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# KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>TM</sup>

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## ‘Do It Like Russia’: Why Kashmiri Growers Want Govt to Ban Imported Apples

Bisma Farooq

Inside his good-sized orchard, nestled nearby the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad highway in district Baramulla, Bashir Khan is scanning his apple-laden trees with a palpable pessimism.

Despite campaigning for his cash crop ready to hit the market this September, he isn't much hopeful about the market prospects.

“We met the union minister, sent SOS to the prime minister and even alerted the administration, but nothing is coming to our rescue,” says Bashir, a fifty-plus apple grower from Baramulla.



“As government has failed to heed to our pleas, there is only

one solution now. Let them do it like Russia, as the prime minister

**WE GET A VERY LESS COST FOR OUR APPLES NOW, It's because of the imported apples. I don't know how to pay my loan that I took for apple production.”**

wants us to be vocal for local.”

Since Russia has put a ban on all imported fruits for the sake of promoting the local produce, the Kashmiri growers want the government to follow suit and secure markets for native apple growers across India.

“If that's not possible,” Bashir says with a thoughtful gaze, “then government should put one hundred percent import

duty on Iranian apples.”

The case of Iranian apples eating away the market share of Kashmiri apples was first raised in September 2021 when the growers from the valley met the Union Agricultural Minister in Srinagar.

During the meeting with Narender Singh Tomar, the growers said that a certain—“unchecked”—market intrusion is going to crush the backbone

of Kashmir economy if not tackled on time.

Tomar promised a “dynamic change” in the face of Kashmir's growing apple anguish.

But before meeting him, the representatives of Kashmir's largest employment generator had written a letter to the PMO, alerting it about the duty-free dumping of Iranian apples arriving via Afghanistan and Dubai in India.

“This situation has put the whole fruit industry both in J&K (UT) and Himachal Pradesh in a very precarious situation as it has eaten away our share in the market,” the letter, whose copy lies with Kashmir Observer, reads.

Stating that India **More on P6**

## PM Modi Saddened By Devastative Floods In Pak

Press Trust Of India

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said he was saddened to see the devastation caused by the floods in Pakistan and hoped for an early restoration of normalcy.

The death toll from the devastating floods in Pakistan neared 1,100 Monday. Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif-led cash-strapped government has made a desperate appeal for aid to deal with the crisis that has displaced 33 million or one-seventh of the country's population.

“Saddened to see the devastation caused by the floods in Pakistan. We extend our heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims, the injured and all those affected by this natural calamity and hope for an early restoration of normalcy,” Modi said in a tweet.

At least 1,061 are dead and 1,575 injured, according to the latest data issued on Monday by the Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority, the chief national organisation tasked to deal with natural calamities.



**SADDENED TO SEE THE DEVASTATION CAUSED BY THE FLOODS IN PAKISTAN.**

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims, the injured and all those affected by this natural calamity and hope for an early restoration of normalcy.”

### J&K POWER POLITICS

## Azad's Return Creates Ripples Among Political Parties

Auqib Javed

**Srinagar:** The return of seasoned politician Ghulam Nabi Azad to Jammu and Kashmir's political landscape has created ripples among other mainstream parties, as over a dozen leaders from Congress and Apni Party have pledged their allegiance and support to the former J&K Chief Minister, while many more are expected to join his caravan in the coming days.

Azad, 73, who announced the end to his five-decade association with Congress, last week in a hard-hitting resignation letter, had blamed Rahul Gandhi for comprehensively destroying and demolishing the party's entire consultative mechanism. His resignation came at a time when preparations were underway for the conduct of assembly polls in J&K, first time after it became a Union Territory after abrogation of special status in August 2019.

At the same time, Azad's resignation has unnerved the regional political parties including the



**I ASSUMED THAT MODI SAHAB WAS A CRUDE MAN** as he did not have children or his own family... and would not care but at least he has shown humanity.”

new fronts created post abrogation of Article 370. Salman Nizami, **More on P6**



Two vendors' chit-chat while rowing their boats towards the vegetable market in the interiors of Dal Lake on Monday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

## ‘Bandh Call Culture In Kashmir Almost Over'

Strategically Planned Final Assault Required To Free J&K Of Terror: DGP

Observer News Service

**Jammu:** Asserting that security situation in the Union Territory has shown marked improvement during the last three years and the bandh call culture in Kashmir has almost ended, the Director General of Police, Dilbag Singh said Monday that strategically planned final assault is required to march towards a “terror free” Jammu and Kashmir.

The DGP made these remarks while chairing a high level Crime review meeting at Police Headquarters, Jammu on Monday.

Stating that at present the number of active terrorists in J&K has reduced, the DGP, as per a police spokesperson said that a strategically planned



final assault is required to march towards a terror free Jammu and Kashmir.

Singh, he said, also directed the officers to increase the area domination particularly in border areas to restrict the terror activities.

“We have to put in more efforts to consolidate peace

and stability in Jammu and Kashmir,” he added.

According to the spokesperson, the DGP stressed for going all out to “demolish the terror eco system” which he said is providing oxygen to the terror ranks. The DGP also said that investigators have to equip themselves with best investigation skills and take each and every necessary measure to ensure conviction of UAPA, Narco and other sensitive cases in the court of law.

The spokesperson said that the DGP stressed for meticulous follow-up of each case and directed for placing one officer at every district headquarters for result oriented investigation.

“The DGP directed the officers to dispose of **More on P6**

## J&K Now Competing With Developed States Of India: LG



Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Monday that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has transcended caste and regional boundaries and has re-established personal and political morality.

“He has started a new era by engaging continuously in dialogue with people in his politics of development,” the LG said.

Sinha was speaking at the release of the book, The Architect of the New BJP: How Narendra Modi Transformed the Party.

“Due to Modi's policies, Jammu and Kashmir is now able to compete with developed states,” the LG said and noted a militant hotbed like Tral in the Valley saw the participation of thousands of people holding the national flag at a recent event.

Earlier, the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said **More on P6**

### Supporters Hold Meeting In Jammu

Several leaders and activists, who resigned from the Congress following in Ghulam Nabi Azad's footsteps, met under former Jammu and Kashmir minister G M Saroori's leadership to ramp up support for the senior leader in his next endeavour. Azad, a Congress veteran who resigned from the party on August 26, is scheduled to reach Jammu **More on P6**

### ‘Ailing’ Cong Taking Medicines From Compounders, Not Doctors’

Launching a fresh attack on the Congress, its former leader Ghulam Nabi Azad on Monday said the party needs medicines for treating it which are being **More on P6**

### PM Modi Displayed Humanity: Azad

Former Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad on Monday said he had assumed Prime Minister Narendra Modi to be a “crude man” but he had displayed humanity while recalling a terror-related incident during the farewell speech for Azad in Rajya Sabha. After Azad quit the Congress, the party had alleged that he was “Modi-fied” and several leaders attacked him citing Modi's speech in Rajya Sabha in February last **More on P6**

### S H O R T T A K E S

#### J&K Logs 57 Cases As Corona Ebbs

Jammu and Kashmir witnessed a sharp decline in Coronavirus cases on Monday as 57 more people tested positive for virus while no fresh fatality was reported from the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. According to officials, Kashmir Valley reported 46 new cases of Covid-19 while just 11 were detected from Jammu division, taking the total number of people infected since the onset of pandemic in J&K to 477513. In the Valley, they said, Baramulla registered the highest 16 new cases of virus, Srinagar 14, Budgam and Pulwama 5 each, and **More on P6**

#### JKP Starts Emergency Services Mobile App

J&K Police has launched an app for people to get emergency services including lodging an FIR at the click of a button. “Public is requested to please download JKecop app from play store and apple store for getting emergency services at ease,” police said in a statement, including “It is single window solution for almost all police related issues like lodging complaint (FIR), giving information, reporting traffic violation, seeking emergency help, status of highway, details of a case, paying challan online, getting character certificate, **More on P6**

#### Sec 144 In Samba To Prevent Rallies

The district authorities in Samba on Monday imposed restrictions under Section 144 to prevent rallies and protests on the national highway. An order issued by Anuradha Gupta, District Magistrate, Samba, reads “Section 144 will come into force on August 29 and remain for 2 months”. The order reads that Supreme Court in Civil Appeal No. 3282 of 2020 has directed that the occupation of public ways for protests is not acceptable and the administration should take action to keep such areas clear of encroachments or obstructions. “It has been observed **More on P6**

#### Mainly Dry Weather Forecast In J&K

Weatherman has forecast mainly dry weather while as most parts recorded a decrease in minimum temperature in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday. A meteorological department official here said that no major weather activity was expected over entire J&K till 3rd September although there is possibility of light rain over isolated places. In the last 24 hours till 0830 a.m. today, the official told GNS that Srinagar received traces of rain, Qazigund 0.4mm, Pahalgam 17.6mm, Kupwara 1.3mm, Gulmarg 3.0mm, Banihal and Batote had 0.5mm each **More on P6**

#### Man Found Dead In Anantnag

A 37-year-old man was found dead under mysterious conditions near a bridge in Changoo area of Dooru in South Kashmir's Anantnag district on Monday morning. News agency KNO quoting an official reported that some people saw body of a man identified as Mohammad Saleem Kully son of Gull Mohammad of Changoo lying near Changoo bridge, following which they informed the police. He said that soon after getting the information, a team of police reached to the spot and took possession of the body. **More on P6**

#### Key Operator Of Narco-Terror Module Held: NIA

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday said it has arrested a key operator in the narco-terrorism module run by Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) from Kupwara district in north Kashmir. Abdul Rauf Badan, 45, a resident of Amaroohi village of Karnah in Tangdhar, is the 12th accused to be arrested in the case registered in 2020, a spokesperson of the federal agency said. “Badan was arrested for his involvement in the supply of narcotics, cash, arms and ammunition through the Line of Control (LoC) in Amaroohi by concealing the consignment in **More on P6**





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2

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

## MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE CHADOORA

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### NOTICE

Name of Contractor/Agency:-NGO Yuganter.

Whereas, this office has allotted one CT/PT Titled "Construction of Community type Latrine under Swachh Bharat Mission at MC Chadoora" located at Sub District Hospital Chadoora vide allotment No. ULB/EEK 2016-17/2336-38 Dated: 02/08/2016 infavour of M/S YUGANTER (NGO), Whereas, this office has already paid CC 1st payment mode for construction of Community type Latrine under Swachh Bharat Mission at MC Chadoora" located at Sub District Hospital Chadoora at the tune of Rs. 3,34,512 (Rupees three Lacs thirty four thousand five hundred & twelve only). Whereas, you have failed to submit the final bill to this office till date of the said CT/PT for release of said outstanding payment.

