

## Kashmir Got Another Hangout, This Time Full Of Entertainment

Zaid Bin Shabir

The show screened in the Cantonment area of Srinagar on Tuesday was seen as a step to undo the late 1980s dramatic dictate drawing curtains over the cinema halls in Kashmir. The who's who in the security apparatus including the top officials led by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha became the first watchers of Kashmir's new 'entertainment' era.

Post-official screening, the multiplex created buzz in the city where popular hangouts

like cinemas became shut shops during late 1980s. "Not that we need this space for watching movies, but it will definitely become one of the go-to places in Srinagar now," said Shakir Ali, a youngster who had turned up for the first show, Laal Singh Chaddha.

"We lack social and entertainment spaces in the valley and places like these make any urban center a happening place." Unlike the cine-goers elsewhere, the viewers of the first show in Kashmir were getting nostalgic about the halcyon days



rather than reviewing the movie. Drawing parallels between the 1990s and 2020s, a fifty-something trader turning up

for the first show, said the new entertainment house will revive the late-night culture in the city. "I remember growing up in a different time when we used to return home at midnight," said trader Shafi Dar while coming out of the hall.

"Back then, cinemas would create a huge entertainment drive in the valley. But now, we live in different times where twilight signals the end of the day. I believe this new hangout is going to revive the culture we once cherished."

But in the 'free-streaming'

times, many said that places like multiplexes have become more important as leisure spots than mere movie houses.

"Most of us are watching OTT platforms on our smart phones and TV sets these days, but this place has its own recreational value for the society," said Naseer Baba, a contractor from Pulwama.

"We Kashmiris otherwise visit Multiplexes outside Kashmir to watch new movies with our family and friends. But now, this place with three screens and 500 odd seats will save our time and resources." **More on P10**

## Govt Transfers 9 JKAS Officers

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday transferred nine JKAS officers in the interest of administration with immediate effect.

According to an order issued here, Farooq Ahmad Baba, JKAS, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, State Taxes (IT, Data Analytics and Economic Intelligence), Srinagar, vice Ms. Ulfat Jabeen, JKAS who has been asked to await orders of adjustment in General Administration Department.

Dr. Khalid Hussain Malik, JKAS, General Manager, DIC, Doda, has been transferred and posted as Joint Director, Employment, Jammu.

Mohammad Ashraf, Joint Director, Employment, Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Joint Director, Education, Poonch, against an available vacancy.

Mohammad Jahangir Khanday, JKAS, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Bijbehara, holding additional charge of Sub-Registrar, Bijbehara, has been transferred and posted as Joint Director, Education (South), Kashmir, against an available vacancy.

Mohammad Rouf Rehman, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in General Administration Department has been transferred and posted as Joint Director, Education (Central), Kashmir, against an available vacancy.

Tanveer Ahmad Tanveer, JKAS, Sub-Registrar, Anantnag, has been transferred and posted as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Bijbehara. **More on P10**

## New Delhi Not Buying But Establishing Peace In J&K: LG

- Inaugurates Kashmir's First Ever Multiplex In Srinagar
- Says Every District To Have 100-seater Cinema Halls

Zaid Bin Shabir

Srinagar: Terming the abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's semi-autonomous status on August 5, 2019 as a historic day, the Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Tuesday that New Delhi is not trying to buy peace in J&K, but to establish it permanently.

Sinha made these remarks while addressing a gathering at the inaugural ceremony of the Kashmir's first ever multiplex at Shivpora here on Tuesday morning.

The multiplex has a seating capacity of at least 520 people and has 3 cinema halls. It has been beautifully designed and has the latest sound systems installed. A special screening of Aamir Khan-starrer 'Laal Singh Chaddha' was held after the inauguration ceremony.

The regular shows will start from September 30 with the screening of 'Vikram Vedha', starring Hrithik Roshan and Saif Ali Khan.

The LG said that movie lovers are



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

everywhere in Kashmir and cinemas have a great history in the Valley. "Today, all cinema lovers are here. There used to be a time in Kashmir, when locals in large numbers would throng cinemas to watch movies along

with friends and families. Cinemas wouldn't just provide them opportunities to think and dream big but also entertain them," the LG said. He further said that in May, 1965, a Bollywood **More on P10**

## Govt Rejects Claims Of Bonded Labour In Budgam Brick Kilns

Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: Coming to the rescue of brick kiln owners in Central Kashmir's Budgam district accused of holding migrant workers as 'bonded labourers', the Jammu and Kashmir administration Tuesday refuted the allegations saying that a deliberate attempt was being made to defame the Union Territory.

"There are no bonded labourers at brick kilns in Budgam. It's a malicious and deliberate attempt to defame the Union Territory," Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Syed Fakhruddin Hamid told Kashmir Observer.

Hamid's reaction comes at a time when the brick kilns in Budgam are facing accusations of holding migrant workers from Jangir-Champa and Sakti districts of Chhattisgarh as bonded labourers. A team of officials from Chhattisgarh also visited Valley to probe complaints about workers from the state being forced to work as



**6 THERE ARE NO BONDED LABOURERS AT BRICK KILNS in Budgam. It's a malicious and deliberate attempt to defame the Union Territory."**

"bonded" labourers at some brick kilns in Budgam district. However, the brick kiln association, Kashmir refuted **More on P10**

**6 THOSE WHO RULED J&K FOR YEARS, USED TO FLY OUTSIDE** the state and even foreign countries for their own entertainment while all means of entertainment remained choked for the local populace"

## Pak Conspiracies Being Foiled On Daily Basis: DGP

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Conspiracies hatched from across the border to disturb peace are being foiled by security forces on a daily basis in Jammu and Kashmir, Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh said on Tuesday.

Singh asserted that the security forces were fully alert to scuttle infiltration attempts by terrorists before the onset of winter.

"We are fully alert to the threats as conspiracies being hatched from across the border are being foiled on a daily basis by police and other security agencies," Singh told reporters after unveiling a wall dedicated to police personnel who died fighting terrorism in Reasi district.

He said attempts to push terrorists and smuggle weapons from across the



border were going on but the alertness of the police and security agencies had thwarted most of these bids. "Terrorists are infiltrated to sustain militancy. Most of the time, these attempts are foiled but sometimes they succeed. Those who are successful are neutralised by police and security forces (in the hinterland)," the DGP said. He said many such terrorists were neutralised in successful **More on P10**

## Shah Faesal To Withdraw SC Plea Against Art-370 Abrogation

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: IAS officer Shah Faesal has moved the Supreme Court seeking withdrawal of his name from the list of petitioners who challenged the Presidential Order to scrap Article 370 of the Constitution that granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

Faesal, who had floated his political party, the Jammu and Kashmir People's Movement (JKPM), filed the petition in the top court in 2019, and it was registered on August 26, 2019.

In April, the government accepted Faesal's application for withdrawing his resignation and reinstated him **More on P10**

### SHORT TAKES

#### Man Held For Pelting Stones At Film Crew

A youth was arrested for allegedly pelting stones at the film crew of Emraan Hashmi-starrer 'Ground Zero' in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Tuesday. Some media reports claimed the actor was injured in the incident that took place on Sunday when the crew was shooting in the Pahalgam area. Hashmi, however, said the reports are "inaccurate". After the film shooting ended at 7:15 pm on September 18, **More on P10**

#### J&K Logs 25 Covid Cases, One Covid Death

At least 25 more people tested positive for Coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, while one more person succumbed to the deadly infection in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. According to officials, Kashmir Valley registered 21 new cases of Covid-19, while the remaining four were detected in Jammu division, taking the total number of people infected since the onset of the pandemic **More on P10**

#### Migrant Worker Found Dead In Rajouri

A migrant worker on Tuesday was found hanging from a tree in Sunderbani area of Rajouri district. 35-year-old Ramashri was found hanging from a tree near his accommodation in Juggi area of Sunderbani on Tuesday morning, reports said. A resident of Panna in Madhya Pradesh, Ramashri was spotted hanging by other labourers residing in the vicinity. According to reports, a police team reached the **More on P10**

#### Man's Body Retrieved From Jhelum

The body of a man, who had drowned into river Jhelum in North Kashmir's Baramulla district two days ago, was retrieved on Tuesday morning. News agency KNO quoting an official reported that the man identified as Rafiq Ahmed Mir (45) of Drangbal village of Baramulla had drowned into the Jhelum two days ago. He said that after hectic efforts his body was fished out from the river today **More on P10**

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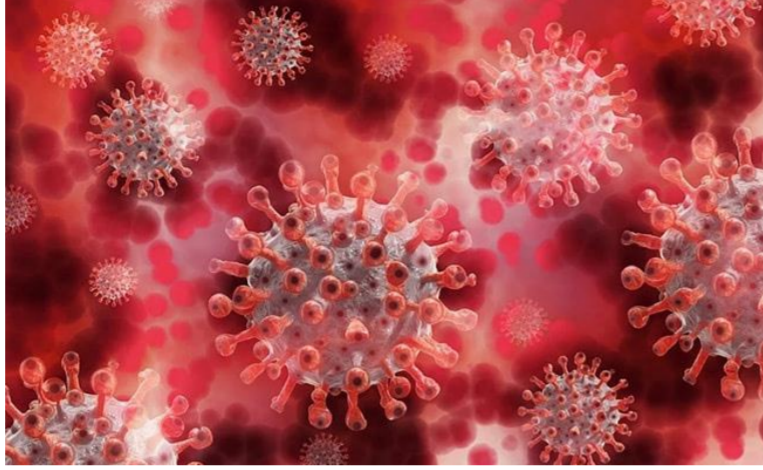
# Face Mask Which Can Detect Viral Exposure Within 10 Minutes Developed

Agencies

Washington: Scientists have developed a face mask that can detect common respiratory viruses, such as influenza and Covid-19, in the air as droplets or aerosols. If specific viruses are present in the ambient air, the extremely sensitive mask may inform wearers via their mobile devices within 10 minutes.

"Previous research has shown face mask wearing can reduce the risk of spreading and contracting the disease. So, we wanted to create a mask that can detect the presence of virus in the air and alert the wearer," says Yin Fang, the study's corresponding author and a material scientist at Shanghai Tongji University.

Respiratory pathogens that cause CO-



VID-19 and H1N1 influenza spread through small droplets and aerosols released by infected people when they talk, cough, and sneeze. These virus-containing molecules, especially tiny aerosols, can remain suspended in the air for a long time.

Fang and his colleagues tested the mask in an enclosed chamber by spraying the viral surface protein containing trace-level liquid and aerosols on the mask. The sensor responded to as little as 0.3 microliters of liquid containing viral proteins, about 70 to 560 times less than the volume of liquid produced in one sneeze and much less than the volume produced by coughing or talking, Fang says.

The team designed a small sensor with aptamers, which are a type of synthet-

ic molecule that can identify unique proteins of pathogens like antibodies. In their proof-of-concept design, the team modified the multi-channel sensor with three types of aptamers, which can simultaneously recognize surface proteins on SARS-CoV-2, H5N1, and H1N1.

Once the aptamers bind to the target proteins in the air, the ion-gated transistor connected will amplify the signal and alert the wearers via their phones. An ion-gated transistor is a novel type of device that is highly sensitive, and thus the mask can detect even trace levels of pathogens in the air within 10 minutes.

"Our mask would work really well in spaces with poor ventilation, such as

elevators or enclosed rooms, where the risk of getting infected is high," Fang says. In the future, if a new respiratory virus emerges, they can easily update the sensor's design for detecting the novel pathogens, he adds.

Next, the team hopes to shorten the detection time and further increase the sensitivity of the sensor by optimizing the design of the polymers and transistors. They are also working on wearable devices for a variety of health conditions including cancers and cardiovascular diseases.

"Currently, doctors have been relying heavily on their experiences in diagnosing and treating diseases. But with richer data collected by wearable devices, disease diagnosis and treatment can become more precise," Fang says.

## Office of the Divisional Forest Officer Special Forest Division Kulgam

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS  
e-NIT NO.: 17 of 2022-23 DATED: 17-09-2022

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble President of India, e-tenders (Two cover system) are invited from registered, reputed and resourceful Contractors/Firms registered with Jammu & Kashmir Govt./Central Govt. Organizations for the following works:-

Name of Work:- Preparation and supply of 1,00,000 No's of Seed Balls using growing media (mixture of well sieved local soil, cocopeat, vermicompost etc.) @50% viable and well dried seeds of Trifolium pratense, Trifolium repens, Festuca arundinacea, Onobrychis vicifolia, and @50% viable and well dried seeds of Wild Fruit Species viz. Wild Apple, Pear, Apricot etc (including all operations and cost of seeds), under Scheme CAMPA NPV 2022-23, in Soil Nursery Kulgam.

S. No.	Particulars of Work	Adv. cost (Rs. in Lakh)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Class of contractor	Cost of Tender Document	Time of completion
1.	Preparation and supply of 1,00,000 No's of Seed Balls using growing media (mixture of well sieved local soil, cocopeat, vermicompost etc.) @50% viable and well dried seeds of Trifolium pratense, Trifolium repens, Festuca arundinacea, Onobrychis vicifolia, and @50% viable and well dried seeds of Wild Fruit Species viz. Wild Apple, Pear, Apricot etc (including all operations and cost of seeds), under Scheme CAMPA NPV 2022-23 in SC Nursery Kulgam. Note: The seed balls so prepared shall be supplied to the Forest Ranges of this Division viz:- RO D.H.Pora = 35000 Nos RO Kulgam = 30000 Nos RO Veshev = 35000 Nos Total = 100000 Nos	2.35	4700/-	"D" Class PWD/ CPWD/ Forest Contractor	200/-	Two calendar month.

The e-NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, scope of work, Bills of Quantities, (B.O.Q), Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental Website:- [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in).

