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## People From Any Part Of India Living In J&K Can Now Vote In Polls: CEO

20-25 Lakh New Voters Expected To Be Enrolled In Final Voter List

Press Trust Of India

**Srinagar:** Jammu and Kashmir Chief Electoral Officer Hirdesh Kumar on Wednesday said that citizens from other parts of the country, who are either studying or doing business in the Union Territory, can register as voters and exercise their franchise in the next elections in the erstwhile



state, likely to be held next year. The CEO also said that around 25 lakh new voters are expected

to be enrolled in the Union Territory as the special summary revision of electoral rolls is being

**6 THERE IS NO NEED FOR A PERSON TO HAVE A DOMICILE CERTIFICATE OF J&K** to become a voter. An employee, a student, a laborer, or anyone from outside who is living ordinarily in J&K, can enlist his or her name in the voting list."

Chief Electoral Officer Hirdesh Kumar

held for the first time after the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019. He also described the

**Parties Fume, Accuse BJP Of Tilting Balance**

Political leaders in Kashmir have sharply reacted to reports that people ordinarily residing in Jammu and Kashmir even for purposes of work can cast vote in the next assembly election here, accusing the BJP of tilting the balance **More on P6**

ongoing exercise to complete the special summary revision of electoral rolls by November 25

as a "challenging task".

The massive exercise to complete the process in time is going on to ensure that all the eligible voters including those who have attained the age of 18 years on October 1, 2022, or earlier are enrolled to provide an "error-free" final list, Kumar said.

According to the rescheduled timeline issued by the election commission recently, an integrated draft electoral roll will be published on September 15, while the period for filing claims and objections was set between September 15 to October 25 followed by disposal of claims and objections on November 10. **More on P6**

## Pakistani Militant Killed During 'Rifle Snatching Bid'

Agencies

**JAMMU:** A jailed Pakistani militant was killed when he snatched a rifle and opened fire upon police during a weapon recovery operation in the Arnia sector of the International Border in Jammu.

A senior police official told a local news agency KNO that during investigation of a case, it came to fore that a militant from Pakistan, who was presently in jail in Jammu, was involved in some militancy networks after which a weapon recovery operation was launched in Arnia sector.

He said that during the operation, a police constable and the Pakistani militant identified as Mohd Ali Hussain alias Qasim alias Jehangir was injured in the firing incident.

He said that the **More on P6**

## Sidhra Shocker!

# 5 Of family Among 6 Found Dead In Jammu Houses

Police Forms SIT To Probe Mystery Incident

Press Trust Of India

**Jammu:** Six people, including five members of a family, were found dead under mysterious circumstances here on Wednesday, prompting police to set up a special investigation team to probe the turn of events.

The bodies of the victims, including three women, were recovered from two adjoining houses in the posh Tawi Vihar in Sidhra area around 1 AM, police said, adding that prima facie, it appears that they were poisoned. Noor-ul-Habib, Sakina Begum,

her daughter Naseema Akhter and grandson Sajad Ahmad Magrey were found dead inside Habib's house. The bodies of Sakina's other daughter Rubina Bano and son Zafar Salim were recovered from the nearby house, the official said.

"A four-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by Superintendent of Police (Rural) Sanjay Sharma has been formed to investigate the incident," Senior Superintendent of Police (Jammu) Chandan Kohli said.

A police spokesperson said a call was received **More on P6**



KO Photojournalist Abid Bhat captures the shadow of a tree in the waters of Nigeen Lake, as a vegetable vendor rows his boat through to return home.

CHANDANWARI ACCIDENT

## LG Lauds Courage, Valour Of Slain ITBP Men

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday paid tributes to the paramilitary ITBP personnel, who lost their lives in a bus accident near Chandanwari in the tourist resort of Pahalgam on Tuesday.

Attending the ceremonial honours for the slain ITBP personnel at the District Police Lines (DPL) Srinagar, the LG said "the nation will never forget their courage, valour and supreme sacrifice".

The mortal remains of the deceased were sent to their respective native places for their last rites with full military honours.

Meanwhile, the LG discussed the treatment and medical support being provided **More on P6**



## Kashmiri Family Cries Foul, Demands Probe

Auqib Javeed

The family members of the Barzulla resident, who was found dead with five others in Sidhra locality of Jammu, ruled out speculations of suicide and sought a thorough investigation into the case. The Jammu police on Wednesday found bodies of six persons, including a woman from two houses in Sidhra, Jammu. Five of the deceased are from Marmat in Doda district **More on P6**

**6 A FOUR-MEMBER SPECIAL INVESTIGATION TEAM (SIT)** headed by Superintendent of Police (Rural) Sanjay Sharma has been formed to investigate the incident."

SHOPIAN KILLING

# Police Arrest Militant's Kin, House To Be Attached

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Wednesday initiated the process of attaching the house of a militant who they said killed a Kashmiri Pandit in Shopian, while his father and three brothers were arrested for sheltering him.

Police said Adil Wani killed Sunil Kumar Bhat in an orchard in a Shopian village on Tuesday and later took shelter at his home in Kutpora.

The government forces

launched a cordon and search operation but Wani, a categorised militant of the banned Al-Badr outfit, fled in the cover of darkness after hurling grenades at the approaching police party, they said.

During the search operation, police also recovered arms and ammunition from Wani's house, prompting the authorities to place his father and three brothers under arrest besides initiating the process of attaching their house.

Wani was **More on P6**

## Sunil Bhat's Killers Identified: DGP

The killers of Sunil Kumar Bhat, a Kashmiri Pandit who was shot dead by militants in Shopian, have been identified and they will be given stringent punishment, Jammu and Kashmir DGP Dilbagh Singh said on Wednesday.

"We have identified the two suspects who had killed him (Bhat). Follow up action is underway and we are working on it," the DGP told reporters on the **More on P6**

WAQF BOARD CRACKS WHIP

# Khadims Banned From Collecting Donations At Shrines

Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** The Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board on Wednesday cracked whip on unauthorised caretakers (khadims) of shrines spread across the Union Territory, banning them from collecting donations through "force or exploitative means" from the devotees.

The move to impose a blanket ban on all such unethical practices across the shrines in J&K with immediate effect, comes in the backdrop of a large number of complaints against some people receiving donations forcibly and through exploitative means at the 'Ziyarat', an official spokesperson said Wednesday.

In this regard, he said, an

order was issued by the Waqf board on Tuesday.

As per the order, the spokesperson said, it was given out that despite coming from reasonably sound economic background, such people are permanently occupying particular spots within the shrines for their activities, and there are instances when such spots are being outsourced or contracted out against receipt of large sums of money that violates the sacro-sanctity of the Ziyarat.