Whereas you have once again advised/requested to submit the final bill within a period of 7 days, if you failed to submit the bill during the stipulated time, then this office is liable to surrender/return the same amount to higher authorities, and you have not any type of claim/demand against the Department.

No:-MC/CHD/2022/1366-69  
Dated:-27/08/2022  
DIPK-NB-3508/22

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Municipal Committee,  
Chadoora.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

## OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR BIRTHS AND DEATHS SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Subject: Cancellation of Death Certificate of a Fehmeeda

The applicant of the death certificate of Fehmeeda has fraudulently obtained the death certificate of the deceased by submitting the erroneous information and supporting documents, wherein the spouse's name and address of the deceased at the time of death is mentioned as Fayaz Ahmad Sheikh and Baghwanpora, Barbar Shah, Srinagar respectively. Whereas, on inquiry, it was revealed that the spouse's name and address of the deceased at the time of death is Mushtaq Ahmad and Bandipora respectively.

So, in-exercise of powers conferred to the undersigned under the section 15 of Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969, the death certificate of Fehmeeda with following particulars issued by this office stands cancelled.

Name of the Deceased	FEHMEEDA
Gender	FEMALE
Date of Death	14/01/2022
Date of Issue	17/02/2022
Father Name	NA
Mother Name	NA
Husband Name	FAYAZ AHMAD SHEIKH
Place of Death	SMHS HOSPITAL, KARAN NAGAR
Address of Deceased (at the time of death)	BAGHWANPORA, BARBAR SHAH, SGR
Permanent address of Deceased	BAGHWANPORA, BARBAR SHAH, SGR
Registration No.	13167
Registration Date	12/02/2022

Registrar,  
Births and Deaths,  
Srinagar Municipal Corporation

DIPK-NB-3518/22

# Innovative Solutions To Access Safe Drinking Water

## The Conversation

Access to clean drinking water is fundamental to our health and wellbeing, and a universal human right. But almost 200,000 Australians are still forced to use water contaminated with unsafe levels of various chemicals and bacteria. The situation is especially dire in remote areas. To tackle this issue, we have developed an integrated rainwater harvesting unit at Western Sydney University (WSU).

This simple system can produce safe drinking water for households and communities in remote areas. It's cheap, easy to use, and could improve the lives of thousands of people.

## Far from city life

In large Australian cities, we are used to turning on the tap clean, plentiful water is always there, coming from the central water supply. We also take for granted the use of potable water for other uses, such as car washing, gardening and laundry. But in rural and remote

Australia, communities must develop private water supply systems to get safe drinking water from other sources. These can be rainwater, groundwater, surface water and carted water treated water from a supplier.

Among these sources, harvested rainwater is considered to be the second-safest option after mains supply, according to the private water supply risk hierarchy chart. So, many residents in rural and remote Australia are using rainwater for their needs. But rainwater isn't always

safe to drink without adequate treatment, as it can be contaminated from various sources, including air pollution, runoff chemicals, animal droppings, and more.

## Unknown water quality

In Australia, roughly 400 remote or regional communities don't have access to good quality drinking water, and 40% of those are Indigenous communities. According to a 2022 drinking water quality report by Australian National University researchers, at least 627,736 people in 408 ru-

ral locations have drinking water that doesn't meet at least one of the standards set by the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.

Although the 2022 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals progress report declares that 100% of the Australian population has access to safe and affordable drinking water, it seems this report excluded about 8% of the population living in regional and remote areas.

The issue could be even more widespread due to lack of adequate testing.



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE  
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## ADVERTISEMENT

### NOTICE FOR CUSTOMS BROKERS EXAMINATION, 2023

- Applications are invited from Indian citizens to appear in the online written examination for issuance of license to act as a Customs Broker under Customs Brokers Licensing Regulations (CBLR), 2018, as amended. A copy of the regulations is available at [www.cbic.gov.in](http://www.cbic.gov.in) and [www.nacin.gov.in](http://www.nacin.gov.in).
- Complete application is to be submitted in person or by Registered/ Speed Post in Form-A (available in the CBLR, 2018) along with two passport size photos and self attested documents on citizenship (Aadhaar/ Passport/ Voter Card), educational qualification, financial viability, mobile number, e-mail id and other requirements along with the prescribed fee of Rs.500/- (Rupees five hundred only) to the Principal Commissioner/ Commissioner of Customs/ Commissioner of Customs (Prev), having jurisdiction over the area where the applicant intends to carry on his business from 18.10.2022 to 18.11.2022 up to 06:00 PM. Applications sent by post, in case received after the last date shall not be entertained.
- Before submitting the application, applicant should ensure the completeness of the application. Incomplete applications shall be summarily rejected.
- Syllabus of written examination will be as per regulation 6(7) of CBLR, 2018.
- Names of applicants found eligible to appear in examination will be displayed on the notice board and/or website of the respective Commissionerate latest by 08.12.2022.
- Information regarding roll number, admit card and examination venue will be made available on the website of CBIC and NACIN under the icon/tab <GSTP/CBLR Exam>. A link to download the admit card will also be provided therein. Admit cards shall also be sent by email to eligible applicants 12 days in advance before the date of examination. The written examination shall be held in the Month of March-2023.
- The candidates have the option to answer either in Hindi or in English.
- Successful candidates will be called for an oral examination for which separate communication will be sent.
- In case declarations and information submitted by the applicant are found to be incorrect, the application shall be rejected or license, (if issued) shall be cancelled.
- For any query regarding eligibility and process of application, please refer to the regulations available at the websites ([www.cbic.gov.in](http://www.cbic.gov.in) and [www.nacin.gov.in](http://www.nacin.gov.in)) or contact the nearest Customs Commissionerate. A helpline will be made operational by this office at e-mail id. [cbire.help@nic.in](mailto:cbire.help@nic.in) from the (date of start of submission of application) till the date of exam.

Principal Director General  
NACIN, Faridabad

cbc 15502/11/0011/2223

## NORTHERN RAILWAY

### Open e-Tender Notice

Name of work	Development of external work related to construction of 100 units Quarters at Katra and special repair works to Residential, official and service buildings and other misc. allied works under the jurisdiction of Dy.Chief Engineer/ Const./USRL/Jammu.
Approx. cost	Rs. 469.29 crs/- (Four crores sixty nine lacs twenty nine thousand only)
Completion period	12 (Twelve) Months
Bid Security amount	Rs. 3,84,700/- (Three lacs eighty four thousand seven hundred only)
Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender	Tender may be uploaded upto 11.30 Hrs on date 23.09.2022 on IREPS web site i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened soon thereafter at 11.30 hrs on 23.09.2022
Last date/Time of upload of tenders	23.09.2022 upto 11.30 hours. Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS web site w.e.f. 09.09.2022 to 23.09.2022 upto 11.30 hrs.
Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document	The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway website i.e. <a href="http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in">www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in</a> Above tender document will be available on IREPS website i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> from 02.09.2022 to 23.09.2022 upto 11.30 Hrs. and for submission from 09.09.2022 to 23.09.2022 upto 11.30 hrs. The bidders who desire to participate against e-tenders, are advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which, they would require to, obtain class-III digital certificate (if already not obtained) issued by CCA under IT-Act-2000. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tender are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the notice board of the above office.
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## University of Kashmir, Srinagar

### Notice

The candidate whose particulars are given below has reported to the University that he / she has lost his/her University Certificate/s and has applied for issuance of duplicate certificate/s:

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Before University will consider issuance of Duplicate Certificate/s in favour of the candidate, any person having any objection shall report to the undersigned within one week from the date of issuance of this notice. The original certificate/s issued to the candidate be treated as cancelled.

No: F/Duplicate/M-Card/KU  
Dated 29-08-2022

Assistant Controller  
of Examinations (PG/UG/Prof)

bmj

## OFFICE OF THE MEMBER SECRETARY (ASSISTANT REGISTRAR COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES BLOCK PAMPORE)

DISTRICT SELECTION COMMITTEE PULWAMA

Ref No: ARP/151

DATED 29-08-2022

### Public Notice

The District Selection Committee Pulwama authorized to make appointments in the cooperative institutions is going to fill up the vacancy of Salesman having become available in the Cooperative Marketing society Ltd. Pampore for running its Cooperative Outlet in the Premises of the Estate Quarters, Pampore by way of Direct Recruitment. In order to make the selection of the meritorious candidates and in pursuance to the SRO 233, 8th July, 1988 of J&K Government, the applications are sought from the interested candidates preferably residing in the adjoining areas of the estate quarters Pampore, as per the following terms and conditions. The self signed Applications affixed with two self attested passport size Photographs and accompanied by Date of Birth Certificate and other Academic certificates must reach the office of Assistant Registrar, cooperative Societies, Nambalbal, Pampore up to the 05-09-2022, after which no application shall be entertained.

### Terms of candidates

- The age of the candidate shall not be less than 18 years and more than 35 years as on 1st, January, 2022.
- The minimum educational qualification of the candidate should be 10+2. However, the due weightage shall be given to the candidates with higher qualification and the candidates with good hand and experience in business field.
- The selected candidate shall have to work in the cooperative outlet of the CMS Pampore on the basis of commission payable to him @60% to him and remaining 40% the concerned institution.
- Selected candidate who shall be bound to work on the shop from 8. a.m to 8:00 p.m daily shall also be liable to the execute a mortgage deed in favour of the employer institution to the extent of the amount to be fixed by the Managing Committee of CMS Pampore.

Assistant Registrar  
Cooperative Societies  
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  - محمد رمضان نانیکو برادر متوفی
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K O V I E W

Congress After Azad

The resignation of Ghulam Nabi Azad, a veteran Congress leader and once a Gandhi loyalist has come as yet another major setback to the Congress party. In a scalding letter, Azad has raised questions about the ability of the former Congress president Rahul Gandhi to win polls and squarely blamed him for the party's debacle in successive elections. He blamed Gandhi for the current plight of the Congress, saying the latter's "childish behaviour" more than anything else, contributed significantly to the defeat of the UPA in 2014. For the last two years, Azad was one of the leading lights of a rebel faction called G23, which sought reforms in Congress to no avail. Significantly, Azad's resignation came days after another Congress veteran Anand Sharma resigned from a key party position offered to him in the poll-bound Himachal Pradesh, citing "exclusions and insults."

Azad's resignation should certainly be a moment of deep reflection for Congress. The party that ruled India for over fifty years after independence is now finding it difficult to even win state elections. For example, it is not even in the distant reckoning in the upcoming Assembly elections in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh. This is why G23 led by Azad and Sharma was calling for serious reforms in the party. But this has split the Congress down the middle with Gandhi family supporters and opponents at loggerheads with each other. The G23's rebellion marked a break from the passivity of the seven years after the 2014 defeat with the party apparently resigning to its current lot. But at the same time, Congress has found it difficult to elect a non-Gandhi president. And the party has its own reasons for this: a Gandhi not being at the helm will run the risk of breaking the party up. Also, in the present circumstances, Congress doesn't boost of many a mass leader - albeit, there are many senior politicians who can be worthy successors to Gandhi. Gandhi's term at the helm has shown that he is not just up to the task.

