

## Old Pattern In New Setup Hinting At Political Ice Break In Kashmir?

Auqib Javeed

New political parties are emerging as more and more hints are being dropped about the possible polls in Jammu and Kashmir.

Post-abrogation of Article 370, ten political parties from JK have been registered by the Election Commission of India (ECI).

Among these outfits is National Awami United Party, National Democratic Party, Aman Aur Shanti Tehreek-e-Jammu & Kashmir, Voice of Labour Party, Haq Insaaf Parties, Jammu and Kashmir Peoples



Movement, among others.

This year, among the new outfits was Sheikh Muzaffar's Jammu & Kashmir Nationalist Peoples Front and Bashir

Ganie's Gareeb Democratic Party.

Notably, Kashmir's political landscape witnesses rise of new political actors and outfits

at the time of elections.

Last month, separatist leader and chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Independent Movement Bilal Gani Lone also hinted that he may soon join mainstream politics. Bilal is the son of late Hurriyat leader, Abdul Gani Lone.

Earlier, former JK Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad launched a new political party, named Democratic Azad Party (DAP). Azad's resignation from primary membership of the Congress on August 26 this year was seen as a move to break the political ice in Kashmir.

At the same time, New

Delhi-based Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) announced that it would contest the next assembly election in J&K with "full force".

"There's nothing unusual about these new parties," said Ifra Jan, spokesperson National Conference. "These outfits have been created to weaken the regional political parties. The idea is that no political party should control the valley altogether, because then it will become a very powerful force and that party would have a strong bargaining power."

In fact, said VikarRasool, the ruling dispensation used the same policy in other states to form government.

"BJP wants to divide votes and buy seats to form government in JK," Vikar, President of Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC), said.

With the loss of Statehood, said Naeem Akhtar, new party phenomenon has lost its edge.

"When the fountainhead of power is disabled, these outfits hardly matter," Akhtar, a senior Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leader, said.

But since the August 2019 move has made the regional parties irrelevant, argues Professor Noor Mohammad Baba, many people might've seen an opportunity to fill the vacuum. **| More on P10**

## Mercury Falls In J&K After Fresh Snowfall



Agencies

**Srinagar:** Mercury recorded a drop in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday amid rainfall in plains and snowfall over higher reaches.

In the last 24 hours till 0830 hours today, Gulmarg, the world famous skiing resort, received 20cm of snowfall, a meteorological department official said, as per news agency GNS.

During the same time, he said, Srinagar received rainfall of 1.9mm, Qazigund 2.2mm, Pahalgam 4.6mm, Kupwara 10mm, Kokernag 0.6mm, Jammu 5.0mm, Banihal 8.2mm, Batote 12mm, Katra 15.2mm and Bhaderwah 22.4mm.

Regarding the temperature, he said, Srinagar recorded a low of 4.7°C against 5.4°C on the previous night. The temperature was 2.9°C above normal for the summer capital during this time of the year, he said.

Qazigund recorded a low of 5.0°C, the same as on the previous night.

In Pahalgam, the mercury settled at 2.8°C against 2.9°C on the previous night and it was 3.9°C above normal for the south Kashmir resort, he said.

Kokernag recorded a low of 3.7°C against 4.1°C on the previous night and it was 1.0°C above normal for the place, he said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 2.0°C, the same as on the previous night and it was 2.2°C below normal for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

In Kupwara town, the mercury settled at 3.0°C against 4.7°C on the previous night, the official said. It was 1.7°C above normal for the north Kashmir place, he said.

Jammu recorded a low of 14.2°C against 14.6°C on the previous night. It was 0.2°C above normal for J&K's winter capital, he said. Banihal recorded a low of 4.6°C (normal), Batote 3.5°C **| More on P10**

## London Global Convention 2022

# Govt Invites Global Business Leaders To Invest In J&K



Observer News Service

**London:** Asserting that Jammu and Kashmir offers huge potential in adventure, pilgrimage, spiritual, and health tourism, the Lieutenant Governor led dispensation on Thursday invited the global business leaders to visit and invest in the unexplored land of opportunities of Jammu and

Kashmir.

The invitation to the international brands and leading global companies to invest in the Union Territory was extended by Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Thursday at the London Global Convention 2022, an official spokesperson said.

The convention on Corporate

Governance & Sustainability was organised by Institute of Directors, India under the theme 'Building an Effective Board that Works & Top Global Trends' here at London.

The Chief Secretary, who was guest of honour at the Convention, extended an invitation to the delegates to come and explore **| More on P10**

## Global Mineral Business Developers Invited Too

Secretary, Mining Department, Amit Sharma on Thursday invited Global Mineral Developers to invest in Jammu and Kashmir while elaborating on ample underlying scope for strategic minerals in the Union Territory. Sharma invited Global Mineral Developers to invest in J&K during the ongoing two day international conference and exhibition on mineral business development, 2022 organised at Nagpur, an official spokesperson said. The theme of this mega event was "Prospects and Challenges of Mineral Based Products and Utilization of Wastes for the Make in India Initiative". Sharma, who was the guest of honour, during **| More on P10**

## Police Seal Rs 2.58 Cr Jama'at Assets In Shopian



KO File Photo

Press Trust Of India

**Srinagar:** Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian district on Thursday sealed nine properties worth more than Rs 2.58 crore belonging to banned outfit Jama'at-e-Islami, the State Investigation Agency (SIA) said.

"Today in Shopian district, properties at nine locations worth Rs 2,58,03,333 after being notified by district magistrate on the recommendation of SIA have been sealed with restrictions on

usage and entry," a spokesman of the SIA said.

The spokesman said the properties were sealed as part of efforts to choke the availability of funds for secessionist activities and to dismantle the ecosystem of anti-national elements and terror networks hostile to India's sovereignty.

"These premises/structures have been sealed and entry and usage have been prohibited. Besides, red entry to this effect has been made in **| More on P10**

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR TOOK BOLD** and decisive steps of breaking the shackles in the path of development and the UT is fast moving towards integration with national economic trajectory, to become a prosperous and self-reliant Union Territory".

## Restore J&K Statehood Before Polls: Bukhari

Press Trust Of India

**Srinagar:** Jammu and Kashmir's statehood should be restored before the assembly elections are conducted, Apni Party chief Altaf Bukhari said here on Thursday.

Bukhari also said under an elected government not only the good work of the officers will be appreciated, but they will be held answerable for any wrongdoings too.

Elections or no elections, as a political party, we are always ready for it. Our job is to serve the people and we will continue to do that, he told reporters here.

He said the Apni Party wants the assembly elections to be conducted in J-K so that the problems faced by the people are resolved by **| More on P10**

## LG Calls Upon Schools To Promote Innovation, Creativity

'The Biggest Power For A Student Is Critical Thinking, And Curiosity Is The Only Real Identity'

Observer News Service

**Jammu:** The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Thursday that his administration is preparing a pragmatic road map to enhance the potential of human resources, re-aligning the higher education ecosystem to meet the needs of present-day challenges and strengthening the academia-industry relationship.

"The biggest power for a student is critical thinking, and curiosity is the only real identity. Critical thinking and curiosity helps a student to earn the values of courage, caring and cooperation," Sinha said.

He made these remarks while attending the



'Meritorious Students' Award' function organized by Amar Ujala Group at Baba Jitto Auditorium of SKUAST-Jammu, an official spokesperson said.

The LG, he said, congratulated all the students and

wished them very best for their future endeavours.

"Both knowledge and values in the education system is the need of the hour. At this impressionable age, the classroom must stimulate

**IN OUR EFFORT TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL OF EDUCATION** for all, we have made effective interventions to offset the dropout rate. Last year enrolment drive registered a 14.5% increase."

students' intellectual capacity and enrich their personality," the LG added.

Observing that the National Education Policy prepared under the guidance of the Prime Minister has redefined the entire education ecosystem, the LG, the **| More on P10**

## SI RECRUITMENT SCAM

# 4 CRPF Men, Police ASI Among 7 More Arrested By CBI

Press Trust Of India

**New Delhi:** The CBI has arrested seven more people, including some CRPF and police personnel, in connection with the police sub-inspector recruitment scam in Jammu and Kashmir Police, officials said Thursday.

They said the agency had questioned them in Jammu before taking them into custody.

Those arrested were CRPF Head Constable Pawan Kumar, CRPF Constables Atul Kumar,

Amit Kumar Sharma and Sunil Sharma, Jammu and Kashmir Police Assistant Sub-Inspector Jaisuriya Sharma, and private individuals Tarsem Lal and Ashesh Yadav, they said.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had conducted searches on Tuesday at seven locations in Jammu, Pathankot, Rewari and Karnal in connection with the recruitment scam.

The CBI took over the investigation into the case on August 3 on a reference from **| More on P10**

**INVESTIGATION HAD REVEALED THAT THE ALLEGED** payment of Rs 20 to 30 lakh (approximately) was made by willing candidates and their families to the accused for accessing the question paper before the commencement of the examination."

## Leh Highway, Mughal Road Reopens



The authorities on Thursday said that traffic movement was restored on Leh-Srinagar highway and Mughal road after clearance of snow from the roads. "Mughal road through for vehicular movement. After the clearance of snow from the road, LMVs released from both ends," Jammu and Kashmir Traffic police said in a tweet. It also said that SSG **| More on P10**

## Kuka Parray's Son Joins Apni Party

Imtiyaz Parray, the former Congress leader and the son of slain counter-insurgent commander, Kuka Parray on Thursday joined the Jammu Kashmir Apni Party. Imtiyaz's father Kuka Parray was founder of Ikhwan, a counter-insurgency militia formed in 1994-95 to fight militancy. In September this year, Imtiyaz resigned from basic membership of Congress. However after more than a month, Imtiyaz Parray today formally joined the Apni party. "I welcome Imtiyaz Parray and Noor Mohammad Bhat to the Jammu Kashmir Apni Party. I am confident they will play a big role in strengthening **| More on P10**

## Couple Dies Of Asphyxiation



A couple died of suffocation caused by gas leak in North Kashmir's Baramulla district, officials said Thursday. News agency KNO quoting an official reported that the couple had fallen unconscious after the room they were sleeping in was filled with gas from a heater. The deceased were identified as Dr Abdul Rasheed Bhat and his wife Nisara Begum of Noorbagh area Baramulla. **| More on P10**

## Grievances Redressal Camp Held For KPs

The office of Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants) organised a grievance redressal camp at Sanjeevani Sharda Kendra, Anand Nagar, Bohri, Talab Tillo on Thursday. The team headed by KK Sidha, Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants) J&K alongwith deputy commissioner (relief) enrolled the 61 beneficiaries under ayushman health cards, issued 30 domicile certificates and processed files for services pertaining to updation in ration cards, besides facilitating in redressal of the other grievances related to the property, land and education of Kashmiri migrants, an official **| More on P10**

## Narcotic Smuggler Arrested In Samba

A narcotic smuggler was arrested and 100 kilograms of poppy was seized from his vehicle in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district on Thursday, officials said. On a tip-off, a police team intercepted a four-wheeler at Raya Morh in Vijaypur belt for searching, they said. Police recovered 100 kgs of poppy, which was concealed in a fabricated cavity inside the vehicle, they said. The driver of the vehicle identified as Shahwaz of Rajouri has been arrested, however, his associate namely Rakesh Kumar managed to escape from the spot, they said. The contraband item along with the vehicle was seized on the spot. A case has been **| More on P10**

## Terror Module Busted, 6 Held: Police

The Jammu and Kashmir police on Thursday claimed to have busted a terror funding and recruitment module in North Kashmir's Kupwara district. In a statement, Kupwara Police along with Army's 21 RR and 47 RR busted a terror funding and recruitment module running in North Kashmir. The statement reads that after receiving multiple inputs regarding an individual namely Bilal Ahmed Dar hailing from Cheerkote area of Kupwara district, a joint operation was launched by the Army and Kupwara police to nab the individual from general area Nutnussa and Lolab localities of Kupwara. "After thorough **| More on P10**

S H O R T T A K E S



# Study Finds Childhood Traumas Have Strong Impact On Mental, Physical Health

ANI

Our well-being and health later in life are significantly influenced by the social situations in which we are raised.

A recent study revealed that these experiences have a significant impact on our health risks as adults. The majority of Americans (67 percent) report having gone through at least one traumatic event as a child. Obesity and chronic pain are physical conditions that are affected, but post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), bipolar disorder, substance misuse, and depression show the most correlation with physical conditions.

Scientists from DRI and the University of Nevada, Reno, led the study, published on Oct. 6 in the journal Frontiers in Psychiatry. More than 16,000 people from the Reno area volunteered for the research as part of the Healthy Nevada Project, one of the most visible genomic studies in the United States powered by Renown Health. Participants answered questions about their social environments before age 18, including experiences with emotional, physical, or sexual mistreatment, neglect, and substance abuse in the household. The researchers combined this information with anonymized medical records to build on existing research about how childhood traumas affect health outcomes.

"The study provides insight as to how social determinants of health may influence adult health disorders," said Robert Read, M.S., a researcher at the



Center for Genomic Medicine at DRI and one of the study's lead authors.

Nearly two-thirds (66 per cent) of participants recalled at least one type of trauma, and almost one-quarter (24 per cent) reported experiencing more than four. Women and people

of African American and Latinx descent reported a higher prevalence of traumatic experiences than men and those with European ancestry, but people in low-income households were the most impacted. Thirteen mental illnesses

showed the most statistically significant associations, including mood disorders, depression, PTSD, anxiety disorders, eating disorders, schizophrenia, and substance abuse. For every reported type of abuse experienced in childhood, a participant's

“In order to address the devastating impacts of early-life adversity on local population health and inequities, we must focus on the dominant social and behavioral mechanisms affecting Nevadans

risk for PTSD increased 47 percent. Each cumulative trauma also increased one's risk for making a suicide attempt by 33 percent.

The researchers note that although the study is rooted in Nevada — which has high rates of adults with mental illness and poor access to care — it provides a window into deeply rooted public health issues across the nation.

"Combating the prevalence of childhood traumas is a complex problem," said Karen Schlauch, Ph.D., a bio-informatics researcher at DRI and one of the study's lead authors. "Personal experiences with neglect and abuse are more challenging to address, but

many of the underlying issues can be tackled at the community level, like food insecurity and poverty."

Beyond improving our understanding of how early social environments influence our health, Schlauch says that the next target for research is understanding how childhood traumas may be linked with specific traits like impulsivity — a prominent trait in Nevada's gambling communities.

"In order to address the devastating impacts of early-life adversity on local population health and inequities, we must focus on the dominant social and behavioral mechanisms affecting Nevadans," said Stephanie Koning, Ph.D., an assistant professor at the School of Public Health at the University of Nevada, Reno, and study co-author. "Beyond how population needs drive our research, we are partnering with community-based organizations to promote evidence-based interventions across individual, community, and state levels."

As the study team expands their analysis of the health impacts of early-life adversity, they are exploring how to use the Healthy Nevada Project database to inform community-based interventions. They've partnered with community institutional partners — including the Stacie Mathewson Behavioral Health & Addiction Institute and Northern Nevada HOPES — for research and advocacy focused on promoting healthy childhood social environments and well-being throughout an individual's life.

From The Office Of Advocate

MAAJID AHMAD RATHER

In the Case of

1. Sangam Cricket Club Thruog Its president Wajahat Majeed

2. Secretary Fayaz Ahmad

V/S

PUBLIC AT LARGE

(NON CAVEATORS)

In the matter of: Caveat petition in terms of section 148-A

C.P.C the Caveator has reason to believe/apprehension that

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in obtaining some relief or order at my irreparable loss and

inconvenience. It would be proper that the Caveator may be

given an opportunity of being heard before the honorable

court passes any order against the Caveator.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Shazia W/o Maajid Yaseen Khan R/o Dooru Anantnag At present Vicharnag Bala Noushera Srinagar have applied for new electricity connection for my house located at Vicharnag Bala Noushera Srinagar near Graveyard. Anybody having any objection in this regard may submit the same to the office of Assistant Executive Engineer Sub Division Hawal within a week after which no objection shall be entertained.

Shazia

W/o Maajid Yaseen Khan

R/o Vicharnag Bala Noushera Srinagar

X

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of "D Class" contractor card . If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

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Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Department of Wildlife Protection

Office of the Wildlife Warden, Shopian Wildlife Division

Mini Secretariat Arahama Shopian

Tele/Fax: 01933-261918, e-mail: wildlifeshopian@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE

Fresh e-NIT No:17 of 2022-23 dated: 09.11.2022

For and on behalf of Hon'ble Lt. Governor UT of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tender is invited (on the item rate basis) from approved and eligible Plant growers /suppliers registered with Horticulture / Forest Department (s) of Union Territory of J&K / Central Government organizations for the below mentioned works:

S. No	Name of the Work	Advertised Cost	Time of Completion	Head of Account	Cost of Tender doc.	Position of funds
1	Afforestation work by means of Planting of Naked Root Fruit bearing plants in pits of 45 Cm x45 Cm x45 Cm with cost of healthy 3.5 ft length disease free Naked Root Fruit Bearing Plants. "Wild variety", including all carriages upto site of work (complete job) of Tral Wildlife Sanctuary (Satpakhrai = 5000 Plants).	1.53 Lacs	(25) Calendar days	CAMPA	Rs.200/-	Approved / Available
2	Afforestation work by means of Planting of Naked Root Fruit bearing plants in pits of 45 Cm x45 Cm x45 Cm with cost of healthy 3.5 ft length disease free Naked Root Fruit Bearing Plants. "Wild variety", including all carriages upto site of work (complete job) of Tral Wildlife Sanctuary (Sunderkote = 4500 Plants).	1.37 Lacs	(25) Calendar days	CAMPA	Rs.200/-	Approved / Available
3	Afforestation work by means of Planting of Naked Root Fruit bearing plants in pits of 45 Cm x45 Cm x45 Cm with cost of healthy 3.5 ft length disease free Naked Root Fruit Bearing Plants. "Wild variety", including all carriages upto site of work (complete job) of Tral Wildlife Sanctuary (Koot Area = 15000 Plants).	4.59 Lacs	(25) Calendar days	CAMPA	Rs.400/-	Approved / Available
4	Afforestation work by means of Planting of Naked Root Fruit bearing plants in pits of 45 Cm x45 Cm x45 Cm with cost of healthy 3.5 ft length disease free Naked Root Fruit Bearing Plants. "Wild variety", including all carriages upto site of work (complete job) of Tral Wildlife Sanctuary (Geerpatri area of Hajin = 18000 Plants).	5.50 Lacs	(25) Calendar days	CAMPA	Rs.400/-	Approved / Available
5	Afforestation work by means of Planting of poly raised conifer saplings in staggered pits of standard size (rate excluding cost of plants) Koot area of Hajin (4000 Plants).	1.17 Lacs	(25) Calendar days	CAMPA	Rs.200/-	Approved / Available
6	Beating up of casualities by means of planting naked root fruit bearing Plants in pits of Standard size (rate Excluding cost of Plant) Fatarayil TWLS (2000 Plants).	0.46340 Lacs	(15) Calendar days	CAMPA	Rs.200/-	Approved / Available
7	Dibbling of healthy seed of Horse Chest Nuts/Hardy / Plum / Peach including all carriages upto working site, "at least two seeds should be dibbled per patch" at Tral WLS (5000 No's Freshnad area of satorai).	0.359 Lacs	(20) Calendar days	CAMPA	Rs.200/-	Approved / Available
8	Dibbling of healthy seed of Horse Chest Nuts/Hardy / Plum / Peach including all carriages upto working site, "at least two seeds should be dibbled per patch" at Tral WLS (7000 No's Astan Nard area of Hajin)	0.502 Lacs	(20) Calendar days	CAMPA	Rs.200/-	Approved / Available

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bills of quantities (B.O.Q) set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the Government website: <https://jktenders.gov.in>.

