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# KASHMIR OBSERVER

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**Winter Is Coming!**

## Early Snowfall Sets Alarm Bells Ringing

Gulmarg Records Season's Coldest Night At Minus 2 Deg Celsius



Early snowfall in the higher reaches, including ski resort of Gulmarg, has brought cheers to the tourists who are currently in Kashmir Valley. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

### Mughal Road Closed Due To Heavy Snowfall

Heavy snowfall in the high-altitude areas of Jammu on Thursday forced the closure of Mughal Road which connects the twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri with south Kashmir's Shopian, officials said here. Several areas of Doda, Kishtwar, Rajouri, Reasi, Poonch, Ramban and Kathua districts witnessed heavy snowfall since Wednesday night. | [More on P10](#)

### Ensure Adequate Supply Of Essentials: LG Tells Officials

#### AGENCIES

The Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha on Thursday directed the officials to make adequate supply of essentials available during the winter season across the Union Territory. Sinha told the | [More on P10](#)

#### Observer Monitoring Desk

**Srinagar:** Snowfall in higher reaches of Kashmir, including popular tourist destinations like Gulmarg and Sonamarg, and rains in plains brought wintry conditions earlier than usual in the valley, officials said on Thursday.

"There was significant snowfall in many areas of Kashmir including Gulmarg, Sonamarg, Gurez, and Karnah during the intervening night," the officials said. The officials said more than two inches of snow had accumulated in the Gulmarg bowl while the snowfall was

heavier in higher reaches of the valley. The ski resort also recorded the season's lowest temperature at minus 2 degree celsius.

They said even the Zabarwan mountain range in the city had received traces of snowfall during the night. Srinagar city | [More on P10](#)



**AN OCEAN OF OPPORTUNITIES AWAITS THE AMBITIOUS**



## JOIN INDIAN NAVY

Indian Navy invites online applications from **unmarried men & women** candidates, to join as **Short Service Commission Officers**.

Branch/Cadre	Vacancies*	Gender
General Service [GS (X)]/ Hydro Cadre	56 (including 06 Hydro)	Men and Women [maximum of 16 vacancies for women (14 in GS (X) and 02 in Hydro)]
Air Traffic Controller (ATC)	05	Men and Women
Naval Air Operations Officer (erstwhile Observer)	15	Men and Women (maximum of 03 vacancies for women)
Pilot	25	Men and Women (maximum of 03 vacancies for women)
Logistics	20	Men and Women (maximum of 06 vacancies for women)
Education	12	Men and Women
Engineering (General Service)	25	Men and Women (maximum of 07 vacancies for women)
Electrical (General Service)	45	Men and Women (maximum of 13 vacancies for women)
Naval Constructor	14	Men and Women

\* These vacancies are tentative and may be changed depending on availability of training slots.

**Last date for online application is 06 Nov 22**

For eligibility criteria and specific details for the batch, visit [www.joinindiannavy.gov.in](http://www.joinindiannavy.gov.in) and Employment News dated 22 Oct 22.



Scan this QR Code to apply online

CBC-10701/13/0010/2223



Launch of contemporary digital shows  
**Inspire Gen-Z & The Beats of J&K**

Inauguration of  
**Reading Room and Reference Library**  
 and  
 Naming of DIPR Auditorium as  
**Pandit Bhajan Sopori Auditorium, Srinagar**

by  
**Shri Manoj Sinha**  
 Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor

October 21, 2022 | Srinagar

An initiative by  
**Directorate of Information & PR**  
 Government of J&K



Directorate of Information & PR, J&K initiative  
**Inspire Gen-Z**  
 Listen · Dream · Do

A youth-run talkshow of the youth- by the youth - for the youth of J&K where the young will listen to stories of change makers to dream big and follow their passion



An initiative by the Directorate of Information & PR, J&K  
**The BEATS OF J&K**

A programme to facilitate talented artists of J&K by providing them with a platform to showcase their musical talent to the world

**WATCH ON**



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**Starts from October 21, 2022**

DIPK-12122/22



**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 marks certificate of 11th under Below mentioned particulars  
Name : Javid Ahmad Tantary  
S/o Bashir Ahmad Tantary R/o Gogaldara Tangmarg




**Details of Marks Certificate lost**  
Higher Secondary School Examination (class 11th )  
Roll No 250358 Session /Year Annual Regular 2010  
Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. 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

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ  
الحمد لله والصلوة على اهلها انما يخشى الله من عباده العلماء فاذا كرونى اذ كرموا واشكرونى ولا تكفرون



آسمان علم و دانش کا درخشندہ ستارہ، مرکب تالیف و تصنیف کا تیز کام  
رآب، علم و معرفت کا روشن منارہ، فضا ہے فہم و فراست کا بلند پرواز  
ہاز، بطیران علم و آکساری کا مثل اعلیٰ، وادی کتابت و خطابت کی رود  
ذبیحہ، ستارہ عطا کا بحر بیکراں، ہمت و شجاعت کا گود ہمالہ، سفر و  
حضر میں ماہ تابان، سمار عزت و رفعت کا مرد درخشاں، تذکرہ سید  
الشہداء کا تیر تابان، شہداء و اسرار کرپلا کا وکیل اعلیٰ ہمارا سید و سردار  
ہمارا سبب عزت و افتخار، ہمارا مرکز میل ملاپ، سلطان ڈاکٹرین،  
لسان البین، ضلع کشمیر ڈاکٹر آغا سید ابو الحسن الموسوی ابن آغا سید جوہر  
الموسوی کے ارتحال بسوئے عالم جاوداں کا ایک سال پورا ہونے کے باوجود  
بھی ہمارے اذہان، ہمارے قلوب، ہمارے زبانیں، ہمارے مہلکین،  
ہماری مجلسیں آپ کی ہی ذکر خیر سے مغلوب و مملو ہیں۔ آپ نے  
زندگی بھر رسول و آل رسول کے ذکر و فکر کو زندہ رکھا ہے تو آپ کے  
بعد اہلیت اہلکار نے آپ کے ذکر و یاد کو مومنین کے دلوں میں زندہ  
رکھا ہے۔ خدا تعالیٰ آپ کو جوار مصومین میں جا و جاہ عطا فرمائے۔  
آمین رب العالمین۔

Government of Jammu and Kashmir  
**SKIMS Medical College -Hospital**  
Bemina Srinagar, (J&K) - 190017  
E-Tender SKIMS MC (Estt) 03 /2022  
DATED 19-10-2022

Sub: - Annual Rate Contract for running MBBS Boys & Girls Students Mess of SKIMS Medical College Hospital Bemina Srinagar.

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of J&K UT, e-tenders are invited from reputed agencies having experience in catering service, for running of Boys and Girls Students Mess at SKIMS Medical College-Hospital, Bemina Srinagar.

S. No	Particulars of the tenders	Tender document fee	Earliest Money	Date of Opening of Bid
01	Providing of Diet to Boys and Girls MBBS Students Mess at SKIMS Medical College.	₹1000	₹ 1.00 Lac EACH MESS	16.11.2022

- The tender document for the above job can be seen on the web site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) from 25-10-2022 (16:00 hrs.)
- The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website from 25-10-2022 (17:00hrs) onwards.
- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) from 01-11-2022 (1800 hrs) upto 12-11-2022 (1600hrs) only.
- The uploaded bids on the website will be opened on 16-11-2022 (11:00hrs) in the office of Convener, Tender Opening Committee in presence of bidders who wish to attend. In case of holiday on the date of opening of bid, bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- Cost of tender document (in shape of DD) & earnest money (in shape of CDR/FDR) in original favouring Chief Accounts Officer, SKIMS Medical College, Bemina Srinagar should reach in office of Estates Officer, SKIMS Medical College, Bemina Srinagar through speed post/Regd. Post/Courier before due time of submission of bids. Tender Opening Committee shall not be responsible for any delay due to any reason.
- Original copy of affidavit on Rs.50/- stamp paper duly attested by 1st Class Judicial Magistrate to the effect that:-
  - The documents/catalogues etc enclosed with the Tender are original & genuine and have not been tempered or fabricated.
  - The firm has not been blacklisted in the past by any Govt./ Private institution of the country and there is no enquiry of vigilance/any other investigating agency or before any Court of Law or any petition case pending against the firm/supplier.
  - In case if any document or statement is found forged/ fake or wrong at any point of time, I shall be personally responsible and liable to be punished in accordance with the law.
- Complete bidding process will be on line (Price bid not to be submitted in physical form)

No: SKIMS MC-362-2022/741-45  
Dated 20-10-2022

DIPK-NB-4524/22

Estates Officer  
SKIMS Medical College Bemina  
Srinagar

**Depression Treatment Can Rewire Human Brain, Study Shows**

Press Trust Of India

**D**epression treatments have the ability to rewire the human brain, according to a study that calls into question the belief that the structure of the adult brain is generally rigid.

Researchers at the University of Muenster in Germany have shown that in-patient treatment for depression can lead to an increase in brain connectivity.

Those patients who respond well to this treatment show a greater increase in connectivity than those who do not, they said.

The study, presented at the European College for Neuropsychopharmacology Congress in Vienna, Austria, calls into question the belief that the structure of the adult brain is generally rigid and incapable of rapid changes.

The researchers found that patients who responded well to anti-depression treatment, showed a greater increase in connectivity than those who did not.

"We found that treatment for depression changed the infrastructure of the brain, which goes



**“We don’t have an explanation as to how these changes take place, or why they should happen with such different forms of treatment”**

against previous expectations," said study lead researcher Professor Jonathan Repple.

"Treated patients showed a greater number of connections than they had shown before treatment," Repple said.

The researchers studied 109 patients with serious depression and compared them with 55 healthy controls.

Their brains were scanned using an MRI scanner

which had been set up to identify which parts of the brain were communicating with other parts, determining the level of connections within the brain.

The patients were then treated for depression, some with electroconvulsive therapy (ECT), some with psychological therapy or medication, some with a combination of all therapies.

After treatment they were then rescanned and the number of connections

recounted. They were also retested for symptoms of depression.

"Moreover, those who showed the most response to treatment had developed a greater number of new connections than those who showed little response," Repple said.

"A second scan showing that there are no time effects in healthy controls supports our findings that we see something that

is related to the disease and more importantly the treatment of this disease," said Repple.

"We don't have an explanation as to how these changes take place, or why they should happen with such different forms of treatment," he added.

The findings align very much with the current belief that the brain has much more flexibility in adaptation over time than was previously thought.

"This means that the brain structure of patients with serious clinical depression is not as fixed as we thought, and we can improve brain structure within a short time frame, around 6 weeks," said Eric Ruhe, from Radboud Medical Center, Nijmegen, the Netherlands.

"We found that if this treatment leads to an increase in brain connectivity, it is also effective in tackling depression symptoms," said Ruhe, who was not involved in the study.

"This gives hope to patients who believe nothing can change and they have to live with a disease forever, because it is 'set in stone' in their brain, Ruhe added.

Established: 2017

[www.gcetkashmir.ac.in](http://www.gcetkashmir.ac.in)  
e-mail: [gcetkashmir@gmail.com](mailto:gcetkashmir@gmail.com)

**Government College of Engineering & Technology**

Safapora, Ganderbal, Kashmir-193504

No: GCET/22/889

Dated: 19-10-2022

**ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE**

Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for engagement as Assistant Professors/Assistant Lecturers or Academic Arrangement in Government College of Engineering & Technology Safapora, Ganderbal, Kashmir, purely on need basis for the academic session 2022-23 in the following Streams/Disciplines:

- Physics
- Chemistry
- Mathematics
- Humanities
- Assistant Librarian
- Biomedical Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Computer Science and Engineering
- Electrical Engineering
- Electronics and Communication Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Training and Placement

**Eligibility condition for various categories:-**

- Assistant Professor (Engineering):** The candidate must possess B.E./B.Tech and Master's degree in relevant branch with first class either in B.E./B.Tech or Masters Degree. **Desirable:** Ph.D. in the concerned subject.
- Assistant Professor (T&P):** The candidate must possess B.E./B.Tech and MBA with specialisation in HR/Marketing with first class either in B.E./B.Tech or MBA. **Desirable:** Minimum two years' experience as Training & Placement Officer / Liaison Officer in any Private / Govt. organization. However, preference shall be given to a candidate having experience in Human Resource Management / Personnel Management in reputed industries.
- Assistant Professor (Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and Humanities):** The candidate must possess Master's degree in the relevant subject or its equivalent degree in a grade point scale wherever grading system is followed, duly certified/notified by the concerned university in the relevant subject with minimum 55% marks (50% in case of SC / ST / differently abled) along with NET/SLET/SET conducted by the UGC/ACSR/Association of University (AU) or Ph.D. in the relevant subject.
- Assistant Librarian:** Master's Degree in Library and Information Science or its equivalent degree in a grade point scale wherever grading system is followed, duly certified/notified by the concerned University with minimum 55% marks (50% in case of schedule Caste/Schedule Tribedifferently-abled (Physical/Vision) candidates.
- Assistant Lecturer (Physics, Mathematics and Humanities Management):** The candidate must possess Master's degree in the relevant subject or its equivalent degree in a grade point scale wherever grading system is followed, duly certified / notified by the concerned university, in the relevant subject with minimum 55% marks (50% in case of SC / ST / differently abled).

Note: Assistant Lecturer shall be considered only in case of non-availability of Assistant Professors

**Selection Process:** The Principal, Govt. College of Engineering and Technology Safapora, Ganderbal Kashmir shall arrange and conduct a written/screening test for all the eligible candidates, if required. However, the candidates with NET/SLET/SET/Ph.D. are exempted from written/screening test. The selection of the candidates shall be made by the Selection Committee strictly on the basis of merit list to be prepared. The applicants are advised to keep in touch with the office of the Principal, GCET Safapora for further information.

**Selection Criteria:** The selection criteria for Non-Engineering Streams will be as per the Govt. Order No. 46-38, (HE) of 2022 dated 28.02.2022. The selection criteria for Engineering Streams will be as per the following table:-

S.No.	Academic Record	Score
1.	Graduation (B.E./B.Tech)	25 Points (Pro rata basis)
2.	Post-Graduation (M.E./ M.Tech) in Engineering (MBA)	30 Points (Pro rata basis)
3.	Ph.D.	08 Points
4.	Research Publication (2 marks for each research publications published in Peer-Reviewed or UGC listed journals)	05 Points
5.	Teaching / Industry Experience	10 Points (02 points for each Academic Session of not less than 6 Months, subject to maximum of 10 points)
6.	Awards International/National Level (Awards given by international organizations/Government of India/Government of Jammu and Kashmir/National Level Bodies/State/UT-Level Awards given by State/UT Government)	02 Points

DIPK-12061/22

T.	Interview	20 Points
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100 Points</b>

\* Awards/recognition that are relevant to teaching/specialization/research will only be considered.

**Terms and conditions:**

The engagement of candidates shall be made as per the Govt. Order No. 46-JGHE) of 2022 dated 28.02.2022 or as amended by the Govt. from time to time.

- The candidate engaged on academic arrangements must be a domicile of J&K (LIT)
- The engagement of candidate will be made for one Academic Session or till the post is filled by appointment of candidate duly selected by the J&K Public Service Commission or by posting of regular faculty against the post occupied by an Academic Arrangement candidate whichever is earlier.
- The engagement of candidates shall be subject to outcome of the court cases, if any, on the subject pending disposal in any Court of Law.
- The candidate engaged on Academic Arrangement shall have to:
  - Maintain proper discipline, integrity, and good moral character during the period of engagement and not act in a manner unbefitting of a Govt. Servant. Any indisipline shall make the candidate liable for disengagement.
  - Maintain personality and work up to the satisfaction of the standards set up by the Principal and various performance indices.
  - Produce a certificate of good moral character from a Gazetted Officer.
  - The engagement made under the guidelines shall be deemed to have been terminated on the last date of academic session without any notice on this behalf.
  - Furnish an Affidavit on a Non-Judicial stamp paper of Rs. 20/- duly attested by 1<sup>st</sup> Class Judicial Magistrate to the effect that he/she has accepted the terms and conditions as detailed in this notification and shall have no preferential claim for regular appointment or for regularization of the academic arrangement.
  - In the event of any information being found false, incomplete, incorrect, forged, tampered, the candidature of the applicant will be cancelled without any notice thereof.
  - The engagement of the candidates shall be subject to outcome of the Court cases if any on the subject pending disposal in any Court of Law.
  - The remuneration shall be paid as per the Govt. Order in vogue.

The Applicants shall download the application form from the college website [www.gcetkashmir.ac.in](http://www.gcetkashmir.ac.in).

Candidates applying for more than one discipline / subject will have to deposit separate application forms and fee for each discipline / subject.

Application forms complete in all aspects shall be submitted in the Office of the Principal, Government College of Engineering & Technology Safapora, Ganderbal Kashmir-193504 by or before 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022 along with Demand Draft of Rs. 200/- (Rupees two hundred only) pledged to Principal Govt. College of Engineering and Technology, Safapora Ganderbal payable at Safapora.

For convenience of the applicants the applications complete in all respects can also be submitted at the application collection centre at "Taser Hall", Azad Sangh College, Srinagar from 27<sup>th</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2022.

For further information the applicants are advised to contact the Office of the Principal, Government College of Engineering & Technology Safapora, Ganderbal-Kashmir 193504 or call 7006545164 or visit the College website [www.gcetkashmir.ac.in](http://www.gcetkashmir.ac.in)

**List of Documents (Self-attested) to be attached along with the Application form:-**

- Qualification Certificate
- Mark's certificate of all semesters
- Experience Certificate, if any
- Date of Birth Certificate
- Domicile Certificate.
- Character certificate (Issued by a Gazetted Officer)
- First Page of Publications
- Certificates of International/National Level (Awards given by international organizations / Government of India/Government of India recognized National Level Bodies)/State /UT-Level (Awards given by State/UT Government)
- CGPA to % conversion certificate from the concerned university, (where ever needed)
- Equivalence certificate from competent authority (where ever needed)
- Bank Draft in original for Rs.200/-

Principal  
GCET, Safapora Ganderbal

## JKSI Recruitment Scam

### Arrested BSF Officer Sent To CBI Remand



Press Trust Of India

**Jammu:** A Border Security Force (BSF) medical officer arrested in connection with alleged irregularities in the recruitment of sub-inspectors was sent to 10-day CBI remand by a local court here, officials said.

