

It is also just the second instance of two substitutes for a team in the same match in international cricket -- Bangladesh had two concussion subs against India in 2019.

According to ESPNcricinfo, Bangladesh's coach Russell Domingo has not been able to attend the Test after contracting COVID-19 last week while South Africa's bowling coach Charl Langeveldt and security officer Zunaïd Wadee were also not at the match venue after testing positive on Friday.

All COVID-related restrictions, apart from mask-wearing in indoor spaces and limitations on the number of people at gatherings, have been lifted in South Africa.

## J&K Abuzz With Sports Activities Under 'MYMP' Initiative: Govt

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Various sporting activities were held in playfields and indoor halls across J&K under the J&K Admin's initiative of 'My Youth My Pride' on Monday.

At the picturesque Nanil ground of Anantnag district, large number of crowd was attracted towards the sports events being held as part of this initiative. In the ongoing Spring Shield Cricket Tournament, Mattan Bluez and Shaksaz Sports registered wins against ACC Bluez and Seer Royals respectively.

At Pulwama, events in Amateur Soft Tennis and Table Tennis were held at Sports Stadium Pulwama in which 120 participants, both boys and girls took part enthusiastically.

In the meantime football in the ongoing Youth Football League was played at Gani Memorial Football Stadium, Srinagar between FC Ganderbal and Chanapora Football Academy.

Meanwhile in the Jammu division, a friendly tug of war match was played between a joint team composed of DDC members and Sarpanchs and Team Palli, which was won by the former after a very tough competition. Tug of War was followed by competitions in Wushu for different categories.



Union Minister of State for Personal, Public Grievances, and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh also graced the occasion and interacted with the participants at the venue.

Speaking on the occasion, Randhir Sharma Sarpanch of the village Pali who was also the chief guest on the occasion applauded the role of Sports Council in taking sports to the doorsteps of players hailing from remote areas of J&K.

Meanwhile, in Udhampur competitions were held at Subhash Stadium, Udhampur in the games of Hockey, Judo and Yoga. More than 110 players from adjoining panchayats participated in the event.

Priti Khajuria, Corporator was Chief Guest on the occasion while Vikram Singh Slathia Municipal Councilor was guest of honour.

Several events in different games are also scheduled for today.

## Madrid Authorities 'On Alert' Ahead Of Champions League Games



Agencies

**MADRID:** Madrid authorities have reinforced security measures in the Spanish capital ahead of the arrival of thousands of English fans for Champions League matches this week.

The quarterfinal games between Real Madrid and Chelsea on Tuesday and Atlético Madrid and Manchester City on Wednesday

have been declared "high-risk" matches by the local authorities.

Added security personnel will be in place at the main Madrid squares where visiting fans usually gather before matches.

Extra attention will also be given to subway stations and the Madrid airport, where Chelsea and Man City fans may coincide while in the Spanish city.

There was some fan violence

last month in the southern city of Seville when fans came from Germany and England for Europa League matches a day apart.

Madrid successfully hosted the 2019 Champions League final between English clubs Liverpool and Tottenham.

Madrid defeated Chelsea 3-1 in the first leg in London, while Man City beat Atlético 1-0 in Manchester.

## Azam, Haynes Named ICC POTM For March 2022



Press Trust of India

**DUBAI:** Pakistan skipper Babar Azam was on Monday voted as the ICC 'Men's Player of the Month' for March, while Australian opener Rachael Haynes bagged the honour among women.

Azam scooped the honour following a number of thrilling batting displays in Pakistan's multi-format series against Australia.

Amassing 390 runs in the pulsating Test series, his supreme contribution was highlighted by his record-breaking innings of 196 in the second Test, salvaging a draw for his side against the odds on the final day in Karachi.

At the forefront of his side's batting unit, his exploits during the subsequent ODI battles that took place in March also cemented Azam's claim as the standout player in international cricket during the month.

Azam received the award ahead of fellow nominees Kraigg Brathwaite (West Indies) and Pat Cummins (Australia), and in doing so, became the first player to

win the award on two occasions, after being crowned in April 2021.

Speaking about Azam's phenomenal performances in March, member of the voting panel and former West Indies international Daren Ganga said, "Babar wins this award not only because of the significant glut of runs scored during the Pakistan vs Australia tour, but also because his success with the bat across formats."

"Being able to fulfil the burden of expectation as a captain and batter for Pakistan as host to an Australian team visiting after 24 years is a monumental achievement."

Haynes bagged the honour on the back of a formidable set of displays on the road to Australia's seventh ICC Women's Cricket World Cup title.

Scoring 429 priceless runs in eight matches at an average of 61.28, her extraordinary feats at the top of the order proved crucial to her side's unbeaten run to the final, where they subsequently overcame England to cap a thrilling tournament.

## Durham To Speak To Coach Franklin Over Chahal Allegations



Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** County side Durham has said they will speak to head coach James Franklin "privately" over the physical harassment allegations made by Indian leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal against the former New Zealand pacer.

Earlier this year, in a podcast published by Royal Challengers Bangalore, Chahal had recalled an incident from 2011 when his then Mumbai Indians teammates Franklin and Australian all-rounder Andrew Symonds had allegedly tied him up while celebrating their win in the Champions League final that year.

"We are aware of recent news reports surrounding an incident in 2011 which name a member of our staff," Durham said in a statement to ESPNcricinfo.

"As with any matters involving employees, the club will speak privately with all parties involved to determine the facts."

Chahal also alleged that the duo had taped his mouth, left him in a room and forgot about him for a whole night.

Franklin, who was part of Mumbai Indians squad from 2011 to 2013, was appointed Durham coach in early 2019.

"It happened in 2011, when Mumbai Indians won the Champions League. We were in Chennai. He [Symonds] had had a lot of 'fruit juice'."

"I don't know what he was thinking, but he and James Franklin got together and tied my hands and legs and said, 'no, you've to open'. They were so lost that they taped my mouth and forgot about me completely during the party."

"Then they all left and, in the morning, someone came to clean [the room] and saw me, and called a few others and untied me," Chahal claimed.

According to Chahal, neither player has ever apologised.

The allegations against Franklin and Symonds have come to the fore after the leg-spinner revealed another shocking incident when a drunk player dangled him from the 15th-floor balcony of a Bengaluru hotel during a post-match IPL party in 2013.

## BCCI Apex Council To Review Report On Saha Allegations

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** The BCCI Apex Council will review the probe committee's report concerning India wicketkeeper Wriddhiman Saha, who had accused journalist Boria Majumdar of intimidating him, at its meeting on April 23.

The BCCI had formed a three-member panel comprising vice-president Rajeev Shukla, treasurer Arun Dhumal and Apex Council member Prabhetj Bhatia to probe Saha's allegation.

The 37-year-old India discard appeared before the Committee last month and so did the accused journalist Majumdar and presented their respective versions. Saha had alleged that Majumdar intimidated him for not giving him an interview.

BCCI is expected to close the matter at the Apex Council meeting.

"Review of the Committee report on issue concerning Mr

Wriddhiman Saha," read item no.4 on the meeting agenda.

which is in PTI's possession.

Majumdar on his part had claimed that Saha had "doctored" the whatsapp screenshots of the chats he had with him before putting it on social media, triggering a massive controversy.

A centrally-contracted player, Saha had posted a series of tweets on February 23 against the then unnamed journalist, who happened to be Majumdar.

Saha was told by head coach Rahul Dravid in South Africa that he was no longer in the scheme of things and this classified information was revealed by the cricketer himself.