

## Unemployment Rate In J&K Declined By 10% In Last 3 Months: CMIE

**Zaid Bin Shabir**

**Srinagar:** Even as there was a substantial increase in the unemployment rate in Jammu and Kashmir in the month of August, the joblessness rate has come down by over 10 percent in October, as per Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).

CMIE, which conducts its own employment survey, showed that the increase in the unemployment rate in October is on account of sharp increase in rural unemployment which rose from 5.84 per cent in September to 8.04 in October, whereas the urban

unemployment rate fell slightly from 7.7 to 7.21 per cent.

According to the CMIE data, even though J&K's unemployment rate was higher than the national average, it still saw a decline in October as the rate came down to 22.4 per cent compared to the previous month's 23.2 percent. The latest UR for the month of October has brought some respite among the youth in the valley.

As per reports, J&K's higher than national average joblessness rate is primarily because of the slower economic growth resulting in fewer job opportunities and also due to a much



lower resilience to absorb the pandemic shock. In August,

J&K's Unemployment rate had soared up to a six year high

when it touched 32.8 percent. Amid the unrest of 2016, J&K's unemployment rate stood at 25.3 percent in September, 26.3 percent in October and 29.9 percent in November.

Among the 25 states for which data is available with the CMIE, six states registered the unemployment rate in double digits. Haryana registered the highest unemployment rate of 31.8 per cent followed by Rajasthan (30.7 percent), Jammu & Kashmir (22.4 percent), Jharkhand (16.5 percent), Bihar (14.5 percent) and Tripura (10.5 percent).

Madhya Pradesh recorded the

lowest unemployment rate at 0.8 percent by displacing Chhattisgarh (0.9 per cent) from the spot.

As per the data available, unemployment figures in J&K have sporadically changed since the start of 2022, showing an astronomical rise since last year.

As per CMIE, since the start of this year, there has been an increase of over 11 percent in the unemployment rate. In the month of January, the data notes, J&K's joblessness rate stood at 15 percent. Though in the month of February it dipped down to 13.2 percent but in March the rate took an ugly turn and **| More on P10**

## 2 Migrant Workers Shot At, Injured In Anantnag

**Observer News Service**

**Srinagar:** Two migrant workers, including a Nepalese national on Thursday were injured in a terror attack in South Kashmir's Anantnag district, police said.

Vikram from Bihar and Badahur from Nepal were injured after terrorists fired upon them in Wanihama area of the district on Thursday evening, a police spokesperson said. Both the injured, working as labourers at a private Sabir Abdullah Public School (SAPS), were removed to the government medical college (GMC) Anantnag for treatment.

Principal GMC Anantnag Dr Tariq Qureshi told a local news agency KNO that among the two injured, one was stable while the condition of another is critical.

Meanwhile, ADGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar said that the victims were shot at and injured after being called by pistol-borne terrorists to come out to engage in a work.

"This is a #cowardice & inhumane act of #terrorism. The victims were called **| More on P10**

## Terrorism Counting Last Breaths In J&K: LG

"Only police and forces cannot bring lasting peace. Elected representatives and other rings of administration will also play a big role in it"

**Press Trust Of India**

**Jammu:** Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said terrorism is counting its last breaths and called upon all the stakeholders to play their role in bringing everlasting peace and normalcy in the union territory.

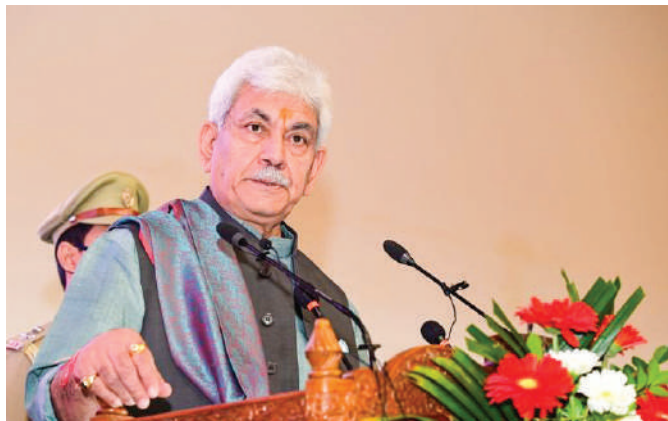
"Only police and forces cannot bring lasting peace. Elected representatives and other rings of administration will also play a big role in it," he said.

The LG's statement came in response to the political parties' criticism over the targeted killings of Kashmiri Pandits in the union territory.

"I am saying this with utmost confidence that terrorism is counting its last breaths", Sinha said at a function in the Garkhal border belt in the region on Wednesday evening.

There is now a need for a system where common people have confidence that they will get justice and the administration will help them. Such a system will be a big step in bringing peace and normalcy in the union territory, he said.

The LG lauded the security



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forces and said that the security forces are doing their work diligently at the juncture where we stand today.

The Capex budget of Jammu and Kashmir has also been increased to Rs 22,126 crore this year which is four times more as compared to earlier, he said,

adding that the increase in budget has been given for development works in collaboration with the three levels of the Panchayati Raj system.

Sinha said the budget allocation of Rs 1,000 crore to Panchayats, Rs 200 crore to DDCs, Rs 71.25 crore to BDCs and **| More on P10**

## India Rejects China-Pak Statement On Kashmir

**Press Trust Of India**

**New Delhi:** India on Thursday strongly rejected references made to Jammu and Kashmir in the China-Pakistan joint statement issued during Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent visit to Beijing, and asserted that the Union Territory as well as Ladakh "are and will always" be "integral and inalienable" parts of India.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi, referring to the so-called China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), said New Delhi has consistently conveyed its "protests and concerns" to Beijing and Islamabad over the CPEC as it includes projects on the sovereign territory of India.

Bagchi said India "resolutely rejects" any attempts to utilise such projects to change the status quo in the area and that any attempts to involve third parties in such activities are "inherently illegal, illegitimate and unacceptable".

The joint statement was issued on **| More on P10**

## Kashmir Apple Rates Down By 30%, Growers Seek Govt Support



**Press Trust Of India**

**New Delhi:** A bumper apple production in Kashmir this season has failed to cheer up growers as their produce is being sold at nearly 30 per cent lower rates than last year.

Faced with huge losses, apple farmers have now sought government intervention.

The Kashmiri apple hogged the headlines in September after an uproar over frequent disruption in its transportation from the orchards in the valley to markets outside the Union territory, including Azadpur

Mandi, Asia's largest wholesale market.

Kashmir produces about 75 per cent of the total apple crop in the country and is considered the backbone of its economy, contributing about 8.2 per cent to Jammu and Kashmir's GDP.

"The rates of apple coming from Kashmir this season are down by about 30 per cent compared to 2021, and there is no doubt the growers are suffering huge losses. It is very difficult for them to overcome the losses without government support," Chamber of Azadpur Fruit **| More on P10**

## 3 Infiltrators Killed Along LoC In Poonch

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

**Jammu:** The army on Thursday claimed to have foiled an infiltration bid by killing three alleged terrorists in an encounter along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district.

While the body of one of the terrorists was recovered by soldiers, bodies of the other two, lying across the LoC, were taken back by villagers of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), officials said.

"At about 1000 hours today, alert soldiers of the army observed suspicious movement of some individuals along the Line of Control in the Poonch sector (J-K), wherein they were trying to infiltrate across the Line of Control into the Indian side," a defence spokesman said.

The soldiers **| More on P10**

## Omar Not To Contest Polls Till Statehood Restored: Dr Farooq

**Press Trust Of India**

**Srinagar:** Omar Abdullah will not contest the assembly polls if the statehood is not restored to Jammu and Kashmir, National Conference president Farooq Abdullah said on Thursday.

He (Omar Abdullah) has already said that he will not contest elections till statehood is restored to Jammu and Kashmir, Farooq Abdullah told reporters in Budgam district.

He was responding to a question about speculation that Omar Abdullah would not contest the assembly elections.

Asked about the appointment of constituency incharges by National Conference on Wednesday, the Lok Sabha



member said it was necessary that party workers become active.

It was important that we appoint constituency incharges who will go among the people and look at their problems so that same can be addressed, he added.

Farooq Abdullah dismissed suggestions **| More on P10**

## HC Reshuffles Subordinate Judiciary, 84 Judges Shifted

**Observer News Service**

**Srinagar:** The J&K and Ladakh High Court on Thursday ordered a major reshuffle in subordinate judiciary in the interest of administration.

According to an order by Registrar General of the court, Sanjeev Gupta, 40 district judges and 44 Civil Judges (Senior Division and Sub Judges have been transferred.

Haq Nawaz Zargar, Principal District & Sessions Judge, Ramban has been transferred and his services are placed at the disposal of the Chief Justice for his further posting in the High Court.

T.K. Raina, Principal District &

Sessions Judge, Kulgam has been transferred and posted as Special Judge, Anti-Corruption, Jammu against the available vacancy.

Shazia Tabasum, Principal District & Sessions Judge, Ganderbal has been transferred and posted as Principal District and Sessions Judge, Kupwara.

Tasleem Arif, Principal District & Sessions Judge, Kupwara has been transferred and posted as Additional District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar against the available vacancy.

Naseer Ahmad Dar, Principal District & Sessions Judge, Anantnag has been transferred and posted as Principal District and Sessions Judge, **| More on P10**

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

### Principal Booked For Sexual Harassment

Police have booked a principal of Government Degree College Gurez in North Kashmir's Baramulla district for allegedly sexually harassing his subordinate, officials said on Thursday. News agency KNO quoting an official reported that a female employee of the college had lodged a written complaint, stating that she was being sexually harassed by the principal. He said that based on the complaint a case FIR No: 13/2022 under section 354-A, 506 IPC was registered at PS Gurez. The official added that further investigation into the matter was going on.

### Soldier Shoots Self Dead In Poonch



An Army man on Thursday committed suicide by shooting himself with his service weapon in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, an official source said. The deceased belonged to Rashtriya Rifles (RR), he said, adding that inquest proceedings have been started into the incident. Further details were awaited.

### 3 Tourists Rescued From Affarwat

Police rescued three tourists who had lost their way in the Affarwat peaks of Gulmarg last night, officials said on Thursday. News agency GNS quoting a police officer reported that police station Gulmarg received information that some tourists are stuck at Affarwat last night. "Upon this, a police party was deputed and the Tourists who were identified as Raju, Ananya and Bhargava, all residents of Hyderabad, were rescued." Meanwhile, the tourists expressed their gratitude to the police for the timely and swift rescue. "We had gone towards Gonda by foot and completely lost our way. **| More on P10**

### OGW Arrested In Pulwama: Police

The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday claimed to have arrested an alleged over-ground worker (OGW) of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) in South Kashmir's Pulwama district. Zubair Ahmad Dar, a resident of Arigam was arrested by a joint team of Police, army's 44RR and the personnel of CRPF 183 battalion during a naka checking at Khamri Chowk in Pulwama, a police spokesperson said Thursday. He said that one grenade was recovered from Dar. Dar, the spokesperson said, was working as a terror associate of LeT and was tasked to carry out attacks on SFs and non local laborers in the area. **| More on P10**

## (JKB Special OTS, 2022)

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## Sony PlayStation VR2 arriving for \$550 in February 2023

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Sony announced that it will launch the PlayStation VR2 on February 22, 2023, at a price of \$549.99, along with a sense-controller charging station.

Pre-orders of the new headset will begin on PlayStation Direct from November 15 in the US, UK, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg.

The key features of the PS VR2 Sense Technology include eye tracking, 3D audio, and adaptive triggers and haptic feedback from the headset's sense controllers which provide a unique gameplay experience.

Additionally, the new headset features 4000 x 2040 high dynamic range (HDR) video format (2000



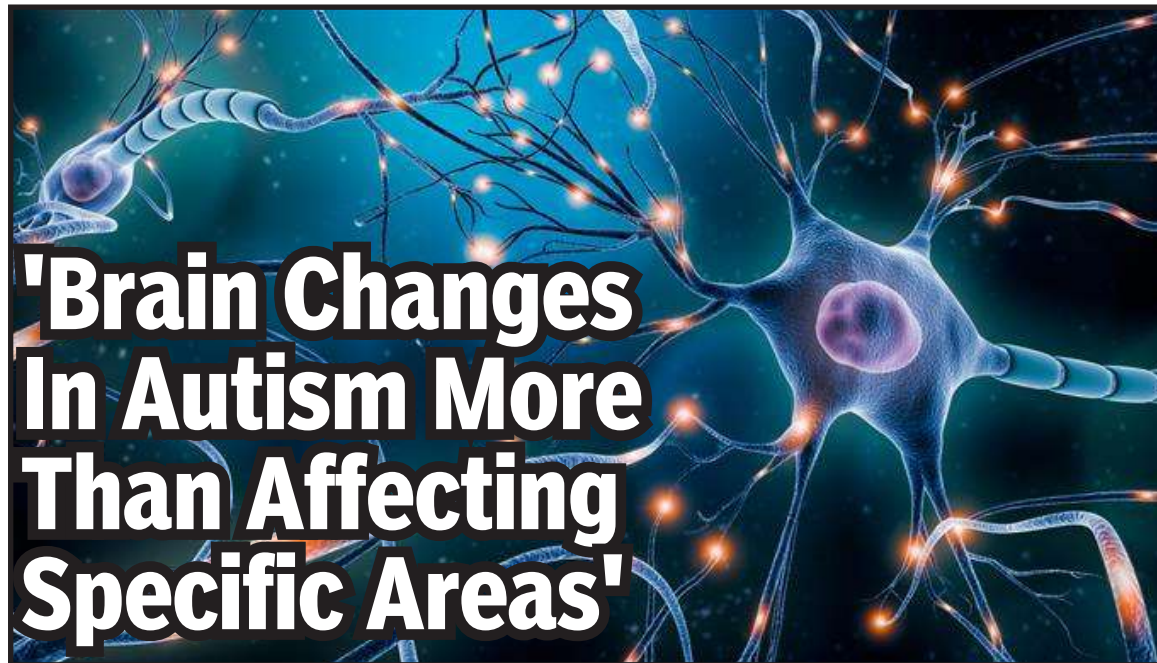
x 2040 per eye), which will provide next-generation gaming experience to the players.

"We've created the PS VR2 headset with comfort in mind, in a slightly slimmer and lighter design compared to our previous headset," the tech giant said in a blogpost.

"We're expecting more than 20 titles at launch," it added.

For a more customised feel, the VR2 also includes an integrated vent for extra air flow and a lens adjustment dial.

Earlier, Sony had also announced that it will launch the DualSense Edge wireless controller, the first-ever ultra-customisable controller developed by PlayStation, globally on January 26, 2023. It will be available for a price of \$199.99. The controller would offer a host of hardware and software-based personalisation options, including button remapping, the ability to fine-tune stick sensitivity and triggers, options to swap between multiple control profiles, and a unique on-controller user interface, the company said.



## 'Brain Changes In Autism More Than Affecting Specific Areas'

Press Trust of India

Brain changes in autism are comprehensive throughout the cerebral cortex rather than specific areas thought to impact social behaviour and language, a new study has found.

According to the study, it represents a comprehensive effort to characterize autism spectrum disorder (ASD) at the molecular level.

While neurological disorders like Alzheimer's disease or Parkinson's disease have well-defined pathologies or pathways, autism and other psychiatric disorders have had a lack of defining pathology, making it difficult to develop more effective treatments, it said.

The study, led by University of California, Los Angeles, finds brain-wide changes in virtually all of the 11 cortical regions analyzed, regardless of whether they are associated with higher functions such as reasoning, language, social cognition and mental flexibility or primary sensory regions.

"This work represents the culmination of more than a decade of work of many lab members, which was necessary to perform such a comprehensive analysis of the autistic brain," said study author Daniel Geschwind.

"We now finally are beginning to get a picture of the state of the

brain, at the molecular level, of the brain in individuals who had a diagnosis of autism.

"This provides us with a molecular pathology, which similar to other brain disorders such as Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and stroke, provides a key starting point for understanding the disorder's mechanisms, which will inform and accelerate development of disease-altering therapies," he said.

For this new study, researchers examined gene expression in 11 cortical regions by sequencing RNA

study said.

Researchers also found strong evidence that the genetic risk for autism is enriched in a specific neuronal module that has lower expression across the brain, indicating that RNA changes in the brain are likely the cause of ASD rather than a result of the disorder.

Geschwind led the first effort, over a decade ago, to identify autism's molecular pathology by focusing on two brain regions, the temporal lobe and the frontal lobe. Those regions were chosen because

**This work represents the culmination of more than a decade of work of many lab members, which was necessary to perform such a comprehensive analysis of the autistic brain**

from each of the four main cortical lobes. They compared brain tissue samples obtained after death from 112 people with ASD against healthy brain tissue, the study said.

While each profiled cortical region showed changes, the largest fall in gene levels were in the visual cortex and the parietal cortex, which processes information like touch, pain and temperature. The researchers said this may reflect the sensory hypersensitivity that is frequently reported in people with ASD, the

they are higher order association regions involved in higher cognition – especially social cognition, which is disrupted in ASD.

One of the next steps is to determine whether researchers can use computational approaches to develop therapies based on reversing gene expression changes the researchers found in ASD. Geschwind said, adding that researchers can use organoids to model the changes in order to better understand their mechanisms.

### LOSS OF PASSPORT

It is notified for the information of general public that I Masood Ahmad S/o Mohd Shafi R/o Gogji bagh have lost my passport bearing number R-3982175 Valid up to 2027. If any person finds it, is requested to return the same at below mentioned address, otherwise I am applying for duplicate of my passport from the concerned passport office Srinagar. If anybody having any objection he/she should contact to the passport office Srinagar within seven days from the publication of this notice, no objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Masood Ahmad  
S/O Mohd Shafi  
R/O Gogji Bagh, Srinagar

INF

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Information to the general public is given for inviting objections (if any) regarding the change in the name and style from M/S Wood Art Craft to M/S A & T Hospitality and change in the line of activity from "Manufacturing of Wooden Furniture/Modular Furniture to Manufacturing of Bakery, Confectionery and Fast Foods.