Position of funds: Available

Position of AA / TS: Accorded

Receiving / Opening Authority: Tender Opening Committee

Publishing Date	11/11/2022 @ 0900 Hrs
Download date start	11/11/2022 @ 0900 Hrs
Bid submission date start	11/11/2022 @ 0900 Hrs
Bid submission date ends	18/11/2022 @ 0900 Hrs
Date of opening of Technical Bid through online	18/11/2022 @ 1000 Hrs

The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website: <https://jktenders.gov.in>.

1. The bids uploaded on the website up to due date & time, will be opened in the office of the Wildlife Warden, Shopian in presence of bidders who wish to attend. In case of holiday or any event hampering office work on opening date, the same bid will be opened at any convenient place or the next working day at same time & venue.

2. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason. The bid submission date is final date and can't be extended in any manner.

3. Documents to be appended:

a. Scanned copy of GST registration along with verified PAN Number.

b. Scanned copy of Bid Declaration Form Annexed at "A"

c. Scanned copy of Tender Document fee in the shape of e-challan (with Name of the work / serial else tender will be rejected) deposited under Major Head 0406-Forest Remittance in favour of Wildlife Warden, Shopian Wildlife Division, payable at any Treasury.

d. Scanned copy of contact No. complete postal address and email ID.

e. Scanned copy of Registration card along-with latest renewal.

> If the tenderer fails to append any one of the above-mentioned documents, his tender will be rejected instantly by the tender opening authority on his own responsibility.

> All above mentioned documents must be scanned in color format, documents in Grayscale / black & white will be rejected by the tender opening authority.

4. The first lowest bidder has to produce an amount of 03% of advertised cost in shape of CDR / FDR within three days positively after opening of the tender else bid will be rejected for which he is self-responsible and 2nd lowest bidder will be called for the same.

5. Instruction of bidder regarding e-tendering process: Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual form "Downloads: option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on the website: <https://jktenders.gov.in>. in acquaint bid submission process

a. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per information technology Act Bidders can get Digital Certificate from approved vendor.

b. The bidders have to submit their Technical & financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature, No Technical or financial bid will be accepted in physical / hard form.

c. Bids will be opened online as per time scheduled mentioned above.

6. The successful bidder has to produce valid Labour Registration Certificate issued by Labour Department after issuance of award of contract.

7. The department shall not be held responsible for selection criteria/ Policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of Information regarding publishing of e-NIT, in any of the newspaper under circulation.

8. The tender accepting Authority however reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders with assigning any reason thereof.

9. The tender opening authority can reject any bid of the contractor subject to the working performance of the contractor.

10. The earnest money shall be forfeited if:

a. Any bidder / tenderer withdraw his bids / tender during the period of bid validity or make any modification in terms & conditions of the bid.

b. The contractor fails to execute the agreement within 10 days after fixation of contract.

11. If any tenderer faces any difficulty in uploading the Tender, he can contact the office of the Wildlife Warden, Shopian Wildlife Division Mini Secretariat Arhama Shopian/ office of the Regional Wildlife Warden, Kashmir region, Wildlife Complex Boulevard Srinagar.

12. All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form 25 (double leaf) and as per the detailed document.

DIPK-13188/22

No: WLW-Spn/Estt/2022/1194-97

Dated: 10.11.2022

Wildlife Warden,  
Shopian Wildlife Division,  
Block C 2nd Floor  
Mini-Secretariat, Shopian

## ‘Covid Infection Changes Genetic Material Of Cells’

Press Trust of India

Scientists have shown for the first time that infection by SARS-CoV-2 changes the functioning of host cell RNA, according to a study.

The scientists at the Federal University of Sao Paulo (UNIFESP), Brazil, arrived at this conclusion by analysing thirteen datasets obtained during four studies of viral, human and animal cell RNA.

RNA in a cell, or ribonucleic acid, just like DNA, stores genetic information. RNA transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm, the external space in a cell, and also controls certain chemical processes in the cell.

The most recent study, reported in an article published in the journal Frontiers in Cellular and Infection Microbiology, examined the epitranscriptome of Vero cells, or cells derived from monkeys, and human Calu-3 cells by direct RNA sequencing.

An epitranscriptome is a collective log of all the biochemical modifications of cell RNA, such as methylation.

"Our first important finding in this study was that infection by SARS-CoV-2 increases the level of m6a (N6-methyladenosine), a type of methylation, in host cells compared with non-infected cells," said study author Marcelo Briones.

Methylation is a biochemical modification involving the addition of a methyl group to a substrate, a process which occurs in host cells via the action of enzymes capable of transferring part of one molecule to another. This changes the behavior of proteins, enzymes, hormones and genes.

The researchers, the study said, showed changes to infected cells' RNA quantitatively by analyzing all the RNAs present in the cells and qualitatively by locating on a map the number of methylations per region in the nucleotides, the basic structural unit of RNAs and DNAs.

"Methylation has two functions in viruses. It regulates protein expression, and it defends the virus against the action of interferon, a potent antiviral substance produced by the host organism," Briones said.

In both studies, the researchers analyzed m6a because it is the most common type of RNA nucleotide modification and is involved in several significant processes, such as intracellular location and protein translation.

RNA nucleotides contain nitrogenous bases, which are nitrogen-containing biological compounds that form these nucleotides, and are either adenine, guanine, uracil, or cytosine, running along a single strand.

The team also discovered that different strains of the virus displayed variations in the sequences of nitrogenous bases in their nucleotides. "Some strains may be much more methylated than others. If so, they can multiply better inside host cells," Briones said.

The virus uses cell enzymes for its own methylation, producing evolutionary pressure for adaptation of viral DRACH sequences so that they become more similar to cell sequences, where the letter D stands for adenine, guanine or uracil; R for adenine or guanine; A for the methylated residue; C for cytosine; and H for adenine, cytosine or uracil.

The viral strains that adapt best are able to escape interferon, antiviral protein produced by cells which have been attacked, more successfully.

The increase in cell methylation was mapped by two m6A detection programs. One of these (m6anet) used a machine learning technique called multiple instance learning (MIL). The other (EpiNano) validated the results using a technique called support vector machine (SVM), the study said.





## Stray Dogs Unleash Terror In Batwara, Locals Aghast

### Agencies

Srinagar: The presence of over three dozen stray dogs in Batwara area of Srinagar have created fear among the local populace, who blamed the concerned authorities for failing to take necessary actions for their wellbeing.

Muhammad Umar, a local resident said that over three dozen dogs have been forcing them to stay indoors, especially during the morning and evening

hours.

“We are facing tremendous hardships as a couple of people have been bitten by these stray dogs in the recent,” he said, adding that none of the officials from the cantonment board have even visited the area so far in this regard.

“The situation is worsening with each passing day. We appeal to the concerned authorities to look into the matter at earliest so that the locals here could heave a sigh of relief,” he said. (KNO)

## CB Chargesheets Man For Posing As Civil Engineer

### Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Economic Offence Wing of Crime Branch Kashmir has produced Chargesheet against a man posing as Civil Engineer to fraudulently mint money from a man on pretext of providing building permission in Jammu.

According to a statement issued, Crime Branch filed the chargesheet in case FIR No. 30/2020 U/S 420 RPC of Police Station Crime Branch Kashmir against Rajinder Pandita @Raju S/O Omkar Nath Pandita R/O A/P of Jammu before the Court of Passenger Tax Srinagar.

The statement reads that the instant case had been registered upon receipt of written complaint, wherein it was alleged by the complainant that Rajinder Pandita deceived him dishonestly and fraudulently by inducing him to pay huge amount under the pretext of providing build-

ing permission from Jammu Municipal Corporation for construction over his land at Jammu.

“The Economic Offence Wing of Crime Branch Kashmir conducted investigation in the matter and during the course of investigation, it came to fore that Rajinder Pandita projected himself as Civil Engineer and fraudulently, dishonestly induced the complainant to pay huge amount for providing building permission and other formalities,” it reads.

It reads that the act omitted and committed have prima facie disclosed the commission of Offence U/S 420.

“The instant case stands registered against the accused person at Police Station Crime Branch Kashmir and accordingly the Charge Sheet of the said case produced in the Court of Passenger Tax Srinagar,” it reads.

## SMC Deputy Mayor Moves Court Against Predecessor

### Agencies

Srinagar: Over two weeks after a local court temporarily restrained the former Srinagar Deputy Mayor Sheikh Imran from publishing any defamatory content in print or electronic media against the incumbent Deputy Mayor Parvaiz Qadri, the applicant (Parvaiz Qadri) has filed an application seeking initiation of disobedience proceedings under section 94 of CPC against Sheikh Imran.

Earlier the court of 2nd Additional District Judge Srinagar had restrained Sheikh Imran from publishing any defamatory content against the applicant Parvaiz Qadri – Deputy Mayor Srinagar Municipal Corporation.

The plaintiff Parvaiz

Qadri through his Advocate Feroz Ahmed Parray has requested court to initiate disobedience proceedings against the non-applicant for going to the media despite the court orders.

Qadri's lawyers had earlier submitted an application stating that incumbent Srinagar Deputy Mayor Parvaiz Qadri is a respectable elected representative of the people and currently occupying the post of Deputy Mayor Srinagar Municipal Corporation while the former Deputy Mayor Sheikh Imran is hell-bent to tarnish his image and is giving defamatory statements in media with an intention to derogate the goodwill and reputation of the plaintiff (Parvaiz Qadri). (KNT)

## Political Activists, Supporters Join Apni Party

### Observer News Service

Srinagar: Congress Party's former district president Bandipora Imtiyaz Parray, and political activist from National Conference Noor Mohammad Bhat on Thursday joined Apni Party in an event organized at the party headquarters in Church Lane Srinagar. They joined the Apni Party along with his workers and supporters.

According to a press release issued here, Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari gave a warm welcome to the new entrants into the party fold.

Besides Imtiyaz Parray and Noor Mohammad Bhat, the new entrants included DDC member Hajin Farjeel Ahmad Dar, BDC Naid Khai Ghulam Nabi, Block President Hajin Ghulam Mo-

hammad Dar, Block President Sadawar Sumbal Haji Abdul Rehman Mir, Block President Naid Khai Abdul Rashid Sheikh, Sarpanch Ganistan Abdul Rashid Bhat, Sarpanch Naid Khai Mehraj ud Din Mir, Sarpanch Rakh Hajan Farooq Ahmad Dar, Ghulam Ahmad Reshi Gund Jageer, Dy Sarpanch Bilal Ahmad Wani, Abdul Hameed Wani, Habibullah Sheikh, Mir Muzamil and others.

On this occasion, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari while greeting the new entrants said, “I on behalf of the entire party leadership welcome you into the party fold; I hope your presence will strengthen the Apni Party further in your areas.”

He promised the new entrants that party leadership will always support them to serve the people.



Children play at Chinar Bagh amid dry weather conditions on Thursday. KO Photo Abid Bhat

## Progress Of Developmental Works Under SAMAGRA Shiksha Reviewed

16 Projects worth Rs 8.28 Cr under execution for infrastructure upgradation of Govt Schools

### Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to review the functioning of the education sector and progress of developmental works taken up under SAMAGRA SHIKSHA in the district, a meeting of concerned Officers was held under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad on Thursday.

At the outset, the DC took a detailed review of all the educational indicators including Gross Enrolment Ratio, Net Enrolment Ratio, Transition Rate, Drop Out Rate, Retention Rate at Primary stage, Upper Primary and Secondary level and other related activities being carried out in Government Schools of the district.

The DC also took stock of physical and financial status of works taken up in current fiscal under SAMAGRA SHIKSHA for infrastructure upgradation of Schools in Srinagar.

The DC was apprised that as many as 42575 students are enrolled at Pre Primary, Primary, Middle, Secondary and Higher Secondary levels in all 554 Government Schools of the district. He was also informed that Gross Enrolment Ratio at Primary Stage is 99.47 % and 99.40 % at Upper Primary Stage while at Secondary stage it is 95.02 %.

It was further given out that about 840 children with special needs(CWSN) are enrolled in Government schools of the District

who are being assessed on periodical basis and required assistive aids are being provided to them.

On the occasion, the DC stressed the Officers to work with extra zeal and dedication and in synergy to ensure effective and efficient implementation of all schemes for overall betterment of education setup in the district. He also stressed on quality education with an equitable and inclusive education for all. He asked them to make concerted and intensified efforts to target vulnerable populations, children with special abilities.

The DC also asked for holding a visual assessment camp in schools at the earliest so that students having eye problems are treated well in advance.

He emphasised on effective and active involvement of School Management Committees for efficient functioning of all Government Schools in Srinagar.

With regard to ICT and Digital initiative, the DC asked the Officers to adopt digital platforms in an effective manner so that students are provided a soothing environment to learn things in a very easy and user friendly approach and they understand subjects exclusively.

He stressed on integrating GAASH initiative with Smart Classes for making education more effective while being enjoyable through gamification of conceptual content.

The DC also asked the CEO,

Srinagar to work out the modality for setting up of Composite ICT Laboratory for specially abled students in some schools of the district. He also urged them to give focused attention towards Vocational Education and Self Defence.

The DC was informed that under ICT and Digital initiative 156 ICT and CAL Centers are presently functional in Srinagar with a vision to cover all the schools under the scheme. While 36 more CAL/ICT/Smart Classes shall be added this year at an estimated cost of Rs 94.8 lakh.

While reviewing the status of civil works taken up under SAMAGRA, the DC was informed that Rs 8.28 crore have been approved on different components for execution of 16 projects for infrastructure upgradation of Government Schools in Srinagar District including BHSS Soura, S.P. HSS, BHSS Sangam, BHSS Zaidal, GHS Hazratbal, High School Balhama, Boys High School Malbagh, Boys High School Bakshi-pora, High School Harwan, HS Rangteng, MS Panzinara.

The DC emphasized on early completion of all the approved projects. He stressed on regular monitoring of works and asked the officers to follow deadlines and complete the work within a given timeframe. He enjoined upon concerned officers and agencies to work with dedication so that all developmental targets are achieved.

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

### AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



### RAILWAYS

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



### HIGHWAY STATUS

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



### PRAYERS

FAJR	5:35
ZUHR	12:14
ASR	3:52
Magrib	5:32
ISHA	7:54

## This Day In History

- 1945 - Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Cordell Hull (establishing UN)
- 1953 - David Ben-Gurion, resigns as Prime Minister of Israel
- 1963 - Train crash in Japan, kills 164
- 1970 - Scientists perform 1st artificial synthesis of a live cell
- 1974 - A salmon is discovered in the River Thames, England, for the first time since 1833.
- 1979 - US President Carter announces a halts to Iranian oil imports & freezes Iranian assets
- 1981 - 2nd shuttle mission-1st time spacecraft launched twice (Columbia 2)
- 1981 - Great Britain performs nuclear test
- 1984 - Space shuttle astronauts snared a satellite 1st space salvage
- 1985 - STS 61-B vehicle moves to launch pad
- 1989 - Brazil holds its 1st free presidential election in 29 years
- 1990 - Crown Prince Akihito is formally installed as Emperor Akihito of Japan, becoming the 125th Japanese monarch.
- 1990 - Tim Berners-Lee publishes a formal proposal for the World Wide Web
- 1991 Atlanta Brave Tom Glavine wins NL Cy Young Award
- 1991 - Dili Massacre, Indonesian forces open fire on a crowd of protesters in Dili, East Timor, killing at least 250
- 1995 - STS 74 (Atlantis 15), launches into orbit
- 2001 - Taliban forces abandon Afghanistan's capital Kabul, ahead of advancing Afghan Northern Alliance troops
- 2001 - In New York City, American Airlines Flight 587, an Airbus A300 on its way to the Dominican Republic, crashes minutes after takeoff from John F. Kennedy International Airport, killing all 260 on board and five on the ground.
- 2003 - With 501 km/h (311 mph) Shanghai Transrapid sets up a new world record for commercial railway systems.

## From KO Archives

US Election Drama Drags On; Trailing Gore Wants Hand Count, Loses Faith In Machines

### AGENCIES

WASHINGTON: Republican George W. Bush's lead over Democrat Vice-President Al-Gore has been pegged at 327 votes after a final unofficial recount in Florida, prompting the Bush camp to ask Gore to concede defeat but the outcome of the US Presidential election will not be known till next week as several thousand postal ballots are expected from abroad.

Vice president Al-Gore, who the recounts showed was trailing by 327-votes to Republican George W Bush has demanded more vote recounts in crucial Florida state particularly hand counts in four of the 67 counties. Saying machines make mistakes.

Meanwhile, news reports said a court in Palm Beach had ordered a freeze on the recount process in the county pending a hearing next week on alleged irregularities that could hurt Gore.

Three days after the voting, the election to the White House was mired in uncertainty facing legal challenges and the world yet to know as to who is the next incumbent.

The unofficial count by the Associated Press county-by-county slightly boosted Bush's tally after earlier counts had showed the margin as 225 votes.

The recount shoved Bush won Florida, Bush's communication director Karen Hughes claimed in a statement in Austin, Texas, asking Gore to concede.

The Gore camp hit back saying contrary to claims by the rival side this election is not over.

Again we want the true and accurate will of the people to prevail and that means the legal system to run its course. If at the end of that process, George Bush is the victor, we will respect that result, Gore campaign chairman William Daley said in a statement.

(Kashmir Observer, November 11, 2000)

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## Britain Freezes Russian Assets Worth 18 Billion Pounds



### Agencies

**LONDON:** The British government said on Thursday that it had frozen assets together worth 18 billion pounds (\$20.5 billion) held by Russian oligarchs, other individuals and entities sanctioned for Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

Russia has passed Libya and Iran to become Britain's most-sanctioned nation, according to the Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation, part of the finance ministry.

The frozen Russian assets were 6 billion pounds more than the amount reported across all other British sanc-

tions regimes.

"We have imposed the most severe sanctions ever on Russia and it is crippling their war machine," said Andrew Griffith, a junior government minister in the Treasury. "Our message is clear: we will not allow Putin to succeed in this brutal war."

Britain has so far sanctioned more than 1,200 individuals and more than 120 entities in Russia, including targeting high-profile businessmen and companies to prominent politicians.

The government began imposing travel bans, asset freezes and other sanctions on Feb. 24, the day Moscow sent troops into Ukraine.

## Iran Develops Hypersonic Missile That "Breaches All Defence Systems": Report

### Agencies

Iran has developed a hypersonic missile capable of penetrating all defence systems, General Amirali Hajizadeh, the commander of its Revolutionary Guards aerospace unit, said Thursday.

Hypersonic missiles, like traditional ballistic missiles which can deliver nuclear weapons, can fly more than five times the speed of sound.

"This hypersonic ballistic missile was developed to counter air defence shields," Hajizadeh said, quoted by Iran's Fars news agency.