It is now clear that the wave of Prime Minister Narendra Modi remains alive and kicking. After a few reverses here and there over the last seven years, PM Modi's appeal has only grown stronger. He looks favourite to win the upcoming Assembly polls, including even the 2024 national polls unless the wider opposition gets its act right. That is, if no credible opposition emerges from the shadows in the near future, a prospect that looks bleak. Congress, for one, is no longer the party that has either the will or the means to take on the BJP juggernaut.

OTHER OPINION

Family matters: On the Congress and the Gandhis

By turning down the pleas of his ardent followers to return to the helm, he has challenged Congress leaders to adopt a new culture, moving away from the familiar habit of relying on the family as the lifeblood and a façade simultaneously. For the Congress party, this challenge is no less than the external challenge of extinction that it faces from the Bharatiya Janata Party. His discomfort with formal power might make him seem a reluctant politician, but he has expressed a desire to be in public life as a matter of his democratic duty.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has emerged as the front runner for the post, for various reasons. Mr. Gehlot is an astute politician, a manager of conflicting interests, and deeply embedded in the Congress structure from the grass-roots to the pinnacle. His charm, accessibility, clean image, and expertise in heartland politics make him a good fit. He wears his loyalty to the Gandhi family on his sleeve but remains acceptable to multiple groups within Congress. If at all there is a contest for the post of party president, that will only enhance the legitimacy of the winner. However, with the Gandhi siblings in active politics, the authority that Mr. Gehlot or anyone else can exercise within the party as president will remain a complicated question. If Mr. Gandhi and his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra continue to remain active decision-makers, as they have been in the recent past, the situation could turn out to be chaotic. Mr. Gandhi has done the honourable thing by refusing to buckle under pressure and return as president. But he, his sister, and their mother Mrs. Gandhi should all have very clearly defined contours of involvement in the functioning of the party. A non-Gandhi at the helm can be a good attempt at rebooting the Congress, but that by itself is no guarantee of its revival. The new president should have the authority, legitimacy, and vision to infuse new energy into the party. Ironically, the burden of ensuring that is upon none other than the Gandhi family, who will have to be supportive without being seen as interfering.

The Hindu

Development vs. Nature

Srinagar Ring Road's  
Cruel Mathematics

Over one lakh fruit & non-fruit bearing trees have been axed for the Srinagar Ring Road. Construction work going on but the aggrieved have not even been paid paltry compensation

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

Around 80% of the apples produced in India are grown in Kashmir. The apple industry is the backbone of Kashmir's rural economy. The commercial apple farming in Kashmir and cultivation of cherries, plums, pears and the likes, generates an estimated revenue of around Rs 10,000 crores annually.

As per the Government estimates, around 10 to 11 Metric Ton (MT) of apple is produced per hectare in Kashmir, while this is 40 MT per hectare in European countries, like France and Italy. The per hectare yield of apples is 50 MTs in Chile, South America. To enhance the apple yield in Kashmir, the Horticulture Department says that they need more apple plantations. More and more farmers are shifting towards apple farming and converting their paddy farms and other types of fields in hills and Karewas into apple orchards but due to a scarcity of land, we haven't been able to create more farms.

Infact, as agricultural land is now being converted into highways and other commercial hubs, it seems that the apple production in Kashmir will likely come down in the next decade only. Additionally, as agricultural land holding is also decreasing drastically, production is set to drop further. This is very dangerous for our economy as well as our environment.

1 lakh plus trees axed

Recently, the Project Director of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) Srinagar project revealed in a written response sought under Right to Information Act (RTI) that one lakh ten thousand forty three (1,10,043) private trees were axed for the Srinagar Ring Road project. The RTI reply further said that 1200 trees will further be cut down. One lakh plus trees that were axed included fruit bearing trees like apple, walnut, pear, plum, apricot, almond etc. In addition, non-fruit bearing trees like chinar, walnut, mulberry trees which are classified as specific trees were also cut down along with willow, kikar, popular and other trees. The NHAI reply says that all the trees valued around Rs 13.76 crore for which compensation has been disbursed to affected people.

When we calculate the compensation paid per tree this comes to around Rs 1250 approximately (Twelve Hundred Fifty Rupees). This is a disappointingly meagre compensation.

Additionally, the Jammu based noted RTI activist Raman Sharma who sought this information from NHAI was informed that 50,616 plants alongside avenue and 25,308 timber alongside median are to be planted as a contract settlement with the road construction company. This too is very little.

Even under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act (CAF) the funds paid by user agency during deforestation is used for the treatment of catchment areas, assisted natural generation, forest management, wildlife protection and management, relocation of villages from protected areas, managing human-wildlife conflicts, training and awareness generation but this isn't being done in the execution of the Srinagar Ring Road project.

Compensation estimated as per year 1995 rates

About 90 percent of farmers in Jammu and Kashmir are officially marginal. According to Agriculture Census 2015-16, the size of small agricultural landholdings in J&K was estimated at 0.55 hectares. Yet, unofficially it seems to be only about ½ acre. The 2010-2011 Agriculture Census had declared the average size of operational land holdings in India as 1.15 hectares. This figure was also lower, at 0.62 hectares, for Jammu & Kashmir. Ten districts in Kashmir Valley



The Government prepared the awards after a gap of 3 years and more. This is abysmal as it deprived farmers of fair compensation. The Government compensated the farmers only a few years back. However, the estimates were made as per the rates in the year 1995. Since 28 years, these rates haven't been revised

had even lower landholding sizes than the UT as a whole: Anantnag 0.39 hectares, Kulgam 0.39, Shopian 0.56, Pulwama 0.48, Srinagar 0.31, Budgam 0.43, Baramulla 0.51, Ganderbal 0.37, Bandipora 0.48, and Kupwara 0.51. This figure plummeted further in the 2015-16 Agriculture Census. In the Kashmir Valley, where most farmers own less than an acre of land, any government policy related to land acquisition, especially for "development projects", needs to take into account the fragile mountainous environment and climatic conditions as well.

The government has acquired more than 600 acres of land for the Srinagar Ring Semi Road project. Several villages in Pulwama, Budgam, and Srinagar have been affected by the land acquisition process & axing of fruit trees (apple trees especially).

The Srinagar Ring Road project was inaugurated by PM Modi on 19 May 2018 at Srinagar. This 62-km alternate highway around Srinagar connecting Pampore with Ganderbal via Budgam is being constructed on highly fertile land. Budgam alone is losing 500

acres of agriculture land for which compensation is being paid as per repealed J&K Land Acquisition Act 1934 (samvat 1990). The Right to Fair Compensation Act 2013 (RFCTLARR Act 2013) was not applied in spite of the fact that declaration made under J&K's repealed act lapsed in 2019 August due to efflux of time. Even the District Collector Budgam mentioned this in his written communication to the Government but nobody was bothered to abide by his suggestion.

The Government prepared the awards after a gap of 3 years and more. This is abysmal as it deprived farmers of fair compensation. The Government compensated the farmers only a few years back. However, the estimates were made as per the rates in the year 1995. Since 28 years, these rates haven't been revised.

The final compensation for fruit trees was fixed at Rs. 16 per kilo for apple trees, Rs. 13 per kilo for plum trees, and Rs. 14 per kilo for pear trees. This is unacceptable to the affected farmers, who want the valuation to be done according to the market rates available in 2018 when these estimates were made.

The market rate of apples is Rs 70 to 80 per kg these days and this was Rs 60 to 70 / kg in 2018 and farmers were forced to accept Rs 16 / Kg. The rate of plum is also the same. This is plain injustice. The farming community hasn't got the benefits of the central land acquisition law, the application of which was touted as a panacea post abrogation of Article 370.

Several writ petitions have been filed by farmers in the High Court of J&K from 2018 onwards. The court asked the Government in several interim directions to maintain status quo. But in March this year, the division bench of Justice A M Magrey and Justice Mohan Lal of High Court of J&K asked the Government to carry on with the construction on Ring Road. This was to be done in those areas where farmers or land owners had been compensated. The order read:

"The respondents (government) shall proceed in the construction of the ring road by utiliz-

ing the land, which will be subject to the decision rendered by this Court".

The District Administration Budgam where most of the land has to be acquired misinterpreted this order. Instead of going ahead with road construction in areas where the farmers had been compensated for land, the administration destroyed standing crops of mustard around mid-March this year and axed apple trees as well. The land was acquired by force and farmers were not even given an option to transplant their trees which is scientifically proven and several state Govt's have already adopted tree transplantation policies. Infact, many farmers who were ready to take compensation haven't been paid the same as the district treasury is dry.

Conclusion

In addition to payment of meagre compensation for fruit and non-fruit bearing trees, there are dozens of families in Budgam district, especially those who haven't been paid any compensation by the Government (not even the meagre compensation that is due to them under repealed land acquisition act of J&K). Ironically, their lands have already been acquired by NHAI and work on the project is being taken up by the construction company M/S NKC Projects Pvt Ltd. As many affected farmers in Budgam didn't accept the compensation estimated under erstwhile J&K land acquisition law, the Collector Land Acquisition Budgam deposited more than Rs 46 crores in District Court Budgam under the official communication No: DCB/LAS/2022/800-04 Dated: 04.06.2022.

This award money pertains to village Wathoor alone in Budgam but even after a lapse of 3 months the affected landowners are yet to get even this paltry compensation.

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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# In Defence of PIGEONS



“  
Feral pigeons are the descendants of wild rock doves. We domesticated them centuries ago, for food and their supreme navigation skills. They thrive in our cities because our tall buildings and window ledges mimic their natural home; caves and cliffs. Our waste provides ample food

Steve Portugal

If you ask people why they like their favourite animal, they will tell you about the incredible things the creature can do, its relatable characteristics or its interesting looks. Few would be likely to cite the pigeon as theirs. Many people think of them as vermin rather than wildlife.

People's utter disdain for feral pigeons breaks my heart. Sit in a park at lunchtime, anywhere in the world, and you're almost certain to witness people lashing out at pigeons.

I see people stamping their feet and kicking as the birds weave in and out of their legs to snaffle leftover crumbs. But few people stop to think why there are pigeons under the bench they're sitting on. We brought them into our cities, yet so many despise them. It hasn't always been this way; we have a rich and long relationship with the humble pigeon.