Position of Funds: Budgeted.  
Position of AA: Accorded.  
Position of TS: Accorded.

Publishing Date:- 17-09-2022  
Download Start Date: 19-09-2022 from 06:00 PM  
Bid submission Start Date: 19-09-2022 from 06:00 PM  
Bid submission End Date: 26-09-2022 upto 06:00 PM  
Date of Opening of Technical Bid through online: 27-09-2022 at 11:30 AM in the office of the Conservator of Forests Kashmir South Circle Bijbehara  
Date of Opening of Financial Bid through online: To be opened (Online) at any convenient date and time after complete Evaluation of Technical Bids Received.

**TERMS & CONDITIONS**

- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website: <https://jktenders.gov.in>. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website [jktenders.gov.in](http://jktenders.gov.in). To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act. Bidders can get Digital Certificate form approved vendor.
- Bids uploaded must accompany Govt. Treasury Receipt (cost of tender document) in the shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406- Forest and Bid Security in the shape of EMD. The EMD of 2% of successful bidder shall be released after the receipt of 3% of performance security.
- The bidders have to submit their Technical & Financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No Technical or financial bid will be accepted in physical/hard form. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents i.e. BSD Form, Valid Registration Card issued by PWD/CPWD/Forest Dept. duly renewed for the current year 2022-23, PAN, Valid GST Registration, Govt. Treasury Receipt (Cost of Tender Document), etc.
- The successful bidder has to produce Valid Labour Registration Certificate issued by Labour Department after issuance of award of contract.
- The bidders should not be involved in any forest related offence.
- The successful bidder has to complete the work in stipulated time being a seasonal activity otherwise the successful bidder shall be liable to action under rules.
- The Department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission of the bid due to any reason (technical or otherwise).
- The Department shall not be held responsible for selection criteria/policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of Information regarding publishing the NIT, in any of the newspaper under circulation.
- The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form 25 (double leaf) and as per the Detailed Tender document.

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## Telegram's New Update Brings Infinite Reactions, Emoji Statuses

IAN S

Encrypted messaging app Telegram has announced that it is rolling out a new update that gives users more ways to use new emojis to express how they are feeling -- with infinite reactions and emoji statuses.

The company said that premium users can pick reactions from an infinite selection of custom emojis. To make choosing from thousands of emojis easier, they can now attach up to three reactions per message.

"All users now have access to dozens of reactions - including those that were previously only available with Telegram Premium," the company said in a blogpost.

"To accommodate all the new emojis, we have redesigned the reaction panel, making it expandable. The reactions you use frequently will show up at the top," it added.

These changes to reactions are currently available in groups and 1-on-1 chats.

With the new update, group admins can control whether custom reactions may be used in their groups.

Now, the premium users can add an animated emoji status displayed next to their name -- to quickly let everyone know how they are feeling or what they are doing.

"This custom status takes the place of your Premium Premium Badge in the chat list, in your profile and in groups," the com-



pany said. Users can set one of seven standard statuses that change their colour to match different Telegram themes -- or choose from an infinite number of custom emoji. Popular suggestions for working, sleeping, traveling and more will be shown at the top.

"Tap the premium badge at the top of your chat list or go to settings to change your status. Press and hold an emoji to set a status for a specific duration," as per Telegram.

"Anyone can use Telegram's open emoji platform to upload custom packs with unique art styles and characters for Telegram Premium users," it added.

Users, who log out and log back in frequently, can now receive login codes through their email address or using Sign in with Apple or Sign in with Google.

To accommodate all the new emojis, we have redesigned the reaction panel, making it expandable. The reactions you use frequently will show up at the top

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معارف دے کر اس درفانی دنیا سے رحلت کر گئے۔ مرحوم پیشے سے مزدوری کرتے تھے۔ 7 ستمبر 2022 کو معمول کے مطابق اپنے کام پر گئے اور تقریباً 3 بجے کے آس پاس مشین سے پانی کا پتلی درین میں کاتہرے تھے اچانک کنگھی کا زور دار کرینٹ لگنے کی وجہ سے بھروسہ ہو گیا اور پتلی بعد میں SMHS اسپتال میں داخل کیے گئے اور 20 ستمبر 2022 صبح تک وہ صدمہ میں مبتلا تھے اور آخرا اس دنیا سے رحلت ہو گئے مرحوم کی رسم نفاذ خانی 23 ستمبر 2022 بروز جمعہ کو ان کے آبائی مقبرہ مصطفیٰ آبادزینا کوٹ میں انجام دی جائے گی بعد از نفاذ خانی گھر میں مجلس تسنی ہوگی رابطہ کیلئے اس نمبر پر فون کر سے 9797240510 inf



### JKPCC Employees Seek Release Of Pending Salaries

Agencies

Srinagar: The employees and daily rated workers of Jammu and Kashmir Project Construction Corporation (JKPCC) held a strong protest demonstration on Tuesday at Srinagar office and demanded release of their five-month salary.

A large number of JKPCC employees under the banner of JKPCC Workers' Association protested in the Srinagar office of JKPCC at Haftchinar. They were raising loud slogans against the management of JKPCC and also in support of their demand of releasing their five-month salary.

The protesting employees alleged that they have been protesting from time to time but the concerned Managing Director and other higher officials are least bothered about the release of salary of the employees.

They said that due to non-release of salaries their families were facing starvation. "We are unable to pay the school fee of our children and are even facing hardships to procure medicines of our daily need," they added.

### Swimmers Felicitated At Nigeen Lake

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Director Tourism Kashmir, Fazl ul Haseeb on Monday felicitated over 50 youth by giving away mementos and certificates for successfully completing three month long swimming course at Water Sports Centre Nigeen.

The camp was organized by Swim N Survival Society-K in collaboration with the Department of Tourism Kashmir at Nigeen Water Sports Center in the month of June for non-swimmers which received an overwhelming response from the locals, especially children.

Scores of the children of different age groups along with their parents attended the morning coaching camp regularly.

## Technology Workshop On Functional Foods Commences At SKUAST-K

### University coming up with state-of-art facility for Agri-startup incubation, innovators: VC

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Vice Chancellor, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir, Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Tuesday said the varsity is coming up with a state-of-the-art facility for the promotion of innovation and entrepreneurship in food processing and agri-business.

The first of its kind in J&K, Discovery Centre will house incubation facilities, AI&ML Centre, IoT Lab and all other facilities required for digital agriculture and smart agri-businesses and food processing, he said, adding that the facility would be ready in the next 3-4 months.

The vice chancellor was speaking during the inaugural function of the 14-day food technology workshop titled, "Advanced Skill Enhancement in the Development and Quality Characterization of Functional Foods using Extrusion Technology".



More than 25 MSc, MTech and PhD students from various universities of J&K are participating in the workshop organized by the SKUAST-K's Division of Food Sciences and Technology under GoI's Karyashalla scheme of Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), DST.

Dr Ganai further said the facility won't be just a physical infrastructure rather it would include everything that an innovative idea or a startup needs from an incubation facility, to seed capital, to hand-holding and technical support.

SKUAST-K is the first among 74 state agricultural universities in the country which has its own innovation and startup policy (SISP), which allows students and faculty members to start their own business but must have roots in their research, innovation or startup idea.

SKUAST-K wants to create an ecosystem like the IITs of the country, where you are able to develop your idea or concept with regard to preservation & development of the Neolithic especially bottlenecks related to fencing work around the site.

DC issued on spot directions to ASI and PWD Engineers to take up the work on priority by completing all codal formalities. The DC was informed that the unearthed Antiquities (of art, architecture, customs and rituals) indicate that the Neolithic people of the Burzahom had contacts with Central Asia and East Asia and also had links to the Gangetic plains and peninsular India.

Similarly, at Buddhist monument site Harwan, the DC also

had a first hand appraisal of the ongoing works being carried out by ASI for its preservation and development. The DC asked the Officers to accelerate the pace of work to complete the projects in set timelines. The DC also asked Revenue officials to earmark land for development of approach pathways at the site.

On the occasion, the DC also resolved the issue regarding land coming under the ancient site on the spot.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner visited the Shankaracharya Temple to inspect the works being executed by Archaeological Survey of India around the site of Temple like development of green Zone, Facade, etc.

On the occasion, the DC was informed about the issues

## DC Inspects Progress Of Works For Preservation Of Ancient Sites

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Tuesday undertook an extensive tour of various archaeological sites of the District including Burzahom, Harwan and Shankaracharya temple to oversee the pace and progress of the ongoing works being executed for preservation and development of ancient archaeological sites.

The DC was accompanied by Superintendent Engineer Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) Izhar Alam, Chief Planning officer, Srinagar, Mohammed Yaseen Lone, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Srinagar, Raes Ahmad Bhat, Deputy Director Archaeology, Executive Engineer, R&B, Tehsildars of North, Khanyar and South Srinagar, DFO Wildlife Dachigam and other concerned.

At Burzahom Archaeological site, the Superintendent Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India, Dr Izhar Alam Hashmi apprised the Deputy Commissioner about the findings, recorded in cultural deposits representing Neolithic Age human activity in Kashmir based on detailed investigations that cover all aspects of the physical evidence of the site, including the ancient flora and fauna.

On the occasion, the DC

had a first hand appraisal of the ongoing works being carried out by ASI for its preservation and development. The DC asked the Officers to accelerate the pace of work to complete the projects in set timelines. The DC also asked Revenue officials to earmark land for development of approach pathways at the site.

On the occasion, the DC also resolved the issue regarding land coming under the ancient site on the spot.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner visited the Shankaracharya Temple to inspect the works being executed by Archaeological Survey of India around the site of Temple like development of green Zone, Facade, etc.

On the occasion, the DC

## Prof Sultana Nahar Delivers Lecture At NIT

Observer News Service

Srinagar: As part of the "Beyond Classroom Lecture Series of Physics" Prof Sultana N. Nahar from Ohio State University USA on Tuesday delivered her maiden lecture on "X-Ray Spectroscopy for Biomedical Applications" at National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar.

The lecture was hosted by the PG, Department of Physics, NIT Srinagar to introduce students to X-Ray Spectroscopy for Biomedical Applications in collaboration with the Department of Chemistry and neighboring UG colleges.

While inaugurating the lecture Director NIT Srinagar Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Sehgal said it is a proud moment for NIT Srinagar to host eminent luminary on the campus, that too with whom we have a decade-old relationship.

"The lecture was designed to expose our students and students from other colleges to ongoing research and career opportunities," he said.

Prof. Sehgal lauded the role of the PG Department of Physics

and assured his support for such initiatives in the future.

Institute's Registrar, Prof. Syed Kaiser Bukhari said this lecture series will benefit students and help them to explore more options in the field of science and technology.

"Such lectures would help students in a long way in developing their expertise and specialization in their respective areas. It would act as great significance to our R&D programs," Prof. Bukhari said.

In her key address, Prof Sultana N. Nahar delivered her lecture on "X-Ray Spectroscopy for Biomedical Applications".

She said this area of research has a direct connection with medical applications such as cancer treatment.

Prof. Sultana also shared her inspiring academic and professional journey with the students and covered many aspects of Spectroscopy and its applications to various branches of medical physics.

She said there is no shortcut to success and one can achieve their goal only through hard work and dedication.

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**HIGHWAY STATUS**

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

🌙  
**HIJRI**  
**CALENDAR**  
 24 Safar  
 1444

PRAYERS	
FAJR	4:54
ZUHR	12:24
ASR	4:47
Magrib	6:34
ISHA	7:54

### This Day In History

- 1913 - Turkey and Bulgaria sign peace treaty in Constantinople
- 1922 - US President Warren G. Harding signs a joint resolution of approval to establish a Jewish homeland in Palestine
- 1938 - Winston Churchill condemns Hitler's annexation of Czechoslovakia
- 1943 - Soviet 13th/61st Army reconquer Chernigov
- 1955 - Last allied occupying troops leave Austria
- 1964 - Malta becomes independent from the United Kingdom.
- 1970 - Soviet space probe Luna 16 leaves the Moon
- 1979 - Stephen Jay Gould and Richard Lewontin publish influential paper (cited more than 4,000 times) "The Spandrels of San Marco and the panglossian paradigm", introducing idea of "spandrels" into evolutionary biology
- 1982 - STS-5 vehicle moves to launch pad
- 1983 - US performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site
- 1984 - NASA launches Galaxy-C
- 1990 - Reports that US refinery problems will lead to a loss in capacity and aggressive remarks by Saddam Hussein send crude prices to new highs
- 1991 - Armenia votes on whether to remain in Soviet Union
- 2003 - Galileo mission terminated by sending the probe into Jupiter's atmosphere, where it is crushed by the pressure at the lower altitudes
- 2004 - The Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) People's War and the Maoist Communist Centre of India merge to form the Communist Party of India (Maoist).

### From KO Archives

### Examiner Faces Threat To Life, Returns Answer Papers

Observer News Service

Srinagar: One of the examiners feeling threat to his life after conducting the viva voce of the students of private colleges has returned the answer papers to the Director Technical Education without marking them.

The examiner, Shujia Hussain, who conducted examination of students of some of the private polytechnic colleges in Government Women's Polytechnic Bernina last month could not be lured by the administration of the concerned college for the favours to their students. Hussain in a letter to the Director Technical Education on August 30, has expressed his apprehensions that the authorities of the college are trying to "harass" him by one way or other.

In order to avoid the harassment and the mental agony he has returned the whole lot of answer papers which he was urged to evaluate - to the Director Technical Education with a note that the performance of the most of the students was dismal and could not be promoted.

His observation during the examination was that the students lacked the basic concept of the subject. "Performance of the students in the exams was very poor. The students could not answer most of the questions during the viva voce. The students gave wrong answers to most of the questions saying that same had been taught to them by their teachers."