"It will be able to breach all the systems of anti-missile defence," said the general, adding that he believed it would take decades before a system capable of intercepting it is developed.

"This missile, which targets enemy anti-missile systems, represents a great generational leap in the field of missiles."

The announcement comes days after Iran admitted sending drones to Russia, but denied

doing so since Russia invaded Ukraine.

The Washington Post reported on October 16 that Iran was preparing to ship missiles to Russia, but Tehran rejected the report as "completely false".

Unlike ballistic missiles, hypersonic missiles fly on a trajectory low in the atmosphere, potentially reaching targets more quickly.

North Korea's test of a hypersonic missile last year sparked concerns about a race to acquire the technology.

Russia currently leads the race to develop the missiles, followed by China and the United States.

A hypersonic missile is manoeuvrable,

making it harder to track and defend against.

While countries like the United States have developed systems designed to defend against cruise and ballistic missiles, the ability to track and take down a hypersonic missile remains a question.



## 1.5 Million People Die Every Year Due To PM 2.5 Air Pollution: Report

### Press Trust of India

**TORONTO:** Fine pollution particles (PM2.5) may be responsible for 1.5 million additional premature deaths around the globe each year, according to a study which found that low levels of air pollution are dangerous than previously thought.

The World Health Organization's most recent estimates are that over 4.2 million people die prematurely each year due to long-term exposure to fine particulate outdoor air pollution referred to as PM2.5.

The latest study, published in the journal Science Advances, suggests that the annual global death count from outdoor PM2.5 may be significantly higher than previously thought.

That is because the re-

searchers found that mortality risk was increased even at very low levels of outdoor PM2.5, which had not previously been recognised as being potentially deadly.

These microscopic toxins cause a range of cardiovascular and respiratory diseases and cancers.

"We found that outdoor PM2.5 may be responsible for as many as 1.5 million additional deaths around the globe each year because of effects at very-low concentrations that were not previously appreciated," said Scott Weichenath, Associate Professor at McGill University in Canada and the lead author on the paper.

The researchers combined health and mortality data for seven million Canadians gathered over a twenty-five-year period with information about the levels of out-

a country with low levels of outdoor PM2.5, making it the perfect place to study health impacts at low concentrations.

Knowledge gained in Canada was then used to update the lower end of the scale that is used to describe how mortality risk changes with outdoor PM2.5 levels.

The study found an improved understanding of how air pollution impacts health on a global scale.

The WHO recently set out ambitious new guidelines for annual average outdoor fine particulate air pollution, cutting its earlier recommendations in half, from concentrations of 10 to 5 microgrammes (ug) per cubic metre.

"One take away is that the global health benefits of meeting the new WHO guideline are likely much larger than previously assumed," said Weichenath.

"The next steps are to stop focussing only on particle mass and start looking more closely at particle composition because some particles are likely more harmful than others," he added.

A better understanding may allow us to be much more efficient in designing regulatory interventions to improve population health, the researchers added. PTI SAR SAR



PM2.5 concentrations across the country. Canada is

## Imran Khan Admits Ties With Pakistan Army Chief Were Strained. Here's Why

### Press Trust of India

**ISLAMABAD:** Imran Khan has said that his relations with Pakistan's Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa nosedived after differences arose over the appointment of the Punjab province chief minister, a media report said today.

The 70-year-old former cricketer-turned-politician, who is recovering from injuries sustained during an assassination bid last week, has announced resumption of the long march on Tuesday but later his party, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf changed the decision and rescheduled it for Thursday.

"I always imagined that, because the Army is so powerful and organised, when I would try to bring rule of law in the country, they would play an im-



portant part," Khan said in the interview to the Dawn newspaper.

When asked when it all began to go wrong between him and Pakistan's powerful Army, Khan said his government's failure to convict those whom he alleged of corruption was the first sign.

The second, he said, was the choice of Punjab chief minister. "The army chief wanted me to have Aleem Khan [as CM Punjab] and I wouldn't. Because not only

were there National Accountability Bureau (NAB) cases against him, he had occupied and sold land worth millions belonging to the government," the PTI chief said.

When asked why he included Khan in his party if he suspected wrongdoing, Khan said, "We always thought they were just allegations. And he defended himself. But when I asked the vice-chairman of the Lahore Development Authority [about Aleem], he showed me on a map how he had occupied government land. This was around the end of my second year, and the beginning of the third year of my government." Khan was unequivocal that until the time Gen Bajwa asked him to make Khan the Punjab chief minister, things were fine.

## Supreme Court To Hear Plea To Stay Demolition Of Afzal Khan's Tomb



### Agencies

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Thursday said that it will hear the plea seeking a stay on the demolition of Afzal Khan's tomb on Friday.

The tomb is located in Satara, Maharashtra.

Advocate Nizam Pasha mentioned the matter today before the Supreme Court.

A bench of Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, Justice Hima Kohli and Justice JB Pardiwala said that it will hear the matter tomorrow.

The plea was filed by Hazrat Mohd Afzal Khans Memorial Society seeking to direct the State of Maharashtra to ensure that no damage is caused to the tomb/dargah of Afzal Khan situated in Pratapgarh, Satara, Maharashtra.

According to the petition, since today morning, i.e., 10.11.2022, there is the widespread belief that the Tomb of Afzal Khan will be demolished today.

"A local online news channel has been running live coverage of the demolition of unauthorised structures around Afzal Khan's Tomb in Satara, Maharashtra. Screenshots from the said live coverage show that men have climbed the roof of

the tomb/dargah with the help of a ladder and are attempting to demolish it," the plea said.

The petitioner submitted that they are apprehensive that damage will be done or the tomb of Afzal Khan may be demolished today and beseeches the top Court to issue appropriate directions to protect the tomb of Afzal Khan that has existed on site since before November 1659.

According to the petition, Afzal Khan was a general who served the Adil Shahi dynasty of the Bijapur Sultanate in India and played an important role in the southern expansion of the Bijapur Sultanate by subjugating the Nayaka chiefs who had taken control of the former Vijayanagara territory. Afzal Khan was defeated and killed by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj on 20.11.1659, the petitioner said.

According to the petition, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was a ruler and a member of the Bhonsle Maratha clan. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj carved out his own independent kingdom from the declining Adilshahi sultanate of Bijapur which formed the genesis of the Maratha Empire and is a duly venerated and important leader in Indian history.

## Jailed Activist Gautam Navlakha Allowed House Arrest On Medical Grounds



### Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court today allowed jailed activist Gautam Navlakha's request for house arrest, saying prima facie there is no reason to reject his medical report.

A bench of Justices KM Joseph and Hrishikesh Roy said the house arrest order should be implemented within 48 hours.

The bench also directed Gau-

tam Navlakha to deposit ₹2.4 lakh, an estimated amount which the National Investigation Agency (NIA) claims as expense for making available police personnel.

It also said that Gautam Navlakha will not be allowed to use a computer and internet during his month-long house arrest.

The 70-year-old activist is in jail in connection with the Elgar Parishad-Maoist link case.

## NEWS MAKERS

### UP Priest Gets Life Sentence For Kidnapping, Raping College Student

**MUZAFFARNAGAR, UP:** A local court on Thursday awarded life imprisonment to a priest after convicting him for abducting and raping a college student.

Additional District Sessions Court judge Chotelal Yadav also imposed a fine of ₹25,000 on the accused, identified as Premchand Goswami.

According to government counsel Rajiv Sharma, the second-year college student was kidnapped in 2016 when she had gone to offer prayers at the local temple.

The police registered a case against Premchand Goswami, the temple priest, and the student was traced after four months, Sharma said.

The victim told the police that the priest had raped her several times during this period. He also kept changing his hideout, the government counsel said.

Following an investigation, the police filed a chargesheet and the court convicted Premchand Goswami after hearing arguments from both sides. (PTI)

## Hacker Demands \$10m To Stop Leaking Australians' Medical Records

### Agencies

A cyber-extortionist has demanded almost \$10 million to stop leaking the medical records of Australians caught up in one of the country's worst cyberattacks.

In a message posted on the dark web early on Thursday morning, the hacker said it was demanding \$1 from Medibank, Australia's largest private health insurer, for each of the 9.7 million customers affected in an enormous data breach last month.

The cybercriminal or criminal organisation also posted information purporting to link clients to their abortions, after earlier this week releasing a "naughty list" appearing to show customers who received treatments for addiction, mental health issues and HIV.

Local media have linked the dark web forum used to post the hacked data to the crime group REvil, which Russian authorities said they shut down earlier this year at the request of the United States.

Medibank CEO David Koczkar on Thursday condemned the hacker's actions as "disgraceful" while reit-

erating an apology to customers.

"We remain committed to fully and transparently communicating with customers and we will be contacting customers whose data has been released on the dark web," Koczkar said.

"The weaponisation of people's private information in an effort to extort payment is malicious, and it is an attack on the most vulnerable members of our community."

Medibank has refused to pay the ransom, citing advice from cybercrime experts that doing so would not ensure the return of customers' information and could put "more people in harm's way by making Australia a bigger target".

The Australian Federal Police, which is investigating the cyberattack, has warned that downloading or even just accessing the data could be a criminal offence.

Home Affairs Minister Clare O'Neil has described the hackers as "scummy criminals".

"I cannot articulate the disgust I have for the scumbags who are at the heart of this criminal act," O'Neil told parliament on Wednesday.

## Beedi Maker's Daughter Clears NEET, Watched YouTube Videos To Prepare

### Agencies

**NIZAMABAD:** The daughter of a beedi maker has cleared her National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) examination and secured an MBBS seat with the help of Youtube videos.

Hailing from a small village in Telangana's Nizamabad district, Harika faced financial difficulties growing up after having lost her father when she was just six-and-a-half-year old. But her mother's hard work and her own efforts in addition to some valuable help from YouTube videos culminated in her clearing the NEET examination.

Harika has been allotted a seat at the Siddipet Government Medical College after clearing the entrance examination. She secured a 40,958 position at the all-India level in this year's exam and her rank at the state level was 703.

"It was my childhood dream to become a Doctor. First, I appeared for NEET UG entrance examination in 2020 but my score was low for a government medical college admission. I reappeared in 2021 but still got a low score. Then, I borrowed a mobile from my cousin and started preparing by watching YouTube videos. I prepared for physics, chemistry and biology using YouTube," she said.



Harika said, "It has been very tough and challenging for my mother to manage my and my brother's studies. She took up various jobs and paid for our schooling. The school principal was kind-hearted and allowed us to study at a low fee. My dream of becoming a doctor was inspired by the principal's daughter who joined MBBS during my schooling. She arranged money for my school and university fees."

Her mother Anuradha is proud of her achievements even though she was reluctant in the beginning because of financial shortage. "My mother is paralyzed. I supported my parents, worked several small jobs and paid for my children's schooling. When my daughter expressed her wish to pursue MBBS, I was reluctant at first. But

a lot of people are helping us now. I am proud that my daughter is going to be a doctor," she said.

Telangana chief minister, K Chandrababhu Naidu's daughter and Nizamabad MLC Kavitha Kalvakuntla has promised to support Harika financially. Kavitha, also a former MP, met Harika and her mother and extended support towards her dreams by handing over the first instalment of her fees.

"Dare to dream and then never stop working until you achieve them. This is the story of Harika, who passed and excelled in the MBBS exams via YouTube videos. I met her and her mother and extended my support towards her dreams by handing over the first instalment of her fees," Kavitha tweeted on Wednesday.



## Govt Revamps Admissions In Polytechnic Colleges

Student Response Increases As BOTE Takes Over Admission Process

### Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** In a significant development, the Polytechnic Colleges in Jammu and Kashmir have seen a 'major revamp' in the admission process after the Board of Technical Education (BOTE) was entrusted to carry out the admission process here.

"Earlier the admissions in polytechnic colleges were done through BOPEE but the department in 2020 took up the matter with administrative council after which the BOTE was entrusted to do the admission in these institutes," an official told a local news agency KNO, adding that the decision proved fruitful for the department as the institutes across J&K are witnessing good student response.

Besides improvement in admissions, the department has also conducted 15-20 placement fairs at government Polytechnic institutes and ITIs wherein nearly 5000 candidates have got jobs till date.

"We have also developed Entrepreneurship Development Cells in all the Polytechnics of J&K wherein students are assisted in setting up their enterprises and requisite training are provided through Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship

Development Institute (JKEDI)," the official said.

Notably, the Directorate of Technical Education J&K earlier had submitted a proposal to the government to introduce an open admission system for aspiring candidates for diploma courses in the polytechnic colleges established across J&K.

The proposal was submitted to "revamp the admission policy" after witnessing "considerable decrease" in the enrollment of the students in these institutes before 2020.

The proposal submitted by the then director technical education recommended suspension of admission process BOPEE.

Notably, the enrollment in polytechnic colleges has receded from 72 percent in 2014 and 35 percent in 2018.

"But the situation has considerably improved in polytechnic colleges as almost over 90 percent seats are filled in these institutes," the official said.

Besides the admission process conducted by BOTE, the left-out seats are filled by the concerned Principals of the polytechnic colleges.

"The joint efforts by JKBOTE and the concerned Principals of polytechnic colleges have borne good fruits," the official said.

T20 WC Final

## PDP Postpones Youth Convention For Possible India-Pak Clash

### Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** People's Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday said the party has postponed its youth convention scheduled for Sunday in view of the possibility of India taking on Pakistan in the final of the ongoing T20 World Cup in Australia.

"PDP Youth Convention scheduled for 13th Nov has been postponed because of the likelihood of an India-Pak

cricket match," the PDP president tweeted.

She expressed hope that, in the likelihood of an India-Pakistan final, the authorities in Kashmir take it just as game.

"Hope LG admin & police sportingly treats it as a game & not an excuse to crackdown on young boys in the Valley," she added.

Several persons were booked last year for allegedly celebrating Pakistan's victory over India in T20 World Cup held in the UAE.

## Mega Cultural Festival Held At Shopian



### Observer News Service

**SHOPIAN:** J&K Folk Artists Association and Shah Qalander Folk Theatre in collaboration with District Administration Shopian on Thursday organized 'Mega Cultural Festival' at the Auditorium of Intiyaz Memorial Government Degree College (IM-GDC) Shopian, here.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, who was chief guest on the occasion, inaugurated the Cultural Festival with "Isban Sozi".

The Festival was organised to celebrate the rich tradition, culture and heritage of the district.

The DC complimented the organizers for organizing such a cultural show in the district.

The main attractions of the programme were Bacha Nagma by Manzoor Ahmed Shah and party, Kashmiri Wanwun, Kashmiri

Rouf by College girls, Welcome Song by Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Shopian; Damaali Dance by Sagar Shabir and his team, Waliye Aasove Skitch by Kulgam Artists, besides folk dances and music performances.

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 dispensation is keen to support the artists of J&K and various initiatives are taken by the LG Administration in this regard.

In fact, organizing Jashn-e-Kashmir will really provide the platform to the youth artists to show their talent, he said.

# J&K, Ladakh Were And Will Be India's Integral Part: Tushar Mehta

### Press Trust Of India

**GENEVA:** India on Thursday firmly told Pakistan that the entire Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh were and will always be its integral and inalienable part and said that after the constitutional changes in 2019, the people of the region are now able to realise their full potential as in other parts of the country.

Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta made the remarks at the 41st Session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group which is being held from November 7-18 at the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) here.

"The entire Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh were and will always be an integral and inalienable part of



India," he said, responding to the Pakistani representative's intervention.

"After the constitutional changes and reorganisation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, the people of the region are now able to realise their full potential as in other parts of the country. Despite the continued threat of cross border terrorism, the security

situation has improved significantly in Jammu and Kashmir since August 2019," said Mehta, who is leading the Indian delegation at the meeting.

India abrogated Article 370 of the Constitution, revoking the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcating the state into two Union Territories on August 5, 2019.

Mehta said that the government of India has taken several steps for all round development of Jammu and Kashmir, including restoration of democracy at the grassroots levels, good governance, unprecedented development of infrastructure, tourism and trade.

"This year, Jammu and Kashmir has already received over 16 million tourists, the highest ever so far," he added

## Endangered Hangul Population Shows Increase In Kashmir

### Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The Endangered royal stag, popularly known as the Hangul, has shown a gradual increase in its population and fresh survey in this regard is being carried out through genetic methods.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red Data Book which contains lists of species at risk of extinction has declared the Hangul as one of three species that were critically endangered in J&K. The other two are the Markhor and the Tibetan antelope or 'Chiru'.

The Hangul is placed under Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and the J&K Wildlife Protection Act, 1978.

"To increase the breed of the 'Hangul', the animal breeding centre is functional at Shikargah area of Tral in Pulwama under the 'Species Recovery Programme', an official said.

The official said that the last Hangul census was conducted in 2021, the population of Hangul has shown a significant rise. "Presently the Hangul population is 263 as per the 2021 census", he said.

The census revealed that the number of Hangul males per 100 females was 126 in 2021 down from 153 in 2019. The number of fawns per 100 females has increased to 13.4 in 2021 from 9 in 2019.

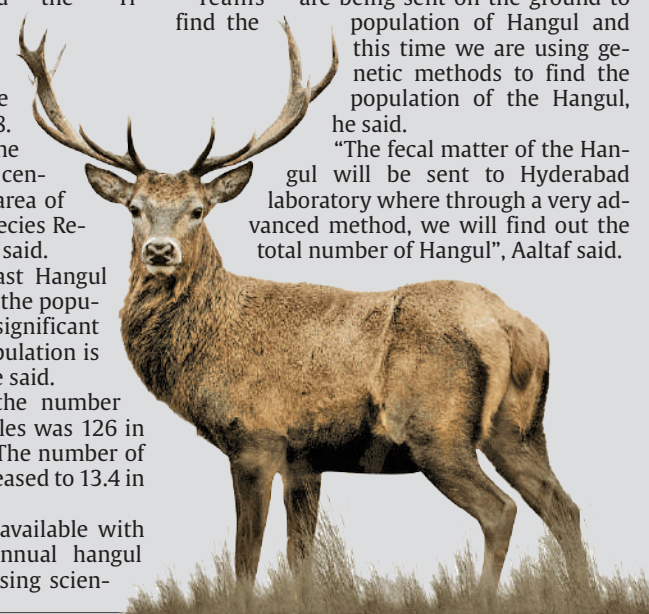
He said the census reports available with the department show the annual hangul counting started since 2004 using scientific methods which estimates the population at 197 in 2004, 153 in 2006, 127 in 2008, 175 in 2009, 218 in 2011, 186 in 2015, 214 in 2017 and 237 in 2019.

Aaltaf Hussain Dentoo, Wildlife Warden, Central division told a local news agency KNO that there is a gradual increase in the population and there are no worrisome factors.

"As hangul is endangered but like other animals they get their food naturally. In winters, during snowfall, we drop some vegetables, fresh leaves and other things for them", he said.

Teams are being sent on the ground to find the population of Hangul and this time we are using genetic methods to find the population of the Hangul, he said.

"The fecal matter of the Hangul will be sent to Hyderabad laboratory where through a very advanced method, we will find out the total number of Hangul", Aaltaf said.



## Anganwadi Workers Demand Pending Wages, Hold Protests

### Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Hundreds of Anganwadi workers on Thursday held massive protests and courted arrests here in support of their demand for regularisation of their services and release of salaries pending for the past 11 months.