The objections raised if any hall be communicated to the office of GM DIC District Anantnag, JK UT, within week's time positively. Afterwards no objection will be entertained.

M/S Wood Art Craft Prop.  
Syed Sharqiya Andrabi  
Location: I/E Vessu Anantnag  
Mobile: 9596036786

INF

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of 9th class Certificate From Govt. Girls School Saida Kadal Srinagar . If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the above mentioned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall entertained.

Nighat Bano  
D/o Ghulam Ahmad khoon  
R/o Zaildar Mohalla Saida Kadal Srinagar  
DOB 15-07-1986

Abbas Advys

## Government College Of Engineering And Technology, Jammu- 181122

No: GCET/22/Acad/1114

dated 31-10-2022

Ph no. 0191-2958077  
Email: gcet\_jammu1994@rediffmail.com  
principalgcet@jk.gov.in  
www.gcetjammu.org.n

Notice no. GCET/22/Acad/1114  
Dated 31-10-2022

All the students of this institute who have been admitted n B.E. 1st semester (Batch-2022) and B. Arch 1st Semester (Batch – 2022) are hereby directed to report in the ollege Campus at Chak Bhalwal, Jammu on 14.11.2022 at 10:00 AM sharp to attend regular classes which are scheduled to commence from the said date.

DIPK-12847/22  
dated 03-11-22

Principal  
GCET Jammu

## UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR Office of the Executive Engineer, Construction Division

### NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (4th Call)

For and on behalf of the University of Kashmir, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage (%age) basis from approved and eligible Civil Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/U.T/ Central Governments for the following works

S.No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc in shape of E-Challan (in Rs.)	Earnest Money in Rs.	Time and Date for Submission of E-Tender.	Date & Time of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor
1.	Various works at Iqbal Institute of Culture and Philosophy	16.56Lacs	Rs.600/-	Rs.31,100/-	02-11-2022 to 10-11-2022 (6.00 PM)	11-11-2022 (11.30 AM)	"BEE" & "CEE"

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the web site [www.kashmiruniversity.net](http://www.kashmiruniversity.net) / [www.jk-tenders.gov.in](http://www.jk-tenders.gov.in).

DIPK-NB-4745/22  
NIT No: - F(Fresh)(E.Tend)(UCD)/KU/47/22  
DATED: 03/11/22.

Executive Engineer

## Govt. Of Jammu & Kashmir (U.T) OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION VAILOO

### FRESH NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT NO. 152/7322-31 OF R&B/VAILOO /2022-2023/E-TENDERING/ DATED: 01/11/2022

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory J&K e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works.

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc.in form of Treasury challen / Receipt (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (2% of Adv. Cost ) (in Rs.)	Time of completion	Project Intending Department	Class of Contractor	Major Head of account
1	Construction of Footpath from H/O Jahangir Ah. Shah to H/O Bashir Ahmad Shah Ward No.07 Dramdallw Kokernag	1.08	200	2160	10days	MC Kokernag	DEE Class	UDS
2	Construction of Footpath from H/O Ab GaniShakhsaz to H/O Mushtaq Ah. Shakhsaz Ward No.09 Shakhsaz Kokernag	0.67	200	1340	10days	MC Kokernag	DEE Class	UDS
3	C/O Road along Old Brengi Canal (By way of Drain) Balance Portion	21.79	1600	43580	20 days	R&B Department	BEE/CEE Class	Languishing

POSITION OF AAA: ACCORDED

POSITION OF T.S : ACCORDED

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	01.11.2022
2.	Period of Downloading of bidder documents.	From 02.11.2022 To 04.00 pm
3.	Bid submission Start Date	From 02.11.2022 To 04.00 pm
4.	Bid Submission End Date	To 07.11.2022 4.00 pm
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	08.11.2022at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division vailoo

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Receipt/ challan infavour of Executive Engineer R&B Division vailoo(Head-0059)(tender inviting authority) and Earnest Money for 2% of Advertised Cost in shape of CDR/ FDR only. Pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division vailoo (tender receiving authority) (Name of work to be mentioned on the Treasury receipt/ challan)(Refer Govt. order No. A/ 24(2017)-65 DT: 07.06.2018 &Superintending Engineer R&B Circle Ang/Kul's No. 3867-70 dated: 04.08.2018 ( The date of Treasury receipt / Challan should be between the date of start of bid end Bid submission End date ) pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) DivisionVailoo (Tendering Inviting Authority) . 3% Performance Security of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/ FDR by the Successful bidder.Minimum of Two bids are necessary to decide L-1 bidder in case of Contractors.

3. The 1st Lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of allotted cost as performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR within 07 days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of defective liability period of the work

4. The EMD of 2% of successful bidders shall be released after receipt of 3% Performance Security.

5. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division vailoo (tender receiving authority).

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

7. The earnest money shall be forfeited, If:-  
a. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

c. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

1.1. Secured Advance:-No secured advance is admissible unless otherwise specified.

1.2. Schedule of Payment:-The payment schedule shall be fixed after award of contract in favour of successful bidder, on the basis of availability of funds and value of work executed, shall be determined by the Engineer.

DIPK-12800/22

No:- 7322-31of RnB/Vailoo/2022-23  
Dated: -03/11/2022

-Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
PWD(R&B) Division Vailoo





## Dr Masood Tanvir Assumes Charge Of Principal GMC

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Dr Masood Tanvir Bhat Head of the department of Medicine, Government Medical College Srinagar, assumes the charge of Principal on Thursday.

According to an order, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer, the arrangement has been made on a temporary basis.

It added that he will hold the charge in his own pay and grade with immediate effect till regular appointment to the post is made.

"In the interest of admin-

istration and patient care, it is, hereby, ordered that Dr. Masood Tanvir Bhat, Professor, HOD Medicine, Government Medical College, Srinagar shall temporarily look after the charge of the post of Principal. Government Medical College. Srinagar in addition to his own duties, in his own pay and grade with immediate effect till regular appointment to the post of the Principal, Government Medical College. Srinagar is made." Reads an order issued in this regard.

Later, Prof Dr Masood Tariq assumed charge of the Principal/Dean GMC Srinagar.

## Youth Injured In Accident, Succumbs At SKIMS

Agencies

Srinagar: A youth, who was injured in a road accident in Kangan area of Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, succumbed to his injuries after over a month on Thursday.

An official said that the youth was injured in a road

accident in the Check Prang area of Kangan 36 days ago.

He said that he was undergoing treatment at SKIMS Soura and today morning he succumbed to his injuries.

He identified the deceased as Kaisar Ahmad Magray (21) son of Ghulam Rasool Magray of Khanan area of Kangan.

## Progress On Comp. Sewerage Project Reviewed

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A meeting was held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad here at Conference Hall of DC Office Complex to review the completion of works being carried out on 154.0 Cr Sewerage Treatment Plant Project at Eidgah-Ali Jan Road by NBCC under Comprehensive Sewerage in Zone 3rd of Greater Srinagar.

The DC was given a detailed appraisal about the project and was informed that the project is on the verge of completion and over 95 percent of work on the project has been executed.

On the occasion, the DC directed the concerned implementing agency to speed up the pace of work by employing additional men and machinery to complete the road side works by Novem-

ber 15, 2022 so that one tube of main road be made free for vehicular traffic.

The DC sets deadline of December 31, 2022 for completion of the Sewerage Treatment Plant under Comprehensive Sewerage in Zone 3rd of Greater Srinagar and making STP fully operational through which about 17000 households are being connected with the 60 MLD In-fall Pumping Station to cater the major areas in the District.

During the meeting local representatives of the area present in the meeting lauded the efforts of the District Administration for taking keen interest in completion of the project particularly during the last one year.

They expressed their gratitude to DC Srinagar for conducting frequent visits to the site to accelerate the pace of the project and ensuring

## LCMA Conducts Demolition Drive In City Areas

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Enforcement Wing of Lake Conservation & Management Authority (LCMA) on Thursday launched a demolition drive in the areas of Baba Demb, Chandpora Harwan, Friends Colony Shalimar and Ishber.

"During the drive, one wooden Shed, two single stories with compound walling, one Plinth block, shuttering, compound walling (Block Bricks) and one second storey raised illegally were demolished on the spot" LCMA in a statement said.

Moreover, a demolition drive was also conducted in the interior areas of Dal lake viz. Kand Mohalla, Sofi Mohalla and Tinda Mohalla.

During the demolition process, the areas being sensitive in law and order, some miscreants assembled at several places and hurled stones and bricks on the demolition team thereby trying to disrupt the process of demolition. But the demolition team remained on forefront

and managed to demolish one wooden shed, one plinth and one house boat platform near Ghat No.2. In this regard, legal action was also initiated against the miscreants.

LCMA urged the public residing within the LDA jurisdiction and in-lake directed not to go for any sort of illegal constructions as the Enforcement wing will continue with demolition of illegal constructions/ removal of encroachments.

LCMA also directed the Tipper and Load carrier owners not to ferry any construction material in the prohibited areas of Dal, Nigeen Lakes without getting proper permission and in case anybody found shall be dealt with as per law.

Also CCTV Cameras have been installed and barricades have been erected in order to curb the transportation of illegal building material.

Moreover, the locals residing in the area of LCMA Jurisdiction are informed to apply for online building permission through LCMA online official website.



Algae has engulfed the surface of Brari Nambal Lagoon in the Baba Demb area of Old City. KO Photo Abid Bhat

## Govt Fails To Restore Brari Nambal Lagoon To Its Pristine Glory

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: As one passes from the newly developed walkway along the Brari Nambal Lagoon in the Baba Demb area of Srinagar, a pungent smell emerging from the Lagoon makes it impossible to walk. The Ghats developed by the government along the banks of the Lagoon fail to attract people.

"I had a look from the Ghat to the Lagoon and it is not a sight to remember" said a passerby.

However, for locals living in the vicinity of the lake, the stinky smell has made their life hell.

Heaps of garbage, unending stretches of obnoxious weeds, stinking waters are the only remnants of this once sparkling

lagoon.

In 2015, the government had formulated a comprehensive project to restore the water body to its pristine glory. However, in recent months algae has engulfed the surface of the lagoon.

Moreover, an on ground visit shows illegal constructions have been coming up in the vicinity of the lagoon making its survival more difficult.

The authorities say they have been doing their bit to restore the water body to its original state. However, on ground things are quite different.

The Brari Nambal Lagoon comes under the jurisdiction of Lake Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA), some of its area comes under the jurisdiction of Srinagar Mu-

unicipal Corporation (SMC).

Earlier speaking to media, VC LCMA Bashir Bhat said that they were carrying out anti-encroachment drives regularly to ensure that no structure was set up in the area.

He, however, said that LCMA does not have jurisdiction over the full area of Brari Nambal.

VC LCMA Bashir Bhat acknowledged that some temporary structures have come in the vicinity of the lagoon but he said that structures will be raised to the ground. "We will do our bit and ensure no illegal construction comes up," Bhat said.

A senior SMC official also voiced similar views and said that they are doing their bit to stop illegal constructions.

## SMC Begins Upgradation Work Along Jehlum Embankments

Agencies

Srinagar: The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) is all set to beautify and upgrade the river Jehlum embankments from Zero Bridge to Chattabal area while work has been started to restore all the 42 ghats along the water body falling within the stretch.

SMC Commissioner, Athar Aamir Khan said that under the smart city project, Zero Bridge to Chattabal stretch will be upgraded and even the work in this regard has already been started.

He further said that from

Zero bridge to Amira Kadal stretch, the work to come up with landscaping, redesigning, walkways, cycling tracks is already going on, adding that from Amira Kadal to Chattabal stretch, four major works are being done for beautification and upgradation of the river Jehlum embankments.

"All the 42 ghats that have come under debris will be restored. The work in this regard has already been started. The debris on both the embankments will be removed while the debris around the bridges

will also be removed. The fourth major work to be started along the stretch is restoration of the historic places like shrines, temples and other things," he said.

Asked about the river banks turning into garbage dumping sites at most of the places and any proposal to come with installation of CCTV cameras, he said, at some of the places, the CCTVs cameras have already been installed at a few places only while water quality monitoring systems have also been installed at four places probably.

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- PATTAN: 01954-293507
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### HIGHWAY STATUS



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



HIJRI  
CALENDAR

08 Rabi ul Sani

1444

### PRAYERS

FAJR 5:228

ZUHR 12:14

ASR 3:58

Magrib 5:39

ISHA 7: 00

## This Day In History

- 1968 - Battles between Jordanian army & Al Fatah-arm forces
- 1970 - Russian nuclear physicist Sacharov forms Human Rights Committee
- 1972 - Bangladesh adopts constitution
- 1993 - Bolivia becomes a member of the Berne Convention copyright treaty
- 2002 Chinese authorities arrest cyber-dissident He Depu for signing pro-democracy letter to the 16th Communist Party Congress
- 2003 - The most powerful solar flare as observed by satellite instrumentation is recorded.
- 2008 - Barack Obama becomes the first African-American to be elected President of the United States
- 2015 - Justin Trudeau sworn in as Canadian Prime Minister with a cabinet split equally between men and women
- 2015 - Plane crashes after take-off from Juba international airport, South Sudan, killing 37, 1 year old survives in father's arms
- 2016 - Paris Agreement on climate change becomes effective

## From KO Archives

## Landmine Blast At Magam: Agha Mahdi Among 6 Killed

Observer News Service

S

RINAGAR: A former Congress leader and son of a prominent Shia Muslim cleric was killed with five other people in a landmine blast at Mazhama in the central district of Budgam Friday afternoon, a police spokesman said.

Agha Syed Mahdi (44) was travelling with five others

includ-ing his security guards and his domestic servant when

his bul-let-proof jypsy was blown apart by the landmine at

Mazhama near Magam on Srinagar-Gulmarg road at around

14:30 hrs.

Mahdi was the son of the prominent religious leader of

Kashmir's Shia community, Agha Syed Mustafa al-Mosawi-al-

Safawi. He was the younger brother of senior Hurriyat leader,

Agha Syed Hasan, and cousin of minister of state for education,

Agha Syed Mehmood.

A caller identifying himself as a spokesman of Lashkar-e-

Karbala rang up CNS news agency claiming responsibil-ity for

the blast. According to BBC, Hizbul Moomineen had owned the

explosion. Meanwhile, a late night KPS report said Hizbul Mo-

mineen had denied its involvement in the explosion. Quoting

its chief, Shuja Abbas, who called the agency from Pakistan, the

report also denied the existence of Lashkar-e- Karbala.

Those killed in the blast apart from Agha Mahdi were

identified as PSO Ghulam Mohi-ud-din, and constables Fa-rooq

Ahmad Kuttay, Showkat Hussain and Muhammad Ja-far, and

his domestic servant, Sajjad Hussain Mir.

Reports said Agha Mahdi was on his way to Sofi mohalla,

Magam, to attend the Walima function of one of his disciples,

Ghulam Ahmad Sofi. When his vehicle reached a point near a

flour mill between Mazhama and Kawoosa villages, 5 km from

the destination, it stumbled on the landmine. In the ensuing blast,

Mahdi and others with him were blown, along with the vehicle.

Soon after the news reached nearby Magam, life in the

township came to a standstill with shopkeepers pulling down

their shutters and people converging on the streets to stage

demonstrations. Tension also gripped in Budgam, the district

headquarter, and thousands of abated people gathered out-side

the residence of slain leaders father, Aga Mustafa.

Reports of angry people taking to the streets have

come from various places on Srinagar Baramulla highway.

Ac-cording to CNS, irate mobs at Harthrath Singhpora beat to

death one Meraj-ud-din Dar and set ablaze six residential hous-

es. Vehicular traffic on the highway was disrupted for several

hours- Reports of stone pelting have also come from Saidakadal

and Nigeen areas of the city.

Mahdi shot into prominence in 1997 when he, though a

big crowd-puller because of his father's clout, unsuccessfully

contested on Congress ticket against the National Conference

candidate and chief minister's son, Omar Abdullah. Earlier,

he had contested against the Muslim United Front (MUF)

can-didate as an independent from Budgam constituency in the

rigged 1987 assembly' poll. He also fought assembly elections

in 1996 as 'Congress candidate but resigned before he contested

parliamentary elections in 1998 as an independent candidate.

Another prominent pro-India Kashmiri Shiite leader,

Maulvi Ifthikar Hussain Ansari survived two attempts on his life

this year. While Maulvi was slightly injured and three po-lice

personnel were killed in a powerful landmine explosion at Mati-

pora village in September in an earlier attack 16 of Maul-vi's

followers were killed when a mine exploded in midst of a Majlis

Hussayni at Gund Khwaja Qasim in June this year.

(Kashmir Observer, November 04, 2000)

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## All Eyes On AAP As Bipolar Gujarat Set For Three-Way Poll Contest



Press Trust of India

**AHMEDABAD:** Long caught between two polarities, Gujarat's electoral field has expanded to include a third party with the Aam Aadmi Party challenging the ruling BJP as well as the opposition Congress that has lost ground but still has significant presence.

Elections to the 182-member state assembly will take place over two phases on December 1 and 5, the Election Commission announced on Thursday in the backdrop of the Morbi bridge collapse four days ago. As campaign knives get sharpened, the October 30 tragedy in which 135 people lost their lives could find emotive resonance.

Besides, the freebie versus welfare debate - over which challenger AAP and BJP have been sparring over the last several weeks -- and the ruling party's main poll planks of Hindutva, 'double engine' growth and continuity in governance are likely to remain centrestage.

Though elections were announced today, the buzz for what will be a three-cornered contest has been getting steadily louder

over the last few weeks.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and several Union ministers have been making frequent visits to the state. PM Modi was in Morbi on November 1 to review the situation. And all eyes are on AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal as well as his party leaders who have made a high-decibel entry into the field, giving voters a third option in a state that has for decades been bipolar in its politics.

