

## Activists Mobilizing Community To Fight Eco-Offensive In Kashmir

Mohammad Tawheed

From reporting illegal river-bed-mining to launching water-cleanliness drives, the new-age Kashmiri eco-activists are spearheading a green change in the valley with the community mobilisation.

The initiative is already serving a wakeup call to the people refusing to ignore the alarming rates of environmental degradation in the Himalayan region.

As many are willfully participating in the safeguard of their environment, eco-activism is only gaining momentum in Kashmir.

"Environmental activism is



bound to rise in Kashmir because of the worsening environmental situation, which no conscious citizen can disregard

in any circumstances," said Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat, a leading activist of Kashmir. "Since no political or religious

**ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISM IS BOUND TO RISE IN KASHMIR** because of the worsening environmental situation, which no conscious citizen can disregard in any circumstances."

leader in Kashmir speaks about environmental issues, I felt a need to raise my voice against such issues and to become an environmental activist."

Eco-activists are people who not only speak up against the degradation of the environment but also take sustainable actions for the conservation, protection and restoration of

the environment. They lobby for judgements and laws protecting the environment. They also raise awareness among common masses vis a vis eco-friendly and sustainable development.

"Environmental activism is an extremely important endeavour considering Jammu and Kashmir is an agrarian and

tourism based economy depending heavily on its natural resources," Dr. Bhat added.

The Jammu and Kashmir Draft Environmental Policy of 2018 mentions that the unsustainable use of natural resources for economic growth and development has led to the degradation of environment and ever-growing environmental issues in Jammu and Kashmir.

Loss and degradation of forests and biodiversity, loss of wetland ecosystems, increasing scarcity of water, menace of solid waste, and air, water and soil contamination are some of the challenges mentioned in the draft policy document. | More on P10

## Aadhaar Alert For Cards Issued Over 10 Years Ago

Press Trust Of India

**New Delhi:** Aadhaar holders who were issued the unique ID more than 10 years back but have not updated their details since then are being urged to update identification and residence proof documents, UIDAI said.

In a statement, UIDAI -- the government agency that issues Aadhaar numbers -- said the update can be done online as well as at Aadhaar centres.

It said those who were issued the unique identification number more than 10 years back and have not done any update since the issue are being "requested" to update their documents.

UIDAI, however, did not say if this update is mandatory.

"Any person who had got their Aadhaar made 10 years back and not updated the information in any of the subsequent years are being requested to do document update," it said.

The update of identification documents and proof of residence is being done on payment of the requisite fee.

"This facility | More on P10

## J&K Must Set An Example In Public Service Delivery: LG

'Govt To Citizen Transactions Should Be Completely Transparent To Meet Aspiration Of A Modern Society'

Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** Asserting that government to citizen transactions should be completely transparent to meet the aspiration of a modern society, the Union Territory Lieutenant Governor; Manoj Sinha said on Wednesday that Jammu and Kashmir must set an example for others in public service delivery.

Sinha made these remarks while chairing a high level meeting to review the developmental scenario in North Kashmir's Bandipora district on Wednesday, an official spokesperson said. The LG, he said, appraised implementation progress of Central & UT Government schemes and developmental projects on the ground.

"Government to citizen transactions should be



completely transparent to meet the aspiration of a modern society. Jammu Kashmir must set an example for others in public service delivery. An integrated system and strategic

plan is necessary for the empowerment of farmers, women and youth. Our efforts must enhance their potential and progressively transform their lives," Sinha said. | More on P10

## Discusses New LPG Plant With State Head IOCL

Jitendra Kumar Executive Director and State Head, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at the Raj Bhavan here on Wednesday. Kumar discussed with the Lt Governor issues related to the setting up of Srinagar Depot at new land, tankage addition commensurate with increased demand, and setting up of LPG bottling assistance plant for IOCL at Anantnag with the capacity to dispatch 3240 LPG cylinders per day, an official spokesperson said. The LG, he said, assured the Executive | More on P10

## People Living In Jammu For Over 1 Yr Can Register As Voters



Press Trust Of India

**Jammu:** Authorities in Jammu on Wednesday authorised tehsildars (revenue officials) to issue certificate of residence to those residing in the winter capital for more than one year to facilitate their entry in the ongoing special summary revision of electoral rolls.

District Election Officer and Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, Avny Lavasa passed the directive after taking serious note of some eligible voters facing hardships in registration as voters for non-availability of required documents.

The Special Summary Revision of electoral rolls

has been started in the Union Territory with effect from September 15 for registration of new voters, deletion, correction, transposition of voters who have migrated, died since last summary revision, amid serious concern expressed by various political parties over the inclusion of non-locals as voters.

The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), headed by National Conference president Farooq Abdullah, on Saturday had announced the formation of a 14-member committee to chalk out a strategy on the issue of any attempt of manipulation and inclusion of non-locals in | More on P10

## Govt Orders Implementation Of JKHRMS

October Salary Of Employees To Be Released After Registration On It

Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** Government Wednesday ordered implementation of Jammu & Kashmir Human Resource Management System (JKHRMS) and asked employees to register themselves for drawing the salary for the month of October.

"In order to provide an integrated platform for various employee related services like maintenance of service book vis-à-vis service record of the employees in digital format, postings and promotions, the Government intends to launch Jammu & Kashmir Human Resource Management System (JKHRMS) in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir," reads a circular. | More on P10

**WE NEED TO ENSURE SUPPORT AND REQUISITE** training to everyone planning to start his or her own business venture. I am sure with a helping hand from administration; the young entrepreneurs will keep the wheels of progress moving."

## 4 New Industrial Estates To Come Up In J&K Soon: MoS

Says New Industrial Policy Aimed At Providing Employment To Youth At Rapid Pace

Agencies

**Ganderbal:** Union Minister of State (MoS) for Commerce and Industry, Anupriya Patel on Wednesday said that four new industrial estates will come up in Jammu and Kashmir with an aim to ensure employment to the youth in the Union Territory.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of the function, Patel said that under the new industrial policy announced for J&K, four industrial estates will come up in the UT shortly.

"We are trying our best to ensure more and more industrial development here as we have set a massive target for the employment of the youth in



Jammu and Kashmir," she said, adding that the central government has provided every possible support in this regard.

She also said that the unit allotment for the new industrial estates and applications have been received. | More on P10

## 'Peace Visible On Ground' PM's Special Focus On Kashmir Bearing Fruit: Union Minister

Press Trust Of India

**Srinagar:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi's special focus on Kashmir is bearing fruits as peace is visible on the ground, Union Minister Pankaj Chaudhary said on Wednesday.

He said this while chairing a meeting with business and industry stakeholders to discuss various issues related to them at the Banquet Hall here.

"Prime Minister Modi has a special focus on Kashmir due to which peace is visible on the ground," the minister of state for finance said.

Chaudhary said it is due to Modi's vision that central ministers are meeting stakeholders



by visiting them at their doorsteps as part of the government's public outreach programme in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said the prime minister's endeavour is that those in power must visit people and stakeholders alike so that the ground

situation could be obtained.

The minister said peace in Kashmir is a prerequisite to every other activity.

"And for all this, we need your support, our officers in administration are also there as the government of India is committed to establish peace in Kashmir and it is moving in the right direction in this regard," Chaudhary told representatives of trade associations.

Earlier, several heads and representatives of business and industry from Kashmir put forth their issues and grievances before the minister, who gave a patient hearing to them.

The trade leaders spoke in length about | More on P10

## 'The Beats of J&K' DIPR Launches Teaser For 'Inspiring, Aspiring' Artists

Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** To encourage and facilitate the local artists of Jammu and Kashmir to showcase their talent, Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) on Wednesday launched the teaser of music show namely 'The Beats of J&K' with an avowed objective of providing them a platform to grow and make an indelible mark in their chosen fields on a larger canvas.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha is scheduled to launch the initiative, designed to inspire the budding artists to exhibit their distinguished skills, thus giving a much needed push to local art forms in singing, dancing and allied disciplines, an

official spokesperson said.

He said that the initiative will give young people around J&K an opportunity to let their creativity and talent shine.

"The Beats of J&K" invited some aspiring, young performers to perform folk music compositions in new fusion music.

According to the spokesperson, this exclusive endeavor of DIPR's would serve as a potent tool for promoting and preserving the folk art and regional folk music legacy of Jammu and Kashmir, which has received huge acclaim the world over.

The programme, he said, would encourage music in all local dialects like Kashmiri, Dogri, Pahadi, Gojri, Bharderwahi | More on P10

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

#### Woman Killed In Lightning Strike

A 24-year-old woman died due to lightning strike in Poonch district last night, police said on Wednesday. News agency GNS quoting a police official reported that lightning struck the woman, Saleema Kousar daughter of Mohammad Zaman, when she was on way to give fodder to the cattle in a cowshed near her house at Balakote in Mendhar Poonch last night. Station House Officer Mendhar Niaz Ahmed confirmed it and said that a case has been registered in this regard.

#### Bhat Takes Charge As Director JKEDI

Ajaz Ahmad Bhat on Wednesday assumed the charge of Director, Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI). After assuming the charge, the Director took an introductory meeting with the senior officers of the institute and held an overall assessment of its functioning, an official spokesperson said. During the meeting, he said, the Director asked them to dedicate themselves to empowerment of youth and establish a robust startup ecosystem across J&K. | More on P10

#### No Corona Case In Kashmir For 2nd Day

Kashmir Valley remained Coronavirus free for the second consecutive day Wednesday, while nine fresh cases of Covid-19 were reported from different parts of Jammu division. According to officials, no new case of Coronavirus was registered in Kashmir Valley, while in winter capital Jammu district detected six and Rajouri, Samba and Kishtwar reported one new case each of Covid-19, taking the total number of people infected since the onset of pandemic in the | More on P10

#### Dr. Karan Singh Meets LG

Dr. Karan Singh, former Union Minister & Member of Parliament met Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, here at Raj Bhavan on Wednesday, an official spokesperson said. He said that Dr. Karan Singh and the LG discussed various matters with regards to development of Jammu Kashmir and welfare of the people, besides other issues of public importance. The former Union Minister, he said, was accompanied by his son and former legislator, Vikramaditya Singh. | More on P10

#### Doctor Fired For Unauthorised Absence

Jammu and Kashmir administration on Wednesday terminated the services of a senior doctor posted at the Government Medical College (GMC) here for unauthorised absence, an official order said. Ishfaq Ahmad Sofi was appointed as lecturer in the department of Ophthalmology in GMC Jammu on September 11, 2017 and placed as in-charge assistant profession in the department on February 8, 2021. Sofi, in-charge assistant professor, department of ophthalmology, GMC Jammu, has been | More on P10

#### Electric Shock Kills Man in South

A man died on Wednesday after receiving an electric shock inside his house in South Kashmir's Anantnag district. Abdul Majeed Wagay was taking shower inside his house in the Brah Ranipora area of Shangus on Wednesday morning when he came in contact with a live wire and got electrocuted, reports said. Wagay was taken in an unconscious state to a nearby health facility for treatment. However, the doctors there declared him brought dead. Meanwhile, police | More on P10



# Scientists Develop A New Printable, Wearable Insect Repellent

**Mosquito sprays containing IR3535 are very gentle on the skin and have been used all over the world for many years. That's why we've been using the agent for our experiments**

**Martin-Luther phys.org**

**A** new type of insect-repellent delivery device has been developed by scientists

from the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU). With the help of a 3D printer, the active ingredient is first "encapsulated" and formed into the desired shape, such as a ring, which can then be worn

and releases an agent designed to repel mosquitoes for a long time. The team has presented its work in the International Journal of Pharmaceutics. The researchers have developed their prototypes using "IR3535," an insect repellent developed by MERCK. "Mosquito

sprays containing IR3535 are very gentle on the skin and have been used all over the world for many years. That's why we've been using the agent for our experiments," says Professor René Androsch from the MLU. It is usually applied as a spray or lotion and offers several hours of

protection. However, Androsch and his team are looking for ways to release the agent over a much longer period, such as by encapsulating it in a wearable ring or bracelet.

The researchers used a special 3D printing technique to insert the insect repellent into a



biodegradable polymer in a controlled manner and to shape the mixture of substances in various ways. "The basic idea is that the insect repellent continuously evaporates and forms a barrier for insects," explains the lead author of the study, Fanfan Du, a doctoral candidate at the MLU.

The rate at which the insect repellent evaporates depends on many different factors, including temperature, concentration and the structure of the polymer used. After conducting various experiments and simulations, the team predicts that the insect repellent needs well over a week to evaporate completely at a temperature of 37°C (98.6 °F, i.e., body temperature).

While the researchers have proven that it is absolutely possible to develop a wearable insect repellent, the rings and other forms created for the study are only prototypes. According to Androsch, further research needs to be carried out to determine how well the rings function under actual conditions. The encapsulation material could also be further optimized.

# SC Asks Animal Welfare Body To Submit Data On Dog Bites

**Press Trust Of India**

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Wednesday directed the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) to submit data on dog bites in the last seven years across the country and the steps taken to check such incidents.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and J K Maheshwari directed the AWBI to file an affidavit mentioning the details and also indicate whether it would like the court to lay the guidelines.

It also clarified that its 2015 order does not prohibit the authorities or individuals including registered societies from approaching high courts or jurisdictional courts.

"We do not think it is the intent of this court in the said order that all writ petitions or proceedings before HCs, civil courts and authorities should come to a standstill and no effective orders can be passed by HCs in cases pertaining to stray dogs," the bench said.

The top court had earlier said a balance has to be maintained between the safety of people and animal rights, and suggested those who feed stray dogs could be made responsible for vaccinating them and bearing the cost of treatment if somebody is attacked by the animal.



**We do not think it is the intent of this court in the said order that all writ petitions or proceedings before HCs, civil courts and authorities should come to a standstill and no effective orders can be passed by HCs in cases pertaining to stray dogs**

The top court has been hearing a batch of petitions on issues relating to orders passed by various civic bodies on the culling of stray dogs which have become a menace, especially in Kerala and Mumbai.

Some NGOs and individual petitioners have moved the top court against the decisions of some high courts, including the Bombay High Court and Kerala High Court, to allow municipal authorities to deal with the menace of stray dogs as per the rules.

## The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

### BRANCH OFFICE MAGAM

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original Migration certificate under Below mentioned particulars  
 Name: Rouf Ahmad Parry  
 S/o Abdul Rashid Parry  
 R/o Chairhara Magam Budgam



**Details of Marks Certificate lost**  
 Higher Secondary School Examination (class12th)  
 Roll No 2408202 Session /Year Regular. 2017

Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Migration Certificate. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is treated as cancelled.

Sd/ Assistant Secretary  
 Sub Office Magam

bmg\_r

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**NO. OF POSTS:** 864

**QUALIFICATION:** Full time Bachelor's Degree in Engineering or Technology/AMIE with not less than 65% marks, as per respective Institute/University norms (55% for SC/ST/PwBD candidates). Candidates must have appeared for Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) - 2022.

