

## Infant Mortality Rate In J&K Dropped In Last 5 Years: Report

Zaid Bin Shabir

Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a significant decline in infant mortality rate from 26 per 1,000 live births in 2015 to 17 per 1,000 live births in 2020, helping the Union Territory to achieve a substantial improvement in maternal and child health, according to the Sample Registration System (SRS) Statistical Report 2020.

As per the report, recently released by the Registrar General of India, J&K is witnessing a

progressive decrease in infant mortality rate (IMR), 5 mortality rate (U5MR) and neo-mortality rate (NMR) since 2014.

Besides the Infant Mortality Rate, the report said that the Under Five Mortality Rate (U5MR) in the UT has decreased from 21 to 17 points per 1000 live births, Neonatal Mortality rate from 15 to 12, Early-Neonatal Mortality Rate from 10 to 08. As per the report, the Sex Ratio at birth (females per 1000 males) in J&K has also increased from 906 to 921.



**6 51.8 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION IN J&K NEVER-MARRIED IN 2020** whereas 46.2 percent of the population was married, the report said, adding that among the bigger States/UTs the lowest percentage of married females is found to be in Jammu & Kashmir (49.0)."

Pertinently, the infant mortality rate (IMR) is the number of infant deaths for every 1,000 live births. In addition to providing key information

about maternal and infant health, the infant mortality rate is an important marker of the overall health of a society. However, Jammu and

Kashmir has shown an incremental performance in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as per the recent reports on health indicators

including National Family Health Survey(NFHS).

The proposed SDG target for child mortality aims to end, by 2030, preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 deaths per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 deaths per 1,000 live births, which as per the report, J&K has already achieved.

In terms of marriage, among the bigger **More on P10**

### KILLER ROADS

## 50 Killed In Rajouri, Poonch Accidents This Year



### Agencies

**Srinagar:** At least 50 people have lost their lives while 654 have sustained injuries in 403 road accidents in twin districts of Rajouri and Poonch in Jammu region in the first eight months of 2022.

Officials said that 403 road accidents have taken place in Rajouri and Poonch since January 01- August 31, 2022.

263 road accidents have taken place in Rajouri district from 1st of January to 31st of August this year, officials said, adding that 23 people have lost their lives in these accidents.

They said that 140 road accidents have taken place in Poonch in the first eight months, claiming 27 lives including 11 deaths in the recent bus accident on Saujiyan-Mandi road in the district.

Officials said that 440 people have received injuries in Poonch road accidents while in Rajouri a total of 214 people have sustained injuries in the last eight months.

Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Rajouri, Shammi Sharma told a local news agency KNO that most of the accidents take place due to human negligence.

"We are taking the best possible steps to curb the number of accidents and also awareness is being created to achieve the target of saving precious lives," ARTO Rajouri said.

"We have to **More on P10**

## Azad Launches His 'Democratic Azad Party'

'Our Ideology Will Be Based On The Ideals Of Mahatma Gandhi'

**Announces 50% Tickets To Youth, Women In Next Assembly Polls**

Press Trust Of India

**Jammu:** Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad on Monday launched his new party the Democratic Azad Party (DAP) - coinciding with the first day of Navratri festival, exactly a month after ending his over five-decade long association with the Congress.

Azad, 73, also unveiled the party's flag that has three strips of mustard, white and dark blue colours, and said the priority of the new party will be its registration with the Election Commission, though it will continue its activities because

assembly elections in J and K can be declared anytime.

Announcing 50 per cent tickets to youth and women in the next assembly polls, Azad said he will not make the restoration of Article 370 an election issue in Jammu and Kashmir.

The former union minister also said there will be no discrimination on the basis of religion. Our policies will not be impacted by sectarianism or religion. Everyone is free whether he is going to a Temple, Mosque, Gurdwara or Church.

"I am launching DAP from here today. It symbolises democracy and freedom of speech and thought. Our ideology will be based on the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi," Azad, flanked by a large group of supporters including former deputy chief minister Tara Chand and several other former ministers, told reporters here.

The veteran politician **More on P10**



### 'Team Of Turncoats' PCC Hits Out At Former Leader

Hours after former chief minister Ghulam Nabi Azad launched the Democratic Azad Party, Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee president Vikar Rasool Wani on Monday said his party belongs to a group of turncoats who stand exposed. Even as over two dozen former ministers and legislators of the Congress, including ex-deputy chief minister **More on P10**

**6 DEMOCRATIC IS FOR DEMOCRACY AND AZAD FOR INDEPENDENCE...**The party will be democratic and not an autocratic one, the power will not remain in one hand and the provisions of the party's constitution will be based on total democracy."



A farmer harvesting rice inside his paddy field in the South of Kashmir on Monday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

## Fruit Laden Trucks Start Moving On Banihal Highway

Press Trust Of India

**Srinagar:** The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Monday started clearing thousands of fruit laden trucks stranded along various places on the Srinagar-Jammu highway, hours after fruit growers of Kashmir held a demonstration here alleging that the trucks were being deliberately stopped.

However, administration has dismissed the allegations, saying the trucks were being halted due to natural causes, and said that all stranded Jammu-bound trucks will be cleared by tonight.

Meanwhile, political parties also criticised the administration for the fruit growers' plight, and requested it to make necessary arrangements to facilitate hassle-free movement of fruit laden trucks from Kashmir to Delhi and other markets of the country.

Members of the Fruit Growers Association held the protest demonstration at Parimpora fruit mandi and on



Fruit dealers holding a demonstration in Srinagar on Monday. KO, photo Abid Bhat

Residency Road at Lal Chowk.

The protestors alleged that fruit laden trucks were being deliberately withheld at various places, which has resulted in the produce going bad before it reaches the markets.

"The horticulture sector is the backbone of Kashmir economy and 35 lakh people are directly or indirectly associated

with it. Any adverse impact on this sector will severely hurt the economy of Kashmir," one of the protestors said.

Dismissing the fruit growers' allegations, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir P

K Pole said the trucks were being halted due to natural causes, which were beyond anyone's control. **More on P10**

## Home Minister's J&K Visit DGP Chairs High-Level Security Meet In Baramulla

Asks Officers To Keep Eye On Suspects, Use Technology & Security Gadgets

Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** Five days ahead of Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to Jammu and Kashmir, the Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh on Monday asked officers to keep an eye on activities of suspicious elements, besides stressing for utilization of technology & security gadgets including CCTV cameras during the VVIP visit.

The police chief passed these directions while chairing a meeting at the District Police

Office, Baramulla, to review the security arrangements ahead of the Union Home Minister's visit to the Union Territory, a police spokesperson said Monday. Singh was accompanied by ADGP Kashmir Zone, Vijay Kumar.

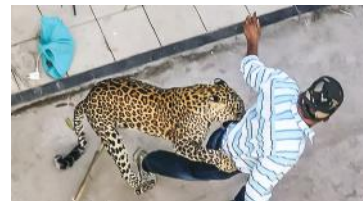
Shah will be on a three-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir from September 30 where he is planned to pay obeisance to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine, address two rallies and review developmental activities.

During the meeting, the spokesperson said, security arrangements for the Union Home Minister's visit, including the routes and locations were discussed in threadbare. In the meeting **More on P10**

### Police Assures Privacy In Aerial Surveillance

Police on Monday made it clear that its aerial surveillance teams are keeping "vigilant watch" in "public areas" only so as to ensure privacy. The **More on P10**

### Leopard Caught After Attacking Man



A leopard which had ventured into a village and injured an elderly person was captured by a team of wildlife department in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district on Monday, officials said. Nasib Chand (70) was attacked and injured by the big cat while he was outside his house in remote Charjute Kotli Manotrian village. However, he was rescued by the villagers who chased the **More on P10**

### DGP Greet People On Navratri

The Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh on Monday greeted the people of the UT on the eve of Sharad Navratri. He wished the people, families of martyrs, all ranks of Police & Security forces a joyful festival, a police spokesperson said Monday. In his message, he said, the DGP has expressed hope that the festival will bring joy and happiness among the people of Jammu and Kashmir, families of police martyrs and J&K police personnel/Security forces and their families.

"Let us pray on this auspicious occasion that peace and prosperity flourishes in our UT and all the citizens live in a **More on P10**

### J&K Logs Eight New Corona Cases

Jammu and Kashmir registered eight fresh cases of novel Coronavirus on Monday; the lowest numbers in recent months, even as no fresh fatality was reported across the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to officials, Srinagar in the Valley reported seven new cases of Coronavirus while a single case was detected from Reasi district in the Jammu division, taking the total number of people infected since the onset of pandemic in J&K to 479084. Also, the officials said that the death toll in the pandemic remained unchanged at 4785—2352 in Jammu division and 2433 in the Valley, as no fresh fatality was reported during the **More on P10**

### Grenade Found In Poonch



A grenade was found in Surankote area of Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Monday, officials said. According to the officials, the grenade was found lying near a stream at Fazalabad village by some people who informed police about it. A bomb disposal squad was rushed to the spot to safely defuse the explosive substance, they said.

### LPG Leak Injures Mother, Daughter

A woman and her daughter on Monday were injured due to gas leakage in Yaripora area of South Kashmir's Kulgam district. Quoting officials reports said that the mother-daughter duo identified as Dilshad Akhtar and Ruhi Jan were injured due to leakage in an LPG cylinder. He said that both the injured were immediately shifted to sub-district hospital Yaripora for treatment. The official added that both the injured were stable and were being treated.



### 3 Education Dept Employees Suspended

Director School Education Kashmir on Monday suspended three officials of the education department in south Kashmir's Anantnag district following a complaint against them. "In pursuance to the administrative department's instructions vide above reference, the three officials of the chief education officer Anantnag are hereby suspended with immediate effect and attached to the office of joint director education south Kashmir forthwith," reads an order issued by the Director School Education Department, Kashmir. It further reads that Mohammad Jahangir Khanday (KAS) Joint Director, Education (south) is nominated as enquiry officer to conduct **More on P10**





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## Watching TV With Children May Benefit Their Brain Development: Study

ANI

A new study published in Frontiers in Psychology studied the impact of passive screen use on the cognitive development of a young child. It revealed that screen exposure, whether from a TV or a mobile device, might be beneficial depending on the context in which it's viewed.

Researchers from the University of Portsmouth and Paris Nanterre University, France, analysed 478 studies published in the past two decades. Their findings found exposure to television early on may be detrimental to play, language development and executive functioning, particularly for young infants.

Dr Eszter Somogyi from the Department of Psychology at the University of Portsmouth said: "We're used to hearing that screen exposure is bad for a child and can do serious damage to their development if it's not limited to say less than an hour a day. While it can be harmful, our study suggests the focus should be on the quality or



context of what a child is watching, not the quantity.

"Weak narrative, fast pace editing, and complex stimuli can make it difficult

for a child to extract or generalise information. But when screen content is appropriate for a child's age, it's likely to have a positive effect, particularly

when it's designed to encourage interaction."

Studies also show screen time is more beneficial to a child if a parent or adult

is present, as they can engage with them and ask questions.

"Families differ a lot in their attitudes toward and the use of media", explained Dr Somogyi.

"These differences in the viewing context play an important role in determining the strength and nature of TV's impact on children's cognitive development. Watching television with your child and elaborating and commenting on what is viewed can help enhance their understanding of the content, reinforcing their learning during educational programs.

"Coviewing can also contribute to the development of their conversation skills and provides children with a role model for appropriate television viewing behaviour."

While the right type of content can do more good than harm, the study warns watching TV shouldn't replace other learning activities, such as socialising. Instead, it is imperative to inform caregivers of children younger than 3 about the risks associated with prolonged

exposure to screen viewing in the wrong context.

The authors recommend reinforcing contexts that promote learning, such as viewing chosen age-adapted content, viewing with adult supervision, and not having a second device or TV screen on in the background.

Dr Bahia Guellai, from the Department of Psychology at Paris Nanterre University, added: "The important 'take home message' here is that caregivers should keep in mind new technologies. Television or smartphones should be used as potential tools to complement some social interactions with their young children but not to replace it.

"I think the most important challenge of our societies for future generations is to make adults and young people aware of the risk of an unconsidered or inappropriate use of screen-use. This will help in preventing situations in which screens are used as the new type of child-minding, as it has been during the pandemic lockdowns in different countries.

### Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division Baramulla

Tele fax 01952234426 e-mail, id, [executiveengineermdb@gmail.com](mailto:executiveengineermdb@gmail.com)

Gist of Short Term Notice Inviting e-Tenders

NIT No:-MDB/e-Tender/116 of 2022-23 Dated: - 24-09-2022

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

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit	Time of Completion	Administrative Approval	Technical Sanction
01.	Reinforcement to Chassis of 4 Nos. Snow Clearance machines pertaining to FSD Kupwara (M/C:48,56,65) and FSD Baramulla (M/C:28)	176000.00	200.00	3520.00	07 days	Accorded	Accorded

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

01.	Online tender download / Start Date	24-09-2022 (06:15 PM)
02.	Online tender Submission End Date	06-10-2022 (06:55 PM)
03.	Cost of Tender Documents	Rs. 200.00 (Rupees Two hundred only) in shape of e-Challan / e-receipt/mpaytransaction acknowledgement, to be uploaded with the online bid. Tender Id to be written also on the voucher. (MSME certificate holder in the concerned trade is exempted) Bank: J&K Bank. Branch: T.P Baramulla. IFSC Code: JAKAOTESHIL Account No.: 0213010200000051.
04.	Date and time of opening of Technical Bid (online) (Cover 1 <sup>st</sup> )	07-10-2022 at 02:00 PM in office of the Ex. Engineer, Mechanical Division (MED), Baramulla
05.	Date and time of opening of Financial Bid (online) (Cover 2 <sup>nd</sup> )	After evaluation of cover 1 <sup>st</sup> in office of Ex. Engineer, Mechanical Division (MED), Baramulla

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    - Scanned copies of the Annexure "A" & "B" duly accepted / signed.
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  - Cover 2nd shall contain:
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Dated: -24-09-2022

## IIT-Guwahati Develops Chemo Strategy For Cancer Patients That Reduces Side Effects

Press Trust Of India

Researchers at IIT-Guwahati have developed a new strategy to deliver chemotherapeutic drugs directly to the infected cells of a cancer patient, thereby significantly reducing side effects.

Explaining it, professor Debasis Manna of the Department of Chemistry said the researchers had two needs in the development of chemotherapy drugs—it must be targeted at the cancer cells and must be released by an external trigger whenever it is required.

"The problem with existing chemotherapeutic drugs is that they kill healthy cells of the body in addition to cancerous cells, leading to numerous undesirable side effects," IIT-Guwahati said in a statement on Monday.

In fact, it is believed that cancer deaths are as much due to the

side effects of chemotherapy as the disease itself, it added.

"There is worldwide research to overcome the drawbacks of secondary toxicity of chemotherapeutic drugs. Some strategies that are being explored include target-specific delivery of the drugs and on-demand delivery of appropriate drug doses to cancerous cells and tissues," it said.

The molecules developed by the IIT-Guwahati researchers self-assemble as capsules to hold the drug, which then attaches only to cancer cells, the statement said.

"When infrared light is shone on it, the shell breaks and releases the encapsulated drug into the cancerous cell. The IIT-G scientists rightly believe that their approach would allow the development of drug carriers for chemotherapy with enhanced efficacy and negligible side effects," it added.

The research papers have been co-authored by Manna, along with his research scholars Subhasis Dey, Anjali Patel, and Biswa Mohan Prusty among others.

Anti-cancer activities were carried out in collaboration with professors Siddhartha Sankar Ghosh and Plaboni Sen of IIT-Guwahati, and professors Arindam Bhattacharyya and Soumya Chatterjee of Calcutta University.

"The path-breaking results of this research have been published in prestigious journals of The Royal Society of Chemistry, including 'Chemical Communications' and 'Organic and Biomolecular Chemistry'," the statement said.

The premier technical institute said that the societal impacts of this work cannot be overstated given the number of cancer patients in India anticipated to be 30 million by 2025.

### Number Plate LOST

I Adnan Ahmed Bhat S/O Abdul Rahim Bhat R/O Rawalpura Astanpora, Srinagar had lost my Number plate of My Motorcycle bearing Registration No JKOIAK-2367 from Rawalpura to Rangreth Srinagar few days ago and intend to apply for duplicate.

Anybody having any objection may please fill his objection with Sadder Police Station within seven days after that no objection will be entertained.

Adnan Ahmed Bhat  
Rawalpura Srinagar

in

### PUBLIC NOTICE

My Name has been wrongly written in my passport bearing No: K6933252 as Syed Fayaz Ahmad Andrabi while my correct name is Syed Fayaz Ahmad which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the Passport Office Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Syed Fayaz Ahmad  
S/o Syed Ahamdullah  
R/o Ratnipora

laa

### Public Notice

I have lost my 8th pass Discharge & Provisional Certificates. Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Hanfia Anglo Arabic School Kawoosa Khalisa within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Nisar Ahmad Khan  
S/o Mohammad Sideeq Khan  
R/o Kawoosa Khalisa

bmj

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## Media And Publishing Outreach Conference Held At KU

Observer News Service

Srinagar: As an outreach and capacity-building initiative in the region, Publications Division (DPD), Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India organised a Media & Publishing Conference in Srinagar in association with the Public Relations Centre, University of Kashmir on Monday. The conference was held in the Gandhi Bhawan of the University.

The event had eminent speakers including administrators, linguists, academicians, and domain experts. Prof. Nilofer Khan, Vice Chancellor University of Kashmir was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

In her Presidential Address, Honourable Vice Chancellor Uni-

versity of Kashmir Prof Nilofer

reading by the general masses. Registrar University of Kashmir Dr Nisar Ahmad Mir said the current media conference can become a starting point for developing a lasting linkage between the University of Kashmir and various units of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry. The University of Kashmir, Dr Mir said, can help the Publications Division in reaching out to different stakeholders with their publications and also in undertaking various outreach activities. Media Advisor University of Kashmir Dr Saleema Jan gave the introductory remarks about the conference and its theme.

In a session on the development roadmap of the region, speakers dwelled upon the growth story in various sec-



versity of Kashmir Prof Nilofer Khan, appreciated the collaborative endeavor of the University's Public Relations Centre and the Publications Division of the I&B Ministry to hold this important media conference for the larger benefit of media professionals, students and the public at large.

Calling for more such collaborations in future for the benefit of media students of the University, Prof Nilofer assured that a dedicated space shall be identified in the University's Central Library for showcasing the journals, books which are brought out by the Publications Division from time to time. She said these publications are authentic and rich in content and deserve wider

tors and domains. The ADG, PIB, Chandigarh Region Shri Rajinder Chaudhry threw light upon the various Outreach Initiatives by the Ministry of I&B in J&K and Ladakh.

The concluding session of the conference was a panel discussion on Linguistics and Publishing Landscape with a focus on the heritage and richness of the languages in the region, notable literary work done, publishing landscape, challenges, and opportunities ahead.