The elections are crucial for BJP, which has won six successive terms and aims at retaining power in PM Modi's home state, as well as for AAP, hoping desperately that a win in Gujarat will propel it to a pan-India political force, the third state in its bag after Delhi and a victory in Punjab in March this year.

The Congress, on its part, hopes to end its 27-year stint in the Opposition but has so far been quiet with its national leaders conspicuous by their absence.

The BJP has 111 seats and the Congress 62 in the current assembly. The NCP has one, BJP two, Independent one and five seats are vacant, including three after Congress MLAs resigned.

## Teachers Alone Shouldn't Be Blamed For Students Taking Extreme Step: High Court

Press Trust of India

**CHENNAI:** Teachers alone should not be blamed if a student takes the extreme step to end his/her life and the parents also play an equally vital role in shaping their future, the Madras High Court observed on Thursday.

A duty is cast upon the parents to create a good environment both inside and outside the house for their children, which is of paramount importance. The teachers and headmasters may be blamed only if there is evidence to establish that they have committed any offence or violated the code of conduct issued by the School Education department.

There was a growing trend of children dying by suicide across the country now. "Therefore, it is the duty of the parents as well as the teachers to ascertain the reasons and perform their respective duties as expected and create conducive circumstances for providing a better future to the children," Justice SM Subramaniam observed.

The bench was dismissing a writ petition from K Kala seeking a compensation of ₹10 lakh and appropriate action against the school headmaster, for the alleged suicide of her son.

According to the petitioner, she and her husband are daily



wage workers and have two daughters and a son. Her son Yuvraj (17) was studying in class 12 in the Gudalur Government Higher Secondary School.

He was harassed by the school HM, who used to cut the hair of the boys in public, tear their trousers using blade and beat and abuse them ruthlessly. On account of the continuous behaviour of the HM, her son committed suicide in August 2017, she contended.

Who is responsible for the commission of suicide by the child, is the subjective satisfaction to be established by conducting an elaborate enquiry or investigation, the judge said. Simply blaming the HMs or teachers would result in causing disreputation to the institution, which is not desirable.

In this case, both the education department and the police authorities had conducted an elaborate probe and submitted their respective reports, holding that the HM was not liable for any prosecution as he was not responsible for the commission of suicide by the boy.

## As Imran Khan Is Shot In Leg, Top Aide Says "Attempt To Assassinate Him"

Agencies

**ISLAMABAD:** Former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan was in stable condition after being shot in the leg at a political rally on Thursday in what the country's president deemed "a heinous assassination attempt".

The former international cricket star has been leading a chaotic convoy of thousands since Friday from the city of Lahore towards the capital, Islamabad, campaigning for fresh elections after being ousted from office in April.

"This was an attempt to kill him, to assassinate him," senior aide, Raouf Hasan, told AFP.

Khan was wounded when shots were fired at him and other officials standing on the top of a modified container truck as it slowly drove through a thick crowd near Gujranwala.

"There was a guy who was in front of the container who had this automatic pistol. He fired a burst. Everyone who was standing in the very front row got hit," former information minister Fawad Chaudhry, who was standing behind Khan, told AFP. He said supporters in the crowd tried to snatch the gun from the attacker. "In that scuffle he missed the target. There was so much blood on the container."

Six people on the container were hit and one supporter killed, he said. There was no immediate comment from police.

Officials from Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf said Khan was being treated at a hospital in Lahore and was in stable condition.



Video published on social media shows Khan being in hospital with a bandage around his right calf.

In a tweet, Pakistan's President Arif Alvi called it "a heinous assassination attempt".

"I thank Allah that he is safe but injured with few bullets in his leg & hopefully non-critical," he said.

**'Die for the country'**

Pakistan has been grappling with Islamist militants for decades, and politicians are frequently targeted by assassination attempts.

The attack on Khan had echoes of the 2007 assassination of another former prime minister, Benazir Bhutto, who died when a huge bomb detonated near her vehicle as she greeted supporters in Rawalpindi while standing up through the roof hatch.

Just months earlier she had survived another attempt on her life, when her motorcade was targeted in Karachi, killing more than 130 people.

Each day since starting his

so-called "long march" 70-year-old Khan has mounted a shipping container towed by a lorry, making speeches from the open top to crowds of thousands in cities and towns along the way.

He was booted from office in April by a no-confidence vote after defections by some of his coalition partners, but he retains mass public support in the South Asian country.

Khan was voted into power in 2018 on an anti-corruption platform by an electorate tired of dynastic politics.

But his mishandling of the economy -- and falling out with a military accused of helping his rise -- sealed his fate.

Since then, he has railed against the establishment and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's government, which he says was imposed on Pakistan by a "conspiracy" involving the United States.

Khan has repeatedly told supporters he was prepared to die for the country, and aides have long warned of unspecified threats made on his life.

## 'I Only Wanted To Kill Imran And No One Else', Says Attacker Who Opened Fire At Former Pak Pm Imran Khan

IANS

**Pakistan** Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman and former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan survived a deadly attack on Thursday after an assailant reached close to his container and opened fire targeting Khan during the party's long march in Gujranwala.

Nabbed by the police, the attacker later said that he only wanted to kill Khan and no one else.

The shooter opened a burst of bullets which hit PTI leaders standing next to Khan and also injured the former premier who got shot in the leg. According to PTI leaders, Khan is presently 'out of danger'.

As per sources, senior PTI leaders, including Senator Faisal Javed Khan, former Sindh Governor Imran Ismail and Ahmed Chatha, were injured in the firing.

Immediately after the attack, Khan was taken inside the container, after which he was rushed to the local hospital from where he was shifted to the Shaukat Khanam Hospital



in Lahore.

Other than the PTI top leadership, at least six others others have been injured in the attack, one of whom is in a critical state. As per reports, at least one person has died in the attack.

The attackers, numbering two, were nabbed by the supporters of PTI present in the march before being handed over to the police.

As per details, one of the attackers is named Faisal Butt, while the other has been identified as Mohammad Naveed.

Faisal said he wanted to kill Khan ever since the latter started his long march from Lahore on October 28.

"I got angry with Khan for

spreading hatred and misleading the people. I only wanted to kill Khan and no one else," said Faisal.

"I did this on my own will and no one told me to do so. I just got angry on Khan and wanted to kill him," Faisal added.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif took immediate notice of the incident and ordered the Interior Ministry to submit a report on the matter.

"I condemn the incident of firing on PTI Chairman Imran Khan in the strongest words. I have directed the Interior Minister for an immediate report on the incident. I pray for the recovery and health of the PTI Chairman and other injured people," Sharif said.

"The government will extend all the necessary support to the Punjab government for security and investigation. Violence should have no place in our country," Sharif added.

Punjab Chief Minister Perwaiz Elahi has also ordered an immediate inquiry into the firing incident.

## Congress's Jairam Ramesh Targets Colleague Karan Singh Over Nehru Article

Press Trust of India

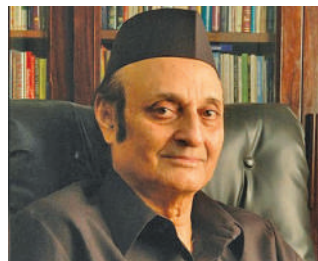
**NEW DELHI:** Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Thursday criticised party colleague Karan Singh for "sidestepping" Union minister Kiren Rijju's "hit job" on Jawaharlal Nehru's role in Jammu and Kashmir's accession to India.

The Congress general secretary's remarks come over an article by Karan Singh on Jammu and Kashmir's accession to India in an English daily in which Mr Ramesh said he had defended his father and erstwhile ruler Hari Singh.

Reacting to the piece, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said on Twitter, "There is not a single scholarly and serious work on J&K that portrays Maharaja Hari Singh in good light."

"Even this authoritative work by VP Menon doesn't make Hari Singh a wronged man. It is hence natural that his son Dr. Karan Singh defends him in the HT today," Mr Ramesh said, sharing the screenshot of the cover of a book by VP Menon.

"What I find surprising though is that Dr. Karan Singh has sidestepped Rijju's hit job on Nehru. This the same Nehru without whose support Dr. Karan Singh wouldn't have achieved much, as he acknowledges in his 2006 book with 216 letters



exchanged between them during 1948-64," he said.

"This is the same Nehru to whom Karan Singh dedicated his book on Aurobindo in May 1962, and for which the country's first PM wrote a wonderful foreword," he added.

Jammu and Kashmir's accession came into focus with Rijju writing an article for a portal citing "five Nehruvian blunders", including floating the idea of a plebiscite and terming Jammu and Kashmir's accession provisional.

The minister had said it was important to realise past mistakes to build a new future and added he has not tweaked history but stated facts to set the record straight.

The Congress had demanded an apology from Mr Rijju over his criticism of Nehru's handling of the Kashmir issue and asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to rein in ministers from making "irresponsible statements".

## Patients Surge At Hospital OPDs As Delhi Air Quality Remains 'Severe'



**NEW DELHI:** Hospitals in Delhi are teeming with people suffering from cough, nasal congestion, shortness of breath and even asthma attacks as an eye-stinging smog blankets the national capital. With Delhi's air quality remaining 'severe', doctors advised a return to wearing masks to guard against pollution.

While forecasters on Wednesday predicted the air quality to improve due to stronger winds, Delhi's overall Air Quality Index (AQI) stood at 426 at 9:10 am.

An AQI of above 400 is considered 'severe' and can affect healthy people and seriously impact those with existing illnesses.

At Holy Family Hospital in Okhla, there has been a 30 per cent increase in such patients coming to out-patient departments, said Dr Sumit Ray, head of department of critical care.

Last year, the hospital had started writing "pollution-related" in diagnosis in what was probably a first for a medical facility here.

"There were two ICU (intensive care unit) patients for whom we wrote that diagnosis. For writing that diagnosis, you have to rule out several probable factors that could have triggered the illness. For the

patients who are currently admitted, we will need a few more days to arrive at that diagnosis," Dr Ray said.

Shedding light on the problems faced by patients, Dr Ashish Kumar Prakash, consultant (respiratory and sleep medicine) at Medanta in Gurugram, said they had been attending to patients complaining of cough, nasal congestion and breathing difficulty since Diwali.

"Currently, I have 25 to 30 patients in my OPD with such conditions and the entire unit/department has approximately 50-75 cases in total. Patients suffering from respiratory illnesses such as COPD, asthma, and others are reporting acute exacerbations, an increase in symptoms such as coughing, dyspnea and acute nasal problems," he said.

Dr Prakash said apart from worsening AQI, the change in weather was another factor behind a lot of the problems in patients with respiratory illnesses.

"As the weather transitions to cold and breezy, the cold, dry air and sudden shifts in the weather can irritate the airways, causing one to produce more mucus and leading to exacerbations if the patients are not taking their medications properly," he said.

## NEWS MAKERS

## Judge Hearing Salman Khan Defamation Case Retires, Case To Be Heard Afresh

Press Trust of India

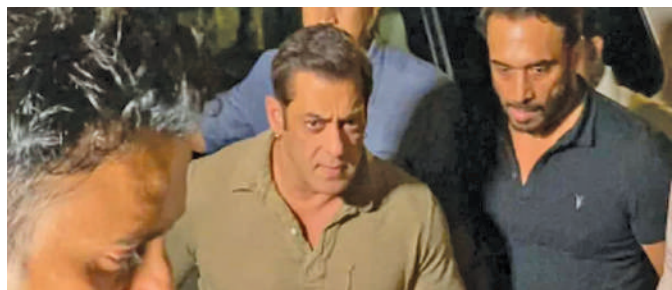
A judge of the Bombay High Court on Thursday said it would not be possible to pronounce order on an appeal filed by actor Salman Khan in a defamation case against his neighbour due to the paucity of time.

Mr Khan's plea will now be heard afresh by another judge. Justice CV Bhadang, who had heard the arguments in the case and reserved his order, is retiring on Friday.

Salman Khan's appeal would now be placed before another judge after the Diwali vacation and heard afresh.

Justice Bhadang had in August begun the hearing on the appeal filed by the actor against a lower court order of March 2022.

The lower court had refused to restrain Ketan Kalkkad, who owns land near Salman Khan's farmhouse at Panvel, from posting derogatory video posts against the actor. It had also refused to direct



Kalkkad to delete his earlier YouTube videos. On October 11, Justice Bhadang closed the matter for orders after arguments were over.

"Unfortunately I am unable to complete the judgement. I tried my level best till last evening. But unfortunately there was vacation and then administrative work, and I had other assignments. I will have to list this as part heard," the HC judge said on Thursday.

"I understand the apprehension of the parties and that substantial time and efforts went into this. I would have loved to decide this case either way. Unfortunately this

came at the fag end of my career," he added.

The Bollywood star has filed a defamation suit against Ketan Kalkkad in the lower court over videos uploaded by Mr Kalkkad on social media about Salman Khan's activities at his farmhouse in Panvel near Mumbai.

When the civil court refused to pass any interim restraining orders against Ketan Kalkkad, Salman Khan moved the High Court.

The posts uploaded by Mr Kalkkad were not only defamatory but also communal and provocative in nature, his plea said.

## Right-Wing Leader Refuses To Speak To Journalist For Not Wearing A Bindi

Press Trust of India

**MUMBAI:** Right-wing leader Sambhaji Bhide on Wednesday courted controversy after he refused to speak to a female television news reporter as she had not put a 'bindi' on her forehead.

The incident, caught on camera, took place after he met Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde at Mantralaya (state secretariat) in south Mumbai, and promoted the state women's commission to issue him a notice.

In a video, Sambhaji Bhide was heard telling the female reporter, who sought sound bite from him about his meeting with Eknath Shinde, that she should apply a 'bindi' (a decorative dot worn in the middle of the forehead by women) before coming to take his byte, and declined to speak to her.

He also told the journalist that a woman is akin to Bharat Mata and that she should not appear like a "widow" by not sporting a 'bindi'.

Maharashtra State Women's Commission chairperson Rupali Chakankar issued a notice to the right-wing leader seeking an explanation for his remarks.

In 2018, Mr Bhide had come under fire for his comments that couples were blessed with sons after eating mangoes from his orchard.



## Kerala Judge's Transfer Over 'Sexually Provocative Dress' Remark Stalled

**KOCHI:** Kerala High Court has quashed the registrar general's order transferring Kozhikode Principal District and Sessions Judge S Krishnakumar, who made a controversial 'sexually provocative dress' remark as a presiding officer of the Labour Court in Kollam district.

The Division bench of Justice AK Jayasankaran Nambiar and Justice Mohammed Nias CP quashed the transfer order.

The ruling by the Division bench came in response to an appeal by Justice Krishnakumar challenging the order by the high court, single bench, dismissing his appeal against the transfer order. Earlier, the Division bench had stayed the transfer order.

In his appeal, Justice Krishnakumar contended, "It is not sustainable in law as the finding of the single Judge that the transfer norms are only guidelines and that it will not confer any right on the transferred employ-

ee. The order is against the dictum laid down by the apex court in a recent decision on a similar matter.

The single judge failed to consider the facts of the case as a judicial officer can be transferred during the currency of three years if it is necessary in the administration of justice, and in the appellant's case, the single judge had not held that the transfer of the appellant is in the interest of the administration of justice."

"The finding of the Single Judge that the appellant cannot be said to be prejudiced in any manner by his transfer as a Presiding Officer, Labour Court, Kollam district is not correct. The appellant is a Special Grade District Judge and was discharging duty as Principal District and Sessions Judge, and that post is occupied by the senior most Special Grade District Judge therefore, transferring and posting the appellant will necessarily result in prejudice," the plea said.



## Politically Mature People Will Judge Parties On Merit: Azad

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Democratic Azad Party Chairman Gulam Nabi Azad on Thursday questioned the delay in elections, saying, "If everything is normal, why elections are not being held in J&K".

Azad who recently formed his own party DAP after severing decades-long ties with Congress party, said the claims of normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir being disseminated by Government of India and J&K have proven hoax as the way for the conduct of assembly elections is being obstructed one way or the other. "If everything is normal, why Gol is hesitating in conduct of assembly elections in J&K", Azad said.

Azad said that delay in election cannot be justified by few incidents. "The past is witness that elections were held despite militants fired thousands of bullets everyday in Kashmir. If today Government is delaying elections, then their claims of normalcy are doubtful", the DAP chief said.

He said there is no room for delay in conduct of elections as people are craving for public representatives to whom they approach and address their de-



mands. "Elections should have been held before four years. When everything is normal. When there is no stone pelting, no hartals, no agitation even when militancy, according to security forces is about to over, so what is the purpose of delay in elections in J&K", Azad questioned.

Azad while praising the role of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said he cannot change things on his own. "The LG Sinha is a good person. I want J&K becomes state and him as full-fledged Governor. He cannot reach out to everywhere, he can't work on behalf of 90 MLAs, he is also human being", Azad added.

Regarding a question about different roadmaps floated by different parties, he said, "People in J&K are politically mature, they will judge everyone on merit."

"If J&K is back to normalcy, I don't think there is need of Governor rule further", he added. (KNS)

## Bukhari Condemns Attack On Non-local Workers

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari has condemned the attack on two non-local workers, including a Nepalese national, in Anantnag on Thursday.

"Saddened to hear that two non-local workers have been shot and injured in Anantnag, I wonder what the attackers want to achieve by attacking innocent migrant workers who are here to earn bread and butter for their fami-

lies. I condemn this act of violence in the strongest possible terms," Bukhari said in a statement.

He expressed his sympathies with the families of the victims and urged authorities to provide the best possible treatment to the injured.

He said, "I extend my sympathies with the families of the victims, and I urge the authorities to ensure the injured get the best possible treatment. I pray for the speedy recovery of the injured."