A candidate with the prescribed degree identified for the disciplines as given below can only apply for the post of EET in the respective discipline:

Discipline Advertised	Prescribed full time degree in Engineering
Electrical Engineering	Electrical/ Electrical & Electronics/ Electrical, Instrumentation & Control/ Power Systems & High Voltage/ Power Electronics/ Power Engineering
Mechanical Engineering	Mechanical/ Production/ Industrial Engg./ Production & Industrial Engg./ Thermal/ Mechanical & Automation/ Power Engineering
Electronics Engineering	Electronics/ Electronics & Telecommunication/ Electronics & Power/ Power Electronics/ Electronics & Communication/ Electrical & Electronics
Instrumentation Engineering	Electronics & Instrumentation/ Instrumentation & Control/ Electronics, Instrumentation & Control
Civil Engineering	Civil/ Construction Engineering
Mining Engineering	Mining

**AGE LIMIT:** Upper Age limit for General/ EWS is 27 years as on last date of online application (age relaxation for SC/ ST/ OBC/ PwBD/ XSM candidates applicable as per Government guidelines).

**SELECTION PROCESS:** Candidates must have appeared for Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE)-2022. Candidates will be selected based on the GATE-2022 performance.

**PLACEMENT:** The selected candidates shall undergo one-year training at various places. The final place of posting will be decided after completion of training. Candidates can be placed, across the country, in any of projects/ stations including Subsidiaries/JVs companies of NTPC for shift operation of power plants and will be required to work in shifts (including night shift). Application for the post will be considered as the consent of the candidate to work in shifts (including night shift).

**HOW TO APPLY:** Candidates need to apply online for the post of EET-2022 with their GATE-2022 registration number by visiting [careers.ntpc.co.in](http://careers.ntpc.co.in) or careers section at [www.ntpc.co.in](http://www.ntpc.co.in). Candidates are requested to go through the full text of the advertisement available on our website for detailed eligibility criteria, reservation & relaxations, selection process, placement and other details before applying.

**Important dates:** Commencement of online application: 28.10.2022 Last date for online application: 11.11.2022

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## CONDOLENCE



It is with utmost grief and sorrow to inform the demise of Hajji Hafizullah Khan Ex Dy Director planning and statistics, Ex Principal Salfia Muslim Institute on 11th October 2022 Taziya will be for three days only There will be no congregational Fateh khwani

### BEREAVED

Sajad Hafiz Khan Son  
 Doctor. Abid Bashir Son In Law  
 Doctor. Adil Hassan Siddiqie Son In Law  
 Firdous Ahmad Son In Law  
 All Near And Dear Ones  
 Contact Nos: 9419027959/7006205638

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## SANGAM CRICKET CLUB

No: SCC/10/22 Dated 05/10/2022  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**

1. This is for the information of the general public that some self-styled person namely Anees Ahmad .Mir is impersonating as acting President of Sangam Cricket Club Srinagar and has issued a notification in some local daily/s for elections to the General Body of the aforementioned Club on 9th of October 2022 in CCD Sonawar Sonawar.

In this regard, through the medium of this notification, the public is informed that the above person has falsely prepared a seal and illegal letter head of the club and Issued the said notification.

2. It is further notified that anyone dealing with the above person directly or indirectly in this regard shall be doing so at his own risk and responsibility. I am lodging an FIR against such person / person's.

3. As per the constitution of the club my tenure as Club President expired some time back and as per the club norms a meeting of the General Body of the club was convened on 30-07-2022 to elect office bearers for next term. Following a due process as per the club Constitution office bearers were elected with an intimation to J&K Cricket Association to which Sangam Cricket Club stands affiliated. A notification to this effect was issued in local press Since I have not been feeling well the said person who is not in any way connected with the club is taking undue advantage and trying to fool people.

4. Moreover, any notification / pertaining to Sangam Cricket Club in the future .shall be issued only by the Club President Mr Wajahat Majeed or General Secretary Mr. Fayaz Ahmad

FKO Sangam Cricket Club

## PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information of general public that I. Anis Ahmad Mir S/o: Gh Nabi Mir R/a Habakadal Srinagar distance myself from the notification issued by daily Srinagar Observer on 1st Oct. 2022 regarding elections to general body of Sangam Cricket Club on 09 Oct. 2022 further affirm that the matters pertaining to the management Sangam Cricket Club in the Domain of the current executive body of Sang Cricket Club headed by its president Wajahat Majeed and that I shall refrain in future from issuing any such notification.

In case of any deviation from the above, the management of Sangam Cricket Club can take legal action against me for which I shall be wholly and solely responsible.

FKO ANIS AHMAD MIR  
 S/O: GH NABI MIR  
 R/O HABAKADAL SRINAGAR

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## OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER J.V. FOREST DIVISION BARAMULLA.

### EXTENSION NOTICE 06

Reference to: e-NIT NO: - 07 OF 2022-23 DATED: - 26<sup>th</sup> of August 2022

Fencing Work in Comptt. 10 Kathie.

Change of Critical Dates

	Old Dates	Revised Dates
Publishing Date: -		27-08-2022
Download Start Date:		27-08-2022 from 09:00 AM
Bid submission Start Date:		27-08-2022 from 09:00 AM
Bid submission End Date:	10-10-2022 Up to 4:00 PM	18-10-2022 Up to 04:00 PM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid Online.	11-10-2022 at 11:30 AM in the office of the Conservator of Forests Kashmir North Circle Mazbugh Sopore.	19-10-2022 at 11:30 AM in the office of the Conservator of Forests Kashmir North Circle Mazbugh Sopore.
Date of Opening of Financial Bid Online:	To be opened (Online) after Evaluation of Technical Bids Received.	

Divisional Forest Officer,  
 J.V Forest Division, Baramulla

No: DFO/JV/e-Tender/2022-23/173-76  
 dated: 12/10/2022

DIPK-11657/22







## "Get Registered Within A Month Or...": Uttarakhand's Ultimatum To Madrasas



Agenceis

**Dehradun:** Madrasas in Uttarakhand have been ordered to get themselves registered with the state education department within a month or face closure.

There are around 400 unregistered madrasas in the state, according to the government.

"Madrasas have been served an ultimatum to register with the state education department within a month. If they fail to meet the deadline, steps will be taken to shut them," Uttarakhand Social Welfare and Minority Welfare Minister Chandan Ram Dass said.

Currently, 419 madrasas are registered with the Uttarakhand Madrasa Board. Of these, 192 receive grants from the Centre and the state government.

The state government estimates that there are around 400 more madrasas and they remain unregistered.

"Not registering with the state education department is harming the future of the students who study there as they face problems in getting admissions after Class V," Dass said.

The direction to get regis-

tered is aimed at the welfare of the students because only then can they avail of benefits of the central and state government schemes, he added.

As there were allegations that the grants given to the madrasas were not being appropriately utilised, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami had recently underlined the need to have them surveyed.

State Waqf board chairman Shadab Shams said he had a word with the chief minister regarding the issue and a committee will soon be set up to survey the madrasas.

Soon after taking over as the state Waqf board chairman last month, Shams had made a strong pitch for providing modern education in madrasas.

He said the board plans to introduce the state education board syllabus in madrasas and provide similar education to its students as children in private and government schools.

CCTV cameras will also be installed in madrasas to ensure transparency in their activities, he added.

Uttarakhand Waqf Board runs 103 madrasas.

## Biden Vows "Consequences" For Saudis After OPEC+ Cuts Output

Agenceis

President Joe Biden said on Tuesday there will be "consequences for Saudi Arabia as the Riyadh-led OPEC+ alliance moves to cut oil production and Democratic lawmakers call for a freeze on cooperation with the Saudis.

Biden suggested he would soon take action as aides announced that the administration is reevaluating its relationship with the kingdom in light of the oil production cut that White House officials say will help another OPEC+ member, Russia, pad its coffers as it continues its nearly eight-month war in Ukraine.

Democratic Sen. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut and Rep. Ro Khanna of California introduced legislation that would immediately pause all US arms sales to Saudi Arabia for one year.

This pause would also halt sales of spare and repair parts, support services and logistical support. But it remains to be seen how far Biden is willing to go in showing his displeasure with the Saudis, a vital but complicated ally in the Middle East.

Biden came into office vowing to recalibrate the US relationship because of Saudi Arabia's human rights record but then paid a visit to the kingdom earlier this year.

Biden said in a CNN interview he would look to consult with Congress on the way forward, but stopped short of endorsing the Democratic lawmakers' call to halt weapons sales.

There's going to be some consequences for what they've done,



with Russia, Biden said. I'm not going to get into what I'd consider and what I have in mind. But there will be there will be consequences.

John Kirby, a White House National Security Council spokesman, said Biden believes it's time to take another look at this relationship and make sure that it's serving our national security interests. Press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said on Tuesday the White House has no timeline for its review nor has the president appointed an adviser to serve as point person.

Meanwhile, officials underscore the central role that Saudi Arabia plays in addressing broader national security concerns in the Middle East.

Blumenthal and Khanna unveiled their legislation one day

after Sen. Robert Menendez, a New Jersey Democrat, said it was unacceptable that OPEC+ had moved to cut oil production and effectively assist Moscow in its war on Ukraine.

Menendez promised to use his position as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to block any future arms sales to the Saudis.

Menendez did not warn the White House before announcing his intention to block future Saudi arms sales, Kirby said. OPEC+, which includes Russia as well as Saudi Arabia, announced last week it would cut production by 2 million barrels a day, which will help prop up oil prices that are allowing Russian President Vladimir Putin to keep paying for his eight-month invasion of Ukraine.

## Iran to Stage Joint Naval Exercise with China, Russia



Agenceis

A high-ranking Iranian military commander says the Islamic Republic of Iran Navy plans to hold a joint naval exercise with China, Russia and a number of other countries in the northern tip of the Indian Ocean in the near future.

Iranian Navy Commander Rear Admiral Shahram Irani said on Wednesday that the forthcoming naval drill is meant to boost up the combat capabilities of Iranian forces, and falls within the framework of maritime diplomacy so as to ensure sustainable security.

He noted that Iran has invited a number of member states of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) – a forum aimed at increasing maritime cooperation among the littoral states of

the Indian Ocean region, to take part in the joint exercise.

Some 20 to 30 countries will actively participate in the joint drill, Irani stated, adding that the war games have been designed in accordance with an instruction book compiled by the Iranian Navy.

The Iranian Navy commander also noted that Iran is currently holding a joint naval rescue and relief exercise with a number of friendly states and allies.

Iran, Oman stage joint naval drill

Meanwhile, the Iranian and Omani naval forces launched a joint military exercise in the Sea of Oman and the northern parts of the Indian Ocean. The military exercise, backed by helicopters from both countries and Iranian drones, was held in the presence of the heads of the joint military friendship commissions of the two countries and their members.

## NATO To Conduct Nuclear Exercise Next Week Despite Russian Warnings

Agenceis

NATO will push ahead with long-planned nuclear exercises next week despite rising tensions over the war in Ukraine and President Vladimir Putin's insistence that he is not bluffing about using all available means to defend Russian territory, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said Tuesday.

The exercise, dubbed Steadfast Noon, is held annually and usually runs for about one week. It involves fighter jets capable of carrying nuclear warheads but does not involve any live bombs. Conventional jets, and surveillance and refuelling aircraft also routinely take part.

Fourteen of the 30 NATO member countries will be involved in the exercise, which was planned before Russia invaded Ukraine in February.

"The main part of the manoeuvres will be held more than 1,000 kilometres from Russia," a NATO official said.

"It would send a very wrong signal if we suddenly now cancelled a routine, long-time planned exercise because of the war in Ukraine. That would be absolutely the wrong signal to send," Stoltenberg told reporters on the eve of a meeting of NATO defence ministers in Brussels.



"NATO's firm, predictable behaviour, our military strength, is the best way to prevent escalation," he said. "If we now created the grounds for any misunderstandings, miscalculations in Moscow about our willingness to protect and defend all allies, we would increase the risk of escalation," he added.

With the Russian army retreating under the blows of Ukrainian forces armed with Western weapons, Putin raised the stakes by annexing four Ukrainian regions and declaring a partial mobilisation of up to 300,000 reservists to buttress the crumbling front line.

As his war plans have gone awry, Putin has repeatedly signalled that he could resort to nuclear weapons to protect the Russian gains. The threat is also

aimed at deterring NATO nations from sending more sophisticated weapons to Ukraine.

NATO as an organisation does not possess any weapons. The nuclear weapons nominally linked to NATO remain under the firm control of three member countries, the US, UK, and France. The alliance's secretive Nuclear Planning Group will meet on Thursday among defence ministers.

Stoltenberg described Putin's spiralling nuclear rhetoric as dangerous and reckless, and underlined that the allies have also conveyed clearly to Russia that it will have severe consequences if they use nuclear weapons in any way.

"We are closely monitoring Russia's nuclear forces," Stoltenberg said. We have not seen any changes in Russia's posture, but we remain vigilant.

## Hezbollah Pledges To Remain On Alert Until Lebanon-Israel Maritime Deal Is Signed

Agenceis

The Secretary General of Hezbollah, Hassan Nasrallah, cautiously welcomed the landmark agreement between Israel and Lebanon to settle a maritime border dispute during a speech on 11 October.

"We don't need to send out drones or carry out maneuvers because the goal was for the enemy to understand that the resistance is serious," the Hezbollah chief said, adding that "Israel is more afraid of war than the Lebanese."

Nasrallah went on to say that, despite the agreement reached on Monday, the resistance will remain "vigilant" until the documents are officially signed.

"We will wait, as long as Lebanon and Israel don't sign on paperwork in Naqoura, we don't have a deal yet," Nasrallah said.

The resistance leader also dismissed accusations made against Hezbollah claiming it sought to derail the deal, saying: "It is strange that some in Israel and in the Arab media are claiming that Hezbollah wants to sabotage the deal. We have no problem when the Lebanese officials say that the agreement meets the Lebanese demands."

"We only care about the ex-

traction of oil and gas from Lebanese waters and our stance on demarcation is known," Nasrallah went on to say, noting that he does not recognize Israel's border.

"Don't dare accuse us of not caring for Lebanon's rights. If you ask me about our maritime border, I'd say it extends to the sea of Gaza. We and the Palestinians are one and we don't separate our borders."

"Tonight we will not issue threats. Tonight there will only be joy and clapping," Nasrallah added during a televised address marking the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad.

Earlier on Tuesday, Lebanese and Israeli officials announced their acceptance of a US-drafted proposal for the first-ever mutually agreed upon boundary between the two nations, to determine control of two offshore natural gas fields.

The two countries have no direct diplomatic relations and are technically in a state of war.

Since mid-June – when Tel Aviv deployed drilling and extraction vessels to the disputed Karish gas field in the Mediterranean Sea – Hezbollah threatened to bomb the rigs if Israel began extracting gas without delimiting the maritime borders first.



