

# KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>TM</sup>

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## Of Deforestation, Delays, Deadlines: In Talks With Ring Road Director

Augib Javeed

The work on the ambitious Srinagar Ring-Road project is going at a snail pace, with officials saying only 10 percent of the construction work has been completed in the last five years.

Under the Prime Minister's Development Project (PMDP), National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) started the ambitious road work simultaneously in Jammu and in Kashmir in 2018.

But half a decade later, Kashmir lags behind Jammu where the government has completed over 74 percent Ring Road Project work.



Pertinently, the project was awarded to Ramky Infrastructure Limited in Kashmir, but the administration's inability to meet the

company's "90% land acquiring" demand delayed it.

The government terminated the contract with Ramky Infrastructure Ltd and after rebidding, the

project was allotted to NKC Projects Limited on May 31, 2021, when an agreement was signed by NHAI with the contractor.

According to officials, more than 590 acres of agricultural land has been acquired for 42-kilometre road project which would connect Pulwama and Ganderbal districts via Budgam through Pampore, Wathoor, Budgam, Dharmuna and Narbal in western outskirts of summer capital Srinagar.

To know more about the project, Kashmir Observer spoke to Project Director, National Highways Authority of India, Indresh Kumar. Edited excerpts follows.

**An RTI reveals that over one lakh trees worth Rs 13.76 crore were axed for Ring Road. Was it the only option?**

I've no idea about the number of trees being axed, but we've definitely tried to construct the Ring Road from the least vegetative zones.

**Can you tell us why there is so much delay in the project?**

The project was awarded to RAMKI in 2018 but due to financial and land acquisition issues, the construction was delayed. After rebidding, the project

was allotted to NKC Projects Limited on May 31, 2021.

The company started work in September 2021 and completed over 10 percent of the construction in just five months.

**But will the project ever meet the deadline?**

Our work is in the initial stage and our target to complete the project is in February 2024, but we've certain limitations.

Our workers can't work in sub-zero temperatures. They can't either work during the nights which might delay the project for another **| More on PIO**

## Police Attaches 5 More Houses Used For 'Militancy'

Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** Continuing its crack-down on alleged militant sympathisers, the Jammu and Kashmir police on Thursday attached five more houses in Srinagar for allegedly being used for militancy purposes.

In a handout issued here Thursday, a police spokesperson said that after taking prior approval of PHQ, five properties have been attached as per provisions of sec 2(g) and 25 Unlawful activities prevention act (UAPA).

Among the properties include the house of Baber Suhail Sofi and Adil Mohd Lone at Lawaypora and Muzaffar Ahmad Mir and Rameez Ahmad Mir at Maloora in the city outskirts.

According to the spokesperson, these houses were used by militants **| More on PIO**

## Heavy Rains Trigger Flash Floods In J&K

Press Trust Of India

**Srinagar:** Heavy rainfall in Jammu and Kashmir triggered landslides and flash floods in many parts of the Union Territory, besides causing damage to the agricultural fields, private property and also led to rivers brimming up.

The authorities rescued students and teachers trapped in a government school after heavy rainfall triggered flash floods inundating many areas of the Jammu region on Thursday, officials said.

Dozens of houses and structures were damaged, some bridges washed away and scores of vehicles stuck on roads and highways in various districts of the region, they said.

In Jammu, police and locals swung into action and rescued students and teachers trapped in a school building due to flash floods in the Muthi-Udhaywala area, the officials said.

Several people escaped unhurt when an old building collapsed due to heavy rains in the Kanak Mandi area. It triggered protests against the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) for its alleged failure to bring down old and unused buildings in the old city causing a threat to life to the

residents and shopkeepers, the officials said.

A wall of another house collapsed in Kalka colony.

Most of the roads and dozens of colonies in Jammu city were inundated due to heavy rainfall gauged over 80 mm in a few hours.

As per reports, dozens of houses and structures suffered damage due to rains, flash floods and landslides in Jammu, Kathua, Poonch, Rajouri, Udhampur and Reasi districts.

The region recorded heavy rainfall since early Thursday morning.

Worst-affected areas in Jammu due to the rainfall and subsequent flash floods were Keran, lower Roopnagar, Kangrail, Raipur, Kot-Bhalwal, Burn and Ghrota, Paloura, Takab Tillo, Channi Himmat and other low-lying areas where the rainwater entered houses, the officials said.

Power and water supply in parts of the city and other rural areas was affected badly, while water and mud entered many houses and shops in Old Janipur, Bhawani Nagar, Naseeb Nagar, Shant Nagar, Paloura, Lower Roop Nagar, Muthi, they said.

The water level of most of the rivers like Chinab, Tawi, Ujh, Basantar and **| More on PIO**



A car passes through a road submerged after incessant rainfall in Srinagar on Thursday: KO Photo, Abid Bhat

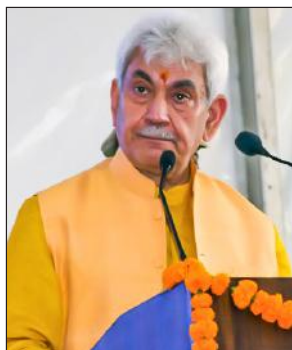
## Balance Between Nature & Development Our Top Priority: LG

Observer News Service

**Samba:** Asserting that Jammu and Kashmir government has made reforms to reduce the impact of climate change and overcoming the challenges of fragile ecosystem, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Thursday that protection & conservation of natural resources and striking a perfect balance between nature & development is top most priority of his administration

Sinha made these remarks during the launch of "Green Jammu & Kashmir Drive" here from AIIMS Vijaypur, an official spokesperson said. The target for the current year is planting of 1.5 crore saplings.

The LG, he said, reiterated the government's commitment towards sustainable management of rich natural wealth to combat climate change



and ensure a better future for younger generations.

"Protection & conservation of natural resources and striking a perfect balance between nature & development is our top most priority," Sinha said.

The LG, according to the spokesperson highlighted the role of community participation in ecologically sustainable development and asked the PRIs and Civil Society to

play effective role as Partners of Green Mission.

"Two R's - Respect and Restore the delicate balance in nature is the way forward for a Green Future. Citizens must take the lead in the ecological movement for regeneration," the LG said.

He also underscored the reforms introduced by the UT government in the last two years aimed at reducing the impact of climate change and overcoming the challenges of fragile ecosystem.

"Jammu and Kashmir is blessed with nature's rich resources, with 54% of the area under green cover. A large population of J&K UT is dependent on forests for their livelihood. Dedicated efforts are being made to safeguard their interest, besides bringing behavior change in the lifestyle of people **| More on PIO**

## Govt Renames 18 Schools After 'Martyrs', KP Poet

Augib Javeed

**Srinagar:** The Union Territory administration on Thursday announced to rename a number of government schools, colleges, roads after fallen soldiers and cops besides eminent personalities who died while serving their duty for the country.

According to an order from the General Administrative department (GAD) the sanction has been accorded to naming of infrastructure assets after the following martyrs/eminent personalities.

The order was issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Principal Secretary to the Government of J&K. Earlier, the decision to rename these schools was taken in the Administrative Council (AC) meeting held under the

chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on July 22.

It is further ordered that the School Education Department shall take immediate necessary steps including amending records for effecting the changes;

The Government asked the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir/Jammu to personally monitor the naming of infrastructure assets in their respective divisions while the Deputy Commissioner(s) have been asked to ensure that suitable events are held in connection with the naming of these infrastructure assets.

In 2021, the government renamed 75 schools and 75 roads after martyrs from the police, army and CRPF.

On Thursday, the government decided **| More on PIO**

### Grenade Found Along LoC In Rajouri

Government forces defused a grenade found in a border hamlet in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, officials said on Thursday.

Some passersby spotted the grenade near a house in Danka village along the LoC in Nowshera belt and informed the police on Wednesday evening, they said. Police and Army rushed to the area and defused the grenade safely.

### Six Gamblers Held In Baramulla

Police on Thursday claimed to have arrested six alleged gamblers in an input driven raid in Baramulla district of North Kashmir. Acting on specific inputs, a team of cops from police station Baramulla raided a gambling site at Cheradari and apprehended six gamblers, a police spokesperson said Thursday. Besides playing cards, he said, an amount of Rs 30,420 was also recovered **| More on PIO**

### Aamir Ali Relieved As Nodal Officer SEOC

Aamir Ali, Nodal Officer J&K State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) Srinagar, posted in the DoDMRRR on deputation basis, was on Thursday relieved with immediate effect, with the direction(s) to report back to his parent Department—Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj. "Further, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (M), **| More on PIO**

### Bear Kills Woman In Anantnag

A middle-aged woman on Thursday was mauled to death by a black bear in Kokernag area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district. 50-year-old Zaiba Bano was outside her house in Frehmoo Gadool village of Kokernag when a black bear appeared there and attacked her on Thursday afternoon, reports said. In the surprise attack, Zaiba sustained grievous injuries. She was later removed to the sub-district hospital (SDH) **| More on PIO**

### Arrival Of Haj Pilgrims Rescheduled

According to the Executive Officer, J&K Haj Committee, all the concerned are being informed that all those concerned that Haj Pilgrims of Flight No. SG6227, SG5027 and SG6027 who were scheduled to reach Srinagar on 28 July, 2022 will now arrive Srinagar on 29 July, 2022 at 6:30 AM, 8: 00AM and 10: 00AM respectively. The flights of remaining days will arrive Srinagar late by one day at 5:00AM, 6:00AM and 7:00AM.

### Govt Employee Falls In ACB Net

Anti-corruption Bureau on Thursday said to have arrested a Field Supervisor posted in the office of JK SC, ST & OBC Development Corporation, Baramulla for 'accepting bribe in lieu of processing a loan case'. "Anti Corruption Bureau received a complaint against one Manzoor Ahmad, Field Supervisor posted in the office of JK SC, ST & OBC Development Corporation, Baramulla for allegedly accepting **| More on PIO**

S H O R T T A K E S





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# Google Brings Meet, Chat, Video Calls, Spaces Together In Gmail

IAN S

Google has revamped Gmail's interface for every user that brings Meet, Chat, video calls and Spaces closer together as part of the overall experience.

Later this year, the users will see improvements to Gmail for tablet users, better emoji support and more accessibility features.

"Now you can optimise Gmail for how you like to stay connected, whether it's as a standalone email application or a hub for easily moving between Chat, Spaces and video calls in Google Meet," said Neena Kamath, Product Manager. Gmail has changed a lot over the past 18 years and the latest changes bring helpful updates to every Gmail user, in-



cluding the best of Google Workspace, combined with a fresh new look based on Google's Material Design 3.

"To help people stay connected, we're

bringing together Gmail, Chat, Spaces and Meet in a single, unified view," Kamath announced.

The integrated view will begin to roll

out for all Gmail users who have turned on Chat.

You'll see a clean, streamlined way to move between apps that you can customize based on what works best for you.

Over the next few weeks, users can enable the integrated view, using the new visual configuration option in Settings—and anyone who wants to keep their existing Gmail layout will be able to do so.

"Beyond the user interface, we're continuing to make Gmail more powerful and customizable. For example, we're making it easier than ever to find the message you're looking for by bringing search chips to your inbox and improved search results that suggest the best match for your query," said Google.

## Long-Lasting Loss of Smell, Taste In 5 Per Cent Covid Cases: Study

Paris: Around five percent of people who have had Covid-19 develop long-lasting problems with their sense of smell or taste, a large study said Thursday, potentially contributing

previous studies involving 3,700 patients.

In a new study published in the BMJ, they found that six months after contracting the virus, four percent of patients had not re-

may not fully recover their sense of taste.

One woman told the researchers that she had not recovered her sense of smell more than two years after contracting Covid.

The researchers said that while most patients should recover their sense of smell and taste within the first three months of getting Covid, "a major group of patients might develop long-lasting dysfunction that requires timely identification, personalised treatment, and long-term follow-up."

Danny Altmann, an immunologist at Imperial College London not involved in the research, said it was a "strong and important study".

"Studies such as this alert us to the hidden burden out there of people suffering with persistent symptoms, but perhaps not having thought it worth contacting the GP on the assumption there wouldn't be much to be done," he said.

The research also found that women were less likely to recover these senses than men.

The cause of the disparity is not clear, but the researchers suggested women tend to have better senses of smell and taste in the first place, meaning they have more to lose.

The data did not include which Covid variant the patients contracted. Previous research has indicated that more recent Omicron variants are less likely to lead to smell loss.



to the burden of long Covid.

A lost sense of smell has been a hallmark of contracting coronavirus since the early days of the pandemic, but it has not been clear how often symptoms like this occur -- or how long they can last.

Seeking to find out, researchers analysed the findings of 18

covered their sense of smell, while two percent had not recovered their sense of taste.

It was unclear if this represented a full or partial recovery, however.

The researchers estimated that loss of smell may persist in 5.6 percent of patients, while 4.4 percent

## UK Scientists Working On Single Covid And Cold Vaccine

IAN S

A specific area of the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein could be a promising target for a pan-coronavirus vaccine that could offer some protection against new virus variants, common colds, and help prepare for future pandemics, according to a team of scientists in the UK.

Developing a vaccine that provides protection against a number of different coronaviruses is a challenge because this family of viruses has many key differences, frequently mutate, and generally induce incomplete protection against re-infection.

This is why people can suffer repeatedly from common colds, and also be infected multiple times with different variants of SARS-CoV-2.

A pan-coronavirus vaccine would need to trigger antibodies that recognise and neutralise a range of coronaviruses, stopping the virus from entering host cells and replicating, said the team at the Francis Crick Institute.

In their study, published in Science Translational Medicine, they investigated whether antibodies that target the S2 subunit of SARS-CoV-2's spike protein also neutralise other coronaviruses. This specific area of the spike protein tethers it to the virus membrane and allows the virus to fuse with the membrane of a host cell.

They found that after vaccination



ing mice with SARS-CoV-2 S2, the mice created antibodies that were able to neutralise a number of other animal and human coronaviruses, including the seasonal 'common cold' coronavirus HCoV-OC43, the original strain of SARS-CoV-2, the D614G mutant that dominated in the first wave, Alpha, Beta, Delta, the original Omicron, and two bat coronaviruses.

"The S2 area of the spike protein is a promising target for a potential pan-coronavirus vaccine because this area is much more similar across different coronaviruses than the S1 area. It is less subject to mutations, and so a vaccine targeted at this area should be more robust," Kevin Ng, doctoral student in the Retroviral Immunology Laboratory at the Crick.

The S2 area of the spike protein has, until recently, been overlooked as providing a basis for vaccination. This is because certain critical targets in the S2 area are only revealed after the virus has bound to a cell, a process mediated by the S1 area.

As a result, there may be a narrower window of opportunity for S2 antibodies to neutralise the virus than for antibodies that target the S1 area.

"There's a lot of research still to do as we continue to test S2 antibodies against different coronaviruses and look for the most appropriate route to design and test a potential vaccine," said George Kasiotis, corresponding author and principal group leader at the Crick.

## SAD DEMISE

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of Sajida Begum W/O Late Sheikh Ghulam Ahmad, R/O Badiyar Balla. Fateh-khwani will be held at our ancestral graveyard, Badiyar Balla, Srinagar, on 31st July, 2022, Sunday, at 10:30 am.

**BEREAVED**

Sheikh Javed

Ako

9022933831 | 9149826626

## The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

### BRANCH OFFICE SOPORE

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10 th under Below mentioned particulars

Faizan Rashid Khan

Father's Name: Abdul Rashid Khan

Mother's Name: Zarifa Begum

Roll No: 3218466 YEAR 2020 Session Bi-Annual



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 teated as cancelled.

Sd/ Assistant Secretary  
Sub Office Sopore

tlc

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL ENGINEERING WING BARAMULLA.

E-NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No: 47/Xen/Rew/Bla/2022-2023 Dated. 25/07/2022

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders (In Single Cover System) are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors Regd. With J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following work:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (in Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (in Rs.)	EMD AMOUNT	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account	Position of AAA/TS
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	C/O Water tunnel over flood irrigation channel with culvert at Duslipora under ADP (PRI) 2022-23 Block Singhpora	5.67	300	11340	45days	CEE, DEE	ADP	AAA Accorded
2	Improvement of Road with R wall from Gh Mohammad Parra to Ab Rehman Ganie at Duslipora under ADP (PRI) 2022-23 Block Singhpora	5.42	300	10840	45days	CEE, DEE	ADP	AAA Accorded
3	C/O PCC Path from High School to Choolan Mohalla Ward no 7 Garkote B under ADP (PRI) 2022-23 Block Uri	4.90	200	9800	45days	DEE	ADP	AAA Accorded
4	C/O PCC Path from Bus stand Nallah to Upper Latimer Ward no 3,4,5 Garkote B under ADP (PRI) 2022-23 Block Uri	4.16	200	8320	45days	DEE	ADP	AAA Accorded
5	C/o Culvert at Lagama Salamabad Dachina B under Area Development Plan (BDC) 2021-23 Block Bijhama	1.97	200	3940	45days	DEE	ADP	AAA Accorded
6	C/O Path at Kanchan P/H Salamabad Dachina under ADP (BDC) 2022-23 Block Bijhama	2.96	200	5920	45days	DEE	ADP	AAA Accorded
7	C/O Sanitary complex with Wazu Khana at Masjid Sharief Lone Mohalla Dachwara under ADP (BDC) Block Bijhama	5.00	300	10000	45days	CEE, DEE	ADP	AAA Accorded
8	Fencing / R wall at Graveyard Hundi W no 3,4,5 Nowsheera A under ADP (PRI) 2022-23 Block Bniyar	6.90	300	13800	45days	CEE, DEE	ADP	AAA Accorded
9	Improvement of road from Mirgund to Katibugh Mughama under ADP (PRI) 2022-23 Block Lalpora	2.47	200	4940	45days	DEE	ADP	AAA Accorded
10	C/O Tile Path from H/O Gh Hassan Baba to onwards at Bombia under ADP (BDC) 2022-23 Block Tujjer Sharief	1.97	200	3940	45days	DEE	ADP	AAA Accorded

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	26-07-2022
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 26-07-2022 to 09-08-2022 up to 6:00 PM
3	Bid submission Start date	26-07-2022
4	Bid Submission End Date	09-08-2022 up to 6:00 PM
5	Date and time of Opening of Bids (Online)	Technical Bids will be opened on 10-08-2022 at 11:00 AM in the office of the Executive Engineer REW Baramulla and Financial Bid opening will be declared online.