They sought a hike in honorarium to Rs 18,000 for Anganwadi workers and Rs 9,000 for helpers, regularisation of their services and formulation of promotion policy in their favour.

Under the banner of Anganwadi workers and helpers association, they shouted slogans against the Jammu and Kashmir administration for failure to provide them salaries pending for release since January.

The workers, supported by

the Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS), began the march from the Jammu Press Club but police did not allow them to move ahead. Consequently, they held a 'dharna' at the Jewel Chowk, one of the busiest road intersections in the city, briefly throwing the traffic out of gear.

Police officials were persuading the workers to stop their march.

After brief pulls and pushes with police, they courted arrests and some of them were forcibly taken away in the vehicles.

"The protests are being held against the government. Anganwadi workers are angry. They have not being paid their honorarium from January to November this year. Our demand is that honorarium should be released immediately", BMS General Secretary Neelam Sharma told reporters here.

She also demanded that the government should regularise their services as permanent employees. "Unless they are regularized, the Anganwadi workers should be given Rs 18,000 as honorarium and Rs 9,000 to helpers", she said.

There should be a promotion policy for anganwadi workers and helpers, she said.

She warned their protest would intensify if the demands were not met. Due to the strike of the workers, close to 30,000 anganwadi centres were shut in the region on Thursday.

Sharma said that honorarium should be increased immediately. There are about 28,000 anganwadi workers and helpers in the state.

## DC Kulgam Reviews Power Scenario



Instructs Concerned To Ensure Smooth Power Supply During Winters

### Observer News Service

**KULGAM:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat Thursday convened a meeting of concerned officers to review overall power scenario and the status of ongoing developmental works being carried out by the KPDCIL in the district.

During the meeting, the DC enquired about the availability, demand and position of power supply in the district and also took a comprehensive review of the work on other vital projects spearheaded by the various wings of KPDCIL under various schemes.

While reviewing progress

made in augmentation of 33KV Kulgam D.H.Pora line the concerned informed the chair that work is going on in full swing.

The DC instructed the concerned to ensure in-time completion of augmentation of this line. He also impressed upon the officers to follow the curtailment schedule during winters and to make the system vibrant to avoid unscheduled power cuts.

Dr Bilal also reviewed the winter action plan of the department and instructed the officers to intensify the enforcement drives against crude devices.

SE KPDCIL Bijbehara, Executive Engineers from KPDCIL Kulgam, STD, Bijbehara and Project Division Anantnag-Kulgam, Project Manager PGCIL and AEE besides other officers also attended the meeting.

### SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

## TAD Holds Awareness Camp Cum Workshop For ST Students



### Observer News Service

**ANANTNAG:** The Department of Tribal Affairs Thursday organized an awareness camp cum workshop at Dakbungalow Khanabal to spread awareness regarding the schemes in vogue for the betterment of scheduled tribes in UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

The awareness camp cum workshop was attended by DDC Chairman, DDC members, BDC chairpersons, Principals of GDCs, HSSs, ITIs, CEO, ZEOs, faculty members from various institutions among others.

Speaking on the occasion, Javid Ahmad said that the aim of conducting this awareness camp is to disseminate information about the schemes meant for the betterment of scheduled tribes to the heads of educational institutions. Apprising the chair, he said that there are 12 schemes in vogue for the development of the ST community at present.

He said that the Department of Tribal Affairs is adopting two cluster villages with sizable ST population in each district for accelerated development. He added that in every sector including health, education, power and water supply, road connectivity, skill upgradation, etc special emphasis is being given on ensuring the benefits percolate to the tribal communities.

He said that 20 ambulances have been provided to the health department for servicing remote areas with sizable ST population and 30 hostels are functioning to ensure that

students from the tribal communities can attend higher educational institutions away from home.

The chair was informed that pre and post matric scholarships are being enhanced so that more ST students will be covered besides tribal festivals are being organised to celebrate the tribal culture.

Several PRIs attended the workshop and put forth demands including inclusion of all castes of forest dwellers in ST community.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr Basharat Qayoom while speaking on the occasion said that it is the moral and legal duty of the heads of institutions to aware and enroll the ST students in various schemes.

He said that various initiatives are being taken for the upliftment of ST community viz. census of migratory population, providing mobile teachers, transportation facilities, tribal awards, organising tribal festivals, skill development trainings, scholarship schemes, organising awareness camps etc. He said that the aim of organising such awareness camps is to ensure that every member of the ST community can access the benefits available through schemes in vogue.

The DC said that the issues raised will be taken up with the higher authorities and directed the revenue officials and heads of educational institutions to speed up the process for enrollment of ST students in scholarship schemes.

## Samoon Reviews Progress On Finalisation Of PwC Report

### Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Principal Secretary, Skill Development Department (SDD), Dr. Asgar Hassan Samoon Thursday chaired a meeting to review progress on finalization of the consultancy report of Price-waterhouseCoopers (PwC) and its due implementation for upgrading the skill courses offered by Polytechnics and ITIs across J&K.

The meeting was attended by Secretary in Tribal Affairs Department, Mohammad Harun, Special Secretary, SDD, Director SDD, FA & CA, Principal of ITIs/Polytechnics, representatives of PWC and other

concerned officials.

While chairing the meeting, Dr. Samoon emphasized upon the representatives of PwC that some minor changes are required in the final consultancy report so that it can present a comprehensive picture of all the potential sectors across J&K. He asked them that the future plan for development of trades in ITIs and Polytechnics should be made as per this plan keeping in mind the futuristic aspects in terms of industrial development of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Principal Secretary further stressed upon the representatives

of PWC to consult PRI representatives and other local members for preparing final report. He also asked them to consult the reports prepared by Visiting officers during Back to Village programme and draft their final consultancy report on that basis as Skill development from panchayat level was also in the agenda of administration while conducting that flagship programme.

During the meeting, the PWC team gave a detailed presentation on progress of consultancy report prepared by the organisation for the improvement of Skill institutes across Jammu and Kashmir.

## IIM Jammu Welcomes Academic Team From Australian University

### Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** An academic delegation from the RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia on Thursday visited IIM Jammu Transit Campus at Canal Road.

The delegation consisted of Dr. Kevin Argus, Program Director-MBA, Prof. David Smith, Dean of Accounting, Dr. Konrad Peszynski, Head of Teaching & Learning, and Program Director, School of Business IT and Logistics, Abhishek Tulsian, RMIT University, Australia.

The academic delegation from RMIT University, Australia met and interacted with Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, and the faculty members of the Institute. The meeting commenced with a



welcome to RMIT Team by the Director, IIM Jammu including a virtual tour and presentation of IIM Jammu. The session also included a presentation on RMIT University by the academic delegation led by RMIT Team.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu said, "IIM Jammu is looking forward to collaborating with RMIT

University Australia. This will be a vital part of IIM Jammu's international endeavours and helpful in fostering the advancement in teaching, research, and cultural understanding as well as the international reputation of both the institutes through student exchange, faculty exchange, technology transfer, and research programs. The coming together

of both Institutes is sure to open new avenues and meaningful outcomes in the interest of all the stakeholders".

Prof. David Smith, Dean of Accounting, RMIT University, Australia said, "Collaborating with IIM Jammu, an Institute of national importance will help us to develop our competence in many key areas ranging from the development of educational and training programs, long-range planning, and Institutional development. The collaboration between the two reputed Institutes will give a leading edge to the research output of RMIT University, Australia. We at RMIT University are looking forward to fruitful outcomes in the interest of both Institutes".



KASHMIR OBSERVER

Friday | 11-11-2022

Ukraine War  
Goes On

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Tuesday his forces would not yield "a single centimetre" in battles for the eastern Ukrainian region of Donetsk, where Ukrainian forces are moving into a southern town with tanks. This is one of the four areas that Russia claimed it annexed in September. The Ukrainian military and Russian proxies have been engaged in combat there since 2014, the same year that Russia took Crimea's southern region. Russia has certainly suffered some reverses in the war in recent weeks but Russian president Vladimir Putin has shown no sign that he is backing down. Nor has he shown any willingness to seek a negotiated settlement to the conflict. On Tuesday, Putin disclosed 50,000 reservists called up under Moscow's partial mobilisation drive are now involved in active fighting in Ukraine.

If anything, Putin's approach shows - as does that of the west - that the war is set to go on for now. Neither is willing to blink as the geopolitical stakes are too high. The US-led western military alliance NATO has so far ensured that Ukraine forces put up tough resistance to the advancing Russian army. The US and major European countries have supplied Ukraine with generous military aid to better defend itself against Russian aggression. The West has also got Russia's neighbours like Finland and Sweden to join NATO. The development has further riled Russia which opposes the expansion of NATO right up to its borders, a position that became the trigger for its invasion of Ukraine.

At the root of the war is the growing rivalry between Washington and Beijing. It is the fight for control of the new world order. On a grander scale, war is the latest twist in the ongoing great power duel as America faces one of its severest tests as the world's sole superpower. Some western experts have already written the epitaph of America's unipolar moment. In that sense, it would be interesting to see who blinks first in this great power war of nerves. And that could decide the new superpower of the world.

But America, despite its recent setback in Afghanistan, its failure to have its way in Syria, and its difficulties in pushing Russia out of Ukraine, remains the world's No 1 power. Its GDP and defense expenditure remains several times higher than its nearest competitor China. That said, we are at an interesting moment in history. The outcome of the current maneuvering by the US and China - two superpowers - will determine the new global geopolitics if not the new superpower of the world

OTHER OPINION

Curtailing Dollar  
Dependence

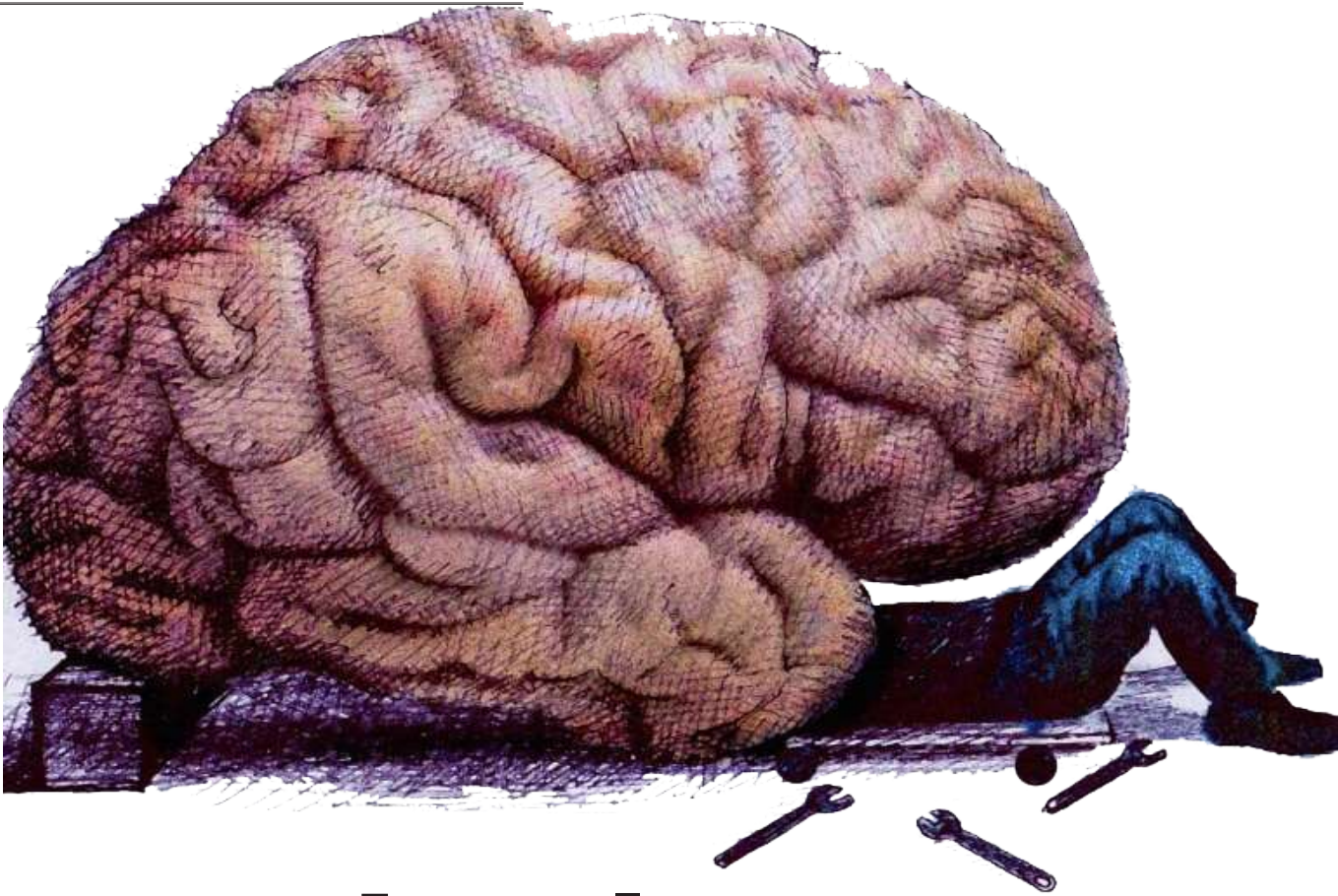
India's foreign exchange reserves, at \$531.08 billion as on October 28, have dipped from a peak of \$642.02 billion a year ago. It isn't surprising, therefore, that the government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are seeking to conserve reserves by facilitating international trade in domestic currency, as opposed to the dollar. The RBI had, in September, allowed the public sector UCO Bank to open a special rupee "Vostro" account for Russia's Gazprombank. This was to enable payments for imports from Russia to be made in rupees and credited to the said account. The monies deposited in the same Vostro account could, in turn, be debited for paying Indian exporters to Russia in rupees. Besides UCO Bank, two Russian-owned banks — Sberbank and VTB Bank — have opened special Vostro accounts at their respective branches in Delhi. To the extent that payments for trade between the two countries happens in rupees, it reduces India's dollar dependence and depletion in forex reserves.

According to a report in this newspaper, India wants to push similar rupee-based bilateral trade mechanisms with Sri Lanka, Maldives and assorted southeast Asian, African and Latin American countries. The idea isn't new. Even before Russia, the same UCO Bank operated a special Vostro account of four Iranian commercial banks, where Indian refiners deposited rupee payments for import of crude from the Western sanctions-hit Islamic republic. Iran used these funds to import basmati rice, tea, sugar, soyabean meal and pharmaceuticals, especially during 2016-17 to 2019-20. The arrangement worked quite smoothly till the Vostro account ran dry after India practically stopped sourcing crude from Iran, following the lifting of sanction waivers by the US.

It links up with the limitations to such domestic currency-based trade settlements. The first is, of course, geopolitical: Russia has now emerged as India's biggest crude supplier, from a distant No 12 in 2021-22. How long can this sustain in a deepening sanctions regime? The second is more basic. India's imports from Russia — mainly petroleum, coal, fertilisers and sunflower oil — stood at \$21.35 billion during April-September, but its exports to that country were worth just over \$1 billion. The trade imbalance would leave far too much unused rupees in the Vostro account. It also explains why the RBI's alternative rupee trade payment mechanism hasn't really taken off and Indian refiners are still buying Russian oil using dollars. Russia, if at all, seems keen on payment in UAE dirham or rouble, but not rupee. Trade ultimately has to be a two-way street. While curtailing dollar dependence and exploring bilateral trade options by paying/settling in domestic currencies makes for sound economics, it cannot replace the need for India to export more — whether to Russia or China.

Indian Express

Mindful Fridays



National  
Education  
Day

Education, Mental  
Health and New  
Education Policy (2020)

Wasim Kakroo

National Education Day is celebrated in India every year on 11th of November to commemorate the Birthday of Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad for his contributions towards the education system in India.

Whether you loved it or loathed it, your school days will always be a part of who you are. Even if we weren't conscious of it at the time, our experience in school helped shape who we are as adults today, which is not surprising considering that school is the center of every child who attends school. Students discover who they are, their interests, likes, and dislikes, as well as their strengths and weaknesses, in this environment. Students' development is significantly influenced by the school and its environment. In addition to academics, schools are places where children learn social connections, social skills and establish their first relationships outside of the home. The outer world and the one within a school are very different from one another.

A child or adolescent learns a variety of other skills at school, including how to form and maintain friendships, participate in extracurricular activities like sports and stage-based activities like hosting programs, debates, and seminars, as well as how to establish and maintain their academic skills. Thus, school and hence education can and should be instrumental for a child's or adolescents' holistic (social, psychological, emotional, physical, and academic) development and hence enhance their mental health and wellbeing.

There is strong evidence that higher education levels are related to improved mental health. Since the association between the two is fairly complex, causal linkages are challenging to establish. But studies have shown that education is one of the most obvious predictors of outcomes in life, including employment, wealth, and social standing. As a result, it has a high degree of predictive power for better health and wellbeing. Meanwhile, lower levels of education have been linked to poorer socioeconomic position.

Higher education levels have been linked to better mental health. The argument is that educated individuals have more options, which gives them more security and more control over their lives. Higher education recipients are likely to make more money overall. Higher education recipients are more likely to earn more throughout the course of their lives.

Low levels of education have also been associated with a lack of resilience and poor sense of control. Lower levels of education are linked

to "a lack of psychosocial resources" (such as a sense of control, resilience, the capacity to defer gratification, and access to cultural activities), as well as more exposure to everyday stressors. These negative elements have a strong association with the onset of depression.

People with more education, and consequently higher wages, are frequently spared from the health-harming stresses that come along with protracted social and economic adversity. Those with less education frequently have less resources (such as social support, a sense of control over life, and high self-esteem) to fend off the consequences of stress.

Conscientiousness, perseverance, a sense of personal control, flexibility, the capacity for negotiation, and the capacity to form relationships and establish social networks are just a few examples of the qualities that education in school and other learning opportunities outside of the classroom help to foster. These qualities are important throughout life and are important to mental health.

Adults with higher levels of education typically have wider social networks, which give them access to financial, psychological, and emotional resources that may lessen hardship and stress and thus enhance mental health.

People with higher education are also more likely to learn about healthy ways of living and are better suited for better careers. Patients who are better informed may be better able to understand their medical needs, follow instructions, speak out for themselves and their families, and interact with healthcare professionals in an efficient manner.

NEP-2020 has been framed, keeping in view the role of school education in the overall mental health and wellbeing of students.

The New Education Policy (NEP), which was finally unveiled after 3 long decades, has taken significant steps in this direction and is

cultural influences all playing a role in how the child thinks.

Periodically, many schools in affluent countries assess kids' psychological health and inform parents of their findings. The child's emotional needs and emotions are met in this way.

If this were to be put into practice, we would be able to deal with children's problems and provide them with the right kind of guidance. Students may experience problems ranging from the most basic, like receiving poor grades or getting little sleep, to serious problems, such as marital abuse or violence.

In many schools in developed countries, regular assessments of students' psychological health are made, and the results are shared with the parents. The needs of the child's emotions are met in this way.

If this were to be adopted, we would be able to address the problems facing the children in our nation and provide them with the proper guidance. Students may experience problems ranging from very basic ones like poor grades or poor sleep to serious ones like domestic violence or abuse.

