

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

## Vitamin D Deficiency in Kashmir Valley Very High, Reveals SKIMS Report As Per New Study, Average Vitamin-D Status Low In Females As Compared To Males

Zaid Bin Shabir

Srinagar: A recent research from Kashmiri medicos has brought convincing evidence to the fore that there is a deficiency or insufficiency of the vitamin-D in the general population of Kashmir valley.

The data emerging from the study conducted by two Sher-e-Kashmir Institutes of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) researchers has revealed that the prevalence of Vitamin D

deficiency in Kashmir valley is high especially among women.

About 65 percent of the males and nearly 88 percent of the females studied were vitamin D deficient.

The researchers had selected a total 270 healthy volunteers from differing professions (69 men and 201 non-pregnant/non-lactating women, aged 18-65 years), residing in Kashmir valley for the study and the samples were collected in both summer and winter

months. This also included farmers (36 in number), employees (42 in number), housewives (72 in number), medical professionals (66 in number) and students (54 in number).



**THE NEED FOR IMPROVING THE STATUS OF VITAMIN D IN THE POPULATION** by educating the people, creating mass awareness and Vitamin D supplementation programmes is paramount”

According to the study, 45 of the 69 males and 177 of the 201 females were found to be Vitamin D deficient. Adding more details, the study noted that

the prevalence of vitamin D deficiency ranged from 58 percent in the farmers group to 93 percent in the employee group. “Vitamin D deficient subjects had a significantly lower mean

weekly exposure to sunlight,” the study observed.

However, detailing some factors behind a rising Vitamin D deficiency, the study underlined inadequate sun exposure, skin pigmentation, traditional clothing practices, latitude and seasonal climate as some of the factors that have significant influence on cutaneous photochemical synthesis of vitamin D in healthy individuals.

As per the study, the average vitamin-D status | [More on P10](#)

## Snow Forecast For Kashmir On Dec 9-10

Agencies

Srinagar: Weatherman on Saturday said that there was a possibility of light to moderate snowfall in Kashmir from December 9 to 10.

“As per today’s model analysis, there is possibility of light snow over plains and lower reaches, light to moderate snow over middle and higher reaches during 9th December (evening) to 10th December (evening) particularly over north, northwestern, central parts of Kashmir and South Kashmir,” said a meteorological department official.

Meanwhile there was no let up in freezing cold conditions in Kashmir Valley as minimum temperatures recorded a drop.

Also, school going children faced tough times as mist and haze engulfed Srinagar, Qazigund and some other parts of Valley.

The MeT official | [More on P10](#)

## Urban Population Growing, Need Smart Solutions: LG

Says Cities Can Be Transformed Into Vibrant Urban Economic Centres With Active Public Participation



Observer News Service

**New Delhi:** Asserting that the urban population is growing at a rapid pace and there is a need for smart and sustainable solutions to urban challenges, the Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Saturday called on officers involved in Jan Abhiyan to involve people in various initiatives like decongestion, rejuvenation and beautification of the cities.

An official spokesperson said that the LG made these remarks while chairing a meeting to review an ongoing public outreach programme in urban local bodies, ‘My Town My Pride’.

“My Town, My Pride, aims to

deliver public services at doorsteps, build developmental initiatives on the feedback, cooperation and participation from people and strengthen strong and vibrant local self-governance,” the LG said.

He emphasized that Jan-Bhagidari is the key pillar of development and essential for economic and cultural rejuvenation of the cities.

“Urban population is growing at a rapid pace and there is a need for smart and sustainable solutions to urban challenges. The officers involved in Jan Abhiyan must involve people in various initiatives like decongestion, rejuvenation and beautification of the cities. | [More on P10](#)



A worker clearing fallen leaves of majestic Chinar trees from a public park in Srinagar city on Saturday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

## 'Chapter Of Terrorism Closing In J&K' Drug Abuse Bigger Enemy Than Terrorism Now: DGP

Observer News Service

**Doda:** The Director General Police, Dilbag Singh said on Saturday that the chapter of terrorism is by and large closing and attributed the success to youth and people of Jammu and Kashmir for their support in war against terrorism.

Singh also emphasized upon the youth to spread the message of drug free society and said that drug abuse is a bigger enemy, than terrorism today, a police spokesperson said.

The DGP made these remarks during the closing ceremony of cricket tournament under the theme (Khelo Khel Bhuloo Nasha) here on Saturday.

He said that it was not possible to “win over the terrorism” without the support of the people of J&K.

Recalling his tenure as SSP Doda, Singh said that despite difficult circumstances, people of the area always stood



for peace.

“Pakistan and its agencies are continuously making attempts to revive the terror base here by misguiding the youth,” the DGP said, adding that everyone has to play its role in thwarting anti-peace elements.

He said that the smiling faces of youth today indicate the return of good times in the area and hoped that youth would provide their support in strengthening the

peace further.

Emphasizing upon the youth to spread the message of drug free society, the DGP remarked that drug abuse is a bigger enemy, than terrorism today.

“Terrorism targets the individuals but drugs affect the families and society as a whole. We all have to work collectively to put an end to this menace,” he said.

Lashing out at the neighbouring country | [More on P10](#)

## 'Terror Funding Case'

## Rs 29L Cash Recovered During Raids: SIA

Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** The State Investigation Agency (SIA) of police on Saturday claimed to have recovered a cash of Rs 29 lakh during raids at multiple locations in Kashmir Valley in connection with alleged terror funding case.

“Continuing to rein in the networks of (terror) outfits with a purpose of destroying its ecosystems completely, State Investigation Agency, Kashmir conducted searches at multiple locations across Kashmir valley,” SIA said in a statement.

It said houses and premises of suspects in Kupwara, Baramulla, Bandipora, Srinagar and Budgam were searched in compliance to search warrant obtained from the Court of Special Judge, Designated under NIA Act (TADA/POTA) Srinagar in connection with investigation of case (FIR No. 20/2022)



u/s 13, 17, 18, 39, 40 UA (P) Act, 120-B IPC registered in Police Station CIK (SIA) Kashmir.

“The case pertains to members of proscribed (terror) organization (Al-Badar) based in Pakistan who with active support and connivance of Pakistani agencies, hostile to India, under a well-knit criminal conspiracy with some identified person(s)/OGW(s) of proscribed (terror) organization(s) in the valley are raising funds for furtherance of (terror) activities in J&K”

The SIA claims | [More on P10](#)

## Chairs Meeting Of Amarnath Shrine Board

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Saturday that his administration is committed to ensure hassle-free pilgrimage experience for the devotees visiting the cave shrine of Amarnath in South Kashmir. He made these remarks while chairing the 43rd meeting of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB), an official spokesperson said. At the outset, he said, all the board members appreciated the successful conduct of this year's annual | [More on P10](#)

**OLD CITIES BEAUTIFICATION PLAN, SMALL INITIATIVES LIKE SIMILAR**  
Address Boards, Paintings, Shops in uniform color, municipal beauty competitions; City cleanliness program; beatification of parks must be implemented with public participation”

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

### Woman Charred Alive In Bandipora

A 35-year-old woman was charred to death in north Kashmir's Bandipora district, reports and official said on Saturday. Reports said that fire broke out in a double storey residential house belonging to one Fayaz Ahmad Khan son of Bashir Ahmad Khan at Taki Shah area. A woman Naseema Begum (35), wife of Fayaz Ahmad Khan, was charred alive, they said. A fire and emergency official told GNS that one runner appeared at the gate of fire service station Bandipora at 5:16 AM and informed them regarding the fire incident. Two fire tenders from fire station were dispatched immediately to the spot to douse off | [More on P10](#)

### Winter Break At KU Only When Needed: VC

The Vice Chancellor for University of Kashmir (KU) Saturday said that it will announce the winter vacations for a short time and as per the need. Speaking to a local news agency KNO on the sidelines of an event, KUS Vice Chancellor, Prof Nilofar Khan said that the mechanism of working and functioning of Universities is different from the schools. “We cannot keep it at par with the mechanisms or system of school level,” she said. Nilofar said, “Keeping in view the availability of infrastructure and as per our need, we will announce a short period winter vacations.” “However, the

### Falling Chinar Tree Damages School

A school building was damaged after a Chinar tree fell over it hours after the PHE department excavated a portion of land beside it. The incident took place on the night of December 2 and 3 in the Rampora area of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. As per the locals, the PHE department on Friday evening started digging close to the big Chinar tree for repairing water pipes on the main road opposite the office of DDC Chairperson Ganderbal. The excavation led to soil erosion and the Chinar tree fell upon Government Boys Middle School, Bagoo, Rampora, resulting in huge damage to | [More on P10](#)

### BDC Chairperson, Activist Joins BJP

A Block Development Council (BDC) chairperson and a social activist from north Kashmir's Uri joined the BJP here on Saturday, a party official said. BDC chairperson Khursheed Ahmad Mir and social activist Abdul Khalid were welcomed into the party fold by J&K BJP president Ravinder Raina who expressed satisfaction over fast expanding of the party base in the valley. “Jammu has always been a stronghold of BJP which is also spreading fast in every nook and corner of the valley with the daily joining of political and social activists. Mir is a member of the Pahari community and | [More on P10](#)

### 2 'Drug Peddlers' Held In Handwara

Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested two drug peddlers in Handwara and recovered contraband substance from their possession. A police party of Police Station Qalamabad at a checkpoint established at Qalamabad intercepted a vehicle (Santro) bearing registration number JK02A-4693 with two persons on board. They have been identified as Sameer Ahmad Bhat son of Manzoor Ahmad and Maisar Ghulam son of Ghulam Mohd Bhat, both residents of Reshipora Awantipora, a police spokesman said. During the search, 1.05Kgs of | [More on P10](#)

### SSP Kulgam Chairs Security Review Meet

In order to review the crime and security scenario of district, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kulgam Dr. G.V Sundee Chakravarthy Saturday chaired a meeting with SDPOs and SHOs of District Kulgam at DPL Kulgam. A police spokesman in a statement issued here said the meeting was also attended by ASP NHW Qazigund. During the meeting, law and order scenario, follow up of previous meetings and various security measures were discussed for ensuring peace and stability in the district. Various aspects of Policing including investigation of cases, crime disposal, verifications, disposal of NDPS, | [More on P10](#)





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2

## Why Does Lightning Zigzag? At Last, We Have An Answer To The Mystery

Everyone has seen lightning and marvelled at its power.

But despite its frequency – about 8.6 million lightning strikes occur worldwide every day – why lightning proceeds in a series of steps from the thundercloud to the earth below has remained a mystery.

There are a few textbooks on lightning, but none have explained how these “zigzags” (called steps) form, and how lightning can travel over kilometres. My new research provides an explanation.

The intense electrical fields in thunderclouds excite electrons to have enough energy to create what are known as “singlet delta oxygen molecules”.

These molecules and electrons build up to create a short, highly conducting step, which lights up intensely for a millionth of a second.

At the end of the step, there is a pause as the build-up happens again, followed by another bright, flashing leap. The process is repeated again and again.

An increase in extreme weather events means lightning protection is increasingly important.

Knowing how a lightning strike is initiated means we can work out how to better protect buildings, aeroplanes, and people.

Also, while the use of environmental-friendly composite materials in aircraft is improving fuel efficiency, these materials increase the risk of lightning damage, so we need to look at additional protection.

What leads up to a lightning strike?

Lightning strikes happen when thunderclouds with an electric potential of millions of volts are connected to the earth.

A current of thousands of amps flows between the ground and the sky, with a temperature of tens of thousands of degrees.

Photographs of lightning reveal a host of details not observed by the naked eye. Usually there are four or five faint “leaders” coming from the cloud. These are branched and zigzag on an irregular path towards the earth.

The first of these leaders to reach the earth initiates the lightning strike. The other leaders are then extinguished.

Fifty years ago, high-speed photography revealed still more complexity. The leaders progress downwards from the cloud in “steps” about 50 metres long.

Each step becomes bright for a millionth of a second, but then there is almost complete darkness. After a further 50 millionths of a second another step forms, at the end of the preceding step, but the previous steps remain dark.

Why are there such steps? What is happening in the dark periods between steps? How can the steps be electrically connected to the cloud with no visible connection?

The answers to these questions lie in understanding what happens when an energetic electron hits an oxygen molecule. If the electron has enough energy, it excites the molecule into the singlet delta state.

This is a “metastable” state, which means it is not perfectly stable – but it usually doesn’t fall into a lower energy state for 45 minutes or so.



Oxygen in this singlet delta state detaches electrons (required for electricity to flow) from negative oxygen ions.

These ions are then replaced almost immediately by electrons (which carry a negative charge) again attaching to oxygen molecules.

When more than 1 per cent of the oxygen in the air is in the metastable state, the air can conduct electricity.

So the lightning steps occur as enough of the metastable states are created to detach a significant number of electrons. During the

dark part of a step, the density of metastable states and electrons is increasing.

After 50 millionths of a second, the step can conduct electricity – and the electrical potential at the tip of the step increases to approximately that of the cloud, and produces a further step.

The excited molecules created in previous steps form a column all the way to the cloud. The whole column is then electrically conducting, with no requirement of an electric field and little emission of light.

Protecting people and property

The understanding of lightning formation is important for the design of protection for buildings, aircraft and also people. While it is rare for lightning to hit people, buildings are hit many times – especially tall and isolated ones.

When lightning hits a tree, sap inside the tree boils and the resulting steam creates pressure, splitting open the trunk.

Similarly, when lightning hits the corner of a building, water from rain that has seeped into the concrete boils. The pressure blasts off the whole corner of the building, creating the risk of deadly collapses.

A lightning rod invented by Benjamin Franklin in 1752 is basically a thick fencing wire attached to the top of a building and connected to the ground.

It is designed to attract lightning and earth the electric charge. By directing the flow through the wire, it saves the building from being damaged.

These Franklin rods are required for tall buildings and churches today, but the uncertain factor is how many are needed on each structure.

Furthermore, hundreds of structures are not protected, including shelter sheds in parks.

These structures are often made from highly conductive galvanised iron, which itself attracts lightning, and supported by wooden posts.

The new version of Standards Australia for lightning protection recommends such shelters be earthed.



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### POSSESSION NOTICE

Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002

Whereas Mr. Asaf Rasool Kanue, as the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 30-08-2022 thereby calling upon the Borrower namely 1. Mr. Muneeb Ahmad Dar S/o Abdul Rasheed Dar R/o Qammarwari Near Masjid Ibrahim Srinagar (Borrower cum Mortgagor) 2. Mohammad Amin Nath S/o Farooq Ahmad Nath R/o Shamasabad Bemina Srinagar (Guarantor) 3. Mr. Arshid Ahmad Bhat S/o Khazir Mohammad Bhat R/o Qammarwari Near Masjid Ibrahim Srinagar (Guarantor) to repay an amount of Rs.28,89,493.00 (Rupees Twenty Eight lac eighty nine thousand four hundred ninety three only) being the balance outstanding as on 31-07-2022 in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken symbolic possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this the 29<sup>th</sup> day of November of the year 2022.

The said borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating to Rs. 34,29,547.01 (Rupees Thirty four lacs twenty nine thousand five hundred forty seven and one paise only ) together with future interest thereon from 01-11-2022 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

The borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

#### Description of the Immovable Property

(As per the schedule provided in mortgage deed/latest particulars including any accreditations)  
Mortgage a piece of land measuring 03 Marlas 264 Sqfts. 06 Inches along with residential house thereon, falling under Khasra no. 143 of Khata no. 288 & Khewat no.44 Situated in Estate Arampora Tehsil Srinagar Central & District Srinagar.

Dated: 29.11.2022  
Place : Srinagar

DIPK-NB-5376/22  
dated 03-12-2022

Sajad Ahmad Wani  
Authorized Officer

Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India

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Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

### Office of the Executive Engineer, (Jal Shakti) PHE, Mechanical Rural Division, Sgr.

GIST of Short term e-Tender.

Short Term E-N.I.T. No:- PHE/MRD/TS/ 134 of 12/2022

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Short term e-tenders are invited in two cover system from approved and eligible Contractors having GST registration/registered with J&K Govt., Railways and other State/Central Government Organizations for the following work:-

Sr.	Nature of Work	Location	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of Tender Doc.	Time of Completion	Programme
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Urgent Electrical works to be carried out at WSS	Saffron Colony	0.075	50/=	03 days	M&R

Critical Dates/Information.

1.	Publishing Date	03-12-2022 (5:00 PM)
2.	Period of Downloading of Bids	03-12-2022 (5:00 PM) to 10-12-2022 (11:00 AM)
3.	Period of Submission of bids	03-12-2022 (5:00 PM) to 10-12-2022 (11:00 AM)
4.	Date of opening of Tender/Timing	10-12-2022 (12:00 PM)
5.	Tender Receiving Authority: Executive Engineer , (Jal Shakti) PHE Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar	
6.	Document Cost : Non-Refundable in the shape of Treasury Challan/receipt shall be deposited to Account Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar (The firm shall specify the e-NIT No. & name of work for which applied)	
7.	Bid Validity Period: 90 Days	
8.	The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on www. Jktenders.gov.in	
09	Instead of EMD the firm has to furnish "Bid Security Declaration", format of the declaration is enclosed in the Bid Document	

Note:- The tenderer who is declared as L1 after opening of price bid will deposit 3% of the Estimated cost of the work in shape of CDR/FDR before allotment is issued in his favour.