An interesting talk on the Craft of Writing of English language and academic publications was given by Ajazul-Haque, Producer, Educational Multimedia Research Centre (EMRC), University of Kashmir.



Kashmir farmers on Monday protested at Press colony against halting of Fruit trucks near Qazigund on the Srinagar-Jammu Highway. KO Photo Abid Bhat

## DC Calls For Speeding Up Electoral Roll Revision

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, who is the District Election Officer (DEO) Monday chaired a meeting of all Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs), Heads of all City Colleges and Chief Education Officer to review ongoing drive for registration of all unregistered eligible voters of Srinagar District through Systematic Voter Education Electoral Participation (SVEEP) under ongoing Special Summary Revision (SSR)-2022.

At the outset, detailed deliberations were held in order to maximize the registration of eligible electors across 8 Assembly Constituencies of Srinagar District during the ongoing Special Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls-2022 having

qualifying date as 01/10/2022.

Aijaz stressed the officers to work with added zeal in better co-ordination and mobilise field functionaries within their jurisdiction to increase the percentage of enrolment particularly in the newly eligible 18+ year's age group.

The DEO asked them to adopt a multipronged Strategy and fill the gaps at micro level with targeted interventions to achieve the set targets. He asked the officers to undertake Door to Door survey by BLOs for enrolment.

The DEO further asked for conducting Special Enrolment Drive in Colleges and Schools by utilization of Electoral Literacy Clubs (ELCs) in all City Colleges besides appointing a Nodal Officer in the Colleges for enrolment drive. He also emphasized on holding Youth Voter Festival in all Colleges of the District to sensitize the students about the registration process, electoral process and power of their vote.

As part of ongoing extensive SVEEP campaign, the DEO directed all Officers to hold wide-ranging events, activities and outreach programs across all colleges and schools of district Srinagar in order to reach out to every eligible elector in the district till 25th October 2022. All eligible citizens who have attained the age of 18 or above and are born on or before 01-10-2004 must get registered in the electoral rolls.

Srinagar, Principals of all Degree Colleges of District Srinagar, Chief Education Officer (Nodal Officer SVEEP) Srinagar, District Level Master Trainers and other officials of District Election machinery.

## Sale Operations Of Several Pharma Dealers Suspended

Observer News Service

Srinagar: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, a team of the Drug Control Department Monday undertook a special drive to inspect the Pharma Dealers and Chemists Shops in various parts of the Srinagar City to ensure that pharmaceutical preparations are being sold in consonance with the prescriptions being generated by Registered Medical Practitioners.

The inspection teams of Zone Drug Controllers headed by Deputy Drugs Controller Nighat Jabeen inspected various markets in the Bemina area

to ascertain the implementation of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

During this inspection drives, inspecting teams observed that some of the chemist/drug establishments were found violating the provisions of the Act and operations of 3 Medical Establishments were disallowed u/s 22 (d) of Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940, while 3 other establishments were served show cause notice.

The Deputy Drug Controller also directed all the authorized stockists dealing with such kind of formulations to strictly restrict sale and distribution of aforementioned restricted drugs for the legitimate requirements only. They

were further directed to submit distribution details of formulations consisting of habit forming ingredients on monthly basis through designated mail, so that the concerned Drugs Control Officers shall check the rationality and curb the unethical trade of such drugs, failing which severe action under law shall be taken against such erring firms.

The DC further asked all Pharma and Chemist establishments operating in Srinagar to adhere to the laid down norms strictly and warned the defaulters to desist from any unethical trade practices, failing which strict action as warranted under the Act shall be taken against them.

## Children Hospital Bemina Starts Operations

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: The much awaited 500 bedded Children Hospital in Bemina area of the city started to function from Monday. The Hospital is set to raise the benchmark of health infrastructure in the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

An official said that all machinery and other equipment have been shifted to the hospital and it has started functioning.

He said that machinery and all equipment have been installed at the hospital so that the patients won't suffer.

As the hospital was thrown open, the hospital witnessed a rush of patients who lined up to get their children treated.

Speaking to Kashmir Observer, Medical Superintendent Children Hospital Dr Nazir Chaudhary said that the bedding capacity has been doubled at the hospital compared to G.B Pant Hospital.

### ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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#### NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

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

TENDER DETAILS			
No	ENIT No & Date	Advertised Cost of Construction	Class of Contract
1	Construction of Aluminium Partitions in DIC Lab etc at IUST Campus E-NIT No: -IUST/EW/22/TEND/AP/10A (Dated: 21-09-2022)	Rs. 7,58,955.00/=	"C & D"
2	Dismantling of Pre-Fabricated Structured Huts and Reusing the same at IUST Campus-I, Campus-II, and Synthetic Athletic Track E-NIT No: -IUST/EW/22/TEND/PH/14 (Dated: 21-09-2022)	Rs. 9,92,709.00/=	"C & D"
3	Construction of Multi use facilities at Canteen Block IUST Campus-I E-NIT No: -IUST/EW/22/TEND/MFC/15 (Dated: 21-09-2022)	Rs. 9,78,220.00/=	"C & D"
4	Construction of additional space in attic (under truss) at Engineering Wing Office (6 No Workstations) E-NIT No: -IUST/EW/22/TEND/EWO/13 (Dated: 21-09-2022)	Rs. 5,39,553.00/=	"C & D"

Availability of Tender document: Tender document can be downloaded from website (<https://jktenders.gov.in>)

Document Download Start Date: 21-09-2022

Bid submission Start Date: 21-09-2022

Bid submission End Date: 01-10-2022 upto 6:00 PM

Date of Submission of DD (Hard Copy): 03-10-2022 from 10:00 AM upto 4:00 PM

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- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

#### HIGHWAY STATUS

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

### HIJRI CALENDAR

1444

#### PRAYERS

FAJR	4 :59
ZUHR	12:22
ASR	4:40
Magrib	6:26
ISHA	7: 46

## This Day In History

- 1290 - Earthquake in Gulf of Chili China, reportedly kills 100,000
- 1794 - French troops conquer Crèvecoeur
- 1821 - Mexican revolutionary forces led by Agustín de Iturbide occupy Mexico City as Spanish withdraw, bringing an end to the Mexican War of Independence
- 1864 - Battle at Pilot Knob (Ft Davidson) American Civil War, Missouri: 1700 killed/injured
- 1905 - The physics journal Annalen der Physik publishes Albert Einstein's paper "Does the Inertia of a Body Depend Upon Its Energy Content?", introducing the equation  $E=mc^2$ .
- 1938 - League of Nations declares Japan the aggressor against China
- 1940 - Nazi Germany, Italy & Japan sign 10 year formal alliance (Axis)
- 1941 - US launches its 1st Liberty ship, freighter SS Patrick Henry
- 1951 - Persian troops occupy oil refinery at Abadan
- 1953 - Typhoon destroys one third of Nagoya, Japan
- 1961 - Sierre Leone becomes 100th member of UN
- 1973 - Soyuz 12 carries 2 cosmonauts into Earth orbit (2 days)
- 1981 - Iran defends its besieged port of Abadan, driving back Iraqi forces
- 1988 - The National League for Democracy, led by Aung San Suu Kyi is founded in Burma (Myanmar)
- 1991 - US President George H. W. Bush decides to end full-time B-52 bombers alert.
- 1993 - The Sukhumi massacre takes place in Abkhazia.
- 1996 - In Afghanistan, the Taliban capture the capital city Kabul after driving out President Burhanuddin Rabbani and executing former leader Mohammad Najibullah.
- 2001 - At its two-day meeting in Vienna, OPEC decides to keep its production quotas unchanged at 23.2 million barrels per day, despite crude oil being at its lowest price levels since 1999
- 2002 - Timor-Leste (East Timor) joins the United Nations.
- Event of interest: Event of Interest
- 2008 - CNSA astronaut Zhai Zhigang becomes the first Chinese person to perform a spacewalk while flying on Shenzhou 7.
- 2009 - German Federal elections return Angela Merkel for her second term as Chancellor at head of centre-right coalition government

## From KO Archives

## Israeli Experts Help India's Kashmir Ops

Agence France Presse

JERUSALEM - Israeli anti-terrorism experts have been helping India combat Muslim separatists in Jammu and Kashmir, the Israeli daily Haaretz reported Friday.

The despatch of the experts, who Haaretz said were winding up their mission Friday, came three months after a visit to Israel by Home Minister Lal Krishna Advani.

India is particularly interested in improving security along its border with Pakistan, especially in Kashmir, and in particular with blocking guerrilla infiltrations, Haaretz said.

The two sides are also discussing the possible purchase by India of Israel's Falcon Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) amid growing defence links between them.

India, which established diplomatic ties with the Jewish state in 1952 after a 40-year hiatus, is keen on intensifying military cooperation with Israel especially in the field of counter-insurgency.

The Arab world, however, accuses the pair of seeking to develop nuclear ties. Indian Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh visited Israel in June, the same month as Advani.

(Kashmir Observer, September 27, 2000)



## Palestinians Arrested, Injured As Far-Right Jews Enter Al-Aqsa



### Agenceis

Hundreds of ultranationalist Jews have entered the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in occupied East Jerusalem – under the protection of Israeli authorities – for the second day in a row, as Israeli police attacked Palestinians gathered in the compound and prevented others from entering.

The Palestinian Red Crescent says at least three Palestinians were injured on Monday by Israeli forces, while journalists reported that 10 others were arrested in and around the compound. Israeli forces were seen using batons to attack Palestinian women and elderly men, as well as journalists.

Palestinian journalists reported on Monday that at least 264 ultranationalist Israelis had entered the compound – one of the holiest sites in Islam and a Palestinian national symbol – in Jerusalem's Old City, which Israel occupied and illegally annexed in 1967. On Sunday, more than 400 had entered.

The number of ultranationalist Jews – supporters of Israel's settler movement – entering the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound increased on Sunday and Monday

in light of Rosh Hashanah, or the Jewish New Year, which is from September 25 to 27 this year.

Some of those who entered prayed at the site, despite a general consensus among Orthodox Jews that Jewish prayer is not allowed in the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound.

Jewish prayer at the site, which is also known as the Temple Mount to Jews, is seen as provocative by Palestinians, and a reversal of a decades-long consensus to not allow the practice.

That has led to increasing tension with Palestinians, who fear attempts by far-right Jews to take over the site. Some far-right Jews have openly expressed a desire to demolish Muslim structures in the Al-Aqsa compound to make way for what is referred to as the Third Temple.

Palestinians had gathered in the compound in an attempt to defend the site.

An elderly Palestinian man, Abubakr al-Shimi, was hospitalised after suffering head injuries when he was pushed to the ground by Israeli police in an incident that was filmed.

Israeli forces pushed away medical staff who attempted to treat al-Shimi.

## Person Who Has Support Of MLAs Will Be Next CM: Rajasthan Minister

### Agenceis

Amid the fast-paced political developments in Rajasthan, Food Minister Pratap Singh Khachariyawas on Sunday said democracy runs on numbers and whoever has the support of MLAs will be the state's next chief minister.

He also said that Congress MLAs reaching the assembly speaker's house should not be seen as a rebellion by the party high command.

High drama unfolded in Rajasthan as a group of Congress MLAs loyal to Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot reached Speaker C P Joshi's residence earlier on Sunday to submit their resignation ahead of a legislature party meeting which was called to decide on his successor.

The development suggested a worsening power struggle between the chief minister and Sachin Pilot, who was tipped to be Gehlot's replacement after he declared his candidature for the Congress president's post.

The group of MLAs earlier held a meeting at Minister Shanti Dhariwal's residence, which was seen as an attempt to thwart the possibility of Pilot being made the next chief minister.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Khachariyawas said the Congress leadership should not see the decision of party MLAs



to go to the assembly speaker's house as a rebellion.

"This should not be seen as a rebellion against the high command. We can give our life for the high command. This is about our Congress family," he said.

On Gehlot's successor, Khachariyawas said, "As of now Gehlot is the chief minister. In a democracy, an election is decided by counting votes. Democracy runs on numbers, whoever has the support of MLAs of Rajasthan will be the leader."

Khachariyawas also accused the BJP of trying to destabilise the Congress-led government.

"(During the meeting at Dhariwal's residence) the MLAs said that the BJP's conspiracy will not be successful. The people of the BJP have been trying to destabilise the government for the last

four years. The BJP wants to topple the Rajasthan government," he charged.

Gehlot and Pilot were at loggerheads for the chief minister's post soon after the Congress won the Assembly elections in December 2018. The high command then chose Gehlot as the chief minister for the third time while Pilot was made his deputy.

In July 2020, Pilot along with 18 party MLAs rebelled against Gehlot's leadership.

Earlier in the day, Gehlot said a one-line resolution stating all Congress legislators have full faith in the party president's decision on his successor is likely to be passed during the legislature party meeting.

The meeting, however, did not take place.

## "You're Not Fooling Anybody..." S Jaishankar On US' F-16 Deal With Pak

### AGENCEIS

**Washington:** External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has raised questions over the "merits" of the US-Pakistan relationship and said that Washington's ties with Islamabad have not served the "American interest". "It's a relationship that has neither ended up serving Pakistan well nor serving the American interests," Mr Jaishankar said at an event organised by the Indian American community in Washington on Sunday.

The remarks were made when the Indian minister was questioned by the audience on US action on F-16 fighter jets with Pakistan. Just weeks ago, for the first time since 2018, the US State Department approved a Foreign Military Sale (FMS) to the Government of Pakistan for the sustainability of the Pakistan Air Force F-16 fleet and equipment at the cost of USD 450 million.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh promptly conveyed to US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin India's



concerns over Washington's decision to provide a sustenance package for Pakistan's F-16 fleet.

"It's really for the United States today to reflect on the merits of this relationship and what they get by it," Mr Jaishankar asserted.

"For someone to say I am doing this because it is all counter-terrorism content and so when you are talking of an aircraft like a capability of an F-16 where everybody knows, you know where they are deployed and their use. You are not fooling anybody by saying these things," Mr Jaishankar noted.

"If I were to speak to an American policy-maker, I would really make the case (that) look what you are doing," he asserted.

Mr Jaishankar on Saturday concluded the high-level United Nations General Assembly debate in New York and is scheduled to spend the next three days in Washington.

The minister is scheduled to meet with his American counterpart, Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, and other top officials of the Biden administration.

**FOR SOMEONE TO SAY I AM DOING** this because it is all counter-terrorism content and so when you are talking of an aircraft like a capability of an F-16 where everybody knows, you know where they are deployed and their use. You are not fooling anybody by saying these things."

## "You'll See The Support": Shashi Tharoor, Running For Congress President

### Agenceis

**Palakkad:** Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on Monday claimed he has the support of party workers from across the country for his bid to fight the AICC president polls. Amid uncertainty over Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's candidature for the top party post, Mr Tharoor also met Rahul Gandhi on the sidelines of Bharat Jodo Yatra at Pattambi in Palakkad in north Kerala. Mr Tharoor said it was a courtesy call as Mr Gandhi was in his home district.

"You will see the support I enjoy when I submit my nomination paper. I will be in the fray if I get support from party workers from the majority of the states. So many people from different parts of the country have requested me to be in the fray," Mr Tharoor told reporters, reacting to a query on his candidature for the Congress president's post.

Mr Tharoor said he was interested in fighting the poll but the picture will be clearer only after September 30, the last date for submitting nomination papers.

The Thiruvananthapuram MP, who got the nomination form for the poll collected from the Congress headquarters last Saturday, said a candidate should fight the polls with confidence.

"I have got the form. I am meeting people and talking to them", he said.

Asked whether he has the support of the Nehru-Gandhi family in fighting the polls, the Congress leader said he had discussed the matter with Sonia Gandhi, Rahul, and Priyanka, and "and all three have directly told me that they don't have any issues". He also claimed the support of party workers in Kerala in his bid to fight the polls.

Mr Tharoor had met Sonia



Gandhi last Monday and expressed his intention to contest the poll.

The Congress president conveyed she would stay "neutral" in the elections, according to sources.

Sonia Gandhi had welcomed the idea of more people contesting the poll and dispelled the notion that there would be an "official candidate".

According to a notification issued by the party on Thursday, the process for filing nominations for the election will be held from September 24 to 30.

The date for scrutiny of the nomination papers is October 1, while the last date for withdrawal of nominations is October 8.

The final list of candidates will be published at 5 pm on October 8. The polling, if needed, will be held on October 17.

The counting of votes will be taken up on October 19 and the results will be declared the same day.

More than 9,000 Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) delegates will vote in the poll.

The Congress last saw a contest for the party president's post in November 2000.

Jitendra Prasad had lost to Sonia Gandhi in 2000 and prior to that, Sitaram Kesri had defeated Sharad Pawar and Rajesh Pilot in 1997.

## "Why Encroaching On Others' Rights?": Court To Jain Bodies Over Meat Ads

### Agenceis

**Mumbai:** The Bombay High Court on Monday asked three Jain religious charitable trusts and a city resident practicing Jainism why they were seeking to encroach on the rights of others by appealing for restrictions or ban on advertisements for meat and meat products in print and electronic media.

A division bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice Madhav Jamdar further noted that the issue falls within the domain of the legislature and it cannot frame law/rules imposing bans.

Three religious charitable trusts and a Mumbai resident practising Jainism, claimed in their plea that their families, including children, are forced to watch such advertisements.

This infringed on their right to live peacefully and "tamper" with the minds of their children, the petitioners contended.

The high court while hearing the plea on Monday raised questions on the prayers made in the petition.

"What about violation of Article 19 of the Constitution? Why are you (petitioners) seeking to encroach on others' rights? Have you read the Preamble of our Constitution? It makes certain promises," Chief Justice Datta said.

The bench also noted that it may not have the jurisdiction to pass orders on the petition.

"You are asking the high court to order the state government to frame a rule, law or guidelines to ban something. This is a legislative action. It is for the legislature to say...not us," the court said.

The court noted that while an ordinary person has the option of switching off the television when such an ad comes, the court would have to look at the issue on the point of law.

## 6 Pak Military Personnel Killed In Second Chopper Crash In A Month



### Agenceis

**Islamabad:** Six Pakistan servicemen were killed in a helicopter crash in southwestern Pakistan, the military said Monday, the second deadly chopper incident in just over a month.

The helicopter went down near Khost, a small town in Balochistan province bordering Afghanistan and Iran.

"A helicopter on a flying mission crashed late last night. Six personnel – including two army majors (both pilots) embraced shahadat(martyrdom) in the crash,"

the military said in a statement.

No further details were given about the cause of the crash or type of aircraft. The area where the helicopter came down has not been hit by recent flooding. In early August, six Pakistan servicemen including one of the army's top commanders were killed when their helicopter crashed during flood relief operations in Balochistan.

Fierce monsoon rains have caused devastating flooding in Pakistan this year – particularly in Sindh and Balochistan provinces.