- The G.O.No.238-FOF 2021 DATED:07.09.2021 issued by the Govt(Finance deptt) that the participation in the tendering process of works upto an amount of Rs.3.00 lacs is restricted to the resident of concerned panchayat. In the event of inadequate response to a tender, participation from adjoining panchayat shall be permitted.
- If the Bidder quotes his Bid exceeding the tendering Cost, his bid will be automatically rejected.
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of treasury challan/receipt under HEAD 0515 mentioning therein Name of work and NIT No. in favour of the Executive Engineer, REW Division Baramulla (Tender Inviting Authority).
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site at the office of the Executive Engineer, REW Division Baramulla.
- All The Bidders has to deposit Earnest Money (2% of Advertised cost) in shape of CDR/FDR at the time of tendering as per the Circular of Finance Department.
- The tender/ bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill requirements as laid down in NIT.
- All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).

No: 425-432  
Dated: 26-07-2022

DIPK-6851/22

Executive Engineer.  
REW Baramulla



## On World Hepatitis Day DAK Demands Liver Transplant Facility

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Thursday demanded setting up of a liver transplant facility in Kashmir.

“That would save lives,” said DAK President Dr Nisar ul Hassan.

Dr Hassan said patients with liver failure and end stage liver disease are on the rise in the valley and the only viable option for them is liver transplantation.

“There is epidemic of chronic hepatitis B and C infection in Kashmir which are the most common causes of end stage liver disease,” he said adding “Kashmir is the capital of fatty liver disease patients which is the leading cause of chronic liver disease.”

The DAK President said while the availability of liver transplantation has transformed the lives of patients with advanced liver disease, in Kashmir they continue to be in despair and seem to have

no hope of survival.

“It is painful to see salvageable liver failure patients dying due to lack of liver transplant facility,” he added.

Dr Nisar said in 2013 a liver transplant unit was approved for SKIMS hospital, but since then nothing has been done to make this life-saving unit functional.

“A yearly grant of Rupees one crore was sanctioned for placement of trained staff, but till date no infrastructure has been put in place and no staff was trained,” he said,

General Secretary DAK Dr Arshad Ali said despite legal and religious support for organ donation, except for some cosmetic measures, no serious efforts were made to generate awareness among people to encourage them for organ donation which is central to liver transplantation.

“Liver transplant involves replacement of patient’s diseased liver by a healthy liver derived from a brain-dead patient or from a living donor,” he said.(KNS)

## DC Inspects Upgradation Works At Bakshi Stadium

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Thursday visited Bakshi Stadium and inspected progress of the ongoing renovation and upgradation works there that are at the final stage of completion.

Aijaz took a round of the Stadium to inspect the dewatering being carried out to drain out the accumulated water in the stadium caused due to heavy rains. He asked the City drainage Division to deploy additional dewatering pumps.

On the occasion, Executive Engineer City Drainage demonstrated the Drainage Network connectivity Plan and its implementation for the Stadium.

Aijaz Asad also took stock of the upgradation works of

power supply and asked the concerned to complete the works within the set timeline. He further asked them to ensure proper backup supply at the Stadium to tackle any unavoidable interruption in the main power supply.

It is pertinent to mention that, Bakshi Stadium is one of the major Stadium in Srinagar City being built on the norms of FIFA with the facility of night sports and has undergone massive renovation with execution of several upgradation works by the National Project Construction Corporation Limited at an estimated cost of Rs 40.85 crore.

The State of Art Sports facility has come up with central Funding and shall prove a game changer for the aspirational sports persons looking to make a mark at National/ International level.



PDP President Mehbooba Mufti sets a pigeon free at an event marking 23rd foundation day of the party. KO Photo Abid Bhat.

## SMC Lacks Funds, Manpower To Macadamize Lanes, Link Roads

Agencies

Srinagar: Officials of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation admitted that City Roads Division of SMC lacks manpower and the Corporation has not macadamized many lanes, by lanes and link roads in the city.

Mayor Srinagar Municipal Corporation Junaid Azim Mattu on Thursday said that City Roads Division of SMC has a dearth of manpower and SMC requires additional Rs 54 crore for the macadamization of Srinagar lanes, by- lanes and link roads that have not been backtopped for the last 7 to 8 years.

As per the 74th Amendment, the R&B City Roads Division was transferred to SMC last year in 2021. This includes nearly 1800 kilometers of lanes, by-lanes and link roads of Srinagar city.

“For the last fiscal year, funds were made available to SMC for macadamization at the end of the season practically in August. Due to this, only a fraction of the macadamization works plan could be completed in 2020-2021 despite our frantic efforts”, Mattu said speaking about the current status of the macadamization process in the city.

He said a large portion of the previous years’ macadamization works plan is being currently executed to a tune of nearly 20 crores.

“For the last fiscal year, funds were made available to SMC for macadamization at the end of the season practically in August. Due to this, only a fraction of the macadamization works plan could be completed in 2020-2021 despite our frantic efforts

“These are funds carried forward for macadamization from last year from SMC’s pre-existing funding heads. This carried-forward works-plan was ready in Dec 2021 and tendered well in time in March-April (so that macadamization could start in May-June).”

The Srinagar Mayor said that there was a two month blanket boycott by contractors (citing inflation in raw-material costs rendering rates unfeasible). After the LG’s direct intervention in June, the rate schedules were revised-now ensuring that the tendering process was responded to.

He informed that works were

immediately re-tendered and are currently either in execution or allotment phase around the city.

“We are now left with a deficiency of nearly 39 crores for macadamization of lanes, by-lanes and link roads and 15 crores for soling/ metaling of kuccha roads, lanes in Srinagar. These proposals are pending approval from the administration and are being followed-up.”

“The City Roads Division requires an augmentation of at least 70% in terms of manpower and officers. Since most lanes, by-lanes, were not macadamized for 7-8 years, their condition has worsened. Aggressive, road-unfriendly snow-clearance has taken an added toll.”

Junaid Azim Mattu added that devolution of power to ULBs has 3Fs — Funds, Functions and Functionaries.

“We sadly transfer functions and functionaries to ULBs in the absence of funds for the transferred departments. This is a universal paralyzing policy flaw and needs to change. We are trying to put in place a stage-contract within SMC enabling us to conduct urgent repairs and fix pot-holes without any procedural/codal delay.”

“We are also trying to get funding approval from the administration for 39+15 crores required,” he said. (KNT)

### DIAL-EMMA

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
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### AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



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



### HIGHWAY STATUS



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



**HIJRI**  
**CALENDAR**  
29- Zil- Hajj  
1443

### PRAYERS

FAJR	4:00
ZUHR	12:37
ASR	5:33
Magrib	7:40
ISHA	9:14

### This Day In History

- 1693- War of the Grand Alliance: Battle of Landen/ Neerwinden - France wins
- Pyrrhic victory over Allied forces in the Netherlands.
- 1696- Louis XIV. King of France, & Victor Amadeus II, Duke of Savoy, sign Peace of Turin,
- a turning point in the War of the League of Augsburg
- 1783- Skaptar Volcano on Iceland erupts killing about 9,000
- 1786- 1st newspaper published west of Alleghenies, Pitts Gazette
- 1858- Treaty of Amity and Commerce/Harris Treaty signed between US & Japan opening
- Japanese ports to trade
- 1899 -The First Hague Convention is signed.
- 1913- Albania becomes sovereignty under prince Wilhelm von Wied
- 1914- Russia mobilize troops along Austrian boundary
- 1914- In response to Austria's declaration of war on Serbia, Russian diplomats and general
- urge general mobilization, but the Tsar calls for partial mobilization
- 1921- Adolf Hitler becomes leader of the National Socialist German Workers Party

*From KO Archives*

## Dramatic Encounter Rattles City Centre

*1 Killed, scores hurt as militants target security forces in Budshah chowk*

Observer News Service

**S**RINAGAR - Militants struck the busy business hub of the capital city this evening setting off a fierce gunbattle with security forces in which an unspecified number of people, including five media persons and half a dozen security personnel, were injured.

The militants hurled a grenade at a Maruti Gypsy of BSF (JK01E-3803) setting it on fire and later opened fire at a BSF armoured vehicle at the KMD bus stand in the close vicinity of Akhara building at around 5 pm, official sources said adding the militants then barged into the Bengal-Gujarati hotel and began firing at security personnel outside. The security forces hit back triggering an exchange of fire and the gunbattle continued till late hours Friday.

Six mediapersons—four cameramen and two press photographers—were injured in the incident while performing. Three BSF personnel, a police constable and five civilians were also injured in the initial exchange of fire which erupted when the area was teeming with people most of them heading homes after office hours and some busy shopping. The injured civilians included a woman and son of a Congress worker.

At least two militants remained holed up in Auqaf building and an adjacent one. The buildings are located near the Aknara building which houses the hol mace of Hindu diety Shiva besides large number of BSF troopers.

Later both the buildings were surrounded by security forces and intermittent firing between the two sides continued as the troops were making efforts to neutralize militants till late in this evening. Al-Mansoorian and Jamiat-ul-Mujahideen militant outfits claimed responsibility for the dramatic attack in separate statements to a local news agency but gave no further details about the intended target or about the number of militants involved in the strike.

A police vehicle which was passing the area at the time of the firing was hit by a stray bullet in the petrol tank setting it on fire. The vehicle was gutted in the fire but the driver managed to jump out of it in the nick of time, the sources said. Fire brigade personnel rushed to the scene immediately to douse the flames.

The heavy exchange of fire led to the closure of all shops and business establishments in the area and adjacent busy business centres of Lai Chowk, Koker Bazar, Gawkadai, Red Cross Road and Amirakadal.

The busy roads wore a deserted look with only security personnel moving the scene of the gunbattle as reinforcements were called in. Movement of traffic came to a standstill in the area.

“This was a fifteen attack. A group of militants fired at the paramilitary pickets in Akhara building and simultaneously a grenade was launched at a police jeep in the same area,” Inspector General of Police Javid Makhdoomi said.

“It was a coordinated terror act. The security forces foiled the attempt of the militants to enter the Akhara building, which houses a temple of Lord Shiva called Chhari Mubarak.”

(Kashmir Observer, 29 July, 2005)

## Omar Abdullah Calls For Collective Efforts Against Social Evils

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah on Thursday necessitated collaborative efforts to curb the menace of drug addiction in Kashmir.

He said this while addressing the foundation and annual parent's day function of J&K Rural Development society held at the auditorium hall of the Dental College Shirin Bagh, Srinagar. The event was presided over by former Speaker and Chairman JKRDS Mubarak Gul.

Calling for collaborative efforts from civil society in purging the society from social evils and creating

awareness on various fronts in tackling various other issues, Omar said “The burgeoning menace of drug addiction in Kashmir needs to be addressed seriously. It is high time for us to stand up and talk against it. It is not a one man's task to take on this challenge. It is a gigantic work that calls for our collaborative efforts to be operated on multiple fronts,” he said.

Climatic change, Omar said, was another topical issue that demands community action. “We are witnessing weather extremities. Let me tell you that saving the environment also starts with us. As a vibrant organization, JKRDS can make a difference in this direction

by educating people to make eco-friendly choices in their kitchens and other work spaces. I hope the organization will take up a few causes and work with dedication to realise the anticipated goals. Having many goals makes it hard to achieve them. It is better to have few and remain focussed,” he added.

In his address, Mubarak Gul gave a detailed account of the milestones achieved by JKRDS. He assured the dignitaries and people present on the occasion that the organization will work with renewed vigour to combat drug addiction and substance abuse with the active participation of the civil society, parents, and religious leaders.



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# Saudi Arabia Plans 100-Mile-Long Mirrored Skyscraper Megacity

The promotional material is striking: two mirror-encased skyscrapers stretching more than 100 miles across a swathe of desert and mountain terrain, providing a future home for 9 million people. Is it the ultimate in high-density living, or a grandiose science fiction fantasy?

In short, economists, architects and analysts are not quite sure. So extravagant is Saudi Arabia's plan to create an urban utopia that even those working on the project, known as the Line, do not yet know if its scale and scope can ever be realised.

Sceptics and supporters alike were this week given more insight into the extraordinary ambition of the development – the centrepiece of the futuristic Neom site near the Gulf of Aqaba – when the kingdom's crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman, outlined central aspects of what he intends to be one of the most ambitious urban developments built in modern times.

First announced in 2017, Neom has consistently raised eyebrows due to proposed flourishes such as flying taxis and robot maidis, even as archi-



itects and economists have questioned its feasibility.

According to the Saudis, artificial intelligence will be central to how people live in the 500-metre-high, 200-metre-wide structure, a car-free, carbon neutral bubble that will boast near total sustainability and a temperate, regulated microclimate. Past environmental pledges by the kingdom, such as a vow to achieve net zero

carbon emissions by 2060, have prompted scepticism from environmentalists.

Multimedia presentations have added colour to what until now had been a concept that even some of the project's planners had found difficult to visualise. The slickly produced films show a megacity that partly resembles the Death Star with hanging gardens. Residents will have "all daily needs" reachable

within a five-minute walk, while also having access to other perks such as outdoor skiing facilities and "high-speed rail with an end-to-end transit of 20 minutes", according to a statement.

Though Neom will operate under its own founding law, which is still being prepared, Saudi officials say they have no plans to waive the kingdom's alcohol ban.

Prince Mohammed's vision for modern living is central to



his plans to transform the kingdom from an oil-dependent economy and conservative society that he believes is ill served to drive the country forward.

Neom was partly conceived as a divergence from tradition and from the sclerosis of the past four decades, in which leaders doubled down on a hardline interpretation of Islam, maintaining inflexible societal standards. The kingdom's de facto ruler

on Monday laid claim to the Line being the world's "most liveable city by far". He said the model he envisaged was a replacement for unchecked urban development and waste that had diminished living standards for residents of cities.

The "first phase" of the project, lasting until 2030, would cost 1.2tn Saudi riyals (about £265bn), Prince Mohammed said. Besides government subsidies, potential sources of funding included the private sector and an initial public offering for Neom expected in 2024, he said. In private, he has told aides and planners he wants Saudi Arabia to have its own version of the pyramids and is known to want the kingdom to be as renowned globally as other regional countries. However, the extravagance of the project and its various manifestations over the past five years have led some analysts to wonder whether it can ever get off the ground.

"With little access to the site, and only eight years left before residents are meant to move in, it's a lot to take on trust," said one consultant who works closely with the Saudi government. "And

then there's the inertia in the system. It's hard to excise that."

Robert Mogielnicki of the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington told Agence France-Presse: "The concept has morphed so much from its early conception that it's sometimes hard to determine its direction: scaling down, scaling up, or making an aggressive turn sideways."

Prince Mohammed is hoping for a nationwide population boom that he says will be necessary to make Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest crude exporter, an economic powerhouse. "That's the main purpose of building Neom," he said. "To raise the capacity of Saudi Arabia, get more citizens and more people in Saudi Arabia. And since we are doing it from nothing, why should we copy normal cities?"

Facing a population boom and a large percentage of young people looking for employment, he said Neom could generate up to 380,000 jobs. Saudi projections are for the kingdom to have a population of as many as 50 million by 2030, more than half of them foreigners. Saudi Arabia's current population is just under 35 million.

## Kyiv Strikes Key Bridge To Choke Russian Advance

Agenceis

**KYIV:** Ukrainian artillery on Wednesday struck a key bridge falling in Moscow-controlled territory in south Ukraine, damaging an important supply route as Kyiv's forces look to wrest back the Kherson region.

The strike on the Antonivskiy bridge over the Dnipro river came hours ahead of the opening in Istanbul of a joint observation centre to monitor Ukrainian grain exports that have been blocked by the Kremlin's warships.

Kirill Stremousov, the deputy head of the Russian-installed regional administration in Kherson, confirmed the bridge had been hit overnight and traffic had been halted.

But he downplayed the damage, insisting that the attack would not affect the outcome of the hostilities "in any way." "The special military operation is continuing," Stremousov said in a video posted on social media, using the Kremlin's preferred term to refer to their invasion.

Ukrainian forces in recent weeks have been clawing back territory in the Kherson region, which fell to Russian forces easily and early after their invasion launched on February 24.

Their counter-offensive supported by Western-supplied

long-range artillery has seen its forces push closer to Kherson city, which had a pre-war population of under 300,000 people.

Ukrainian officials in the region have said their forces in the Black Sea region have changed tack, from defensive to offensive and that Kherson will "definitely" be liberated by the end of September.

Russian forces "should leave Kherson while it is still possible. There may not be a third warning," Ukrainian presidential advisor Mykhaylo Podolyak said on Twitter after the attack.

While Ukrainian forces have been piling pressure on Russian positions in the south, the eastern Donbas region has seen intense fighting.

Journalists in Bakhmut, one of the remaining towns in Donbas under Ukrainian control, heard sporadic artillery fire and saw a house on the outskirts that had been hit by a Russian shell.

"I was in the barn and was going to go out. I heard a whistle. And I don't remember anything. It exploded and I was thrown into the barn by explosion wave, 51-year-old Roman said.

The head of the Donetsk region in Donbas, said on social media that Russian artillery had hit a hotel and initial reports suggested the strikes had left people dead and injured.



## Israel Wants US Settle Maritime Row With Lebanon Before Hezbollah Deadline: Report



Agenceis

**Beirut:** Tel Aviv is reported to have sent an SOS to Washington urging it to finalize an agreement over its maritime border with Lebanon before the September deadline given by Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah.

According to the military affairs correspondent of Israel's Channel 12, Nir Dvory, Tel Aviv is pressuring the country retains a "high level of deterrence" against Lebanon and Hezbollah.

"If [Hezbollah] challenges us, we will take up the gauntlet and hurt them," Gantz said. These comments came on the heels of a warning issued by Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah on 25 July, in which he told Israel that "all fields are under threat, not only Karish, and no Israeli target at sea or on land is out of reach of the resistance's precision missiles."

a deal with Lebanon "as soon as possible," out of fear that Hezbollah will step up its operations against Israel.

US-mediated negotiations over Israel and Lebanon's shared maritime borders restarted last month, just as Tel Aviv deployed drilling and extraction vessels on the disputed waters.