His further observations were that some of the students of the KITE Polytechnic had reportedly worked hard on their internal portfolio but unfortunately the schemes were not as per the norms, while as the evaluating authority had misled them by giving them good remarks.

Hussain did not promote them as he felt that promoting such students could spoil their future and was against the norms of the examination. It has been observed that there is mushroom growth of the private colleges and performance of most of them is dismal. Most of these lack the requisite infrastructure and the teachers are not qualified to the satisfaction of the students.

It has been reliably learnt that most of them are using the illegal means to maintain the reputation of their colleges. Sources said that most of these private colleges are buying the question papers from the authorities of the Technical education and the University to supply them to the students in advance for better results. Even the examiners are paid hefty sums for the favours they render to the students of these colleges, alleged the sources.

People in general feel that these colleges who have been recognised by the Government should be made accountable so that they could not deceive the students.

ss(Kashmir Observer, September 21, 1998)

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## Extension of time

With reference to the tender notice No. jkb/zokc-1/Est/22-Dt:-16-08-2022, issued by this office, regarding advertisement for premises for housing Branch Umer Abad Shaiteng, Sgr the last date for receipt of the tenders is extended up to 06<sup>th</sup> of October, 2022. The tender documents can be downloaded from the link [www.jkbank.com](http://www.jkbank.com). The parties who have already applied need not apply again. Other terms and conditions shall remain the same.

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## "One Person Dying Of Hunger Every Four Seconds": NGOs Flag Global Crisis

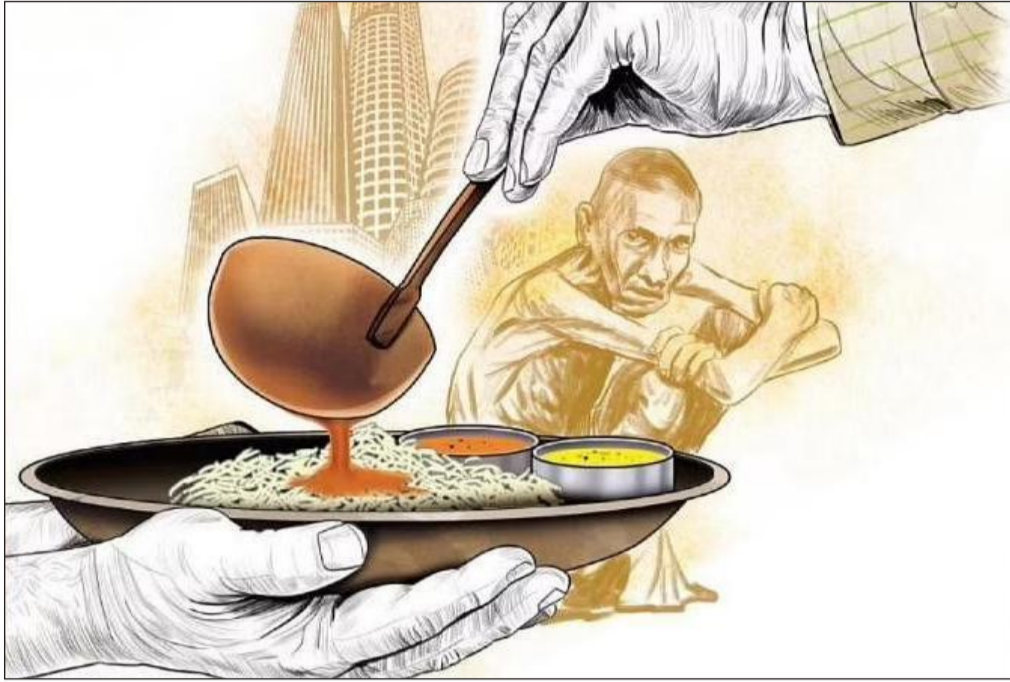


Agenceis

One person is estimated to be dying of hunger every four seconds, over 200 NGOs warned Tuesday, urging decisive international action to "end the spiralling global hunger crisis". "Organisations from 75 countries have signed an open letter expressing outrage at skyrocketing hunger levels and recommendations for action," the NGOs said in a statement, warning that "a staggering 345 million people are now experiencing acute hunger, a number that has more than doubled since 2019". "A staggering 345 million people are now experiencing acute hunger, a number that has more than doubled since 2019," they said in a statement. "Despite promises from world leaders to never allow famine again in the 21st century, famine is once more imminent in Somalia. Around the world, 50 million people are on

the brink of starvation in 45 countries," they said. Pointing out that as many as 19,700 people are estimated to be dying of hunger every day, the NGOs said that this translates to one person dying of hunger every four seconds. "It is abysmal that with all the technology in agriculture and harvesting techniques today we are still talking about famine in the 21st century," Mohanna Ahmed Ali Eljabaly from the Yemen Family Care Association, one of the letter's signatories, said in the statement. "This is not about one country or one continent and hunger never only has one cause. This is about the injustice of the whole of humanity," he said. "We must not wait a moment longer to focus both on providing immediate lifesaving food and longer-term support so people can take charge of their futures and provide for themselves and their families."

## One Person Dying Of Hunger Every Four Seconds: NGOs Issue Warning Over Global Crisis



Agenceis

One person is estimated to be dying of hunger every four seconds, over 200 NGOs warned Tuesday, urging decisive international action to "end the spiralling global hunger crisis". In an open letter addressing world leaders gathering in New York for the United Nations General Assembly, 238 organisations from 75 countries, including Oxfam, Save the Children and Plan International expressed outrage at skyrocketing hunger levels. "A staggering 345 million people are now experiencing acute

hunger, a number that has more than doubled since 2019," they said in a statement. "Despite promises from world leaders to never allow famine again in the 21st century, famine is once more imminent in Somalia. Around the world, 50 million people are on the brink of starvation in 45 countries," they said. Pointing out that as many as 19,700 people are estimated to be dying of hunger every day, the NGOs said that this translates to one person dying of hunger every four seconds. "It is abysmal that with all the technology in agriculture and harvesting techniques today we

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## Prashant Kishor On Rahul Gandhi's Yatra: "Should Have Started From..."

Agenceis

Nagpur: Former political strategist Prashant Kishor on Tuesday said that Congress's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' should have started from Gujarat or any other BJP-ruled state. He was speaking on the sidelines of a program where he met local leaders and activists supporting the cause of a separate Vidarbha state. "It would have been better had the Congress started its Bharat Jodo Yatra from Gujarat where elections are due later this year, or other BJP-ruled states like Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh," Mr Kishor told PTI when asked about the ongoing campaign. The Yatra, led by Rahul Gandhi, began from Tamil Nadu. Notably, there was a buzz earlier this year about Mr Kishor joining the Congress, but he later said that he declined the offer to head its election strategy. Interacting with pro-Vidarbha supporters, he called for a united effort by people of the



region to realise the dream of a separate state. Former BJP MLA Ashish Deshmukh had organised the programme to formulate a strategy to achieve statehood for the eastern Maharashtra region. "If people have hope, then the idea of a separate Vidarbha state can be pursued," Mr Kishor said. "The agitation should reach the Centre. It should have a national impact. The campaign should emerge from society," he added. He has stopped working as a political strategist and wants to work for people and not for any party, Mr Kishor said.

**DESPITE PROMISES FROM WORLD LEADERS TO NEVER ALLOW FAMINE** again in the 21st century, famine is once more imminent in Somalia. Around the world, 50 million people are on the brink of starvation in 45 countries."

## Fiancee 'Plots' Chennai-Based Doctor's Murder After He Puts Her Intimate Videos Online



Agenceis

Chennai-based doctor in Bengaluru was 'killed' by his fiancée for allegedly releasing private videos of her and her mother on social media, Karnataka Police said on Tuesday. Both Vikas, 27, and his fiancée Pratipa, 25, originally hailed from Chennai. Her friends, Susheel, 25, and Gowtham, 27, are also accused of the murder of Vikas while police have launched a hunt for another accused, Surya. Vikas was attacked on September 10 and he succumbed to his injuries on September 18 at a private hospital. The incident took place in the limits of Begur police station here. According to the police, Prati-

pa worked as an architect. They met through social media two years ago, fell in love and were to tie the knot next year. Vikas practised in Chennai and had come to Bengaluru for a six-month coaching when he started living with Pratipa. During this time, Vikas allegedly made private videos of Pratipa as well as of her mother, the police said. Later, he allegedly opened a fake account on social media and published the videos. The police said the families of Vikas and Pratipa fought over this. Pratipa shared the incident with her accused friends. Susheel invited Vikas to his house on September 10 and assaulted him with a mop stick, the police said. IANS

## 'Definition Of Dignity Has Changed With Time', SC Observes During Hearing On Karnataka Hijab Row

Agenceis

Senior advocate Dushyant Dave, representing some of the petitioners challenging the Karnataka High Court judgement on hijab, on Tuesday told the Supreme Court that hijab adds to dignity and makes a woman very dignified when she wears it, like a Hindu woman who covers her head - it is very dignified. A bench comprising Justices Hemant Gupta and Sudhanshu Dhulia told Dave that the definition of dignity has changed with time, and it keeps changing. Dave argued that girls wearing hijab to the school do not violate anybody's peace and safety and there is certainly no danger to tranquility. And, there is only one aspect of public order, which could be argued, he added. Dave submitted that the girls want to wear the hijab, so whose constitutional right is violated? The other students? The school? He differentiated between Sabarimala judgment and the hijab case. The bench replied that in that case petitioners did not have a fundamental right to enter the temple. Dave said now it has been established that every-



one can enter the temple. The bench queried Dave, in many schools, there can be disparity, therefore, uniform is there and one cannot see richness or poverty. Dave said I am for uniform and every institution likes identity. The bench added that it has a very limited question - whether headgear can be allowed. Dave said uniform is an unnecessary burden in society and most can't afford it, and pointed out that he sees this with his caddies in the golf course. Dave claimed that a series of acts in Karnataka targeted the minority community. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Karnataka government, interjected saying, "We are not in a public platform. Please stick to pleadings".

Dave submitted, why is it that suddenly after 75 years the state thought of bringing this type of prohibition? It came like a bolt from the blue. He added that Article 25 is crystal clear, and the constituent Assembly debates cement that. Dave emphasised that the test is not essential practice, but religious practice. He cited that in deciding the question, whether a given religious practice is an integral part of the religion or not, the test always would be whether it is regarded by the community following the religion or not. Dave concluded his arguments for the day. The apex court has started hearing the Karnataka government counsel and the hearing will continue in the afternoon session.

## Joint Investigation Finds Abu Akleh's Killing 'Deliberate'



Agenceis

A joint investigation by a London-based multidisciplinary research group and a Palestinian rights group has uncovered further evidence that refutes Israel's account that the killing of veteran Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh was a mistake. Forensic Architecture and Al-Haq said that Abu Akleh's killing was deliberate. Abu Akleh, who was with Al Jazeera for 25 years and known as the "voice of Palestine", was shot in the head and killed by Israeli forces on May 11 while she was covering an army raid in the Jenin refugee camp in the occupied West Bank. The probe examined the Israeli sniper's precise angle of fire, and concluded that the sniper was able to clearly tell that there were journalists in the area. It also ruled out the possibility of confrontations between Israeli forces and Palestinians in Jenin at the time of the attack. According to the investigation, for which Al Jazeera provided material, the Israeli sniper shot for two minutes, and deliberately targeted those who tried to rescue Abu Akleh. The sniper shot three times, releasing six bullets the first time, then after eight seconds, seven more. One of these bullets was

the one that killed Abu Akleh, hitting her just under her helmet. Two minutes later, the sniper shot three more bullets, to stop efforts to rescue her. The findings come on the same day that Abu Akleh's family formally submitted an official complaint to the International Criminal Court (ICC), demanding justice for her killing. Her brother Anton said the family would do whatever it takes to ensure accountability for her killing. "Like we said before, and like other reports said previously, there were more than 16 shots fired towards Shireen and the media and her colleagues who were standing in that ally," he told Al Jazeera. "They even targeted the person who was trying to pull her into safety after she was shot down." The complaint is supported by the Palestinian Press Syndicate and the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ). Earlier this month, Israel said that there was a "high possibility" that its forces had killed Abu Akleh, but said it would not be launching a criminal investigation. Multiple investigations carried out by the United Nations, Israeli and Palestinian human rights organisations, and leading news outlets have concluded that Abu Akleh was killed by an Israeli soldier.

### NEWS MAKERS

## President Covers Her Head With Pallu": Karnataka Leader's Hijab Argument

Agenceis

As the Supreme Court is hearing a batch of petitions against the ban on hijab in educational institutions in Karnataka, JD(S) leader CM Ibrahim compared Islamic headscarves to the pallu. He dragged President Draupadi Murmu to the debate as he claimed that she too wears a 'pallu' and whether the PFI is behind it. "President Draupadi Murmu also covers her head with a pallu, is that a PFI conspiracy?" NDTV quoted him as saying. "Indira Gandhi covered her head with a pallu. President covers her head with a pallu, so those who cover their faces with ghonghat are they all backed by PFI? Covering the head with a pallu is a history of India. It's a sanskar (virtue) of India," he added. Several petitions have been filed in the apex court against the Karnataka High Court verdict holding that wearing of hijab is not a part of the essential religious practice



which can be protected under Article 25 of the Constitution. The High Court had dismissed the petitions filed by a section of Muslim students from the Government Pre-University Girls College in Udipi, seeking permission to wear hijab inside the classroom. The prescription of school uniform is only a reasonable restriction, constitutionally permissible which the students cannot object

to, the high court had said. In one of the pleas filed in the top court, the petitioner said the high court has erred in creating a dichotomy of freedom of religion and freedom of conscience wherein the court has inferred that those who follow a religion cannot have the right to conscience. The High Court has failed to note that the right to wear hijab comes under the ambit of the right to privacy under Article 21 of the Constitution of India. It is submitted that the freedom of conscience forms a part of the right to privacy, it said. Challenging the February 5 order of the government, the petitioners had argued before the high court that wearing the Islamic headscarf was an innocent practice of faith and an essential religious practice and not a mere display of religious jingoism. The petitioners had also contended that the restriction violated the freedom of expression under Article 19(1)(A) and Article 21 dealing with personal liberty.