More than 1,600 people have died, 323 in Balochistan.

### NEWS MAKERS

## Influential Muslim Religious Leader Yusuf Al-Qaradawi Dies

### Agenceis

Sheikh Yusuf al-Qaradawi, one of the Sunni Muslim world's most influential religious scholars, has died.

Al-Qaradawi, an Egyptian who was based in Qatar, was the chairman of the International Union of Muslim Scholars, and also a spiritual leader for the Muslim Brotherhood. He was 96 years old.

His death on Monday was announced on his official Twitter account. Al-Qaradawi, who formerly made regular appearances on Al Jazeera Arabic to discuss religious matters, hosted a popular TV program, "Shariah and Life," in which he took calls from across the Muslim world, dispensing theological rulings and offering advice on everything from global politics to mundane aspects of daily life.

Al-Qaradawi was highly critical of the coup that overthrew Egypt's first democratically elected president, Mohamed Morsi, in 2013.

Morsi had been a member of the Muslim Brotherhood before he became president, and was backed by the movement.

Al-Qaradawi was unable to return



to Egypt following Morsi's overthrow due to his opposition to Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi.

The religious leader had previously been in exile from Egypt prior to the 2011 revolution that overthrew former President Hosni Mubarak.

His death sparked strong reactions across the Muslim world, as people took to social media to mourn his death.

The Muslim Brotherhood, which was founded in Egypt and had branches across the region, played a considerable role in the 2011 uprisings that rocked the Middle East and led to widespread demonstrations in several countries across the region.

Al-Qaradawi had been tried and

sentenced to death in absentia in Egypt.

Al Jazeera's Jamal El Shayyal, said Qaradawi authored "more than 120 books and more than 50-60 other publications that spoke to a large section of the global Muslim community".

"He was probably the most internationalised Muslim scholar that Islam had in modern days – probably the single most influential in that he didn't limit his teachings to a specific section of Islam," he said.

Qaradawi often spoke about modern day issues, including everything from the "permissibility of relationships to elections and democracy to social justice issues," El Shayyal added.

Born in 1926, while Egypt was still under British colonial rule, Al-Qaradawi combined religious education with anti-colonial activism during his youth. His activism against the British occupation and later, his association with the Muslim Brotherhood led to his arrest several times during the 1950s.

He moved to Qatar in the early 1960s when he was appointed Dean of the Faculty of Shariah at Qatar University and then later granted Qatari citizenship.

## Couple Use Fake Matrimonial Profiles To Cheat ₹1.6 Crore In UP: Police



### Agenceis

**Moradabad:** A couple was arrested in Uttar Pradesh's Moradabad for allegedly duping 35 people of over ₹1.6 crore by making fake matrimonial profiles.

The Civil Lines Police Station and the Cyber Cell team arrested the couple using fake matrimonial websites to dupe people. While the man is from Jharkhand, the woman is from Bihar and the two are married.

As per the police, the two have duped around 35 people so far and have made around ₹ 1,63,83,000 by doing this.

During a press conference, the Circle Officer of Civil Lines,

DSP Anup Kumar Yadav revealed information about the incident.

"A complaint was received at the Moradabad Civil Lines Police Station by a Colonel that a person duped around ₹ 27 lakh from his daughter on the pretext of marriage. After this, an investigation team was formed with Civil Lines Police Station and the Cyber Cell team. After investigation, two persons were arrested who will be presented before the honourable court," DSP Anup Kumar said.

As per information collected so far, the two have duped around 35 people in the last year and a half, he said.

## Monkey Tries To Snatch Baby From Her Mother Near Mumbai, Leaves Her Injured

### Agenceis

**Thane:** A one-month-old girl was injured after a monkey sneaked into a police station in Maharashtra and tried to snatch the baby from her mother, an official said.

The incident took place on Sunday when the woman carrying the infant went to Shil Daighar police station in Thane city to file a complaint.

At the same time, a monkey sneaked into the premises, jumped on the woman, and tried to snatch the baby, the official said. The woman held the baby tightly and saved her from the animal's clutches.

The child, however, suffered injuries in the incident, the official said. The woman rushed the bleeding child to a nearby hospital where the baby received five stitches on her head for the injuries, he said. The child's condition is stable, the official said.

The woman told reporters that she had seen the monkey at the police station and wanted to drive it away. In the attempt, the animal pounced on her child.

"I was shocked, but luckily, I managed to save my child," she said.

Forest personnel later reached the police station and took the monkey away to release it into the wild, the official said.





## Mehta Inaugurates Navratra Festival At Katra



Observer News Service

**KATRA:** Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Monday inaugurated the Navratra Festival 2022 in a glittering function here at Yog Ashram, Katra in presence of Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, Director Tourism, Jammu, Vivekanand Rai; CEO, Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Anshul Garg; DC, Reasi, Babila Rakwal besides other senior officers.

The inaugural ceremony was marked with traditional puja and formal reception of all important guests by presentation of Mata ki Chunaries. A colourful cultural and devotional program was presented by renowned artist groups which mesmerized the public with their vibrant performances. Also, a Laser Show on Mata Ki Kahani was displayed which was well appreciated by the audience.

Dr Mehta, who was Chief Guest on the occasion said that the administration is dedicated towards facilitating the tourists with quality services at Katra. He congratulated the local community on the auspicious occasion of Navratra and extended warm greetings for the same.

Anshul Garg while welcoming the guests said "Navratras are the time to welcome new beginnings. This time to celebrate the holy occasion of Navratra Shrine Board has installed welcome gates and selfie point at Katra for the devotees. Also, physically challenged devotees will be provided horses and battery cars free of cost to make it easier for them to visit the Shrine".

Divisional Commissioner,

Jammu appreciated the role of Tourism Department, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, District Administration Reasi, Central Bureau of Communication, UT of J&K and Ladakh and all other agencies for putting up facilities for the successful conduct of the festival.

The Navratra festival which was started in 1996, has today metamorphosed into an event of outrageous proportions with thousands of people coming together not only to pay obeisance to Maa Vaishno Devi Ji, but also to be the part of grand celebrations. Bright lights, drape of varied hues, sound of folk and devotional music in the background shall be a common occurrence during these Navratras at Katra/Jammu.

The main highlights of the Nine days event to be organized at Katra from 26th September to 04th October are Ramleela, All India Devotional Song Competition, Bhagwat Katha, Prabhat Pheri, Shoba Yatra, Mata Ki Kahani, Laser Show on theme of Mata Ki Kahani, Hum Bhi Kam Nahi Talent Show, Wrestling Competition, Hassaya Vyang and Kavi Sammelan etc. Besides, cultural program and multimedia exhibition by Central Bureau of Communication, UT of J&K and Ladakh shall be held at Higher Secondary School, Katra were distinguished performance from throughout India shall present their art forms.

Lastly, the vote of thanks was presented by Director Tourism, Jammu extended his gratitude and appreciation to all the stakeholders for their commitment and overwhelming support.

## Mainly Dry Weather Forecast In J&K

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Minimum temperature recorded a drop at most places even as the weather department on Monday forecast mainly dry weather with possibility of isolated rain in Jammu and Kashmir in next 24 hours.

A meteorological department official here said that there was no large change expected in the weather in the subsequent two days.

In the last 24 hours till 0830 hours, he said, Srinagar received 1.9mm rain, Qazigund 6.2mm, Pahalgam 8.6mm, Kupwara 2.8mm, Kulkernag 10.6mm, Gulmarg 0.6mm, Jammu 1.4mm, Banihal 8.4mm, Batote 24.2mm, Katra 4.2mm, Bhaderwah 47.2mm and Kathua 27.2mm.

Regarding the minimum temperature, he said, Srinagar recorded a low of 14.6°C against 15.8°C on the previous night. The temperature was 4.2°C above normal for the summer capital during this time of the year, he said.

Qazigund recorded a low of

9.0°C against 15.0°C on the previous night. The temperature was 0.1°C above normal there, he said.

In Pahalgam, the mercury settled at 6.4°C against 12.3°C on the previous night and it was 0.2°C above normal for the south Kashmir resort, he said.

Kulkernag recorded a low of 9.0°C against 13.5°C the previous night and it was 0.6°C below normal for the place, he said.

World famous Gulmarg resort recorded a low of 4.0°C against 6.2°C on the previous night. It was 3.0°C below normal for the north Kashmir place, he said.

In Kupwara town, the mercury settled at 12.6°C against 14.6°C on the previous night, the official said. It was 3.3°C above normal for the north Kashmir place, he said.

Jammu recorded a low of 19.7°C against 22.7°C on the previous night. It was 2.0°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said. Banihal recorded a low of 10.8°C, Batote 11.2°C, Katra 17.7°C and Bhaderwah 9.8°C. (GNS)

## IASOWA J&K Distributes books At GMS Dodhi Gujjar Colony

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** The members of IAS Officers Wives Association (IASOWA), J&K led by President IASOWA, J&K, Dr Amita Mehta visited Government Middle School Dodhi Gujjar Colony, in zone Purmandal, in connection with donation drive held by the association.

President IASOWA, J&K, Dr Amita Mehta is the wife of Chief Secretary Jammu & Kashmir, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta.

A number of story books, sports articles, educational aids, brain games, indoor games etc. were distributed among the students during the drive.

Dr Amita Mehta informed that the members of the association have adopted the verdayani learning centre of the school and would regularly visit the school to assess the quality of education and other co-curricular activities.

In her speech she emphasised that the IASOWA J&K would continue working towards the environment and for the betterment of the underprivileged sections of the society, especially women and children.

Other members of IASOWA also spoke on the occasion.

She assured that the demands made by the school committee have been duly noted and would be forwarded to the concerned for appropriate action.

The members of IASOWA present at the occasion included Dr Rashmi Singh, Ankita Kar, Geetanjali Singhla, Anuradha Jangid and Divya Yadav among others.

Chief Education Officer, Zonal Education Officer, Principal GMS were also present.

Pertinent to mention, the IASOWA J&K regularly undertakes various activities of social welfare all over the UT.

# Didn't Consult Any Political Party Before Forming DAP: Azad

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Asserting that he had not consulted any political party before launching his Democratic Azad Party (DAP), former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Ghulam Nabi Azad on Monday said he does not consider leaders of other parties as his enemies and respects every politician and religion equally.

Azad said he has told his party colleagues to stick to their ideology and principles and not use abusive language against others.

Azad (73) ended his five-decade-long association with the Congress last month to launch the DAP with the support of more than two dozen former Jammu and Kashmir ministers and legislators of the grand old party, including former deputy chief minister Tara Chand.

"Many people level wild allegations that we have links with this party or that party. I want to make it clear that we only have an agreement with our hearts and minds, besides the people of Jammu and Kashmir and none else.

"We had not consulted any other party before forming our party. Only our colleagues here and in Kashmir were on board. No regional or national political party had any knowledge about it -- neither about the formation of the new party nor its name," Azad told reporters here.

The former Union minister said the DAP has its own ideology, approach and thinking based on the Gandhian philosophy that led to the country's independence.

Expressing displeasure over



levelling of allegations and counter-allegations, he said, "We are a cultured society and such things should not be there."

"We respect all religions and all political parties. I met my colleagues throughout Sunday, both seniors as well as youngsters, and asked them not to indulge in squabbles or speak against anyone.

"We have to draw a line and tell ourselves that political parties and enmity are two different things. The other parties are our political competitors like students in a classroom. Some score high or low marks and some fail in the exams, but they still remain as students and not become enemies," Azad added.

He said people are the real fountains of power as they decide the fate of all political leaders.

"Let everyone talk about his party, ideology, plans and manifestoes. The people are the masters, who will see and decide the fate of the contestants," he said.

The veteran politician said Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians are like the four chambers of his heart, which are dependent on each other and there is no space for hatred.

Asked whether he plans to contest the next Jammu and Kashmir Assembly election, Azad said it will be considered only after the polls are declared.

However, he said, "The priority is to register our party but simultaneously, we will continue with our activities because the polls can be declared anytime."

He also said the DAP will try to give 50 per cent poll tickets to youngsters and women.

10th, 11th, 12th Board Exams

## 444 Schools Of J&K, Ladakh Declared Hard Zones

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Following the implementation of Uniform Academic Calendar, the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (BOSE) has declared

Leh district of Ladakh and 444 other schools as hard zones and has subsequently ordered to conduct the annual regular exams of these areas in the month of April.

BOSE has said, "Annual Regular Examinations held by the JKBOSE of classes 10th, 11th and 12th shall be held in the month of March in the both the divisions of Union territory of JK and Union Territory of Ladakh excluding hard zones and hard areas."

The Board notification states that annual regular examination of hard zones and hard areas of Union territory of JK and Union territory of Ladakh shall be held in the month of April.

"The results of Annual regular

examination of Kashmir division and Jammu division and Union territory of Ladakh including hard zones and hard areas shall be declared simultaneously in the month of June," it reads.

It also reads that the annual private and bi-annual examination in Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Union territory of Ladakh shall be held in the month of August and its result shall be declared in the month of October.

"The revised academic calendar for the current academic session depicting schedule of the activities of JKBOSE like tentative date for submission of examination, forms, conduct of examination, declaration of results etc has also been declared," reads the notification.

Pertinently, in August, the government has said that instead of the November-December session, it will commence with the annual regular board

examinations of 10th-12th standard from March.

Prior to the decision, the School Education Department earlier in May had sought a detailed report from the panel constituted for preparing the uniform academic calendar for both divisions of Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier the Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir, Arun Kumar Mehta had said that Jammu and Kashmir will fully implement the National Education Policy (NEP) from the current academic session.

Mehta has also said that the implementation of NEP-2020 will also move to a uniform academic calendar which in turn will be synchronized to the national academic calendar.

In July, the Jammu and Kashmir Higher Education Department (HED) said that Uniform Academic Calendar shall be followed from academic year 2022-23--(KNO)

## J&K Cong Extends Support To Protesting KP Employees

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** The Jammu and Kashmir unit of the Congress on Monday extended support to Kashmiri Pandit employees engaged under the prime minister's package for migrants who have been protesting for relocation to safer places outside the Valley.

Cracking down on the agitating employees, the Jammu and Kashmir administration has issued orders to stop their salaries. The employees have been staging a dharna since May when one of the employees, Rahul Bhat, was shot dead by militants in his office in Budgam.

"The migrant employees have been protesting for about four months now, and instead of paying heed to their genuine demands, the BJP, through the lieutenant governor, is blackmailing them by withholding their salaries," JKPC spokesperson Deepika Singh Rajawat said.

"I am astonished to see this administration threatening these employees to fall in line at such a sensitive time when the



security situation in the valley is in shambles," Rajawat said, adding that their salaries should be released immediately.

By stopping their salaries, the administration is trying to exact revenge from them for a crime they have not committed, the Congress leader said.

"Instead of devising a robust solution to the ensuing crises in the valley, this regime is trying to crush them into submission. The regime is further victimising an

already battered and victimised community," Rajawat said.

"All genuine demands of the protesting employees must be conceded and the order withholding their salaries shall be immediately withdrawn," she said. "A proper and suitable transfer policy should be invoked for the welfare of migrant employees and treating them like a liability on the Union territory should be stopped."

## J&K Emerges Best Performing UT For Enrolment Under AB-PMJAY

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** With substantial health insurance coverage to populace of the Union Territory, Jammu and Kashmir has bagged best performing Union Territory category for enrolment under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).

Union Health and Family Welfare Minister, Mansukh Mandaviya, presented the prestigious award to State Health Agency during a two day Arogya Manthan held in New Delhi to commemorate completion of four years of implementation of Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana and one year of completion of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).

All the states and Union Territories participated in the Manthan.

During the event, the State Health Agencies exhibited the best practices adopted in their respective states and UTs towards making these schemes a great success.

Secretary Health & Medical Education (H&ME), J&K, Dr Bhupinder Kumar, who represented J&K State Health Agency, showcased the best practices adopted in the UT resulting successful implementation of AB-PMJAY.

He also highlighted the progress achieved, so far, by J&K in beneficiary identification and

feedback mechanism under Ayushman Bharat.

Dr Bhupinder Kumar; Chief Executive Officer, State Health Agency J&K, Ayushi Sudan and State Nodal Officer J&K, Sanam Mansoor received the award from Union Health and Family Welfare Minister, Mansukh Mandaviya at Vigyan Bhawan.

Pertinently, J&K has been recognized for its best practices in booklet on best practices and innovations which was launched by CEO, NHA, Dr R S Sharma at the event.

Union Health Minister, while addressing the valedictory function, appreciated the J&K administration for generation of golden cards.

Notably, J&K has covered 90 per cent of the beneficiary families in terms of golden card generation, so far. The innovative practices adopted by the UT government in generation of golden cards has resulted in better utilization of services by the beneficiaries. The State Health Agency has rolled out an ambitious door-to-door exercise to achieve 100 percent saturation under the Ayushman Bharat PMJAY SEHAT scheme.

Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) SEHAT has crossed a major milestone of providing 5 lakh free treatments to the citizens of J&K recently.

## Prasad Assumes Charge As Principal Secy PDD

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Senior IAS officer H. Rajesh Prasad on Monday assumed charge as Principal Secretary Power Development Department here at Civil Secretariat.

After assuming office, Prasad held an introductory meeting with senior officers and discussed various functions of the department.

Senior officers and officials of PDD among others welcomed Prasad on the occasion.

## Terrorist Killed In Kulgam Encounter: Police

2 Civilians, Soldier Also Injured During Exchange Of Fire

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** An unidentified terrorist was killed while two civilians and a soldier were in an ongoing encounter in South Kashmir's Pulwama district, police said Monday.

The encounter, according to a police spokesperson, started when a joint team of police and army laid a cordon around Batpora village following information about the presence of terrorists there.

In the initial exchange of gunfire, he said, two civilians and

a civilian were injured. All of them were removed to the hospital for treatment.

"01 Army soldier & 02 civilians got injured in the ongoing #encounter. All the 03 injured shifted to hospital for treatment. #Operation going on. Further details shall follow," Police posted on its official Twitter handle.

In another Tweet, the police spokesperson claimed to have killed an unknown terrorist in the ongoing gun-battle.

#KulgamEncounterUpdate: 01 #terrorist of proscribed #terror outfit JeM killed. Identification of the killed terrorist being ascertained. #Search going on. Further details shall follow.

## Youth Festival Celebrated At High Ground Anantnag

Observer News Service

**ANANTNAG:** Army's 1 RR in collaboration with District Administration Anantnag with participation by Departments of School Education and Youth Services and Sports on Monday organized a colorful Youth Festival at High Ground, here.

The event was attended by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr Basharat Qayoom as Chief Guest while Commanding Officer 1 RR, District Social Welfare Officer and other officers of Civil Administration and Indian Army also graced the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that such programmes are being organized to provide a platform for the youth to showcase their talent and to keep them away from drug addiction, unlawful activities and to polish their talent.