No:- PHE/MRD /TS/3823-27  
DIPK-14562/22 DT:- 03-12-2022

Executive Engineer,  
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Rural  
Division Srinagar.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ANANTNAG PWD(R&B) DIVISION KHANABAL

NIT NO 179 OF R&B/Khanabal/2022-23 /E-TENDERING/19444-53 DATED 02-12-2022

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of Completion	Major Head of Account	Position Of AA	Class of Contractor
1.	Construction of drain at main road Hyderpora ward no 01 MC Anantnag	1.16	200	2320	15 Days	14 <sup>th</sup> FC	Accorded Vide Order No. MC/Ang/256 of 2022, Dated 09.11.2022	DEE Class & MSME's Only
2.	Construction of link road by way of soiling metting and lying of RCC pipes from H/o Haji. Ab Rehman Sheikh (warsi) via H/o Mohd Akbar Dar to link road DanterReshi colony ward no 01 MC Anantnag.	1.89	200	3780	15 Days	14 <sup>th</sup> FC	Accorded Vide Order No. MC/Ang/256 of 2022, Dated 09.11.2022	DEE Class & MSME's Only
3.	Development of park at Hyderpora MirDanter ward No 01 MC Anantnag	2.71	200	5420	15 Days	14 <sup>th</sup> FC	Accorded Vide Order No. MC/Ang/256 of 2022, Dated 09.11.2022	DEE Class & MSME's Only
4.	Construction of drain from house of Mohd Yousuf Chowkidar at MirDanter MC Anantnag.	2.36	200	4720	15 Days	14 <sup>th</sup> FC	Accorded Vide Order No. MC/Ang/256 of 2022, Dated 09.11.2022	DEE Class & MSME's Only
5.	Construction of lane and drain near graveyard at Bangidar ward no 01 MC Anantnag.	2.83	200	5660	15 Days	14 <sup>th</sup> FC	Accorded Vide Order No. MC/Ang/256 of 2022, Dated 09.11.2022	DEE Class & MSME's Only
6.	Construction of cement concrete lane from shop of Mohammad Iqbal Mir upto H/o Sufdar Ahmad wani at Mirpora MirDanter	2.61	200	5220	15 Days	14 <sup>th</sup> FC	Accorded Vide Order No. MC/Ang/256 of 2022, Dated 09.11.2022	DEE Class & MSME's Only
7.	Construction of link Road by way of soiling metting from Reshi Colony to Bilal Colony at ward 01 MC Anantnag.	2.10	200	4200	15 Days	14 <sup>th</sup> FC	Accorded Vide Order No. MC/Ang/256 of 2022, Dated 09.11.2022	DEE Class & MSME's Only
8.	Development of link road by way of laying of grade 2nd from H/o Ab Gani Bhat to H/o Gh Hassan Mir at Dangerpura MirDanter	2.84	200	5680	15 Days	14 <sup>th</sup> FC	Accorded Vide Order No. MC/Ang/256 of 2022, Dated 09.11.2022	DEE Class & MSME's Only
9.	Construction of culvert near H/o Gulzar Ahmad Reshi at Cats Gali at Gulshan Abad at Anantnag	12.67	600	25340	30 Days	14 <sup>th</sup> FC	Accorded Vide Order No. MC/Ang/256 of 2022, Dated 09.11.2022	BEE, CEE, DEE Class & MSME's Only

Project Authority: Municipal Council Anantnag.

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

S.No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	02-12-2022
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 03-12-2022 To 09-12-2022 (09:00AM) to (04:30PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 03-12-2022 To 09-12-2022 (09:00AM) to (04:30PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	From 09-12-2022 To 10-12-2022 (10:00AM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	10-12-2022 (10:00AM)
In the office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Khanabal		

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

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

4. The 1<sup>st</sup> lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Khanabal (Tender receiving authority) within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period(DLP) of the work.Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor be forwarded to Higher Authorities for a period of 01 Year.

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

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

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

8. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

a. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the “Downloads” option as well as from “Bidders Manual Kit” on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) to acquaint bid submission process.

b. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get ‘Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)’ as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.

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

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

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

f. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents including tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid.

9. All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.

(ErQaziJaved Amin)  
Executive Engineer,  
R&B Division Khanabal

DIPK-14538/22 dated 03-12-2022





# ‘International World Disability Day’ Observed At CRC Bemina

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Composite Regional Centre, (CRC) Skill Development, Rehabilitation & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment Government of India, Bemina, Srinagar observed ‘World Disability Day’ at CRC campus, here.

The institution observed ‘World Disability Day’ by way of organizing series of cultural programmes, events and distribution of Aids & appliances in the interest of differently-abled persons keeping in view the theme of this year - ‘Transformative solutions for inclusive development: the role of innovation in fueling an accessible and equitable world’.

On the occasion, the students pursuing Degree and Diploma level rehabilitation courses in this institution performed cultural and motivational programmes, themes, lectures, educational events etc showcasing the prevention aspects, needs, rehabilitation etc of differently-abled persons in our society.

Aids & Assistive devices

under the ADIP scheme of the Ministry were also distributed among the registered needy beneficiaries by the Director in-charge (CRC) in presence of the senior staff members / concerned faculty members of this institution on the occasion.

The parents and siblings of the Differently Able Persons (beneficiaries) who received these aids and assistive devices on the spot expressed their pleasure and extended satisfaction towards the work, Clinical and Rehabilitation services being provided by this institution in the interest of differently-abled persons.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director in-charge CRC, Dr. Arifa Amin highlighted the need of observing ‘International Day for Persons with Disabilities’ every year on 3rd December.

Rehabilitation Officer, Shameem Ahmad highlighted the clinical data and progress achieved during the past two years by this institution and also focused on the steps and rehabilitation plans to be taken ahead by the rehabilitation professionals for the better rehabilitation as well as to boost the morale of differently-abled persons.



# In A First, E-Bikes Set To Hit City Roads

The initiative aims to make e-bikes a substitute of commuting in the city

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: At a time when commuting in Srinagar city is becoming tiresome due to traffic jams and huge volume of vehicles, a group of Kashmiri youth are set to launch an E-Bike venture in association with the Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL).

Experts suggest the battery-powered two-wheelers have the potential to become a compelling alternative for commuters who are being discouraged from taking public transportation. For those looking for leisure rides, the bikes can provide much-needed fresh air.

Speaking to Kashmir Observer, Sheikh Yameen, Managing Director & Co founder of Srinagar based Startup, ‘Curve Electric’ said that it took them months in conceiving the whole idea & making everything from scratch to make these E-bikes “Kashmir Friendly” before they could convince the SSCL authorities to give green signal to launch the ‘ecofriendly’ proposal.

Pertinently, E-bikes draw power from a battery which makes commuting significantly easier. The battery driven two wheeler has transformed cycling from a strenuous exercise into a joy ride.

Yameen said the authorities have permitted them to

run 200 E-Bikes and in the next few days the E-bikes will be seen plying on the city roads.

“To begin with we will launch 50 E-bikes at 12 docking stations in the city and in a few weeks we will ensure all 200 of them hit city roads” he said.

The docking stations are being set up at Islamia College, Dalgate, Botanical Garden, Nishat, Kashmir University, Illahi Bagh, Soura, TRC, Kothi Bagh, Raj Bagh, Sanat Nagar, Bemina among other places.

He said the E-Bikes are technology driven, GPS enabled and the maximum speed of the E-bike is 25km/hour.

Zubair said the customers will be charged 0.90 paise per minute and the Payments have to be made at the docking station in online or offline mode.

However, during night, keeping the safety of the E bikes in mind, Our E-Autos will pick them up to ensure safety since no one commutes during night time, so there is no fun keeping them on roadsides.

Zubair said the ride on the E-Bikes is open to all. It is unisex and in order to appreciate females to take the ride, we will apply feminine colors as well”

“We want to make it a mode of transport and people should

On throttle, it has a speed of 25km/hr but seeing the kind of traffic we have in the city, one can run at 17km/hr on an average

These battery driven cycles can run up to 55kms per charge.

“On throttle, it has a speed of 25km/hr but seeing the kind of traffic we have in the city, one can run at 17km/hr on an average,” Yameen said.

Speaking on how a commuter can avail a ride, Zubair Bhat, Head of Operations, said one can avail the commuting facility by showing his or her Aadhar card and phone number for the first time, thereafter they will only have to use their phone number.

use it on a daily basis. It is expected to be safe ride and it will save time, money, effort & above all environment”

Zubair further said that for regular customers they will launch a subscription model in which they will avail other benefits .Once we understand the commuters behavior with the help of technology, we will later rent private shops and will operate within them as well to make our operations more accessible to the general population.

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



## AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



## RAILWAYS

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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)



HIJRI  
CALENDAR

09 Jumad al-Awwal  
1444

## PRAYERS

FAJR	5:50
ZUHR	12:17
ASR	3:45
Magrib	5:26
ISHA	6: 49

# KU To Announce Winter Vacations As Per Need, Says VC

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Vice Chancellor for University of Kashmir (KU) Saturday said that it will announce the winter vacations for a short time and as per the need.

Vice Chancellor, Prof Nilofar Khan said that the mechanism of working and functioning of Universities is different from the schools.

“We cannot keep it at par with the mechanisms or system of school level,” she said.

Nilofar said, “Keeping in view the availability of infrastructure and as per our need,

we will announce a short period of winter vacations.”

“However, the examination already slated by the university will be conducted on time and wherever required, the teaching faculty will also continue the academics,” she said.

On asking about the measures taken by the university regarding the recent sexual harassment cases, the VC said, “In every institution, there is a ruling of Supreme Court that it shall have a internal compliance committee. I am sure that the administrators must have taken a call and cognizance of it”.



The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited

Impaired Assets Portfolio Management Department (IAPMD)

Zonal Office Baramulla

Ph: 01954-221082/221083

## Possession Notice

Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002

Whereas Mr. Shabir Ahmad Bullah, as the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 26.05.2022 thereby calling upon the Borrower namely M/S Bilal Traders Prop: Mr. Habibullah War S/o Mr. Ghulam Mohiudin War R/o Fatehpura Baramulla to repay an amount of Rs. 46,01,856.28 (Rupees Forty Six Lacs One Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Six And Paise Twenty Eight Only) being the balance outstanding as on 30.04.2022 in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon. The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this the 30<sup>th</sup> day of November 2022. The said borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating to Rs. 46,01,856.28 (Rupees Forty Six Lacs One Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Six And Paise Twenty Eight Only) together with future interest thereon from 01.05.2022 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

The borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

### Description of the Immovable Property

(As per the schedule provided in mortgage deed/latest particulars including any accreditations)

Mortgage of 4 Kanals & 18 ½ Marlas of Land.

A) Land measuring 02 Kanal 8 ½ Marlas situated at mouza Fatehpura standing in the name of Borrower-

Mr. Habibullah War with following details:

Area of Land	Khasra No.	Khata No.	Khewat No.
18 ½ Marlas	1982/1030 min	576	169
01 Kanal	2336/1030 min	584	169
10 Marlas	1186	582	169
02 Kanal 8 ½ Marlas	Total Land		

B) Land measuring 02 Kanal 10 Marlas falling under khasra No. 1186, khata No. 582 & khewat no. 169, situated at mouza Fatehpura Baramulla standing in the name of Mr. Habibullah War.

Dated : 30-11-2022

Place : Poshbagh Fatehpura Baramulla

Authorized Officer

Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India

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From KO Archives

# 35 Cops Killed In Highway Mishap

Observer News Service

Jammu: Thirty five policemen were feared dead when the bus they were travelling in skidded off the road and fell 800 feet deep into the Chenab river at Battery Chashma near Ramban about 150 kilometres from here, this evening, a police spokesman said.

The bus was carrying 35 policemen, he said adding 27 bodies had been recovered. The search for remaining bodies or survivors was on, he said.

The cause of the accident was being ascertained, he said adding the bus was on its way from Srinagar to Jammu. Army troops were called out to join the rescue operations, the spokesman added.

ONS adds from Srinagar: The bus bearing registrationno JK 02J 0667 and belonging to district police lines (DPL) here left about 3 p.m. along with regular 35 policemen led by sub-inspector Noor Muhammad on its way to Jammu where from they had to escort eight detainees from various jails like Kot Balwal to Srinagar, to present them in courts.

A DPL official told Observer News Service that this late evening the accident took place at 7.15 p.m. He said four policemen were required to escort each detainee. The ill fated bus had not been located yet, the officials.

Immediately after the report about the nasty accident reached here, senior police officials, including the inspector general of police, Dr Ashok Bhan, rushed to the police control room and met with the DPL staff. A pall of gloom descended on the complex with entire police heirarchy

Shocked. Talking to Observer News Service Dr Bhan expressed profound grief over the the tragic loss of life in the accident. He said a party led by deputy superintendent of police had left here this evening to bring back bodies of the deceased.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 04 DECEMBER, 2000)



## Campaigning For 2nd Phase Of Gujarat Election Ends, Voting On December 5



Press Trust of India

**AHMEDABAD:** The high-voltage campaigning for the second and final phase of the Gujarat Assembly elections ended at 5 pm today. As many as 833 candidates are in the fray across 93 constituencies which will go to polls on December 5. Votes will be counted on December 8.

Prominent candidates in the second phase include Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel from Ghatlodia, Patidar leader Hardik Patel from Viramgam and OBC leader Alpesh Thakor from Gandhinagar South. Both Hardik Patel and Thakor are contesting on BJP ticket.

The first phase of voting for 89 seats in Saurashtra, Kutch and south Gujarat was held on December 1 with average turnout of 63.31 per cent, lower than the last time.

The main contenders in the elections are the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Congress and Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

The 93 constituencies where

polling will be held on Monday are spread across 14 districts of north and central Gujarat including Ahmedabad, Vadodara and Gandhinagar.

There are 2.54 crore registered voters in these constituencies.

Polling will be held at 26,409 booths and nearly 36,000 Electronic Voting Machines will be used. The Election Commission will deploy 29,000 presiding officers and over 84,000 polling officers in 14 districts, said an official release. The ruling BJP is also facing a challenge from rebel candidates in some places in the second phase.

Sitting BJP MLA from Waghotia, Madhu Shrivastav is contesting as an independent after being denied party ticket. Former BJP MLAs Dinu Solanki, Dhavalsinh Zala and Harshad Vasava are also in the fray as independents from Padra, Bayad and Nandod seats.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi conducted a whirlwind campaign for the BJP on December 1 and 2, including two back-to-back roadshows in Ahmedabad.

## Putin rejects Biden's terms for talks, says strikes on Ukraine 'inevitable'

Agencies

**MOSCOW:** Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday strikes on Ukrainian infrastructure were "inevitable" as the Kremlin rejected US President Joe Biden's terms for talks and warned the assault would continue.

After suffering military defeats during what has become the largest armed conflict in Europe since World War II, Russia began targeting Ukrainian energy infrastructure in October, causing sweeping blackouts.

Speaking with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz for the first time since mid-September, Putin slammed what he called the West's "destructive" policies in Ukraine and said Russian strikes were a response to "provocative" attacks from Kyiv.

Moscow "had long refrained from precision missile strikes against certain targets on the territory of Ukraine", Putin told Scholz, according to a Kremlin readout of the phone talks.

"But now such measures have become a forced and inevitable response to Kyiv's provocative attacks on Russia's civilian infrastructure," the Kremlin said, referring in particular to the October attack on a bridge linking Moscow-annexed Crimea to the Russian



mainland.

During the hour-long call with Putin, Scholz "urged the Russian president to come as quickly as possible to a diplomatic solution including the withdrawal of Russian troops", according to the German leader's spokesman Steffen Hebestreit.

Putin urged Berlin to "reconsider its approaches in the context of the Ukrainian events", the Kremlin said.

He accused the West of carrying out "destructive" policies in Ukraine, stressing that its political and financial aid "leads to the fact that Kyiv completely rejects the idea of any negotiations".

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky had ruled out any talks with Russia while Putin is in power shortly after the Kremlin claimed to have annexed several Ukrainian regions.

Offensive 'continues'

The Kremlin also indicated Moscow was in no mood for talks over Ukraine, after Biden said he would be willing to sit down with Putin if the Russian leader truly wanted to end the fighting.

"What did President Biden say in fact? He said that negotiations are possible only after Putin leaves Ukraine," Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters, adding Moscow was "certainly" not ready to accept those conditions.

"The special military operation continues," he added, using the Kremlin term for the assault launched on February 24.

Russia's strikes have destroyed close to half of the Ukrainian energy system and left millions in the cold and dark at the onset of winter.

## Qatar Pressures Hamas To Avoid Military Escalation In Gaza Until World Cup Ends: Report

Agencies

Israel's Kan TV channel reported on 2 December that Qatar's envoy to Gaza, Mohammed al-Emadi, has exerted pressure on local officials and resistance factions to prevent any military escalation against Israel until the end of the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

Emadi reportedly asked Hamas to maintain calm in the besieged Gaza Strip and not retaliate for the continued Israeli violations in the occupied West Bank, despite the severe blows the Israeli army is causing to the resistance's infrastructure.

Throughout 2022, the Israeli army has carried out a massive arrest campaign targeting thousands of young people in the occupied territories, with the goal of crushing newly created resistance cells.

The Israeli security establishment sharply increased its efforts over recent months by launching a targeted assassination campaign against notable resistance leaders in the West Bank.

On 1 December, Israeli forces assassinated the commander



of the Jenin Brigades of the Gaza-based Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), Mohammad al-Saidi. Weeks earlier, Israel assassinated the commander of the Lion's Den faction, Tamer Kilani.

However, an influential Palestinian platform, Stay Aware, which is concerned with raising awareness about Israel's intelligence operations, issued a statement rebuking the Kan TV reports.

The platform claims Kan TV spread the rumor as part of disinformation methods at the order of the Israeli security establishment, in order to distort the "image of the resistance" and lure it into a premature escalation.

Moreover, Stay Aware em-

phasized that the resistance is closely monitoring the deteriorating situation in the West Bank, and will assess the appropriate time to intervene with force.

Nonetheless, in the wake of the murder of a tenth Palestinian civilian in the West Bank this week, Hamas issued a statement and stressed that the resistance will not sit idly by in light of these events.

"Our resistance will not stand idly, and it will respond to this criminal enemy that killed ten of our people during the past three days in Negev, Hebron, Jenin, Ramallah and Nablus. The enemy must wait for the might of our heroic resistance," Hamas said via a statement.

## Can't Turn Blind Eye To Ends Of Justice Being Bulldozed In Broad Daylight: Court

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Being the conscience-keeper of democracy, the court cannot turn a blind eye when the ends of justice are being bulldozed in broad daylight, the Delhi High Court has observed, setting aside an order cancelling the lease deed of a charitable hospital built on public land.

The high court said it is a travesty of justice that an institution contributing to a noble cause being that of running a charitable hospital on public land and providing sound research and treatment facilities has been made to suffer the rigours of cancellation of the lease deed and vacation of the property.

"Law, which should be an instrument for ensuring welfare, is being reduced to a tool of atrocity in the instant case. Being a constitutional court and the conscience-keeper of democracy, this court cannot turn a blind eye when the ends of justice are being bulldozed in broad daylight," Justice Chandra Dhari Singh said.

The institution is imparting the state's welfare functions and undue harassment being caused to it will lead to an anathema of the rule of law, the high court said.