Children find it hard to express their feelings, but psychologists can tell by watching how a child behaves around their parents, teachers, and peers. More complex emotions like assurance, hope, guilt, and pride become apparent as the child grows and develops. Teaching kids how to manage their emotions is crucial. Early detection of odd behavior by therapists or psychologists can help the child express their feelings in a healthy, constructive way.

The government's initiative through NEP 2020 to enhance and promote students' mental health can only be successful with the schools' enthusiastic cooperation. The ownership must be taken by every school at the state, district, sub-district, and block levels. School counseling would result in the adoption of a curricu-

People with more education, and consequently higher wages, are frequently spared from the health-harming stresses that come along with protracted social and economic adversity. Those with less education frequently have less resources (such as social support, a sense of control over life, and high self-esteem) to fend off the consequences of stress

expected to revolutionize the educational system. Some of the highlights of the New Education Policy, 2020 include allocating 6% of the GDP to education, placing emphasis on vocational programs, and the standardization of Indian Sign Language (ISL).

Besides everything else, the fact that mental health examinations will be a part of students' routine physical checkups is what appeals to me as a clinical psychologist. Even if this new educational policy is still in its infancy, the idea of keeping an eye on students' psychological wellbeing is commendable because health isn't just about physical wellness.

Humans have emotional and logical thinking abilities. Every stage of a kid's development, from conception to adulthood, is progressive, with environmental, social, genetic, and

lum that supports both intellectual and personal and psychological growth.

To make the highlights of the New Education Policy-2020 more understandable, schools may host online workshops. The best outcomes would come from hiring a psychologist or counselor on a permanent basis (instead of as visiting faculty), as this would allow students to talk about their problems before their next visit.

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NATIONAL EDUCATION DAY

# MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD AN APPRAISAL OF HIS LEGACY

Tribute To Azad On His Birth Anniversary

Dr Tauseef Ahmad Parray

11th November is celebrated as the 'National Education Day' across India in the honor, memory, and recognition of Abul Kalam Azad (11th Nov. 1888–22nd Feb. 1958). Maulana Azad—a theologian, Urdu journalist, politician, educationist, an Islamic intellectual par excellence—was an influential political leader of the first half of the 20th century, who later on served as the first Education Minister of independent India.

Born in Makkah, and raised in Calcutta, his original name was Feroz Bakht/ Muhiyuddin Ahmed; but he is commonly known as Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (1888–1958), with 'Azad' as his pen-name. Some of his famous works of Azad are: Tarjuman al-Qur'an; Ghubar-i-Khatir ('Sallies of the Mind'); Tazkirah ('Memoirs'); India Wins Freedom; al-Hilal; Al-Balagh, etc.

It is a well-known fact that Azad was one of the significant Indian political leaders associated with 'Khilafat movement' and Indian National Congress. It is also well-known, and an accepted fact, that he penned, and stressed much, on concepts/ topics such as universalism, nationalism, secularism, national integration, and communal harmony. Azad is generally accepted as a journalist, exegete of the Qur'an, an Islamic scholar, and an Educationist (first Education Minister of Independent India), of highest caliber. It was on the basis of these qualifications that the then Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, referred to him as 'Mir-i-Karavan' (the Caravan leader), "a very brave and gallant gentleman", and M. K. Gandhi described him as "a person of the caliber of Plato, Aristotle, and Pythagoras".

In 2007, almost-a-decade-before, on his birth anniversary, The Hindu (in its Sunday Magazine: "The man who sated behind") paid tribute to Azad in these words: Azad was "President of the Indian National Congress from 1940–45, leader of the Quit India movement and head of Congress delegations in crucial meetings during this period. As a Muslim divine, steeped in the erudition of his faith, and as a committed nationalist unalterably opposed to the proposed partition of his country, Azad symbolized the all-inclusive aspirations of the nationalist movement".

This year, Syeda Saiyidain Hameed, the Padma Shri awardee writer-activist-educationist (in her write-up, "Abul Kalam Azad, the lodestar", The Indian Express, 28th Mar 2018) highlighted the forgotten legacy of Azad as: "No one remembers Azad. Not even the Congress, the party to which he committed his life. He has been relegated to a corner of political hoardings, a man with a topi [cap] and beard, a Muslim caricature. This is unlike what he remained throughout his life, the elegant, erudite statesman who towered next to [M. K.] Gandhi and [Jawaharlal] Nehru during the tumultuous days of the freedom struggle".

Professor Mohammed Ayoob (Michigan State University, USA) in his write-up "Remembering Maulana Azad" (The Hindu, 25th May 2018) described Azad in these words: "He found no contradiction between being an Islamic scholar and an ardent Indian nationalist. He considered the fight for an independent, united India a part of his religious creed". He also pointed out, by way of conclusion, that it is "unfortunate that Maulana Azad's legacy, a superb antidote to majoritarian chauvinism so rampant currently, is all but forgotten today".

In scholarly works, Azad has been described, and has been remembered, in deferent capacities. For instance, Azad has been described as "Liberal theologian" (Aziz Ahmad); "Indian theologian-philosopher" (Irfan Ahmad); "Indian Muslim intellectual and nationalist leader" (Juan E. Campo); "chief theoretician of the Khilafat movement for Islamic solidarity and a supporter of Indian independence" (Charles Kurzman); "an Urdu-speaking theologian and journalist" who belonged



**SYEDA SAIYIDAIN HAMEED, THE PADMA SHRI AWARDEE WRITER-ACTIVIST-EDUCATIONIST** (in her write-up, "Abul Kalam Azad, the lodestar", The Indian Express, 28th Mar 2018) highlighted the forgotten legacy of Azad as: "No one remembers Azad. Not even the Congress, the party to which he committed his life. He has been relegated to a corner of political hoardings, a man with a topi [cap] and beard, a Muslim caricature."

to "Islamic integrationists" or "Islamic Nationalists" (Richard C. Martin); one of the "leading figures of the Khilafat movement" and "important [thinker] in giving voice to political frustrations facing Muslims" (Vali Raza Nasr); "the writer, thinker and educationist", who for most of his life "remained at the centre of Indian nationalist politics" (Burjor Avari); "an identist religious pluralist" (Yousuf Dadoo); "a religious scholar who was among the most prominent Muslims associated with the Indian National Congress and later among those opposing the demand for a separate Muslim homeland" (Muhammad Qasim Zaman); a "Pan-Islamist" and "a prominent leader of the Indian National Congress" (Mazheruddin Siddiqi); one of the major South Asian representatives behind the "project of Islamic modernism" (Ibrahim H. Abu Rabi); a personality who is "particularly valuable" example on "religious plurality", as he had "firm belief in Islam as well as his passionate commitment to communal harmony and a secular state" (Yoginder Sikand); "an Indian Muslim leader and Islamic scholar" (Muqtedar Khan); "a deeply humane and reflective Islamic thinker" (The Hindu, 2007); "Islamic thinker, and religious universalist" (Christian W. Troll); an "Islamic theologian who was one of the leaders of the Indian independence movement against British rule in the first half of the 20th century" (The Encyclopedia Britannica); and above all "a man of religion, a religious reformer, and a scholar of Islam" (Ian H. Douglas).

Ian Henderson Douglas, in his Abul Kalam Azad—An Intellectual and Religious Biography (1988)—which has been

termed as the "most penetrating study of Azad's life and works"—described Azad as: Azad is, by any reckoning, a major figure in 20th century Indian history. A scholar thoroughly trained in the traditional Islamic sciences, Azad was a man of religion, a religious reformer, and a scholar of Islam, who made a lasting contribution to Urdu prose literature through his various writings, including Tarjuman al-Qur'an, introspective autobiography, and through Al-Hilal and Al-Balagh magazines. Azad was, indeed, the man of religion, as a Muslim reformer and scholar of Islam (pp. 1–2, 98, 282, 284). Henderson died before the publication of this book, and thus it was edited by Gail Minault and Christian W. Troll (both are well-versed scholars specialising in South Asian history) and was published by Oxford University Press (New Delhi).

In 2002, Charles Kurzman (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, USA) published an anthology on Modernist Islam: A Sourcebook. Among the South Asian modernists, this book includes a Chapter on Azad—originally an extract from his Speech (Qaul-i-Faisal: "The Last Word") delivered in Calcutta, India on January 11, 1922). Kurzman, in his introduction, presents the portrait of Azad in these words: Azad was the chief theoretician of the Khilafat movement for Islamic solidarity and a supporter of Indian independence. He was also an exegete of the Qur'an and a prominent literary figure. He was dismayed by the disagreements among Muslims; he adopted the pen name "Azad" (free). Between 1912 and 1930, Azad edited the journals al-Hilal (The Crescent) and al-Balagh (The Message), the most

important Muslim periodicals of the region. He joined the Indian independence movement, served as president of the All-India National Congress in 1940–1947, and remained an advocate for Hindu-Muslim amity for the rest of his life. When Pakistan was created, Azad remained in India, was appointed minister of education, and served as deputy leader of Congress (p. 325).

Juan E. Campo (University of California, USA), editor, Encyclopedia of Islam (New York, 2009, p. 79) has described Azad as the "Indian Muslim intellectual and nationalist leader", who "was a leader in India's struggle to gain independence from Britain in the early 20th century, and he served as the country's first minister of education from 1947 until his death in 1958". For Campo, Azad's most important religious work was Tarjuman al-Quran (1931); his thinking was further affected by his travels in the Middle East in 1908–09, when he met with nationalists and religious reformers in Iran, Iraq, Turkey, and Egypt. He established a weekly Urdu journal in 1912 called Al-Hilal, in which he called upon India's Muslims to unite and join with other Indians in a nonviolent campaign for independence from Britain.

Vali Raza Nasr (Tufts University, USA), in his chapter on South Asia (in The New Cambridge History of Islam, 2010, p. 561) describes Azad's multi-faceted personality in these words: Azad was one of "the leading figures of the Khilafat movement"; he was the person who "captured the imagination of young activists, and became their role models"; he was one of the "most important" figures who through his "passionate essays in his jour-

nal al-Hilal" had gained wide popularity among the "Muslim activists of all hues"; he was the person who became "a model for Islamist intellectual activism". Nasr further states that "Azad was particularly important in giving voice to political frustrations facing Muslims, and as such helped [to] create the notion of a singular Muslim political community".

In 2013, Yousuf Dadoo (a Religious Studies Professor from South Africa) published a paper in 'Religion and Theology' (vol. 20, 2013, pp. 129–152; a reputed journal by Brill, Netherlands) in which he studied Azad as one of the three (other two being Muhammad Ali and Abdullah Yusuf Ali: both are famous for the translating the Qur'an in English language) "Qur'anic Scholars of the Indian Subcontinent" on the issue of "Religious Pluralism". He reaches the conclusion that on this issue Azad "combines philosophy with mysticism" and thus is classified as "an identist religious pluralist" (p. 149).

For Christian W. Troll (in The Oxford Encyclopedia of Islam and Politics, 2-vols., 2014, pp. 118–120) Azad was "an Urdu journalist, Islamic thinker, and religious universalist, who symbolized the Muslim option of composite Indian nationalism". Troll also describes Azad as the person who, through his Al-Hilal, "set out first to revive among the Muslims of India the spirit of Qur'anic Islam as the only solution to the nation's problems; and second to move them to political revolt through participation in the struggle of the Indian Congress Party for self-government". On Azad's religio-political thought, Troll writes: "Azad's overall religious perspective is marked by his unique temperament; he combined aesthetic experience and religious consciousness. ... All of Azad's writings had a deeply religious tenor and were marked by his artistic, highly personalized diction, appealing to intuition rather than discursive reason".

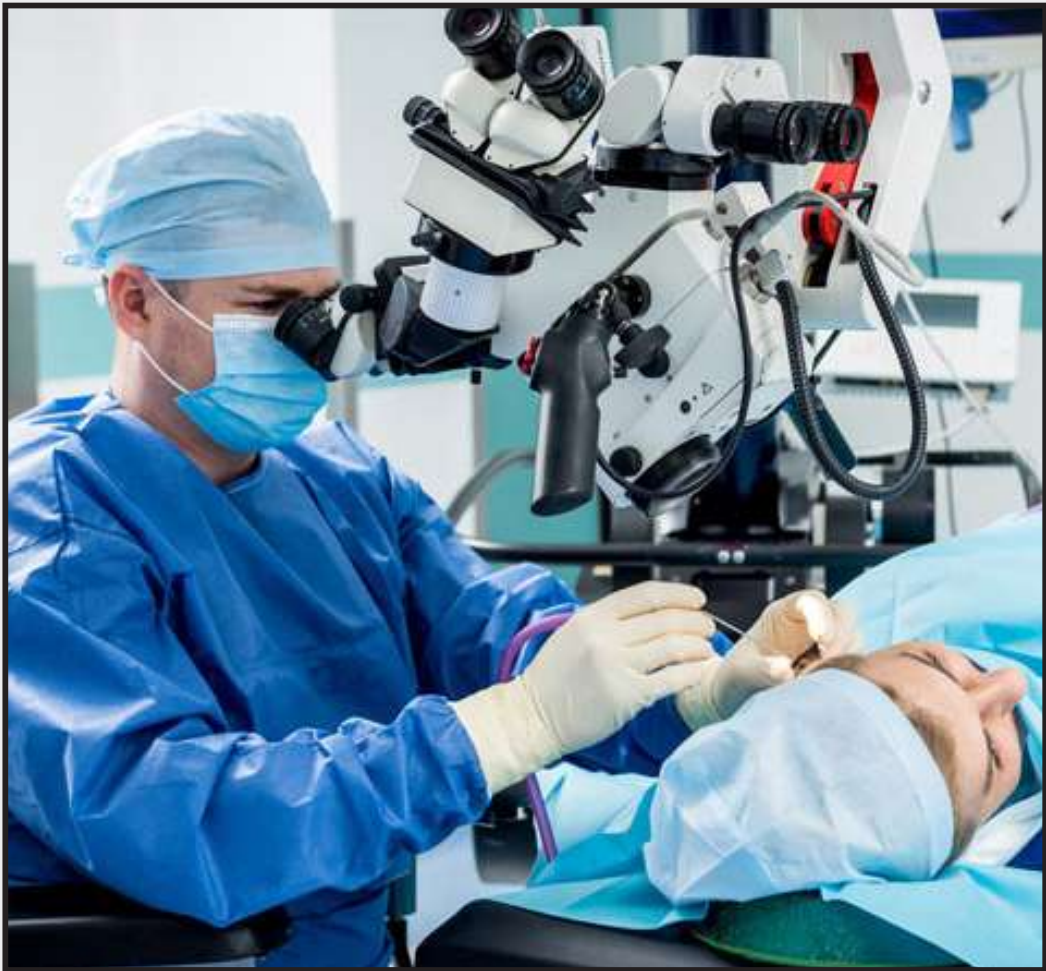
Azad's Ghubar-i-Khatir ('Sallies of the Mind'), a collection of his "charming letters to his friend from British prison at Ahmedabad", for Troll, "provide insight into his multifaceted Islamic sensitivity", while as Azad's Tazkirah ('Memoirs') "offered a passionate discussion of such moral and religious issues as the eternal validity of the word of God, the affinity between earthly and sacred love, and the appreciation of beauty in its varied forms". About these two works of Azad, Prof. Abdul Qadir Jafrai (University of Allahabad) is of the opinion that "If one wants to know his [Azad's] wisdom, nature outlook and intellectualism, then one should study 'Ghubar-i-Khatir' and 'Tazkirah'".

On Azad's religious scholarship, Troll concluded with these words: "although he did not initiate a school of thought, his vision of Islam as Qur'an-based universal humanism continues to inspire Muslim sensitivity, especially in the Urdu-speaking world". And it is apt here to conclude with Prof. Jafari's words: "Maulana Abul Kalam Azad's thoughts about Muslims and Indians have deep relevance. Getting benefitted by these thoughts we can become even today the deserving titles on the pages of the history".

Professor Ayoob has aptly sums up his stature (as a scholar-politician) and his forgotten legacy: Azad was "an Islamic scholar and an ardent Indian nationalist" but it is "unfortunate that Maulana Azad's legacy ... is all but forgotten today". Syeda Hameed also laments on the forgotten legacy of Azad, saying that Azad is not even remembered by "the Congress, the party to which he committed his life" and it is unfortunate that Azad has been "relegated to a corner of political hoardings ... [and just] a Muslim caricature". Professor Muqtedar Khan (Indian-born political scientist at University of Delaware, USA) has rightly described him a "remarkable man by any standards": "a freedom fighter, a journalist, a scholar, a politician and a statesman".

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# Human Cochlea Surgically Accessed For The First Time

People with severe hearing loss often suffer an enormous negative impact on their quality of life, withdrawing from their communities because their disability inhibits interactions with others.

Press Trust Of India


A team of scientists and surgeons has for the first time validated a safe surgical access to the central core of the human cochlea, a hollow, spiral-shaped bone found in the inner ear which plays a key role in the sense of hearing. An international team of researchers from Guy's and St Thomas's NHS Foundation Trust in London, and the universities of Sheffield, Uppsala (Sweden), Nottingham, and Western University in Canada, has proven and confirmed a secure clinical pathway to the cochlea in the inner ear, which will enable the application of a range of regenerative therapies to restore hearing. The human cochlea lies in the base of the skull, encased by the hardest bone in the human body. This has hampered the progress of discovering new treatments for hearing loss, a release by the University of Sheffield said on Wednesday.

The study was funded by Rinri Therapeutics, a biotechnology company developing regenerative cell therapies for sensorineural hearing loss (SNHL). Using a detailed representation of the microanatomy of the peripheral auditory neural structure, surgeons have now been able to reach the human cochlea safely with a routine surgical approach. Marcelo Rivolta, Professor of Sensory Stem Cell Biology at the University of Sheffield and Founder of Rinri Therapeutics, said, "Until now this region of the inner ear has been inaccessible in humans. This means that the pioneering advanced therapies to repair the auditory nerve, which have already proved successful in animal models, have been hampered by limited anatomical knowledge and the lack of a safe access to Rosenthal's canal - the compartment that houses the auditory neurons within the central core of the cochlea. Anatomy-frontal-section-right-external-middle-internal-ear-shut "We believe these findings will have immediate impact on both our understanding of the microstructure of the inner ear and the first in-human trials of new cell, gene and drug therapies to improve hearing loss and deafness."

Dr Simon Chandler, CEO of Rinri Therapeutics, said, "We are delighted to have been able to collaborate with teams across the world to fund this ground-breaking research. "People with severe hearing loss often suffer an enormous negative impact on their quality of life, withdrawing from their communities because their disability inhibits interactions with others. "This research now paves the way for the successful delivery of our regenerative cell therapy for hearing loss, that will bring significant positive impacts to healthcare systems and economies across the globe." Professor Dan Jiang, Director of the Hearing Implant Centre at Guy's and St. Thomas' Hospital, and Chief Investigator on the project, said, "This research provides intuitive knowledge to ear surgeons about the targets of the future cell, gene and drug therapies, and will allow them to reach those targets safely, as they have been trained to do." Gerry O'Donoghue, Professor of Otology and Neurotology at the University of Nottingham, and Clinical Advisor to Rinri Therapeutics, said, "The inaccessibility of the human cochlea has hampered the progress of curative treatments for SNHL to date. "However, these findings will enable the safe delivery of regenerative therapeutics to their target structures within the relatively impenetrable human cochlea, de-risking future clinical interventions and paving the way for clinical trials." Professor Sumit Agrawal, from Western University in Canada, said, "We are delighted that our data was able to contribute to such a vital piece of research, which will enable significant advancements in the clinical trials and treatment of sensorineural hearing loss." The study, published in the latest issue of Scientific Reports, was funded by a grant from Rinri Therapeutics in collaboration with the Swedish Hearing Research Foundation. Scientists at the University of Nottingham led the investigation with support from the universities of Sheffield and Uppsala in Sweden, who conducted all the modelling and imaging for the project. Surgical validation was led by surgeons at Guy's and St. Thomas' Hospital in London.