On 26 July, Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz told reporters that the country retains a "high level of deterrence" against Lebanon and Hezbollah.

Referring to the US-mediated talks between Lebanon and Israel as "stuck," Dvory also highlighted that Tel Aviv is carrying out "a very large protection operation" in the vicinity of the Karish gas field.

The news comes less than a week after reports surfaced claiming interim Prime Minister Yair Lapid told US mediator Amos Hochstein that he hopes to reach

"When things reach a dead-end, we will not only stand in the face of Karish ... Mark these words: we will reach Karish, beyond Karish, and far, far beyond Karish," the resistance leader pledged.

Earlier in the month, Nasrallah gave Lebanese officials until September to secure the country's rights over their natural resources.

"If you don't give us the rights that our state is asking for ... then we could flip the table on everyone ... If you want to get to a point where this country is barred from taking advantage [of these fields], then no one will be allowed to extract gas or oil and no one will be able to sell gas or oil," Nasrallah said on 13 July.

In response, Israel has reportedly sent "strong warnings" to Hezbollah through diplomatic and military channels, saying that any action taken against the Karish field would "provoke a strong response" from Tel Aviv.

## "There's A Limit...": Supreme Court On Reports It's Delaying A Hearing

Agenceis

**New Delhi:** There is a limit to which you target judges, the Supreme Court said on Thursday while expressing displeasure over news reports that it was delaying hearing a plea alleging increasing attacks on Christian institutions and priests across the country.

Give us a break, a bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and Surya Kant said.

"Last time the matter could not be taken because I was down with Covid. You get it published in newspapers that the Supreme Court is delaying the hearing. Look, there is a limit to which you can target the

judges. Who supplies all this news? "The news I saw online was that judges are delaying the hearing. Give us a break. One of the judges is down with Covid and this is the reason we could not take the matter. Anyway, we will list it otherwise there will be another news item," the bench observed orally.

The observations came after the petitioner's counsel sought hearing of the case.

Senior advocate Colin Gonsalves had mentioned the matter before a vacation bench in June and said 45 to 50 violent attacks on an average take place against Christian institutions and priests across the country every month.

## Supreme Court To Hear Plea Against Probe Agency Director's Tenure Extension

Agenceis

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court agreed to hear on Friday a plea challenging the amended law allowing extension of tenure of the director of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) up to five years, and the Centre's decision to grant one year extension to Sanjay Kumar Mishra as head of the probe agency.

A bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana took note of the submission of senior lawyer Basava Prabhu Patil that the plea of Saket Gokhale, a leader of the All India Trinamool Congress, needed to be listed for an urgent hearing.

Besides Gokhale, the spokesperson of the TMC, others have also filed petitions challenging the tenure extension and the

enabling amended law in this regard in the top court.

"We will list it for hearing tomorrow," said the bench which also comprised justices Krishna Murari and Himu Kohli.

Earlier on July 13, Madhya Pradesh Congress leader Jaya Thakur through a lawyer had sought the listing of the plea on the issue.

The pleas challenged the Central Vigilance Commission (Amendment) Act 2021 which provides for extension of the term of ED's director up to five years. The Centre on November 17, 2021 had extended Sanjay Kumar Mishra's tenure by a year till November 18, 2022, days after the Centre brought ordinances to allow the ED and CBI directors to occupy the office up to five years.

### NEWS MAKERS

## UK Retail Chain Under Fire For Using Facial Recognition Cameras

Agenceis

A privacy rights group has filed a legal complaint against the use of facial recognition cameras at a UK chain store, describing the practice as dangerously intrusive.

Big Brother Watch submitted the complaint to Britain's Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) on Tuesday, to investigate the use of the controversial surveillance system by independent grocery store chain Southern Co-operative across southern England.

The group's key concern is that supermarket staff can use facial recognition to "blacklist" customers, making them a "subject of interest."

Director of Big Brother Watch Silkie Carlo said the legal action was a "vital step towards protecting the privacy rights of thousands of people who are affected by this dangerously intrusive, privatized spying."

"The Southern Co-op's use of live facial recognition surveillance



is Orwellian in the extreme, highly likely to be unlawful, and must be immediately stopped by the Information Commissioner," she said.

Authorities at the co-op argued that the cameras were used in a "limited number of high risk locations," where signage is on display and images are not stored of any individual unless they have been identified and evidenced as an offender.

The surveillance firm Facewatch, which sold the system to the co-op said, "Facial recognition is lawful for the purpose of crime prevention." The ICO, however,

said, "As with any new technology, it is crucial that people's privacy is at the heart of any decisions to deploy LFR (live facial recognition) so public trust and confidence are not lost."

It said that it was "assessing the compliance of a small number of private companies who have used, or are currently using, live facial recognition technology," with Facewatch being among the organizations under consideration.

"We will also assess the information provided by Big Brother Watch," the ICO said.

In a related development, human rights groups Liberty and Privacy International told a tribunal on Tuesday that British spy agency MI5 had been breaching surveillance laws since 2010 by unlawfully obtaining bulk surveillance warrants against the public.

It told the Investigatory Powers Tribunal that MI5 had stored data on members of the public without the legal right to do so.

## "Rashtrapatni" Remark Shameful, Congress Should Apologise: Mayawati

Agenceis

**Lucknow:** BSP chief Mayawati on Thursday said Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury referring to President Droupadi Murmu as 'rashtrapatni' is "most shameful and condemnable", and demanded that his party apologise for his remark.

Mayawati also asked the Congress to shun its "casteist mindset". Mr Chowdhury, the leader of the Congress in Lok Sabha, referred to President Murmu as 'rashtrapatni' while talking to the media during his party's protests over a host of issues.

Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha witnessed protests by BJP members against Mr Chowdhury's remark and were adjourned twice amid the uproar.

"The spectacular election of Droupadi Murmuji as the first woman from the tribal society to the highest post of the President of India has not been liked by

many... the objectionable remark made against her by Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, leader of Congress in Lok Sabha, is very sad, shameful and highly condemnable," Mayawati said in a tweet.

"The proceedings of Parliament have also been disrupted today due to protests against him referring to the honourable President as 'rashtrapatni' on TV... the Congress party should also apologise to the country for this and abandon its casteist mindset," she said.

Lok Sabha was adjourned till 4 pm and Rajya Sabha till 3 pm on Thursday amid noisy scenes as BJP members strongly protested against Mr Chowdhury's remark on Murmu.

The Congress leader told reporters outside Parliament that referring to President Murmu as 'rashtrapatni' was a "slip of the tongue" and accused the BJP of making a "mountain out of a molehill" over the issue.

## English Criminal Court Case Televised For The First Time

Agenceis

**London:** Cameras were allowed to film a criminal court case in England and Wales for the first time on Thursday, when the sentencing of a man convicted of manslaughter was broadcast live on television.

The government says the move, which was first promised a decade ago, will give the public a greater understanding of the judicial process.

Filming will be limited to the judge's sentencing remarks, and only the judge will appear on camera, with a 10-second delay for live broadcasts.

The first televised case at London's Old Bailey central criminal court saw Judge Sarah Munro jail Ben Oliver for life with a minimum jail term of more than 10 years, after he admitted in January to killing his grandfather.

Currently, hearings in London's Court of Appeal and the UK Supreme Court can be televised, and some cases in Scotland, which operates a separate judicial system,

have been broadcast since 1992.

Until Thursday, cameras were strictly forbidden from criminal cases in England and Wales, with the images from hearings restricted to sketches created from memory by artists who remain banned from drawing inside the courtroom itself.

Supporters of televising sentencing hearings say it will help show the public why decisions are made, but critics fear widening this further to allow trials to be broadcast could lead to cases being sensationalised.

Some US courts allow broadcasters to film proceedings, allowing the public to watch high-profile criminal trials, and other countries such as France are considering allowing cases to be televised.

"Opening up the courtroom to cameras to film the sentencing of some of the country's most serious offenders will improve transparency and reinforce confidence in the justice system," Deputy Prime Minister Dominic Raab said.



## LG Lays e-Foundation Of Sky Walk, Gayatri Bhavan Of Vaishno Devi Shrine



Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Thursday laid the e-foundation of Yatri Queue Management System (Sky Walk), Gayatri Bhavan & other infra projects of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine from Raj Bhavan here.

The Lt Governor, who is also the Chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, on the occasion observed that the shrine board is taking every measure to provide better facilities and modern amenities to make the pilgrimage convenient and hassle-free.

"The Government is already working on the ambitious project to develop a religious tourism circuit to strengthen the links between pilgrimage and local economy", the Lt Governor added.

Hon'ble Members, SMVDSB, Mahamandleshwar Shri Swami Vishveshvaranand Giriji Maharaj; Dr Ashok Bhan; Sh Kul Bhushan Ahuja; Dr. Neelam Sareen; Sh Suresh Kumar Sharma (Retd. Judge) and Sh Raghu K. Mehta attended the occasion in person & through virtual mode.

The Yatri Queue Management System (Sky Walk) would be constructed at Bhawan and Gayatri Bhawan, staff residential accommodation, shall come up at Katra.

The Lt Governor said that the Yatri Queue Management System (Sky Walk) is one of the focused initiatives of the Shrine Board for Yatra Management as this facility shall ensure safety, comfort and ease of commutation of the devotees.

"Yatri Queue Management System has been conscientiously curated by the Shrine Board with the intent to decongest traffic at Bhawan for the devotees visiting the shrine to ensure their easy cross-over and to overcome the problem of multidirectional movement of devotees", he added.

Conceptualized with an emphasis on safety and facility development, the Skywalk which will be executed through CPWD with wooden flooring will be 20 feet above the track level, 200 meter in length with two rescue areas having provision of seating arrangements for senior citizens & ladies. In addition, two waiting halls with washroom facilities are being constructed along the Sky Walk to accommodate seating for around 150 devotees.

The Lt Governor directed the CEO, SMVDSB and the executing agency for speedy execution of the work within the timeline of

five months.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor also launched 'Panch Mewa Prasad' for devotees who visit the famous Hindu pilgrimage, nestled in Trikuta Hills. It was informed that the Panch Mewa Prasad shall be made available to the devotees at Darshani Deodi, Banganga and Darshani Deodi, Tarakote. However, this facility shall be extended to souvenir shops and other locations like Helipad, Railway Station, Airport, Jammu and Niharika complex etc.

The Lt Governor also reviewed ongoing project of Durga Bhawan and directed the executing agency for adhering to the timeline for the completion of this high utility pilgrim-centric facility. The five-storey Durga Bhawan will have all requisite amenities, besides having adequate provision for harnessing clean energy, recycling of waste water linking up with existing STPs and provision of elevators etc.

To add facilities for meeting the accommodation needs for the staff, the Lt Governor also laid e-foundation stone for the construction of staff residential accommodation at Nomain, Katra.

The complex to be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 7.62 crore will have 16 two-room sets and 28 single-room sets with attached kitchen and bathroom, underground parking space, provision of two lifts and fire safety and shall be completed in a fixed time period of 12 months.

In addition, the issues related to remodeling of Parvati Bhawan, RFID and Slope Stabilization were also deliberated upon and necessary instructions were issued by the Lt Governor to the Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB.

The Lt Governor was apprised by the CEO about proposed solutions like RFID based tracking and dispatching pilgrims in batches among few others.

The Lt Governor directed for proper safety measures to be taken to deal with the issue of shooting stones, after consultation with the experts. He expressed satisfaction over the construction of infrastructure including accommodation for employees of the Shrine Board and a Yoga Bhawan.

Anshul Garg, Chief Executive officer, SMVDSB; Navneet Singh, Additional Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB and Superintendent Engineer, CPWD, besides other officials of SMVDSB were present on the occasion.

## Mehbooba Urges PM To Make J&K 'Peace Zone'

Says 'Road To India Becoming Vishwaguru' Goes Through J&K



Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to declare Jammu and Kashmir a peace zone and make it a model of SAARC cooperation by opening all routes across the Line of Control (LoC) and allowing every member country to invest in the region.

In a fiery speech at Sher-e-Kashmir Park here on the occasion of the PDP's 23rd foundation day, she also said there was no other option than dialogue to resolve the Jammu and Kashmir issue.

I request you (PM Modi) that J-K whose name you fear to take along with the name of Pakistan, there is a saying in English catch the bull by the horns', make this J-K and the other J-K a model of SAARC cooperation.

Declare both J-K's a zone of peace and let all the SAARC countries invest here. Let them open their banks here, their handicrafts universities be opened, every one be allowed

to move freely, open all routes, Mehbooba said addressing the party workers.

The trade between India and Pakistan goes on at the Wagah border in Punjab but it was suspended in Jammu and Kashmir, she said.

Have we ever heard that there was firing on the Punjab border or that there was war between India and Pakistan on the Gujarat border or Rajasthan border? No, it only happens on the borders in J-K. There is a war inside J-K as well. Ten lakh army personnel on one side and youth with guns on the other. You will have to resolve this issue and there is no other option, the PDP chief said.

She also asked the prime minister to make J-K a gateway to Central and South Asia.

Pakistan and China have said all countries can become a part of the CPEC -- a route which goes via the other J-K to Central Asia and South Asia. You said do not do it, but they will do it and they will not stop because you

said so. Did you stop from abrogating Article 370 when they said so? No, you went ahead and ruined everything here.

The other J-K is lucky that its strategic position is being used to become a gateway to Central and South Asia. Why do not you open routes through this J-K? Why not make it a gateway to Central and South Asia? Start from Jammu, reach Valley and then Ladakh -- be it Xinjiang, Yarkhand, Kargil-Skardu, Bandipora-Astoor, we are telling you what to do, Mehbooba said.

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was established in Dhaka on December 8, 1985. Its member states are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The organisation promotes economic development and regional integration.

Mehbooba also appealed to Prime Minister Modi to grant general amnesty to all Kashmiri youths languishing in different jails across the country.

## J&K Adds 685 New Cases, 1 Covid Death

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir reported 685 covid-19 cases in the last 24 hours while one person succumbed to the virus during the time, officials said on Thursday.

262 cases were reported from Jammu division and 423 from Kashmir division, taking the overall tally to 462633, they said.

Among the total cases, 170782 are from Jammu division and 291851 from Kashmir, they said.

There was one death due to the pathogen in the last 24 hours-- from Kashmir, they said.

So far 4766 people have succumbed to the virus--2338 in Jammu and 2428 in Kashmir.

Besides, they said, 443 Covid-19 patients recovered during

the last 24 hours--231 from Jammu division and 212 from Kashmir Valley. There are now 4316 active cases-- 1954 in Jammu and 2362 in Kashmir.

The officials said there was no new confirmed case of mucormycosis (black fungus) reported today. So far 51 black fungus cases have been confirmed in J&K, the officials said.

HAR GHAR 'TIRANGA' CAMPAIGN:

## No One Should Be Forced To Hoist Tricolor: Omar

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** National Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah Thursday said no one should have objection to hoist national flag as part of the Centre's Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign, but there should be no compulsion as well.

Why should anyone have any objection to it. It is the country's flag, there is a permission to hoist it at home. This is government's mission and I do not think anyone should have any



objection to it. The only difference is that, there should be no compulsion. No one should forcibly stop anyone from hoisting it and in the same manner, no one should force anyone to hoist it,"

Omar told reporters here.

The former J-K chief minister said there were reports that school students were asked to deposit money, or that money was taken from the salaries of the employees.

There is a need to think over that, but, as far as the Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign is concerned, I do not think there should be any objection, he added.

Omar declined to comment on a question about assembly elections in J-K, saying I have not heard anything about elections.

## CS Reviews Adoption & Implementation Of iGOT Karmayogi



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Thursday convened a meeting to review the adoption and implementation of iGOT Karmayogi in J&K. The meeting was on National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (Mission Karmayogi) which is being complemented by Integrated Government Online Platform popularly known as iGOT Karmayogi.

The meeting was attended by the Director General, J&K IMPARD, Saurabh Bhagat, Director Trainings IMPAm Dr. J. A. Jabeen, Joint Director Priyanka Bhat, Dy Director Umar Shafi, Faculty members Dr Khurshid ul Islam and Dr Bilal Bhat of J&K IMPARD and Nodal Officer iGOT Karmayogi Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Dar.

Representatives of LGs Grievance Cell were also present for whom JKIMPARD is going to train about 20000 grievance officers of different departments in collaboration with DARP, Govt. of India.

The Chief Secretary took a detailed review of all the components of Mission Karmayogi including Competency lead Capacity Building, Accountability and transparency through objective evaluations, effective public delivery system, Policies conducive to economic growth and citizen centricity.

Mehta also took a note of UT specific strategies to adopt and implement the Mission Karmayogi through a shift from Rule to Role based governance, a credible and autonomous institutional framework, a digital platform offering services around learning and career management, effective and efficient e-Human Resource Management (eHRM).

The Chief Secretary was informed about the completion of eHRM within a period of two months which will completely shift the manual management of Human Resource into Digital Management.

The Chief Secretary was informed by DG IMPARD about different steps taken by J&K government for implementation of Mission Karmayogi in the offices of J&K administration especially GAD. The DG highlighted the role of J&K IMPARD in capacity building of government functionaries through a continuous effort.

On the occasion the launching of Learning Management System through JK IMPARD was also shared with the Chief Secretary wherein all material including PPTs, Videos, Concept Papers, Case Studies, Training Modules, Exercises etc. are uploaded for the benefit of employees and the trainees.

Pertinent to mention here that this system is connected to all ATIs and CTIs throughout the country.

## Ensure That Academic Session Is Not Delayed At Any Cost: Kansal



Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Principal Secretary, Higher Education Department (HED), Rohit Kansal on Thursday chaired a meeting with Registrars and Deans of all the Universities of J&K to review the process regarding commencement of academic session 2022-23 in the universities and Colleges.

While reviewing the progress on ongoing admission process, the Principal Secretary stressed upon the participants that the last date of admissions should be fixed so that the students of all Boards including CBSE get adequate opportunity for admission to colleges and universities here.

"Our priority is to streamline the admission process and examination process, and ensure that no candidate should be deprived of admission in any college of Jammu and Kashmir", Kansal remarked.

Reviewing the progress on implementation of NEP-2020, the Principal Secretary maintained that for better implementation of National Education Policy, all universities should work in coordination and maintain effective communication among themselves. He emphasized that the colleges, the

universities and the regulators were the three pillars of the educational ecosystem and they needed to work in harmony and symbiosis to ensure the system was able to deliver quality education to the students.