The CBI on Tuesday arrested BSF Commandant (Medical) Karnail Singh for allegedly using touts to get his son the question paper of the police sub-inspectors' recruitment examination, conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB), officials had said on Wednesday.

The court of Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) Amarjeet Singh on Wednesday sent him to 10 days in remand, the officials added.

The CJM, after going through the case diary, maintained that the investigation was at an initial stage and granted the investigating agency's prayer seeking remand of the accused.

The arrest of Singh, posted at BSF's Paloura Headquarters, brings the number of arrested persons in the scam to nine. While five persons are in judicial lock-up till October 29, three others have been sent to jail till October 21.

The question paper was allegedly provided to Singh early in the morning on the day of the examination, March 27, at a house in Gangyal in Jammu. It is alleged that some other candidates also got the leaked question paper at Singh's residence just a few hours before the examination.

Investigations have revealed that alleged payment of Rs 20-Rs 30 lakh was made by willing candidates and their families to the accused for accessing the question paper before the examination, the CBI said.

The CBI had conducted two rounds of raids at multiple locations in connection with question paper leak.

The probe agency has also named Avinash Gupta, owner of a coaching centre in Akhnoor in Jammu district, and a Bengaluru-based company in its FIR, the officials said.

Singh, who was called | [More on P10](#)



A woman tourist enjoys sledge ride during season's first snowfall in the ski resort of Gulmarg on Thursday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

## Terrorists Sent By Pakistan Ended Up In Graves: DGP

### '1604 Policemen Have Laid Down Their Lives Since 1989'

Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** The Jammu and Kashmir Police working synergistically with the Indian Army and other Security Forces have largely succeeded in breaking the back of Pakistan sponsored terrorism in the Union Territory, Director General of Police (DGP) of police Dilbag Singh said Thursday.

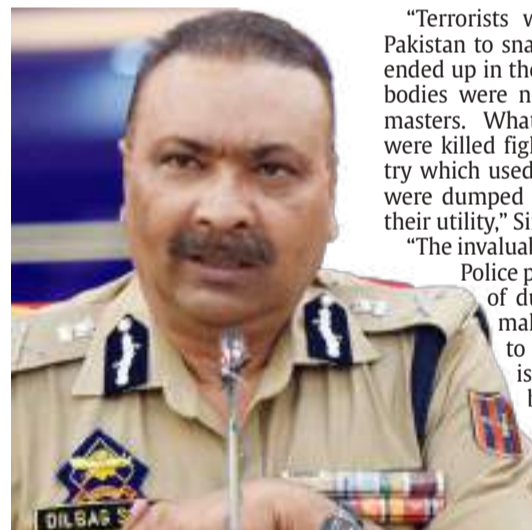
In his message on the Police Commemoration Day-2022, Singh said that the Commanders of the Central Armed Forces have always maintained that fight against terror without JKP would not have been possible.

The DGP, as per a police spokesperson said that officers and

jawans of police have faced bullets, grenades, bombs, and IEDs without any fear and their courage

**THE INVALUABLE SACRIFICES BY J&K POLICE PERSONNEL in the line of duty has led to normalcy returning back to J&K where terrorism is on the brink of being annihilated.**

and valour have made the entire country proud.



"Terrorists who were sent by Pakistan to snatch J&K from India ended up in the graves. Even their bodies were not owned by their masters. What an Irony! They were killed fighting for the country which used them as tools and were dumped after they outlived their utility," Singh said.

"The invaluable sacrifices by J&K Police personnel in the line of duty has led to normalcy returning back to J&K where terrorism is on the brink of being annihilated," he added. The DGP, as per the spokesperson | [More on P10](#)

## PM Has Dream To Make J&K Switzerland of India: Minister



Observer News Service

**Kupwara:** Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj Kapil Patil said on Thursday that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has a dream to make Jammu and Kashmir the Switzerland of India.

The Minister was addressing a Public Sabha at Cheepora in Lolab Valley of the frontier Kupwara district, an official spokesperson said. Patil, he said, termed the people of Jammu and Kashmir peace loving and said that because of the prevailing peaceful atmosphere development is witnessing

a sea-change in Kashmir.

"Union Government and Lieutenant Governor Administration are making concerted efforts to rebuild J&K in every aspect and it is a matter of pleasure that corruption is drastically decreasing in the Union Territory," the Minister said.

According to the spokesperson, the Minister enlisted various developmental programmes and welfare measures and asked people to take benefits of these centrally sponsored schemes, adding that while designing schemes, the Prime Minister has taken care | [More on P10](#)

**PATIL SAID THAT THERE WOULD BE NO SCARCITY OF DRINKING WATER anywhere in Kupwara district as the ambitious programme under Jal Jeevan Mission and 'Har Ghar Nal Say Jal' is progressing at a good pace."**

## LG Inaugurates Several Infra Projects In Pulwama

### Says Govt Schemes Envisage Loans To Poor Without Any Guarantee

Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Thursday directed the authorities in south Kashmir's Pulwama district for making necessary interventions in facilitating the establishment of industrial units in the district, besides ensuring timely disposal of change of land use applications, and convenient, hassle free services to public in government departments.

Sinha passed these directions while inaugurating and laying foundation stones of several infrastructure projects worth Rs 61 crores, during his visit to this south



Kashmir district, an official spokesperson said.

The LG, he said, chaired the District Development Review meeting and stressed

on the development of infrastructure, industries, agriculture, enhancing mobility, saturation of social welfare schemes and | [More on P10](#)

## Bihar Govt To Rescue 11 Children Held 'Captive' In Kashmir

Agencies

**Patna:** Bihar government has constituted a team to rescue 11 children who have been held captive in Kashmir valley.

This initiative was taken after a caller contacted a family members of one of the victims and demanded Rs 1.2 lakh for their release.

The minor children are natives of Panapur village under Ariyari block in Bihar's Sheikhpura district. They went as labourers to Kashmir and were reportedly held captive in Sanat Nagar in Srinagar.

The family members of the victims contacted the district magistrate of Sheikhpura for

the safe rescue of the children. Subsequently, the Labour Minister of Bihar, Surendra Ram took the initiative and directed officials of Bihar Bhawan at New Delhi and those at Jammu and Kashmir to plan the rescue of children.

"The victims are minor kids and the employer was forcing them to do the job of labour. A phone call also was made to the family member of one of the children. We have decided to rescue them and have constituted a police team for their safe return. The team will go to Kashmir on Thursday," Ram said.

"The officials of New Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir are coordinating for the safe rescue of children," he concluded.

## SHORT TAKES

### MD & CEO J&K Bank Calls On LG

**B**aldev Prakash, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the J&K Bank, called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, at Raj Bhawan here on Thursday, an official spokesperson said. He said Prakash apprised the LG about the financial services extended to the people, and the efforts being made by the bank for greater financial inclusion in the UT. "The Lt Governor directed the MD & CEO to expand the access to digital financial services and focus on the financial inclusion which is a key enabler to bridge income gaps and boost shared | [More on P10](#)

### 5 OGWs Booked Under PSA

**F**ive alleged overground workers have been detained under the Public Safety Act for engagement in anti-national activities in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district on Thursday, officials said. Police prepared dossiers of the five persons and their activities, mostly in the district's Banihal tehsil, he said. The district magistrate slapped them with the Public Safety Act and were later detained, the officials added. The five alleged overground workers detained have been identified as Nazir Ahmad Pala of Fagu Doligam, Mohammad Usma Banli of Pogal Kunda, Firdious Ahmad Khan of | [More on P10](#)

### Lightning Strike Kills 50 Animals

**O**ne person was injured and around 50 sheep and goat besides three horses perished due to lightning strike and thunderstorm in upper reaches of Rajouri district on Thursday, officials said. The injured person has been identified as Mohammad Junaid son of Faiz Hussain. The incident took place in Bari Behek Shah Dara Top in Thanamandi area of Rajouri district. They said that livestock belongs to Nisar Hussain and two other residents of Gambhir Mughlan. A police team reached the spot to assess the situation, officials said.

### 'CM' Word Eschewed From 'Vigilance Medal'

**G**overnment on Thursday changed Chief Minister Vigilance Medal to Government Vigilance Medal. "It is hereby ordered that the words 'Chief Minister's Vigilance Medal' wherever appearing in the Government Order No. 95-GAD(Vig) of 2006 dated 29.12.2006, as amended from time to time, shall henceforth be read as 'Jammu and Kashmir Government Vigilance Medal'," reads a government order. "It is further ordered that the National Emblem shall be adopted on the said award."

## Iran, Russia's Growing Drone Alliance Defying West Amid Ukraine War

Agenceis

**Dubai:** Iran has promised to provide Russia with surface to surface missiles, in addition to more drones, said Iranian officials, a move that has infuriated the United States and other Western powers which are backing Ukraine in the war.

The weapons could provide a significant boost for Russia's failing war efforts against Ukraine but Iran's clerical rulers face mounting international pressure over their military alliance with Moscow.

Iran has developed a large domestic arms industry in the face of international sanctions and embargoes that had barred it from importing weapons, including drones and missiles it sees as a vital form of protection from arch-enemy Israel and the United States, which has soldiers stationed at bases in the region.

has spread its influence through proxies. Saudi Arabia and the United States have said they believe Iran was behind a drone and missile attack on prized Saudi oil facilities in 2019, which Tehran denies.

The Islamic Republic says its drones are the region's most powerful. In addition to surveillance, they can be used for attacks, either by dropping munitions or as so-called "kamikaze drones" that fly into a target and blow themselves up. Its advanced long-range suicide drone is designed to hit Israel's Tel Aviv.

Iran says its ballistic missiles, with a range of up to 2,000 km (1,200 miles), are an important deterrent and retaliatory force against the United States, Israel and other potential regional targets. It denies seeking nuclear weapons.

The programme, which contains about 1,000 short-and medium range ballistic missiles,



Although Western military analysts say Iran sometimes exaggerates its capabilities, drones are a key element in Tehran's border surveillance, especially the Gulf waters around the Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of the world's oil supply flows. Iran and the regional forces it backs have increasingly relied in recent years on drones in Yemen, Syria and Iraq, where it

is one of the largest deployed in the Middle East.

The Arms Control Association says Iran's short-range and medium-range ballistic missiles include Shahab-1, with an estimated range of 300 km, the Zolfaghar (700 km); Shahab-3 (800-1,000 km), Emad-1, a missile under development (up to 2,000 km) and Sejil, under development (1,500-2,500 km).

## UAE Employs Hundreds Of Retired US Military Soldiers And Generals



An investigation by The Washington Post revealed that oil-rich UAE has employed hundreds of retired US military personnel as leading positions in its military, alongside thousands of foreign mercenaries who work under their command.

Documents acquired under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) indicated that the Pentagon has over the past few years received 280 requests from military retirees to be employed in the UAE.

However, hundreds of others, who have not sought federal

permission for foreign jobs, are estimated to be working in the country.

According to law, only retired personnel are required to submit an application to the Department of Defense (DOD), as the government does not track the employment of those who served under 20 years.

The documents by the FOIA reveal that one-third of those employed are retired officers from the air force and army branches. And while the majority are experienced soldiers, the UAE also employed several retired generals and admirals.

## UK PM Liz Truss Resigns Six Weeks After Assuming Office



UK's beleaguered Prime Minister Liz Truss, facing opposition from within the party over her handling of the economy and the exit of key ministers, resigned on Thursday. Addressing reporters outside

10, Downing Street, Truss, noting that she came into office at a time of "great economic and international instability", said: "I recognise... given the situation I cannot deliver the mandate on which I was elected by the Con-

servative Party." Truss had succeeded Boris Johnson in early September, after emerging triumphant in the Conservative Party leadership contest over former Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak.

## Brits Warned To Prepare For Power Cuts, Blackouts On 'Really, Really Cold' Evenings

Agenceis

The chief executive of the UK's national grid has warned British households to prepare for a "worst-case scenario" of power cuts and blackouts on "really, really cold" weekdays in winter.

The head of the National Grid ESO, John Pettigrew, said that the company would have to impose rolling power cuts on "those deepest darkest evenings in January and February."

It will be happening "probably between 4pm and 7pm in the evenings on those weekdays when it's really, really cold," he added.

Pettigrew said if the weather turns extremely cold and if gas supplies to feed power stations are insufficient, the company will have to switch off gas and electricity in parts of the country.

Pettigrew emphasized that he was talking about a "worst-case" scenario linked to the energy crisis in continental Europe.

He said that "in the context of the terrible things that are going on in Ukraine," the company needs to assess the "potential risks."

According to the National Grid's strategy, set to come into force on November 1, in case there are no electricity imports from continental Europe, the company will deploy its "mitigation strategies," including dispatching "the retained coal units."

European countries are facing a severe energy crisis caused by a sharp decrease in Russian energy



supplies.

In a "more extreme scenario," involving "a hypothetical escalation of the energy crisis in Europe" and a deficit in gas, as well as in electricity supplies, the National Grid admits that there might be "interruptions to customers for periods."

Any plans for scheduled power cuts in the UK must be approved by the British government and the monarch.

Last week, the head of Russian energy giant Gazprom, Alexey Miller, said that Europe would survive this winter but the winters of 2023 and 2024 would demonstrate that the energy crisis "has not come for a short pe-

riod of time and the causes of the energy crisis are systemic."

Russian President Vladimir Putin earlier likened the EU's attempts to cut itself off of Russian fossil fuels to economic "suicide."

The European energy crisis comes as tensions persist between Russia and the West over Moscow's offensive in Ukraine.

Natural gas prices have soared in Europe to all-time highs since the West began unleashing waves of sanctions against Moscow and Russia's Gazprom drastically reduced its gas deliveries to Europe.

Back in March, the Russian government barred the firm from gas deliveries to foreign buyers who fail to pay in time.

## Climate Change May Heighten Risk Of Virus Spillover From Arctic: Study



Agenceis

**TOKYO:** A warming climate could bring viruses in the Arctic into contact with new environments and hosts, increasing the risk of "viral spillover", according to research published on Wednesday.

Viruses need hosts like humans, animals, plants or fungi to replicate and spread, and occasionally they can jump to a new one that lacks immunity, as seen during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Scientists in Canada wanted to investigate how climate change might affect spillover risk by examining samples from the Arctic landscape of Lake Hazen.

It is the largest lake in the world entirely north of the Arctic Circle, and "was truly unlike any other place I've been", researcher Graham Colby, now a medical student at University of Toronto, said.

The team sampled soil that becomes a riverbed for melted glacier water in the summer, as well as the lakebed itself — which required clearing snow and drilling through two metres of ice, even in May when the research was carried out.

They used ropes and a snowmobile to lift the lake sediment through almost 300 metres (980 feet) of water, and samples were

then sequenced for DNA and RNA, the genetic blueprints and messengers of life.

"This enabled us to know what viruses are in a given environment, and what potential hosts are also present," said Stephane Aris-Brosou, an associate professor in the University of Ottawa's biology department, who led the work.

But to find out how likely they were to jump hosts, the team needed to examine the equivalent of each virus and host's family tree. "Basically what we tried to do is measure how similar these trees are," said Audree Lemieux, first author of the research.

Similar genealogies suggest a virus has evolved along with its host, but differences suggest spillover. And if a virus has jumped hosts once, it is more likely to do so again. "Very unpredictable"

The analysis found pronounced differences between viruses and hosts in the lakebed, "which is directly correlated to the risk of spillover," said Aris-Brosou.

The difference was less stark in the riverbeds, which the researchers theorise is because water erodes the topsoil, removing organisms and limiting interactions between viruses and potential new hosts.

## Hamas Resumes Syria Ties After 10 Years; Team Meets Assad

Agenceis

**DAMASCUS:** Palestinian movement Hamas on Wednesday said it restored relations with the Syrian government after a visiting delegation held a "historic meeting" with President Bashar al-Assad in Damascus.

The Islamist group, which controls the Gaza Strip, was long one of Syria's closest allies, in large part due to a shared enmity towards Israel. But it left Syria in 2012 after condemning the Assad government's brutal suppression of protests in March 2011, which triggered the country's descent into civil war.

"This is a glorious and important day, in which we come back to our dear Syria to resume joint work," Hamas chief of Arab relations Khalil al-Hayya told reporters in Damascus.

"This is a new start for joint Palestinian-Syrian action," he said after meeting Assad along with other representatives of Palestinian factions. Hamas and Assad have agreed to "move on from the past and look to the future," al-Hayya added.

By restoring ties with Damascus, Hamas cements its role within the "axis of resistance" against its arch-enemy Israel, analysts said, an Iran dominated alliance that extends

to Lebanon's Hezbollah movement and Yemen's Houthis rebels.

Wednesday's meeting with Assad "is in line with the broader rapprochement between Hezbollah and Hamas evident in Lebanon over the past year or more," said Maha Yahya of the Carnegie Middle East Centre.

The moves come amid fundamental shifts in Middle East relationships, including the Islamist group's long-time ally Turkiyye restoring full diplomatic ties with Israel in August.

"Hostile" attitudes Charles Lister, Director of the Syria Programme at the Middle East Institute, said rapprochement is the "only logical move" Hamas could take.

"Given the prevailing regional trend of Arab engagement with Israel, it's not surprising to see Hamas' leadership in Gaza seeking to re-enhance and amplify their role within the Axis of Resistance," he said.

The United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Morocco have all normalised ties with Israel in the last couple of years. Aron Lund, a fellow with the Century International think-tank, said the thaw has "been propelled by the hostile regional attitude to Hamas and by Israel's normalization with several Arab states."

### NEWS MAKERS

## HCL's Shiv Nadar 'India's Most Generous', Donated ₹3 Crore Per Day: Report

Agenceis

**Mumbai:** HCL founder Shiv Nadar topped as the most generous person in the country with an annual donation of ₹1,161 crore, the Edelgive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2022 revealed on Thursday.