## 14 Arrested Members Of Banned Group PFI File Plea Seeking Compensation

Agenceis

**New Delhi:** Fourteen PFI members, arrested in a massive crackdown on the radical Muslim outfit over its alleged terror links, Wednesday approached the Delhi High Court seeking their release and compensation, claiming they were unlawfully detained.

Three separate petitions came up before a bench of Justices Siddharth Mridul and Amit Sharma which granted time to the petitioners' counsel to file additional documents and relevant judgements to support their case. The bench listed the matter for further hearing on November 21.

During the hearing, Delhi Police raised preliminary objection over validity of the petitions and said habeas corpus pleas cannot lie as most of the petitioners have been released on bail.

A habeas corpus petition is filed seeking direction to produce a person who is missing or has been illegally detained.

The petitioners claimed they

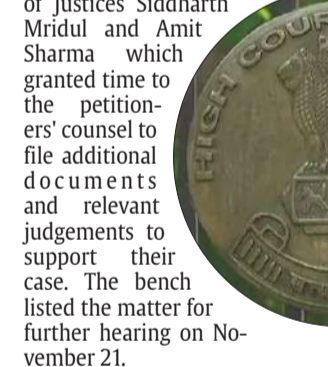
were arrested from their respective homes here on the night of September 27 when police personnel in civilian clothes as well as in uniform barged in and picked them up without informing them or their families anything about the reasons for their arrest.

They claimed they were detained without following the procedures established by law and police took them to some undisclosed location.

The petitioners have sought an independent, appropriate enquiry against the authorities so the erring officials could meet the justice.

A large number of alleged PFI activists were detained or arrested in several states during the massive raids preceding the nation-wide ban imposed on the organisation on September 28.

The government banned the PFI and several of its associate organisations for five years under the stringent anti-terror law UAPA, accusing them of having links with global terror groups like the ISIS.



### NEWS MAKERS

## 'Alive': Plane Crash Survivors On Eating Dead Bodies, Fighting To Live

Agenceis

**Montevideo:** The first night was the worst, Roy Harley recalls of the 10 weeks he and other survivors of a plane crash 50 years ago managed to cling to life on an Andean glacier without food or shelter, and very little reason for hope.

Of the plane's 45 occupants, 16 made it home from the 72-day ordeal that became known as the "Miracle of the Andes".

The only way to survive was to eat the flesh of the dead. But for Harley, a retired engineer now aged 70, that was not the worst of the nightmare made famous by the 1993 film "Alive".

After the initial shock of their plane crashing into the Andes mountains on that fateful Friday the 13th of October 1972, Harley and 31 other survivors found themselves in the pitch dark in minus 30 degrees Celsius (-22 Fahrenheit) at an altitude of some 3,500 meters.



Many of them not yet 20 – the plane was flying an amateur Uruguayan rugby team and family members to a match in Chile – none were dressed for the cold. Several were badly injured. Those who could squeezed into what remained of the fuselage between dead bodies and the screams of the wounded.

"That night, I experienced hell,"

Harley told AFP. "At my feet was a boy who was missing a part of his face and... choking on blood."

"I didn't have the courage to reach out to him, to hold his hand, to comfort him. I was afraid. I was very afraid."

By morning, four more were dead, and so started a seemingly relentless torment that would

eventually whittle the number of survivors down to 16.

"No words". There were too many dark moments to list.

"I don't have words to describe how cold it was," said Harley's former rugby teammate, fellow survivor and friend Carlos Paez, 68. "We were so cold, it was so difficult, that I have no words to describe it."

Many times they thought it was the end. On Day 10, the survivors heard on the plane radio that the search for them had been called off.

"One of the most painful things was... to realize that the world was going on without us," said Paez, who today travels the world as a motivational speaker.

But it was also the jolt the survivors needed to take matters into their own hands and start trying to find a way off the glacier, he recalled.

Another tribulation was having to broach the topic of anthropophagy – the eating of human flesh.

## Anthropologist From UK In "Highest Category Of Blacklisting", Says Centre

Agenceis

**New Delhi:** The Centre on Wednesday opposed a petition by the UK anthropologist Filippo Osella against the denial of entry into India in March and his subsequent deportation, saying the academician was in the "highest category of blacklisting".

The Central government counsel said the authorities had sufficient material which constrained them to blacklist the petitioner and then deport him.

The petitioner, an anthropologist from the UK involved in research on fishing communities in Kerala, was denied entry and deported upon arrival at the Thiruvananthapuram airport on March 23.

"He (petitioner) was in the highest category of blacklisting. There was a lot of material because of which he had to be deported. There is more to it than meets the eyes," the central government lawyer told



the court on Wednesday. He also urged the court to peruse the relevant file as it was not possible to "disclose everything on an affidavit".

Justice Yashwant Varma, however, asked the Centre to first file its written response in the matter before any privileged document is considered by the court.

"File an affidavit. It would be unfair to the petitioner that we

independently peruse something which is produced in a sealed cover and they don't get to know what it is. If that affidavit lays the foundation for us to see some documents which are privileged... then we will consider looking into it," said the judge, granting four weeks' time to the Centre to file the response.

In his plea, the petitioner has said the reasons behind his "forceful" deportation from the airport and the denial of entry in spite of a valid visa are "unknown" and his representations to the authorities remain unanswered.

He has claimed the conduct of the authorities was "unfair, unjust and arbitrary" as well as ultra vires the Constitution of India, international law and fundamental human rights and dignity.



## Samples Of Two Monkeypox Suspects Return Negative

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The samples of two suspected Monkeypox cases from Uri area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district have turned negative, officials said here on Wednesday.

News agency KNO quoting Block medical officer Boniyar Dr Parvaiz Masoodi reported that samples of two persons that were sent to SKIMS Microbiology lab for screening have returned negative for monkeypox.



Earlier, he had said that eight suspected monkeypox cases have been reported in Uri, however, CMO Baramulla denied the same and said that there was no need to panic.

## Pulwama Synonymous With Good Governance, Dev: Kansal

Asks Officers To Make Public Services Accessible With Focus On Online Deliveries



Observer News Service

**PULWAMA:** Principal Secretary, Information and Higher Education, Rohit Kansal, on Wednesday visited Pulwama to review overall developmental scenario in the district.

He took first-hand appraisal of all central and UT government developmental and social security schemes besides assessing performance of different departments.

Principal Secretary, who is also Secretary In-charge for Pulwama district, also assessed sector wise progress achieved under different schemes by various departments.

Deputy Commissioner, Pulwama, Baseer Ul Haq Choudhary, through a power point presentation, gave a detailed overview of the developmental activities and scheme-wise achievements under District Capex Budget, Languishing Projects, Health, JIM, RDD, PWD, PHE, Social Welfare and other sectors.

During the meeting, it was informed that the number of total works under District Capex 2022-23 was 2720 including 2138 new works and 582 ongoing works. Besides, 80 works have been completed and funds worth Rs 19.07 crore and Rs 119.13 crore stands released under Regular and ADF components. The total allocated cost under Capex was Rs. 438.16 crore.

Kansal said that the UT government is putting in sustained efforts to remove difficulties besides making social security and welfare schemes easily accessible to all eligible citizens. He exhorted upon officials to undertake regular public outreach activities for ensuring 100% saturation of all the beneficiary-oriented schemes and prompt redressal of public grievances.

Reviewing District Capex plan and other important infrastructure projects in the district, Principal Secretary passed in-

structions to Deputy Commissioner to monitor all Infrastructure Projects periodically and ensure their completion within stipulated timelines.

Enquiring about the status of critical projects of works departments, he asked the concerned to submit regular reports regarding stages of project completion.

Kansal issued explicit instructions to the Power Development Department functionaries to restore power supply during upcoming winters. "Adopt advance planning and optimum resource allocation to ensure minimum hassle to common citizens", he exhorted upon the officers.

Addressing officers, he said that Pulwama is on the trajectory of development and prosperity and can be a role model for other districts.

Emphasizing the importance of schemes like PM - SEHAT - Ayushman Bharat, PM - KISAN, MUMKIN and others, Kansal asked the concerned officers to prioritize achieving set targets under these schemes. He enjoined upon the officers to have 100 per cent saturation in beneficiary oriented schemes with special focus on credit linkages and financial inclusion. He added that analysis of missing links and gaps should be done so that projects are completed in time.

Laying emphasis on online services, he said these digital utilities are way towards accountability and transparency.

He emphasized on officers to work in unison and identify bottlenecks and impediments in ongoing projects so that projects are accomplished in a time-bound manner.

He cautioned officers against any lackadaisical approach on their part as far as public services are concerned.

Among others the meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioners Pulwama and Tral, ACCD and ACP Pulwama besides district officers.

## 70 Ministers To Visit J&K As Part Of Public Outreach Programme

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** Around 70 Union ministers are visiting Jammu and Kashmir to assess ground-level development and review implementation of government schemes there as part of the Centre's public outreach programme.

Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industries Anupriya Singh Patel said the initiative will make the life of people of the Union Territory more comfortable and take development to new heights under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Patel visited Ganderbal district under the third phase of the programme.

About 70 ministers are visiting Jammu and Kashmir to have first-hand appraisal of the development needs pertaining to their departments so that the planning is done accordingly.

They are listening to the grievances of people and their demands, she said.

The Union MoS said the central government is committed to provide better employment avenues to the local youth of Jammu and Kashmir and in this regard, four new industries are coming up in Ganderbal in central Kashmir.

On day one, the minister visited an old industrial estate in Ganderbal where more than 90 units are established and she was briefed about its functioning.

DIC, Ganderbal informed her that four new industrial estates are coming up in the district at Barsoo, Kohistan Colony, Pehlipora and Arigoripora for which the allotment process has already been initiated.

The minister also interacted with the association of small scale industrial unit holders who apprised her about the issues being faced by various unit

holders and demanded upgradation of canal road, drainage and effluent treatment plant, sustained marketability and other issues for increasing the estate's scope.

Patel said the purpose of visiting the estate was to take first-hand appraisal about its functioning and asserted that all possible facilities will be provided to the unit holders in order to ensure their growth.

She also apprised them of the steps being taken up by the department for implementation of various subsidy schemes.

Later, the minister inaugurated a senior citizen home of 25-bed facility at Wayil, which is being established in a rented accommodation under 'Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana' by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and would be run by Hope Disability Centre.

She also distributed mobility aids among the beneficiaries.

## IAF Shows Its Military Might In Udhampur Air Show

Jaguar, Rafale Jets; Chinook Helicopters Roar In Skies

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** The skies over Udhampur roared on Wednesday as fighter jets and combat helicopters of the IAF captivated the audience with their maneuvers during an air show to mark the diamond jubilee celebrations at the headquarters of Air Officer Commanding (AOC) Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh.

As part of the event, a fly-past began with skydiving by a team of Akashganga from AN32 followed by air maneuvers and different formations by Jaguar, MiG29, Su-30 and Rafale aircraft, officials said.

Combat helicopters like Apache, Mi-17 Slithering and Chinook also exhibited adrenaline-pumping maneuvers in the first-of-its-kind air show at the Udhampur Air Force Station.

Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Air Command, Air Marshal Sreekumar Prabhakaran lauded the role of headquarters AOC Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh for dominating the Himalayas over the past 60 years.

General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, northern command, Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi, Air Officer Commanding Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh Air Vice Marshal Praveen Keshav Vohra and other senior IAF, military and civil dignitaries also attended the show.

"As part of the diamond jubilee celebrations of headquarters AOC Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, the motive is dominating Himalayas and that is what they have been doing for the last 60 years. AOC J&K was established back in 1962 and they



moved here to Udhampur in 1964," Prabhakaran said.

He said the headquarters AOC has worked as a link between the IAF's Delhi-based western command and the northern command of the Army.

"And thanks to the headquarters AOC, the northern command of the army and western command based in Delhi, we work very closely and it is this headquarters which has helped in coordinating all activities between the Army and Air Force," the IAF western commander said.

He said they have also been actively involved in all the air maintenance.

"We execute, especially in the northern sector that is J&K sector, Siachen Glacier. In the winter months when the roads are blocked, our brave soldiers up at the front depend on the air maintenance," he said.

Prabhakaran said the headquarters AOC has build good liaison with the Army and the soldiers on the frontline are looked after well and all their needs, whether related to rations or ammunition, especially during the winter months

are fulfilled.

"And not just coordination with the Army, headquarters AOC also maintains very close liaison with our civilian counterparts, whether it is the earthquake which happened in J&K earlier, floods in Srinagar and the issue which we recently had at Amarnath cave.

"In all these activities, thanks to the close liaison and coordination between civil authorities and IAF through headquarters AOC, we have been able to save many lives and we are happy that during times of peace, IAF has come for the benefit of fellow countrymen," he said.

He said the headquarters has always lived up to its high values and traditions.

"It has been actively involved in the 1965 and 1971 Indo-Pak wars, in the Kargil conflict and of course, it really came into prominence during the eastern Ladakh standoff which is in some way still continuing," he said.

Extending good wishes to the AOC J&K and his team, he said, "We will do even better in the times to come."

## Efficiency In Governance To Be The Hallmark Of B2V4: CS

Asks Officers To Take Feedback From Public To Bring About Further Improvements



Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** In a meeting with the Administrative Secretaries including Civil and Police administration, Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta remarked that the greater efficiency in governance would be the key motive behind the upcoming fourth phase of the Back to Village (B2V4) programme.

Dr Mehta impressed upon the officers that public feedback about the working of government offices in the local areas shall be a significant component of this outreach programme. He urged them to ask public about the promptness and efficiency of services offered to them by the government departments.

The Chief Secretary stressed on creating awareness among masses about all the online portals and services offered by the government. The officers were asked to display prominently in each Gram Panchayat the name and number of services available online for digital literacy of the villagers. They were urged to saturate certain deliverables in the run up to this programme and debottleneck any major project or scheme implementation.

Dr Mehta also stressed on holding convergence meeting of all the departments at the panchayat level for ironing out any of the issues hindering development in these villages. He called for making it a monthly feature in each Panchayat. He prompted each department and officer to own this initiative and put up their best in meeting

all its objectives.

Moreover the Chief Secretary underscored the need of involving common people in some cultural or sporting activity. He said that this opportunity should be availed to take the flagship programmes of Nasha Mukht, Brashtachar Mukht J&K a step further.

Other initiatives talked about by the Chief Secretary to be reviewed by the visiting officers includes the issuance of Golden Cards, Door to Door collection of waste in villages, Swachh Grameen, PMAY-Grameen, saturation of Self Employment Schemes, working of Public Distribution System, Land Passbooks, Digitisation of Revenue Records, Playgrounds in panchayats, Jal Jeevan Mission, functioning of Youth Clubs, Social Welfare and other centrally sponsored schemes.

Earlier the Principal Secretary, Information and Higher Education Departments, Rohit Kansal informed the meeting about the background and objectives of this renewed initiative. He enumerated different aspects to be achieved during this major public outreach programme.

He gave out that the programme is tentatively scheduled to be held in the last week of this month and a Jan Abhiyan is to be held a week before that. He maintained that during this Jan Abhiyan senior officers would visit villages and listen to people and see the achievements about all the above mentioned government schemes and deliverables for smooth conduct of B2V4 programme.