He added that it was further given out that such unethical practices damage the sanctity of such sacred places, and is detrimental to the already strained finances of the J&K Waqf Board. "Such pilferages **More on P6**

## SHORT TAKES

### Militants Flee Rajouri Cordon, Jammu On Alert

Government forces have intensified operation to track down militants, who managed to escape from the cordon after a brief gunfire encounter in Rajouri district, sources said. Government forces had on Sunday located a group of 2-3 militants in Sojan forest area of Samote in Rajouri and laid a siege to neutralise them, they said. Militants fired on the government forces during cordon and search operation (CASO) but managed to escape using heavy rains and bad weather conditions as cover, they said. Forces have now **More on P6**

### Ex-MP Presents 'Aasar-E-Qadam' To LG

Former Member Parliament, Talib Hussain on Wednesday called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhavan here, an official spokesperson said. The former MP, he said, discussed with the LG various matters pertaining to the development of Jammu Kashmir. Hussain, he said, appreciated the various development works being done at an accelerated pace in the present LG led UT administration. On the occasion, the spokesperson said, the former MP presented his travelogue book "Aasar-e-Qadam" describing the age-old values of harmony and brotherhood **More on P6**

### J&K Reports 418 New Covid Cases

Jammu and Kashmir recorded 418 fresh Covid cases on Wednesday that took the infection tally to 4,74,690, officials said. Of the new cases, 90 were reported from Jammu division and 328 from the Kashmir valley, they said. The death toll stands at 4,779 as no fresh fatality was reported, officials said. There are 3,466 active cases while the overall recoveries has reached 4,66,445, they said. There were 51 confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus), they added. (PTI)

### Kashmiri Woman Robbed In New Delhi

Two bike-borne men snatched a bag from a Kashmiri woman, who was staying in the national capital for her medical treatment at hospitals in adjoining Gurugram, police said on Wednesday. The incident took place in south Delhi's Greater Kailash 1, they said. Deputy Commissioner of Police (south) Benita Mary Jaiker said that on July 30 at about 9.50 pm, a PCR call was received at Greater Kailash-1 police station regarding a snatching incident near M Block market. The 45-year-old woman, a resident of Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir, was staying at S Block, GK-1, for her knee treatment at Fortis **More on P6**

### Mortar Shell Defused In Samba

A live mortar shell, weighing about 44 kg, was recovered Wednesday from an open field in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said. The shell was noticed by a police party during a cleanliness drive at Kikri Morh in Parmandal area, an official said. He said a bomb disposal squad of the army was called and the shell was safely defused. (PTI)

### Landslide Kills 80 Sheep And Goats

Around 80 sheep and goats were killed and 15 injured when a landslide triggered by a cloudburst damaged the house of a shepherd in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district on Wednesday, officials said. The family members of the shepherd, Manzoor Ahmed, had a narrow escape when the landslide damaged his mud house in the Banihal area below the Jawahir tunnel in the early hours of Wednesday. Nearly 80 sheep and goats, owned by Ahmed, died while 15 others were injured, they said. Station House Officer Munir Khan said he, along with Sub Divisional Police Officer of Banihal **More on P6**



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4 Skills That Are Essential At Every Point In Your Career

Diana Shi | Fast Company

Part of being a young professional is responding to new challenges. To do this, you must rely on different problem-solving abilities. But there are certain soft skills that can help you succeed at just about every step of your career.

In a recent article for Fast Company, contributors Tomas Chamorro-Premuzic and Becky Frankiewicz wrote that when people with high levels of emotional intelligence encounter others with different views, they look for opportunity to learn versus getting defensive.

THE ABILITY TO LEVERAGE CONNECTIONS

In the workplace of tomorrow, noticing and leveraging connections in your network will be a special skill. People with this ability are good at observing the strengths of others.

STRONG COMMUNICATION SKILLS

No matter how the workplace evolves, the ability to communicate effectively will always be critical. Strong communication is only becoming more important as remote work requires additional written communication.

WILLINGNESS TO LEARN Lee says maintaining a sense of curiosity early in your professional journey is key. Young professionals who exhibit a desire to learn new specialties can broaden their mindset and stoke passions and creativity.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
Office of the Executive Engineer
Quality Control & Procurement Division,
HMT, Srinagar
CORRIGENDUM-I
Subject: - Extension of dates for various mechanical repairs to the Departmental trucks (Eicher Goods Truck HCV) bearing Registration No: JK01P-1705 & JK01P-1706.

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
Awantipora Forest Division Awantipora
e-NIT NO: - 07 of 2022-23 DATED:- 11-08-2022

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble President of India, e-tenders (Two cover system) are invited from registered, reputed and resourceful Contractors/Firms registered with Jammu & Kashmir Govt./Central Govt. Organizations for the following works:-
Name of Work :- Beating Up of Casualties (BUC) by carrying out afforestation by means of planting of Conifer Plants, Broad Leaved Plants, Fruit Plants and Medicinal Plants in Comp't. No. 17/Lam, 20/Naristan, 6/Panzova, 1c/Karamulla, 31/WLSC-Gosannard, 29/Pastuna and 5/Kehill, Awantipora Forest Division.

TERMS & CONDITIONS
1. The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website: https://jtenders.gov.in. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the 'Downloads' option as well as from 'Bidders Manual Kit' on website jtenders.gov.in.

Table with 4 columns: Agency Name, Location, Agency Name, Location. Lists various news agencies and their locations.

Table with 4 columns: Agency Name, Location, Agency Name, Location. Lists various news agencies and their locations.

REQUIRED
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## In a First, Gaming Store Inaugurated In City

Observer News Service

Service: In a first, the city's first gaming store was inaugurated at Regal Chowk on Wednesday.

The "ASUS GAMING GADGETS STORE" offers a wide range of Gaming Laptops, hardware consoles and accessories.



The opening of the ASUS store is expected to boost sales of gaming gadgets in

the city and help grow digital gaming in Srinagar.

Owner of the store said that their focus is going to be gaming customers, innovators and vloggers.

The store in addition to offering gaming laptops, it offers ROG, Zenbooks and a wide range of accessories as well.

With the number of tubers and gamers increas-

ing by the day, the demand for gaming laptops and cameras has also increased.

## Conference On Reproductive Health And Disease Begins At KU

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Vice-Chancellor University of Kashmir Prof Nilofer Khan on Wednesday inaugurated a national-level conference on 'Reproductive Health and Disease'.

The day-long conference was organised by the varsity's Department of Biotechnology under the aegis of the ICMR-Centre for Advanced Research.

Addressing a galaxy of academics and scientists, Prof Nilofer said such important conferences would offer newer insights to young researchers and students about the advancements made in the fields of reproductive health and disease which concern the wellbeing of the society at large.

She said undertaking societal research is one of the focus areas of the University of Kashmir to create a robust 'research culture' where interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary re-

search offers solutions to some of the pressing social and environmental issues that J&K is faced with.

"We look forward to this department, which is very important in our University, to undertake more national and international collaborative works," she said.

Two world-renowned scientists, Padma Shree awardees Prof.R.N.K Bamzai and Prof.M.L. Madhan were the guests of honour at the inaugural session.

In his special address, Prof Bamezai called upon academic institutions to pool resources and expertise to do 'good science'.

"The responsibility of any society towards its future is to ensure physical, emotional, behavioural and social wellbeing of its citizens. Building a nation and its future therefore requires a reproductively-healthy society so that future progeny is a dividend, not a burden," Prof Bamezai said.