Feral pigeons are the descendants of wild rock doves. We domesticated them centuries ago, for food and their supreme navigation skills. They thrive in our cities because our tall buildings and window ledges mimic their natural home; caves and cliffs. Our waste provides ample food.

People are enthusiastic about homing pigeons but there isn't much difference between homing pigeons and feral pigeons. It

just depends on whether they live in someone's loft as a captive pigeon or the local town square.

#### WHO ARE YOU CALLING BIRD-BRAINED?

The homing abilities of pigeons are legendary. We are still learning about how amazing these birds are. They can do basic maths, on a par with monkeys, and can distinguish real words from made up ones.

Homing pigeons can find their way using smell, landmarks, Earth's magnetic field and infrasound (sound waves with a frequency too low for humans to hear). They can also follow each other and are able to learn routes from one another. Feral pigeons generally mate for life, and they are very attentive parents. The adults produce a crop milk, which they gently drip-feed to their chicks.

Our fascination with their homing abilities continues today, with tens of thousands of pigeon races around the world every year. Pedigree winners sell for over £1 million.

#### IMAGE PROBLEMS

We have such disdain for the pigeons living amongst us in our towns and cities. But not so long ago we were fascinated with these creatures. In the mid 1800s we started to appreciate pigeons for their good looks. During this period, many new breeds emerged, including fantails, Jacobins, tum-

blers and barbs.

Their exaggerated features attracted the attention of Charles Darwin. He was a pigeon aficionado and used this dramatic example of diversity within a species to convey his ideas about natural selection in *The Origin of Species*. It is almost as if we have seen feral pigeons too often to appreciate their rainbow throat feathers and cute, plump bodies. These features would be prized in a rare species.

#### WARRIOR BIRDS

Feral pigeons are true survivors. Having spent many hours observing pigeons in St James Park in London, I have seen them caked in oil, milk and human vomit. I have watched pigeons with one foot missing, both feet missing, with only one leg, or trapped in bits of litter. Yet they soldier on. The normal outpouring of sympathy towards animals in distress is absent for feral pigeons. Many people have told me that far from inspiring sympathy, pigeons' battle scars only add to their dislike: the birds look "messy". Feral pigeons are thought to be prone to losing toes and feet because human hair and netting tangles around them, cutting off the blood supply. They can also get their feet stuck in chewing gum. Our litter harms pigeons and then we treat them with contempt for the way it makes them look.

Pigeons are some of the most decorated animals in history. No less than 32 pigeons have won the prestigious Dickin Medal, the animal equivalent of the Victoria Cross. Homing pigeons were used intensively during both the first and second world wars, to deliver vital messages between battalions and fly with cameras on for reconnaissance missions. Perhaps the most famous war pigeon is Cher Ami, who in 1918 was awarded the French Croix de guerre medal, for delivering messages from an encircled battalion under heavy fire. Cher Ami was shot through the breast, blinded in one eye, and his right leg was only hanging on by a tendon by the time he delivered his messages.

For many people, feral pigeons are some of the only wildlife they interact with on a regular basis. These interesting birds live right on our doorsteps. Next time you're outdoors, give pigeons 30 seconds of your time. Watch them. Witness their intricate social interactions and see the tender moments between pairs as they preen each other and bring nesting material as gifts. However, if you really don't want them around during your lunchbreak the best advice is: be a less messy eater.

By arrangements with *The Conversation*

## Web of Deceit

Farhad Manjoo

The internet is the most comprehensive compendium of human knowledge ever assembled, but is its size a feature or a bug? Does its very immensity undermine its utility as a source of information? How often is it burying valuable data under lots of junk? Say you search for some famous or semifamous person — a celebrity, influencer, politician or pundit. Are you getting an accurate picture of that person's life or a false, manipulated one?

These aren't new questions; they're actually things I've been wondering for about as long as I've been covering the digital world, and the answers keep changing as the internet changes. But a recent story got me fretting about all this once more. And I worry that it has become more difficult than ever to tune in to any signal amid so much digital noise.

Karen Weise, a New York Times reporter who covers the technology industry, had a blockbuster story last week documenting a pattern of hostile and abusive behavior by Dan Price, the CEO who became internet famous in 2015 for instituting a \$70,000-a-year minimum wage at his Seattle-based credit card processing company. "He has used his celebrity to pursue women online who say he hurt them, both physically and emotionally," Weise reported, interviewing more than a dozen women who recounted ugly encounters with him in detail. (Price denies the allegations.)

But this was not the first time that Weise punctured the mythos sur-

rounding Price. Late in 2015, months after he was first feted by media outlets around the world for his supposed do-gooder approach to capitalism, she published a piece in Bloomberg Businessweek uncovering many skeletons in his closet — among other things, an ex-wife who had accused him of extreme violence and an explanation for the employee raises that seemed more self-serving than he had let on. When Weise linked to that 7-year-old article in the new story, I clicked back to it and realized that I definitely read it at the time. I remembered its headline, "The CEO Paying Everyone \$70,000 Salaries Has Something to Hide," and I remembered that its details had been widely commented on.

Price, who denounced Weise's Bloomberg article as "reckless" and "baseless," was canceled temporarily after the story appeared. Then, over the years, Price began to master Twitter, eventually collecting hundreds of thousands of followers and becoming a fixture in some left-leaning Twitter circles. "Tweet by tweet, his online persona grew back," Weise writes. "The bad news faded into the background. It was the opposite of being canceled. Just as social media can ruin someone, so too can it — through time, persistence and audacity — bury a troubled past."

This isn't how the internet is supposed to work. In different ways, Google, Twitter, Facebook and other big tech companies have made it their mission to disseminate and organize online data. Weise's first story about Price contained important information about a semiprominent online figure; it should have been highlight-



ed, not buried, as he amassed his online following.

The more troubling thing is, how often is this sort of thing happening? In the abstract, the question is almost impossible to answer; by definition, you can't make a list of stories the internet is hiding from you. I would guess the Price story is an extreme example of information burying, but there's reason to suspect that some version of this sort of suppression is happening all the time online.

Why? Three things. Recency bias: Google is far more focused on highlighting information from the present than it once was, making events from the past more difficult to suss out. Organized manipulation: Online mobs are bent on shaping online reality — and although the platforms say they are attentive to the problem, the mobs seem to have the upper hand. And, of course, capitalism: Lacking much competition and keen to boost quar-

terly numbers, tech companies may have little incentive to solve these problems.

The first issue, recency bias, is mainly about Google, and it's one that journalists like me have been complaining about for years. Google's search algorithm heavily favors content that was posted most recently over content from the past, even if the older data provides a much more comprehensive story. There's a certain sense in this: Nobody wants to read ancient news. But as the Price story suggests, if you're searching for someone with an active online presence — someone who tweets a lot, who makes a lot of media appearances or whose whole persona is based on riling folks up — the results get murky.

Try Googling Elon Musk. When I do so, I see a lot of evergreen stuff — his Wikipedia page, links to his social media and corporate bio, index pages of articles about him at various me-

dia sites — and lots and lots of links to news about the latest Elon dust-up. At the moment, these headlines are about legal maneuverings in his attempt to undo his purchases of Twitter and Tesla's efforts to stifle video clips of its cars hitting child-size mannequins; by the time you Google him, the results might have moved on to the next controversy.

But for a controversy machine like Musk, is it really helpful for Google to return pages and pages of links to similar stories about the latest thing? What if the latest thing is not the most important thing? In the first several pages of links about him, I didn't see the Insider story published in May about the \$250,000 settlement he reached with a flight attendant who accused him of exposing himself to her. There also isn't much about his various fights with the Securities and Exchange Commission or the time he called the man who helped rescue 12 boys trapped in a cave in Thailand a "pedo guy."

I don't think Musk has actively tried to suppress this stuff; he's just very online, and every time he does or says something new, the old stuff goes farther down.

The situation becomes much worse when there are motivated parties trying to shape what the platforms show us. There has been no better example of this than the ugly turn the internet took during the recent defamation case between Johnny Depp and his ex-wife Amber Heard. If you scanned Twitter, YouTube or TikTok during the trial, you were flooded with memes, clips and trollish posts about how terrible Heard was and how righteous

Depp was.

This wasn't because Depp's case was so much stronger than Heard's; as researchers have shown, it was more likely because the platforms were overrun by bots and trolls associated with people on the misogynist right who made it their mission to paint Heard in the worst light possible. They seem to have succeeded; even now, you've got to dig around online to find information supporting her.

The platforms say they're constantly fighting such organized campaigns. But their efforts are opaque and seem halfhearted at best — and that's where we get to misaligned incentives. Because bots are a kind of engagement and engagement is what pays the bills, there are few reasons for the services to really fight such campaigns. As Peiter Zatkos, a former security chief at Twitter, said in a recent whistleblower complaint, "Twitter executives have little or no personal incentive to accurately 'detect' or measure the prevalence of spam bots." In the same way, YouTube had little incentive to present a fairer, less manipulated picture of the Depp-Heard case — not when the Depp clips were doing big numbers.

For many readers, none of this will come as a surprise. I'm not breaking any news when I tell you not to trust everything you see on the internet. But after reading the story of Dan Price, I think it bears repeating: The internet probably isn't giving you a fair picture of what's happening in the world. And for any given story, you might never really know how much you aren't seeing.

— Khaleej Times



# 'Journalists Are Not Terrorists' Says SC, Deprecates Arrest Of Scribe From Bedroom At Midnight

Press Trust of India

**New Delhi:** "Journalists are not terrorists", the Supreme Court said on Monday, as it deprecated the Jharkhand police knocking on the door of a scribe of a local Hindi news channel at midnight and dragging him out of his bedroom before placing him under arrest in an extortion case.

Calling the police action "excesses of the state", the top court said it seems that "complete lawlessness" is prevailing in Jharkhand.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and Hima Kohli refused to interfere with an order of the Jharkhand High Court granting interim bail to the journalist and said it will not entertain the state's appeal.

"We have seen the facts of the case. These are all excesses of the State and it seems complete lawlessness is prevailing in Jharkhand. No, we are not going to interfere with the High Court order.

"You knock at the door of a journalist at midnight and pull him out from his bedroom. This is too much. You are dealing with a person who is a journalist and journalists are not

terrorists," the bench told Jharkhand's additional advocate general Arunabh Choudhary, voicing strong displeasure over the incident.

The top court said the high court rightly granted interim bail to the journalist by a detailed order which does not warrant any interference.

"Sorry, we are not going to entertain your plea. Since it is an interim order and matter is pending there, you go and convince the High Court," the judges told Choudhary and disposed of the plea.

Choudhary alleged journalist Arup Chatterjee was involved in blackmail and extortion activities and a criminal case had been lodged against him.