## Study Reveals Why Those With Autism Avoid Eye Contact

ANI Making eye contact with others is difficult for people with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in normal situations. Despite the fact that eye contact is a crucial component of everyday interactions, the difficulty of simultaneously scanning the brains of two individuals has prevented scientists from researching the neurological underpinnings of live social interaction involving eye contact in ASD. However, using an innovative technology that enables imaging of two individuals during live and natural conditions, Yale researchers have identified specific brain areas in the dorsal parietal region of the brain associated with the social symptomatology of autism. The study found that these neural responses to live face and eye-contact may provide a biomarker for the diagnosis of ASD as well as provide a test of the efficacy of treatments for autism. The findings of the study were published in the journal PLOS ONE. "Our brains are hungry for information about other people, and we need to understand how these social mechanisms operate in the context of a real and interactive world in both typically developed individuals as well as individuals with ASD," said co-corresponding author Joy Hirsch, Elizabeth Mears and House Jameson Professor of Psychiatry, Comparative Medicine, and of Neuroscience at Yale.



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### NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the certificates in respect of the under - mentioned shares of J&K Bank have been lost/misplaced and the holders of the said shares have applied to J&K Bank Ltd/ M/s KFin Technologies Ltd. (Share Transfer Agent) for issue of Duplicate Share Certificates.

S. No	Name of the Shareholder	Folio No.	Certificate No.	Distinctive No.'s	No. of Shares	Address
1.	Neerja Mattoo	JKB025248	503484	6970621-6971620	1000	25 Gogji Bagh, Srinagar, Kashmir-190008.
2.	Zubair Ahmad Ganai	JKB058153	505975	11348731-11349730	1000	Hakura, Badsagam, Anantnag, Jammu and Kashmir-192211
3.	Mohammad Yousuf Wani	JKB006122	506600	12489711-12492710	3000	Sallar, Tehsil Sallar, Dist. Anantnag, Jammu and Kashmir-192401

The Public is hereby warned against purchasing or dealing in any way with above share Certificate(s). Any Person(s) who has/have any claim(s)/objection in respect of the said shares should lodge such claim(s)/objection with the Bank at the Corporate Headquarters. M. A. Road, Srinagar/Share Transfer Agent at the address given below, within fifteen days from the date of Publication of this notice, after which no claim(s) will be entertained and the Bank/Share Transfer Agent will proceed to issue Duplicate Share Certificates.

**Jammu and Kashmir Bank Limited**  
Board Secretariat  
Corporate Headquarters  
M. A. Road, Srinagar - 190 001, Kashmir

**Share Transfer Agent**  
M/s KFin Technologies Ltd.  
Selenium Tower B, Plot 31 & 32  
Financial District, Nanakramguda  
Serilingampally Mandal  
Hyderabad 500 032

**For Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd.**  
Ref. No.: 8/2022-23  
Place: Srinagar  
Date: 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2022

**DIPK-NB-4877/22**  
Sd/-  
(Mohammad Shafi Mir)  
Company Secretary

**Jammu & Kashmir Horticultural Produce Marketing & Processing Corporation (JKHPMC) Ltd**  
Horticulture Department, Jammu & Kashmir Government  
Opposite Presentation Convent School, Rajbagh, Srinagar-190008, J&K

**NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS (E-NIT)**  
Tender Reference No: 115 of 2022  
Date: 09-11-2022

Managing Director, JKHPMC Ltd., invites e-Tenders under "Single Cover System" from reputed-registered Principal Manufacturing Firms/Companies/Agencies, their authorized distributors & dealers for the "Empanelment of Agencies (for a period of one year) for the Finalization of Annual rate Contracts for supply of Additional Agricultural Machinery Equipments and other allied branded items with ISI/BIS marking". The Bidding Document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the JK Govt. website <https://jktenders.gov.in/nicgep/> app from 11-11-2022 to 24-11-2022. The Critical Details of the e-Tender under reference are as follows:

CRITICAL DETAILS	
Cost of Tender Document	Rs. 1000/- (Rupees One Thousand Only)
	NON-REFUNDABLE
	(Only to be deposited in JKHPMC's Bank Account Online)
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs 1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh only)
	in the shape of CDR/FDR/CR drawn on any scheduled bank and pledged to MD JKHPMC Ltd. Srinagar
Date of up-load of e-tender	11-11-2022
Start Date of Online Bid submission	11-11-2022
Last Date of Online Bid submission	24-11-2022
Date & time of opening of Bids	26-11-2022
Bid Validity	365 Days (One Year)

**DIPK-NB-4860/22**  
No: JKHPMC/MD/22/3051-52  
Dt: 10/11/2022

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Managing Director  
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**CANCELLATION NOTICE**  
It is notified for the information of all concerned that due to zero tender response for the works advertised vide this office NIT No: 158/ 9009-18 / SPN/RnB/e-Tendering/2022-23 Dated:-01-11-2022 figuring at S.No: 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20 & 21 and due to single tender response for the works advertised vide this office NIT No: 158/ 9009-18 / SPN/ RnB/e-Tendering/2022-23 Dated:-01-11-2022 figuring at S.No 17 & 18 are hereby cancelled.

No: NIT/9379-84  
Dt: 10-11-2022

Sd/-  
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**DIPK-13254/22**



## GST Evasion Of Rs 55,575 Crore Detected In Last 2 Years, 719 Persons Arrested



Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** GST authorities have detected GST fraud of Rs 55,575 crore over the last two years and arrested over 700 persons for causing loss to the exchequer, an official said on Thursday. Over 22,300 fake GST identification numbers (GSTIN) were detected by the officers of the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI).

The government on November 9, 2020, launched a nationwide special drive against unscrupulous entities for availing and passing on Input Tax Credit (ITC) fraudulently by issuing fake/bogus invoices, thereby evading Goods and Services Tax (GST).

"In the two years of the special drive, GST/ITC fraud worth Rs 55,575 crore has been detected. 719 persons have been arrested, which include 20 CA/CSS professionals," the official told PTI.

Voluntary deposits of Goods and Services Tax (GST) worth Rs 3,050 crore have been made during the period. The official did not disclose the recovery amount in these cases, but said it would be a "sizeable amount".

"Credible intelligence, coordination between intelligence agencies like DGGI, DRI, Income Tax, Enforcement Directorate and CBI, have helped us crackdown on tax evaders," the official said.

The GST department is taking steps to curb evasion, including

verification of registration, e-way bill requirement, and validation for filing GST returns, and also placed restrictions on the quantum of ITC that can be used by businesses for GST payment.

A nationwide GST, which subsumed 17 local levies like excise duty, service tax and VAT and 13 cesses, was rolled out on July 1, 2017.

"In the recent years, the department has stepped up action against fake ITC claims.

The steps taken by GST officers have definitely improved compliance and that is getting reflected in monthly GST collection," the official said.

In October, GST revenues registered the second highest collection ever at nearly Rs 1.52 lakh crore, second only to April when the mop-up was about Rs 1.68 lakh crore.

GST mop-up has been over Rs 1.40-lakh crore for eight months in a row, while for the two months it has crossed the Rs 1.50 lakh crore mark.

With economic activity gaining momentum and improved compliance, officials expect Rs 1.50 lakh crore to be the 'new normal' for monthly GST revenues.

GST revenue in April was about Rs 1.68 lakh crore, May (Rs 1.41 lakh crore), June (Rs 1.45 lakh crore), July (Rs 1.49 lakh crore), August (Rs 1.44 lakh crore), September (Rs 1.48 lakh crore) and October (Rs 1.52 lakh crore).

## Atal Dulloo Reviews Progress Under CAPEX, CSS, NABARD

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo, Thursday chaired a meeting of senior functionaries of Agriculture and its allied departments to review progress on UT Capex, CSS and NABARD besides deliverable of Agriculture Production Department.

Threadbare discussions were held on physical and financial progress made by the APD and allied departments under CAPEX 2022-23, CSS and NABARD during the current financial year.

VC SKUAST Jammu, Professor J P Sharma, DG CAD Jammu, Rajinder Singh Tara; DG Planning APD, H K Prashar; DG Finance APD, Dr H S Arora; Director Agriculture Jammu, K K Sharma; Director P&M SKUAST Jammu, Prof. Jyoti Kachroo; M D JK Agro, Dr. Arun Manhas besides, Joint Director Agriculture (Inputs), A S Reen and other officers and officials were present in the meeting.

Meanwhile, Kashmir based HODs and officers of con-

cerned departments attended the meeting through VC who briefed about present status of physical and financial progress achieved on these schemes, so far. They also elaborated about steps being taken to complete all ongoing development activities besides proper implementation of various schemes being carried out for welfare of the farmers of Jammu and Kashmir.

VC SKUAST Jammu also briefed the meeting about the functioning of University in agriculture sector besides physical and financial status under different components.

ACS emphasized upon the officers to accelerate the process of availability of quality seeds during Rabi season. He also asked them to utilize CSS funding properly so that aim of the schemes is fulfilled in letter and spirit.

He also stressed upon them to ensure increase in availability of providing adequate fertilizers to the farmers in both the regions. He also stressed to make effort for early securing of GI tagging.

## J&K Bank Contributes 77% Of Total Agricultural Lending In J&K: MD & CEO

Attends India International Agro Trade & Technology Fair

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** For agricultural sector, improved credit outreach is one of the biggest enablers for achieving higher productivity and sustainable growth. In this regard, the massive push for KCC saturation and efforts to cover all the eligible farmers under the governments' nudge have provided a fertile ground for the banks and other stakeholders to take the financial inclusion to next level by using the credit history and data of the farmers for enhanced credit outreach and expeditious delivery.

J&K Bank MD & CEO Baldev Prakash made these remarks at India International Agro Trade & Technology Fair – Agro World 2022 – a premier three-day event organised by Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) at Pusa Campus of Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.

Other dignitaries present on the occasion were Secretary, Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) Ministry of Commerce & Industry Dr Sudhanshu, Chairman ICFA Dr M J Khan, Co-founder Omni-vores Ventures Jinesh Shah, COO National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Limited



(NCDEX) Aleen Mukherjee, President Roman Forum Rome Dr Maharaj Mathoo, Dean Imperial School of Agri Business (ISAB) Dr Rahul Pandey and Vice-Chancellor D Y Patil University Dr Prathapan.

Lauding ICFA to bring the world of agriculture – policymakers, Industry leaders, Summit of states and Global business dialogue, Agri Start-ups Ecosystem, Agribusiness and FPOs conventions etc – on one platform, Baldev Prakash said, "The integration of farmers to the global best practices – aided by the advanced technologies, better services and farmer-industry partnerships – is the recipe for accelerating the growth. J&K Bank, being a major stake holder in the Agri/horticulture-based economy of

JK & Ladakh UTs, is also ready to join hands with the Chamber for brainstorming of this scale and vision that I firmly believe is the way forward for doubling the farmers' income as per the vision of our Minister."

Speaking on the theme 'Better Credit Outreach for Better Agriculture', Baldev Prakash spoke about the leading and pro-active role of J&K Bank in transforming the agro-economy of J&K and Ladakh in terms of financial intermediation critical to ensure the UT's steady progress towards becoming a rich agricultural economy. "One of the success stories have been the J&K Bank's transformative Apple Project with farmers' empowerment at its core that was undertaken on a mission-mode basis across the UT.

## FMCG Industry Continues To See Slowdown: Report

'Sales volume falls in rural mkts in Sept quarter'

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The country's FMCG industry continued to witness consumption slowdown in the September quarter, with rural markets registering a higher decline in volumes compared to the three months ended June, says a report.

Also, consumers continued to prefer purchasing smaller packets amid companies hiking prices in response to broader inflationary pressures, according to the report released by data analytics firm NielsenIQ on Thursday.

The FMCG industry witnessed an overall volume decline of 0.9 per cent in the September quarter in comparison to the preceding three months.

This was the fourth consecutive quarter with negative volume growth for the industry and is "attributed to the double-digit price growth for the past six consecutive quarters," the quarterly FMCG industry report said.

Rural markets recorded a volume decline of 3.6 per cent



in the September quarter in comparison to a decline of 2.4 per cent in the June quarter.

"The consumption decline in the rural markets continues to be led by both double-digit price increases and lower unit growth," the report said.

During the same period, urban markets recorded an 1.2 per cent increase in volumes. This growth was led by the food segment with a 3.2 per cent volume growth while the non-food segment had a decline of 3.6 per cent in the September quarter.

However, the report said the Indian FMCG industry continued to have a price-led growth in topline, with an 8.9 per cent growth in the July-September period compared to the previous quarter.

"Volume and value sales of FMCG are above pre-Covid levels" of March quarter of 2020 as the "markets have opened up completely post-pandemic," it added.

Consumers continued to prefer smaller pack sizes. For the industry "average pack size growth is negative in July-September 2022, as consumers keep on buying smaller packs," the report said.

"Most of these new product offering is in terms of changes in pack size. This could be the result of manufacturers working with smaller grammages as raw material prices are still high," the report said.

During the September quarter, volume degrowth at traditional trade channels such as kirana and neighbourhood shops deepened by 2 per cent compared to the June quarter.

Modern trade channels such as hypermarkets, supermarkets and malls "remain resilient with double-digit value (22.2 per cent) as well as volume (11 per cent)," the report said.

## Money In NPS Belongs To People, Can't Go Back To State Govts As Per Law: FM

Press Trust Of India

**SHIMLA:** Finance Minister Nirmla Sitharaman on Thursday said the money in the National Pension Scheme (NPS) belongs to individual contributors and as per law, state governments cannot get it back.

Responding to queries on restoration of the old pension scheme (OPS), Sitharaman clarified at a press conference that Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh governments that are asking the Centre to return the money, cannot get it back as per law.

Chief Ministers of these two states have asked the Centre to return the people's money under NPS for restarting OPS in their states.

Both the Congress-ruled states have notified the reintroduction of OPS for government employees and have said the Centre cannot hold back employees' money.

The Congress has also promised to restart OPS for government employees in Himachal Pradesh and this has become a major poll issue in this assembly election as there are 1.75 lakh government employees in the state.

Himachal Pradesh goes to the polls on November 12.

"As per law, the money in the central kitty of NPS cannot go back to state governments. It can only go back to the contributing workers. Can we change the law? It is the workers' money in the central kitty. That money has to go to the beneficiary individual workers and not to one authority and not to some other entity."

"I am not talking politics here. I am only talking about the law," said Sitharaman addressing the media in Shimla.



Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has been saying that the Centre has refused to return Rs 17,000 crore due to the state government employees enrolled under NPS after the state asked the Centre for it.

Baghel has said the Centre cannot hold that money back for long and the state government has sought legal opinion on the matter and may move court.

Sitharaman said it was the previous Congress government in Himachal Pradesh led by late chief minister Virbhadra Singh who discontinued OPS in 2003 and started NPS for government employees. "You are asking us questions about OPS when the Congress governments here chose to retain NPS in their tenures," she said.

"Our party's national president is working out a solution on OPS," she said, alleging that it is the Congress which should be on the backfoot on the issue.

"Ask those who are benefitting as there are only 300 people who are getting the benefit in Rajasthan instead of 3 lakh employees in the state," she said.

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur also demanded that the Congress apologise to government employees in the state for discontinuing OPS, and thus it has no right to raise the issue of OPS.

## Current Account Deficit Likely To Be Lower At 3 Pc This Fiscal, Says SBI Report

Press Trust Of India

**MUMBAI:** State Bank of India has pencilled in lower current account deficit at 3 per cent for this fiscal as against the minimum consensus of 3.5 per cent, citing rising software exports, remittances and a likely USD 5-billion jump in forex reserves via swap deals.

Every USD 10 increase in crude prices impacts the Current Account Deficit (CAD) to the tune of 40 basis points while the same on fuel inflation is 50 bps and also results in 23 bps decline in growth, according to Soumyakanti Ghosh, the chief economic advisor at SBI. CAD has a counter cyclical shock absorber, he said in a report on Thursday.

Exchange rate is the major contributor to software exports growth and 40 per cent of its variation is explained by exchange rates. "If we translated these numbers in actual terms, every Re 1 fall against the dollar leads to an increase in software exports by USD 250 million".

This, along with an expected USD 5 billion-forex reserve accrual by way of swap transactions and higher remittances, will cap CAD at 3 per cent of GDP as against the average lowest level



projected for the year at 3.5 per cent, Ghosh said.

The strong remittances and software exports have lowered CAD by 60 bps in the June quarter, adding that if this trends continued in the September quarter, then CAD would be below 3.5 per cent in the second quarter and at 3 per cent in the full fiscal. Even otherwise, the chances of it exceeding 3.5 per cent of GDP are minimal, he added.

According to Ghosh, forex reserves, which have declined from USD 642 billion in September 2021 to just about USD 531 billion last week, are expected to rise by USD 5 billion as swap transactions reverse.

The biggest impact on CAD is oil imports, which form as much as 30 per cent of the country's import bills. Therefore, any increase in oil price has a direct impact on the trade deficit by increasing the import bill and consequently widening the CAD.

## Explainer: How Nirav Modi Cheated PNB Of Rs 14,000 Crore Through Fraudulent LoUs

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Pulling off one of the biggest bank frauds in the country, fugitive diamondaire Nirav Modi and his uncle Mehul Choksi created a complex web of deception through fraudulent Letters of Undertaking (LoUs) to siphon off Rs 14,000 crore from state-owned Punjab National Bank in connivance with some bank officials.

After multiple twists and turns in a protracted legal case, Modi on Wednesday lost his appeal against extradition to India as the High Court in London ruled that his risk of suicide is not such that it would be either unjust or oppressive to extradite him to face charges of fraud and money laundering.

The USD 2 billion-fraud not only triggered a political slug-fest but also led to increased scrutiny on banking operations in the country.



LoU is a form of guarantee issued by a bank to an entity for availing short term credit from the overseas branch of any Indian lender.

These LoUs are not issued against general retail transactions and instead are used for business or trade transactions.

Companies linked to Nirav Modi obtained these LoUs from PNB's Brady House branch in Mumbai, but instead of genuine business transactions, the funds were allegedly siphoned off with the help of some rogue

employees of the country's second biggest state-run lender.

Modi obtained his first LoU from PNB's Brady House branch on March, 2011. He managed to get 1,212 more such guarantees over the next 74 months.

During these six years, 53 genuine (non-fraudulent) LoUs were also issued to the Nirav Modi Group -- the first in March 2011 and last in November, 2017.

However, later the LoUs were chiefly used to launder funds, as per investigative agencies.

Nirav Modi fled India in 2018 to evade the law days before a case was registered against him and his associates.