## Police Warns Of 'Legal Action' If HSNP Not Affixed In Vehicles

Observer News Service

Srinagar- In the backdrop of a 'chance encounter' at Nowhatta here recently, Police on Wednesday warned of "legal action" against those motorists who fail to ensure both front and rear High Security Number Plates (HSNP) in their vehicles.

The police also asked people to check from the nearest police station credentials of person(s) with whom they enter into any deal regarding sale or purchase of the vehicles including two-

wheelers.

"In light of investigations into usage of vehicles for transport by (militants), all owners are requested to install HSNP on both front and rear of vehicles (in all the two wheelers also) as mandated by Motor Vehicles Act," police said in a statement. Non-compliance will lead to legal action including seizure of such vehicle, it said.

"Further all persons selling, renting or providing vehicles (two wheelers included) are also requested to verify credentials of such buyer/user from near-

est police station before handing over vehicle," the police said, adding, "Ignorance of procedures will not be an excuse if such vehicle(s) is/are found with subversive element."

A police officer said that in the "chance encounter" at Nowhatta Srinagar it was seen that HSNP was not present on front side and rear was smeared with mud. He said the scooty used in Nowhatta incident was sold by Umar motors to one active militant Momin Gulzar for Rs 45,000.

## Venomous Viper Found Inside A Home In Balhama, Rescued

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a rare incident, a nearly 4-foot-long Levantine viper was found inside a home in Balhama, which left the family members in a state of shock.

Later, the Wildlife SOS Rapid Response Unit rescued the highly venomous snake and it is currently under observation.

Officials said that on Tuesday night residents of a household in Balhama, were shocked to find a 4-foot-long Levantine viper in the verandah of their home. On spotting the snake, the family

immediately alerted the Wildlife SOS Rapid Response Unit, which works round-the-clock to save wild animals in distress.

The Wildlife SOS team travelled nearly 35 km with the requisite equipment and protective gear to conduct the rescue. By the time they had reached the location, the snake had slithered behind a shoe rack and a crowd had gathered.

After quelling the crowd, the team extricated the snake with the necessary precautions and put it into a safety box.

The reptile is currently under observation and will soon be re-

leased back into its natural habitat, Wildlife Team officials said.

Aaliya Mir, Education Officer and Programme Head- J&K, Wildlife SOS informed, "Levantine vipers are known to be aggressive in nature. They are capable of lightning fast strikes when provoked and will give out a warning hiss before striking. In this case, the rescue went smoothly since we exercised extreme caution and had informed the members of the household to not panic and keep their distance. As a result, the viper was calm and we were able to safely extricate the snake."

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- PDD: 0194-2450213
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QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

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

PRAYERS

FAJR	4:22
ZUHR	12:35
ASR	5:21
Magrib	7:20
ISHA	8:47

HIJRI CALENDAR  
19 Muharram  
1444

### This Day In History

- 293 BC - The oldest known Roman temple to Venus is founded, starting the institution of Vinalia Rustica (grape harvest festival)
- 1217 - First historical record of Scottish scholar Michael Scot, signs and dates his translation of al-Bitruji's "On the Sphere" in Toledo, Spain
- 1564 - Spanish King Philip II joins Council of Trente
- 1587 - Saul Wahl is elected King of Poland, according to legend.
- 1605 - Spanish army under of general Spinola conquers Lingen
- 1769 - A lightning strike on the Bastion of San Nazaro in Brescia, Italy, ignites 90 tonnes of gunpowder, killing 3,000 people
- 1864 - Battle of Petersburg: Battle of Weldon Railroad day 1 of a 3 day battle
- 1868 - French Astronomer Pierre Janssen discovers helium in solar spectrum during eclipse
- 1914 - French troops under general Dubail occupy Sarrebourg
- 1924 - France begins withdrawing troops from the Ruhr
- 1925 - Belgium & US sign treaty about war debts
- 1940 - Battle of Britain: The air battle known as "The Hardest Day" occurs; Luftwaffe lose approximately 69 aircraft and the RAF lose 68 in one of the largest ever air battles
- 1945 - Sukarno elected 1st President of Indonesia by the Preparatory Committee for Indonesian Independence (PPKI)
- 1964 - Charles Helu elected president of Lebanon
- 1964 - South Africa banned from Olympic Games because of apartheid policies
- 1964 - USSR launch 3 Kosmos satellites
- 1971 - New Zealand Prime Minister Keith Holyoake announces in Parliament that New Zealand's combat force would be withdrawn from Vietnam before the end of the year, coinciding with a similar announcement by the Australian government
- 1976 - USSR's Luna 24 soft-lands on Moon
- 1979 - Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini demands Saint War against Kurds
- 1979 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/Semipalinsk USSR
- 1985 - Susei Launch (Halley's Comet Flyby)
- 2008 - President Of Pakistan Pervez Musharaf resigned due to pressure from opposition.
- 2013 - 6 people are killed by a bomb blast on a bus in West Bengal, India

### From KO Archives

## Israel Rushed Arms To India During Kargil Crisis

Agence France Presse

TEL AVIV- Israel agreed to speed up shipments of arms and military equipment to India during the recent crisis with Pakistan over Kashmir, the influential Hebrew daily Haaretz reported Thursday. The Israeli move came in response to a request from New Delhi and the Indian government expressed its appreciation, the daily said without elaborating on the equipment delivered.

All the orders had been placed before the May clashes in Kashmir between Indian troops and Muslim guerrillas. New Delhi charged were backed by Pakistani troops, the paper stressed.

Israel and India have maintained close military ties in recent years- the commander of Indian ground forces, Prakash Malik, visited Israel in May 1998 after the two governments named military attaches to their respective embassies the previous year.

(Kashmir Observer, August 18, 1999)

**Central Ground Water Authority**  
Ministry of Jal Shakti  
Government of India

**PUBLIC NOTICE No 6/2022**

**Attention: All Ground Water Users including Industrial/ Infrastructure/ Mining Projects/ Drinking & Domestic Use for Residential Apartments/ Group Housing Societies/ Government Water Supply Agencies in Urban Areas/ Bulk Water Suppliers/ Swimming Pool/ Sport Complex/ Govt Office Building.**

All the above ground water users whether existing or new, in the states/UTs of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Ladakh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu are required to **take permission for groundwater withdrawal from CGWA.** CGWA has already issued various public notices in this regard since 2015. As a last opportunity, the **last date for submission** of complete application for NOC is hereby extended from 30.06.2022 to **30.09.2022**, along with applicable ground water abstraction/ restoration charges and penalty. Failure to do so shall be treated as illegal abstraction and strict penal action shall be initiated against offenders as per prescribed rules and Environment (Protection) Act. Please log on to <https://cgwa-noc.gov.in> for further details.