When the bench asked him about how long Chatterjee was lodged in jail, Choudhary said he was there for two to three days.

"He is lucky that he was out in three days as many people like him have to spend two-three months in jail (before being enlarged on bail)," the bench said.

The Jharkhand government had approached the top court against the bail granted to Chatterjee by the high court on July 19.

The Jharkhand High Court, while granting interim bail to Chatterjee on a plea filed by his wife, had said after getting a response from the State to her plea the court will consider if senior Dhanbad police officials including the SP are required to be issued notices for contempt of court in the light of the apex court's observations in Arnesh Kumar (2014) and DK Basu (1997) judgements in which guidelines had been laid down for the arrest of individuals.

Baby Chatterjee, the wife of Arup Chatterjee who is a director at the channel, had moved the high court, claiming her husband was arrested at 12:20 am on the intervening night of July 16-17, 2022 from their Ranchi apartment in violation of the provisions of the CrPC.

The high court had said in its order, "Prima facie, it appears that the procedure prescribed under Sections 80 and 81 CrPC has not been followed in the case in hand. These two provisions provide that once the arrest is made beyond 30 Kms of the concerned court, the local Magistrate and the police are required to be informed, which has not been done in the case in hand.

model which I say has no counter. Some people are looking for a counter but have not found it," he said, in a pointer to the BJP's rivals.

"I believe after Mahatma Gandhi if there is any single leader who could understand the sentiments of the masses of the country, then his name is Narendra Modi. I have no hesitation in saying so," he said.

Modi's courage in taking quick and tough decisions has expanded his "iconic" status among people as he has always practised ground politics and understands people's sentiments and their challenges, Singh said.

Noting that the book, which has been written by seasoned journalist Ajay Singh, currently the press secretary to the President of India, highlights his unparalleled organisational ability and leadership skills besides his ability to connect with people, Singh said "Modi hai to mumkin hai" is not merely a slogan but a fact.

Modi has created a structure in which the party's organisation and the government are on the same page and have no differences, he said.

Noting the BJP's rise since Modi's arrival as its preeminent leader in 2014, he said the party's base has been expanding since.

Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairperson Hariwansh said many books have been written on Modi but "this is the best one" to understand him.

**Supporters Hold**

attacking those who have attacked him in the organisation.

"The BJP cannot help me in politics in Jammu and Kashmir. The BJP has a separate constituency. Those spreading such misinformation are playing into BJP's hands and this is Congress propaganda against me," he said.

On post-poll alliance, Azad said there are other parties also and the new organisation can align with them too.

Continuing his attack on Rahul Gandhi, he said, "It seems he does not have the aptitude for politics, as we tried to make him into a leader and made many efforts in this regard".

Azad also questioned the DNA of those who questioned him and accused those leaders in the Congress of conspiring and "planting news" against party leaders and thus weakening the organisation.

Hitting back, the Congress accused Azad of indulging in "treachery" and said he was "diminishing himself" further.

"After such a long career, courtesy entirely the party he's been tasked to slander, by giving interviews indiscriminately, Mr Azad diminishes himself further. What's he afraid of that he's justifying his treachery every minute? He can be easily exposed but why stoop to his level," Congress general secretary communications Jairam Ramesh said on Twitter.

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister alleged the Congress party is "sinking down" further every-day and people are quitting the organisation, as they are feeling so frustrated that they are looking at any small alternative.

"We will set up a small unit in Jammu and Kashmir soon," he said, when asked about his future prospects, clarifying that he has not chalked out his national-level plans yet which will be formulated in the coming days.

He also termed his resignation letter as only a "tip of the iceberg", indicating that he will continue to attack the organisation. "That was tip of the iceberg".

Azad also alleged that 90 percent leaders had left the party and only his group was left. He claimed that ex-MLAs and ministers have all come with him and five of the six Congress MLAs in J-K have also joined him, otherwise they would also have left and joined the BJP or others.

Azad had quit the Congress on Friday, ending his five-decade association with the party, terming it comprehensively destroyed and lashing out at Rahul Gandhi for demolishing its entire consultative mechanism.

The Congress, dealing with the fallout of a series of high profile exits, including that of Kapil Sibal and Ashwani Kumar, had attempted to deflect the latest blow by alleging that Azad's DNA had been "Modi-fied".

Laying bare the many schisms in the party, Azad had written a five-page no holds barred letter to the Congress president, describing her as a nominal figurehead and alleging that all important decisions are being taken by Rahul Gandhi or rather worse his security guards and PAs".

Azad, whose resignation from all positions in the party, including its primary membership, comes ahead of crucial organisational elections, had accused the leadership of committing a giant fraud "on the party in the name of "farce and sham" internal polls.

In his scathing criticism of the leadership, particularly Rahul Gandhi, the 73-year-old had termed the former Congress chief a "non-serious individual at the helm".

**PM Modi Displayed**

22 other Congressmen wrote to Sonia Gandhi in August 2020, challenging their way of functioning.

He was referring to the letter sent by the G-23 dissident group seeking large-scale reforms in the party.

Azad alleged that he has been "forced to leave my home" as they were not heard.

"After that letter, there have been many meetings and we put forth our views before Sonia Gandhi but none of our suggestions were implemented," he said.

Azad said that he did not sleep for six days before and after writing the G-23 letter because "we gave blood for the party".

He said his respect for Sonia Gandhi is the same as it was 30 years ago and it is the same for Rahul Gandhi as he belongs to the family of Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi.

Hitting back at Azad for his criticism, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said, "After such a long career, courtesy entirely the party he's been tasked to slander, by giving interviews indiscriminately, Mr. Azad diminishes himself further."

"What's he afraid of that he's justifying his treachery every minute? He can be easily exposed but why stoop to his level?" he said on Twitter on Monday.

**JKP Starts Emergency**

doing tenant/PG verification etc.".

The police 'advised' the general public to make full use of the app.

**J&K Logs 57 Cases**

Kupwara, Bandipora and Kulgam 2 each. Three districts of Ganderbal, Shopian and Anantnag reported no new cases of virus.

In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu detected a maximum of nine new cases of infection and one each in Udhampur and Rajouri. No fresh cases of Covid-19 were registered from the remaining seven districts of Doda, Kathua, Samba, Kishtwar, Poonch, Ramban and Reasi.

Also, the death toll remained unchanged at 4782 in J&K, as no fresh fatality was reported during the last 24 hours.

"Moreover, 286 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 49 from Jammu division and 237 from Kashmir division," the officials added.

**Sec 144 In Samba**

that multiple organisations, groups, individuals try to hold protests, rallies and dharnas on national highway, thereby causing obstruction and grave inconvenience to the general public as the national highways are a major thoroughfare in the district and these protests, rallies and dharnas cause major traffic congestion affecting movement of vehicles on national highway.

"It has been made to appear to me, in view of the situation emerging due to such blockades, that there is sufficient ground for proceeding under Section 144 of CrPC for immediate prevention of danger to peace, order, human life and safety," the order stated.

**Mainly Dry Weather**

and Katra 0.7mm.

Regarding minimum temperature, the official said that Srinagar recorded a low of 16.2°C against 16.4°C on the previous night. The temperature was 0.5°C above normal for the summer capital during this time of the year, he said.

Qazigund recorded a low of 14.8°C against 15.4°C on the previous night. However, the temperature was 1.1°C above normal there, he said.

In Pahalgal, the mercury settled at 11.3°C against 11.5°C on the previous night and it was 0.3°C above normal for the south Kashmir resort.

Kokernag recorded a low of 13.5°C against 14.6°C the previous night and it was 0.6°C below normal for the place, he said.

World famous Gulmarg resort recorded a low of 9.0°C same as on the previous night. It was 1.7°C below normal for the north Kashmir place, he said.

Kupwara town saw a low of 17.1°C against 16.7°C on previous night and it is 3.0°C above normal for the place during this time of the season, the official said.

**Man Found**

The official added that Saleem was a tailor by profession and was working in his native village, while police have started investigation into the matter.

**Key Operator**

vegetable-laden vehicles.

"He is a key operator of the module of the proscribed terrorist outfit LeT, which was working at the behest of Pakistani handlers," the spokesperson said.

The spokesperson said Badal used to collect narcotics consignments from Pakistani handlers in Tangdhar and other locations along the LoC and delivered them to other accused in the case.

The case was initially registered on June 11, 2020 at the Handwara Police Station in Kupwara and re-registered by the NIA on June 23 that year, the spokesperson said.

The agency has already filed a charge sheet against 11 accused in the case in a special court in Jammu.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### 'Do It Like Russia':

is one of the world's largest producers of apples, the letter notes that about 70 per cent of households in Jammu and Kashmir are directly or indirectly dependent on the sector.

"There are more than 1.50 crore boxes of apple produce stored in different cold stores," the letter reads. "Similarly, there are additional 1.50 crore boxes of apple in godowns which belong to small and marginal growers who expect that after the harvesting season is over, the produce stored will fetch reasonable prices in the market."

The fruit growers requested the prime minister to restrict the flow of Iranian apples in India.

But two months after Tomar's assurance, Iranian apples started flooding the markets across India and unnerved the native growers. Since these imported apples cost less, they took over the market and started hitting the native growers hard.

Nearly a year after meeting the union agriculture minister, Mohammed Sideeq from Sopore sits on the gate of his orchard. He roughly estimates the expenditure on pesticides, fertilizers, boxes, labour, carriage and storage and finds out he won't be able to get even the spent money back.

"We get a very less cost for our apples now," Sideeq rues. "It's because of the imported apples. I don't know how to pay my loan that I took for apple production."

During his Kashmiri visit, the union agriculture minister had also said that the valley is "an important region standing shoulder-to-shoulder in the country's progress and development towards self-reliance".

But the letter sent to his Delhi office had conveyed a lingering threat to that "self-reliance".

"The imported fruits will hit the horticulture sector of Kashmir by declining the rate and the demand," it said."It will affect the seven lakh families of not only Kashmir, but numerous families of the country as well."

As the new harvest season is around the corner, the impact of the free-flowing import is already glaring in the boroughs of Budgam.

While waiting to reap their "labour of love", the growers are conveying a sense of unhappiness. The harvest time festive vibes are also missing.

"What would you do with this bumper crop if you have no market available," says Rahim Bhat, an apple grower from Budgam. "We're staring at the bleak situation which has literally put our survival at stake."

The same concern is coming from Kashmir's Apple bowl—Shopian.

As growers are bracing up for the upcoming harvest season, the market blues are leaving many of them dissatisfied.

"The shifting market order is disheartening," says Kaiser Mir, a young grower. "We can't feed our entire produce to the limited local market, just like we tried to do last year. Losing the domestic market to these Iranian apples is a big blow to us."