It was hearing an appeal by Khosla Medical Institute, a society which had set up a medical



research centre and hospital in Shalimar Bagh, challenging a trial court judgment upholding the 1995 order of Delhi Development Authority cancelling its lease deed and directing to vacate the property and hand over the possession.

The authorities had cancelled the lease deed after holding that the institute had transferred the property to third parties by inducting them as new members in it and had violated the terms of the lease deed.

The high court allowed the institute's appeal against the trial court's verdict and against the authorities' decision to cancel the lease deed, saying, "The order dated December 7, 1995, cancelling/terminating the lease deed of the appellant institute is also set aside, since the finding of the concerned authority was not supported or substantiated by any conclusive document." It said in the absence of evidence substantiating that the terms of the lease deed were violated, the basis for cancellation did not survive.

## Audio Company Files Contempt Of Court Petition Against Rahul Gandhi

Press Trust of India

**BENGALURU:** MRT Studios has filed a contempt of court petition against Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Jairam Ramesh, and Supriya Shrinete.

A Division Bench of the High Court on Friday ordered issuance of notices to the three leaders after MRT Studio in their petition claimed that the three had violated the undertaking given to the court on November 8 that the video clips of the Bharat Jodo yatra which used the copyrighted music belonging to the Studio would be removed from the party's social media platforms within a day. Allegedly, the videos have not been removed, the company said.



A designated economic court in Bengaluru had ordered blocking of @INCIndia and @BharatJodo Twitter handles earlier. The High Court set aside this order after Congress party's affidavit that the content would be removed from its online handles before noon on November 9.

The Congress agreed to re-

move the 45-second clip that used the copyrighted song before noon on Wednesday from all its social media accounts.

The MRT Studios had claimed 45 seconds of its copyrighted music from KGF Chapter 2 movie were used in a Bharat Jodo song by the Congress party.

Chief Justice PB Varale and Justice Ashok S Kinagi issued the notices today.

The contempt petition by the Studio says the Congress leaders "are continuing to use in relation to their business and/or infringing the copyrighted work owned by the complainant and illegally distributed by making pirated copies of the same and thereby enabling illegal uploading, storing, hosting, reproduc-

ing/making copies, issuing copies, communicating to the public, digitally transmitting/streaming, synchronising, adapting, actively modifying and/or otherwise or in any way infringing the copyrights over the work including but not limited to the copyrighted works created, owned and held by the complainant."

## NEWS MAKERS

## Mumbai Woman Slow Poisons, Kills Husband With Friend's Help. How They Got Caught

**MUMBAI:** A woman and her friend have been arrested for killing the former's husband, police said on Friday.

The woman, Kavita and her friend Hitesh Jain were arrested by Mumbai Crime Branch for murdering her husband Kamalkant Shah.

Police said she was mixing arsenic and thallium in her husband's food. He was hospitalised on September 3 due to slow poisoning and died 17 days later.

Crime Branch registered a case against both the accused under sections 302, 328 and 120(B) of IPC and arrested both of them. Police produced the accused in the court which sent them to police custody till December 8.

On September 3, 2022, Kamalkant was admitted to Bombay Hospital for treatment and remained admitted till September 19 when he died.

During treatment, the same team of doctors conducted heavy metal test of Kamalkant's blood and the report of that test further deepened the doubt of the



doctors. The level of arsenic and thallium found in the body was unusual for any human being.

Doctors informed the Azad Maidan Police Station and the Azad Maidan Police registered a case and handed over the case to the Santacruz Police Station for further investigation.

The investigation of the case was handed over to the Crime Branch Unit 9 instead of the Santacruz Police Station. The Crime Branch started the investigation and took all the medical reports including the statements of the family members including the wife, as well as collected information related

to Kamalkant's diet. Planning with Hitesh, a conspiracy was hatched to remove her husband.

For a long time, arsenic and thallium were being mixed in Kamalkant's food and drink very cleverly. These metals are already present in blood inside the body, but if it is more than normal, it acts as a poison and this is what happened with Kamalkant. Due to the slow poison he was getting in his food and drink, his condition continued to deteriorate.

He was admitted to Bombay Hospital on September 3 and was treated till September 19 but could not be saved.

## MP Teacher Sacked for Joining 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'

Press Trust of India

**BARWANI, MADHYA PRADESH:** A government school teacher has been suspended for attending the Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra in Madhya Pradesh's Barwani district, an official said on Saturday.

Rajesh Kannoje, a teacher with a primary school under the state's Tribal Affairs Department in Kanasya, was suspended on November 25, a day after he took part in the yatra. The issue came to light after his suspension order surfaced on social media.

"Mr Kannoje was suspended for violation of service conduct rules and attending a political rally. He had sought leave citing important work, but he posted photographs on social media after attending a political event," Assistant Commissioner NS Raghuvanshi of the Tribal Affairs Department said.

As per the order, Mr Kannoje violated service conduct rules by attending Bharat Jodo Yatra being taken out by a political party on November 24.

Meanwhile, state Congress media department chairperson K K Mishra in a tweet said the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government has allowed employees to take part in the shakhas of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), but suspends a tribal, Rajesh Kannoje, for gifting 'tir-kaman' (bow and arrow) to Rahul Gandhi during a non-political march.

The yatra, which arrived in Madhya Pradesh on November 23, will enter Rajasthan on Sunday.

## Woman Sets Herself On Fire Near Court, Wants Man Who Raped Her Arrested

Press Trust of India

**BERHAMPUR:** A 30-year-old woman, who was allegedly raped multiple times, tried to set herself on fire at a court complex in Odisha's Ganjam district on Friday, seeking justice, but was rescued by an alert officer, police said.

The incident happened at the Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate (SDJM) court in Berhampur, they said.



Constable Rashmi Ranjan Das, who was on security duty at the spot, rescued the woman immediately after she poured kerosene on herself, they added.

The woman was briefly detained at the BN Pur police station, and was let go after questioning, police said.

The woman, who is married, alleged that she was first raped in October of last year. After that, the

accused was arrested. However, after being released on bail, he allegedly raped her again along with a friend on November 14 this year.

The accused man was arrested again, but the woman was seeking the arrest of his friend, and his mother who was guarding the house when they were allegedly raping her, police said.

The woman's husband

lives in Hyderabad for livelihood. He used to send her money through the accused man's bank account, they said. On Monday, a 51-year-old man named in at least four criminal cases threatened SDJM Prangya Paramita Parihari with a knife in the court. Lawyers rescued the judge and handed the accused to police.



Wadura 'Molestation' Fallout

## SKUAST To Set Up Online Grievance Portal: VC

Agencies

**SOPORE:** Vice chancellor, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) Kashmir, Prof Dr Nazir Ahmed Ganaie on Saturday termed the sexual harassment case by a professor at Wadura campus unfortunate, says there is no space in the varsity for such people who lack ethics and morality.

The vice chancellor said the incident should not have happened at any cost. "In order to redress the harassment related issues, the varsity within days would come up with the online grievance portal which would help the students to raise their issues," he said.

Ganaie said that he is very proud of the students as they have enough courage and guts to highlight such issues which usually remain unreported.

"Such cases are being concealed and not brought to fore but the credit goes to the girl who not only highlighted it but gave confidence to others", the vice chancellor added. He also said, that restoring the confidence of students is a top priority and will give them such an atmosphere and free space where they cannot only feel more secure

but comfortable too.

In sexual harassment case, the vice chancellor said, that they have already taken action against the said professor who has been alleged of molesting a girl in his office. The professor has been suspended and an anti-harassment committee is enquiring the matter furthermore.

He said that Police has also registered an FIR in a local police station after the family of a girl approached them. "The professor was arrested hours after the complaint was filled and is under custody at police station Bomal", said a senior police officer.

Earlier on Friday, authorities at SKUAST said that a girl student (name withheld) on Thursday had complained against a RAWV programme coordinator of molesting her, following which an enquiry was initiated into a very serious complaint of sexual harassment against the said coordinator filed by girl student.

Later, students inside the campus held a strong protest demonstration against the varsity administration and accused professor, demanding stern action which led to arrest and suspension of the accused professor—(KNO)

## Bharat Jodo Yatra To Reach J&K By Jan End: Cong

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** The Bharat Jodo Yatra will reach Jammu and Kashmir towards the end of January and will culminate with a public meeting, a Congress leader here said on Saturday.

He said all the arrangements for the yatra were going on in full swing. "The Bharat Jodo Yatra led by Rahul Gandhi will reach J&K by January end. The yatra will take place between Lakhampur to Kashmir. A concluding public meeting will take place here," J&K Pradesh Congress Committee chief Viqar Rasool Wani told reporters here.

Wani also welcomed the sec-

ular parties who have shown interest to become a part of the yatra and to fight hatred, unemployment and the price rise.

Asked about his recent statement that the Padma Shri award, bestowed on former Congress leader Gulam Nabi Azad, was a small award, the JKPC chief said the BJP was giving awards on political considerations.

"Every award has its importance. But, I want to clear one thing that the BJP gives all awards on political base.

"Whoever joins them or is leaving the Congress party, they give him an award. And if I have said anything wrong, then I take it back," he said.

## JMC, JSCL Organises Cycle Rally Under 'Jan Abhiyan' In Jammu



Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** The Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) in association with Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL) on Saturday organised a cycle rally as part of government programme 'My Town My Pride - Jan Abhiyan' with focus on youth, skills and self-employment, an official said.

The rally was flagged off by the JMC, Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of JSCL, Rahul Yadav from Bus Stand, Jammu. People from all walks of life including officials of JSCL and JMC led by Yadav participated in the rally and spread awareness about government initiatives being taken for the welfare of people, the official said.

He said the rally started from the Bus Stand and went towards Bikram Chowk and culminated

at Kala Kendra.

"The different activities being organised on the direction of J&K Lt Governor Manoj Sinha across Jammu and Kashmir as a part of My Town My Pride. The programme is Jan Abhiyan with focus on youth, skills and self-employment, good governance along with Nasha Mukta and Rozgar yukt J&K," the JMC commissioner said. He said the cycle rally was part of the Jan Abhiyan to spread awareness about government initiatives being taken and schemes being implemented for the welfare of people.

On Friday, JMC in collaboration with J&K Dharmarth Trust and Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), Jammu Chapter, conducted a 'Heritage Temples Corridors' walk as a part of My Town My Pride' campaign.

## J&K's First FASTag-Enabled Parking System Launched

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Jammu and Kashmir's first FASTag-enabled parking management system was launched at the general bus stand here on Saturday, an official spokesperson said.

Principal Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department, Dheeraj Gupta inaugurated the state-of-the-art system at a multi-level parking and urged citizens to maintain traffic discipline by parking their vehicles in spaces that have increased over the last few years.

He complimented the Jammu Development Authority (JDA) and IDFC First Bank for partnering for the initiative and said the administration is committed to provide support to put in place an effective traffic management system in the Union Territory.



He also insisted on upscaling of the model to include all parking spaces in Jammu, including those of the JDA and Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), so that smooth cashless, and paperless parking facilities are provided to the people.

According to the official, the parking works through an app

called 'Park+' that allows people search for, book and prepay for a parking spot.

Additionally, they can also use the FASTag on their cars to pay for a parking spot without any human intervention, a first-of-its-kind initiative in Jammu and second in the country, the spokesperson said.

## India's Bio-Economy Grew 8 Times Under Modi Since 2014: Union Minister

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Saturday said India's bio-economy has grown eight times in the last 8 years under the Modi government from 10 billion dollars in 2014 to over 80 billion dollars in 2022.

The Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office said three biotech startups were incorporated every day in 2021 and a total of 1,128 biotech startups were set up last year alone, signalling the rapid growth of the sector in the country.

Addressing an 'International Conference on Emerging Trends in Biosciences and Chemical Technology- 2022' here, Singh said the biotech startups have grown 100 times in the last 8 years from 52 odd startups in 2014 to 5,300 plus in 2022.

The conference is being organized by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, School of Biotechnology, Jammu in collaboration with CSIR-IIIM Jammu and the Biotech Research Society of India, from December 3 to 5.

There are 14 international participants like USA, Greece, South Korea, Scotland, Singapore, Thailand, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Malaysia and Vietnam and 24 National keynote and invited speakers and



around 300 participants from almost every state of India who are presenting their work in the form of oral and poster presentations, an official release said.

The minister pointed out that from a paltry investment of Rs 10 Crore in bio-economy in 2014, the fund growth saw 400 times hike to Rs 4200 crore in 2022, creating over 25,000 high skilled jobs.

"The number of biotech incubators have increased from six in 2014 to 75 now, while biotech products have increased from 10 to more than 700 today," he said.

Dwelling on the growth of India's bioeconomy, Singh said India administered nearly four million doses of COVID-19 vaccines per day and a total of 1.45 billion doses in 2021.

"Similarly, we conducted 1.3 million COVID-19 tests each day in 2021 and overall 507 million tests in 2021," he said.

Singh also pointed out that the biotech industry crossed one-billion-dollar Research and Development spend, thanks to Covid economy and it almost trebled within a year from 320 million dollars in 2020 to 1,02 billion dollars in 2021.

"India will soon enter the league of top-5 countries in Biotech's global ecosystem," he said.

The minister quoted Prime Minister Narendra Modi to point out the five big reasons why India is being considered a land of opportunities in the field of biotech.

"First- diverse population and diverse climatic zones, second- India's talented human capital pool, third- increasing efforts for ease of doing business in India, fourth- the demand for bio-products is increasing continuously in India and fifth- India's biotech sector and its track record of success," he said.

Referring to the growing reputation and profile of Indian professionals on the global stage, Singh said there is growing trust in the skill and innovation of Indian IT professionals in the world and in this bio-economy decade, the same will be true for the bio professionals of India.

Hajin DDC Re-Poll

## District Panchayat Election Officer Finalises Preparations

Observer News Service

**BANDIPORA:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmed who is also District Panchayat Election Officer on Saturday convened a meeting of concerned officers to finalize the preparation for upcoming DDC re-poll of Hajin-A, scheduled on 5th December.

At the outset, the DC took stock of preparedness, by deliberating on actions plans of concerned departments in respect of deployment of Zonal, Sectoral Magistrates, deployment and randomization of polling staff, training of staff, distribution of election material, videography, Control Room for grievance redressal, transport and security arrangements.

Dr Owais gave directions to all to put up their best efforts for smooth conduct of elections. He directed concerned Nodal Officer to enforce the Model Code of Conduct strictly and ensure stoppage of electioneering on the scheduled time as per norms.

While reviewing the detailed arrangements of transport, security and material management, he instructed that fool-proof arrangements be kept in place for ensuring hassle free movement of men and material.

Emphasizing on efficient tackling of poll related grievances, he intimated Strong Room will function round the clock for grievance redressal.

The DC was apprised by concerned Nodal Officers about the finalization of proper and adequate arrangements especially on allotment of polling staff and their training, installation and provision of assured minimum facilities (AMF).

Besides, counting arrangements were also reviewed and the concerned were directed to keep readiness for smooth conduct of counting of votes.

Dr. Owais said District Administration is well prepared for conducting re-poll.

He said four polling stations have been designated as model polling stations with additional facilities for voters. Besides, CCTVs have also been installed in some sensitive polling stations.

DIFFERENTLY ABLED

## Govt To Engage Interpreters In Functions To Promote Sign Language

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Jammu and Kashmir administration is contemplating to engage interpreters at all government functions to promote sign language, a senior government official said on Saturday, as the Union territory organized several functions to mark International Day for Persons with Disabilities here.

Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department Sheetal Nanda said the government is taking coordinated and concerted efforts to ensure all facilities are provided to the specially abled population.

"The thought process has started and we have already decided that in order to promote sign language, we would ask for interpreters in all government functions (to make the events more accessible to the target population)," Nanda told PTI on the sidelines of a programme here.

The programme "Transformative solutions for inclusive development: the role of innovation in fuelling an accessible and equitable world" was organized by the social welfare department in support of UNICEF and ELFA international.

She said a lot of steps have been taken to make the ecosystem accessible to the people with disabilities and also provide them with whatever facilities that should be there for them.

However, she said the whole

disability sector, not only in J&K but in the entire country, is at a very nascent stage. "We are taking very coordinated and concerted efforts to ensure that this sector which requires our special attention gets its due," Nanda said.

She said there is a lot to be done for the disabled population, whether it is education, teaching, health, special homes, rehabilitation centres or skill development. "We are moving steadily into it".

The hearing-impaired people spoke about accessibility issues in public places on stage with the assistance of interpreter Sukanya Bhan, highlighting the difficulties they face especially in hospitals, schools and government offices since they are unable to communicate with the hearing world.

"Whenever a disabled person goes to work somewhere, it is said that you should have kept him at home and done the work yourself. But no, we need the disabled population to come out with their problems and work on solutions, not just tell them to stay at home," disability rights activist Sandhya Dhar said.

The panel discussion included Commissioner for Persons with Disability Iqbal Lone, Disability rights activist and interpreter Sukanya Bhan, Dhar and Sub-Judge Prem Sagar.

"The government is preparing data of children with disabilities within the age group of 6-18 to ensure early assistance to them," Lone said.

## Kabra Reviews Implementation Of JJM In Kashmir



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Principal Secretary Jal Shakti, Shaleen Kabra on Saturday chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in Kashmir province of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Special Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, Chief Engineer, SEs and other senior officers of the department.

While chairing the meeting, Principal Secretary took district wise status of tendering/allotment/starting of works under different components. He took strong note of the less performing districts and impressed upon the concerned officers to gear up their efforts and ensure deadlines are met in each component.

Principal Secretary also impressed upon the officers to prepare CPM chart of water supply schemes everywhere for better monitoring. He also said that all labs have to be made fully functional for water quality monitoring and surveillance and directed them to ensure all necessary procedures are followed to ensure a transparent mechanism.

He also inquired about the progress on execution of works

and finalization of contracts under Jal Jeevan Mission. He reviewed and discussed the status of tendering and allotment of civil works besides assessing progress achieved in respect of procurement of pipes under JJM.

While reviewing the implementation of JJM, Principal Secretary directed the concerned officials to expedite the tendering and evaluation processes and ensuring allotment of works by the fixed deadlines. He also impressed upon the officers to maintain highest level of transparency and accountability in implementation process and meet the timelines targeted for completion of various tasks.