He asked the universities to ensure that all preparatory activities including finalization of syllabi were completed well before the beginning of the new session. He also directed the concerned for establishing career counseling cells in each college and university for providing guidance to students. He directed that universities should take the lead in organising workshops and lectures by professionals to guide the students in the placement process.

The Principal Secretary also stressed that all universities/ colleges needed to widely disseminate information about NEP and he advised them to hold seminars and symposia to discuss in detail the implementation mechanism. He also advised the universities to revive the practice of inter university sports and cultural activities and other competitions. The Principal Secretary also directed the college representatives to prepare a framework for starting skill development courses in their respective colleges.

## Director Information Reviews Functioning Of Division Office Jammu

Asks Officers To Act As Bridge Between Public & Government



Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Director Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Akshay Labroo, on Thursday reviewed the working of Divisional Office Jammu here at a meeting held in Media Complex Bahu Plaza.

Joint Director, HQ, DIPR, Naresh Kumar; Joint Director, Jammu, Sapna Kotwal; Deputy Director (Hq), Jammu, Dr Rehana Bijli; Deputy Director, AV, Deepak Dubey; Deputy Director, PR, Jammu, Dr Vikas Sharma; Assistant Director, Shabnam Jaipuria; Administrative Officer, Hitesh Choudhary; Information Officer, Ashu Kumari; Cultural Officer, Jammu, Parul Khajuria; Field Publicity Officer, Jammu, Mukesh Sharma attended the meeting.

Joint Director Information Jammu gave a detailed powerpoint presentation on the overall functioning of the department and initiatives taken to ramp up the PR activities including projection of Government Policies, programmes, besides wide-ranging reforms brought at different levels of governance through print, electronics and other mass communication platforms by its different wings.

Threadbare discussions were held on varied issues including repair and renovation of the office building (DIPR Jammu), purchase

of equipment and diversification of departmental activities to showcase achievements of the government and highlight the public issues.

While reviewing the functioning, the Director underlined the important yet sensitive role of the department in the light of the changing media scenario.

Highlighting the role of the department, he advised the staff that as information officers they are a medium and a channel of governmental communication while as public relations officers they are a bridge between the public and the government. He further remarked that in today's world where information travels very fast and becomes viral, they as information officers must be careful in their reporting.

The Director impressed upon the officers to perform their duties with utmost dedication and sincerity so that maximum information of government welfare schemes was brought into the public domain. He assured them that all the issues raised in the meeting would be examined and considered for speedy redressal.

Earlier, the Director took a round of different sections of DIPR Jammu and also interacted with the staff members. He enquired about their working and issues, if any.

## Citizens Hailing Path Breaking Digital Initiatives Of J&K Govt

'J&K Setting Benchmark In Implementing PM's Digital India Campaign'

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** J&K Government has launched several path breaking citizen centric IT initiatives aimed at bringing greater transparency in governance and ease of living for citizens, an official spokesperson said Thursday.

In the last two years, he said, dedicated efforts have been made by J&K Administration to create an enabling environment for digital inclusion and promoting digital literacy to bridge the gap between government programs and citizen requirements. J&K, through innovation, implementation and inclusion is setting unprecedented benchmarks in digital initiatives and leading by example in Prime Minister's Digital India campaign.

Pertinently, J&K is number one in the ranking of UTs in e-governance. Host of initiatives like E-office, BEAMS, Awam Ki Awaaz, MyGov, e-Unnat, Digilocker, Aap-

ki Zameen Aapki Nigrani have brought transparency & accountability in governance and made transformational changes in the lives of people. As many as 209 government services have been integrated with Rapid Assessment System for real time feedback of citizens.

Under Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities on "Aapki Zameen Aapki Nigrani", the government organized special camps at Tehsil and Block level offices, Niabats, Patwar Khanas and Panchayat Ghars to educate public about this digital platform by which people can access their land records with one click.

"We are grateful to the present administrations at Center and UT level for launching such technological innovations in all spheres of development making the lives of people comfortable and convenient", said Sikamdar Noorani, District President All Jammu Kash-

mir Panchayat Conference while appreciating this historic initiative.

"Aapki Zameen Aapki Nigrani" has empowered common people to check their land records on their mobiles getting rid of moving from pillar to post for the same and safeguarding our land. I thank LG administration for this revolutionary step", he added.

Similarly, Showket Ahmed Rather of Tenggpora Srinagar is all praise for the government's initiative, who says, "It is really a good step, everyone will be benefited. Earlier getting revenue extracts used to take months. With Land passbook, now everything is with the people. We have been relieved of the cumbersome process and nightmare of visiting revenue offices".

For Khurshed Ahmed Reshi of Tenggpora, the initiative will expose people who grabbed government land and built infrastructure on public land.

Rinky Chauhan, a college stu-

dent of Jammu says that digital initiatives by the Government have empowered the student community to access the books, study material even without enrolling for regular courses.

Similarly, Showket Ahmed of Bandipora, "in times of state subject, it was the most tiring process to physically move documents from official to official. Now Domicile certificate is provided after applying from the comfort of home".

Likewise, Irfan Ahmed Bhat, an employee of a Fruit company thanks administration for providing cent percent subsidy under industrial policy after applying through online mode.

Notably, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha recently inaugurated Digi-Mela in all districts to generate awareness about digital solutions and new technologies.

Emphasising the need to take effective measures providing last mile solutions in digital services

for the people of J&K, the LG directed the stakeholders to formulate short-term goals of three-six months and long-term vision statements to transform core ICT infrastructure, governance, and services for ease of living, accessibility, and innovation to transform J&K into digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.

He also launched the 'Digi Dost' programme aimed at developing a strong network of digitally empowered young volunteers at the district, block, and panchayat level who could work as the brand ambassadors for Digital J&K and Digital India to achieve maximum mobilisation and awareness on digital services.

'Digi Dost' volunteers would also assist in digital service delivery, data collection, training, spreading information regarding the Digital India campaign, and making people aware of cyber hygiene and cybercrimes.



KASHMIR  
OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

## Slowing Economies

The global economy this year has fallen from the frying pan of an abating pandemic into the fire of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Making the situation worse is that the world's three largest economies - the United States, Europe and China - are stalling. This has triggered worldwide inflation, fuelled by the pause in exports of food grains from Russia and Ukraine. The two countries are big food producers. Ukraine is the world's biggest producer of sunflower oil, and Russia is number two. Together they account for 60 percent of global production. They also account for 28.9 percent of global wheat exports. This temporarily caused the wheat prices to trade at their 15-year highs. But the prices have since retreated to levels last seen before the Russian invasion of Ukraine following the recent agreement to unblock Ukraine's Black Sea grain exports in Istanbul. The continuing war, however, is not good news for the world economy as the shrinking of the US economy through the April to June quarter shows. A slowing US economy will have far-reaching effects on the world economy.

And this is happening at a time when the global economy was gradually recovering from the debilitating fall-out of the Covid-19 pandemic, a once-in-a-century event. The countries were slowly opening up and letting the economy function normally. International travel was also returning to pre-pandemic levels. The resumption of economic activity was important to restore the millions of jobs lost to pandemic.

In India, the union government had to lend support to the economy at a time when it was in freefall due to the pandemic. In the initial phase of the pandemic in 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a stimulus package of Rs 20 lakh crore to ease the devastating fall-out on the economy of the Covid-19 crisis. The package comprised a facility of Rs 3 lakh crores collateral-free automatic loans for businesses, including micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). This made borrowers with up to Rs 25 crore outstanding and Rs 100 crore turnover eligible. Loans had 4-year tenure with a moratorium of 12 months on principal repayment. Besides, there was 100 percent credit guarantee cover to banks and NBFCs on principal and interest. This enabled 45 lakh MSME units to resume business activity and safeguard jobs.

If the war drags on in Ukraine, India's economy is likely to come under severe stress again. Skyrocketing oil prices will also wreck the European economy. Therefore it is incumbent on the world to come together to resolve the crisis in Ukraine and find a solution that addresses the concerns of all the parties involved. Otherwise, as prophesied by leading economists, the world is heading inexorably towards recession.

OTHER OPINION

## On the 2022 Commonwealth Games

The Games — representing 2.5 billion people from 72 nations and territories which were once ruled by the erstwhile British Empire — have been staged over the years amid anti-colonial sentiments and huge costs involved in hosting such an event. But the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) has asserted that the Games — with its diversity that includes India with 1.3 billion people and Niue with a population of around 2,000 — have entered an era of renewed relevance. Underlining this, Birmingham, which replaced Durban as the host city and is ready to accommodate 6,500 athletes and officials by integrating 19 sports and eight para-sports, has highlighted the uniqueness of this latest edition. The debut of women's T20 cricket, 3x3 basketball and mixed synchronised swimming will be among the new features for the first carbon neutral games being held at an estimated budget of nearly £800 million.

India, which has not finished outside the top five since 2002, has fielded more than 200 athletes across 19 different sports and para-sports. Still, the country, which gathered 66 medals in the previous edition in Gold Coast, may witness a sharp dip in its collection as there is no shooting, which contributed 16 medals in 2018. The removal of shooting from the 2022 edition and the absence of wrestling (another discipline that earned many medals for India) from the 2026 edition have not gone down well with the Indian sports fraternity. When shooting was left out of the 2022 programme, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) had threatened to boycott the event. A compromise formula, under which shooting and archery were to be held in Chandigarh separately, could not be implemented due to the pandemic. In a recent meeting with the CGF president, Dame Louise Martin, top IOA officials made a request to include shooting and wrestling in the 2026 edition. At present, India will depend on its wrestlers, weightlifters, shuttlers, boxers, paddlers and squash players to win medals. In the absence of Olympic champion and World championships silver medalist javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, India will look forward to the likes of steeplechaser Avinash Sable, long jumper M. Sreesankar and javelin thrower Annu Rani to deliver the goods. A good showing in athletics will redeem some pride for India, which faced embarrassment following three athletes testing positive for banned substances. The hockey players, who won plaudits for their impressive showing in the Tokyo Olympics, and women cricketers will also provide hope to sports lovers.

The Hindu

# Is Going To Amreeka Worth It?



Wajahat Qazi

You might, to go to an extreme, own a house in Beverly Hills but your heart might yearn for your place of origin. You've crossed the proverbial Rubicon; there's no way back

est I am accused of scurrilousness or justification, setting out my vantage point and perch is essential in laying out my argument: I am a failed immigrant — from the antipodes (Australia) to the United Kingdom to the United States to Scandinavia to Dubai — regions that I lived in for some or extended periods of time, I failed to either 'settle down' or become a citizen of any of these nations. Now I shall aver the core premise of this essay (which is in the nature of a question): Is going to Amreeka(America) worth it?(I use America here as a surrogate for the West). It is in less developed contexts very fashionable and trendy to go to the West (or Amreeka).

For example, in the context of South Asia, if you have relatives (a son, a daughter or some member(s) of the extended family) in Amreeka, then you are not only the subject of envy but can also boast of these connections to the country. Lo and presto! Your status gets enhanced and a dynamic ensues where others want to emulate you: they too want their sons, daughters to go to Amreeka.

But to revert to the question posed in this essay: Is going to Amreeka worth it?

It depends. If your aim is to make money (that you could not make in your home country), enjoy a relatively enhanced standard of living, get a decent education for your children, or want to escape your culture and so on; maybe Amreeka is for you. Consider an example: person A who lives in a slum in South Asia, has no real opportunities for improving his or her life chances, if she or he gets an opportunity to go to, say, Australia and drive a cab there, the minimum wage structure, the nature of taxation, public services and education will staggeringly improve their life chances.

But there are invisible prices to pay that become visible after some time has passed. The loss of a definitive identity being one. Followed by feeling like a mere cog in a vast machine. There are pangs of dislocation and acculturation where you subtly and unconsciously become in a manner of osmosis like members of your host society but are not fully or entirely accepted. You watch your children become like coconuts — white on the inside but brown on the outside. You might, to go to an extreme, own a house in Beverly Hills but your heart might yearn for your place of origin. You've crossed the proverbial Rubicon; there's no way back.

All this is not to impugn host societies for their refusal to give you 'equal status', emotional and

envy them for their rootedness, innocent ignorance of the worlds you now inhabit.

Against this backdrop, going to Amreeka is not worth it. However, it can be supremely worthwhile if going to Amreeka induces an outlook and a worldview that makes you feel home everywhere and nowhere. If venturing to the West or anywhere in the world induces in you an expansiveness of the spirit and the soul which makes you view the whole world as your habitat; if you do not either parochially remain attached to your country of origin or become revulsive toward it and not merely cling to being an Amreekee(American), then go-

All this is not to impugn host societies for their refusal to give you 'equal status', emotional and psychological, no matter how you have 'become like them' and still insist on seeing you as Bangladeshi, Indian or Pakistani. While people are the same everywhere but culture and traditions make us different

ing to Amreeka would constitute a journey for you. A journey that will have enriched you, your personality and your outlook. Your journey back 'home' will not be a metaphorical discovery or rediscovery of 'hidden gold in your backyard'. (That's something which happens only in novels). 'Home', then to repeat, is everywhere and nowhere for you. If this is what going to Amreeka induces in you, then hearken ye, young man or woman, surely go to Amreeka!

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

Wajahat Qazi has a Masters with Distinction in International Relations from the University of Aberdeen, Scotland. He has previously worked as Associate Editor at the Kashmir Observer



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## Underage Domestic Helps in Elite Households

There's an unabated exploitation of minors going on by the so-called elite class in Kashmir. They employ underage boys and girls as full-time domestic help in order to save money. These children are given very less salary in comparison with others who are eligible to legally work. These children are made to work hard the whole day whereas the children of the employer enjoy all luxuries of life and study in good schools. Sometimes the employers go to the extent of inflicting atrocities on these children. It is really painful to see that at this tender age these children are compelled to work for these employers under most unfavourable conditions.

Perhaps it's poverty that compels their parents to make them work. However, this is exploitation and must stop at all costs.

Our Government should take some concrete steps to improve the condition of these underprivileged children. Right to education exists for every individual in this country, but that does not seem to be true when we come across underprivileged children like these. They have the right to lead a better life too, if they are willing to work, the employer should make sure they provide them with opportunities to gain education. Every child has the right to study for a brighter future.

Shameen Khan



MINDFUL FRIDAYS

# ‘Tum Itna Jo Muskura Rahay Ho’, Hiding Behind Smiling Depression

Even though sadness and unexplained crying spells are frequent features of depression, not everyone who is depressed looks unhappy

“

A person's denial of their depression may be the cause of smiling depression. They might believe that as long as they're smiling, they can't be depressed. Many people find it difficult to accept the possibility that they may have a problem. They find it simpler to put on a happy face than to be honest about how they really feel



Feature Image Credits: Noch Noch

Wasim Kakroo

“Kya Ghum hai Jisko Chupa Rahay Ho?”

In our valley, thousands of people are struggling with depression. Depression is a common occurrence for many people, regardless of whether genetics, external factors, or a combination of both is to blame. While some look for support from a mental health professional when they suspect they could have depression, it is more difficult for others to seek any such help. In fact, a lot of people find themselves acting as though they don't have it. They make an effort to hide their emotional pain from people around them by wearing a smile on their face. "Smiling depression" is the name for it.

#### WHAT IS SMILING DEPRESSION?

Most people associate depression with someone who appears really unhappy or who frequently cries. Therefore, smiling depression frequently goes unnoticed. Even though sadness and unexplained crying spells are frequent features of depression, not everyone who is depressed looks unhappy.

Though it is not included in the diagnostic manual of mental illnesses including DSM and ICD, smiling depression is nevertheless a form of clinical depression that many people struggle with. A person with Major Depressive Disorder (MDD) who hides their symptoms is said to have 'smiling depression'. 'Hiding behind a smile' is a common phrase used to describe it. If someone is attempting to convince people that they are fine even when they are not, they may be struggling with this.

Even though they can continue with the majority of daily activities, people with smiling depression secretly struggle with a serious mood condition. Thus it is a high functioning form of depression.

#### WHO IS MOST VULNERABLE TO SMILING DEPRESSION?

As mentioned earlier, smiling depression seems to be a high functioning form of depression. If you tend to be a perfectionist or are ambitious, you may be more likely to experience smiling depression. You care about being presentable. You might be good at faking. You might laugh too much and continue to work too hard.

On the inside, though, you might truly feel deceitful and fraudulent. At the same time, you could feel ashamed for being depressed. Additionally, the stigma could make it difficult for you to divulge in others or seek medical attention.

#### READING THE SIGNS

People with smiling depression find themselves experiencing clas-

sical symptoms of major Depression Disorder. This encompasses emotions like sadness, hopelessness, anger, or irritability. It could also involve loss of interest, exhaustion, irregular sleep patterns, decreased appetite, binge eating, anxiety, and much more.

If you have these symptoms but are otherwise functioning well, managing

their privacy to being concerned about others' opinions. Here's a closer look at the reasons why people hide their depression.

#### 1. APPREHENSION OF BURDENING OTHERS

It's common for depression and guilt to coexist. As a result, a lot of people don't want to have other people feel bothered by their problems. People who are accus-

believe they should be able to handle it on their own.

#### 3. DENIAL

A person's denial of their depression may be the cause of smiling depression. They might believe that as long as they're smiling, they can't be depressed. Many people find it difficult to accept the possibility that they may have a problem. They find it simpler to put on a happy face than to be honest about how they really feel.

#### 4. FEAR OF RETALIATION

Having depression can sometimes cause people to worry about its effects on their personal and professional lives.

A comedian or lawyer, for instance, might be concerned that their employer won't trust them for doing their jobs. Or, someone can be concerned that if they admit to having depression, their partner will break up with them. So they hide behind a grin rather than expose themselves to criticism or punishment for having depression.

#### 5. FEAR OF COMING OFF AS WEAK

People with smiling depression frequently worry that if they admit to having depression, others would take advantage of them. They are scared that people may use their depression against them in addition to the fact that they fear being perceived as weak and vulnerable. Hence they would rather present a strong front than acknowledge that they require assistance.

#### 6. GUILT

Some people believe they shouldn't be depressed because guilt frequently accompanies depression. They may believe they lead a happy life and hence shouldn't be depressed.