## DC Kulgam Reviews Implementation Of Self-Employment Schemes



Observer News Service

**KULGAM:** The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat Thursday convened a meeting to review the implementation of different schemes, with special focus on self-employment generation programmes.

During the meeting, the officers from line departments briefed the chair about the status of coverage of beneficiaries under various self employment schemes of their departments.

The DC took a detailed review and cases sanctioned under Mumkin, Tejeswini, PMEGP, ISDS, IPPDP, PMMSYM and other self employment oriented schemes.

It was informed that under ISDS selection of beneficiaries has been made for 90 units whereas selection of beneficiaries for 11 units of sheep under TSP has been carried out.

The chair was also informed that under Mumkin scheme 148 vehicles have been handed over to the beneficiaries involving Rs

2.19 crore subsidy amount and Rs 9.81 crore loan amount.

Besides, 72 new cases are submitted to the concerned quarters for verification purposes.

Under Tejaswini scheme 16 cases have been disbursed involving loan amount of Rs 80 lac. Under Spurring scheme 32 cases have been sponsored and 86 new cases have been sent to bank for pre-check.

The DC also reviewed cases sanctioned by DIC, Handloom & Handicrafts, KVIB, KVIC, Fisheries and other departments under employment generation schemes.

He stressed upon making youth self-reliant, independent and providing them with sustainable employment.

Addressing the meeting, the DC stressed upon the officers to ensure maximum coverage of unemployed youth of the district under different self employment schemes.

He directed them to work in close coordination and help the youth in getting enrolled under various ambitious schemes.



## Widespread Rain, Snow In J&K From Nov 5-7: MeT

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Weather department on Thursday forecast mainly dry weather during next 24 hours and fairly widespread light to moderate rains, snowfall and thunder from November 5 to 7 in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The weather is expected to be mainly dry for next 24 hours although it might be partly cloudy at most places," an official of the meteorological department said here.

From November 5-7, he said, the weather is expected to be generally cloudy. "Fairly widespread light to moderate rains, snowfall (over higher reaches) and thunder is very likely to occur at most places of J&K," he said. However he reiterated that there is no forecast of "heavy snowfall".

He also said that snowfall

and "low temperature" may lead to temporary "occasional" disruption of surface transportation, mainly over Zojila, Sinthantop, Mugal road etc. during November 5-7.

Meanwhile, he said, Srinagar recorded a low of 5.6°C against 5.0°C on the previous night. The temperature was 3.1°C above normal for the summer capital during this time of the year, he said.

Qazigund recorded a low of 3.4°C against 3.0°C on the previous night. The temperature was 0.9°C above normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, he said.

In Pahalgam, the mercury settled at 1.5°C against 0.2°C on the previous night and it was 1.7°C above normal for the south Kashmir resort, he said.

Kokernag recorded a low of 5.0°C against 3.8°C on the previous night and it was

1.2°C above normal for the place, he said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 0.0°C against minus 1.0°C on the previous night and it was 1.7°C below normal for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

In Kupwara town, the mercury settled at 5.1°C against 6.4°C on the previous night, the official said. It was 3.2°C above normal for the north Kashmir place, he said.

Jammu recorded a low of 14.6°C against 15.3°C on the previous night. It was 0.8°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said. Banihal recorded a low of 9.0°C (Above normal by 4.4°C), Batote 9.0°C (4.4°C above normal), Katra 14.5°C (above normal by 1.9°C) and Bhardwah 5.2°C (above normal by 0.8°C). (GNS)

## Top Brass Security Discusses Winter Security Strategy In Jammu

Agencies

**JAMMU:** With the onset of winters and amid attempts of drone dropping of ammunition and narcotics along borders, a high level security review meeting was held on Thursday at Nagrota based army's 16 Corps (White Knight Corps) to finalise winter strategy.

The meeting was chaired by the General Officer Commanding of Nagrota based White Knight Corps Lieutenant General Manjinder Singh, which looks after the security situation along Line of Control in South of Pir Panchal and the challenges at hinterland.

Officials, privy to the meeting told a local news agency KNO, that Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Jammu Zone Mukesh Singh, Inspector General (IG) of Border Security Force (BSF) D K Boora, IG CRPF, Divisional



Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar and top brass from army, police and intelligence agencies were present at the meeting.

"A security review meet was conducted at Nagrota to review and coordinate security aspects amongst agencies. GOC, Senior Army and Police officers participated in the meet," a spokesperson informed through official Twitter handle of White Knight Corps

However, Army sources said that meeting also discussed the prevailing situation along the

border vis-a-vis in the hinterland, particularly in context of onset winters, which usually witnessed increase in infiltration attempts by advisory due to low visibility and foggy conditions.

Sources added that robust winter mechanism was also deliberated during the meeting to counter the drone challenges on borders, which is involved in dropping of ammunition and narco inside Indian Territory. The other security related issues and concerns were also deliberated in detail," they added—

## After NC Hints At Going Solo In Polls, PDP Says PAGD Not Formed For Polls

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** With National Conference dropping enough hints of going solo in assembly polls, Peoples Democratic Party on Thursday said the Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) has not been formed for contesting elections.

Talking to a local news agency, PDP general secretary, Ghulam Nabi Lone Hanjura said that it is not clear whether NC will contest the polls alone.

"PAGD has not been formed for contesting elections. It has come up for a greater cause,"

he said, adding that a final decision about fighting elections jointly or separately can be taken only after elections are announced.

The National Conference has dropped enough hints that it would not have an alliance with other constituents of the PAGD. If NC decides against any electoral alliance with the constituents of PAGD, it would be a serious setback to PDP, whose key faces have deserted the party after 2018.

As many as 18 out of 28 MLAs elected on PDP ticket in the last assembly election have

quit the party in the past three years.

PDP is banking on PAGD for its revival. It managed to win 27 seats in DDC polls in 2020 due to an electoral alliance with other constituents of PAGD.

The PDP leader if NC decides against electoral alliance, it wouldn't impact the cause of PAGD.

On Wednesday, National Conference appointed constituency incharges for 46 out of 47 assembly segments of Kashmir, indicating that the party wouldn't any electoral arrangement with NC, CPI(M) and other constituents of PAGD

## Back To Village-4 Aimed To Create A New Era Of Development: Pole

Observer News Service

**BANDIPORA:** As part of Government's ambitious Back to Village-4 programme, the Divisional Kashmir (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole Thursday visited Rakhi Asham in Sumbal subdivision and took stock of ongoing activities in village Panchayat.

Deputy Commissioner Bandi-

por, Dr Owais Ahmed was also present on the occasion.

Development gaps and corresponding effective solutions can be undertaken by listening to people at their door steps, said Div Com.

Earlier, he along with Deputy Commissioner inspected the stalls installed by different departments and enquired about the grievance redressal mechanism being adopted to the satisfaction of the public.



During the visit, Pole interacted with PRIs, social activists and locals in order to take stock of public issues concerning welfare and development of their areas.

He listened to the issues raised by the participants on the occasion. While interacting with people, Pole said that the aim and objective of the B2V4 programme is to reach out to the people of the district at their door steps, listen to their demands and take measures for early redressal of the same.

He lauded public response toward the Back to Village initiative and appreciated people for coming forward to register their demands and issues during the program. He said, Back to village programme is aimed to create a new era of development in the Union Territory.

He said that the visiting officers were deployed at Panchayats to ensure that the people are involved in public cooperation for the betterment of Development indices in the Panchayat and said efforts have been made to maximize benefits out of the initiative.

The Visiting Officer also inaugurated first of its kind a Tug of War game among the senior citizens of Rakhi Ashman and said this is a unique sport to add peace to the soul and mind.

He asked the public to organize such games with the senior citizens and deliberated upon them to contribute in nation building.

On the occasion, Div Com also distributed land passbooks among the farmers. He said that it is a landmark initiative taken by the J&K Government to provide Land Passbooks to the lawful land owners to further improve the service delivery, enhance transparency and accountability in the system.

The DC also spoke on the occasion and expressed his happiness for mass participation of people in B2V4 across all Panchayats of Bandipora in which PRIs and all the members of Gram Panchayats and staff took active part in planning exercise.

He also highlighted development works completed and under execution in Rakhi Ashman.

While listening to public demands, Pole assured the public at Ashman that their demands will be taken with the concerned departments for early resolution.

## JKRTC Starts Bus Service From Shopian To Anantnag

More Buses Will Be Added To The Route In Coming Days: DC

Observer News Service

**SHOPIAN:** The Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation (JK-RTC) on Thursday started Bus services between Shopian and Anantnag in view of huge public demand.

The services of Public Transport between the South Kashmir districts have been taken after efforts of the District Administration.

The semi-deluxe buses will operate from Shopian to Anantnag to provide better services to the general public as it has been a demand from commuters.

The locals have appreciated the administration for the timely, people friendly transport services.

Deputy Commissioner, Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vashiya said that more buses will be added to the route in coming days to provide better transport services.

## Seminar On Vigilance Awareness Organised At Budgam



Transparency In The System Strongest Weapon Against Corruption: DC

Observer News Service

**BUDGAM:** The Anti-Corruption Bureau Srinagar organised a Seminar in Sheikh ul Alam hall Budgam on Thursday under the aegis of "Vigilance Awareness Week" being observed from 31 October, 2022 to 06 November, 2022.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, S F Hamid was the chief guest and SSP Budgam Tahir Saleem, ADC Budgam Dr. Nasir, CEO Budgam, DIO Budgam were also present on the Occasion.

In addition, Senior Superintendent of Police Abdul Waheed Shah, AIG Anti-Corruption Bureau Headquarters, Dr. Zahoor Wani and SSP Anti Corruption Bureau along with some other officers of ACB Srinagar addressed the gathering and spoke on Corruption, its evil impact on society and how it can be checked and eradicated from Society.

A detailed powerpoint presentation was presented before the audience by Dr. Zahoor Wani regarding various acts, provisions, and procedures for combating corruption.

On the occasion, DC said the Anti-Corruption Bureau is an institution whose credibility is intact and is working hard in curbing the evil of corruption. He said it is not only the duty of administration and police to fight against this cause, but it is the moral duty of every citizen to fight against corruption.

He said the ultimate motive of every citizen should be no corruption at any cost. He said transparency and accountability are two tools for eradicating this evil.

He added that corruption does not mean to be paid in cash only, but, it also means to do undue favour to some ineligible beneficiary. He said people of Budgam should use all institutions such as District Administration, Police administration, and Anti-Corruption Bureau actively so that this evil is eradicated completely from the society.

## Mega Cultural Festival 'Jashn-e-Kashmir Organized In Ganderbal

Observer News Service

**GANDERBAL:** J&K Folk Artists Association, Shah Qalander Folk Theatre, in collaboration with J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages and District Administration Ganderbal on Thursday organized mega cultural festival here at the auditorium of Boys Higher Secondary School Ganderbal.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir who was Chief Guest on the occasion inaugurated the Cultural Festival-

celebrating tradition, culture and heritage.

Several live performances were presented by the renowned artists of J&K including Sanam Sajad, Imtiyaz Ahmad and others.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC complimented the organizers for organizing such a cultural show in the district and highlighted the importance of art and culture of Kashmir. He also assured all possible support to the local artists from District Administration for pre-

serving and promoting the local art, culture and folk traditions.

The main attractions of the programme were Kashmiri Chakri by Imtiyaz Ahmad and party, Rouff dance by Sabreena Mushraq, Dogri dance by Nishu Pandita, Band Pather by Baba Reshi folk theatre, Gujar dance by Wahida Mugal, besides folk dances and music performances.

Nukad Natak on 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' and the drama themed 'Importance of being literate' remained the major

highlights of the cultural show.

Several students of various schools of the district also presented performances which were highly appreciated by the audiences.

All J&K Folk Artists Association Chairman, Gulzar Ahmad Bhat in his welcome address expressed gratitude to the District Administration for supporting them to organize the Show in the district adding that the current government is keen to support the artists of J&K and various initiatives are taken by the

LG administration in this regard.

Nisar Naseem, the renowned broadcaster and writer speaking on the occasion complemented the DC for taking various initiatives for revival of local culture and also highlighted the importance of organizing Jashn-e-Kashmir which will provide the platform to the youth artists to show their talent.

Later, all the participants were felicitated with the participation certificates and mementos during a felicitation ceremony.



KASHMIR OBSERVER

Pakistan Turmoil

Ousted Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan's protest march towards the Pakistani capital Islamabad has once again plunged the country into chaos. The Pakistani government has unsuccessfully tried to stop the march but to no avail. Khan has been claiming his government was toppled by the United States miffed with his growing closeness to Russia and China. He has been demanding the resignation of the government and the holding of the fresh elections. While the Pakistan government, backed by the military establishment, is unlikely to resign in the near term, Khan's stubborn political campaign has destabilized the country. At the same time, his popularity has skyrocketed and in case of an early election, he is expected to return to power with a landslide majority.

One fallout of this troubled situation in the country is that there is no hope for an India, Pakistan dialogue. The three and a half years of Khan's term saw relations between the two neighbors nosedive. And with the revocation of Article 370 in August 2019, the ties deteriorated almost to the point of no return. Khan became one of the fiercest critics of the Indian government. But in February 2021, the militaries of the two countries dramatically signed a ceasefire agreement. The move came reportedly following an extended back-channel dialogue between the two countries. But thereafter there were no efforts to improve the relations. Or to resume dialogue that otherwise appeared a logical course of action following the ceasefire. The reason for this was Pakistan's insistence that India reverse the repeal of Article 370 but for New Delhi, the move is now a fait accompli.

Going forward, the situation looks bleak. Should Sharif's government continue, there will be little chance of the relations between India and Pakistan reviving in near to medium future. That is, if at all there was any chance at all.

Meanwhile, a halt to the frequent firing exchanges along the Line of Control has made a redeeming difference to the lives of lakhs of border residents on both sides of the border. But it won't change anything as far as the situation in the Valley where militancy continues to linger. This problem could certainly have been addressed through a dialogue between the two countries, whose chances now look slim until after the fresh national elections are held, first in Pakistan in 2023 followed by one in India in 2024. Sharif's survival in power or otherwise will make no difference to this reality.

OTHER OPINION

Second Stint

Brazil has a new leader — who is also its old leader. On Sunday, South America's largest nation elected Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva as its president, yet again. His win in a run-off against the former president, Jair Bolsonaro, capped a dramatic political resurrection for a man who ruled the nation from 2003 to 2010 but was then jailed in 2017 on corruption charges that were subsequently overturned. Mr Bolsonaro, who emerged as an iconic figure of the Brazilian far-right, had indicated before the election that he might not concede a loss. He has spent months questioning the credibility of the democratic process — much like his friend, Donald Trump, the former president of the United States of America, has done since his 2020 loss to Joe Biden. However, on Tuesday, Mr Bolsonaro appeared to suggest that he would allow a smooth transition of power to Mr Lula. That is welcome in a major democracy that shed military rule — which Mr Bolsonaro has expressed admiration for — only 37 years ago. It is, however, also reflective of the stakes on offer in politics in Brazil and across Latin America, where Mr Bolsonaro and other conservative leaders might be down but are far from out.

In Brazil, Mr Bolsonaro might not be president for a second term, but his party won a record number of seats in the Congress at the start of October. Brazil's single-largest party, it effectively controls half of the lower House with allies. Mr Lula's party will therefore struggle to pass major laws to undo Mr Bolsonaro's policies, which depleted the Amazon rainforests and attacked women, LGBTQ people and indigenous communities. In effect, Mr Bolsonaro will remain a major force to reckon with in a Brazil that has broadly moved to the right. That shift in Brazil is also reflected in Mr Lula's choice of the business-friendly leader, Geraldo Alckmin, once his rival. It would also be a superficial understanding of the region to view Mr Lula's win as part of a broader 'pink tide' of socialist-leaning governments in South America. Chile, Peru, Colombia, Argentina and Bolivia all have left-leaning governments today. However, deep divisions exist among them on everything, from Ukraine and the US to relations with leftist authoritarian figures like Venezuela's Nicolás Maduro and Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega. How Mr Lula adjusts to this complex regional and domestic landscape will shape the next four years for Brazil — and the continent that it dominates.

Telegraph India

Elon Musk's Twitter Is  
Going To Be A Disaster

Hamilton Nolan

“Wealthy, powerful and celebrated, he could have kept his mouth shut and let his work speak for itself; instead, he uses Twitter, and reveals to all of us that the richest man in the history of the world is an unfunny meme guy easily seduced by the same sorts of ideas that grab the minds of Reddit-scrolling 13-year-old boys

Twitter is free. You can go on there and type your embarrassing little thoughts for the whole world to see any time you like. Millions of us have been doing this for years. Revealing to everyone how dumb your inner thoughts are may cost you your reputation, sure, but it won't cost you any money. Not even if you're the richest man in the country.

So why spend \$44bn to buy it? That's a fair piece of change, even to someone whose net worth hovers above \$200bn. It's also much more than the company is actually worth, as evidenced by Elon Musk's desperate attempt to get out of the deal almost as soon as he had gotten irretrievably into it. The price is too high to be a pure lifestyle purchase — if you want a media property just for the social cachet and party invitations, it can be had much cheaper. Fellow villainous mega-billionaire space tourist Jeff Bezos bought the Washington Post for a mere \$250m, less than 1% of what Musk just paid for a cacophonous global collection of weird, hollering self-promotion.

In truth, Musk probably bought Twitter for the same reason that sickeningly rich people throughout history have become press barons: to try to control the conversation. About themselves, in particular, and secondly about their own economic interests, and thirdly about their own inevitably selfish, bizarre, half-witted political beliefs. Once you have ascended the ladder of wealth past buying real estate and cars and boats and models and the other tawdry baubles that come with money, there comes a time when a hardworking plutocrat begins to be irked by the fact that, beyond their sphere of servants, people are still talking trash about them. It upsets their sense of omnipotence. After the thrill of bending the material world to their whim has worn off, the desire to bend the public conversation — and, by extension, the public mind — to their own liking takes root.