Chief Engineer was directed to channelise the available human resource for accomplishment of the tasks within the stipulated time frame. He said that coordinated and synergised efforts should be put in to carry forward the JJM in a mission mode.

It was given out in the meeting that a total of 5.26 lakh out of 8.47 lakh rural households have been connected with piped tap water connections. It was further given out in the meeting that out of 2147 tendered works, 1232 works have been allotted to the contractors for their timely completion.

## Advocates Should Feel Proud For Serving Downtrodden People: Chief Justice

Inaugurates Residential Quarter, Lawyers Chamber Cum Utility Complex In Pulwama

Observer News Service

**PULWAMA:** Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey, Saturday inaugurated six residential quarters for Judicial Officers and 48 lawyers chamber cum utility complex in District Court Complex Pulwama.

Chief Justice also took part in a plantation drive organized by District Legal Services Authority Pulwama in collaboration with forest division Pulwama.

Chief Justice along with Justice Rahul Bharti, Judge High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh (Administrative Judge for District Pulwama) planted trees in the

court complex Pulwama.

Later, Chief Justice inaugurated a lawyers chamber cum utility complex in Pulwama.

Naseer Ahmed Dar, Principal District and Sessions Judge Pulwama; Aijaz Ahmad Khan, Principal Secretary to Chief Justice; Gowhar Majeed Dalal, Registrar Judicial; Meraj-Ud-Din Sofi, Additional District & Sessions Judge, Pulwama; Abdul Bari, Joint Registrar Protocol; Jahangir Bakshi Special Mobile Magistrate Traffic Srinagar; Mansoor Ahmad Lone, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Pulwama; Baseer ul Haq Choudhary, Deputy Commissioner, Pulwama; GH Gellani SSP Pulwama; Secretary DLSA, Rayaz Ahmed



Choudhary; Advocate G M Dar, President Bar Association, Pulwama and district officers were also present on the occasion.

Justice Rahul Bharti welcomed Chief Justice and expressed gratitude to him for visiting the District and inaugurating the lawyer chamber and residential quar-

ters.

During his presidential address, Justice Magrey lauded the role of Advocates in justice dispensation. He said that Pulwama occupies second place in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh as far as infrastructure development is concerned. He said that it is a

matter of great satisfaction that all requisite facilities are in place in Pulwama Court for the advocates.

The Chief Justice said that it feels great to see female lawyers working in such a professional manner. "Times have gone when parents used to be hesitant in sending their daughters in the field of law", he maintained. We have to strengthen the judicial system making it accessible to all especially weaker sections of the society, he said adding that we as judges and bar members have to share collective responsibility of ensuring speedy justice to all.

Justice Magrey urged the judges to prioritize disposal of old cases pending in the district

court. He also asked the Advocates to extend full cooperation to the bench. He said that the relationship between the bar and bench should be cordial for smooth running of the system.

Justice Magrey said that one should serve the society in all capacities and try to become a voice of the voiceless.

Chief Justice lauded the Deputy Commissioner Pulwama for identifying another ten kanal of land for the court complex. Reacting to the request of President Bar Association Pulwama regarding exclusive Juvenile Board and NDPS Court, Chief Justice said that it is the duty of society to take care of our children who are

in conflict with law and also to get rid of the menace of drugs.

Regarding shortage of judges, he said that the administration is trying its level best to fill all the vacancies and the full court has recently referred 65 adhoc posts of Munsiffs and the process to fill the same is in progress.

Principal District and Sessions Judge Pulwama, Naseer Ahmed Dar, appreciated Chief Justice for deeply understanding the pain and agony faced by the litigants living in the remote areas of the Union Territory. He also applauded Chief Justice for according special emphasis on augmentation and improvement of court infrastructure.



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To create greater awareness of workplace regulations, workshops must be conducted with faculty and students to address maintenance of a professional environment, boundaries and fair conduct. The power dynamics between faculty and students which can lead to coercion or silencing must also be addressed

KO Web Desk

Editor's Note

Teacher-student relationship operates on trust. In this part of the world especially, it also demands a certain level of respect towards teachers from students. This relationship, defined culturally to facilitate an environment of conducive learning, humility in learning and the spirit of pursuit of knowledge, is one that is almost defied in our culture - and rightly so. However, such a relationship also breeds within it a space where this dynamic can potentially leave scope for some abuse of power. Men face the brunt of it and so do women. However, in the case of women, this dynamic is further complicated by virtue of her gender.

In higher education especially, most learning happens outside classrooms. Students and teachers are both adults in academic spaces and regulations are loosened to allow ease of interaction and access for the sake of education. Yet, even this opening up does not fix the lopsided hierarchy that remains vulnerable in the unequal relationship that teacher and students share. In this dynamic, power tilts towards the teachers who enjoy authority, power and social capital as well. It is this power that is often detrimentally used by some blacksheeps in academic spaces to exploit students, especially women. So much goes into the workings of power in this relationship that some believe that even consent falls short in cases where a teacher and a student share an intimate personal relationship. Therefore, it comes as no surprise that matters of sexual misconduct and abuse are even more grave in this case. They become difficult to avoid and even more difficult to report. Therefore, there's a need to have complaint's committees and gender sensitization cells within educational institutions to address these issues responsibly.

The recent reports from GDC Sopore and SKAUST Wadoora of sexual harrasment allegations against two professors have kindled a renewed need to talk about sexual harassment within campuses.



## Campus Coercion

While the matters are still under investigation, personal testimonies within women's own trustworthy circles have always been abundant with stories of sexual misconduct by faculty members. These personal stories circulate amongst women so they can be forewarned of possible danger. Since many women students in higher education fear harm to their education should they report, these reports don't see the light of the day.

While one must be conscious of prematurely making culprits out of alleged offenders, it is not right to ignore such matters and discourage women from speaking up.

We asked some of our readers to comment on sexual harassment within campuses. Here are some of their responses:

Ayman Ayoub

Unfortunately, there are no two bones about the fact that a deep-seated, oppressive patriarchy plagues our society, but being a woman, it is extremely heart-rending to see women having to pursue their education in such disabling and atrocious environments. Every such predator needs to be called out and tried properly for others to take a lesson. At the same time, in such instances, it needs to be ensured that we as a society rise above the culture of victim-blaming so that the victims don't have to face the trauma on both ends. Only then can we create safe environments for women at the workplace, educational institutions and elsewhere. At the same time we shouldn't lose sight of the fact that men too have to face such instances and should be granted due protection.

Quratulain Rehbar

This (GDC Sopore and SKAUST Wadoora case) is the rarest of sexual harassment cases in Kashmir where girl students have spoken up. There are so many cases where the victim is told to remain silent. She's told that reporting the crime would affect her image and no one would marry her in future.

Sexual harassment as well as victim blaming,

unfortunately, happens within our families, friend circles, offices, and within classrooms. It is better to extend support and solidarity towards the victims who face sexual harassment/molestation.

I've been told by a number of friends about how they faced molestation by elderly men in offices/educational spaces. They, however, don't want to talk about it publicly out of fear. It's a double-edged sword; both enduring the trauma and speaking up against it. It inevitably makes the girl suffer for the rest of her life. Yet, now, some girls have shown

“While the matters are still under investigation, personal testimonies within women's own trustworthy circles have always been abundant with stories of sexual misconduct by faculty members. These personal stories circulate amongst women so they can be forewarned of possible danger. Since many women students in higher education fear harm to their education should they report, these reports don't see the light of the day

the courage to speak up. Please don't ask them to be courteous to men who are harassing them.

There should be a discussion between you and your children in homes and parents need to understand what is disturbing their kids. I think it's time to act rather than just talk!

Hirra Sultan

A really disturbing news of a faculty member in SKAUST Wadoora being a sexual offender has come to light. It took students a written complaint, huge protests and a ruckus to get attention of both authorities as well as the public. As per students, he is a repeat offender but as per university authorities, this is the first complaint they have received in this context.

This is not the first time that we have heard of such concerns from the students of a society. Even though our society considers Kashmir to be a pious place, behind closed doors, all kinds of evils take place without any consideration for religion or sin. Many a times we have heard of sexual favors being asked of students in KU as well, this is well known in student's circles. There are also stories of singing and dancing that happen for the male faculty in the university. If we ask authorities there, would they admit?

Similarly, if we ask any of our male acquaintances that someone they know is not a good person, is hinting at gaining sexual favors or is trying to flirt, they will respond back with, “Mai usko ache se janta hun, woh aisa nahi hai”. Same happens to be the case with this particular faculty. People who know him claim he is old, close to his retirement, why would he do something like this with students his daughter's age? “He is such a genuine and amiable person, for sure the student is lying. She must be taking out some revenge.” We have created a society where a complaint is looked at as vengeance instead of a concern.

Why do we want to let our men loose but lock the women up to protect them? Why do we put the liability of shame and honour on women but do not show men how to respect them?

Saadia Peerzada

The protest by male and female students on Friday evening is important as solidarity with the victim is key. After the news came to the forefront, there were reports of past offenses which haven't been brought to light. The administration of the university must conduct thorough investigation to safeguard students against any further harassment. Surveys are an important tool to gauge what kind of student-experiences aren't being spoken about, and if there are ways in which women are being made uncomfortable that haven't been addressed by the university authorities. The admin is enshrined with the responsibility of making campus a safe space and must act accordingly.

To create greater awareness of workplace regulations, workshops must be conducted with faculty and students to address maintenance of a professional environment, boundaries and fair conduct. The power dynamics between faculty and students which can lead to coercion or silencing must also be addressed. Further, students must be briefed on their rights and support systems, if any, so that they can navigate the power systems around them. Further a Cell/Committee Against Sexual Harassment (CASH) can be put in place to address such cases, the members of which can be voted by the student body via a Google Form. All the steps will help students access a safer university environment.

Views are personal

THE tests of the times are such that it has become increasingly difficult to see our beliefs as they are instead of how they've been interpreted or perceived. Whether it is the worldover Islamophobic demonization of muslim women's choices or the policing within their own communities; women have found it extremely difficult to form an untainted opinion of their own choices as Muslims. There's been so much said about the oppressed state of women in Islam that one would think it true. One would think that Islam has only set limitations and boundaries upon women. Infact, in some cases, within our own communities too, these biases often keep us from realizing the true benefits of the rights given to women by Islam.

For a religion which is labelled “backward”, in its own time, Islam bothered contemporaries for being “too progressive”. A reason for this was the Prophet's fight for the rights of women.

The Prophet's phenomenal success in his mission has always intrigued scholars and laymen alike. As Muslims, we believe that his success was due in no small measure to his outstanding qualities as a leader and divine support. Thanks to the Prophet's extraordinary leadership skills, he inspired people to join his cause and commit wholeheartedly to it. He encouraged both men and women, young and old, of various levels and ranks. Many A adith are related to women's status, role, and societal position. Abdullah ibn Amr reports that the Messenger of Allah said, “The world is the provision, and the best provision is a righteous woman.” [Shahih Muslim: 1467].

Abu Huraira reports that the Messenger of Allah , said, “I enjoin you to treat women well, for the women were created from a rib and the most cursed part of the rib is its uppermost part. If you try to straighten it, you will break it, but if you leave it as it is, it will remain curved. Thus, I enjoy you to be good to women”. [Shahih Bukhari- 3153].

Before the advent of Islam, women were often treated worse than animals. The prophet wanted to stop all cruelties against women. He preached kindness towards them. He told the Muslims: “Fear Allah in respect of women”; “The best of you are they who behave best to their wives”; “A Muslim must not hate his wife, and if he is displeased with one bad quality in her, let him be pleased with one that is good”; and “the more civil and kind a Muslim is to

## For The Women

Neelofar Rafeeq

his wife, the more perfect in faith he is.”

The Prophet was most emphatic in enjoining Muslims to be kind to their women when he delivered his famous Khutbah on the occasion of Hajj al Wada (Farewell pilgrimage) and said: “Fear Allah regarding women. Verily you have married them with the trust of Allah and made their bodies lawful with the word of Allah. You have got (rights) over them, and they have got (rights) over you in respect of their food and clothing according to your means.”

The first person to believe in Allah as the lord and Muhammad as the Messenger and prophet, was his wife, Khadija. She was the first person to support the messenger of Allah . She strengthened him, assured him, and consoled him. She received the prophet and his message with her big heart. After her, many women embraced Islam, not in compliance with their husbands' will, out of tribal solidarity, or in obedience to their father's command. Instead, these women, in most cases, embraced Islam independently, out of conviction, and in demonstration of their right of choice.

Khadijah [R.A], the prophet's wife, was undoubtedly the first person to embrace Islam. It is worth remembering that she was attracted to the prophet by his trustworthiness and noble character. A successful entrepreneur of immense wealth, she rejected proposals for marriage from several men of high status. However, she was the one who proposed marriage to the prophet. Khadija [R.A] was not only the first to embrace Isla, but was also the first to place all her wealth at the service of Islam. When the Quraish taunted the prophet, saying that he was the poorest man in Makkah, she went out to the courtyard of the Haram where the Quraish had gathered and declared that she had gifted all of her wealth to Muhamad! Khadija stood by the prophet like a firm pillar of support until the end-sacrificing everything for the cause of Islam.

Khadija [R.A] was not alone in giving up everything for the cause of Islam. Another pioneer was Sumayyah, the mother of Ammar, Who is reported to be the seventh person to choose Islam. Her master unleashed a torrent of punishments upon her as soon as she decided on Islam. She was offered the choice of renouncing Islam or suffering ordeals. She preferred the latter, ultimately surrendering her life. She thus became the first martyr in Islam. The examples set by Sumayyah [R.A] were followed by women from all walks of life under varying circumstances. The sister of Umar [R.A] stood up to her brother, a notorious and relentless persecutor of Muslims, before his conversion to Islam. Umm Salamah and others were among the first batch of emigrants sent by the prophet to Abyssinia. She provided us with the narrative of their encounter with the emperor and the story of their experience in Abyssinia. The prophet's hijrah to Madinah was planned and executed with utmost finesse and skill. It was not a men's affair; women also played a crucial role. A highly guarded secret, it was entrusted to both Asma [R.A] and Aisha [R.A]. They were in charge of arranging provisions for the journey. Even though Asma was in an advanced stage of pregnancy, she would deliver requirements by climbing mountains considered challenging for the toughest of men. Both refused to disclose the prophet's whereabouts and his companion despite threats from Abu jahal, described as the women did not lag behind men in any of the decisive events, which were always at the forefront alongside men.

If there are men companions, there are also women companions. If there are ‘men around the messenger,’ there are also ‘women around the messenger.’ Each of these women played their role in the best and noblest way in the arena of faith and sincerity. These women excellently maintained a necessary balance between the two segments of humanity: male and female. They stand out as outstanding mod-

els in the history of humanity in a way that made them unrivaled in the history of nations from the time of Adam until Allah inherited the earth and all that is on it. This essential and critical aspect in the life of Allah's Messenger, the message that he was carrying, the journey of Islam in its first step, and the appearance of the dawn of Islam after the stark darkness in which the entire humanity was living then needs to be written down in many reasons.

Allah's Messenger [S.A.W] imparted teaching to the women companions making these allowances and emphasizing them. There was a proper arrangement for women's education in the prophet's times. They did not come to the prophet's classes as men did, but other methods were adopted to teach them. The sahabah [R.A] taught their women and children the Quran at home. When the prophet said Knowledge of religion would disappear, Ziyad ibn Labid Ansari [R.A] submitted (How can Knowledge disappear from us when we recite the Quran, and by Allah, we will recite it and teach it to our women and our children). [Musnad Ahmad 4/160, Tirmidhi 3653].

The Prophet used to go to the exclusive gatherings of women companions to educate, encourage them. Syed Asma bint Yazid ibn sakan Ansariyah [R.A] was a knowledgeable and religious woman companion. The other women companions (sahabiyat) sent her as their envoy to the Prophet . She said to him, “I have come to you as an envoy of the wives of Muslims who say....and I say too- that Allah has sent you to men and women. We, women, have believed you, and we obey you. We are behind the veil and stay indoors in our homes. We fulfill every wish of our men and raise their children while men offer Salah with the congregation, participate in the funeral and jihad, and earn rewards and excellence. When they go to battle, we look after their property and children. These are evidence that the sahabiyat were very eager to acquire Knowledge. The prophet encouraged them.

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

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# Bird-Watcher's Paradise

## With The Arrival Of Avian Guests In Kashmir, The Bird-Watchers Are Out To Give Wings To Their Passion

Badar Bashir

As the first Kashmiri snapper to discover White Breasted Water-Hen, Steppe Gull, Rufous Napped Niltawa with photographic evidences, Ansar Ahmad, 28, from Nishat Srinagar, has a poetic introduction about himself: "Mountains are my home, birds are my family and photography is a bond between me and my family."

Four years ago, when a sudden ruffling of leaves occurred outside his window, a bird-watcher took an abrupt birth in Ansar.

That day, he recalls, he tirelessly waited for an avian guest behind the ruffling of leaves. It took him some time to spot a bird eating an apple.

He grabbed his camera, zoomed in, into the bird and pulled his first ever photo of a rose-ringed parakeet.

Next time, as an eager bird-watcher, he was sitting on Srinagar's Fore-shore area—in an apparent dubious manner behind the bushes.

He was quietly picturing a white-breasted water hen paddling its way in the serpentine water body.

"I was very excited and called my friend Riyaz," Ansar recalls. "He immediately responded in disbelief and thought I was joking, but then I sent him the photos and soon we were raving in happiness."

Earlier in his childhood playmate, Sheikh Riyaz, Ansar had found a bird-watching companion. They discuss about birds and get excited over new avian findings.

But Ansar's wanderlust into woods and wilderness for capturing the winged creatures has already made him Kashmir's adept bird-watcher.

"There're 266 bird species in Kashmir, and I've covered 161," he says, adding, "actually, there're 366, but 100 are common between Jammu and Kashmir".

After exploring and clicking every new bird, he takes the help of a field guide, or an e-bird organization—known for its bird-identifying App.

"I upload photo of unknown bird on that App, and then they respond with the name of the bird," Ansar says.

"If they doubt the existence of bird



in particular place, they call me or mail me asking where the bird was seen, what the habitat was surrounding them. They check all of it, and then they confirm our sightings."

Ansar lives a quintessential bird-watcher's life. He likes talking about birds and gets excited by rare avian species.