**Chairman**

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KASHMIR  
OBSERVER

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KO VIEW

## Travel Boom

**B**etween January and June, Jammu and Kashmir witnessed arrivals of around 10.6 million tourists. Up to 10,000 people — mostly from other parts of India — are arriving on some 100 flights a day to the airport in Srinagar. But the tourist number is not only disproportionately higher than the last year but a record in the last decade. Official figures show that just over 41,000 people visited Kashmir in all of 2020. Most hotels are booked through the summer with tourist resorts like Gulmarg, Pahalgam, and Dal lake attracting the most tourists. However, the UT government has now increased the options for tourists by developing more resorts. For example, Aharbal, Yusmarg, Tosamaidan, Gurez, historic old city in Srinagar are finding a prominent place on the tourist map of Kashmir. These places need further development of tourist infrastructure and also wider publicity for people to visit.

A combination of factors has made the tourism boom possible: One, there is this perception across the country that after the revocation of Article 370 J&K has been fully integrated into India. Second, Covid-19 fallout which severely reduced the options to go abroad and third the ongoing sweltering summer in mainland India which has forced people to escape to colder places like Kashmir. The Tourism department has said that an advertising campaign across major Indian cities and the opening of new destinations were also attracting more tourists.

Tourism, one of the mainstays of the Kashmir economy, is one of the sectors that has been hit the hardest over the two years following the abrogation of Article 370 with successive Covid -19 lockdowns also crushing the sector. As a result, a large section of people was largely without employment. Their savings have already been depleted. This includes also the people associated with tourism. In 2021, many cases of suicides and suicide attempts took place as a result. The major cause of suicide attempts was financial distress in the families caused by the turmoil of the preceding two years and also by the extended successive lockdowns.

The tourism sector forms 6.8 percent of Kashmir's GDP and employs two million people. The sector has the potential to shore up our beleaguered economy. Here's hoping that things improve from hereon. The waning pandemic has created conditions for unhindered tourism in the Valley. This is also the hope of the people associated with the tourist sector. There is reason to believe that there are no more Covid waves. Tourists could thus continue visiting Kashmir and help resuscitate the economy and generate jobs.

OTHER OPINION

## On Unabated Caste Violence

**T**he FIR in the case should be read as a sobering reality check on the terrible inequalities that continue to afflict and debilitate the nation as it aims to become the "destination," where as Prime Minister Narendra Modi said from the ramparts of Red Fort, "aspirations are met". "Indra was a child. He didn't know that the matki (earthen pot) that he drank from had been kept separately for the savarna jati (upper caste) teacher"... "the teacher abused him with casteist slurs and beat him up, resulting in internal injuries", the FIR says. These words should prick the nation's conscience, and remind policymakers of unmet promises and unfinished tasks, as India begins the "Amrit Kaal" to the centenary of its Independence. The Ashok Gehlot government must ensure that due processes are rolled out swiftly and surely to provide justice in this case.

That casteist violence is a grim lived reality — at odds with India's constitutional principles — for a large section of the country's Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities is borne out by numerous reports and surveys. National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data show that a crime was committed every 10 minutes against a person from an SC community in 2020. Rajasthan along with Bihar, UP and Madhya Pradesh accounts for two-thirds of such crimes though these four states constitute about 40 per cent of the country's population. Cases registered in Rajasthan under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act went up from around 6,000 in 2018 to more than 8,500 in 2020. Worryingly, the conviction rate in the state in such cases has gone down in these four years — from 11 per cent in 2016 to less than 8 per cent in 2020.

From the lack of enabling measures that force thousands of SC & ST students to drop out of institutions of learning every year to the persecution that can drive a young scholar like Rohith Vemula to take his own life, the discrimination faced by Dalit youth is endemic and deeply ingrained. Swift action in the case of the atrocity at Jalore will signal the state's resolve to stamp out the oppression that bedevils the aspirations of its young. That should also be an urgent imperative for a nation aspiring to be a knowledge hub.

The Indian Express

# Find Mathematics Education in Mathematics Curriculum



Firdous Ahmad Mala

**Over a course of more than a decade of mathematics teaching at elementary, school and higher levels, it has dawned upon me that merely perfecting mastery over the content we teach is not going to make our teaching desirably better. We need to embrace Mathematics education and learn the tricks of the trade before we torrent theorems and exercises at our students**

**M**athematics is one among several other human endeavours that have shaped the current state-of-the-art in science and technology. While, on the one hand, mathematics holds a key position in any curriculum, on the other hand, imparting mathematics instruction has remained a headache for almost all institutions, even at the university level.

It is not uncommon to find mathematicians not adept at the science of imparting instruction in mathematics. Charles Dodgson, aka Lewis Carroll, the author of Alice in Wonderland and Looking Through the Glass is reported to have found teaching extremely daunting. The prince of mathematics, Carl Friedrich Gauss is reported to have hated teaching for he believed that this way students robbed him of his precious time. He is later reported to have started enjoying it when the quality of students improved.

One of the finest mathematical brains of our time, Grigori Perelman who declined to accept the Fields Prize after cracking one of the hardest problems in mathematics, the Poincaré Conjecture has been reported to have quit his position at the Steklov Institute in 2005 because he finds mathematics a painful topic to discuss.

This situation is grim and disheartening. Those who have had the chance to watch the movie, The Beautiful Mind might remember how awful a teacher John Nash was depicted to have been at Princeton. The fact remains that all good scholars are not good teachers. In fact, some excellent scholars and researchers, such as those mentioned above have proved to be pathetic at instruction and dissemination of information.

Is there a cure? A remedy? Perhaps, yes.

Calculus, Analysis, Combinatorics and Geometry are not all there is to mathematics. In the

words of Ian Stewart, one of the finest popularizers of mathematics of the time, "During the past fifty years, more mathematics has been created than in all previous ages put together". Given the quantum of research articles produced every year and the dismal situation of instruction in Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs), the question of didactics becomes a highly serious issue and concern in mathematics. We are in dire need of exceptional teachers. For that, we need to introduce or embrace Mathematics Education and find a respectable place for it in our already-vague-and-confusing curriculum of mathematics. Mathematics Education is the practice of teaching and learning mathematics, alongside the associated research. It is the knowledge of how, what, when, where and why of teaching mathematics.

In 2015, a project called the INDRUM (International Network for Didactic Research in University Mathematics) was established the primary aim of which is to contribute to the development of research in mathematical didactics at all levels of university education. In the three INDRUM conferences held thus far in 2016, 2018 and 2020, a decent exchange of ideas has taken place and a lot of good quality research has been shared in this regard. In a recent 2021 Springer publication titled "Research and Development in University Mathematics Education," several key points of these INDRUM conferences have been put in understandable words that may help us distinguish mathematicians from mathematics educationists.

One particular research discussed in this book is regarding the current status of didactics in mathematics in some countries including Australia, and the USA. In Australia, there is a clear divide between mathematicians and mathematics educators. This divide, however, does not exist in

the USA. As a matter of fact, in the United States, mathematics education positions and one-third of the doctoral programmes are offered in Mathematics Education. The Aussies, however, are now beginning to understand the way forward. They are rectifying the mistakes and acknowledging that Mathematics Education is becoming indispensable and urgent.