According to the report, Mr Nadar, 77, has reclaimed the 'India's most generous' title with a donation of ₹3 crore per day.

Wipro's Azim Premji, 77, moved to the second position with an annual donation of ₹484 crore after ruling at the top position for the last two consecutive years, it said.

India's richest man Gautam Adani, 60, ranked seventh in Edelgive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2022, with a donation of ₹190 crore.

The report further revealed that in India a total of 15 individuals made an annual donation of over ₹100 crore, 20 donated over ₹50 crore, and 43 over ₹20 crore.

AM Naik, 80, group chairman of Larsen and Toubro, who donated 142 crore, is the country's most

generous professional manager, the report stated.

It further said that Nithin Kamath and Nikhil Kamath of Zerodha increased their donation by 300 per cent to ₹100 crore.

With donations of ₹213 crore each, Subroto Bagchi and N S Parthasarathy, co-founders of Mindtree, entered into the top 10 of the Edelgive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2022.

Ranked as the 12th most generous Indian, Quesq Corp chairman Ajit Isaac debuted in the list with a donation of ₹105 crore to the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru. Rakesh Gangwal, co-promoter of Indigo Airlines, also debuted in Edelgive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2022 with ₹100 crore personal donation to the School of Medical Sciences and Technology at IIT, Kanpur.

"Edelgive Hurun India Philanthropy List aims at chronicling the Indian philanthropy landscape and so far the transformation is encouraging.



"For instance, over the last five years, the number of donors who have given more than ₹100 crore have grown from 2 to 15, and over 50 crore have grown from five to 20. Considering the wealth creation potential of India and assuming that the billionaires keep up with philanthropy, I expect these numbers to at least double over the next five years," Anas Rahman Junaid, MD, and Chief Researcher, Hurun India, said. Infosys's Nandan Nilekani, Kris

Gopalakrishnan, and S D Shibulal donated ₹159 crore, ₹90 crore, and ₹35 crore, ranking 9th, 16th, and 28th, respectively.

Nikhil Kamath, 36, is the youngest philanthropist on the Edelgive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2022.

This year there were 19 new additions to the list, who made a total donation of ₹832 crore.

Also, this year six women philanthropists were featured in the list.

With a donation of ₹120 crore, Rohini Nilekani, 63, is the most generous woman philanthropist in the country, followed by Leena Gandhi Tewari and Anu Aga. They donated ₹21 crore and ₹20 crore, respectively.

According to the list, with a donation of ₹24 crore, the philanthropy couple, Amit Chandra (53) and Archana Chandra (51), are the only other professional managers on the list.

The number of philanthropists who have donated more than ₹10 crore increased by 116 per cent over the last 4 years, from 37 to 80 this year.

## "Muslims Don't Worship Lakshmi. Aren't They Rich?" BJP MLA Sparks Row

Agenceis

**Patna:** Bihar BJP MLA Lalan Paswan courted controversy on Wednesday over his statements about Hindu deities. The MLA from Pirpainti Assembly constituency in Bhagalpur district raised questions on Hindu beliefs and argued with 'evidence' to prove his stance.

A protest was held against him at Sherma Bazar in Bhagalpur and his effigy was also burnt.

Mr Paswan also questioned the worship of Goddess Lakshmi on Diwali.

"If we get wealth only by worshipping Goddess Lakshmi, then there would have been no billionaires and trillionaires among Muslims. Muslims do not worship Goddess Lakshmi, are they not rich? Muslims do not worship Goddess Saraswati. Are there no scholars among Muslims? Do they not become IAS or IPS?" asked the MLA.

The BJP leader said the concept of "atma and paramatma"



are just people's belief.

He said, "If you believe then it is a Goddess, and if not then it is just a stone idol. It is up to us whether we believe in Gods and Goddesses or not. We have to think on a scientific basis to reach a logical conclusion. If you stop believing, then your intellectual capacity will increase."

"It is believed that Bajrangbali

is a deity with power and bestows strength. Muslims or Christians do not worship Bajrangbali. Are they not powerful? The day you stop believing, all these things will end," said Mr Paswan.

Mr Paswan had earlier grabbed headlines after he allegedly leaked a conversation with Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Lalu Yadav.

## Local Court Directs Police To Conduct Inquiry Against Dy Mayor

Agencies

Srinagar: A local court in Srinagar has directed SHO Shaheed Gunj to conduct an inquiry against the incumbent deputy Mayor Srinagar, Parvaiz Qadri in a criminal complaint.

The Court of Judge Small Causes Srinagar in an order, a copy of which lies with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), directed the SHO to conduct an inquiry after the former deputy Mayor Sheikh Imran filed a criminal complaint against Qadri.

"I have gone through the contents of the complaint and perused the statement recorded. In order to ascertain whether there is sufficient ground to proceed in the complaint. I deem it proper to direct an inquiry," the court observed.

It stated that accordingly, SHO Police Station Sha-

**I have gone through the contents of the complaint and perused the statement recorded. In order to ascertain whether there is sufficient ground to proceed in the complaint. I deem it proper to direct an inquiry**

heedgunj Srinagar is directed to conduct an inquiry and submit a report by or before the next date of hearing.

Notably, the next date of hearing in the case has been fixed on November 17—(KNO)

## Govt College Of Edu Accredited With 'Grade A' By NAAC

Observer News Service

Srinagar- Government College of Education Srinagar has been accredited with Grade "A" by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) On this historical and memorable achievement, Council of Students-Govt College of Education Srinagar has expressed overwhelming joy and excitement.

In a statement, President, Vice-President and General Secretary of Council of Students have termed this achievement as a historical & blissful moment. They have expressed heartfelt gratitude to

Worthy Principal Govt College of Education Dr Seema Naz for lending her untiring efforts to reach this position.

Vice-President Council of Students Hatim Qayoom while expressing his overwhelming joy has extended his sincere gratitude to all HoD's, Teaching, Non-teaching Staff, NSS unit, Discipline Committee and Cultural Committee of the College for their tremendous efforts put in by them during the course accreditation review. Qayoom related the efforts of Principal Government College of Education Srinagar Dr Seema Naz with epitome of professionalism.



## Passengers Accuse Auto Drivers Of Charging Exorbitant Fare

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Passengers in the city complain that the Auto rickshaws plying in the city charge exorbitant fares.

Passengers have also accused the authorities of not doing much to address the issue. Pertinently, Auto Rickshaws plying in the city operate without meters despite authorities directing them to adhere to fare meters.

Talking to Kashmir Observer, passengers voiced their frustration over the inaction of authorities and accused them of not doing enough to put erring auto rickshaw drivers to task.

A passenger identifying herself as Shohar Bano, said that the overcharging by Auto Rickshaws has become the norm of the day and there is nothing new about it.

"I boarded an auto rickshaw to travel in the city, before I board a rickshaw I ensure that I negotiate fare with the driver," Shohar said.

Drawing parallels with other means of transport Shohar says she will still prefer an Auto rickshaw

over other means of transport.

"I will prefer to spend more bucks in a rickshaw than travelling in an overcrowded bus," she added.

Another passenger voiced similar views saying travelling in an auto rickshaw has become more or less a luxury.

"I boarded an Auto Rickshaw from M. A. Road to Dalgate and he charged me Rs 60 for a distance of around one kilometer," said a passenger wishing not to be named.

"In absence of meters, auto rickshaws charge passengers according to their own will. Authorities should take note of the situation and impose fines on erring drivers" he said.

Auto Rickshaw drivers, on the other hand say, if they adhere to meters they will have little to earn.

Nazir Ahmed, a rickshaw driver, has been driving an auto rickshaw for two years now. He says he never felt the need to use the meter.

"If we start using meters, we will earn peanuts and our children will suffer. We have a family back home," Nazir says.

Nazir says authorities have

failed to revise rates according to what he calls "contemporary times", seeing the kind of inflation there is in the market.

"If authorities are serious about the issue, they should revise the rates, so that no one suffers," he adds.

It is pertinent to mention, the jurisdiction for revising fares for auto rickshaws comes under The Regional Transport Office (RTO) Kashmir. The enforcement part, however, comes under the Traffic Police City.

Speaking to Kashmir Observer, SSP Traffic City Muzaffar Ahmad Shah said that despite assurances from Auto Drivers Associations that they will adhere to meters while charging fares, they have failed to live up to what they say.

"Auto Drivers cite low fare rates as the reason for not adhering to meters, however, it is not in our jurisdiction. It has to be done by the RTO," Muzaffar said.

Kashmir Observer made repeated attempts to contact Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir Sajid Yahya Naqash but he did not respond to repeated phone calls.

## 'Strict Action Against Will Be Taken Against Drug Dealers'

Agencies

Srinagar: Vowing to intensify its fight against the drug trade in Srinagar, the city police has already tightened its noose on those involved in the drug trafficking as 30 persons have been slapped with Public Safety Act (PSAs), 21 more detained under PIT-NDPS, 132 FIRs lodged while as 222 persons arrested this year so far in addition to 51 detained.

Srinagar police have busted a series of drug trafficking rackets and arrested many masterminds including main suppliers. Figures available from January 1 this year till October 20, suggests that 30 persons involved in drug trade have been booked under PSA, which means two year's detention without trial.

"132 FIRs have been lodged with regard to drug trade alone while as 222 people have been arrested this year so far, who were involved in drug rackets," the data reveals.

It states that 21 persons have been arrested under



PIT-NDPS while 51 persons were detained under preventive laws. "In total, 273 have been either detained or arrested this year so far," the figures read.

Srinagar police have been putting in its efforts to catch the "big fish" that include suppliers who are connected to the ground and have big chains that help them supply drugs to top, middle and lower rung workers, which ultimately reaches the youth. Sources in Police said it has seized huge quantities of contraband substances, charas, brown sugar and even Heroine besides narcotics. "A large number of banned cough syrups and tables have also been seized during the current year," the sources said.

Senior Superintendent

of Police (SSP) Srinagar, who is personally monitoring the anti-drug drive across Srinagar, said: "All persons involved in drug trade will be dealt strictly under law and no one will be spared. We will start property attachments of those involved in drug trafficking under the NDPS act."

Pertinently, a recent report by the National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre in AIIMS revealed that over six lakh people in Jammu and Kashmir are victims of drug abuse. The patient-intake records at the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) Srinagar, a premium rehab facility, seconds the NDDTC claim. While 489 drug abusers reported into the facility in 2016, the number grew exponentially to 7,420 in 2019. In 2020, it dropped to 3,536, but that is attributed to the COVID-19 lockdown. Ninety per cent of the drug users are in the 17-33 age group. Shockingly, as per the medicos, drug abusers are preferring IV method instead of taking drugs orally. (KNO)

### OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Phone: 0194-2470466, 2470465 Fax: 0194-2476931

Email: commissioner-smc@jk.gov.in Website: www.smc.srinagar.in  
Email: smcmvo@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Registration of Pet Dogs

All the owners/keepers of pet dogs residing within the limits of Srinagar Municipal Corporation are required to get their pet dogs registered in accordance to the Section-304 (Regulation and Control of Dogs) of the Jammu & Kashmir Municipal Corporation Act, 2000 and Section-3 of Animal Birth Control (Dog) Rules, 2001 in the office of the undersigned. The requisite forms are available in the office of the Municipal Veterinary Officer, SMC Tengpora Bypass Srinagar near Tengpora bridge, Health Officer, R.No. 38, Central Office, SMC Karan Nagar, Srinagar and are also available on the official website of Srinagar Municipal Corporation www.smc.srinagar.in

Following documents are required

- 1) Self attested xerox copy of vaccination record.
- 2) Self attested xerox copy of identity proof and residence proof.
- 3) Two colored photographs of a dog.

Registration fee shall be Rs.500/- (first time) and Rs.300/- for renewal of registration (yearly).

Any one keeping a pet dog without registration as required under Section-304 of the Jammu & Kashmir Municipal Corporation Act, 2000 & Section-3 of the Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules, 2001 will be liable to be challaned, fined and may lead to impounding of the dog. Pet dog keepers are also informed through this notice to get their dogs sterilized, especially females.

For any query, you may contact below detailed contact numbers.

1. SMC Helpline Numbers +91-194-2474499, 0194-2470465, 18001807038.
2. SMC official website www.smc.srinagar.in
3. Email smcmvo@gmail.com

No. SMC/MVO/417-426  
Dated: 20/10/2022

DIPK-NB-4535/22

- sd-  
Commissioner,  
Srinagar Municipal Corporation



COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH (CSIR)  
Anusandhan Bhawan, 2, Rafi Marg, New Delhi-110001

Advt. No. 05/2022

CSIR invites applications/nominations for the position of DIRECTOR of CSIR-Central Electrochemical Research Institute (CSIR-CECRI), Karaikudi, in Level 15 of pay-matrix (Rs. 1,82,200-2,24,100) plus allowances as applicable in CSIR.

For eligibility criteria and other conditions, please see the detailed/complete advertisement No. 05/2022 on CSIR website www.csir.res.in. Applications/nominations may be sent along with complete bio-data and list of publications/patents etc. through email at drc@csir.res.in or by post to Director Recruitment Cell, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), Anusandhan Bhawan, 2, Rafi Marg, New Delhi-110001 on or before 30.11.2022.

CBC-36202/12/0009/2223

Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, JAL SHAKTI (PHE) MECHANICAL DIVISION SOUTH AWANTIPORA**  
Tele/fax: 01933/295537; Email Id: phemechsouth@gmail.com

**EXTENSION NOTICE**

Subject: Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of electro-mechanical equipments and construction of pump house/panel room/ operator room at various water supply schemes of Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora.

Reference: This Office ENIT No.: 49 of 2022-23 Dated: 07-09-2022 issued vide No.: JSD/MDSA/2301-16 Dated: 07/09/2022.

Due to No response of the ENIT 49 (02, 03, 04, 05, 06 & 07) of 2022-23, the works on the said enit are hereby extended upto 02/11/2022 (04:00 pm) and the opening date of the Technical Bid is 03/11/2022 (01:00 pm) and other terms and conditions of the ENIT's remains same.

No:- JSD/PHE/MDSA/3210  
Dated: 20/10/2022

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Division  
South Awantipora

DIPK-12053/22

TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686  
PCR: 0194-2452092, 2455883  
PDD: 0194-2450213  
FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES :  
2479488, 2452222, 2452155  
CAPD: 18001807011  
SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081  
Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

**AIRPORTS**  
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

**RAILWAYS**

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJBHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

**HIGHWAY STATUS**

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

**HIJRI CALENDAR**  
24 Rabi ul Awwal  
1444

**PRAYERS**

FAJR	5:19
ZUHR	12:16
ASR	4:13
Magrib	5:55
ISHA	7:14

### This Day In History

- 1789 - French Revolution: The National Assembly declares martial law in France to prevent uprisings
- 1803 - English scientist John Dalton reads his paper on the absorption of gases by water to the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Soc - 1st outline of his atomic theory
- 1895 - The Republic of Formosa collapses as Japanese forces invade.
- 1899 - Battle at Elandslaagte Natal: (Boers vs British army)
- 1914 - Battle of Warsaw ends with German defeat
- 1917 - 1st Americans to see action on front lines of WWI: US troops enter front lines at Sommervillier under French command
- 1938 - Japanese troops occupies Canton
- 1944 - World War II: US troops capture Aachen, 1st large German city to fall.
- 1948 - Facsimile high-speed radio transmission demonstrated (Washington, D.C.)
- 1948 - UN rejects Russian proposal to destroy atomic weapons
- 1950 - Chinese forces occupy Tibet
- 1965 - Nobel prize for chemistry awarded to Robert B Woodward
- 1966 - 116 children and 28 adults died as a coal waste heap slid and engulfed a school in Aberfan, South Wales
- 1967 - Egypt sinks Israeli torpedo boat
- 1967 - Tens of thousands of anti-Vietnam War protesters march on the Pentagon, besieging the military headquarters for two days
- 1969 - Maj Gen Mohamed Siad Barre becomes President of Somali
- 1970 - Nobel prize of peace awarded to Norman E Borlaugh
- 1971 - Nobel prize for literature awarded to Pablo Neruda
- 1975 - USSR performs nuclear test at Novaya Zemlya USSR
- 1975 - Venera 9, 1st craft to orbit planet Venus launched

### From KO Archives

## 'Missing' ITI Instructor's Body Found Buried

Observer News Service

S RINAGAR: A dead body retrieved from supposedly unused portion of a graveyard in Tangmarg has sent shock waves throughout Baramulla district and reliable sources have said the body is that of an instructor who, along with his brother, was picked up by security forces during a pre-dawn raid in September. According to reports, the victim's brother has identified the corpse. The ITI instructor, Muhammed Jamal Najjar and his brother, Abdul Rasheed, had been arrested by the 22nd RR during the night intervening 19th and 20th of September from Noorpur Jaagir, Sopore. While Rashid was dumped half-dead in Bandipora on the 10th of this month, nothing was known about his brother's fate.

Tangmarg residents came upon the body while they were preparing a grave in a cemetery at Hardhoora, TAarhama. The discovery stunned residents as no one had been interred in the vicinity of the spot recently; and neither the body was not in advanced state of decomposition., the locals informed the police. It was soon that people began to connect the body with the September disappearance. Rashed, who rushed to Taarhama on hearing of the corpse, identified the body as that of his brother.

Speaking to this news agency, IG Baramulla, Dilbagh Singh said that Muhammed Jamal and Abdul Rasheed had 'mysteriously disappeared' during the night intervening the 19th and 20th of September, and when certain quarters raised the possibility of the body recovered in Taarhama being that of Jamal, the body was exhumed by the civil and police authorities of the district. The incident is being viewed in the district as custodial killing. The body has been taken to Sopore, and anger against the security forces is palpable in the town. (Kashmir Observer, October 21, 2000)

## KASHMIR OBSERVER

### Kharge's Challenge

Congress has finally a full-time president in Mallikarjun Kharge, a Dalit. He became the party's first non-Congress president in 24 years, defeating Shashi Tharoor whose camp has alleged irregularities in the voting. Kharge has had a long stint in public life. He has been the leader of the opposition in both houses of parliament and has served as a cabinet minister in the federal government looking after the railways and labour and employment ministries. But he is a staunch Gandhi loyalist. So basically there is little that has changed with his election. He represents the old guard of Congress who are increasingly seen as out of touch with people. Besides, his being seen as a proxy for Gandhis doesn't help his cause.