He said the intent is to make students aware regarding the various career opportunities available so that students can leverage their talent to bring a good name to the district. He congratulated CO 1 RR and others involved in organizing the festival for putting up a good show.

Besides, teachers and students from different institutions, specially abled persons, local artists, youth icons and the general public participated in the festival.

Motivating youth to pursue their passion in sports, athletics, culture, music, business etc, various events including cultural programmes, sufi songs, games and food stalls, online singing and dance competition, career counseling, talks by young achievers, Dog skill show, know your Army, martial arts display, empowerment of women and specially abled persons were presented.

Encouraging youth to chase their dreams passionately, youth icon Aadil Teeli (Cyclist) interacted with them and shared his story of struggle, perseverance and subsequent success.

On the occasion, stalls of various national and multinational companies, University of Dehradun Web help, etc were erected to impart career counselling and guidance to youth.

Hearing aids and wheelchairs were also distributed among the specially abled persons by the DC.

Dr Basharat said that various specially abled persons are being facilitated by way of providing wheelchairs, prosthetic aids to empower them to compete and demonstrate their talents so that they can contribute to the society.

The youth appreciated Administration, Army and concerned departments for the initiative and called for more such events to be held.



KASHMIR OBSERVER

New Azad Party

Former veteran Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad on Monday formally floated a new party and named it Democratic Azad Force (DAF). He also released his party flag with three strips in different colours—mustard, white and dark blue. Talking to the media, Azad made measured noises while being mindful of the sensitivities in Kashmir Valley and Jammu division. He refrained from pitting himself against the other parties saying political opponents are not enemies. He asserted that everyone had a right to propagate their own policies and programmes in a democracy and that it was for the people to choose any of them. The DAF leader also brought up the cancellation of the annual darbar move saying the arrival of people from Kashmir used to boost business activities in Jammu. And addressing concerns in Kashmir, Azad called on the administration to give priority to the movement of fruit-laden trucks from Kashmir to elsewhere in the country as the fruits have shorter shelf life.

Azad is planning more rallies across the union territory to drum up support for his new party. And his message is resonating with a significant section of the population. For one, his exit has by and large depleted the local Congress ranks. It only further reinforces the once vaunted national party's image of a sinking ship. And in J&K, as a result, Congress has ceased to be a viable political force with hardly any vote-gathering leader left in the party. Major J&K Congress leaders with a substantial following in their respective constituencies have joined Azad. Among them are leaders like Taj Mohiuddin, Ghulam Mohammad Saroori and Pirzada Mohammad Sayeed and the like. This is expected to enable Azad to make deep inroads into the constituencies of the other parties, particularly the Muslim vote bank which may or may not go to the advantage of the BJP.

But there is a counter opinion too which sees Azad as a viable challenger to both the BJP and the Kashmir-based parties. Some even see him as a future chief minister. Should he get more seats, the former Congress leader is also seen as a favourite to form the next government with the support of Kashmir-based parties. But for now, these analyses are in the realm of speculation.

Azad has also nullified the earlier rumours of joining the saffron party by floating his own party. His is the second party to have come up in J&K following the revocation of Article 370 in August 2019. The first one is the Apni Party led by the businessman turned politician Altaf Bukhari which sees the withdrawal of Article 370 as a fait accompli. Azad also doesn't insist on the reversal of the move but wants land and job rights for the "native domiciles," only. This demand is something on which there is a room for a potential consensus between Kashmir and Jammu. However, the coming weeks and months will reveal whether Azad's message resonates with the people or not.

OTHER OPINION

Let the rupee fall

On Wednesday, the US Federal Reserve stepped up its efforts to tackle inflation, raising interest rates by 75 basis points for the third straight time. The benchmark federal funds rate now stands at 3-3.25 per cent — the highest since the financial crisis of 2008. While the decision is in line with market expectations, the tone of the policy, the projections therein were markedly hawkish. The central bank left no room for ambiguity, stating emphatically that it "is strongly committed to returning inflation to its 2 per cent objective". The Fed dot plot — a chart that plots the projection of each the Fed official of the central bank's short term rate — indicates that the benchmark rate will rise to 4.4 per cent by the end of this year. This signals another rate hike of at least 75 basis points when the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meets next in November, followed by another hike, though possibly of a slightly lower magnitude in December. With rates expected to rise further to 4.6 per cent in 2023, this revised likely trajectory of the interest rates also douses expectations of the Fed either holding or lowering rates next year.

The "pain" that will be induced to bring US inflation down is likely to be significant. As per the projections accompanying the policy, economic growth has now been pegged at 0.2 per cent this year, significantly lower than the earlier assessment of 1.7 per cent. Alongside, the Fed has upped its estimate of the unemployment rate, expecting it to rise to 3.8 per cent this year, and further to 4.4 per cent next year. As Jerome Powell, chairman of the Federal Reserve, noted, "I wish there was a painless way to do that. There isn't". This pain will be felt across sectors, across asset classes, across the world.

With the US dollar hitting a fresh 20 year high — the dollar index is hovering around 111 — there is pressure on other currencies. The Euro is at around multi-decadal lows, and currencies of emerging market economies are also under pressure to depreciate. The Indian rupee also weakened sharply against the dollar, crossing the psychological mark of 80 — on Thursday, it closed at a record low of 80.86 against the dollar, down from 79.975 in the previous session. So far, the RBI has been drawing down its foreign exchange reserves, intervening actively in the currency markets. But, considering the strengthening of the dollar, a deteriorating current account deficit, the RBI should limit its interventions, allow the currency to adjust.

Indian Express

Power Consolidation in China



Chinese President Xi Jinping stands next to Premier Li Keqiang, Politburo Standing Committee members (Photo Credit: Reuters)

Asad Mirza

The 20th Congress of China's Communist Party will begin on 16 October, a five yearly exercise. This time it is expected to approve Xi Jinping as the country's paramount leader for the third unprecedented time

Recent rumours of a military or a political coup in China seem to be largely unsubstantiated and unreliable. They can be dismissed based on the fact that the current leadership has, in the past week, acted harshly against what it called a "political clique" against the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). This is not a new phenomenon and more or less, happens before every major party conference.

Last week, China's former Deputy Public Security Minister Sun Lijun, former Justice Minister Fu Zhenghua and three former police chiefs of Shanghai, Chongqing and Shanxi provinces were jailed for life, after being denounced for "seriously damaging the unity of the party". This was also intended as a message to anti-Xi forces to fall in line and support the current leader.

Though there is little doubt that Xi is poised to win five more years as China's paramount leader, extending a tenure that began in late 2012, there is still uncertainty about how much influence he will wield over the formation of a new power structure. But the Congress will also end speculations about China's rising stars on the horizon.

20th CCP Congress

Xi, 69, is widely expected to be exempt from the party's informal "seven up, eight down" rule that ordinarily requires senior officials who are 68 or older to step down.

The rule will also not be applicable to everyone in the party's inner circles, meaning at least two of the seven-member Politburo Standing Committee and half of the 25-strong Politburo will probably retire.

But the new structure could be even more innovative, as there have been suggestions that Xi may shrink the CCP standing committee to five members, giving him more freedom, and replace some of those members who have yet to reach 68 by having them retire to make way for his supporters.

CCP over the years

Mao Zedong overshadowed the Chinese political system for the first 27 years of the CCP rule. Until his death in 1976, Mao had the final word on every state and party matter including deciding the leadership's formation, enlarging or shrinking the size of the Politburo and the standing com-

Though there is little doubt that Xi is poised to win five more years as China's paramount leader, extending a tenure that began in late 2012, there is still uncertainty about how much influence he will wield over the formation of a new power structure. But the Congress will also end speculations about China's rising stars on the horizon

mittee at will.

In 1978, Deng Xiaoping became the paramount leader. Though considered very powerful, he also had to consult with seven other senior party members, a group known collectively as the "Eight Elders" or the "Eight Immortals".

By 1989 with Jiang Zemin's rise to power and after Deng Xiaoping's death in 1997, consensus politics had started to take hold in the CCP. The top party leadership introduced channels to balance and institutionalise power, and to improve accountability and governance.

Jiang, for instance, introduced the "seven up, eight down" practice. Jiang's successor Hu Jintao, from 2002 to 2012 further institutionalised Consensus rule, through intra-party democracy, through straw polls and competitive elections for the members of the party's Central Committee.

Xi's Tenure

This led to June 2007, about four months before the party's 17th Congress at which Xi was inducted into the Politburo Standing Committee, when a straw poll was held for the first time among all Central Committee members and other leading officials to recommend provisional candidates for the new 25-member Politburo.

Five years later, in May 2012, the party's elite officials again met in Beijing to make recommendations on candidates not only for the 25-member Politburo, but more importantly the Standing Committee, also. This poll was then used as a benchmark to shape the new leadership line-up for the 18th Congress, at which Xi emerged as party supremo.

However, Jinping did not like the previous electoral methods. Before the party's 19th Congress in October 2017, from which Xi emerged as a stronger leader having secured a second term,

the party leadership found serious faults with the straw poll method. Ahead of the 19th Congress, Xi opted instead for face-to-face meetings to select the new leadership.

The most obvious prerequisite for being elected to the new party structure is to be seen as being loyal to the current leader and party leadership besides possessing experience in key areas like ability to handle crises, a proven track record of competency, the ability to earn Xi's trust, a highly educated background and strong regional leadership experience.

In the forthcoming Congress, many contenders for top posts also share close connections to Xi and his trusted aides and have professional expertise in areas such as technology and business.

Several of Xi's former associates in Zhejiang and Fujian provinces are expected to be promoted to even higher positions. One such high-flyer is Shanghai party chief Li Qiang, and the other one is He Lifeng, who is in charge of the National Development and Reform Commission.

Some other regional chiefs are also seen as strong candidates for advancement, even though they have not been associated directly with Xi before he became president. This includes Guangdong party boss Li Xi; Fujian party secretary Yin Li and Shanghai mayor Gong Zheng; Liu Haixing, a seasoned diplomat; Liu Jieyi, currently Head of the State Council's Taiwan Affairs Office, and might be the next Chinese foreign minister; Liu Zhenli, commander of the PLA's ground forces and Shen Yiqin, one of the few women in a provincial party leadership role or on the Central Committee, Shen is a front runner to succeed Sun Chunlan as a Politburo member when she retires. Vice-Premier Sun is currently the only woman in the Politburo.

A confident Xi looking set to secure his third term as the party chief at the Congress, has plans to achieve the target of creating a more modern socialist China by 2049 – the centenary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, and to accomplish this dream he needs a new leadership line-up which will help him take forward and deliver that promise or a legacy which we would want to leave behind.

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



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Women Shouldn't Relinquish Right to Inheritance

THIS is in reference to the recently released National Family Health Survey 2019-20 (NFHS-5) fact sheet for Jammu and Kashmir which states that only 57.3% women in the UT own a house and/or land, alone or jointly. Even though these figures might be read as "at least more than half women own property" but given that all women are coparceners in one or the other way, it should raise questions. J and K is a Muslim majority region and Islam entitles a sister to inherit half of what a brother gets as a coparcener. Despite this fact, the number of women owning a property

is almost half of that of men.

Women asking for their coparcenary rights is considered taboo and a lot of women seem to have internalized that asking for inheritance rights will break their relationship with other members of the family, especially brothers. As a result, they sign relinquishment deeds without giving a second thought about it. This inheritance of property is mostly seen as a matter of money and wealth, but it goes beyond that, at least for women. Economically speaking, ownership of any kind of property by women is a very important determinant in the quest for women empow-

erment. In the realist world wherever everyone is responsible for their own survival, women should not expect their male relatives to care for them. Unless women do not attach economical value to their lives, they will have no power. This is especially true for unemployed women who do not have financial independence. Since inheritance of property is a given- however small value it may have, they do not have to get an education or work for getting it. The only thing they need to do is not to sign the relinquishment deed.

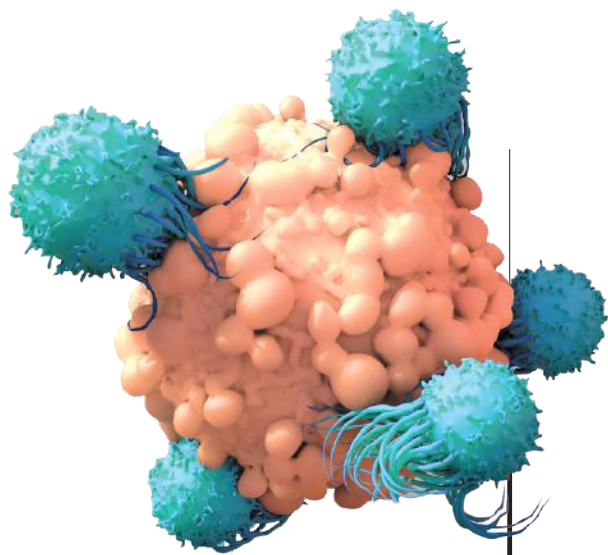
Relinquishment of coparcenary rights militates against women

empowerment. It is high time that women ask for their inheritance rights that the constitution as well as the religion gives them. The right to inheritance also seems one of its kind means to women empowerment where people peddling religiosity may not find a reason to oppose it. Women should know that signing a relinquishment deed may lose them a lifetime opportunity for leading a respectful life in this patriarchal world.

Haris Rashid  
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# Cancer In Under 50s Is Rising, Globally – Why?



“

What we are exposed to in early life can affect our risk of developing cancer later in life, and this review of cancer trends looks at how these factors might be affecting early-onset cancers. What exposures matter in early life are still not fully clear, but front-runners include diet, lifestyle, the environment and the bugs that live in our gut



Siobhan Glavey

We know what we need to do to reduce our risk of getting cancer, right? Wear SPF, stop smoking, avoid processed foods, keep fit, lose weight and get enough sleep. But what if much of what causes cancer has already happened in our early years, or worse still, before we were born. A recent study from Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard University says that may be the case, especially in cancers that happen before the age of 50 (early-onset cancers).

The most important finding in this study, published in Nature Reviews Clinical Oncology, is that people born after 1990 are more likely to develop cancer before the age of 50 than people born, for example, in 1970. Meaning that young people will be more heavily burdened by cancer than generations gone by, with the knock-on effects on healthcare, economics and families.

What we are exposed to in early life can affect our risk of developing cancer later in life, and this review of cancer trends looks at how these factors might be affecting

early-onset cancers. What exposures matter in early life are still not fully clear, but front-runners include diet, lifestyle, the environment and the bugs that live in our gut (the microbiome).

When looking at large numbers of people, researchers can see that dietary and lifestyle habits are formed early in life. This is seen in obesity where obese children are more likely to become obese adults. As obesity is a known risk factor for cancer, it follows that those adults are likely to develop cancer at an earlier age, possibly because they have been exposed to the risk factor for a longer time.

Of course, some of these early-onset cancers are detected through better screening programmes and earlier diagnosis, which contributes to increased numbers of new cancers diagnosed annually, worldwide. But that is not the whole story.

Early-onset cancers have different genetic signatures compared with late-onset cancers and are more likely to have spread than cancers diagnosed in later life. This means that those cancers may need different types of treatment and a

more personalised approach that is tailored to the patient's age at the time the cancer developed.

## GUT BACTERIA

The Brigham study looked at 14 cancers and found that the genetic makeup of the cancer and the aggression and growth of the cancer was different in patients who developed it before the age of 50 compared with those who developed the same cancer after the age of 50.

This seemed to be more prominent in several types of gut cancers (colorectal, pancreatic, stomach). One possible reason for this relates to our diet and microbiome.

Gut bacteria are altered by high-sugar diets, antibiotics and breastfeeding. And as patterns of these things change in society over time, so do the bacteria in our gut. This might support the implementation of sugar taxes as recommended by the World Health Organization.

If our healthy cells are programmed in the womb, then so might the cells that go on to cause cancer. Maternal diet, obesity and environmental exposures, such as air

pollution and pesticides, are known to increase the risk of chronic diseases and cancers.

Conversely, severe restrictions on food intake in pregnancy, as seen in famine, increase the risk of breast cancer in offspring. Both of these findings would have different implications for societal approaches to reducing cancer risk.

As a haematologist, I take care of patients with multiple myeloma, which is an incurable blood cancer that usually affects patients over the age of 70. In recent years, there has been an increased number of younger people diagnosed with this cancer worldwide, which is only partly explained by better screening. This study flags obesity as an important risk factor for early-onset disease, but clearly, there are other risk factors yet to be uncovered.

Understanding what makes early-onset cancers tick, what exposures really matter and what can be done to prevent them are some of the first steps to developing prevention strategies for future generations.

By arrangements with The Conversation

# How To Have Better Arguments

Arguing Well Isn't Just About Winning. A Philosophical Approach Will Help You And The Other Person Get Much More Out Of It

Scott Aikin & John Casey

Arguing is hard. Chances are good that you are reading this because you've had an argument that went off the rails. Maybe the other person trotted out an anecdote as definitive proof of some general claim, or they misrepresented your reasons in order to make you look foolish, or they called you nasty names, or did any of the other too-many-to-name things that people who argue tend to do. These experiences are partly why people view argument as hostile and intellectually unproductive – something to be avoided.

Perhaps you are looking to learn some new terms to describe the annoying moves people make, or maybe you're looking for 'one weird trick' to 'own' others with facts and logic. Well, we have some good news and bad news. Fancy terms, we've got a few, but our focus in this Guide is primarily on how to think about what is truly at stake in arguing, why it goes awry, and how to get it back on track. To our minds, the key to arguing better consists not in learning new tricks, but in recognising how arguments work and why they are important.

## ARGUMENTS AND THE PROBLEMS THEY POSE

Let's first get a handle on argument. To start, we need to differentiate between an argument as a product and argument as a process. As a product, an argument is a collection of reasons (called the premises) and the thing that the reasons show (called the conclusion). So, for example, the utterance 'Bring your jacket because it's going to rain' is an argument in this sense. So is 'God exists because the world needs a first cause, and God is the first cause.' In contrast, as a process, an argument is an exchange of reasons between interlocutors. Two people exchanging reasons over jackets or God's existence is an argument in process. From our perspective, the rules for a better argument process are ultimately derived from the rules for good argument products. This is because, in the end, what people who argue are wrangling over is what conclusion everyone's best reasons jointly support.

What are arguments for? This is deceptively easy: we exchange reasons with others in order to affect their beliefs or commitments. I give you reasons to believe that something is true because I want you to believe that it's true, or to believe more strongly. Maybe we disagree about it, maybe we don't. Either way, I give you my reasons. And you weigh them. People do this so often, and about so many things, that they rarely note it. 'Bring your jacket,' one might say, 'because it's going to rain.' This is an argument, a mundane one, but it's worth noting that it's out for belief-change and then actions in accord with that belief.