PNB unearthed the scam on January 25, 2018, and submitted a fraud report to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on January 29. On that day, a criminal complaint for registration of FIR was also made with the CBI. This was followed by another fraud report

being submitted to the RBI on February 7, the day when one more complaint was filed with the CBI.

On February 13, 2018, an FIR was filed with the CBI against Nirav Modi Group, Gitanjali Group and Chandri Paper & Allied Products Pvt Ltd. A complaint was also filed with the Enforcement Directorate. Stock exchanges were informed the next day.

In the complaint, PNB had alleged that Modi and companies linked to him colluded with some of its officers -- including a former deputy general manager Gokulnath Shetty -- who was posted in the foreign exchange department of its Mumbai branch.

They fraudulently acquired guarantees worth USD 1.77 billion or Rs 11,400 crore to obtain loans from the overseas branches of Indian banks, claiming to need the cash to import pearls.

## Horti Dept Holds Awareness/Sensitization Programme For Farmers

Observer News Service

**BUDGAM:** The Department of Horticulture Budgam Thursday held a daylong awareness cum sensitization programme on forming of Farmer Producer Organization (FPOs), and its Roles, Post Harvest Management Practices and Market Linkages at Sheikh-ul-Alam Hall Budgam.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, S F Hamid, speaking as the chief guest on the occasion asserted the promotion of both Agricultural and Horticulture sectors as he said 87 per cent of the population of the district is directly associated with these sectors.

The DC laid emphasis on promotion of these sectors for the progress and prosperity of the majority of the population in the district. He urged farmers to come forward and form FPOs, adopt latest technologies and massive awareness of schemes for promotion of progressive farming in the district.

He emphasized on the concerned departments to ensure full support to farmers with expertise on use of fertilizers, pruning and use of latest technologies across the district.

The DC also highlighted the importance of holding such awareness camps and directed the Horticulture department to organise these sensitization programmes at block and panchayat level for massive awareness generation among farmers.

He urged youth to come forward to invest in Horticulture and Agriculture sectors for better economic resources instead of looking for jobs in other sectors.

Assuring every possible support to the farmers for establishment of FPOs in the horticulture sector, the DC appealed the farmer participants to take maximum benefits of the awareness and sensitize other farmers also about the schemes and initiatives of the department.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief

Horticulture Officer Budgam, Dr Mohammad Iqbal Baba said that the programme was conducted to aware farmers about benefits of various departmental schemes they can avail by forming FPOs and through the provisions of marketing linkages provided by the department.

Among other resource persons who spoke on the occasion include noted scientist Dr. Farooq Ahmad Agha as guest of honour; DDM, NABARD, Junaid Ahmad Hakeem; Area Marketing Officer and Sanitation Bushan Kumar; President Adfar FPO Limited, Mohammad Akbar Dar also spoke on the occasion and shared his success story.

Scores of orchardists and farmers attended the programme and were informed about the promotion of sustainable and equitable horticulture and rural prosperity through effective credit support, other related services and schemes being provided to them.



# India's Relationship With China Cannot Be Normal Unless There Is Peace In Border Areas: Jaishankar

Press Trust of India

**New Delhi:** External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday asserted that India's relationship with China cannot be normal unless there is peace in the border areas and there is no ambiguity in New Delhi's signalling to that country.

"I am saying that unless there is peace and tranquillity in the border areas, unless there is observance of agreements and no unilateral attempt made to change status quo, the relationship cannot be normal and is not normal," Jaishankar said at the Hindustan Times Leadership Summit.

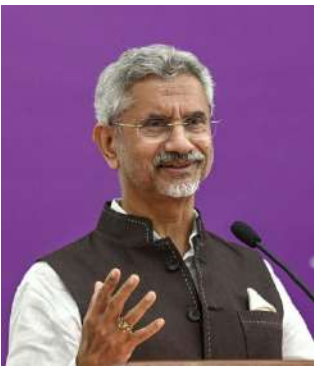
Referring to the Galwan Valley clashes, he said what happened in 2020 was an "attempt by one party, and we know which one, to depart from agreements and

understandings and that is at the heart of the issue".

"Have we made progress from then? In some respects, yes. Relatively speaking there were multiple friction points. In those friction points, there were dangerously close up deployments by the military. I think some of those issues have been worked out keeping in mind equal and mutual security," Jaishankar said.

"But there are some which still need to be worked upon. I think it's in the nature of what I do that...it's important to persevere and to keep pushing. Because it is tough or it is complicated, you don't say, well that's not going to happen," he said.

The external affairs minister hoped that there will be realisation in China that the present situation is not even in its interest.



"I keep on at it and I do genuinely believe that there will be, there should be a realisation that the present state of relations is not even in China's own interest," he said.

"We are doing a lot of things in terms of various policies and various pronouncements and

the state of relations after all, ask yourself if you are an objective observer, looking at the state of relations would you suggest that everything is okay and this can carry on without any negative impact for the parties concerned, I don't think so," he added.

Jaishankar said there is no ambiguity in India's messaging to China.

"I don't think there is any ambiguity about our signalling and our messaging. They will weigh it from their interests and where they are but...it isn't just a matter of public sentiment, and public sentiment is strong...I think it is government policy, it is national thinking, public sentiment and strategic calculation. I do not think that the current state can continue without damage to the relationship," he said.

The ties between India and China nosedived significantly following the fierce clash in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades.

There has been no progress yet on resolving the standoff in the Demchok and Depsang regions of eastern Ladakh though the two sides withdrew troops from a number of friction points following a series of military and diplomatic talks.

India has been consistently maintaining that peace and tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control were key for the overall development of the bilateral ties.

The eastern Ladakh border standoff erupted on May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong lake areas.

## India Does Not Believe In World Order Where Few Countries Are Considered Superior: Rajnath

Press Trust of India

**New Delhi:** India does not believe in a world order where a few countries are considered superior to others, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Thursday and noted that the possibility of a global framework could be envisaged if security becomes a truly collective enterprise.

In an address at the National Defence College, he also called for concerted efforts of the international community to counter "grave" emerging security threats such as cyber-attacks and information warfare.

According to Singh, information warfare has the potential to threaten political stability.

"There is no account of how much fake news and hate

material is likely to be brought in society through social media platforms. The organised use of social media and other online content generation platforms is being used for engineering the opinion or perspective of the masses," he said.

"The deployment of information war was most evident in the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Throughout the conflict, social media has served as a battleground for both sides to spread competing narratives about the war and portray the conflict on their own terms."

The defence minister described national security as the prime focus of the Modi government, stressing that the full potential of the country can be tapped only when its interests are protected.

### CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

#### Old Pattern In New

It may be noted that the J&K is under Governor's rule since 2018 and saw the last Assembly elections in 2014.

"Even though in a democratic set-up, political parties get evolved but in the context of Kashmir, you never know who is supported by whom," Baba, a noted political analyst, said.

"There're hints that some of these parties have blessing from outside but we will have to wait and watch and see how this all shapes-up. That is only possible if free and fair elections are held, which would establish who ultimately survives in this race."

However, denying the allegations of new parties being proxies of the ruling party, J&K BJP general secretary, Ashok Koul said that anyone is free to form a political party.

"And why would the BJP form or support any political party," Koul said. "We don't need anyone's support. We will fight elections on our own and on each seat."

Pertinently, in May 2022, the Delimitation Commission formed by the Central Government recommended seven additional constituencies — six for Jammu and one for Kashmir — taking the total number of seats in JK to 90 from 83.

Jammu's seat share has now swelled to 43 from 37, while Kashmir's count reached 47 from 46.

In 2014, BJP won 25 Assembly seats from Jammu region. "But now," Koul said, "the party will win over 50 seats to form the next government with its own chief minister in J&K."

**Mercury Falls**

(3.3°C below normal), Katra 10.6°C (below normal by 1.2°C) and Bhadarwah 3.4°C (below normal by 0.4°C).

In the Kargil area of Ladakh, he said, mercury settled at minus 3.8°C, Leh saw a low of minus 1.1°C and Drass minus 3.4°C.

The weather department has forecast light to moderate rain/snowfall (over higher reaches) till November 11 forenoon but ruled out possibility of any major rain or snowfall during the spell.

From November 12-16, he said, the weather is expected to be "fair to partly cloudy".

#### Govt Invites Global

vast investment opportunities available in Jammu and Kashmir.

He urged them to support J&K in its efforts to transform J&K into a success story of optimism, prosperity and growth.

Mehta maintained that his participation in the Global event aims at building trust amongst global business fraternity and showcase strengths of Jammu & Kashmir as a potential investment destination.

Noting that Government of India is working towards making India a hub of global supply chain under the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' campaign, the CS recollected that a host of initiatives like Make in India, Vocal for Local, Promoting exports under District as Export Hub, market linkages for MSME industries to both domestic and global value chains, etc have been rolled out in this direction.

Mehta gave out that in this backdrop the Jammu and Kashmir Industrial Policy (JKIP) 2021-30 is a welcome change from the previous industrial policies and the industrial ecosystem in J&K is set to witness a paradigm shift.

Talking about the local initiatives, the CS resonated that "Government of Jammu & Kashmir took bold and decisive steps of breaking the shackles in the path of development and the UT is fast moving towards integration with national economic trajectory, to become a prosperous and self-reliant Union Territory".

Mehta reiterated that momentous

decisions have been taken which have changed the constitutional framework, removed artificial legal and economic barriers between J&K and the rest of the country and have fully integrated J&K market with the national market and at par with other parts of the country.

The CS also informed the gathering that the people of J&K can now fully enjoy the rights and benefits enjoyed by all other citizens of India rather than just a limited set of rights and benefits.

He stated that a strong grassroots democracy has been set up with genuine participation of people at the lowest rungs of governance in Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies.

Taking this opportunity, the CS assured the participants that the Government is committed to transform J&K into a prosperous and progressive region and present a new version of Jammu and Kashmir that would amply represent its rich tradition of hospitality, warmth & inclusiveness and globally acclaimed status as "paradise on earth".

For further encouragement of the investors, he informed them that around 14 million tourists visited the UT this year and the administration has of late initiated measures to promote hidden and offbeat tourist destinations offering new and varied experience to visitors.

He said that the UT offers huge potential in adventure, pilgrimage, spiritual, and health tourism.

While picturizing economic strengths, Mehta stated, "J&K has a robust economy centred around agriculture, horticulture and the services sector. It has excellent land and water resources, a major attraction".

Regarding the infrastructure development, the CS termed that the long pending projects have been completed or speeded up for bolstering our associated policies.

He maintained that J&K took plethora of infrastructure upgradation steps including construction of Ring Roads, National Highways, railway projects, Metro Projects, Urban projects, Health, Power and Irrigation projects and sports infrastructure at a rapid pace. He further said that Good governance practices have brought a sense of discipline and accountability in the government system.

Mehta disclosed that the Central Government has introduced the New Scheme for the Holistic Development of J&K.

Giving details, he said that the scheme lays special focus on equitable development through a graded incentive structure that rewards both manufacturing and service sectors in remote areas of J&K.

"The scheme is approved with a total outlay of Rs. 28,400 crore i.e., 3.7 Billion USD up to the year 2025," he said.

Regarding the promotion of transparency in the region he said, "The administration has come up with new Industrial Land allotment Policy and Jammu and Kashmir Private Industrial Estate Development Policy, which incorporates mechanisms for public-private partnership in the industrial sector,"

He also talked about the land use change policy for industrial development, FDI policy and other factors for a smooth roll-out of a new era of growth in the UT.

The CS also provided details about the Launch of Single Window Portal as one stop solution for attaining all the approvals and permissions in a time bound manner.

He told the delegates that about 215 services are active on the single window portal ushering in the age of less government and more governance in its real sense.

The 4-day convention held between 8-12 of November is being attended by leaders, policy makers, academicians, jurists, social thinkers, and professionals in business,

finance, corporate governance, and sustainability fields from across the world. Pertinent to mention here that the last Annual Global Convention held in 2019 at London with record participation of 400 delegates both globally and from India. More than 24 countries participated in the event.

Many international brands and leading global companies have been part of this event like Mark and Spencer (UK), Rolls Royce (UK), Unilever (UK), Coca Cola(USA), Doha Bank (Qatar), Glaxo Healthcare(UK),Grande (France), Sekisui chemicals(Japan),Stantec Inc (Canada),IRPC (Thailand), Emirates National Oil company (UAE), NASDAQ(USA) and many more.

At the end the Chief Secretary thanked the organizers and participants for their roles and for their prospect of being part of J&K's mutual growth story.

#### Global Mineral

the inaugural session, shared the success story of J&K created in the past couple of years wherein mining and mineral exploration sectors have touched new heights, the spokesperson said.

The Secretary, he said, invited all prospective global players to invest in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir while elaborating on ample underlying scope for strategic minerals there.

"Several global players assured that they will come to J&K soon while mentioning their areas of interest and specialisation," he said.

During his keynote address, Sharma, the spokesperson said, gave a detailed presentation on the mining and mineral wealth in J&K and shared district-wise scope for different mineral availability such as Lithium, Bauxite, Limestone, Gypsum, Marble, Lignite, Graphite and Quartzite.

The Secretary also disclosed that a rare precious gem Sapphire is being extracted in Padder area of Jammu division which is having an excellent quality. He added that the coal mines located in Kalakote area of Jammu have been provisioning top quality anthracite coal over last many years.

"The delegates showed lot of interest in exploring the mineral wealth of J&K after this eye-opening presentation on opportunities for mineral based industries in J&K by Secretary Mining," the spokesperson said.

Earlier, he said, the Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, also extended his wishes through a special video message to the visiting delegates and organisers Mineral Information & Development Center (MIDC), India who have collaborated with Federation of Indian Mineral Industries (FIMI), India and Vidarbha Economic Development Council (VED), India to organise this mega international event in his constituency Nagpur.

#### Police Seal

the relevant revenue records," he added.

The sealed properties include nearly half a hectare of land and some school buildings.

The properties of Jama'at-e-Islami (Jel) in Shopian are the first to be notified in a series of properties belonging to the banned group in other districts of J&K, the spokesman said.

He said Shopian has a lot of significance vis-a-vis Jel. "Saadu-din Tarabali and Gh. Ahmad Ahrar were the first to organize an Ijtima (religious gathering) at Badami Bagh Shopian in 1942 well before the first all India Ijtima of Jama'at-e-Islami at Pathankot in 1945. Pertinently, Amir-i-Jama'at Abdul Hamid Ganaie also hails from Shopian district," he said.

The spokesman said as many as 188 Jel properties across the UT

of J&K are to be notified. "SIA has preliminarily identified numerous properties purchased or acquired by Jel worth hundreds of crores of rupees," he added.

#### Restore J&K

an elected government.

We also want that the statehood be restored immediately. Why are they (Centre) waiting for the elections? This is a promise of the Union Home Minister (Amit Shah), he said.

We live a democratic country, and people have the right to elect their own government to represent them and address their grievances, Bukhari said.

Once an elected government is there, it will analyse what has been done by the (current) bureaucratic set-up and while the good work will be appreciated, they will be answerable for their wrong doings, the Apni Party president said.

He said his party will continue to fight for the aspirations of the people including the restoration of statehood, fighting for Articles 370 and 35-A in the Supreme Court, and for their land and job rights.

Asked about the decision to not contend election by Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti both former J-K chief ministers as long as J-K remains a UT, Bukhari said "it is their personal decision."

We are not for power, we want to serve the people So, it is their own decision, but we will contest in all 90 constituencies, secure a majority and form the government," he said.

Earlier in the day, Congress party's former district president Bandipora, Imtiyaz Parray joined the Apni Party. Parray is a son of Mohammad Yusuf Parray alias Kuka Parray, the founder of counter-insurgency force Ikhwan' in the valley.

#### LG Calls Upon

spokesperson said, stressed upon schools to promote innovation, creativity, flexibility and experiments.

"The culture of innovation and invention will enable the students to confidently tackle the challenges of the future and contribute to nation building in various capacities," Sinha said.

"Any region, any nation will prosper only when the younger generation gets the right environment to nurture critical thinking and curiosity. Focus on your independent thinking, individual growth and never stop looking for answers for your queries to unlock the vast potential of knowledge," he added.

The LG, the spokesperson said, highlighted the reforms introduced in the education sector and significant decisions taken in line with the National Education Policy to transform the education sector in Jammu and Kashmir in the last two years.

"In our effort to achieve the goal of education for all, we have made effective interventions to offset the dropout rate. Last year enrolment drive registered a 14.5% increase," the LG said.

"We are developing necessary infrastructure for girls' education, bridging gender gaps, developing Atal Tinkering Labs & Computer-Aided Learning centres, providing scholarships, extending handholding for individual growth and ensuring quality education for all sections of society," he added.

The spokesperson said that the LG also informed that leading educationists of the country have been invited to be a part of the Higher Education Council of J&K.

"We are preparing a pragmatic road map to enhance the potential of human resources, re-aligning the Higher Education ecosystem to meet the needs of present-day challenges and strengthening the academia-industry relationship," the LG said.

"Initiatives like Aao School Chalen Campaign, Talaash Survey, Teachers-Students mentorship programs are

yielding favorable results. Today 70,000 boys and girls are taking vocational training in 14 different trades and 1420 Computer Aided Learning Centers in Upper Primary School are promoting Curiosity, Critical Thinking in children," he added.

On the occasion, the meritorious students of 10th and 12th standards were felicitated.

#### 4 CRPF Men

the Jammu and Kashmir government.

It had arrested 13 persons in connection with the case earlier. Out of 13 accused arrested earlier, nine are in judicial custody and four in police custody.

The case pertains to the leak of the question paper for the examination through which 1,200 posts of sub-inspectors were to be filled by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board.

"Investigation had revealed that the alleged payment of Rs 20 to 30 lakh (approximately) was made by willing candidates and their families to the accused for accessing the question paper before the commencement of the examination," the CBI spokesperson said.

The agency had recently arrested one Pradeep Kumar, working at an Okhla-based printing press as packing in-charge.

He allegedly stole the examination question paper at the time of packing and sold it to Rewari-based Yatin Yadav, who was also arrested in the case.

According to the CBI, it was Yadav who contacted the other touts based in Jammu and Kashmir to lure candidates for the sale of the leaked question paper, the CBI said.

The candidates were transported from Jammu to Karnal in vehicles arranged by Jammu and Kashmir Police ASI Ashok Kumar a day before the examination.

In Karnal, tout Bajinder Singh arranged a hotel where candidates were handed over the leaked question paper, the CBI has alleged.

They said a CRPF personnel allegedly provided the leaked question paper to certain candidates.

The exam results were declared on June 4 this year. After the allegations of malpractice in the conduct of the exam surfaced, the Union Territory government constituted an inquiry committee to look into the matter.

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

"It was further alleged that there was an abnormally high percentage of selected candidates from Jammu, Rajouri, and Samba districts," the CBI has said.

The JKSSB allegedly violated rules in outsourcing the setting of the question paper to a Bengaluru-based private company, the agency had said.

**Leh Highway,**

road was through for vehicular movement and after the clearance of snow from road, LMVs released from Minamarg.

**Kuka Parray's Son**

the party in Bandipora district," Vice President of the Apni Party and former legislator Bandipora Usman Majid said in a tweet.