That said, Kharge has come to represent the change that Congress desperately needs for revival. Can he do the job? It is anybody's guess. He has been a longstanding politician and has a vast experience in national politics. But it won't be easy to match up to the overarching persona of prime minister Narendra Modi who continues to be the darling of the majority of the masses and looks favourite to win 2024 polls. So, Kharge, in a sense, has the toughest job at hand. His challenges are first to reorganize Congress as a party that adapts to the BJP-style 24x7 politics. He also needs to get the party's rank and file to rally around him. And his another challenge - and this would be most daunting of all - is to provide an ideological alternative to the BJP's reigning creed. Congress has so far failed to do this. And also going by Kharge's persona, he doesn't appear up to the challenge. He is seen as an extension of Gandhi family's rule by another name. So, we could very well witness the continuity of the political ennui that has been the hallmark of the party over the last eight years. But things will become clear in the weeks and months to come.

Meanwhile, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi's padyatra seems to have breathed some new life into an otherwise dying party. He has been drawing reasonably good crowds. But mobilizing crowds doesn't guarantee a good electoral performance. So, the first test of padyatra would be the upcoming elections in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh scheduled to be held early next year. And the two elections would also be a test for Kharge's political smarts. Elections in Gujarat would be the most crucial. It would be important to see how Congress fares in the election. An even moderate performance would be a sign of improvement.

#### OTHER OPINION

### Executive vs judiciary

Similarly, the minister's complaint about the "Uncle Judge syndrome"—where familiarity with a candidate could possibly influence the choice of a judge—deserves serious consideration. Indeed, this particular problem has vexed even members of the judiciary—in February 2020, Justice AK Sikri, a former member of the SC, had said that "most times, we (the collegium)" go by "our impression" while taking appointment/transfer decisions... It can be argued that even the alternatives proposed, including the NDA government's National Judicial Appointments Commission, could suffer from the same ailment. But, it is also a fact that the current system has led to an outsized representation of the members of the bar and high court benches in the top-most rung of the judiciary, imposing a ceiling of sorts for the members of the subordinate judiciary. This has led to an 'old boys club' dominating the higher judiciary.

Do the judges consume an unwarranted amount of time in searching for future members of their fraternity, as Rijju suggests? While some collegium decisions have been timely, there are instances of the collegium having been slow to come up with recommendations. Experts believe the latest instance, where the collegium system failed to function as scheduled in the short tenure of CJI UU Lalit, doesn't speak too well about the system. At the same time, a large part of the blame must lie at the government's doors, too, since it has delayed ratification of collegium decisions for weeks quite a few times. So, while the judges' primary duty is jurisprudence, if they have been vested with the duty to select judges, they shouldn't be faulted if a thorough evaluation takes time.

The minister is however off track in suggesting that it should be the government's responsibility to appoint judges. The collegium system guards the judiciary from executive interference, and gives the pronouncements of the higher judiciary the sanctity of being politically independent. Rijju mentions other countries where the executive has been vested with powers to appoint judges. The answer is evident in how political appointments to the Supreme Court in the US led to the scrapping of the Roe vs. Wade judgment and the constitutional right to abortion in that country, with consequences for women's health, safety and bodily autonomy. Again, a politicised SC clipped the powers of the US Environment Protection Agency on regulating power plants—this has consequences for the entire world. The problems of the collegium system can be addressed without scrapping it—mandatory revelation of reasons for recommendations must be the norm. Also, there should be fixed and well-publicised criteria for selection/consideration of candidates, as well as a data-driven mechanism to screen for conflict of interest cases. This is necessary to make the collegium system more accountable, even if that requires judges to come off their high horses.

Indian Express



# All the King's Games

Kaushik Basu

It is too early to speculate about whether the current civil unrest will lead to Putin's ouster. If he is indeed deposed, it would be a blessing for the people of Ukraine and for billions of people worldwide suffering the economic fallout of his war.

NEW YORK – A specter is haunting Russia – the specter of dissent. Anti-draft protests have broken out in Moscow, St. Petersburg, and other Russian cities, large and small. Thousands of young men are fleeing the country. And more than 2,000 Russians have been arrested after protesting against President Vladimir Putin's attempt to mobilize 300,000 reservists to fight his war against Ukraine.

It is too early to speculate about whether the current civil unrest will lead to Putin's ouster. If he is indeed deposed, it would be a blessing for the people of Ukraine and for billions of people worldwide suffering the economic fallout of his war. But among the main beneficiaries would be ordinary Russians whose lives and prospects have been diminished under his corrupt, authoritarian regime.

Do Russians want to oust Putin and restore democracy? If you ask people familiar with Russia, they will most likely say that most of the population still supports him. I have my doubts. Tyrants always appear to have more support than they do until they are gone, because feigning support is a survival strategy. We saw this in Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's Tunisia and Hosni Mubarak's Egypt before both were overthrown in 2011. During the height of McCarthyism in the United States in the early 1950s, more people mimicked support for Senator Joseph McCarthy's oppressive views than actually supported them. Even so, authoritarian rulers have a knack for staying in power despite their brutality. In the summer of 2020, a popular uprising threatened to end the oppressive reign of Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko, but he survived. Myanmar's military regime, one

of the world's most brutal dictatorships, has outlasted multiple attempts at democratization. In an era of democratic backsliding, it behooves us to comprehend the forces that entrench authoritarian regimes. By better understanding why some tyrants endure while others succumb to popular uprisings, we could design better laws and constitutions that ensure leaders cannot hold on to power against their people's will. After all, constitutional tweaks have strengthened the foundations of democracy in the past. For example, the Twenty-Second Amendment to the US Constitution limits presidents to two terms, thus limiting the authoritarian temptation one sees in countries like China, where President Xi Jinping will seek – and almost certainly gain – an unprecedented third term this month. What explains the longevity of dictators like Lukashenko and Putin? In a recent paper, I developed an allegory I call the Incarceration Game to show how abstruse philosophical reasoning can illuminate the shadowy machinations and oppressive tactics that help authoritarian rulers stay in power.

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The Incarceration Game boils down to a simple thought experiment. In a country with a population of 100 adults, every person opposes the leader. If even ten citizens take to the streets, the leader will be deposed, but the leader can incarcerate up to ten dissenters. So, if fewer than ten people protest, there is a high probability that they will be arrested. But if every citizen is willing to protest, the likelihood

of being caught drops so much that people are no longer afraid to dissent, and the leader does not stand a chance.

But a shrewd and ruthless ruler would divide the population into ten separate groups: opposition leaders, newspaper editors, trade union officials, and so on. Suppose the leader announces that he will arrest only opposition leaders who are caught joining the uprising. If the members of that group stay home, then he will target protesting newspaper editors, and so on, until he incarcerates ten protesters or the revolt ends. It is not difficult to guess what would happen. The opposition leaders will not join the protest, because they are sure to be arrested. At that point, the newspaper editors will not join, either, because they now know for certain that they will be arrested if they do. With the opposition leaders and newspaper editors staying off the streets, trade union leaders will do the same. This inexorable process of backward induction will ensure that no one feels safe protesting. And the ruler will portray the absence of protest as a sign of popular support. The point of this hypothetical exercise is to highlight the methods that allow authoritarian rulers to repress political dissent. Those of us who care about protecting democratic norms must develop constitutional mechanisms that prevent authoritarians from pursuing such tactics in the real world. To block their rise, we must first understand the games they play.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by Project Syndicate



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## Pure Diwali

Firecrackers that flood the markets constitute 75 percent salt-petre (potassium nitrate), 15 percent carbon, and 10 percent Sulphur. When lighted, the combination of these chemicals generates poisonous oxides. Exposure to chemicals is a threat even while storing or carrying firecrackers. Studies reveal that during Diwali, the presence of suspended particles in the air shoots up by 90-150 percent, which reduces the visibility and causes heavy suffocation. Also the noise of fire-crackers, well beyond the threshold of human tolerance, trauma-

tizes the young, old, sick and pets alike. One can no longer buy the argument of children cherishing firecrackers, as the current younger generation has greater awareness of the serious hazards the crackers pose. Bursting firecrackers will only add to serious health hazards given the significant relationship between air pollution and respiratory infections. The light of firecrackers may be a feast to our eyes, but they poison the environment and ecosystem. The poignant truth is that the firecrackers that lit up the night sky during Diwali bear no trace of the hazardous working

conditions in their place of origin - Sivakasi in Tamil Nadu.

Absorbingly, the word 'Deepavali' is derived from the Sanskrit fusion word 'Depavali', which is formed from 'dipa' (light) and 'avali' (series or row). It thus means a 'row or series of lights', which illuminates the country with its brilliance and dazzles all with joy. Illuminating homes with lights is the expression of obeisance to the heavens for the attainment of health, wealth, knowledge, peace, and prosperity. While the electric illumination looks stunning, there is no comparison to

the age-old diyas. In fact, the advantage of lighting diya lamps is that they are biodegradable, cost-effective, and look very beautiful. The festival of Diwali is a lot more than just bursting firecrackers, which, in fact, pose serious health hazards given the significant relationship between air pollution and respiratory infections. In comparison, diyas serve the purpose of purifying the environment by getting rid of negativity and creating positive vibes. Lighting diyas indicate new beginnings and happy moments.

Ranganathan Sivakumar

## MINDFUL FRIDAYS

# MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING NECESSITY OR JUST A TRIVIAL OPTION?

Waseem Kakroo

As human beings are emotional beings and are thus unique among all other living things on the globe because of our capacity for in-depth awareness of our emotions and our ability to imagine and feel them. Our reactions vary depending on the circumstances, and thus different situations impact us in different ways at cognitive and/or emotional level. Sometimes because of our emotions, our rationality gets affected and in such situations we need help (counseling) from somebody else to build perspective to deal with the situation in an objective way.

Although counseling is regarded as one of the best helping professions on Earth, yet many people are still unclear about its true meaning, objective, and purpose, especially in our part of the world.

Since we are living beings with a wide spectrum of emotions and an innate desire to live full lives free from suffering, thus in order to help handle sufferings, offering counseling to others has probably always taken place in some form within different human societies.

Counseling not only helps people with mental health issues, but it can also improve the wellbeing of individuals, communities, organizations, and society as a whole. In this article, we go into further detail about the value of counseling and provide a list of its numerous, scientifically studied advantages.

## WHAT IS MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING?

Mental health counseling includes all of the services that licensed professionals—clinical psychologists offer to clients who need assistance in resolving various issues in their lives. These issues can be personal or behavioral, emotional, marital, occupational, rehabilitative, educational, or life-stage-related. The counseling is provided by professionals like counselors, licensed clinical psychologists through governmental, or non-governmental mental health, or social service agencies. Professionals provide those services to individuals, families and groups. Additionally, mental health counselors especially licensed clinical psychologists have specialization in fields including counseling for victims of trauma

and abuse, family and relationship counseling, substance misuse and addiction counseling, and counseling for human sexuality.

## WHY IS MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING IMPORTANT?

Mental health counseling has proven to be beneficial for millions of people across the world. In order to improve the client's quality of life, it relies on a wellness model that involves collaboration between the counselor and the client.

Individuals can explore their moods and actions with the help of psychotherapy and other counseling approaches. These methods can offer new viewpoints and a deeper comprehension of emotions.

Counseling can help with mood enhancement, the treatment of mental illness, cost-effective medical care, improve interpersonal relations and better communications, and build resilience and promote self-esteem.

The benefits of counseling, as determined by research, are listed below.

### 1. SCIENTIFIC PROOF THAT COUNSELING HELPS IN MOOD ENHANCEMENT AND IN TREATMENT OF MENTAL ILLNESS:

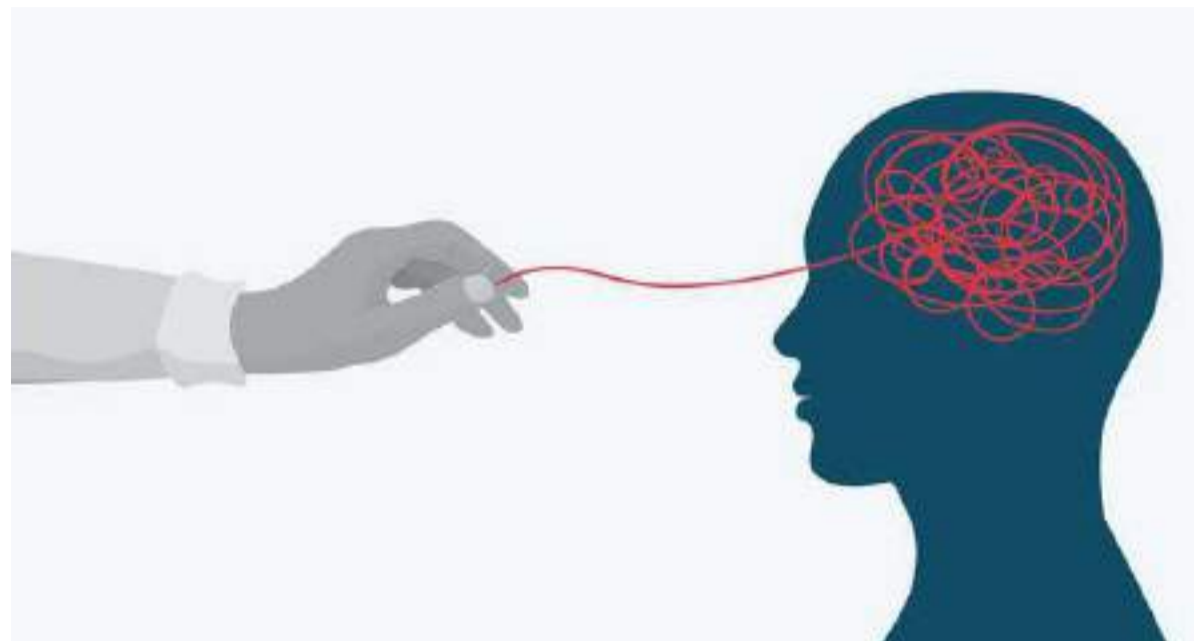
In order to enhance their clients' mental being, counselors employ a wide range of methods and procedures.

Gingerich and Eisengart examined 15 outcome studies on the effectiveness of Solution-Focused Brief Therapy (SFBT) for a variety of issues, including depression, anxiety, parenting skills, psychosocial adjustment, antisocial behavior, alcohol use, and family conflict. In five carefully monitored studies, SFBT was found to be considerably superior to no treatment.

**Treatment for depression:** One of the most prevalent mental health diseases in the world is depression. It is a chronic illness that lowers quality of life and causes issues with sleep, eating, and emotions of guilt or apathy.

The psychological treatment of depression was shown to be more successful than conventional (pharmacological) treatment or no treatment at all in a comprehensive evaluation of 30 studies looking at the effectiveness of counseling/therapy treatments (Linde et al., 2015).

**Treatment for anxiety:** A considerable proportion of Kashmiri population suffers from anxiety, another



**ALTHOUGH COUNSELING IS REGARDED AS ONE OF THE BEST HELPING PROFESSIONS ON EARTH, yet many people are still unclear about its true meaning, objective, and purpose, especially in our part of the world**

prevalent mental health disorder. Chronic and frequently crippling clinical anxiety affects many people.

Despite the fact that Cognitive Behavioral Therapy consistently produces the best outcomes for reducing anxiety symptoms, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), Mindfulness, and Psychodynamic psychotherapy have also been utilized as counseling techniques to successfully lessen anxiety.

### 2. COUNSELING FOR OCD:

Since the time OCD was seen as a form of anxiety disorder, many counseling techniques have been used to treat it. There is currently widespread agreement among re-

searchers and counseling experts that CBT is a successful treatment for OCD, supported by more than 40 years of research. The biggest body of research supporting the efficacy of exposure-based treatments is available, and roughly 80% of OCD patients respond to one or the other form of psychotherapy.

### 3. COUNSELING CAN LOWER HEALTH-CARE EXPENDITURES

Physical and mental health are inextricably linked. In many cases, individual's physical health improves when they receive counseling for underlying mental health issues to help regulate emotions and enhance mood. According to one study, group psychotherapy for those with chronic physical issues reduced the cost of medical care by \$10 for every \$1 spent (Lorig et al., 1999). This demonstrates the enormous physical and monetary advantages that counseling may provide.

### 4. COUNSELING CAN IMPART EDUCATION AND HELP DEVELOP SKILLS.

The process of explaining mental health conditions, diagnoses, services, and treatment alternatives is known as psychoeducation.

Many persons who seek counseling are aware of their suffering but have no idea what the root causes, underlying illnesses, or potential solutions of their problems are.

Psychoeducation can help in

normalizing mental health issues, reducing stigma, and boosting adherence to treatment regimens. It plays a significant role in numerous trauma therapies. Psychoeducation was discovered to lower rehospitalization rates and shorten the length of hospital stays among people with schizophrenia (Bauml, Frobose, Kraemer, Rentrop, & Pitschel-Waltz, 2006).

Counseling employs a variety of strategies to teach and practice skills that offer both short- and long-term relief. Both general skills like self-awareness, active listening, and communication skills as well as particular skills like mindfulness and behavior modification are taught to clients. Long-term negative thought and behavior patterns can be altered by learning and practicing these techniques in counseling sessions.

### 5. COUNSELING CAN FOSTER RESILIENCE-BUILDING FACTORS.

Different counseling techniques provide a basis for educating and enhancing resilience (that includes living with meaning or purpose, experiencing positive feelings, hardiness, self-esteem, healthy coping, self-efficacy, optimism, flexible thinking) through discussion, role-play, practical activities, and homework.