We disagree, and so argue, over things both big and small. Many of these disagreements pose a problem for how to go forward, in light of the differing views. Let's say you and a random Twitter user, let's call him HockeyDad1989, disagree over abortion. On his view, abortion ought to be illegal in all circumstances; on your view, it ought to be legally permitted in most cases. Clearly the answer to this question matters greatly to whether people can have abortions. It's not like a dispute over whether it's OK to put ketchup on a hot dog (don't do this in Chicago, by the way) – it must be settled. Sure, we could settle it by any number of methods, like rolling dice, examining entrails, or (God forbid) trial by combat, but reasoning it out together offers the highest chances at arriving at the best answer and improving everyone's cognitive standing. Under ideal conditions, HockeyDad1989 offers his reasons, and you offer yours. And then you, together, see where those reasons go. But it's here that we get into trouble.

The primary problem is tied to the very nature of the thing that argument is intended to affect: belief. It's manifestly obvious that you think your beliefs are true, just as other people think their own beliefs are true. This is what makes them beliefs rather than hopes, desires or fears. This starting point can make it difficult to even contemplate the possibility that someone else's opposing be-

lief is correct.

Another important feature of beliefs is that we lack direct, voluntary control over them. You cannot simply will yourself to change what you believe. No amount of money is going to make you genuinely believe that the Pope is Buddhist or that  $2 + 2 = 5$ . What can change your beliefs is exposure to information and reasons. Yet people tend to gravitate to sources that support their existing beliefs and selectively attend to evidence that confirms those beliefs. Much of this we do without noticing. Incentives, financial or otherwise, can play a role in this. As Upton Sinclair, author of the novel *The Jungle* (1906), quipped: 'It is difficult to get a man to understand something when his salary depends upon his not understanding it.' The existence of these belief-preserving tendencies underscores the importance of argument: to continue to work for the evil meatpacking company in Sinclair's novel, one must carefully avoid exposure to evidence or arguments that might weigh upon one's beliefs. Argument threatens to burst that bubble.

The potential for belief change, then, is all in the arguments that people do or do not encounter. But it's hard to see the evidence for something you consider false as evidence at all. Disagreement prompts argument, but it also makes argument very hard to put into motion.

Our aim with this Guide is to help you think through how to approach arguments so that you can have more productive ones, ones where you and your argument partner understand the stakes and are both willing to follow the reasons where they lead. Rather than lumbering through the technical language of epistemology or exhaustively cataloguing every kind of fallacy – though those are the kinds of things we examine in our research and cover in our classes on epistemology, logic and critical reasoning – we'll be exploring some general and often overlooked aspects of argumentation. Hopefully, this will inspire you to view arguments from a new perspective and, when the time comes, to argue better.

## DECIDE WHETHER ARGUING IS WORTH IT, CASE BY CASE

We've said that the nature of argument is that you and another person are trying to change each other's minds. Now of course, there is always the possibility that the other person in the exchange is not really interested in reasoning with you, but is really just out to intimidate you or lure you into a position where your honesty can be used against you for the benefit of an audience friendly to their views. Arguing can backfire when it ends in heightened aggression, misunderstanding, or a doubling down on bad reasoning. We don't have much advice here for arguing with trolls or people who aren't sincere about their commitments; little genuine progress can be made with them, so it's probably best to just avoid them. But we do have some advice on how to determine when arguing is worthwhile.

As a rule of thumb, we find an analogy to just war theory useful. Consider engaging in argument when the following conditions apply: (1) you are reasonably well prepared to participate; (2) there is a reasonable chance of success in terms of having a good argument exchange (even if it's not necessarily a 'victorious' one); and (3) you will not make the situation worse. It's easy to think of cases where argument isn't advisable. If you start arguing politics with a drunk uncle over a holiday dinner, you're not only unlikely to be heard, but it will probably ruin the meal, and then you might not get invited back to spend time with your cousins. Similarly, it doesn't make sense to engage with internet trolls because the chances of success are very low and there's a likelihood of making it all worse.

However, we have had some great arguments with people at dinner, over coffee or beers, and even, if you can believe it, at philosophy conferences. The best arguments we've had are not ones that had a cinematic payoff, a gladiatorial thumbs up or down, but rather those in which an incremental epiphany shined a light on something we couldn't see previously. In these cases, the real victory is that someone recognises evidence as evidence, and is then in a position to let

it do its work.

## APPROACH ARGUMENT WITH HUMILITY

A vexing problem of argument and reasoning is that everyone thinks they're quite good at it (including the ones who are not). Charles Sanders Peirce, the great American philosopher and logician, noticed this and observed in 1877: 'Few persons care to study logic, because everybody conceives himself to be proficient enough in the art of reasoning already.'

But, you might be wondering, don't lots of people care about logic? It is true that people care, but they tend to do so in a peculiar way: they care about logic for others. Again, our own beliefs appear correct to us because the nature of having a belief means thinking that it's true. And the same goes for the reasoning. Thinking that a belief is true means thinking that you have good reasons for it, since they took you to this true belief. So, you must think that you're already good at logic. This is what, in our book *Straw Man Arguments* (2022), we call the Peirce problem: how can you detect your own errors of reasoning if you are already inclined to think your reasons are good?

There's an important lesson in the Peirce problem. Not only do people have an innate bias toward the things they believe, they have a tendency to congratulate themselves for their successful management of the evidence in arriving at those beliefs (and to disparage others for their failures in this regard). But openly engaging in the process of arguing one-to-one with others – subjecting yourself to their reasons – can help you get around your own logical blind spots.

## ANTICIPATE THAT ARGUMENTS WILL FEEL LIKE ATTACKS

An attempt by someone to change your beliefs will often feel like an attack or an imposition, especially when the belief in question is important to you. One reason for this is that the other person is suggesting – and they can't but suggest this – that you have somehow failed in your duties as a reasoner in concluding what you do. The beliefs you hold have implications about you and your capacities to manage evidence. To believe the

'wrong' thing can thus seem like being a particular kind of failure. Hearing reasons in an argument is also a kind of imposition in that you can't perfectly control the evidence that you receive (which can be uncomfortable when that evidence challenges your beliefs).

It's perhaps a bit of an understatement when your doctor tells you, before sticking you with something, that you're going to feel a little pressure. In a similar vein, the challenge and change your beliefs might undergo in argument doesn't always feel good. It's not supposed to. You're going to feel a little pressure. But you can anticipate and try to accept this discomfort, knowing that the experience could ultimately be good for you – and that the person whom you're arguing with, and whose beliefs you seek to change, might be uncomfortable too.

The frequent comparisons of argument to sports or combat are true in some critical respects. Like war, argument can concern the settling of things that are important. And, as in war, in argument people are affected against their will. However, the point of arguing is to get someone to believe something – and to do that, you have to offer them reasons. If you want someone out of your way in a contact sport, you push them. If you want someone to go your way by argument, you can't just make them (demand is not a reason). You have to offer them reasons such that they move in that direction on their own – or, more precisely, that it occurs to them to go that way. That's what it is to change someone's mind.

In attempting to get you to accept that it is going to rain later, I have to direct your attention to things that will provoke that thought, like the dark, looming clouds, or the weather app on my phone. Similarly, if you want HockeyDad1989 to change his view about abortion rights, you have to point him to evidence against his view. And if you want to be successful in this, you must point him to evidence that he already accepts or will accept as evidence. Those who disagree with you will try to do the same with you.

The article was originally published by *Psyche*



# Engineers Build Battery-Free, Wireless Underwater Camera That Uses Sound

**IAN S**

A team of US engineers has developed a battery-free, wireless underwater camera, powered by sound, that is about 100,000 times more energy-efficient than other under-sea cameras.

The device takes colour photos, even in dark underwater environments, and transmits image data wirelessly through the water.

The autonomous camera converts mechanical energy from sound waves traveling through water into electrical energy that powers its imaging and communications equipment.

After capturing and encoding image data, the camera also uses sound waves to transmit data to a receiver that reconstructs the image.

Since it doesn't need a power source, the camera could run for weeks on end before retrieval, enabling scientists to search remote parts of the ocean for new species, said the team from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the US in a paper published in the journal Nature Communications.

It could also be used to capture images of ocean pollution or monitor the health and growth of fish raised in aquaculture farms.

"We are building climate models, but we are missing data from over 95 per cent of the ocean. This technology could help us build more accurate climate models and better understand how climate change impacts the underwater world," said Fadel Adib, associate professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and senior author of the paper.

The camera acquires energy using



"transducers made from piezoelectric materials" that are placed around its exterior.

"Piezoelectric" materials produce an electric signal when a mechanical force is applied to them.

When a sound wave travelling through the water hits the transducers, they vibrate and convert that mechanical energy into electrical energy.

"Those sound waves could come from any source, like a passing ship or marine life. The camera stores harvested energy until it has built up enough to power the electronics that take photos and communicate data," said the study.

Once image data is captured, they are encoded as bits (1s and 0s) and sent to a receiver one bit at a time using a process called "underwater backscatter".

The receiver transmits sound waves through the water to the camera, which acts as a mirror to reflect those waves. The camera either reflects a wave back to the receiver or changes its mirror to an absorber so that it does not reflect back.

Even though the image looks black and white, the red, green and blue coloured light is reflected in the white part of each photo.

When the image data is combined in post-processing, the colour image can be reconstructed.

The researchers tested the camera in several underwater environments. In one, they captured colour images of plastic bottles floating in a New Hampshire pond.

# One Simple Solution To Healthy, Affordable Food



360info

Of the many government-led strategies to promote healthy diets, keeping healthy food free of sales taxes offers clear benefits.

When political party the Australian Democrats negotiated an exemption for basic healthy foods as part of the country's introduction of a goods and services tax in 2000, they set in motion an often underappreciated measure to help keep healthy diets less expensive.

As US President Joe Biden calls for ideas to help end hunger and improve nutrition, there are simple tax options he could consider.

Of the three relevant food price-manipulation strategies used by governments subsidies on healthy' foods (eg agricultural and transport subsidies, retail price reductions or vouchers for high-risk groups); taxes on specific unhealthy' foods; and exemptions from GST or value added tax for healthy' foods the latter is the least common.

Several countries and some US states now have taxes on specific unhealthy' foods, most commonly sugar-sweetened beverages. But only Australia, Canada, Mexico, Ireland and the United Kingdom apply differential taxes according to the healthiness of broader groups of food.

In the face of escalating cost of living, climate change, and chronic disease, efforts to ensure nutritious, sustainable diets are available to all are more important than ever.

Governments can use various strategies to manipulate food prices, but the exemption of healthy foods such as fruit vegetables, bread, fresh meat, fish, milk and eggs from a GST that is applied to all unhealthy, discretionary or ultra-processed foods and drinks both helps to avoid such taxes being regressive, and promote dietary choices that benefit people's health.

Poor diet is the leading preventable contributor to the burden of disease in Australia and globally. Rising rates of obesity,

type 2 diabetes, heart disease, some cancers and other chronic illnesses are underscored by poor diets high in unhealthy foods.

More than two-thirds of Australian adults (67 per cent) and one in four children in Australia are overweight or obese. Less than 4 per cent of adults consume a diet consistent with the Australian Dietary Guidelines. Dietary choices are driven by obesogenic' food environments, which foster the ubiquitous availability, promotion and convenience of unhealthy food and drinks.

Under-investment in nutrition promotion and preventive health programmes doesn't help. Neither does the perception that healthy foods are more expensive than unhealthy options, due to marketing, including promotion of take-away meal deals. As a result, in Australia more than one-third of adults' energy intake, and nearly 40 per cent of children's, is derived from unhealthy foods and drinks. Australian households spend around 58 per cent of their food budget on these unhealthy options.

The exemption of basic healthy food from GST in Aus-

come needed to buy food is even greater in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and remote communities.

Since the GST was introduced there have been frequent calls for expansion of its base to include the healthy foods that are currently exempt. Modelling studies confirm this would increase the cost of healthy diets by nearly 10 per cent, more than double the increase in cost of the current, unhealthy diet (4.5 per cent). This would add yet another hurdle impeding the shift to recommended diets, especially for the most vulnerable Australian families.

Another study confirmed if healthy foods were exempt from the 15% GST imposed on all food and drinks in New Zealand, healthy diets would become significantly more affordable.

If the GST rate on unhealthy foods and drinks was increased to 20 percent in Australia and current exemptions retained this would effectively work as an increased health levy and help encourage improved dietary choice. The cost of the healthy diet would not be impacted, but the cost of the unhealthy diet

Several countries and some US states now have taxes on specific unhealthy' foods, most commonly sugar-sweetened beverages. But only Australia, Canada, Mexico, Ireland and the United Kingdom apply differential taxes according to the healthiness of broader groups of food.

tralia helps keep the relative price of healthy food down. Multiple research studies have shown that diets consistent with Australian health guidelines can be between 16 per cent and 24 per cent less expensive than the habitual diets reported in the most recent national health survey.

However, in many settings healthy diets are still unaffordable for households on minimum wage or welfare income, with total costs exceeding 30 per cent of disposable household income. The proportion of in-

would increase. Additional differential tax rates, such as 30 per cent GST on sugar-sweetened beverages, may also have merit.

At a time of spiralling cost of living and rates of food insecurity, keeping basic, healthy foods and drinks GST-free is crucial to protect economic access to healthy diets for many Australians. Further increasing the differential GST rate would deliver even greater benefits for population and planetary health, and for future government spending.

U.T of J&K

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

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT NO.86 OF R&B/QAZIGUND/2022-23 /E-TENDERING/6884-98

DATED:24-09-2022

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

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of Completion	Major Head of Account	Class of Contractor
1.	Repair/Renovation of Sub-Divisional Office at Qazigund.	4.66	200	9320	25 Days	MH:2059-M&R	DEE Class

Position of AAA: Accorded.

Technical Sanction:Vide Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Anantnag/Kulgam HQ: Khanbal vide Order No.SEAK(R&B) 64 of 2022-23 Dated: 20-09-2022

Position of Funds: Available.

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

S.No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	24.09.2022
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 26.09.2022 To 03.10.2022 (11:00 AM) (04:00 PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 26.09.2022 To 03.10.2022 (11:00 AM) (04:00 PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	03.10.2022 (04:10 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	03.10.2022 (04:10 PM)

In the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division QAZIGUND

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13. Price escalation and taxes: The %age quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees, shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes up to completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

14. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

15. In case of CRF and other specified project, the relevant guideline/ standard bidding document shall be followed.

16. Instruction to bidder (ITB)  
1.1 All Bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualifying criteria/qualification information with the bids.  
1.1.1 All bidders shall upload copies of Original Documents defining constitution/Legal status, place of registration and principal place of Business with Cell No. and Correspondence Address.  
a. All Bidders shall upload Treasury Challan (Cost of tender document) and Earnest Money/Bid Security.  
b. All Bidders shall upload Valid Registration with renewal Sl. (Latest), Valid GSTIN No. & Valid PAN No.  
c. Scanned copy of GSTIN registration and most recent clearance certificate FORM GSTR-3B from the previous quarter or month, whichever is applicable, ending August-2022, OR April -June Quarter- 2022.  
d. All bidders shall upload Verification Certificate from concerned Chief Engineer /Superintending Engineer of Enlistment Registration Card.  
e. If verification is not done then it is mandatory to submit/upload affidavit from First Class Judicial Magistrate regarding the Genuine of the Contractor Card. The Bidders are subject to be disqualified if they have made misleading or false representation in the forms, statements, affidavits duly attested by Magistrate and attachments submitted in proof of the qualification requirement: and/or Record of poor performance such as abandoning the works, not properly completing the contract, inordinate delays in completion, litigation history, or financial failures etc.  
f. A fresh Registration card generated via JKPWDOMS is itself a verified card (Valid Document) and do not need/seek submission of offline verification Certificate.

17. The bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submission of bid.

18. All the documents relating to the bid shall be in English language.

19. All construction materials shall be supplied by the contractor at his own cost as per the prescribed specifications

20. If the bidder does not quote for any item of the rate list / quantity schedule, cost of such item/ items shall be deemed to be part of overall total contract value. No rate shall be allowed for such item/ items in the allotment of contract.

21. Bidder must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including tender documents fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid. No document(s) which has/ have not been uploaded shall be entertained in the form of hard copy. However, in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.

22. General conditions of Contract:  
22.1 The date of start of the work shall be reckoned within 03 days from the date of issuance of LOI/Contract allotment as the case may be.  
1.1 Penalty for delay in completion:-In case of delay in completion of work beyond stipulated period of completion, penalty upto maximum of 10% of the contract shall be imposed.  
1.2 Time extension:-Suitable time extension shall be granted in case of increase in scope of work and in the event of delay beyond control of contractor to be determined by the department.  
1.3 Advance Payment:- No mobilization advance / equipment advance shall be paid unless otherwise specified in the SBD.  
1.4 Secured Advance:- No Secured advance is admissible unless otherwise specified.  
1.5 Schedule Payment:- The payment schedule shall be fixed after award of contract in favour of successful bidder, on the basis of availability of funds and value of work executed, shall be determined by the Engineer.  
1.6 Amendment of bidding document: Before the deadline for submission of bids the employer may modify the bidding document by issuing addendum.  
1.7 The tender receiving authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.  
1.8 Restoration of work:- On completion of contract the contractor shall be responsible to remove all un-used material and restore all work in its original position at his own cost.  
1.9 Traffic regulations:-The contractor is bound to adhere to traffic regulations as is applicable from time to time and ensure arrangements of smooth regulation of traffic during execution of work.  
1.10 Arbitration:-The arbitration shall be conducted in accordance with the arbitration procedure stated in the J&K conciliation and Arbitration Act No:-xxv of 1997 issued vide SRO No:-403 vide Notification of J&K Govt., "Law Department" 11th December-1997.  
1.11 Defect Liability period:- The D.L.P shall be calculated from date of certified completion of work and period shall be 09 Months defects noticed in the work during execution or D.L.P shall be corrected by the contractor within the length of the time specified by the Engineer. If the contractor does not correct the defects pertaining to D.L.P to the satisfaction of the Engineer within the time specified, the Engineer will assess the Cost of having the defects corrected and contractor will pay this amount on correction of defects.  
1.12 The date of start of work shall be reckoned within Two days from the date of issuance of allotment/Letter of intent. In case the Agency fails to execute the work, the deposits in the shape of Earnest Money/Performance Security shall be liable for forfeiture besides initiating other punitive actions against the defaulter without serving any notice.  
1.13 For the authentication of date of start of work, it shall be mandatory to upload geo-tagged photographs of the start of work at the beginning and also at the time of completion of the work and shall also be enclosed at the time of submission of work done claims for the work.  
1.14 All Key Construction material shall have to be strictly as per prescribed specifications and approval of the Engineer In-Charge.  
1.15 Safety:- The contractor shall be responsible for safety of all activities at site of work.  
1.16 Discoveries:- Anything of historical or other interest or of significant value unexpectedly discovered on the site shall be the property of the Govt.  
1.17 Tests:-The contractor shall be solely responsible for carrying out the mandatory tests required for the quality control at his own cost.  
1.18 Any item/items of work if found necessary during execution of work outside the BOQ shall have to be executed by the contractor and shall be paid at par or/and the (minus) %age as quoted by the bidder.  
1.19 Any item/items if found not necessary during execution of work within the advertised BOQ may be deleted during execution and no claim whatsoever shall be entertained on this account.  
1.20 Unbalanced Bid: In case bid of lowest bidder (successful) is found unbalanced (Abnormally low bid), the Office memorandum No. F.9/4/2020-PPD of Govt of India, Ministry of Finance Department of Expenditure/Procurement Policy Division, Dated 12. Nov. 2020 and subsequently circulated by Finance Department J&K Govt vide No. FD-Codes/233/2021-02-27, Dated 10.02.2022 stands binding to Allotting Authority.  
1.21 Termination:- The employer may terminate the contract if the contractor causes a fundamental breach of the contract.  
23. Fundamental breach of contract will include:-  
a. Continuous stoppage of Work for a period of 30 days without authorization of Engineer in-charge.  
b. Contractor is declared bankrupt.  
c. Any evidence of involvement of contractor in corrupt practices.  
d. If the Contractor indulges in willful disregard of the quality measures put in place by the department.  
e. Contractor delays the completion of work beyond stipulated time of completion.  
f. Pursuant to the process of termination of default contract, the employer reserves the right to invite fresh tender for the balance work at the risk and cost of defaulting contractor.  
g. If in case contractor failed to start/ complete the work, within the stipulated time period, his Earnest Money/Performance Security shall be forfeited after termination of the contract. Besides, defaulting contractor shall be debarred from taking works in R&B Department at least for one year.