## Denied Cigarette, Tourist Fires Shots In Shimla Restaurant

Agenceis

A tourist was arrested in Shimla for allegedly firing gunshots in air in a restaurant in the early hours of Tuesday. The man, identified as Vishwanath, allegedly threatened to kill a waiter and fired rounds in the air after the latter refused to bring him food and cigarette citing the closing of business hours. Vishwanath was staying in the hotel situated in the Chotta Shimla area where the incident happened. "Acting on the complaint of the owner of a private hotel that a guest who stayed in his hotel had fired two rounds with his weapon at night and locked himself in the hotel room with his weapon," Monika Bhutung-



ru, Superintendent of Shimla Police, told ANI. Police have charged him under Sections 336, 506 (endanger human life or the personal safety of others) of the Indian Penal Code & Arms Act. "The accused has been arrested and further investigation is going on, Bhutungru added.

## Punjab Chief Minister Drunk On Plane? Aviation Minister J Scindia Says...



Agenceis

Union Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Tuesday said he will look into the allegations that Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann was deplaned from a Delhi-bound flight at the Frankfurt airport as he was "drunk". The minister asserted that it was important to verify the facts. Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) chief Sukhbir Singh Badal on Monday alleged that Mr Mann was deplaned from a Lufthansa flight at the Frankfurt airport because he was in an inebriated state. Congress lead-

er Partap Singh Bajwa too sought an inquiry into the matter and shot off a letter to Mr Scindia. "This was an incident on international soil. We will have to make sure that we verify the facts. It is up to Lufthansa airline to provide the data. Based on the request that has been sent to me, I will certainly look into it," Mr Scindia told reporters on the sidelines of an event. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has dismissed the Opposition's charge as baseless and bogus. Mr Mann returned from his eight-day trip from Germany on Monday where he had gone to attract investments.



KO VIEW

## Waqf Activism

Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board has banned the Dastaar Bandi (turban-tying) of politicians at mosques and shrines across the union territory. It has called for "any violation shall immediately be brought to the notice of the Central Office for legal action in the matter." Only the 'Dastaar Bandi' of people for religious achievements will be allowed with prior permission from the board. This is a move that shall be welcomed by a large number of people in the UT. As rightly pointed out by the Waqf Board, "the leaders continue to be invited to the shrines and their Dastaar Bandi is carried out on the basis of party affiliations to promote political agenda at sacred religious places." This practice detracts from the sacredness of these places and it is good that the government has taken a firm step to do away it.

Earlier, the board had banned the collection of donations by trustees at shrines and mosques run by it. It termed the collection by trustees, locally known as Muttawali, as an "unethical practice." The Board said it took the step after complaints from people about purported corruption. The system of collecting donations from the devotees goes back centuries, so its ban was criticized by some quarters.

That said, there has been much that has not been alright with some traditions at our sacred shrines which are an inextricable part of our spiritual and cultural identity. The money that is collected as donations at religious places should be used for not only the upkeep of these places but also for investing in the larger public good. And that has hardly ever happened in the Valley. Fewer individuals have generally cornered money. So, the system was in need of a long overdue overhaul and reform. Crores of rupees are annually collected as donations at the shrines and mosques and this money can be used to build charities or educational institutions. It is time that the public money is used for public good, not to line the pockets of a few.

Similarly, it was never a good practice to use the sacred sites of shrines for the aggrandizement of politicians, who used it to further their political agenda than to advance a spiritual cause. The Waqf has done well to ban the practice. At the same time also, religion is a very sensitive issue and touches deeply the lives of people. While the Waqf rightly takes steps to reform some unscrupulous aspects of the management of shrines and mosques, it should do so by ensuring it doesn't hurt the sentiments of the faithful.

OTHER OPINION

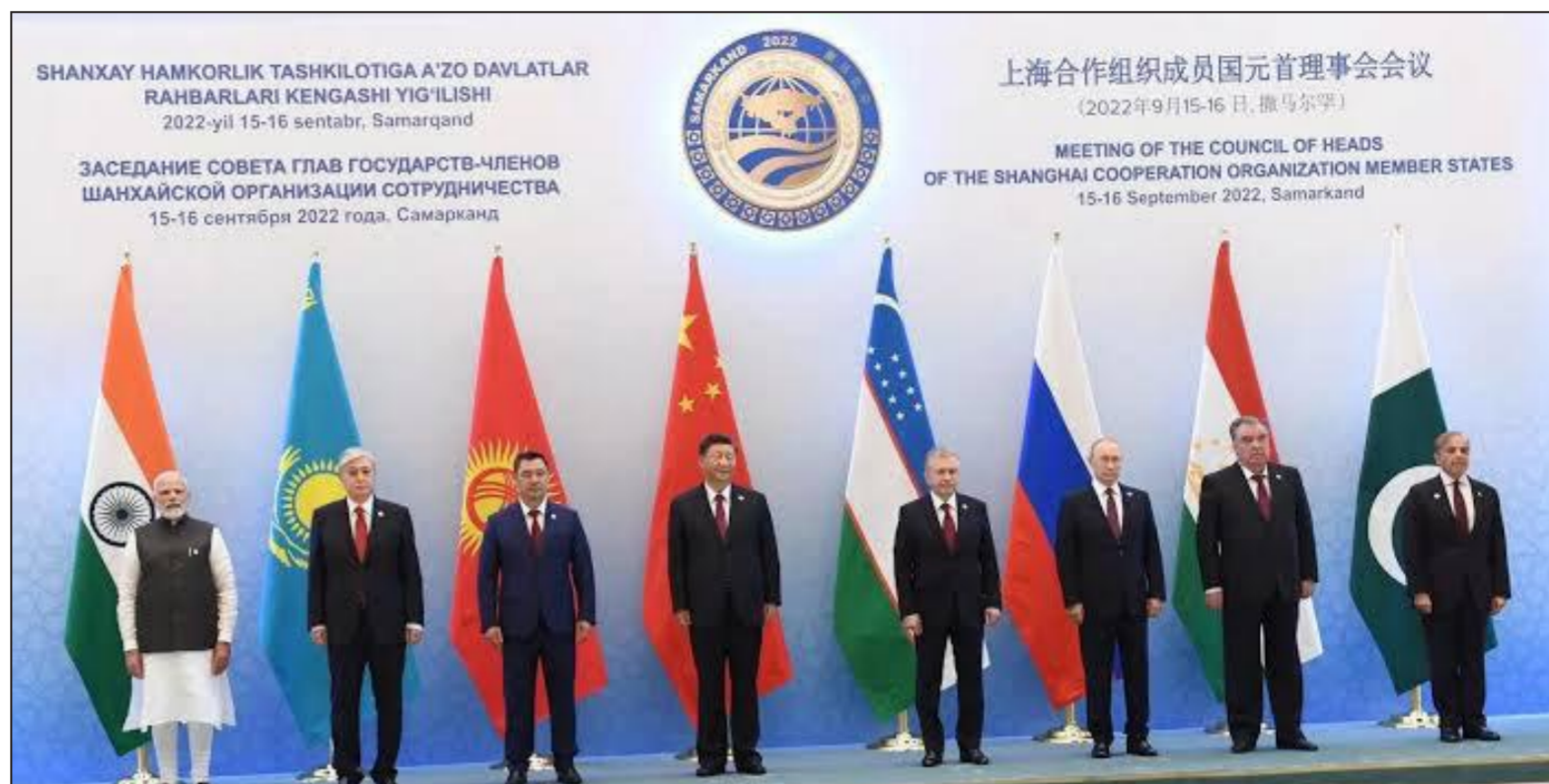
## Knowing The Killer

Sentencing after conviction is a knotty problem in cases relating to capital offences. Trial judges are called upon to make a decision on whether only a death sentence will meet the ends of justice, or a life term will be enough. As a salutary norm, the Supreme Court has laid down that the death penalty can be imposed only in the "rarest of rare" cases. Subsequent judgments have sought to buttress this principle by holding that the gruesome nature of the offence may not be the sole criterion to decide what brings it under the 'rarest of rare' category. The offender, his socio-economic background and his state of mind are also key factors in this regard. In practice, the sentencing part of the trial takes place after the court records a conviction. It is often done on the same day as the verdict, with only some limited arguments being heard on 'mitigating circumstances' from the convict's side and on the 'aggravating circumstances' from the prosecution. The latest order of a three-judge Bench, referring to a Constitution Bench the issue of granting a meaningful opportunity to convicts on the question of sentence, is a big stride in humanising the sentencing process.

Same-day sentencing has been upheld by several judgments, with the Supreme Court often saying where a meaningful opportunity has been given to the convict to present mitigating factors, the mere fact that death was awarded on the same day would not vitiate the sentence. Some High Courts have given a chance to convicts to present mitigating factors so that the inadequacy of the sentencing process in the trial court does not matter. Present thinking, however, is veering towards the view that courts must elicit reports from the jail authorities, probation officers and even trained psychologists to assess the mitigating factors in favour of not imposing the death penalty. In its referral order, the Bench has also raised the question as to the stage at which mitigating factors are to be presented. It has noted that the scales are tilted against the convicts now, as it is only after conviction that they are able to speak about mitigating circumstances. The prosecution, on the other hand, presents its case from the beginning on how heinous the crime was, and how much the accused deserved maximum punishment. The Constitution Bench may come up with new guidelines under which the trial courts themselves can hold a comprehensive investigation into factors related to the upbringing, education and socio-economic conditions of an offender before deciding the punishment. The legal and moral dilemma of sending someone to the gallows, of course, will subsist only as long as the death penalty remains on the statute book.

The Hindu

# Indian Diplomacy's at Samarkand



Asad Mirza

During the last fortnight, India has asserted itself diplomatically by refusing to join an important pillar of the U.S.-led IPEF, and at the same time PM Modi in Samarkand has demonstrated his government's resolve to act globally and resolutely in interactions with regional leaders

The 22nd summit of the eight-nation Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) took place in Uzbekistan's capital Samarkand, last week. The summit was held amid the growing geopolitical turmoil set-off by the Russian invasion of Ukraine and China's aggressive military posturing in the Taiwan Straits.

China which initiated this regional grouping as Shanghai Five in 1996, has transformed the forum into an influential grouping of 8 nations, with many more like Iran to join as a permanent member and diverse countries like Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Turkiye, Belarus and Mongolia being given Observer status, which shows its transformation into an influential regional forum, besides challenging to other western regional alliances.

In his address at the summit, PM Modi obdurately touched every relevant aspect of the current geo-political situation. He urged SCO to strive to develop reliable, resilient and diversified supply chains in the region. For this, better connectivity will be required, besides giving full rights of transit to each other, he asserted, in a veiled reference to Pakistan. He also batted for making India a regional manufacturing hub. On tackling the challenges of food security, he spoke of India's efforts to popularise millets as an alternative and cheap option.

In a speech that was otherwise free from references to India's regional issues on terrorism with Pakistan and on territorial sovereignty with China, Mr. Modi called for greater cooperation in the Eurasian region. He also focused on initiatives on manufacturing that India is willing to pilot in the next year, when India assumes the chair of the SCO and hosts the Summit in mid-2023.

### Modi-Xi Jinping Meeting

The most important meeting from India's standpoint was a possible meeting between Prime Minister Modi and Chinese President Jinping. Everyone wondered whether roadblocks have been cleared and temperaments cooled after the recent success of commander level talks between two countries on the issues of Chinese aggression in Indian Ladakh region in May 2020.

But, officially the MEA mentioned no such meetings. In fact, Samarkand offered the perfect

Officially the MEA mentioned no such meetings. In fact, Samarkand offered the perfect opportunity for two leaders to reset the ties. But there seemed little willingness from the two sides, to compromise

opportunity for two leaders to reset the ties. But there seemed little willingness from the two sides, to compromise. In fact, if the reports are to be believed, the exchange between the two leaders, reminded one of the cold treatment meted out by Mr Modi to former Pakistan's prime minister, Nawaz Sharif at the 2014 SAARC summit, though it eventually ended with a handshake at the last moment, but nothing such happened in Samarkand. But the moot question here is whether China is in a mood to mend ties with India?

Well, it seems no, not at the moment perhaps. Modi and Xi have met twice earlier but that is not enough to read each other's thoughts and also make a convincing and principled case, though both the countries stand to gain much economically, if ties are improved.

Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra, when asked about a meeting that never happened said that he did not "think there is anything more to read into that".

### Modi-Putin Meeting

PM Modi's bilateral meeting with Russian President Putin at the summit also received a lot of attention. The two leaders shared the customary diplomatic greetings, with Modi specifically emphasising that the modern era was not a time of war. According to reports, Putin acknowledged India's position on the Ukrainian conflict and reaffirmed his commitment to a speedy resolution.

India and Chinese leaders expressing their concerns directly with the Russian leader about the war in Ukraine is reflective of global concerns about the effects of its aggression, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said last Friday.

The mainstream American media on Friday praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for telling Russian President Vladimir Putin that this is "not the time for war" in Ukraine. It was the lead

story on the webpages of both The Washington Post and The New York Times, and was widely carried by the mainstream American media.