The condition of our HEIs is disappointing. Each academic year, hundreds if not thousands of postgrads are handed degrees with which they hardly know what to do. They are hardly acquainted enough with the subject to become good instructors given that the forerunners are themselves not deep-rooted in the ins and outs of instruction.

Over a course of more than a decade of mathematics teaching at elementary, school and higher levels, it has dawned upon me that merely perfecting mastery over the content we teach is not going to make our teaching desirably better. We need to embrace Mathematics education and learn the tricks of the trade before we torrent theorems and exercises at our students.

Unfortunately, teaching positions are decided based on how well someone has done in academics and research and not on an assessment of how much the candidate is in love with the subject. In the words of M. E. Sangster, "No one should teach who is not in love with teaching".

The art of instruction is holier and harder to master than reaching a scholarly position bereft of skills and compassion. It takes a big heart to shape little minds.

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

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

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## Capacity Building And Training For Women's Safety

**T**HE advancement of women and the achievement of equality between women and men is a matter of human rights and should not be viewed in isolation as a women's issue for social justice. They are the only way to create a sustainable, just, and developed society. However, persistent patriarchal mentality and prejudice against gender equality will lead to poor recognition of women's rights; As it has been behind.

Regarding the deep-seated bias and poor recognition of women's rights in India, the Economic Survey 2018 noted that the desire for a male child has given birth to 21 million "unwanted" girls between 0 and 25 years old in India. According to the latest health index released by

the NITI Aayog, India's sex ratio at birth has declined in 17 of the 21 large states. This indicates a failure in the country's ability to curb female selective abortions after illegal sex disclosure.

As recently as March 2020, there were cases of infanticide in Usilampatti, Tamil Nadu. The deeply ingrained bias ironically suggests that it exists against genuine equality between both men and women. According to PISA test data, the notion that "boys are better at math" is unfounded. Yet this belief still exists. Crimes against women increased from 3,793 per million in 2016 to 3,886 per million in 2017, according to the NCRB report. Uttar Pradesh topped the list with 56,011 cases followed by Maharashtra.

In the corporate world, women still earn an average of 79 percent of men, who hold only 5 percent of the Fortune 500 CEO positions and represent an average of 17 percent of global board positions. Women lack access to informal networks that provide opportunities to work in high-profile projects, including attending conferences abroad or job opportunities. Early marriage, with or without the consent of the girl, is a form of violence, as it impairs the health and autonomy of millions of girls.

It is important to develop and implement policies that promote gender equality by creating and enforcing laws to protect women, as well as marriage, divorce and custody laws, inheritance laws, and the elimination of discrimination against women

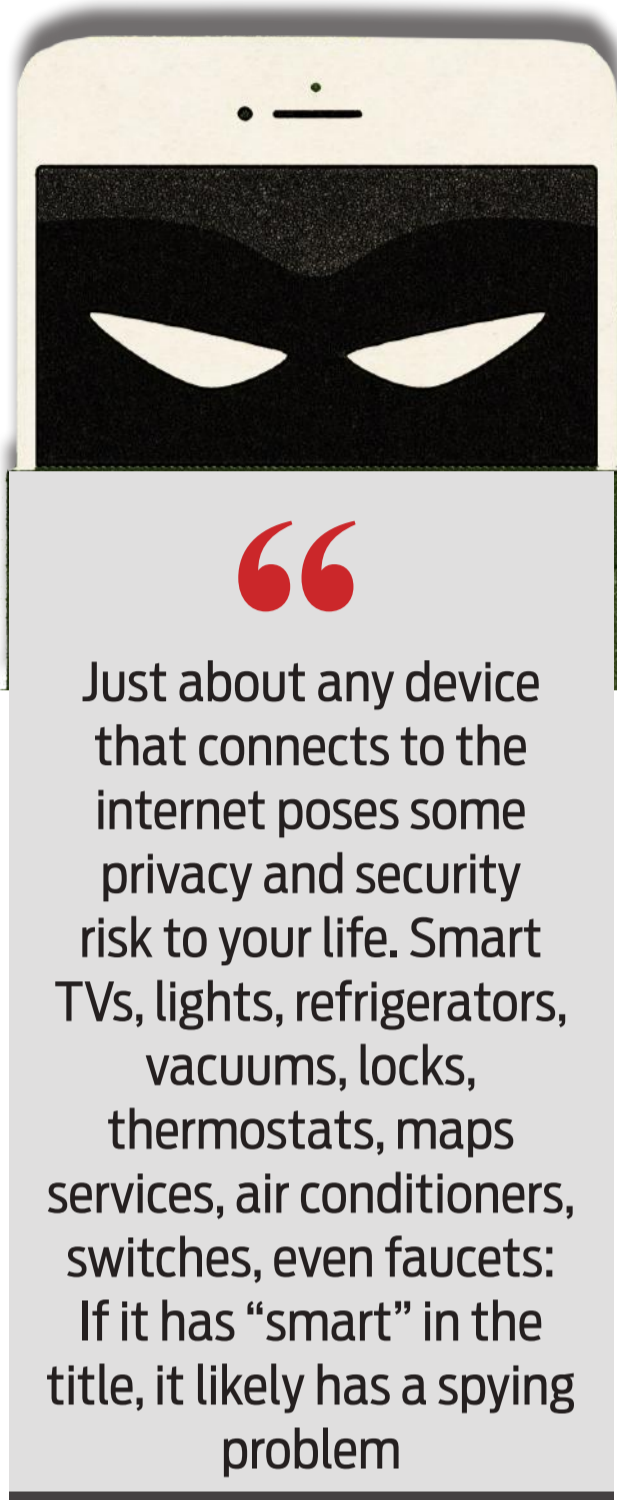
in property ownership. For financial freedom, improving access to paid employment to women and ensuring equal pay for equal work is extremely important.

However, women-centric development plans have been made due to gender-based budgets. The plan for safe cities to improve crime monitoring data collection system on violence against women and use of Nirbhaya Fund for better protection of women. Capacity building and training of service providers and law enforcement officers to handle cases of violence against women is of utmost importance at the nationwide level for women's safety.

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# THE SMART SPY

## YOUR SMART DEVICE IS SPYING ON YOU



“

Just about any device that connects to the internet poses some privacy and security risk to your life. Smart TVs, lights, refrigerators, vacuums, locks, thermostats, maps services, air conditioners, switches, even faucets: If it has “smart” in the title, it likely has a spying problem

Jake Peterson

At this point, it's obvious that our smartphones and computers are data-leakers. Plenty of us now cover our laptops' webcams (although we always forget about the mics), while our smartphones track our locations with us wherever we go. Unfortunately, these tools are so indispensable in modern life, we accept the privacy hit in order to function with the rest of society, and do what we can to keep our data secure.

However, it isn't solely these infamous devices that intrude on our lives. Just about any device that connects to the internet poses some privacy and security risk to your life. Smart TVs, lights, refrigerators, vacuums, locks, thermostats, maps services, air conditioners, switches, even faucets: If it has “smart” in the title, it likely has a spying problem.