No.6884-98 DATED:24-09-2022

DIPK-10672/22

Executive Engineer  
PWD (R&B) Division QAZIGUND



## World Economy To Slow, 'Paying The Price Of War': OECD

Agencies

**PARIS:** The world economy will take a bigger hit than previously forecast next year due to the effects of Russia's war in Ukraine, the OECD said Monday.

In a bleak report titled "paying the price of war", the Paris-based organisation noted that the conflict aggravated inflationary pressure when the cost of living was already rising quickly.

Covid outbreaks are still having an impact on the global economy while growth has also been affected by rising interest rates as central banks scramble to cool red-hot prices, the OECD said.

"A number of indicators have taken a turn for the worse, and the global growth outlook has darkened," the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development said in the report.

Global growth stalled in the second quarter of this year and data in many economies "now point to an extended period of subdued growth", the OECD said.

The organisation slashed its 2023 growth forecast for the global economy to 2.2 percent, down from 2.8 percent in its previous estimate in June.

The outlook for nearly all nations in the Group of 20 top economies



was cut, except for Turkey, Indonesia and Britain, though the latter is forecast to have zero growth.

Growth in the United States -- the world's biggest economy -- is forecast to slow to 0.5 percent in 2023.

The growth forecast for China, whose economy has been hit by strict Covid lockdowns, was cut sharply for this year to 3.2 percent while it was slightly lower to 4.7 percent for 2023.

Germany is now expected to go into recession next year with Europe's biggest economy now seen shrinking by 0.7 percent -- a 2.4-percentage-point drop from the previous forecast.

The country's economy has been hit the hardest in Europe as it has relied heavily on Russian supplies of natural gas, which Moscow has cut significantly in suspected retaliation to Western sanctions.

## KCC&I Concerned Over Stranding Of Fruit Laden Trucks On Highway



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCC&I) on Monday expressed deep concern over stranding of hundreds of trucks carrying apples on Srinagar-Jammu highway.

"President, Sheikh Ashiq Ahmad and the office Bearers of The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCC&I) are deeply deep concern over the matter that hundreds of trucks carrying apples were getting stranded at national highway, particularly near the 20km stretch from Qazikund to Banihal," said a spokesperson in a statement.

The spokesperson said that the government must effectively find a way out, as the apple harvesting season is gaining momentum with every passing day now. Any further delay in solving the problem can badly hit the Kashmir economy, mostly dependent on apple trade. This is peak fruit season in Kashmir and this is for the first time when we are seeing this mess on the national highway.

"The apple growers and traders have been alleging that the trucks are halted for days together and their movement frequently disturbed," he added.

The spokesperson said that if fruit does not reach markets outside J&K on time, its quality gets badly affected leading to financial losses to them.

"Around 7 lakh farming families, approximately 35 lakh people, are directly or indirectly associated with the horticulture sector. Apples contribute to around 8% of Jammu and Kashmir's gross domestic product. There are ten fruit mandis in the valley which include Srinagar, Sopore, Shopian, Pulwama, Kulgam, Pachhar, Anantnag, Handwara, Baramulla and Ganderbal. When the trucks are stopped for days, it directly affects the fruit and fruits often rot until trucks reach mandis," he said.

"KCC&I appeals to the Jammu and Kashmir Government to make the passage of vehicles easy so that fruit growers do not face losses which ultimately drains the economy," he further added.

## 21640 Units Established Under PMEGP In J&K: Govt

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** After the Centre's major push to local manufacturing, J&K Government has established 21,640 units under Prime Minister's Employment Generation Program (PMEGP) exceeding the target by a massive 544% with total capital of Rs 2101 crore across Jammu and Kashmir.

The PMEGP has worked wonders for Jammu and Kashmir and the UT leads ahead of all other states in self-employment opportunities under the PMEGP.

In 2021-22, KVIC had set a target of 3,360 PMEGP units in J&K but buoyed by the government's major push to local manufacturing, it exceeded the target by massive 544 per cent and J&K now stands way ahead of bigger states.

In 2021-22, a majority of the PMEGP units in J&K have been set up in districts like Baramulla, Badgam, Pulwama, Anantnag, Ganderbal, Kupwara, Bandipora and Doda. As many as 16,807 (78 per cent) of the 21,640 PMEGP units in J&K belong to the service sectors like beauty parlour, boutiques, embroidery, mobile/computer repair shops and food outlets.

This is followed by 1,933 units (9 per cent) under rural engineering and biotechnology like steel fabrication and steel furniture, artificial jewellery making, vermi-compost and bio-fertilizers units.

With record 21,640 manufacturing and service units, J&K stands way ahead of bigger states like Uttar Pradesh (12,594 units), Madhya Pradesh (8082 units), Tamil Nadu (5972



units), Karnataka (5877) and Gujarat (4140 units). A massive 1.73 lakh new employment in J&K in 2021-22, under PMEGP alone, is also the highest across all states and UTs in India.

The Central Government approved the introduction of new credit linked subsidy programme called PMEGP by merging the two schemes that were in operation like Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana (PMRY) and Rural employment Generation Programme (REGP) for generation of employment opportunities through establishment of micro enterprises in rural as well as urban areas.

PMEGP is a central sector scheme administered by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME). The Scheme is implemented by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), a statutory organization under the administrative control of the Ministry of MSME as the single nodal agency at the National level.

KVIC scripted golden chapter of industrial growth and employment boom in Jammu & Kashmir. In the year 2021-22, KVIC in J&K has established the highest number of manufactur-

ing and service units under its flagship scheme PMEGP and created the highest number of jobs in comparison with all other states and UTs in India.

Shabir Ahmad Khan, owner of MK Steel fabrications of Anantnag district is one of the successful contractor with J&K Small Scale Industries Development Corporation Limited (SI-COP) after setting up unit under PMGEP and is earning a good income.

"I worked with SICOP for five years, as a contractor. The work was good, but I always wanted to establish an independent business," said Shabir Ahmad Khan.

Similarly, Nardeep Singh is also one of success stories under PMGEP. When you're desperate for something, it's easy to cut corners, compromise your values and deliver an inferior product or service. But the businesses that manage to whether their growing pains and stick to their guns are the ones that last longest and shine brightest. Nardeep Singh is the founder of Singh Hydraulic equipments, a manufacturing unit of Hydraulic Equipments and other parts for the vehicles. Recently, J&K Bank was

## 10-Day EDP Under Mission Youth's Tejaswini Scheme Commences At JKEDI



Observer News Service

**PAMPORE:** The 10-Day Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) Under Mission Youth's Tejaswini (The Radiant) livelihood scheme commenced today at the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) campus here.

The scheme is a special endeavour of Mission Youth, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, to empower young women, enabling them to become self-reliant.

The EDP is being organized by the Institute for the aspiring female entrepreneurs of district Pulwama, in which 45

female candidates have registered. During the 10-Day EDP, the candidates will be apprised about basic business concepts like business plan formulation, marketing plans, accounts management, and many other topics of relevance.

The scheme is aimed to provide financial assistance to young women for setting up of gainful self-employment ventures suited to their skills, training, aptitude and local conditions. This will empower and encourage women for setting up of income generation units for activities either in manufacturing, services, trading sectors.

After the successful comple-

tion of the training programme, these registered female candidates will get help in setting up of an enterprise or for expansion and modernization of existing unit. The project report will also have provisions for acquisition of fixed assets (Plant & Machinery, equipment, furniture & fixtures) to meet working capital needs for purchase of various products, equipments and tools.

The trained female candidates shall also be facilitated to avail financial assistance to the extent of Rs 5.00 lakh. This initiative will enhance their socio economic status and leads to integration of women in nation building.

## Investors Lose Rs 13.30 Lakh Cr In Four Days Of Market Crash

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Equity investors' wealth has tumbled by over Rs 13.30 lakh crore in four days of market plunge amid a sharp sell-off in global markets.

Falling for the fourth straight day, the 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 953.70 points or 1.64 per cent to settle at 57,145.22. During the day, it plummeted 1,060.68 points or 1.82 per cent to 57,038.24. In four days, the BSE benchmark has slumped 2,574.52 points or 4.31 per cent.

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms tumbled Rs 13,30,753.42 crore in four sessions to reach Rs 2,70,11,460.11 crore.

"Domestic equities have corrected by more than 4 per cent over the last four trading sessions as global uncertainties dominate market sentiments. A short bounce or reversal can be seen following this intense selling."

"However, the overall narrative of the market remains weak, especially following the cautiousness ahead of the RBI MPC due later this week," said Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd.

On Monday, Maruti, Tata Steel, ITC, Axis Bank, NTPC, Bajaj Finance, IndusInd Bank and Mahindra & Mahindra were the major laggards among the 30-share Sensex pack.

HCL Technologies, Asian Paints, Infosys, UltraTech Cement, TCS, Nestle and Wipro were the gainers.



In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge tumbled 3.33 per cent and midcap index fell by 2.84 per cent.

All the BSE sectoral indices, except IT, ended lower, with Realty falling 4.29 per cent, auto (3.86 per cent), utilities (3.72 per cent), power (3.71 per cent), commodities (3.32 per cent), energy (3.17 per cent), oil & gas (3.10 per cent) and telecommunication (2.97 per cent).

"The speed with which central banks across the globe are hiking interest rates, investors are worried that slackening growth would push key economies into recession."

"With the monetary policy decisions on the anvil, rate-sensitive stocks like banking, realty and auto crumbled badly as rate hikes could dent demand going ahead," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd.

However, due to markets being in oversold territory, we could witness a quick pullback rally, he added.

A total of 2,925 firms declined, while 660 advanced and 122 remained unchanged on Monday.

## Rupee Plunges To All-Time Low Of 81.67 Against US Dollar

Press Trust Of India

**MUMBAI:** The rupee plunged 58 paise to close at an all-time low of 81.67 against the US dollar on Monday as the strengthening of the American currency overseas and risk-averse sentiment among investors weighed on the local unit.

Moreover, escalation of geopolitical risks due to conflict in Ukraine, a negative trend in domestic equities and significant foreign fund outflows sapped investor appetite, forex traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 81.47, then fell further to close at an all-time low of 81.67 against the American currency, registering a decline of 58 paise over its previous close.

On Friday, the rupee slumped 30 paise to close at 81.09, its previous record low.

This is the fourth consecutive session of loss for the domestic unit, during which it has lost 193 paise against the American currency.

"Another day of large gains for the dollar versus the rupee as it fell for the fourth day in a row amid risk-averse sentiments and unprecedented strength in the greenback following Fed tightening and recession wor-

ries," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

Spot USD-INR may head towards 82 as strength in the dollar index continues with surging bond yields, Parmar said, adding that in the near-term, spot USD-INR is having resistance at around 82 and support at 81.05.

"Rupee fell to fresh all-time lows as the dollar strengthened across the board. The pound plunged further after the UK government announced huge debt-financed tax cuts," said Gaurang Somaiya, Forex & Bullion Analyst, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

Somaiya added that during the weekend, North Korea fired a ballistic missile towards the sea off its east coast. Political instability in China has disturbed the overall economic sentiment and is keeping the Chinese Yuan weighed down.

"We expect the USDINR (Spot) to trade sideways and quote in the range of 81.20 and 81.80," Somaiya said.

According to Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, the Indian rupee touched a record low on strong Dollar and weak domestic markets.

Dollar surged to fresh 20-year high of 114.527 amid weak global equities and sharp fall in riskier currencies such as the Pound.

## SHORT TAKES

### J&K Bank Establishes Spl Counter At SMVD Bhawan

Observer News Service

**KATRA:** On the eve of Navratri, J&K Bank Monday established a Special Counter at its Business Unit in Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan to offer fresh cash currency and note exchange facility to the devotees visiting the famous Shrine.

CEO, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB), Anshul Garg and Bank's GM & Divisional Head Jammu, Sunit Kumar inaugurated the Fresh Cash/Note Exchange Counter in presence of Zonal Head Udhampur Rajesh Gupta, SDM Sudhir Bali, Tehsildar Anil Charak, Manager Bhawan Pardeep Jamwal, DSP Bhawan Nikhil Rasgotra, Head Pandit Gopal Sharma, officers of the Bank besides devotees from different corners of the country.

Speaking on the occasion CEO SMVDSB lauded the efforts of J&K Bank in conducting such programs for the pilgrims and also for providing all banking services to SMVD Board and its employees. He also appreciated the bank's role in providing latest banking services all along the route for the pilgrims.

Earlier, while welcoming the dignitaries General Manager Sunit Kumar thanked the Shrine Board for its continuous patronage and support to the bank and assured of best services to the SMVD Board, devotees and public at large.

### Govt Extends Foreign Trade Policy By 6 Months

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The government has decided to postpone the release of the new Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) and extend the existing one by six months on account of global uncertainties and currency fluctuations.

The government was scheduled to announce the new FTP by the end of September. The current policy was to end on September 30.

Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce, Amit Yadav, said there were demands from different quarters, including industry associations and export promotion councils, to extend the policy and not introduce the new one at this time.

They have stated that currently there are challenges like global uncertainties and currency fluctuations. There was also a view to align the rollout of the new policy with the new financial year.

A notification in this regard will be issued by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT). "We will have to defer the release of the new policy. The existing policy will be continued," Yadav told reporters here on Monday. He added the decision was taken after holding consultations with all the stakeholders, including export promotion councils.

### Indian Economy Showing Resilience, Recovery: CEA

Press Trust Of India

**KOLKATA:** Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) V Anantha Nageswaran on Monday said the Indian economy was on the path to recovery but cautioned that foreign investors may remain cautious because of geopolitical challenges.

Speaking at a virtual seminar organised by Swadeshi Research Institute, he said all sectors of the economy such as agriculture, manufacturing and construction are "doing well".

"The Indian economy is showing resilience and on the path to recovery. Private demand and the services sector are doing better than expected," he said.

Private capital formation is taking place, while foreign direct investment (FDI) flow is keeping steady, he said.

However, there are challenges, and geopolitics is messy for which foreign investors are cautious, the CEA said.

Noting that India has a "well-capitalised banking sector", the economist said, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) also played a big part in "improving the health of the banking system" which had high NPAs due to the financial crisis of 2008.

The economy is going to see "good capital formation for good credit growth", he said.

### Apple Now Manufacturing iPhone 14 In India

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Apple's newest phone iPhone 14 will be made in India as the global tech titan bets big on the manufacturing prowess of the world's second-biggest smartphone market after China.

Cupertino, California-headquartered Apple started manufacturing iPhones in India in 2017 with iPhone SE. Today, Apple manufactures some of its most advanced iPhones in the country including iPhone SE, iPhone 12, iPhone 13 and, now, iPhone 14.

Earlier this month, Apple Inc unveiled its latest iPhone series -- the iPhone 14 models -- with an improved camera, powerful sensors and satellite messaging feature to send SOS texts in emergencies. The new lineup has four models: iPhone 14, Plus, Pro and ProMax.

According to sources, the Made-in-India iPhone 14 will begin to reach local customers in the next few days. Phones manufactured in India will be both for the Indian market and exports.

The iPhone 14 will be shipped from Foxconn's Sriperumbudur facility on the outskirts of Chennai. Foxconn is the world's largest contract electronics manufacturer and major iPhone assembler.

### British Pound Plunges To New Low

Associated Press

**LONDON:** The British pound fell to all-time low against the US dollar early Monday after Treasury chief Kwasi Kwarteng pledged a sweeping package of tax cuts, fuelling concerns about the government's economic policy as the United Kingdom teeters toward recession.

The pound fell as low as USD 1.0373, its lowest level since the decimalisation of the currency in 1971, before rallying to about USD 1.08 in London afternoon trading.

The weakening currency piles pressure on the UK's new Conservative government, which has gambled that slashing taxes and increasing borrowing to compensate will spur economic growth. Many economists say it's more likely to fuel already high inflation, push down the pound and drive up the cost of UK government borrowing a potential perfect storm of economic headwinds.

The turbulence raised speculation that the Bank of England may step in with an emergency hike in interest rates to help shore up sterling.

Despite mounting concern, the government dug in its heels, insisting it wouldn't comment on "daily market movements." But in a bid to reassure markets, the Treasury announced it would set out a medium-term fiscal plan on Nov 23, alongside an economic forecast by the independent Office for Budget Responsibility.



'DAP' In Kashmiri Means To Lie Down Lazily, Something He's Already Accustomed To: Cong On Azad's Party Launch



Press Trust of India

**New Delhi:** The Congress on Monday took a swipe at its former leader Ghulam Nabi Azad for launching Democratic Azad Party (DAP), saying 'DAP' in Kashmiri means to lie down lazily, which "the leader is already accustomed to".

Congress general secretary in-charge of communications Jairam Ramesh said on Twitter, "Finally, Ghulam Nabi Azad has announced the name of his political outfit Democratic Azad Party (DAP). DAP in Kashmiri means to lie down lazily, something he's already accustomed to."

Azad, the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, on Monday launched his new party - Democratic Azad Party - coinciding with the first day of Navratri festival, exactly a month after ending his over

five-decade-long association with the Congress.

Azad, 73, also unveiled the party's flag that has three strips of mustard, white and dark blue colours, and said the priority of the new party will be its registration with the Election Commission, though it will continue its activities because assembly elections in J&K can be declared anytime.