## Mainly Dry Weather Predicted Till October 18



Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Weather department here on Wednesday forecast mainly dry weather from October 13-18 in Jammu and Kashmir. "As of now, there's no forecast of any significant rain/snow in J&K," a meteorological department official said.

Regarding minimum temperature, he said, Srinagar recorded a low of 10.6°C against 9.4°C on the previous night. The temperature was 3.3°C above normal for the summer capital during this time of the year, he said.

Qazigund recorded a low of 8.8°C against 7.0°C on the previous night. The temperature was 2.5°C above normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, he said.

In Pahalgam, the mercury settled at 6.0°C against 6.1°C on the previous night and it was 2.4°C above

normal for the south Kashmir resort, he said.

Kokernag recorded a low of 7.4°C against 7.5°C on the previous night and it was 0.3°C below normal for the place, he said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 3.4°C against 3.5°C on the previous night and it was 1.3°C below normal for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

In Kupwara town, the mercury settled at 10.6°C against 7.1°C on the previous night, the official said. It was 4.2°C above normal for the north Kashmir place, he said.

Jammu recorded a low of 15.7°C against 19.4°C previous night. It was below normal by 4.1°C for J&K's winter capital, he said. Banihal recorded a low of 8.8°C, Batote 8.8°C, Katra 13.6°C and Bhadrawah 10.2°C. (GNS)

## J&K Parties Slam Order On Registration Of New Voters

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** The National Conference, PDP, Congress and other prominent political parties in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday flayed the Jammu administration's order on facilitating the registration of new voters who are from outside the union territory, while the BJP defended it saying it is in line with the laws.

They were reacting after the Jammu administration authorised tehsildars (revenue officials) to issue a certificate of residence to those residing in the winter capital for more than a year to enable their registration as voters.

While Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti alleged that the Centre's "colonial settler project" has been initiated in the region, the National Conference urged people of J-K to defeat these conspiracies at the ballot box.

Former Congress leader and Democratic Azad Party chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad said the order would increase social tensions in J-K, while the Peoples Conference termed the Jammu's DC order "highly suspicious".

"The EC's latest order for registration of new voters makes it clear that GOIs colonial settler project has been initiated in Jammu. They will bear the first blow to Dogra culture, identity, employment & business," Mufti tweeted.

Talking to reporters in Kulgam district in south Kashmir, Mufti said her party has been saying that the BJP has an illegitimate intent behind the abrogation of Article 370.

"Their aim is to change the population ratio in J-K. It will start in Jammu when a sea of people will come from outside, which will not only harm the Dogra culture there but the business, employment and resources there will be attacked. The crime rate there has increased manifold since they opened the doors for the outsiders," she alleged.

The National Conference (NC) claimed the BJP is "scared" of the elections and knows it will lose badly.

"The Government is going ahead with its plan to add 25 lakh non-local voters in J&K and we continue to oppose this move. BJP is scared of the elections & knows it will lose badly. People of J&K must defeat these conspiracies at the ballot box," the NC

said in a tweet.

NC state spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar said the fresh order was an extension of what the then Chief Electoral Officer Hridesh Kumar had said at his press conference in Jammu.

The party had opposed it then and continues to oppose it now, he said.

"The only antidote that will defeat all these controversies is that the people of Jammu and Kashmir that includes Dogra Muslims, Kashmiris, Gujjars, Paharis and other sections, they need to register themselves as voters and when the election comes, they should come out and vote in large numbers. That is the only way we can defeat their nefarious designs," Dar told PTI.

The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), headed by National Conference president Farooq Abdullah, had on Saturday announced the formation of a 14-member committee to chalk out a strategy on the issue of any attempt of manipulation and inclusion of non-locals in the revised electoral rolls.

The panel has members from the five PAGD constituents and several other political parties such as the

Congress, the Shiv Sena, the Dogra Swabhimani Sangathan Party (DSSP) and the Dogra Sadar Sabha (DSS).

The Peoples Conference said in a statement that the Jammu DC order "reinforces the apprehensions in the minds of locals that outsiders are being enabled to register as voters to change the demographic profile of J-K".

It urged the Election Commission of India as well as the J-K administration to come clean on the matter.

"We will always oppose making a non-resident a voter because Article 370 biggest benefit was that outsiders will not become voters here. This is not right, not right for the state and it will increase social tension," Azad told reporters.

The Special Summary Revision of electoral rolls was started in the Union Territory on September 15 for the registration of new voters, deletion, correction, and transposition of voters who have migrated or died since the last summary revision.

The cat is out of the bag finally and we will not allow this (giving voting rights to non-locals) to happen. We are against such a move because it is a conspiracy hatched by BJP to di-

vest locals of their rights and control power with the support of outsiders," J-K Pradesh Congress Committee president Vikar Rasool Wani told reporters in Jammu.

The Congress leader also denounced the recent government order allowing departmental stores to sell beer and Ready-to-Use drinks and said such an order should be immediately revoked to honour the religious sentiments of the people.

J&K BJP president Ravinder Raina, however, said the guidelines are in accordance with the Representation of the People Act.

There is nothing wrong in people from outside J&K getting enrolled as voters in the Union Territory, a right which is given to them by the Constitution. After the abrogation of Article 370 (in August 2019), the Act came into force in J-K as well, he said.

He accused opposition parties including the National Conference, Congress and PDP of unleashing propaganda under a conspiracy to mislead the people.

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and former minister Harsh Dev Singh, however, accused the BJP of misrepresenting and misinterpret-

ing the Representation of Peoples Act (RPA) to justify the inclusion of non-local voters.

He said that nowhere does the RPA state that the voter of one State/UT can get himself registered as a voter in some other State/UT for elections to the legislative assembly of that State/UT.

In the absence of an express provision in RPA to the effect, the existing law is being misinterpreted by the vested interests to sub-serve their political motives, he alleged.

Singh said uniform yardsticks cannot be applied for Parliamentary and Assembly elections. What right do the outsiders have to decide as to who should represent J&K as its MLAs or ministers, Singh questioned.

We welcome giving voting rights to Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Balmiki and Gorkha community, but the decision to give voting rights to non-locals camping in Jammu and Kashmir for just one year cannot be tolerated, Shiv Sena leader Manish Sahni said.

He warned that all the opposition parties are united over this issue and a mass movement will be launched against any such attempt.



KASHMIR OBSERVER

Slowing Economic Growth

According to the IMF, the impact of the Russia-Ukraine war, tightening monetary conditions worldwide, the greatest inflation in decades, and the lingering effects of the pandemic will cause a general slowdown across the world, including India, in the upcoming year. India's growth has been projected to decline to 6.8 percent after registering a healthy increase of 8.7 percent in the last fiscal year. However, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman who is in Washington, asserted that India will grow at 7 percent this year. She, however, observed that the Indian economy is not exempt from the impact of the world economy.

Ukraine war has been the singlemost factor for the current setback to the global economy. In today's globalized world, events in one part of the world trigger far-reaching fallout in other parts. There have been foodgrain and fuel shortages which have driven up prices and this has been a matter of great concern for developing countries.

The continuing war, however, is bad for the world economy as the shrinking of the US economy through the April to June quarter shows. A slowing US economy will have far-reaching effects on the world. And this is happening at a time when the global economy was gradually recovering from the debilitating fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic, a once-in-a-century event. The countries were opening up and letting the economy function normally. International travel has also returned to pre-pandemic levels.

The IMF's dismal growth forecast for Indian economy is not a good news after a year of healthy growth. For two years after the advent of Covid-19 pandemic, Indian economy performed well below even some sub-saharan countries. The pandemic and the consequent lockdown also dealt a body blow to the global economy. And Indian economy was the worst hit, losing one-fourth of its GDP in the first quarter of 2020. The extended lockdown hit the economy hard leaving millions of people jobless. It also disrupted the supply lines and forced migrant workers to head home.

Kashmir economy also suffered. According to an estimate by the local business bodies then, the Valley suffered a loss of over Rs 50,000 crore during the extended lockdown from August 2019 to in May 2020. Its fallout on the ground was grim. Sectors of the economy like tourism, handicrafts, hotel industry, IT, transport etc were crushed. People were forced to shut down their old unviable businesses and start new ones. Now Kashmir is witnessing a bumper tourist year which has brought growth and jobs back.

But the ongoing war in Ukraine remains a danger. If the war drags on, the global economy, and with it the Indian economy, is likely to come under severe stress again. Therefore it is incumbent on the world to come together to resolve the crisis in Ukraine and find a solution that addresses the concerns of all the parties involved. Otherwise, as prophesied by leading economists, the world is heading inexorably toward recession.

OTHER OPINION

World's Ice is Melting. Humanity Must Prepare

As this month's unseasonably high temperatures drove unprecedented melting of the Greenland ice sheet, experts delivered a chilling message: Get used to it. Massive stores of ice sit atop land in Greenland and Antarctica, and if even a small fraction melted into the oceans, sea levels would rise dramatically. Scientists are still figuring out how fast this might happen. But new research leaves little room for optimism.

Over the course of this century, countless millions of people will have to reckon with rising seas. There are few easy answers, but humanity must — with urgency — prepare now.

In a new paper in the journal Nature Climate Change, researchers estimated that Greenland's "zombie ice" — immense chunks destined to melt because of the changes that have already occurred — will boost sea levels by nearly a foot. The scientists calculate that some 3.3 percent of the island's ice sheet is bound to disappear into the oceans, much of that over the course of this century, which equates to 110 trillion tons of ice. These estimates, based on direct observations of Greenland, are more pessimistic than previous projections, which relied on computer modeling. According to the researchers, their new estimates represent the minimum that could happen if global warming were to continue.

These estimates do not take into account melting occurring in other areas, particularly Antarctica — and news from scientists on that end of the world, announced this month, was not good.

The world has been amply warned. Scientists have raised the alarm: sea-level rise is not a matter of "if" but a matter of "when and how much." The nation's leaders must not wait for the floodwaters to inundate their communities — or the wildfires to get worse, or the droughts to become more severe — to plan for the new reality.

The Washington Post

On International Day for Disaster Reduction

Conserving, Adapting and Mitigating

Building Kashmir Into a Disaster-resilient Community

Faizan Ahmad Arief

Human-induced climate change, including more frequent and intense extreme events (hot extremes on land and in the ocean, heavy precipitation events, drought and fire weather), has caused far and wide adverse impact and related losses and damages to ecosystems, people, settlements and infrastructure, beyond natural climate variability. Terrestrial, freshwater, and coastal and open ocean marine ecosystems have also been seriously affected. Additionally, it has made it harder to meet Sustainable Development Goals by reducing food and water security.

There has been a high death and morbidity rate in all regions due to extreme heat events. Over 2,000 people died in Spain and Portugal from heat-related causes over roughly a week by an unprecedented heat wave in July this year. In 2018 alone, the EU recorded 104,000 heat-related deaths among the elderly people, over one third of the global total, according to the Lancet Countdown report published in December 2020.

The occurrence of climate-related food-borne and water-borne diseases has increased. The spread of animal and human diseases, including zoonoses, is occurring in new locations. Climate-sensitive cardiovascular and respiratory distress has been linked to increased exposure to wildfire smoke, atmospheric dust, and aeroallergens.

Some losses have already become irreversible, whereas others are on their way to irreversibility, such as the impacts of hydrological changes resulting from the retreat of glaciers, or the effects of permafrost thaw on mountain and Arctic ecosystems.

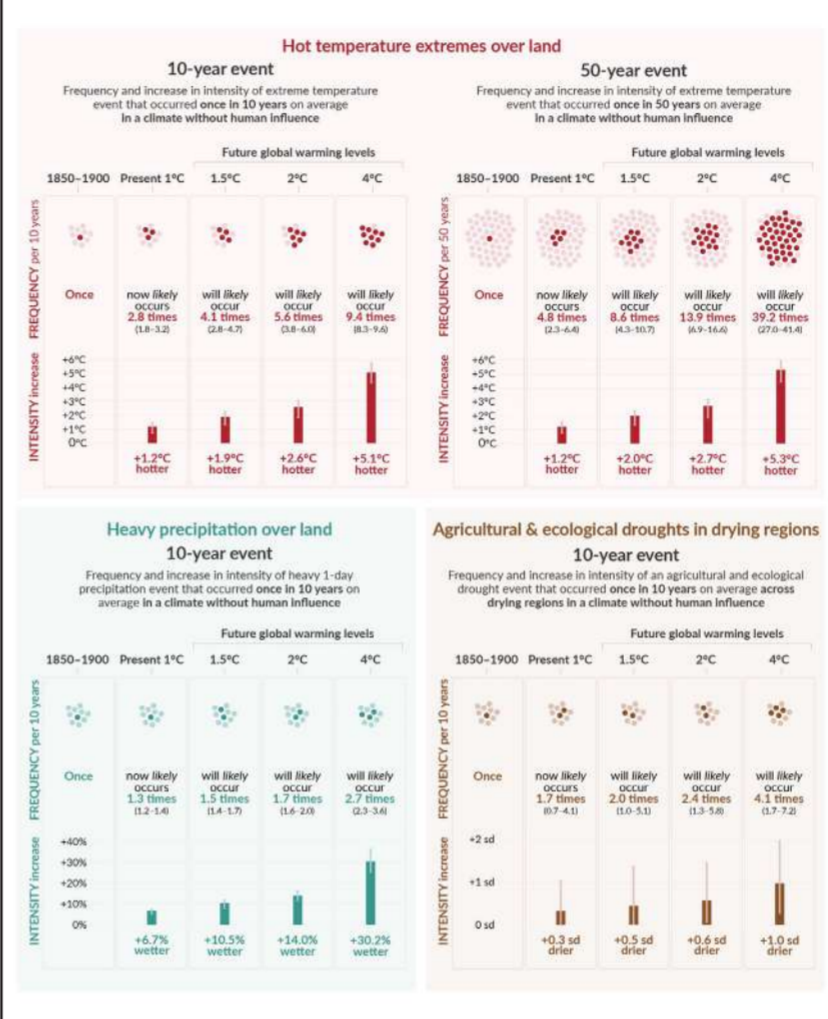
It is becoming increasingly difficult and complex to manage the effects and risks of climate change. There will be multiple climate hazards occurring simultaneously, and multiple climatic and non-climatic risks interacting, compounding overall risk and cascading across sectors and regions.

Jammu and Kashmir has been witnessing an increase in a number of extreme events from the past 10 years. Massive flood in 2014, river Jhelum crossing the flood declaration mark five times in 2015, 2 dozen cloudbursts in Kashmir valley in 2015, cloudbursts at Kishtwar and Amarnath Cave Sonamarg in 2021 and 2022, respectively, extreme snow and rain spells in 2021 when the south Kashmir plains were buried under up to five feet of snow within a period of three days, untimely heavy November snowfall in 2018 and 2019, October snowfall in south Kashmir plains in 2021 and April snowfall in Kashmir plains in 2017, are a few of the extreme events that I have mentioned here. There have undoubtedly been many more. This agrees with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) 6th Assessment Report 'Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis' — a 3,949-page report based on more than 14,000 scientific papers, written by 234 scientists, which states that extreme temperature events that used to occur once every 10 years are occurring 2.8 times more frequently nowadays, extreme precipitation events with 1.3 times more frequency and agricultural and ecological events with 1.7 times more frequency and their frequency will only increase as the temperature rises further.