### Modi-Erdogan Bonhomie

Among other impromptu meetings was the one important one between PM Modi and Turkiye's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, which was held unannounced on Friday. After the meeting, Modi underlined that the focus was on economic ties between the two countries.

The MEA, in a statement, described the meeting as a review of current India-Turkiye relations. While noting the increase in recent years in economic relations, particularly bilateral trade, it acknowledged the potential for further enhancement of economic and commercial partnerships. Erdogan last visited India in 2017.

While India-Turkiye's economic and commercial cooperation constitutes an important dimension of the bilateral relationship, diplomatic ties have been adversely impacted over Turkiye's public criticism of the revocation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir and the February 2020 riots in north-east Delhi.

### Modi-Raisi Meeting, Looking Ahead

Another important meeting at Samarkand was between PM Modi and Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi. Both the leaders took the opportunity to discuss boosting ties in areas like energy, commerce and connectivity. They also reviewed progress of the Shahid Beheshti terminal at Chabahar Port and there are indications that the Iranian president also discussed a new mechanism to supply crude oil to India on rupee payment basis, instead of American dollars. This may bring the two countries closer on the trade and economic fronts.

India will be hosting the next SCO Summit in 2023, and this will offer Mr Modi an opportunity to develop the organisation into a more meaningful and cohesive organisation. A fact evident by the number of countries, which are desirous of joining it, due to its regional potential.

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

Asad Mirza is a political commentator based in New Delhi.

He was also associated with BBC Urdu Service and Khaleej Times of Dubai.

He writes on Indian Muslims, educational, international affairs, interfaith and current affairs.  
www.asad-mirza.blogspot.com



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## Dilemma in Career Choices

It is winter in Kashmir, and for a student, it is a time to wake up early and rush towards coaching centers. Kashmir is one among the beautiful places on earth, but, taking its youth into cognizance, they have made this wonderful heaven a wandering one.

In Kashmir, after passing class 10th examinations, students get a welcome in different coaching centers to opt their streams. But, this time they have to be careful because whatever they will be in future is purely reflected by the subjects they opt. Students must understand and know why they're opting a particular stream. Consistency, sticking to goals,

inquisitiveness, time management and dedication is the key to success. And proper strategy, clear perspective and motivation are three basic factors they need to work upon. I see a number of students wandering in coaching centers. They go to almost every coaching center but they are still in a dilemma and confusion.

I have seen a number of students getting admission in coaching centers without consulting their parents or elders. Parents have to give freedom and independence to their children but to some limits. Parents are known as the best counsellors of a child, but if they become abortive to give right opinions and deci-

sions to their children, then they are responsible for their arrogance. Home is the best school for children and they should get proper nourishment here or else they will become unsuccessful in his goals.

Parents sometimes force their children to choose medical stream: a practice typical in our society. Children have the right to choose their subject of interest. Parents must encourage them and appreciate their choice and support them fully, this will lead them to achieve their goals easily because if a person has not any sort of interest in studies he can never achieve his goal in life. When parents send their children to outside places far from home

to study, they should keep in consideration that their children should not become victims of bad evils of our society like drug abuse etc. that can set a blot on a student's character.

The hand of a parent is the best support that a child can hold. So, parents should look after the likes, dislikes and choices of a child and make proper decisions for them. So that they can turn the wandering heaven into a wonderful one!

Hina Jaan  
islamtamjeed@gmail.com

# Psychological Underpinnings of a Crime

Dr. Ashraf Amin

Our times witness the most heinous crimes. And the graph of crimes surges each day. The fear of law is fast vanishing from the hearts of criminals and antisocial elements. One really wonders that despite harsh condemnations, uproar and protests from responsible social citizens, the rise in the ranks of criminals soars high. It could be due to laxity in carrying out punishments by the law enforcing agencies, but that is not the sole reason for the pace and barbarity of crimes. Allah's Messenger (pbuh) is reported to have said to his followers: "Help your brother, whether he is an oppressor or he is an oppressed one. People asked, "O Allah's Messenger (pbuh)! It is all right to help him if he is oppressed, but how should we help him if he is an oppressor?" The Prophet (pbuh) said, "By preventing him from oppressing others." This Hadith would have shocked us equally by its apparent meaning, however Rasul Allah (pbuh) was teaching us the psychological underpinnings of the crimes and the criminal.

The first thing is that an oppressor or criminal who commits a crime is compulsive to do so in many cases. His poor upbringing, a negative social environment, and inadequate training, all play a role in sharpening his criminal instincts. Most of the time bad company, a dangerous indoctrination, and poor supervision gives birth to a ferocious and insensitive human being. The per-



“Allah's Messenger (pbuh) was equally prepared to reform a criminal through instruction and psychological counseling. The Prophet (pbuh) was optimistic in reforming men who had fallen to unlawful activities. He (pbuh) believed in subduing the criminal thoughts before they take on a concrete shape

sonality and character of a person is shaped from his/her childhood. One has to see if the youth is not nourished from the fountains of negativity!

There is no denying of the fact that

“  
There is no denying of the fact that our young generation is exposed to hazardous worldviews and lifestyles. They have poor training in morals and character. The major share of their time is spent on those pastimes that have least to do with growth in character and ethics

our young generation is exposed to hazardous worldviews and lifestyles. They have poor training in morals and character. The major share of their time is spent on those pastimes that have least to do with growth in character and ethics. Rasul Allah (pbuh) was teaching more than a millennium ago that the upbringing of a child/ or the citizen of a nation/society is a big challenge and one must undertake all measures to build up a healthy and crime

free society through refined individuals. On the other hand, Allah's Messenger (pbuh) was equally prepared to reform a criminal through instruction and psychological counseling. The Prophet (pbuh) was optimistic in reforming men who had fallen to unlawful activities. He (pbuh) believed in subduing the criminal thoughts before they take on a concrete shape. Thoughts have a tremendous power. There is a famous maxim, "You are what your thoughts make you". The Prophet (pbuh) was teaching us that the climax of the crime is committing the crime physically, but how apt it would have been if the idea would be nipped in the bud i.e. but not allowing it to dominate one's feelings, thoughts, and emotions!

Tail-piece: The grim scenario of global human society where not a single day passes without hearing and witnessing crimes of gruesome murders, rapes, acid attacks, abductions, human trafficking, molestations, etc. summons us to wake up for the repair and renovation of our societies. Our existence is threatened by our own people and by the same measure by our own negligence. We can't leave our generation at the mercy of circumstances. We can't afford to expose our youth to unfiltered ideas, ideologies, life-styles and to a selfish worldview devoid of human sacredness.

The author is Assistant Professor, Central University of Kashmir

# Salt and Water of Obesity Epidemic



Richard Johnson

Scientific studies and media coverage are rife with warnings on how sugar, carbohydrates, saturated fat and lack of exercise contribute to obesity. And tens of millions of Americans are still overweight or obese in large part because of the classic Western diet and lifestyle.

As an educator, researcher and professor of medicine, I have spent more than 20 years investigating the causes of obesity, as well as related conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure and chronic kidney disease.

Throughout my many years of studying obesity and related health conditions, I've observed that relatively little is said about two significant pieces of this very complex puzzle: lack of hydration and excessive salt intake. Both are known to contribute to obesity.

## LESSONS LEARNED FROM A DESERT SAND RAT

Nature provides a clue to the role these factors play with the desert sand rat *Psammomys obesus*, a half-pound rodent with a high-pitched squeak that lives in the salty marshes and deserts of Northern Africa. It survives, barely, by eating the stems of *Salicornia* – the glasswort – a plant that looks a bit like asparagus.

Although low in nutrients, the glasswort's fleshy, succulent sap is filled with water that's rich in salt, at concentrations as high as what's found in seawater.

Recent studies have provided new insights into why the desert sand rat might crave the salty sap of glasswort. Although this has not yet been proven specifically in the sand rat, it is likely that a high-salt diet helps the sand rat convert the relatively low amount of carbohydrates it's ingesting into fructose, a type of sugar that occurs naturally in fruits, honey and some vegetables.

This helps the animal survive when food and fresh water are sparse. This is because fructose activates a "survival switch" that stimulates foraging, food intake and the storage of fat and carbohydrates that protect the animal from starvation.

However, when the rat is brought into captivity and given the common rodent diet of about 50% carbohydrates, it rapidly develops obesity and diabetes. But if given fresh vegetables low in starchy carbohydrates, the rodent remains lean.

My research, and the research of many other scientists over the decades, shows that many Americans unwittingly behave much like a captive desert sand rat, although few are in settings where food and water are limited. They are constantly activating the survival switch.

## FRUCTOSE AND OUR DIETS

As mentioned, fructose, a simple sugar, appears to have a key role in activating this survival switch that leads to fat production.

Small amounts of fructose, like that found in an individual fruit, are not the problem – rather it is excessive amounts of fructose that are problematic for human health. Most of us get our fructose from table sugar and high-fructose corn syrup. Intake of these two sugars totals approximately 15% of calories in the average American diet.

These sugars encourage people to eat more, which can lead to weight gain, fat accumulation and prediabetes.

Our bodies also make fructose on their own – and experimental studies suggest it may be enough to trigger the development of obesity.

Since fructose is made from glucose, production of fructose increases when blood glucose levels are high. This process happens when we eat a lot of rice, cereal, potatoes and white bread; those are carbs that rapidly re-

lease glucose into the blood rapidly.

And notably, fructose production can also be stimulated by dehydration, which drives fat production.

## FAT PROVIDES WATER

Fat has two major functions. The first one, which is well known, is to store calories for a later time when food is unavailable.

The other major but lesser-known function of fat is to provide water.

To be clear, fat does not contain water. But when fat breaks down, it generates water in the body. The amount produced is substantial, and roughly equivalent to the amount of fat burned. It's so significant that some animals rely on fat to provide water during times when it's not available.

Whales are but one example. While they drink some seawater, they get most of their water from the foods they eat. And when they go for extended periods without food, they get their water primarily by metabolizing fat.

## HOLD THE FRIES

The role of dehydration as a contributor to obesity should not be underestimated. It commonly occurs after eating salty foods. Both dehydration and salt consumption lead to the production of fructose and fat.

This is why salty french fries are especially fattening. The salt causes a dehydration-like state that encourages the conversion of the starch in the french fry to fructose.

What's more, studies show most people who are overweight or obese don't drink enough water. They are far more likely to be dehydrated than those who are lean. Their salt intake is also very high compared with lean people's.

Research shows that people with obesity frequently have high levels of vasopressin, a hormone that helps the kidneys hold water to

regulate urine volume.

But recent studies suggest vasopressin has another purpose, which is to stimulate fat production.

For someone at risk of dehydration or starvation, vasopressin may have a real survival benefit. But for those not at risk, vasopressin could drive most of the metabolic effects of excess fructose, like weight gain, fat accumulation, fatty liver and prediabetes.

## DRINKING MORE WATER

So does this mean drinking more water can help us lose weight? The medical community has often scoffed at the assertion. However, our research team found that giving mice more water slowed weight gain and the development of prediabetes, even when the mice had diets rich in sugar and fat.

There is also increasing evidence that most people drink too little water in general, and increasing water intake may help people who are obese lose weight.

That's why I encourage drinking eight tall glasses of water a day. And eight is likely enough; don't assume more is better. There have been cases of people drinking so much that "water intoxication" occurs. This is particularly a problem with people who have heart, kidney or liver conditions, as well as those who have had recent surgery or are long-distance runners. It's always good to first check with your doctor about water intake.

For the desert sand rat, and for our ancestors who scavenged for food, a high-salt and limited-water diet made sense. But human beings no longer live that way. These simple measures – drinking more water and reducing salt intake – offer cheap, easy and healthy strategies that may prevent or treat obesity.

By arrangements with The Conversation

# Young Cold-Blooded Animals Are Suffering The Most As Earth Heats Up, Research Finds

The Conversation

Climate change is making heatwaves worse. Many people have already noticed the difference and so too have other animals.

Sadly, research by myself and colleagues has found young animals, in particular, are struggling to keep up with rising temperatures, likely making them more vulnerable to climate change than adults of their species.

The study focused on ectotherms, or cold-blooded animals, which comprise more than 99% of animals on Earth. They include fish, reptiles, amphibians and insects. The body temperature of these animals reflects outside temperatures so they can get dangerously hot during heat waves.

In a warming world, a species' ability to adapt or acclimatise to temperatures is crucial. Our study found that young ectotherms, in particular, can struggle to handle more heat as their habitat warms up. That may have dramatic consequences for biodiversity as climate change worsens.

Our findings are yet more evidence of the need to urgently reduce greenhouse gas emissions to prevent catastrophic global heating. Humans must also provide and retain cool spaces to help animals navigate a warmer future.

## Tolerating heat in a changing climate

The body temperature of ectotherms is extremely variable. As they move through their habitat, their body temperature varies according to the outside conditions.

However, there's only so much heat

these animals can tolerate. Heat tolerance is defined as the maximum body temperature ectotherms can handle before they lose functions such as the ability to walk or swim. During heat waves, their body temperature gets so high they can die.

Species, including ectotherms, can adapt to challenges in their environment over time by evolving across generations. But the rate at which global temperatures are rising means in many cases, this adaptation is not happening fast enough. That's why we need to understand how animals acclimatise to rising temperatures within a single lifetime.

Unfortunately, some young animals have little to no ability to move and seek cooler temperatures. For example, baby lizards inside eggs cannot move elsewhere. And owing to their small size, juvenile ectotherms cannot move great distances.

This suggests young animals may be particularly vulnerable during intense heat waves. But we know very little about how young animals acclimatise to high temperatures. Our research sought to find out more.

## Young animals at risk

Our study drew on 60 years of research into 138 ectotherm species from around the world.