Kuka Parrey also formed the Jammu & Kashmir Awami League before 1996 assembly polls. It won one seat each in 1996 and 2022 state polls. Imtiyaz fought the 2008 assembly election on the ticket of Awami League but later joined Congress. This party became dysfunctional after he joined Congress

and was deregistered by the Election Commission of India in June 2022—(KNO)

**Couple Dies Of**

He said that police are ascertaining the details, however, primarily investigation suggests suffocation as the cause of death.

**Grievances Redressal**

spokesperson said.

The Relief Commissioner, he said, has assured that more such camps will be organised in near future for the benefit of migrants residing in Jammu and nearby areas.

**Narcotic Smuggler**

registered at Vijaypur police station and an investigation has been initiated, they added.

**Terror Module**

interrogation, the individual revealed that he along with five other people from different parts of North Kashmir were running a terror funding racket under the garb of a fake NGO called Islahi Falahi Relief Trust (IFRT) which claimed to provide monetary assistance to poor and needy families," it reads.

It reads that he was actively involved in coordinating the funding for terror activities and aiding recruitment by organizing Ijtima meetings in different villages, where he along with other members of the NGO would try and lure young people into Anti-National activities.

"Bilal also revealed the names of other accomplices including Wahid Ahmed Bhat from Kachloo, Langate, and Javed Ahmed Najar from Singhpora, Baramulla and three individuals namely Mushtaq Ahmed Najar of Brath Sopore, Bashir Ahmed Mir of Mundji Sopore and Zubair Ahmed Dar of Cheerkote, who is Bilal's cousin, were also actively involved in the module."

It added that the module was being coordinated by Pakistan based handlers to aid the operations of Tehreek-e-ul Mujhahideen Jammu & Kashmir (TuMJJK) in North Kashmir.

"The modus operandi of the group was to go to different villages and conduct events and gatherings under the garb of the NGO and would collect money by asking for charity and also scout for potential soft targets as recruits."

It further reads that the accounts in the NGO's name were being used to launder money for the TuMJJK. "The group was also responsible for sticking Anti-national posters around 15th of August and during the visit of the Union Home Minister to Baramulla."

It reads that Bilal specifically also admitted to hoisting a Pakistani flag inside Markazi Jamia Masjid Kupwara on the 14th of August on the instructions of his Pakistani handlers.

"The group was also actively collecting Explosive materials which are known to be used in IED's. Bilal and his associates were receiving instructions from across the border from Dr Shah Sab@Manzoor Shah @ Gen Abdullah actually named as Ghulam Rasool Shah of Hyhama Kupwara, who is a Pakistan based militant handler, Tariq Peer actually named Mohd Sultan Peer of Sulkoote Kupwara also a Pakistan based militant handler Yousaf Baloch one Hamza."

It further reads that Wahid was the mastermind behind the recruitment and funding module. "A huge quantity of arms, ammunition, raw material to prepare IED and incriminating material has also been recovered from all the apprehended individuals."

It added that a case FIR NO: 264/22 under sections 7/25 Arms Act, 13,18,20,38 UA(P) Act has been registered against all the individuals in Police Station Kupwara for further investigation.





J&K Divyang Cricket Team  
Accorded Rousing Reception

**Observer News Service**

**JAMMU:** J&K Sports Council on Thursday accorded a rousing reception to the victorious Jammu & Kashmir specially-abled cricket team.

The team was received at Jammu by Secretary Sports Council Nuzhat Gull, Ranjeet Kalra Member J&K, Riaz Sheikh Administrative Officer and staff of Sports Council.

The J&K team emerged as the winner in the second season of the Sardar Patel National Divyang T20 Cup defeating Haryana in the finals on Sunday to lift the trophy.

While appreciating the performance of Aamir Hassan of J&K for his outstanding contribution with both bat and ball in a low-scoring match which also earned him the player of the match award, the Secretary Sports Council, Nuzhat Gull applauded the supporting role played efficiently by other members of the team.

Amir had scored 29 runs and

bagged three wickets. The Player of the Series award also went to J&K's Wasim Iqbal for consistently performing for the team in a winning cause.

In the final outing, the J&K team scored 87/10 in 16.2 overs, while Haryana was bundled out for 71/10 in 18.3 overs -beating opponents Haryana by 16 runs.

Deputy Chief Minister of UP, Brajesh Pathak handed over the trophy to winners in a tournament that witnessed the participation of nearly 400 players distributed in 70 teams along with officials from different states and union territories.

The performance of the J&K team has earned appreciation from all quarters and sports enthusiasts rooting for the conduct of similar tournaments in J&K regularly so that specially-abled players can showcase their talent. Some even opined that preparing for bigger events well in advance shall provide more opportunities to J&K players for their selections in the national cricket team.

GVEI Wins 5 Gold Medals At  
J&K Sqay Championship



**Observer News Service**

**SRINAGAR:** Students of Srinagar-based Green Valley Educational Institute (GVEI) won five gold medals in the recently concluded 23rd J&K Sqay Championship.

The event, played from 4th to 7th November, 2022, was held separately for boys and girls at Indoor Sports Complex, Polo Ground, Srinagar by the J&K Sqay Association.

Among the student participants of GVEI, the girls won 04 gold medals, 06 silver medals and 14 bronze, whereas the boys won 01 gold medal, 02 silver medals and 09 bronze medals.

"The management of the school encourages the spirit of all the participants who played with all their mettle. Such activities help them to build their mental and physical capability," GVEI said in a statement.

Kick Off Time For A-Division  
Semi-Final Revised: DFA Srinagar

**Observer News Service**

**SRINAGAR:** The District Football Association (DFA) Srinagar has revised the kick off time of one of the A-Division semi-final matches.

"This is to inform that the Semi Final match of ongoing A Division Football League Tournament between Al-Hilal FC vs

Ali Jana (B) on Friday, 11th November at TRC Synthetic Turf will now be played at 2:00 PM. Because the ground is later required by J&K Sports Council for training programs," the DFA said.

The other semi-final between Alamdar FC vs Muslimeen United will be on Saturday, 12th November at 2:00 PM at TRC Synthetic Turf.

England Rolls Over  
India To Cruise Into  
T20 World Cup Final



**Press Trust of India**

**ADELAIDE:** A thoroughly professional England annihilated an out-of- sync India by 10 wickets to sail into the World Cup final as Alex Hales and Jos Buttler's relentless hitting mortified Rohit Sharma's clueless attack, here on Thursday.

It was Hardik Pandya (68 off 33 balls), whose fearless hitting took India to 168 for six but it was just about a par-score at the Adelaide Oval.

England captain Buttler (80 not out) set the tone with three boundaries off Bhuvneshwar Kumar's opening over but it was Hales (86 not out off) who butchered the Indian attack into submission.

The target was achieved in just 16 overs as England batting line-up clicked for the first time in the tourney and what a day it chose to brings its A game to the fore.

Hales hit as many as seven sixes in his 47-ball knock and his approach showed that there were no demons in the

track. He deployed the old-fashioned 'Sanath Jayasuriya school' of hitting in the first six overs.

Bhuvneshwar and Arshdeep Singh didn't get enough swing up front and team management's fascination to play Axar Patel (0/30 in 4 overs) and Ravichandran Ashwin (0/27 in 2 overs) ahead of Yuzvendra Chahal backfired badly.

The success England spinner Adil Rashid (1/20 in 4 overs) on the same track added insult to the injury.

Many Senior Players Will Not Play  
T20 Format Next Year: Source



**Press Trust of India**

**ADELAIDE:** India's T20 squad will undergo a major transition in the next 24 months because senior players such as Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Ravichandran Ashwin will be gradually eased out, BCCI sources said on Thursday.

While it appears that Ashwin and Dinesh Karthik have played their last games in the shortest format, the BCCI will leave it on Kohli and Rohit to decide on their T20I future.

After team's humiliating defeat in the T20 World Cup semifinal, a visibly upset Rohit was consoled by head coach Rahul Dravid, who fronted the media after the match.

The next T20 World Cup is still two years away and if those privy to developments are to be believed, there will be a brand new team in place with Hardik Pandya being the long-term captaincy choice.

"The BCCI never asks anyone to retire. It is an individual decision. But yes, with just a handful of T20Is scheduled in 2023, most of the seniors will concentrate on ODIs and Test matches in that cycle," a BCCI

source told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"You don't need to announce retirement if you don't want to. You will not see most of the seniors playing T20 next year," the source added.

However, Dravid said it's too early to talk about transition when PTI asked him about future of senior players like Kohli and Rohit.

"It's too early to talk about it right now just after a semi-final game. These guys have been terrific performers for us. Like you said, we have a couple of years to reflect on it," Dravid said.



England's Squad For 2022  
FIFA World Cup Revealed

**Agencies**

**LONDON:** James Maddison was a surprising inclusion for England when coach Gareth Southgate named his 26-man squad for the World Cup on Thursday.

Southgate also included Kyle Walker, despite the Manchester City defender undergoing an operation on his groin last month, while clubmate Kalvin Phillips has been picked following shoulder surgery in September.

Southgate picked Arsenal defender Ben White in the absence of James, while Manchester United forward Marcus Rashford has also been recalled after being dropped by England last season.

Newcastle striker Callum Wilson has also been included, along with Chelsea midfielder Conor Gallagher.

Southgate has relied on the bulk of the squad that led England to the final of last year's Euros, with 19 of those players involved this time around.

Harry Maguire has benefited from his coach's loyalty, despite

being dropped by United manager Erik ten Hag and being the subject of fierce criticism from supporters of both club and country.

**ENGLAND:**

Goalkeepers: Jordan Pickford (Everton), Nick Pope (Newcastle), Aaron Ramsdale (Arsenal)

Defenders: Trent Alexander-Arnold (Liverpool), Conor Coady (Everton), Eric Dier (Tottenham), Harry Maguire (Manchester United), Luke Shaw (Manchester United), John Stones (Manchester City), Kieran Trippier (Newcastle), Kyle Walker (Manchester City), Ben White (Arsenal)

Midfielders: Jude Bellingham (Borussia Dortmund), Conor Gallagher (Chelsea), Jordan Henderson (Liverpool), Mason Mount (Chelsea), Kalvin Phillips (Manchester City), Declan Rice (West Ham)

Forwards: Phil Foden (Manchester City), Jack Grealish (Manchester City), Harry Kane (Tottenham), James Maddison (Leicester), Marcus Rashford (Manchester United), Bukayo Saka (Arsenal), Raheem Sterling (Chelsea), Callum Wilson (Newcastle)

Germany Name Squad  
For 2022 FIFA World Cup

**Agencies**

**BERLIN:** Germany is taking 17-year-old striker Youssoufa Moukoko to the World Cup but Borussia Dortmund teammates Marco Reus and Mats Hummels have missed out.

Germany coach Hansi Flick named his 26-man squad for the tournament in Qatar on Thursday, rewarding Moukoko for scoring six goals and setting up four more in 13 Bundesliga appearances this season. Moukoko is the youngest player to reach 10 career Bundesliga goals. Last season, he became the youngest player to appear in the league.

Werder Bremen forward Niclas Fullkrug was another surprise call-up, filling a gap left by Timo Werner's injury. Fullkrug has 10 goals in 13 Bundesliga games this season.

(Bayern Munich), Marc-André ter Stegen (Barcelona), Kevin Trapp (Eintracht Frankfurt)

Defenders: Thilo Kehrer (West Ham), David Raum (Leipzig), Antonio Rüdiger (Real Madrid), Niklas Süle (Borussia Dortmund), Matthias Ginter (Freiburg), Nico Schlotterbeck (Borussia Dortmund), Lukas Klostermann (Leipzig), Christian Günter (Freiburg), Armell Bella Kotchap (Southampton)

Midfielders: Joshua Kimmich (Bayern Munich), Leon Goretzka (Bayern Munich), Jamal Musiala (Bayern Munich), Thomas Müller (Bayern Munich), İlkay Gündoğan (Manchester City), Jonas Hofmann (Borussia Mönchengladbach), Mario Götze (Eintracht Frankfurt), Julian Brandt (Borussia Dortmund), Kai Havertz (Chelsea)



Mario Götze, who scored the World Cup-winning goal in the final against Argentina in 2014, is back in the squad after a long absence.

**GERMANY:**

Goalkeepers: Manuel Neuer

Forwards: Serge Gnabry (Bayern Munich), Leroy Sané (Bayern Munich), Karim Adeyemi (Borussia Dortmund), Niclas Fullkrug (Werder Bremen), Youssoufa Moukoko (Borussia Dortmund)

Arab Nations Eye Breakthrough At World Cup In Qatar

**Agencies**

Playing on more familiar ground this time, Arab nations will get another chance to shine at this year's World Cup after a disappointing showing in Russia.

None of the four Arab teams at the 2018 tournament made it out of the first round, with only a consolation victory each for Saudi Arabia and Tunisia in their final group games.

That record-high number of four teams has been matched this time with Morocco in the tournament, Tunisia and Saudi Arabia back again, plus host nation Qatar.

Qatar lobbied to move its opener against Ecuador to Nov. 20 so it gets the worldwide spotlight in its first-ever World Cup game. Saudi Arabia takes on an Argentina team led by Lionel Messi two days later.

**NO PRESSURE.**

Arab teams have reached the round of 16 only three times in tournament history. Morocco did it in 1986 — in a first for Africa, as



well — followed by Saudi Arabia in 1994 and Algeria eight years ago.

Eight Arab teams have played in the World Cup, beginning with Egypt at the second tournament in 1934.

**ASPIRATIONAL**

It's the first time the World Cup will be held in the Middle East and in an Arab country.

There hasn't been an Arab nation making its debut since Saudi Arabia in 1994. Resource-rich Qatar qualified automatically as host but they've spent years — and lots of money — developing a competitive national team.

They have done it through the Aspire Academy, which hired foreign directors and coaches to scout and develop young Qataris. At one point the academy recruited young Africans, though FIFA later tightened eligibility rules.

The work is paying off. Qatar won the Asian Cup in 2019, beating favoured Japan 3-1 in the final to claim its first major soccer title.

Aspire said 70% of that Qatar team was developed at its academy, including the tournament's top scorer, Almoez Ali.

**INFLUENCE**

Whether or not Arab teams excel in Qatar, it's clear wealthy Persian Gulf states are wielding influence.

Some of Europe's best-known clubs have Gulf ownership: Manchester City (Abu Dhabi), Paris Saint-Germain (Qatar) and Newcastle (Saudi Arabia).

Qatar spent billions building stadiums to host soccer's marquee tournament amid complaints about its treatment of migrant workers.

The Saudis use the kingdom's sovereign wealth fund to invest in a variety of sports — which critics say is an effort to mask the country's poor human rights record.

**ON THE FIELD**

Algeria's debut at the World Cup was a shocker — a 2-1 win over West Germany in 1982. But the North Africans didn't advance after the German team eased to a 1-0 win over Austria four days later in a controversial game known as the "Disgrace of Gijón."

The Saudis still talk about Said Al Owairan's Diego Maradona-like individual effort in a 1-0 victory over Belgium in 1994 at RFK Stadium in Washington.

Today, coaches even at domestic levels try to emulate the successful tactics of top European clubs.

Andy Roxburgh, the technical director of the Asian Football Confederation, said trends like high pressing are becoming popular in Asia.

The Saudi and Qatari coaches say one of their advantages is all of their players come from their domestic leagues, so they are tight-knit groups.

Most of Qatar's players have been in training camps since June.



# US Visa Processing Time Likely To Fall By Mid-2023: Official

Agenceis

The waiting period for issuance of American visas is expected to see a significant fall by summer of 2023 and the number is projected to reach around 1.2 million, a senior official of the US embassy said on Thursday.

"India is the number one priority for Washington (for issuance of visas). Our aim is to bring the situation to the pre-Covid-19 level by the middle of next year," the official said.

India has been one of the very few countries where applications for US visas saw a major upswing after coronavirus-related travel restrictions were lifted.

Considering the long wait time for the grant of visas, the US is also rolling out a series of initiatives including the hiring of more personnel and increasing the "drop box" facilities, the official said.



The plan is to issue around one lakh visas every month.

The official said the US has already identified H (H1B) and L category visas for Indians as its priority and nearly 1,00,000 slots were released recently for those wanting to renew the visas.

The wait time for certain cat-

egories has already been brought down to around nine months from earlier 450 days.

The official said the wait time for B1, B2 (business and tourism) visas are also being brought down from around nine months.

The official also said India is expected to move to the number

two place from the current number three in terms of the number of visas being issued by the US. Currently, Mexico and China are ahead of India.

The official said priority is also being accorded to cut the waiting time for the students' visas, especially for those looking for a renewal of their visas.

The process used to apply for renewal of a US visa without a visa interview is known as the drop box facility.

Broadly, the applicants having a US visa within a span of the last four years are eligible for drop box facility.

The US issued around 82,000 visas in the last one year. "We are looking at 1.1 - 1.2 million visas to Indians by next summer," said the official.

India has been taking up with the US the issue of long waiting periods for US visas.

## At Bengaluru Airport's New Terminal, Fliers To Get Garden Walk Experience

Agenceis

Bengaluru: Walk through a garden before boarding your flight. The glitzy Terminal-2 of the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) awaiting inauguration seeks to give this pleasant experience to travellers, as the ₹5000 crore initiative has incorporated the concept of a "Terminal-in-a-garden", a first of its kind.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the airport Friday. Spread over a total area of 2,55,645 square metres, the T-2 in its first phase will have 22 contact gates, 15 bus gates, 95 check-in solutions and 17 security check lanes.

There will be nine customs hand baggage screening. The gate lounge will have a seating capacity of 5,932. Phase 1 of T-2 has a capacity of 25 million

passengers per annum.

"T-2 is designed in a manner that we retain the philosophy of simplicity and minimal walking distances for the passengers a key characteristic of the KIA. With the use of a combination of the latest in construction technology and natural material, this terminal will establish a new vision for sustainable growth," a KIA official said.

## Elon Musk 'Kills' New Twitter Label, Hours After Launch

Agenceis

SAN FRANCISCO: Twitter on Wednesday unveiled — and then almost immediately scrapped — a new gray "official" label for some high-profile accounts as Elon Musk struggles to revamp the highly influential platform following his \$44 billion buyout.

"I just killed it," Musk tweeted just hours after the new tag was added to government accounts as well as those of big companies and major media outlets.

## THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK EMPLOYEES UNION

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Ref.No: EC/JKBEUK/2022-06

NOVEMBER 09, 2022



The newly elected President of J&K Bank Employees Union Kashmir Unit, Mr. Firdous Nissar alongwith Election Committee today paid a visit to the office of Principal, S.P. College Srinagar Dr. Khurshid Ahmad Khan to express his gratitude and thanks to the authorities for supporting with required infrastructure of college and staff for Union Elections held on 6th November, 2022 thereby facilitating free, fair and smooth elections.

Mr. Firdous Nissar while thanking Dr. Khurshid Ahmad Khan and his team for the support provided on the day assured him of the support and cooperation of all the staff members in general and J&K Bank Employees Union in particular in providing hassle free services to all the sections of the society and the teaching community in particular whom he described as torch bearers of the society. The president expressed that the gesture/relation of the college authorities has been recorded paramount and long lasting.

While concluding the meeting, Dr. Khurshid Ahmad Khan expressed the sense of belongingness of the common people of J&K towards J&K Bank and offered his support for such future gatherings and functions in their auditorium as and when required

Sd/- Basharat Ahmad Wani  
Convenor

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