By limiting global warming to less than 1.5°C in the near future, human systems and ecosystems will have substantial reductions in projected losses and damages as compared to higher warming levels.

Adaptation, as defined in the second part of the Sixth Assessment Report of the IPCC, in human systems is the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects in order to moderate harm or take advantage of beneficial opportunities and in

Projected changes in extremes are larger in frequency and intensity with every additional increment of global warming



Urban planning and infrastructure design that is sustainable, such as green roofs and facades, parks and open spaces, the management of wetlands and forests, urban agriculture, and water-sensitive design, can be used to mitigate and adapt to climate change in settlements. These options can improve air quality and benefit health as well as reduce flood risks, pressure on sewage systems, and urban heat island effects

natural systems, the process of adjustment to actual climate and its effects. It plays a key role in reducing exposure and vulnerability to climate change.

The adoption of effective adaptation options and public policies will help enhance food availability and stability, reduce climate risks, and increase the sustainability of food systems. Cultivar improvements, agroforestry, community-based adaptations, farm and landscape diversification, and urban agriculture are among the effective options. Agro-ecological principles and practices, ecosystem-based management in fisheries and aquaculture, and other approaches that work with natural processes support food security, nutrition, health and well-being, livelihoods and biodiversity, sustainability, and ecosystem services. These services include pest control, pollination, buffering of temperature extremes, and carbon sequestration and storage. Adaptation strategies that reduce food loss and waste or support balanced diets contribute to nutrition, health, biodiversity, and other environmental benefits.

The combination of non-structural measures like early warning systems with structural measures like levees has reduced the number of people killed in inland flooding. Further reducing flood risks can be accomplished by restoring wetlands and rivers, implementing land use planning measures such as no-build zones, and managing upstream forests. The management of on-farm water, storage of water, soil moisture conservation, and irrigation are some of the most common adaptation responses that reduce vulnerability as well as provide economic, institutional, and ecological benefits. Several livelihood benefits can be derived from irrigation, which reduces drought risk and climate impacts in many regions. However, proper management is required to avoid adverse outcomes, such as accelerated depletion of groundwa-

ter and other water sources and increased soil salinization.

Measures to conserve, protect, and restore natural forests are part of forest adaptation. Sustainable forest management, diversifying and adjusting tree species compositions to build resilience, managing pest and disease risks, and managing wildfire risk are examples of adaptation strategies used in managed forests. In general, improving sustainable forest management, restoring natural forests and drained peatlands, restoring and conserving natural ecosystems and biodiversity, reforestation and avoiding deforestation, agroforestry, soil carbon management, and reducing CH4 and N2O emissions from livestock and soil in agriculture can boost the resilience of carbon stocks and sinks.

A combination of conservation, protection, restoration, and targeted management to adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change reduces the vulnerability of biodiversity to climate change.

In order to promote urban and rural system transitions, inclusive, integrated, and long-term planning is essential at the local, municipal, sub-national, and national levels, together with effective regulation and monitoring systems in addition to financial and technological resources and capabilities. The ability of vulnerable people to adapt to changing conditions is improved when governments, civil society, and private sector organizations work together across scales.

Human health and well-being will be protected and promoted by strengthening health systems' climate resiliency. An effective adaptation option for extreme heat is a Heat Health Action Plan that includes early warning and response systems. Improvements in access to potable water, reducing exposure of water and sanitation systems to flooding and extreme weather events, and

improving early warning systems are some of the most effective adaptation options for water-borne and food-borne diseases. In the case of vector-borne diseases, effective adaptation options include surveillance, early warning systems, and vaccine development. Improved surveillance, access to mental health care, and monitoring of psychosocial impacts of extreme weather are effective adaptation options for reducing mental health risks under climate change.

By improving knowledge of risks, impacts, consequences, and available adaptation options, societal and policy responses will be strengthened. As a result of a wide range of top-down, bottom-up, and collaborative processes and sources, climate knowledge and sharing can be deepened, including capacity building at all scales, educational and information programs, use of the arts, participatory modeling, climate services, indigenous and local knowledge, and citizen science. In addition to raising awareness, these measures can influence behaviour and heighten risk perception.

A substantial reduction in overall fossil fuel use, the adoption of low-emission energy sources, the use of alternative energy carriers, and energy efficiency and conservation are all essential to reducing greenhouse gas emissions across the full energy sector. By moving toward net-zero emissions through low-emission development pathways, urban areas can increase resource efficiency and significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It is possible for cities to reach net-zero emissions, but only if they reduce emissions within and outside of their administrative boundaries through supply chains, which will then have positive cascading effects across other sectors.

The most significant potential for decarbonization in land-based transport is offered by electric vehicles powered by low-emissions electricity. The use of sustainable biofuels in land-based transport can provide additional mitigation benefits in the short and medium term. It is possible to reduce CO2 emissions from ships, aircraft, and heavy-duty land transportation by using sustainable biofuels, low-emission hydrogen, and derivatives (including synthetic fuels). However, improvements in production processes and cost reductions are needed in order to achieve these goals. A number of mitigation strategies in the transport sector can have various co-benefits. These include improved air quality, improved health, equitable access to transportation services, a reduction in congestion, and a reduction in material consumption.

Urban planning and infrastructure design that is sustainable, such as green roofs and facades, parks and open spaces, the management of wetlands and forests, urban agriculture, and water-sensitive design, can be used to mitigate and adapt to climate change in settlements. These options can improve air quality and benefit health as well as reduce flood risks, pressure on sewage systems, and urban heat island effects.

The mitigation of land-related impacts with adaptive benefits may include agroforestry, cover crops, intercropping, perennial plants, restoring natural vegetation, and restoring degraded land. By maintaining land productivity and protecting and diversifying livelihoods, these measures can increase resilience.

A number of feasible and effective adaptation options exist which can reduce risks to people & nature, and the people & government of Jammu and Kashmir can implement some of them at least.

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

The author is an independent weather forecaster, better known as "Kashmir Weather" across social media



# KASHMIR'S STORY OF DISASTER IS NOT NATURAL

Earthquake and flood hazards turn into disasters because of human inaction; evidence is Kashmir



The fact that most of the threats are turning into disasters by the inaction of humans makes it evident that humans have to take responsibility and ought to act responsibly for safety and security from floods, earthquakes, and so on



Dr. Afroz Ahmad Shah

The earthquakes and floods in any part of the world are turning into disasters mainly because of our inaction; this concern was the central theme of the #NoNaturalDisasters Conference in London, held in September 2022. The first such conference in the world that takes a radically different stand on how disasters are unnatural. The name of the conference suggests the unnaturalness of disasters, which is why the campaign started in 2017 and has attracted some traction internationally. The main goal of the forum and the campaign is to alert people nationally and internationally about using the word Natural in disasters because it blames nature when disaster strikes and gives an easy route to authorities, including politicians, to escape responsibilities and

questions on how hazards turn into disasters. The scientific data suggest that most disasters are caused by human inaction. For example, when the magnitude 7.6 earthquake occurred in Muzferabad, Pakistan, in 2005, it instantly became a catastrophe by killing more than 80 000 human lives, causing innumerable losses to other forms of life, including livestock, and billions in economic losses. A much higher magnitude earthquake occurred in New Zealand in 2016 and resulted in the loss of two people. The quake was of magnitude 7.8 and struck on November 14, the largest earthquake in the country in the past 100 years. Comparing the losses in the two earthquakes mentioned above clearly maps the unnaturalness of disasters. Pakistan was not ready to face earthquakes, while New Zealand was ready, which made the difference. And the main question is about who should



**I AM NOT SURE HOW** people can sleep peacefully in a region like Kashmir, where the occurrence of earthquakes is always looming, a doubtless forecast

take responsibility for inaction. For example, we routinely get a quick reaction from parents and authorities when an educational institute does not perform in a competitive examination; either the teachers have to explain their position, or other action will

be taken. Therefore, it is straightforward to map who should take the blame when a hazard turns into a disaster. At the conference, I demonstrated through evidence-based research that the inaction of authorities and people in Jammu and Kashmir had turned past hazards and disasters, including floods and earthquakes. Unfortunately, even now, no systematic planning is in sight, which would have given us a sense of safety and security in case of an earthquake or flood. Therefore, we are bound to face problems in the future, which could be much harsher than what Pakistan witnessed in 2005. Only thinking about it sends chills down the spine. I am not sure how people can sleep peacefully in a region like Kashmir, where the occurrence of earthquakes is always looming, a doubtless forecast. What surprises me is that

the ground is not prepared for it, which is very scary. Therefore, we must generate a sense of urgency by involving people, scientists, and other stakeholders worldwide to campaign for the safety and security of nations that face dangerous hazards that could turn into disasters. The fact that most of the threats are turning into disasters by the inaction of humans makes it evident that humans have to take responsibility and ought to act responsibly for safety and security from floods, earthquakes, and so on. And if there are apparent lapses in stopping a hazard from becoming a disaster, we must ask questions and take appropriate actions. It is time to do that and not wait for the dangers to become disasters.

*The author is a Sr. Assistant Professor, Structural Geology, Department of Geosciences*

## Flood Hazard Risk Assessment Survey in J&K

The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction is an opportunity to acknowledge the progress being made toward preventing and reducing disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods, economies and basic infrastructure in line with the international agreement for reducing global disaster risk and losses

Auqib Javed

Srinagar- Eight years after devastating floods hit the Kashmir Valley, the Jal Shakti, previously known as Irrigation & Flood Control Department is carrying out a study for assessing the flood hazard risk wherein an Integrated Forecasting System (IFS) coupled with a Decision Support System will be made for effective and prompt response for any flood related disaster in the Union Territory.

According to the government, the consultancy for this assignment has been outsourced to M/S RMS Pvt. Ltd. The department has said this in a detailed status report submitted before the High Court (HC) of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh regarding framing of scheme for flood control and improvement of embankments of river Jhelum.

The status report was filed by Principal Secretary, Irrigation & Flood Control (I&FC) in pursuance to the directions of the High Court order.

The government submitted that under long term measures, several studies are underway and are likely to be completed within the next six months.

"The outcome of these studies shall lay foundation for future strategies to be adopted for Comprehensive Flood Management in Kashmir Valley which is aimed to help us in mitigating floods of 1, 15, 000 Cusecs at Sangam as witnessed during 2014," the status report reads, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer.

The study is currently going on wherein a 2D- Hydrodynamic mod-

el is being made and the various possible structural and non-structural measures will be studied and a comprehensive DPR for the same shall be formulated and put up to the government for approval," the status report noted.

According to the government, the consultancy for this assignment has



The government submitted that after the devastating floods of September 2014 and on subsequent instructions of Prime Minister of India, a three members group headed by Chairman, CWC was constituted by Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR, RD&GR), Govt. of India on 18 September 2014 to conduct an in-depth study and analysis of the unprecedented floods in J&K so as to make suitable recommendations along with a detailed action plan to manage the future flood threat in Kashmir Valley

been outsourced to MA/S Eptisa Servicios de Ingenierin,S.L.(Spain).

Pertinently, the court was hearing a PIL filed by Environmental Policy Group (EPG), an Environment-Social think tank, through its Convenor, Faiz Ahmad Bakshi alleging that the Jal Shakti department miserably failed in increasing the carrying capacity of river Jhelum, Wullar and



other water bodies.

The Court then passed the direction asking Principal Secretary, Jal Shakti Department to file the status report.

The government submitted that after the devastating floods of September 2014 and on subsequent instructions of Prime Minister of India, a three members group headed by Chairman, CWC was constituted by Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR, RD&GR), Govt. of India on 18 September 2014 to conduct an in-depth study and analysis of the unprecedented floods in J&K so as to make suitable recommendations along with a detailed action plan to manage the future flood threat in Kashmir Valley.

It submitted that the core group comprising of Chairman Central Water Commission, Commissioner

Indus and the Director National Institute of Hydrology Roorkee recommended immediate, short term and long term measures.

### IMMEDIATE MEASURES AFTER 2014 FLOODS

The government submitted that under this, the department plugged all the breaches and restored 3316 number of spots under temporary restoration and 1235 spots under Permanent Restoration at a cost of Rs. 172.7383 Cr. and Rs. 153.4335 Cr. The department also executed numerous flood restoration works throughout the valley like Re-sectioning, Channelization of River, Nallahs, Crate Protection works, Strengthening/ Raising of embankments of both Jhelum and its tributaries for which the funds were released

### SHORT TERM MEASURES

The Jal Shakti department said that in the short term the measures were conceived in two phases Phase-I and Phase-II.

### PHASE-I

The department submitted that till the long-term flood mitigation measures would get conceived and approved, a Priority Flood Management Project was formulated for urgent works wherein the main objective was to remove the immediate and the major bottlenecks in the River Jhelum & Flood Spill Channel to provide immediate relief from floods of low to moderate magnitude.

In phases-I of the project, the department used Rs. 399.29 Crore released by the central government for comprehensive plan for Flood Management Works on Jhelum

It may be noted that phase-I was supposed to be completed in the year 2018, however the department missed several deadlines and the project is yet to be completed. The department submitted that the work in the Phase-I is nearing completion with the date of completion slated as August, 2022.

The department said the after the Phase-I, the carrying capacity of Jhelum was enhanced to 31800 cusecs to 41000 cusecs from Sangam to Padshahi Bagh and from 27000 cusecs to 32000 cusecs at Ram Munshibagh in Srinagar while in North Kashmir, the carrying capacity of the Jhelum was enhanced from 20000 cusec to 22700 cusecs at Nigli in Wullar, and from 31000 cusec to 35000 cusec at river Jhelum in Sopore.

### PHASE-II

The department said, as per the recommendations of the CW, the discharge carrying Capacity of the River Jhelum is proposed to be increased to 60,000 cusec at Sangam and 61110 cusec at Nigli Sopore.

It said the department during the execution of the Phase-I, started preparations of formulation for the DPR for Phase-II by first carrying out the Mathematical Model Studies of River Jhelum through Central Water power Research Station, Pune, at an estimated cost of Rs. 5411.54 Cr. and the same was submitted to the central government on 17 January 2019 for approval.

The court has now sought a response on the status report from amicus curiae, Advocate Nadeem Qadri.

*This report was originally published on August 23, 2022 and is being reproduced here to commemorate International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction*



# Mediterranean Diet Improves Immunotherapy Response Rates, Progression-Free Survival In Melanoma Patients

ANI

**A** Mediterranean diet high in fibre, monounsaturated fatty acids, and polyphenols has been linked to improved immunotherapy response rates and progression-free survival in patients with advanced melanoma, according to a new study.