Not all risks are created equal, mind you, but it's impossible to use a device designed by a third-party to reach out to another network without exposing yourself to some degree. What determines the degree, however, is both the intent of the maker of the smart device, as well as the unintended consequences of their work. I'll explain.

Let's start with the former: Any company that makes a device that connects to the internet, or that connects to a second internet-ready device, makes a decision on how to respect your privacy. Usually, the respect is minimal to none: It's not surprising to discover that a smart device by default is tracking at least some data and sending it back to the developer, or sharing with third-parties for ad purposes.

Sometimes, we don't know about these data leaks until they're reported by whistleblowers, such as when we learned Apple contractors were listening in on people's lives through snippets of Siri recordings. However, you can take a peek into at least some of the data devices and companies are stealing from you through the device's settings.

### Dive into the smart device's settings

Most smart devices work by connecting to your smartphone, or more specifically, an app on your smartphone. That might be your smartphone's built-in home app, like the Home app on iPhone or Google Home on Android, or a third-party app, such as Smart Life. Not only do these apps allow you to customize and control the many smart devices powering your smart home, they also contain the privacy and security settings your smart device's developer shipped it with. And, boy, can these settings be telling.

I'll offer myself up as an example for this piece. I don't have too many smart



devices in my home, but I do enjoy a series of smart lights. While I've had these lights and their connected third-party app for years now, I somehow never dove into the privacy settings to see what options I could adjust. The first option? “Data Analysis: Allow us to collect data related to product usage.”

Oh, sure. Fine. “Data.” Whatever that means. When the description is as vague as this statement, my lights could really be handing over anything: The developer could simply be tracking when the lights turn off and on, or they could be recording anytime my phone connects to their network, letting them know when I enter my home and when I leave. Really, the scope is endless, and I don't like it. It goes without saying, but this setting is now disabled.

Another setting I now make sure is turned off is, “Personalization: Allow us to recommend content to you through ads and notifications.” I have absolutely no need for this smart home app to take in my data and attempt to sell me ads based on my light usage. Bye.

From a privacy perspective, these settings pages are essential to comb through if you want to limit the amount of data you're feeding your smart home. Don't forget to check the systems setting for the app as well: On iPhone, for example, you need to go to the app's name in Settings to find additional privacy settings, including network connections like Bluetooth, Local Network, and Cellular Data. If I could, I would disable all these connections for my smart lights,

but then, unfortunately, I wouldn't be able to adjust my lights from my phone, defeating the purpose. (Although I don't give them my location, so that's something, right?)

That brings up an important point, though: In order for many of these devices to work properly, you have to give up some privacy. It's a feature, not a bug: Your smart thermostat, for example, won't let you adjust the temperature on your way home from work if you can't communicate with it from your phone. The same principle applies to any IoT device that needs a connection to another device to function.

If you don't want to sacrifice that privacy, that's totally valid, but a smart home likely isn't the way to go for you.

Smart TVs are an exception, here, of course: They are the device, and don't rely on a smartphone or an app to function. In that case, you'll scroll through the settings on the TV itself to make sure your security is as tight-knit as possible. Pay close attention to settings that track everything you watch, known generally as ACR. You can follow our guide here to learn more.

Of course, these settings pages aren't tell-alls: Many devices likely leak data we don't know about, and companies are more than happy to offer us no way to control it. However, if we're going to commit to a smart home, the less data we hand over, the better.

### Smart devices are targets for hacking

It's not just privacy that's a concern here, though: Smart devices also pose

a risk to your security. Any device connected to the internet offers a gateway to hackers into your life. Consider how hackers were able to break into Target's systems using the company's smart thermostats as an entry point. Now think about the smart thermostat sitting in your living room: Even if the developer doesn't mean to create a device that's easily hackable, unpatched vulnerabilities in their code make it a possibility.

Even worse, consider the data hackers could snag depending on the device. Hacking your smart lights is one thing, but breaking into a smart speaker to listen in on all your conversations, or a smart camera to watch all your conversations is another matter entirely. Even something as innocuous as a smart light shouldn't be ignored, since sophisticated attacks can use the smart light's connections to break into your network as a whole.

If possible, keep your devices disconnected from your main network. If you can keep them only communicating with your phone, rather than the general wifi, that can help prevent these attacks (on an iPhone, that means keeping Bluetooth and Local Networks enabled and disabling wifi). However, since many of these devices require an internet connection to function, the best thing to do is go for reputable brands with a history of good security. That said, consumers aren't often the targets of such hacks, but since it's at least possible, it's something to consider.

The article was originally published by Life Hacker

# THE SUGAR CRUSH

MICHAEL GROTHAUS

I have a love-hate relationship with food. I love it; it generally hates me. Matter of fact, I love food so much that until a few years ago, I was extremely overweight. So overweight that I invented a piece of health tech to help me lose 80 pounds. It worked, and since then I've remained a healthy weight primarily by making sure I count my calories, don't overeat, and get regular exercise.

And for the most part, it's been smooth sailing, and I even eat whatever I want most of the time: fish, chicken, pasta, diet soda, fruity yogurts, and a sweet snack once a day like a bag of M&M's or a brownie. I also love my daily coffee with a few packets of sugar. A calorie is a calorie, right? As long as I don't go above 2,000 calories a day, I know I won't gain weight and I'll remain a generally healthy person.

When I recently mentioned my weight loss and current daily dietary intake to a doctor friend of mine, I expected her to congratulate me on my success. And though she did, she also cautioned me that while my daily calorie levels were something to continue, she was worried I was getting too much refined sugar in my diet. As she knows I have an interest in not only maintaining a healthy weight but in mental fitness as well, she pointed out that study after study shows how bad refined sugar is for both our waistlines and our brains.

Study after study shows how bad refined sugar is for both our waistlines and our brains. She explained that eating too much refined sugar—which is found in most sweets, sodas, white breads, and pastas, virtually all “fat free” and “low fat” snacks, fruit juices, yogurts, energy drinks, most Starbucks drinks (including many coffees), sauces (ketchup, BBQ

sauces, mayo, pasta sauces), and countless other packaged foods—has now been shown to make us cranky, make us make rash decisions, and make us stupid. My friend's point was clear: Just because I'm thin and my blood tests show no sign of diabetes, it doesn't mean the amount of refined sugar I'm eating isn't negatively affecting my health.

Refined sugar's addictive effect on the brain is more powerful than cocaine.

Still, I found it hard to believe the refined sugar I was eating at every meal could really affect my cognitive abilities so much, so my friend said there was only one way to find out for sure: give up all refined sugar for two weeks to see if I noticed any changes.

And that's exactly what I did. The day I began my two-week refined-sugar-free diet, I thought it was mostly a pointless exercise, and that I would notice little, if any, differences. How wrong I was. By the time I finished, it was nothing short of a revelation.