Apple cultivation and its value chain is one of the mainstays of the rural economy with revenue of around Rs. 1500 crores. The productivity of apple at present is around 11 MT/hectare compared to over 40 MT/hectare in Italy, Chile, France, etc.

"Since this import problem is damaging the revenues of Uttarakhand and Shimla as well," says Mudasir Ahmad, President Buyers' Association of Kashmir, "we want the government to put one hundred percent tax on these apples so that our own production won't lose the market."

The domestic markets, Mudasir says, should be reserved for the local growers and buyers first.

The same concern is coming from Bashir Khan's highway orchard where he's checking his crop.

"The government takes initiatives to increase the production, but when there is no market for the same production, it can only doom the horticulture industry," he says.

"It's time to adopt the Kremlin model to secure the rights of the native growers."

**Azad's Return**

Political Secretary of Azad told Kashmir Observer that all those leaders who believe in the "idea of secularism" will be welcomed by the veteran leader.

"After launch of our party, we will welcome anyone who believes in secularism. We will work with them in future," Nizami, who also resigned from Congress in support of Azad, said.

Nizami further said that the new party will profile the leaders before giving them a mandate to contest forthcoming J&K assembly polls.

"We will prefer former MLAs and will form a government in J&K," he said.

It may be noted that over a dozen former Congress legislators and ministers from J&K have resigned from the basic membership of the party in support of Azad.

Among them are former ministers GM Saroori, RS Chib and Jugal Kishore Sharma, and former legislators Choudhary Akram, Mohammad Amin Bhat, Gulzar Ahmad Wani, Haji Abdul Rashid Taj Mohiuddin and Naresh Gupta.

On Monday, three more Congress leaders, including former deputy speaker Gulam Hyder Malik, announced their resignation from the party on Monday in support of veteran politician Ghulam Nabi Azad.

According to Nizami, Azad wants to work for the welfare of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and is not "power hungry". He further said that the leaders are joining Azad of their own free will.

"Azad Sahab didn't even approach his close MLAs. The leaders are coming to his support out of love and respect. His stature is very high and has a lot of acceptance among the people of the Valley," he added.

Rejecting the accusations of regional political parties that Azad was "BJP sponsored", Nizami said the former J&K Chief Minister's resignation and his announcement to launch a new party has rattled the political parties in J&K.

"That is why they are coming-up with such allegations that BJP has sent Azad Sahib so that they get benefited. We have made it very clear that we won't join any communal force," Nizami added.

Earlier, Apni Party president Syed Altaf Bukhari described Azad as "A team" of BJP and held him responsible for abrogation of Article 370. Bukhari's outburst was followed by 12 members of Apni Party switching sides and joining Azad.

The members include, Asgar Hussain Khanday, District President Apni, Party Doda. Verinder Kumar District Gen Secretary, Promila Sharma, Vice President Mahila Morcha Apni Party, Mushtaq Ahmed Hajam, Block President Apni Party Thatri.

Most of these members are from the Doda region.

Among other leaders of the party who have resigned from Apni Party include Javed Ahmed Bhat, Gululam Hussain Zargar, Ashiq Hussain Butt, Nisar Ahmed Zargar, Abdul Kabir, and Mohammed Ashraf.

Nizami said almost all the political parties have worked with the BJP from time to time and they have no moral authority to talk on this issue.

"Let me tell you, even if our party is yet to be born, we are getting hundreds of calls from other political leaders who want to join," Nizami added.

Meanwhile, the newly appointed

Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) chief, Vikar Rasool Wani on Monday lashed out at Azad and accused him of playing "immoral politics"

Talking to media persons at the party headquarters here, Wani said that anyone who wants to leave Congress can go and those who want to stay are welcome and they will be the pearl for the party.

"In my political career, I have never seen such immoral politics from anyone," Wani said, terming Azad's resignation after 50 years of affiliation with the party as "disheartening".

**'Bandh Call Culture**

the pending cases on the basis of their sensitivity in the shortest possible time. Stressing for intensified war on drugs, the DGP said that it not only affects our younger generation but major amount of terror funds is being generated from narcotics trafficking," he added.

Singh, as per the spokesperson, complimented the officers and jawans for successful conduct of Amarnath yatra and Independence Day events held across Jammu and Kashmir.

"He said that the fact that the achievements of J&K Police on different fronts is being acknowledged at the highest levels, however we have to put in more efforts to consolidate peace and stability in Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

According to the spokesperson, the senior officers present in the meeting gave their suggestions regarding improvement in the investigation process.

"The district SSsP of Jammu Zone apprised the meeting regarding various measures being taken to improve investigation skills and conviction rate. They also briefed about the security of the border and highway security grids," he added.

Besides other officers, Special DG CID, R.R Swain, ADGP Jammu, Mukesh Singh, IG BSF Jammu, D.K Bora, IG CRPF Jammu, P. R. Ranpise attended the meeting in person and through video conferencing.

**J&K Now Competing**

that PM was the only leader after Mahatma Gandhi who understood the sentiments of the masses, asserting he directly connects with people who in turn trust him.

He has made the BJP a "poll-winning machine" with his innovations, without compromising on ideology, Singh said.

The BJP's ideology and political events may have contributed to the party's "invincible" journey in the last eight years but Modi's strategy in taking this concept to people and winning their trust is without a parallel, he said.

Whatever work he was assigned by the RSS and the BJP, Modi carried it out and delivered more than expectations, he said, adding that there has been no other leader like him in independent India.

The former party president praised Modi's innovative approach and the changes he effected in the traditional mode of functioning.

He cited surveys to assert that Modi's enduring popularity has left not only Indian but also global leaders behind. While anti-incumbency is often counted as a factor against those in power for long, people have not got tired of the prime minister, he said.

Even political analysts say that those, an apparent reference to opposition parties, thinking beyond Modi should focus on post-2029 period. The next Lok Sabha polls are due in 2024.

"Such is his rare personality and organisational skills, I believe it is not possible without divine capability," he said.

"Breaking the boundaries of caste and community, he has created a

provided by compounders instead of doctors.

Azad also accused the leadership of not having time for setting the organisation right and alleged that Rahul Gandhi does not have the aptitude or interest in politics.

Speaking to reporters at his residence, Azad who quit the party on Friday last, alleged that the leadership being projected in the party in states is making party members leave instead of uniting them.

He also said that he will not join the BJP as it will not help his politics in Jammu and Kashmir and that he would soon set up a new party there as assembly elections could be announced anytime.

"I can only give my best wishes to the Congress, but the Congress needs medicines more than my wishes. And, these medicines are being provided to the Congress by compounders instead of doctors and there is a need for specialists," he told reporters.

"The party leadership has no time for setting things right in the party. The Congress is giving such leaders in states and promoting those who are making people quit the organisation rather than uniting them with the party," Azad also said while attacking the party leadership.

He said the party's foundation has turned very weak and the organisation can fall anytime and that is why he along with some leaders decided to quit it now.

"There are people who do clerical work in the Congress and do plants against leaders," he said, while



Telecom Operators Directed To Improve Connectivity In Rajouri

**Press Trust Of India**

**JAMMU:** Authorities in Rajouri on Monday directed the telecom operators to improve connectivity in the border district of Jammu and Kashmir, following widespread complaints on a daily basis by the public about poor services, an official said.

Rajouri District Development Commissioner Vikas Kundal said there was a dire need to improve the connectivity in the border areas of the district to mitigate the sufferings of the public on this account.

A number of people complain about the poor services and shadow places in the border area on a daily basis. Poor connectivity has become a chronic impediment in the way of progress of these areas, Kundal said, chairing a meeting with the officers and representatives of telecom operators to review the status of telecom services being provided in the district.

Taking note of the poor performance of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited in the district, he asked the concerned officer from the company to upgrade their system as per the need of the public.

Stressing the need of developing dependable communication networks in the district, Kundal asked them to provide quality telecommunication services to the public.

He directed the telecom service providers to make the best use of existing infrastructure apart from creating additional infrastructure in the district.

He also instructed the concerned officers to submit the list of dark zone' and shadow zone' areas within the shortest possible time so that necessary steps can be taken up to provide similar connectivity to all the areas of the district.

He asked for reducing the reaction time of the administration in reaching out to the people in case of any eventuality.

GMC Anantnag, District Hospital Shopian Ranked No 1 In Public Health Facilities

**Observer News Service**

SRINAGAR: The Union Territory of J&K has started the implementation of Hospital Management Information System which is named as JK e -Sahaj (Electronic System for Automation of Hospital Administration J&K) in different types of facilities i.e. Tertiary care, District Hospitals, Community Health Centres, Primary Health Centres and some New Type PHCs.

In first phase of implementation 585 facilities have been covered under this initiative and will be further extended to other facilities in phased manner. JK E -Sahaj has been integrated with Rapid Assessment System (RAS) and 104 comprehensive call centre for outbound calling.

In the category of Associated Hospitals of GMCs first rank has been clinched by GMC Anantnag followed by Govt. GB Pant Hospital Srinagar, Govt. Lal Dend Hospital, Srinagar, GMC Rajouri, GMC Doda. The bottom 05 under the said category are GMC Baramulla, MCCH Anantnag, Chest Disease

Hospital Jammu, Psychiatric Hospital Jammu and GMC Jammu

In the category of District Hospitals first rank has been clinched by DH Shopian followed by DH Pulwama, DH Poonch, Govt. Hospital Gandhi Nagar, Jammu & DH Handwara. The bottom 05 under said category are DH Kulgam, DH Budgam, DH Kishtwar, DH Bandipora and DH Samba.

In the category of Community Health Centres (CHCs), first rank has been clinched by CHC Pampore followed by CHC Tral, CHC Seer, CHC Akhnoor and Emergency Hospital Qazigund. The bottom 05 under said category are CHC Banihal, CHC Kremshore, CHC Chowki Choura, CHC Kot Bhalwal & CHC Pakherpora.

In the category of Primary Health Centres (PHCs), first rank has been clinched by UPHC S.R Gunj, UPHC Hazratbal, UPHC Batamalloo, PHC Dangiwach and UPHC SMHS Srinagar. The bottom 05 under said category are PHC Kathar, PHC Sawajan, UPHC Pantha Chowk, PHC Satriyan and PHC Sai.

Dulloo Reviews Measures To Control Lumpy Skin Disease In J&K

**Observer News Service**

SRINAGAR: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo on Monday chaired a meeting to review the measures taken for controlling the spread of Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) across Jammu and Kashmir.

Director Animal Husbandry Jammu/Kashmir, representatives of SKUAST Jammu/Kashmir, Chief Animal Husbandry officers of all

districts and other concerned officials attended the meeting in person and through video conferencing.