Overall, we found the heat tolerance of embryos and juvenile ectotherms increased very little in response to rising temperatures. For each degree of warming, the heat tolerance of young ectotherms only increased by an average 0.13 degree Celsius.



The physiology of heat acclimatisation in animals is very complex and poorly understood. It appears linked to a number of factors such as metabolic activity and proteins produced by cells in response to stress.

Our research showed young land-based animals were worse at acclimatising to heat than aquatic animals. This may be because moving to a cooler temperature on land is easier than in an aquatic environment, so land-based animals may not have developed the same ability to acclimatise to heat.

Heat tolerance can vary within a species. It can depend on what temperatures

an animal has experienced during its lifetime and, as such, the extent to which it has acclimatised. But surprisingly, our research found past exposure to high temperatures does not necessarily help a young animal withstand future high temperatures.

Take, for example, Lesueur's velvet gecko which is found mostly along Australia's east coast. Research shows juveniles from eggs incubated in cooler nests (23.2 degree Celsius) tolerated temperatures up to 40.2 degree Celsius. In contrast, juveniles from warmer nests (27 degree Celsius) only tolerated temperatures up to

38.7 degree Celsius.

Those patterns can persist through adulthood. For example, adult male mosquito fish from eggs incubated to 32 degree Celsius were less tolerant to heat than adult males that experienced 26 degree Celsius during incubation.

These results show embryos are especially vulnerable to extreme heat. Instead of getting better at handling heat, warmer eggs tend to produce juveniles and adults less capable of withstanding a warmer future.

Overall, our findings suggest young cold-blooded animals are already struggling to cope with rising temperatures and conditions during early life can have lifelong consequences.

## What's next?

To date, most studies on the impacts of climate change have focused on adults. Our research suggests animals may be harmed by heatwaves long before they reach adulthood perhaps even before they're born.

Alarmingly, this means we may have underestimated the damage climate change will cause to biodiversity.

Clearly, it's vitally important to limit global greenhouse gas emissions to the extent required by the Paris Agreement.

But we can also act to protect species at a finer scale by conserving habitats that allow animals to find shade and shelter during heatwaves. Such habitats include trees, shrubs, burrows, ponds, caves, logs and rocks. These places must be created, restored and preserved to help animals prosper in a warming world.

## Traditional Architectural Techniques Can Keep Buildings Cool

The Conversation

Modern styles of architecture using concrete and glass have often usurped local building techniques better suited to parts of the world with hotter climates. Now some architects are resurrecting traditional techniques to help keep buildings cool.

From western Europe to China, North Africa and the US, severe heatwaves brought drought, fire and death to the summer of 2022.

The heatwaves also raised serious questions about the ability of existing infrastructure to cope with extreme heat, which is projected to be-



come more common due to climate change.

Yet, for thousands of years, people living in parts of the world used to high temperatures have deployed traditional passive cooling techniques in the way they designed their buildings.

In Nigeria, for example, people have long used biomimicry to copy the style of local flora and fauna as they design their homes, according to Anthony Ogbuokiri, a senior lecturer in architectural design at Nottingham Trent University in the UK.

But in the 20th century, cities even in very hot climates began following an international template for building design that meant cities around the world, regardless of where they were, often had similar looking skylines.

Ogbuokiri calls this duplitecture, and says it ramped up the cooling load due to an in-built reliance on air conditioners.

Alongside this, there was a massive boom in the use of concrete, particularly after the second world war when the Soviet Union and the US started gifting their cold war allies concrete technology.

It was a competition both to discover who actually mastered concrete and who was better at gathering the materials, the people and the energy to make concrete, explains Vyta Pivo, assistant professor of architecture at the University of Michigan in the US.

But too much concrete can contribute to the phenomenon of urban heat islands, where heat is concentrated in cities. Concrete is also a considerable contributor to global carbon emissions.

Some architects and researchers are working to rehabilitate and improve traditional passive techniques that help keep buildings cool without using energy.

Susan Abed Hassan, a professor of architectural engineering at Al-Nahrain University in Baghdad, Iraq, focuses a lot on windcatchers in her work, a type of chimney which funnels air through houses to keep them cooler in hot climates.

She's now looking at how to combining underground water pipes with windcatchers to enhance their cooling effects.

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No: iti/kul/Trg/2022/ 374-76 Dated 20 /09/2022

Admission Notification for admission in various short term courses under Aspirational Block Development Programme (ABDP) in blocks of DK Marg and Manzgam

Reference No.:- District Development Commissioner Kulgam Order No. DDCK/ABDP/2022-23/4026-30 Dated 16-08-2022

### Admission Notice

Admission Notification for admission in various short term courses under Aspirational Block Development Programme (ABDP) in blocks of DK Marg and Manzgam. Application are invited, from residents of DK Marg and Manzgam Block only. Admission in various short term courses at detailed below to be conducted at Panchayat Ghar DK Marg and Higher secondary School Manzgam

- Marks certificate qualifying exam prescribed for the Course.
- Date of birth certificate preferably 10<sup>th</sup> class Diploma/ Marks certificate
- Aadhar card.
- Domical Certificate.

### Details of short term courses for DK Marg Block (Location Panchayat Ghar DK Marg)

S.No	Short term course (Job role)	Qualification	Age	Intake	Duration	Remarks
01	Self Employed Tailor	8 <sup>th</sup> +10 <sup>th</sup>	14 Years Minimum	20	360 Hours	For Residents of DK Marg Block Only
02	Assistant Electrician	8 <sup>th</sup> +10 <sup>th</sup> +ITI Diploma	18 Years Minimum	20	390 Hours	
03	Jam / Jelly & Ketchup Processing Technician	8 <sup>th</sup> +10 <sup>th</sup>	18 Years Minimum	20	240 Hours	
04	DTTI-Set Top Box Installation Technician	10 <sup>th</sup>	18 Years Minimum	20	200 Hours	

### Details of short term courses for Manzgam Block (Location HSS Manzgam)

S.No	Short term course (Job role)	Qualification	Age	Intake	Duration	Remarks
01	Tailor Basic Sewing Operator	5 <sup>th</sup> +8 <sup>th</sup> +10 <sup>th</sup>	14 Years Minimum	20	270 Hours	For Residents of Manzgam Block Only
02	Assembly & Maintenance of Personal Computer	10 <sup>th</sup>	18 Years Minimum	20	240 Hours	
03	Pickle Making	10 <sup>th</sup>	18 Years Minimum	20	240 Hours	
04	Distribution Transformer Repair Technician	10 <sup>th</sup>	18 Years Minimum	20	350 Hours	
05	CCTV Installation Technician	10 <sup>th</sup> +12 <sup>th</sup> +ITI in relevant trade	18 Years Minimum	20	360 Hours	

Course Co Coordinator For DK Marg (Mehraj Ud Din Kumar Cell No. 7006024845.  
Course Co Coordinator For Manzgam (Aadil Yaqoob Cell No. 7006600598.

DIPK-10386/22

Superintendent  
ITI Kulgam

## OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, RAPDRP (A) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATION DIVISION KASHMIR POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED (KPDC) PDD COMPLEX BEMINA, SRINAGAR

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### EXTENSION NOTICE NO 3

In view of poor response to the e-NIT issued for "Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) for Daikin Hot and Cold VRVHVACs installed at three Floors of Data Centre building and two floors of SCADA building Bemina, Srinagar Kashmir J&K" vide this office NIT No.: CEO/IT&C/ 04 of 2022 Dated: 02/08/2022, the last date for online submission is hereby further extended up to 24 -09-2022, 2:00pm. The details to submit e-Bid online up to the date and time are mentioned in the table below:

A	e-Bid submission (end date & time) (Extended)	24/09/2022: 14:00 Hrs
B	Online Technical e-Bid Opening date and Time	27/09/2022: 14:00 Hrs
C	Venue of opening of technical Bids	Office of the Chief Executive Officer, IT & C division, KPDC
D	Online Financial e-Bid Opening date and Time	Will be separately communicated to the technically responsive bidders
E	Estimated Cost Including Taxes	INR 835912/=

No: CEO-IT&C/1447-50

DIPK-NB-3951/22

Sd/-  
Dated: 19-09-2022 Chief Executive Officer  
IT and Communication Division  
KPDC

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION SRINAGAR,

NEAR J&K BANK (ZALDAGAR)  
Telefax No. 0194-2503195 e-mail ID: [xenmidsrinagar@gmail.com](mailto:xenmidsrinagar@gmail.com)

Sub:- Extension in bidding time for Short Term e-NIT No. 25 OF 2022-23, Dated: 30-08-2022 for below mentioned works:-

### Part-2:-

Electrical works at LIS Marval Stage 1st.

### Part-3:-

Repairs/ welding of 900mm dia underground laid MS Rising main at Marval Stage 4th.

Ref:- JK Government official e-Procurement portal Tender ID No's :-  
2022\_IFC\_186195\_2, 2022\_IFC\_186195\_3

## EXTENSION NOTICE 3

Due to poor response to above mentioned sub-parts of this office above referred e-NIT for the subject works, the critical dates are again extended as under:-

Bid submission/ Document download / sale end Date	26/09/2022 at 14:00 hrs
Date and time of Bid opening	27/09/2022 at 14:00 hrs

Rest of the terms and conditions shall remain un-altered as laid down in the original e-NIT.

No. MIDS/Ts/ 2446-51  
Dated:- 19-09-2022

DIPK-10363/22

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
Mechanical Irrigation Division  
Srinagar



## JKRLM, NABARD Join Hands For Rural Mart Startups For SHGs



**1st UMEED Rural Mart In Kashmir Inaugurated At Shopian**

Observer News Service

**SHOPIAN:** Jammu Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission (JKRLM) in collaboration with National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) Tuesday inaugurated a Rural Mart at Shopian.

JKRLM and NABARD have extended the grant support to Self Help Groups (SHGs) promoted under JKRLM for setting up of these Rural Marts.

These marts, first of which was inaugurated today at Shopian, aims to promote and provide the platform for marketing the local handmade products produced by the women SHGs.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by SSP, Shopian, Tanushree; ADDC Shopian, Manzoor Hussain, CGM, NABARD, Dr AK Sood and Additional Mission Director NRLM, Reyaz Ahmad Beig.

The mart has been set up in main town Shopian under NABARD's rural mart scheme, to provide a platform for SHGs to sell their handmade products ranging from craft items, clothing, handloom and handicraft products, home-made food items, dry fruits among others.

NABARD has committed to provide the financial support to the tune of Rs.4.79 lakh for each rural mart for a period of 03 years. The components such as shop rent, salary of salesman, marketing and other miscellaneous expenses shall be provided by NABARD.

SSP Shopian Tanushree said that the rural mart to be run by female SHGs was the first step towards women empowerment in the district.

CGM NABARD, Dr Sood encouraged the female SHG members to use the mart as an opportunity for economic development and ensure the continuity, quality and quantity of local goods for locals as well as tourists.

Additional Mission Director JKRLM appreciated the SHGs for being a step ahead for such a unique initiative in the district. The event was attended by members of various SHGs in the district.

Deputy General Manager NABARD Surinder Singh, District Development Manager NABARD Rouf Zargar, DPMs JKRLM Uzma Mehraj and Irfan were also present on the occasion.

It is worth mentioning here that NABARD has collaborated with JKRLM for extending the grant support to SHGs promoted by JKRLM for setting up of Rural Marts.

## J&K Has Climatic Conditions, Other Potential To Become Agri-Capital Of India: CS

Calls For Increasing Crop Intensity, Adopting Digital Initiatives

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Tuesday said that J&K has favourable climatic conditions and immense untapped potential in the agriculture sector and with the right approach and endeavours, it can easily evolve as the Agri-capital of India.

Dr. Mehta was speaking at 24th Foundation Day of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J) held at its at Baba Jitto Auditorium, Main campus, Chatha.

The Chief Secretary underlined that around seventy per cent of the population of J&K depends directly or indirectly on agriculture for their livelihoods. Development and promotion of the sector is vital for the prosperity of its people, he said.

Dr Mehta highlighted that J&K stands top among other states in farmer-household income and called for further exploring ways to increase it. Due to the fast paced development done in the UT since 2019, we already stand among the top five states in various sectors, he added.

Elaborating on novel initiatives, the Chief Secretary said that farmers have been provided Soil Health Cards and are accordingly provided expert advice on farming. He also detailed digital platforms like Agristack and unique farmer IDs being implemented in the UT. Parvaaz scheme is helping our farmers export their farm produce abroad on subsidised rates, added the Chief Secretary.

Dr Mehta called upon experts to help improve crop intensity to 2.5 crops per year through various interventions. He also encouraged participation in the Millet Mission of Government of India and increased production of oilseeds and pulses in J&K. He suggested undertaking rain water harvesting projects under MGNREGA in Kandi belts of Jammu region and boosting suitable crops there.



teaching, non-teaching staff and students on foundation day. He lauded the farmers for their substantial contribution in the agricultural development of J&K.

He informed the gathering that as per NITI Aayog's yearly survey, Jammu and Kashmir has secured third place in all India ranking in terms of farmers' family earnings besides stepping up from rank 22 to 5 in agriculture and allied sector ranking within one year. He said that since its birth in 1999, SKUAST-Jammu has made rapid strides.

While highlighting the achievements of the University Prof. Sharma revealed that the farm University has released 21 new varieties of different crops during the last two years, developed Integrated Farming System Model, established Agri-business Incubation centre for the Start Ups etc. He said that sixty six students of the University qualified for the National Eligibility Test and ICAR has accredited the institution with grade 'A'. He said that three new faculties and three new KVKs have been established by the University.

Earlier, Dr Mehta inaugurated the exhibition at Baba Jitto Auditorium depicting various technologies and FPOs promoted by different KVKs of SKUAST-Jammu.