This has always been a hit-and-miss proposition. It's easiest for those who are interested in straightforward political influence. From William Randolph Hearst to Rupert Murdoch, media moguls have a well-tested playbook for using sensationalism and propaganda and fear-mongering to produce political outcomes. That's the easy stuff. When the motives get mixed, though, things get dicey for the aspiring media moguls.

For those who don't have Bezos-sized wallets, owning a news outlet can be a painfully expensive way to get party invitations. For those who don't have Murdoch's ruthlessness, it can be a frustratingly difficult way to change the minds of readers and viewers. And for those who lack perfect clarity



about what they are doing, well, the possibility for hilarious disaster is very real.

Elon Musk is, ironically, the exact type of person for whom Twitter is poison. Wealthy, powerful and celebrated, he could have kept his mouth shut and let his work speak for itself; instead, he uses Twitter, and reveals to all of us that the richest man in the richest nation in the history of the world is an unfunny meme guy easily seduced by the same sorts of ideas that grab the minds of Reddit-scrolling 13-year-old boys. There is a lesson there about the inability of wealth to make someone interesting — but, setting that aside, there is a more relevant lesson about the danger of vast concentrations of wealth. Because when you mix the immature, half-baked, self-righteous grandiosity of a guy like Elon Musk with the ability to buy and sell multibillion-dollar global public corporations like toys, you have a recipe for chaotic, destructive stupidity on a staggering scale.

Many on the left suspect that Musk is in fact a Rupert Murdoch of the tech generation, planning to use Twitter's algorithms to disperse and promote rightwing ideas. Others say this was all a way for him to diversify his finances and sell off a ton of Tesla shares without sparking investor panic. Those tidy explanations would be more satisfying than the likely truth: this guy saw a chance to put his sophomoric ideas about “free speech” into practice on his favorite app, and he did.

It is as if a half-bright fantasy football player bought your favorite NFL franchise and ran it right into the ground. (Except the implications of this — intertwined as they are with politics and media and Trumpism — are much worse.) Above all, we are in for an abject demonstration of why it is bad to have random businessmen running around your society with enough money to do absolutely anything they want. As kaleidoscopic as the factions of Twitter users are, this episode should be enough to make them all unite behind the idea of a wealth tax.

In a message to advertisers posted the day the sale closed, Musk wrote that “The reason I acquired Twitter is because it is

important to the future of civilization to have a common digital town square, where a wide range of beliefs can be debated in a healthy manner.” OK. Sure. Forty-four billion dollars seems like a lot to pay for the right to grandly reinstate @NaziAnime666's right to post gifs about Pizzagate or whatever, but a fool and his money are soon parted and all that.

You may notice that Musk's stated goal of being an angel of open, civilized discourse is not wholly compatible with all billionaires' natural desire to bend the content of that discourse in a direction that they agree with. Reconciling these two competing mandates is one of the oldest and most central tasks of news media companies, or discourse-shaping social media companies, owned by rich guys. Many thoughtful journalists, pundits and professors have spent their careers wrestling with this tension — unfettered truth versus the blinkered logic of capitalism. Two hundred years into the history of American journalism, it's still an open question how it will all be resolved.

But I do know one thing for sure: Elon Musk, zillionaire king of the nerds, alt-right meme lord, and committed union buster, is not the guy who's gonna figure it out. If you are wondering what lies in store for all of us after his big purchase, just assume the dumbest possibilities will come true. An owner who is not cool or funny will do things that he thinks are cool or funny. Trouble will ensue. Tech and media are both inherently unstable industries, so the good news is that the possibility of Twitter spectacularly imploding does not make them that much different from everywhere else. Enjoy it while it lasts. Stay focused on eradicating billionaires forever. And, if you have the misfortune of working at Twitter, get yourself a union as soon as possible.

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

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Make Vaccinations Mandatory for Domesticated Dogs

Just like humans, dogs require vaccinations to keep healthy and prevent sickness. Dog vaccinations are an essential component of providing better care for one's so-called furry pet. Therefore, it is important for every pet owner to be aware of dog vaccinations and to vaccinate their pets. Avoidance is preferable to cure. As per veterinary science there are vaccines that can prevent diseases in dogs that have been tested and are readily available. Because their immune systems are still developing when the dogs are still puppies, they are more prone to

infections. It is therefore advisable to begin immunising them when they are infancy stage. Additional antibodies that aid in preventing disease will be produced as a result of vaccinations. There must be a full immunisation cycle. As per Veterinarian

unvaccinated domestic dogs are more likely to infect both humans and other dogs with diseases than those who have received vaccinations. Unvaccinated dogs may potentially quickly infect humans with illnesses. Unvaccinated dogs can infect their owners' family members, particularly young children. Unvaccinated

dogs are a major source of human disease transmission, including rabies, parvovirus, parainfluenza, giardia, lyme disease, hepatitis, distemper, bordetella, kennel cough, and leptospirosis. Making Canine vaccinations essential is a good idea, but it's also pivotal to understand how tamed tykes are affected by these shots. Tykes, for illustration, may have adverse goods frequently. One should make sure that possessors schedule vaccinations meetly. Veterinarians advise that if faves aren't vaccinated, it could lead to Fever, languor, loss of appetite, swelling around the face or

paws, hives, puking, diarrhoea, pain at the injection point, and in rare cases, anaphylactic shock are a many of the side goods. It's essential that one has to look out for any of the signs that beget concern and take tamed canine to the veterinary for consultation. So thus our central animal husbandry ministry should make the vaccination of tykes obligatory.

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Mindful Fridays

# Are You Scared of Life's Uncertainty?

## Here are the Consequences and Ways to Cope

Wasim Kakroo

Today more than any other time in history, uncertainty is all around us. Uncertainty has been identified as a defining characteristic of modernity, with economist Barry Eichengreen arguing that we are living in an "age of hyper-uncertainty". Much of what lies ahead in life remains unpredictable, whether it has to do with the worldwide pandemic such as COVID-19 that the whole world got engulfed into, economy, your relationships, finances, or health. But at the same time, we as human beings yearn for security. We want to feel secure and in charge of our lives and wellbeing.

As per English dictionary, uncertainty is a state of doubt about the future or about what is the right thing to do.

From a psychological point of view, Uncertainty is defined as "the state of incomplete information or knowledge about a situation, or the possible alternatives or the probability of their occurrence, when their outcomes are not known by the person".

It can also be defined as a state wherein "details of the situation are ambiguous, complex, unpredictable, or probabilistic; when information is unavailable or inconsistent; and when people feel insecure in their own state of knowledge or the state of knowledge in general".

Uncertainty is a constant in life and cannot be avoided. We can never know with certainty what will actually happen on any day, because we cannot look into the future. The capacity for accepting uncertainty varies among people. To put it another way, although some people can handle a great deal of uncertainty, others find that even a little bit of it makes them uncomfortable.

You might experience stress, anxiety, and a sense of helplessness about the course of your life if you live in a state of constant fear and uncertainty. It can deplete you emotionally and keep you mired in a never-ending cycle of "what-ifs" and dreadful possibilities for the future.

### What is intolerance to uncertainty?

Intolerance of uncertainty has been defined as "a dispositional characteristic that results from a set of negative beliefs about uncertainty and its implications and involves the tendency to react negatively on an emotional, cognitive, and behavioral level to uncertain situations and events".

It is clear that most people tend to feel a little uneasy around uncertainty, which is understandable. We try to know that the place we are visiting for lunch has food we enjoy, that people we know will be at the party we were invited to join, and that our boss will be honest with us about how we are doing at work. We feel more at ease having this information than not knowing anything about the restaurant we are going to, not knowing who will be at the party, and not knowing whether our boss thinks we are doing a good or bad job.

### What are the various behaviors shown by a person who is intolerant of uncertainty?

If you can't handle uncertainty in your life, you might probably take steps to either completely eliminate uncertainty from day-to-day circumstances or actively avoid them.

When someone is unwilling to accept uncertainty, they may exhibit specific behaviors, such as:

Excessively looking on others for validation and reassurance: If you need to make a decision (even smaller ones), you might do this every time by consulting your friends or family.

1. List-making: Some people will create lengthy, in-depth "to do" lists, often multiple lists each day, as a strategy to remove uncertainty.
2. Confirming twice: For instance, continually calling loved ones to "make sure" they are alright or carefully checking emails numerous times to ensure that they are flawless and error-free.
3. Refusing to assign duties to others: Many people who are uncomfortable with uncertainty refuse to assign certain chores to others at work or at home because they cannot be "confident" that they will be completed correctly



4. Procrastination/avoidance: Some people simply put things off or steer clear of people, places, or situations because uncertainty might create anxiety. You don't have to be unsure about anything if you don't do it.
5. Distraction: Many people who are uncomfortable with uncertainty keep themselves "occupied" for the most of the day to avoid having to reflect on all the unpredictability in life. You might have realized that a lot of time and effort are needed to carry out each of these behaviors. The fun of life can frequently be taken away by a need for absolute certainty since surprises or unanticipated events seem threatening. A dislike of uncertainty may also force you to avoid or put off taking advantage of many excellent possibilities in life.

### How can intolerance of uncertainty lead to mental health issues especially emotional disorders?

Intolerance of uncertainty is similar to being allergic to a certain thing. For instance, if you have pollen allergy, exposure to even a small quantity of pollen will cause you to sneeze, cough, and your eyes to get red and teary.

We as human beings have a natural tendency to be sure and secure about important things in our life, but some people take this tendency to next level and try to eliminate uncertainty of any degree from almost all the areas of their life. This leads to more and more intolerance to uncertainty.

People who are significantly intolerant of uncertainty have a strong reaction when exposed to even a small amount of uncertainty just like allergy. They worry and try everything in their power to avoid, reduce, or get rid of the uncertainty. However, being extremely intolerant of uncertainty can be problematic since it might result in a lot of time-consuming and exhausting behaviors (some of which we discussed above), adds to stress and anxiety, and is a huge source of worry. This struggle with uncertainty is what can lead them into various types of emotional disorders such as Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD), Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD), and Depression etc.

### How can I develop greater tolerance for uncertainty?

Changing a mindset is obviously difficult, even if you believe that being more accepting of uncertainty would be beneficial. As per Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are all interconnected, and if you alter one, you can influence the others.

The following tips may be useful if you struggle to deal with uncertainty.

#### 1. Develop self-awareness:

Consider developing self-awareness to understand how to deal with uncertainty. Recognizing the particular situations that may create anxiety can be accomplished by first admitting that you struggle with dealing with things outside of your control. Try to be mindful and aware of the patterns of thinking, emoting and behaving in such situations and how have these patterns impacted your relationships/ career/hobbies/emotional state.

This is not to feel awful about not being able to deal with uncertainty. Instead, it's to be aware of what sets off your anxiety response, how it affects your life, and what chances each scenario presents for possible personal growth.

#### 2. Take a pause and name the feeling:

Try to give your fear of uncertainty a name so you can handle it when it starts to arise. "I'm worried about this because I'm afraid of this or that."

By doing this, you might be able to take a moment to reflect on what is occurring and why.

For instance, your boss offers you the chance to work on a fascinating new project. You think it sounds like fun, but you're actually nervous and anxious. Your reaction is to decline the offer, because you're unsure of how it will turn out or because you have doubts about your skills or abilities to finish the assignment.

Instead of being afraid of the situation, take a step back and tell yourself, "I recognize I'm anxious because I'm frightened things won't work out well. However, I have no control over things, and this is an excellent chance. These are the advantages of my taking the offer".

#### 3. Concentrate on the facts:

Try to evaluate the situation based on the evidence rather than your anxious thoughts while making a decision. Your fear may make you believe that the worst-case situation is more likely to occur. You can make a more accurate assessment of the situation by using reasoning.

Cognitive distortions are filtered ideas that could lead you to perceive a situation more adversely than is actually the case. You can turn away from them and concentrate on the evidence by recognizing them.

Using the previous example, you might conclude that you have the ability to provide results and that you are a top performer. You recall that the previous project you oversaw was challenging but a won-

**THIS IS NOT TO FEEL AWFUL ABOUT NOT BEING ABLE to deal with uncertainty. Instead, it's to be aware of what sets off your anxiety response, how it affects your life, and what chances each scenario presents for possible personal growth**

derful success. This could be yet another fantastic chance for growth.

#### 4. Accepting that sometimes things might go wrong and then making peace with the past:

Even if it may be what you fear the most, bad things do happen in life. Not always, but occasionally.

You might purchase a cloth on a whim and subsequently regret it. You might attend a party and become utterly bored. Going to the most expensive restaurant could result in indigestion or stomach upset. It happens.

You might want to conduct some research before making major decisions, such as going to college or purchasing a new car. Nevertheless, it's critical to recognize that, occasionally, even when you do your research, things cannot turn out as you had intended and that is O.K.

You eventually learn something from every mistake and failure. You'll figure out a method to overcome obstacles, whether it involves returning the clothing or changing colleges.

Although "making the incorrect decision" can be frightening, understanding that it will pass and that you can control any consequence at least at the emotional level may help you deal with it.

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**PEOPLE WHO ARE SIGNIFICANTLY INTOLERANT OF UNCERTAINTY** have a strong reaction when exposed to even a small amount of uncertainty just like allergy. They worry and try everything in their power to avoid, reduce, or get rid of the uncertainty. However, being extremely intolerant of uncertainty can be problematic since it might result in a lot of time-consuming and exhausting behaviors."



# Car Or Robot?

## Unlocking The Future Of Autonomous Vehicles

Press Trust Of India



**Technological progress and regulatory approval are key enablers of autonomous vehicles and their mass adoption. But there is one factor that will make or break their success: public acceptance, which represents a significant hurdle.**

**Pedestrians may be able to assist delivery robots that get stuck in the snow or lost in the woods. Starship Technologies, the company behind the iconic white delivery robot, even encourages passersby to give their robots a helping hand when they get stuck.**

Communicating what autonomous vehicles 'see' can improve pedestrians' trust and public acceptance. Can it also lead to the widespread adoption of robots in cities? Autonomous vehicle technology will change how people live and move around in cities. As a mode of transport, the benefits of autonomous vehicles include independence, comfort, and safety for riders.

Applied to services like parcel delivery and waste collection, autonomous technology also promises to address worker shortages and reduce congestion.

Technological progress and regulatory approval are key enablers of autonomous vehicles and their mass adoption. But there is one factor that will make or break their success: public acceptance, which represents a significant hurdle.

The issue of public acceptance not only relates to whether people feel comfortable riding inside a driverless car, it also extends to how other road users interact with the vehicle. Early trials of driverless cars have been met with public backlash, including attacks on vehicles and threats against operators.

Even behavior that is not intended to cause physical damage but is born out of curiosity, such as stepping in front of a driverless car to see its reaction, significantly affects their operational efficiency. A recent study further found that trust remains a concern expressed among all respondents.

Researchers have linked these behavioral patterns and lack of trust to the absence of non-verbal communication cues between vehicles and other road users. For manually driven vehicles, these non-verbal cues, such as eye contact and gestures, are essential to ensuring safety, understanding and trust.

This is particularly pertinent in unstructured traffic and in situations involving vulnerable road users, such as a pedestrian crossing the road in front of a vehicle or in areas where pedestrians and vehicles share the same space.

To overcome the lack of non-verbal cues, studies have investigated ways to communicate the intention of autonomous vehicles, their awareness – what they 'see' – and even

their 'emotions'.

For example, a vehicle could express its frustration when being challenged by a pedestrian deliberately stepping into its path. This vehicle-to-pedestrian communication is achieved through designing so-called external human-machine interfaces that may take the form of simple text or visual displays attached to the front of the vehicle, projections onto the road, and auditory alerts.

In a more distant future, this information could be communicated through augmented reality, as suggested by a study proposing to overlay autonomous vehicles with relevant visual cues.

External human-machine interfaces are a necessary evolution of the traditional blinker, which became widely adopted by car manufacturers in the late 1940s. At their core, fully autonomous vehicles are robots, requiring more advanced communication channels than simple light signals.

But unlike the depiction of Johnny Cab's driverless taxi in the movie Total Recall, they don't come with a humanoid robot driver. Instead, they are part of an automated infrastructure, where the city itself becomes a dis-

tributed robot.

This kind of conceptual shift opens up new perspectives on how road users will interact with autonomous vehicles in future cities, which are expected to come in different shapes and sizes beyond just driverless cars.

Pedestrians may be able to assist delivery robots that get stuck in the snow or lost in the woods. Starship Technologies, the company behind the iconic white delivery robot, even encourages passersby to give their robots a helping hand when they get stuck.

But this relies on bidirectional communication and the ability of the robot to understand human input, which was clearly not the case for a rogue robot driving right into a crime scene.

It is a long road toward robots roaming the city and getting the human-machine interaction right for public acceptance is challenging. This is not only because of the costs of fully functional autonomous vehicles but also the risks associated with real-world studies.

To overcome this risk, many researchers have turned to study digital replicas or 360-degree recordings of real-world situations in a virtual reality environment.

Results from these studies are promising,

suggesting that external human-machine interfaces can improve the trust of road users in autonomous vehicles. In a study of crossing scenarios, 81 per cent of participants reported they felt safer if an external display communicated the vehicle's intention.

In more complex scenarios, such as those in unregulated mixed-traffic environments, the combination of several factors was found to contribute to study participants expressing trust in the vehicle.

These factors include observing the vehicle's interactions with other pedestrians, implicit cues, such as the vehicle slowing down and explicit cues, such as external light signals showing intent and awareness.

Historically, car manufacturers have primarily focused on the safety of their passengers. It's a business strategy as manufacturers can use safety as a selling point. Mercedes-Benz's manager of driver assistance systems even publicly stated that the company would prioritize the safety of passengers over pedestrians in their autonomous vehicle technology.