Experts anticipate that the diet will play an important role in the success of immunotherapy and trials are being expanded to investigate outcomes for different tumour types, including digestive cancers.

A Mediterranean diet, containing mono-and polyunsaturated fats from olive oil, nuts and fish, polyphenols and fibre from vegetables, fruit, and wholegrains, was significantly associated with an improved response to immunotherapy drugs called Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors (ICIs). ICIs, which have been highly successful in treating melanoma, work by blocking immune system checkpoints, which then force the body's own T-cells to attack cancers. The new multi-centre study by researchers from the UK and the Netherlands, recorded the dietary intake of 91 patients with advanced



melanoma, who were treated with ICI drugs and monitored their progress with regular radiographic response

check-ups. As well as having a significant association with overall response rate, a

Mediterranean diet was significantly associated with progression-free survival at 12 months.

Laura Bolte, author of the study and PhD candidate under supervision of Prof. Rinse Weersma from the University Medical Center Groningen, Netherlands, commented, "ICI has helped to revolutionise the treatment of different types of advanced cancers. Our study underlines the importance of dietary assessment in cancer patients starting ICI treatment and supports a role for dietary strategies to improve patient outcomes and survival." The study also found that eating wholegrains and legumes reduced the likelihood of developing drug induced immune-related side effects, such as colitis. In contrast, red and processed meat was associated with a higher probability of immune-related side effects.

"The relationship of ICI response with diet and the gut microbiome opens a promising and exciting future to enhance treatment responses. Clinical trials investigating the effect of a high fibre diet, ketogenic diet and supplementation of omega-3 are underway. Since ICI therapy is being expanded to various tumour types, including digestive cancers, these studies could unlock treatment benefits for a large group of cancer patients in the future," added Laura Bolte.

## Adult Brain Has The Ability To Restore Vision: Research

ANI

A new insight into how some visually impaired adults can begin to see offers a fresh perspective on the brain's capabilities. According to new research, the adult brain has the potential to recover partially from inherited blindness. The team was examining treatment for Lever congenital amaurosis, known as LCA. The term refers to a group of inherited retinal diseases distinguished by severe visual impairment at birth. The condition, which stems from mutations in any of over two dozen genes, causes degeneration or dysfunction in the retina's photoreceptors

Administering chemical compounds that target the retina, called synthetic retinoids, can restore a notable amount of vision in children with LCA. The UCI team wanted to find out if the treatment could make a difference for adults who have the condition.

"Frankly, we were blown away by how much the treatment rescued brain circuits involved in vision," said Sunil Gandhi, professor of neurobiology and behavior and the corresponding author. Gandhi is a fellow of UCI's Center for the Neurobiology of Learning and Memory and a member of the Center for Translational Vision Research. "Seeing involves more than intact and functioning retinae. It starts in the eye, which sends signals throughout the brain. It's in the central circuits of the brain where visual perception actually arises." Until now, scientists believed that the brain must receive those signals in childhood so that central circuits could wire themselves correctly.

Working with rodent models of LCA, the collaborators were surprised by what they found. "The central visual pathway signalling was significantly restored in adults, especially the circuits that deal with information coming from both eyes," Gandhi said. "Immediately after the treatment, the signals coming from the opposite-side eye, which is the dominant pathway in the mouse, activated two times more neurons in the brain. What was even more mind-blowing was that the signals coming from the same-side eye pathway activated five-fold more neurons in the brain after the treatment and this impressive effect was long-lasting. The restoration of visual function at the level of the brain was much greater than expected from the improvements we saw at the level of the retinae. The fact that this treatment works so well in the central visual pathway in adulthood supports a new concept, which is that there is latent potential for vision that is just waiting to be triggered."

The finding opens exciting research possibilities. "Whenever you have a discovery that breaks with your expectations about the possibility for the brain to adapt and rewire, it teaches you a broader concept," Gandhi said. "This new paradigm could aid in the development of retinoid therapies to more completely rescue the central visual pathway of adults with this condition."

**The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited**  
Impaired Assets Portfolio Management Department  
Zonal Office Baramulla, Amargarh, Sopore  
Phone:01954-221082/221096  
E:amid.zobara@jkbmail.com

### AUCTION NOTICE

Owing to non-payment of long outstanding loan by the below named borrower, the Bank has seized the hypothecated vehicle in terms of agreement, which is parked Zonal Office Baramulla, Amargarh Sopore.

The description and details of the vehicle is given hereunder:

S. No	Name Of Borrower	Name Of Branch	Registration No.	Model	Parked At
1.	Mr.Safeer Ahmad Baba S/O. Mr.Ghulam Ahmad Baba R/O.Marazi Gund, Rafiabadd, Baramulla	Watergam	JK05F-3611	N.P Truck (Ashok Leyland 25181C, 10 Tyre) Chasis No. MB1CTCFD6HPGX2997 Engine No. HGP2103913 Model-2017	Zonal Office Baramulla, Amargarh, Sopore

The Bank has decided to put the said vehicle at auction 'As is where is basis'. The vehicle is available for inspection on any working day between 17.10.2022 to 31.10.2022 at Bank's Zonal Office at Amargarh, Sopore. Sealed quotations affixed with two rupee revenue stamp are invited from the interested parties for the purchase of said vehicle to be accompanied by Call Deposit Receipt for Rs.2,22,750/- (being 25% of Reserve Price of Rs 8.91 lacs) pledged to Authorized officer, The J&K Bank Ltd. IAPM Department, Zonal Office Baramulla which is to be deposited with J&K Bank, Branch Watergam, Baramulla by or before 01/11/2022 during working hours. The tenders will be opened on 03/11/2022 at 11.00 am at Bank's Zonal Office Baramulla in presence of the bidders who choose to remain present on the given date and time. The successful bidder shall have to deposit the entire qualified auction amount within seven (07) days. The Bank reserves the right to withdraw/cancel the bid/auction of the vehicle at any time/stage without assigning any reason thereof and shall neither entertain any claim/liability of any other person/s of whatsoever nature. All attendant charges/dues/taxes including transfer of ownership/permits etc. shall have to be borne and be the responsibility of the purchaser exclusively of his own.

Dated: 12.10.2022  
Ref: JKB/ZOB/IAPM/2022-23/- DIPK-NB-4362/22 Authorized Officer

**Jammu & Kashmir Small Scale Industries Development Corporation Limited (SICOP)**  
(A J&K Government Undertaking)  
2nd floor, Sanat Ghar building Bemina Srinagar  
Email: bhatmushtaq1079@yahoo.in

### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

#### E-TENDER NOTICE No: ENIT No:10 of 2022-23 dated:11-10-2022

For and on behalf of the Managing Director of Jammu & Kashmir Small Scale Industries Cooperation Limited, online tenders are invited from reputed contractors who are registered with CPWD/MES/PWD of appropriate class in India.

Name of work	Adv. Cost. In lacs	Earnest money	Class of contract	Cost of tender document	Time of completion	Position of AA
Extension in Boiler House Building at JKI Rajbagh Srinagar	₹ 7.17 lacs incl. 6.25% SICOP service charges	₹ 14340	C & D Class	500	30 days	Accorded

**Terms and Conditions:**

- The tender documents for the above job can be seen on the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) from 11-10-2022 (1200Hrs)
- The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website from 11-10-2022 (1200Hrs) onwards.
- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) from 11-10-2022 (1200Hrs) upto 18-10-2022 (1630Hrs) only.
- The uploaded Pre-Qualification bids in the first instance on the website will be opened on 19-10-2022 (1200Hrs). In case of holiday on the date of opening of bid, bids will be opened on the next working day. The financial bids of only those firms shall be opened who qualify in pre-qualification bid, intimation in respect of opening of financial bids shall be notified separately.
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Bank Receipt with seal and signature of bank official in favor of Project Engineer (K) SICOP Srinagar Kashmir in Account No CC-0148020100001980 JFSC Code JAKADKARRAN, J&K Bank Branch Karan Nagar Srinagar (tender inviting authority) (The Date of bank receipt should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Project Engineer (K) SICOP Srinagar Kashmir. (tender receiving authority) and EMD 2% of advertised cost in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Project Engineer, SICOP Kashmir.
- The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Project Engineer, SICOP Kashmir) within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period(DLP) of the work.
- The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape CDR/FDR of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance security @5% 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.
- The advertised shown above is inclusive of 6.25% SICOP service charges and other taxes as admissible.
- Complete bidding process will be online (price bid not to be submitted in physical form).

DIPK-NB-4344/22 Project Engineer SICOP Kashmir

Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER FLOOD SPILL CHANNEL DIVISION NARBAL**  
PIN No.193401  
Fax/Phone: 01951-260223 Email: floodspillchannelnarbal@gmail.com

### Notice inviting e-Tender

#### e- NIT No. 36 of 2022-23 Dated: 11/10/2022

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders (in Single Cover System) on percentile basis are invited from approved and eligible contractors for the following works to be received by the Executive Engineer Flood Spill Channel Division Narbal.

S.No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Earnest Money	Cost of T/Doc. (Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	M.H
01	Laying and construction of crate protection toe wall on the right side of Gogaldara Nallah at Bunsharan D/S Middle School ( RD 4800 m, L= 52.80 m)	12.08 lacs	24160/-	1000/-	25days	CEE,BEE& DEE	4711-Capex (0324)

Position of AAA =Accorded Vide No. I&FC/DB/132 of 2022-23, dated: 15/07/2022, Position of TS = Sanctioned ,Position of funds: 100% Budgetary provision 2022-23.

The Bidding 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 departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of date given below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	11-10-2022
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	11-10-2022 from 1800 Hrs
3.	Bid submission Start Date	11-10-2022 from 1800 Hrs
4.	Bid Submission End Date	21-10-2022 upto 1600 Hrs
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids	22-10-2022 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer Flood Spill Channel Division Narbal.
6	Submission of Performance Security (PS)	The bidder has to provide 3% of Adv. Cost as Performance Security within 7 days after opening of Financial Bid.

Note:-

- The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the NIT carefully before uploaded softcopy any short fall if any found in the soft copy the tender shall be rejected
- As per Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Sectt. Finance department vide No.OM No.A/24(2017)-651 dtd. 07-06-2018 which reads as under:-
- 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's declared 1st Lowest (L-1) after opening of financial bids .
- The Cost of tenders should be collected by uploading a copy of necessary Treasury Challan/Receipt
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan/Receipt (Debited to M.H.0701 -Rev. Misc) and Earnest Money in the shape of CDR/FDR in favour of Executive Engineer Flood Spill Channel Division Narbal failing which the tender will be rejected out rightly. The issuing date of CDR/ FDR uploaded must be between issuing date to Bid Submission end date of NIT. CDR/FDR (Earnest money/ Bid security) and relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of contract.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer Flood Spill Channel Division Narbal.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.
- The normal deposits to be deducted as per GFR 2017 rules from running bills to be released after total completion of the work.
- The tender opening authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders or any part of any tender without assigning reason thereof.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

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. 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 vendor. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

7.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid.

All other terms and conditions same as laid down in the PWD Form 25Double shall also remain in force.

No FSCDN/CS/ 6411-34  
Dated: 12/10/2022. DIPK-11599/22

Sd/-  
Er. Zaffar Mustafa Khan  
Executive Engineer  
Flood Spill Channel Division  
Narbal.



## RBI To Send Centre Report On Its Failure To Check Inflation Since January

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** With inflation staying above the upper tolerance limit for nine straight months, the Reserve Bank will now have to submit a report to the central government detailing reasons for the failure to contain prices and remedial steps to rein in the price rise.

The Reserve Bank of India Act mandates that in the case of the inflation target not being met for three consecutive quarters, the central bank has to submit a report to the government explaining the reasons and detail the remedial actions it will be taking to check the price rise.

This will be the first time since the onset of the Monetary Policy Framework which came into effect in 2016 that the RBI will be made to explain its actions in a report to the government.

As per the mandate given to the Reserve Bank by the Union Government, the central bank is required to ensure retail inflation remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side.

Now, the Secretary to the MPC, which factors in retail inflation while arriving at bi-monthly monetary policy, will now schedule a separate meeting of the rate-setting panel to discuss and draft the report to be sent to the Central Government under the provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act.

The one-day meeting of MPC

members is likely to take place post-Diwali because the RBI functionaries are currently in the US for IMF and World Bank meetings.

Last month, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das had said the central bank considers the communication to the government for missing the inflation targets as privileged communication and will not be making it public.

The retail inflation based on CPI has remained above 6 per cent since January 2022. It was 7.41 per cent in September. The RBI Governor headed six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) factors in retail inflation while deciding the bi-monthly monetary policy.

If the average inflation remains above the upper tolerance level or less than the lower tolerance level for any three consecutive quarters, it will be considered a failure on part of the RBI in meeting the inflation targeting mandate.

The Reserve Bank has been aggressively raising the key interest rate since May in a bid to contain inflation. It has so far raised the short-term lending rate by 190 basis points taking the repo rate to a nearly three-year high of 5.9 per cent.

Last month, the RBI retained its inflation projection for 2022-23 at 6.7 per cent amid geopolitical concerns triggered by Russia-Ukraine war, and expected inflation to be under control from January.



## Retail Inflation Moves To 5-Month High Of 7.41% In Sep On Costlier Food Items

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Retail inflation rose to a five-month high of 7.41 per cent in September mainly due to costlier food items, reason enough for the Reserve Bank to continue with its rate hike cycles it has resorted to since May 2022.

Inflation in the food basket rose to 8.60 per cent in September from 7.62 per cent in August.

It is for the ninth month in a row that retail inflation has remained above the Reserve Bank of India's upper tolerance level of 6 per cent.

Official data released by National Statistical Office (NSO) on Wednesday showed that the retail inflation based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) was at 7.41 per cent in September as against 7 per cent in August.

In the year-ago month, it was at a comfortable level of 4.35 per cent.

The central government has mandated RBI to ensure that retail inflation remains in the range of 2-6 per cent.

The Reserve Bank of India Act mandates the central bank to show up with a report to the government as to why it failed to contain inflation within the targeted band.

One of the RBI's main functions is to contain inflation at 4 per cent with a bias of 2 per cent on either side.

In September, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said acute imported inflation pressures felt at the beginning of this fiscal year have eased but it still remains elevated across food and energy items.



As per the government data, the retail inflation in 'cereals and products', 'milk and products', 'vegetables', 'pulses and products' and 'spices were higher at 11.53 per cent, 7.13 per cent, 18.05 per cent and 3.05 per cent and 16.88 per cent respectively in September, higher than the preceding month.

While, the higher prices of 'cereals and products' exhibit the imported inflation pressure due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war impacting supplies globally, the higher vegetable prices can be attributed to torrential rains damaging crops as well as impacting transportation.

Protein-rich eggs continued to show deflation at (-)1.79 per cent in September, albeit at a slower pace than (-) 4.57 per cent in August.

The rate of price rise in fruits was slower at 5.68 per cent as against 7.39 per cent in the previous month.