Additionally, they believe that something must be wrong with them or that they are somehow to blame for their depression. As a result, people feel bad about being depressed and occasionally even ashamed of it. Therefore, they conceal it beneath a smile.

#### 7. IDEALISTIC PERSPECTIVES ON HAPPINESS

Positive emotions such as happiness are unrealistically portrayed in social media. Social media users frequently see cheerful people in the images they scroll through. They consequently start to think they're the only ones dealing with mental health problems. Hence they might hide their difficulties as a result of feeling lonelier than ever.

#### 8. PERFECTIONISM

Many perfectionists are experts at appearing perfect. And for many people, that entails hiding any discomfort or is-

sues they may be having. Because of this, they simply cannot admit that they are depressed because doing so would imply that their lives are anything but flawless.

#### CHANCE OF SUICIDE

Suicidal and thoughts about death are common in those who are depressed. However, people who are suffering from serious depression sometimes lack the motivation to plan and carry out a suicide. Even though everybody who has depression has the danger of taking their own life, people who have smiling depression may be particularly vulnerable because they are high-functioning.

People with smiling depression frequently have enough energy to act on their suicidal ideas. Additionally, people who suffer from smiling depression frequently do not receive treatment. Furthermore, untreated depression may worsen over time and raise the risk of suicide.

#### THERE'S TREATMENT

Atypical depression may be the official diagnosis for someone with smiling depression because a clinically depressed person wouldn't typically appear happy.

Thus, smiling depression may be treated, just like other forms of depression.

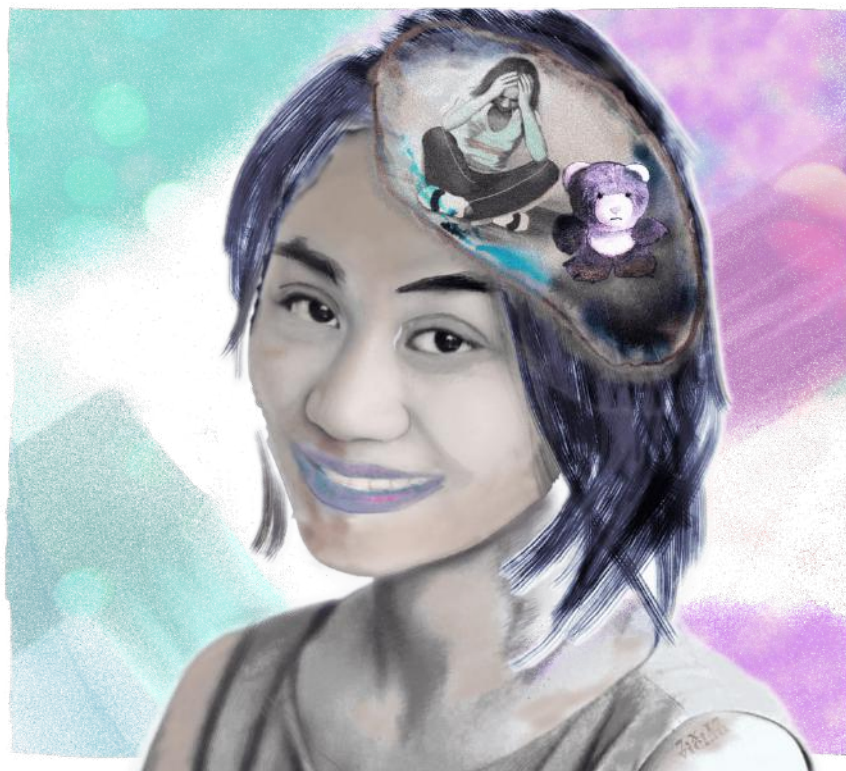
If you suspect you may have it, consult a clinical psychologist and/or psychiatrist. When speaking to a clinical psychologist, many patients with smiling depression maintain a fake front. This makes it more challenging for you to receive the assistance you require. It's critical to be open and sincere while expressing your emotions. You can decide if antidepressant medicines could be beneficial for you with the assistance of your psychiatrist or clinical psychologist.

In summary, the term "smiling depression" refers to those who hide their depressive symptoms behind a smile rather than it being a medical diagnosis.

Depression is a common and curable mood disorder that can affect people of all ages and socioeconomic backgrounds, but it can occasionally be difficult to recognise. A person should get in touch with a mental health professional if they think they might be suffering from smiling depression.

The best way to identify and handle smiling depression is to ask for assistance at the earliest.

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



“Smiling depression seems to be a high functioning form of depression. If you tend to be a perfectionist or are ambitious, you may be more likely to experience smiling depression. You care about being presentable. You might be good at faking. You might laugh too much and continue to work too hard

things like your job and social schedule that people with more severe depression would be unable to manage, you may be suffering from smiling depression. High-functioning MDD sufferers may also come off as upbeat or optimistic. They frequently feel as though they must conceal their depression symptoms.

#### WHY DO SOME PEOPLE HIDE THEIR DEPRESSION?

People frequently choose to keep their depression private and hidden. Many people conceal their depressive symptoms for both personal and professional reasons, ranging from wanting to main-

tained to taking care of others rather than having others take care of them may find this to be especially true. They keep their troubles to themselves because they just do not know how to ask for help.

#### 2. EMBARRASSMENT

Some individuals think depression is a sign of weakness or a deficiency in character. The myth that they ought to be able to "snap out of it" may even be accepted by them. When they are unable to, they believe they are flawed. As a result, individuals could feel ashamed of their sadness because they



The Conversation

Between April and July of this year, 1,010 cases of severe hepatitis without any explainable cause were reported in children in more than 35 countries. Nearly half of these cases were in Europe, including over a quarter in the UK.

Usually, childhood hepatitis is caused by an infection from one of the hepatitis viruses (such as hepatitis A or hepatitis C). But although children were presenting with elevated levels of hepatitis markers in their blood, no traces of hepatitis viruses were detected in these children, nor in any of the related cases since.

Initial investigations found a potential link between adenovirus infection and these cases of hepatitis. Adenoviruses are very common viral infections, especially in children. They typically cause infections such as mild colds, pink eye (conjunctivitis) or stomach problems. However, if they get to the liver they can on rare occasion cause hepatitis.

However, given how common adenoviruses are in children and because they rarely cause hepatitis in healthy people it was difficult to say this was the probable cause.

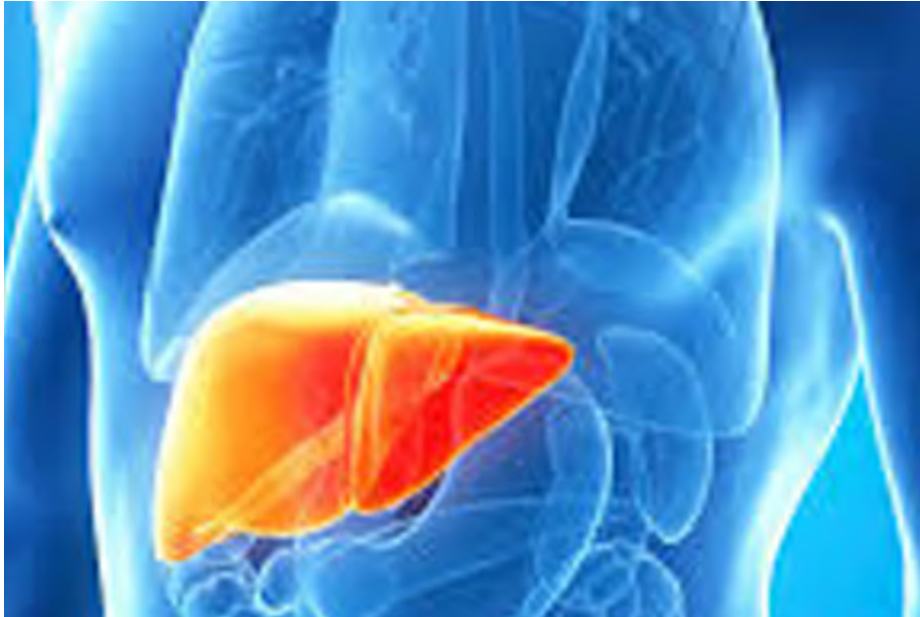
A new study suggests that the spate of severe hepatitis cases seen in children may be the result of three factors working together: adenovirus, adeno-associated virus 2 (AAV2) and an underlying genetic predisposition to the disease.

A potential cause emerges

In a pre-print study (which means it has not yet been reviewed by other scientists), a team of researchers looked at nine of the original hepatitis cases in April and conducted a large range of tests, seeking to find new or previously undetected viruses or genetic factors that may have caused hepatitis in the children.

The team found that all nine children

# Hepatitis In Children Scientists Have Found A Possible Cause For The Mystery Outbreak



had been infected with adeno-associated virus 2. They then compared their findings with 13 healthy children and 12 children who'd had adenovirus infections but no hepatitis. Adeno-associated virus 2 was not detected in any of these children. This was a strong indicator that AAV2 was a cause of these mystery hepatitis cases.

Adeno-associated virus 2 belongs to a group of viruses called Dependoparvovirus which infects both humans and some

primates. But what's particularly interesting about AAV2 is that in order to infect the host, it requires another virus to also be infecting the host at the same time. It uses this helper virus in order to replicate inside human cells. The most common helper viruses of AAV2 are adenovirus and herpesvirus.

The researchers found that six out of the nine patients they looked at had an adenovirus, while three had signs of a herpes virus. This makes it's likely these

Initial investigations found a potential link between adenovirus infection and these cases of hepatitis. Adenoviruses are very common viral infections, especially in children. They typically cause infections such as mild colds, pink eye (conjunctivitis) or stomach problems. However, if they get to the liver they can on rare occasion cause hepatitis.

hepatitis infections were caused by a combination of AAV2 and one of these helper viruses.

Immune systems and infections

But both AAV2 and infections such as adenovirus and herpes virus are quite common in children, and most children infected with these don't go on to develop hepatitis. This means there must be an additional factor at play here, perhaps even at the genetic level.

The team of researchers then anal-

ysed the children's genomes to look for specific immune system markers, called human leucocyte antigens. Immune system cells use human leucocyte antigens to detect other viruses and pathogens, and engulf them.

This then sends a signal to other immune cells which come along and destroy the pathogen. There are many different types of human leucocyte antigens, and depending on why type a person has can determine which infections they may be more susceptible to.

The researchers found that eight out of the nine children had a higher genetic prevalence of a certain type of human leucocyte antigen, which may have increased their likelihood of getting hepatitis symptoms from these viral infections. This type is also more common in people of European descent, which may further explain why these hepatitis cases were mainly seen in Europe.

Although it appears from this study that a combination of factors may explain the sudden, severe hepatitis cases spotted in children, the study itself was small and only conducted on participants in Scotland. A much larger, peer-reviewed study will need to be done in order to fully figure out the exact link and how best to protect children going forward.

Another factor that might have played into this were COVID-19 restrictions, which meant many children weren't being exposed to these viruses and developing immunity at the ages they normally would have. This meant that when restrictions were lifted, children were exposed to these viruses all at once, which would overwhelm their immune system which is not prepared to deal with it.

However, research will need to be done in order to investigate whether or not this really played a role in the severe hepatitis cases. But if it is shown to be a cause, then it's likely we will see fewer and fewer cases of hepatitis in children as the months pass since the last lockdown.

## Climate Change: Mind Your Language Heatwaves Might Seem An Opportune Time To Talk About Climate Change Action

360info.org

Heatwaves might seem an opportune time to talk about climate change action - but research suggests this could prove ineffectual.

That climate change is human-induced is not ground breaking news. But it is a trigger for some people in societies where climate change is politicised.

Faced with new information about climate change, they dig into their pre-existing attitudes rather than consider new information with an open mind. This is a problem as people are forced to adapt to the very real consequences of a changing climate.

As large parts of the world are gripped by intense heatwaves, new research suggests talking about adaptation could be more effective at changing some people's behaviour than making the link between heatwaves and climate change.

For journalists and others who want to provide important information to the public without making the problem worse, the study makes a case for eliminating the phrases 'global warming' and 'climate change', and replacing them with 'weather' and 'weather impacts' instead.

By not using these words, the researchers found people in the study were more accepting of the news stories they were presented with. They felt like the stories' positions were closer to their own views rather than biased against them, and expressed interest in reading more stories like them, and talking about them with other people. This worked because the study participants felt like the adaptive stories were not trying to manipulate or persuade them as much as the stories that included the trigger words.

Second, the stories included information that people and their communities could use to adapt to extreme weather. For example, a story about heat waves talked about heat stroke and dehydration, cooling centers, and a registry where people can share their information with first responders in advance of an emergency.

This strategy of including things people can do easily represents 'adapting' that is, making smaller, incremental changes rather than monumental tasks required to prevent or reverse climate change.

Research on adaptation and mitigation suggests putting the focus on easy-to-implement, incremental actions rather than the cause of the problem would give people more of a sense of control, leading to intentions to do some of the things recommended in the stories. The word 'adapt' and its derivatives was also used several times in the stories and headlines.

The study tested these strategies by comparing the same stories one set written without the trigger phrases and with the adaptive actions, and one set written the opposite way. Except for this, the stories were identical so the

change their behavior, but to give them the information they need to make decisions that are in their own best interests.

The take-away is that there is indeed something journalists can do to educate and engage science skeptics on climate change. Currently, people who need this kind of information the most are shutting down at the first mention of something that conflicts with their beliefs.

It should not violate journalists' oath to occasionally not repeat the well-worn fact that climate change is man-made. Nor do the authors suggest that journal-



As large parts of the world are gripped by intense heatwaves, new research suggests talking about adaptation could be more effective at changing some people's behaviour than making the link between heatwaves and climate change.

researchers have confidence that it was these changes and not something else that caused the results. The study participants included 1,200 US adults, half of whom were skeptical of climate change.

The study is not without its limitations it only used two topics, heatwaves and rising sea levels, out of a multitude of climate issues. Nor can it conclude that everyone in the US would react the way these participants did.

The stories also did not attempt to change people's attitudes about the issue, but rather aimed to get them to accept the stories and want to read more like them and talk with others about the information. Journalists' goals are not typically to persuade people to

ists never write another story that eliminates this phrase; only that they do so occasionally and when it is not essential to the story.

Language changes are not unheard of in the industry as journalists have recently altered their language in immigration stories, replacing 'illegal' and 'alien' with 'undocumented'.

Making these few small changes in climate news stories has the potential to advance the greater good by respectfully engaging all people in the conversation about what can be done about weather impacts, providing them with much-needed information, and perhaps even reducing polarisation in society.

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Jammu & Kashmir Horticultural Produce Marketing & Processing Corporation (JKHPMC) Ltd

Horticulture Department, Jammu & Kashmir Government

Opposite Presentation Convent School,Rajbagh, Srinagar-190008, J&K

No: JKHPMC/e-NIT No.97 of 2022  
Dt:25-07-2022

Subject: Date Extension Corrigendum-3 and Change in JV Eligibility w.r.t Notice 97 of 2022, dated 14-06-2022.

Keeping in view several requests received from the prospective 'Bidders' in respect of the "e-Tender" for "Request for Proposal (RFP) for Operation, Maintenance and Commercialization of the product of Corporation's Apple Juice Plant at Doabgah, Sopore, Baramulla, J&K, initially for a period of five (05) years and extendable by another spell of five (05) years, based on successful performance", following changes shall take immediate effect:

1. Last Date of Online Bid Submission is extended by a spell of one week (07 days) and as such the Last Date of Online Bid Submission would be up to 01-08-2022. Subsequently the Bid Opening Date would be 03-08-2022.

2. Clause 9, regarding "Joint Venture (JV) or Consortium", point iii, of the RFP, which reads as;

"iii. Lead Partner of the JV should qualify for all the Eligibility Criteria."

shall now be read as;

"iii. JV should qualify for all the Eligibility Criteria."

Other Terms and Conditions will remain the same unless notified otherwise.

Sd/-  
Managing Director  
JKHPMC Ltd

DIPK-NB-2762/22

Office of the Executive Engineer,  
Mechanical Division Baramulla

Tele fax 01952234426 e-mail, id, executiveengineermdb@gmail.com

Gist of Short Term Notice Inviting e-Tenders

NIT No:- MDB/e-Tender/53 of 2022-23 Dated:- 26-07-2022

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division Baramulla, invites online e-bids in Two Cover system on items wise basis from registered suppliers / agencies having experience in similar nature of work for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit	Time of Completion	Administrative Approval	Technical Sanction
01.	Repair woks to various Road Construction machines of Field sub-Division Baramulla.	24250/=	200.00	485.00	07days	Accorded	Accorded

The tender documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the schedule given in the 'Abstract; appended to this notice: -

01.	Online tender download / Start Date	26-07-2022 (06:15 PM)
02.	Online tender Submission End Date	02-08-2022 (06:55 PM)
03	Cost of Tender Documents	Rs. 200.00 (Rupees Two hundred only) in shape of e-Challan / e-receipt/mpaytransaction acknowledgement, to be uploaded with the online bid. Tender Id to be written also on the voucher. (MSME certificate holder in the concerned trade is exempted) Bank: J&K Bank. Branch: T.P Baramulla. IFSC Code: JAKAOTESHIL Account No.: 0213010200000051.
04	Date and time of opening of Technical Bid (online). (Cover 1 <sup>st</sup> )	03-08-2022 at 02:00 PM in office of the Ex. Engineer, Mechanical Division (MED), Baramulla
05.	Date and time of opening of Financial Bid (online). (Cover 2 <sup>nd</sup> )	After evaluation of cover 1 <sup>st</sup> in office of Ex. Engineer, Mechanical Division (MED), Baramulla

Instructions to Bidders:

01. The bids shall be deposited in electronic format with digital signature on the official website www.jktenders.gov.in in two covers; viz Techno- Commercial / Financial cover.

1.1 Cover 1<sup>st</sup> shall contain:

1.1.1 Scanned copy of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the shape of CDR/FDR equivalent to 2% of value of the advertised cost.

1.1.2 Registration Certificate of Sales Tax Department quoting GST No.

1.1.3 Scanned copies of PAN Card, GST Registration, latest GST clearance certificate or acknowledgement of latest returns.