Positive CBT techniques like stress inoculation therapy can help people learn more flexible ways of thinking and responding emotionally and

behaviorally. The majority of clients seek counseling to address a single issue in their lives, but they often leave with fresh perspectives and tools that give their lives meaning, positive emotions, coping mechanisms, and a feeling of increased self-worth.

## IS IT IMPORTANT TO TAKE COUNSELING WHILE BEING ON MEDICATION?

Medication is recommended especially in those cases where the severity of mental health issues has become significantly impairing. In such cases, a buffer can be created by medication recommended by a qualified practitioner (psychiatrist), which will lessen the severity of symptoms and improve self-control. This holds true for a variety of symptoms, including those related to depression, anxiety, traumatic flashbacks, mood swings, agitation, difficulties in focusing etc.

Addressing the root problems through counseling is simpler once symptoms are under control through medication. Once the medication lessens the severity of the symptoms, it becomes easier to access, investigate, and modify the underlying problematic beliefs and resultant behaviors that were caused by the symptoms and/or have maintained the symptoms.

Counseling/psychotherapy increases awareness. The nervous system may receive chemical help from medication. Medication and psychotherapy together might improve a person's sense of control and manageability of their life. This can then encourage someone to seek out new opportunities and make novel decisions, seeing their life expanding.

You and your psychiatrist get to decide when to stop medication once you've started. By the time most people decide to stop taking their medicine, their toolbox of cognitive and behavioral strategies might have expanded by the efforts they and their therapist put in counseling sessions.

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# AI's Grammar Without Grammar

Morten H. Christiansen

Pablo Contreras Kallens

Unlike the carefully scripted dialogue found in most books and movies, the language of everyday interaction tends to be messy and incomplete, full of false starts, interruptions and people talking over each other. From casual conversations between friends, to bickering between siblings, to formal discussions in a boardroom, authentic conversation is chaotic. It seems miraculous that anyone can learn language at all given the haphazard nature of the linguistic experience.

For this reason, many language scientists – including Noam Chomsky, a founder of modern linguistics – believe that language learners require a kind of glue to rein in the unruly nature of everyday language. And that glue is grammar: a system of rules for generating grammatical sentences.

Children must have a grammar template wired into their brains to help them overcome the limitations of their language experience – or so the thinking goes.

This template, for example, might contain a “super-rule” that dictates how new pieces are added to existing phrases. Children then only need to learn whether their native language is one, like English, where the verb goes before the object (as in “I eat sushi”), or one like Japanese, where the verb goes after the object (in Japanese, the same sentence is structured as “I sushi eat”).

But new insights into language learning are coming from an unlikely source: artificial intelligence. A new breed of large AI language models can write newspaper articles, poetry and computer code and answer questions truthfully af-

ter being exposed to vast amounts of language input. And even more astonishingly, they all do it without the help of grammar.

Grammatical language without a grammar

Even if their choice of words is sometimes strange, nonsensical or contains racist, sexist and other harmful biases, one thing is very clear: the overwhelming majority



**A new breed of large AI language models can write newspaper articles, poetry and computer code and answer questions truthfully after being exposed to vast amounts of language input. And even more astonishingly, they all do it without the help of grammar**

of the output of these AI language models is grammatically correct. And yet, there are no grammar templates or rules hardwired into them – they rely on linguistic experience alone, messy as it may be.

GPT-3, arguably the most well-known of these models, is a gigantic deep-learning neural network with 175 billion parameters. It was trained to predict the next word



in a sentence given what came before across hundreds of billions of words from the internet, books and Wikipedia. When it made a wrong prediction, its parameters were adjusted using an automatic learning algorithm.

Remarkably, GPT-3 can generate believable text reacting to prompts such as “A summary of the last ‘Fast and Furious’ movie is...” or “Write a poem in the style of Emily Dickinson.” Moreover, GPT-3 can respond to SAT level analogies, reading comprehension questions and even solve simple arithmetic problems – all from learning how to predict the next word.

## COMPARING AI MODELS AND HUMAN BRAINS

The similarity with human language doesn't stop here, however. Research published in Nature Neuroscience demonstrated that these artificial deep-learning networks seem to use the same computational principles as the human brain. The research group, led by neuroscientist Uri Hasson, first compared how well GPT-2 – a “little brother” of GPT-3 – and humans could predict the next word in a story taken from the podcast “This American Life”: people and the AI predicted the exact same word nearly 50% of the time.

The researchers recorded volun-

teers' brain activity while listening to the story. The best explanation for the patterns of activation they observed was that people's brains – like GPT-2 – were not just using the preceding one or two words when making predictions but relied on the accumulated context of up to 100 previous words. Altogether, the authors conclude: “Our finding of spontaneous predictive neural signals as participants listen to natural speech suggests that active prediction may underlie humans' lifelong language learning.”

A possible concern is that these new AI language models are fed a lot of input: GPT-3 was trained on

linguistic experience equivalent to 20,000 human years. But a preliminary study that has not yet been peer-reviewed found that GPT-2 can still model human next-word predictions and brain activations even when trained on just 100 million words. That's well within the amount of linguistic input that an average child might hear during the first 10 years of life.

We are not suggesting that GPT-3 or GPT-2 learn language exactly like children do. Indeed, these AI models do not appear to comprehend much, if anything, of what they are saying, whereas understanding is fundamental to human language use. Still, what these models prove is that a learner – albeit a silicon one – can learn language well enough from mere exposure to produce perfectly good grammatical sentences and do so in a way that resembles human brain processing.

## RETHINKING LANGUAGE LEARNING

For years, many linguists have believed that learning language is impossible without a built-in grammar template. The new AI models prove otherwise. They demonstrate that the ability to produce grammatical language can be learned from linguistic experience alone. Likewise, we suggest that children do not need an innate grammar to learn language.

“Children should be seen, not heard” goes the old saying, but the latest AI language models suggest that nothing could be further from the truth. Instead, children need to be engaged in the back-and-forth of conversation as much as possible to help them develop their language skills. Linguistic experience – not grammar – is key to becoming a competent language user.

*By arrangements with The Conversation*

## RUBAIYA KIDNAPPING CASE

### JKLF Chief Appears In Court Via Virtual Mode

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief Yasin Malik appeared before a special court here via videoconferencing on Thursday in connection with the 1989 kidnapping of Rubaiya Sayeed, daughter of then Union Home minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed.

Chief Prosecutor Monika Kohli told reporters, "Malik was to be produced in court as per the production warrant. He appeared virtually."

She added that Malik, who is lodged in Delhi's Tihar Jail in a terror financing case, was not produced physically due to a Ministry of Home Affairs order restricting his movement.

Rubaiya did not appear for the hearing after filing an exemption application. "It was approved by the court, so she did not appear," Kohli said.

During the last hearing on July 15, Rubaiya had identified five accused, including Malik, and "the question of identifying the

accused again today (on Thursday) was never there", Kohli said. Malik on Thursday once again insisted on physical appearance to cross-examine the witness.

Rubaiya was abducted from near Lal Ded Hospital on December 8, 1989. She was freed five days later after the then VP Singh government, supported by the BJP, released five terrorists in exchange.

Now living in Tamil Nadu, Rubaiya is listed as a prosecution witness by the CBI, which took over the case in early 1990.

Malik (56) is lodged in Tihar Jail after he was sentenced by a special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court in May. He was arrested in early 2019 in connection with a 2017 terror financing case registered by the NIA.

Malik had observed a 10-day hunger strike from July 22 after the Centre did not respond to his plea to physically appear in the Jammu court hearing in the abduction case.

The next hearing in the case is on November 24.

## J&K Recorded 3600 Dengue Cases, 5 Deaths This Year So Far

Ninety Percent Cases Registered In Jammu District Alone

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Over 3600 dengue cases and five deaths have been reported in Jammu and Kashmir this year so far with five are from Kashmir division.

A top health official told a local news agency (KNO) that around 12328 tests have been conducted so far and 3,617 have been tested positive.



Of 3617, 90 percent of cases which is 3,093 cases are from Jammu district only. They added that cases in-

clude 126 from Samba, 55 from Kathua, 107 from Udhampur, 61 from Reasi, 32 from Rajouri, 21 from Poonch, 76 from Doda, 24 from Ramban, 08 Kishtwar and five from Kashmir besides that nine from other states. Also, five people have died.

According to official data, the highest number of cases 1,837 was reported in 2013 but this year has surpassed it.

## Tribal Welfare Among Top Priorities Of Union Govt: Minister

Observer News Service

RAJOURI: The two day tour of Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Smt Renuka Singh as a part of special public outreach to UT of Jammu and Kashmir concluded Thursday in Rajouri.

On the second day of her tour, the MoS met a deputation of tribals in the Conference Hall of the PWD Dak Bungalow who apprised the Minister about a number of demands and issues confronting them. Specific issues included safeguarding 10 percent reservation status for Gujjar and Bakerwals, permanent shelters for migratory tribal population and inclusion of all eligible beneficiaries under Forest Right Act among others.

Other issues included sanctioning of adequate tribal funds, sanctioning of additional EMRs for the district, improvement in quality of education in mobile schools, proper market linkage to be provided for wool, concession to be provided to the nomads in electricity bills etc.

The MoS gave a patient hearing to all the issues and demands projected on the occasion and assured that all genuine concerns would be redressed in a time bound manner.

While speaking on the occasion, the MoS said that tribal welfare is among the topmost priorities of the Central Government and dedicated efforts are being made to raise the socio-economic status of the tribal population.

The Minister also interacted with the Pahadi deputation and listened to their issues and demands. The Pahadi deputation



apprised the MoS about a number of issues and demands including giving ST status to pahadis.

While addressing the meeting, the Minister said that the Government is taking best possible measures for the overall development of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir and much focus is being laid on pushing every sector to take the UT to newer heights of development and prosperity.

"It is being ensured that the benefits of the welfare schemes and programs reach the last beneficiary of the country", she said. She also maintained that dedicated efforts are being made to make sure that no one is deprived of their rights.

The MoS also said that the Union Government has set the target of turning India into a developed nation by the 100th year of its independence, 2047.

She also said that the development is on fast track in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir and scores of vital developmental projects have been completed and many projects are in progress.

The MoS said that the Central Government is making efforts

to ensure the quality disposal of genuine public concerns in a time bound manner.

She also visited EMRs Gurdhan Balla functioning in DYSSO building where she interacted with the teaching staff and the students.

The MoS asked the teaching staff to ensure that quality education is provided to the students in EMRs. While interacting with the students, she advised them to dream big and work hard to achieve the desired goals of their lives.

Underlining scores of measures being taken by the Government to strengthen the education system in the country, she said that the Government is taking effective measures to improve the education standards by building the capacity of the teachers with modern teaching techniques.

Later, the Minister also laid foundation stone of tribal transit accommodation facilities for tribal population at Kesari Hill (Koteranka) and Thanamandi. The projects are to be executed at an estimated cost of Rs 354 lakhs each.

## Aware Of Reports Of Journalist Mattoo Being Prevented From Travelling To US: State Dept

Press Trust Of India

WASHINGTON: The United States is aware of reports of Pulitzer-winning Kashmiri journalist Sanna Irshad Mattoo allegedly being prevented from travelling to the country, a State Department official has said.

Mattoo had on Tuesday said she was stopped at the IGI Airport in Delhi from flying to the US to receive the prestigious award.

We are aware of the reports of Ms Mattoo being prevented from travelling to the US and are tracking these developments closely, State Department Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel told reporters at his

daily news conference.

We are committed to supporting press freedom. And as the secretary has noted, a shared commitment to democratic values, including the respect for the independence of the press, is a bedrock of the US-India relationship, he said.

"I don't have any other specifics to offer we are tracking this closely, Patel said in response to a question.

Mattoo, a freelance photo-journalist, was part of a Reuters team that won the Pulitzer Prize for feature photography for their coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic in India. In a statement, the Commit-

tee to Protect Journalists urged Indian officials to let Mattoo travel to the US to attend the Pulitzer awards ceremony.

There is no reason why Kashmiri journalist Sanna Irshad Mattoo, who had all the right travel documents and has won a Pulitzer one of the most prestigious journalism awards should have been prevented from traveling abroad, said Beh Lih Yi, CPJ's Asia programme coordinator, in Frankfurt, Germany.

This decision is arbitrary and excessive. Indian authorities must immediately cease all forms of harassment and intimidation against journalists covering the situation in Kashmir, Beh said.

## Mann Moves Court Against J&K Admin's Order Denying Him Entry

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar) chief Simranjit Singh Mann has moved a Jammu and Kashmir court to challenge the administration's order denying him entry into the Union territory, his lawyer said on Thursday.

Mann has been sitting on a protest in Lakhampur for three consecutive nights against the administration's decision. Thursday is the fourth day of the protest.

The MP from Sangrur in Punjab was stopped on orders of Kathua District Magistrate Rahul Pandey on Monday evening, leading to the protest by the politician and his supporters.

In his order issued under section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), Pandey said it had been brought to his notice by the senior superintendent of police that Mann was scheduled to enter Jammu and Kashmir and

his visit was likely to cause "disturbance in public tranquility".

Mann filed a petition in the court of the chief judicial magistrate of Kathua through advocate T N Gupta, challenging the district magistrate's order denying him entry into Jammu and Kashmir.

Gupta said Mann has challenged the order on grounds that he was granted approval for his visit to the Union territory a few days ago.

"As per the protocol of his visit it fixed by the additional deputy commissioner (Kathua), he left for J&K on October 17 (from Punjab). But when he reached here, the district magistrate of Kathua gave him this order (of denying entry into J&K). So he is challenging it," Gupta said.

He said the matter will be taken up on Thursday.

Gupta said Mann has also demanded the restoration of his basic rights as a senior citizen as well as an elected MP.

## CBC Organises Outreach Programme In Zanskar

Observer News Service

PADUM(ZANSKAR): The Central Bureau of Communication, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Government of India on Thursday organised an Integrated Communication and Outreach Program(ICOP) in Ladakh region for awareness on the Prime Minister's 15 point programme for minorities under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM). The programme was organized by CBC's Field Office Anantnag at Government Higher Secondary School, Padum in Zanskar at an altitude of 12,000 feet.

It was first such type of an outreach programme in decades to be organised by the bureau in the region. The programme was part of a series of awareness programmes being organised in the Ladakh region during the month of October meant for mass awareness about various schemes and welfare measures being implemented throughout the country under the Prime Minister's 15 Point Programme for the welfare of religious minorities. Apart from this, information about the objectives and vision of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav was also provided to participants which included the new initiatives of Swaraj Television Series and Azadi Quest Mobile Games. The information about these initiatives was provided by means of standees, printed Information Education and Communication (IEC) material, pamphlets, brochures, group discussions, face to face communication as well as using traditional performing arts.

Executive Councillor, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development

Council(LAHDC),Kargil, Er. Panchok Tashi was the chief guest on the occasion. In his presidential address Tashi appreciated CBC, Regional Office, Jammu for reaching out to the people of Zanskar and organizing awareness programme in the remote region.

He said that the PM's 15 Point Programme represents the government's commitment towards the development of religious minorities and impressed upon the stakeholders to ensure timely implementation of schemes under the programme for equitable development of Zanskar sub division and Ladakh.

Ghulam Abass, Joint Director, CBC, J&K and Ladakh region in his address said that CBC has taken the initiative to reach out to the people Zanskar in order to empower them with the information on various developmental initiatives undertaken by the government. He made special mention of Ayushman Bharat and Poshan Abhiyan terming these flagship schemes as ground-breaking in achieving a prosperous India.

Abass said that PM's 15 point programme envisages an India where every citizen shares the benefits of the national development and lives in harmony with other fellow citizens.

In his introductory remarks Shahid Mohammad Lone, Field Publicity Officer, CBC Anantnag and Leh presented an overview of the mandate and activities of the CBC in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh regions. He provided a detailed insight into the different schemes being implemented across different sectors by various ministries under the PM's 15 Point Programme.

## Mid-Day Meal Scheme

### Police Files Case Over Misappropriation Of Ration

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Police seized 32 rice bags and registered a case against a school staff for allegedly misappropriating rice meant for the mid-day meals for children in Central Kashmir's Budgam district, reports said Thursday.

A local news agency KNT quoted an unnamed police officer as saying that police station Khag in Budgam received information through reliable sources that the staff of Government

Middle School Shungli Pora has misappropriated rice issued by the Government for mid-day meals for students.

"Police swung into action and after registering an FIR vide number 60/2022 under relevant sections of law followed by a thorough investigation seized 32 bags of rice and some records related to the issuance of ration and its use thereof, the officer said.

Police said that further investigation is underway and arrests are expected in this regard.

## Pole Inaugurates Kids Festival At Town Hall Shopian



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K. Pole on Thursday inaugurated a kids festival at Town Hall in South Kashmir's Shopian district.

Deputy Commissioner, Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaishya and SSP, Shopian, Tanushree were also present on this occasion. The festival was organised by Jadooz India Ltd.

On the occasion, a live interaction was delivered to the Table Tennis players by Justice (Retd.) Gita Mittal Chairperson, Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI).

In her virtual interaction, Mittal besides appreciating the breathtaking Scenery of Shopian, said Youth of the Valley are gifted with great talent which needs to be channelized through career counseling and engaging youth in career productive activities.

She while emphasizing on Cinema added productive activities will bring a new energy which will pave a way and give fillip for great arts and literary tradition of the valley.

She said that the youth of Kashmir are excelling in every field especially in sports activities including Table Tennis and exuded upon students and players present to give their best towards studies and other literary, artistic and sports activities.

Kashmir from ancient times has been known for rich scholarly texts also, she said and that more and more youth should come forward and take part in sports and cinematic activities to make their career a success in every field of life.

Div Com while speaking on the Edutainment said that the Cinema acts as a Mirror of Society as it reflects the social mores, social growth and trends. Health of the society can be better appreciated by engaging the vast majority of people in cinematic experiences, said Pole.

He said that Cinema is a very big informative and entertaining medium and we must fully utilize its potential for the betterment of society. He said that we are delighted to bring to reality a world class literary journey in Kashmir which had been long awaited.