Bharat Bhushan, DDC Chairman Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner, Prof. Gharu Ram Bhagat, former MLA, Prof. P.K. Sharma, former Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu, Dr. P. Ramasundaram, National Coordinator, ICAR-NAHEP and Kavinder Gupta, former Dy CM J&K, also graced the occasion.

Prof. J. P. Sharma, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu in his address congratulating all the

## More Crafts Of J&K To Be Notified Soon

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR-** The second meeting of Handicrafts Quality Control Council constituted by the Government was held under the chairmanship of Mahmood Ahmad Shah, Director Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir.

The meeting assumed significance in view of the fact that recognition of those crafts and artisans was discussed that have not been included in the fray till date due to one or the other reason. The meeting also discussed the ways and means to bring more crafts under the ambit of Jammu & Kashmir Handicrafts Quality Control Act 1978.

It was felt that bringing more crafts under the ambit will not only provide the much needed focus to such arts but will also help in extending the benefits of the Government schemes presently in vogue to such groups thus will address a long pending demand.

The exercise will help in increasing the number of genuine artisan community and such a measure will extend the benefits of the govt schemes to the hitherto unrecognized artisan segments of the society by which they can avail the Artisan/Weavers Credit scheme, Karkhandar scheme, Assistance under the Cooperative Act, MUDRA Scheme and other educational benefits for their kids.

The inclusion of the crafts to the list of notified crafts will increase the socio-economic conditions of the marginalized artisan community.

Moreover there are certain categories of the craftsmen whose role is very important for the final product of a Handicraft item such as Copperware Sakhta/engraving, Pottery, Wagguv, Paper Pulp (Sakhta), Tracer, Dyer, Washer etc. This category of craft practicing people whose role is immensely vital for



the overall development of the craft sector in the UT, however till date the financial empowerment schemes launched by the department has not percolated down to such segments of the Artisans.

Director Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir made special reference to the empowerment of such categories of the craft persons so that this step of inclusion will in turn attract more and more persons towards the cottage sector and employment opportunity to the youth can get a flip.

The Handicrafts Quality Control Council accordingly proposed inclusion of 24 No. of crafts to be declared as Notified Crafts under the provision of the Jammu and Kashmir Handicrafts Quality Control Act 1978.

The said council also proposed registration as artisans of the persons practicing the crafts, to be notified in addition to the crafts already Notified vide SO No. 269 dated: 06.08.2021 and SRO 14 dated: 7th of January 1997.

The meeting was also attended by Vikas Gupta, Director Handicrafts and Handloom, Jammu, Atul Sharma, Managing Director Handicrafts and Handloom Corporation, Zubair Ahmad, Director IIC Srinagar, Mirza Shahid Ali Dy, Director Quality Control, Sheikh Aashiq, President KCCI, Rafiq Ahmad Sofi Representative from Tahafuz, Gh Nabi Dar and Representative of Meeras Society.

## SpiceJet Sends 80 Pilots On 3-Month Leave Without Pay

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Budget carrier Spicejet on Tuesday said it has asked 80 of its pilots to go on a three-month leave without pay.

The move is a temporary measure to rationalise cost, the Gurgaon-headquartered airline said.

"This measure, which is in line with Spicejet's policy of not retrenching any employee which the airline steadfastly followed even during the peak of the Covid pandemic, will help rationalise the pilot strength vis-à-vis the aircraft fleet," the budget carrier said in a statement.

The pilots who have been forced to go on leave without pay are from the airline's Boeing and Bombardier fleet.

Earlier Tuesday, a section of pilots went into a tizzy over the decision of the financially-embattled airline.

"The financial crisis of the airline was known to us but the suddenness of the decision has shocked many of us. There is also uncertainty about the company's financial situation after three months. There is no assurance if those forced to go on leave will even be called back," a pilot told PTI.

According to serving and former Spicejet employees that PTI spoke with, this is the first time the airline has sent pilots on forced leave in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"However, expat pilots were sacked in the wake of the pandemic while cabin crew has been sent on LWP more than once since 2020. Salary cuts have also been there," a former Spicejet employee, who quit last year, said.

Meanwhile, Spicejet said it had in 2019 inducted more than 30 aircraft following the grounding of the 737 MAX aircraft.

The airline continued with its planned pilot induction programme in the hope that the MAX would be back in service soon. However, the prolonged grounding of the MAX fleet resulted in a large number of excess pilots at Spicejet, it said.

## Iran Signs \$300 Mln Deal To Supply Saffron To Qatar

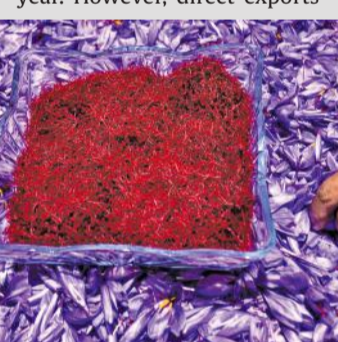
Agencies

**TEHRAN-** Iranian exporters have secured a \$300 million deal to supply saffron to Qatar in what has been described as the world's largest ever saffron export deal.

The official IRNA news agency said in a Monday report that traders from Iran and Qatar signed the deal earlier in the day in Doha in the presence of Qatar's Finance Minister Ali Ahmed Al-Kuwari and Iran's ambassador to Qatar Hamid Reza Dehghani.

The report said Iran will supply 200 metric tons (mt) of saffron to Qatari customers under the deal, adding that a first shipment will be due in

October. Iran is the world's top producer of saffron with more than 500 mt of output per year. However, direct exports



to Europe have declined in recent years mainly because of American sanctions targeting Iran's access to banking services.

The export deal signed with

Qatar will reroute a large part of Iranian saffron shipments from Afghanistan to Doha where businesses can re-export the spice to customers in the West.

The deal comes amid growing economic and political ties between Iran and Qatar. The two countries started to expand their relations in 2019 when Qatar came under a regional blockade by several Arab countries.

Iran has promised to offer full logistics support to Qatar as the Persian Gulf country prepares to host the World Cup 2022 tournament over November and December.

## SBI Asks Exporters To Trade With Bangladesh In Rupee, Taka: Report

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Top lender State Bank of India has asked exporters to avoid settling deals with Bangladesh in the dollar and other major currencies as it looks to curb exposure to Dhaka's falling reserves, according to an internal document and a source.

Bangladesh's \$416-billion economy is battling rising prices of energy and food as the Russia-Ukraine conflict widens its current account deficit, and dwindling foreign exchange forces it to turn to global lenders such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"The country is facing a shortage of foreign currency due to higher import bills and weaknesses of Bangladeshi taka against dollar in recent times," the SBI said in an Aug. 24 letter sent to its branches and seen by Reuters.

The letter and its contents have not previously been reported. The SBI did not immediately

respond to an e-mail seeking comment.

The decision not to increase exposure to the dollar and other foreign currencies in relation to Bangladesh stemmed from the current economic situation and the neighbouring nation's shortage of foreign currency, the bank said in its circular.

"However exposure in Indian rupee (INR) and taka will continue," it added.

Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserves declined to \$37 billion by Friday from \$48 billion a year earlier, according to data from the central bank, which provides import cover of just five months.

Finance ministry officials have said Bangladesh is seeking a \$4.5 billion loan from the IMF, in excess of its maximum entitlement of \$1 billion under the IMF Resilience and Sustainability Trust.

A source familiar with the matter said SBI did not want to increase its exposure to Bangladesh.



### SHORT TAKES

#### Hoteliers Club Calls On Director Tourism

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Hoteliers Club (JKHC) delegation Tuesday called on Director Tourism Kashmir Fazlul Haseeb at his Directorate office at Srinagar.

The delegation was led by its Chairman Mushtaq Ahmad Chaya who was accompanied by senior Vice President Riyaz Ahmed Shahdad, Sonmarg Chapter President Farooq Hafiz, Senior Vice President Gulmarg Manzoor Ahmed Khan, EC Member M Shafi Trambo, Secretary General Tariq Rashid Ghani, Jt Secretary General Naseer Khan.

At the outset, Chairman Mushtaq Ahmad Chaya welcomed the new Director Tourism Fazlul Haseeb for assuming the charge and assured him full support from hoteliers in taking Jammu and Kashmir to newer heights in the tourism sector.

The Hoteliers Club urged the new Director for making the ease of doing business a reality by facilitating the renewal of registration on a fast track basis.

The Club also sought extension of land lease of Hoteliers at Gulmarg.

The Hoteliers observed that many properties at Sonmarg, Gulmarg, Pahalgam, and Srinagar need repairs and renovations to keep the facilities in the rooms at par with modern standards.

#### Dir Agri Flags-Off Farmers On Exposure Visit To CITH

Observer News Service

**GANDERBAL:** The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal Tuesday flagged-off a group of 100 tribal farmers and Agri-entrepreneurs from sub-division Kangan of district Ganderbal on exposure visit cum training programme to Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture (CITH) Rangreth, Srinagar.

During interaction with the touring farmers and Agri-entrepreneurs, the Director said that these tours are aimed at showing farmers practical benefits of latest agriculture interventions on the field.

He said that when farmers visit such highly reputed institutions it motivates them to adopt the techniques and technologies. Technical knowledge plays an important role in the successful crop cultivation, he added.

The programme was organized by Farmers Training and Education Centre (FTEC) Ganderbal in collaboration with CITH Srinagar. A group of 100 tribal farmers from Babanagri and Hariganwan villages of subdivision Kangan are visiting CITH under TSP programme.

Iqbal said that such programmes will be organized by the department for the tribal farmers in all the districts of Kashmir division so that the benefits under different schemes and flagship programs especially for tribal communities reaches the farmers of these communities in a more effective manner.

#### 'PM's Dream Of Providing Employment To Maximum Taking Shape'

Observer News Service

**PAMPORE:** Chairman Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Manoj Kumar Tuesday said the dream of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to provide employment to maximum people is taking its shape.

He made these remarks while interacting with the Kashmiri artisans at KVIC's Production-cum-Marketing-cum-Training Center (PMTc) here.

He maintained that KVIC is making all its efforts to provide market and new platforms to Kashmiri artisans so that their produce would be sold globally.

During his maiden visit to PMTC, the chairman was informed that since its inception the center has provided trainings in various trades like cutting & tailoring, embroidery especially for women folk and courses like beekeeping for giving boost to the beekeeping in Kashmir.

On the occasion, Manoj Kumar distributed 200 electric potter wheels to the pottery artisans and 12 Hydra Pupari Machines to Paper Machie artisans. Also, he distributed 40 agarbatti machines through video conferencing to Jammu artisans.

#### Adani Group To Double Cement Production

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Days after completing a \$6.5-billion acquisition of Ambuja Cements and ACC, billionaire Gautam Adani said his group has planned to double cement manufacturing capacity and become the most profitable manufacturer in the country.

He saw a multifold rise in cement demand in India on the back of record-breaking economic growth and the government's infrastructure creation push, which will give significant margin expansion.

In a speech made at an event to mark the completion of the acquisition on September 17, the Adani Group founder and chairman said the ports-to-energy conglomerate has in a single stroke become the second largest cement manufacturer in the country. Adani Group last week completed buyout of Swiss major Holcim's stake in the two firms.



#### Gold Gains Rs 24; Silver Drops Rs 222

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Gold prices rose by Rs 24 to Rs 49,766 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal settled at Rs 49,742 per 10 grams. Silver, in contrast, declined by Rs 222 to Rs 57,192 per kg from Rs 57,414 per kg in the previous trade.

In the international market, gold was trading lower at USD 1,669 per ounce and silver was trading flat at USD 19.27 per ounce.

"Gold prices traded lower with spot gold prices at COMEX trading 0.43 per cent down at USD 1,669 per ounce. Gold prices traded lower ahead of US FOMC meet," Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities) at HDFC Securities, said.



## ICC Makes Massive Changes To Playing Conditions Ahead Of T20 WC

Agencies

The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Tuesday made some major cricketing changes that are set to be implemented from October 1 and be effective in the upcoming T20 World Cup in Australia. The Men's Cricket Committee (MCC), led by former India captain Sourav Ganguly, recommended the changes to the playing rules in MCC's updated third edition of the 2017 Code of the Laws of Cricket.

Here are the major changes due to take place:

### 1) PERMANENT BAN OF USE OF SALIVA TO POLISH THE BALL

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the ICC had banned the use of saliva to shine the ball and ever since, players have been depending on sweat to maintain it. However, the ICC has now made the decision permanent. "The ban on saliva use has been in place for over two years in international cricket as a Covid-related temporary measure and it is considered appropriate for the ban to be made permanent," an ICC statement said.



### 2) NEW BATTER TAKING THE CREASE

After a batter is out caught, the incoming batter shall be walking to the striker's end, irrespective of whether the batters crossed prior to the catch being taken.

### 3) RUNNING OUT THE NON-STRIKER

The practice of running out the non-striker when the batter leaves the crease during bowler's runup or before the ball is bowled, popularly called 'Mankading' earlier, will be legal now. The method of dismissal



will now be considered as run out rather than 'Unfair Play'.

### 4) TIME OUT IN ODIS AND TESTS

Earlier a batter was allowed three minutes time to walk out and take strike after the fall of a wicket in

ODIs and Tests. The rule has been amended with the time period cut short by a minute. A batter will not have 120 seconds to reach the ground and take strike. The threshold timing of 90 seconds in T20s remains unchanged.

### 5) FIVE-RUN PENALTY FOR UNFAIR FIELD MOVEMENT

Any unfair movement by the fielding team in the field while the bowler is running in to bowl, would lead to the imposition of a five-run penalty on the fielding team and the delivery would be deemed a 'Dead Ball'.