Azad, who parted ways with the Congress on August 26, said the DAP will have "no competition" with any other political party and it will focus on "strengthening" peace and normalcy in the Union territory.

Azad also said there will be no discrimination on the basis of religion. Our policies will not be impacted by sectarianism or religion. Everyone is free whether he is going to a temple, mosque, gurdwara or church, he said.

NAN SCAM: SC Highlights Gravity Of ED Claim About HC Judge's Involvement

Press Trust of India

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Monday highlighted the gravity of the ED's claim that some constitutional functionaries were in touch with a high court judge to help the accused in the 'Nagrik Apurti Nigam' (NAN) scam in Chhattisgarh, saying it stood on completely different footing as the judge was allegedly a party to some kind of conversation .

Chief Justice Uday Umesh Lalit, heading the bench, referred to his role as the head of judiciary and said besides sitting in the appellate jurisdiction in the case, he is also donning a different hat and is authorised to take corrective administrative actions.

The bench, also comprising justices Ajay Rastogi and S Ravindra, meanwhile, asked the special court in Chhattisgarh not to proceed with the trial in the case and fixed ED's plea for hearing on October 12. The anti-money laundering agency made a startling claim recently about some constitutional functionaries of Chhattisgarh being in touch with an HC judge to ensure judicial relief to some accused in a money laundering case arising out of the alleged multi-crore rupees NAN scam.

Besides seeking transfer of the PMLA case outside Chhattisgarh, the ED has sought cancellation of anticipatory bail granted to some high-profile accused in the money laundering case.

It recently submitted a sealed cover report containing some objectionable WhatsApp messages, indicating involvement of the constitutional functionaries, to the bench.

Distinguishing between the present case and the other one cited by senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for an accused, the bench said, What has happened here and what is projected here is something different. If the presiding officer himself is a party to some kind of conversation or being approached, then the matter stands on completely different footing .

So, therefore, at this juncture and that is why he (Solicitor General for ED) is also justified in saying that we are in a different capacity altogether because not only as the appellate court, but also as the court which can take corrective action when it comes on the administrative side. Correct? the CJI said.

There are various methodologies by which a court can take administrative control of the situation, the bench said about permitting the filing of a sealed cover report in a case. I also happen to be donning a different hat... therefore when he (ED's counsel) says that please see those WhatsApp messages...And those WhatsApp messages may point in certain directions, therefore it is not just the investigation part, it is something greater than that also, the CJI said.

The bench said it will peruse the material supplied in the sealed cover by the ED, before thinking of handing them to the counsel for the accused.

At the outset, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for ED, referred to the facts and chronology of events in the case, alleging witnesses have turned hostile and the entire trial in the predicate offences have been botched up.

Mehta then indicated toward the messages and said it was not a simple case where a probe agency was seeking cancellation of the anticipatory bail granted to some of the accused and transfer of the case. He said the matter related to the trust of the common people in the system.

The moment he sought to rely on the sealed cover material, Rohatgi raised preliminary objections. Either, it (sealed cover report) should be part of the records and everybody should get it, otherwise this procedure, according to me, is not established by law, he contended.

My objection is that all materials filed or relied upon must be made available to a party unless privilege is claimed in terms of section 123 of the Evidence Act, he said.

The bench then made the reference to the gravity of the situation and said it will take a decision on the question of relying on the material in the sealed cover on the next date of hearing.

Five Arrested In Jammu After Countrymade Pistol Found In Car

Press Trust of India

**Jammu:** Five people were arrested during vehicle checking here on Monday after a countrymade pistol and three sharp-edged weapons were found in their car, police said.

Amandeep Singh, Sagar Singh, Arun Singh, Ajay Singh and Ajay Partap Singh were in

the car when it was stopped for checking at the Satwari chowk, a police spokesperson said.

He said a search of the vehicle led to the recovery of a country-made pistol, two 762 mm live cartridges and three 'tokkas'.

All five were arrested and booked under relevant sections of the Arms Act, the official said.

USHA Supports Kashmir's Traditional Sport, Saz-Loung

Agencees

Kupwara: Did you know that there is a local version of hopscotch or 'staapu' (as many of us know it) that is called Saz-Loung and extremely popular in Kashmir? Still immensely popular amongst younger children this is played across the state - at home, in gullies, and even at school. In an effort to revive this celebrated sport, which is an integral part of the community's culture of Kashmir, USHA, India's leading consumer durables brand, supported a Saz-Loung event in Kupwara on September 24. Organized by ELFA International, the tournament witnessed the participation of 40 contestants, divided into 4 teams of 10 players each.Zonal Educational officer, Rafeeqa Begam graced the event with her presence.

While hopscotch is played across the world, its Kashmiri version - SazLoung - is one of



the earliest outdoor games that people of all ages and genders enjoyed in the state. The game involves making a huge rectangular box on the ground with smaller boxes inside, namely, Awwal (first), Doum (second), Soum (gentle), Jannat (heaven), Samandar(sea) and Jehnum (hell). Another small box is drawn on the upper side of the rectangle, called 'Queen'.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Infant Mortality

States and UTs Jammu & Kashmir has recorded the lowest percentage of married population as only 46.2 percent are married in the UT whereas the highest percentage was recorded for Andhra Pradesh (59.5) in the year 2020.

"51.8 percent of the population in J&K never-married in 2020 whereas 46.2 percent of the population was married," the report said, adding that among the bigger States/UTs the lowest percentage of married females is found to be in Jammu & Kashmir (49.0).

The report also says that the Crude Birth Rate (CBR) in J&K has seen a decrease in the past one decade. From 2008-2010, J&K's CBR was 18.6 when expressed as births per 1,000 population whereas the crude Birth rate came down to 15.0 per 1000 population in 2018-20. As per SRS, the average percentage change in CBR in J&K was -19.4 percent.

As per the report, the General Fertility Rate (GFR) has also come down to 48.6 in 2018-20 against 2008-10's 68.6. The GFR is the average number of children currently being born to women of reproductive age in the period, typically 1-36 months preceding the survey, expressed per 1,000 women aged 15-49 years.

By the age 34, the percentage share of cumulative fertility varies from 79.6 in Jammu & Kashmir to 95.1 in West Bengal. The percentage share in cumulative fertility for women by the age 39 years varies from 92.2 in Jammu & Kashmir to 99.0 in Tamil Nadu.

However, J&K witnessed a vicious change in the Total Fertility Rate(TFR) as the UT's TFR came down to 1.5—The second lowest TFR in India—in 2018-20 against 2008-10's 2.2.

The report also mentioned that J&K has the second highest number of mothers that received medical attention during delivery in government hospitals. 70.3 percent of women received medical attention at government hospitals in J&K while Rajasthan had the highest percentage (70.9 percent) in 2020.

According to SRS, the Crude Death rate in J&K has also come down to 4.7 per 1000 people in 2018-20 against 5.7 per 1000 people in 2008-10.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Sample Registration System (SRS) is a Central government initiative for providing reliable annual estimates of Infant mortality rate, birth rate, death rate and other fertility & mortality indicators at the national and sub-national levels.

50 Killed In

stop use of mobile phones while driving and also put an end to rash driving, over-taking and other norm violations," ARTO further said.

Azad Launches

clarified that Azad, the middle name of his party, does not symbolise him but it is meant to convey that the new party will be completely independent.

"Democratic is for democracy and Azad for independence...The party will be democratic and not an autocratic one, the power will not remain in one

hand and the provisions of the party's constitution will be based on total democracy, he said.

Azad, who parted ways with the Congress on August 26, said the DAP will have "no competition" with any other political party and it will focus on "strengthening" peace and normalcy in J and K.

Extending his good wishes to Hindus on the commencement of Navratri festival, Azad said he had initially planned to float his party on September 23 but later it was decided the launch should be done on the first day of the Navratri to make a new beginning.

Referring to the party's flag, he said the mustard colour symbolises creativity and diversity, white stands for peace as we believe in Gandhian philosophy which will be our priority and our principle . The dark blue has a vast meaning covering different aspects like freedom of speech, thinking, intuition, imagination and inspiration, he said.

Responding to a question about Article 370 that was scrapped by the Centre in August 2019, he said his party will not make its restoration an election issue in J and K.

Issues relating to roads, water supply and price rise are meant for elections. "I won't stop anybody from making anything an election issue. I have a lot of things. Why should I make it an election issue?" he said.

Replying to a question about Kashmir-centric parties, particularly the PDP, criticising his remarks on Article 370 of the Constitution, Azad said, "You just check Parliament records of who has spoken or who has not (on Article 370). Get the records of Parliament on any one's name. But my take is simply that I don't use such issues for elections."

Azad asserted he has never said restoration of Article 370 was not possible.

"I never said this cannot happen. I said that I cannot convince Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji. If anyone can persuade Modi ji and Union Home Minister Amit Shah ji, they should do it. It will be a welcome step. I do not have any such influence on Modi ji," Azad said.

He said only Parliament can restore Article 370 but "we need a majority".

By abrogating Article 370, the Centre had revoked the special status of J and K. The Supreme Court has agreed to list after Dussehra vacation the pleas challenging the Centre's decision.

Azad said it was a welcome step that the apex court will be hearing the case from October 10.

Referring to the choice of the name for his new party, he said he had received over 1,500 suggestions from his well wishers across the country.

It was difficult because there are a large number of recognized political parties in the country. J and K has a lot of diversity with two big regions and a number of sub-regions having different languages and cultures. So we have to find such a name which everyone can understand easily, he added.

He said his political journey started with the Gandhi family but his ideal remained Mahatma Gandhi since his

student days.

It was (Mahatma) Gandhi who saw a ray of light from Kashmir during partition when there were massacres everywhere even in Jammu but not a single Hindu was slapped in Kashmir. Today BJP also acknowledges Gandhi who has become a common factor - left, right and centre.

PCC Hits Out

Tara Chand have joined Azad, Wani said the Congress has started a campaign to strengthen the party at the grassroots in all the 90 constituencies and will bring young faces to ensure the defeat of those who quit the party.

During the party convention in Katra in Reasi district, the JKPC chief also welcomed former Dogra Swabhiman Sangathan Party (DSSP) leader Bupender Singh Jamwal and his supporters into the party fold.

Jamwal was expelled by the DSSP on September 21 for anti-party activities".

Without naming Azad and his colleagues, Wani said, The turncoats have announced a party and I want to tell them that they stand exposed. (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi wept for you (in Parliament) because you were close to him rather than the Congress. You have been showered with awards...

I know about your conspiracies against the Congress very well, Wani, who was considered a close confidante of Azad before he quit the party in August, said.

Wani said the Congress was a "movement" and a party that believed in secularism. "This is the party whose leaders like Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi sacrificed their lives, and Rahul Gandhi is on a Bharat Jodo Yatra' to unite the country, he added.

Asking the people to continue supporting the party, he said, We are going to introduce young faces and you have to support them and make them win (the elections). You will not support that (Azad's) party and the BJP which skinned the people in the country with inflation, growing unemployment, GST and demonetisation.

Wani said the party has started a campaign to reach out to the people from Katra on the occasion of the first Navratra. We will have rallies in all the 90 assembly constituencies and we will emerge strong enough to defeat the opponents, he added.

He also lashed out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government and said when India got freedom from the British due to sustained struggle of the Congress, even a needle was being imported from outside the country.

It was not Modi but the Congress which developed the country, made it a nuclear power, an economic hub and a strong military power. Since this government (BJP) came to power at the Centre, the destruction is visible everywhere, he said.

Wani urged the people to vote taking into account their experiences with the present dispensation over the last eight years.

Fruit Laden Trucks

"The claim made by certain fruit growers association on the halting of fruit trucks is half truth and natural

reasons are hindering traffic. We have difficulties in the movement of traffic on the highway due to rains and resultant shooting stones which is beyond human control," Pole said in a statement.

He said all stranded Jammu-bound trucks will be cleared by tonight.

The senior officer said 46,000 goods-laden trucks including 29,000 apple trucks have been sent out of Kashmir since September 1, 2022.

Pole said there has been bumper apple crop this year due to abundant rainfall.

"Apple production in Kashmir is 17 metric tonne but due to abundant rainfall, there has been a bumper crop and will cross 21 metric tonne," he said.

The Divisional Commissioner asked the transporters to use alternate Mughal road for at least empty trucks, which will lessen the burden on the national highway.

In Jammu, the former chief minister and Democratic Azad Party (DAP) leader Ghulam Nabi Azad requested clearance of fruit-laden trucks like ambulances from Kashmir to outside markets in the country.

This is harvest time in J&K...I am requesting the government, especially the traffic department to make necessary arrangements to facilitate hassle-free movement of fruit laden trucks from Kashmir to Delhi and other markets for the next one month. These should be given the same priority as is being given to ambulances, otherwise we will have no benefit of the bumper crop this season, he told reporters here.

The DAP leader made the request amid frequent disruptions in the traffic due to shooting of stones over the past week.

Azad said the people connected with the tourism industry, horticulture and handicrafts suffered immensely over the past few years.

This year, the tourism sector registered a good turnout while we have also a bumper horticulture yield... I tried to contact the Lt Governor but he is not here. When he arrives, I will take up this issue (smooth movement of fruit-laden trucks) with him, he said, adding it is imperative to facilitate free movement of trucks to avoid losses to the growers.

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti also hit out Jammu and Kashmir administration for allegedly interfering in the seasonal migrant of tribals and their livestock.

"After deliberately holding up fruit laden trucks for days endlessly & causing massive losses, LG admin is now interfering with movement of tribals & their livestock. It seems that the admin is bent upon making every resident & community of J&K suffer miserably," Mehbooba tweeted.

Talking to PTI on the matter, the PDP president said there were reports that the administration has kept 50 trucks for movement of the nomadic people and their livestock between Banihal and Jammu.

"They do not want the tribals to move on the national highway. How does one even think of transporting hundreds of thousands of livestock of these Bakerwals in 50 trucks? They

have been halted at Banihal where they do not even have pastures for their animals to graze," she added.

Mehbooba said the government should keep some hours every day reserved for the movement of the livestock as was the practice in the past.

The nomadic population of Jammu and Kashmir arrive with their livestock in the valley every year around May in search of greener pastures and return to their homes during September-October period.

Azad also called for restoration of darbar move', a practice under which the government offices including civil secretariat used to function six months each in the twin capitals of Jammu and Srinagar.

The Lt Governor Manoj Sinha had on June 20, last year announced that the Jammu and Kashmir administration has completely transitioned to e-office, thereby ending the practice of the biannual 'darbar move'.

Now both the Jammu and Srinagar secretariats can function normally for 12 months. This will save the government Rs 200 crore per year, which will be used for the welfare of the deprived sections, Sinha had said.

Azad said the darbar move was beneficial for the economy in Jammu. During my chief ministership I also thought of saving the money (by stopping darbar move). The businessmen in Jammu requested me not to think of it as people from Kashmir come and their sales go up by 1,000 times.

The DAP leader also called for adequate compensation to the farmers whose crops were damaged by heavy rains in Kandi and other remote areas of Jammu province.

DGP Chairs

attended among others by Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir Pandurang K. Pole, DIG North Kashmir Udaybhaskar Billa, SSP Baramulla Rayees Mohammad Bhat, ASP Baramulla R K Parihar and jurisdictional SDPOs, the spokesperson said that deployment of man-power from different forces and intelligence agencies was also discussed.

Addressing the officers, he said, the DGP stressed for greater synergy among different agencies and forces, being deployed for the security of VVIP.

"The DGP emphasized upon the officers to keep an eye on the activities of suspicious elements who always try to find an opportunity to disrupt the peaceful atmosphere in the UT," the spokesperson said.

The DGP, he said, directed the officers that proper briefings should be made to the personnel put on security duties at different locations of venues.

"The DGP stressed for utilization of technology & security gadgets including CCTV cameras en-route the visit and locations. He said that a comprehensive communication network must be ensured to be established to coordinate among the agencies involved in the security arrangements," he added.

Singh, the spokesperson said, discussed traffic arrangements and asked for diversion of public transport to alternate routes so that common commuters do not suffer due to security

reasons.

He said that DIG North Kashmir and SSP Baramulla briefed the DGP about the required security arrangements put in place in connection with the VVIP visit.

"They apprised him about the security measures being taken in their respective jurisdictional areas," he added.

Police Assures

police also rejected criticism over circulating pictures of a group of students by it, claiming that the law enforcing agency was aware about its "responsibility" and that they were not "identifiable" as their faces were hidden.

"Our Aerial Surveillance teams are keeping a vigilant watch looking for criminals, absconders etc. using high resolution cameras. This clip (showing in tweet) is from a public space in downtown," police said in a tweet. "The surveillance is in public areas only, so as to ensure privacy."

Regarding the circulating of a picture in which a group of students is seen roaming on streets of Qamarwari during school hours, police sought to defend two concerns raised by few netizens.

"Moral Policing: Most criminals are drug addicts, most drug addicts start in the school bunking phase," the police said in a separate tweet.

Regarding concerns over identity, police claimed that "no student is identifiable as they have hid their faces, names nowhere. We are well aware of our responsibilities."

Earlier Police said that these students were found roaming on streets in Qamarwari area during school timings. "Parents are requested to keep watch on school going children. Further, school authorities may also inform parents in case any student is found absent without leave or prior intimation" Many students have been noticed roaming in parks, roads in school timings recently

Leopard Caught

leopard into a nearby forest from where it was later captured.

The injured villager was shifted to hospital, the officials added.

DGP Greet

secure and congenial atmosphere," the DGP has further said in his message.

J&K Logs Eight

last 24 hours.

"Moreover, 23 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 04 from Jammu division and 19 from Kashmir division," they added.

3 Education Dept

the in-depth enquiry in the matter. "He shall submit an enquiry report to this directorate alongwith his recommendations into the matter within 15 days positively," the order adds.

Those who have been suspended included Ajaz Ahmad Malla (selection officer), Abid Hussain (Jr. Assistant) both are posted at CO office Anantnag and Ashiq Hussain Sheikh(Teacher) posted at Qazigund.(KNS).



## J&K Contingent For 36th National Games Flagged Off To Gujarat



Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Advisor to LG, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar on Monday flagged off the J&K contingent for the 36th National Games to be held at Gujarat from 29th September to 12th October, 2022.

The advisor remarked that the LG led administration has given utmost priority to sports sector and infrastructure of international and advanced standards is being established across Jammu and Kashmir to nurture the sports talent of youth.

Speaking during the flagging off ceremony, Advisor Bhatnagar highlighted that National Games is one of the prestigious and major event of our National Sports Calendar and forms the core platform for sportspersons to prove their talent for international events.

The Advisor added that as many as 36 disciplines are be-

ing covered during the National Games and we are sure that our talented sports persons will perform well and bring laurels for J&K and make us proud.