## BJP Urges Govt To Release Salaries Of KP, Dogra Employees Working In Kashmir Before Diwali

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The newly setup panel of the BJP met on Thursday night to look into issues related to the protesting minority Hindu community employees working in Kashmir valley, and appealed Lieutenant Governor administration to release their salaries before Diwali as a humanitarian gesture.

Kashmiri Pandit and Dogra employees of the Union Territory administration are holding protests for past six months over targeted killings of non-muslims by terrorists, and demanded immediate relocation away from the Valley.

Lashing out at the administration, the protesters alleged that 7,000 employees belonging to

minority communities, including Kashmiri Pandits, serving in the Valley "have been caged by the faulty and unconstitutional transfer policy" that did not allow them to transfer out of Kashmir.

The committee headed by former deputy chief minister Dr Nirmal Singh held its first meeting at BJP headquarters here.

The J-K BJP President Ravinder Raina presided over the meeting and discussed broader parameters of the committee, the BJP spokesperson said.

"Committee has meanwhile appealed the Union Territory administration to release salaries of employees before Diwali as a humanitarian gesture keeping up the secular traditions of the

state," he said.

The minority Hindu community employees working in Kashmir under Prime Minister's package, non-package, all reserved categories and other vulnerable sections of the society are facing a serious threat to their lives, he said.

The committee recognizes the right of every citizen including these employees to a safe and secure life both at work place and at their lodging spaces, the spokesperson said.

The BJP has always been sensitive to the issues of masses and has taken up same with concerned authorities, he said.

"Committee has received a lot of inputs from the concerned people and are looking into it to find an

appropriate way out. Committee has decided to interact with administration in order to have its feedback also," he said.

The committee has invited responses and views of all the stakeholders particularly employees, individually as well as collectively, the BJP spokesperson said.

It is also proposing to visit various places in Kashmir inhabited by the minority Hindu community to have a first-hand assessment of the prevailing situation before finalizing its report, he added.

The non-muslim employees had returned to Jammu following the killing of Rajni Bala, a school teacher in south Kashmir's Kulgam district on May 31. They have been denied salaries for past four

months. The employees' associations also hit out at the administration and the BJP for their "lip service and condemnations" following each targeted killing without making efforts to stop them.

The terrorists are killing people from the minority Hindu communities and openly claiming responsibility. They are not only challenging the government but also creating fear psychosis, the protesting employees said.

Recently, Kashmiri Pandit Puran Krishan Bhat was gunned down by terrorists on Saturday outside his ancestral house in the Chowdhary Gund area of the south Kashmir's district, where he had gone to look after his orchards.

اللهم صل على محمد وآل محمد



With Profound grief and sorrow,  
We inform the Sad Demise of  
**Mansha Abid**  
D/O: **Abid Ahmad Machloo**  
R/O: **Mehjoor Nagar Near J&K Bank**  
**Chinar Lain Colony Srinagar**  
on 19 Oct 2022.  
Her Fateh Khawani will be observed on  
21st Oct 2022 (Friday) 3pm at  
**Dalgate Maltang.**

Bereaved Family  
91 88250 04976, 91 70067 12052

INFO



## Delhi, Kolkata, Ahmedabad Among World's 'Most Unsustainable' Megacities

Bloomberg

**NEW DELHI:** With 10 billion people expected to cram into urban areas by mid-century, the world will add at least 14 new megacities - many of which are at risk of threats including food and water insecurity, conflict and high crime rates, as well as climate-change-related disasters like flooding and drought.

These growing cities, each with populations surpassing 10 million by 2050, add to 33 existing megacities. But ecological threats and lack of societal resilience make their rise - and the rapid pace of urban expansion more generally - unsustainable, warns a report published Wednesday by the global think tank Institute for Economics and Peace.

The world is expected to add at least 14 new megacities by mid-century, each with a population surpassing 10 million.

The fastest-growing cities will be in sub-Saharan Africa, projected to be home to 2.1 billion people over the next three decades. The region includes five of the 20 most at-risk emerging and existing megacities, according to the report. Among the most unsustainable are Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo; Nairobi, Kenya; and Lagos, Nigeria, all of which could see their metro area populations grow by at least 80%.

All of the megacities in South Asia, meanwhile, will see their populations grow by at least 50%. At least eight are listed by



the report as being among the most unsustainable, including Dhaka, Bangladesh; Lahore, Pakistan; and Kolkata and Delhi.

"Generally, they are in low-income, low-peace countries, meaning they simply don't have the financial capacity to be able to cope with the growth," says IEP's founder Steve Killelea. A lack of finances can block cities from improving critical infrastructure, reducing crime and supporting the local economy. Those with the largest population growth - mainly in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia - will see resources stretch even thinner and confront the most sustainability challenges.

Food and Water Insecurity Sub-Saharan Africa has the worst ecological threat report (ETR) score, which measures a country's population growth alongside its vulnerability to food insecurity, natural disasters and water stress, according to the report. Several cities also rank low or very low on IEP's Positive and Global Peace Indices, which quantify a country's level of peacefulness as it relates to social and economic resilience.

## 'India Suffered Income Loss Of USD 159 Bn In Key Sectors Due To Extreme Heat In 2021'

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** India suffered an income loss of USD 159 billion, 5.4 per cent of its gross domestic product, in the service, manufacturing, agriculture, and construction sectors due to extreme heat in 2021, according to a new report. Heat exposure in the country led to the loss of 167 billion potential labour hours, a 39 per cent increase from 1990-1999, said the Climate Transparency Report 2022 compiled by an international partnership of organisations.

Labour productivity in India is projected to decline by five per cent from the 1986-2006 reference period if global temperatures increase by 1.5 degrees Celsius, it said.

The decline in labour productivity will be 2.1 times more if the global temperatures increase by 2.5 degrees Celsius, and 2.7 times at a three degree Celsius scenario.

Between 2016-2021, extreme events such as cyclones, flash floods, floods, and landslides caused damage to crops in over 36 million hectares, a USD 3.75 billion loss for farmers in the country, the report said. The annual damage from river flooding in the country is likely to increase by around 49 per cent at 1.5 degree Celsius of warming. The damage from cyclones will increase by 5.7 per cent.

"The annual expected damage from tropical cyclones and river flooding at three degrees Celsius is 4.6 to 5.1 times that from 1.5 degrees Celsius," the



report read.

"Precipitation is projected to increase by six per cent from the reference period of 1986-2006, at 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming. Under a three degrees Celsius warming scenario, precipitation will increase by three times the precipitation anticipated at 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming," it said. The rainfall pattern in India has changed in the past 30 years, impacting many economic activities such as agriculture, forestry and fisheries. "Snowfall in India is expected to decrease under 1.5 degrees Celsius scenario by 13 per cent when compared with the reference period's snowfall levels. At three degrees Celsius of warming, the decrease is expected to be 2.4 times the 1.5 degrees Celsius scenario," the report said.

Earth's global surface temperature has increased by around 1.1 degrees Celsius compared with the average in 1850-1900. To address climate change, countries adopted the Paris Agreement in 2015 to

limit global temperature rise in this century to well below two degrees Celsius, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels.

Suruchi Bhadwal, director for earth science and climate change at The Energy and Resources Institute, said, "Extreme weather events in our regions have shown that the effects of climate change are increasing, and more and more people are being affected." "The need to transform our energy systems is obvious, which will also require the support of rich countries whose per capita emissions are much higher than India's," she said.

The impacts of climate change are already being experienced with an increase in the extreme weather events with more and more people and infrastructure affected, Bhadwal said.

"The need to transform our energy systems is obvious, requiring support for technology/best practice development, deployment at scales," she said.

## J&K Govt Empowering Women Through Tejaswini Scheme

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir government is empowering and encouraging young women through ambitious 'Tejaswini scheme' by providing financial assistance for setting up gainful self-employment ventures, suited to their skills, training, aptitude and local conditions.

The UT administration is also facilitating soft finance for setting up new enterprises or for expansion and modernization of existing ventures for income generation.

Pertinently, the scheme was launched by Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, in June 2021.

The broad aim of this start-up funding programme for adolescents and young women of the UT is to make them empowered and self-dependent through their own business ventures. 'Tejaswini scheme provides financial assistance to the young women of 18 to 35 years of age'.

Under the scheme, female entrepreneurs are facilitated to avail financial assistance under Mudra from J&K Bank to the extent of Rs 5 lakh.

An official said that Mission Youth J&K is providing an amount of Rs 50,000 or 10% of project cost as upfront subsidy. Besides, an interest subvention up to 60 thousand rupees is also being sponsored by the

government as special incentive thus making repayment of loan technically interest free for the young female entrepreneurs who apply for assistance under the scheme.

The scheme intends to provide assistance to all eligible young women who are domiciles of J&K and have a qualification of matriculation and above. It also caters to enterprises where women entrepreneurs hold not less than 50% of financial holding, besides providing assistance to set up women centric businesses and micro start-ups.

Pertinently, Mission Youth has conceptualized this scheme for young women of J&K to uplift the status of women in society in view of low female participation in various entrepreneurial and livelihood generation activities.

In the financial year 2021-22, Mission Youth had sponsored more than 2000 cases of women entrepreneurs under the scheme during the current financial year with a budgetary component of Rs. 12 crore as government subsidy.

The government also helps the young aspiring women entrepreneurs in acquisition of fixed assets (plant and machinery, equipment, furniture and fixtures) and meet the working capital needs for purchase of various products and equipments etc.

## Director JKEDI Inaugurates 10-Day EDP In Kupwara



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Director JKEDI, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat Thursday inaugurated a 10-Day Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) at the Centre for Women Entrepreneurship, JKEDI. Another programme was also e-inaugurated in Kupwara district.

The scheme is a special endeavour of Mission Youth, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, aimed at providing financial assistance to young women for setting up gainful self-employment ventures suited to their skills, training, aptitude and local conditions. It will empower and encourage women to set up income-generating units through manufacturing, services or trading activities.

The candidates will undergo a 10-Day training programme with a focus on self-development, basic business skills, business and marketing plan formulation, account management, sector-specific technical inputs and will be apprised of all the formalities involved in setting up an enterprise. The aim of the programme is to help the candidates to be self-reliant and

facilitate their capacity building.

Director, JKEDI, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat stressed upon the need for inclusive growth through women empowerment and inclusion of tribal, backward and border population in nation building as is envisaged by the UT Administration. The candidates also requested the Director for enhancement of project cost as it will enhance the project viability. The Director assured all possible help under the norms of the scheme.

Upon successful completion of the training program, these registered female candidates will receive assistance in establishing or expanding an existing business. The project report will also have provisions for the acquisition of fixed assets (Plant & Machinery, equipment, furniture & fixtures) to meet working capital needs for the purchases of various products, equipment and tools.

The trained female candidates shall also be facilitated to avail of financial assistance to the extent of Rs 5.00 lakh. Through this initiative, women will be able to improve their socio-economic status and become more involved in nation-building.

## Mukesh Ambani Buys Dubai Mansion From Kuwait Tycoon's Family. It Cost...

Agencies

**DUBAI:** Mukesh Ambani is building upon his Dubai property empire with another beach-side villa purchase, smashing his prior record for the city's most expensive residential real estate deal within a matter of months, according to people familiar with the matter.

Ambani bought the Palm Jumeirah mansion last week for about \$163 million from the family of Kuwaiti tycoon Mohammed Alshaya, said the people, asking not to be named as they're not authorized to speak publicly.

Alshaya's conglomerate owns the local franchises for retail brands including Starbucks, H&M and Victoria's Secret. Ambani is chairman of Reliance Industries Ltd., India's largest company by market value, and has a net worth of \$84 billion.

The billionaire has been snapping up properties overseas, increasingly looking westward for second homes. Reliance spent \$79 million last year to buy iconic UK country club Stoke Park and Ambani is also scouting for a property in New York. Bloomberg has reported.

Ambani's latest purchase in Dubai is a short stroll from the \$80 million home he bought earlier this

year. That deal was the city's biggest-ever residential sale until another mansion on the palm-shaped island sold for \$82.4 million.

The Dubai Land Department reported a property deal worth \$163 million on Palm Jumeirah earlier this week, without disclosing the buyer's identity. A spokesperson for Reliance declined to comment, while representatives for Mr Alshaya didn't respond to requests for comment.

Prices Surge The flurry of record deals underscores Dubai's recent success at luring some of the world's wealthiest business executives. The city-state's property market, which contributes around a third of its economy, is recovering from a seven-year slump thanks to the government's nimble handling of the Covid-19 pandemic and initiatives aimed at giving expatriates a bigger stake in the economy.

Foreign residents make up more than 80% of the population of the United Arab Emirates. They've been a mainstay of the economy for decades, primarily working in the private sector and spending their money on property or shopping in some of the world's biggest malls. Indians, in particular, have consistently ranked among the top buyers of Dubai real estate.

## More Than 50% IT Professionals Likely To Resign Within Next Year For New Jobs: Report

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** More than half of IT professionals (53 per cent) are likely to pursue a new position within the next year due to better compensation, a lack of training and development and a lack of work-life balance, according to a report.

About 66 per cent of IT decision makers see skills gap in their teams even as there is a 10 per cent decrease from last year, according to Skillssoft's 2022 IT Skills and Salary Report.

However, the industry is facing another pressing challenge centred around talent attrition, with more than half (53 per cent) of all respondents extremely or somewhat likely to look for a new job in the next 12 months, it added.

Skillssoft's 2022 IT Skills and Salary Report based on a survey with nearly 8,000 respondents.

The report further revealed that over the past year, the



workplace has been defined by employee-led "movements", namely the Great Resignation and "quiet quitting".

Meanwhile, the pace of digital transformation and lack of enough technical resources have pushed many IT professionals to a point of burnout. Skillssoft's report found that two biggest challenges for the IT leaders' are employee retention and recruitment.

"Learning is the catalyst for mutually beneficial growth for employees and employers, especially as organisations struggle to retain technical talent and keep pace with in-

novation," Skillssoft general manager, Tech and Dev, Zach Sims said.

He said companies that create cultures of learning and talent development will be most successful in recruiting and retaining ambitious individuals with the right skills and certifications to make an impact.

"This culture not only supports individual employee growth, which is something IT professionals are actively seeking, but also leads to better business outcomes that propel organisations forward," he added.

### SHORT TAKES

#### EPFO Adds 16.94 Lakh Net Subscribers In August

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Retirement fund body EPFO net added 16.94 lakh new subscribers in August 2022, registering a 14.4 per cent rise as compared to the year-ago period, according to official data.

The provisional payroll data of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) released on Thursday highlighted that of the total 16.94 lakh members added during August 2022, around 9.87 lakh have come under the ambit of the EPFO for the first time.

Out of the 9.87 lakh new members added, approximately 58.32 per cent are from the age-group of 18-25 years.

This age-group signifies a crucial stage for an individual's potential in terms of earning capacity and joining organised workforce in large numbers following their education.

The data showed that during the month, approximately 7.07 lakh net members exited but rejoined EPFO by changing their jobs within the establishments covered by the EPFO and opted to transfer their funds from previous PF account to the current account instead of submitting claims for final settlement.

This may be attributed to various e-initiatives taken by EPFO for seamless and uninterrupted service delivery.

#### Jammu Gets 2 More J&K Bank ATMs

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Extending world-class banking facilities to the people, J&K Bank today commissioned two more ATMs in Jammu at Chowki Chaura and Muthi Gaon.

The Bank's Zonal Head Jammu Rajesh Dubey inaugurated the first-ever ATM at Chowki Chaura along with SDM Varinder Gupta in presence of Tehsildar Raman Jandyal while as at Muthi Gaon Zonal Head Jammu and Municipal Councillor Suraj Prakash jointly snapped the inaugural ribbons in presence of Cluster Head Suresh Chowdhary. The Bank's valuable customers, senior citizens, elected local representatives and local residents attended both the inaugural functions.

Besides commending J&K Bank for providing the first ever Auto-mated Teller Machine in Chowki Chaura area, SDM congratulated the locals for getting state-of-the-art banking facility. Municipal Councillor also lauded the efforts of J&K Bank and thanked the management for extending high-tech banking facility to the people of Muthi Gaon.

Commenting on the occasion, Divisional Head (Jammu) Sunit Kumar said, "Keeping convenience of our customers in view, we have commissioned the two ATMs ahead of Deepawali festival to serve people especially at Chowki Chaura that has got its first-ever ATM."

#### First-Ever Licencing Deal Struck For Cancer Drug

AFP

**GENEVA:** Pharmaceutical giant Novartis has signed a licensing agreement increasing access to a vital leukaemia treatment, a UN-backed public health organisation said Thursday, marking the first-ever such agreement for a cancer drug.

The deal will give selected manufacturers the opportunity to develop, manufacture and supply generic versions of nilotinib, a twice-daily oral medication used to treat chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML).

"Access to high-quality cancer medicines is a crucial component of the global health response to the cancer burden," said Charles Gore, head of the Medicines Patent Pool, the United Nations-backed public health organisation working to increase access to life-saving medicines in poorer countries.

While the remaining patent period for nilotinib was "relatively short", he said the licencing deal set "a vital precedent that I hope other companies will follow", Gore said in a statement.

Novartis president of global health and sustainability Lutz Hegemann said the company was "proud to be pioneering this new licencing model with MPP".

The drug is listed on the World Health Organization's List of Essential Medicines for the treatment of adults and children over the age of one suffering from CML.

#### 'Bailout For Vodafone May Just Have Been Cleared'

Reuters

**NEW DELHI:** The country's capital market regulator approved the government's proposal to convert dues of over \$1.92 billion by telecom operator Vodafone Idea to equity, two senior government officials said on Thursday.

Last year, the government had approved a rescue package for debt-strapped telecom companies that allowed them to convert interest on deferred adjusted gross revenue owed to the government into equity.

Among the country's three major telecom players, including Bharti Airtel and Reliance Industries' Jio, the government package was seen as a bailout for Vodafone Idea, which was on the verge of bankruptcy.

"SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) has approved the government's proposal to come in as a financial investor. This has been communicated to the telecom ministry," one of the officials, who did not want to be named, told Reuters.

The government's stake in Vodafone after the conversion could be more than 30 per cent, the official added, which would make it one of the largest shareholders in the company along with UK's Vodafone Group and Aditya Birla Group.

#### Rupee Closes 21 Paise Up At 82.79 Against US Dollar

Press Trust Of India

**MUMBAI:** The rupee rebounded from its lifetime low to close 21 paise higher at 82.79 against the US dollar on Thursday amid weakness in the greenback overseas.

Forex traders said the local currency recovered on suspected RBI intervention after hitting a record low of 83.29 during the session.

However, rising crude oil prices in the international market capped the rupee's gain, they added.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened weak at 83.05 against the greenback but later lost ground to quote at 83.29. It also touched an intra-day high of 82.72.

The rupee pared all its losses to end at 82.79, registering a gain of 21 paise over its previous close.

In the previous session, the rupee had settled at an all-time low of 83 against the dollar.

In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex rose 95.71 points or 0.16 per cent to close at 59,202.90, and the broader NSE Nifty climbed 51.70 points or 0.30 per cent to 17,563.95.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, slipped 0.17 per cent to 112.79.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, surged 1.17 per cent to USD 93.49 per barrel.

## Heavy rains wreak havoc in Bengaluru

Press Trust of India

**Bengaluru:** Heavy overnight rains here led to flooding on Thursday and made people to experience again the night-marish struggle they endured recently, caused by showers and inundation.

Normal life was thrown out of gear and many parts of the city were flooded while a compound wall of the Metro Rail collapsed and cars parked close by came under mounds of rubble, officials said.

The busy Shivajinagar neighbourhood resembled a river in spate and cars and bikes were swept away and people struggled to save their belongings. Water entered several houses in nearby Ramnagara district as well and the residents were evacuated to safer places.

Suburban residential and commercial areas in and around the Outer Ring Road, badly hit a month ago due to heavy rains, was not affected during the current spell of rain. A civic official said the recent anti-encroachment drive minimised the damage.

Waterlogging, incidents of tree fall, damage to civic infrastructure and power outage were reported from various

areas and the 70 mm rainfall brought the city to its knees.

An ATM of a private bank at Silk Board was completely submerged. There was Rs 17 lakh cash in the machine, sources said.

Over a month after the flooding on September 7, the city once again received heavy downpour.

In the wall collapse incident, seven cars and a few bikes were damaged. No one was present when the wall came crashing down. A car owner demanded that the government compensate them for the damage and alleged that shoddy work led to the wall collapse.

In the posh HSR Layout, nearly 200 families were affected when water gushed into their houses including the basement area of a few apartments.

According to Jagadish Reddy, a resident, the basement portions of many apartment complexes were flooded and it submerged vehicles.

In south Bengaluru's Anugraha Layout, Bilekahalli was badly hit as the entire colony came under sheets of water.

In the eastern parts of the city, even 12 hours after the rain, several areas looked like perfect waterways.



## Concept of jihad not just in Islam but also in Gita, Christianity: Shivraj Patil



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi:** Senior Congress leader Shivraj Patil on Thursday claimed that the concept of jihad was not just in Islam but also in Bhagavad Gita and in Christianity.

The BJP hit out at the Congress over Patil's remarks and accused it of playing vote bank politics.

Speaking at the launch of Congress veteran and former Union minister Mohsina Kidwai's biography, the former Lok Sabha Speaker and Union minister Patil stated that it is said there is a lot of discussion of jihad in the religion of Islam. The concept comes to the fore when despite having the right intentions and doing the right thing, nobody understands or reciprocates, then it is said one

can use force, he said.

"It is not just in Quran, but in Mahabharata also, the part in Gita, Shri Krishna also talks of jihad to Arjun and this thing is not just in Quran or Gita but also in Christianity," he claimed in his remarks in Hindi.

"If after explaining everything, people are not understanding, they are coming with weapons then you cannot run, you cannot call that jihad and you cannot call it wrong, this is what must be understood, there should not be this concept of making people understand with weapons in hand," the 87-year-old leader said.

Patil further said Mohsina Kidwai's book also talks about respecting all religions while following your own. He also said there is a need for peace in

the world.

Hitting out at the Congress over Patil's remarks, BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla said in a tweet, "After AAP's Gopal Italia & Rajendra Pal, not to be outdone in Hindu hatred & votebank politics, Congress' Shivraj Patil says Shri Krishna taught 'Jihad' to Arjun!"

"Congress coined Hindu/Saffron terror, opposed Ram Mandir, Questioned Ram Ji's existence, said Hindutva=ISIS," Poonawalla tweeted.

In his speech, Patil also said he voted for Mallikarjun Kharge in the Congress presidential polls. He, however, mistakenly referred to Kharge as Khandelwal a couple of times in the speech.

Patil spoke at length and talked about disparate topics in his address.

## Some Countries May See Another Wave Of COVID-19, Says WHO Chief Scientist

Press Trust of India

**Pune:** Chief scientist at the World Health Organization (WHO), Dr Soumya Swaminathan, on Thursday said some countries may see "another wave of infections" with the XBB subvariant of Omicron, a variant of COVID-19 virus.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of the annual general meeting of the Developing Countries Vaccine Manufacturers Network (DCVMN) here, she clarified that as of now, there was no data from any country to suggest that these new variants are clinically more severe.

"There are over 300 sub-variants of Omicron. I think the one that is concerning right now is XBB, which is a recombinant virus. We had seen some recombinant viruses earlier. It is very immune-evasive, which means it can overcome the antibodies. So slightly that we may see another wave of infections in some countries because of XBB," she said.

Swaminathan said they are also tracking derivatives of BA.5 and BA.1, which are also more transmissible and immune-evasive.

As the virus evolves, it is going to evolve more and more transmissible, she said.

"As of now, there is no data from any country to suggest these new subvariants are more clinically severe," she clarified.

Suggesting the measures that need to be taken, Dr Swaminathan said monitoring and tracking are the key steps.

"We need to continue to

monitor and track. We have seen that testing has gone down across countries, the genomic surveillance has also gone down over the last few months. We need to maintain at least a strategic sampling of genomic surveillance so that we can keep tracking the variants as we have been doing and studying," she said.

According to her, the Director General of the WHO has said that COVID-19 continues to be a public health emergency of international concern.

She added that 8,000 to 9,000 deaths are being reported every week worldwide due to the infection.

"So we have not said that the pandemic is over, which means that all precautions and tools continued to be used. Good thing is that we have now many tools and the most important thing is vaccines," Dr Swaminathan said.

"As far as vaccine coverage is concerned, our goals are 100 per cent of people over the age of 60 and 100 per cent of health care and frontline workers. Then we have a goal of achieving 70 per cent of the country, but subgroups are more important because they are most likely to face morbidity and mortality," she said.

She said that a number of deaths from elderly groups were seen when Omicron spread as they were not fully vaccinated.

"The full vaccination schedule is actually three doses. The primary two doses plus booster in the next four to six months. But in many countries, including India, the uptake of the booster is low. So we really encourage people to take the third dose," she said.

### CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

#### Early Snowfall

and other areas of the valley received moderate rainfall since the early hours of Thursday, bringing down the temperature by several degrees.

People have slipped into winter wear like sweaters and heavy jackets earlier than usual.

The early snowfall has brought cheer to the faces of tourists who have arrived here to escape the pollution caused by Diwali crackers elsewhere in the country.

"We had come to enjoy the autumn hues of Kashmir while escaping the pollution caused by firecrackers back home. This snowfall is an unexpected bonus for us," S Arvind, a resident of Hyderabad said.

Shoaib Ali, a travel agent, said the reports of snowfall have led to renewed interest in Kashmir's winter tourism this year.

"The first snowfall in the mountains was on Tuesday and I had a busy day attending to calls from regular clients on Wednesday about winter packages. Hopefully, there will be good snowfall this winter to sustain winter tourism," Ali said.

However, apple farmers in south Kashmir are worried a lot as heavy snowfall before December will not only destroy the crop this year but cause damage to trees.

"We have had early snowfall now for three years in a row. I hope it was just a passing event as a heavy snowfall at this time will damage the trees which are still full of fruit," Bashir Ahmad, an apple farmer from Shopian, said.

He said while early harvesting this year has ensured against any major loss, 20 percent of the crop was still on the trees.

The weatherman has forecast a dry week in the Union Territory.

"From tomorrow the weather will remain pleasant till the end of October as there is no major disturbance in the weather system," Deputy Director Meteorological department, Srinagar, Mukhtar Ahmad said.

He also said that farmers who have done their harvest should store it safely and they should not panic as there is no prediction of any major rain or snowfall for the next 10 days. (With agency inputs)

#### Mughal Road

"Mughal Road has been closed for vehicular traffic due to heavy snowfall," Deputy Superintendent of Police, Traffic (Rajouri-Poonch Range), Aftab Bukhari told PTI.

The road surface has become slippery due to the sharp drop in temperatures, the officials said.

On October 18 as well, the road remained closed for a day due to snowfall and nearly 100 passengers stranded due to the suspension of traffic were rescued on Wednesday.

#### Ensure Adequate

officials that people should not face any problems during the winter and this should be taken care of by everyone.

He made these comments while chairing the district development review meeting in Pulwama district on Thursday. He also inaugurated and laid foundation stones of several infrastructure projects in the district.

The LG asked the official that there should be adequate power and water supply during the winter and if there is snow on the roads it should be cleared immediately.

He stressed upon the officials that the people should not face any difficulty during the winter in any case, be it power, water supply and other essential services.

Sinha also asked the officials of the department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumers Affairs department to make adequate ration available for the people.

#### CONTINUE FROM PAGE 03 Arrested BSF

in for questioning by the CBI, did not cooperate with the investigation, prompting the agency to arrest him, sources said.

His wife and his daughter, however, claimed that Singh was innocent and said he was not involved in any scam.

The J&K administration cancelled the police sub-inspector recruitment in July following allegations of irregularities and recommended a CBI probe.

"The results were declared on 04.06.2022. There were allegations regarding malpractice in the examination. The Jammu and Kashmir government had constituted an inquiry committee to look into the same," the CBI had said in a statement following searches on August 5.

"It was alleged that the accused entered into a conspiracy amongst officials of the JKSSB, Bengaluru-based private company, beneficiary candidates and others, and caused gross irregularities in conduct of written examination for the posts of sub-inspectors," it had said.

The inquiry report showed that there was an "abnormally high percentage" of candidates who were selected from Jammu, Rajouri and Samba districts, the agency had said.

"Violation of rules by JKSSB was allegedly found in assigning the task of setting question paper to a Bengaluru-based private company," it had said.

#### Terrorists Sent

said, that since 1989, when Pakistan pushed the gun-toting terrorists into J&K, 1604 policemen have laid down their lives to safeguard the sovereignty, unity and integrity of the country.

Among the long list, he said, included a Deputy Inspector General, a Superintendent of Police, 22 Deputy Superintendents of Police, 28 Inspectors, 39 Sub Inspectors,

69 Assistant Sub Inspectors, 150 Head Constables, 189 Senior Grade Constables, 563 Constables, 516 Special Police Officers and 26 Followers.

"The more a J&K Policeman has been under intimidation over the past more than three decades the more steely he has been in his resolve and has performed his duties, notably anti-terror operations, professionally and dedicatedly," the DGP said.

The spokesperson further said that DGP hailed the heroic display of courage by the fallen cops and said that it has inspired coming generations to follow in their footsteps.

Singh, he said, further stated that from fighting terror and maintaining law & order to providing assistance to victims in disasters, J&K Police has proven its dedication to serve and secure the lives of people and their property.

"In stark contrast, people of J&K are indebted to JKP martyrs and JK Police as a Parivaar has always stood by the families of the martyrs through their testing times," the DGP said.

"As the commander of J&K Police I assure the family members of all the martyrs that they would never be left alone, come what may. Entire J&K Police force has stood with them and would always stand by them. J&K Police martyrs have been a source of inspiration for the entire force and their sacrifices shall ensure that the fight against terrorism is taken to its logical end," he added.

The DGP, the spokesperson said maintained that the dedication, sincerity and loyalty of J&K Police towards the country has made India proud and the sacrifices and achievements of police have been lauded on innumerable occasions by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister, Amit Shah, J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and other leaders.

"In recognition of the yeoman's service that JKP has rendered to the nation it has been awarded with 01 Ashok Chakra, 02 Kirti Chakras, 18 Shuraya Chakras, 1672 President's Police Gallantry Medals and 1822 J&K Police Medals for Gallantry," the DGP added.

#### LG Inaugurates

improving the ease of living.

The spokesperson said that the LG directed the district administration to prepare a comprehensive district level plan for self-employment of youth, promotion of tourism and culture. He said that the LG while reviewing the saturation of Kisan Credit Card scheme further stated that the landless farmers, solely dependent on livestock, must receive the financial assistance through KCC.

Sinha, as per the spokesperson also instructed the Animal, Sheep husbandry & Fisheries department to ensure insurance of all the livestock in the district.

The LG, he said, also directed the

District administration to ensure youth are supported for self-employment during Back to Village Jan Abhiyan.

"Re-orient the planning and monitor the implementation to achieve the goal of full employment in the district," Sinha said.

"Government schemes envisage loans to poor without any guarantee. Financial inclusion is the key enabler and it is bank's prime responsibility to improve access of the poor to banks and help alleviate poverty. Banks or concerned officers violating the norms will be penalized," he added.

The spokesperson said that the subject teachers' pool system was also reviewed for seamless coordination and availability of teachers. The LG, he said, directed for timely renovation of schools and proper functioning of Vocational training and Atal tinkering labs.

"He directed the concerned officers for making necessary interventions in facilitating the establishment of industrial units in the district, besides ensuring timely disposal of change of land use applications, and convenient, hassle free services to public in government departments. Directions were issued for achieving the target of Har Ghar Nal Se Jal. SBM Phase-II works to be completed by November," he said.

The LG, as per the spokesperson said that Pulwama must saturate schemes like PMAY.

While reviewing the Power Sector in the district, he said, the chair was briefed about the preparations being made in view of the ensuing winter season; Damage & Repairs of Distribution Transformers; Buffer Stock Arrangements, Peak Demand & Supply, provisions for replacing damaged transformers within given time-limits of 12 hours in urban and 24 to 48 hours in rural areas.

"People should not face any problem during winters. Make adequate arrangements for uninterrupted supply of power, water & essential items," LG told the officers.

Sinha also sought a report of usage of Kahcharai land retrieved by the District Administration.

According to the spokesperson, the meeting was informed that the Multipurpose Cinema hall is highly appreciated by the local public and a large population is taking its benefits.

"The Lt Governor congratulated the District Administration and the people of Pulwama for securing top rank in District Good Governance Index," he said.

During his visit, the spokesperson said, the LG flagged off mobile online service centre for doorstep delivery of various online government services, generating awareness among the masses.

He further said that the projected inaugurated by Lt Governor includes - 200 Bedded Covid Care

Hospital at Pulwama costing Rs. 8.67 cr; Synthetic Hockey Turf at BHSS Pulwama at a cost of Rs. 4.90 cr; Construction /Upgradation of Interior Roads at District Police Lines for national functions costing Rs. 89.61 lakhs; Widening/Upgradation of Pulwama Rahmoo Road including Pulwama Rajpora Shadimarg Road. (12.00 kms) costing Rs. 11.94 cr; Mini Secretariat Awantipora worth Rs. 4.99 cr; Community Hall Awantipora costing Rs 2.00 cr; Clock Tower at Pampore worth Rs 70 lakhs; construction of road from Narwah to Koil at a cost of Rs 1.80 cr; Two Sumo Stands at Pulwama along with Passenger Sheds costing Rs 67.71 lakhs; 08 Roomed Three Story Building at HSS Noorpora worth Rs 1.34 cr; Science Block at Government Women's Degree College Pulwama costing Rs 7.67 cr; Upgradation & Maintenance of road from L042-Lariyar to Chersoo at a cost of Rs 4.80 cr.

The projects for which the Lt Governor laid foundation stones included- Construction of 10 Roomed Double Storey Building at HSS Karimabad at a cost of Rs 2.32 cr; Reconstruction of gutted 10 roomed building at GHS Kakpora costing Rs. 2.27 cr; 06 roomed double storey building at Saimoh, HS Zantrag and HSS Panzgam at a cost of Rs. 1.41 cr each; construction of pre primary blocks at Lajurah & HSS Batagund costing Rs 65 lakhs each.

#### PM Has Dream

of every section of the society. Patil, he said, further stated that people are receiving financial assistance by direct transfer to their accounts. He gave the reference of farmers.

"Patil said that there would be no scarcity of drinking water anywhere in Kupwara district as the ambitious programme under Jal Jeevan Mission and 'Har Ghar Nal Say Jal' is progressing at a good pace," the spokesperson said.

Patil, he said, also referred to the Tourism Sector and said that every spot of Kashmir is a tourist destination and the Government was making all possible

efforts to boost this sector in a big way. Bangus Valley, he said, was emerging as a world class tourist destination.

The spokesperson said that the Minister appreciated the Deputy Commissioner Kupwara for his efforts to develop/construct 400 Amrit Sarovars against the target of 70, which is a record of best performance. Patil, he said, asked the Deputy Commissioner to continue his best efforts in giving best service to the people of this frontier district.

"Patil said that he will pay special attention to Kupwara district being the Minister of Panchayati Raj and wished Kupwara to become number one district in the UT in terms of development," the spokesperson said.

"He urged upon PRIs, especially Sarpanches, to work more vigorously and vibrantly to earn development awards for their constituencies which are being given on the basis of qualitative development," he added.

Earlier, on reaching Cheepora, the spokesperson said, the Minister inspected the stalls displayed by various departments. Patil, he said, took keen interest in the stalls and interacted with the organizers.

Later, the Minister inaugurated upgradation of Khumriyal Ring Road, Water Supply Scheme at Shortmuqam -Kuligam, besides visiting Amrit Sarovar at Vavoor Lolab, which was renovated at a cost of Rs. 6.22 lakh.