1.1.4 Scanned copies of the Annexure "A" & "B" duly accepted / signed.

1.1.5 Scanned copy of Tender Fee.

1.2 Cover 2<sup>nd</sup> shall contain:

1.2.1 Price bid, as per BOQ uploaded by this department.

02. The department will not be responsible for delay in submission of bids due to any reasons.

03. The cost of tender documents is non-refundable and non-transferable.

DIPK-6877/22

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Mechanical Division  
Baramulla

No:- MDB /TS/e-tendering-53/1363-67

Dated:- 26-07-2022



## India's Q2 Gold Demand Rises 43% To 170.7 Tonnes: WGC

Press Trust Of India

**MUMBAI:** India's gold demand went up by 43 per cent during April-June quarter, but going ahead factors like inflation, Rupee-USD rates and policy measures among others are likely to influence consumer sentiments, says a report.

According to a World Gold Council (WGC) report, India's April-June quarter gold demand stood at 170.7 tonnes, higher from 119.6 tonnes during the corresponding quarter in 2021.

In terms of value, India's gold demand increased by 54 per cent during the second quarter to Rs 79,270 crore, compared to Rs 51,540 crore in the corresponding quarter of 2021, the WGC Gold Demand Trends Q2 2022 report said on Thursday.

"Akhshaya Tritiya coupled with traditional wedding buying spurred jewellery demand by 49 per cent to 140.3 tonne, though on a low base, as the second quarter of last year was impacted by a devastating second wave of COVID," WGC Regional CEO, India, Somasundaram PR told PTI.

Going forward, he said, for the full 2022 WGC has kept the demand outlook at 800-850 tonnes, but at the lower end of the range as factors like inflation, gold price, Rupee-USD rates and policy measures among others influence consumer sentiments.

The total demand in 2021 was 797 tonnes, he said.

"The second half of this year jewellery demand in India faces



downside risks, due to uncertainty over the economic outlook, a higher import duty and the possibility of additional curbs on gold buying, even if for temporary and tactical reasons with an eye on Indian Rupee and USD exchange rate," he noted.

Upside potential for demand can come from expectations of a normal monsoon, higher inflation and the possibility for range-bound prices, he added.

The gold prices increased from Rs 43,994 per 10 grams on March 31, as against Rs 46,504 per 10 grams on June 30, he said.

Total jewellery demand for April-June 2022 was up by 49 per cent at 140.3 tonne compared to 94 tonne in the same quarter of 2021.

The value of jewellery demand jumped 60 per cent to Rs 65,140 crores during the quarter under review, from Rs 40,610 crore a year ago.

While the total investment demand during the second quarter increased by 20 per cent at 30.4 tonnes, in terms of value it was up by 29 per cent at Rs 14,140 crores compared to Rs 10,930 crore in the same period last year.

## Pak Govt To Sell SOEs' Shares To Friendly Countries With Buyback Option: Report

Press Trust Of India

**ISLAMABAD:** Cash-starved Pakistan will amend the laws for the sale of shares of listed state-owned entities with a buyback option to friendly countries on a government-to-government basis to help bridge a part of USD 4 billion financing gap estimated by the IMF for the current fiscal year.

The announcement was made by Finance Minister Miftah Ismail on Wednesday while addressing a seminar on the state-owned entities (SOEs) corporate governance.

The minister also said the ban on imports would be lifted in a couple of weeks and all prior actions agreed upon under the staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had been completed and there was no more hitch to be able to getting the first tranche in the later part of August, the Dawn newspaper reported on Thursday.

Without naming the Inter-Government Commercial Transaction Act 2022 that the federal cabinet approved later in the day, the finance minister said the law was necessary because the existing privatisation law did not allow such commercial transactions on a government-

to-government (G2G) basis.

An official statement after the cabinet meeting said the Cabinet approved Inter-Government Commercial Transaction Act 2022 presented by the ministry of law and justice and referred it to the relevant standing committee of Parliament.

The Cabinet was informed that the law would provide confidence to foreign investors and also increase foreign investment on a G2G basis in developmental agreements.

The minister also talked about the prior actions committed with the IMF for the revival of its programme and said the government would be lifting the ban on imports in a couple of weeks because it created difficulties for the people.

Ismail said Pakistan had a persistent issue with the SOEs as some of them were badly managed and while some of them were important for service delivery, even those were not providing services and were rather creating problems in the budget.

Ismail said that most of the SOEs had professional people running them, yet they were not able to perform which meant that maybe laws and governance structures restrict their ability to perform.

Therefore, the country per-

## 5G Spectrum Auction Stretches To 4th Day; Bids Worth ₹1,49,623 Crore Received So Far



Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The auction of 5G spectrum for ultra high-speed internet services will stretch to the fourth day on Friday, after 16 rounds of bidding conducted so far fetched bids worth Rs 1,49,623 crore.

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Jio, Sunil Mittal-led Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea

and a unit of billionaire Gautam Adani's flagship Adani Enterprises are in the race to bid for 5G spectrum, that offers speeds about 10 times faster than 4G and lag-free connectivity.

Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Thursday said 16 rounds of bidding have been completed in three days and the auction will continue on Friday.

Bids worth Rs 1,49,623 crore have been received at the end of the third day, the minister

said. This is marginally higher than Rs 1,49,454 crore-worth bids received at the end of the ninth round on Wednesday, the second day of the auction.

According to sources, high interest continued to be seen for spectrum in 1800 MHz band in UP East circle, where Jio and Airtel were involved in intense bidding on Thursday.

Bidding interest was seen across multiple bands and the industry is committed to taking services to rural areas, the minister said. A total of 72 GHz (Gigahertz) of radiowaves worth at least Rs 4.3 lakh crore is on the block.

The auction is being held for spectrum in various low (600 MHz, 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz, 2500 MHz), mid (3300 MHz) and high (26 GHz) frequency bands.

On July 26, the first day of

the auction, bids worth Rs 1.45 lakh crore were received. The government said the response of day one exceeded all expectations and surpassed 2015 records. On the second day of the auction, the bids received rose to Rs 1,49,454 crore.

"The sector is coming with new energy, and that is reflected in response to 5G auctions," Vaishnaw had told reporters on Wednesday.

As per the process, it will not be known until the auction concludes as to which company got how much of airwaves.

In addition to powering ultra-low latency connections, 5G would enable solutions such as e-health, connected vehicles, more-immersive augmented reality and metaverse experiences, life-saving use cases, and advanced mobile cloud gaming.

## Income Tax Deptt Conducts Outreach Programmes In Srinagar



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Income Tax Department conducted two outreach programmes regarding interaction with taxpayers in Srinagar today.

The programmes were conducted under the guidance of the Principal Commissioner of Income-Tax, Srinagar M.P. Singh and Joint Commissioner of Income Tax, Srinagar Rajeev Gubgotra.

The first programme was held at guest house of office of the Executive Engineer, Irrigation and Flood Control Division, Srinagar at Ram Munshi Bagh, Srinagar wherein DDOs from various departments and other employees were present

The second programme was held at TRC Hall, Srinagar wherein about 60 DDOs as well as other employees of various departments were present.

The attendees included Director Tourism, Srinagar, DIG, CRPF, North, Karan Nagar, Srinagar, DIG, CRPF, South, Boulevard, Srinagar and DIG, RTC, Budgam, Srinagar.

During this outreach program various provisions of Income Tax Act and responsibility of DDOs in making compliance of quarterly TDS returns, filing of individual returns by employees and various clarifications regarding deductions and exemptions available to the as-

sessees were discussed.

During the sessions, queries were raised regarding filing of quarterly TDS statements in Form 24Q and 26Q, allotment of AIN, penalty under section 271H, late filing fees under section 234E, filing of ITR-1, ITR-2 and ITR-3, and deductions claimed under sections 80D, 80DD, 80U among others. Questions were also asked about how to compute house rent deduction, section 194P etc. All the queries were answered by Reyaz Ahmad (ITO, HQ), Rajneesh Kumar Gupta, ITO (TDS), Srinagar, Inspectors Raj Ahlawat, Krishan Kumar, Suresh Chander and Sandeep Kumar.

## Manufacturing Sector Gets USD 21 Billion FDI In FY22, Sees 76% Increase



**NEW DELHI:** The manufacturing sector attracted foreign direct investments worth USD 21.34 billion in 2021-22, an increase of 76 per cent year-on-year, the commerce ministry said on Thursday.

It said the government has implemented several reforms under the FDI policy regime across sectors such as insurance, defence, telecom, financial services, pharmaceuticals, retail trading, and e-commerce.

Singapore (27.01 per cent) and the US (17.94 per cent) have emerged as the top two investors during 2021-22 in India.

These were followed by Mauritius (15.98 per cent), the Netherlands (7.86 per cent) and Switzerland (7.31 per cent).

"FDI equity inflows in the manufacturing sectors have increased by 76 per cent in FY 2021-22 (USD 21.34 billion) compared to previous FY 2020-21 (USD 12.09 billion)," it added.

The ministry said that despite the ongoing pandemic and global developments, India received the "highest" annual FDI inflows of USD 84.83 billion in 2021-22. Top five sates receiving highest FDI in 2021-22 are Karnataka (37.55 per cent), Maharashtra (26.26 per cent), Delhi (13.93 per cent), Tamil Nadu (5.10 per cent) and Haryana (4.76 per cent).

## Sensex Soars 1,041 Pts, Nifty Nears 17k As Bulls Regain Footing

Press Trust Of India

**Mumbai-** Extending gains for the second straight session, equity benchmark Sensex jumped by nearly 2 per cent to soar past the 56,000-mark on Thursday, propelled by robust buying in finance, banking and IT stocks. Value-buying persisted in blue chips as well as select mid-and small-cap counters after their recent spell of weakness, traders said.

A strong recovery in the rupee further boosted domestic equities despite the US Federal Reserve hiked rates to tame inflation, they added.

The US Federal Reserve on Wednesday raised key interest rates by 75 basis points for the second straight month.

The 30-share BSE benchmark jumped 1,041.47 points or 1.87 per cent to settle at 56,857.79. During the day, it rallied 1,097.9 points or 1.96 per cent to 56,914.22.

The broader NSE Nifty advanced 287.80 points or 1.73 per cent to 16,929.60.

The Nifty rose sharply after the US Fed's comments hinting at a possibility of a slower pace of monetary tightening. Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities, said.

"...Stocks rose on Thursday as the prospect of a slower pace of Federal Reserve monetary tightening filtered across global markets. European shares came off session highs on Thursday, as a slew of downbeat earnings took the shine off a global rally driven by easing worries about the future pace of US interest rate hikes," he added.

Among the Sensex constituents, Bajaj Finance rallied the most by 10.68 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finserv that jumped

10.14 per cent after encouraging June quarter earnings.

The other gainers were Tata Steel, Kotak Mahindra Bank, IndusInd Bank, Infosys, Tech Mahindra and Nestle.

On the other hand, Bharti Airtel, UltraTech Cement, Dr Reddy's, ITC and Sun Pharma were the laggards.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge jumped 0.94 per cent and smallcap index climbed 0.65 per cent.

A total of 1,902 stocks advanced, while 1,427 declined and 150 remained unchanged.

Among the BSE sectoral indices, IT jumped the most by 2.51 per cent, followed by finance (2.21 per cent), tech (2.19 per cent), realty (2.03 per cent) and bank (1.72 per cent).

Telecom was the only laggard. The rupee appreciated 26 paise to close at 79.65 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday. In Asia, markets in Seoul, Shanghai and Tokyo ended higher, while Hong Kong settled in the red.

"Indian benchmark indices outperformed their Asian peers on the last day of the current month expiry, as there was no surprise in the rate hike decision by the US Federal Reserve which came on expected lines, fuelling a rally in the US markets. The upbeat mood also had a rub-off effect on the domestic market, leading to buying in banking, IT, metals and realty stocks."

"Investors feel that RBI too may not spring any major surprise in the next week's monetary policy meeting on hopes inflation will see a downward curve going ahead," Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd, said.

## Rupee Rises 22 Paise To Close At 79.69 Against US Dollar

**MUMBAI:** The rupee appreciated 22 paise to close at 79.69 against the US dollar on Thursday, as a rally in the domestic equities and less hawkish signals from the US Fed triggered risk-on sentiments in the markets.

Fresh foreign capital inflows also supported the domestic unit, forex traders said.

However, elevated global crude prices and a strong greenback overleas capped the rupee's gain, they added.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened sharply up at 79.80 against the greenback. During the session, the local unit witnessed an intra-day high of 79.64 and a low of 79.85 against the American currency.

The rupee finally settled at 79.69, registering a rise of 22 paise over its previous close.

On Wednesday, the rupee declined 13 paise to close at 79.91 against the US dollar.

The US Federal Reserve on Wednesday raised key interest rates by 75 basis points for the second straight month.

According to Sugandha Sachdeva, Vice President - Commodity and Currency Research, Religare Broking, the Indian rupee has managed to clinch gains of around 0.30 per cent as the slide in the US dollar on the back of less hawkish US Fed rhetoric has boosted "risk-on" sentiments in the markets and supported the local unit.

"The US Fed has delivered a second consecutive 0.75 percentage point rate hike on expected lines to stamp out scorching inflation, but has stopped short of providing any clear guidance about the pace and quantum of future rate hikes," Sachdeva said.

On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex ended 1,041.47 points or 1.87 per cent higher at 56,857.79, while the broader NSE Nifty jumped 287.80 points or 1.73 per cent to 16,929.60.

## 'Complete Formalities For Final Refund Of NPS Subscribers'

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Accounts Officer, G.P. Fund Civil Secretariat, Jammu and Kashmir has asked the Drawing & Disbursing Officers to immediately furnish the list of NPS subscribers of their establishments on the prescribed format for release of 2nd installment of G.P. Fund of NPS Subscribers.

In a communiqué issued today, attention of all the Drawing & Disbursing Officers who are operating upon this office through Civil Secretariat Treasury have been invited to Circular No: GPF/Move/01-04, Dated:03.01.2022 where in DDOs were requested to submit the list of NPS subscribers of their establishments on the prescribed format for release of 2nd installment of G.P. Fund of NPS Subscribers.

"However, it has been observed that the desired information in respect of a considerable number of NPS Subscribers is still awaited from their end, thereby causing delay in issuance of Authority for 2nd Installments. In this context, it is once again requested to submit the requisite information by or before 31st of July 2022 as per the format issued vide above-mentioned circular" it stated further.

Further, the DDO's operating upon Civil Secretariat Treasury, who have pending cases, if any pertaining to NPS subscribers for issuance of Authority w.r.t 1st Installment have been once again requested to submit all such cases as per the format already issued by the Director General, J&K Funds Organization vide circular No: DGF/comp/901-07 Dated:-24.05.2021, to the office of the undersigned through e-office by or before 31st of July 2022 positively, failing which no case shall be entertained by this Office.

## Chief Secretary Chairs 41st To 51st AGM Of JKTDC

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta Thursday chaired 41st to 51st Annual General Meeting (AGM) of J&K Tourism Development Corporation Limited (JKTDC) here at Civil Secretariat.

The meeting was also attended by Secretary Tourism, Sarmad Hafeez, who attended the AGM on behalf of Lieutenant Governor, Managing Director JKTDC, Syed Fakhruddin Hamid and other concerned.

During the meeting, Chief Secretary accorded sanctions to all the three agenda items before deliberating extensively on each agenda item.

The meeting accorded an increase in authorized capital from Rs 5 crore to Rs 25 Crore and it was informed that during the 90th Board of Directors meeting held in the year 2020, it was unanimously decided to increase the authorized capital of the corporation.

Similarly, Dr Mehta also sanctioned the increase of Paid-Up Capital from Rs 5 Crore to Rs 15.9613 Crore. The meeting was told that Rs 10.913 Crore has been received by the JKTDC as Equity from the J&K Government in the past and the same is reflected in the Balance Sheet as Share Application Money under the heading "Shareholders Fund".

On the occasion, the AGM adopted the Audited Financials from the year 2010-11 to 2019-20.

It was given out that J&KTDC has completed its financial audit upto financial year 2019-20 and the same is presented before the shareholders of the corporation for adoption.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Secretary asked the officers to optimally utilize all properties and resources of the Corporation and make it a profit making utility. He also asked for addressing all audit observations.

## US Economy Shrank 0.9% Last Quarter, Its 2nd Straight Drop

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON:** The U.S. economy shrank from April through June for a second straight quarter, contracting at a 0.9% annual pace and raising fears that the nation may be approaching a recession.

The decline that the Commerce Department reported Thursday in the gross domestic product the broadest gauge of the economy followed a 1.6% annual drop from January through March.

Consecutive quarters of falling GDP constitute one informal, though not definitive, indicator of a recession.

The report comes at a critical time. Consumers and businesses have been struggling under the weight of punishing inflation and higher borrowing costs.

On Wednesday, the Federal Reserve raised its benchmark interest rate by a sizable three-quarters of a point for a second straight time in its push to conquer the worst inflation outbreak in four decades.

The Fed is hoping to achieve a notoriously difficult soft landing: An economic slowdown that manages to rein in rocketing prices without triggering a recession. Fed Chair Jerome Powell and many economists have said that while the economy is showing some weakening, they doubt it's in recession.

Many of them point, in particular, to a still-robust labour market, with 11 million job openings and an uncommonly low 3.6% unemployment rate, to suggest that a recession, if one does occur, is still a ways off.

After going backward from January through March, the U.S. economy probably didn't do much better in the spring.

On Thursday morning, the government will reveal just how weak economic growth was in the April-June quarter and perhaps offer clues about whether the United States may be approaching a recession.



## Slip Of The Tongue: Adhir On Calling President Murmu 'Rashtrapatni'

Agenceis

Referring to President Droupadi Murmu as 'rashtrapatni' was a "slip of the tongue", Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said on Thursday and accused the BJP of making a "mountain out of a molehill" over the issue.

The term was used only once by mistake and he never intended any disrespect to the president, Chowdhury said as the BJP stalled both houses of Parliament and asked Congress president Sonia Gandhi to apologise to the nation.

"I inadvertently used the word 'rashtrapatni' just once and it was a slip of the tongue. I never meant any disrespect to the president," he told reporters outside Parliament.

"What should I do? I said it and realised I uttered a wrong word. I even looked for mediapersons who I had said this to. To request them to not focus on it. However, I couldn't

find them," he added, a day after the remark.