Among all the birds, he informs, Kashmir Flycatcher in particular belongs to Kashmir, "but it migrates out in winters, moreover, it has different breeding places."

In absence of birds, many of his days end without any sighting.

"I once went to capture Himalayan Monal," he says. "I had to wait for 3 hours just to have its flying shot but in the end I had to leave empty-handed. It's not at all an easy job to take photos of birds."

But then, some days do turn out to be a rainbow in the bird-watcher's life.

One such moment came during his recent outing in Dachigam. In a single

day, he came across 25 species, including Golden Eagle and Orange Bulfinch, which are rare birds in Kashmir.

Back in 2018, the young bird watcher started his photography after seeing the chirpy guests frequenting his neighborhood orchard. His youthful admiration of birds grew into passion at every avian sight after that.

"I would sit on my window for hours together waiting for birds to come, and they would," Ansar continues. "Sometimes we both would eat the same fruit, far from each other. And I would click their moments."

After capturing more than 35 bird species from his window, the construction of residential houses inside the orchard has now restricted birds from visiting.

"Birds don't like disturbed places," he says while blinking his eyes firmly.

As part of his routine, however, the avian aficionado—who can proclaim the name of the bird from its chirping—silently steps between the trees

of Rajparian Wildlife Sanctuary.

Holding his long lens camera, he eyes around without missing a dust in air and deftly follows the bird. The closer he gets, the distant the bird flies.

"Birding is an art of perseverance and patience," the avid bird watcher continues.

"I observe them and move into them patiently, their natural instinct makes them scrutinize us. They sit on branches to know us. There's doubt about us and they hide and peek. They don't stop reading us. Seconds pass and they rule out any imminent threat. They ease themselves and I establish my passion in their ease."

Though Ansar's passion plays hide and seek behind the trees, he's certain to seek the hiding. The bird-watcher doesn't like to miss a vibrant bird sitting on a withered tree.

"Initially it was difficult for me to get pictures," he recounts his winged journey.

"I used to jump closer, bustling them into unawares. They would be

gone in a jiffy, which would hurt me a lot and leave me with questionable expressions. This happened half a dozen times and I learned I can't go close to them. I needed a camera with better zoom, so that I could watch from distance without disturbing them. And I got one Nikon D750 with 150-600mm G2 lens."

Ansar fancies birds in and out, and nature does not disappoint him.

Once in the morning he moved out for work and surprisingly found a bird. Rushing back, he flung the door, and snatched the camera from his wardrobe.

"All the people in my home thought what devil did I see and my mother immediately fixed their thought saying, 'It's the same old birds he is chasing'. And in the end I did capture the bird."

The same devotion made the grueling lockdown in Kashmir easier for him.

When everyone was looking for ways to pass the hours, Ansar would expend his time in bird-watching.

"One could evidently feel fresh air and better visibility during lockdown," he says. "The photographs were clear and I could easily detect birds and discern the specie."

A government employee in Animal Husbandry Department, Ansar buys his accessories from his salary and moves out to places on holidays to find birds.

As someone whose passion lies in the sky and on the trees, Ansar can't resist birds.

Recently, when his friend informed him about an owl, he immediately scooted to that place, and called the doctor after seeing the bird inactively trying to clip into hiding.

"The owl was ill," he says. "The medicine prescribed some medicines and I fed the bird with it over the night."

Next morning the owl seemed livened up.

"He fluttered in happiness," Ansar recalls. "I stripped the owl off the restraint and took to the place of his habitat of trees and finally he was there in the sky, rounding the place."

Ansar's frequent bird-watching outings make him feel sorry about the fading green in the valley.

"The trees we cut are habitat to birds," he says, "and when trees are

gone, the birds are naturally gone. We aren't only affecting the climate, but also stealing the homes of birds."

But as a bird photographer, Ansar believes that he's playing his part to protect environment.

"I feel like bird photographer is also a conserver, he conserves nature," he says. "I trek into the places and pick up the polythene whenever I find one. It's heartbreaking to see wrappers on such pristine places."

Beautiful birds visit beautiful places, he asserts, and when a place becomes littered, it spoils the mood of birds compelling them to find another place for residing.

"It's imperative for people to know the bird diversity we are blessed with. I'm a medium to tell people how many birds we have, how much biodiversity in birdlife we have here, they must know it. I tell them through my photography that we don't only have common mynas and sparrows, we have 266 more bird species."

Ansar equally resents the deplorable condition of water-bodies in Kashmir.

Since a year now, he says, government has not attended to Shalbough wetland.

"It has become polluted resulting in changes in water birds habitation," he says. "The birds that used to come there didn't visit this year."

While as, in another wetland, Hokersar, birds visit in good numbers, because it's protected under wildlife.

"They put all the efforts there, restrict poaching and provide security to the winter visitors," the bird-watcher says.

To create awareness about the birds and give wings to passion, Ansar along with others has floated a group named 'Birds of Kashmir', which runs under the tagline: 'Birds and birders have no boundaries.'

"After we started uploading photos on social networking sites, we got a warm response from people," Ansar says.

"It was exciting for many of our viewers. People from different places and countries contacted us for accompanying them on their bird-watching visits. I'm happy that our tribe is growing in the valley today."

# Journeys Up The Hill

Among the autobiographies written by Kashmiris, 'Abbas: Journeys up the Hill' (originally Khaar-e-Gulistan in Urdu) stands out as an account of a brilliant mind, a statesman, an emancipating leader, and a religious and spiritual head. Steeped in the Islamic values, it is the story of a person – Maulana Muhammad Abbas Ansari – who relentlessly fought for the rights of the people of Kashmir and dedicated his life to unifying the fragmented community of Kashmiris. His was a struggle to liberate his people from the shackles of ignorance, be that illiteracy, political servitude or religious bigotry, enduring political persecution and imprisonment or facing hardships throughout his life with patience and fortitude. Obviously, it is the story of this same struggle and journey – a compendium of innumerable and connected episodes in his life, each of which he has analysed deeply and came to specific conclusions to light the way in our lives. It has much to offer for the learned and the understanding minds.

The world stands to gain even when moral lessons are drawn from fictional tales. What would the results be if we took to learning from real life which is a vastly better guide even when portraying ordinary lives, not to speak of noted and renowned people? Maulana Abbas stands tall among the very few Kashmiri leaders who resisted temptations and blandishments. He maintained a consistent stance throughout his life. He had just one goal: a secure future for his nation and a lasting peace in the region based on justice and fair play.

The outpouring of sentiment on his passing on 25th of October 2022 is testimony to the mass acknowledgement of the Maulana's unwavering and unblemished record.

The role the Maulana played till his last breath on the political, social and religious spheres is immense. To expect more from a single human being would be an injustice. With a life embodied in his writings, speeches, political and diplomatic tours, religious activities and long imprisonments, the Maulana is counted among those formidable and committed Kashmiri leaders who have the distinction of making productive use of their protracted imprisonment to

faithfully pen down observations and events pertaining to their times, which is before us in the form of a book today.

Among the many merits of the book, the outstanding features are that Maulana Abbas has written it with creative flair, in a smooth and flowing style, without wavering from the idea. With great mastery, he has used his own personal and political experiences to give an absorbing account of the tortuous and tangled politics of Kashmir during his lifetime. Of particular importance is the point that the author is an eyewitness to a crucial phase in our history and he has put it down in such a novel and vivid style that a reader feels compelled to analyse and reflect. This perhaps is the real purpose of the book.

The highly respected and reputed family the Maulana belonged to had been beset with great dangers when he set out on the rocky journey of his life. For ages, the Muslims of Kashmir, especially the Shia community, had been leading their political, religious and social lives under the tutelage of various religious dynasties, but at a particular point, this led to mutual discord and factionalism, a mortal illness that gradually hollowed out their political and religious structures and foreclosed all paths to their progress. Maulana Abbas not only faced the situation courageously, but being a part of this obsolete system, he also displayed sagacity and foresight. He had realised that fighting against it, he would himself fall prey to factionalism. He was a part of the environment and fighting against it would be tantamount to shooting oneself in the foot. He not only admitted this but also ideologically scrutinised the perils of this blind cult of personality, and proved himself to be truly progressive by his conduct.

Together with highlighting the defects and drawbacks of this blind following, he also raised questions about its causes and basic concepts. In his crusade, Maulana sahib instituted reforms that the society will long remember.

As a result, he had to face bitter criticism not only from his associates and his own organisation but also from the elders of his family, about whom he says that they would have preferred to stay on the other side of the iron curtain even then. Though he has



Molvi Abbas Ansari  
(1936-2022)

*Excerpts From The Foreword Of  
Maulana Muhammad Abbas  
Ansari's Soon-To-Be-Released  
Autobiography*

written in detail about the life he had to live and the treatment meted out to him for combating evils and prejudices, remarkably, there is no sign of bitterness or rancour in his words.

Ever since his childhood, after the partition of the subcontinent, Maulana Abbas had seen, in the perspective of the Kashmir issue, a generation betrayed, pacts and promises broken, and hopes dashed to the ground and how, under the cover of a charade of democracy, rulers would be selected in New Delhi's chambers and foisted on Kashmiris in the name of popular elections. Maulana sahib and this generation continued their struggle under the banner of the Plebiscite Front and the Action Committee and transferred their hopes and aspirations to the next generation when Pakistan had split into two and weakened, and New Delhi had reneged even on the internal autonomy option by giving its blessings to dynastic rule in Kashmir. The United Nations was silent, and even after the Shimla and the Tashkent agreements, the Kashmir issue hung fire. This generation had now totally lost its confidence in pro-establishment parties. It was at this juncture that the People's United Front and the Muslim United Front emerged under Maulana Sahib's leadership as symbols of a dream that adopted peaceful means for achieving people's rights.

But when it turned out that even this legitimate course was subservient to New Delhi's wishes, Kashmir's new generation took recourse to the armed means. After mutual consultations during incarceration, the leadership, when released from jail, formed the All Parties Hurriyat Conference in the wider interests of the movement for self-determination and national unity. Maulana sahib's autobiography is in fact an extremely scrupulous endeavour to hand over a somewhat detailed account of the vicissitudes of the incessant striving of three generations to a new crop of Kashmiris.

It would not be inappropriate to class the autobiography as a living story of the Kashmiri people's struggles and their various stages. It is a glimpse of Kashmir's political history. In this respect, it is an essential reading for those interested in Kashmir and its chequered history.



# Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir.

Scholarship Name 1: Credit Suisse Scholarship for MBA and MA (Economics) Students 2022

Description: Buddy4Study invites applications from students enrolled in MBA/MA (Economics) courses in selected institutions. The scholarship aims to provide the necessary financial support which can help qualified candidates bridge the gap between the cost of the program fees and their ability to pay the fee.

Eligibility: Applicants must be enrolled in MBA/MA (Economics) programs at one of the designated institutions. They must have passed Class

secondary, 3-year graduation, and 4-year professional courses (Engineering/MBBS/BDS Dental) respectively. Annual family income of all applicants must be less than INR 5 Lakhs per annum. Prizes & Rewards: Selected scholars can avail of scholarship awards of up to INR 50,000 per year for up to 4 years of studies depending on their current level of education. Last Date to Apply: 31-12-2022 Application mode: Online applications only Short Url: [www.b4s.in/observer/KISF6](http://www.b4s.in/observer/KISF6)

Scholarship Name 3: Saksham Scholarship Program for Drivers' Children



12 or Graduation and scored at least 60% marks or above. Demonstrate significant financial need, defined as family income less than or equal to INR 500,000 per annum (subject to verification by Buddy4Study) Prizes & Rewards: Up to 80% of total fees or a fixed sum of up to INR 200,000, whichever is lesser Last Date to Apply: 24-12-2022 Application mode: Online applications only Short Url: [www.b4s.in/observer/CSE4](http://www.b4s.in/observer/CSE4)

Scholarship Name 2: Keep India Smiling Foundational Scholarship & Mentorship Programme 2022-23

Description: Colgate-Palmolive (India) Ltd. is giving young students an opportunity to pursue their academic/career aspirations by providing them with scholarships for education. This scholarship program aims to provide foundational support to individuals, who are deserving and meritorious but may lack the resources to pursue their dreams. Eligibility: Students who have passed Class 10 with at least 75% marks or Class 12 with at least 60% marks in 2022 board exams are eligible to apply for the scholarship program for pursuing their higher

Description: Mahindra Finance invites applications for the 'Saksham Scholarship Program for Drivers' Children' from students belonging to Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Telangana. The scholarship is meant to support underprivileged and meritorious children of drivers (all light motor vehicles and small commercial vehicles such as Taxi, Jeep, Car & delivery vans such as Pickup, magic, school van etc) holding a valid driving license who are studying in Class 1 to postgraduation level Eligibility: The applicants must be currently studying at Class 1 to postgraduation level in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Telangana. Applicants who are pursuing studies from Class 9 onwards must have scored 60% or more marks in the previous final examination. The annual family income of the applicant from all sources must not be more than INR 4,00,000. Prizes & Rewards: Scholarship ranging from INR 5,000 to INR 20,000 for 1 year Last Date to Apply: 31-12-2022 Application mode: Online applications only Short Url: [www.b4s.in/observer/SKSP1](http://www.b4s.in/observer/SKSP1)



Good digital storytelling is a way to impart different forms of knowledge in a way that stimulates action.

## Digital Storytelling Can Be A Powerful Tool For Water Researchers

The Conversation

Storytelling and science may, at first glance, seem like strange bedfellows. Scientists usually share their research through academic journals and books or at academic conferences.

But storytelling is a powerful way to share scientific research with non-expert audiences.

Today, stories can be built digitally: photos, videos and audio clips create visually, emotionally effective stories that are relatable and easily understood.

There are several reasons for taking this approach. One is that making scientific research accessible is essential for citizens to participate in democracies.

And, rather than a researcher sharing people's insights and experiences in a journal that's not read by many, they can work with participants to craft stories that give voice to marginalised and oppressed communities.

Good digital storytelling is a way to impart different forms of knowledge in a way that stimulates action.

For instance, it can influence policy. However, the tool needs to be used by those who have been trained to accurately, ethically and sensitively report various aspects of research findings.

We trained ten early career researchers from six African countries Senegal, Tanzania, Nigeria, Uganda, Rwanda, and South Africa about digital storytelling.

This work was undertaken by the African Research Universities Alliance Water Centre of Excellence and the Social Innovation Hub at Rhodes University in South Africa.

All the participants study some aspect of water, such as pollution, allocation and access.

The researchers created digital stories based on their academic work. The videos were shared on several platforms, like email, WhatsApp, Youtube, stakeholder workshops and during a symposium at the international 2021 African Research Universities Alliance Biennial Conference.

What participants told us

The researchers are all post-doctoral; they obtained their PhDs in the past decade.

This was an opportunity to build their capacity as science communicators early on in their careers.

First, they participated in a week-long online digital storytelling training workshop, accredited by Rhodes University. They learned, among other things, about building narratives and how to do basic video editing.

A few months after the training, and once the digital stories had been distributed via various platforms, we interviewed the ten participants.

We wanted to find out how using digital storytelling had helped them and where there was room for improvement.

They overwhelmingly described digital storytelling as a useful tool for quickly sharing research work and findings with local and international colleagues.

It also helped them to advertise their

There was room for improvement, though.

For starters, not all the community stakeholders whose experiences were captured in digital stories had access to digital platforms.

There are also language limitations. Senegal, for instance, is a Francophone country so should the video be in French or in English? Our Senegalese participant decided to create a video in French with English subtitles.

There was also a concern that the digital stories were oversimplified or presented idealistic narratives.

Participants worried that their stories didn't adequately reflect how decision making relating to the management of water quality, water use and allocation in each case study context had resulted in some stakeholder groups being marginalised.

**We trained ten early career researchers from six African countries Senegal, Tanzania, Nigeria, Uganda, Rwanda, and South Africa about digital storytelling.**

research to potential future funders.

The training has even inspired institutional change. In Uganda, Makerere University's College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and the Department of Geography have started to use digital stories as teaching aids including the one developed during training.

Makerere has also partnered with the Mastercard Foundation to set up digital studios that will help produce stories.

This is a recognition of digital storytelling as an important tool for academics. It empowers students to share their research with peers, communities and policy makers.

Participants also found digital storytelling useful in highlighting multiple stakeholders' experiences. Such nuanced and emotive stories are not often captured in traditional research outputs like journal articles. This approach gave stakeholders an important voice to those who might not have much power in decision making around the management of water resources.

Some gaps and concerns

Participants also suggested that stakeholder communities could be taught digital storytelling skills.

This would allow communities themselves to authentically portray their own experiences.

**Collaboration and communication**

We believe that digital storytelling could become a valuable tool for water resource researchers in Africa. It is a way to enhance science communication and collaborative efforts in addressing water resource challenges.

But training is key. Digital storytellers must be able to accurately, sensitively report on the issues at hand and how these play out for those affected.

Accessibility, too, must be considered. Some of this is linguistic; some relates to the availability of digital resources.

And, as our participants suggested, digital storytelling could perhaps be most powerful when local communities are given the skills to lead the creation of digital stories of their particular context, problem and experiences.

## Study Finds Laser Therapy Effective For Improving Short Term Memory

ANI

According to researchers, short-term memory has been found to benefit from laser light therapy.

The findings of the study were published in Science Advances.

Scientists at the University of Birmingham in the UK and Beijing Normal University in China, demonstrated that the therapy, which is non-invasive, could improve short term, or working memory in people by up to 25 per cent.

The treatment, called transcranial photobiomodulation (tPBM), is applied to an area of the brain known as the right prefrontal cortex. This area is widely recognised as important for working memory. In their experiment, the team showed how working memory improved among research participants after several minutes of treatment. They were also able to

track the changes in brain activity using electroencephalogram (EEG) monitoring during treatment and testing.

Previous studies have shown that laser light treatment will improve working memory in mice, and human studies have shown tPBM treatment can improve accuracy, speed up reaction time and improve high-order functions such as attention and emotion.

This is the first study, however, to confirm a link between tPBM and working memory in humans.

Dongwei Li, a visiting PhD student in the University of Birmingham's Centre for Human Brain Health, is co-author on the paper. He said: "People with conditions like ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) or other attention-related conditions could benefit from this type of treatment, which is safe, simple and non-invasive, with no side-effects."