The Minister also laid the foundation stone of construction of 2 BHK flats for DDC Members and BDC Chairpersons.

#### MD & CEO J&K

prosperity," the spokesperson said. Sinha, he said, also called for dedicated support and financial handholding to the youth, farmers & women through ongoing schemes.

#### 5 OGWs Booked

Krawa, Abdul Hamid Khan of Tethar and Anyatullah wani of Gund Adalkoot. Superintendent of Police Mohita Sharma confirmed the detention of the overground workers to PTI.

## انتقال پر مملال

یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ اور افسوس کے ساتھ دی جا رہی ہے کہ اہلیہ عبدالعزیز خان المعروف (گھڑی ساز) صاحبہ سعیدہ کدل بس سٹاپ 8 / 1 اکتوبر 2022 صبح سویرے اس دنیا سے رخصت کر گئیں۔ مرحوم کا چہارم 21 اکتوبر بروز جمعہ المبارک دن کے 2:30 بجے واقع مقبرہ مہلہ ناز دیک پورس ایجنٹ نوہنہ میں انجام دیا جائیگا۔

سوگواران۔۔۔

عادل عزیز خان، ڈاکٹر غلام نبی کرپال، عبدالصمد کرپال

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## Bowlers Who Can Spell Doom For Batters This T20 WC

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Wahab Riaz's extraordinary over to Shane Watson at the Adelaide Oval during the 2015 ODI World Cup will forever remain etched in the memory of those who were fortunate to witness raw aggression at its best.

The famous punch line "Pace is Pace Yaar" was born after Wahab's over and its loose English translation would mean real pace is real deal.

As we move towards the main round of T20 World Cup at the business end of the Australian winter, pace will rule the roost although on slightly slower tracks, fuller lengths will be equally important.

While spinners are expected to play a key role on the Australian tracks despite the soggy weather, those with scary pace will provide an x-factor as there would still be enough bounce.

**SHAHEEN SHAH AFRIDI (PAKISTAN)**



He is the "Crown Prince" of world cricket's speed merchants. He is coming back from a serious knee injury but the manner in which

he got Afghanistan's flashy opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz leg before showed that he has picked up from where he left before his injury.

There was literally no rustiness as the yorker landed flush on the left toe of Gurbaz, who couldn't even bring his bat down.

Irfan Pathan would always tell anyone who would like to listen, if a left-arm seamer is getting the back into the right hander, it's bad news for the batter.

Shaheen had finished the last World T20 contest against India in his very first spell. There will be pace and at that pace, he will get to swing the ball.

**JOSH HAZLEWOOD (AUSTRALIA)**



Josh Hazlewood is the unsung hero of this Australian cricket team. While Pat Cummins and Mitchell Starc are bonafide stars in their own

rights but Hazlewood's discipline gives Aaron Finch's team the cutting edge that separates them from the pack. He may not be as fast as his contemporaries but deceptively quick enough to create trouble.

Also hitting the immaculate Test match length and probing batters on that off-stump channel with a touch extra bounce and just enough lateral movement, Hazlewood is any batter's nightmare.

An economy rate of 7.62 in the 37 games in the slam bang version is more than good enough but more importantly 53 wickets with four four wicket hauls is phenomenal.

**LOCKIE FERGUSON (NEW ZEALAND)**



He is one bowler who is perhaps born to play T20 cricket. He has everything - copious amounts of sustained aggression, extreme pace and enough varia-

tions to be effective on any surface. He has fast low, full-toss and one needs extreme explosive power to get under that ball and tonk it over.

Eight out of 10 times, the batter won't be able to get away as the extra pace does the trick. His yorker is mean and Ferguson bowls a pretty lethal bouncer too. In fact, he has variations in his short balls and if need be, he uses slow cutters to good effect. An economy rate of 6.84 in 21 T20s is absolutely brilliant.

One of his strengths is adaptability and one saw that during Gujarat Titans' IPL triumph in which he played a major role on flat decks across Indian centres.

**MARK WOOD (ENGLAND)**



Just one little piece of information is enough to send shivers down any batter's spine. Less than a month ago, Mark Wood clocked 156 kmph

(nearly 97 miles per hour) on a placid deck at the National Stadium in Karachi. When Mark Wood bowls, there would be batters, who would be happy to survive without a broken bone.

If any pace bowler in world cricket other than Bumrah, who can take pitch out of the equation, it is Wood. His pace is frightening and ask Haider Ali, who fended awkwardly in that game trying to avoid a broken nose when a sharp bouncer climbed up on him viciously.

If the flip side to Wood's pace is his high economy rate (above 8.37), the positive side is his strike rate of getting wickets every 14 deliveries.

**RASHID KHAN (AFGHANISTAN)**



By the time Rashid Khan is done with his career, he will break all the T20 bowling records, whether in franchise cricket in which he is one of the 'MVP's

or international cricket for Afghanistan. That he has played for 20 plus teams in shortest formats (T20 and T10) shows how desperately teams want him.

The 118 wickets that he has taken from 71 games, at an economy rate of less than 6.5, is mind boggling. While many teams are trying to play him as an off-spinner, letting his stock delivery to come in, the crafty Afghan of late has varied his pace a lot.

He is consciously at times trying to be slower through the air and let the ball hang and then dip on occasions.

Rashid played for new franchise Gujarat Titans this season and despite batters trying to play his quota of overs, he still managed 19 wickets.



### YSS Condolences Demise Of Srinagar Sportswoman

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Department of Youth Services and Sports on Thursday issued a statement condoling the untimely demise of young female athlete from Srinagar.

Director YSS Subash C Chhibber, Joint Director of the Department Bashir Ahmed, District Youth Services and Sports Officer Srinagar

Balbir Singh, senior officials of the Directorate of YSS Kashmir, JD Office, DYSS office Srinagar and many student players attended a condolence meet at Youth Hostel Srinagar which was organised in the memory of Manisha Abid a budding sports person from Srinagar's Mehjoor Nagar.

A special prayer was offered for the peace of the departed soul.

### Pulwama Shooting Ball Championship Concludes



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** District Pulwama Shooting Ball Championship 2022 concluded successfully at Government Boys Higher Secondary School Kakapora on Thursday.

The championship saw four boys sub junior teams and six junior boys teams take part. Mohammad Maqbool Bhat Principal of BHSS Kakapora was Chief Guest and Mr Ali Mohd Zahid Sr. Lecturer was the guest of honour. B. A. Mir Lecturer Physical Education, Mohammad Shafi organ-

ising secretary, Manzoor Ahmad and Zaffar Ahmad Mir officials attended the said championship.

In Sub Junior section Gousia Wakaf Secondary School beat UPS Doogam by 5 points and in Junior boys section HSS Pinglana won by 8 points against GBHSS Kakapora.

Medals and trophies were distributed among the winner and runner-up teams. The said championship was organised by District Pulwama Shooting Ball Association in collaboration with J&K Shooting Ball Association and J&K Sports Council.

### MP To Host 5th Edition Of Khelo India Youth Games

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** The fifth edition of Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) will be held in Madhya Pradesh (MP) across eight cities from January 31 to February 11, Sports Minister Anurag Thakur announced here on Thursday. The announcement was made in the presence of MP Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan, who said the athletes and the fans will also get to explore the state, which has beautiful heritage sites.

The action will unfold in Bhopal, Indore, Ujjain, Gwalior, Jabalpur, Mandla, Khargone (Ma-

heshwar) and Balaghat while Delhi will host cycling events.

The Games will feature a total of 27 disciplines, including rowing, canoeing, canoe slalom, kayaking, which will make entry for the first time.

Madhya Pradesh CM thanked PM Narendra Modi for giving his state a chance to host the Games and promised to make the event "special".

A group of 15 children performed Mallkhamb while another group came up with a breakdance, which is now a part of the 2028 Olympics roster during the event.

BCCI vs PCB

### Home Ministry Will Decide If India Travel To Pakistan: Thakur



Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Sports minister Anurag Thakur on Thursday said the home ministry will take a call on Indian cricket team's travel to Pakistan for the Asia Cup next year since the players' security is an important matter.

Thakur though is expecting that Pakistan team will come to India to compete in the 50-over World Cup next year, saying "all are welcome".

BCCI secretary Jay Shah had on Tuesday said that Indian team would not travel to Pakistan for the continental event

and they would like to compete in the tournament on a neutral venue.

It had prompted Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to say that it may affect their team's participation in the World Cup in India.

"All teams who qualify for (World Cup) are invited (to compete on the Indian soil). Many times Pakistan teams have come to India and played. I feel India is not in a position to be dictated (by someone) and there is no reason for anyone to do that. I expect all countries to come and compete," Thakur told a select gathering of jour-

nalists when asked about the controversy that erupted after Shah's statement.

Thakur spoke after it was announced that the fifth edition of the Khelo India Youth Games will be held across eight cities in Madhya Pradesh from January 31 to February 11.

Asked about Indian team's travel, the Sports Minister said, "It's a decision that will be taken by the home ministry. Overall, players' safety and security is an important matter," Thakur said.

It was pointed out that international teams have started touring Pakistan, of late, but Thakur deflected the question.

T20 WORLD CUP



### Sri Lanka, Netherlands Enter Super 12 Stage

Press Trust of India

**GEELONG:** Kusal Mendis stood tall with a gritty 79 as Asian champions Sri Lanka bounced back from their early debacle to seal their Super 12 berth with a 16-run win over the Netherlands in the T20 World Cup here on Thursday.

Despite the loss, the Dutch joined the Lankans in the Super 12 with UAE handing them a huge favour by winning against Namibia in the group A finale here later in the day. This was UAE's first ever victory in the T20 World Cup.

Facing an early elimination after being shocked by Namibia in the T20 World Cup opener at the same venue on Sunday, Sri Lanka first crushed UAE by 79 runs and then on Thursday they come out

on top against the Dutch with wicket-keeper-batter Mendis leading the show in his 44-ball knock.

In reply, the Dutch, who led group A with wins over Namibia and UAE, managed 146 for 9 as the Lankan spin twins Wanindu Hasaranga (4-0-28-3) and Maheesh Theekshana (4-0-32-2) stymied their chase with perfect death over execution.

For the Dutch, opener Max O'Dowd came up with a valiant 71 not out from 53 balls (6x4, 3x6) but he lacked the final flourish with hardly any support from the middle and lower order batters.

Sri Lanka join England, Australia, New Zealand and Afghanistan in Group 1 while Netherlands move to Group 2 comprising India, Pakistan, South Africa and Bangladesh.

### UAE Register Historic Win

Press Trust of India

**GEELONG:** Muhammad Waseem came up with an all-round show as UAE scripted their first ever T20 World Cup win, defeating Namibia by seven runs in the concluding group A match here on Thursday.

UAE were already eliminated after Sri Lanka beat the Netherlands by 16 runs earlier in the day.

Chasing 149 for a win on a two-paced pitch, Namibia lost half their side inside 10 overs and it was then left to the seasoned David Wiese to steer their ship with 55 from 36 balls. He hit three fours and as many sixes.

But, the effort proved insufficient as Waseem (1/16 from two overs) came out on top with a perfect final over and dismissed Wiese to seal a memorable victory.

Wiese had a superb 70-run

eight wicket partnership with Ruben Turmpelmann who played the perfect foil with occasional boundaries and clever rotation of the strike in his 25 not out of 24 balls.

Namibia needed 20 runs from the last two overs, but Zahoor Khan came up with a perfect penultimate over and conceded just six runs, cleverly mixing up his deliveries and bowling with cross-seam.

Earlier, Waseem slammed a composed 50 (41b; 1x4, 3x6) while skipper CP Rizwan remained unbeaten on 43 from 29 deliveries to take UAE to a fighting 148 for three after electing to bat.

After Waseem's departure, Basil Hameed (25 not out; 14 balls) provided the late push, scoring 33 runs in the last two overs, along with Rizwan who remained not out.



Agencies

**GENEVA:** The first World Cup in the Middle East is one month away, nearing the conclusion of an often bumpy 12-year journey for Qatar that has transformed the nation.

Qatar has faced skepticism about how it persuaded FIFA to vote for the country in 2010; criticism of how migrant workers were treated building stadiums and tournament infrastructure; and derision from the soccer world for changing the dates from the traditional June-July period to November-December.

The small Arab country jut-

ting out into the Persian Gulf has overcome all of that, as well as hostility from neighboring states who imposed a three-year economic and diplomatic boycott that ended in January 2021.

On Nov. 20, the biggest tournament in soccer will finally get started a couple hours after sunset at the 60,000-seat Al Bayt Stadium — a new venue north of Doha built for the World Cup. The maroon-and-white clad national team from the host country will open a tournament that has come to define the gas-rich emirate's image against the team from Ecuador — probably.

All 64 games over the course

of 29 days involving 32 teams will be held in the Doha area, with many more shows and cultural events planned for a soccer-led party in the conservative Muslim society.

For one month, Qatar will relax its strict limits on where alcohol can be bought, including serving beer from World Cup sponsor Budweiser at the eight stadiums and at the official big-screen viewing site in Al Bidda Park.

About 1.2 million visitors are expected in Qatar for the first World Cup to be played in the middle of the traditional European soccer season, a move made to avoid the oppressive desert heat in the Middle East. (AP)

## Dengue Patient In UP Infused Mosambi Juice In Place Of Plasma; Dies



**Agencis**

In a bizarre incident, a dengue patient in Prayagraj was allegedly given sweet lime juice instead of plasma, and reportedly died.

A video allegedly exposing a fake blood bank unit from Uttar Pradesh has gone viral on the social media. It has been shared on the social media by a local journalist.

To the unversed, both plasma and mosambi (sweet lime) juice 'look' similar.

Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak said that a probe into the incident was underway and a

test report was expected soon. "Strict action will be taken against those found guilty in the case," he said.

Meanwhile, taking a view of the rising dengue cases, the state government has restricted all UP doctors and paramedical staff from taking leave.

The Allahabad High Court on Wednesday directed the Municipal Corporation here to apprise it of the steps taken for the control and prevention of dengue. The Lucknow Bench of the court also asked the state government to inform it about the upgrade of medical facilities.

**A VIDEO ALLEGEDLY EXPOSING** a fake blood bank unit from Uttar Pradesh has gone viral on the social media. It has been shared on the social media by a local journalist.

## Millions In Britain Skipping Meals To Tackle Cost-Of-Living



**Agencis**

Five million people in the UK are going without food to pay household bills, a report by a national charity has found.

The Money Advice Trust's report, which was based on an Opinion survey of 2,000 UK adults, estimated that one in nine UK adults had skipped meals in the last three months "just to keep the lights on."

One in five adults, or 10.9 million, said they were behind on at least one bill payment, according to the report. Energy bills in the UK have been rising rapidly since the beginning of the year.

According to the report, 20% of adults in the UK said their energy bills had risen by \$113 (£100) or more a month since April.

A further 14% of the UK's population said they had already sold personal or household items to cover the bills. Two in five had already cut down on all non-essential spending, per the report.

Joanna Elson CBE, chief executive of the Money Advice Trust, told Insider: "Many households are already facing impossible choices, such as which meal to skip just to keep the lights on."

"With the impact of this crisis not being felt equally, further targeted support is needed for

those on the lowest incomes. This should include uprating benefits to help incomes keep pace with rising costs - and doing more to protect people in arrears to prevent them being pushed further into hardship."

The cost of energy has been soaring across Europe since Russia began limiting gas supplies.

Other European residents, such as those in Spain, have said they are cutting back on food and limiting heating in order to pay inflated energy bills.

Britons have also been ripping out vintage-style stoves because they can't afford to run them amid the energy crisis.

## Bursting Of Firecrackers On Diwali In Delhi To Attract 6-Month Jail

**Agencis**

Bursting of firecrackers on Diwali in Delhi will attract jail term up to six months and a fine of Rs 200, Environment Minister Gopal Rai said on Wednesday.

Production, storage and sale of firecrackers in the capital will be punishable with a fine of up to Rs 5,000 and three years jail under Section 9B of the Explosives Act, the minister told a press conference here.

In September, the city government re-imposed a complete ban on the production, sale and use of all types of firecrackers till January 1, including on Diwali, a practice it has been following for the last two years.

Rai said a public awareness campaign -- Diye Jalao Patakhe Nahi (light diyas, not firecrackers) -- will be launched on October 21.

The Delhi government will light 51,000 diyas at the Central Park in Connaught Place on Friday.

"The purchase and bursting of firecrackers in Delhi will be punishable with a fine of Rs 200 and six months in jail under the Indian Penal Code," the minister said.

Rai said 408 teams have been set up to implement the ban.

The Delhi Police has set up 210 teams under assistant commissioners of police, while the Revenue Department has constituted 165 teams and the Delhi Pollution Control Committee 33.

The minister said 188 cases of violations have been detected and 2,917 kg firecrackers seized till October 16.

The air quality in Delhi and neighbouring areas start worsening in October due to unfavourable meteorological factors such as low temperatures and wind speed, which do not allow dispersion of pollutants.

A cocktail of emissions from firecrackers and stubble burning in neighbouring states further dent the air quality.

"Pollution levels rise around Diwali every year. The major reason is the bursting of firecrackers. Emissions from firecrackers are extremely dangerous especially for kids, women and the elderly."

"Therefore, the Delhi government has imposed a complete ban on the production, sale and use of all types of firecrackers this year too. The ban covers on-line delivery of firecrackers," the minister said.

Rai urged Union Environment Minister Bhopender Yadav to ensure the ban on firecrackers is strictly implemented in the entire NCR "as the smoke from firecrackers burst in the region impacts the people in Delhi also".

Besides Delhi, Haryana had also imposed a ban on the sale and use of all kinds of firecrackers in 14 of its districts in the National Capital Region last year, while Uttar Pradesh had allowed the use of green crackers on Diwali just for two hours in areas with moderate or better air quality.

Despite the restrictions, people burst firecrackers till late night in Delhi, Noida, Faridabad and Gurugram.

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