Some ruling party members, the Congress leader added, are "deliberately trying to make a mountain out of a molehill".

There is no question of an apology, he stated. In a video message later, he said India's president, be it Brahmin or tribal, is respected by all.

Yesterday, when we were holding a protest at Vijay Chowk, journalists asked where we wanted to go. I said 'rashtrapatni' only once by mistake. I urged the journalists not to show my video where I committed a mistake. The BJP is creating a row over it now, he said.

According to Chowdhury, the BJP does not have anything on the party and is finding "masala" against it.

The issue is being blown out of proportion... I do not have the remotest intention of humiliating the highest chair of our country, Chowdhury said.

## Kerala Man Wins Rs 1 Crore Lottery Hours Before Selling House Out Of Debt

Agenceis

While being burdened by a major financial crisis, Mohammed Bava, 50, prayed for a little luck in his life and it came true.

The Almighty answered his prayers in the form of a Rs 1 crore Kerala lottery, that too, just two hours before accepting the token advance for his newly-built house that was put on a distress sale.

A native of Manjeshwar in this north Kerala district, Bava was in dire need of money to pay back the debt to the tune of around Rs 50 lakh he had borrowed from relatives and also a

loan he had taken from a bank. He borrowed huge amount of money for the marriage of his two daughters and to adjust the losses he had suffered in the real-estate business.

Now, with his home being filled with happiness and fortune, Bava decided not to sell his house.

"I won the lottery. So, there is no need to sell this house. When we get the prize, all our issues will be sorted out," Bava told reporters.

He said he was going through anxiety due to the loss he had suffered in the business. "But the Almighty finally showed me a way," Bava said.

## IUST Holds Conference On Dr Iqbal And His World Of Spirituality



Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** The International Centre for Spiritual Studies, IUST organized a one-day International Conference on Dr Iqbal and his world of spirituality today on July 28, 2022.

The event was organized in collaboration with the Iqbal Institute of Culture & Philosophy, University of Kashmir and Meezan Publications Srinagar. Besides, expert lectures, presentations and a symposium, five books were released during the conference.

The important dignitaries present on the occasion were Prof. Shakil A Romshoo (Vice Chancellor, IUST), Prof. Qayyum Hussain (Vice Chancellor, Cluster University Srinagar), Maulana Ahmad Shah Lolabi (Religious Scholar), Mr.G.N.War (President, Private School Association J&K) and Prof. JawharQudoosi. The guest of honour of the event, Prof. Abdul Haq (Prof. Emeritus Delhi University) joined the conference online.

In his inaugural address, Prof. Hamidullah Marazzi (Director, International Centre for Spiritual Studies, IUST) introduced the significance of the theme while relating Iqbal's poetic expressions.

He emphasized introducing Allama Iqbal and his spiritual

thought to the younger generation.He further said, "Allama Iqbal introduced us to the concept of spiritual democracy and helped us to interpret and understand the universe spiritually".

The keynote speaker, MrLolabi introduced spirituality as a universal tradition (espoused by all religious traditions globally) in addition to explaining the importance of creating a balance between the requirements of body and spirit. The speaker surveyed Allam Iqbal's diverse aspects of spiritual thought (especially his emphasis on love, passion, and devotion towards Allah and his beloved Prophet )and his longing for the revival of spiritual, moral and material domains of life.

Explicating the need for spiritual nourishment, Prof. Abdul Haq, talked at length about Iqbal's ideas on spirituality in light of his cherished concept of "Khudi/transcendental -self". Equating the Khudi with the "spirit/Ruh" itself as an understanding of Iqbal's spiritual philosophy, he highlighted Iqbal's emphasis on stimulating the "spirit or Khudi" at both individual and collective levels (community level/Millal).

Prof Abdul Qayyum reiterated his personal experiences with reading and understanding the significance and impact

of Iqbal's ideas not only on the East but on the Western readership. He laid stress on understanding and applying Iqbal's views on the spiritual reformation of the community.

In his presidential remarks, Prof Shakeel Romshoo highlighted Iqbal's impact on the West and the significance of spiritual action and rectification in a highly advanced technological world to check all pervading crises. Encouraging the participants to read and understand Iqbal's poetry, Prof. Romshoo said, "His poetry is motivational and inspiring. It has great potential to awaken the intellectual spirit among its readers".

The five books released at the eventare Madrasah Education by Dr Nisar Ahmad Trali, Quranic Revelations by Mr Majid Majeed, Social Media by Rashid Nabi Khan, Kashmir Ummeed-iFarda by Dr MuhyuddinZor and Mystic Icons of Kashmir by Dr Shahida Bilques. Parallely, a symposium for the Higher Secondary School students was also organized, as a part of the event wherein many students presented their papers on Iqbal's spiritual thought and ideas.Dr Iqbal Qureshi presented the vote of thanks and the session was coordinated by Mir Nazir, a freelance broadcaster.

## Despite Outrage, France's Macron Hosts Saudi Crown Prince Salman

Agenceis

**Paris:** French President Emmanuel Macron is hosting Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for talks in Paris on Thursday, defying criticism that the invitation is deeply inappropriate barely four years after the murder by Saudi agents of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

The meeting will be seen as the latest step in the readmission of the de-facto ruler of the kingdom into the international fold, after US President Joe Biden met the man universally known as MBS earlier this month.

The topics set to loom over the meeting include energy supply as concern grows over possible power shortages due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, as well as reigning in the nuclear programme of Riyadh's top regional foe Iran.

MBS -- who is portrayed at home as a champion of social and economic reform but seen by critics as a murderous tyrant -- arrives in France fresh from a trip to Greece to discuss energy ties.

"I feel profoundly troubled by the visit, because of what it means for our world and what it means for Jamal (Khashoggi) and people like him," Amnesty International secretary general Agnes Callamard told AFP, describing MBS as a man who "does not tolerate any dissent".

The visits mark MBS' first trip to the EU since the murder of Khashoggi by Saudi agents at the kingdom's consulate in Istanbul in 2018, a crime that a UN probe described as an "extrajudicial killing for which Saudi Arabia is responsible".

It also said there was "credible evidence" warranting further investigation of the individual liability of high-level Saudi officials, including MBS. US intelligence agencies determined that MBS had

"approved" the operation that led to Khashoggi's death, though Riyadh denies this, blaming rogue operatives.

"Double standards" The killing drew outrage not just over the elimination of a prominent critic of the Saudi regime, but also for the manner in which it was carried out. Khashoggi was lured into the Saudi consulate on October 2, 2018, strangled and dismembered, reportedly with a bonesaw.

"The visit by MBS to France and Joe Biden to Saudi Arabia do not change the fact that MBS is anything other than a killer," said Callamard, who at the time of the killing was the UN special rapporteur on extrajudicial killings and led the independent probe.

His reception by world leaders is "all the more shocking given many of them at the time expressed disgust (over the killing) and a commitment not to bring MBS back into the international community", she added, denouncing the "double standard".

But despite the concern over Saudi Arabia's rights record, the kingdom is seen by many in the West as an essential partner due to its energy resources, purchases of weaponry and staunch opposition to Iran's theocratic regime.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has made the oil and gas reserves of the kingdom all the more important for the West.

Callamard expressed concern that "values were being obliterated in the face of concern about the rising price of oil".

"Political leverage" The French president had already travelled to the kingdom in December 2021 for talks with MBS, a visit that raised some eyebrows at the time.

MBS is in charge of the country's day-to-day business due to the ailing condition of his father, King Salman.

### CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

#### Of Deforestation, Delays,

four months. But we'll try to complete the project by 2024 only.

**But given the delays and hiccups, it looks unlikely that this project will be completed on time.**

If the situation and weather remains in our favour, we will try to complete it on time.

**Is there any security threat to the workers?**

Of course, security concern is always there. Generally, our men work in alignment. They stay where the construction work is going on, but in Kashmir, we can't do that.

The workers shift to the safer places as soon as the dusk falls.

**There're reports that the AmarnathYatra has also hindered your service? Is it true?**

Yes, the construct material ferried by the trucks gets stuck in traffic jams and delays the whole process.

**Which district has given a major portion of the land for the project?**

Out of 42 kilometers, 37 have been acquired in Budgam alone.

Our work started from Galandar in Pulwama and ended in Sumbal Bandipora.

#### Police Attaches

who were involved in case FIR Mo.48/2021 U/S 307,302,392,120/B IPC, 7/25,7/27 A-Act 16,18,20, UA(P) Act registered in police station Parimpora.

Besides, he said that another house in Firdous Abad Batamaloo belonging to Abdul Majeed Ganie has been attached in case FIR No 128/2020 U/S 7/27 A Act, 16,19, 20 UAPA, 302, 307 IPC in Batamaloo police station.

"One double storey house in respect of Ab Rehman Bhat S/O Ab Razaq Bhat R/O Darbagh Harwan (father of accused Ashiq Hussain Bhat) involved in case FIR No 95/2021 U/S under section 307 IPC 7/27 A Act, 13,16,18,19,20 UAP Act dated 19-12-2021 of PS Harwan," the spokesperson said.

He further added that during course of investigation, it was proved beyond doubt that these houses were used by active militants in conspiring, planning and executing militant acts in Srinagar district.

"The house owners willfully provided shelter and harboured the terrorists in these houses, they also arranged logistics needed for such stay," he said.

The spokesperson urged the people to not harbour or provide shelter or extend logistics to militants or their associates in their houses, failing which strict legal action will be taken against anyone doing so.

#### JKP Facing New

at the ground level to deal with various

situations in the Jammu region.

The DGP said whether it is border, VIP, vital installation or urban security, the police have taken adequate measures to deal with it.

He said, "Currently, we have a big responsibility of holding (incident-free) Amarnath Yatra, which we are performing well. I congratulate all forces for dedication and hard work to ensure safety, security (of pilgrims) and its (yatra's) regulation.

He said attempts are on from the Pakistan side to ferry weapons, explosive material and narcotics through drones used by the LeT and the JeM.

"They are out to target Jammu and its people by dropping readymade IEDs through drones in border areas. They want to harm people of Jammu," Singh said.

He said police in Jammu have foiled several such conspiracies and militant plans.

"It is a daily challenge and police are performing well. They have planted IEDs at several places and caused damage. Recently a terror module of (LeT commander) Talib Hussain was busted (in Rajouri) and several blast cases and terror incidents were worked out and huge weapons recovered," he said.

Similarly, another module in Jammu was busted, he said.

"It was involved in ferrying weapons and narcotics of 35 drone sorties to Kashmir. A large number of weapons and explosives were recovered," the DGP said.

Emphasising on modernisation, he said the J-K Police is in the process of upgrading its technology and equipment.

"It (retrofitted motorbikes) is a step in this direction. It is aimed to strengthen field formations at the ground level. We have flagged off a fleet of 213 motorbikes to give additional mobility to police force. We want response of police should be more faster and adequate," the DGP said.

He said such motorbikes will be launched in the Kashmir valley in the second phase.

#### Heavy Rains

other nallahs was running above the danger mark. Authorities issued advisories urging people to stay away from rivers, the officials said.

Dozens of vehicles were trapped on a highway in Kathua.

In Kishtwar, a foot-bridge was washed away in the Afti area, the officials said.

In Reasi district, a new track to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine atop the Trikuta hills was closed on Thursday as a precautionary measure following heavy rains in the area, they said.

As per the advisory, those residing in slide-prone areas should remain extra vigilant and report any untoward incident to the administration at the earliest.

In Valley's Budgam district, three houses were damaged due to a landslide in Rawatpora Khag. The houses belonging to Abdul Rashid Dar, Abdul Rashid Rather and Abdul Gani Bhat were damaged due to a landslide triggered by incessant rains.

A top administrative official said that a team

of officials headed by the Tehsildar concerned has been sent to the area to ascertain the facts leading to the landslide.

Water logging was also seen in Srinagar city where private vehicles remained stuck at some places due to flooded streets.

The Amarnath Yatra was suspended along both Baltal and Pahalgam routes as officials said a decision on resumption would be taken after the weather improves.

#### Mudslides, Shooting

police advisory said.

The convoy of Amarnath yatra which was on its way from Jammu to Kashmir was halted at Chanderkoot Yatra Niwas due to the highway blockade, they said.

Later in the evening, an important iron tunnel passage at a stretch of the highway was damaged due to heavy shooting stones.

"Fresh incident of shooting stones on the highway at Pantiyal has caused damage to the important passage of an iron tunnel set up in the most vulnerable stretch of the strategic 270-km Jammu-Srinagar National Highway," an official said.

#### Balance Between

making conservation of nature a part of their everyday life," Sinha added.

Terming forests as the mainstay of priority sectors of J&K's economy including Agriculture, Horticulture, Tourism, Power Generation, Wood Industry and Animal Husbandry, the LG, as per the spokesperson, shared the government's vision to bring two-third area of the UT under forest & tree cover and make the protection of natural resources an integral part of J&K's development model.

"J&K Social Forestry Plantation Rules is another great example of devolution of funds, functions to panchayats in Jammu and Kashmir, empowering all 4290 Village Panchayat Plantation Committees of the UT," the LG said.

According to the spokesperson, Sinha cited a report of the central government, and noted that the per capita value of forest produce in J&K is the highest in the country which comes to Rs. 25 as compared to Rs. 3.72 for Madhya Pradesh, Rs. 2.48 for Kerala and Rs. 1.69 for Maharashtra.

"Our per capita wood consumption is also higher than other states and import of wood worth Rs 500-600 crore is being done every year," the LG said, while underlining the need for integrating the development process with the environment protection campaigns.

"As J&K is witnessing a new era of industrial development, Forests and Industries Departments are coming together to plant 1.5 lakh trees of different varieties around the Industrial Parks, Industrial Clusters which should be a regular activity," the LG added.

According to the spokesperson, Sinha called for active participation of the people, PRIs, Village Plantation Committees, school children in environment conservation efforts and urged the citizens to follow the Green Protocol voluntarily by using biodegradable products only at the weddings.

The LG, he said, also advised the Forest Department and the Jammu and Kashmir School Education Board to introduce "Best out of Waste" in the home work tasks for creating awareness about environmental protection among the children.

"He further called for running a campaign against the use of plastic and reaching out to the maximum population to make them aware about the importance of environment protection & conservation," the spokesperson said.

He said that the LG also appreciated the Forest department and all the stakeholders for planting about 2 crore 38 lakh new saplings in the last two years and making a significant contribution in increasing the UT's green cover.

He further commended the Panchayat Village Plantation Committees for their active participation in Natural Resource Management.

On the occasion, the spokesperson said that the LG e-inaugurated a double storey office building of Conservator of Forest, North Circle in Sopore, besides releasing a documentary and a publication on Green J&K Drive and Jan-Bhagidari - one year of working in partnership with Village Panchayat Plantation Committee. A tree sapling was also planted by the LG in the premises of AIIMS.

To mark the day, he said, Sinha felicitated Village Panchayat Plantation Committees for outstanding performance in plantation drives in their respective panchayats. Notified Jammu and Kashmir Social Forestry (Plantation) Rules-2022 were also unveiled on the occasion.

#### Govt Renames

to rename 18 more schools and other assets after the martyrs.

Government Higher Secondary School Soaf Shali, Anantnag will be renamed after Late Sarwanand Kaul Premi, a Kashmiri Pandit poet and writer.

65-year-old Premi was shot dead by suspected militants along with his young son Virender in his native village in Anantnag district in May 1990. Over three decades after his assassination, the Jammu and Kashmir government early this year conferred lifetime achievement award on the fallen Pandit writer.

Besides Premi, the government also named schools and other assets after the fallen soldiers and policemen. Govt. Boys Middle School, Wanpora, Gurez was renamed after Reyaz Ahmad Lone, GMS Chandanwari after Mohammad Safer Khan, GMS Dab after Para Trooper Shabir Ahmad Malik, BMS Kupwara after Abdul Hameed Chara, UPS Kundlayan after HC Abdul Rashid Kalas,

GMS, Banday Mohalla, Handwara after Sgt. Ghulam Mustafa Barah,

UPS Kashmiri Manigah after HC Sheraz Ahmad, Govt. Boys Middle School, Jaganoo after Const. Raj Kumar, Govt. Middle School Bagga after SPO Jalal Din, Govt. Girls Middle School, Muthlal, Alanbass after Ct Naseeb Singh,

Govt. Middle school Khuri after Const. Raj Kumar and Govt. Primary School, Dab Ditta after Ct. Jagdev Singh.

#### Six Gamblers

from the gamblers.

"They have been shifted to police station where they remain in custody," he said, adding that a case under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Baramulla and further investigation has been initiated.

The police identified the accused as Shahidul-Islam Dar, Khurshed Ahmad Rather, Imran Qadir Chana, Mohd Imran Parray, Mehraj-ud-Din Dar and Mohd Ashraf Dar.

#### Aamir Ali Relieved

shall hold the additional charge of Nodal Officer, J&K State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) Srinagar, till some suitable officer is posted," reads a government order.

#### Bear Kills Woman

Kokernag, where doctors declared her dead.

#### Govt Employee

bribe of rupees 15,000 and demanding bribe of rupees 4000 from complainant for processing his loan case", reads a Bureau statement.

"The complainant alleged that he is running a Kiryana Shop at Old Town Baramulla and to expand his business about six months ago he had applied for a loan under the Scheme from SC, ST & OBC Development Corporation Baramulla. The interest rate for the said loan is 6% for which he was eligible. He fulfilled all the required formalities for sanction of his loan. The concerned field Supervisor and district officer were not sanctioning loan in favour of the complainant", the statement reads.

"Recently, the complainant again visited the said office for sanctioning of loan, the field Supervisor namely Manzoor Ahmad again demanded a bribe of rupees 4000. Manzoor Ahmad told him that new district officers have joined and he will not sanction the loan without bribe money. The complainant requested the field Supervisor that as he had already borrowed money for giving a bribe of rupees 15000. On this the field Supervisor Manzoor Ahmad told him to Pay rupees 2000 more instead of rupees 4000. Under these circumstances the complainant approached the ACB and requested for taking necessary legal action against the accused Public servant for taking a bribe of rupees 15000 and demanding more bribe of rupees 2000."