### THE REFINED-SUGAR-FREE DIET

Giving up refined sugar isn't easy from a practical standpoint. It's found in virtually all packaged foods and drinks and most food at fast food restaurants (a large Big Mac meal deal has 85 grams of sugar—236% of your daily allowance). That means if I were to escape refined sugar, I was going to have to spend more time at home cooking fresh foods than I was used to. Further, not only would I have to cut out my once-a-day sweet treat, but also all canned drinks (soda, energy drinks, and fruit juices), white breads and pastas, and those deceptively “healthy” yogurts with fake fruity sauces added for taste. I also gave up sugar and milk in my coffee.

Instead of all of the above, my refined-sugar-free diet for two weeks consisted of only fresh foods: fruits and vegetables, fish, chicken, and meat, and whole-grain pasta and rice. Most of these I already ate regularly—only side by side with foods containing refined sugar.

When I began my refined-sugar-free



diet, I thought it was mostly a pointless exercise. By the time I finished, it was nothing short of a revelation.

It's also important to note that for these two weeks I did not give up sugar entirely, only refined sugar. I ate plenty of natural sugar—those found primarily in fruits, and the ones that the body turns into glucose from the meats, fats, and carbohydrates we eat, which are a very important source of fuel for the body and, more importantly, the brain. Without the consumption of natural sugars, the body would not have enough fuel to survive for long.

One last critical point: I didn't change my daily calorie intake during my two-week journey. I stuck to eating between

1,900 and 2,100 calories a day, just as I do when I eat a diet with refined-sugar foods. I also kept to my normal exercise regimen. With everything set, I began a refined-sugar-free diet. Here's what I experienced.

### MY MOODS AND FOCUS WENT ON A ROLLER COASTER RIDE

The first day I eliminated refined sugars from my diet, I thought it was going to be a cakewalk. I ate plenty of fruits, had fish for lunch, and a steak with a side of vegetables for dinner. I missed the sugar and milk in my coffee and I did miss my daily sugary treat—but it wasn't such a challenge giving them up.

Things changed radically on the second day. Even though I had had a filling

breakfast and lunch (two oranges, eggs, and whole-grain rice with vegetables), around 2 p.m. I suddenly felt like I had been hit by a truck. I felt foggy and had a headache, which never happens on my normal diet. This foginess and the headaches continued intermittently for the next two to three days. During that time, I had intense cravings for both soda and sugary treats. On the third day, I actually got the shakes for a period of time. It was very, very hard not to have something sweet.

I had intense cravings for both soda and sugary treats. . . . By the end of Day 4, I would have sold my dog for a brownie.

“As you were not feeding your addiction, your brain was shouting out to have

sugar to satisfy its cravings,” says Rebecca Boulton, a nutritional therapist who specializes in hormonal health and sugar cravings, whom I contacted to help me make sense of what was happening in my body. “This is a period of adjustment, and starts with the cravings being more intense before they start to get better.”

Intense? By the end of Day 4, I would have sold my dog for a brownie. The foginess and lack of focus at one point got so bad, I was worried I wouldn't be able to concentrate on the stories I needed to file that week. I seriously considered having an energy drink “for the good of my health” (I resisted). Needless to say, the continuing brain fog and resulting lack of focus made me very irritable and even depressed. I became cranky and impatient, and was unable to concentrate on things for significant lengths of time.

“Your body was still having a hard time adjusting to the new foods and reduction in sugar,” explains Boulton. “It is programmed to get energy from sugar, and it takes time to get used to getting it from a different source. It almost feels like a hangover as your body is getting used to the withdrawal of sugar.”

But then on Day 6, something happened. The foginess began to disappear along with the lingering headaches. The fruits I were now eating on a daily basis began tasting sweeter. By Day 8 or 9, I felt more focused and clear-headed than I had at any time in recent memory. This translated into greater productivity—for example, I was more engaged when interviewing sources for stories. I was better able to focus on what they were saying and could rapidly respond to their answers with new queries and reformulated ideas with a speed and clarity I've never possessed before. While reading a book or article, I felt like I absorbed more detail and information. In short, I felt smarter.

The article was originally published by Fast Company





## Men's FTP '23-'27: India To Play 38 Tests, 42 ODIs, 61 T20Is



Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** The Indian men's team will be playing a whopping 141 bilateral international matches during the next five-year Future Tours & Programme (FTP) Cycle between May, 2023 to April, 2027, the ICC said on Wednesday.

Most sought-after team commercially, the 'Men In Blue' will play 38 Tests, 42 ODIs and 61 T20Is in the five-year period and focus on shortest format is an indicator how priorities across formats will be changing.

The ODI bilaterals will remain but mostly be three-match series. India expectedly has a choc-a-bloc calendar but as usual there won't be any bilateral cricket series with Pakistan due to obvious political reasons.

The 12 members will play a total of 777 international matches - 173 Tests, 281 ODIs and 323 T20Is - in the 2023-2027 FTP cycle compared to the 694 in the current one.

This includes the next two cycles of the ICC Men's World Test Championship, multiple ICC events and a host of bilateral as well as tri-series action.

As far as India's schedule is

concerned, the traditional India versus Australia Test series for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, that used to be a four-match affair for a long time will become five-Test series.

India will be playing five-Test series against both England and Australia and also on the T20 front, there are a lot of five-match series which is an expected lines with the broadcasters demand with premium advertisement rates for short-form matches.

During the next FTP cycle, India will be travelling to West Indies (July-Aug 2023) for a full tri-format series including 2 Tests, ODIs and 3 T20Is.

The marquee five-Test home series against England will be tentatively held between Jan-March in 2024.

While Australia is visiting India early next year to regain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in a four-Test series as a part of pre-cycle, India's next big trip Down Under is in December-January, 2024-25 when they play Australia in a five-Test series for the first time since 1991.

In this cycle, India will host Bangladesh for a two-Test series in September 2024.

## LG Chairs High Level Meeting To Review Sports Activities In J&K

- ▶ 'Use the power of sports to prevent crime and drug use among youth'
- ▶ 'Accelerate efforts to promote women athletes'



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday chaired a high level meeting at Civil Secretariat, to review the sports activities across Jammu & Kashmir.

The LG took a detailed assessment of the efforts for engagement of 35 lakh youth in sports activities targeted for this year.

J&K Sports Council and Department of Youth Services & Sports were directed to use the power of sports to prevent crime and drug use among youth.

The LG further called for ensuring maximum participation of girls.

"Make sporting activities more inclusive; accelerate efforts to promote women athletes. We must promote equal participation of girls and it should be ensured they have ample opportunities," the LG said.

Sinha also directed the officials to develop facilities for

yoga centers and explore the modalities to organize rallies in the districts to promote sports culture among the younger generation at grassroot level.

"Analytic view must be taken to identify the employees engaged under sports quota who can contribute towards the development of sports in J&K," he added.

While taking stock of the calendar of activities under 'My Youth My Pride', the Lt Governor was informed that Phase-I of the programme has witnessed the participation of 8.76 lakh youth from across the UT, while 13.75 lakh youth will be engaged in Phase-II.

The meeting also discussed the progress made in formulation of merit list for the appointment of outstanding sportspersons, the rewards as per the Sports Policy being extended to the sports persons who have brought laurels to the country and the J&K.