After the flagging off ceremony, Advisor Bhatnagar also interacted with players and encouraged them to compete with utmost enthusiasm and determination and give their best ever performance.

Secretary, J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul, on the occasion said that in last National Games, the J&K contingent won four silver and eight bronze medals and this year our players are better prepared and eventually we are hoping for more medals this time.

The Secretary added that as many as 14 contingents from J&K are taking part this year and as per new guidelines, cash awards will also be given to the medallists under new Sports Policy.

## T20I Rankings: India Go 7 Points Clear



Press Trust of India

**DUBAI:** India went seven points clear of England at the top of the ICC T20 rankings following their narrow series win over Australia in Hyderabad.

Down 0-1 against the touring Australia, the Rohit Sharma-led India bounced back in style to level the series in Nagpur before Virat Kohli and Suryakumar Yadav's fifties in the deciding rubber on Sunday sealed a 2-1 win.

The six-wicket final over win

improved their ranking by one point to 268 points, a seven-point lead over their closest rival in England in the ICC T20 rankings released on Monday.

The upcoming three-match series against South Africa will give India a chance to consolidate their lead at the top ahead of the World Cup in Australia.

The Proteas occupy third place on the team rankings with 258 points, but could stake their claim when they in the upcoming series commencing at Thiruvananthapuram on

Wednesday.

Incidentally it was Pakistan's narrow three-run win over England in the fourth game in Karachi on Sunday that helped India increase their lead.

Pakistan are currently tied with South Africa for third place on the team rankings with 258 points, but could rise as high as second by winning the remaining three matches against England.

England on the other hand will maintain second place on the rankings should they win one of those contests.

## IND vs SA T20: Team India Touch Down In Kerala For South Africa Duel



Press Trust of India

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM:** The Indian cricket team reached the city on Monday for the first T20 international match against South Africa to be held on September 28 at the Greenfield stadium in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday.

The South African team reached the State capital on Sunday and began practice on Monday.

"Team India will reach the ground for the practice on September 27. They will practice

from 5 PM to 8 PM. The South African team will practice on the ground from 1.00 PM to 4.00 PM," KCA said in a release.

The team captains will meet the media as part of the pre-match interaction on September 27.

The Greenfield stadium has a capacity of 55,000 seats and the KCA said on Monday that 2,000 tickets for the opening T20I are still up for grabs.

The rates for the upper-tier, pavilion and KCA grandstand are Rs 1,500, Rs 2,750 and Rs 6,000 respectively. The tickets for the

KCA grandstand seats would include expenses for food.

**Shahbaz, Iyer in T20I squad, Shami ruled out**

Yet to recover from Covid-19, Mohammed Shami has been ruled out of India's three-match T20I series against South Africa, while Bengal all-rounder Shahbaz Ahmed came in place of a rested Hardik Pandya.

With all-rounder Deepak Hooda also out of the series due to back spasms, the national selection committee is set to recall middle-order batter Shreyas Iyer for the South Africa series.

## England Captain Says India Women 'Lying' About Warning Claims



Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** England skipper Heather Knight, who is currently recovering from a hip surgery, has accused the Indian women's team of "lying" about having warned Charlie Dean before Deepti Sharma ran her out at the non-striker's end in the final ODI.

India pulled off a win against England on Saturday after all-rounder Deepti ran out Dean (47), the last England batter, for backing up too far at the non-striker's end.

Dean was out of her ground

and Deepti simply held the ball to remove the bails, leaving the English team flabbergasted and also triggering an intense debate over 'spirit of the game'.

After returning to the country, Deepti on Monday revealed that Charlie Dean was warned against backing up multiple times before she effected the run out. However, Knight dismissed the claims made by Deepti in a series of tweets.

"The game is over. Charlie was dismissed legitimately, India were deserved winners of the match and the series. But no warnings were given," Knight

wrote on Twitter.

"They don't need to be given, so it hasn't made the dismissal any less legitimate. But if they're comfortable with the decision to affect the run out, India shouldn't feel the need to justify it by lying about warnings." Chasing 170, England were reduced to 118 for nine before No 9 batter Dean revived their hopes with her last wicket partnership with Freya Davies.

However, with 17 needed to win, Dean was run out for 47 with Deepti clipping the bails during her delivery stride to put an end to their 35-run partnership that gave India 3-0 sweep.

## FIFPRO, Leagues Sign Deal At UN Labor Agency

Agencies

**GENEVA:** The FIFPRO union and World Leagues Forum signed a new labour agreement at the United Nations' International Labor Organization on Monday that they said will "stabilize the professional football environment by strengthening employer and employee representatives on a worldwide level and promoting fair conditions of employment in football."

The ILO said it was "the first global agreement on working conditions and rights of professional football players." The move comes after years of tournament expansions and failed proposals for new competitions left many soccer officials feeling sidelined and active players saying their opinions were ignored.

Some of the failed proposals that have divided the soccer world include the European Super League, biennial World Cups, a \$25 billion overhaul of FIFA competitions, adding more teams and co-hosts to the



2022 World Cup in Qatar, and a Champions League reform plan in 2019 that would have locked in some wealthy clubs to guaranteed entries. FIFPRO and the domestic leagues have seats on FIFA's stakeholder committee and UEFA's strategy council, but the status of those panels has declined.

The aim of the new partnership is to "actively pursue equitable representation in international decision-making," the 66-nation FIFPRO union said in a statement.

Under the banner of a "Global Labor Agreement," an executive panel is expected to meet within weeks to discuss issues including the FIFA-managed calendar for national-team games. (AP)

## Portugal-Spain Decider Rounds Off Nations League



Agencies

Last year's Nations League runner-up Spain visits Portugal in a winner-take-all match to decide who advances to the Final Four from Group A2. Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal can secure first place with a draw in Braga. It took the group lead with a 4-0 win over the Czech Republic and Spain's 2-1 home loss to Switzerland at the weekend.

Portugal won the inaugural edition of the Nations League at home in 2019 but did not make it to the Final Four last year. Spain lost last year's final to France. Switzerland, coming off consecutive victories over Portugal and Spain, hosts the Czech Republic needing a draw to avoid relegation to League B.

There are two showdown games to decide which teams

join Bosnia-Herzegovina and Israel in being promoted to the top tier. Norway hosts Serbia tied on 10 points in Group B4 but needs only a draw.

Ukraine and Scotland face each other for the third time in less than four months. The two previous games were in Glasgow and now they meet in Krakow, Poland, because Ukraine cannot host international games during the Russian military invasion. A draw will seal the Group B1 title for Scotland. Israel completes the Group B2 program at Albania. The three-team group played without Russia whose teams has been suspended from UEFA and FIFA competitions.

In League C, Group C2 winner Greece hosts Northern Ireland which is in a three-way relegation fight. Kosovo hosts last-placed Cyprus.

## Grand Warriors Excel In Sqay Championship



Adil Khan

**SRINAGAR:** Trainees of Grand Warriors Academy took part in the recently concluded 23rd District Sqay Championship, which was held at Indoor Sports Complex, Polo View.

Seven students from the academy won 7 medals in the said championship, namely Mohadis Altaf (Gold), Arsalan Khan (Gold), Sahil Farooq (Silver), Mehvish (Silver), Sabiya (Bronze), Rizwan (Bronze) and Affan (Bronze).

While talking to *Kashmir Observer*, General Secretary and coach of Grand Warriors Academy which is working in col-

laboration with L. P. School said we are trying to involve youth in sports activities as drugs among youth is rapidly increasing.

"Our three students, namely Shahid Hilal, Naveed Mukhtar and Mohadis Altaf, are going for national selection trials and we hope that they will be selected for upcoming National Championship which is going to be held in Kashmir in which 30 states of India are expected to participate in senior men and women nationals," he added.

Rouf Ahmad, head of L. P. School, said that we want every student of our locality to play from grass root level to international championships.

## LG's Cricket Trophy Match Played In Anantnag



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Department of Youth Services and Sports Anantnag is organising LG's Rolling Trophy cricket matches at different venue for the youth figuring from 19 to 35 years of age.

At Sports Stadium Qazigund, Zone Qazigund and Zone Verinag faced each other in the T20 format league cum knockout tournament in which the toss was won by Zone Verinag. After winning the toss Verinag elected to bowl first. Qazigund scored 195 runs for the loss of 5 wickets in which Ishiyuq Gull, Aquib Mohiuddin and Asif Mughal were the leading scorers with

52 of 31 balls, 48\* of 27 balls and 47\* of 25 balls. Hilal Bhat from Verinag claimed 2 wickets.

Chasing the target of 196 runs Zone Verinag were bundled out at 161 runs and a comfortable win was registered by Zone Qazigund with a margin of 35 runs. Tajamul with 35 (12) was the highest scorer. Sameer Ganie, Wani Irfan, Muneeb Mir were the main bowlers for Qazigund and claimed 2 wickets each. Asif Mughal was declared Man of the Match for his 47 unbeaten and 1 wicket with maiden wicket over.

With this Win it was Zone Qazigund who remained unbeaten from Pool-C while as both teams also qualified for Super-8 stage.



Agencies

**LONDON:** Frances Tiafoe led Team World to their first Laver Cup title as the American saved four match points in a dramatic victory over Stefanos Tsitsipas that denied Roger Federer a farewell trophy on Sunday.

Tiafoe staged a superb fightback to win 1-6,7-6 (13/11), 10/8 in the penultimate match of the tournament at London's O2 Arena. That was enough to give John McEnroe's Team World a 13-8 overall margin of victory with a match to spare, sealing their maiden triumph in the competition after Team Europe won the first four editions.

While Federer had hoped to mark the end of his career by

lifting the trophy in a tournament he helped create, the Swiss legend was left to salute Tiafoe and the rest of the Team World squad.

"Congratulations to Team World, amazing comeback," Federer said.

"It's been emotional at times but I had a great time. I can't thank you enough for that. I enjoyed every minute."

Promising to attend next year's Laver Cup in Canada, Federer said: "I'm looking forward to next year. I'll be there too, supporting both teams from a different position."

Federer had played the last match of his glittering career on Friday when he and Rafael Nadal were beaten by Tiafoe and Jack Sock in the doubles.



# These Are the Best Airlines Of 2022, According to Travelers. Vistara Ranks

**Agenceis**

As the world finishes unpicking its COVID-19 travel restrictions, business trips and tourism are firmly back on the agenda - in most places, anyway. The question is, who to fly with?

Qatar Airways has been named the world's best airline at the Skytrax World Airline Awards 2022, while Singapore Airlines Ltd. and Emirates landed in the second and third spots respectively.

In a strong showing for Asia-Pacific carriers, Japan's All Nippon Airways Co. and Australia's Qantas Airways Ltd. rounded out the top five, while Hong Kong's largely grounded Cathay Pacific tumbled to 16th place from sixth place last year.

The awards also broke down the best airline for each cabin class. Best

1. Qatar Airways
2. Singapore Airlines
3. Emirates
4. All Nippon Airways (ANA)
5. Qantas Airways
6. Japan Airlines
7. Turk Hava Yollari (Turkish Airlines)

8. Air France
9. Korean Air
10. Swiss International Air Lines
11. British Airways
12. Etihad Airways
13. China Southern
14. Hainan Airlines

15. Lufthansa
16. Cathay Pacific
17. KLM
18. EVA Air
19. Virgin Atlantic
20. Vistara



first-class cabin went to Singapore Airlines, while Qatar picked up best business class. Virgin Atlantic Airways Ltd. won for premium economy and Emirates for best economy cabin.

In other categories, Singapore Airlines' budget carrier Scoot took top place for best long-haul low-cost airline; Singapore Airlines also scooped

best cabin staff; and ANA were number one for cabin cleanliness.

"Qatar Airways was the largest airline to have flown consistently throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, with their network never falling below 30 destinations," Skytrax chief executive officer Edward

Plaisted said in a press release. "That determination has clearly been well recognized by customers."

The World Airline Awards were determined by an online customer survey that ran from September 2021 to August 2022 in English, French, Spanish, Russian, Japanese and Chinese. More than 350 airlines featured in the final results.

# Fed Up With World's Highest Funeral Costs, A Country Changes

**Agenceis**

Tokyo: Even before a \$12 million state funeral for the former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe prompted a public outcry, the Japanese have long grumbled about funeral costs, the highest in the world. Now, an increasing number of grieving families are opting for low-key send-offs, with the pandemic providing an extra reason to avoid large ceremonies.

Average spending per funeral in the past year was 1.1 million yen (\$7,725), down 40 per cent from an earlier, pre-Covid survey, according to Kamakura Shinsho Ltd., an online information service specializing in elderly care, funerals and graves. That's still around a quarter of the average annual salary and doesn't cover extra costs such as offerings to Buddhist monks. Including additional expenses, Japanese funerals cost around 3 million yen before the pandemic, around three to four times what's spent in the US and Europe, according a 2020 survey by UK-based insurance provider Sun-Life Ltd.

Hiroya Shimizu, who organized his



father's funeral in early 2019, remembers being shown different hearses and floral arrangements but felt he ultimately had little control over costs.

"It's not like you could compare prices on Amazon and Yodobashi," said the 57-year-old hotel owner, referring to a popular e-commerce site for electronics. The final bill, he said, came to around 3.5 million yen. "You just pay what you're told."

While much of the recent decline was due to people opting for small-scale ceremonies to avoid the spread of Covid, many say the change is

both overdue and unlikely to be fully reversed. Shinsuke Nakamura, a manager at Kamakura Shinsho, said Japan's aging population and shift to smaller, nuclear families were also leading to smaller funerals.

"Covid just accelerated a trend that was already there, with people increasingly shifting toward family-only ceremonies," he said.

Traditional Buddhist ceremonies, which account for a majority of Japanese funerals, are usually held over two days, with a wake held on the first evening and a formal fu-

neral and cremation the following day. Those who attend are expected to give cash as a condolence gift, but such contributions are usually far outweighed by costs ranging from food catering to venue fees.

One expense that many find particularly opaque is the offering of cash to Buddhist monks, who read sutras at ceremonies and give religious names to the dead for the afterlife. Monks are paid around 200,000 yen on average for such services. There's rarely an explicit price list, but a bigger offering is understood to ensure a more elaborate religious name.

Most grieving families feel under pressure to pay whatever they're told is the going rate, as haggling over funeral fees would be considered unseemly. Over half of the people, in a study published this year by the All Japan Funeral Directors Co-Operation, said that they were unsatisfied with such unclear payments. Upselling by funeral homes is also common, according to the National Consumer Affairs Center, which fields hundreds of such complaints each year including cases of people being pressured to opt for bigger venues or fancier coffins.

# Government Blocks 45 Videos On 10 YouTube Channels: Thakur

**Press Trust of India**

New Delhi: Government has ordered the blocking of 45 videos from 10 YouTube channels that contained fake news and morphed content with the intent to spread hatred amongst religious communities, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said on Monday. The blocked videos had a cumulative viewership of over 1.30 crore and claimed that the government had taken away the religious rights of certain communities, an official statement said.

**ALL INDIA JAMMU & KASHMIR BANK OFFICERS' FEDERATION**  
(Affiliated to AIBOA)  
Office: M. A. Link Road Srinagar

24.09.2022, Saturday

Venue: SP College Auditorium Maulana Azad Road Srinagar J&K

**Theme : Planning Business Growth In Banks**

And

Ref: No: AIJKBOF/22-nil  
All Units  
All Members

Dated:24.09.2022

**NOTIFICATION**

1. In terms of relevant provisions of constitution Notice was given for General council meeting of All India Jammu and Kashmir Bank Officers Federation.

2. As notified the General council was held at Srinagar on 24.09.2022. Saturday at 2.30PM in Srinagar. The agenda points for transaction of business of the day were.

3. a. Election of office bearers and central committee of AIJKBOF for 3 Years.

b. Any other agenda requested by a member, supported by his constituent unit and accepted by Gen Council.

4. The constituent units from Kashmir, Jammu, Delhi and Maharashtra participated in the General council in the delegate session as per their allotted delegate strength.

5. While confirming the amendments made in Federation constitution, as will be circulated by the secretariat of The Federation after this notification, The delegate session Unanimously passed resolution initiated by Com. Riyaz Ahmed Bhat from JKBOA Kashmir and seconded by Com. Anil Sharma and Com. Sunil Bhat of JKBOA Jammu electing following comrades to the office of AIJKBOF on the posts shown against each starting their term with immediate effect.

i. Com. Kapil Nanda (12280) President JKBOA Jammu

ii. Com. Shujat Ali (10050) Senior Vice President JKBOA Kashmir

iii. Com. Nikhil Grover (32286) Senior Vice president JKBOA Jammu

iv. Com. Showket Ahmed Bhat (10012) Vice President JKBOA Kashmir

v. Com. Kanwaljeet Singh (9897) Vice President JKBOA Jammu

vi. Com. Nisar Ahmed Lone (12044) Vice President JKBOA Maharashtra

vii. Com. Ravinder Singh (4514) Vice President JKBOA Delhi

viii. Com. Har Dutt (11165) Vice President JKBOA Jammu

ix. Com. Huzaifa Khan (13185) Vice President JKBOA Kashmir

x. Com. Satinder kaur (10847) Vice President JKBOA Jammu

xi. Com. Riyaz Ahmed Bhat (6828) General Secretary JKBOA Kashmir

xii. Com. Sanjeev Magotra (9640) Secretary JKBOA Jammu

xiii. Com. Showket Ahmed Naikoo (4451) Secretary JKBOA Kashmir

xiv. Com. Pushap Raj Nagra (13950) Secretary JKBOA Jammu

xv. Com. Malik Mubashir (32950) Secretary JKBOA Kashmir

xvi. Com. Zubair Anjum Khan (32561) Secretary JKBOA Delhi

xvii. Com. Ripu Daman Jamwal (12037) Secretary JKBOA Maharashtra

xviii. Com. Roheed Mehmood Qadri (32361) Secretary JKBOA Delhi

xix. Com. Sheikh Inayat (11274) Secretary JKBOA Kashmir

xx. Com. Abishek Baru (12256) Organising Secretary JKBOA Jammu

xxi. Com. Shabir Ahmed Khan (32415) Treasurer JKBOA Kashmir

The session resolved that The posts of President and Gen. secretary will be swapped by elected incumbents after a period of 18 months and it will be open to constituent unit holding the Presidency or General Secretariat to nominate new member from the unit to the post at time of such swap.

6. The central committee member list has been received from constituent units and also deemed to be elected. Same has been handed over to secretariat of Federation for circulation amongst membership.

The Result of Election is now being notified officially and Secretariat is advised to inform all concerned quarters to update the records.

Sd/-.....Sheikh Ifthikhar  
(Convener)

Abbas Ads:

Quick eats for busy people

**Bun Maska**

& Chai

Chicken Crispy

**Burger**

JK BANK LAWNS, NEAR GHAT 6, BOULEVARD-SRINAGAR