For 'fuel and light' category, the retail inflation remained above 10 per cent.

Nikhil Gupta, Chief Economist, MOFSL group said India's

headline inflation surged to a five-month high last month versus the market consensus of 7.3 per cent and MOFSL's expectation of 7.5 per cent.

"As expected, higher inflation was led by food items. Overall, the combination of slightly higher inflation and a fall in IIP raises concerns. However, next month's data and US Fed's policy will decide whether we see 35 or 50 basis points hike by the RBI in December 2022. In any case, we continue to expect that the terminal rate will be 6.5 per cent and there will be a pause in global monetary policy in CY23," Gupta said.

In another set of data released by the government, India's industrial production slipped to an 18-month low, contracting by 0.8 per cent in August mainly due to a decline in output of the manufacturing and mining sectors.

Food inflation spiked to a 22-month high of 8.4 per cent in September 2022, with a sharp sequential move in vegetables, cereals and spices, Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist at rating firm ICRA said.

## India's Debt Ratio Projected To Be 84% Of Its GDP: IMF

Press Trust Of India

**WASHINGTON:** India's debt ratio is projected to be 84 per cent of its GDP by the end of 2022, which is higher than many emerging economies, but its debt is a little bit easier to sustain, a senior IMF official has said.

Stressing that it is important for India to now have a very clear medium-term objective on the fiscal, Paolo Mauro, Deputy Director, Fiscal Affairs Department, International Monetary Fund, said there's still not a whole lot of clarity on the fiscal anchor.

"It would be very important to give reassurance to people and to investors that things are under control, and things are going to become less vulnerable over time," Mauro, told PTI in an interview.

"In terms of the debt ratio, India right now at the end of 2022, we're projecting it at about 84 per cent of GDP. That is higher than in many emerging economies, he said.

Of course, India has a lot of special features being the most populous country in the world by now and being a very large, emerging economy, he said.

The other things that are special in a way or distinctive compared with other emerging economies are that most of India's debt is in non-indexed domestic currency and there's a large investor base from India. So those are good features to have and that's what makes this debt a little bit easier to sustain, Mauro said.

Having said that, the rollover, the necessity to borrow every year is very significant. It's about 15 per cent of the GDP, he said.

"So, in some ways, the debt vulnerabilities are something that one needs to keep an eye on and be mindful of the fiscal deficit, he said.

He noted that the fiscal deficit is about 10 per cent of the GDP right now.

That is quite a bit higher than in most emerging economies. About six-and-a-half per cent of the GDP is from the central government the rest is from the states, he said.

"I think, given the global conjuncture and country-specific circumstances, inflation is a little bit on the high side... looking at all of those things, it makes sense to reduce the deficit, and to bring down the debt gradually over time, Mauro said.



## Industrial Production Slips To 18-Month Low, Contracts 0.8% In August: Govt Data

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** India's industrial production slipped to an 18-month low, contracting by 0.8 per cent in August, mainly due to a decline in output of the manufacturing and mining sectors, according to official data released on Wednesday.

The data showed that the previous low in industrial output growth was a contraction of 3.2 per cent in February 2021.

Factory output, measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), had expanded by 13 per cent in August 2021. The IIP grew by 2.2 per cent in July this year.

The manufacturing sector shrank by 0.7 per cent in August 2022 compared to the 11.1 per cent growth recorded in the year-ago period, as per

the data released by the Statistics and Programme Implementation Ministry. The power sector showed a growth of 1.4 per cent



the same period a year ago. Capital goods output, which is a barometer of investments, rose five per cent in August 2022 compared to 20 per cent growth in the year-ago month.

The consumer durables segment declined 2.5 per cent from 11.1 per cent growth a year ago.

The primary goods segment, which accounts for nearly 34 per cent of the index, expanded 1.7 per cent in August compared to 16.9 per cent growth in the year-ago period.

The ministry said the growth rates over the corresponding period of the previous year are to be interpreted, considering the unusual circumstances on account of the COVID-19 pandemic since March 2020.

During April-August this year, IIP rose 7.7 per cent against 29 per cent growth in

## Supreme Court Says Aware Of 'Lakshman Rekha' But Will Probe Notes Ban

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court said on Wednesday it is aware of the "Lakshman Rekha" on judicial review of government policy decisions but will have to examine the 2016 demonetisation decision to decide whether the issue has become a mere "academic" exercise.

A five-judge bench headed by Justice S A Nazeer said when an issue arises before a constitution bench, it is its duty to answer.

Attorney General R Venkataramani submitted that unless the Act on demonetisation is challenged in a proper perspective, the issue will essentially remain academic.

The High Denomination Bank Notes (Demonetisation) Act was passed in 1978 to provide in public interest for demonetisation of certain high denomination bank notes in order to check illicit transfer of money harmful to the economy which such currency notes facilitate.

The top court said in order to declare whether the exercise is academic or infructuous, it needs to examine the matter since both sides are not agreeable.

"In order to answer that issue, we will have to hear and give an answer whether it's academic, not academic or beyond the scope of judicial review. The point in the case is the government policy and its wisdom which is one aspect of the matter. "We always know where the Lakshman Rekha is, but the manner in which it was done has to be examined. We have to hear the counsel to decide that," the bench, also comprising Justices B R Gavai, A S Bopanna, V Ramasubramanian, and B V Nagarathna said.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, said the court's time should not be "wasted" on academic issues.



Objecting to Mr Mehta's submission, senior lawyer Shyam Divan, representing petitioner Vivek Narayan Sharma, said he was surprised at the words "waste of constitutional bench's time" as the earlier bench had said these cases must be placed before a constitution bench.

Senior advocate P Chidambaram, appearing for one of the parties, said the issue has not become academic and it has to be decided by the top court.

He said this kind of demonetisation requires a separate act of Parliament.

On December 16, 2016, a bench headed by then Chief Justice TS Thakur had referred the question of the validity of the decision and other issues to a larger bench of five judges for authoritative pronouncement.

It had framed various questions in the reference order to be adjudicated by the five-judge bench which included whether the notification dated November 8, 2016 is ultra vires provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 and does the notification contravene the provisions of Article 300 (A) of the Constitution. Article 300(A) says no person shall be deprived of his property save by the authority of law.

## Ajaz Ahmad Bhat Assumes Charge As Director JKEDI



Observer News Service

**PAMPORE:** Ajaz Ahmad Bhat on Wednesday assumed the charge of Director, Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI).

After assuming the charge, the Director took an introductory meeting with the senior officers of the institute and held an overall assessment of its functioning. During the meeting, the Director asked them to dedicate themselves to empowerment of youth and establish a robust startup ecosystem across J&K.

He asked them to work with full commitment and dedication for implementation of skill development, self-employment ini-

tiatives and youth engagement models in mission mode as is envisioned by Government of Jammu and Kashmir under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha.

The Director highlighted that JKEDI has a crucial role to play in developing youth-oriented initiatives throughout the Union Territory. He assured the youth that all issues would be prioritized and redressed and that he would do his best to ensure the youth received the benefits of various government schemes and initiatives.

The staff of the institute on the occasion assured full cooperation in carrying out the Institute's mission.

### SHORT TAKES

#### Govt To Give Rs 22,000 Cr Grant To Oil PSUs

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The government will extend a one-time grant of Rs 22,000 crore to three state-owned fuel retailers to cover for the losses they incurred on selling domestic cooking gas LPG below cost in the last two years, I&B Minister Anurag Thakur said on Wednesday.

The Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a meeting on Wednesday, approved the one-time grant to three oil marketing companies - Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL), Thakur told a news briefing.

The grant will be for covering the losses they incurred on selling LPG below cost to consumers from June 2020 to June 2022.

The three firms sell domestic LPG at government-regulated prices to consumers.

Between June 2020 to June 2022, the international prices of LPG soared by around 300 per cent.

However, to insulate consumers from fluctuations in international LPG prices, the cost increase was not fully passed on to consumers of domestic LPG, an official statement said.

Accordingly, domestic LPG prices have risen by only 72 per cent during this period, it said adding this led to significant losses for the three firms.

#### Byju's To Lay Off 2,500 Employees In Next Six Months

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Edtech major Byju's has chalked out a plan to become profitable by March 2023 to optimise its marketing and operational cost, which will lead to retrenchment of 5 per cent employees or about 2,500 people in next six months.

Byju's co-founder Divya Gokulnath told PTI that the company will start focussing on building brand awareness overseas through new partnerships and hire 10,000 teachers for India and overseas business.

"We have designed a path to profitability which we plan to achieve by March 2023. We have built significant brand awareness throughout India and there is scope to optimise marketing budget and prioritise the spends in a way that it creates a global footprint. Second is operational cost and the third is integration of multiple business units," Gokulnath said.

She said that the K10 subsidiaries -- Meritnation, TutorVista, Scholar and HashLearn -- will now be consolidated as one business unit under India business.

Aakash and Great Learning will continue to function as separate organisations.

She said that to avoid redundancies and duplication of roles, and by leveraging technology better, around five per cent of Byju's 50,000 workforce is expected to be rationalised across product, content, media and technology teams.

#### Google Leases 4.6 Lakh Sq Ft At Adani Data Centre

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Adani Enterprises has given on lease 4.64 lakh square feet of space at its data centre in Noida to Raiden Infospace, an entity of Google, for ₹11 crore monthly rent, according to documents accessed by CRE Matrix.

The documents, accessed by the data analytics firm, showed that D C Development Noida Ltd, which is part of Adani Enterprises Ltd, has leased 4,64,460 square feet of space at Adani data centre in Sector-62, Noida for a period of 10 years.

The rental is ₹235 per square feet per month. The starting annual rent is ₹130.89 crore and there will be 1 per cent increase in the rental every year. The lease agreement was signed last month, the documents showed.

Email queries sent to Adani Group's flagship firm Adani Enterprises and Google remained unanswered.

In February 2021, Adani Enterprises had formed an equal joint venture with leading global data centre operator EdgeConneX to develop and operate data centres throughout India.

To start with, the JV had announced building a network of hyperscale data centres in India, starting with Chennai, Navi Mumbai, Noida, Vizag and Hyderabad.

#### IMF Praises RBI For Tightening The Monetary Policy

Press Trust Of India

**WASHINGTON:** The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Tuesday praised the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for tightening the monetary policy to curb inflation in the country.

The RBI has appropriately been tightening to fight inflation as the inflation is above target, and since May, if my memory serves me well, it sort of delivers 190 basis points rate hikes and we think further tightening is needed to bring inflation to its target, Garcia Pascual, Deputy Division Chief of the Monetary and Capital Markets Department of the IMF, told reporters at a news conference here.

Tobias Adrian, Financial Counsellor and Director of the Monetary and Capital Markets Department of the IMF, said that monetary policy has tightened in India, similar to other emerging markets as well, where inflation has been above target.

And certainly, inflation has been above the RBI's target recently, so we do expect a tightening of monetary policy going forward as well, he said in response to a question.

In terms of financial stability, there are some pre-existing vulnerabilities, both in the banks and in the non-banking system, in India that is certainly still there and that is a cause of concern, he said.

#### Budget To Address Growth, Inflation Concerns: FM

Press Trust Of India

**WASHINGTON:** Faced with twin challenges of slowing growth rate and high inflation, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said her Budget for the next financial year will be 'very carefully structured' to help the economy sustain growth momentum and rein in prices.

She identified high energy prices among the biggest problems facing the Indian economy in the near future.

"Specifics (of the next budget) may be difficult at this stage because it's a bit too early. But broadly, the growth priorities will be kept absolutely on the top. Even as I speak about the concerns that inflation brings before me. So, inflation concerns will have to be addressed. But then how would you manage growth would be the natural question," Sitharaman said.

Visiting Washington DC to attend the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, the finance minister was responding to a question on the next year's budget at a fire-side chat with eminent economist Eshwar Prasad at the prestigious Brookings Institute.

She is scheduled to present the annual budget for the fiscal starting April 2023 on February 1.







## YSS Launch First Ever Inter College Sports Festival

Observer News Service

**GANDERBAL:** Secretary to Government Youth Services and Sports (YSS) Department Sarmad Hafiz on Wednesday inaugurated the first ever Inter College Sports Festival at Government College of Physical Education College Gadoora Ganderbal.

He was accompanied by Director Youth Services and Sports J&K Subash C Chhibber, JD YSS Bashir Ahmad, principal of the college Dr Hartej Singh, District

tival affirms a splendid blend of eight events covering Football (Men), Volleyball (Men & Women), Basketball (Men & Women), Kho-Kho (Men & Women) and Table-Tennis (Women).

Participation of around 3000 souls from 27 participant colleges including GCOPE from across the Kashmir Province, and various schools of District Ganderbal took part in the inaugural function. The grand affair is being organised to provide a platform to the students to showcase their



Youth Services and Sports officers, SO Establishment Haji Ajiaz Ahmed and other senior officers and officials of the Department.

"The Department of Youth Services & Sports bestowed the honour to Government College of Physical Education to organise the festival from 12-10-2022 to 19-10-2022 in this sprawling and magnificent college campus," Director YSS said.

He further added that the fes-

versatility.

A pledge against drug abuse was also taken and cultural programmes were presented by the students of different colleges.

Dr Hartej Singh, Principal Government College of Physical Education presented vote of thanks to all the dignitaries who expended their valuable time and made it possible for the college to organise the sports event at provincial level.

## Final Match Of Budgam LG Rolling Trophy Held



Observer News Service

**BUDGAM:** The Department of Youth Services and Sports Budgam on Wednesday organised the mega final of Cricket LG Rolling Trophy at Sports Stadium Budgam.

The final match was played between Zone Beerwah and Zone Budgam.

Akram Ullah Tak, ADDC Budgam was the chief guest on the occasion.

During the prize distribution ceremony, the chief guest congratulated the winning team of Zone Budgam. He also extended his best wishes to the runner up team.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADDC highlighted the importance of sports for overall development of the youth.

Gurmukh Singh Dutta DYS-

SO Budgam presented vote of thanks to Akram Ullah Tak for sparing his valuable time and to witness this mega final.

DYS&S Officer Budgam also appreciated the efforts of field staff and incharge activity DYS-SO Budgam, Ghulam Hassan Khandey and Shakeel ur Rehman for organizing and managing this mega event efficiently.

Earlier, Zone Budgam won the toss and elected to bat first and posted a grand total of 166 runs for 6 wickets in 20 overs.

Chasing the target, the Beerwah could manage only 68 runs and were all out in 14.1overs. Junaid Bashir of Budgam was declared man of the match for taking 4 wickets in 4 overs which helped Zone Budgam to seal the win.

Budgam won the match by 98 runs.

## YSS Anantnag Tennis Ball Cricket Tournament Begins



Observer News Service

**ANANTNAG:** District Level Inter School tournament for boys for all age groups (AAG), including U-19, U-17 and U-14 boys, kick started on Wednesday at Sports Stadium Anantnag in which 16 teams of the district are participating.

Six matches of the tournament were played on Wednesday. The inaugural match was played between HSS Arwani and HSS Matan which was won by HSS Arwani.