As we are moving closer to a future in which the city and its infrastructure become automated, this approach requires rethinking. This is key to encouraging active transport and transitioning towards a greener and healthier urban living, reflected also in the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 11.

Manufacturers of autonomous vehicles have a unique opportunity to be a leader in this emerging and rapidly growing market by complementing their focus on technology with a strong understanding of social and human challenges.

The successful adoption of autonomous vehicles in and by cities also requires innovative policies. Regulatory bodies need to emphasize how these vehicles interact with pedestrians and other vulnerable road users not only algorithmically but also through vehicle-to-pedestrian communication channels.

Instead of regulating how cars adopt automation, what might policies look like if we think about cars more as robots that operate in close proximity to people?





## Union MoS For Agri Visits Fruit Mandi Sopore, Listens To Concerns Of Fruit Growers

'Farmers welfare among top priority of present dispensation'



**BARAMULLA:** As part of Union Governments Public Outreach Programme, Union Minister of State (MoS) for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shoba Karandlaje who is on two days visit to Baramulla, Thursday took part in a series of events and activities during the extensive programme.

The Minister also visited developmental projects and took stock of development scenario of the district. At the outset, the Minister paid visit to Fruit Mandi Sopore where she interacted with the Fruit Growers Association, progressive orchardists and farmers.

Deputy Commissioner Baramulla Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar, Senior Superintendent of Police Rayees Mohammad Bhat, Additional Deputy Commissioner Baramulla Zahoor Ahmad Raina, Joint Director Planning Mohammad Yousuf Rather besides other functionaries of concerned departments were present.

During an interaction, the representatives of Fruit Growers Association Sopore and district administration put forth some issues and demands which included establishment of food processing unit and cold storage units and highway upgradation for smooth transportation of fruits. They also appraised the Minister that sufficient funds should be made available for agricultural infrastructure development in Baramulla.

While reiterating that farmers welfare is among the top priority of the present dispensation under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Minister affirmed that all the requests, issues and grievances projected have been

noted and the same would be taken up at Union level as well as with Lieutenant Governor for redressal.

The Minister on the occasion reminded the fruit growers that the Central Government has taken the initiative of public outreach under which 70 ministers are visiting J&K with the view to assess the execution of developmental projects and implementation of various welfare schemes in the UT of J&K besides getting feedback and suggestion from the locals including farmers and other sections.

Later, the Minister also chaired an interactive meeting with several public delegations and PRI representatives at Dak Banglow here and heard various issues related to the developmental scenario of the district.

The Chairperson, District Development Council Baramulla, Safena Beigh appraised the Minister about welfare measures of the farmers. Safina Beigh also highlighted the sale of spurious fertilizers in open markets which needs to be checked for growth of agriculture sector.

DDC Chairperson projected that farmers and growers need to be linked to science and technology for availing benefits under various farmer's welfare schemes.

Meanwhile, various public delegations also projected their demands meant for the overall socio-economic development of the district.

Assuring the representatives of timely resolution of their issues, the Minister said that the Union Government is actively working for the development of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory.

## India's Services Sector Sees Upturn In October On Improved Demand

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** India's services sector activities witnessed an upturn in October on the back of stronger gains in new business and increased hiring amid strengthening demand, a monthly survey said on Thursday.

The seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Services PMI Business Activity Index rose from September's six-month low of 54.3 to 55.1 in October, pointing to a quicker and marked rate of growth.

The headline figure was above the neutral 50 threshold for the fifteenth straight month. In Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

"The October results show us that service providers had no trouble securing new work in October, despite lifting their charges again. Hence, the sector remained firmly inside expansion territory as business activity and payroll numbers were raised to support strengthening demand," Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at S&P Global Market Intelligence, said.

According to the survey, the domestic market was the main source of new business gains, as foreign sales decreased further at the start of the third fiscal quarter. "Monthly deteriorations in international demand have been registered since the onset of COVID-19 in March 2020," it noted.

Ongoing increases in new business and output requirements continued to support job creation in the service economy. Employment rose for the



fifth month in a row and at the second-fastest pace in more than three years.

Optimistic growth projections also boosted job creation in October, with 30 per cent of survey members forecasting higher volumes of business activity by October 2023. Overall, confidence was at its highest level in just under eight years.

"Buoyed by the ongoing recovery in new work, service providers again took on extra staff, with an improvement in business confidence also supporting hiring activity," the survey said.

On the inflation front, the survey said there were mild accelerations in inflation rates for input costs and output charges.

"Many companies indicated that higher food, fuel and retail prices pushed up their overall expenses in October. With some of this additional cost burden shared with customers, prices charged for the provision of services likewise rose," Lima said.

At the sub-sector level, consumer services led growth of

business activity, new orders and employment. Finance & insurance came in second place in the rankings for these three measures while transport, information & communication was at the bottom.

Meanwhile, the S&P Global India Composite PMI Output Index -- which measures combined services and manufacturing output -- rose to 55.5 in October from 55.1 in September, pointing to a marked rate of expansion that outpaced its long-run average.

"There was a mild acceleration in growth of private sector activity in India, as a stronger increase in the service economy more than offset a slowdown among goods producers," it added.

The S&P Global India Services PMI is compiled by S&P Global from responses to questionnaires sent to a panel of around 400 service sector companies. The panel is stratified by detailed sector and company workforce size, based on contributions to GDP. Data collection began in December 2005.

## Top Functionaries Of J&K Bank Visit B2V4 Camps, Distribute Sanction Letters



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** As part of continuous monitoring of Bank's participation in UT Government's flagship 'Back to Village - IV' (B2V4) Programme, J&K Bank General Managers Sunit Kumar and Syed Rais Maqbool today visited few camps organised at various Panchayats in districts of Jammu and Kashmir respectively.

In Jammu, General Manager and Divisional Head (Jammu) Sunit Kumar visited the camp held at Gole Gujral Panchayat Ghar and distributed sanction letters of various self-employment loans among the beneficiaries.

He also presented Keys of e-Rikshaws, financed by the Bank, to the beneficiaries.

In Kashmir, General Manager Syed Rais Maqbool visited various camps across Budgam district including Nasrullahpora village in presence of Under Secretary to J&K Social Welfare Department Rafia Nabi. The dignitaries jointly distributed sanction letters among various beneficiaries who have availed loan under different Government sponsored and employment generation schemes.

Participants at the camps hailed both the Government and J&K Bank for massive outreach under B2V4 programme.

## India Has Cheapest Manufacturing Cost Globally, Bags 31st Position: Report

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** India has been ranked as the nation with the cheapest manufacturing cost ahead of China and Vietnam, according to a report.

According to the US News and World Report, out of 85 nations, India has bagged the 31st position in the overall Best Countries ranking.

India featured at the 37th spot in the 'Open for Business' category.

The report evaluates 85 countries across 73 attributes. Attributes are grouped into 10 sub-categories, including adventure, agility, entrepreneurship, open for business, social purpose and quality of life.

Under the open for business sub-category, India has scored 100 per cent when it comes to cheap manufacturing costs. But in 'favourable tax environment', it has



scored 16.2 out of 100; 18.1 in the 'not corrupt' category and 3.5 in 'transparent government policies'.

Similarly, under the 'quality of life' segment, India has scored 1.9 in 'income equality'; 4.3 in 'safe'; 2.3 in 'well-developed public health system'; and 9.9 in 'economically stable' sub-parameter.

The government has taken steps such as rolling out production linked incentive schemes and reducing compliance burden with a view to make India a global manufacturing hub.

In the overall Best Countries ranking, Switzerland has topped the chart, followed by Germany, Canada, US and Sweden.

## Rate Setting Panel Meets To Discuss, Draft Report On Missing Inflation Target: RBI

Press Trust of India

**MUMBAI:** The Reserve Bank's rate setting panel met on Thursday to discuss and draft a report for the government on why it failed to keep retail inflation below the target of 6 per cent for three consecutive quarters since January this year.

"A separate meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) was held on November 3, 2022 to discuss and draft the report to be sent to the Government by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) under the provisions of Section 452N of the RBI Act, 1934 and Regulation 7 of RBI MPC and Monetary Policy Process Regulations, 2016," the central bank said in a statement.

Section 452N of RBI Act deals with failure to maintain the inflation target.

The meeting was chaired by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das and attended by all MPC members -- Michael Debabrata Patra, Rajiv Ranjan, Shashanka Bhide, Ashima Goyal and Jayanth R Varma.

The RBI Act requires the central bank's MPC to report to the government reasons for failure to meet the retail inflation target as well as measures to bring it at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per

cent on either side. The meeting was called under the provisions of Section 452N of the RBI Act 1934.

It was the first time since the monetary policy framework came into effect in 2016 that RBI had to give an explanation to the government.

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

On Wednesday, Governor Shaktikanta Das defended RBI's policies saying the economy would have taken a "complete downward turn" if it had started to tighten interest rates earlier. The RBI began raising interest rates in May to contain the high inflation in the backdrop of the Russia-Ukraine war and subsequent disruptions in the global supply chain.

Acknowledging that the central bank has missed its primary target as inflation has consistently overshot, Das said there is a need for appreciating the counterfactual aspect as well, and think about the impact of premature tightening which would have hurt recovery.

Berozgar se Swarozgar

## 'Govt Making Reformative Interventions To Amplify Milk Production Across J&K'

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** J&K Government is working on multi-pronged strategy to increase milk production and double the Dairy farmers' income with unique initiative of Integrated Dairy Development Scheme (IDDS).

"With an aim of Doubling Farmers' income from dairying, the Administration is working tirelessly to ensure utmost priority is being extended to dairy development in the union territory by way of implementing various developmental schemes, initiatives, policies, among others," said a spokesperson of the government on Thursday.

IDDS is a major scheme which not only focuses on providing financial assistance, but also supports the dairy producer by providing milking machine, bulk milk cooling unit at 50% subsidy as well as other benefits. The scheme also provides paneer making machine, khoya making machine, dahi making machine, cream separator machine, ice cream making machine, butter and ghee making machine, milk van, milk ATM and DG Set, to aspiring entrepreneurs who try to create their start-ups in dairy sector.

Dairy is one of the most important sectors and the vast population living in rural areas relies on dairy and livestock for their livelihood. Therefore, im-



proving the position of the dairy sector in Jammu and Kashmir is directly proportional to improving the socio-economic condition of people.

One of the beneficiaries Fareeda Bano of Mulnar has established one Dairy Unit comprising of 5 cows under IDDS. Farida had experience in rearing cows but was awaiting an opportunity to extend it on larger scale was a challenge for her.

In the meantime, Fareeda came to know about recently launched IDDS scheme and applied for it. Her unit got approval for establishment and since then there is no looking back.

After establishment of this venture, Fareeda produces around 70-75 litres of milk everyday with the presence of around eight quality heifers. She has expressed her gratitude to Animal Husbandry Department and all the staff that stood with her during the course of establishment and making it a very hassle free process.

## SHORT TAKES

### Sharma Reviews Issues Regarding Mining Sector

**JAMMU:** Secretary, Mining Department, Amit Sharma, Thursday chaired a meeting with senior officers and all stakeholders of Mining Department to review various issues pertaining to Mining sector in Jammu and Kashmir here at Civil Secretariat. Director, Geology and Mining, O P Bhagat; Joint Directors, G&M, Jammu and Kashmir; District Mineral Officers; representatives of Lessees, Crusher unit and brick kiln holders, MDL holders besides senior officers of Mining and allied departments were present in the meeting in person and through VC.

Secretary exhorted upon all stakeholders of Mining department including stone crusher unit holders, Mining Lessees, brick kiln holders and Mineral Dealer holders to install weighing bridges for ensuring transparency in transportation of all kinds of raw and finished material. He said that the weighing bridges are required to be integrated with the e-Market place/e-challan Web Portal developed by the Geology and Mining Department for ensuring utmost transparency in sale and purchase besides transportation of minerals.

He asked the stakeholder department to expedite issuance of NOCs pending with Stakeholders Department under Single Window System in respect of newly carved out Minor Mineral Blocks/e-auctioned Minor Mineral Blocks (pending with JKEIAA) as per fresh format devised by J&K Environment Impact Assessment Authority (JKEIAA), so that timely action is taken regarding their e-auctioning. *ONS*

### Bank Of England Makes Biggest Interest Rate Hike In 30 Yrs

**LONDON:** The Bank of England has announced its biggest interest rate increase in three decades as it tries to beat back stubbornly high inflation fuelled by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the disastrous economic policies of former Prime Minister Liz Truss.

The central bank boosted its key rate by three-quarters of a percentage point on Thursday, to 3 per cent, after consumer price inflation returned to a 40-year high in September.

The aggressive move was expected after a more cautious half-point hike six weeks ago and comes as the bank sees a "very challenging outlook" for the UK economy.

"High energy, food and other bills are hitting people hard. Households have less to spend on other things. This has meant that the size of the UK economy has started to fall," the bank said in its November monetary policy report.

In its latest projections, the bank expects the country "to be in recession for a prolonged period" and inflation to stay above 10 per cent in the near term.

The interest rate decision is the first since Truss' government announced 45 billion pounds (USD 52 billion) of unfunded tax cuts that sparked turmoil on financial markets, pushed up mortgage costs and forced Truss from office after just six weeks. *AP*

### Rupee Falls 8 Paise To 82.88 Against US Dollar

**MUMBAI:** The rupee depreciated by 8 paise to close at 82.88 against the US dollar on Thursday, after the US Federal Reserve raised interest rates and maintained a hawkish stance.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 82.87 and witnessed a high of 82.74 and a low of 82.92.

It finally settled at 82.88 against the American currency, registering a fall of 8 paise over its last close of 82.80.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 1.39 per cent to 112.89.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures slipped 1.16 per cent to USD 95.04 per barrel.

On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex fell 69.68 points or 0.11 per cent to end at 60,836.41, while the broader NSE Nifty declined 30.15 points or 0.17 per cent to 18,052.70.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the capital markets as they purchased shares worth Rs 677.62 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data.

Meanwhile, the Reserve Bank's rate setting panel on Thursday met to finalise a report for the government on why it failed to keep retail inflation below the target of 6 per cent for three consecutive quarters since January this year. *PTI*

### Markets Extend Losses Post Fed Rate Hike

**MUMBAI:** Market benchmarks stayed on the backfoot for the second session on the trot on Thursday, in tandem with a lacklustre trend overseas after the US Fed delivered the fourth straight 75-bps interest rate hike to tame scorching inflation.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 69.68 points or 0.11 per cent to settle at 60,836.41. During the day, it tanked 420.95 points or 0.69 per cent to 60,485.14. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty dipped 30.15 points or 0.17 per cent to end at 18,052.70. Tech Mahindra was the top laggard in the Sensex pack, dropping 2.66 per cent, followed by PowerGrid, NTPC, Infosys, Wipro, M&M and TCS.

In contrast, SBI, Titan, Bharti Airtel, Tata Steel, HUL and IndusInd Bank were among the winners, climbing up to 1.89 per cent.

"The US Fed hiked rates by 75 bps to a range of 3.75 to 4 per cent, which is at its highest level since 2008. However, it also indicated a tapering off of subsequent hikes in order to bring inflation back to around the 2 per cent target."

"This could be indicative of a similar position taken by the central bank in India to continue raising the repo rate in lower increments going forward to keep a check on inflation until global macros reach some level of stability," said Karan Desai, Founder - Interface Ventures. *PTI*

### 'India, UK Working Sincerely On Free Trade Agreement'

**NEW DELHI:** India on Thursday said it is working "sincerely" with the UK for finalisation of the proposed free trade agreement, days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his British counterpart Rishi Sunak agreed on the "early conclusion" of the deal.

"Both sides are working sincerely on the free trade agreement," External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said. His comments came when asked about the FTA during a media briefing.

"As we have said earlier, the matter of negotiations is best left to the trade ministers and their teams of officials. I cannot comment on the status. I certainly do not have any target date," Bagchi said. The issue of the FTA figured in the first telephonic conversation between the two prime ministers on October 27.

In a tweet on his talks with Sunak, Modi said: "Congratulated him on assuming charge as UK PM. We will work together to further strengthen our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. We also agreed on the importance of early conclusion of a comprehensive and balanced FTA." In April, the two sides had set a Diwali deadline for concluding the FTA but the deal could not be finalised in view of differences over certain issues.

It is learnt that External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and British Foreign Secretary James Cleverly took stock of the ongoing negotiations for the FTA during their talks here last week. *PTI*



# Back To Village' IV: Principal Secretary PDD Performs Multiple Activities In Bhaderwah

**BHADERWAH:** Principal Secretary, Power Development Department (PDD), H Rajesh Prasad, who was Visiting Officer for Chinote panchayat of Bhaderwah block under ambitious 'Back to Village' programme phase IV, performed multiple activities which witnessed huge public participation of all stakeholders.

Prasad conducted special Gram Sabha at panchayat Ghar,

Akhrot Bagh, Chinote and took stock of grievances and demands raised by the participants.

He issued on spot directions to the concerned officers to prepare a Detailed Project Report for all feasible works projected by the people.

Principal Secretary held Mahila Sabha and Bal Sabha at High School Mathola and interacted with women and children there. He also distributed

sports kits among the children.

Prasad was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner, Doda, Vishesh Paul Mahajan, SSP Doda Abdul Qayoom, ADC Bhaderwah, Chowdhary Dil Mir, ACD, Doda, Phulail Singh and other officers.

On the occasion, Prasad launched "Know your real Heroes", an initiative of district administration. Pertinently, "Know your real Heroes" is a special initiative of first of its kind in

whole of the UT in which all the real heroes of Doda district who sacrificed their precious lives for our safety and security shall be honoured and introduced to our youth. Under the initiative, photographs of 150 martyr soldiers from army, paramilitary and JKP would be placed in every school of the district so that our young generation would know about the real heroes of the district.

A cultural programme was

also presented by the students of HS Mathola during the event.