In the study researchers at Beijing Normal University carried out experiments with 90 male and female participants aged between 18 and 25. Participants were treated with laser light to the right prefrontal cortex at wavelengths of 1064 nm, while others were treated at a shorter wavelength, or treatment was delivered to the left prefrontal cortex. Each participant was also treated with a sham, or inactive, tPBM to rule out the placebo effect.

After tPBM treatment over 12 minutes, the participants were asked to remember the orientations or colour of a set of items displayed on a screen. The participants treated with laser light to the right prefrontal cortex at 1064 nm showed clear improvements in memory over those who had received the other treatments. While participants receiving other treatment variations were about



to remember between 3 and 4 of the test objects, those with the targeted treatment were able to recall

between 4 and 5 objects.

Data, including from electroencephalogram (EEG) monitoring

during the experiment was analysed at the University of Birmingham and showed changes in brain activity that also predicted the improvements in memory performance.

The researchers do not yet know precisely why the treatment results in positive effects on working memory, nor how long the effects will last. Further research is planned to investigate these aspects.

Professor Ole Jensen, also at the Centre for Human Brain Health, said: "We need further research to understand exactly why the tPBM is having this positive effect, but it's possible that the light is stimulating the astrocytes - the powerplants - in the nerve cells within the prefrontal cortex, and this has a positive effect on the cells' efficiency. We will also be investigating how long the effects might last. Clearly if these experiments are to lead to a clinical intervention, we will need to see long-lasting benefits."



## Bengaluru May See Highest Growth In Office Rent In Asia-Pacific Region At 5-7 % Next Year: Report



Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Office rentals in Bengaluru is expected to grow by 5-7 per cent—highest in the Asia-Pacific region—during the next year, according to Knight Frank India.

In its latest report on 'Asia-Pacific Outlook 2023', property consultant Knight Frank said that rent growth in the APAC region is expected to moderate in 2023 as corporate occupiers are looking to optimise overheads and generate savings.

"The steady performance of the Indian office markets seen in 2022 is expected to sustain in 2023," it said.

Bengaluru's prime office rental is expected to grow in the range of 5-7 per cent YoY (year-on-year) in 2023, highest amongst the 24 APAC cities tracked in the report.

Mumbai and New Delhi are the other Indian cities tracked in the report.

New Delhi's prime office rental is expected to grow in the range of 4-6 per cent YoY followed by Mumbai in the 3-5 per

cent YoY in 2023.

The consultant attributed the expected growth in office rentals to a comparatively strong economic outlook, potentially increased outsourcing from the west due to cost constraints and rupee depreciation.

Shishir Bajjal, Chairman and Managing Director at Knight Frank India, said, "While recessionary forces in the west weigh on the global economy, the APAC region and India are expected to remain beacons of growth in an otherwise uninspiring economic backdrop." In housing segment, the report mentioned that Bengaluru's residential price is expected to grow by up to 5 per cent YoY in the next calendar year.

"Consistent growth of start-ups and unicorns coupled with rising income levels makes the city a strong market in the APAC region," it added.

Mumbai's residential price is expected to grow by up to 4 per cent YoY in 2023.

The residential price in New Delhi is expected to grow in the range of 2-3 per cent in 2023.

## Govt Clears 24th Tranche Of Electoral Bonds; Sale From Mon



Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The government on Saturday approved issuance of the 24th tranche of electoral bonds that will open for sale on December 5.

The sale of bonds coincides with the second phase of the Gujarat assembly elections scheduled on December 5.

Electoral bonds have been pitched as an alternative to cash donations made to political parties as part of efforts to bring transparency in political funding.

State Bank of India (SBI), in the 24th phase of sale, has been authorised to issue and encash electoral bonds through 29 authorised branches from December 5-12, the finance ministry said in a statement.

The last phase of electoral bonds (23rd tranche) was open for subscription between November 9-15, 2022.

Usually, electoral bond tranches are open for sale between 1-10 of a designated month. For instance, the 22nd tranche of bond sales took place from October

1-10, 2022 while 21st tranche was from July 1-10, 2022.

Sale of the first batch of electoral bonds happened from March 1-10, 2018.

The authorised SBI branches include those in Lucknow, Shimla, Dehradun, Kolkata, Guwahati, Chennai, Patna, New Delhi, Chandigarh, Srinagar, Gandhinagar, Bhopal, Raipur, and Mumbai.

SBI is the only authorised bank to issue electoral bonds.

An electoral bond will be valid for 15 days from the date of issuance. No payment would be made to any political party if the bond is deposited after expiry of the validity period, the statement said.

Electoral bonds can be purchased by Indian citizens or entities incorporated or established in the country.

Registered political parties that have secured not less than 1 per cent of the votes polled in the last Lok Sabha or legislative assembly election are eligible to receive funding through electoral bonds.

## 'Through Mission Youth, Govt Drive Socio-Economic Empowerment Among J&K Youth'

Over 30k Youth Provided Direct Livelihood Means During 2021-22

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** J&K Government is laying special thrust with Mission Youth programme on skilling & self-employment of youth with targeted schemes to drive a socio-economic transformation.

Government has instructed for impact assessment of initiatives and called upon stakeholders for exploring all avenues for enhanced corporate engagement in Youth empowerment and skilling programmes/schemes.

According to officials more than 30,000 youth, including more than 12,000 girls, have been provided with direct livelihood means during the year 2021-22.

Mission Youth has also partnered with reputed institutions/ organizations of the country including BSE Institute, ICICI Foundation, Ashok Leyland, Wipro etc. with an aim to facilitate skilling of youth in high employability potential sectors like BFSI, Robotics, Artificial intelligence, etc. and more than 10,000 young boys and girls were provided with market-driven skill development trainings during 2021-22.

Highlighting the achievements of Mission youth, the CEO informed that under Mumkin scheme, during FY 2021-22, 3651 vehicles were provided to youth for self-employment against the target of 2022 vehicles.



Under Tajewini, about 2443 Young girls were provided assistance under the program during FY 2021-22 against the target of 2022.

More than 11725 youth, including 5237 girls were provided with customized market driven trainings. 910 Candidates, including 251 Girls, are being provided with necessary training to qualify the recruitment process for joining Armed Forces as Agni Veers.

Under Parvaaz Scheme, coaching of youth is being sponsored by Mission Youth in reputed institutions. Coaching for civil services and NEET JEE is provided under this scheme.

Pertinently, Mission Youth is an ambitious programme of UT administration aimed to positively engage youth in socio-economic development of J&K through a multi-pronged strategy involving all necessary systematic interventions particularly in the areas of Skill Development, Livelihood gen-

eration, Education, Recreation and Sports.

The thrust areas under Mission Youth is Targeted implementation of existent Livelihood Generation Programmes; Establishment of Residential Coaching Institutions for Competitive Examinations & professional Courses; Establishment & Operationalization of District Youth Centers in all 20 Districts of J&K; Education, Career Counseling & Market-driven Skill Development Programmes; Recreation, Social Engagement & Sports; Youth Innovation Promotion Programmes.

Mission Youth is also working on creating a database of all unemployed youth along with their bio-data so as to help them in finding decent jobs under this program as per their skill set and core capabilities. To sum up it would be apt to say that Mission Youth has transformed the youth development scenario in J&K in a remarkable manner.

## Natural Farming To Be Included In Agri Curriculum, Says Minister Tomar

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The government will include natural farming in the curriculum of agri education, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said on Saturday.

Tomar was speaking at the National Workshop on Natural Farming in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, according to an official statement.

Tomar noted that natural farming is the need of the hour, in which the cost is less and the produce fetches more price.

Natural farming will now be part of the agricultural education, he said.

The government is making efforts to include soon the natural farming methods in agricultural education curriculum, the minister added.

Tomar recalled the period when there was a shortage of food grains compared to India's population.

He said chemical fertilisers were used to increase foodgrains production and meet domestic demand.



"...today we grow food grains in surplus," he added.

Tomar said the need is to follow the principles of healthy mind, healthy food, healthy agriculture and healthy human being.

For this, he said one should move towards natural farming. He said the natural farming is the farming of perfection.

"Livestock has an important contribution in this. The dung and cow urine of a native cow is sufficient for a common farmer to work in natural farming."

"If the country adopts natural farming, then cows will not be seen on the roads, but they will be used properly," Tomar observed.

The union minister informed that 100 per cent natural farming is being done in Dang district of Gujarat. In Himachal too, farmers are fast moving in this direction. Madhya Pradesh has planned it in 5,000 villages.

Tomar said that agriculture has an important place in our country. He pointed out that the fertility of the soil is weakening due to chemical farming. Friendly bacteria are being killed.

"It is our responsibility to save the country from the crisis that it is going to face after 25 years," he said.

Therefore, Tomar said the Prime Minister has re-launched the natural farming method and it is being given the form of a mass movement. The Union Minister said the Centre is making efforts to increase the income of the farmers.

The MSP has been increased, while crores of farmers are being given Rs 6,000 every year through the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN).

## 2000 Kisan Khidmat Centres Set Up In J&K: Dullo

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** As many as 2,000 Kisan Khidmat Centres' have been set up across Jammu and Kashmir to provide all facilities to farmers at their doorsteps, Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dullo said on Saturday.

He said the government is supporting farmers, both financially and technically, and should take benefit from it.

"The government has set up 2000 Kisan Kidmat Centre for farmers to provide them all facilities at their doorstep," Dullo

gressive farmers with the officers of agriculture production and Farmers Welfare Department and allied sector with a special focus on the issues of farmers living in the border area of Arnia tehsil, an official spokesman said.

"The issues and demands flagged by the farmer community would be resolved at the earliest," he said, directing the officials to repair tube wells and also install new tube wells in areas where there is the requirement for irrigation of crops.

He asked the farmers to adopt the diversification of crops so that



said speaking at a Kisan Sammelan' organized by J&K Advisory Board for Development of Kisans here.

The aim of the farmers' summit was to interact with pro-

they can earn around the year.

Dullo also visited Border out Post Vikram Trewa and inquired about the cultivation of land near the fencing line on the International Border.

## Averting Default, Pakistan Pays \$1 Billion Before Schedule: Report

Press Trust Of India

**ISLAMABAD:** Cash-strapped Pakistan has averted a default on its repayment of USD 1 billion against a matured international Sukuk (Sharia-compliant bond) three days ahead of schedule on Friday.

The Express Tribune reported on Saturday that as per the actual schedule, the country was to return the maturing investment in the US dollar-denominated global bond on December 5.

"Yes, we have made the payment of USD 1 billion," State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Spokesperson Abid Qamar told the newspaper. The bank has made the payment to Citigroup which would transfer the funds onward to the investors.

Earlier, the risk of default - measured through a 5-year credit default swap (CDS) - hit a record high of 123 per cent last month, building strongly on the perception that the country would fail to arrange the payment amid its low foreign exchange reserves. CDS is an insurance derivative that covers the risk of default on the repayment.

Experts, however, said this was an ill-liquid and low-volume traded derivative.

A little trade in CDS had built a wrong perception of default on the repayment. Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, former finance minister Miftah Ismail, and SBP Governor Jameel Ahmad reiterated Pakistan would not default on any of its international payments and it would make all payments as per schedule.



"It has more than the required foreign currency reserves," Ahmad said last month. The perception about Pakistan's likely default formed when Sri Lanka defaulted on its global bond repayments after its reserves diminished earlier this year.

The nation faced an acute shortage of medicines, petroleum products, and foods as well as a political crisis.

Comparing Colombo with Islamabad on the repayment capacity, an expert said Pakistan had a small share of 7-8 per cent of its total foreign debt through floating international bonds like Eurobond and Sukuk.

The rest of the foreign debt was commercial, multilateral, and bilateral which can be and has been rolled over from time to time. On the contrary, Sri Lanka had acquired more than half of its foreign debt through floating international bonds which cannot be rolled over and repayment was a must to avoid default.

Pakistan is under the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) USD 6.5 billion loan programme which is tantamount to a guarantee against default on international payments.

## Russia Rejects USD 60-A-Barrel Cap On Its Oil, Warns Of Cutoffs

Associated Press

**KYIV:** Russian authorities rejected a price cap on the country's oil set by Ukraine's Western supporters and threatened on Saturday to stop supplying the nations that endorsed it.

Australia, Britain, Canada, Japan, the United States and the 27-nation European Union agreed on Friday to cap what they would pay for Russian oil at USD 60-per-barrel. The limit is set to take effect on Monday, along with an EU embargo on Russian oil shipped by sea.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Russia needed to analyze the situation before deciding on a specific response but that it would not accept the price ceiling. Russia's permanent representative to international organisations in Vienna, Mikhail Ulyanov, warned that the cap's European backers would come to rue their decision.

"From this year, Europe will live without Russian



oil," Ulyanov tweeted.

"Moscow has already made it clear that it will not supply oil to those countries that support anti-market price caps. Wait, very soon the EU will accuse Russia of using oil as a weapon."

The office of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, meanwhile, called on Saturday for a lower price cap, saying the one adopted by the EU and the Group of Seven leading economies didn't go far enough.

"It would be necessary to lower it to USD 30 in or-

der to destroy the enemy's economy faster," Andriy Yermak, the head of Zelenskyy's office, wrote on Telegram, staking out a position also favored by Poland a leading critic of Russian President Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine.

Under Friday's agreements, insurance companies and other firms needed to ship oil would only be able to deal with Russian crude if the oil is priced at or below the cap. Most insurers are located in the EU and the United Kingdom and could

be required to observe the ceiling.

Russia's crude has already been selling for around USD 60 a barrel, a deep discount from international benchmark Brent, which closed Friday at USD 85.42 per barrel.

The Russian Embassy in Washington insisted that Russian oil "will continue to be in demand" and criticized the price limit as "reshaping the basic principles of the functioning of free markets."

A post on the embassy's Telegram channel predicted the per-barrel cap would lead to "a widespread increase in uncertainty and higher costs for consumers of raw materials."

The price cap aims to put an economic squeeze on Russia and further crimp its ability to finance a war that has killed an untold number of civilians and fighters, driven millions of Ukrainians from their homes and weighed on the world economy for more than nine months.

The General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces

reported that since Friday Russia's forces had fired five missiles, carried out 27 airstrikes and launched 44 shelling attacks against Ukraine's military positions and civilian infrastructure.

Kyrylo Tymoshenko, the deputy head of the president's office, said the attacks killed one civilian and wounded four others in eastern Ukraine's Donetsk region.

According to the UK Defense Ministry, Russian forces "continue to invest a large element of their overall military effort and firepower" around the small Donetsk city of Bakhmut, which they have spent weeks trying to capture.

In southern Ukraine's Kherson province, whose capital city of the same name was liberated by Ukrainian forces three weeks ago following a Russian retreat, Gov. Yaroslav Yanushkevich said evacuations of civilians stuck in Russian-held territory across the Dnieper River would resume temporarily.

## OYO To Downsize 3,700-Employee Base, Cut 600 Jobs

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** IPO-bound travel tech firm OYO on Saturday announced it will downsize about 10 per cent of its 3,700-employee base by cutting 600 jobs in the technology and corporate verticals and hiring 250 members, primarily in the relationship management teams.

OYO said the move is part of implementing wide-ranging changes in its organisational structure. It is downsizing its product & engineering, corporate headquarters, and OYO Vacation Homes teams, while it adds people to the partner relationship management and the business development teams.

"OYO will downsize 10 per cent of its 3,700-employee base, which includes fresh hiring of 250 members and letting go of 600 employees," a statement said. Product and engineering teams are being merged for smoother functioning, it added.

The downsizing in tech is also happening in teams which were developing pilots and proof of concepts such as in-app gaming, social content curation and patron facilitated content, the company said. Additionally, members of projects which have now been successfully developed and deployed such as 'Partner SaaS'



are being either let go or are being redeployed in core product & tech areas such as AI (artificial intelligence) driven pricing, ordering and payments, it informed.

The company will be adding 250 members primarily in its relationship management teams to ensure better consumer and partner satisfaction, and in business development teams to help scale up the number of hotels & homes on its platform.

As the integration of various functions of its European vacation homes business progresses, it is downsizing in some parts of the business to increase efficiency and harness synergies, OYO stated.

The company has also reassessed its corporate headquarters base afresh and is merging congruent roles and flattening team structures where needed, it added.

The company informed that it will be helping as many employees as it can in the outplacement and continuing with their medical insurance cover ranging up to three months on an average.



## Asgar Samoon Conducts Two Day Tour Of Kishtwar

Observer News Service

**Kishtwar:** Principal Secretary, Skill Development Department, Dr Asgar Hassan Samoon, laid foundation stone for development projects besides inaugurating several infra-structural utilities during his two day tour to Kishtwar district.

During the visit, Principal Secretary inaugurated academic block of Government Polytechnic College at Cherhar, Kishtwar.

Director Skill Development Department, Sudershan Kumar besides ADDC, Kishtwar, Sham Lal, ACD Kishtwar, Atul Dutt Sharma, SDM Paddar, Tehsildar Kishtwar, Principal of the institute and Engineers from PHE and PDD were present on the occasion.

Principal Secretary had an interactive session with the officers and college management.

Samoon also visited the Government Polytechnic College (temporary accommodation) at Kotwal Mohalla Kishtwar where he attended a cultural function organized by the institute. He presented awards to the meritorious students.

Later, Principal Secretary visited ITI Kishtwar and inspected functioning of the institute. He visited different sections of the ITI and took stock of various trades being imparted to the students there.

Principal Secretary inaugurated various facilities upgraded in the institute under Strive Scheme of SDD including Information Technology Laboratory, COPA trade and two post hydraulic lift.

Meanwhile, Principal Secretary apprised the Superintendent ITI Kishtwar, Mandeep Dogra for satisfactory functioning and development of the institute.

Earlier, Principal Secretary laid foundation stone for construction of Government Industrial Training Institute Paddar at Matti Paddar.

He was accompanied by Director

SDD, Sudershan Kumar, BDC Chairman Paddar, Arpan Singh Rana, SDM Chhatroo/CEO, Kishtwar Development Authority, Inderjeet Singh Parihar, ACD Kishtwar, Atul Dutt Sharma, Principal ITI Kishtwar, Mandeep Dogra, Tehsildar Paddar, Satish Kumar Rana besides other officers and officials.

Dr Samoon passed necessary directions to the concerned executing agencies for time bound completion of all construction works.