The meeting held a threadbare discussion over the status of LSD and measures taken so far to contain it across the Union Territory while receiving feedback from the Task Force teams constituted in both the divisions of Jammu and Kashmir to contain spread of the disease.

The ACS enquired about the status of the action taken

Cong Demands Statehood, Early Polls In J&K

**Press Trust Of India**

**JAMMU:** The Congress on Monday demanded restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood and early holding of assembly polls.

All India Congress Committee (AICC) spokesperson Dolly Sharma accused the Narendra Modi government of handling matters related to Jammu and Kashmir in an autocratic manner.

Addressing a press conference, Sharma and party leader Devashish Jarariya also targeted the central government over the issues of price rise and unemployment.

"Before coming to power, Modi made huge promises to hoodwink people...but he couldn't fulfil even one of them," Sharma charged.

She said price of LPG has gone up by 156 per cent, petrol by 40 per cent, diesel by 75 per cent, mustard oil by 122 per cent, wheat flour by 81 per cent and milk by 71 per cent under the Narendra Modi government.

"AICC is all set to hold a mas-

sive 'Mehangai Par Halla Bol' rally at the Ram Lila Ground in Delhi on September 4. People from all over country will participate in the rally against price rise in large numbers," she said.

Modi had promised to provide two crore jobs every year, but only 7.5 lakh jobs were given in the eight years, she claimed. The government made huge claims about startups but in reality more than 20,000 youths have been retrenched by them, she claimed.

In Jammu and Kashmir, the administration has collectively punished candidates who had qualified for various jobs over corruption and malpractices on its part, they alleged.

"The Modi government has resolved to render every deserving candidate jobless. PM Modi has resolved to take from the poor and give it to his rich friends and that's exactly what he has been doing for the past eight years," Jarariya alleged.

"Jammu and Kashmir has a huge capacity of power production. Despite harnessing thousands of megawatts of power, it's kept in dark. The people of Jammu and Kashmir rightfully deserve a part of that power which is produced here," he said. They also demanded that Jammu and Kashmir's statehood be restored immediately and assembly elections be conducted.



Jammu Bar Asso Holds Protests, Demand Multipurpose Complex

**Press Trust Of India**

**JAMMU:** The Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association on Monday held demonstrations against the government and burnt tyres to press for a shutdown in support of their demand for a multipurpose building complex to house all tribunals, registration offices and commissions here.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) also took out a rally in support of the lawyers.

Led by Bar association president M K Bhardwaj, hundreds of lawyers took out a rally from the high court complex and held demonstrations at Janipur against the lieutenant government administration.

They blocked the road and burnt tyres to enforce a shutdown call given by them in support of their long pending demand. While shops and business establishments were shut in some areas of the main city, it was business as normal in other parts.

The traffic movement was largely normal, while a few areas saw lesser public transport. Schools and educational institutions operated as normal.

"We have given a bandh call in support of the fulfillment of our demands. It was decided at a civil society meeting. We appeal to all the people of Jammu to observe the bandh so the government is forced to fulfill our demands," Bhardwaj told reporters here.

He said the association had given a week's time for the government to respond. "We waited for its decision,

but we did not hear from them until last (Sunday) evening. So, we went ahead with the shutdown call, he said.

The AAP members, who came out in support of the lawyers, raised anti-government and anti-BJP slogans besides blocking the roads.

"We have come out in support of the lawyers. We want the government to fulfill their demands, which are justified," an AAP leader said.

Surrendered Terrorist Detained Under PSA

**Press Trust Of India**

**JAMMU:** A surrendered terrorist was detained under Public Safety Act (PSA) for his alleged involvement in anti-national and anti-social activities in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir, and lodged in Kot Bhalwal Jail in Jammu, officials said on Monday.

The order for the detention of Mohammad Amin Wani, a resident of Bankoot village of Banihal, under PSA was issued by Ramban District Magistrate on August 25, stating that his activities are prejudicial to maintenance of public order .

PSA is an administrative law that allows detention without charge or trial for up to two years in some cases.

As per the dossier prepared by Senior Superintendent of Police, Ramban, Mohita Sharma, Wani is reportedly involved in anti-national/anti-social activities and creating law and order problems in Banihal tehsil.

Wani is a surrendered militant, who had joined militancy in December, 1999 and crossed (exfiltrated) illegally across the border via Saban (Poonch) for arms training in Pakistan, from where the subject went to Afghanistan (Rishkoor Place) for further training, the dossier said.

After training, it said Wani infiltrated into India in March 2002 through Maind, Poonch border and reached Srinagar and remained an active commander with code name Khalid but was arrested a year later from Lakhampur along with

some arms and ammunition and hawala money.

The dossier said he was lodged in Kot Bhalwal jail Jammu till 2005 and was again arrested by a special cell of Delhi Police in 2007 in a case related to unlawful activities (prevention) Act.

He was convicted and remained in Tihar Jail from 2007 to 2014. His brother is lodged in Lucknow Jail since 2008 and was sentenced to life imprisonment (in a separate case), the dossier said, adding his activities are very harmful and highly prejudicial for the peace, prosperity, tranquillity, integrity and security of J&K, particularly in Banihal.

It accused Wani of instigating and provoking the general masses particularly youth of Banihal and adjoining areas against the Government and disturbing the peaceful atmosphere. He is also trying to create communal tension.

However, Wani's wife Noreen Begum said her husband is living a normal life after his release from the prolonged detention.

He is not involved in any type of anti-national or anti-social activities, she claimed, requesting the district administration Ramban and police to relook into his case and order his release.

He is the father of a son and a daughter who are below five years of age. He is the only bread earner in the family, she said.

She said he was picked up from his village on August 3 and detained in police station Banihal before he was sent to Kot Bhalwal jail on August 25.

U.T of J&K

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

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT NO.65 OF R&B/QAZIGUND/2022-23 /E-TENDERING/5661-75 DATED:27-08-2022

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on percentage rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K U.T Govt., CPWD, Railway and other U.T / Central Government works for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (in Rs)	Earnest Money (in Rs)	Time of Completion	Major Head of Account	Class of Contractor
1.	Construction of Drain from H/o Mohd Ramzan Wani to H/o Gh. Nabi Shah at Bagwanpora veerinig.(M.C Dooru Veerinig).	2.93	200	5860	20 Days	GRANT IN AID	DEE Class & MSME's
2.	Laying cement concrete to compound ofJinazgah at Mandipora (M.C Dooru Veerinig Under Grant in AID).	1.99	200	3980	15 Days	GRANT IN AID	DEE Class & MSME's
3.	Construction of Tile-Path Rather Kocha from Bridge to H/o Manzoor Ahmad Rather at Sehpora (M.C Dooru Veerinig).	2.63	200	5260	20 Days	GRANT IN AID	DEE Class & MSME's
4.	Construction of Drain in Hamdania Chowk Dooru Sehpora (M.C Dooru Veerinig) (Balance Part)	2.97	200	5540	20 Days	GRANT IN AID	DEE Class & MSME's
5.	Construction of Drain NHO of Master Gh Mohd Bhat to Main Road Mirmaidan (M.C Dooru Veerinig).	0.97	200	1940	10 Days	GRANT IN AID	DEE Class & MSME's
6.	Fencing of Graveyard near H/O Gh Rasool Khan at Khudhmam (Balance Par) (M.C Dooru Veerinig).	2.97	200	5940	20 Days	GRANT IN AID	DEE Class & MSME's
7.	Construction of Tile Path from H/o Mohd. Ramza Wani to Mughal Garden Road (M.C Dooru Veerinig).	1.93	200	3860	15 Days	GRANT IN AID	DEE Class & MSME's
8.	Construction of Tile-Path from Main Road to H/o Mashkooor Ahmad at Bonagund (M.C Dooru Veerinig).	1.97	200	3940	15 Days	GRANT IN AID	DEE Class & MSME's
9.	Development of Eco Park Near H/o Gh Hassan Shakshaz Backside of Green Hill Public School Veerinig.(MC Dooru Veerinig).	2.97	200	5940	20 Days	GRANT IN AID	DEE Class & MSME's
10.	Construction of Lane /E-B wall from H/o Mohd Abdullah Malik to H/o Gh Hassan Padder at Ward no 17.(MC Dooru Veerinig).	1.96	200	3920	15 Days	GRANT IN AID	DEE Class & MSME's
11.	Construction of Drain and R-Wall to Jamia Masjid Sharief Bonagund Ward No.11 (Under IDMT).	1.94	200	3880	15 Days	IDMT	DEE Class & MSME's
12.	Construction of Culvert near H/o Shakeel Ahmad Panoo at Arabal Dooru Ward No.02 (Under IDMT).	2.00	200	4000	15 Days	IDMT	DEE Class & MSME's
13.	Face lifting by way of Aluminum portions, window panes etc. to Establishment section (M.C Dooru Veerinig)..	1.94	200	3880	15 Days	SN-85	DEE Class & MSME's
14.	Renovation/Repairment of Panchayat Ghar at Halsidar-A (Halsidar A under PRI).	4.74	200	9480	25 Days	PRI	DEE Class & MSME's

Position of AAA: Accorded Position of Funds: Available

1. The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms- and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

S. No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	27.08.2022
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 31.08.2022 To 12.09.2022 (11:00 AM) (04:00 PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 31.08.2022 To 12.09.2022 (11:00 AM) (04:00 PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 12.09.2022 (11:00 AM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	In the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division QAZIGUND

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt(Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division QAZIGUND (Tender Inviting Authority) (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt)(Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)- 651 Dt 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division QAZIGUND (Tender receiving Authority).

3. All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/ Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG. Non submission of Earnest Money/ Bid Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive.

4. The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Qazigund (Tender receiving authority) within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period(DLP) of the work. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor be forwarded to Higher Authorities for a period of 01 Year.

5. The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance security @3% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work.

6. The date and time of opening of Bid shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division QAZIGUND.

7. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of Opening of Technical bids.

8. The Earnest Money/Performance Security shall be forfeited If:  
a) Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid.  
b) Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period before issue of letter of intent.  
c) Successful Bidder fails to execute the agreement within 07 days after fixation of contract.  
d) If at any stage of work, the Bidder back up from the contract, again the Performance security/EMD as well as work done claim will be forfeited.

9. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.  
a. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov. in to acquaint bid submission process.  
b. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.  
c. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.  
d. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.  
e. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.  
f. Furnishing of hard copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with the same should be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as L-1 after opening of financial bids.

Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

10. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

11. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division QAZIGUND (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division QAZIGUND must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The Original Treasury Challan (Cost of Tender Document), EMD and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract.

12. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.