At the inaugural ceremony, District Youth Services and Sports Officer Mushtaq Ahmad Pampori interacted with the student players and congratulated them for taking active part in sports. A pledge ceremony under Nasha

Mukht Bharat Abhiyan was administered to the participants and Incharge Activities Muhammad Abbas highlighted the ill effects of drugs and said that youth can play an important role in making the nation drugs free.

Activity Incharge also interacted with the students and appreciated them for being active in the departmental sports activities and also threw light on the achievements of department during current session.

Team Incharges, Technical Officials of the department were also present on the occasion.

Pertinent to mention that the Tournament is organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports Anantnag.



## Team India Register Most Wins In A Calendar Year

Agencies

**NEW DELHI:** With a seven-wicket victory over South Africa in the third ODI played here on Tuesday, India have matched Australia for the most number of wins in a calendar year in international cricket.

India handed South Africa a crushing defeat in the series decider of the three-match ODI series to take the series 2-1 after Kuldeep Yadav's impressive four-wicket haul.

Australia earlier held the record for the most number of wins in a calendar year.

With 38 wins from 47 matches the Australian team was at the top and is now joined by India with 38 wins from 55 matches. The Aus-

sie team had a stellar year in 2003 when they registered these figures.

The Indian team has had an excellent year so far, registering wins against most opponents.

India started the year with a home series against West Indies, where they whitewashed the visitors 3-0 in both ODIs and T20Is.

The team then toured England to play the one left-off test which ended in a draw, while snatching ODI and T20I victories with a similar margin of 2-1.

Ireland was next conquered by the team as India eased past the challenge to win the series 2-0.

West Indies was the next assignment for India as the team reached the Caribbean shores

to play a T20 and an ODI series. India won the T20 series 3-0 and sealed the ODI series 4-1.

India then moved on to Zimbabwe and whitewashed the hosts 3-0 in an ODI series.

The team did play some good cricket in the Asia Cup 2022 but failed to cross the Super 4 hurdle and could not earn a spot in the final, which was won by Sri Lanka.

Australia then toured India in the build-up to the T20 World Cup as both teams looked to prepare for the marquee tournament. India came back down from a loss to secure the T20 series 2-1.

India then outplayed the Proteas in the ODI and T20 series to level Australia's record. (ANI)

## Siraj, Shami, Shardul To Join India Squad For T20 World Cup

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Fast bowlers Mohammed Siraj, Mohammed Shami and Shardul Thakur will join the Indian contingent in Australia soon even as Deepak Chahar has been ruled out of the upcoming T20 World Cup due to a back injury.

Chahar, who was among the stand-by players, was expected to make the main squad in the absence of Jasprit Bumrah but it is understood that his back injury will take time to heal.

"Deepak will take some time to get fit. His back issue has flared up again. His ankle is fine and there wasn't any problem there. So BCCI is sending three reinforcements. Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj and Shardul Thakur," a BCCI official told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

Chahar had competed in the T20 series against South Africa but developed a back issue and was forced to skip the ODI series. He reported to National Cricket Academy (NCA) for rehabilitation. It is understood that since the



team has time till October 15 to announce Jasprit Bumrah's replacement, the team management has time to check out form and fitness of all three pacers.

Their timely arrival in Australia will also give them time enough to acclimatise to the conditions Down Under. In case their services are required, they will be ready for the contest.

Shami with his artistry and experience leads the race but Siraj was excellent in the recently-concluded ODI series against South Africa, where he

emerged Player of the Series. Siraj took five wickets, including three in the Ranchi ODI, in three games.

Shardul with his all round abilities will provide cover to Hardik Pandya but most likely he will be in stand-by list.

Ravi Bishnoi and Shreyas Iyer are unlikely to travel for the time being and will only join the team in case the team asks for a batter's reinforcement.

Bishnoi will travel in case there is any injury to Yuzvendra Chahal.

## Champions League: Mbappé Scores Amid Exit Reports; City, Madrid Advance

Agencies

**ROME:** Happy or not, Kylian Mbappé continues to score goals for Paris Saint-Germain. Manchester City, meanwhile, just isn't the same without Erling Haaland.

Still, City — despite a 0-0 draw at FC Copenhagen — joined holder Real Madrid on Tuesday as the first teams to advance to the knockout phase of the Champions League.

On the same day when reports emerged that Mbappé is frustrated at PSG and wants to leave during the January transfer window, the France striker converted a penalty in a 1-1 draw with Benfica.

It was Mbappé's record 31st goal for PSG in the competition, passing Edinson Cavani for the club record.

**CITY STOPPED**

With Haaland rested, 10-man City was held to a 0-0 draw at FC Copenhagen, a team languishing in the bottom half of the Danish league.

Copenhagen became the first team to stop City from scoring this season in a match overshadowed by early video-review decisions.



**BELLINGHAM'S CONSISTENCY**  
At 19, England midfielder Jude Bellingham has scored in all four of Dortmund's Champions League games this season.

Young players took center stage as Sevilla took the lead with a header from 20-year-old defender Tanguy Nianzou before Bellingham knocked in Thomas Meunier's low cross for a 1-1 draw.

**RUDIGER TO THE RESCUE**

Antonio Rudiger had his face bloodied as he scored a stoppage-time equalizer for Madrid in a 1-1 draw with Shakhtar Donetsk.

Also, Timo Werner scored his first Champions League goal since returning to

Leipzig to help secure a 2-0 win at Celtic.

**SURGING CHELSEA**

Chelsea moved to the top of the group on with a 2-0 win at Milan. Jorginho converted the spot kick and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang doubled the visitors' advantage in the 34th.

**JUVENTUS CRISIS**

Juventus descended further into crisis and was left on the verge of elimination from the Champions League following a 2-0 loss at Maccabi Haifa that also included an injury to key winger Angel Di Maria. Omer Azizli scored two first-half goals as Haifa earned its first Champions League win in two decades.

## England Win T20 Series Against Australia

Agencies

**CANBERRA:** Dawid Malan posted 82 to lead the batting and Sam Curran snared three wickets to help England clinch a series victory over Australia with an eight-run win Wednesday that will be a setback for the hosts ahead of their title defense at the Twenty20 World Cup.

Malan plundered seven boundaries and four sixes in his 49-ball innings and shared a

Australia's hopes by taking out the leg stump of Tim David (40 of 23 balls) with a perfect yorker in the 18th. The Australians finished on 170-6.

England won the series-opening match in Perth last Sunday by eight runs but was facing a full-strength bowling attack in Canberra, with Australia making five changes for Game 2.

Malan went in at the start of the third over after skipper Jos Buttler was out for 17, and



92-run fifth-wicket stand with he dug in while Hales (4), Ben Moen Ali that propelled England from a precarious 54-4 in the 9th over to a total of 178-7 after being sent in to bat.

Curran took some big wickets when Glenn Maxwell (8) pulled a bouncer to Alex Hales at mid-wicket in the 8th over and Marcus Stoinis (22) picked out Harry Brook at deep mid-wicket in the 12th. He returned to end

David was threatening to guide Australia to an unlikely win before Curran's timely wicket gave England the late momentum.

The teams will meet again in Canberra on Friday before a final week of preparation for the T20 World Cup. (AP)

## England Reveal Test Squad For The Tour Of Pakistan

Reuters

**LONDON:** Lancashire duo Keaton Jennings and Liam Livingstone, have been called up to the England squad for their three-test tour of Pakistan starting in December, but veteran fast bowler Stuart Broad misses the trip.

There is also, a first test call-up for Surrey all-rounder Will Jacks after an impressive summer in which he impressed with the bat and off-spin, helping Surrey win the County Championship Division One title.

end of November.

The 36-year-old, who returned to the England squad, under the new leadership of coach Brendon McCullum and captain Ben Stokes, helped the team win six of their seven tests this summer by taking 29 wickets.

Broad's absence is softened by the return of Durham's Mark Wood, included in the squad for the first time since March, while Surrey quick Jamie Overton is in after making his test debut earlier against New Zealand, at



Jennings returns to the test squad for the first time since February 2019, after scoring 1,233 County Championship runs this summer, while T20 specialist Livingstone will be eyeing a test debut after joining the team for the first time since 2018.

Nottinghamshire seam bowler Broad was not considered for selection, with his partner expecting their first child towards the

Headingley in June. The first of three tests between Pakistan and England gets underway in Rawalpindi on Dec. 1.

Squad: Ben Stokes (c), James Anderson, Harry Brook, Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ben Foakes, Will Jacks, Keaton Jennings, Jack Leach, Liam Livingstone, Jamie Overton, Ollie Pope, Ollie Robinson, Joe Root, Mark Wood

## Tennis Australia Won't Back Djokovic's Visa Application

Agencies

**MELBOURNE:** Novak Djokovic won't get official support with lobbying from Tennis Australia should he seek to enter the country for the first major of 2023, a year after he was deported because he was not vaccinated for COVID-19.

The 21-time Grand Slam champion wasn't allowed to defend his Australian Open title last January after a tumultuous 10-day legal saga that culminated with his visa being revoked on the eve of the tournament eventually won by Rafael Nadal.

Djokovic originally was granted an exemption to strict vaccination rules by two medical panels and Tennis Australia in order to play in the Australian Open but, after traveling to Melbourne believing he had all his paperwork in order, the exemption was rejected by the Australian Border Force.

"It is not a matter we can lobby on. It is a matter that definitely stays between the two of them," Australian Open tourna-

ment director Craig Tiley said Wednesday at a launch for the 2023 event, referring to Djokovic and the Australian government.

And then, depending on the outcome, Tiley added, we would welcome him to the Australian Open.



Being deported made Djokovic subject to a possible three-year exclusion period that prevents the granting of a further temporary visa, although Australian Border Force in January said any exclusion period will be considered as part of any new visa application and can be waived in certain circumstances. Australia has changed its border rules and, since July 6, incoming travellers no longer have to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccinations. (AP)



## Delhi Sees Season's First Fog; Minimum Temperature Settles At 20 Degrees

Agenceis

**New Delhi:** A thick layer of fog shrouded Delhi on Wednesday morning, lowering visibility to 350 metres in some parts of the capital. Senior scientist at the India Meteorological Department (IMD) R K Jenamani said this was the capital's first fog of the season. Delhi recorded a minimum temperature of 20.2 degrees Celsius, a notch below the normal. The maximum temperature is likely to settle at around 31 degrees Celsius. Partly cloudy weather is predicted during the day. An IMD official had earlier said it was heavy mist due to prolonged

spell of rain, which increased moisture content in the air. Partly cloudy weather is predicted during the day. An IMD official had earlier said it was heavy mist due to prolonged spell of rain, which increased moisture content in the air. According to the official, visibility at the Safdarjung Observatory, Delhi's primary weather station, had dropped to 600 metres and to 350 metres at the Palam weather station at 8.30 am. This improved to 2,100 metres at Palam by 9 am and at Safdarjung by 10 am. At 9 am, the capital's air quality index stood at 66, which falls in the "satisfactory" category.

## New Zealand Unveils Plan To Tax Cow Farts

Agenceis

**The** government of New Zealand has proposed a plan to tax greenhouse gasses created by farm animals, hoping to slash carbon emissions as part of a decades-long climate change initiative, despite vocal criticism from agricultural organizations. Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced the proposal on Tuesday morning, saying the plan is the first of its kind ever attempted and would put New Zealand on track to hit its targets for reducing methane emissions over the next decade. "No other country in the world

has yet developed a system for pricing and reducing agricultural emissions, so our farmers are set to benefit from being first movers," she said, adding that "Cutting emissions will help New Zealand farmers to not only be the best in the world but the best for the world." Under the proposal, farmers who meet thresholds for herd size and fertilizer use would be required to pay a fee for methane and nitrous oxide gasses created by their cattle - earning the scheme the unceremonious, though somewhat misleading, title of 'fart tax' (most methane from cows is released in the form of burps).

## Spanish Baby Gets New Intestine, Liver, Stomach In Miracle Surgery



Agenceis

**Madrid:** An one-year-old Spanish girl has become the world's first recipient of a successful intestine transplant from a donor who died of heart failure, Madrid's La Paz hospital said on Tuesday. "The child has now been discharged and is in perfect condition at home with her parents," it said in a statement. Spain is a global leader in organ transplants, with over 102 of them per million inhabitants performed in 2021, a rate only surpassed by the United States, according to Spanish health ministry data. The infant, Emma, had been diagnosed with intestinal fail-

ure when she was just one month old because her intestine was too short, and her health rapidly deteriorated until receiving the multivisceral transplant. Aside from the intestine, Emma also received a new liver, stomach, spleen and pancreas. "The good news is that life goes on, that Emma is very brave and proving every day that she wants to keep on living," her mother told reporters before thanking the donor's family and the doctors. She said Emma is now 17 months old. Asystole donations proceed from a dead person after doctors confirm the absence of a heartbeat and breathing functions.

The donor's organs are then artificially preserved - despite the lack of oxygenated blood - through a system known as Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO). What makes Emma's case special is the difficulty in preserving an intestine from asystole donation due to the digestive organ's characteristics. Most transplanted organs stem from donors who have suffered brain death but retain a heartbeat, as this keeps the organs intact. However, since the development of modern asystole donations, the technique's popularity has grown to make up about one-third of all donations in Spain, La Paz said.

## 'Russian Cosmonaut' Swindles \$30,000 From Japanese Woman

Agenceis

**J**apanese police are investigating an alleged "romance scam" after a local woman was duped into paying some 4.4 million yen (\$30,000) to a person claiming to be a 'Russian cosmonaut' working at the International Space Station (ISS) - and needing money to return back to Earth. The bizarre scheme began in July and was reported this week by local media. The victim, a 65-year-old woman from the central Shiga Prefecture, got acquainted with the alleged swindler on social media, police told the journalists. The scammer, whose profile was full of various space pictures, claimed to be a "Russian cosmonaut" currently stationed at the ISS. The woman took the bait and communicated with the scammer for weeks through the messaging app Line before their relationship turned into a fairly standard, yet space-flavored, marriage scam. The con artist repeatedly told the woman he loved her and insisted he wanted to start a new "life in Japan" and promised the woman that he

would marry her. "Will you marry me when I arrive in Japan? I love you," the phony spacefarer reportedly told his victim on multiple occasions. Before doing so, however, he had to return to Earth first, the faux cosmonaut told his victim, claiming he had to pay rocket expenses for his return and massive "landing fees." The woman believed the story and transferred some 4.4 million yen (\$30,000) to the scammer. While the sum requested was already astronomical, her would-be-groom continued to demand more money for his purported space-faring endeavors. The woman ultimately grew suspicious and reported the whole affair to the police. The woman might not be the only victim of the scheme, local media suggested. TV Asahi spoke to a Japanese woman in her 40s who claimed she had also been contacted on Instagram by a man pretending to be a Russian cosmonaut. The would-be scammer tried to guide the potential victim to the same messaging app Line, yet the woman refused and severed contact with the individual.



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