Meanwhile, Principal Secretary also inspected the makeshift building of Government ITI Paddar at Gulab Garh and interacted with the faculty members and trainees of Plumber, Tailoring and COPA trades. He enquired the candidates about the course work and availability of infrastructure.

He also interacted with the local PRLs and listened to their issues besides seeking their suggestions regarding further up skilling of youth of the area. He assured them all possible support towards an early redressal to their issues and concerns.

He said that Paddar possesses vast tourism potential with high scope for border and adventure tourism development which can offer numerous opportunities to trekkers from across the world. He exhorted upon all stakeholders to contribute towards making the area the most tempting tourist destination in the Valley.

While highlighting wide scope for development of tourism sector in the area, he stressed upon the CEO KDA to encourage local youth towards taking up tourism sector as an alluring vocation for them. He asked him to work in collaboration with ITI Paddar so that self employment generation avenues could be utilized in the tourism sector.

## Cong Attacks Govt Over 'Chinese Shelters In Depsang'; Asks When Will Status Quo Ante Be Restored

Press Trust of India

**New Delhi:** Citing media reports that China has built shelters in the Depsang area in Ladakh, the Congress on Saturday questioned the government's "silence" over the issue and asked what steps were being taken by it to ensure status quo ante of April 2020.

Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinate also attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his handshake with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the G20 summit in Indonesia last month.

There was no immediate reaction from the government to the Congress' allegations.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge also slammed the government over the issue.

In a tweet, he said, "Narendra Modi ji gave CLEAN CHIT to China after 20 Indian bravehearts sacrificed their lives in Galwan. Another CLEAN CHIT is being drafted for brazen Chinese incursions & construction in Depsang plains, Pangong Tso Lake area & Gogra Hot Springs? Nation deserves answers PM ji."

While the Congress has been attacking the government over its handling of the border issues with China, officials have maintained that India has significantly enhanced its border infrastructure in recent years with the Centre giving a major boost to such efforts following the eastern Ladakh standoff.

"On November 15, Modi had met Xi Jinping, the Chinese head of state. He was not showing angry red eyes, he was in fact adorning a red shirt and I wonder what he talked about as he met Xi Jinping after the supreme sacrifice of 20

of our bravehearts," Shrinate said at a press conference at the AICC headquarters here.

Citing media reports, she said that in the area of Depsang, China has built temperature-regulated "shelters" that help any army personnel to be stationed permanently. "Two hundred such shelters have been built by China in our territory 15-18 km inside the LAC (Line of Actual Control)," she alleged.

Why has there not been a single statement from Prime Minister Modi, his government or the Ministry of External Affairs, Shrinate asked.

"Remember, Depsang and Demchok are extremely strategic places for us. Also, remember China continues to occupy large parts of territory in the Depsang area," she said. Shrinate also showed photographs of what she said were satellite images showing that China is doing "huge fortification" both on land and at sea.

"In fact, around the Pangong Tso lake area, China has built a PLA division headquarter, a garrison, artillery and anti-aircraft gun shelter," she claimed.

"China is getting emboldened by the abject pin drop silence of Modi and the clean chit that the prime minister has given that 'nobody has entered our territory,'" Shrinate said.

Posing questions for the prime minister, Shrinate asked why the prime minister is "looking in the other direction when permanent shelters and fortifications are being built in the Demchok and the Depsang areas".

What steps are being taken to remove these fortifications and structures, she asked.

Shrinate also asked what steps are being taken to push away the Chinese from the Depsang and Demchok areas.

"More importantly, what is nationalism? You are so eager to issue certificates of nationalism to anybody that you warrant to. Is nationalism looking the other way and keeping the eyes shut and meeting the Chinese president with your open arms after 20 of your bravehearts have died," Shrinate said.

"The one question that Indian armed forces are raising, the one question several army personnel past and present are raising, defence experts are raising, is when will India return to status quo ante of April 2020 and what steps are being taken to ensure status quo ante is restored," Shrinate said.

She also asserted that the Congress will raise these issues at all forums available, including Parliament.

The eastern Ladakh border standoff between India and China erupted on May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong lake areas. Both sides gradually enhanced their deployment by rushing in tens of thousands of soldiers and heavy weaponry.

As a result of a series of military and diplomatic talks, the two sides completed the disengagement process last year on the north and south banks of the Pangong lake and in the Gogra area.

The disengagement in the Pangong Lake area took place in February last year while the withdrawal of troops and equipment in Patrolling Point 17 (A) in Gogra took place in August last year.

## Navy Aims To Become Self-Reliant By 2047: Navy Chief Admiral Kumar

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: The Indian Navy is looking at having a second indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC) and is set to procure a raft of other platforms including Predator drones from the US to bolster its overall military capability, Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar said on Saturday in the backdrop of evolving regional security matrix and China's growing naval prowess.

Addressing a press conference a day ahead of Navy Day, he said a timeline of 2047 has been set for making the force 'Atmanirbhar' (self-reliant).

Admiral Kumar also said that an exercise is underway in the force to shed the colonial past as "we strongly support the view that we have to get away from this 'Ghulami ki mansikta' (slave mentality)."

The Navy Chief also said that the Indian Navy is set to open all its branches for women from next year.

On possible challenges from China, he asserted that the Navy keeps a strong vigil over movements of various Chinese military research and fishing vessels in the Indian Ocean Region.

Listing initiatives to bolster the Navy's operational prowess, he said a draft cabinet note is being prepared for the proposed indigenous twin-engine deck-based aircraft, adding the plan is to have a prototype of the jet by 2026 while its production would start by 2032.

The Navy celebrates December 4 as Navy Day to commemorate its daring attack on Karachi harbour and its decisive victory in the 1971 Indo-Pak war.

Admiral Kumar said the Navy is contemplating whether to go for indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC) II or prefer a repeat order

for the IAC I.

The Navy has been making a strong push for having the IAC-II having a displacement of 65,000 tonnes which was estimated to cost close to Rs 50,000 with the envisaged specifications.

"We are still working on what size it should be and what its capabilities should be. Right now we have put a hold on it because we have just commissioned INS Vikrant. We are quite happy with the ship. The way the ship performed in the trial," Admiral Kumar said when asked about the IAC II.

India's first indigenously-built aircraft carrier INS Vikrant (IAC I) was commissioned in September. The aircraft carrier, with a displacement of 40,000 tonnes, was built at a cost of around Rs 23,000 crore.

People familiar with the issue said the cost of building the IAC II was a major discussion point as there has been a view in the defence establishment that the Navy should focus on enhancing its fleet of submarines rather than spending close to Rs 50,000 crore on the aircraft carrier.

"It (IAC I) was 'Atmanirbharta' (self-reliant) in full bloom. So We are also currently examining whether we should look at the repeat order of the IAC I instead of going for the IAC II to capitalize on the equities which are available to the country," he said.

"It is right now at the discussion stage. We have not yet firmed up our mind nor have we taken it up to the government," Admiral Kumar said.

He said the recent global events have amply underscored that this vision cannot be met in letter and spirit if the force remains dependent on others for its security needs.

### CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

#### Vitamin D Deficiency

was low in females as compared to males. Probable factors for this deficient state were household occupation, decreased sun exposure and decreased body area exposure due to veiling.

The study also highlights the urgent need to make physicians aware of the high prevalence of Vitamin D deficiency.

"The need for improving the status of Vitamin D in the population by educating the people, creating mass awareness and Vitamin D supplementation programmes is paramount," the study added.

The study further added that it is likely that Vitamin D deficiency is even higher and more severe in children, the elderly, and in pregnant women.

"Given the importance of vitamin D in the regulation of calcium and phosphorus homeostasis and musculoskeletal health, its emerging role in extra-skeletal health, and the magnitude of deficiency of this vitamin, fortification of certain commonly used food items may be required," it added.

It is pertinent to mention here that several nutritional indicators of women in J&K have worsened since the fourth round of the NFHS, which was held in 2015-16. The erstwhile state has also hit a worrying milestone as the percentage of women suffering from different types of diabetes, anaemia and infertility is rapidly growing.

#### Snow Forecast

said that Srinagar recorded a low of minus 1.9°C against minus 0.2°C on the previous night. The temperature was around 1.0°C below normal during this time of the year for the capital city, he said. On Sunday last, Srinagar saw minus 2.2°C which was the coldest night so far this season.

Qazigund recorded a low of minus 2.4°C against 0.5°C on the previous night while in Pahalgam, the mercury settled at minus 2.8°C against minus 1.4°C on the previous night and it was 0.5°C below normal for the south Kashmir resort, he said.

Kokernag recorded a low of minus 1.0°C against 1.2°C on the previous night and it was 0.4°C below normal for the place, he said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 2.0°C against minus 0.8°C on the previous night, the official said. It was 1.3°C above normal for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, the official said.

In Kupwara town, the mercury settled at minus 1.9°C against minus 0.4°C on the previous night, the official said. It was 0.5°C below normal for the north Kashmir place, he said.

Jammu recorded a low of 10.5°C against 9.8°C on the previous night. It was 0.7°C above normal for J&K's winter capital, he said. Banihal recorded a

low of 0.4°C (below normal by 1.7°C), Batote 4.2°C (0.1°C below normal), Katra 9.2°C (0.3°C above normal) and Bhadarwah 1.8°C (0.3°C above normal).

In Ladakh, Leh recorded minus 5.4°C, Kargil minus 10.4°C and mercury in Drass, the world's second coldest place after Siberia, settled at minus 4.0°C, the official said.

#### Man Kills Bengali

examination of the dead-body, he said, visible ligature marks on the neck of the deceased lady were found and subsequently the dead-body was taken into possession by police for legal formalities.

"Accordingly, today post mortem of the dead-body was conducted at GMC Srinagar in presence of Magistrate under proper videography," police said in a statement, adding, "Simultaneously, the husband of the deceased lady Ghulam Mohammad Bhat was taken into custody for questioning."

During sustained questioning, he said, the accused admitted to have killed his wife by strangulation which he had pre-planned as corroborated by the preliminary post mortem report.

"It is pertinent to mention that the deceased lady belonged to Kolkata and had been married to the accused just 20 days ago."

In this regard, he said, a Case (FIR No. 393/2022) under relevant sections of law stands registered at Police Station Budgam and further investigation is in progress, the spokesperson added. GNS

#### Urban Population

Together, with active participation of the public, we can transform cities into vibrant urban economic centres," Sinha said.

'My Town My Pride' has 7 action plans - City Resource Mobilization/ Finance Plan, City Livelihood Plan, City Smart Vending Plan, Green City Plan, City Tourism & Culture Plan, City Beautiful Plan, Plan for Encroachment Free City, for all 78 Urban Local Bodies.

"It is the responsibility of every officer to ensure integrated development concepts and its execution," the LG said. He also made valuable suggestions to improve urban sustainability, quality of life and urban welfare.

"We must work on brand positioning of the cities as each city has its own unique cultural identity and heritage. We should also prepare a comprehensive plan to strengthen Urban Local Self-Governance, creating resources and to foster more inclusion and sustainability for future challenges," Sinha said.

The LG directed the Housing and Urban Development Department to work out a strategy for revenue generation and implementation of master plans of the cities to meet the needs of the growing population.

"Old cities beautification plan, small initiatives like similar Address Boards, Paintings, Shops in uniform color, municipal beauty competitions; City cleanliness program; beatification of parks must be implemented with public participation," he added.

Sinha also passed directions regarding extension of Digital services; streamlining revenue and other public services.

"Only the collaborative efforts of the public, elected representatives and administration can steer the development process and ensure resolution of the day to day problems of the people," the LG added.

During the meeting, Administrative Secretaries; Divisional Commissioners; Deputy Commissioners and SSPs briefed the chair on the efforts being made to saturate the deliverables and achieve the set targets under 'My Town My Pride' programme.

The official spokesperson said that the chair was informed on the measures taken for the saturation of City Livelihood Mission. He said a target has been set to select 25 youths for self-employment from each ward.

"An Open Forum involving the educational institutions to spread awareness on digital services and other important aspects of the governance is being organized," he said, adding that the meeting was also informed that the City Development Index is also on the cards.

On 5th and 6th December, the Prabhari Officers will go to their identified areas and establish direct communication with the common citizens.

#### Chairs Meeting

pilgrimage to Amarnath cave shrine, which witnessed the highest footfall of Yatris.

He said that the meeting also held in-depth discussion on various ongoing and upcoming projects.

"The board was informed that the restoration and maintenance of both the stretch of yatra track has been handed over to BRO for efficient and timely disposal," the spokesperson said.

The meeting, he said, was apprised about upcoming yatri niwas at different locations to increase the holding capacity of the devotees at prominent places across the route, which was highly appreciated by the board members.

During the meeting, he said, directions were issued for early preparation of all the Yatra related works and ensuring its allotment by March 2023.

On the occasion, the spokesperson said, Prof. Mandeep Singh of School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi gave a PowerPoint presentation on the project proposal for Yatri Niwas & Disaster management Centre to be constructed at Village Majjeen, Jammu.

The members of SASB also shared

their valuable views and suggestions.

Rahul Singh, Additional CEO SASB put forth the agenda items before the Board.

The board members who attended the meet included Swami Avdheshanand Giri Ji Maharaj; D. C. Raina; Kailash Mehra Sadhu; K. N. Rai; K.N. Shrivastava; Pitambar Lal Gupta; Dr. Shailesh Raina; Prof Vishwamurti Shastri; Manju Garg- Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary and Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Principal Resident Commissioner.

#### 'Chapter Of Terrorism

for its evil intention to destroy our youth and generate funds for terror groups, the DGP said that like terrorism, the source of spreading the menace of drugs in J&K is Pakistan.

"As new persons are getting involved in the illicit trade of drugs it is the duty of every citizen to identify these persons and help the police in taking action against them," he said.

Police, he said, are taking stringent measures against the drug trade.

"Around 1200 cases have been registered and 2000 involved have been arrested during the year so far. These figures itself indicate the magnitude of the problem," he added.

Earlier, the DGP held a joint review meeting at Delta Force Headquarters at Dharmund where. He was received by GOC, Delta Force, Maj Gen Ajay Kumar, DIG, DKR Sunil Gupta and other army and police officers.

During the meeting, the police spokesperson said that threadbare discussion was held regarding the present security scenario and existing challenges.

"The officers also discussed high-way security measures. The DGP emphasized for enhancing synergy between the forces and for putting in joint efforts in eliminating the remaining terrorists in J&K," he said.

The spokesperson said that counter measures for narco trade and weapon dropping was also discussed during the meeting.

The GOC briefed the DGP regarding the measures taken by the counter terrorism grid in Doda, Kishtwar and in Ramban areas.

The DGP also inaugurated Checking Plaza at Banihal near Navyug Tunnel which will provide a separate checking place for Kashmir based vehicles and will help in smooth traffic management in Banihal particularly near the Navyug Tunnel, the spokesperson said.

Speaking on the occasion, he said, the ADGP Jammu Mukesh Singh added another term to "Bhuloo Aatankwad", to Khelo Khel Bhuloo Nasha"

The ADGP said that many attempts are being made from across the borders for misleading the youth of J&K adding that barring a few cases the youth of Doda have foiled these

attempts.

#### Rs 29L Cash

that the money so raised is passed on or transferred through "financial markets or through unregulated channels/ through cash couriers."

In furtherance to this nexus, the SIA said, the network so created have successfully infringed upon various persons of varied back ground either with or without their knowledge to act as cash carriers. "As a part of this conspiracy, (terror) funding module have created many sleeper cells/OGW(s) in different parts of Kashmir valley who are facilitating passing on money to various (terror) organization(s) in J&K, through banks/unregulated channels/ cash couriers."

The money so received by terror organization (s) J&K, the SIA said, is not only used for furthering of terrorism, unlawful or illegal activities but is also given to OGW(s) to "motivate youth to join terror ranks and sustaining of terror ecosystem with an ulterior goal of secession of the J&K from Union of India."

During the searches, the SIA said, huge cash of Rs 29 lakh was recovered and seized alongwith passbooks, cheque books and digital devices like mobile phones and other articles having bearing on the investigation.

"Analysis of the data would follow and leads that would emerge would become the basis for further investigation," the SIA said, adding, "It is pertinent to mention here that the searches are aimed at dismantling the (terrorism) ecosystem in the valley by identifying over ground workers supporting and abetting (terrorism)."

#### Woman Charred

the flames, he said. While fire was controlled, unfortunately the woman got trapped inside the structure and died, he said. The cause of the fire is under police investigation, he added.

#### Winter Break

examination already slated by the university will be conducted on time and wherever required, the teaching faculty will also continue the academics," she said.

On asking about the measures taken by the university regarding the recent sexual harassment cases, the VC said, "In every institution, there is a ruling of Supreme Court that it shall have an internal compliance committee. I am sure that the administrators must have taken a call and cognizance of it."

#### Falling Chinar Tree

the building. As the incident took place during the night, there was no loss of human life.

"The hollow trunks of the Chinar tree got uprooted and fell on the school building. There are many such

dry Chinars in the town which pose a threat to human lives," a local said.

"We have several times appealed to the district administration to cut down all such Chinars on the roadside but nothing has been done so far," he added—(KNQ)

#### BDC Chairperson,

his joining along with his supporters is going to further strengthen the party in Kashmir," Raina said.

He said Mir played a vital role in the successful conduct of the Union Home Minister Amit Shah's public rally in Baramulla on October 5.

"BJP is emerging strong in all parts of the valley. I salute to the workers who are working with great devotion and dedication on the ground," Raina said, expressing confidence that the party will emerge as the single largest party in the next assembly elections with 50 plus seats and will form its own government in the union territory.

Mir said he had decided to join the BJP as the party-led central government fulfilled the long pending demand of the Pahari community for Scheduled Tribe status and empowered the Panchayati Raj Institutions in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The development works initiated by the BJP government are praiseworthy and so are the benefits under the centrally sponsored schemes and coverage of all residents under the medical health insurance," he said.

#### 2 'Drug Peddlers'

Charas was recovered from their possession. They have been arrested and shifted to a police station. Besides, vehicle used in the commission of crime has also been seized, police said.

Accordingly, police said that a case under FIR number 76/2022 under relevant section of law has been registered at PS Qalamabad and investigation has been initiated.

#### SSP Kulgam Chairs

UAPA cases, inquest proceedings and other issues related to accountable policing were also discussed.