Principal Secretary, while interacting with media, reiterated that the main aim of 'Back to Village' programme is to bring administration at the doorsteps of the people living in far flung villages. He said that he shall take special care of the demands and aspirations of the area and try his best to ensure rapid growth and development of the area.

# Thieves Steal An Entire School In South Africa's Cape Town, Brick By Brick

AGENCEIS

Everyone has probably seen or heard about theft incidents multiple times because they are so prevalent in today's world. However, there is an unusual story of theft that will undoubtedly astonish everyone. In South Africa, thieves made an entire school disappear. They stole things in such a way that only the foundation was left in the substantial school building.

According to the British newspaper Metro, a South African school has completely vanished after thieves removed every single one of its bricks. Uitzig Secondary School, in Cape Town, has been reduced to just its foundations within six months of it closing in 2019. People who ransacked the once-proud institution took every single brick, window, and roof tile, along with all the toilets, electrics, plumbing, and blackboards.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

## Unemployment Rate

jumped to a grueling 25 percent. However, the rate came down in the following months till July.

Pertinently, a superficial look at the month of march, when J&K was standing at an unemployment rate of 25%, had brought into forth that roughly over 1.1 million people were jobless in J&K.

Another credible labor survey report which substantiates the chronic unemployment scenario in the region was published by the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The urban unemployment since the highly infective second Covid wave in Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, remained at very high levels, as per the periodic labor force survey (PLFS) data.

However, as per the administration, unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir has remained a big concern for the past 70 years and in the absence of a private sector, people used to do anything to get a prestigious government job as it was considered a guarantee for a secure future.

For the first time in history of J-K, recruitments have been done on merit basis, in a transparent manner which is a living example of how corruption-free, transparent and just system contributes to the progress of the marginalized class and wherever wrongdoings were alleged, investigation was launched by credible and top law enforcement agencies, the administration said.

Even J&K's Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, last year, had said his focus is on providing job opportunities to 80 percent of the young population within the next five years.

Meanwhile, as per CMIE, India's national average was recorded at 7.6 percent.

## Terrorism Counting

Rs 600 crore for Samridh Seema Yojana this year is a reflection of the administration's commitment to empower and strengthen Panchayati Raj Institutions, border villages and addressing challenges by harmonising policies and programmes, ensuring that the benefits of development reach all sections, granting every citizen their due rights and entitlements.

The principle of transparency and zero tolerance towards corruption has revolutionised the implementation of projects, he said.

"Fear-free corruption-free system has been established through paperless, faceless administrative mechanisms. This system has ensured that every citizen can keep track of every rupee being spent in their locality", the LG added.

## India Rejects China

Wednesday following talks between Sharif and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Bagchi said India noted the joint statement that contained several "unwarranted references" to the Indian Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and also mentioned projects under the so-called CPEC and its extension to third countries.

"We have consistently rejected such statements and all parties concerned are well aware of our clear position on these matters. The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the Union Territory of Ladakh are and always will be integral and inalienable parts of India. No other country has locus standi to comment on the same," he added.

"As regards the so-called China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, we have consistently conveyed our protest and our concerns to China and Pakistan. CPEC includes projects on the sovereign territory of India under forcible and illegal external occupation."

In his talks with President Xi, Sharif reaffirmed his government's willingness to "commit to high quality development" of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and highlighted the salience of the CPEC to Pakistan's economic and social development, according to the joint statement.

The statement said the Chinese side reiterated that the Kashmir issue was a "dispute left from history" that should be properly and peacefully resolved based on the UN Charter, relevant UN Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements".

## Kashmir Apple

and Vegetable Traders president Metha Ram Kriplani told PTI.

Kriplani, who is also a member of the Delhi Agricultural Marketing Board and president of the Kashmir Apple Merchants Association, listed several reasons for this.

"There was a quality bumper crop this season, but the expenses like packaging and transportation charges have almost doubled compared to last year. The rates are directly linked to the supply and demand, and since the supply is more, the product rate is down by about 30 per cent," he said.

Grower-cum-trader Bashir Ahmad Baba, a resident of Chrar-e-Sharief in central Kashmir's Budgam district, said hopes of a good return for the produce this season have dashed, and most of the growers and traders were apprehensive of their financial wellbeing.

"The frequent closure of the Srinagar-Jammu national highway due to landslides during the peak harvesting season and the stranding of fruit-laden trucks for days together have had its impact as we were late to the mandis," Baba said.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration shifted the senior superintendent of police, Srinagar-Jammu national highway, in September after political parties slammed it for alleged failure to facilitate smooth movement of fruit-laden trucks from Kashmir to outside markets.

Chief Secretary A K Mehta visited the landslide-prone areas on the highway several times to ensure that debris was removed immediately and fruit-laden trucks cleared on priority.

Baba said the expenses on each apple box weighing 16 kg is over Rs 500, which includes packaging, freight charges and use of pesticides and fertilizers but "we are only getting an average of Rs 400 per box".

More than half of Kashmir's population is directly or indirectly linked to the horticulture industry, which is said to be worth Rs 10,000 crore. The annual production of apple is around 21 lakh metric tonnes. It is cultivated over an area of 1.45 lakh hectares of land.

"The government has to come forward and rescue us, otherwise it is very difficult to overcome the huge losses given the prevailing conditions," Baba, who is also the Budgam district president of the Kashmir valley fruit growers and dealers union, said.

Supporting Baba's demand, Kriplani said the central government has to pay full attention to the horticulture industry in Jammu and Kashmir which has a lot of potential to generate employment across the country.

"It is our humanitarian and religious duty to safeguard them (growers) The government can provide subsidies on the products used in packaging, provide good quality cardboard boxes, fix transportation charges and abolish tax on trucks transporting fruit. If there is a decline in expenses, farmers and those linked with the (apple) trade can be saved from distress," he said.

Kriplani advocated a waiver of interest on bank loans and also soft loans for farmers, saying, "The situation is such that they might lose a huge chunk of their capital this season and may not be able to pay back their monthly installments on loans."

He said the chamber was ready to share its experience, including organising regular workshops in the Valley, to modernise the horticulture sector.

Kriplani, a frequent visitor to Kashmir over the past many decades, suggested construction of macadamised roads covering all orchards for fruit transportation, setting up of controlled atmosphere (CA) cold stores at the village level and encouraging farmers to install the latest machinery for grading.

Advocating a duty on apples imported from Iran via Afghanistan to avoid taxes, he said it was the government's job to ensure that farmers in the country can sell their produce at right costs.

"Kashmiri apples are also exported to different countries, including Bangladesh. The government should take measures to include the product in duty-free items after taking up the issue with the governments concerned," he added.

Truck drivers Shabir Ahmad Dar and Bashir Ahmad, who had reached the Azadpur Mandi from the valley to unload their fruit-laden vehicles, said the disruption of traffic on the highway forced the growers to hold back their

produce.

"The apple from both plains and hilly areas reached the markets in bulk together. Usually, the apple from plains of the valley comes before those from the hilly areas, especially Himachal Pradesh, which has also recorded a good crop this season," Ahmad said, adding that the markets failed to stabilise after the initial jerk.

He said all controlled atmosphere (CA) cold stores in the valley are packed and "we are expecting that the transportation of the apple will continue for the next four months".

## 2 Migrant Workers

by terrorist to come out to engage in a work. Once both came out, #terrorist fired upon them with pistol. We are investigating on top priority. Culprit would be brought to justice soon," Police posted a Tweet quoting ADGP Kumar.

Earlier, police in another Tweet said "Terrorist fired upon two outside labourers (01 from Bihar & second from Nepal), who were working at a private SAPS school at #Bondialgam in #Anantnag district. Both of them are being shifted to hospital. Further details shall follow."

## 3 Infiltrators Killed

challenged the infiltrators who opened fire on them, he said.

In an ensuing fire fight, three terrorists was killed, the officials said.

Body of one of the terrorists has been recovered along with two AK-47 rifles, a pistol and war-like stores, the spokesman said.

The villagers in PoK carried back the bodies of the other two terrorists, the officials said.

The operation continues and a search of the area is underway, the defence spokesman said.

## Omar Not To

that the constituency incharges named by National Conference would get the party mandate for assembly elections.

People are making up a lot of things. If we start to respond to each and everything, how can we function then? No one is the MLA candidate. We will have talks about coalitions and also about PAGD, he said.

The former chief minister said the elections in Jammu and Kashmir were still some time away.

There is time in conduct of the elections. What combinations emerge will be seen at that time only, he said.

## HC Reshuffles

Pulwama against the available vacancy.

Suresh Chander Katal, Additional District & Sessions Judge, Udhampur has been transferred and posted as Principal District and Sessions Judge, Anantnag.

Virender Singh Bhou, Principal District & Sessions Judge, Bhaderwah has been transferred and posted as 1st Additional District and Sessions Judge, Jammu against the available vacancy.

Rajeev Gupta, Principal Secretary to the Chief Justice has been transferred and posted as Member, J&K Special Tribunal Jammu on deputation against the available vacancy.

Rupali Ratta, District Judge, LRP, has been transferred and her services are placed at the disposal of the Chief Justice for her further posting in the Registry of the High Court.

Suneet Gupta, Additional District & Sessions Judge, Doda has been transferred and posted as Principal District and Sessions Judge, Bhaderwah.

Ritesh Kumar Dubey, Additional Sessions Judge, Anti Corruption, Jammu has been transferred and posted as Principal District and Sessions Judge, Ganderbal.

Ranbir Singh Jasrotia, District Judge, presently posted P.O MACT, Jammu has been repatriated from deputation and posted as Principal District & Sessions Judge, Ramban.

Aijaz Ahmad Khan, Principal District & Sessions Judge, Kargil has been transferred and his services are placed at the disposal of Hon'ble the Chief Justice for his further posting in the Registry of the High Court.

Mohammad Ashraf Khan, 1st Additional District & Sessions Judge, Baramulla has been transferred and posted as Presiding Officer, MACT Jammu, on deputation Ranbir Singh Jasrotia

Surjeet Singh Bali, Additional Judge Family Court, Jammu has been

transferred and posted as District Judge, LRP, High Court Wing Jammu.

O.P. Bhagat, Principal District & Sessions Judge, Leh has been transferred and posted as Additional Sessions Judge, AntiCorruption, Jammu vice Ritesh Kumar Dubey.

Mohammad Ashraf Bhat, 2nd Additional District & Sessions Judge, Srinagar has been transferred and posted as Principal District and Sessions Judge, Kulgam.

Pradeep Kumar, District Judge, presently posted P.O MACT, Srinagar has been repatriated from deputation and posted as Additional Judge Family Court Jammu.

Amarijit Singh Langeh, Civil Judge (Sr. Division)/SubJudge upon his appointment as District Judge on adhoc basis, has been posted as Additional District & Sessions Judge.

Sandeep Kour, Civil Judge (Sr. Division)/Sub-Judge upon her appointment as District Judge on adhoc basis, has been posted as Additional District & Sessions Judge, Anti-Corruption Court, Srinagar against available vacancy.

Amit Gupta, Civil Judge (Sr. Division)/Sub-Judge upon his appointment as District Judge on adhoc basis, has been transferred and his services are placed at the disposal of the Chief Justice for his further posting in the Registry of the High Court.

Sandeep Gandotra, Civil Judge (Sr. Division)/Sub-Judge upon his appointment as District Judge on adhoc basis, has been posted as Presiding Officer MACT, Srinagar.

Services of Anoop Sharma, Civil Judge (Sr. Division)/Sub-Judge upon his appointment as District Judge on adhoc basis has been placed at the disposal of the Chief Justice for his further posting in the Registry of the High Court.

Farooq Ahmad Bhat, Civil Judge (Sr. Division)/Su b-Judge upon his appointment as District Judge on adhoc basis, has been posted as Presiding Officer, Fast Track Court, Budgam against available vacancy.

Shabir Ahmad Malik, Civil Judge (Sr. Division)/SubJudge upon his appointment as District Judge on adhoc basis, has been posted as 1st Additional District & Sessions Judge, Baramulla.

Arvind Sharma, Civil Judge (Sr. Division)/Sub-Judge upon his appointment as District Judge on adhoc basis, has been posted as Additional District & Sessions Judge, Ganderbal against available vacancy.

Yashpaul Sharma, Civil Judge (Sr. Division)/Sub-Judge upon his appointment as District Judge on adhoc basis, has been posted as Principal District & Sessions Judge, Leh vice O.P. Bhagat.

Amit Sharma, Civil Judge (Sr. Division)/Sub-Judge upon his appointment as District Judge on adhoc basis, has been posted as Principal District & Sessions Judge, Bandipora against available vacancy.

Khursheed-ul-Islam, Civil Judge (Sr. Division)/Sub-Judge upon his appointment as District Judge on adhoc basis, has been posted as Additional District & Sessions Bandipora, against available vacancy.

Arti Mohan, Civil Judge (Sr. Division)/Sub-Judge upon her appointment as District Judge on adhoc basis, has been posted as Additional District & Sessions Bandipora, against available vacancy.

Pawan Sharma, Civil Judge (Sr. Division)/Sub-Judge upon his appointment as District Judge on adhoc basis, has been posted as Additional District & Sessions Judge, Baramulla against available vacancy.

Iqbal Ahmad Masoodi, Civil Judge (Sr. Division)/SubJudge upon his appointment as District Judge on adhoc basis, has been posted as Principal District & Sessions Judge, Kargil.

Rainu Dogra, Civil Judge (Sr. Division)/Sub-Judge upon her appointment as District Judge on adhoc basis, has been posted as 2 Additional District & Sessions Judge, Srinagar.

Ms. Sudesh Sharma, Civil Judge (Sr. Division)/Sub-Judge upon her appointment as District Judge on adhoc basis, has been posted as Presiding Officer, Fast Track Court, Doda against available vacancy.

Services of Spalzes Angmo, Civil Judge (Sr. Division)/Sub-Judge upon her appointment as District Judge on

adhoc basis, have been placed at the disposal of the Chief Justice for her further posting in the Registry of the High Court.

Adnan Syed, Civil Judge (Sr. Division)/Sub-Judge upon his appointment as District Judge on adhoc basis, has been posted as Additional District & Sessions Judge, Samba against available vacancy.

Khem Raj, Civil Judge (Sr. Division)/Sub-Judge upon his appointment as District Judge on adhoc basis, has been posted as Presiding Officer, Fast Track Court, Kupwara against available vacancy.

Dinesh Gupta, Civil Judge (Sr. Division)/Sub-Judge upon his appointment as District Judge on adhoc basis, has been posted as Additional District & Sessions Judge, Udhampur.

Parvaiz Iqbal, Civil Judge (Sr. Division)/Sub-Judge upon his appointment as District Judge on adhoc basis, has been posted as Additional District & Sessions Judge, Poonch against available vacancy.

Similarly, 44 Civil Judges (Senior Division)/Sub Judges have been transferred and posted, according to the order.

Vishaish Kumar Parihar, Civil Judge (Sr. Division)/SubJudge, presently attached with Registrar Judicial, High Court Jammu wing has been transferred and posted as Chief Judicial Magistrate, Handwara.

Mahmud Anwar Al-Nasir, Civil Judge (Sr. Division)/SubJudge, presently attached with Registrar Judicial, High Court Srinagar wing has been transferred and posted as Chief Judicial Magistrate, Kishtwar.

Prem Sagar, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Doda has been transferred and his services are placed at the disposal of the Chief Justice for his further posting in the Registry of the High Court.

Ms. Archana Charak, Joint Registrar Inspection, High Court Wing Jammu has been transferred and posted as Chief Judicial Magistrate, Reasi vice Ms. Sudesh Sharma.

Manoj Parihar, Sub-Judge Katra, has been transferred and posted as Chief Judicial Magistrate, Udhampur. Bashir Ahmad Munshi, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Udhampur, has been transferred and posted as Chief Judicial Magistrate, Ramban.

Raja Tasleem, Chief Judicial Magistrate Anantnag, has been transferred and posted as Chief Judicial Magistrate, Srinagar.

Manjeet Rai, City Judge, Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Chief Judicial Magistrate, Rajouri.

Ms. Anjum Ara, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Ramban, has been transferred and posted as Chief Judicial Magistrate, Jammu.

Rajni Sharma, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Udhampur, has been transferred and posted as Special Mobile Magistrate (Traffic), Jammu.

Vinod Kumar, Civil Judge (Sr. Division)/Sub-Judge, LRP High Court Jammu Wing, has been transferred and posted as Electricity Magistrate, Jammu.

Mansoor Ahmad Lone, Sub-Judge Baramulla, has been transferred and posted as Chief Judicial Magistrate, Pulwama.

Parveen Pandoh, Municipal Magistrate, Jammu, has been transferred and his services are placed at the disposal of the Chief Justice for his further posting in the Registry of the High Court.

Faizan-ul-Haq Iqbal, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Sopore, has been transferred and posted as Chief Judicial Magistrate, Anantnag.

Noor Mohammad Mir, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Srinagar, has been transferred and posted as Chief Judicial Magistrate, Budgam.

Ms. Swati Gupta, Civil Judge (Sr. Division)/Sub-Judge, LRP, High Court Wing Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Chief Judicial Magistrate, Kathua.

Adil Mushtaq, Special Mobile Magistrate Anantnag, has been transferred and posted as Chief Judicial Magistrate, Sopore.

Ms. Fozia Paul, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Budgam, has been transferred and posted as Secretary District Legal Services Authority, Srinagar.

Mehreen Mushtaq, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Kulgam, has been transferred and

posted as Municipal Magistrate, Srinagar, according to the order.

Feroz Ahmad Khan, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Shopian, has been transferred and posted as Forest Magistrate, Srinagar.

Imran Hussain Wani, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Kishtwar, has been transferred and posted as Sub-Judge Vailoo.

Ms. Preet Simran Koul, Special Mobile Magistrate, Udhampur, has been transferred and posted as Chief Judicial Magistrate Samba.