No. 5661-75  
DATED:27-08-2022  
DIPK-8848-22

Executive Engineer  
PW (R&B) Division  
QAZIGUND

IN THE COURT OF JUDICIAL  
MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS DOORU

Pr: Lakshay Badyal  
JO Code: JK00279

File No:  
120/Alif

D.O.I  
04-09-2018

Mohammad Ashraf Mughal S/o Ghulam Ahmad Mughal  
R/o Shangran Nowpoora Tehsil Dooru District Anantnag  
(Complainant)

V/s  
Shafaat Ahmad Dar S/o Ghulam Qadir Dar  
R/o Chewdara Beerwah Tehsil Beerwah District Budgam  
(Accused)

(Complaint u/s 138 of Negotiable Instruments Act)

In the Matter of: General Warrant of Arrest against Accused Person namely Shafaat Ahmad Dar S/o Ghulam Qadir Dar R/o Chewdara Beerwah Tehsil Beerwah District Budgam

Whereas, the complaint aforesetitled has been presented before this court against the aforementioned accused person on 04-09-2018 and on the same day this court had issued process against the accusal person after taking cognizance of offence u/s 138 N.I.Act.

Whereas, perusal of the tile reveals that the summons, bailable warrants and non-bailable warrants issued from time to time by this court against the accused person were not executed and as per the report filed by SHO P/S Beerwah the accused was reported to be absconding and evading arrest.

Whereas, on 07-09-2021. proclamation was issued against the accused person in terms of section 87 J&K. CrPC. However, accused still failed to appear before this Court. Further report from Tehsildar Beerwah stated that the accused doesn't have any movable/ immovable property recorded in his name.

Thus in view of the above circumstances and the material on record. I am convinced that the accused person has absconded and there is no immediate prospect of his arrest. As such proceedings in terms of Section 512 Crpc are initiated against the accused person. Accordingly General Warrant of arrest is issued against the accused person.

Therefore Police is directed to arrest the Accused Person namely Shafaat Ahmad Dar S/o Ghulam Qadir Dar R/o Chewdara Beerwah Tehsil Beerwah District Budgam wherever & whenever he is found and to produce him before the Court. This General Warrant of arrest shall remain in force till the accused is arrested or the warrant is recalled by the Court.

Given under my hand & Seal of this Court today on 16th of August 2022.

No: Complaint 138/03-06/2022  
Dt: 16-08-22

Judicial Magistrate 1st Class  
Dooru

DIPK-8886-22



## PM Modi Leads Tributes On National Sports Day



Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to hockey great Major Dhyan Chand on his birth anniversary and led a host of politicians and sportspersons in wishing the country on the occasion of National Sports Day on Monday.

The National Sports Day is celebrated on August 29 every year to mark the birth anniversary of the legendary hockey player.

"Greetings on National Sports Day and tributes to Major Dhyan Chand Ji on his birth anniversary. The recent years have been great for sports. May this trend continue. May sports keep gaining popularity across India," Modi tweeted.

Among sportspersons cricket great Sachin Tendulkar and Olympic champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra led the fraternity in extending their wishes.

Tendulkar cited the example of Rupa Rani Tirkey, Pinki, Nayanmoni Saikia and Lovely Choubey, who won a historic gold in the women's four lawn bowl event at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games, to put forward his message.

Former India cricketers Yuvraj Singh and Mithali Raj and Dinesh Karthik also took to social media to wish the countrymen on the occasion.

Olympic and Commonwealth Games medallist woman wrestler Sakshi Malik also wished the nation on the occasion.

## YSS Organises Various Sporting Activities On National Sports Day



Observer News Service

**PULWAMA:** Department of Youth Services and Sports (YSS) on Monday organised various sporting activities across J&K to commemorate National Sports Day.

Director Youth Services and Sports J&K (YSS) extended his greetings on National Sports Day to the youth of J&K while speaking at the inaugural function of the Inter District Provincial Level Volleyball tournament at Women Degree College here.

Speaking about the importance of the day and the arrangements made for its celebrations across J&K he said that the Department of YSS had already geared up its preparations for the mega event. "The format given in advance by SAI was followed in letter and spirit and we are targeted to involve lakhs of students of more than 23 thousand J&K schools," he said.

Director YSS added that the

Department of Youth Services and Sports is working tirelessly for the promotion and development of sports in J&K.

Joint Director YSS, Kashmir also spoke on the occasion and said that the day promotes the significance of sports in our daily life.

In the first phase of the scheduled activity at the District, Director YSS and other dignitaries inaugurated an exhibition Hockey match between YSS and Hockey Team Pulwama at the newly constructed Hockey turf.

The officers spent some blithesome and joyful moments with the players. Director Sports advised the players to opt sports as a career and use leisure time in games to avoid drug abuse and anti-social activities.

ADDC Pulwama, Principal GDC Women Pulwama, DYSSO Pulwama and other senior officials of the Department also accompanied Director YSS at both venues.

## SCERT Reinforces Sports' Importance On National Sports Day



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The State Council of Educational Research and Training Kashmir (SCERT) hosted the largest celebration of National Sports Day on Monday, which was commemorated in all the districts and schools in both the provinces of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The event, attended by the all the faculty members of SCERT, emphasised the value of sports and their practicality, describing them as a significant source of employment in the modern world.

Sohail Farooq, Cultural Coordinator, SCERT, while welcoming the visitors, described the aims and objectives of holding such events," a press release compiled by SCERT's Media and

Communications Officer, Farooq Shah noted.

"Javed Kirmani, In Charge, Cultural Wing, SCERT, spoke on the history of National Sports Day.

The purpose of National Sports Day, he said, is to celebrate Major Dhyan Chand's legacy and to spread awareness of the value and advantages of including sports and physical activity in daily life.

Syed Humayun Qaiser, a well-known former Ranji player and former Director of All India Radio, gave the keynote presentation during the event," the statement added.

"He claimed that sports have evolved into a sizeable industry that employs hundreds of thousands of people and serves as more than just a means of entertainment.

## ASIA CUP: Bangladesh Play Confident Afghanistan Today



Press Trust of India

**DUBAI:** Bangladesh will be aiming to improve their ordinary T20 record against a confident Afghanistan in the Asia Cup in Sharjah on Tuesday.

Afghanistan pacers blew away the Sri Lankan batting in the opening game.

Bangladesh, who will be playing their tournament opener will be aiming to improve their recent record in the shortest format, having won just two games out of 13 since the World

Cup last year.

Afghanistan pacers Fazalhaq Farooqi and Naveen-ul-Haq had broken the backbone of Sri Lanka batting and their batters had chased down the 105-run target in 10.1 overs.

Speaking ahead of the game, Bangladesh all-rounder Mehedy Hasan said his team would like to respond to Dasun Shanaka's claim on the field. Shanaka had rated Afghanistan higher than Bangladesh's.

"I don't want to make a comment that this team is good and

this team is bad. I think good and bad are proved in the field. A good team can lose if they play badly on that specific day and similarly a bad team can win if they play a good game of cricket."

He said the first game against Afghanistan holds a lot of importance.

"Look, the first match is very important for any tournament because it will dictate how far we will go and what cricket we are going to play because it will set the tone of the team," he said.

## Virat Kohli Gifts Jersey To Pakistan Pacer Haris Rauf

Press Trust of India

**DUBAI:** Star Indian cricketer Virat Kohli gifted his signed jersey to Pakistan pacer Haris Rauf after his team's five-wicket win over the arch-rivals in Asia Cup here.

The BCCI posted a video in which Kohli was seen gifting his jersey to Rauf. The two players shook hands after Kohli's fine gesture on Sunday night.

Kohli had made a scratchy 35 off 34 balls in the game with Hardik Pandya stealing the show with bat and ball.

Ahead of the much awaited contest, players from both countries were seen exchanging pleasantries on the sidelines of their training sessions.

Kohli had a brief chat with Pakistan skipper Babar Azam and injured pacer Shaheen Afridi ahead of the game.

## National Sports Day Observed At GHSS B'la



Observer News Service

**BARAMULLA:** The National Sports Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm and fervour at Government Girls Higher Secondary School Baramulla on Monday wherein a large number of students participated and carried out various sports activities including Tug of War.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar presided over the programme as chief guest, while as President Municipal Council Baramulla Touseef Raina also participated in the Event.

Chief Education Officer Baramulla G.M Lone, District Social Welfare Officer besides other field officials of concerned departments were also present on the occasion.

After witnessing various sports activities showcased by the students, the DC appreciated their efforts and urged them to take part in all the sports activities.

Dr Sehrish assured them that the District Administration will provide every facility including upgradation of sports infrastructure for the youth so that they work with dedication and achieve the best in the sports field besides choosing it as their career avenue.

Later, the DC also interacted with students and extended her appreciation for their outstanding performance in the sports and urged them to motivate others to inculcate the sports habit in their lives.

## Pogba 'Receiving Threats From Organised Gang'



Agencies

**PARIS:** France midfielder Paul Pogba has said he is the victim of extortion attempts and threats from an organised gang and that authorities in Italy and France are investigating the matter.

Pogba, who rejoined Italian Serie A club Juventus in July following his departure from English Premier League Manchester United, released a statement on Sunday after his brother Mathias Pogba posted a video online.

Mathias Pogba spoke in French, Spanish, English and Italian in the video and promised to make "great revelations" about his younger brother and the 2018 World Cup-winner's agent Rafaela Pimenta.

"The competent bodies in Italy and France were informed a month ago and there will be no further comments in relation

to the ongoing investigation," Paul Pogba said in a statement that was signed by his lawyers, his mother Yeo Moriba and his agent.

The French prosecutor told Reuters that an investigation was underway.

"I confirm that an investigation was opened on 3 August 2022 on the charge of attempted extortion by an organised criminal gang. The investigations have been entrusted to the OCLCO," the prosecutor's office said.

The OCLCO is a unit within the judicial police tasked with investigating organised crime.

Pogba, 29, suffered a knee injury in a training session with Juventus last month. He opted not to have surgery and to undergo "conservative therapy" in order to be fit to play in the Qatar World Cup starting on November 20.

## Aubameyang Assaulted In Armed Robbery At Home

Agencies

**BARCELONA:** Armed robbers broke into the home of Barcelona striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang early on Monday morning, police said, and physically assaulted the player and his wife as they forced them to open a safe to steal jewellery, according to media reports.

Spanish newspaper El Pais said both the player and his wife Alysha Beahue suffered minor injuries. Aubameyang, 33, has not confirmed any details of the robbery.

It is the second time in the last two months that Aubameyang's home in Castelldefels, a suburb in the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona, has been burgled, although the player and his family were not at home during the first break-in, police said.

According to media reports, four hooded men broke into his home on Monday and threatened the player and his family with firearms. They struck Aubameyang and his wife and forced them to open a safe in order to steal jewellery.

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