While interacting with the officers, SSP Kulgam reiterated the importance of strengthening the counter insurgency and security grid of their respective areas, besides taking stringent action against those involved in anti-national activities and also to keep proper surveillance on areas of concern.

The officers were urged to make all possible efforts to fight against menace of drug abuse and work with dedication to prevent social crimes. SSP Kulgam emphasized upon the participating officers to ensure quantitative and qualitative disposal of under investigation criminal cases.

All officers were instructed to adopt a public-centric approach and to ensure redressal of their grievances, the statement said.



# 2022 FIFA WORLD CUP: Netherlands Eliminates US In Round Of 16

## Agencies

**AL RAYYAN:** Memphis Depay and Daley Blind scored in the first half and Denzil Dumfries added a late goal as the Netherlands eliminated the United States from the World Cup with a 3-1 victory Saturday that advanced the Dutch to the quarter-finals.

Second-half substitute Haji Wright cut the U.S. deficit to 2-1 in the 76th minute when Christian Pulisic's cross hit his trailing foot and popped over goalkeeper Andries Noppert and into the net. But Dumfries, who assisted on the first two goals, scored on a volley in the 81st.

Runners-up in 1974, 1978 and 2010, the Oranje extended their unbeaten streak to 19 games and face Argentina or Australia on Friday.

## Rested France Faces Poland

France, the reigning World Cup champions, has been warned by coach Didier Deschamps not to underestimate Poland and star Robert Lewandowski in the knockout round Sunday.

Les Blues breezed through the group stage and clinched a spot in the round of 16 with a game to spare, which allowed Deschamps to rest his



stars in France's meaningless final first round game. Nine substitutes started in the 1-0 loss to Tunisia, and

Adrien Rabiot, Kylian Mbappe, Ousmane Dembele and Antonie Griezmann all came off the bench late in the game.

France, with fresh legs, is the overwhelming favorite to beat Poland and is the first defending World Cup champion to reach the round of 16 since Brazil in 2006. France is 5-0 in the first knockout round since the stage was introduced to the World Cup in 1986.

## England Take On Senegal

England plays Senegal on Sunday after topping Group B and tying Spain as leading scorers in the tournament with nine goals.

No other team picked up more than the seven points England recorded on its way to the knockout round and it is only one of three still undefeated.

Yet the message from coach Gareth Southgate and captain Harry Kane this week has been about maintaining focus and standards.

Belgium and Germany were high-profile departures from the group stage, while defending champion France, along with Argentina, Spain, Brazil and Portugal have all been on the wrong end of upsets.

And to think England's 0-0 draw with the United States was considered enough of a shock that it prompted loud jeers from Three Lions fans after that match last week.

## AP's World Cup Team Of Group Stage

Writers covering the World Cup for The Associated Press have chosen their standout players at the tournament so far to form a best team of the group stage.

- **Goalkeeper:** Wojciech Szczesny (Poland)
- **Right Back:** Achraf Hakimi (Morocco)
- **Left Back:** Alphonso Davies (Canada)
- **Center Back:** Josko Gvardiol (Croatia)
- **Center Back:** Harry Souttar (Australia)
- **Midfielder:** Casemiro (Brazil)
- **Midfielder:** Antoine Griezmann (France)
- **Midfielder:** Bruno Fernandes (Portugal)
- **Forward:** Cody Gakpo (Netherlands)
- **Forward:** Lionel Messi (Argentina)
- **Forward:** Kylian Mbappé (France)

## Santosh Trophy: JKFA Announces List Of Probables From Kashmir

### Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu & Kashmir Football Association on Saturday announced a 25-member list of selected footballers from Kashmir who will take part in further trials for the upcoming 73rd Santosh Trophy National Football Championship.

The selected footballers will now have to travel to Jammu by December 5 to take part in the next phase of the selection trials. The trials were held at Synthetic Turf TRC from December 2 to 3.

Here's the list of all selected players:

Goalkeepers: Furqaan Ahmad Dar (FC1), Majid (Bangalore HAL), Shabir Hussain (Kashmir Avengers)

Defenders: Urfan Hamid (J&K Bank), Hyder Yousuf Wani (FC1), Talib Gulzar (FC1), Faisal Thakur (J&K Bank), Farhan Ganai (J&K Bank), Zahid Yousuf (STFC), Faisal Wangnoo (Down-



town Heores), Liyaqat Wani (FC1), Mohammad Ali (FC1).

Midfielders: Mohammad Inaam (RKFC), Shahmeer Tariq (Downtown Heroes), Sheikh Talib (STFC), Zubair Ahmad (FC1), Hayat Bashir (FC1), Zaffar Illayeen (J&K Bank).

Forwards: Adnan Ayoub (J&K Bank), Furqan Nabi Zargar (J&K Bank), Aakif Reshi (J&K Bank), Imad-u-Din (STFC), Ateeb Shafi (FC1), Shafqat (FC1), Mehran Hidar (FC1).

## GVEI's Khadijah Memorial Champions Trophy Concludes



### Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Green Valley Educational Institute (GVEI) organised the Khadijah Memorial Champions Trophy 2022, an annual inter school cricket tournament, in which 14 teams of different schools of the Valley participated.

The final was played on 3rd December, 2022 between the teams of Burn Hall School, Srinagar and SRM Welkin School, Sopore. Nuzhat Gul, J&K Secretary Sports Council was the Chief Guest of the event. Ex Ranji player Omer Alam was also present during the finals.

Burn Hall School won the

toss and decided to bat first and scored 81 runs in the allotted 10 overs. While SRM chased the score in just 9.4 overs. Though the Burn Hall School put in their best efforts but SRM outclassed their competitors and won the tournament.

The Man of the Match was awarded to Hassan of SRM Welkin, Sopore and Man of the Series was given to Labeeb of Burn Hall School.

"Green Valley Educational Institute will continue to contribute towards a better society by providing such opportunities to the children of the Valley," the school said in a statement.

## International Disability Day: Cricket Match Held At Shopian

### Observer News Service

**SHOPIAN:** On the eve of 'International Disability Day', the Department of Social Welfare, Shopian in collaboration with District Administration Shopian on Saturday organised a cricket match for persons with disabilities at Sports Stadium Batpora.

The match was held as a mark of respect to the contributions made by the persons with disabilities to the society and to keep them motivated to per-

form their best in life.

The match was inaugurated by District Social Welfare Officer, Shopian, Showkat Ahmad.

The match was played between Apple Town Cricket Team and Cricket Team Pulwama with results favouring Apple Town Cricket Team, Shopian.

The winner and runner up teams were awarded with trophies and all the players were awarded with certificates and uniforms by District Social Welfare Officer, Shopian.

## India Take On Bangladesh Today

### Agencies

**MIRPUR:** After losing the recent ODI series against New Zealand 0-1, India will look get their act right in the 50-over format in the first of the three-match ODI series against Bangladesh that gets underway in Mirpur on Sunday.

Ahead of the series, which, in a way, will go some way towards setting the template for India's quest to win a world title in next year's ODI World Cup, skipper Rohit Sharma along with stand-in Bangladesh skipper Liton Das was out in the middle to unveil the ODI series trophy on Saturday.

With regular Bangladesh ODI skipper Tamim Iqbal ruled out with an injury, Liton, who flayed the Indian attack for an enterprising half-century in a group-stage fixture at the T20 World Cup in Australia, was named the stand-in captain for the series. The ODI series will be followed by two Tests, which is deemed a crucial red-ball rubber for India in the battle for the final of the World Test Championship.

Both teams will look to put their best foot forward for this series as it would be crucial to their preparation for the ODI World Cup, which is hosted by India next year. India hold its



highest winning percentage in limited-overs cricket against Bangladesh. Of the 35 ODIs between these two nations till date, India have won 30 while Bangladesh only managed five victories.

In their head-to-head record in the previous 5 ODIs, India lead 5-0, showing their dominance over the Bangla Tigers in this format. The forecast for Sunday is for clear skies, with no threats of any weather-induced disruptions.

India squad: Rohit Sharma (C), KL Rahul (VC), Shikhar Dhawan, Virat Kohli, Rajat Patidar, Shreyas Iyer, Rahul Tripa-

thi, Rishabh Pant (WK), Ishan Kishan (wk), Shahbaz Ahmed, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Shardul Thakur, Mohammed Shami, Afif Hossain, Yasir Ali, Mehidy Hasan, Mustafizur Rahman, Taskin Ahmed, Hasan Mahmud, Ebadot Hossain, Nasum Ahmed, Mahmudullah, Najmul Hossain Shanto and Nurul Hasan Sohan.

The match will be broadcast live on Sony Sports 5 from 11:30 am IST. (ANI)

## Pakistan Reaches 499-7, Still Trails England By 158 Runs In First Test

### Agencies

**RAWALPINDI:** England struck with four late wickets on Saturday to revive its hopes of victory against Pakistan with two days left in the first cricket Test where seven batters have so far scored centuries.

Pakistan reached 499-7 in its first innings on the lifeless wicket and still trailed by 158 runs at stumps on the third day with play again ending early because of fading light.

Captain Babar Azam (136), Imam-ul-Haq (121) and Abdullah Shafique (114) all hit tons on a run-friendly wicket which even Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Ramiz Raja feels is not a great advert for Test cricket.

But England hit back after tea when Ollie Robinson broke the 123-run stand between Babar and debutant Saud Shakeel (37). Robinson found the outside edge of Shakeel's bat and Babar, who hit 19 fours and a six in his eighth hundred, played a cut against offspinner Will Jacks (3-132).

Veteran James Anderson (1-47) used all his 175-test experience on an unresponsive wicket for the bowlers, before finally he got his first wicket in his 19th over when Mohammad Rizwan (29) was caught at short mid-wicket.

Babar and Shakeel denied England success in the middle session and guided Pakistan to 411-3 by tea with the Pakistan skipper dominating both spin and pace.



Babar was the seventh batter in three days to notch a hundred in England's first test in Pakistan in 17 years after the visitors had posted 657 all out on the back of hundreds from England openers Zak Crawley and Ben Duckett, Harry Brook and Ollie Pope.

Babar used his feet well against the spinners and raised his half century off 68 balls when he lifted Jack Leach (2-160) over wide mid-on for a six after lunch.

He reached his hundred off 126 balls when he thumped a backfoot cover-driven boundary. Earlier, Imam and Shafique struck centuries after Pakistan resumed on 181-0 before throwing away their wickets.

Left-handed Imam, who made centuries in each innings during the drawn test against Australia in March at the same venue, scored 121 off 207 balls. Shafique, a centurion in the same test against Australia, hit a more conventional 114 off 203 balls.

It was the first time in test history that openers from both teams had scored centuries in the first innings.

Only 14 wickets fell over five days on a similar type of pitch when Australia last played at the Pindi Cricket Stadium and the wicket was rated as "below average" by ICC match referee Ranjan Madugalle. The pitch received one demerit point as a result.

## LG's Trophy: Day 2 Of Pool-B Matches Played

### Observer News Service

**ANANTNAG:** The second day of Pool-B matches were played at Sports Stadium Mattan and HSS Bijbehara on Saturday in which four teams locked horns with each other and tried to secure a berth for next stage of the tournament.

At Sports Stadium Mattan, District Srinagar and District Kulgam beat the cold and battled it out in League match of Pool-B. Srinagar won the toss and elected to field first. A brilliant bowling display helped the Srinagar side restrict Kulgam to 92 runs in the allotted 20 overs.



In response, Srinagar achieved the target in just 13.3 overs and won the match by a margin of 6 wickets. For Srinagar, Waseen Raza displayed a brilliant all-round performance and was declared Man of the Match for his unbeaten 32 runs and for claiming 3 wickets.

At HSS Bijbehara, host District

Anantnag and Pulwama were faced each other. Pulwama set a target of 152 runs after losing the toss. Anantnag achieved the target in 19th over of the innings and secured a win by a margin of 4 wickets. Zahid Teeli was declared Man of the match for his 34 runs from 27 balls.

Joint Director Youth Services & Sports Kashmir Bashir Ahmad made a surprise visit to HSS Bijbehara venue and took stock of all the arrangements of this tournament. The JD YSS also interacted with players and enquired about the amenities provided to them during the tournament. At

the end of the match at at HSS Bijbehara, the Man of The Match award was presented by JD YSS. International Cricketer Parvaiz Rasool also witnessed whole proceedings of the match which boosted the morale of the players along with District Youth Services and Sports Officer Anantnag Mushtaq Ahmad Pampori.

## JD YSS Inaugurates Inter-Zonal Athletic Meet

### Observer News Service

**PULWAMA:** An Inter Zonal District Level Annual Athletic Meet was organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports at Open Sports Stadium Lelhar on Saturday here.

All age groups (AAG) boys and girls are participating in the sports meet which will conclude on 6th of the current month. Athletes from various sports zones of the district thronged to the venue on Saturday with great zeal and enthusiasm to showcase their talent. The ground was presenting a festive look right from the morning, as the athletes were very excited to take part in their favourite field and track events.

JD Kashmir Bashir Ahmad graced the function as chief guest and inaugurated the event in presence of DYSDO Pulwama, ZEO Kakapora, activity incharge directorate of YSS J&K and many senior officials of the Department.

Speaking on the occasion, JD YSS thanked all the participants and their parents for ensuring their participation despite cold weather conditions. He was all praise for the organizers for organizing such an extensive event in a professional way. He urged the athletes to know all about their chosen sport from the basics and insisted them to work on it so as to make themselves enough capable to compete in competitions of high levels with confidence in future.

He also advised them to refrain from drugs and anti-social activities which is the prime objective of the Department. DYSDO Pulwama thanked all the guests for their participation despite their busy schedules and also presented brief but comprehensive description about the event on this occasion.

Pertinently many officials of the Department have been deputed for the successful conduct of the meet.





## Raised On Streets Of Patna, 8-Year-Old Boy Now Set To Board US Flight

Agenceis

**Patna:** There are angels in human shape' -- so goes the phrase on the lips of everyone who received the heartwarming news about Arijit, an orphan boy from Patna.

Raised on the streets of Patna, the eight-year-old is all set to board a transcontinental flight to the United States to start a new chapter of his life.

The specially-abled orphan was found abandoned on the streets amid biting cold in Patna's Bihta, three years ago. However, the boy is about to turn a corner in his young life as he has been adopted by a doctor couple in the US.

It is understood that the couple will fly down to Patna and head back with an adopted son, having already completed all the necessary paperwork.

According to sources, the couple will fund his medical treatment in the US.

The doctor couple -- Colnel Miller and Kathleen Miller -- expressed the desire to adopt the hapless eight-year-old orphan about two years back. It is further understood that the couple has applied for the child's passport

and as soon as the identification document is ready and received, Arijit will board the flight to the US.

Speaking to ANI, Pradeep Kumar Singh, SDM, Danapur, Patna, said, "The couple has applied for a passport in the Ministry of External Affairs and as soon as it is received, they will be on their way to the United States. They have already completed all the necessary documentation and paperwork for the adoption."

Speaking to ANI, Colnel Miller said, "We love children. It's (adoption's) been a long process but we are really happy to finally have a son. It makes us very happy inside. We will give him the same care we give to any other child."

"We want to give him the best care that we can," Colnel added, grinning ear to ear.

Arijit will be the couple's fourth adopted child but their only son.

"The child is beautiful and we love him and we are very happy," said Arijit's foster mother Kathleen Miller.

On Arijit's surgery abroad, Kathleen said, "We have spoken to the doctors and we will get the surgery done when we get back to America."

**“WE LOVE CHILDREN. IT'S (ADOPTION'S) BEEN A LONG PROCESS but we are really happy to finally have a son. It makes us very happy inside. We will give him the same care we give to any other child.”**

## Canada Jobs For Families Of Open Work Permit Holders Amid Labour Crunch

Agenceis

**Toronto:** In a major move that will benefit thousands of Indian professionals and other foreigners in Canada, the North American country will expand its work permit eligibility to the family members of Open Work Permit (OWP) holders from next year to address acute labour shortages.

The OWP allows foreign nationals to work in Canada for any employer and any job.

Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Sean Fraser on Friday announced that his department is extending work permits to family members of temporary foreign workers.

"Canada is expanding work permits for family members! Starting in 2023, spouses and children of a principal applicant will be eligible to work in Canada," Fraser tweeted.

"Expanding the eligibility for work permits to family members accompanying the principal applicant to Canada will help address labour shortages by assisting employers in finding the workers they need," he said in a press statement.

Employers across the country continue to identify a lack of workers as their biggest obstacle, Fraser said.

The new measure, he said, will help employers find the workers they need to fill their labour gaps



by expanding work permits to family members at all skill levels, resulting in family members of over 200,000 foreign workers being able to work in Canada.

Prior to this announcement, spouses were only eligible for a work permit if the principal applicant was working in a high-skill occupation.

The new measure aims to improve the emotional well-being, physical health and financial stability of workers by keeping families together. As a result, it is expected that the worker will better integrate into their overall work environment and community, Fraser said.

Starting in January 2023, through a temporary two-year measure, Canada will expand eligibility to work in the country to spouses and working-age children through a phased approach for workers at all skill levels, the statement said.

"As a result of this new approach, it is estimated that family members of more than 200,000 foreign workers could begin working in Canada, offering a greater opportunity for both foreign workers seeking to work in Canada and for employers addressing their labour needs," it said.

## Mumbai To Launch Iconic Double-Decker Electric Buses From January 14

Agenceis

**Mumbai:** The Brihanmumbai Electricity Supply and Transport (BEST) will launch its premium e-bus service this month and roll out double-decker e-buses in January 2023, an official said.

The approvals for double-decker e-buses are in the final stages and will be completed soon, BEST general manager Lokesh Chandra told media persons on Friday.

At least 10 double-decker e-buses will be rolled out on January 14, 2023 and the fleet will be gradually increased to 50 in the first phase, he said.

Later this month, the BEST has decided to launch its premium single-decker e-bus ser-

vices, for which passengers will be able to reserve their seats through an app, the official said.

The transport authority also plans to start taxi services with 500 electric vehicles by June next year and has already floated tenders for it, he said.

People can book these cabs through Chalo app, which is currently being used for ticketing and live tracking of its buses, the official added.

The BEST provides bus service to Mumbai and its surrounding areas, and has a fleet of around 3,500 buses, including more than 400 e-buses.

The transport authority has 45 non-AC double-decker diesel buses in its fleet. But they will be gradually scrapped in 2023-24, on completion of their codal life.



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