Fayaz Ahmad Qureshi, Judge Small Causes Court, Srinagar, has been transferred and posted as Chief Judicial Magistrate, Ganderbal.

Sheikh Gowher Hussain, Special Mobile Magistrate, Pulwama, has been transferred and posted as Special Mobile Magistrate, Budgam.

Geeta Kumari, Sub-Judge, Nowshera, has been transferred and posted as Chief Judicial Magistrate, Doda. Javed Rana, Sub-Judge, Trehgam, has been transferred and posted as Special Mobile Magistrate, Poonch. Jehangir Bakshi, Special Mobile Magistrate, Budgam, has been transferred and posted as Special Mobile Magistrate (Traffic), Srinagar.

Ms. Tabassum, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Ganderbal, has been transferred and posted as Judge Small Causes Court, Srinagar.

Ms. Anjana Rajput, Special Mobile Magistrate, Kathua, has been transferred and posted as Sub-Judge, Nowshera.

Munish Kumar Manhas, Special Mobile Magistrate, Bhaderwah, has been transferred and posted as Special Mobile Magistrate (P&T), Jammu.

Wajahat Hussain, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Poonch, has been transferred and posted as Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Rajouri.

Surinder Kumar Thappa, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Rajouri, has been transferred and posted as Special Mobile Magistrate, Kathua. Sarfaraz Nawaz, Special Mobile Magistrate Poonch, has been transferred and posted as Special Mobile Magistrate Anantnag.

Tsewang Phunsong, Chief Judicial Magistrate Kargil, has been transferred and posted as Chief Judicial Magistrate Leh.

Manzoor Hussain, Sub-Judge, Vailoo, has been transferred and posted as Sub-Judge, Baramulla.

Phunsog Angmo, Special Mobile Magistrate Leh, has been transferred and posted as Chief Judicial Magistrate Kargil.

Meyank Gupta, Municipal Magistrate, Srinagar, has been transferred and posted as Municipal Magistrate Jammu.

Ms. Rekha Kapoor, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Reasi, has been transferred and posted as Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Samba.

Pooja Raina, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Kathua, has been transferred and posted as City Judge, Jammu.

Ms. Pooja Gupta, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Ramban, has been transferred and posted as SubJudge, Jammu.

Fariqa Nazir, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Bandipora, has been transferred and posted as Special Mobile Magistrate (P&T), Srinagar.

Salahuddin Ahmed, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Samba, has been transferred and posted as Special Mobile Magistrate Udhampur.

Ms. Nusrat Ali, Joint Registrar Inspection, High Court Wing Srinagar, has been transferred and posted as Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Ganderbal and Sunil Kumar, Special Mobile Magistrate (P&T), Srinagar, has been transferred and posted as Sub-Judge, Katra.

## 3 Tourists

We called SHO Gulmarg and a police team reached in no time and rescued us," one of the tourists said.

"Without the police help we would not have been able to return safely and we thank police wholeheartedly," he added.

## OGW Arrested

"Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 314/2022 under relevant sections of law has been registered at PS Pulwama and investigation has been initiated," he added.



# Ronaldo, Messi & Others Likely Playing At Last World Cup

Agencies

**BERLIN:** Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi are among a handful of players hoping for a final hurrah in what is likely to be their last World Cup appearance.

Besides those two, there's also Robert Lewandowski, Luis Suárez, Luka Modric, Dani Alves, Manuel Neuer and Thomas Müller.

Hanging on for the next World Cup in 2026 in North America might just be a step too far for these veterans.

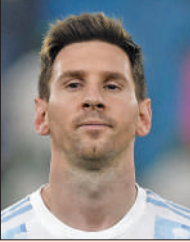
**CRISTIANO RONALDO (Portugal)**



Perhaps ominously for Portugal's Group H rivals, the 37-year-old Ronaldo has endured a frustrating season so far at Manchester United and will be eager to show what he can do in Qatar. Ronaldo is already the all-time top-scorer in men's interna-

tional soccer with 117 goals and has made a Portuguese record 191 appearances.

**LIONEL MESSI (Argentina)**



So much of Argentina's hope is pinned on the little artist from Rosario. The 35-year-old Messi has eclipsed Ronaldo with seven Ballon d'Or titles, all but the last of those coming for his outstanding play while at Barcelona. Now with Qatari-backed Paris Saint-Germain, Messi missed out on the 30-man shortlist for the 2022 Ballon d'Or award. Messi, however, has regained his form this season.

**ROBERT LEWANDOWSKI (Poland)**

The 34-year-old Lewandowski perhaps never got the credit he deserved in the shadow cast by Messi and Ronaldo. Lewandowski quietly kept scoring goals for Borussia Dortmund, then Bayern Munich,



where he racked up 312 goals in 384 appearances before his recent switch to Barcelona. Lewandowski is Poland's undisputed leader, the team captain and record scorer with 76 goals in 134 appearances, including nine goals during qualifying for the World Cup.

**LUIS SUÁREZ (Uruguay)**



Uruguay's all-time leading scorer with 134 goals, the 35-year-old Suárez is set to play at his fourth World Cup tournament. It will be his first while playing back with boyhood club Nacional in the Uruguayan capital of Montevideo after a storied career that wasn't without controversy

at Ajax, Liverpool, Barcelona and Atlético Madrid. Suárez was sent home from the 2014 World Cup for biting Italy defender Giorgio Chiellini on the shoulder during a group game.

**LUKA MODRIĆ (Croatia)**



The 37-year-old Modrić is one of those players who seems to be getting better with age. Now in his 10th season with Real Madrid, Modrić played a key role in a decade of success for the Spanish club, winning five Champions League titles and three league titles in that time. He also won the Ballon d'Or in 2018. For Croatia, he's just as important — the all-seeing controller in midfield, the driving force.

**DANI ALVES (Brazil)**

One of the best attacking right backs ever to play the game, the



39-year-old Alves is determined to finish his international career on a high, particularly after missing the last World Cup because of a knee injury. Alves has only played in two World Cups, in 2010 and 2014. He came to prominence with lightning runs up and down the right side of the field in a successful spell at Sevilla before moving to Barcelona in 2008.

**MANUEL NEUER (Germany)**



The 36-year-old Neuer is undoubtedly one of the best goalkeepers to have emerged from Germany. Despite the strength of rivals like Barcelona's

Marc-André ter Stegen or Eintracht Frankfurt's Kevin Trapp, Neuer has maintained his No. 1 status since claiming the spot at the 2010 World Cup. The Bayern Munich captain was voted goalkeeper of the tournament when Germany won in 2014. This year's tournament will be his fourth World Cup.

**THOMAS MÜLLER (Germany)**



The 33-year-old Müller scored five goals at the 2010 World Cup and has been an almost ever-present for Germany and Bayern Munich since. When not scoring goals in typical Müller fashion — he has always had an uncanny knack for being in the right place at the right time — Müller can be seen encouraging his teammates and passing on tips and advice to younger players. (AP)

## J&K Bank, FC One Enter Positive Kashmir Finals

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** J&K Bank and FC One on Thursday entered the finals of 2nd Positive Kashmir Invitational Football Tournament being played at Synthetic Turf TRC.

Two semifinal matches were played on Thursday, and in the first match, J&K Bank defeated Ali Jana FC 5-1. Bank's talismanic striker Aakif Reshi scored a hat trick and was adjudged man of the match.

Nazir Ahmed, National Referee was the chief guest on the occasion.

In the second semifinal, FC One took on Downtown Heroes FC. The contest turned out to be a fiery one, with lots of specta-

tors present for the match.

FC One took the lead in the first half via Mehran Hilal against the run of the play. FC One then doubled their lead in the second half with Shafqat scoring on the counter. Downtown Heroes were awarded a penalty which they were unable to convert, thus the final score read 2-0.

Furkan of FC One was adjudged man of the match.

Mahin Shah, Director Pinco Polymers was the chief guest on the occasion.

The final match is scheduled to be played between JK Bank and FC One on 5th November with kick off at 4:45 pm.

The tournament is organised by The Positive Kashmir, a valley based NGO.



## A-Division League's 2nd Round Begins



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The 2nd round of Annual A-Division Football League 2022 began on Thursday at Polo Ground (West).

The first match of the day was played between Muslimeen United and Real Cosmos. Both teams played aggressive football and tried enough to score. However, it was Muslimeen United who won by solitary goal through Shahid Reshi.

The second match was played between Alamdar FC and Ali Jana (B). Both teams attacked each other and after some time Alamdar FC dominated the game and held the ball in their control and scored the first goal in the 7th minute through Su-

hail. The team got its second goal through Kaiser Iqbal in the 21st minute.

Ali Jana reduced the deficit in 23rd minute and the score read 2-1 at the end of the first half.

The second half saw both teams play classic football, with Ali Jana trying to equalise and Alamdar looking to maintain their lead. Eventually, the match ended in favour of Alamdar FC as they won the match 2-1.

According to the fixtures list, the next round of matches will be played on November 5. Spartans FC will play Alamdar FC at 2 pm, while Al-Hilal FC will take on Muslimeen United at 3 pm. Both matches will be played at Polo Ground. The A-Division League is organised by DFA Srinagar.

## Pakistan Beat SA To Keep Semi Final Hopes Alive



Press Trust of India

**SYDNEY:** Shadab Khan produced a special all-round effort as Pakistan kept their semifinal hopes alive with a 33-run win over South Africa in a rain-curtailed T20 World Cup match here on Thursday. Shadab first led Pakistan's strong batting display with a scintillating 22-ball 52, propelling them to 185 for nine after opting to bat.

Shaheen Shah Afridi (3/14) and Shadab (2/16) then blew away the South African top or-

der as the Proteas could manage 108 for 9 in 14 overs. As per DLS method, South Africa were set a revised target of 142 runs in 14 overs after the rain interruption.

South Africa missed the services of their ace batter David Miller who was ruled out due to an injury as the Proteas lost wickets at regular intervals in a bid to hit boundaries and sixes.

With the win, Pakistan (4 points) moved up to the third spot in group 2 While South Africa (5 points) continued to stay second behind leaders In-

dia (6 points).

Earlier, Pakistan recovered from 43 for four to post 185 for nine. Shadab Khan (52 off 22) and Iftikhar Ahmed (51 off 35) smashed entertaining half-centuries to help the team set up a challenging total.

**Brief Scores:**

Pakistan 185/9 in 20 overs (Shadab Khan 52, Iftikhar Ahmed 51; Anrich Nortje 4/41).

South Africa: 108 for 9 in 14 overs (D/L method) (Temba Bavuma 36; Shaheen Shah Afridi 3/14).

## Kohli, Rodrigues, Sharma Nominated For ICC 'POTM'

Press Trust of India

**DUBAI:** Batting maestro Virat Kohli, along with the Asia Cup winning duo of Jemimah Rodrigues and Deepti Sharma, were on Thursday nominated for the ICC 'Player of the Month' award in the men's and women categories, respectively.

The nominations are for the month of October.

While Kohli has been nominated for the first time, following his heroics with the bat in the T20 World Cup wins

against arch-rivals Pakistan and the Netherlands, Rodrigues and Sharma were shortlisted after they played pivotal roles in the Indian women's team's Asia Cup triumph.

Kohli registered 205 runs in October, showing glimpses of his very best form. He looked at ease in scoring an unbeaten 62 against a dogged Netherlands.

However, the highlight was the era-defining innings played in front of a full house in Melbourne, as his side claimed a historic victory against Pakistan.

The display saw Kohli lift his side from 31 for four to chase down 160 off the final ball, thanks to a magnificent 82 not out from 53 balls.

South Africa's David Miller and Sikandar Raza of Zimbabwe were also nominated alongside Kohli.

Nida Dar is the final women's candidate in contention for claiming the award for October as her handy contributions with bat and ball drove Pakistan to the semi-finals of the Asia Cup.



## A Giant Maradona Mural Emerges In Argentina

Agencies

**BUENOS AIRES:** In the middle of the concrete jungle that is Argentina's bustling capital, a huge mural has emerged of Diego Maradona wearing a national team jersey, his right hand in a fist and a defiant expression on his face.

The massive artwork, 148 feet high and 131 feet wide (45 meters by 40 meters) and painted on the side of a 14-story building in Buenos Aires, is one of several tributes that Argentines have dedicated to their soccer "God" shortly before the start of this year's World Cup in Qatar, the first since Maradona's death on Nov. 25, 2020.

Maradona's feats and defeats as a player on the national team are being remembered, from the famous and infamous goals against England before the county won the 1986 World Cup to the failed final against West Germany four years later, and the doping test that got him expelled from the following World Cup in 1994.

Well-known street artist Martín Ron was behind the world's largest mural, inspired by a photograph of the then-Argentina captain that captures his expression shortly before he sang the national anthem at the 1990 World Cup final against West Germany, which Argentina lost 1-0. (AP)

## City Teenager Lewis Breaks Benzema CL Record



Agencies

**MANCHESTER:** Manchester City teenager Rico Lewis had to earn his start against Sevilla, and he made the most of it.

The full-back became the youngest player in Champions League history to score in his first start in the competition.

Aged 17 years, 346 days, Lewis beat the record set by Ballon d'Or holder Karim Benzema. The Real Madrid striker was 17 years, 352 days when he scored for Lyon against Rosenborg in 2005.

Lewis was a surprise starter against Sevilla.

His goal, seven minutes into the second half, leveled the score after Rafa Mir had fired the visiting team ahead. City won 3-1.

It was Lewis' fifth senior appearance and his first start.

"We don't give presents here, he had to earn it," City manager Pep Guardiola said. "We've seen it since the day he played against Bayern Munich in pre-season. We felt he had something special."

Guardiola also praised Lewis for his desire to fight for his place in the first team in the face of such fierce competition, given the array of world class talent in City's squad.

Previous academy graduates like Jadon Sancho and Brahim Diaz have opted to leave to go in search of regular game time.

"The guys who want to stay and fight will have chance," Guardiola said.

Barcelona's Ansu Fati is the youngest player to score in the Champions League, aged 17 years, 40 days in a 2-1 win against Inter Milan in 2019. (AP)



# Apple Users In India To Get 5G From Next Week

Agenceis

**New Delhi:** Tech giant Apple will roll out the much-awaited software upgrades for 5G network in India for its users from next week.

The service will be made available as Apple pushes out its iOS 16 Beta software update. India announced the launch of 5G services on October 1.

Airtel and Reliance Jio customers on any of the iPhone 14, iPhone 13, iPhone 12 and iPhone SE (3rd generation) models can use Apple's Beta Software Program to experience 5G service.

The Apple Beta Software Program is open to anyone with a valid Apple ID who accepts the Apple Beta Software Program Agreement during the sign-up process.

The Apple Beta Software Program also lets users try out pre-release software and experience the latest features before the software becomes more widely available.

The users are invited to provide feedback to Apple



on quality and usability, which helps Apple identify issues, fix them, and make Apple software even better.

To access the Apple Beta Software Program, iPhone users can simply enrol in their device to access the latest public betas, as well as subsequent updates, including the 5G beta which will be available to Airtel and Jio customers from next week.

As a member of the Apple Beta Software Program, users will be able to enroll their iPhone, iPad, Mac, Apple TV, HomePod mini or Apple Watch to access the latest public betas, as well as subsequent updates.

maker apparently comes after the Department of Telecom and the Ministry of Information Technology pushed the mobile phone makers and telecom operators for the updation of 5G-related software in the devices and putting in place the requisite infrastructure for faster rollout of the new-age telecom services.

5G internet services are finally here in India. On October 1, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched 5G services at the 6th India Mobile Congress held at Delhi's Pragati Maidan.

The central government intends to cover 5G services across the country within 2 years, said Union Electronics and Information Technology minister Ashwini Vaishnaw recently at an event.

The government in mid-August issued spectrum allocation letters to telecom service providers while asking them to prepare for the rollout of 5G services.

Apple said that both the program and software are free for iPhone users. This program is voluntary, and there is no compensation for participation.

Earlier in October, Apple in a statement to ANI had said, "We are working with our carrier partners in India to bring the best 5G experience to iPhone users as soon as network validation and testing for quality and performance is completed."

"5G will be enabled via a software update and will start rolling out to iPhone users in December," it added in the statement.

This move by the iPhone

## Mark Zuckerberg Announces 32-person Video Call On WhatsApp

Agenceis

**New Delhi:** Meta Founder and CEO, Mark Zuckerberg on Thursday announced the global roll out of a 32-person video calling feature called 'Communities' on WhatsApp.

Zuckerberg posted a video on Facebook to announce the new feature, calling it a "major evolution for WhatsApp".

"We're launching Communities on WhatsApp. It makes groups better by enabling sub-groups, multiple threads, announcement channels, and more. All secured by end-to-end encryption so your messages

stay private," he said.

The new feature will allow admins to better organise the conversations "under one umbrella", Zuckerberg added.

Besides Communities, WhatsApp also released more features to "improve the group chat experience", including in-chat polls, larger file sharing, reactions, groups with up to 1,024 users and shareable call links.

Meanwhile, as Meta doubled down on its monetisation drive across its family of apps, Zuckerberg had said that JioMart on WhatsApp in India was going to be a big opportunity for the paid messaging market.

**JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK OFFICERS ASSOCIATION**  
(Constituent unit of AIJKBOF and Affiliated to AIBOA)  
M A LINK ROAD SRINAGAR KASHMIR

**CONDOLENCE**

The membership is deeply saddened on sudden demise of our colleague Mr. Fayaz Ahmad Dar Manager at Business Unit Ganpatyar Srinagar, who left for his eternal journey to hereafter on 02/11/2022. The undersigned on behalf of JKBOA Kashmir pay heartfelt condolences to bereaved family and patience in this time of distrust; praying for the eternal solace and highest place in Jannah.

**Tariq Ahmad Mir**  
Secretary

ABBAS ADS: 7006444730

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