The LG asked Rohit Kansal, Principal Secretary to Govern-

ment, Higher Education Department to encourage the youth at Higher Education level to participate in different sports disciplines.

On being informed about the ongoing projects under PMDP, JKIDFC, Capex and Khelo India, the Lt Governor asked the officials to identify the projects facing land or other issues so that appropriate action can be taken to resolve the same.

The Lt Governor instructed the Department of Youth Services & Sports to organise sports tournaments in multiple disciplines under LG's Rolling Trophy including Cricket, Football, Volleyball and Hockey, and reward the outstanding players at UT level and District level.

Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Sarmad Hafeez, holding the charge of Secretary, Youth Services & Sports; Subash Chander Chhibber, Director Youth Services & Sports; Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council and other senior officials attended the meeting.

## Musk's Joke About Buying Manchester United Causes Stir



Agencies



**LONDON:** Elon Musk caused a stir by tweeting that he was buying the English soccer team Manchester United - whose current owners are opposed by many fans - then saying several hours later that it was a joke.

It comes as the billionaire Tesla CEO faces a legal battle in the U.S. after backing out of a deal to buy Twitter for \$44 billion. He is a prolific user of the platform, often musing about social issues or joking with his 103 million followers and occasionally getting into trouble with U.S. regulators.

Early Wednesday, Musk sent a tweet about his political affiliations and then added in a second tweet: "Also, I'm buying Manchester United ur welcome."

That came as shocking news in the Manchester United world - albeit welcome to many - after nearly a decade of sub-par performances.

Asked by a follower whether he was serious, Musk later tweeted, "No, this is a long-running joke on Twitter. I'm not buying any sports teams."

It wasn't Musk's first joke about buying a popular franchise. In April, he tweeted, "Next I'm buying Coca-Cola to put the cocaine back in." He noted in the thread about Manchester United that the Coca-Cola tweet had also been in jest.

Musk, with his seemingly unlimited potential to buy the best soccer players in the world, would have been a welcome prospect for many Man United fans who want to see the club back at the top of the game.

Man United was arguably the biggest team in world soccer under manager Alex Ferguson, winning 13 Premier League titles and two Champions League trophies. But since Ferguson's retirement in 2013, the team has struggled to win trophies.

Last season, United finished 35 points behind champion Manchester City - the club's local rival - and there were protests against the Glazer family, the team's American owners.

Many supporters in the club's huge international fanbase have opposed the Glazers since they took control in 2005, in part because they financed the takeover by putting the club in debt for the first time in decades.

The latest low came Saturday when United lost 4-0 to Brentford, a small team from west London that was promoted to the Premier League in 2021. It was United's second straight loss to open the season, leaving it in last place in the 20-team Premier League. The Manchester United Supporters' Trust fan group, known as MUST, condemned the owners following last weekend's match.

"What we have witnessed tonight is an embarrassment - no, a humiliation - for Manchester United fans. And yet in many ways it was not a surprise. It feels like the culmination of a long-term direction of travel," the fan club said in a statement.

"MUST hold the owners of the Club primarily responsible for this new low in our decade of decline." (AP)

## India Ready To Steamroll Zimbabwe In 1st ODI



Press Trust of India

**HARARE:** Skipper KL Rahul's form and fitness will be observed keenly when India take on Zimbabwe in a three-match series, starting Thursday, in 50-over format, which is fast losing popularity and struggling to retain its identity.

Supposed to be one of the most vital cogs in India's T20 World Cup top-order, Rahul would like to make full use of the game time he gets as an opener during the three games against Regis Chakabva's side.

It won't just be about runs that skipper Rohit Sharma or coach Rahul Dravid would be looking at when they monitor Rahul's performance in Zimbabwe.

Rather they would like to check out his approach and the manner in which he is scoring runs, something he would need to tweak before that first Asia Cup game

against Pakistan on August 28.

On the Harare Sports Club batting belt where Zimbabwe chased down Bangladesh's 300 plus and 290-odd targets in successive games in the recently-concluded series, India's batting line-up with Rahul, Shikhar Dhawan, Shubman Gill, Deepak Hooda and Sanju Samson will certainly prove to be more than a handful for hosts.

And unlike Bangladesh, a bowling attack comprising Mohammed Siraj, Prasadh Krishna, Deepak Chahar, Kuldeep Yadav along with all-rounders Shardul Thakur and Axar Patel has more potency in any conditions against this Zimbabwe line-up.

For Zimbabwe, the aim would be to become the proverbial banana peel on which Rahul and his men can slip as a series win for 'Men in Blue' would hardly win them any accolades but a defeat would invite sharp criticism.

## Government Met FIFA, SC Told



Agencies

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Wednesday was informed that the Government held a meeting with FIFA officials over holding the U-17 Women's World Cup and lifting suspension on the country's top administrative organisation, the All India Football Federation (AIFF).

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta informed the apex court that talks between the two parties were constructive. He also said that the Government will request FIFA/AFC to allow Gokulam Kerala to participate in the AFC Women's Championship and ATK Mohun Bagan in AFC Cup.

The matter will be heard again next week.

## African Players Denied British Entry To Play West Ham



Agencies

**LONDON:** Two African soccer players have been unable to enter Britain to face English team West Ham in a Europa Conference League game, Danish club Viborg said Tuesday.

Entry visas were not processed in time for Nigerian player Ibrahim Said and Gambian forward Alassana Jatta to play in London on Thursday in the playoff round of the third-tier European competition.

Viborg said the problem could not be solved despite working with embassies from Denmark and Britain, along with UEFA and the Danish soccer federation.

Visas for the players to enter Britain take several weeks to process, the club said, and the scheduled game was confirmed only last week.

Although the draw for the playoff round was made on Aug. 2, it was on Aug. 9 that Viborg advanced by completing a 5-1 aggregate victory over Faeroese club B36 Torshavn. Jatta scored in the 2-1 second-leg win.

## PSL To Clash With IPL In 2025

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** The Pakistan Super League is set to clash with the mighty Indian Premier League in the summer of 2025 due to Pakistan's packed home season, which sees them host the ICC Champions Trophy.

The IPL's two and half month window starts from March and goes on till the beginning of June. However, the Pakistan Cricket Board has been forced to push back the 10th season of its T20 League from its regular January-February window to between March and May as the country is set to host the Champions Trophy in February 2025.

It will be the first time that a T20 League will go head-to-head with the cash-rich IPL. It will be interesting to see which tournament the players, plying their trade in both leagues, pick.



The 2025 Champions Trophy will be the first ICC event to be held in Pakistan in almost 30 years.

Due to security-related issues, Pakistan had missed out on hosting top teams in the previous three Future Tours and Programmes Cycles (FTP). However, that has changed in the latest cycle, which will see Pakistan play 13 Tests, 26 ODIs and 27 T20Is at home in addition to the Champions Trophy, leading to a packed calendar.

"While finalising our Future Tours Programme 2023-2027 in a tight and densely-packed cricket calendar, we have given priority to context, quality and player workload, PCB Chief Executive Faisal Hasnain said in a statement.

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