"Accordingly on receipt of the complaint which prima facie disclosed commission of offences under U/s 7 of the P.C Act 1988 (as amended in 2018) a case FIR No 22/2022 was registered at PS ACB Baramulla against the accused person and investigations were started. Immediately after registration of the case a trap team headed by DySP rank officer and independent witnesses was constituted. The team caught the accused red handed while demanding and accepting bribe from the complainant at Baramulla. He was arrested on the spot after completing all legal formalities for further questioning and ascertaining the role of other persons. Searches were also conducted at the residence of the accused", reads the statement adding further investigations are going on.



## A-Division: 2 Matches Played, 5 Goals Scored



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Two matches of the ongoing A-Division Annual Football League Tournament 2022 were played on Thursday at Synthetic Turf TRC here.

In the first match Madina Alamdar FC defeated Shaheen Football Academy 4-0. Younis scored two goals in 26th and 48th minute, while Riza scored in the 56th and 69th minute to make the score 4-0 in favour of Madina Alamdar.

In the second match, Flying Kashmir FC registered a 1-0

win over Nishat FC. Both teams struggled hard to break defences and went neck-to-neck for that all important goal.

After the first half ended 0-0, the second half provided the opportunity for Flying Kashmir's Tehseen to score a beautiful goal. At full time, the score was 1-0 in favour of Flying Kashmir.

The tournament is currently in its group stages with the knock-outs stage coming next. The tournament is organised by DFA Srinagar/JKFA in collaboration with JKSC.

## DC Srinagar Inspects Bakshi Stadium



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohamad Aijaz Asad on Thursday visited Bakshi Stadium and inspected progress of the ongoing renovation and upgradation works there that are at the final stage of completion.

The DC took a round of the Stadium to inspect the dewatering being carried out to drain out the accumulated water in the stadium caused due to heavy rains. He asked the City Drainage Division to deploy additional dewatering pumps.

On the occasion, Executive Engineer City Drainage demonstrated the Drainage Network connectivity Plan and its implementation for the Stadium.

The DC also took stock of the upgradation works of power supply and asked the concerned to complete the works within the set timeline.

Pertinent to mention that, Bakshi Stadium is one of the major Stadium in Srinagar City being built on the norms of FIFA with the facility of night sports and has undergone massive renovation with execution of several upgradation works by the National Project Construction Corporation Limited at an estimated cost of Rs 40.85 crore.

The State of Art Sports facility has come up with central funding and shall prove a game changer for the aspirational sports persons looking to make a mark at National/International level.

## YSS Cup 2022 Inaugural Ceremony Held In Tri CD Blocks



Observer News Service

**ANANTNAG:** YSS Cup 2022 was on Thursday inaugurated in three CD Blocks by Department Of Youth Services & Sports Zone Qazigund including Vessu, Qazigund and Hiller Shahabad.

The YSS Cup was kick started in all these CD Blocks at various venues in Kabaddi, Volleyball and Kho-Kho, and at all venues concerned PRI's inaugurated this YSS Cup 2022 by making their presence in person.

The main function held at HS Panzath where District Development Council Member Bilal Ahmad Deva along with Social Development Committee members of Panzath village and Head Of Institute HS Panzath Abdul Rehman Parray.

Speaking on this occasion Zonal Activity Incharge Abid

Bashir Rather welcomed the guests and highlighted the departments initiative of YSS Cup for common youth in which last year District Anantnag were declared Runner's Up in UT Level Volleyball and Winner's in UT Level Cricket tourney.

Speaking on this occasion all guests including Head of Institute HS Panzath congratulated the department for last year successful YSS Cup and shows a lot of satisfaction for this years arrangements for YSS Cup.

The District Development Council Member Vessu-Qazigund Bilal Ahmad Deva also highlighted the importance of sports activities for youth.

At this inaugural event ceremony, the DDC member Bilal Ahmad Deva also displayed his great technique by playing Volleyball match along with local youths.

## India Slams Pakistan For 'Boycotting' 2022 Chess Olympiad



Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Pakistan said on Thursday that it will boycott the International Chess Federation event in Chennai citing the torch relay of the event passing through Jammu and Kashmir, a move termed by India as "highly unfortunate".

Pakistan was invited by the International Chess Federation (FIDE) to participate in the 44th Chess Olympiad scheduled to be held in Chennai, India, from July 28 to August 10.

Regrettably, India has chosen

to politicise this prestigious international sporting event by passing the torch relay of this event through Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan's Foreign Office said in a statement.

"Pakistan condemns India's mischievous attempt to mix politics with sports. As a protest, Pakistan has decided not to participate in the 44th Chess Olympiad and will also raise the matter with the International Chess Federation at the highest level, it said.

Reacting to Pakistan's decision, Ministry of External Af-

fairs Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said it was surprising that Pakistan has suddenly taken the decision not to participate in the event.

It is highly unfortunate that Pakistan has politicised the prestigious international event by making such statements and withdrawing its participation after its team has already reached India, he said in New Delhi.

Bagchi asserted that the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh "have been, are and will remain an integral part of India."

## 1st T20: Rohit-Led India Look To Overwhelm West Indies



Press Trust of India

**TAROUBA:** A full-strength Indian team in all its might will be looking to overwhelm West Indies in its bid to record a second successive clean sweep in the three-match T20I series starting Friday.

With less than three months left for the T20 World Cup, skipper Rohit Sharma and coach Rahul Dravid will get around 16

games (5 vs WI, 5 in Asia Cup (if India play final), 3 vs Australia, 3 vs South Africa) to firm up their core team that will then play unchanged going into mega event.

The mere thought of a first eleven comprising Rohit, Rishabh Pant, Suryakumar Yadav, Hardik Pandya and Dinesh Karthik as the five specialists batters in the top six can have an intimidating as well as debil-

itating effect on the opposition.

And that too at a time when a player of Virat Kohli's stature has been failing miserably in shortest format and doubts are being cast about his place in the playing XI.

The preceding England series has shown that India's white ball players have that imposing alpha-male like presence out there in the middle even if their best player Kohli is on the wane.

## Guptill Surpasses Rohit To Break T20I Record



Press Trust of India

**DUBAI:** New Zealand opener Martin Guptill went past India captain Rohit Sharma to become the highest run scorer in T20 International, during the first game against Scotland in Edinburgh.

The 35-year-old talismanic batter achieved the milestone on Wednesday en route his 31-ball 40.

Guptill's opening partner Finn Allen also scored a stroke-filled maiden century (101 off 56 balls) in the shortest format, as the Black Caps posted 225/5 batting first.

In reply, the hosts were restricted to 157/8 with Ish Sodhi claiming 4/28 and Mitchell Santner picking up 2/23.

During the course of his in-

nings, Guptill surpassed Rohit, who had become the highest run-scorer in T20Is (3,379) earlier this year. Guptill now has 3,399 runs in T20Is, 20 ahead of the India skipper.

Apart from Rohit, Guptill is closely followed by former India captain Virat Kohli (3,308), Ireland's ODI skipper Paul Stirling (2,894), and Australian captain Aaron Finch, who is fifth in the list with 2,855 runs.

In 2021, Kohli became the first batter to breach the 3000-run mark when he achieved the rare feat during the second T20I against England in Ahmedabad, surpassing another New Zealand great and former captain, Brendon McCullum, who was the first to cross the 2000-run mark.

## Sri Lanka Beat Pakistan By 246 Runs In 2nd Test



Agencies

**GALLE:** Spinner Prabath Jayasuriya grabbed five wickets as Sri Lanka thumped Pakistan by 246 runs in the second Test to end the series 1-1 on Thursday.

Chasing a mammoth 508 for victory, tourists Pakistan were bowled out for 261 in the second session on day five with skipper Babar Azam hitting a valiant 81 in Galle.

The 30-year-old Jayasuriya, a left-arm spinner, claimed his fourth five-wicket haul in just his third Test since making his debut against Australia earlier this month.

Ramesh Mendis, who took five wickets with his off-spin in Pakistan's first innings, wiped off the tail with four more to trigger Sri Lankacelebrations.

The tourists won the opener with a Galle record chase of 342 and fought hard to outdo themselves, with the in-form Azam

scoring his 23rd Test fifty and putting on brave stands with overnight partner Imamul Haq (49) and Mohammad Rizwan (37).

But Jayasuriya kept hitting back with regular strikes and got Agha Salman out for four at the stroke of lunch, then trapped talisman Azam lbw to end Pakistan's resistance.

Ramesh struck on his first ball of the day to get Imam caught behind, with the left-handed batsman adding just three to his overnight 46.

Jayasuriya, who took one wicket on day four, cut short Rizwan's stay on 35 with his left-arm spin. Fawad Alam was run out for one.

Azam survived Jayasuriya's lbw call, which was given out by the umpire but successfully reviewed by the batsman, before the bowler claimed him for the third time this series.

## Vettel Announces Retirement At End Of F1 Season

Agencies

**F**our time world champion Sebastian Vettel announced his retirement from Formula One at the end of the season, saying on Thursday his goals had changed and he wanted to focus more on family and interests outside the sport.

The 35-year-old German, who drives for the Aston Martin team, won his titles with Red Bull from 2010-13 and also spent six seasons with Ferrari.

He made the announcement ahead of this weekend's Hungarian Grand Prix, the 13th round of the season and last race before the August break.

"I hereby announce my retirement from Formula One by the end of the 2022 season," he said in a video statement explaining his reasons on a newly-created Instagram page.

"I love this sport. It has been central to my life since I can remember. But as much as there is

life on track, there's my life off track too. Being a racing driver has never been my sole identity.

"Next to racing I have grown a family and I love being around them. I have grown other interests outside Formula One," he explained.



"My goals have shifted from winning races and fighting for championships to seeing my children grow, passing on my values, helping them up when they fall, listening to them when they need me, not having to say goodbye and, most importantly, being able to learn from them and let them inspire me," he said.

## England & Germany Set For Historic Euro 2022 Final



Agencies

**LONDON:** England against Germany at Wembley Stadium. A final that underlines the growing stature of women's soccer in Europe and echoes decades of history.

When host nation England takes on Germany in the European Championship final Sunday, it will have a tournament-record crowd of nearly 90,000.

Euro 2022 as a whole will be easily the best-attended ever. It beat the previous mark of 240,000 part-way through the group stage.

"It's going to be a great festi-

val of football," German coach Martina Voss-Tecklenburg said Wednesday. "That's a classic in soccer, England-Germany."

England is aiming to win its first major women's tournament title on the site where the English men's national team beat West Germany to win its only major title to date, the 1966 World Cup.

Germany has won all eight European finals it's played — and crushed England 6-2 in the 2009 final — but its momentum had seemed to slow in recent years as other countries invest-

ed heavily in women's leagues.

England has scored a tournament-leading 20 goals on its way to the final, more than half in two storming wins over former European champions, 8-0 against Norway in the group stage and 4-0 against Sweden in the semifinals.

Beating eight-time winner Germany would be the perfect way for England to write history.

England showed it is possible back in February, winning 3-1 in Wolverhampton for its first-ever victory against Germany on home soil.



## 1,602 Pilgrims Leave For Amarnath Cave Shrine From Jammu

Press Trust Of India

**Jammu:** The 28th batch of 1,602 pilgrims on Thursday left from Jammu for 3,880-metre-high cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir Himalayas, officials said. They left the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas here in a convoy of 55 vehicles amid heavy security of CRPF this morning, the officials said.

First to leave were 596 pilgrims, heading for Baltal, in 21 vehicles followed by the second convoy of 34 vehicles carrying 1,006 pilgrims for Pahalgam, they said.

The number of pilgrims visiting cave shrine have drastically fallen in past three days mostly due to bad weather conditions,

the officials said.

The annual 43-day yatra commenced on June 30 from the twin routes -- traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag and 14-km shorter Baltal in central Kashmir's Ganderbal. Till Wednesday, over 2.33 lakh pilgrims had offered their prayers at the cave shrine, housing the naturally formed ice-shivlingam, the officials said.

The yatra is scheduled to end on August 11 on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan.

A total of 36 people mostly pilgrims have died during the on-going yatra till date, excluding 15 pilgrims, who died in the flash floods at Amarnath cave shrine on July 1.

## Sonmarg Set To Have First Ever Ski-Lift This Winter



Agencies

**Srinagar:** The famous tourist resort of Sonmarg in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district is all set to get first ever ski lift at the cost of almost Rs 3 Crore which will be functional this winter, officials said Thursday.

Managing Director Cable Corporation of J&K, Ghulam Jeelani Zargar told reporters that the famous resort will get its first ever ski-lift at the cost of Rs.2.79 lakhs that will be

functional this winter only.

"The ski-lift will be akin to those already at Pahalgam and Gulmarg resorts. The lift will have all facilities to teach children and adults skiing on the modern lines," he said.

He said that setting up of ski-lift at Sonmarg will help woo locals and tourists, who can enjoy skiing on the lines of Gulmarg and Pahalgam during winters. "We are hopeful to see the ski-lift fully functional this winter only," he said—(KNO)

## Sinha Reviews LG's Sustainable Development Fellowship Programme



Observer News Service

**Jammu:** Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Thursday chaired a meeting to review the progress of Lieutenant Governor's Sustainable Development Fellowship Programme here at Raj Bhawan.

The Lt Governor observed that the 'Lieutenant Governor's Sustainable Development Fellowship (LGSDF)' programme provides a unique opportunity to talented young professionals to contribute towards strategic planning and implementation of development policies.

He directed the IIT Jammu and Higher Education Department to engage with the fellows on a regular basis to address their concerns, capacity building, encouraging independent ideas, integrated and holistic approach to make the programmes more effective in terms of impact and outcome.

At the outset, the LGSDF fellows briefed the chair in detail about their work and contributions through a series of presentations and also shared their ideas for traffic management and

urban development.

During the interaction with the fellows from different areas of specialization, the Lt Governor said that the intent of the initiative is to link young talents with governance and public policy and nurture the young professionals to contribute to the greater good of society. Another aspect was to bring the common man at the center of the government's priorities by bridging the gap of knowledge and wisdom within the new generation, he added.

The Lt Governor recalled that last year when this fellowship took shape in the UT, the view was that the administration and its various departments would not merely act as mediators but would prefer independent thinking in formulating development works. Our aim was that the young generation should work on the projects of Jammu and Srinagar Smart Cities, on tourism with global thinking and local perspective, and that the administration as well as common citizens should benefit from it, he added.

Observing that youth have a completely different mindset and vision for urban mobility, smart

schools, and other developmental aspects, the Lt Governor said that the 25 new initiatives taken by all the nine LGSDF Fellows and their contribution to policy making in different areas will be absolutely unprejudiced and unbiased.

The Lt Governor advised all the mentors and reporting authorities to see the fellowship as an incubation model to find innovative solutions by working on the ideas as per given targets according to the needs of the departments, administration, common citizens, and contribute in the journey of prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir.

Noting that each individual possess a different potential, the Lt Governor said that the fellowship should become a perfect medium of expanding that potential. He called for prioritizing the most urgent of the challenges and finding sustainable solutions.

"A new invention, innovative idea or science is born when a person gathers the courage to go into the unknown. As such, a few such tasks should be given to them through workshops or through mentors, which will help the administration in achieving the target of Sustainable Development Goals and triggering creativity and ingenuity, the Lt Governor added.

## Followers Of Influential Cleric Breach Into Iraqi Parliament

Agenceis

**H**undreds of Iraqi protesters breached Baghdad's parliament on Wednesday chanting anti-Iran curses in a demonstration against a nominee for prime minister by Iran-backed parties.

The majority of the protesters were followers of influential Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr. The demonstrators, all of them men, were seen walking on tables of the parliament, leaping through folders, sitting in the chairs of lawmakers and waving Iraqi flags. The incident raised the stakes in the political struggle for Iraq nearly ten months after the federal elections.

No lawmakers were present. Only security forces were inside the building and they appeared to allow the protesters in with

relative ease. The demonstrators were protesting the recent selection of Mohammed al-Sudani as the official nominee of the Coordination Framework bloc, a coalition led by Iran-backed Shiite parties and their allies.

It was the largest protest since federal elections were held in October, and the second time al-Sadr has used his ability to mobilize the masses to send a message to his political rivals this month. Earlier in July, thousands heeded his call for a mass prayer, an event many feared would devolve into destabilizing protests.

Hours after his followers occupied parliament, al-Sadr issued a statement on Twitter telling them their message had been received, and to return safely to their homes, signalling there would be no further escalation of the sit-in.

## 117 Endangered Languages, Mother Tongues Chosen For Study, Documentation: Govt

Agenceis

**A** total of 117 endangered languages and mother tongues from across India have been chosen for study and documentation on a priority basis, Union Minister of State for Education Subhas Sarkar said on Wednesday.

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha, he said there is no centralised data on the number of endangered languages in India.

Sarkar said, "The government has initiated a scheme known as 'Scheme for Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages of India (SPPEL)'. Under this scheme, the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysuru, works on protection, preservation and documentation of all the mother tongues and languages of India spoken by less than 10,000 people which are called endangered languages.

He said, "117 endangered

languages and mother tongues have been chosen from all over India for study and documentation on a priority basis."

Stating that there are no centralised data on the number of endangered languages in India, Sarkar said Rs 48.90 crore has been released by the University Grants Commission and CIIL under their schemes for protection of endangered Indian languages during the years 2015-16 to 2021-22.

On the progress of books to be published in Indian languages for engineering and how the government proposes to make more study material available in Indian languages, he said, "To provide engineering course material in Indian Languages, AICTE has introduced 'AICTE Technical Book Writing and Translation' in 12 scheduled Indian languages namely Hindi, Marathi, Bengali, Tamil, Telugu, Gujarati, Kannada, Punjabi, Odia, Assamese, Urdu and Malayalam.

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now in Srinagar

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PINEAPPLE TEA  
BUN MASKA  
BUN MASKA WITH JAM

SANDWICHES

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(BUN MASKA SPECIAL)  
**CHICKEN CRISPY BURGER**  
**CHICKEN PERI PERI**  
**MEXICAN BURGER**  
**BARBECUE BURGER**  
**CHILLI GARLIC**  
**ZINGER BURGER**  
**KINGSIZE BURGER**

VEG BURGERS

**ALOO TIKKI**  
**CRISPY PANEER**  
**PERI PERI**  
**CHILLI GARLIC**  
**TANDOORI**  
**BARBECUE**

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**CHICKEN STRIPS 4 pc**  
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**CHICKEN POP CORN 15 Pc**  
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