### 6) NO-BALL FOR VENTURING OUT OF THE PITCH

A batter won't be allowed to move beyond the confines of the pitch to play a delivery; any such shot played will cause the umpire to call the ball dead. Also, any ball which would force the batter to leave the pitch will be called a no-ball and result into a free-hit.

### 7) OVER-RATE PENALTY

An in-match penalty rule was introduced in T20s from January 2022, as per which a fielding side must be in a position to bowl the

first ball of the final over of the innings by the scheduled time for the end of the innings. If they are behind the time, maximum four fielders (one fewer than usual) will be allowed outside the 30-yard circle for the remainder of the innings. This rule will be in effect in the T20 World Cup and all ICC matches from October 1. This rule will also be adopted in ODIs after the completion of the ICC men's cricket World Cup Super League 2023.

### 8) BOWLER THROWING TOWARDS THE STRIKER'S-END BEFORE DELIVERY

Earlier, a bowler could attempt to run-out the striker if they saw the batter advancing down the wicket before entering their delivery stride. This practice will now be called a 'Dead ball'.

Ganguly praised all the ICC Cricket Committee members for their contributions to the recommendations.

"It was an honour chairing my first meeting of the ICC Cricket Committee," he said.

"I was pleased with the productive contribution of the Committee members which resulted in key recommendations being made.

"I thank all members for their valuable input and suggestions."

## Swimmers Complete Course At Nigeen's Water Sports Centre



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Over 50 youth successfully completed a three month long swimming course at Water Sports Centre Nigeen, with Director Tourism Kashmir, Fazl ul Haseeb felicitating the sportsmen on Monday by giving away mementos and certificates.

The camp was organised by Swim N Survival Society-K in collaboration with the Department of Tourism Kashmir at Nigeen Water Sports Centre in the month of June for non-swimmers which received an overwhelming response from the locals, especially children.

Scores of the children of different age groups along with their parents attended the morning coaching camp regularly.

While appreciating youth for their participation in the camp, the Director said that swimming

is the most important sports activity and can help during floods.

"In the absence of swimming pools, youth venture into rivers and lakes for swimming without any lifesaving equipment which has proven fatal for them" said the Director adding, "We feel very sad to hear of drowning incidents in many parts of the Valley".

Dr Sheikh Tariq Vice-President, Swim N Survival Society-K, Joint Secretary Maqsood Ahmad (SNSS-K), Mehraj Ahmad Swimming Coach Tyndale-Biscoe School, Madam Shaista I/C Nigeen Club were also present at the function.

Riyaz Wani, Yasir Makhdoomi, Mudasir Chasti, Muneeb Shah, Zahid Iqbal, Sheikh Rashid were technical experts who provided training to the students free of cost while other volunteers assisted them in the training.

## T-20 Cricket League Starts At Ganderbal



Observer News Service

**GANDERBAL:** T-20 Ganderbal Cup Cricket League organised by district administration in collaboration with NGO Voice for Peace and Justice and J&K Sports Council kick started on Tuesday. The T20 league was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyamir in presence of former cricketer Abid Nabi.

On the occasion, the DC interacted with players and urged upon them to vigorously participate in sports and athletic activities apart from pursuing their academics for their physical and mental health.

Around 32 teams of the district shall participate in a month

long tournament in which 31 matches shall be played among different teams.

The inaugural match was played today between Ganderbal Gym Khana and Hamdania Saloora at Qamaria Ground.

DC appreciated the organisers for such tournaments in the district which he said will promote sports spirit, identify and nurture the talent for higher levels.

He also complimented the former cricketer Abid Nabi for his support in providing training to the players of the district and assured him all possible support for nurturing the talent of youth.

Among others, Chairman, Voice for Peace and Justice, Farooq Ganderbali and locals were present on the occasion.



**HARDIK PANDYA SCORED** an unbeaten 71 off 30 balls, which included 7 fours and 5 sixes, on Tuesday to propel India to a credible 208/6 in the first T20 match against Australia in Mohali. However, the score wasn't enough as the Australians chased the target with 4 balls to spare. Cameron Green 61 (30) and Matthew Wade 45\* (21) top scored for the Aussies, as the team from Down Under takes a 1-0 lead in the three match series.

## New Zealand Name 15-Member Squad For T20 World Cup



Press Trust of India

**CHRISTCHURCH:** Batting stalwart Martin Guptill is set to play a record seventh T20 World Cup as New Zealand on Tuesday named a 15-member squad, led by Kane Williamson, for the ICC showpiece beginning in Australia on October 16.

The 35-year-old batter found a place in the team, even as the Black Caps made three changes to the squad that featured in the final of the T20 World Cup last year.

Finn Allen and Michael

Bracewell will be representing in their first senior World Cup and the duo along with Lockie Ferguson will replace Kyle Jamieson, Todd Astle and Tim Seifert respectively, who were part of the last T20 World Cup squad.

Two players who recently declined a central contract -- Trent Boult and Jimmy Neesham also featured in the squad.

Devon Conway has been named as the front-line wicket-keeper after wearing the gloves in the UAE and in the recent series against the West Indies.

For Williamson, it will be the third time that he will lead New Zealand in the ICC T20 World Cup.

New Zealand will open their T20 World Cup campaign against Australia at the SCG on October 22.

Squad: Kane Williamson (c), Tim Southee, Ish Sodhi, Mitchell Santner, Glenn Phillips, Jimmy Neesham, Daryl Mitchell, Adam Milne, Martin Guptill, Lachlan Ferguson, Devon Conway, Mark Chapman, Michael Bracewell, Trent Boult, Finn Allen.

## LaLiga Condemns Hate Speech After Vinicius Jr Abuse



Agencies

**MADRID:** LaLiga has condemned hate speech after Atletico Madrid fans were filmed racially abusing Real Madrid forward Vinicius Jr. outside their Metropolitan Stadium ahead of Sunday's match.

Hundreds of Atletico supporters could be heard singing, "Vinicius, you are a monkey, you are monkey" in a video published on social media by radio station Cope in the build-up to the Madrid derby, which Real won 2-1.

Local media also reported that monkey noises and chants

of "Vinicius, die" were heard throughout the game.

"Hate speech has no place in LaLiga and we always work with the clubs and the authorities to identify and bring to justice any such case," LaLiga said in a statement.

"We denounce all incidents inside and outside stadiums and work with clubs to keep our football friendly and enjoyable.

"LaLiga always reports any incidents of hate speech or violence to the authorities and assists in the investigation. We will do the same with what happened on Sunday night."

The clubs have not commented on the incidents.

## Barcelona Forecast €274 Million Profit This Season



Agencies

**BARCELONA:** Barcelona said it recorded a profit of 98 million euros (\$98.27 million) for the 2021-22 financial year and forecast a 274 million euros profit for this season.

Barcelona rank second on Forbes' list of soccer team valuations with a current value of \$5 billion, behind rivals Real Madrid, who are valued at \$5.1 billion.

The club said on Monday their board of directors closed the financial year with a turnover of 1.017 billion euros and approved an operating income budget of 1.255 billion euros for this season.

Earlier this month, LaLiga raised Barcelona's spending limit by 800 million euros, bringing the club out of a spending deficit after the Catalan side sold off chunks of assets to patch up their finances.

To offset losses and comply with LaLiga's financial fair play rules, Barcelona sold 25% of their domestic television rights to U.S. investment firm Sixth Street for the next 25 years in two deals worth over 500 million euros.

The club raised an additional 200 million euros from the sale of a total 49% stake in Barca Studios in two separate transactions, while also signing a long-term sponsorship deal with streaming giant Spotify in March.

That allowed Barcelona to spend more than 150 million euros in the close season on Robert Lewandowski, Raphinha and Jules Kouende, while Andreas Christensen, Franck Kessie, Hector Bellerin and Marcos Alonso all arrived on free transfers.

Barcelona are second in LaLiga on 16 points after six games, two points behind Real.

# Elon Musk, Gautam Adani, Jeff Bezos, Arnault, Here Are The 7 Richest People In The World



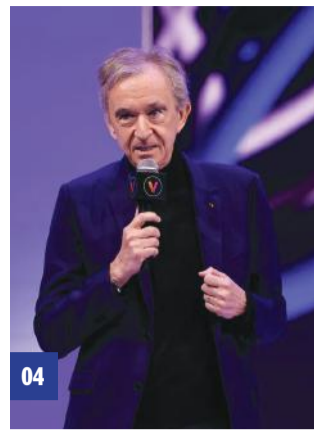
**01 ELON MUSK | \$264B** | Adani, who started the year as No. 14 on the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, now has a \$146.8 billion fortune that lags behind only Elon Musk's \$263.9 billion



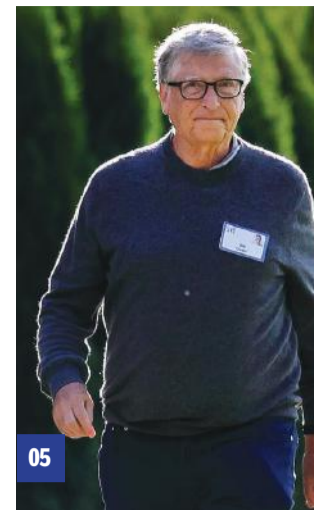
**02 GAUTAM ADANI | \$147B** | Adani first overtook India's Mukesh Ambani as the richest Asian person in February, became a centibillionaire in April and surpassed Bill Gates and France's Bernard Arnault in the past two months.



**03 JEFF BEZOS | \$147B** | Bezos trails Adani by just \$19 million as a renewed tech selloff Friday again hammered the fortunes of the richest Americans.



**04 BERNARD ARNAULT | \$138B** | The net worth of Bernard Arnault, chief of LVMH, plunged by \$40.2 billion YTD to \$138 billion in September 2022. LVMH is the owner of luxury brands such as Louis Vuitton and Christian Dior.



**05 BILL GATES | \$112B** | Bill Gates has pledged again to give his wealth away, adding that he will eventually 'drop off' the world's rich list.



**06 WARREN BUFFET | \$96.2B** | Warren Buffet's networth plunged \$12.7 billion year-on-year. The plunge in his net worth is owed to the rout in tech stocks this year that has sunk the fortunes of several of the world's top billionaires, whose net worth are tied to equity in the companies they founded or managed.



**07 LARRY PAGE | \$94.7B** | Larry Page, the co-founder of Alphabet, the parent company of Google, has lost \$33.7 billion year to date.

## From Regal Pearls To Brooch - What Royal Women Wore At Queen's Funeral

Agenceis

**London:** Members of the British Royal Family found discreet ways to honour the Queen through clothing at the Queen's funeral on Monday. Many women who were close to the queen donned jewels and outfits that had either been presented to them by the late monarch or were designed to symbolize her presence.

**Meghan Markle**

According to Page Six, The Queen gave Meghan a pair of pearl and diamond drop earrings in 2018, which she wore to the funeral on Monday.

UK jeweller Maxwell Stone had earlier told Page Six, "The royal tradition of wearing pearls for mourning dates back to Queen Victoria, who was so overwhelmed with grief when Prince Albert died that she wore nothing but black for the rest of her life."

Meghan wore a black cape from Stella McCartney. She wore the same one in navy blue colour to celebrate the Queen's 92nd birthday at the Royal Albert Hall in 2018.



**Kate Middleton**

The Duchess of Cornwall wore Queen Elizabeth's pearls and a black Alexander McQueen coat dress to the funeral, according to New York Post.

According to Page Six, Kate wore the same pearl earrings to Prince Philip's funeral. The earrings were a gift from the Emperor of Bahrain to the Queen for her wedding in 1947.

Kate also wore a black-netted veil to honour the Queen. Notably, she wore the Queen's

four-row pearl choker with a diamond clasp.

**Camila Parker Bowles**

Queen Consort Camila paid an ode to the Queen by wearing her Hesse Diamond Jubilee Brooch.

The brooch is a heart-shaped piece that has the number 60 on it. According to New York Post, it signifies the number of years in a Diamond Jubilee reign. Page Six reports that Camila also carried a clutch by Launer, one of Queen's favourite labels.

## Dubai Sets Up Vending Machines Baking Free Hot Bread For Needy Residents

Agenceis

User-friendly vending machines that prepare and dispense hot bread within a minute have been installed across Dubai as part of a first-of-its-kind initiative to ensure no needy resident sleeps hungry in the UAE's capital city.

The Bread for All' initiative was launched on Saturday and has started providing relief to labourers, delivery riders, and daily workers who can now eat hot bread for free. The pre-programmed machines prepare bread and provide it free of charge as part of a modern and sustainable model of charity work.

The campaign was launched by the Mohammed bin Rashid Global Centre for Endowment Consultancy (MBRGCEC), under the Awqaf and Minors Affairs Foundation (AMAF), to help underprivileged families and workers by providing them free bread at various times of the day.



Placed at the entrance of several Aswaq grocery outlets, the machines, refilled twice a day to ensure constant supplies, give people the option to choose between Arabic bread and finger rolls. Once selected Click to Order', the machine begins preparing and then dispenses hot bread in around a minute.

The project realises the vision of Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Vice-President and the Prime Minister of the UAE. The Ruler of Dubai had stressed at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic that: "In the UAE, no one sleeps hungry or in need".

It also engages community members and enables individuals to contribute to the first-of-its-kind initiative that adopts the principle of short-term community funding.

Members of the public can donate to this initiative either at the machine or through SMS. At the machine, those willing to contribute can click the donate button and select the amount starting from UAE Dirhams 10. They can then tap their credit or debit card on the payment machine.

"This will help me to save the money I had set aside to buy bread for dinner, the Khaleej Times newspaper quoted as saying a person waiting at the vending machine in Al Quoz 2 area.

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